

BUGLE CALL ECHOES

Vol. 6 No.1, January 1998

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table



Confederate Private

Barron Smith, the featured speaker at the January meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table, will talk about "South Central Valley Confederates." He will relate the activities of several of the CSA veterans who moved to California after the Civil War and tell of his efforts to locate their burial sites in the state.

Barron's study of the Civil War began in earnest when he lived in Carthage, Missouri, site of one of the first pitched battles of the war. There he researched the graves of Confederate veterans in the area and found that few were identified as having been participants in the Civil War. After Barron moved to California, he began researching the lives of the many Confederate veterans who had moved to the state after the war. For more than 10 years his project has been to locate CSA veteran graves in the state. He has located more than 700, including 50 in Mountain View Cemetery in Fresno. Barron plans, with the assistance of Sheila Benedict, to publish a book next year about burial places of Civil War veterans, Confederate and Union alike.

Born in Texas, Barron graduated from Allan Hancock Junior College in Santa Maria, California, with an AA in Civil Engineering. He is 1st Lieutenant Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, California Division, and has been a Civil War reenactor for about 15 years with the Fort Tejon Historical Association. Barron has worn a Confederate uniform throughout those re-enacting years until recently, when he "commanded a firing detail for a 21-gun salute made up of all Yankees!"

The January meeting will also include our yearly "Share and Tell." If you have an anecdote relating to the Civil War, a relative who fought in the conflict you'd like to introduce to the group, or any other item of interest connected to the War, this will be your opportunity to share with the group. Each presenter will be allotted five minutes' time.

Thursday, January 22, 1998, is the date for the meeting. It will be at 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

Happy New Year everyone!

It's my pleasure to be president for the second year with a knowledgeable, enthusiastic board of officers. We have a great program year planned, which you can read about elsewhere in the newsletter. The emphasis is on the Vicksburg Campaign because, of course, that is the theme of the 14th Annual Civil War Conference we will host at Tenaya Lodge, Yosemite, on November 6-8, 1998. This is our second shot at this. In 1994, the SJVCWRT hosted the very successful 10th Annual Conference on the Gettysburg Campaign.

I was excited to hear the stunning NPR report on the Clara Barton find in Washington, DC (see story on page 4). What an amazing woman she was, truly heroic! You can read about her war-time experiences in a highly acclaimed book by Stephen Oates, *A Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War*, though there is much more to her life both before and after the war.

Don't forget our January meeting is one week early--on the 22nd. See you at the Ramada.

Barbara Moats

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

PRESERVATION

Pea Ridge National Military Park, a unit of the National Park System administered by the National Park Service, was authorized by Congress July 20, 1956 to preserve the site and commemorate the Civil War Battle of Pea Ridge.

On March 7, 1862 the 10,200 man Union Army of the Southwest, under the command of Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis, engaged the 16,500 troops of Major General Earl VanDorn's Confederate Army of the West on two separate battlefields on the plains below the ridge called Big Mountain.

The decisive Union victory at Pea Ridge was the successful culmination of a Federal campaign to secure Missouri within the Union, maintain control of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, protect the arsenal at St. Louis and release resources critical to General Grant's campaigns in the Western Theatre. Four Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded among Union troops at the battle.

Pea Ridge National Military Park encompasses 4,300 acres, including both battlefields and large areas of major troop movements associated with the battle. The cultural landscapes appear very much as they did during March 1862. Portions of the road known historically as the Trail of Tears, the Butterfield Stage Road, and Telegraph Road are preserved within the park. The park is affiliated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, the National Civil War Discovery Trail, and the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail.

The above information was taken from a brochure of the Friends of Pea Ridge National Park, one of the numerous organizations who count on financial support to preserve and protect Civil War battlefields. Make one of your resolutions this year to help save our Civil War heritage through a donation to the organization of your choice.

