



BUGLE CALL



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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President's Message

We begin the year 2010 in a new location. Our first meeting of 2010, that on January 14, will be held at the Denny's Restaurant at Herndon and Blackstone in North Fresno. Our socializing will begin at 6 pm and since we are ordering off the menu we can begin eating whenever we want, or not eat at all. This makes it easily accessible from Highway 41.

Our program begins at 7pm and by popular demand we will have an evening of sharing new insights into the War of the Rebellion. I hope that Mike Green will share his visit to Franklin and Nashville. I plan to discuss a book about the Civil War within the South and read some passages from a journal published in 1863 by a member of the 14th Iowa taken captive at Shiloh's Hornet's Nest.

I had hoped that Rob Orr of Modesto would be able to present the results of his visit to the Monitor but it turns out that folks in Modesto had plans for him before I contacted him about speaking to us. Those plans involve celebrating Rob's birthday which falls on the 14th, so we will hear from him later in 2010.

Given our new venue reservations are not needed but the restaurant expects 20-25 so please don't disappoint them (and me). As you know it has been my feeling that one reason for our decline in regular attendees has been the price of the meals at the Ramada. Our move is designed to meet the budgets of all especially those who have been reluctant to spend \$18.00 for dinner.

On February 11 we will see a video about Lincoln's cottage at Washington's Old Soldier's Home. On March 11 I hope to have Rob Orr speak about the Monitor. On April 8 our own Alex Fabros will analyze the Battle of Raymond. On May 13 we will honor the birthday Jefferson Davis. We then break for the summer, although I hope that we will be invited to a picnic at the Clague's Shaver Lake home on June 26, July 3, or July 10.

In the fall we meet on September 9, October 14, Novem-

ber 11, and December 9. On one of these dates we will hear from Mary Townsend about her g-g-grandfather General Peter Osterhaus. On another we will watch a booknotes video of James McPherson talking about Lincoln as commander in chief. McPherson, as you already know, is the keynote speaker for the 26th annual West Coast Conference of Civil War Round Tables, being held in San Francisco in November. I have not yet "finalized" our programs for two other dates. I have also heard from Tom Carr that he and his lovely wife Cathy would like to host a Christmas Party at their home but no date for this has been set. Presumably such a party would be December 11 or 18. This would be in addition to our regular meeting on December 9.

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 12/10/09

By Ron Vaughan

This was our first combo Christmas Party and meeting, as well as our last time at Ramada. We had a nice dinner, raffle, and gift exchange. We also, had two programs, which was perhaps over ambitious planning.

Dr. Mike Gately give a presentation on CW generals who died during the war: 39 Union generals were KIA, 30 died of wounds, and 17 died from disease, and one from a duel. For the Confederates, 75 were KIA, 19 from Non-combat deaths; the latter included not only disease, but "old age", suicide, murder, a duel, and a fall from a horse. I thought it unusual that so many were KIA. We all know that of the total CW deaths, three fourths were from disease. Various members put forth theories to explain this anomaly: that most of the disease fatalities were among the young farm boy recruits, who lacked immunity to diseases, while the generals were older survivors of previous military service; generals were more protected, in that they had better food and shelter. Also, generals were somewhat segregated from the rank and file. Perhaps Dr. Clague will weigh in on this topic.

Evan Jones gave a presentation on options for donation of our conference proceeds to battlefield preservation. He had polled our con presenters about their top priorities for preservation. The top two were Raymond and Springhill. Opportunities for preservation at Springhill are more or less limited. According to Dr. William Glenn Robertson, and Dr. Steven Woodworth, Raymond, offers a world of opportunities as a target for preservation efforts. Member Mike Green has been lobbying for this cause as well. He is well acquainted with retired General Parker Hills, who is a major player in the Friends of Raymond.

Raymond is a small out of the way town. Most of the residents are very supportive of preservation. It is an economically depressed area, so the price of land is cheap. This means we can get

Your president, David Davenport, not Mr. Obama, continues to research the lives of Civil War veterans buried at Fresno's Mountain View Cemetery. While looking for obituaries printed in the local newspapers he came upon the following items of interest which are reprinted here..

From the Fresno Weekly Republican, Friday, February 25, 1898. p8.

"RELIC OF THE CIVIL WAR"

an original dispatch which was sent by General Lee.

"H.M. Eddy of Malaga has an original dispatch written by General R. E. Lee, of the Confederate Army in 1863. It was found by Sumner Johnson in the remains of a bonfire at Culpepper C.H. Virginia, just after General Lee's army had evacuated that place and while the fire was still burning. Mr. Johnson was then mail agent on a train running from Washington to Culpepper. Mr. Johnson afterwards married Miss Nellie Dingley, a daughter of Nathaniel Dingley of Maine and a sister of Mrs. Eddy. This dispatch has always been kept in the Johnson family in the same condition in which it was found, burnt around the edges, until December, 1897, when it was given to H.M. Eddy by Mrs. Johnson, who now lives in San Francisco.

