



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE BUGLE CALLS, APRIL 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

1. APRIL 13th MEETING
2. President's Message
3. After Action Report
4. Civil War Humor
5. Preservation News
6. Civil War "Grand Tour"

1. APRIL 13th MEETING: 7:00 pm at Denny's, 710 W, Shaw, Clovis. Come at 6:00 to order food and socialize!

Ron Vaughan speaking on "**The U.S. Sanitary Commission**". The program discusses the lack of such organization in the South, and the importance of women in the efforts to aid the soldiers in the armies and hospitals.

2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello to all of you. I hope that you are doing well.

If you missed the March meeting, you missed something special. Michael McCarthy was our speaker. He talked about his book "Confederate Waterloo The battle of Five Forks" I know that Ron will

give you his usual excellent report on what Michael said so I will approach it from a different angle... a short book report.

Right off the bat, I had questions about the book. The cover art is great only the picture of Phillip Sheridan charging ahead with the flag is interesting because that picture has nothing to do with Five Forks. It is a representation of Sheridan leading his troops in a counter attack at the battle of Cedar Creek. I know that is no big deal but it raised Red Flags for me. Then I started reading the book [I know I know don't judge a book by its cover] and I found it to be an interesting and informative read. Michael gives an fine background of events leading up to the battle of Five Forks with profiles of the major actors in this "passion play."

The major focus of this book is a vindication of the actions of Union general Gouverneur Warren. Most histories of the battle lauds the action of Sheridan while McCarthy states and proves that the laurels should belong to Warren. Warren successfully moved his troops so that he was able to flank the Confederate army and force them to retreat from their fortified positions.

Sheridan didn't like Warren and Sheridan had the ear of Grant so after the battle was over he fired Warren and basically took all the credit for himself. Warren was "thrown under the bus" a maneuver that Grant had pulled several times during the war. If you were one of Grants "groupies" you could do no wrong. If you had the audacity to question him or he needed a scapegoat, your days were numbered. [See Wallace, McClearnon, and Thomas]

All of this takes place in the first half of the book. The remainder of the book deals with Warren's attempt to clear his name. This process took many years before it was finally resolved.

It was a book well worth reading. I hope to see you at our next meeting on April 13.

Yours:

Michael Green, President SJVCWRT

3. AFTER ACTION REPORT: By Ron Vaughan

a. MOONEY GROVE RE-ENACTMENT:

We had great weather on Saturday, March 5th. There was a good turn-out of Union re-enactors (2 from Southern Cal.) to balance the Confederates. Unfortunately, the local paper did not run any articles or announcements of the event, so the spectators were very few. Instead they had a full page feature on the St. Patrick's Day event still one week away! Several CWRT members were present, Dave Davenport, Mike Gately, Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln, and Mike Green with his camera. He shared many of these at the subsequent meeting.

I arrived back in the park before 9:00 am Sunday, and almost everyone was gone! It had started raining at 4:00 am., with the forecast of worse to come. I quickly packed up my wet tent and pulled out with the last ones. It took a couple days to dry out.

b. MARCH 9th MEETING:

Unfortunately, this was another event where things went awry. First of all, the Bee did not print the event announcement that I had submitted and I had even added an illustration. So our member turnout was low, only 10 (5 from Tulare County). Secondly, our speaker did not follow my directions to come up Clovis Ave, and turn left on Shaw. Instead he came up the 99 and turned onto Shaw, winding up at the Denny's way out there! It took him awhile to get to us, just before 7:00. The next disaster was my laptop contracted a virus and was in the shop, so Mike brought his, but it was not on speaking terms with my PP projector, so Mike McCarthy had to show his program on the laptop screen. Few of us could really see his maps. The up side, was that his presentation was good, he really knew the subject.

McCarthy ably discussed the movements that led up to the battle of Five Forks. The action featured over 20,000 Union infantry and cavalry, against about 10,000 Confederate infantry and cavalry.

As with most battles, many things went wrong. There is the famous story of Pickett and Fitz Lee absent at a shad bake. Sheridan's cavalry were fought to a standstill by the Confederate cavalry under Rooney Lee. The advance of Warren's Corps was slowed by the sticky

mud. When the attack finally began, Crawford's Div. missed the Confederate eastern flank and marched deep into woods, before Warren caught up to them, and turned them south. This "error" proved to be propitious, as it brought Crawford's troops right into the Confederate rear, so that many Rebs were captured, instead of retreating to fight another day.

Despite the fact that Warren had contributed greatly to the victory (he had a horse shot from under him), Sheridan relieved him from his command. The inquiry/courts martial drug on for years, and Warren died before his name could be cleared.

Several members bought McCarthy's book, Confederate Waterloo.

4. CIVIL WAR HUMOR: From "The Blue & Gray Laughing."

"The Yankees are determined to have their fun, even if their leaders are afraid to fight. On the first of April, 1863, between four and five thousand of them landed near Pocotaligo, S. C., and with an air of boldness that augured something terrible, took up the line of march inland.

General Evans, hearing of the movement, immediately dispatched four regiments to engage them and dispute their passage. On coming in sight, the Yankees were found in full retreat to their boats, but a tall pole had been stuck in the ground at the turning point, and on it inscribed, in large letters, 'APRIL FOOL!'"

5. PRESERVATION NEWS: TENNESSEE BECOMES 1st STATE TO GAURANTEE ANNUAL FUNDING FOR CIVIL WAR SITES.

(From The Civil War Courier) The Civil War Trust thanked Tennessee officials for creating this fund to preserve CW sites. The CWT has already used it to preserve 100 acres at Shiloh and Chattanooga. The Trust is pursuing additional preservation opportunities at Franklin, Stone's River, and Fort Donelson.

6. CIVIL WAR "GRAND" TOUR:

On April 18, my Cousin David, his wife Carroll, and I will fly back the a 4 day Gettysburg Tour led by Ed Bearss. Then we will travel to Richmond to visit the Museum of the Confederacy and Petersburg/Pamplin Park. Then we drive back to Hagerstown for a 3 day tour of the Antietam Campaign, also led by Bearss. Hopefully I will have some decent pictures and information for at least a couple of talks.