REMINDERS

- ◆ The discussion group will meet in the home of Bill Head, January 20, 1998, at 7 p.m. to determine meeting dates and battles to study. The theme of the study group is the Vicksburg Campaign. Bill lives at 1362 East Barstow Avenue, Fresno, 432-8746.
- ◆ The first board meeting of the new year is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 1998, at 4 p.m. All round table members are welcome. The board will convene in the home of Barbara and Ken Moats, 4780 North Delno, Fresno, 229-3654.
- ◆ Interested in traveling to Vicksburg? A meeting to discuss the trip being coordinated by Bill Head and Tim Johnson will be held on Thursday, January 8, 1998, at 7 p.m. at Barbara and Ken Moats' home, 4780 North Delno, Fresno. The week in Vicksburg is a companion event to the West Coast Civil War Conference sponsored by our round table next November. More information about the trip? Contact Bill at 432-8746 or Tim at 431-4832.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The raffle conducted at the November meeting of the SJVCWRT netted \$69. Items given away included The Third Day and Beyond by Gary Gallagher; America Goes to War by Bruce Catton; The Civil War by Robert Paul Jordan; a selection of Civil War magazines; and a bottle of wine.

MEMBERSHIP

The SJVCWRT is pleased to welcome the following new members: Rickey Ketcham, Rich Ruby, Keith Poulter, and Ormond and Beverly Eckley.

Several individuals have joined the round table in the *Newsletter Only* category. These include Don McDonald of Los Altos; Fred Bohmfalk of Sacramento; Frances Garcia of Lemoore; and Scott Howell, who lives in Acworth, Georgia. Scott is newsletter editor of the Friends of Pickett's Mill, Inc., an organization dedicated to preserving the memory of both Confederate and Union soldiers who were participants in the Battle of Pickett's Mill. The Battle of Pickett's Mill, part of the Atlanta Campaign, was fought on May 27, 1864.

The round table has recently begun exchanging newsletters with the Los Angeles CWRT. Major Richard Lee is the editor of "Grape and Canister."

WHY WE STUDY THE CIVIL WAR

by Barbara Moats

Why study history or Civil War history at all? What is the value of it? This question has intrigued me since the passion to know about the Civil War first overwhelmed me several years ago (you guessed it--when I saw the Ken Burns series on the Civil War, September 23, 1990). Shortly thereafter, I wrote down all the reasons that made it personally valuable, that remain valid for me today, which I'll return to later.

It was of more than passing interest to me to learn that one of the speakers at the 13th Annual Civil War Conference (November 7-9, 1997, Holtville, CA) was to address this topic. I had heard Dr. Charles Roland, historian and author at the University of Kentucky, speak on the Civil War at other conferences and looked forward to hearing what he would have to say about why we study the Civil War. I'll paraphrase Dr. Roland's comments on the value of studying history, the contribution of professional historians and why we study the Civil War in particular, hoping to convey the essence of his talk without being misleading.

He first established the importance of the study of history itself, stating his belief that history is one of the important cements of society and that, "It is impossible to have a cohesive society without the knowledge of that society's history." Although history has certainly been passed down by word of mouth, the great service of professional historians is their quest for greater accuracy and objectivity. This does not equate to absolutely accurate history or absolutely unbiased history, because everybody has a bias which is bound to show at some point. History is the collective memory of society and a society without history is like an individual without a memory. It results in a disoriented state. If you didn't know where you came from, it would be hard to know where you were going. "We study the Civil War," Roland said, "because it is the most important episode, the great formative and defining episode of American history....It gave birth to the modern, cohesive state we know as the United States of America." The preservation of the Union and the abolition of slavery were the most obvious results of the Northern victory. Beyond that, all the streams of modern American history have emerged from that dramatic, grim episode which touches all our lives. Interest in the Civil War never dies because Americans have a personal relationship to it through ancestors that fought in the war, through the battlefields they fought over, through national cemeteries--grim reminders of the tremendous loss of life.

