

BUGLE CALL ECHOES

Vol. 6 No 3, March 1998

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

MARCH MEETING SPEAKER

Ron Vaughan, a member of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table, will be the speaker at our March meeting. The title of his presentation is "The Confederate Invasion of New Mexico--Or How a Dirty Shirt Ended a Dream of Glory."

Ron is a social worker with Tulare County Adult Services. A graduate of CSUF ("Go Dogs!"), he has an MA in history and a Secondary Teaching Credential. Ron has been a Civil War re-enactor for 24 years (long war, is it not?!) and has written articles for several historical hobby magazines. His interest in the Civil War has given him the opportunity to be a movie extra and to be interviewed or pictured many times on TV and in newspapers. Recently, Ron's two articles for *Bugle Call Echoes* regarding his experiences as a re-enactor have also appeared in *The Pickett Line*, newsletter of the Friends of Pickett's Mill, Inc., located in Georgia.

Ron has also been involved in historical miniature wargames since the 1960s.

In 1995, Ron attended Jerry Russell's Civil War seminar and battlefield tour led by Ed Bearss and Neil Mangum, which dealt with the New Mexico Campaign.

Some of the color slides Ron will show during his talk will be of Fort Craig and the Glorieta Pass battlefield.

Thursday, March 26, 1998, is the date of the March SJVCWRT meeting.

The get-together is scheduled for the Ramada Inn on Shaw at Highway 41 in Fresno. A no-host social hour begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 7 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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As you may know, there's a battle raging over the proposed visitor center and museum at Gettysburg National Military Park. The project includes 42,000 square feet of commercial enterprises on battlefield land. In a nutshell, the Park Service claimed that "no significant battle action" had occurred at the proposed site. Two Californians, Dr. Richard Rollins and David Shultz, knew otherwise and printed a 26-page history about the site and distributed it to 150 historians, Park Service officials and legislators. Our February newsletter carries a pertinent article by Rich and Dave on the history of this ground called IN THE BULL'S EYE. Rollins and Shultz even walked the 15 acres proposed for construction with park officials and other historians to prove that the ground is indeed significant battlefield land (more on that follows my column). I'm proud of these guys!

Congressional hearings on this controversy have begun. Do your bit by writing our senators and congressmen to let them know how you feel about what is happening at Gettysburg. Jerry Russell, National Chairman of Civil War Round Table Associates & HeritagePAC is keeping round tables posted through e-mail and The Civil War

Round Table Digest. As he says, "If YOU don't write, who WILL? If YOU don't care, who DOES?"

Ron Vaughan, the author of those interesting articles on reenacting in recent newsletters, will be our March speaker. Don't miss it.



Barbara Moats

THE BATTLE AT GETTYSBURG, 1998

As a followup to their research regarding artillery action at Gettysburg in the area where the proposed the new Visitors Center will be built, Rich Rollins and David Shultz traveled to the park in January. At a meeting on Kinzie's Knoll with Rich and Dave were Scott Hartwig, GNMP Historian; Kathy Georg Harrison, GNMP Senior Historian; Curt Musselman, GIS Specialist (cartographer); Jim Brady, author of "Hurrah for the Artillery: Knapp's Pennsylvania Independent Battery," and two-time National Champion (live fire 12 pdr. Napoleons); and Dr. Charles Fennell, a recognized expert on the Culp's Hill area. Rich and David's report, "The Baltimore Pike Artillery Line and Kinzie's Knoll," (an expanded version of the article which appeared in the

February issue of *Bugle Call Echoes*) had been sent to Kathy and Scott in December.

Rich and Dave explained to Kathy and Scott where they thought Rugg's and Kinzie's battery positions were located. While the exact spot that the guns occupied on July 2nd and 3rd could not be pinned down because the documentation does not include that level of detail, the best that could be done was to find the general area and then make an educated guess. In the report Rich and Dave made of the meeting, they write:

The first factor to consider is the concept of the defensive lines of the Army of the Potomac. That included the placement of artillery on areas providing the best field of fire available, as well as the caissons and limbers...we know from documentation that Kinzie's Knoll offered a level of elevation that produced a superb field of fire against any attempted penetration of the Federal right from the east, as well as cross-fire with guns placed on and around Powers Hill.

