

BUGLE CALL ECHOES

Vol. 5 No. 11, November 1997

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table



Cavalryman,
US Regulars

CAV!

The November meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will be held a week earlier than usual since the normal meeting date falls on Thanksgiving. Keith Poulter will be our featured speaker, his topic The Second Illinois Cavalry. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **NOVEMBER 20, 1997.**

Keith's bio relates that he "entered the world in London, December 1940 to the sound of falling bombs, and has had an interest in military history ever since." Before establishing his own business publishing board games and magazines, he worked for British Intelligence, a welfare agency, and taught in several educational facilities. He moved his headquarters for the board game/magazine business to California in 1983 and has lived here since. Because board games virtually have been eliminated by computer games (a subject about which Keith has written a book), he looked for a new venture. That venture is publishing a new Civil War magazine, *North and South*. Two issues of *North and South* have been printed to date.

Keith's personal interest in the Civil War was triggered by reading Bruce Catton's Grant Moves South. That was 14 years ago; now Keith's library contains over 1,500 printed volumes/microfilm reels. His areas of expertise are the Vicksburg Campaign; the 2nd Illinois Cavalry; the Richmond Underground; the Cavalry Bureau; Grant; the War in the West, 1861-63; and the War in the East, 1864-1865. He admits to being aware of a "few minor skirmishes in the East during the early part of the war."

The meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn on Shaw and Highway 41, Thursday, November 20, 1997. A no-host social hour begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and the program at 8 p.m. Send your check for \$15 for dinner (\$10 for students under 25) to Wayne Bowen in care of the SJVCWRT, Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755, or call him at 291-4885. Reservations are important. Reminder: the meeting is scheduled for the Thursday before Thanksgiving.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The planning committee for the '98 conference is off and running. While a respectable number turned out, we can use more help. Committee chairs have been named, but, hey, we need more Indians. Many of the jobs to be done are not demanding or time intensive but become so if one person is responsible for several. Dates for future meetings will be posted in the newsletter FYI. Call Bill Head (432-8746) or Tim Johnson (431-4832), conference co-chairs, for further information.

If you've found our WEB page on the Internet (<http://www.angelfire.com/ca/cwstudies/index.html>), you know it's in the rudimentary stage. Hang in there. We're learning as we go, having fun with the vernacular (e.g., URL's, links, html language) and grappling with graphics, color design and formatting. It's gonna be fine.

The 1997 Civil War conference in Holtville, California, is fast approaching as I write this (dates of the conference are November 7-9). Hope to see some of you there. These conferences broaden your Civil War knowledge and acquaint you with outstanding speakers. It's a good way to network and has provided us with speakers--past and yet to come.

This is the last newsletter for 1997. Being president has made for a most interesting year. Thank you, board members, for all your support.

Keith Poulter will be telling us about the 2nd Illinois Cavalry--"Cav" is the most mispronounced word in the military lexicon, isn't it?

Barbara Moats

WHY DO I DO CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTING?

by Ron Vaughan

Carol Berry asked me to write something from the re-enactor's perspective, so the best place to start is with the above question. I am often asked about this. Why participate in the self-abuse of drilling in wool uniforms on hot days, sleeping on hard ground, eating sometimes unappetizing food, listening to verbal abuse by superior officers, etc.? (Some re-enactors do not do any of the above, and just look upon it as a picnic with guns!)

I can't claim that participating in re-enactments one or two weekends a month is the same as the three to four years of service that the Civil War veteran suffered. The bullets are not real (although there still is some element of danger). But it does give a feeling for it, and it helps one identify with the Civil War soldier, and respect for what he endured. Many of us feel that we are paying honor to the memory of those vets who fought and died. Jim Wasserman wrote last year that re-enactments would make the real veterans turn over in their graves. Well, there are those poorly scripted events that can make any knowledgeable person wince, but remember that it was the Civil War vets who did the first battle re-enactments. They wanted the folks back home to see what it was like, which is what we do too--educate the public.

