



# Bugle Calls



## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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### SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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## Welcome back!

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will hold its first meeting of the Fall 2010 season on Thursday, September 9, 2010. We continue to meet at Denny's on Shaw Avenue just east of Willow in Clovis. Dinner is served soon after you place your order, hopefully before 6:30 because we strive to have our program underway no later than 7pm. This allows us to complete our evening of education by 8:30 pm. Folks who travel as much as an hour, sometimes on mountain roads, would like to be home at a reasonable hour, so please try to be on time.

Mary Townsend, the author of *Yankee Warhorse: a biography of Major General Peter J. Osterhaus* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2010), is our guest of honor and speaker on September 9, 2010. This biography of her great-great-grandfather has been well-received by the community of civil war enthusiasts, for several reasons, not the least of which is that it is the first full-length work about the best of the "German generals." Ms. Townsend's work focuses on his career in the Union Army as a regimental, brigade, division, and corps, commander. On the 9th she will examine in detail his role in the Union victory at Lookout Mountain, one consequence of which was Sherman's decision to place Osterhaus under his command in the March across Georgia.

Like Sigel and others, Osterhaus was a leader in the liberal uprising in the German states in 1848. Like Sigel he fled to America and became a leader in the anti-slavery movement in the United States. And like Sigel, he answered Lincoln's call for volunteers to suppress the Rebellion. Unlike, Sigel, he actually performed well on several occasions including Boonville, Wilson's Creek, and Pea Ridge. Interestingly, General Osterhaus did not remain in the United States after the war. According to "Die Neuner" his business in the United States had failed (perhaps due to neglect of personal attention because the war took precedence?) and he was offered a diplomatic post overseas. He died in Germany at the age of 94 while the Great

War raged. He hoped to his final days for an alliance between the Kaiser and the United States. For a balanced review of this book I call your attention to: <http://cwba.blogspot.com/2010/07/townsend-yankee-warhorse-biography-of.html>

Best wishes,  
David Davenport

## **The Civil War Revisited at Kearney Park**

By the time you read this planning for the Civil War Revisited at Kearney Park on October 2-3, 2010, will be well underway. This year's theme is Jackson's Campaign in the Shenandoah Valley in 1862. Charlie Henry of the Dead Generals Society and the Civil War Re-enactment Society will portray Jackson and Ray Appleton will portray General Nathaniel Banks. Your president does not know at this time who has been recruited to portray Generals Fremont and Shields, if the "Revisiting" is to pay homage to all of the Union Generals bested by Jackson in those few short weeks of 1862. Turner Ashby should also be in attendance because it is hard to envision Jackson victorious without this dashing (and reckless) leader of cavalry. The two titles I recommend on this subject are Robert G. Tanner's *Stonewall in the Valley* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1996) and Peter Cozzens's *Shenandoah 1862* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008).

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will have an informational booth for the umpteenth year in a row. Presumably we will be located where we have been in the past. It is your president's plan to be on-site early Saturday on the 2nd to set up our banner, books, etc. I don't anticipate anything we haven't done in the past, but I wish to emphasize that we must use this as a recruiting opportunity. Our numbers are shrinking, so much so that our ability to bring speakers from out of town is jeopardized. Our budget for 2010 was \$700 based on 20 dues paying members. We will have expended that for three out of town speakers: Mary Townsend, Tom Lubas, and Donald Stoker. If we want to continue to be more than a book discussion group we must have 30-35 members. As such, I plan to offer "limited memberships" as we did last year at Kearney Park: join for the balance of the year for only \$10 and get a free book from our display.

Also we will be raffling three "prints." Unfortunately, none depict this year's theme, because we raffled all we had related to the Shenandoah when we hosted the West Coast Conference in 2008 and focused on War in the Shenandoah. These three are Don Troiani's "Berdan's Sharpshooters, Summer-Fall, 1863," Mort Kunstler's "Union Cavalry", and a "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War". All three will then be taken to the Conference in San Francisco where additional raffle tickets will be sold and the drawing held. The proceeds from the sale of tickets here will be retained by us. The proceeds from the sale in San Francisco will be kept by the Conference organizers as per arrangements entered into by your president.

