

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

The February meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will be held on Thursday, February 27, 1997, at the Remington Restaurant on Clovis Avenue. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 7 p.m.



The featured speaker will be Phyllis Scott Johnson, Visual Arts Consultant for the Clovis Unified School District. Her topic will be Civil War Art, with special focus on Winslow Homer and Julian Scott. She will show Scott's art and talk about the soon-to-be-published book, "Julian Scott: Artist of the Civil War and Native America," by Robert Titterton. Phyllis is the grand niece of Julian Scott.

Phyllis received her BFA from the University of Kansas and her teaching credential and MA in Multicultural Art Education from CSUF. Phyllis was Co-Director of the California Consortium for Visual Arts Education for five years. She was named California Outstanding Elementary Art Educator in 1986, the recipient of the Horizon Award in 1987, and Outstanding Educator in the Arts for Fresno County. Phyllis is one of the founders and past president of the Fresno Art Council and is currently a member of the Board of Directors.

Cost for the meal is \$15 (\$10 for students under 25). Send your check (payable to the SJVCWRT) to PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755, or contact Wayne Bowen at 291-4885 to advise him you will be attending the meeting. Seating cannot be guaranteed without a reservation.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Carol Berry, editor of this month's newsletter, has printed a draft of the history, to date, of the SJVCWRT. Rick Kubiak submitted the main chronology of events, with additional information contributed by other board members, insofar as they participated in specific events. Comments are welcome. Direct corrections to Rick (251-1505) or myself (279-3654).

Civil War talk over coffee was a happening at Le Croissant Saturday, February 8. Tim Johnson shared what WEB TV is like. It is a system that allows you to surf the net without a computer, through your television set. One can access all sorts of information on the Civil War, or uncounted other topics. He has offered to demonstrate it at his home for the "coffee" group on the next scheduled Saturday meeting. That will be March 8th, 9 a.m., at his place: 8665 North Cedar, #112, Fresno, phone 431-4832.

That said, let me pass along this warning printed by The CWRT Digest: Beware of copycat WEB sites! A copycat WEB site is one where a WEB address looks official but is really set up to push an agenda opposite of the one the original site has. For example, a "property rights" group has a WEB address that is minimally different from the National Park Service, i.e., ".org" at the end of the address instead of ".gov." They push deceptive information about how the government plans on destroying the Parks and turning them over to the United Nations. Jerry Russell says let him know if you run across one of these. I guess the "net" is not for sissies.

Barbara Moats

AUDIO TAPES

Rick Kubiak has audio tapes of most of the SJVCWRT meeting speakers. Contact him for a list of tapes or to ask about borrowing a tape. He can be reached at 251-1505.

SHOULD THE BLACK MAN HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE? THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA REVISITED - Part 1 of 2 Parts

by Barbara Moats

The 13th Amendment formally abolished slavery December 18, 1865, but “the black question” was far from settled. The abolition of slavery raised many controversial questions about the role of blacks in American society and whether the ideals of justice and equality extended to all citizens or was to be restricted to white males.

Two primary sources quoted argue both sides of the black suffrage question. In “What the Black Man Wants,” from The Liberator, February 1865, Frederick Douglass states:

I have had but one idea for the last three years to present to the American people, and the phraseology in which I clothe it is the old abolition phraseology. I am for the immediate, unconditional and universal enfranchisement of the black man, in every State of the Union. Without this, his liberty is a mockery; without this, you might as well almost retain the old name of slavery for his condition; for, in fact, if he is not the slave of the individual master, he is the slave of society, and holds his liberty as a privilege, not as a right. He is at the mercy of the mob, and has no means of protecting himself.

Douglass did not agree that suffrage was premature, that it should come about gradually, as stated by Benjamin M. Boyer, 1866, “...after the Negro shall have developed to the full measure of his intellectual and moral capacity.”

Douglass: I fear that if we fail to do it now, if Abolitionists fail to press it now, we may not see, for centuries to come, the same disposition that exists at this moment.