We provide full sensory education--you can see, hear, smell, feel, and sometimes taste (anyone want a bite of hardtack?) the experience. Kids can't get that from a book. At one of my living history talks at a school, some students with learning disabilities sneaked out of class to hear my talk a second time. Their teacher was amazed at what they remembered. It is sad that so many people are totally uneducated about Civil War history (or any history). They ask a soldier in a blue uniform with a US belt buckle, "Are you the blue or the gray?"

A recent letter to the paper questioned whether it was good to re-enact such bloodshed. Certainly there are different views on this. Some of the re-enactors get pretty gory with studio blood, and don't visit the hospital tent if you have a weak stomach! I think it was General Lee who said, "It is well that war is so horrible, or we would grow too fond of it." This is my sentiment. Would the soldiers and politicians, North and South, have marched off so gaily into war if they had known what they were in for? Same thing in regards to WWI. We have some veterans of modern real combat in our ranks. One former Green Beret in our ranks, who suffers from post-

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traumatic shock syndrome, says he finds it therapeutic to see "casualties" get up again after it's over.

Re-enacting obviously brings intimate knowledge of the clothing, equipment and weapons of the soldier--details that you can't find written or pictured in any book. Most veterans did not write about these things in their memoirs, since they were so common. For example, rarely do you find a memoir describing one's uniform. Learning the drill and maneuvers gives an insight into battles that is missing in most secondary and even primary source histories. Some examples here are the time it takes to deploy and maneuver units and the reasons for various formations. Knowing the reactions of soldiers to various situations, such as being flanked, gives insight into why things happened as they did. Understanding the point of view of the soldier and what his duties were is useful when one is analyzing and comparing eyewitness accounts of battles. The memoirs of an NCO may not necessarily be an accurate account of a battle, if he was so busy keeping his platoon in line that he had little time to observe the battle.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of re-enacting is coming into contact with persons who are in possession of verbal history--usually stories of their ancestors. Many times members of the public will approach us with Civil War documents or artifacts and share interesting stories. Also, there are re-enactors who have researched information on a particular unit. For example, Rick Price spoke to our CWRT meeting about the history of his unit, the 3rd Confederate. There is no published history of this unit; his information had to be pieced together.

Finally, there is the element of personal satisfaction. We perform like actors in a community theater group but instead of rehearsals, we drill! The battles are scripted, but it is "theater of the unrehearsed" and you never know how it will turn out exactly. It is sort of impromptu theater! Fresno audiences have been the most appreciative of any place I have ever been. Of course it is nice to get into the outdoors, except when it rains or snows. Most of us don't stop for weather, except thunderstorms--muskets make great lightning rods! It is enjoyable to sit around the camp fire and swap stories or sing period songs.

Well, this reminiscing has gone on long enough. Next time I will relate the inside view of Kearney Park and other re-enactments.



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LOCAL HISTORY

by David Bean

The *Bakersfield Californian*, the local newspaper, had an article recently about the Kern County town of Havilah, as the townspeople were celebrating the town's 133rd anniversary.

What brought the story to our attention was the reference to Asbury Harpending, who was a controversial California citizen during the Civil War. Harpending was chased out of San Francisco because he was a rabid Southern sympathizer. He had purchased a ship for the Southern cause to be used to attack the North. He was thrown in jail but he had friends in high places who got him released. He had been pirating Northern ships but lost everything after being jailed and moved south to the Kern Valley, broke.

Although that locale was a booming gold mining camp, gold having been discovered there in 1864, Harpending did not make his subsequent fortune mining gold. He was a wheeler dealer, and gave Havilah the biblical name which means "where there is gold." When he came there, the camp consisted of one store with tents and shacks. With all the miners, the total population in that area was about 500. But by the end of 1866, the "town" had blossomed into 147 buildings, six stores, numerous saloons, butcher shops and boot makers. By then there were 900 voters and 3,000 miners in Havilah and so when Kern County was organized that year, Havilah was the obvious site for the county seat.