Any personal relationship to the Civil War serves to sharpen interest and appreciation of it, Roland noted. A Southerner himself, he said Southerners grow up surrounded by the places where the battles were fought, where every town has its own story about what happened there during the Civil War. Books such as The Life of Johnny Reb and The Life of Billy Yank (by Bell I. Wiley) convey the reality that Civil War soldiers were flesh and blood soldiers, not idealized men who were always brave and virtuous. Dr. Roland summed up by saying that beyond simply learning facts about battles, all of us by learning more about this great defining experience of American history can be enlarged and perhaps ennobled and made better by it.

My own list of personal values of Civil War studies goes like this: (1) it puts one's trials and failures in perspective, (2) it provides precedents for coping strategies, (3) it gives you a stimulating outlet for your thoughts, (4) it amazes and encourages you as you realize the growth potential and courage of individuals to carry on even after they have experienced crushing failures, (5) it stimulates interest in divergent historical studies, (6) it is great fun to share and/or verbally spar with others so interested, (7) Civil War studies, or any studies of an ongoing nature, stimulate the mind and memory, but Civil War studies in particular are excellent because primary material is abundant, accessible and is constantly being discovered (see Carol's article on the Clara Barton find), it is all in English, and it pertains to Americans, (8) it sharpens the ability to be a much more critical reader of history, (9) it teaches you about life, and though not original with me, (10) it continues to have applications for the modern world militarily, emotionally, psychologically, historically and politically.

Addressing those at the conference, Dr. Roland noted that while the study of the Civil War would mean something different to everybody there, it would still be meaningful to everybody.

Why do you study the Civil War? Send your comments to our Newsletter Editor, Carol Berry, c/o SJVCWRT, PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755. Responses will be printed in future issues of *Bugle Call Echoes*.

DUES RENEWAL

Time to renew your membership. See the form on page 8. Note: If you joined the round table in the fall of 1997, your membership will not need to be renewed until January 1999.

MISSING SOLDIERS OFFICE

Clara Barton was known as the "Angel of the Battlefield" for her ministrations to soldiers on Civil War battlefields. After the war ended, Miss Barton began compiling lists of names of soldiers who had not returned home. She published the names, went to Andersonville Prison to mark the graves of some 13,000 Union soldiers who had died there, and became nationally known for her efforts.

With support from various politicians, including Benjamin Butler, Barton was appointed head of a soldiers finders bureau, becoming the first woman ever to run a government department. For two years she and her staff of 12 processed over 63,000 inquiries and identified the whereabouts of 22,000 men. In the quest to find missing soldiers, Barton wrote 41,855 letters, mailed 58,693 circulars, and distributed 99,057 copies of lists of names. Heading the lists was a note: "These are names of persons whose friends have written to me for information and about whom, up to this date, I have learned nothing definite. If anyone sees his own name or that of a comrade known to be living, he will please inform me. Clara Barton, Washington, D. C."

The Missing Soldiers Office was located in the nation's capital at 437 7th Street. It was on the third floor of the building that Barton worked and lived. In late 1997, the building was scheduled for demolition. Demolition came to a halt, however, when documents and artifacts connecting the property to Clara Barton were found.

Recently, National Public Radio's Liane Hansen interviewed Gary Scott, Chief Historian of the National Park Service in Washington, DC, and Steve Raich, Chief, Historic Preservation, Washington, DC, about this discovery.

Hansen: *How did you find out about 437 7th Street?*

Scott: *A confidential source contacted me...he directed me to the building where he said that there were artifacts relating to Clara Barton in the attic of a building that may soon be torn down...so I went to Steve Raich of the State Historic Preservation Office...he contacted GSA--General Services Administration--which owns the building, and got us access.*

... we went up and on a ladder on the third floor and went into the attic...[in] the attic were strips of paper about half an inch thick, and also articles of old clothing. And we looked at the paper...every single piece of paper was from the 1860s. There were

BUGLE CALL ECHOES

government reports. There were Civil War-period newspapers just strewn everywhere on the attic floor. There were also articles of clothing that appeared to be mid-19th century. There was a frock coat. There...were skirts. There were shawls. There were slippers. There were palmetto fans.

