



San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

Bugle Calls, October 2017

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1. OCTOBER 12TH MEETING:

Dr. Mike Gately will discuss the Red River Campaign.

6:00 - 7:00 Social Hour & Meals

7:00 – 7:15 Business Meeting

7:15 – 8 ish Program, followed by Book Raffle.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**OCT. 21-22 CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT AT KEARNEY PARK*

**NOV. 10-12TH WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE, SACRAMENTO*

**NOVEMBER 9TH MEETING: Writer Meg Groeling will discuss Col. Elmer Ellsworth*

**DECEMBER 13TH CHRISTMAS PARTY!*

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: OCTOBER 2017

Can you believe it? It's Fall already. Well it sure didn't feel like fall when I was on a Civil War run last week in Virginia, Maryland, and

Pennsylvania. The temperatures were in the high 80s and low 90s. But more about that later on in the report.

We had a good meeting in September. Mike Spence gave a talk about Matthew Brady and the photography of the Civil War, then Ron gave us a peak through a power point program of his two tours with Ed Bearss. What fun he must have had.

In October, Mike Gatley will talk about Bank's 1864 Red River Campaign. I am looking forward to his presentation.

Our preparation for the 2018 West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference is moving on quite well. Last month Patty and Mike Spencer, along with Gail, finalized our arrangements with the hotel. From what I am told, Gail was able to work her magic and we got some nice additions to the original agreement. Good for you, Gail. We have deposited \$500 for the down payment.

Ron and I have fairly well formalized the speakers list, and more or less come up with the program. I was able to talk to our friend General Parker Hills, and he has agreed to follow the 30 minute presentation of Brian's with a 30 minute power point on Raymond, and what has been going on there lately. What we are hoping is that some of the attendees will become interested and support the work that is being done at Raymond.

Speaking of which, I will be in Raymond this month. I have a Civil War tour of the battles of Corinth, Iuka, and Davis Bridge, and decided to come into Jackson, Mississippi so that I can take a look and photograph the new fence that our Round Table helped to finance. After that I will see what I can find on Sherman's Meridian Campaign, go over to Brice's Crossroad. After the tour I will swing through Shiloh to see the new Mississippi monument, go over to Parkers Crossroad, take a look at Fort Pillow, and end up in Memphis where I will fly back home. If I survive this run, I will let you know about it in the November Bugle Call.

Last month I had a great tour of the Battle of South Mountain. I also went to Antietam and drove up to Gettysburg. In Gettysburg I saw the cyclorama program and found out that the artist took a bit of license in that he painted in a wounded Lincoln into the painting. I stopped by to take a picture with a friend who was sitting on a bench just outside of the visitors center and went to see one of my favorite statues, Borglands North Carolina Monument, which sits on Seminary Ridge at the point where the North Carolina men stepped off in Pickett's charge. I love the look of the five men depicted in the statue, the wounded officer directing his men forward, the proud young man stepping forward, the frightened young man not sure of what he is getting himself into, the older man (could be the young mans dad or uncle) talking to him and reassuring him forward, and the proud color bearer. Well that's how I see the statue. Take a look at the picture in the end and let me know what you think.

At Antietam they have worked on Burnsidess Bridge and cleaned it up. The view from the union side over the bridge. For the South it was like shooting fish in a barrel. The battlefield also has two of my favorite statues. Both are located at the south end of the corn field. The first is one of the most simple, yet telling statues that I have ever seen. It is just three rifles stacked together over a low fire with a coffee pot hanging below it. Just how men of both sides would have set up to relax after the battle. The pot has a simple inscription "It Was A Hot Place" And it was, this is the point where thousands of men were wounded and died. One of the most bloody points in this or any war. The second statue is of the 13 New Jersey, a tall column with an officer with is sword. I don't know why, I just like it.

Well I have wandered on much more than I wanted to. Hope to see you at Denny's on Thursday, October 12.

Michael Green
President SJVCWRT



Photos by Michael Green

3. AFTER ACTION REPORT: SJVCWRT MEETING OF 9/16/17 BY RON VAUGHAN

We had a great turnout, with 15 persons present, even though 4 or 5 regulars were absent. The primary item of business was discussion of our 2018 Conference. Gail Schulze, Patti Spencer, and Mike Spencer visited the Wyndham Hotel, near the Fresno Airport, and discussed a contract with the management. The hotel will charge \$9,200 for the weekend. This was a better deal than any other of the various hotels (visited earlier). The guest rooms will cost \$99 per night, and have

been updated, as well as the entire hotel. A contract was signed and a \$500 deposit paid. The fee we will charge to attendees will be \$200.