Asked why they want the franchise, he responds, “because it is our right,” and further, that, “if nothing is expected of them it would be difficult for the people to contradict the expectation. Reminded that women did not have the vote, he answers, “Shall we justify one wrong by another?”

By depriving us of suffrage, you affirm our incapacity to form an intelligent judgment respecting public men and public measures; you declare before the world that we are unfit to exercise the elective franchise, and by this means lead us to undervalue ourselves, to put a low estimate upon ourselves, and to feel that we have no possibilities like other men...But here, where

universal suffrage is the rule, where that is the fundamental ideal of the government, to rule us out is to make an exception, to brand us with the stigma of inferiority.

He goes on to state that when the rebellion is put down, a malignant spirit will remain in the South that will endeavor to destroy and circumvent the peaceful operation of the government.

Now, where will you find the strength to counterbalance this spirit, if you do not find it in the Negroes of the South! They are your friends and have always been your friends. They were your friends even when the Government did not regard them as such.

If we know enough to be hung, we know enough to vote. If the Negro knows enough to pay taxes to support the Government, he knows enough to vote--taxation and representation should go together. If he knows enough to shoulder a musket and fight for the flag, fight for the Government, he knows enough to vote.

Douglass further questions what the black men of the country have been asked to do, and answers thus:

You have asked them to incur the deadly enmity of their masters, in order to befriend you and to befriend this Government...Do you intend to sacrifice the very men who have come to the rescue of your banner in the South and incurred the lasting displeasure of their masters thereby? Do you intend to sacrifice them, and reward your enemies? Do you mean to give your enemies the right to vote, and take it away from your friends? Is that wise policy? Is that honorable? Could American honor withstand such a blow? I do not believe you will do it.

Justice, not sympathy, is what Douglass asks. In response to “What shall we do with the Negro,” he answers:

Do nothing with us!...All I ask is, to give him a chance to stand on his own legs!...If you will only untie his hands, and give him a chance, I think he will live.

Note: An opposing point of view by Pennsylvania Democrat Benjamin M. Boyer will follow in next month’s newsletter.

REMINDERS

- ⇒ The next SJVCWRT board meeting is Thursday, March 6, 1997, at the Moats', 4780 North Delno, Fresno, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. All round table members are welcome.
- ⇒ The Coffee and Civil War get together is held the second Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at Le Croissant, First and Nees in Fresno. See the President's Corner for further information about the get together on March 8.
- ⇒ The study group will begin meeting at Ken and Barbara Moats' home, 4780 N. Delno, March 6. Topic of discussion: The Seven Days Battles. Contact Ken or Barbara for further information, 229-3654.

A HISTORY OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

compiled by Rick Kubiak

In the spring of 1990, a dinner party was held at the home of Brian and Linda Clague. A meeting was held at this time to consider the possibility of forming a discussion group about the American Civil War. This initial organizational group consisted of Brian Clague, Linda Clague, John Bakas, Rex Riley, Vern Crow, Bob Wash, Bill Jones, John Taylor and Cindy Cross. It was decided that the group would meet for lunch and discussion pertaining to the Civil War on the last Friday of each month at the Downtown Club.

From early 1990 through September 1991, meeting notices were mailed out by John Bakas and Rex Riley. In October of 1991, Linda Clague volunteered to continue sending out notices and keeping general records of the group.

1991 During the early months of 1991, another group of Civil War enthusiasts had been meeting at California State University, Fresno. This group included Bill Head, Tim Johnson, and Charles Jorgensen. In October they met with the discussion group at the Downtown Club, and in November both groups were combined into a single group.