Also discovered was a tin sign, black with gold lettering, reading, "Missing Soldiers Office, 3rd Story, Room 9, Miss Clara Barton."

The building at 437 7th Street is across from the Shakespeare Theatre and near the new sports arena. Liane Hansen's interview with Gary Scott and Steve Raich continued at the site.

Raich: *...there's original 1850s wallpaper still on the walls up there. This is so rare because it's such a microcosm...You know, as one who's done this basically for 30 years, I've never seen anything like it. I mean, there's a lot of good archive sources around, and there's a lot of good old buildings around. But to put the two together and find an untouched treasure trove like this in a crawl space in a commercial building is I think almost unique, to find it at the end of the 20th century, to find something like this...*

...what we found when we got way up in [the attic], we found big, black bolts of cloth, rows and rows and rows of black bunting. And none of us could figure out really what it was until one of my staff people showed me a photograph of Lincoln's funeral procession passing through here...some of that bunting was hanging out of the front window of this building. So what we found up here was original bunting from the Abraham Lincoln funeral procession.

Here's a ledger sheet. It says: "Mustered in, last paid..." This is a Civil War muster sheet of mustered in, last paid, clothing account, deserted, where probably to be found. This is what Clara Barton was doing here. She was trying to join families together with missing soldiers.

Curating of items still continues. Ten boxes filled with objects from the attic were taken to Fords Theatre in Washington, DC, where they will be displayed. The building itself will be assessed and hopefully preserved.

Miss Barton, who died in 1912, is probably best known as the founder of the American Red Cross.

A GEORGIA CIVIL WAR STORY

by Ethelene Dyer Jones

The Misfortunes of Margaret and Eli Stuart

Fannin County, though not the locale for any Civil War battles, nonetheless had its burden of that conflict's troubles. Citizens Eli T. and Margaret Stuart and their great misfortunes reveal some of the trials people here faced.

Eli T. Stuart and Margaret Hyde were married in Gilmer County...July 30, 1848...The couple was set for a good life in the Pierceville section of Fannin County not too far from Higdon's Store, where Eli (sometimes his name appears as Iley) owned his own farm and had a thriving blacksmith shop. The couple had six children: Virgil, Amanda M., Lavada, Julius Cicero, Elizabeth C., and Elam.

Then the Civil War came. Citizens in Fannin had divided loyalties, as was the nation, pro-Union and pro-Confederate. Margaret was to testify later of her husband, "He was a Union man from the first and cursed and abused the rebels for what they did."

Eli T. Stuart talked about the war, heard news of troop movements, evaded the Confederate conscription officers. Then in September, 1863, he followed Captain Vanhook to Athens, Tenn., and joined Company G of the 11th Tennessee Cavalry, US Army. His blacksmithing skills were especially valuable to the cavalry.

In January 1864, Eli was so ill he had to be hospitalized in Knoxville. After recovery, he rejoined his company at Strawberry Plains in Tennessee. He told Colonel Isham G. Young that he could find willing recruits in Fannin County. Colonel Young gave Stuart papers authorizing him to enlist soldiers, and he returned to Fannin County for that purpose. Still in poor health, plagued with jaundice, nevertheless Stuart set about enlisting volunteers.

William A. Twiggs, a fiery pro-Unionist, had papers from Colonel S. B. Boyd of the 5th Tennessee Mounted Infantry, US Army, to recruit troops in Fannin County. At first Eli Stuart and his troops were reluctant to join Twiggs, but after the latter made a threatening appeal at the courthouse in Morganton on September 25, 1864, Eli Stuart joined with this group of Unionists (still without uniforms, but with an assortment of muzzle-loading rifles as weapons). Twiggs made his appeal by telling the people they needed protection against roving bands of

Confederate guerrillas and the notorious "Home Guard" that plundered and threatened citizens. Colonel Boyd had made it clear to Twiggs that his recruits could not enter into combat until legally mustered into the Army. But what was to keep them from protecting citizens in home territory? About 20 men joined Twiggs that day.