## **New Secretary**

The summer of 2010 witnessed a change in one member of our Board of Directors. Bryce Kuykendall who stepped in to replace Phyllis Mann when she moved to Texas in 2008 and was subsequently elected to a full two year term in 2009 submitted his resignation. He completed is K-12 education (and a year's worth of college classes while attending University High School) and matriculated at Norwich University, in Northfield, Vermont. Some of you may be familiar with Norwich from its on-line Master's degree program in Military History. It was founded in 1819 as the country's first private engineering college making it the only alternative to West Point for nearly half a century. Its curriculum has expanded greatly. Bryce will major in military science and minor in Chinese and will be commissioned upon graduation in either the Navy or the Air Force. We wish you the best, Bryce, and will miss you at the Round Table and at Reenactments.

Faced with the loss of young Mr. Kuykendall mid-way through the second of a two year term of office, the Board has enlisted the services of another "up and coming" young man, Jonathon Schulze, the son of Walt Schulze, our webmaster and treasurer. Jonathon attends Buchanan High School and is active in Marching Band. He, like Bryce, is also a Civil War Reenactor, but as a Private in the 71st Pennsylvania. Welcome aboard, Jonathon!

Your president,  
David D

via email in April. I have withdrawn the offer to raffle the “bird’s eye view of Gettysburg” because a couple of you all said that it wasn’t sufficiently attractive to warrant the attention of prospective “buyers” (my paraphrase). I need a volunteer to take these to the Conference in November and if a Kearny Park ticket wins to bring the print or prints back since I do not have the financial resources to attend the Conference.

Please keep in mind that we will not have another meeting of the Round Table after that of September 9 to get further organized with respect to the reenactment, so please be prepared to offer a few hours of your busy weekend to manning our booth when the sign up sheet is passed around on September 9. I would like to have at least two people on duty the entire time we are open for business, roughly 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday the 2nd and 9am to 4 pm on Sunday the 3rd.

## **Headquarters August 20, 2010**

Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to attend the activities of the San Joaquin valley Civil War Round Table in the Fall of 2010. We have six major events scheduled beginning with our meeting on Thursday, September 9, and extending to Yule Tide. We charge nothing to attend the four activities in Clovis. That in Fresno has a “cover charge” levied by the Historical Society and that in San Francisco covers the cost of meals and lectures. Please allow me a moment of your time to review these six with you.

1. **On Thursday, September 9,** Mary Townsend, author of *Yankee Warhorse: a biography of Major General Peter Osterhaus*, will speak at our regular meeting which begins at 7pm. We meet in the banquet room of Denny's Restaurant on Shaw Avenue just east of Willow in Clovis. Please help us make this an exciting experience for us and the kind staff of the restaurant by coming at 6 p.m. and ordering off the menu. Ms. Townsend, a retired Hospital administrator from Southern California, is the great great grand-daughter of General Osterhaus. He is considered by Civil War historians to be the best of the “German generals” appointed by President Lincoln. Ms. Townsend will emphasize his role at the Battle of Lookout Mountain. For details see <http://www.sjvcwrt.com>. A 3 minutes interview with Ms. Townsend can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pLYyuwuy4Y>

2. **On Saturday and Sunday, October 2 and 3,** the Fresno Historical Society will host “the Civil War Revisited” at Kearney Park. This is the 22nd annual reeneactment. The San Joaquin Valley Civil

## **Preservation Update**

At our May 13, 2010, meeting we voted to make donations totaling \$500 to four organizations associated with Civil War Preservation. These were “the Carter Cotton Gin” at Franklin, Tennessee; the Camp Nelson Restoration and Preservation Foundation; the “Snyder Farm Tract” at Gettysburg; and Beauvoir - the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Museum. The day after our meeting, cover letters were prepared by our every efficient secretary Bryce Kuykendall, checks were issued by our equally responsible Treasurer Walt Schulze, and yours truly united same, addressed the envelopes, secured appropriate postage, and placed these in the outgoing mail at the Fig Garden Shopping Center. All four organizations cashed our checks, but only one, Beauvoir, had the “good manners” to acknowledge our gifts

There was a time in the not too distant past when people routinely signed their letters “Your obedient servant.” The authors may not have meant it, but it was at least an effort to demonstrate civility. Those days are long gone, but to take money without a word of thanks strikes me as “arrogant.” As such, unless I hear an impassioned plea to do otherwise, I am recommending that the three which failed to acknowledge our gifts not be considered for our largess in the future.