There were big names in Havilah. George Hearst, father of William Randolph, operated a mine there, as did the Catholic Church. Harpending didn't stay long and went on to bigger and better schemes, but he made \$800,000 selling plots of land to local businessmen and townsfolk. Bob Powers, a local historian, says, "I'm not sure how he got the land or if it was even his to sell."

Harpending's town held onto his sentiments on the Southern cause. Word got around that sympathizers were welcome. The Havilah museum holds remnants of the town's feelings about the Civil War, with a worn Confederate flag in one of the glass cases. "This was a good place for them to hide out," Powers said. "After the North got the upper hand, they came out here."

The town had texture, gunfights, money and even legitimacy with its county post of government, but Havilah's downfall was as quick as its arrival. The mines began to fail and Bakersfield, which had been considered a health risk because of the surrounding swamps, had been cleaned up by drainage ditches. Also, it became apparent that agriculture would hold the riches of the county's future.

Havilah also had a transportation problem; there were times of the year when you couldn't get in or out. By 1872, Havilah had dropped to 54 voters, but there were 128 registered in Bakersfield--the shift had taken place. Two years later, Bakersfield claimed the county seat and Havilah's few years of fame were over.

There isn't much left of Havilah's past. All the buildings were burned down by several fires. If you have a guide to show you, there are remnants of the stone foundation of the old Oddfellow's Hall and a replica of the original one-room school house stands next to the road near the museum. Connie Houser, president of the Centennial group, says, "There's not much left to picture what used to be here, but if you really look, you can find it--a water wheel, grinding hoes, pictographs from Indians. We want to keep it that way."

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REMINDERS

- ◆ An information meeting on the Vicksburg walking tour is scheduled for November 15, 1997, 7 p.m., at Bill Head's home. Contact Bill for further details at 432-8746.
- ◆ The discussion group begins studying the Vicksburg Campaign after the first of the year. Watch for further details in the January newsletter.
- ◆ The last board meeting of the year is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 1997, at 4 p.m., 4780 N. Delno, Fresno. All round table members are welcome.

**UNFAMILIAR
VERSES TO
FAMILIAR
CHRISTMAS SONG**

by Warren Randall



You may not recognize the following words, but is there something familiar in the rhythm?

Then from each black, accursed mouth, The cannon thundered in the South....

These lines open the fourth verse of a poem we often hear--in part--at this time of the year. You've probably sung at least the first verse, starting with....

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play...

Yes, these are the opening lines of the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem, *Christmas Bells*, first set to music in 1872 by a British organist, John Baptiste Calkin, and then revived by a popular Hollywood arranger, Johnny Marks, in the 1950s. He made slight changes in Longfellow's words and provided a new musical setting.

The Marks' version was used in recordings by (among others) Kate Smith, Frank Sinatra, Harry Belafonte and Bing Crosby (who told Marks it was good to see he'd finally gotten "a decent lyricist").

But the Marks' version omits three verses that made the original poem an anguished reflection of the mixed feelings that tormented those observing Christmas during the Civil War years.

Here is the complete poem, as written by the Maine-born Longfellow, possibly, even, probably, in early December of 1863:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And though how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

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Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

The poem was included in a group assembled in the spring of 1864, although it may have appeared in a newspaper or magazine soon after it was written. Its first publication in book form came in May, 1865.

The fact that Longfellow's elder son, an officer in the First Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment, was wounded in the Mine Run campaign, November 26-December 1, 1863, may have brought about its writing. Inquiries at the Maine Historical Society, the Portland Public Library and the Bowdoin College Library have not established the date of the writing of the poem, nor linked it to the son's wounding.