Eli Stuart and his men joined forces with those of William A. Twiggs. Their encampment was at Green's Ferry on the Toccoa River, but soon they moved camp to the MacDonald Farm in the Dial Community. From that location the Twiggs/Stuart troops went into the mountains scouting out and raiding Home Guard encampments and antagonizing those who were known pro-Confederates in the County. It was a time of lawlessness, fear, and uncertainty, deprivation and suffering.

Back at home in Pierceville, Margaret Hyde Stuart worked the farm and garden, and cared for their six children. She thought often of what Eli said when he left to join Twiggs' command: "I can't just stay here."

A Day of Infamy and Consequences

Being a member of a regular army, with provisions, commands, and headquarters is hard enough. But a surveillance troop, encamped in the mountains with no regular supplies of food, no uniforms, and no support from central command is a rugged way of life. Eli T. Stuart and William A. Twiggs and their Union-sympathizing troops were learning this way of life as they went out from their camp on the MacDonald Farm at Dial to look for Confederate companies and Home Guard guerrillas.

On October 20, 1864, Eli Stuart led a column of 9 men to the VanZant farm. They were on the lookout for Confederate troops, but Eli had another purpose in mind. Their horses needed to be shod, and he sought the free use of Lewis VanZant's forge...With all the trouble in the valley from marauding bands, Mr. VanZant was no doubt very cautious when he saw the 9 men approach, thinking of his vulnerability to protect family and property.

Eli Stuart stated his purpose and Mr. VanZant gave permission to use his forge. Soon the fire was going, and Blacksmith Stuart made the anvil ring. Willis Gilliam had been assigned watch as Stuart worked. Suddenly a troop of Confederates clad in gray were upon the VanZant property, having approached from the area of the Jason Coward Chastain house.

The Confederates were part of Findley's Regiment of Captain Marion Williams' Company. Willis Gilliam watched from his hiding place, knowing he could do nothing to stop the troops. Surrounding the house and blacksmith shed, they took the eight Union men captive and rode with them, bound by ropes, to Gaddistown where the Confederates were camped. Gilliam returned to tell Captain Twiggs the bad news and they went looking for the rebels and their captives but were not successful in overtaking them.

During the night, one of the captives, Thomas Anderson, was able to wriggle out of his ropes and escape. He quietly slipped away...and found his way back to Twiggs' Company at MacDonald's Farm.

Early the next morning Captain Marion Williams moved the captives to Dahlenega. He feared Twiggs and his men might overtake them as they traveled out of Gaddistown into Canada (Suches), Cooper's Creek, Hightower, and on to Dahlenega. Colonel J. J. Findley whose regiment was encamped on the mustering grounds about a block from the Lumpkin County Courthouse feared for Williams' band, thinking they might have been overcome by Union forces patrolling the mountains. Then Williams rode in with his seven captives. He presented papers found on Eli Stuart, Solomon Stansbury and William Witt showing they were in the Union Army. The others... had no such papers. All seven were jailed in the courthouse where military prisoners were held.

The next morning, October 22, 1864, the three with papers showing they were Union troops were marched outside of Dahlenega to Bearden's Bridge Hill overlooking the Chestatee River. Captain Crissom of Findley's Regiment gave the command to fire and seven Confederate soldiers lifted rifles and shot Eli Stuart, Solomon Stansbury and William Witt, execution-style. Shortly afterwards, the three bodies were tossed over the high embankment of Bearden's Hill to their graves in the icy waters of the Chestatee. The war crime committed that day would have far-reaching consequences and remain in the public eye for years to come.