1992 In October, with a mailing list of 60 people, it was decided to formalize the discussion group with a slate of officers for a board of directors and a name for the organization. The slate was: President, Fred Holt; Vice President, Charles Jorgensen; Secretary, Linda Clague; Treasurer, Tim Johnson; Historical Society Liaison, Cindy Cross; Recruitment, Bill Head; and

Member-at-Large, Walter Rodgers. The slate was accepted by the membership. At this time the name of San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table was formally approved. In addition, it was agreed that the group would affiliate with the Civil War Round Table Associates (CWRTA). Dues were set at \$25 per year, \$40 for families, with \$5 going to battlefield preservation.

At the October luncheon, Rick Kubiak recommended that a monthly newsletter be published. This was heartily supported by those present. Rick volunteered to write articles on personalities of the war.

1993 In January, the first issue of "Bugle Call Echoes" was written and printed by Newsletter Editor Verne Cole, with the help of Contributing Editor Rick Kubiak. It contained announcements of monthly meetings, biographical sketches of speakers, articles concerning Civil War battles and personalities, and quizzes testing the members' knowledge of the Civil War.

Battlefield preservation money (\$160) was sent to Heritagepac, a national lobbying group dedicated to preservation of American battlefields.

A few members manned a booth at the Civil War Reenactment held in Kearney Park in October. This is an annual event conducted by the Fresno City and County Historical Society. Artifacts, books and literature about the round table were displayed in order to promote interest in the Civil War and attract new members.

Also in October, Bill Head and Tim Johnson enthusiastically proposed that the SJVCWRT host the 10th Annual West Coast Conference in conjunction with Civil War Round Table Associates of Little Rock, Arkansas. The Board of Directors and membership voted to approve the project. A steering committee, co-chaired by Bill and Tim, was established and a core of about 12 people volunteered to serve on the committee. Other members and spouses served in various capacities at the time of the conference, contributing much to its success.

The October dinner meeting was designated a fund raiser to provide seed money for the 1994 conference. Dr. Edward R. Emanuel, professor of Theater Arts and Humanities at CSUF, was the featured speaker. Of the \$1,000 profit, \$750 was allocated for seed money.

A new slate of officers for the Board of Directors was nominated and accepted for office in October. They were:

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President, Charles Jorgensen; Vice President, John Taylor; Acting Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Verne Cole; Treasurer, Tim Johnson; Contributing Editor and Historian, Rick Kubiak; Past President, Fred Holt; Recruitment, Bill Head; and Members-at-Large, Walter Rodgers, Jeff Ennis, Barbara Moats, Ed Ackley and Wayne Bowen.

The conference was scheduled for November 4-6, 1994, at the Tenaya Lodge at the southern entrance to Yosemite National Park. The Gettysburg Campaign was the theme of the conference. In preparation for the conference and a projected group trip to Gettysburg, Bill Head and Tim Johnson initiated and chaired a discussion group on the Gettysburg Campaign. Meetings were held at Bill's home and met weekly from October 6 through November 29. An outline was prepared and participants alternated presenting topics under discussion.

1994 President Jorgensen proposed a draft for a constitution and by-laws be drawn up for discussion and approval by the board. In June he presented a draft for consideration. A final version of the constitution was agreed on by board members at the September 1 meeting. This was modified at the November 18 meeting to reflect the change to four directors and to have the outgoing president serve on the board for two years.

A check for \$300 was sent to The Friends of Gettysburg to be used for land acquisition and improvements to the park. An additional \$240 went to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS).

The Gettysburg trip, organized by Bill Head and Tim Johnson, took place June 20-27, and was a huge success. It was sponsored by The Division of Extended Education, California State University, Fresno, and offered two units of credit through the History Department. The group lodged in dorms at Gettysburg College, ate in the college cafeteria, and were driven to battlefield sites in a private, air-conditioned bus. The trip started in Fredericksburg, Virginia, following the route of the Army of Northern Virginia (General Robert E. Lee, commanding) to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Frank O'Reilly, a National Park Service licensed guide, joined the group at Fredericksburg and stayed with them, interpreting historic events in Fredericksburg and along the route of the march, until reaching Gettysburg. There, another licensed guide, Gary Kross, took over. Gary escorted the group every day and held informal talks

evenings after dinner on the lawn of a lovely, old red brick church on campus.

