



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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AFTER ACTION REPORT FROM KEARNEY PARK

Loyal forces of the Army of the Potomac clashed with the Rebel forces in a confusing 2 day meeting engagement on the extensive farming

M. Theoney, on the the small of Fresno, On the second the engagement small cavalry of the Rebels discovered to the North arney Man blocked by



property of the townships of California. On the second day of the engagement, a Rebel cavalry force was advancing on the Kearney Park and the valiant efforts of the Union horsemen. The Union brigade command, suspecting strength behind this probe, ordered the camp to order and deployed in the West woods. As skirmishers from Sykes' Regular U.S. Infantry advanced to discover the extent of the enemy's advance into the loyal territory of California, they met a similar line of skirmishers of rebel dismounted cavalry. This information was being conveyed back to Brigade headquarters when rebel artillery in suspected strength of 2 battalions opened fire on the Union lines. This fire, while loud and sustained in volume, did not appear accurate as the Union infantry was not visibly affected. The thunder of 3 steadfast Union guns soon answered the rowdy spectacle.

The Union Battalion, Lt. Col. Thomas J. Bispo, commanding, formed the left wing of the infantry forces. The 2nd Maryland Volunteer Infantry, Captain Niles Kynett, in command, formed to the left of the Union Colors. Upon the order to advance, conveyed by the Assistant Adjutant General, Bvt. Captain Kevin Brown, the regiment moved forward. Entering an open field, it being October, and being devoid of crops, the boys were exposed to galling musket and canister fire from the Rebel forces. The battalion, it's advance stalled, with

**AFTER ACTION REPORT FROM
KEARNEY PARK**

continued

drew in good order. The Rebel forces did not pursue, but seemed inclined to return to their encampments. The engagement now quieted down, as local spectators and even school children, visited the camps.

Several hours later, again, cavalry from both forces found the other and brought on a return of forces committing artillery and infantry support. With picnic fare laid out, and civilians watching the battle from the sidelines. it reminded one seasoned Veteran of the Battle of First Bull Run. But this glorious display of arms did not meet in disaster. With a flanking attack on the Rebel left, the guns were forced back, and unsupported, the Rebel infantry was defeated in piecemeal, with one brilliant flanking maneuver after the next. This kept the Rebs on the run, until the Confederate Command sought a truce on the field of battle, and the field was ours, and fairly won.

Private Michael W. Gatley

Attached to the 2nd Maryland Volunteer Infantry

**WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE
RECAP BY BRIAN CLAGUE**

This Conference was dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and member Bob Quist.

The recently held 25th Annual West Coast Conference of Civil War Roundtables, was by all attending, a great success. The attendance which mattered greatly given the state of our economy reached 90 paid registrants some of whom came from Tennessee

There were several who to interact with one speaker details of the topics I refer following website which high- Kudos to Evan Jones for put- splendid lineup of speakers Spencer rifle for display and Tim”Allen”Johnson Award . of the event included the start



came specifically or another. As to you to the fol- ligh- ted the sym- CW09#sarasota . ting together this , for bringing a for creating the Special highlights of a tradition of

awarding the keynote speaker the Tim “Allen”Johnson Award in honor of our past inspiration, Tim . Both his daughter, Holly, and son ,Chris, were there to speak in Tim’s memory. Also, the committee which originates the Jerry Russel Award for Preservation chose to name me as this year’s recipient. A great surprise ! Many club members participated to make this a successful conference.Thanks go to each of them for their part: Walter Schulze for registration and accounting and badge production; Barbara and Ken Moats for production and awarding of various awards of participation and for organizing the presentation of the Tim “Allen” Johnson Award ; Ken Moats and others for handling the raffle and silent auction;

REMINDERS

Membership Dues must be paid no later than our January meeting in order to maintain your membership in good standing. Dues are \$35.00 per year, per family.

If you are planning to attend our November meeting, please RSVP to Walt Schulze at 559-297-4481 prior to Tues. Nov. 10th.

**AFTER ACTION REPORT
SJVCWRT MEETING OF OCT.
8, 2009**

By Ron Vaughan

Our President was worried, as only 12 persons made reservations, but fortunately 23 persons showed up for the meeting. Our program was about the California 100 Cavalry Company. The Presenters, Tim & Ginny Karlberg, spoke as if they were speaking to listeners at the San Francisco meeting of the Grand Army of The Republic, in the latter part of the 1800s. Tim represented Cal 100 vet, Lt. John Fletcher , and Ginny was the widow of Capt. John Reed.

Mrs. Reed reported that her husband, at the age of 17, along with his 15 year old brother, had left home in Mass. and sailed to adventure in the 1849 California gold fields.

They mined gold at Nevada City, then went on to South America, before eventually returning home. John married Hattie in Boston, and soon the couple sailed to CA. Hattie mentioned many Army officers who served in Ca, and later became famous generals, including Grant, Sherman, Halleck, Hooker, Fremont, and A.S. Johnson. John Reed joined a militia unit, the Vallejo

**WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE
RECAP BY BRIAN CLAGUE
CONTINUED**

Patty Spencer and Mike Spencer for maintaining the hospitality center, for arranging the catering effort, and for assisting Walter; Lydia Flores for publicity efforts; The Kuykenhall family for managing the Air Force Cadet colour guard presentation, for the donation of the dinner wine,

and individually, for Bryce who participated in the color presentation as well as various other chores where needed; Ronald Vaughn who acted as our chaplain; General (retired) Ron Markarian who assisted in management affairs which secured the District facility for us; and to all our members who attended part or all of the event. This was the third such conference which we have managed to host in the past five years, and will be remembered for all of these highlights.