A Widow's Fight for a Pension

It was grave news of Eli Stuart's death that reached his widow, Margaret, at Pierceville. She could not look forward to his return when the war ended in 1865. She must press on, try to provide a living for herself and the children. By the 1870 census, Virgil was gone from home...He may have maintained his late father's blacksmith shop, for Virgil listed that as his occupation in

the 1870 census. Another grief had come to Margaret on December 25, 1866, as death claimed her eldest daughter, Amanda M., age 16.

The tragedy of October 22, 1864, at Bearden's Hill Bridge near Dahlenega was to be examined many times over in courtroom proceedings and in the memories of family members of Eli Stuart, Solomon Stansbury and William R. Witt. Following the war, the incident was investigated by special agents of the Federal government and the cases remained in Federal court for years. Over 200 pages of written testimony, letters and other documents are in the Eli T. (Iley) Stuart file, attesting to the battle Margaret Stuart waged to secure a Federal pension and to clear her husband's name of desertion.

Mrs. Stuart was advised by Dr. Gilbert Falls, physician, patriot, and himself a US veteran of the War of 1812, that she was eligible for a war pension. Dr. Falls referred Margaret to Attorney John Wimpy of Dahlenega who had been elected on the Republican ticket in 1868 to serve in the US Congress. Due to the politics of Reconstruction, Wimpy was never seated as a Congressman.

Unfortunately, appeals were not made "above-board," as many of the letters had forged signatures or were signed with an "X" and a respondent's name affixed. Among these letters and affidavits were forgeries bearing the names of Eli T. Stuart's former Union associates, William A. Twiggs and Nathan B. Long.

An award of \$8 per month and \$760 in back pay was made to Margaret Stuart on September 13, 1869. But the poor widow never received the money despite her persistent efforts to get it from Attorney Wimpy. He had drawn up legal papers giving him "power of attorney." She got Colonel W. P. Price to take her case. Wimpy was forced to repay the Federal government the pension money he had confiscated.

Then another problem arose. The Pension Bureau, aware of Wimpy's actions, investigated further and named Eli T. Stuart a deserter from the Army...No record was found of his service with the 5th Tennessee Mounted Infantry nor of orders from Colonel Isham Young for Stuart to return to Fannin County in January 1864 to recruit troops for the Union Army. How would Margaret Stuart deal with this new development and clear her husband's name?

To lose her husband in a despicable act of mock court martial had been burden enough. She had the further misfortune of ill treatment at the hands of a disreputable

BUGLE CALL ECHOES

advocate. Add to those grave misfortunes the ultimate insult of accusing her husband of desertion from the military. Was there no end to her troubles?

Resolution to the Stuart Case

For six long years Margaret Stuart, widow of Eli T. (Iley) Stuart, pursued her case for a pension. In February 1877, John N. Wager was sent by the National Bureau of Pensions to receive affidavits from various associates of Stuart, among whom were Nathan Long, John Merrell, Thomas and John Wilson, Martin Dilbeck, Thomas Anderson (who had escaped the rebels' capture), and Col. S. B. Boyd. Again the pension was denied on the basis of Stuart's supposed desertion.

For 26 years Margaret Stuart pursued her claims. She lost her eyesight and fire consumed her house. She moved to Mt. Vernon, Tenn., to live with a child there.

Finally, in 1902, a new appeal brought results, cleared Stuart's name of desertion, and on March 3, 1903, Margaret Stuart received a pension of \$12 per month. By the time of these actions, she had moved back to Fannin County.

But her troubles were not over. She signed the drafts, giving them to her youngest son, Elam Stuart, to deposit in the bank at Blue Ridge. He put them in his own personal account, and lost the money in a business partnership deal that went sour. Mrs. Stuart again sought the help of the Pension Bureau in recovering her money (\$260), "not one dime of which belonged to my son..." she wrote. But the Bureau could not help the poor blind widow to recover mismanaged money.

