



Bugle Call Echoes

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

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San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table Board

Website: SJVCWRT.ORG

President Brian Clague[Linda]

P O Box 116
Shaver Lake CA 93664
559 841-7161
bclague@netptc.net

V-P David Paul Davenport

6156 N Mitre Ave
Fresno CA 93722
559 277 3283

Treasurer Pattie Spencer

1548 W Vasser Ave
Fresno CA 93705
559 233 1059 or 559304 8170

Secretary Bryce Kuykendall

21001 East W Seldon
Sanger CA 93657
559 787 3632
Bryce.kuykendall@gmail.com

Chauffeur to the Secretary

Neil Kuykendall

Publicity Shaun Ardemagni [Kirk]

2580 E Los Altos
Fresno CA 93710
559 299 7453

Newsletter Bob Quist [Judy]

504 E Magnolia Ave
Hanford CA 93230
559 582 9520
bquist1@sbcglobal.net

Contributing Ed. Ron Vaughn

730 E Tulare Ave
Tulare CA 93274
ronvaughn@prodigy.net

Congratulations to our Preservation raffle Winners

Vic and Pam Reeves of Lindsay are the winners of "The Battle of Prairie Grove" by Andy Thomas.

Wayne Scott of Madera Ranchos is the winner of a set of VHS tapes of *Civil War Journal*.

Dylan Logan of Bakersfield is the winner of *Lee's Lieutenants*.

Share and Tell and Sell focus on January 31st Meeting

Ramada Inn—Shaw Avenue at Highway 41. No-host Social Hour starting at 6 PM; Dinner [\$17] at 7 PM; and Program at 8 PM. PLEASE CALL SECRETARY BRYCE KUYKENDALL FOR RESERVATIONS at 787-3632 or e-mail him at bryce.kuykendall@gmail.com. Please let us know if you are coming as we need to get a count for the hotel.

Traditionally, the January meeting is given over to a Share and Tell program. As time allows, members may share a book, photo, story, letter from an ancestor who fought in the Civil War, or other Civil War related items. We encourage everyone who has an interest to step forward. The general rule is to prepare for 5 minutes, although this is up to the Program Chair's discretion. The evening is fairly informal.

This will also be an opportunity for members to sell, trace [or give away] some of your Civil War books. Tables will be available around the room for this purpose. Haggling is permitted.

Contact Dr. David Davenport, Program Chair, before January 28th if you would like to participate

2008 Round Table Memberships Due Now

Your 2008 membership year begins in January. If you have not already renewed your membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table please use the form printed in this newsletter to do so. Please keep in mind that the cost of membership is now \$30 for an individual or family.

Your membership allows us to bring in speakers from out of town, to support Civil War battlefield preservation, and to sponsor a web site (SJVCWRT.ORG).

Starting in January, 2008, the *Bugle Call Echoes* will be dispatched exclusively using email, unless you specify otherwise on your membership form.



**Remember to
reserve
Nov. 7—9, 2008
as we host the
Annual West
Coast
Conference of
the Civil War**

2008 SJVCWRT Membership Form

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table, an organization dedicated to informing the public about the Civil War in general and about the need for preservation of Civil War sites. As a member of the SJVCWRT, I will receive *Bugle Calls*, our monthly newsletter, either electronically or on paper, regular invitations to meetings, and free tickets to the annual Civil War re-enactment at Kearney Park, if I agree to work for two hours at our informational booth.

NAME _____

E-Mail address _____

Regular mail address _____

Please send *Bugle Calls* to my regular mailing address.

YES _____

2008 Civil War Round Table Meetings Schedule

January 31, 2008: Member Civil War Share, Tell and Sell. vania campaign with emphasis on what it was up to before and after Gettysburg

February 28: Bryce Kuykendall "Reflections of Visiting Battlefields in 2007" September 25, 2008: TBA

March 27: Evan Jones "Soldiers in Shock and Disbelief" Oct 18 and 19—Kearney Park Civil War Re-enactment with the return of the *Hunley* and the 25th birthday of the NCWA

April 24: Brian Clague "It weren't the cuttin' what killed 'um, it were the disease"
May 29: Dr. Joe Wagner "The Crater: a great plan, poorly executed".
Saturday, July 5th: Annual picnic at Clague's 'cabin' at Shaver Lake.
August 28, 2008: Dennis Kohlman of the Sacramento CWRT. will speak on the role of Stuart's cavalry in Lee's Pennsylv
November 7-9, 2008: 24th Annual Conference of Civil War Round Tables. "War in the Shenandoah Valley" featuring Jeffrey Wert, Robert K. Krick, Robert E. L. Krick, Jim Stanbery, David Davenport, and the Moats (not Ken and Barb, but grand daughters Emily and Olivia, will be performing an as yet unwritten play by David Davenport called *"Two women of Winchester"* based on the diaries of two women, one Unionist and one Secessionist, who lived in Winchester, Virginia, throughout the war). Clovis Memorial Building. Likely registration fee \$175.00 includes two dinners, two lunches, and two breakfasts.

Saturday, December 6 or December 13: Annual Christmas party.