Second, the men responsible for the placement of the guns were, by July, 1863, trained professionals, from Chief of Artillery to battery commanders. They trained men, and were trained, using Hunt's "Instruction for Field Artillery" and John Gibbon's "The Artillerists' Manual." They did things "by the books," and when they could not, they would mention so in their reports, as Osborn and Arnold did at Gettysburg. This was especially true in U. S. regular artillery batteries, which both Rugg and Kinzie commanded.

"The Artillerists' Manual" calls for the placement of pieces 14 yards apart, measured from hub to hub, and 28 yards between batteries...This was a minimum standard, not a maximum one, and they were taught to keep the pieces far enough apart to avoid the destruction of more than one gun by a single enemy projectile. It was not unusual to have guns more than 14 yards apart.

Jim Brady confirmed that an artillerist looking at placing guns firing east would generally pick one of two lines. One would be west of the crest, with the guns far enough west to use the crest as at least partial cover. The second line would be on or as close as possible to the military crest facing east. Both areas can be seen today, and the second offers better fields of fire. The area is also characterized as featuring an irregular group of rocks and boulders. Dave and Rich continue:

Third, one of the documents stated that the guns were placed amongst rocks and boulders. There is only one area that would match that description on or around Kinzie's Knoll, and there is no indication that any other part of the surrounding area has been disturbed...It is an irregular row or group of rocks still visible that runs from about 20 yards south of Hunt Ave. south, approximately 200 yards. Scott asked if any of Rugg's guns were north of Hunt Ave. We replied that we thought it possible that one, perhaps two,

were north of Hunt Ave., but that there was not sufficient documentation to come to a conclusion with any certainty.

A letter from the National Archives which Charlie brought with him indicated that John Bachelder had made an effort to mark the Rugg-Kinzie position. Bachelder's correspondence attests that *the gun line began about 50 yards south of the barn on the Abraham-Henry Spangler farm. The foundation of the barn can still be seen, and it is about 50 yards north of the northern slope of the Knoll. Thus if the line began there, and extended 150 to 200 yards south among the rocks and boulders, it would be primarily on Kinzie's Knoll and end at a spot marked by a large outcropping, currently behind a single family residence, on the southern edge of Kinzie's Knoll.*

...The reason for attempting to pin down the gun line as closely as possible is so that it can be entered on a base map the park is making, containing every piece of information they can about all aspects of the battlefield. [Curt] showed us a rough draft of the sector of the map in question. All present agreed that the most logical analysis of the question that we could come to was that the line was on the eastern lip of the Knoll, possibly from about 25-50 yards north of Hunt Ave., running south along the rocks and boulders about 150 to 200 yards. Curt will add the line to the map, and send it to us to look at before the final map is completed. As part of this map, the position is now considered a key feature of the terrain and will not be compromised by any construction.

Ed Bearss then joined the group. *Scott and Kathy told him that a consensus had been arrived at and pointed out the line. Ed laughed and said that he had been out there that morning (indeed we had seen tracks in the fresh snow indicating that someone had examined the Knoll). He had come to the same conclusion and congratulated us on doing a good piece of research. We also discussed the possibility of the Park creating a new artillery interpretive site on Kinzie's Knoll. It would include information about the placing of artillery, the use of terrain, elevations, fields of fire, the use of artillery and infantry, cross-fire and the like. Scott and Kathy were very enthusiastic.*

WHO TO WRITE

Two congressmen in Washington, DC, who are keenly interested in preservation are Sen. Dale Bumpers and Rep. George Miller. Let them know how you feel regarding the current battle at Gettysburg. Also write California's senators (Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein) and your own local congressperson. Letters to senators should be sent c/o US Senate, Washington, DC 20510; representatives in care of the US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510. Jerry Russell (c/o HeritagePac, PO Box 7281, Little Rock, AR 72217) would also appreciate a copy of your correspondence.

If you'd like to receive Jerry's HeritagePac alerts by e-mail, the address is: heritagepac@aristotle.net.