It is known, however, that Longfellow suffered a mood of intense melancholy after the death of his wife in an 1861 fire, and that this was to continue through the anguish of the war years.

reprinted from *First Call*, newsletter of the
Joshua L. Chamberlain CWRT,
Brunswick, Maine. Used with permission.

THE SEVEN DAYS BATTLES: WITHDRAWAL TO HARRISON'S LANDING

by Barbara Moats

The Battle of Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862, was the last great battle of the Seven Days Campaign and a decisive Union victory. Despite this victory General McClellan continued his plan to withdraw the Army of the Potomac to Harrison's Landing on the north bank of the James River and the protection of US Navy gunboats.

During the preceding days, McClellan, convinced that he was outnumbered and that his army was in mortal danger, began a "strategic withdrawal" in the early morning hours of June 27 from White House Landing on the Pamunkey River. General Fitz-John Porter held off the Confederates until late in the day, when Hood's Texas Brigade collapsed the Union line. Although the day ended in defeat for the Fifth Corps, it gave the rest of the army a lead which Lee could not overcome as he tried to cut off and destroy in detail McClellan's retreating army (Savage Station, June 29; Glendale, June 30; then Malvern Hill, July 1).

The march from Malvern Hill began at midnight the night of July 1-2 and was reported to be one of the most demoralizing marches of the war. Men and officers were stunned at being ordered to retreat after a decisive victory. Nevertheless, the army moved out. Thousands of candles and bonfires illuminated the road. By morning a torrential downpour turned River Road into knee-deep mud. Thomas Hyde of the 7th Maine Infantry "saw a mule go all under, excepting his ears, in the mud. He was not a very large mule, and he certainly was not a playful one after he was dragged out."

Pioneer units destroyed a bridge along the way and felled trees behind the army. Units became intermingled, and in the ensuing confusion, "trees were felled across the road in front of the troops, forcing them to travel across adjacent fields." When they reached Berkeley Plantation, a large grain farm located at Harrison's Landing, about mid-morning on July 2nd, the exhausted soldiers cut every grain of wheat for bedding and forage. Sheaths of wheat were all that were between them and the mud.

For 45 days this plain on the north bank of the James River was home for the Army of the Potomac. It was steamy and hot. A temperature of 103° was recorded in the shade. "Plagues of flies drove men and animals to distraction," while the sick list lengthened.

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McClellan revived morale with his July 4 address to the army, while Confederates had a high time deriding his change of base as a "skedaddle." At terrible loss of life, Lee had thwarted McClellan's plan to take Richmond. In August the army was recalled and began its retreat on August 15th. The grand campaign had failed.

Sources:

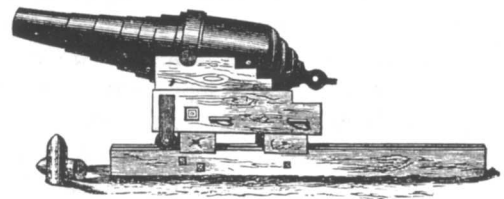
Coski, John M., The Army of the Potomac at Berkeley Plantation: The Harrison's Landing Occupation of 1862, 1989
Dowdy, Clifford, The Seven Days: the Emergence of Lee, 1964
Sears, Stephen W., To the Gates of Richmond, 1992

OFFICERS FOR 1998

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following names to serve on the Board of Directors for 1998:

President, Barbara Moats
Vice President, Mike Carter
Secretary, Mike Carter (temporary)
Treasurer, Wayne Bowen
Newsletter Editor, Carol Berry
Directors, Ken Moats, Tim Johnson
Historian, Verne Cole
Past President, Bill Head

Nominations will be called for from the floor at the November meeting, after which a vote will be taken on the slate of officers.



OCTOBER ROUND TABLE MEETING

The raffle held at the October meeting of the SJVCWRT netted \$74. Prizes offered included The Valley's Legends & Legacies by Catherine Morison Rehart; Civil War Curiosities and More Civil War Curiosities by Webb Garrison; Union in Peril: The Crisis Over British Intervention in the Civil War by Howard Jones; The Compact History of the Civil War by Dupuy and Dupuy; a bottle of wine; and a collection of Civil War magazines. Thanks to all who donated items for the raffle and for those who participated in the raffle.

