



BUGLE CALLS



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Board of Directors

President

Michael Green
847 E. Pleasant
Tulare, CA 93274
Phone (559) 688-2134
E-mail Address: osogreen@aol.com

Vice-President and Programs

Pattie Spencer
1548 W Vasser Ave Fresno CA 93705
Phone (559) 233 1059 (559) 304 8170
E-mail Address: pds8919@aol.com

Treasurer & Web Master

Walter Schulze [Gail]
1432 Locust Ave
Clovis, CA 93611
Phone (559) 297-4481
E-mail Address: wschulze1@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Jonathon Schulze
1432 Locust Ave
Clovis, CA 93611
Phone (559) 297-4481
E-mail Address: wschulze1@sbcglobal.net

Bugle Call Editor

Ron Vaughan
730 E Tulare Ave
Tulare CA 93274
E-mail Address: ronvaughan@prodigy.net

Members at Large

Michael Spencer
1548 W Vasser Ave Fresno CA 93705
Phone (559) 233 1059 (559) 304 8170
E-mail Address: pds8919@aol.com

Member at Large & Past President

Brian Clague (Linda)
PO Box 116
Saver Lake, CA 93664
Phone 559-841-7161 Cell 559-284-4969
E-mail Address: bclague@netptc.net

President's Report April 2012

Our March meeting turned out to be very interesting.

Our guest speaker was to be our good friend Fred Bohmfalk from our sister Round Table in Sacramento. On the Tuesday before our Round Table meeting, I received an email from Brian Clague letting me know that Fred was not going to be able to attend the meeting. He was having problems with his eyes and was scheduled for an operation in the near future. I was told that Fred had been trying to contact me, but had not been able to make a connection. I was on a tour in Mississippi covering the early attacks on the Confederate Citadel at Vicksburg so the news that Fred would not be able to attend was a bit of a shock to me. I have since learned that the operation went well for Fred, and that he is on his way to a quick recovery.

Patty and I got together and decided that our best course would be for me to put together a program on the archeological work that General Hills was doing at the battlefield at Raymond. I had just returned from the Raymond area and had the opportunity to walk the ground with General Hills. He explained to me what he had done and showed me where the work had been done. I was taking pictures of the ground and put together a quick power point program about what was going on.

After I just about completed the program, our friend David Davenport offered to put on either of two programs that he had been working on. It was extremely generous of David to make this offer and I thanked him for it, but the program on

Raymond was just about finished. I asked David to contact Patti to schedule a program for next year.

Thursday arrived and we had a small turn out for the meeting. The program on the archeological work on the Raymond battlefield was presented. Unfortunately it didn't come off quite as it was supposed to. We will be working on those technical problems and hope to have them solved soon.

I am sure that Ron will give a complete report on the program in his section of the news letter.

We are continuing to work on plans for the 2013 West Coast Conference and will have more information available at the April meeting.

Our speaker for April will be Rob Orr from Modesto who will talk to us about the USS Monitor. Possibly he will let us know why the Monitor was known as the "cheese block on a raft." It should be an interesting talk.

My wife Carolyn and I had the opportunity to travel to Savannah, Georgia, last month and one of the places we went to visit was Fort Pulaski, which is located south east of the city of Savannah. We were there on two separate days, and I was enjoying myself taking pictures of the structure. The first day I was at the fort, I saw this view and thought that it would make a nice picture.

I came back the next day and, to my surprise, I felt like I had been transported back 150 years because this is the sight that I saw when I came to the same place to take a picture.



Most of the hundreds of people that were at the fort that day had no idea that the fort had been

retaken by the Confederate States of America and that a very large Confederate National Navel flag



was flying over the fort.

I believe that if the Confederate battle flag [stars and bars] had been flying all hell would have broken loose. But because most of the people had not a clue what that flag is, very little was said. When I sent this picture to a friend of mine, she contacted the National Park Service and asked why the Confederate flag was flying over Pulaski. They replied that the park service is celebrating the 150 year anniversary of the Civil War and that they were flying the Confederate Flag in honor of the War. They also said that they would be flying the 1862 Union Flag after the anniversary of the battle.