"The dispatch was addressed to O. H. Wood, transportation agent at Richmond, Virginia, and requests him to send

more bang for our buck, than almost anywhere else. A \$5,000 donation would purchase a large tract of battlefield land, and give us a donor "rank" of "General!" In addition, General Parker Hills has been able to finagle the acquisition of a number of cannon for the battlefield. For a donation of \$2,500 to sponsor a cannon, we would be allowed to put a plaque on it. It has been suggested that we could honor our recently deceased member, Bob Quist. I think this is a wonderful idea, for two reasons: It is a way to memorialize Bob, who contributed much to our club, and it is a great cannon deal! It normally costs at least \$10,000 to buy a CW cannon.

There was much discussion of the amount that we should donate. Our con proceeds were \$7562, plus \$800 from the book raffles (the latter stays in our treasury). Some suggest that it would be good to keep 10 or 20 % for our club to pay guest speakers and such. Others stated that since we had declared that "all" of the funds donated would go to preservation, we are honor bound, and ethically bound to follow through with our pledge. Our board will take up the matter next year

Happy Holidays from Hanford, CA 2009 J. Quist

With the coming of the holiday season, and as 2009 draws to an end, I just wanted to let you know that I'm okay. Of course, there is a sadness and emptiness in my heart – this being the first Christmas without Bob. But we were blessed and fortunate to have had 34 years together. And for that, I am grateful.

I'm also grateful for all the family and friends, like you, who have shown such love and caring. Thank you for this! You are very special people. And I appreciate your letters and phone calls, your checking up on me, and all that you do.

I'm thinking back of the fun times Bob & I shared this past year. Among other things, Bob loved to travel, and we managed to fit in quite a lot.

□ In January, we started the year off with a cruise from San Diego through the Panama Canal to Fort Lauderdale, then flew up to Philadelphia to visit my family. (Went from above 100* to below freezing!)

□ In February, we took a ski trip to Lake Tahoe.

□ In March, we spent a week in Palm Desert with Dave to watch tennis at Indian Wells and then a week in LA to watch the ice skating nationals.

□ In April, I spent 2 more weeks back in Philadelphia.

□ In May, we flew to Rome for a Mediterranean

cars to Hanover Junction to take Cook's brigade battery to Fredericksburg, as the enemy, it states, was said to be advancing in that direction.

From the Fresno Weekly Republican, Friday, March 11, 1898. p3.

"EX-CONFEDERATE REUNION."

The Veterans will meet in Fresno May 14th.

The annual reunion of Sterling Price Camp, ex-confederate veterans, will take place at the fair grounds on May 14th. Old confederate soldiers from all parts of the valley will be in attendance and it is expected that Visalia camp will attend in a body. Last year the veterans gave a successful reunion and they will attempt to outdo all former efforts this year.

Dr. W. T. Maupin, commander, and R. G. Harrell, secretary of the camp, assisted by the following committees, are making all preparations for the affair;

Committee on program – General T. H. Bell, W. H. Bradley, Dr. T. R. Meux, Bettie Maupin, Myrtle Harrell.

Committee on arrangements – R. G. Harrell, D. B. McConnell, R. B. Butler.

Committee on commissaries – B. M. Hagus, W. H. Baisco, H. H. Camtney, Mrs. R. G. Harrell. Mrs. W. T. Maupin.

From the Fresno Morning Republican, March 18, 1900,

Cruise to Greece, Turkey, Russia, and back to Rome.

□ In June & July, we spent 3 weeks visiting family in both Philadelphia and Minnesota. It was good that we got to spend the 4th of July in MN with Bob's family one more time, and he got to be out on the lake fishing.

□ In July, we spent time with Dave & Eleanor in Southern CA -- at Newport Beach and at Dana Point -- and saw the Pageant of the Masters.

It wasn't until the end of August that Bob was diagnosed with leukemia, and he passed away the following month. I'm glad that we were able to enjoy his 11 years of retirement. Bob would always say that he was so lucky and that he had had a good life.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! And may we all have a joyous 2010 – a New Year full of love, peace, happiness, good health, and friendships! There is hope for a wonderful New Year.

My love to you all!!

Judy

DEATH OF GENERAL HARNDEN.

Madison, Wis. March 17 – General Henry Harnden, commander of the Wisconsin department G.A.R. and who commanded the Wisconsin troops that, with a Michigan company, captured Jeff Davis, died of pneumonia this evening. General Harnden was born in Massachusetts in 1823, roved the sea for several years, was in California in 1838 and again a decade later, particularly in the Mexican war, was several times wounded in the civil war, captured Jeff Davis, was for ten years revenue collector and has lived in comfortable retirement ever since. A widow and four children survive him.

Reminders

2010 Membership Dues is due and payable no later than the January 14th meeting.

**San Joaquin Valley Civil War
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