



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume 19 Number 2

P. O. Box 5695 Fresno CA 93755 MAY 2011

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCR T MEETING OF 4/14/11

By Ron Vaughan

Our meeting was on the 150th anniversary of the surrender of Ft. Sumter, but somehow we failed to recognize the occasion! Hopefully someone will come up with a creative or simple way we can commemorate the upcoming anniversaries.

We had 18 persons present for the meeting. Alex Fabros gave a great presentation on "The Most Unpopular Man in the North," Cooperhead spokesman, Clement Vallandigham. Unfortunately, once again Alex's presentation was spoiled by incompatibility of the laptop and the power point machine. President Mike proposed that we look into purchasing a pair, or a single unit that can both play a CD and project the image.

Vallandigham was born July 29, 1820, in New Lisbon Ohio. He held to a Jeffersonian vision of individual liberty, local autonomy, and agrarian simplicity. He was elected to Congress as a Democrat. In Congress he assailed Abolitionists, was pro states rights, and impaired the general peace and harmony of the Union.

When the Civil War began, Vallandigham was vociferous and extreme in his anti-war sentiments. He refused to aid the war by word or deed. He proposed an amendment to an Army appropriation bill, that would call for peace commissioners to go with the Army and arrange an immediate suspension of hostilities, and negotiate for the Confederate States to return to the

Union.

Vallandigham lost his re-election bid in 1862, but he was not through with politics yet.

The Copperhead counties nominated him for Governor. The Democratic leaders opposed his nomination. He needed a dramatic issue to build public support. The opportunity came when General Burnside was sent to Ohio as military governor, to halt disorders attributed to the Copperheads. Burnside issued General Order No. 38 of April 13, 1863, which forbids citizens to keep and bear arms, or speak out against administration policies. Vallandigham angrily condemned the order as the ultimate in Lincoln despotism. Burnside ordered his arrest, and riots broke out. The charges against him were based upon one of his speeches, where he stated the war was "wicked, cruel, and unnecessary... for the purpose of crushing liberty and creating despotism... a war for the freedom of the blacks and the enslavement of the whites."

These statements were deemed to violate GO No. 38, and he was found guilty by the military tribunal. His sentence was to be sent beyond Union lines "to be with his friends" in the South.

During his stay in Richmond in the Summer of 1863, he encouraged the Confederates to believe that the North was ripe for rebellion. His ideas served to encourage Lee's Pennsylvania invasion and Morgan's raid into Ohio. He did not linger in the South, but soon made his way to Bermuda, and then Canada, where he took up residence in Windsor, Ontario.

The Sons of Liberty was a secret organization of Copperheads, with a mixed agenda: staunchly anti-war, but plotting armed rebellion, by convincing Confederate agents to send them arms.

Some of them had notions of an independent North West Republic, while others dreamed of a Western Confederacy. Jefferson Davis endorsed a project to have co-ordinated uprising that would

free Southern prisoners. Vallandigham was appointed the Commander of the Sons Of Liberty. He returned to the US in June of 1864, and became a delegate for the Peace Democrats Presidential

convention. He defied the Lincoln government by making radical speeches in Northern cities. However, Lincoln decided not to arrest him again, because he felt Vallandigham would discredit

the Democratic Party. As the election campaign of 1864 came to a conclusion, with Democratic nominee George McClellan, losing to Lincoln, mainly due to the results of Gettysburg, Vicksburg,

and Atlanta. Confederates demanded action from the Sons Of Liberty, but the leaders kept replying that they were not yet ready. Finally, Thomas Hinds organized a plot to bring 50,000 Sons Of

Liberty to Chicago. The plan was to attack Camp Douglas and Rock Island, to release the prisoners. In actuality, 60 Confederates slipped into Chicago, but the Copperhead leaders got cold feet.

They would rather than talk plots, than take real action. Lincoln learned of the plot, and some minor leaders were arrested, but Vallandigham denied knowledge of the plot, even though the Confederates

were staying at the same hotel as he.

Vallandigham continued to be active in post war politics. He helped organize a Democratic Party group, "The New Departure", which gave the party a new start. Their goals were to reign in

the KKK, initiate civil service tests, a taxes. Vallandigham continued to practice law. In his last case, he defended Mr. Magidian, accused of killing a man in a brawl, but claimed it was an accident.

Vallandigham performed, a court room demo, where he accidentally shot himself! The jury decided it was indeed plausible that it could have been an accident. Vallandigham died June 17, 1871.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS MAY MAY 12TH, WITH TOM HERBER, SPEAKING ABOUT THE 147TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

CIVIL WAR NAVAL MUSEUM AT PORT COLUMBUS, GA **By Mike Green**

One doesn't think of naval warfare and the middle of Georgia in the same thought, but you would be wrong. The Confederates built ironclad warships in Columbus, but they were incomplete by the time of a Union raid in 1865. The ships were set on fire and set adrift on the Chattahoochee. They burned to the waterline and then sank, In the 1960's two ships were located and raised. A wonderful museum was built to house them. The museum displays the two ironclads, plus one of the best collections of large naval guns.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR **FROM "THE BLUE AND GRAY LAUGHING"**

"Our regiment was in northern Mississippi and halted near a fine mansion. The boys were making for the chicken coop, when the lady of the house appealed to the Colonel for protection, as she was 'a good Union woman, and they all stood up for the Government!' Just then one of the children cried out, 'Oh mother, that horrid Yankee's got Jeff Davis (a large rooster) and is going to wring his neck!' There was no further doubt about the loyalty of that household."