Despite the bus, the study group got in plenty of walking over the battlefields. Walking the mile between Seminary Ridge to Cemetery Ridge in the path of Pickett's Charge with Gary describing the action was a highlight of the trip. Participants included members from other round tables and friends and relatives interested in the Civil War. The group numbered 16 in all.

The night following the group's return from Gettysburg, several members of our organization manned the telephones at Valley Public Television in Fresno in order to help raise money for the station and to publicize our round table. The Ken Burn's series on the Civil War, first aired in September 1990, was reprised.

In early October round table members again manned a booth at the Civil War Reenactment in Kearney Park, with each group generally taking two-hour stints. Bob Wash, a member of both the SJVCWRT and the Historical Society, portrays Confederate President Jefferson Davis at these events in full costume.

The 10th Annual Civil War Conference took place as planned in November and was "a complete success," declared President Charles Jorgensen. Members Dolores Torres and Sandi Downs were interviewed prior to the conference on local television. They represented the round table in authentic Civil War dress, answering questions about our organization and the upcoming conference.

Several students attended the conference on scholarships donated by the round tables, CWRTA and individuals. They received one unit of credit through the History Department of California State University, Fresno. To our knowledge, this was a first. Treasurer Wayne Bowen sent \$2,000 from conference monies to Heritagepac.

While the conference's general session was in progress, there were talks and demonstrations in the Lodge's Fireside Room on diverse Civil War topics. This was provided primarily, but not exclusively, for non-registered guests, family and friends of registered participants. There were more than 160 registrants, by far the largest conference of the series.

In November 1994, a new slate of officers for the Board of Directors for 1995 was nominated and accepted for office. They were President, John Taylor; Vice President, Bill

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Head; Secretary, Barbara Moats; Treasurer, Wayne Bowen; Linda Clague and Rick Kubiak, Directors for two-year terms; Tim Johnson and Verne Cole, Directors for one-year terms. Kubiak was to continue as Club Historian and Cole as Newsletter Editor. Charles Jorgensen will serve on the board as Ex-Officio.

1995 In addition to a booth manned at the Civil War Reenactment in October at Kearney Park, members Barbara Moats and Carol Berry responded to a request by the Culpeper Ladies Aide Society of the National Civil War Association (NCWA) to speak to their group. Clothed in Civil War era dress, Barbara and Carol spoke on *Civil War Women - Their Experience and Legacy*.

Sent \$100 to CWRTA for a Life Membership and \$100 to Heritagepac for battlefield preservation.

During the annual Civil War conference, held in Redlands, California, in November, Bill Head requested our round table do the 1998 conference. Jerry Russell, CWRTA, agreed. Back home, board members were polled and approved the plan.

Elected in November, the officers for 1996 were: Bill Head, President; Barbara Moats, Vice President; Carol Berry, Secretary; Wayne Bowen, Treasurer; Verne Cole, Newsletter Editor; Linda Clague, Membership Secretary; Tim Johnson, Publicity; and Rick Kubiak, Historian. Past presidents John Taylor and Charles Jorgensen remained on the board.

1996 On April 11, an organizational meeting was held for a second discussion group. The group voted to study The Shenandoah Valley Campaigns of 1862-1864. They met approximately every other week at Barbara and Ken Moats' home, starting June 27, for nine sessions. Members alternated as before in making presentations. It wound up with a potluck dinner. Participants felt they had learned a lot and that, in terms of time, it was an economical way to cover the many engagements and battles that took place in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Sent \$165 to Heritagepac for battlefield preservation.

Members of the round table participated in Barnes and Noble's Civil War Trivia Evening in July. Barnes and Noble donated several Civil War-related books to the round table.

