

Bugle Call Echoes

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

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San Joaquin Valley
Civil War Round Table

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From the President:

I hope everyone is well and have enjoyed the summer. Perhaps many of you have even had time to do some great Civil War reading. Dr. Dave [Davenport] has a couple of suggestions for those who find time to read on the inside of this newsletter.

We hope to see many of you at our August Round Table Dinner on Thursday, August 30th, at the Ramada Inn on Shaw just off Highway 41. Social hour runs between 6 and 7 PM, with dinner beginning @ 7 PM, followed by our program at 8 PM. We're looking forward to seeing everyone on this date as Joseph Wagner, MD, will be presenting a multimedia Microsoft PowerPoint history of the Gatling gun, its use, and its inventor, Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling..

Please RSVP by calling the Kuykendalls at 787-3632.

Brian Clague, MD,
President

Joseph Wagner, MD: A Brief Bio

My wife and I are originally from Toronto, Canada. After graduating from medical school at the University of Toronto, we came to the United States for 5 years of postgraduate training in my field of orthopaedic surgery. Deciding to stay, I began to study American history in preparation for U. S. citizenship examinations. I became interested in the American Civil War (which we did not study in Canadian schools) in this way over 50 years ago, and have not stopped reading about it. He is active in the Los Angeles CWRT and has been for many years.

San Joaquin Valley CW RT to hear Dr. Joseph Wagner's Power Point program on Gatling Gun inventor at Thursday, August 30, dinner meeting

The Gatling Gun was designed to fire 600 rounds a minute was invented by Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling in 1862. Joseph Wagner, retired assistant clinical professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at UCLA and UC Irvine, will be covering the life of Richard Jordan Gatling and antecedents of the Gatling Gun. Although the gun was shown to be effective in battle before Petersburg in 1864, Dr. Wagner will explain why it was not employed in the Civil War. The Gatling gun was to prove its value in later wars and widely adopted in military applications even today.

Briefly...

Civil War Reenactment Oct. 27-28 at Kearney Park

Pattie Spencer will begin looking for sign-ups to volunteer to 'man' our Round Table booth at the annual reenactment at Kearney before our dinner meeting on the 30th. She noted volunteers are given free passes for free parking and admittance to the activities. This year's reenactors will feature the Battle of Cedar Creek while the theme will be California's Role in the Civil War. There will again be fireworks on Saturday evening and all those interested in learning more about the event can call the Fresno County Historical Society 2441-0862.

West Coast Symposium on Civil War Innovations will be Nov. 9-11 in Las Vegas

September Dinner Meeting features The Life and Times of Wade Hampton on Sept. 27 by Phil Avila of the North Bay CWRT

Next SJVCWRT Board Meeting Oct. 4th

Bryce Kuykendall will present our January program using his PowerPoint pictures from his trip back East this summer.

After Action Report SJVCWRT Meeting of 30 June 07 by Ron Vaughan

Our 2nd (annual?) gathering at the Clague's cabin at Shaver Lake was an enjoyable day—good food, good company, great hospitality and environment!

It was pointed out that the date was the wedding anniversary of R.E. Lee & Mary Custis. It was also the 33rd anniversary for my Linda and me!

Our program was Charles Baley's story of his Civil War relative, Pvt. Alexander Oden. Alexander was born in 1841 in Cass County GA, which was later changed to Bartow County. Like many young rural boys, he attended school age 5 to 10, then "was promoted to the cornfield" of the family farm.

He attended the Methodist Church—South (as Bill Head pointed out—some Southern churches seceded long before the Civil War began. Alexander became a licensed "Extorter", a form of preacher. When the war commenced, he thought he would be exempt from the draft.

However, President Davis vetoed the exemption, so Alexander joined the 40th GA Infantry. The regiment wound up in Stevenson's Div., under Pemberton. You'all know the end of that story! He was paroled and returned to GA, but Sherman's March to the Sea rounded him up and sent him north of the Ohio River to prison, until the war's end.

After the war, he returned to preaching, and eventually came to Fresno in the 1870's, preaching as a circuit rider. He died in 1916 and was buried in the Clovis cemetery.

Book Read

David Davenport recommends two recently published books. The Age of Lincoln by Orville Vernon Burton and In the Footsteps of Grant and Lee with text by Gordon Rhea and photos by Chris Heissy.

