

# BUGLE CALL ECHOES

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
SEPTEMBER 2003 - VOL 11 ISSUE 7



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello again to all and welcome back from your summer vacations.

It will be nice to get back into our monthly meeting mode starting this month. Our September meeting will feature the return of guest speaker Fred Bohmfalk and his talk will be on Sherman.

Sherman is a fascinating figure and I'm sure that Fred will be able to shed some new light on his personality and his exploits during the war.

I'm looking forward to this presentation as Sherman and I are both from Ohio. He is one of my favorite personalities of the war.

I wanted to let you all know that your board of directors has been hard at work this summer. We have had a couple of board meetings with the goal of getting a SJVCWRT web site up on the internet. Bob Quist has jumped in with research on low cost web site setup and has volunteered to be our first web master. Thank you Bob your work is appreciated. Again, welcome back, and I look forward to seeing all of you again on Sept. 25th.

Tom

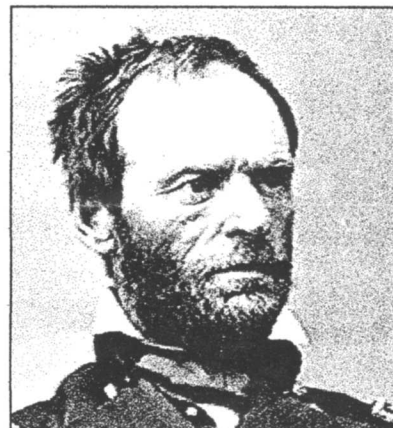
## SEPTEMBER 25th MEETING

FRED BOHMFALK WILL GIVE A TALK ON  
"SHERMAN, MY PERSPECTIVE"

Ramada Inn - Shaw at Highway 41 - No-host  
Social Hour 6PM - Dinner 7PM (\$16) -  
Program at 8PM

We are pleased to have Fred speak to us again as he is informative and quite interesting. He previously spoke to us on three other occasions.

Fred Bohmfalk has spent 22 years in the U.S. Air Force



in the Strategic Air Command. Retiring with the rank of Lt. Colonel, and went on to a career with TRW in the Missile, Space, Avionics and Military Electronics Divisions. Since retirement from TRW, he continues working in a family-related business.

Fred has had a life-long passion for history - in particular, Texas from 1800-1880, and the American Civil War. Fred is past president of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table and served as Chairman of the West Coast Civil War Conference held in Sacramento in November 2000.

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2003 COAST CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 7-9, 2003  
WARNER CENTER MARRIOTT HOTEL  
WOODLAND HILLS, CA  
"1863 THE YEAR THAT MADE  
AMERICA"

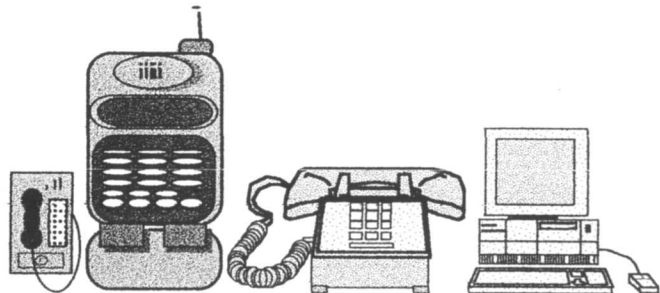
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- SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CWRT
- CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATES
- DRUM BARRACKS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

WWW.CWRTSGV.ORG

WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE,  
P.O. BOX 61172, PASADENA, CA 9116  
MARRIOTT - 1-800-228-9290