In September 1996 an informal get together was started. It was entitled "Coffee and Civil War," and was held beginning at 9 a.m. the second Saturday of each month at Le Croissant. First and Nees in Fresno. Discussion includes latest Civil War book read, trips to Civil War battlefields, or any topic concerning the Civil War.

Literature about our organization and membership applications were distributed by members and through the Historical Society at the October reenactment at Kearney Park.

Board members were elected in November. They were: Barbara Moats, President; Rick Kubiak, Vice President; Carol Berry, Secretary; Wayne Bowen, Treasurer; Bob Wash, Historian; Verne Cole, Newsletter Editor; and Ken Moats, Director-at-Large. Bill Head and John Taylor will serve on the board as Past Presidents.

1997 In early January, letters were sent to nationally known historians in an attempt to recruit knowledgeable speakers should they be in the California area. Early returns netted several responses. While none were available to speak in 1997, a few said they would be glad to consider it for future action. Among these were James M. McPherson, Robert E. L. Krick and James I. Robertson Jr.

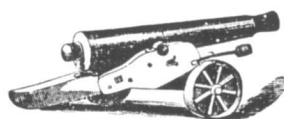
WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR ROUND TABLE: Mike Carter, David Davenport, Patricia Hall, Ron Markarian, David Marques, Louise Richardson and Julia Shelton

ABOVE AND BEYOND DUTY

Available from the Longstreet Memorial Fund: tapes of the 1996 Above and Beyond Duty Symposium held in Richmond, Virginia, featuring:

- ☞ Robert E. Lee Krick, "Wounding of Longstreet"
- ☞ Dr. Richard DiNardo, "Longstreet and His Staff"
- ☞ Dr. Carol Reardon, "The Seven Days Battles"
- ☞ Dr. William Garrett Piston, "Longstreet in Mexico"
- ☞ Doug Knapp of the Museum of the Confederacy
- ☞ Robert Thomas, Chairman, Longstreet Memorial Fund
- ☞ Dr. John Latschar, Superintendent, GNMP
- ☞ Gary Casteel, Sculptor

Cost of the tapes is \$25 plus \$2 S/H and should be ordered from Robert C. Thomas, Longstreet Memorial Fund, 112 Offset Farm Road, Sanford, NC 27330.



Signal Cannon

THE SJVCWRT OFFICERS FOR 1997 ARE:

President

Barbara Moats

Vice President

Rick Kubiak

Secretary

Carol Berry

Treasurer

Wayne Bowen

Newsletter Editor

Verne Cole

Historian

Robert Wash

Immediate Past Presidents

Bill Head

Director-at-Large

John Taylor

Ken Moats



Change of address? Call Wayne Bowen at 291-4885 or Verne Cole at 435-8410

THE BLOODY RAILROAD CUT:

GETTYSBURG, JULY 1, 1863

by Bill Head

The I Corps under the command of Major General John Reynolds camped along the banks of Marsh Creek near Greenmount on June 30, 1863. The troops arose on July 1 anticipating a leisurely march to Gettysburg four miles to the north. Brigadier General Lysander Cutler's 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division took up the line of march at 7 a.m. He was followed by Brigadier General Solomon Meredith's 1st Brigade, known throughout both armies as the Iron Brigade. Captain James Hall's 2nd Maine Battery occupied the space between the two brigades. Following General Wadsworth's 1st Division were the divisions of Major General Abner Doubleday and Brigadier General James Robinson.

The purpose of the march was to support Brigadier General John Buford's 1st Cavalry Division, which had entered Gettysburg the afternoon of June 30 to scout and picket the roads leading north and west of the town.

General Reynolds rode ahead of his 1st Division as he wished to speak with Buford before his troops arrived in the town. The weather was warm and sultry and the division proceeded at a slow pace. A large gap appeared between the two brigades.

General Reynolds, hearing what appeared to be artillery fire and seeing smoke bursts to the northwest, realized that General Buford was engaged with Lee's army. After consulting with Buford, Reynolds intercepted his lead brigade near the Codori farm and directed his men to cross the fields toward the Lutheran Seminary.

