



Bugle Call Echoes

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

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San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table 2005 Board of Directors

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President's Corner

Much is happening this month. First, we have an excellent presentation in April by Brad Schall on the Battle of Perryville, which is considered by some to be the pinnacle of the Confederacy's efforts in the West. Brad will bring this titanic battle and its consequences to life for us.

The Board has selected a site for a donation to battlefield preservation through the efforts of Tom Carr. His article in this issue will speak to that.

The program for the remainder of the year has undergone some revision as to dates and topics. We were forced to revise the fund-raiser to accommodate the appearance of General and Mrs. U. S. Grant who will also be attending the Kearney Park Reenactment on a date which was changed at the last minute. So we changed to follow suit. The many members who wish to produce a West Coast Symposium in November have been working hard to accomplish this. A tentative program is attached. Much credit to all the members. We will have to adjust the regular program to allow for this event. But it will mean some extra 12 hours of civil war presentations for all of our benefits.

More of all of this at the next scheduled evening meeting, April 28th. See you then.

Brian

For Dinner Reservations our Thurs., April 28th, meeting at the Ramada Inn at the Freeway 41 Shaw off ramp ... contact Secretary Phyllis Mann at 229-3778 [afternoons and evenings, please].



American Heritage and Stephen Sears' list best Civil War literature

The 50th Anniversary issue of *American Heritage* (November/December 2004) was devoted to the "best" literature of American history as determined by twenty-one leading historians. Stephen W. Sears was selected by the editors to provide an annotated list of the books related to the Civil War. His selections are as follows:

Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era by James McPherson, published in 1988 by Oxford University Press.

Look Away! A History of the Confederate States of America by William C. Davis published in 2002 by Simon & Schuster.

Lincoln by David Herbert Donald published in 1995 by Simon & Schuster.

Grant Moves South and Grant Takes Command by Bruce Catton published in 1960 and 1969, respectively, by Little, Brown.

Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command by Douglas Southall Freeman, one-volume abridgment by Stephen W. Sears published in 1998 by Simon & Schuster.

Mary Chestnut's Civil War edited by C. Vann Woodward published in 1981 by Yale University Press.

Reveille in Washington, 1860-1865 by Margaret Leech published in 1941 by Avalon.

The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy and *The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union* by Bell Irvin Wiley published in 1943 and 1952, respectively, by Louisiana State University Press.

Mr. Dunn Browne's Experiences in the Army: The Civil War Letters of Samuel W. Fiske edited by Stephen W. Sears published in 1998 by Fordham University Press.

John Brown's Body by Stephen Vincent Benet published in 1928 by Ivan R. Dee.

Thanks Dave for sharing the above information.

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING of 3/31/05

By Ron Vaughan

Twenty members of our 'clan' gathered to hear David Davenport Ph. D. retell the exploits of the 79th New York Highland Volunteer regiment.

The New York Highlanders were a prewar unit in the NY State Militia, composed of about 300 Scottish immigrants. (Note: The term is Scots, Scotsmen, or Scottish, not 'Scotch', which is what they drink!) When Lincoln called for volunteers to defend the Union, men chose their regimental number to be 79, in honor of the famous British 79th Cameron Highland Regt., and elected James Cameron [brother of the Sec. of War] as their colonel. Unable to find a sufficient number of Scots, they called upon American born men of Scottish ancestry to volunteer to fill out the regt. In May 1861 the 79th NY was mustered into Federal service for three years.

The original Highland Militiamen were uniformed in blue Highland jackets with red trim, glengarry caps, and kilts in the Cameron tartan for ceremonial dress, and Cameron tartan trows for other service. The Highland appearance was completed by a contingent of bagpipers.

The 79th served with distinction with Sherman's Brigade at 1st Bull Run, where Col. Cameron was killed and 198 men were lost. Regular Army officer Issac Stevens was appointed as the new colonel. There was some resentment over this non-Scotsman leader, and also a misunderstanding of their three-year enlistment. But what really made their Celtic blood heat up was when Gen. MacClellan [despite his ancestry - must have been a Campbell!] ordered a ban on kilts, trows, and bagpiping. The men refused Col. Stevens' order to march. As punishment for this mutiny, the 79th Colors were taken away for a month.

Col. Stevens drill and strict discipline whipped the regiment into shape, and it was selected to be part of the amphibious expedition to Port Royal, SC. The 79th took part in the attack on Ft. Secessionville, co-incidentally defended by the 1st Charleston Highlander Battalion. The assault was a success, but cost the 79th 110 out of 474 engaged. While serving in the southern coastal swamps, the regiment lost only three men to disease, which was considered a medical miracle. Doctors decided that this small loss was due to their hardy Highland stock and acquired immunization due to living in cosmopolitan NYC. However, I still say their resistance to germs was due to their consumption of Scotch and Haggis!

