



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

BUGLE CALLS, SEPT. 2017

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1. SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING

Social Hour 6:00 pm, Meeting 7:00 PM -- ALL ARE WELCOME!

DENNY'S RESTAURANT

710 W, SHAW AVE., CLOVIS (East of Willow)

Program:

- a. Patti Spencer will do a "mini-talk" about photographer Mathew Brady.
 - b. Ron Vaughan will show some pictures from his Gettysburg tour with Ed Bearss last April.
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2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: September 2017

BY MICHAEL GREEN

Hello All,

I hope you had a good summer and you are ready to get back to our regular meetings of the Round Table. I hope to see you there. Our business meeting may take a bit longer than usual, because we will be discussing our taking on the 2018 West Coast conference. We have decided on the theme of the Battles West of the Mississippi. We already have three nationally known speakers that have agreed to come to the Conference. Richard Hatcher, Parker Hills, and Thomas Cutrer have agreed to participate as speakers. At this time it appears we will be have the conference in one of the hotels in Fresno. We need to talk about how we will go about organizing this conference. After this we will have Patty as our speaker.

We had our annual get together at Brian and Linda Clague's home at Shaver Lake. As usual it was a lot of fun. Ron presented a video about the Union and Confederate reunions that took place after the war. It was a very interesting presentation and everyone seemed to have enjoyed it. Thanks to the Clagues and to Ron for doing a great job.

In the past few months, something has been going on in this country that is of great concern to me and others. It is the removal of statues of Confederate leaders from parks and areas in some cities in the south. This process was started about three years ago in Memphis, where statues and even the name of a park was changed because of its references to the history of this country. After that it worked its way to New Orleans and as we have seen the situation got out of control in Charlottesville earlier this month. I'm of two minds about this issue. As a former history teacher, I can find little or no justification to try to erase a very important part of this country's history. That seems to be just wrong. On the other

hand it makes me sick to see the KKK and white supremacists using this situation to preach hate in this country. That is also wrong.

If the statue removal is designed only to call attention to the plight of the African American life in this country, then we should also be pulling down all the statues of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Polk because they all were slave owners, and if we intend to do this correctly we need to pull down statues of all the people in the north who had anything to do with the slave trade. This would include censuring many of the Ivy league universities because many of them were founded or endowed by men who made their money in the slave trade. This country's hands are not at all clean in any sense of the word.

I believe we all need to become educated about the good, the bad, and the ugly of what this country is all about. BUT that doesn't give people the right to preach and promote hate. This will only divide and polarize this country even more than it is. Well that's my soap box rant. What do you think? I am open to different opinions.

3. AFTER ACTION REPORT:

MEETING AT CLAGUES'S CABIN, SHAVER LAKE, 8/12/17

BY RON VAUGHAN

Seventeen persons were gathered at their wonderful cabin for a delicious meal of barbequed chicken and tri-tip, with plentiful side dishes and desserts. There was a nice breeze during the afternoon, that provided a welcome contrast from the valley heat. A VCR tape loaned by David Vaughan "Echoes of The Blue & Gray" was shown on a very large screen TV. It was fascinating to see the CW vets at the 50 year anniversary encampment at Gettysburg. Also there were scenes of New York Parades and other gatherings.

The later occasions when sound movies were invented, featured stories and speeches by these old vets in their 90s. An interesting note was the appearance of a contingent of former slaves, who had served in the war with their masters. Their spokesman said they have been accepted and treated fairly by their fellow Confederate vets. It was great to see old Yanks and Rebs shaking hands. This spirit of reconciliation seems to have dissipated today.

Thank you to Brain and Linda for hosting this event!

4. 2017 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE, SACRAMENTO

NOV. 10-12, CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, SACRAMENTO

“LESSER KNOWN CIVIL WAR BATTLES”

William C. Davis

Dr. Brian S. Wills

Thomas Cartwright

Jim Stanbery

Ted Savas

Ron Perisho

Costs: Conference Fee \$200 Get registration info at www.sacramentocwrt.com

Rooms \$124 + tax, call 877-504-0054

5. 2018 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE,

SPONSORED BY SJVCWRT

Nov. 9-11 “The Not So Glamorous Step-Sister: The Trans-Mississippi Theater”

A final decision has not been made on the location. However the speakers are all lined up and the speaker schedule is full:

Thomas Cutrer, Richard Hatcher III, General Parker Hills, Jim Stanbery, Brian Clague, Ron Vaughan

6. CIVIL WAR HUMOR, FROM "THE BLUE & GRAY LAUGHING"

Harper's Weekly, August 13, 1864, featured a cartoon depicting a Pennsylvania farmer, with a bucket and a sign reading "Susquehanna Water 6 cents per glass."