A CITY DIVIDED

by Shirl Kasper, *Kansas City Star*
feature writer



In the midst of the Civil War, when Union troops were garrisoned on Quality Hill, the new pastor of the First Baptist Church stepped off a steamboat and into a divided town. The Rev. Jonathan B. Fuller was only 24, a staunch Union man facing a congregation that included so many Southerners he wasn't sure what might happen.

Preaching was not going to be easy in a border town like Kansas City. Loyalties were so split in Fuller's church that three members of the Jaudon family alone had gone off and joined the Confederate Army. The choir leader, however, seemed "a regular, down-East Yankee."

What was the new pastor going to do? Take a bold stand for the Union? Or tone his sympathies down in a congregation so passionate?

To complicate matters, Fuller took a room at the Quality Hill mansion of Kentucky-born Mattie Lykins, who was so outspoken in her Southern leanings that, after Quantrill's guerrillas sacked Lawrence, Kan., in 1863, Union generals banished her for a few months from Kansas City.

Fuller arrived at Lykins' home in the spring of 1864. Happily, he found a good fire burning on the hearth and a large closet to hang his coats. And Mrs. Lykins was gracious—until one morning over breakfast when they sat reading a newspaper account of a Union victory. "She could not help showing her feelings when the Confederates had met defeat," Fuller later said. And perhaps he had seemed over-exultant. Fuller then and there called a truce, and the two made "a treaty" to restrain themselves.

Not so easily resolved were underlying tensions inside the First Baptist Church.

One Saturday, Fuller was startled to learn that the choir leader had gotten it into his head to open the next morning's service by singing "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty," a hymn that Fuller knew was certain to displease the "Rebels" and "softs" in his congregation. They might pick up and walk out. But, if Fuller disallowed the hymn, he was afraid pro-Northern "Radicals" in town might get wind of it and use it against him. They already had barred the doors of the nearby Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and run the Rev. M. M. Pugh out of town.

Radicals were as sternly abolitionist as the pro-Southern Rebels were secessionist, though many people walked a softer line. Like Mattie Lykins' husband, Johnston, they loved the South but wanted to preserve the Union.

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Luckily, the choir leader showed up late for Sunday services. Fuller quickly substituted a "regular" hymn.

Fuller was no Radical, but there were times that he just couldn't hide his loyalties. His first Sunday in the pulpit, he stood up and announced that he was "with the Union Army." Then he prayed, not just "for the president of the United States," but "for Abraham Lincoln, the president of the United States." That was a brash thing to do in Jackson County, Mo., which cast only 191 votes (out of nearly 3,600) for the anti-slavery Lincoln in the 1860 presidential election.

Bleeding Kansas

When the First Baptist Church was organized in 1855, Kansas City was a frontier outpost of only a few hundred people. Life focused on the river levee, from Delaware and Main streets to the foot of Grand, where dozens of steamboats came and went. They unloaded tons of merchandise bound for Santa Fe, sometimes leaving it covered with tarpaulins on the river bank because the town's few warehouses were full. But that year of 1855, the little outpost began to grow as the steamboats hauled in a new kind of cargo: human beings bound for Kansas. Settlers poured in after Congress, in May 1854, passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which opened the former Indian territory to settlement.

The boats came loaded with anti-slavery Northerners and pro-slavery Southerners, a mix that plunged the Kansas-Missouri border into turmoil and gave rise to "Bleeding Kansas," a symbol to the nation and a prelude to the Civil War.

Some people blamed Congress for all the strife. It had thrown the new territory open without answering the most important of questions: Would Kansas be free or slave? Congress had left it up to the settlers to decide. There would be a vote.

Of course Kansas would become a slave state, some said. Wasn't Missouri a slave state? Hordes of Missourians would ride a few miles over the state line, stake out a claim and vote to make Kansas a slave state, too. Wasn't that obvious? Not really, others argued. Every sensible person knew that slavery could never profit in the Kansas climate. The winters were too cold; the summers too hot. Rice, cotton and sugar--those were the profitable slavery crops--and they could never make it in Kansas. Why would a slaveholder go there?