We are in need of a photographer who will take pictures at the conference at Tenaya Lodge in November 1998. If you are interested, please contact Bill Head at 432-8746.

Welcome to Tom Carr, Chet Seidle, and Bob Smith, new members of the round table.

Grahamville, SC
Jan 11th 1865

Friends Green,

After a lapse of several months I am blessed with an opportunity to send another letter to the far off fairy land of Texas, which is a privilege I esteem more highly than I do all others, from this fact that I think it very probable that it is the only means that I shall ever have of holding communion with the dear friends I left there. The reason I write thus is simply this. The war that is now raging with such fury will probably continue for many, many years to come; at least there is not at present the least glimmering ray of hope for its termination soon. I am a soldier and enlisted "for the war" of course. I could not reasonably ask for a furlough to visit my friends in Texas, as I have already enjoyed that privilege once since the commencement of the war, while others with perhaps better claims have been denied the happiness of visiting their parents, brothers and sisters, their wives and children, many of whose lives are doubtless miserable, rendered so from grief and anxiety suffered on account of the absence of their dear, loved ones far, far from home, and exposed to all the dangers and privations incident to a soldier's life. Then I shall not be likely to visit Texas again on furlough, and I know I shall never go there until I am properly authorized to do so. I shall never desert my country's cause in the hour of peril, or while there is any hope for the achievement of our independence. Consequently I have but little hope of ever beholding again the land of my choice, her beautiful flowing prairies, her lovely daughters and her thousand other charms which crowd themselves upon my memory and cause me to sigh for the pleasure of again beholding their beauties. There must necessarily be a great many more hard battles fought, and much bloodshed before this war can end, or our independence obtained, and I, as a true soldier, and a lover of constitutional liberty, must contribute my share for the accomplishment of this end, even to the sacrifice of my heart's blood which I am perfectly willing to shed if necessary. When I come to consider all these things, I am almost ready to exclaim farewell Texas; farewell to all west of the great Miss. River.

I do not know when I last wrote to you or where we were at that time, but I think we were somewhere north of Atlanta Ga. A great many things have happened since that time. We have met with some sad reverses in this department, the fall of Atlanta and Savannah, which have cast a gloom over this portion of the Confederacy, the darkest perhaps of any that has overspread our land since the commencement of our struggle for independence. It is needless for me to undertake a detailed account of the movements of our army since I last wrote you, or the particulars of the fall of Atlanta and Savannah. Suffice to say, that after many hard and bloody battles, and the loss of many valuable lives on our side and

tens of thousands on the part of the Yankees, the Army of Tenn. was forced to fall back to Atlanta, at which time and place Gen. Joseph E. Johns[t]on was relieved from command and was succeeded by Gen. J. B. Hood of Texas, who I understand promised to defend the city at all hazards. Several terrible battles were fought on the right, left and center, without any perceivable advantage to the Yankees, but with great slaughter on both sides, and so successful had Gen. Hood been in repulsing the desperate assaults of the enemy to take the city by storm, that it was confidently believed that he would be able to hold the city; notwithstanding the great odds with which he had to contend. On the 10th of Aug. Gen. Wheeler's Cavalry was ordered to the rear of the enemy, the object of which movement was to destroy the communication of the enemy and thereby compel them to fall back from Atlanta. Sherman paid no attention to our Cavalry raid in his rear, but kept steadily at work in his attempts to capture Atlanta, which he accomplished about the latter part of Aug. by a bold strategic movement which struck the rail road at Jonesboro about 30 miles south of Atlanta cutting Gen. Hood's communication and compelling him to evacuate the city, when the Yankees took possession of it. Gen. Hood, in the meantime fell back to Lovejoy's Station about 40 miles south of Atlanta, and the Yankees fell back from Jonesboro to Atlanta.