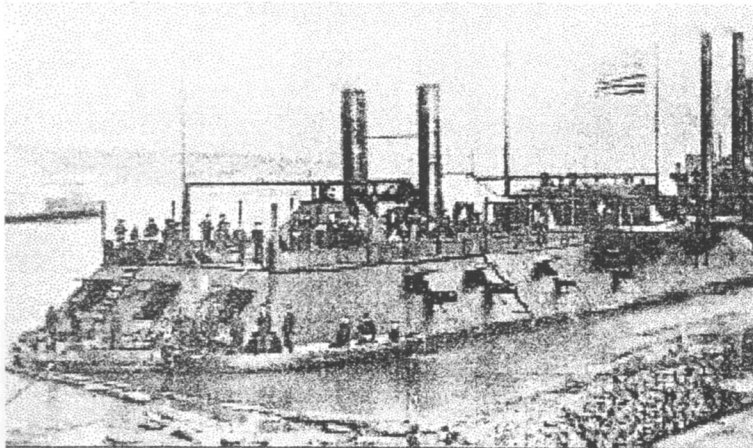
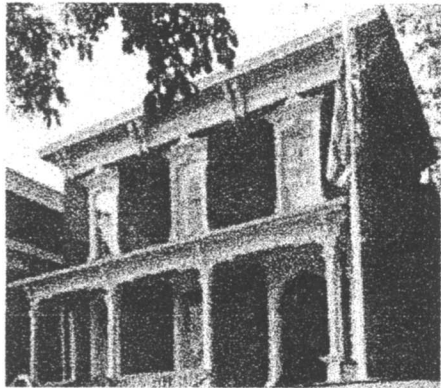
## FOR RESERVATIONS



Please let us know if you are coming as we need to get a count for the hotel.

KEN/BARB 229-3654 [bhmfresno@comcast.net](mailto:bhmfresno@comcast.net)

What are these two things? See Page 4



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## CIVIL WAR REVISITED KEARNEY PARK

7160 W. KEARNEY BLVD

OCTOBER 4TH AND 5TH

WILL REVISIT THE 140TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF  
GETTYSBURG

WE ALWAYS HAVE A BOOTH  
AND WE NEED SOME VOLUNTEERS  
FOR BOOTH DUTIES - 2HRS OR MORE  
PLEASE CALL - PATTIE 559-304-8170

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT  
BOB WASH HAD A 95TH BIRTHDAY  
LAST SPRING

BOB IS A VITAL AND ENGAGING  
MEMBER OF OUR CLUB FOR MANY  
YEARS AND HAS SPOKEN TO OUR  
CLUB IN THE PAST.

HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK AT OUR  
MEETINGS REAL SOON BOB

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IN RESPONSE TO OUR DONATION OF \$700 TO THE  
CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST FOR PARKER'S  
CROSSROADS, TENN. (THE SITE OF ONE OF GEN.  
N.B.FOREST'S NOTED BATTLES)  
WE RECEIVED AN EXCITING RESPONSE WHICH WE  
WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU.

"EACH DOLLAR CONTRIBUTED IS LEVERAGED TO  
\$10."

"EACH ACRE COSTS \$7000." SO OUR \$700 BOUGHT  
AN ACRE OF THE RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING  
BATTLEFIELD.

WE AIDED THE CWPT "TO ENLARGE THE ALREADY  
56 ACRE STATE PARK CREATING A 133 ACRE  
BATTLEFIELD FOR YOUR FAMILY - ALL AMERICANS  
TO ENJOY."

THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS LIKE OURS THE CWPT  
HAS BEEN ABLE TO SAVE 16,724 ACRES IN 19  
STATES. AND "THERE IS \$6 MILLION REMAINING ON  
THE FEDERAL MATCH TO OCT 2004"

"MY DEEPEST THANKS TO EACH OF YOU.....YOU ARE  
MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN OUR FIGHT TO  
SAVE HALLOWED GROUND! WELL DONE!"

DAVID DUNCAN - DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP AND  
DEVELOPMENT - CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST

*Coming  
Soon*

OCTOBER 30TH (OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER)  
Dr. Allen Carden : Mr. Lincoln

NOVEMBER 20TH  
Keith Poulter : Modern Civil War  
Literature and *North and South*

## What Kind of Nation: Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, and the epic struggle to create a United States

James f. Simon, Simon and Shuster, 2002. N.Y. 348pg.