Thanks to all. Brian Clague MD, Chairperson

**BOOK REVIEW
*The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln***

The December 2009 issue of Civil War Times contains the latest reviews of new titles related to President Lincoln. Among its reviews is one of Larry Tagg's work, *The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln*. Since Larry is our featured speaker on November 12 Bugle Calls takes the liberty of reprinting George Skoch's review of Larry's book.

As Larry Tagg's book title implies, *The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln: The Story of America's Most Reviled President* is not the warm and fuzzy portrait we're used to seeing. Tagg has produced an eye-opening study, the first of its kind to focus on what Lincoln contemporaries really thought of him. On the other hand, this is not mean-spirited Lincoln-Bashing. Tagg judiciously incorporates quotes by contemporaries to lend his story substance and weight.

Readers are likely to share Tagg's amazement at the "unsurpassed venom" of the criticism Lincoln endured --- even though, according to Tagg, there was much to criticize. Tagg assesses his presidency within the social and political context of mid-19th century America. It was a time, for example, when "rabid press routinely destroyed the reputations of public men," when the stature of the presidency, "stained by feeble performances from a string of the poorest President's in the nation's history," had plunged over decades.

Lincoln adapted to his role and asserted his authority. But considering the barrage of abuse he endured, Tagg says, "The depth of Lincoln's travail is much of what ennobles him."

Two other titles, Barry Schwartz's *Abraham Lincoln in the Post-Heroic Era: History and Memory in Late Twentieth-Century America* and Charles Flood's *1864: Lincoln at the Gates of History* are also reviewed, but the readers of Bugle Calls will need to turn to p. 62 of the December, 2009, issue of Civil War Times to read these.

**AFTER ACTION REPORT
SJVCWRT MEETING OF OCT.
continued**

Mounted Rifles, which essentially served as a vigilance committee, to maintain law and order.

When the war broke out, the Mass. Governor lacked horsemen for the State's two cavalry regiments. John corresponded with the Governor, then placed an ad in "The Alta California" for volunteers to serve in the East. Many stepped forward and 101 were selected, including private John Fletcher. Hattie accompanied her husband on the voyage to Boston. When their ship arrived in Boston, in Jan. 1863, the citizens were most curious about these Westerners.

The Californians were designated Company "A" of the 2nd Mass. Cavalry. Private Fletcher said that after only three weeks training, then they were shipped out to Ft. Monroe, on the Virginia Peninsula. They performed picket duty to prevent enemy surprise attacks, and guarded supply trains. But they longed to do the most important roles for cavalry, that of reconnaissance, pursuit of the enemy, and making raids to disrupt enemy supply lines.

Eventually the 2nd Mass. was assigned to contend with Mosby's Rangers, in the Shenandoah Valley. Fletcher said that Moseby's guerrillas did not fight fair. They posed as friendly civilians or wore Union uniforms, and then made surprise attacks. The Cal 100 were taught a hard lesson at Aldie, VA, where Capt. Reed sent a squad to chase two raiders. Suddenly the squad was shot down from ambush. Capt. Reed then ordered a charge by the lead platoon, followed by the balance of the company, but they were all shot up by more Rebels in concealment. Capt. Reed and half the company were killed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sacramento author Larry Tagg will speak at our November 12 meeting about his new book, *The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln: The Story of America's Most Reviled President*, from Savas Beatie publishing. Mr. Tagg is also a school teacher and formal bass guitar player.



Reservations for the dinner-meeting must be made with Walt Schulze no later than November 9. This will be our next to the last meeting at the regular attendance has point where we can no longer afford to absorb the cost of uneaten meals and the Ramada requires that we order twenty. Starting on January 8, 2010, we will meet in the banquet room of the Denny's restaurant at the northeast corner of Herndon and Blackstone. Denny's is allowing us to order off the menu, so yours truly will be able to have the ham and cheese omelet for dinner.

Your president and other members of the Board hope that this will lead to increased participation by those who don't want to pay \$18 for a meal.

Hello,

My name is David Moore and like you have a passion for the Civil War. For the past 10 years I have worked daily on a book, which I have finally completed. The book, which is on CD is over 5,000 pages and lists day by day the events that took place.

I have a web site, which can be viewed at www.moorecivilwar.com, and has more information about who I am and about my book. If you would like your web site linked on ours www.moorecivilwar.com please send your web address and we will do the rest.

In order to get the word out I am selling my book on CD for only \$20.00, which includes shipping. If you know of someone who is interested in the Civil War please pass on my name and my web site www.moorecivilwar.com

Thank you for your time,

David T. Moore www.moorecivilwar.com
Moore's Civil War Reference

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF OCT.

continued

Lt. Fletcher opined that Grant figured out how to win the war. He kept on fighting and inflicting casualties,

Whether he won or not. In the end, he sent Sheridan's 10,000 cavalry to destroy Lee's supply lines, and cut off his retreat.

The Cal 100 fought in 58 battles and engagements. Only 38 men survived and at the end they were emaciated and totally exhausted. John Fletcher returned to CA and became a wheat farmer near Brentwood.

KEARNEY PARK

A big hazzah and tip of the kepi to all who made the booth successful at Kearney Park Oct 3-4th. We had plenty of volunteers considering with heavy hearts with the passing of Bob Quist. We raised \$550.00 for the raffle.

Kearney Park will continue in 2010 & since I have done the volunteer list for the past 9 years. IT'S TIME TO PASS THE TORCH TO SOMEONE ELSE!!!! IF SOMEONE ELSE IS INTERESTED PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Thanks,
Pattie Spencer
Board Member
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