No sooner had Congress voted than opposing forces poured into the territory. Even before treaties were negotiated to remove the Indian tribes, white squatters settled everywhere in defiance of the law. Many of the bloody disputes that followed, historian James Anderson has said, had more to do with conflicting land claims than with politics.

But slavery was at the core of Bleeding Kansas.

In Massachusetts, the abolitionist Eli Thayer and others founded the New England Emigrant Aid Co. and set about to populate Kansas with anti-slavery Northerners.

Lawrence, Topeka and Manhattan were their towns.

By the spring of 1855 whole companies of free-state Yankee settlers--men, women and children--came west singing "The Kansas Emigrants" song, written by the Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne":

*We cross the prairie as of old
The Pilgrims crossed the sea,
To make the west, as they the east,
The homestead of the free.*

The emigrants came up the Missouri River on steamboats, paying \$12 from St. Louis.

They jumped off at the little City of Kansas, which soon was doing so much business that the hotel on the riverfront, known variously as the Union, the Western, the American and the Gillis House, recorded 27,000 arrivals in just two years, 1856 and 1857. The parlor floors were converted into sleeping quarters and a bell was put atop the roof to announce meals.

Across the river in Kansas, an Ohio native and ardent free-state man, Abelard Guthrie, laid out a new free-state town. It had a long frontage on the Missouri River and a rocky shore that made a good harbor. Guthrie named the place Quindaro in honor of his wife, a Wyandot Indian. A 45-room hotel went up, along with warehouses, which soon filled with merchandise bound for Kansas.

Over in Missouri, anxious pro-slavery men said it wasn't right for New Englanders to "colonize" their country. They despised Quindaro, known as a refuge for runaway slaves--or for those who had been stolen. So many slaves were being stolen in Jackson County that in November 1855, Kansas City imposed a curfew, forbidding Negroes or mulattos, slave or free, to be on the streets from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. without a pass. They also were forbidden to assemble at night.

Despite the growing anti-slavery sentiment, Jackson County's slave population on the eve of the Civil War was greater than it ever had been--nearly 4,000 slaves in 1860--and slave prices were soaring. According to historian Lyle Dorsett, one 22-year-old man was sold in 1853 for \$1,000, which was \$100 more than the average price for a prime field hand in Virginia.

Most Southern migrants who brought slaves to Missouri settled along the Missouri River in the central portion of the state, where they grew hemp and tobacco. Though the area was known as Little Dixie, agriculture never reached the plantation scale of the Lower South. In Kansas City, many

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slaves acted as helpers or domestics. People who owned slaves generally owned few, sometimes one or two.

Slaveholders feared that if Kansas became a free state, slavery was doomed in Missouri as well. It would be too easy for abolitionists to steal slaves and free them, or for slaves to simply run to freedom over the state line.

And there was more.

Southerners hated the Yankees for their superior attitude, so damning and moralistic. Why, the Yankees even called some Missourians "pukes."

In Westport, Weston, Platte City, Liberty and St. Joseph, proslavery men held mass meetings where they lambasted the anti-slavery emigrant companies. Secret organizations sprang up--Sons of the South and Blue Lodges--and there was talk of invading Kansas to protect pro-slavery settlers. In the Kansas Territory, pro-slavery towns sprang up: Atchison, Leavenworth and Lecompton. Although the story is not well-documented, it is said that pro-slavery men, hoping to gain Kansas City's Southern votes, even schemed to annex the city to the new Kansas Territory.

Bushwackers and Jayhawkers

Times were so tense that free-state settlers begged agents of the New England Emigrant Aid Co. for weapons to defend themselves. Clandestinely, company investors shipped 200 Sharps carbines from New England to Kansas in 1855. Early the next year, they shipped more weapons: 54 Hall military rifles, six breechloading cannons and 100 Sharps carbines with sabre bayonets. Fearing trouble, the gunrunners shipped the carbines separately and removed the breechblocks, so that if captured, the guns could not be used.

At St. Louis, the carbines were repacked, labeled as "tool chests" and put in the hold of the steamboat *Arabia*, bound for Kansas City. The guns never made it. At Lexington, Mo., the *Arabia* docked and then was met by a thousand armed pro-slavery men who had gotten wind of the shipment. They confiscated the rifles--minus their breechblocks--and sent the gunrunners on to Kansas City with nothing but a receipt.