The Age of Lincoln is a broad history of the period 1830 to 1900 by David's Ph.D. advisor at the University of Illinois, Urbana. Burton's thesis is that Lincoln was a product of a period of Reform that witnessed the extension of voting rights to all white males, manifest destiny and all that it meant to families that desired a fresh start on the frontier, and the beginning of social concerns including temperance, mental health, the transformation of prisons from warehousing of criminals to places of rehabilitation, the first women's rights movement, and abolition of slavery..

Burton argues, quite successfully according to David, that Lincoln was a product of each of these issues and that he embodied the "public consensus" about how to deal with each at the midpoint of the century.

Burton then develops his second argument, viz that the thirty-five years after Lincoln were still dominated by him. To paraphrase a popular saying among modern evangelical Christians "What would Lincoln say or do?" Became something of a mantra as a series of Chief Executives were compared almost always unfavorably to Honest Abe. It was not really until Teddy Roosevelt took office that the President didn't operate under the shadow of Lincoln.

The Age of Lincoln, although not the History Book Club's Editor's Choice for August, was a runner up for this honor. David reports that it is very well written and an enjoyable read. Professor Burton has been the University of Illinois, Urbana's "Teacher of the Year" five times in the last thirty years.

In the Footsteps of Grant and Lee is a "coffee table" book that will astonish you and your guests. Chris Heissy photographed many of the sites associated with the Overland Campaign of 1864 and the following sieges. Gordon Rhea, among the most prolific writers of the Overland Campaign, has provided text. The result is a magnificent work of art that has something for both the serious scholar and the layman.

New book looks at role of religion during the Civil War

I'm the marketing for a forthcoming book that I think may be of interest to members of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. It's called **BOTH PRAYED TO THE SAME GOD: RELIGION AND FAITH IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR** by Robert J. Miller.

The fascinating topic of American religion during the Civil War has been largely overlooked until now - the few books previously published in this area have been insightful, yet somewhat narrow in focus and a bit dry and scholarly in tone. Miller's new work is a popularly written general overview of significant role that religion played in the war. It has a forward by renowned historian James M. McPherson and we've been seeing great pre-publicity reviews already.

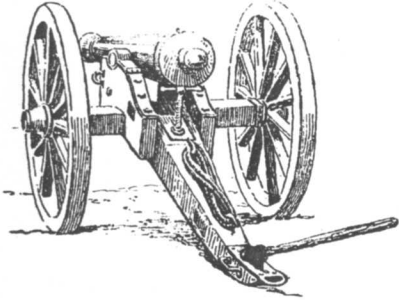
Because we feel that your members will be such a key part of our target readership, we'd be happy to offer you a discount of 30% off the cover price. We could also discuss potentially deeper discounts if you think your organization might be interested in placing bulk orders. And, of course, if you'd like to mention, feature, or review the book in any newsletters or publications, I'd be happy to send gratis copies to the appropriate person within your organization upon publication. Please let me know if any of these options sound appealing to you. Likewise, just let me know if you have any questions about the book. In the meantime, if you'd like to learn more, you can find more information on the book here: www.lexingtonbooks.com/isbn/0739120557

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely, Matt Smiley Marketing Manager,
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A Faithful Dog:

The widow of Lieut. Pfeff of Illinois was enabled to find her at Pittsburg Landing by seeing a dog which had accompanied the Lieutenant to war. The dog approached her with the most intense manifestations of joy, and immediately indicated to her, as well as he was able, his desire that she should follow him. She did so, and he led the way to a distant part of the field, and stopped before a single grave. She caused it to be opened and there found the body of her husband.



It appears from the statements of some of the soldiers, that when Lieut. Pfeff fell, the dog was at his side, and thus remained licking his wounds, until he was taken from the field and buried. He then took his station by the grave, and nothing could induce him to abandon it, but for a sufficient length of time each day to satisfy his hunger, until by some means he was made aware of the presence of his mistress. Thus he watched for twelve days by the grave of his slain master.

From The Civil War in Song and Story, p. 120.

"A gentleman who had been a Major General in the militia was drafted. He reported for duty at headquarters with his regimentals ready to take command of any division that should be assigned to him. But he was exceedingly shocked and astonished when informed that they were not drafting Major Generals, and that he was only a private." (Maybe he should have volunteered earlier!)

from "Blue & Gray Laughing"

Volunteer Pvt. Bryce Kuykendall

A private in the 79th New York Volunteer Infantry stepped up and volunteered to fill our open Secretary position. Special thanks to our youngest member, a busy high schooler Bryce Kuykendall, who agreed to fill the open position when Phyllis Mann moved to Texas.

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