



# Bugle Calls



## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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### SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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### PRESIDENTS REPORT FEBRUARY 2013

Hello all:

- . My goodness how January slipped away and now it's time for another President's report.
- . We will be meeting at the Denny's on Shaw in Clovis on February 14. If you want dinner, please plan to be there by 6 P.M. The business meeting will start at 7:00P.M. **Lisa Peters** will make her presentation on **food of the civil war** at about 7:20. I am looking forward to Lisa's presentation. It should be very interesting.
- . Last month we had our annual "Show and Tell" program. Brian Clague made an interesting presentation on Confederate money and I put on two programs. One giving suggestions on how to take pictures at Civil War Sites and the second a discussion about Civil War Artillery shells. I have several plaster of Paris casts of actual Civil War Artillery shells and I pointed out the difference between the shells. I'm sure that Ron Vaughn will have a much more detailed report of the meeting in his meeting notes.

. I need to remind you again that the dues were due at the beginning of January. If you haven't contributed your due, you are not a member in good standing of the Round Table and will not be able to participate in any vote that might come up. It is extremely important that we have a good dues paying membership or we will not be able to continue as an active organization. Your dues are what keep the Round Table solvent.

. We continue working at the 2013 West Coast Civil War Conference that will be held on a Carnival cruise ship starting on November 1, 2013 and return on the morning of November 4, 2013. We just about have all our speakers signed up and will have a website up sometime soon. As we have said before, the cost for the cruise is \$400.00 per person double occupancy for an inside cabin and \$450.00 per person double occupancy for an outside cabin. The cost of the conference is \$100.00 per person until May 1 and then \$150.00 per person after May 1. I would suggest that you get your reservations made as soon as possible.

. I had the opportunity to attend the San Francisco Round Table meeting in January and was allowed to talk to them about the conference. It sounds like several people are interested in the conference from that round table. While I was there, I got to hear Tom Lubas from the North Bay round table put on his presentation about Benjamin Butler. I again learned several things about Butler that I hadn't know before. Tom did a great job.

. I hope to see each and every one of you at our February meeting.

Respectfully Yours

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT**

### **BY RON VAUGHAN FROM NOTES BY MIKE GREEN**

. The January meeting featured the traditional "Show and Tell." Brian Clague talked to the group about Confederate money and how the value of it changed during the war. He explained that not only the Confederate government printed money, but each of the CSA states also produced their own money. At first the government said that it would exchange the money for gold and silver, but as the war went on, the Confederate government hedged its bet, and said that the money might be exchanged for gold and silver two

years after the war was over. That of course was based on the assumption that the war would end with a division of the country coming about. It is interesting that actual Confederate money is now worth much much more than its face value. It has become a true collector's item.

. Mike Green put on two share and tells. The first was a 51 part power point, which talked about what a person might choose to do when they are taking pictures on a Civil War battlefield or at a re-enactment. He illustrated his suggestions with five of his own pictures that he had taken at reenactments and on battlegrounds.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR TAKING PHOTOS:

1. Sometimes you need to look up.
2. Sometimes the pictures are really inside of the pictures.
3. Pictures are not just taken between the hours between 9 and 5. Sometime you need to get up before dawn and stay out well after the sun goes down.
4. Taking pictures of the surrounding area is fun.
5. Look for the detail around you.
6. Don't just look at, look through.
7. Look for reflections.
8. Sometimes you need a tripod.
9. Think about shooting from different angles.
10. Re-enactments sometimes give interesting views.
11. Sometimes you just get lucky

. Mike's second presentation involved a display of nine replicas of Civil War artillery shells. He pointed out where the fuses would be placed in some of the shells, as well as what a fuse looked like as it was attached to the shells. He also talked about the difference between smooth bore and rifled cannon, as well as the different types of projectiles and what they were used for. They included solid ball, shot, shell, and canister. A lively discussion was held during the presentation.

. Our February meeting is on the 14th, Valentine's Day. It is hoped that you can make arrangements with your "Sweetheart," to both have a romantic meal together, and also attend the meeting. Lisa will be speaking about Civil War meals.