These were the days when the abolitionist John Brown, the Missouri guerrilla William Quantrill and the Kansas "jayhawker" Charles Jennison terrorized the countryside. These were the days when every Kansan looked on every Missourian as an enemy, and vice versa.

No road through Jackson County was safe, and a Union man dared not travel alone. Some took their wives along as protection, banking that the Southern bushwackers would not harm a woman. "At any moment and at any place these villains are liable to spring upon the traveler, rob him of his horses and money and perhaps take his life," wrote C. M. Chase, a Vermont native who came to eastern Kansas in

1863. The bushwackers hid in the ravines and dense woods along the Little Blue River, robbing and killing federal soldiers and sympathizers who happened by.

The Kansas "jayhawkers" were no better. They crossed into Missouri, murdering, freeing slaves, stealing cattle and carrying their loot back to Kansas. After one raid into Independence, Jennison and his troops, overloaded with plunder, marched through Kansas City, spilling goods as they went. According to one soldier's statement, they decked themselves out in women's bonnets and carried everything from spinning wheels to gravestones on their saddle horses.

In 1861, Westport resident Margaret J. Hayes told how jayhawkers plundered her home, commandeering her carriage and stole her slaves. "It was very aggravating," she wrote, to see the carriage pull up to the door and the slaves "jump into it and drive off."

The times were so ugly that even 15 years later, authors of the 1876 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Jackson County, Missouri* broached the Civil War era with dread, admitting they would rather not "touch it at all."

Troops March In

As the Kansas Territory filled with settlers, Kansas City mushroomed from a mere village in 1855 to a city of perhaps 5,000 by 1860. But just as the town began to prosper, the South seceded. Proud Southerners stuck rosettes in their hats and flew secessionist flags from houses and stores all over Kansas City. One huge Confederate flag, said to be visible for miles, flew atop a pole near Walnut and Second streets. To outsiders, Kansas City may have seemed a Southern stronghold, but that was not entirely so. The emigration years brought many Northerners to town, including the Pennsylvanian Kersey Coates and his wife, Sarah, who was strongly opposed to slavery. Coates built the Coates Opera House and led Kansas City's Home Guard during the war.

It was such men, as well as Kansas City's anti-slavery immigrants, who helped elect a Union candidate for mayor in April 1861.

He was newspaperman Robert Van Horn, who told later how, as mayor, "the Union people looked to me to act for them." Van Horn did just that. He went to St. Louis and explained the city's perilous balance to Union Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon and the powerful Missouri Republican Frank Blair, who had contacts in the Lincoln administration. Van Horn came home with a major's commission in the improvised Enlisted Missouri Militia--and a plan to keep Kansas City out of Confederate hands.

With authority on his side, Van Horn went to nearby Fort Leavenworth and met with Capt. W. E. Prince. Not long after--with the huge Confederate flag still flying atop a pole on Walnut Street--200 Union infantrymen, with guns at their

shoulders and bayonets fixed, marched off a steamboat at the city wharf.

"In an hour not a flag save Old Glory was visible anywhere," Van Horn said.

That was in June 1861, only two months after Confederate troops attacked Fort Sumter. That summer, the US Army built Camp Union at Tenth and Central streets. It had walls, a guard house and a 12-pound howitzer.

For the rest of the war, Kansas City was an occupied town.

Exiled by Army Order

During the war, many people fled town and businesses closed. Gold and silver all but disappeared from circulation, and merchants, unable to make small change, handed over shillings--paper money--in denominations of 5 cents to \$1.

The prosperous firm of Northrup & Chick, which had opened the city's first sizable store and its first bank, moved to New York. Tussell, Majors and Waddell, the freight company that handled all the shipping by the US government, moved to Fort Leavenworth after its warehouse was robbed. Someone burned W. H. Chick's warehouse on the levee, and a few weeks later, another on Santa Fe Street. Chick, who was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, moved his family to New Mexico Territory in the fall of 1862. He returned the next year, but things had improved little.