A hot and thirsty New York soldier queries, "Six cents a glass is rather dear, don't you think?" "Pshaw!" replies the Pennsylvanian, "what's the good of having you fellows here from New York, if we can't make something out of you to cover what we lose by the rebel raiders?"

7. PRESERVATION NEWS

a. Scientists and preservationists working on the CSA Submarine Hunley think they have figured out the probable cause for the death of the crew. After various simulation tests, they have concluded that the shock wave from the explosion of the spar torpedo caused brain and lung tissue trauma, to the extent that it killed them. This explains why the skeletons were all found seated at their stations, with no sign of attempts to get out or release ballast to surface. OK, but how do they explain the blue signal light that was flashed to shore, to signal the success of the mission? This was observed by witness testimony.

b. General Parker Hills informed Mike that the restoration of the fence on the Raymond Battlefield has been installed. Please enjoy the accompanying photos, below.

c. With all the controversy over Confederate monuments, it has been pointed out that there are no removals of statues of Generals James Longstreet or William

Mahone, because there never have been any (except for the Longstreet statue at Gettysburg). The reason why these two famous generals do not have statues at courthouse and such, is because the post war Southerners did not approve of their politics.

According to Wiki, Longstreet endorsed Grant for president in the election of 1868, attended his inauguration ceremonies, and six days later received an appointment as surveyor of customs in New Orleans. For these acts he lost favor with many white Southerners.

Despite the fact that Mahone's soldiers slaughtered many Black soldiers at the Battle of the Crater, after the war he became the leader of the Readjuster Party, a coalition group of Democrats, Republicans, and African-Americans. His work with Republicans and Blacks caused him to be branded a "race traitor," so the only monument to him is a DAR monument next to the Crater.

d. "Franklin's Charge" has secured cannons for Carter Hill Battlefield Park. This sub-group of the Battle of Franklin Trust has made arrangements for placing four cannons (3, 3 inch Ordnance Rifles and 1 Napoleon) on the site where a Union battery was during the battle. For more information or to make a donation, see www.franklinscharge.org/support/

e. Here is an email from May 20, 2017, about the restoration efforts at Raymond:

Mike,

The fence in the Upper Field has finally been completed. We had a couple of weeks of very heavy rain in June which precluded us getting a truck, trailer, and generator into the field to finish the work. But, with this July heat, the ground finally dried out enough for us to get down and finish the arduous drill work required to drive the rebar through the rails and the stones, then into the ground. Lots of drill and sledge hammer work.

Take a look at the attached photos. The tree stump with the San Joaquin plaque is cedar, and has been treated with two gallons of water seal. It sits atop a poured concrete base with an iron rod and plate in the center of the stump securing it in the concrete. We had an extra field stone, which I placed in front of the stump for the reader to stand upon. Note the small hole in the center of the field stone. Each fence joint rests atop one of these stones, and an 8-foot specially made rebar goes through the 12 fence rails at each joint and then through a hole in the stone and finally, 2 feet into the ground.

We built this thing right. Even the Vicksburg NMP Superintendent, when he visited the Raymond battlefield, was very impressed with the work, even though it had not been completed.

The extra labor and the stones put me about \$650 over the \$5,000 budgeted for the project, but I attended the FOR Board meeting tonight and presented them with a \$3,500 donation from one of my tours, so they were quite happy. In fact, one of the board members was moved enough to say that he was going to donate \$5,000 to become an FOR General, on the promise that we use his \$5,000 to build another rail fence behind the Confederate guns. So, it was a good night.

Parker

f. An email, from Parker to Doug:

Doug,

We finally got around to cleaning the threads on the breech of the Whitworth rifled cannon that you sponsored many years ago. I really appreciate your patience with me on this project. It only took about 11 years to complete!

The breech mechanism now works as smooth as silk, thanks to a can of special nickel lubricant for pipe threads and some hard work with a stainless steel brush. The lubricant and brush were donated by another good Texas man, Dave Hearn.

Attached is a photo of my Chief of Staff, Carol, serving as the No. 3 gunner. Also, note the Allen wrench hanging from the bottom of the breech. You have to have this particular size wrench to open the breech, but first you have to know where the bolt is located. This is a form of security from vandalism, of course. Thanks again. Now, name another battlefield--anywhere--that has a Whitworth with a working breech!

Press the Fight!

Parker













*"They [7th Texas] advanced to the bed of a creek not
20 paces in front and our line fell back 2 or 3
rods behind a fence and held its ground."*

Sergeant A. M. Geer, 20th Illinois Infantry

THIS FENCE WAS SPONSORED BY
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

IN HONOR OF
BRIAN AND LINDA CLAGUE
AND
KENNETH AND BARBARA MOATS