## NEWS FROM THE RAYMOND BATTLEFIELD.

. Parker Hill sent Mike Green an update on his activities involving the Raymond battlefield. Following is a condensed version.

### **Number 1.**

. I have made some acquaintances with members of the monument preservation crew working on the Iowa Memorial at Vicksburg. I then corresponded by email with their boss in Frederick, MD. I requested that they

look into the possibility of making a rubber mold of the bust of Confederate General John Gregg (located on Clay St. just west of the Anshe Chesed Jewish Cemetery on the south side of the street next to the gas station and across the street from the Pizza Hut. I thought Friends of Raymond could pay for the mold, and have a copy of the bust made for the Raymond battlefield.

The bust has been photographed from many angles, and they will see what it will take to make a mold. Would not that be neat to have a bust of BG John Gregg on the Raymond battlefield, probably up near the three Confederate guns? By the way, the sculptor of the 1914 Gregg bust was Solon Borglum, who was, of course, the brother of Gutson Borglum of Mt. Rushmore fame and the sculptor of the wonderful North Carolina Monument at Gettysburg.

. While I was at it, I searched for a bust of Union Major General James McPherson. There is one in Grant's Tomb in Morningside, NY. So, if the Gregg bust comes to fruition, why not see if we can do the same for McPherson and have his bust placed on McPherson Ridge?

### **Number 2.**

. Yesterday (Saturday) I did some archaeological work on the small triangular field at Raymond, which is on the west side of Hwy 18 between the old and new highways (our walking trail and modern Hwy 18) and north of Fourteenmile Creek. I received permission from The Gaddis Farms to do this, and I have been waiting for the field to dry out enough that we can at least walk in the mud. Yesterday was perfect, so Tom Hughes Alan Polk, Alan's young son (who had a small Wal-Mart metal detector) and who worked his fanny off), and I spent the noon gridding and searching the field. We found only four items, but they told us a lot, and we will go back again this afternoon. Here is what we found:



1. A cal .54 Minié ball, which is the first one we have found in all of our work at Raymond. This probably came from the 20th Ohio, maybe even the 68th Ohio, as it was in front of one of those regiment (about 350 yards) and had been fired. What fires a .54 Minié ball? Well, a Mississippi Rifle does, as does a Merrill carbine, but my guess is that it was an Austrian Lorenz rifle-musket.

2. A .58 cal. Minié ball, which is the standard Springfield Rifle bullet, and we found many of those in previous work in the fields east of Hwy 18. We figure that the 20th OH and the 20th IL were using this rifle, so the .54 ball that we found leads me to believe that perhaps it was an errant round from the 68th Ohio, which was west of the old Hwy.

3. A badly bent Minié ball which, due to its light weight, led us to believe it was another .54 ball. But when I cleaned it and weighed it last night, it was one ounce heavier than a .54 ball and one ounce lighter than a .58 ball. So, I tend to believe right now that it is a .58 ball that lost an ounce of lead in the bullet path and when it struck a tree or other solid object. I seriously doubt that a cal. .54 ball could gain an ounce of weight in flight.

4. A 1.8 oz. **lead** canister ball (most canister is iron). This is the first piece of canister that we have found, and it was found 400 yards in front of where we believe CPT Samuel De Golyer's 8th Michigan Light Artillery battery was first located just south of Fourteenmile Creek Bridge. This is our first archaeological confirmation that those Michigan guns were there, but we have plenty of written documents as well as newspaper artist sketches of the guns being there. De Golyer had two 12-pounder howitzer smoothbores and four Model 1861 six-pounders which had been rifled using the James rifling process; thus, they were referred to with the misnomer of 12-pounder James Rifles.

. Now we know for sure that the two forward guns at Raymond are correct, and we know that fighting did occur in this field. We have learned of another type of weapon being used on the field (.54 cal.) and we know that De Golyer was firing lead canister. By the way, we have Texas accounts of woundings from canister, so this verifies that.