Gail reported our bank account has a balance of \$2,156. We have 18 paid members.

Patti reported Dr. Clague will be doing medical talks at the Kearney Park Civil War re-enactment, Oct 21 & 22. We will have a space in the tent for advertising our Roundtable.

Mike Green will set off next week for a trip to Maryland battlefields.

Mike Spencer gave a “mini talk about the famous photographer, Mathew Brady. He was born in Ireland on an uncertain date. He studied daguerreotype photography in France in 1839. He came to New York and opened a studio in 1850. He became well known for a series of photos of Presidents. Also, he developed the idea of carte de visites with photos on them, and these became popular. When the war began, he advertised that families should get portraits taken for their sons joining the service, in order to remember them in case they did not return. Brady did not take most of the famous pictures, which were done by hired photographers. After the war the government did not buy his pictures, as he had hoped. Also, the war pictures went out of fashion, so he did not make the money he thought he would get.

This presentation was followed by myself showing a power point set of slides of my trip to Gettysburg for the Ed Bearss tour. I only showed pics, plus a few maps, of the first day of the battle. The first day was very strenuous, starting at 8:00 am and ending at 8 pm!

The evening was concluded with the traditional book raffle.

4. CIVIL WAR HUMOR: From “The Blue & Gray Laughing”

“About the beginning of the war, General Hardee was forming the nucleus of an army in southeast Missouri, and being a great disciplinarian, was very active in teaching his men the rules and duties of a soldier’s life. It happened one night that a sentinel had been

placed to guard some stores near the entrance of the general's headquarters. Returning rather late, Hardee passed the sentinel, and not being honored with the usual salute of 'present arms,' he halted and in a kind, but commanding tone said, 'Don't you know me?'

'No, Sir,' replied the uncouth Arkansasian. 'Who are you?'

'I am General Hardee, Sir!'

Whereupon, the raw recruit advanced a few paces, put out his hand for a shake, and said in a most familiar tone, 'My name is Bill Dickerson, and I'm right proud to make your acquaintance!'"

5. NOV. 10-12TH: WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE, SACRAMENTO

6. PRESERVATION NEWS:

THE HUNLEY MYSTERY UNRESOLVED:

Last month I provided information from a certain university that claimed to have solved the mystery of why and how the CSA submarine Hunley sank. Later I checked the Friends of the Hunley website and found out that the authors of the study, have never been part of the Hunley restoration/investigation team, and have no had access to the Hunley. Actually, their assertion of a shock wave killing the crew was one of the first tests that they conducted, and was discarded as a possible cause. Remember that I stated my doubts, due to the reported blue light signal spotted after the attack. See the Hunley website for a full analysis.

DR DAVID DAVENPORT REFLECTS ON THE CSA FLAG & STATUES CONTROVERSY:

The CSA issue is for me two- fold. First, I agree that the flag has no place in public, because it is associated with white supremacy. And I warned the SCV etc. that this was likely to happen, because they failed to condemn the use of the flag by racists. Statues are for me a difference issue, because they are ART, just like the statues of Buddha in the Bamian Valley of Afghanistan. The people who want to destroy

the statues are narrow minded bigots just like the Moslem extremists - the Taliban - who destroyed the Buddha.

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

When the Civil War ended, most Southerners had lost everything (land, businesses, money, etc.). All they had left was their pride and honor in making a brave fight. Honor was/is a big deal to the Southerners. The Lost Cause mythos sought to cast their misguided secession as a noble fight. It is clear that many statues are in honor of dead heroes. But it is also clear that some were erected to try to remind African Americans who was supreme. The August "Civil War Times" had articles by a number of historians about the statue controversy. One suggestion was to not tear them down, but move them to cemeteries or special parks. This is what one of the Balkan countries did with the statues of Soviet heroes the USSR had erected in their country.

As for the other controversy on honoring/disrespecting the United States flag, the protesters should remember that the soldiers who fought under that flag first obtained our freedom from Britain, then kept the USA together and emancipated the slaves, and finally federal intervention ended segregation. If not for those flag carrying Union soldiers, conceivably the South could have continued slavery into the 20th Century. The USA may not be perfect, but what human is, or the imperfect institutions we create?