150th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

There were no battles in May 1861, except for a couple gun boats exchanging fire with a Confederate battery at Swirl's Point, VA. However, in May 23th, Virginia seceded, and the next day Union troops entered Alexandria Virginia.. Colonel El-

mer Ellsworth spotted a large Confederate flag flying from the roof of the Marshall House Inn.

Ellsworth had served as a clerk with Lincoln's law firm in Illinois. Ellsworth had organized a zouave drill team in Chicago in the 1850's and toured the states giving exhibitions of their snappy drill. He helped start the zouave craze, so that when the war broke out, many new volunteer regiments copied the colorful uniform. Ellsworth recruited the 11th New York Zouaves from the city's firemen.

Ellsworth determined to remove the offensive banner from the top of the inn. He and a corporal climbed the stairs to the roof, took down the Rebel flag, and started back down. At one of the landings he encountered the angry innkeeper, James Jackson, who fired his shotgun, killing the young colonel. Corporal Francis Brownell bayoneted Jackson.

Ellsworth became the first Union officer killed in the war. Because Ellsworth had been Lincoln's friend, his body was taken to the White House. Thousands lined up to view his coffin, and "Remember Ellsworth!" became a Union rallying cry. The 44th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment took up the nickname of "Ellsworth's Avengers."

Hello Friends,

If you missed last month's meeting, you missed an excellent presentation. Alex Fabros presented a program about the "copperheads" during the Civil War. It reinforced my belief that this war doesn't lend itself to simple explanations. Just when you think that you have a reasonable understanding as to what and why things happen, someone comes along and gives you the chance to rethink what you believe to be true. Alex did that for me in his presentation. I want to thank Alex personally for helping me make a connection with the economics of the old North West with its dependence of trade on the Mississippi and the growth of the Copperhead movement in that area.

Alex's presentation was good but because of a glitch, we were not able to see his power point presentation that went along with his talk. This is the second time in as many months that we have had problems showing power point presentations. We held a discussion at the end of the meeting about the possibility of the Round Table purchasing its own projector for power point presentations. A motion was made to purchase a projector but was tabled so that we could have more time to look into the possibilities of getting a projector. The suggestion was made that we look into getting a projector that doesn't need to connect with a computer. I have looked into this possibility and have found that there are projectors out there that are "stand alone" projectors. The cost of those types of projectors is in the \$1000.00 range. I know that this is a sizeable investment for the Round Table, so Carolyn and I are pledging \$100.00 toward the purchase of one of these types of projectors and would like to challenge other members of the Round Table to make any level of pledge to help reduce the cost of the purchase of a projector. Carolyn and I believe that the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table should have top flight equipment so that our guest speakers can be assured of being able to make a good clean presentation. I know that I can depend on the generosity of our membership to help to defray much of the cost of this equipment.

The Sesquicentennial started off with a bang in Charleston, South Carolina, with cannons firing and a light show that had one light being beamed toward the heav-

I would be interested in your thoughts on this issue. Does the North want to forget the Civil War and the South want to remember it? What do you think?

I am being told that we can look forward to a wonderful get together to celebrate the Fourth of July. Dr. and Mrs. Clague will be hosting the event again and we thank them ahead of time for inviting us into their home. The date hasn't been finalized, so when we find out, we will let you know.

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will again participate in the reenactment activities held in Fresno. We received an inquiry as to our participation in the event and, after polling the majority of the executive committee, it was decided that we would continue our participation. The cost of our participation is \$100.00. We will need volunteers to help with the booth. Again more about this will be sent out later when we have more information.

I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at our next meeting.

Yours,

Mike Green

LITTLE GEMS

The White Oak Civil War Museum and Research Center is located at 985 White Oak Road, Falmouth, Virginia 22405 just outside of Fredericksburg, Virginia. It is a small, locally run museum that has some of the most outstanding exhibits that you are likely to ever see.

The museum is housed in an old school house and is fairly easy to miss unless you pay close attention to what you are doing. The Virginia Civil War Trails sign will help you to make the turn into the parking lot.

You will find some remarkable exhibits housed within the museum. Something that I had never seen before was a part of a corduroy road that the people in the area had found and transported to the site. This road dates back to the Civil War and its discovery, excavation, and relocation is explained in the museum



Picture of the road in the museum and of the excavation site.

The museum also focuses on camp life for both sides as they faced each other across the Rappahannock River. There are reproductions of soldier cabins both in the museum and on the outside. They show a lot about the ingenuity of the men as they were forced to survive the winter of 1862-`1863.





It also has some amazing exhibits of materials that have been found in the area around Fredericksburg. This includes a pile of spent bullets from a Union rifle range that has over 60,000 bullets in one pile. Truly amazing.



The museum is open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Wednesday through Sunday. The admission is as follows: adults, \$4.00; seniors, \$2.00; ages 13-17, \$2.00; ages 7-12, \$1.00; and children 6 and under free. The phone number is 540-371-4234 and the web address is whiteoakmuseum.com.

If you are in the Fredericksburg area, it will be well worth your time to visit this "LITTLE GEM."

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

SJVCWRT meeting minutes of April 14th 2011

President Mike Greene calls meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Alex gives his presentation on the Copperheads

Treasurer Walter Schulze Presents the Treasurers report with a total of \$2250.18

President Mike Greene starts the book raffle

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM

Respectfully admitted,

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