



# **BUGLE CALLS, JUNE 2020**

## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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**1. NO MEETING JUNE 11, 2020**

**2. UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**\*Check the [Civil War Congress.com](http://CivilWarCongress.com) website for some fantastic live-stream lectures that are offered.**

\*August 8 Barbeque at Clague's Shaver Home

\*September 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Speaker: Illene Iverson

\*October 8 Meeting

\*October Kearney Park Re-enactment?

\*November 5-7 West Coast CWRT Conference

\*November 12 Meeting

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**3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

**By Michael Spencer**

Greetings,

I had suggested a meeting in June, but because of the slow pace of getting back to normal, meetings and reservations have been

cancelled at Denny's ( unknown when will resume ). I will continue to get updates on that fact.

Ron passed on some good news for the 2020 conference, Ted Savas has secured Chris Mackowski, Eric Whitenburg, and Gordon Rhea as speakers. (They should attract a good crowd!)

Lastly, Brian and Linda Clague have agreed to have the annual BBQ August 8<sup>th</sup>, info forthcoming.

Regards,

Michael Spencer

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#### **4. AFTER ACTION REPORT:**

By Ron Vaughan

**\*\*\*Grant" TV Series:** I hope you were all able to catch the 3 part TV series on Grant. It is wonderful that many scenes were filmed on the historical sites. The program and its many historians was great, but the set directors needed a historical consultant (like Ray Herbeck). There were numerous errors: Scenes of Grant & Union troops in deep siege trenches at Fort Donelson, when in fact the Union had just arrived and had no entrenchments of any kind! The prop department must have found a sale on sandbags, as they used these in scenes where there would not have been any, such as in Mexico and Shiloh. The surprise attack at Shiloh showed Union

troops sleeping on cots in their tents. No infantry would have ever had cots! Also, there were scenes with Union infantry marching along in a column 3 files wide, not four. This would have been OK for the Prussian army! Also, strangely, there are no Officers or NCOs leading the column.

**\*Southern Ag:** During lock-down, I was looking through some of my old 2016 Civil War Times. One had an article: “The South’s Achilles Heel,” an interview with author Douglas Hurt, who wrote: Agriculture and the Confederacy. Here are a few interesting highlights, that piggy-back with my recent lecture on Lee’s Retreat from Gettysburg. The Confederates were too dependent upon Cotton. The CSA Congress told people to plant less cotton and more food crops. However, farmers were reluctant to low under their crops. Southerners really depended upon the Northern agricultural implement industry. Those factories that did make tools, converted to making things needed by the CSA army. Compounding the problem, many of the slaves that provided the plantation-farm hand labor, were diverted to work on fortifications, and as the war progressed, many self emancipated.

Another problem was that the loss of the border states, where most the mules and horses were raised. This made it difficult to have enough for plowing and transporting produce. This affected the CSA Army need for the animals as well.

It was surprising that the Confederate Congress never created a department of agriculture. There was too much concern over states

rights. They did not make any effort, until early 1865 to try to get a handle on the mobilization of agriculture to support the war. By that time it was far too late.

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## **5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR:**

### **From “The Blue & Gray Laughing’**

“Said Braggadocio Pope one day, the day

Before he from Manassas ran away.

‘In many fights with Southrons have I been,

But never yet the foeman’s face have seen;’

For once Pope told the truth—the fact was so,

For never yet he fairly ‘faced’ the foe.”