The 79th returned to Alexandria and became part of Burnside's 9th Corps. While covering the Union retreat at 2nd Bull Run, they counterattacked Stonewall Jackson at Chantilly, where Col. Stevens and 105 men were killed. There were only 200 men left at Antietam. Afterward, they received 300 new recruits and were sent West by railroad and steamboat to Louisville, Cairo, and Vicksburg. After the fall of the latter, they joined Burnside in defense of Knoxville. At Ft. Sanders they repelled Longstreet's assault after hand-to-hand fighting.

The 120 survivors returned East, were reinforced by 300 recruits, and joined Grant's 1864 campaign. At the end of the war the 79th was mustered out. There were only 124 of the original 846 men left. Of the total of 1,700 men that served at one time or another, only 300 survived the war.

Civil War Preservation Update

I recently received the 2005 edition of the Civil War Preservation Trust publication titled *History Under Siege. This is A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields*. The 10 most endangered battlefields are listed with a brief write up on the current status of each site plus suggestions for future preservation efforts. There is also a listing of 15 other sites that are classified as at risk.

The 10 most endangered sites are listed alphabetically and include: Bermuda Hundred in Virginia, Franklin in Tennessee, Kennesaw Mountain in Georgia, Knoxville in Tennessee, Manassas in Virginia, Mansfield in Louisiana, Morris Island in South Carolina, Raymond in Mississippi, Spotsylvania County in Virginia, and Wilson's Creek in Missouri.

This little booklet which is published annually by Civil War Preservation Trust is a very informative summary of the status of these most endangered sites. I am going to try and obtain copies for everyone in SJVCWRT. I will also attempt to obtain copies for all of the people who register for the upcoming 19th Annual West Coast Civil War Symposium which we will be hosting this November 4th-6th.

As always, our major efforts at preservation need to be now before all of these precious lands are gobbled up by developers. I hope that you will join the SJVCWRT efforts with your own personal efforts to contribute money to your favorite Civil War preservation organization. The three organizations that are at the forefront of these efforts are Civil War Preservation Trust, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg.

The Round Table Board approved sending \$500 for the preservation efforts at Harper's Ferry.
Tom Carr

Donald "Brad" Schall presents the Battle of Perryville at April 28th meeting at the Ramada

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My Civil War interest goes back to childhood where I lived one block from the Lincoln - Civil War Memorial in Hutchinson, Kansas. As a child our family participated in Memorial Day services with former members and descendants of Joseph Hook GAR Post 7, which my great grandfather had been a member. We decorated with flags and flowers the grave of my great grandfather's and other Civil War soldiers graves at East Side Cemetery in Hutchinson.

I had 22 relatives that fought for the Union in the Civil War, one being killed during those horrible 8 minutes at Cold Harbor; another died several years after the war of wounds he received at Gettysburg, one aboard the Sultana, one with General Grant at Vicksburg and my two great grandfathers; William Braden Schall was a Sgt. in the 11th, Illinois Vol. Cavalry and Willis Reed was a Sergeant in the First Illinois Light Artillery.

My Civil War interest and membership are: National Officer, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Council of Administration Chairman, Fraternal Relations Committee, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation, Board of Directors, Past Commander of the Department of California and the Pacific, SUVCW, General Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, General George Wright Camp #22 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, General U.S. Grant Camp #9 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Member of the National Memorials committee of the SUVCW, a private in the Sons of Veterans Reserve Co. A, 5th California Volunteer Infantry Regiment, a private in Sons of Veteran Reserve Company C, 8th California Infantry Regiment, a private in Sons of Veteran Reserve Company C, A 5th California Infantry Regiment, Tri Valley CWRT, San Francisco CWRT, Sacramento Civil War Roundtable - Board of Directors, Friends of Civil War Alcatraz, Co. Chairman and founding Board member, California Historical Society, Kansas State Historical Society, Civil War Society, Ft. Larnard Old Guard, First Corp of Gettysburg, Gettysburg Battlefield Association, Golden Gate Parks Association, Boy Scouts of America, Lincoln Library Association, member of the Sun Eagles 65 Softball Travel Team, Second Vice President of the Lincoln Hills Senior Softball League.

We have 3 generations of Schall's that are members of the SUVCW. However, I am most proud of my wife Patti, our 5 children and 12 grandchildren

MEMBERSHIP FORM - Membership year is from January to December

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

___ INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY membership - \$25.00

___ STUDENT membership or NEWSLETTER ONLY - \$12.50

*\$5.00 of each membership goes toward CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

Bring this membership form and your check to our next monthly meeting,
or mail it to our P. O. Box below:

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