After this, things were comparatively quiet in Ga. until about the 1st. of Oct. After Gen. Wheeler left Covington Ga. from which place he started on his raid on the 10th of Aug. he struck the rail road first at Dalton Ga., captured the town and destroyed a vast amount of Quartermaster's and Commissary Stores, and tore up the rail road for many miles. From thence, he proceeded up the rail road towards Knoxville Tenn. which rail road he destroyed as far as Loudon, crossed the Holston River at Strawberry Plains and passed to the east of Knoxville, and Kingston, crossing the Cumberland Mountains and dropped over in middle Tenn. at Sparta. He then moved directly towards Nashville, struck the Chattanooga & Nashville rail roads near Leverage and tore it up to within a few miles of Nashville, when the Yankees came out and gave us a little fight, but we charged them, killed, wounded and captured a great many of them and drove the balance of them back within the city defences [sic]. We then crossed over to the Southwestern rail road and destroyed about 30 miles of it, had several hard Cavalry fights and came out by the west of Florence Ala. Our loss in men was slight, while the damage done the rail roads and the destruction of Government property was immense, but not sufficient to compel the Yankees to leave Georgia, as they had managed to keep on hand a sufficient supply of subsistence to maintain them until damage could be repaired. After we returned to Georgia Gen. Wheeler struck the rail road again near Dalton & tore up a considerable portion of it, had two or three hard fights in the vicinity of Rome Ga. in which we were somewhat worsted having to contend against greatly superior numbers.

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About the 1st of Oct. Gen Hood commenced moving. Passing to the left and west of Atlanta he struck the rail road in the rear of Sherman, near Marietta Ga., and completely demolished it for miles. This caused all the Yankee Army to leave Atlanta to but 2 corps. Hood attacked Al[la]toona Heights next, but owing to the great strength of their fortifications, was repulsed with heavy loss on our side. Gen. Ecton's Texas Brigade was badly cut up. He immediately crossed the Coosa River below Rome and proceeded on a forced march to Dalton; which place he captured with the garrison, including 900 negroes. He then moved his Army down Tenn. River towards Decatur Ala. Instead of falling back, or following Hood, Sherman marched back to Atlanta with 2 corps of Cavalry, and sent the balance of his Army back into Tenn. to watch Hood's movements. The next we heard from Gen. Hood he was crossing the Tenn. River at Florence Ala. since which time we have heard that he has fought several hard battles in middle Tenn., and has been very successful; but the last account was to the effect that he had fallen back to Tuscumbia Ala., with a great many more men than he started in with, having recruited his Army by the enlistment of Tennesseans.

On the 12th of Nov. Sherman commenced moving out from Atlanta in a south easterly direction with nothing to oppose him but Gen. Wheeler's Cav. which had just been ordered round from North Ala. It was believed that he would capture Macon, Mille[d]geville and Augusta, on his rout[e] to the coast, which he was evidently aiming to reach. But he only made a joint on Macon, pushed on to Milie[d]geville which place he entered without resistance, and from thence to Savannah which place was evacuated by our forces about Christmas, when Sherman took possession.

Shermans march through Ga. was undoubtedly the most destructive one ever made by any army on this Continent, particularly to private property. Citizens who lived on the line of his march are entirely ruined so far as property is concerned. Houses were burned, fences [sic] were destroyed, negroes and horses were stolen, Cattle, hogs and sheep driven off, and but few citizens left with a grain of corn, a pound of meat, a potato, or even a chicken on their premises.