Reynolds deployed the 2nd Brigade north of the Chambersburg Pike and as soon as the 1st Brigade appeared, he sent them into the Herbst Woods south of the

road. He detached the 6th Wisconsin as a reserve, holding them near the seminary.

Cutler's 2nd Brigade quickly found itself in trouble. The Confederate brigades of Joseph Davis' Mississippians and North Carolinians routed Cutler's men and sent them fleeing eastward toward the trees along Oak Ridge. The situation was grave.

General Doubleday, now in command due to the death of Reynolds, ordered Lt. Colonel Rufus R. Dawes' 6th Wisconsin to move to the right and give a hand to the 2nd Brigade.

Dawes' regiment consisted of 420 officers and men. He immediately saw the seriousness of the situation. The Rebels were sweeping Cutler's men, who were now fleeing for their lives. Some of Davis' men spotted the 6th Wisconsin and opened a galling fire. But the 6th pressed forward. Dawes ordered his men into line parallel with the pike. He ordered his men to rest their rifles on the fence rails in their front and fire by file. The Rebels advanced slowly, then became disorderly, recovered, and swarmed into a railway cut unknown to Dawes. At first he thought they were retreating but quickly realized, after a hot fire being poured upon them, that they disappeared into the cut.

In order to reach the Confederates, Dawes' men had to climb over a rail fence lining the road. It was necessary to climb a second fence. The firing increased and the men of the 6th Wisconsin were falling in rows. But they kept pushing forward.

At this time Colonel Dawes became aware that he was getting help from the 95th New York, who came into view on his left rear. Another New York regiment, the 14th Brooklyn, was moving up on the 95th's left. The three regiments strengthened the Union line and increased the threat to Davis' flank. Prior to the arrival of the two New York regiments, Dawes had decided to charge the cut. Colonel Fowler, in command of the newly arrived troops, concurred. Approximately 900 men charged Davis' brigade, which was in turmoil. Because his men had broken ranks to chase after Cutler's troops, Davis lost control of his men. They became mixed together, unable to identify company or regiment. Dawes' flanking fire caused the Southerners to seek the railroad cut for protection.

Dawes pushed the 6th Wisconsin forward, aligning on the colors. The Rebel fire was so heavy that the colors were shot down several times. In the space of less than one hundred yards, 180 men were killed or wounded.

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The 6th reached the edge of the cut, finding steep walls on their left, but sloping to only 2 to 3 feet on the right. Dawes' men yelled to the Confederates in the cut to throw down their muskets. He stepped forward and demanded to speak to the colonel in command. The colonel had been killed and Major John Blair came forward and asked Dawes his position. Dawes replied that he was in command of the 6th Wisconsin and informed Blair that he must surrender or he would give the order to fire. Major Blair unfastened his sword and handed it to Dawes. The Southern soldiers dropped their weapons.

Unknown to Colonel Dawes, a struggle for the 2nd Mississippi flag was taking place a few yards to the right of the surrender. After a serious fight among soldiers of both sides, Corporal Francis Waller of I Company secured the colors for the 6th Wisconsin.

Dawes' regiment captured 255 enlisted men and 7 officers. The two New York regiments took an undetermined number of prisoners. The attacking force lost 30 percent of its men, with the 6th Wisconsin taking the heaviest loss.

Dawes' quick and skillful leadership helped the Union forces gain an early victory during the first hour of the battle. The defeat of General Heth's Southern division gave the I and XI Corps time to concentrate west and north of Gettysburg, thus taking away from General Lee the chance to seize the high ground south of the town.