**ANNOUNCEMENT: Upcoming Seminar
"The Long Road to Richmond"**

**College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, VA**

April 20-25, 2008

**The Long Road to Richmond:
How Colossal Miscalculations and
Audacious Generals Lengthened the Civil War**

Gain a detailed understanding of the battles and consequences of the crucial Civil War campaigns of the Virginia Peninsula in 1861-62. Lectures investigate battles from Big Bethel (one of the first) to the clash of the ironclads Monitor and Merrimack to the "murderous" charge at Malvern Hill. Witness the war's impact on towns caught in the middle, women left behind, and slaves hungry for freedom. Hike on half a dozen battlefields and experience them from the perspective of the soldiers who fought and died there. Investigate how events on a narrow Virginia peninsula tremendously impacted the politics, strategies, and even the length of the Civil War.

Program tuition includes all hotel lodging, meals, and admission fees. For additional information or to register for this week long program, call the William and Mary Elderhostel office directly at 757-221-3649 or email elderh@wm.edu. Please note that this program is sponsored solely by the William and Mary office and is not an Elderhostel program.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings and Happy New Year. Here's hoping that the upcoming year brings you and yours good health and happiness.

We ended 2007 with a wonderful Christmas party at the home of Tom and Kathy Carr. Their home was magnificently decorated and the potluck was delicious.

We'll start off our 2008 program with our first meeting on Thursday, January 31st at the Ramada Inn. It will be our traditional Share and Tell program. We hope some of our members will be interested in thinning out their personal libraries of some of their Civil War books and magazines. At the meeting we'll have some extra tables so you have the opportunity to swap or sell what you have already read.

As I look forward to the upcoming year of activities planned for our members I am encouraged and enthusiastic. Our dinner meetings [held on the final Thursday of each month] is outlined, and updated, on page 2.

There is a lot of energy and interest in our programs as well as our hosting the 24th Annual West Coast Conference of Civil War Round Tables on November 7, 8 and 9. Program Chair Dr. David Davenport has commitments from great Civil War historians and educators to bring alive the War in the Shenandoah Valley. Let anyone of the board know if you are interested in helping with the planning of this year's event.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our monthly meetings.

Brian Clague, MD
President

Reading and Heart Disease

Two very distressing newspaper articles appeared side by side in a recent issue of the *Fresno Bee*. In one, the results of a National Endowment for the Humanities study were released. And to quote the *Bee* it "paints a dire picture of plummeting levels of reading among young people over the past two decades. Among the findings: Only 30% of 13-year-olds read almost every day."

Even more alarming is the finding that "almost half of Americans between ages 18 and 24 never read books for

pleasure." In fact, the article goes on to state "the average person between ages 15 and 24 spends 2 to 2 1/2 hours a day watching TV and 7 minutes reading". The latter is no doubt associated with consulting the *TV Guide*.

Immediately along side the report of the NEH's reading study was a summary of a report from published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. This report revealed that the rate of death from heart disease among young adults is increasing due to increasing obe-

sity and diabetes.

Dr. Davenport sees a relationship between the two studies. He states "it is not a coincidence that the editors of the *Bee* placed these two articles side by side. They probably want us to conclude that poor reading habits also lead to increased mortality from heart disease. So my advice is to pick up a book and read. Exercising your eye muscles and your brain will lower your risk of dying from heart disease."

Dr. Davenport may not be a medical doctor but he knows a thing or two about reading books.

GENERAL LEE'S DAUGHTER: Mary Custis Lee

The November 2007 issue of Smithsonian published the following item of interest to all Civil War enthusiasts on page 28. The article was written by David Zax.

"Confederate Daughter.

Richmond, Virginia. — In November 2002, E. Hunt Burke, President of the Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company in Alexandria, Virginia, discovered a pair of old steamer trunks in the bank basement. The trunks, which had sat in a vault untouched for 85 years, were brimming with thousands of letters, photographs and items that Mary Custis Lee had stowed in 1917, the year before her death at the age of 83. In the cache, which included many trinkets and travel mementos, were two dozen letters from Mary's father, Robert E. Lee.

Among the finds, now open to the public at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, is a letter from General Lee written at a pivotal moment: May 1861, weeks after he had declined a senior command of the Union army and one day before he accepted a top position with Confederate forces. He writes to Mary about his eldest son, Custis — who'd expressed ambivalence about which side to take in the war — asking her to tell Custis to "consult his own judgment, reason & conscience, as to the course he may take . . . If I have done wrong, let him do better."

Commenting on the loss of the family's Arlington plantation to Union troops, Lee consoles his daughter in a letter dated December 25, 1861: "In your houseless condition I hope you will make yourself contented & useful. Occupy yourself in aiding those more helpless than yourself."

Mary Custis Lee "was the family archivist," says Lee Shepard of the historical society. (Mary even saved three cloth stars cut from General Lee's Confederate uniform.) Some of the documents reflect the changing times. In an 1872 letter to Mary's mother, a former Lee slave writes that freedmen have settled on the Arlington property and that she herself is in "a comfortable home of my own." And a batch of 1902 newspaper clippings and papers recount a baffling incident in which Mary Custis Lee was arrested for sitting in the black section of a segregated Alexandria streetcar."

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P O Box 5695
Fresno CA 93755