On the other hand, we have received a nice gift from the Shenandoah Battlefields Foundation to whom we gifted money from our 2008 confer-

War Round Table will have a “recruiting” table and information booth at which literature about our efforts to protect civil war battlefields and related sites will be distributed. The theme of “Revisited” is Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862. The SJVCWRT will be raffling art work contributed by artists Mort Kunstler, Dan Troiani, and others. For further details see <http://www.valleyhistory.org/civilwar.html>

3. On Thursday, October 7, 2010, Tom Lubas will speak to us about War on the Kansas-Missouri Border, a war that began in 1856. Tom is affiliated with the North Bay Civil War Round Table based in Santa Rosa. As with the Townsend meeting, we will gather at 6pm at Denny's on Shaw Avenue east of Willow in Clovis for dinner from the menu. The talk begins at 7 p.m.

4. On Thursday, November 11, 2010, we will commemorate Veteran's Day with a talk about “Alabama Unionists and the Free State of Winston” by Dan Sniffen. It is a little known fact that every Confederate state had “loyalists” who fought for the Union in regimental strength. One of the areas of great opposition to Confederate rule was northern Alabama and Dan's ancestors were among those who repudiate the Ordinance of Secession and rebuffed efforts by Confederate authorities. We will gather at 6pm at Denny's on Shaw Avenue east of Willow in Clovis for dinner from the menu. The talk begins at 7 p.m.

5. On Friday November 12 the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will add its voice of support for the 26th Annual West Coast Conference of Civil War Round Tables. We have, in association with the Central California Chapter of the AUSA, hosted 3 such conferences in Clovis in the past eight years. This year's conference will be held at the War memorial building in San Francisco on Friday and Saturday with Sunday's activities taking place on Alcatraz Island with a special tour of the Civil War fortifications beneath the long abandoned prison resting upon the citadel. For details see [http://www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org/2010\\_West\\_Coast\\_Conference.htm](http://www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org/2010_West_Coast_Conference.htm)

6. On Thursday, December 9, 2010, Donald Stoker, author of The Grand Design: Civil War Strategy and the U. S. Civil War, will speak to us about this History Book Club Selection of the Month for September, 2010. Donald Stoker is Professor of Strategy and Policy for the U.S. Naval War College's program at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. We will gather at 6pm at Denny's on Shaw Avenue east of Willow in Clovis for dinner from the menu. The talk begins at 7 p.m. Professor's Stoker's vita can be viewed at [http://www.nps.edu/academics/Programs/NWC/docs/Resume\\_Donald\\_Stoker.pdf](http://www.nps.edu/academics/Programs/NWC/docs/Resume_Donald_Stoker.pdf)

ence. It is best described as a commemorative pen. Upon it is written “Stonewall Jackson.” The SBF obviously hasn't forgotten about us and in the future we should remember them.

Yours truly,  
David D

Dear Friends,

It has come to my attention that Ron Vaughn used his "good offices" to facilitate the transfer of a medical tent and associated paraphanelia from the Fort Tejon Historical Society to the Civil War Reenactment Society. This giant canvas tent will be the center piece of the living history medical display at Kearney Park on October 2-3. Ron deserves our praise for the work it must have taken to transfer this property of an auxillary to the State Parks to a private non-profit organization. Huzzah, Huzzah, Huzzah.

Best wishes,

David D

I sincerely hope that you will be able to attend our activities. And thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Download, print, and bring it with you to our September 9th meeting and I will give you a book of your choice from among those we raffle at our monthly meetings.

Thank you for your kind attention,

David Paul Davenport, President  
San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

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