



# Bugle Call Echoes

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

May 2006

Vol. 14 Issue No. 5

## San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table 2006 Board of Directors

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### President's Note

Spring seems to have sprung. We are looking forward and talking about summer already. For some who reenact this cool and wet weather offered more than the usual challenge. But they carried on. We will hear more about this from our next evening speaker, Ron Vaughan, who has put together another interesting talk for us from a western battlefield. Do plan to attend.

Everyone was thrilled to see Ken Moats at the last dinner. Ken appears stronger and not the slightest discouraged or disinterested. In fact he is ahead of schedule for walking. Go Ken.

We have spent most of our Battlefield Preservation monies which should spur the board to start considering ways in which to raise more. Listen for that at our next meeting. Hope to see you there.

*Brian Clague*



## Battle of Prairie Grove

For our May Dinner meeting at the Ramada Inn on Thursday, May 25th Ron Vaughan of Tulare will speak on the Battle of Prairie Grove. This battle took place 12 miles outside of Fayetteville, Arkansas, in December of 1862 when two evenly matched armies of 10,000 men got into a fight in freezing weather.

For dinner reservations for May 25th meeting at the Ramada Inn at the Shaw off-ramp on Freeway 41, contact Secretary Phyllis Mann at 229-3778 [afternoons or evenings, please] or e-mail her at: pfm02@cvip.net

# AFTER ACTION REPORT

April 27, 2006 Meeting

SJVCW Round Table

by Ron Vaughan

## Battlefield Preservation Update

Hello all. As I mentioned last month, CWPT in their *History Under Siege* has identified their ten most endangered battlefields for 2006. Gettysburg is one of those sites. This is how CWPT sums up the threat:

"Although the park is the most visited Civil War battlefield in the U.S., the Gettysburg that millions of Americans have come to know and love is threatened by a plan to build a 3,000-slot gaming facility east of town at the intersection of Route 30 and Route 15.

Positioned merely one mile from East Cavalry Field, the effects of such a slots parlor would be immense and far reaching. The heritage tourism industry, which flourishes in the region, would suffer immensely as countless small businesses were undercut by the casino.

Although investors claim that their project would be a tasteful resort destination, the casino would degrade the sacrifice made by so many on that field. Opposition to the proposal is fierce; a public opinion poll commissioned by CWPT found that 65 percent of Pennsylvania voters oppose a casino at Gettysburg. With tactics ranging from a massive petition campaign to a bill in the state legislature, preservationists are taking a stand to protect Gettysburg."

I will be passing out copies of *History Under Siege* to all attendees at our next monthly meeting along with an application to become a member of CWPT. If you are not already a member, I urge you to consider membership now.

Tom

Twenty persons were present for a most interesting presentation by Zoyd Luce. Zoyd did not focus so much on the minutiae of the subject's life story, but on his ideas. This was what made Zoyd's talk especially enjoyable. The average man on the street cannot name the nation's current Vice President, let alone the V.P. of the CSA, Alexander H. Stephens. Born in Georgia in 1812, he became a lawyer, served in the state legislature and the U.S. Congress.

He was a friend of Abraham Lincoln, and corresponded with him. Both were interested in the common man. As the war clouds gathered, newly elected President Lincoln wrote to Stephens, asking him "What can I do to prevent war?"

Stephens answered "Nothing"—the President has no right to do anything. This was what separated the two men—Stephens believed in personal liberty and local sovereignty. Despite being an advocate of states rights, he preferred peace to secession.

Stephens, Robert Toombs, and Howell Cobb formed a triumvirate to lead the South away from secession. But when Georgia finally seceded, he became a Confederate leader. On April 21, 1861 he gave "The Cornerstone Speech" where he stated that the founding of the CSA was one of the greatest moments in history—the first time a nation was founded upon securing the citizen's right to own slaves. He based his belief in the rightness of slavery on the idea that Negroes were savages who had no souls. His speech was enthusiastically received.

The arguments that secession of the South was prompted by states' rights and economic concerns, only developed after the war. Stephens also helped write the CSA Constitution, which was modelled on that of the USA, but had no Supreme Court, and a strong emphasis on states' rights. President Davis had the opposite view, that a strong central government was necessary to preserve Southern independence. Thus the two did not get along at all. At meetings, Davis hoped to arrive at decisions, but Stephens wanted to debate principles and philosophy. At the end of the war, Stephens was arrested and imprisoned for six months. After his release he was again elected to the US Congress. In 1867 he wrote a 1400+ page book *A Constitutional View of the Late War Between the States.*"

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PRESENTS THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL WEST COAST CONFERENCE

# ASPECTS OF THE WAR ON THE WATERS

NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12, 2006

HOSTED AT THE LUXURIOUS DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
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An event to raise funds for Civil War Battlefield Preservation

Donations accepted - make donation checks payable to: Sacramento CWRT

Name/Organization to appear on badge

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Conference Registration Fees (per person/including meals)

\$160 until October 2 Postmark

\$170 after October 2 Postmark

Meals desired for person(s) accompanying registrant **but not registered for the conference:**

**These meals to be paid at the conference**

Friday dinner \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25ea) Saturday lunch \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20ea) Saturday Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25ea) Sunday brunch \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20ea)

Do you have any dietary needs or special assistance? \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check for registration fee only.