The rail roads from Atlanta to Savannah were entirely destroyed, so that it will take many months to repair them. I can not even conjecture what the next movement will be. The Yankees are now moving up in the direction of Charleston, and they may attempt a land attack on that place. We are now about 25 miles from Savannah. Have not had any fight in some time, and no prospect of one soon. I neglected to say in the proper place that we had several hard fights with Sherman's Cavalry on his march through Georgia in which fights our Regiment lost several men killed and wounded. Among the wounded of our Regiment are Wm Miller and Moses Dunk of Co. 'A', both of whom were slightly wounded. Our Company has been very fortunate. We have

not lost a man killed since the Spring Campaign opened. We have now 25 men present for duty. Jas Livingston is up in Ga. with Gen Hoods special Scouts. He was well the last time I heard from him which was a short time ago. I am expecting him in a few days. His mother will be glad to learn that he is well and doing well.

We have just heard that Moses Dunn is dead. Wm Hughes was with him when he died, has just arrived in Camp with the sad intelligence. He was a favorite with the whole Regiment and will be greatly missed. The Confederacy has never furnished a better or braver soldier. He was sent to the Hospital in Augusta, after he was wounded, but being anxious to rejoin his Co. left the hospital before he was sufficiently recovered, and the weather being inclement he [was] violently attacked with typhoid pneumonia and only survived a short time after he was attacked. He died on the 7th inst. His friends in Texas will be grieved to hear of his death.

Wm Mann returned from Texas on the 28th of Dec. last and brought the only reliable news that we have had from there for a long time. I think very strange and am almost offended at not receiving any letters from my friends in Texas as I am satisfied that they have had opportunities to write to me, for other men in the Regiment have received letters from that vicinity. I have concluded to try again and if I do not get an answer I doubt whether you will again hear from me until the war ends; and then you will probably hear that I was left upon the field of battle, an honor which I do not particularly crave, but prefer to disgrace.

Mann informs me that you were all getting along well which I am happy to know, for if I am deprived of the comforts of home, and the pleasing associations of friends and relatives, I am not envious of my friends' happiness. I hope you may continue to enjoy your homes and your families until the end of your days, and that your quiet may never be disturbed by the presence of the bloody Yankees. Write to me when you have an opportunity. Present my compliments to your family and inquiring friends.

Yours &c T. S. Barnett

The above letter was transcribed and submitted by Rick Kubiak.

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VETERANS DAY

Fresno's NPR station, KVPR-FM 89.3, will broadcast *Voices of the West - Veterans Day* on November 11, 1997. The program examines the diversity of experiences through stories, songs and poetry of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces.

The hour-long program will be aired at 7 p.m.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

No meeting is scheduled for December and, as such, this will be the last issue of *Bugle Call Echoes* for the year.

The Board of Directors of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table is taking this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy holiday season. We appreciate your participation and support throughout the year and look forward to our association in 1998. The next year promises to be an excellent one: a slate of interesting speakers, reconvening of the study group (to study the Vicksburg Campaign), a walking tour of Vicksburg in May, leading up to the 1998 West Coast Civil War Conference at Tenaya Lodge in November 1998.

We hope you will be sharing in all these activities with us.

BOOKNOTES

Transcripts from C-Span's Booknotes program are available to read on the Internet by accessing www.booknotes.org. Included are interviews with James McPherson on his book, What They Fought For: 1861-1865; Harold Holzer, The Lincoln Douglas Debates; Mark Neely Jr., The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America; Shelby Foote, Stars in Their Courses: The Gettysburg Campaign; Louise Barnett, Touched By Fire: The Life, Death and Mythic Afterlife of George Armstrong Custer; Emory Thomas, Robert E. Lee: A Biography; and Nell Irvin Painter, Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol.

Booknotes is broadcast on C-Span each Sunday evening.



SJVCWRT
PO Box 5695
Fresno, CA 93755

TIME TO RENEW!

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

- Individual \$25
 Family \$40
 Student \$12.50
 Newsletter only \$10

*\$5 of each
membership
goes to
preservation*

Clip the bottom half of this page (which includes your mailing label) and mail with your check, payable to the SJVCWRT, to PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755.

Membership year is from January to December.