That August, a building on Grand Avenue collapsed, killing the sister of Missouri bushwacker "Bloody Bill" Anderson. She and other female relatives of bushwhackers were being confined there by the Union military. Three of the others also died. The incident was said to have added to the fury that led, just days later, to the sack of Lawrence, in which Quantrill's guerrillas burned the town and murdered about 150 people.

Within days, the Union commander of the border district, Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing, issued his famous Order No. 11, intended to rid the Missouri border of Confederate sympathizers who had harbored and fed the guerrillas for years.

Guilty or innocent, all residents of Jackson, Cass, Bates and parts of Vernon counties--unless they lived within a mile of Kansas City, Independence or any of three other military posts--were ordered to leave their rural homes within 15 days. No matter where they lived, those who could not establish their loyalty to the satisfaction of Army authorities had to leave the district entirely.

Among the more than 60 exiles was John Calvin McCoy, the founder of Westport and the "father of Kansas City." McCoy moved his family to Glasgow, Mo., where he continued to conduct business as best he could.

On November 11, 1863, he wrote to a Mr. Brown about the sale of some property in Kansas City. McCoy proposed to rendezvous with Brown either at Liberty or Harlem, a town just across the Missouri River in Clay County.

"I supposed it might not be safe for me to go to Kansas City," he wrote, "and if you think I would not be safe at Liberty or in Clay be pleased to notify me by telegraph."

One journalist who visited Kansas City in 1863 said that everyone carried arms and slept with revolvers under their pillows. Execution of Order No. 11, later depicted by George Caleb Bingham in his famous painting of the same name, brought sorrow and hardship. Refugees fled in haste, some burying their valuables before leaving. By the end of August, two-thirds of the population of the border counties was gone.

So many homes were burned by Union troops that people spoke of the blackened chimneys as "Jennison's monuments," after the hated jayhawker.

Battle Cry

By the time Jonathan Fuller arrived in Kansas City, authorities had issued permits allowing many exiles to return. Still, the prospect of a Confederate raid was ever-present. That summer of 1864, Mayor Van Horn busied himself mustering 60-day volunteers into the militia. All Kansas City men, Northern or Southern, young or old, were asked to sign up. When someone asked the Reverend Fuller to read a notice in church announcing a meeting of the citizens' defense organization, the pastor knew he was in trouble--with Southerners if he read it, with Northerners if he did not.

He begged off, saying the notice had already appeared in the newspaper. "Considerable remark was made about the omission I understand," he wrote to this father.

As the war dragged on, people talked so often of an expected raid by the Confederate Gen. Stirling Price that Kansas City was said to have five seasons: winter, spring, summer, fall--and Price's raid.

At night, federal troops patrolled Kansas City's streets and picketed their horses in the Baptist Church yard. Kersey Coates' daughter Laura recalled how pickets stationed on the outskirts of town often signaled the alarm of imminent raid. So much indiscriminate shooting occurred among the pickets that one morning she said, "a bullet went whizzing through our bedroom."

There was reason to be nervous.

By fall, Price was indeed marching west--and rumors were rife that he was going to storm Kansas City. Price's troops had marched up out of Arkansas, past Pilot Knob and into Lexington, Mo., where they pushed the Union regulars all the way to Independence.

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On October 22, Fuller heard the artillery and the crackling of musketry as Price's army of 12,000 men advanced toward Westport, bringing with it an immense wagon train of plundered goods and 3,000 head of cattle. The army crossed the Big Blue River at Byram's Ford near today's Swope Park, aiming toward Fort Leavenworth and its rich storehouse of food and military supplies. That night, at a revival in Westport, Fuller saw the Rebel watchfires burning a few miles south. He went to bed "in the rather uncomfortable conviction that the first glimmer of daylight would find the Rebels in our streets." Morning dawned peacefully, but by 8 a.m. the Confederates had formed in line of battle up and beyond the rocky slopes south of Brush Creek. Fuller climbed on a shed and thought he could see "something in the distance very much like a line of men."

The Confederates now faced the Union Army of the Border--roughly 20,000 militia and troops under Union Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, who set up headquarters at the Harris House Hotel in Westport. From the roof his staff officers watched part of the battle, which opened on the high ground above Brush Creek, near today's Loose Park.

