

Bugle Call

ECHOES

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San Joaquin Valley
Civil War Round Table

January 1995

An Evening With Libbie Custer

Marci Baun will present a one-woman show titled "An Evening With Libbie Custer," as the program for the Thursday, Jan. 26, dinner meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table in the Remington restaurant on Clovis Avenue south of Kings Canyon Avenue.

The program is under the auspices of Best Productions, Fred Holt, producer. Holt is a past president of the CWRT. He has studied General George Armstrong Custer and his strong-willed spouse, Libbie Bacon Custer, who was born Elizabeth Clift Bacon, only daughter of a Michigan judge.



Libbie Custer in 1900

Libbie Custer spent much of her life promoting the memory of her husband. She died in New York City in 1933 at the age of 92.

Reservations may be made by mailing checks made out to CWRT for \$15 for each dinner (which includes tax and tip) to the San Joaquin Valley CWRT, 4885 N. Backer #120, Fresno, CA 93726. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, January 24. Seating will not be guaranteed without a reservation. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7.

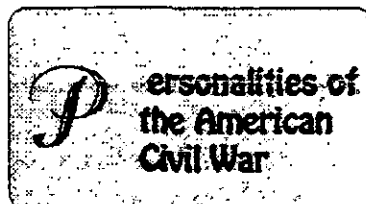
I've Recently Read:

Hancock, The Superb

By Rick Kubiak

"Hancock, the Superb," by Glenn Tucker, Bobbs-Merrill Co. 1960.

Glenn Tucker does an excellent job of describing the life of Federal Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, with special emphasis on Hancock's role in such important Civil War battles as Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and Cold Harbor. There is little doubt about it. This is the definitive work on Hancock.



Hancock, a West Point graduate and veteran of the Mexican War, was stationed in Los Angeles
Continued on next page

1994 in Review

By Charles Jorgensen

The year ended with a rather hectic two months culminating in our highly successful sponsorship of the 10th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference. In addition, we adopted a constitution and elected new officers for 1995. To review:

1) The conference was held November 4-6 at Tenaya Lodge near the south entrance to Yosemite and had 162 registrants. It was by far the largest
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Year in Review continued

Tenaya Lodge near the south entrance to Yosemite and had 162 registrants. It was by far the largest Civil War conference held on the West Coast. In fact, it ranks with the largest held anywhere. The attendees were most gracious in their evaluation comments as to the programs, facilities and the overall running of the conference. Special thanks go to Bill Head and Tim Johnson for their co-chairing of the affair. They were ably assisted by a hardworking committee.

The conference provided an opportunity to hear first-rate professionals and to meet others with similar interests. In addition, we turned a profit and were able to contribute \$2,000 to HERITAGEPAC, a national lobbying group dedicated to the preservation of American battlefields. This group spends no money on salaries or overhead. They advised us this was the largest individual donation they had ever received.

This year's conference will be held in Redlands Nov. 10-12. The theme will be "Lincoln, Davis and Their Generals."

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table Officers for 1995 are:

John Taylor, President
Bill Head, Vice President
Barbara Moats, Secretary
Wayne Bowen, Treasurer

Other board members are Linda Clague, Tim Johnson, Verne Cole, Newsletter Editor and Rick Kubiak, Historian. The immediate past president, Charles Jorgensen, will continue to serve on the board for two years.



2) At the November 18 meeting of the Board of Directors, a constitution was adopted. Copies will be available at meetings. If you wish a copy mailed to you, please let us know.

Officers elected are: John Taylor, President; Bill Head, Vice President; Barbara Moats, Secretary; Wayne Bowen, Treasurer; Rick Kubiak and Linda Clague, Directors for two-year terms; Tim Johnson and Verne Cole, Directors for one-year terms. In addition, Past President Charles Jorgensen will serve on the board for two years. Cole will continue as Newsletter Editor and Kubiak as Historian.

3) An important change to note is that dues now will cover a calendar year. All members are encouraged to send in dues this month for 1995. If you wish, the dues can be pro rated this year to cover the months for which you have already paid. Dues are \$25, with a special student rate of \$12.50. Subscriptions to the Newsletter are \$10 a year. The CWRT will continue to donate \$5 of each full membership, and \$2.50 for student memberships to battlefield preservation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed their time and efforts to our group last year. The spirit of cooperation certainly went a long way towards our having a successful year.

—Charles Jorgensen

Hancock continued

Tucker writes of Hancock's wound at Gettysburg: "He was hit in the front of the right thigh by a Minie ball that had passed through theommel of his saddle. As the bullet entered the groin, it carried with it some bits of wood and a bent iron nail, apparently from the saddle."

He also described the recuperation: "The wound, meantime, had not yielded to treatment. The Minie ball had passed around from the front and imbedded itself in the back of the thigh bone.

Continued on next page

Year in Review continued

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Hancock continued

"Several surgeons of high eminence probed persistently but could not extract the ball, and Hancock at last declared he would prefer death to the torture of more probing.

"While he was still suffering Dr. Louis W. Read came home to Baltimore on a brief leave from the army and called on Hancock at Norristown. Dr. Read was able to extract the ball readily, even though it was embedded eight inches deep.

He had Hancock sit on a chair in the identical position he had occupied in the saddle, then followed with his forceps the course of the bullet and brought it to the surface without causing prolonged agony. A fragment of bone clung to the ball."

While recuperating, Hancock worked as a recruiter and returned to duty in time to face Confederate Generals A.P. Hill and James Longstreet in the brutal Wilderness battle. He was breveted a major general for crashing through the Confederate

salient at Spotsylvania. He left the army for a time after his wound reopened, and returned to be humiliated and defeated at Reams' Station. After the war, when Phil Sheridan was promoted to Lieutenant General, Hancock became the senior major general and held various departmental commands. He was a Democratic nominee for the presidency in 1880 but was narrowly defeated by James Garfield.

At his funeral, The Reverend Dr. John R. Paxton said, "They buried yesterday my old commander -- the ideal soldier -- the pure patriot -- the noblest man -- the stainless name . . . my hero, lofty and superb . . ."

Tucker's "Hancock: The Superb," is strongly recommended reading as both an interesting and educational account of the life of a daring and highly respected participant in the Civil War, and that of a patriotic advocate to the cause of the Union.

The copy I read was obtained from the Fresno Central Library through the San Joaquin Inter-Library Loan Service.

San Joaquin Valley
Civil War Round Table
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