Margaret Stuart died on October 5, 1911, and was laid to rest in what is now called New River Cemetery, Fannin County...It remained for Cicero Stuart, Margaret's middle son, to wrap up dealings with the Pension Board. He applied for burial expenses for his mother and received some for that purpose. Finally, on January 15, 1912, the Pension Board wrote "closed" on the case of Eli T. (Iley) Stuart of Fannin County, Georgia, soldier (not deserter) with Company G, 11th Tennessee Cavalry, US Army. Forty-seven long years had passed since his unfortunate execution on Bearden's Hill in Lumpkin County and the unceremonious disposal of his body over the Chestatee River bluff.

Today, as one stands at the grave of Margaret Hyde Stuart and notes that no companion grave is there for her beloved husband whose name she sought so long to clear of unfair charges, one hears through the echo of her efforts the words he said to her when he left to join

William A. Twiggs' Fannin County Company, US Army: "I can't just stay here."

This chronicle of the sad lives and times of Eli and Margaret Stuart expresses much of the pathos of war and its aftermath. The old adage, "All's fair in love and war," does not tell the suffering both of mind and body of those bereft by war's continuous woes.

Permission to reprint the above series of articles, originally published in the Blue Ridge (Georgia) News Observer, given by Ethelene Dyer Jones, columnist for that paper.

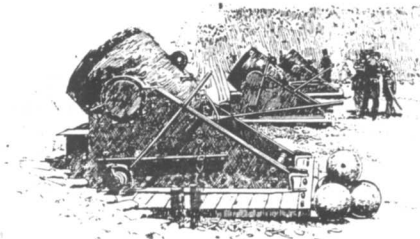
VICKSBURG UNDER SIEGE, 1863

For 47 days and nights, the Union forces engaged in "the grand sport of tossing giant shells into Vicksburg." Accompanied by their slaves and taking their furniture and possessions, the frightened citizens fled to caves dug into the hillsides, seeking shelter from the constant rain of shells. "I have stayed at home every night except two," diarist Emma Balfour wrote. "I could not stand the mosquitoes and the crowd in the caves. Most people live in them for there is no safety anywhere else; indeed, there is no safety there." During the bombardment a baby was born in one of the shelter caves, and was christened "William Siege Green."

On July 3, with his army and the civilian population starving and supplies dwindling, Pemberton met with Grant to discuss terms of surrender, requesting that his soldiers be paroled rather than imprisoned. Grant demanded "unconditional surrender," to which Pemberton replied, "Sir, it is unnecessary that you and I hold any further conversation. We will go to fighting again at once. I can assure you, you will bury many more of your men before you will enter Vicksburg." Grant relented, and Pemberton surrendered the city on July 4, 1863.

When the Union troops entered Vicksburg, they found a starving population and a town in which almost every window pane had been shattered by shells. The Confederates expected a full-fledged Union victory celebration; instead the Federal troops provided them with much-needed food and, according to one witness, "a hearty cheer was given by one Federal division for the gallant defenders of Vicksburg."

Reprinted in part from the "Civil War Guide," published by the Division of Tourism Development, Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development. For a copy of the entire guide, call 1-800-WARMEST.



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>
January 22, 1998	Barron Smith	South Central Valley Confederates
February 12, 1998	Dr. Maxine Turner	Albert Sidney Johnston's Journey to the South
March 26, 1998	John Peterson	Gouverneur K. Warren
April 30, 1998	Bob Wash	Varina Davis, 1st Lady of the Confederacy
May 28, 1998	Jim Stanbery	Vicksburg Fund Raiser
June 25, 1998	Mike Carter	Robert E. Rodes
July 30, 1998	Dr. Brian Clague	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, sponsored by the San Joaquin Valley CWRT Topic: Vicksburg
December 6, 1998		Christmas Get Together

SJVCWRT
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**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.