The Confederates gained an early advantage, but by noon the tide had turned and they began to retreat south. About 1:30 p.m. Confederate Brig. Gen. Jo Shelby made a last, unsuccessful stand on a line from today's Forest Hill Cemetery to Wornall Road, at which time nearly 30,000 men were engaged.

By 5 p.m. the battle was over. The Confederates fled in such haste that they left their dead and many severely wounded on the field.

"All of Kansas City--men, women and children--are out to see it," Fuller wrote. The fighting had stretched from the state line to Harrisonville Road (today's Prospect Avenue) leaving an estimated 1,500 men killed or severely wounded on Oct. 23 alone.

Fuller walked part of the battlefield and counted "eight dead rebels--some dead horses--and an exploded cannon--fences leveled with the ground." He looked at the "Rebs" whom he found "wretchly clad" in "regular Butternut costume--a kind of dirty brown jeans."

An ambulance corps gathered up the dead and wounded, and field hospitals were established in nearby homes, including the Wornall House, which still stands at 61st Terrace and Wornall Road.

The steamer *Tom Morgan* tied up at the city wharf and took 86 wounded Kansas State militiamen to the federal hospital at Fort Leavenworth. At Fifth and Wyandotte streets, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was converted into a hospital for Confederate soldiers. There, 11-year-old Edward Scarritt went every night with his mother, who was one of many Kansas City women who acted as nurses. They turned

the long wooden benches into beds and covered the wounded soldiers with white sheets, quilts and bedspreads from their own homes. The men lay in long lines, the head of one near the feet of another, looking very much, Scarritt said, like "an army of ghosts."

As the federal sentries, "armed and uniformed," paced silently and solemnly up and down the narrow church aisles, the young Scarritt lay awake for hours. The poor soldiers, with no privacy at all, were forced to hear "every moan and cry" as wounds were probed or dressed, or limb amputated. When finally Scarritt could hold his eyes open no longer, he crawled up into the pulpit and went to sleep.

"Some of the soldiers were mortally wounded and were sending dying messages through the dear women to their loved ones at home," Scarritt recalled. "Some were bitterly bemoaning their fate and all were hushed into stillness when it was announced that a comrade had closed his eyes to earthly scenes and was 'slipping o'er the brink.'"

A House Divided

The Battle of Westport ended the Confederate threat in the West, but the Civil War did not end in Kansas City churches. In 1866, the First Baptist Church split over sectional differences. The minority Northern faction, led by the Reverend Fuller, withdrew and established the Walnut Street Church, later known as Central Church. In December 1872, the Central and First Baptist churches united as the First Baptist Church. Today, the congregation meets at Red Bridge and Wornall roads.

Jonathan Fuller resigned his position in 1867 and returned to Louisiana, Mo., from whence he had come. He preached for a time in Burlington, Iowa, before settling in Sedalia, Mo., where he was pastor of the First Baptist Church for 27 years.

He died in Sedalia on Nov. 15, 1928.

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REMINDERS

- The Vicksburg trip is scheduled for May 16-22. For more information, contact Bill Head at 432-8746 or Tim Johnson at 431-4832. The trip is a companion event to the 14th West Coast Civil War Conference.
- The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 1998, at 4 p.m., 4780 N. Delno, Fresno. The Conference Planning Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on that day and location.
- Have you renewed your membership? Dues are \$25 single; \$40 family; \$12.50 student; \$10 newsletter.

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Mike Carter (temporary)

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Ken Moats, Tim Johnson

If you are interested in the secretarial position, which is temporarily being filled by Mike Carter, please contact Barbara Moats at 229-3654.

VICKSBURG DISCUSSION GROUP

If there is ever a fight here, it will be hard on us. Yet I have no fears about this place. I do not think the entire Federal army can take it. - Capt. S. J. Ridley, Mississippi Artillery, at Vicksburg

The Vicksburg Discussion Group held its first meeting February 17, 1998, with 11 people in attendance. The schedule for the remainder of the sessions includes:

March 3

Grant's Canal; Federal Crossing of the Mississippi, the battles of Port Gibson, Raymond and Jackson

March 17

The Battle of Champion's Hill

March 31

Crossing of the Big Black and Federal assaults against Fortress Vicksburg, May 19 and 22, 1863; Grierson's Raid

April 14

Siege and Defense; Beleaguered City, Siege Life

April 28

Surrender and Aftermath

For more information about the classes, contact Bill Head at 432-8746.