Bibliography:

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FROM THE PARK

by Dr. John A. Latschar, Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent

This past Columbus Day, I traveled to Ohio to speak with the members of the Mahoning Valley Civil War Round Table in Youngstown, Ohio...I presented my "bread and butter" speech. In it I describe the financial despair of our nation's parks. On this particular evening, I was asked the obvious question--"Why not charge an entrance fee to help solve some of our funding problems?" The group was clearly astounded to learn that parks cannot keep their entrance fee revenues. A good example appears in the November 1996 issue of *Civil War News*. Petersburg

National Battlefield Superintendent Mike Hill recently told them that his park is considering dropping their entrance fees altogether. Petersburg spends more money staffing the fee collection station than they collect in fees, and all the money they take in goes to the general treasury, and not back to the park.

Today many national parks charge an entrance fee, typically ranging from \$3 per person to \$5 per vehicle but all of the money goes into the U. S. Treasury's general fund. The National Park Service does not get this money back, unless it is reappropriated by Congress. Even then, the reappropriation of entrance fee funds is offset by a reduction in general operating appropriations. The net benefit to the National Park Service from all the entrance fees collected from the public is zero.

In 1996, for the second year in a row, Congress failed to pass critically needed fee reform legislation that would channel entrance fees directly back into each park's operating budget, without further appropriation. The National Park Service estimates that fee reform legislation would add up to \$100 million to park budgets each year.

Gettysburg National Military Park is currently operating with a budget of approximately 60 percent of what we need to assure the preservation of the battlefield. The fiscal year 1997 appropriation did include a 3 percent increase for the Eisenhower National Historic Site and a 7 percent increase for GNMP. That's good news. However, we would have to receive similar increases every year for another 10 years to have enough to successfully carry out our mission to preserve park resources and make them available for this and all future generations.

Don't get me wrong. I'm *not* advocating an entrance fee for GNMP by any means. It would be nearly impossible to collect given the multiple points of entry to the park. But I am advocating the widespread recognition that something is wrong in the National Park Service. Gettysburg, Petersburg, and countless other parks are starving for funds, in spite of the fact that the Roper poll consistently finds that Americans claim the National Park is their "favorite federal agency."

...Please tell us where we went wrong in explaining to the American public just how desperate our financial plight is, and how threatened the natural and historic treasures of this nation are, which we are entrusted to care for and protect for the benefit of your children and ours.

Reprinted from the Winter 1996 issue of the *Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg* newsletter. Used by permission.

CONFERENCES IN CALIFORNIA

April 26, 1997

6th Annual Southern California Civil War Conference in San Juan Capistrano, 9-5, schedule to be announced. \$18 admission, includes lunch and coffee. For information, contact the San Diego Civil War Round Table, PO Box 22369, San Diego, CA 92192.

October 23-26, 1997

"California in the Civil War," at the Golden Gate Club on the Presidio in San Francisco. Faculty and accommodations to be announced. Contact the Blue and Gray Education Society (BGES), Dept. CWN, 416 Beck St., Norfolk, VA 23503, 804/797-4535.

November 7-9, 1997

13th annual West Coast Civil War Conference. The theme is California and the Civil War. Featured speakers and tour to Fort Yuma. Sponsored by CWRT Associates. Contact person is Jerry Russell, West Coast Conference, PO Box 7388, Little Rock, AR 72217, 501/225-3996

SJVCWRT
PO Box 5695
Fresno, CA 93755



Abraham Lincoln

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The following speakers are scheduled for round table meetings as indicated:

March 27, 1997, at the Remington Restaurant

Brian Clague, MD, "*The Clagues of the Civil War*"

April 17, 1997, at the Remington Restaurant (this is the third Thursday of the month instead of the fourth)

Fred Bohmfalk, "*General Pat Cleburne, Confederate General Known as the Stonewall of the West*"

May 29, 1997, at the Remington Restaurant

Wayne Bowen, "*John Hunt Morgan and His Escape from the Ohio Penitentiary*"

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The membership year is from January to December. Dues are \$25 for a single membership, \$40 for a family membership, and \$10 to receive the newsletter only.

Send your membership renewal to the SJVCWRT, PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755. \$5 of each membership goes to battlefield preservation.