Make checks payable to: Sacramento C. W. R. T.

And mail to: George Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Ct., Sacramento, CA. 95826-5233

# Civil War Book REVIEW KKK plans rally at Antietam

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue of American Heritage

(November/December 2004) was devoted to the "best" literature of American history as determined by 21 leading historians. Stephen W. Sears was selected by the editors to provide an annotated list of the books related to the Civil War. His selections are as follows:

Battle cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era by James McPherson, published in 1988 by Oxford University Press.

Look Away! A History of the Confederate States of America by William C. Davis published in 2002 by Simon & Schuster.

Lincoln by David Herbert Donald published in 1995 by Simon & Schuster.

Grant Moves South and Grant Takes Command by Bruce Catton published in 1960 and 1969, respectively, by Little, Brown.

Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command by Douglas Southall Freeman, one-volume abridgment by Stephen W. Sears published in 1998 by Simon & Schuster.

Mary Chestnut's Civil War edited by C. Vann Woodward published in 1981 by Yale University Press.

Reveille in Washington, 1860-1865 by Margaret Leech published in 1941 by Avalon.

The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy and The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union by Bell Irvin Wiley published in 1943 and 1952, respectively, by Louisiana State University Press.

Mr. Dunn Browne's Experiences in the Army: The Civil War Letters of Samuel W. Fiske edited by Stephen W. Sears published in 1998 by Fordham University Press.

John Brown's Body by Stephen Vincent Benet published in 1928 by Ivan R. Dee.

Of related interest are three works selected by Pauline Maier as illustrative of the best work concerning "the Young Republic, 1787 to 1860". These are

Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology: The Challenge of Change by Merritt Roe Smith published in 1977 by Cornell University Press.

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe published in 1852, many editions.

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete Unexpurgated Text edited by Harold Holzer published in 1993 by Fordham University Press.

Elsewhere in the same issue, under biographies Richard Brookhiser recommends Personal Memoirs by Ulysses S. Grant published in 1885-6 by Random House.

At our last meeting, Pattie Spencer had cut out a small article re. a KKK rally planned at Antietam. USA Today had a more detailed article written by Martha T. Moore in their April 26 issue. Excerpts are provided below:

A Ku Klux Klan group will rally on the Civil War battlefield where a Northern victory led President Abraham Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

The National Park Service had issued a permit for a Klan demonstration June 10 on a farmstead at Antietam National Battlefield in western Maryland. The battle in 1862 remains the bloodiest day in U S history.

The Nationalist Socialist Movement, a neo-Nazi organization, demonstrated last year at Yorktown Battlefield in Virginia and in 2004 at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, both Revolutionary War sites.

Antietam Battlefield superintendent John Howard says the right to free speech meant he was obligated to issue the permit. "The First Amendment is very clear on that," he said. "The framers of the Constitution decided this for me in 1791. It applies to all, not just people we like." Howard said he has received more than 30 e-mails objecting to the demonstration.

A white supremacist rally at Antietam is 'an insult' to those who died there from North and South, says the Rev. Malcom Stranathan, pastor of Salem United Methodist Church in nearby Keedysville, MD. "They were fighting for ideals that are far beyond what the Klan is about."

2006 MEMBERSHIP FORM - Membership year is from January to December

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY membership - \$25.00

\_\_\_\_ STUDENT membership or NEWSLETTER ONLY - \$12.50

\*\$5.00 of each membership goes toward Civil War Battlefield Preservation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Bring this membership form and your check to our next monthly meeting,  
or mail it to our Post Office Box listed on the return address below:

DID YOU KNOW ???

Q. In terms of West Point graduates, what was the split between those who fought for the Union and those who fought for the Confederacy?

- a. More fought for the North.
- b. The split was even.
- c. More fought for the South.

A. More West Point graduates fought for the South. The South had far more military schools that prepared boys for West Point as well as a much greater interest in military matters. It was because so many of the finest of West Point's graduates fought for the South that, especially in the early years of the Confederate forces were able to do so well. They were often better led.

*The Civil War Quiz Book by John Malon*

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