FEBRUARY MEETING

At the February meeting of the SJVCWRT, six people were prize winners in the monthly raffle. Items in the giveaway included All for the Union, the diary of Elisha Hunt Rhodes; The Battle of Wilson's Creek, by Ed Bearss; Reveille in Washington, 1860-65, by Margaret Leech; The Diary of Miss Emma Holmes; a bottle of wine; and a selection of Civil War magazines. The raffle realized \$70.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 1998

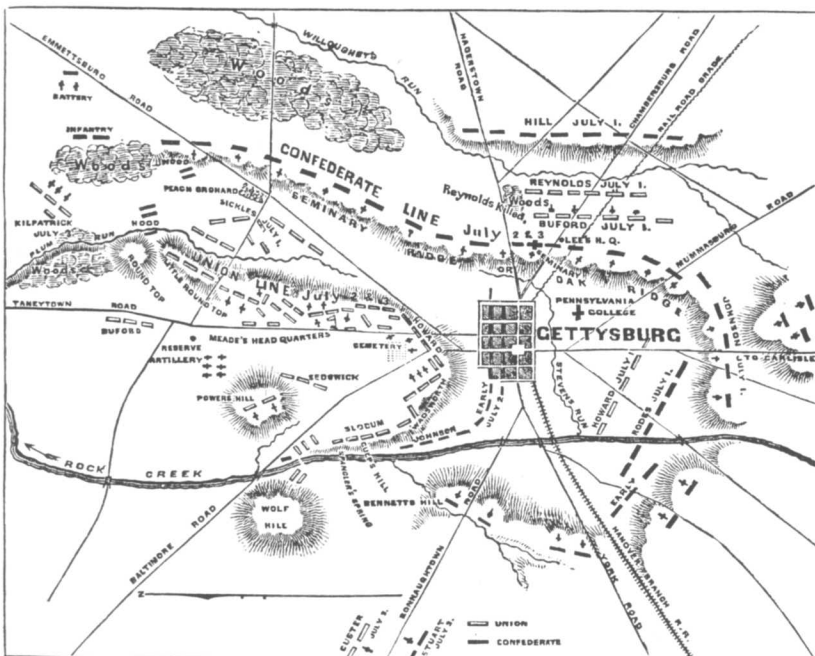
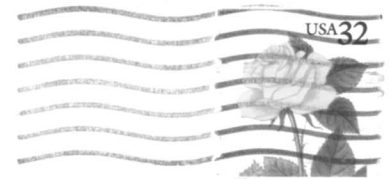
The SJVCWRT's schedule of dates and speakers for the year is shown below. Mark your calendars so as not to miss any of these fine speakers. Schedule is subject to change.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic/Event</i>
March 26, 1998	Ron Vaughan	The Confederate Invasion of New Mexico
April 30, 1998	Bob Wash	Varina Davis, 1st Lady of the Confederacy
May 28, 1998	Jim Stanbery	West Coast Conference Fund Raiser
June 25, 1998	Mike Carter	Robert E. Rodes
July 30, 1998	Brian Clague, M. D.	Civil War Medicine at Vicksburg
August 27, 1998	Bill Head	Film on Vicksburg
September, 1998 (day to be announced)	Jeffrey Hummel	Why the North Should Have Seceded from the South
October 29, 1998	Fred Bohmfalk	Phil Sheridan
November 6-8, 1998	Ed Bearss, Keynote Speaker	West Coast Civil War Conference Topic: Vicksburg
December 6, 1998		Christmas Get Together

RE-ENACTMENT NEWS

The Civil War Reenactment Society has scheduled at event at Mooney Grove, Visalia, on March 14-15. For more information, contact Roger Alexander at 209/299-1811.

SJVCWRT
PO Box 5695
Fresno, CA 93755



Battle of Gettysburg

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