It won't be easy to say just a few words about this summary of fifty years of our Country's most formative years. For one, I lack the requisite knowledge of our legal history and this book is much about that. And secondly, I must have been focused on the Union when reading about the post revolutionary days, because I somehow missed the evolving dynamics of the drama which began the day the ink dried on the Peace Treaty of 1783 which officially ended our War of Independence. What comes forth is that the individuals who created the Constitution were clearly of two different minds. The Federalists, headed by Hamilton, wanted a federal government which acted much like the monarchy in England with supreme powers and a final say over not just international affairs but over States interactions. Jefferson and the Republicans of their day placed their belief in the best hopes for the country in the States as sovereign, run by legislatures elected directly by the people. The struggle of these two groups centered on the use of the federal government to use funds for the whatever use was deemed in the best interests of the people. Critical to those decisions would be the interpretation of the words of the Constitution. Could the federal government establish a national bank? Could the federal government build a national road or engage in a myriad of internal improvements often coupled with private enterprise? Republicans said "no," because it wasn't so stated in the Constitution and this should then be a state's right; while Federalists argued that the government was established for the betterment of its people which then gave the federal government the right to do whatever achieved that end, even if it was not stated in the Constitution. This battle over interpretation raged throughout Jefferson's and subsequent Republican terms of leadership. The balance of power slowly shifted to the Federalist's side through the actions of the Supreme Court which interpreted the Constitution with a liberal bent. John Marshall, fourth Chief Justice, served in that capacity for thirty years. The book defines the pivotal role that he played in those interpretations which served to establish the supremacy of the Court over all matters of the land including actions of state's legislatures, Congress and even the Executive branch.

This could have been a dry epistle were it not for the fact that the actions of each protagonist could be viewed through the eyes of the other as revealed in their extensive private correspondences. It is very clear from this history telling that the struggle between the viewpoints of two opposed groups would ultimately have to be resolved either by secession or civil strife. What isn't clear is why the Jeffersonians didn't dissolve the Union early on when the direction of things was so apparent. The answer may lay in the apparent failure of the alternative recipe for union, the Articles of Federation between the States. The delegates who assembled ostensibly to modify the Articles, in fact redrafted them into the Constitution with its centrist federal character, which had to be modified to include language which protected (for a while) state's rights. They defined "ratified" not as originally intended by a consensus of all the States but with the adoption of only nine, and last one accepting it was Virginia's legislature as the ninth vote by a narrow majority. Ironically it would also be the last of the Southern States to vouchsafe the Constitution for the Confederacy.

As Jefferson strove to lead the country in the direction of a decentralized federal government, he was restrained by his fellow moderate Virginians who would later lead the country, and in particular James Madison. Interestingly, Jefferson saw fit to bend his own views when the opportunity to double the size of the country through the purchase of Louisiana from the French government presented itself. Nothing is explained of this seeming contradiction.

What is clear is that John Marshall and Thomas Jefferson worked hard to avoid a confrontation of their beliefs with subtle compromises rather than create a stalemate which would end the compact. Each saw something of the greater good beyond their differences, A story well worth reading.

Reviewed by Brian Clague

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From Page 2: Lancaster Ohio birthplace of Gen Sherman and Senator Sherman and the U.S.S. Cairo

MEMBERSHIP FORM    MEMBERSHIP YEAR - JANUARY TO DECEMBER

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table  
My membership category is checked below:

-----Individual \$25    -----Family \$35    -----\$10 Student or Newsletter  
\$5 OF EACH MEMBERSHIP GOES TOWARD CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Any Specific area of Civil War interest? \_\_\_\_\_

Bring this membership form and your check to a meeting or mail to:

SJVCWRT  
PO BOX 5695  
FRESNO, CA 93755