Life always seems to be interesting.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting

Yours,

Michael Green

AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR SJVCWRT MEETING OF 3/8/10

Our March speaker, Fred Bohmfalk, had eye surgery and was unable to come. Mike Green put together a PP program on the Raymond battlefield. He recently visited there and presented a photo of our board members to the Friends of Raymond Board. His presentation featured pictures of the battlefield, including our cannon donation, as well as photos of relics dug up. Many of these were featured in last month's Bugle Calls.

General Parker Hills, together with a couple of local relic hunters, have been investigating the land that was purchased a couple years ago (our donation helped make this possible.). Utilizing a soldier's diary, Parker managed to locate the rail fence where the Union troops were positioned, and engaged in a firefight with Confederates in the woods, only 20 yds. away. Many dropped and fired

bullets were dug up, a small marker flag put by each find, and its GPS location was recorded. Between 600 and 700 artifacts were found.

Mike's pictures helped us better understand the relationship to the dig site and the overall battlefield. The traditional story of the battle has told of some fighting in the fields to the east, but archaeological explorations have not turned up artifacts in this area.

After the meeting was adjourned, we had a short board meeting. We are still considering the idea of using a cruise ship for the 2013 West Coast Conference. Carnival Line will release their prices next month. We hope to have Jack Davis, Craig Symonds and Jim Stanberry for speakers, plus a couple others. 1863 is a large theme, as there were so many campaigns and battles during this year. Treasurer Walt Schulze reported our bank balance is \$2,065.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

As I write this, close to St. Patrick's Day, here is a story of an Irishman with the gift of blarney, and the story seems to be a bit of blarney too! Condensed from an article in [The Civil War Courier](#) by Bob Regsegger

General John Magruder ordered that "no intoxicants" were to be sold to soldiers within the Confederate lines. Several days after the liquor prohibition order, Private Tommy Logan was assigned to guard duty at Magruder's HQ. Logan was an Irish immigrant who enlisted in the Confederate Army. He had a reputation for the gift of gab, (a touch of the Blarney Stone) a ready answer to any question, or a witty reposte.

Magruder's staff were discussing why the army's pay was set at odd figures: "a private receiving \$11 per month, a sergeant \$17, a lieutenant \$91, a captain \$121, and a general \$301." None of the officers could conceive of a logical explanation for the uneven figures. One of the aids suggested, "General Magruder, old Tommy Logan, the guard on duty, may answer your question.. He has a ready answer for any question asked him." As Logan walked unsteadily into the HQ tent, it was obvious he had been drinking. Magruder inquired, "Private, I see you have been drinking. Will you tell me where you got the whisky?"

"Oh General, I'm afraid that you'll throw me in the guardhouse, and I expect that the damn Yankees are thinking of attacking, and I would hate to tell my friends that I did not fire a shot in their direction," replied Logan.

"No, I will not punish you, if you will tell me where you got your whisky," said Magruder.

Logan said, "Ah, General, that sounds so kind of you, so I will tell you the God's truth where I got the whisky. I took a stroll around the hills and behind a clump of bushes I saw some horses hitched, with no attendant looking after them. When I was a racer in Kentucky some years ago, I learned to love horses, and one of these animals was a beautiful bay. Aye, he was of royal blood, I bet! I went up to him and rubbed his neck. He seemed to know that I was an admiring friend. I discovered a canteen hanging from the saddle. I was thirsty, so I took a wee sip from it, and was surprised to find it contained whisky. Bad luck to whisky!" Logan exclaimed, "It made me want more and I drank the entire contents of that canteen, but it was not more than three fingers," he concluded.

"That was a long-winded story, and I still do not know the name of the one who owned the whisky or the horse," remarked Magruder impatiently. "Out with the truth! On who's horse was that can-

teen?" he demanded.

"My kind General, I do not know the owner; but I have for the last six months seen you riding that noble animal," Logan noted.

Magruder's entire staff broke into laughter, and an aid said, "General, Tommy is too much for you."

"Yes, he has not only gotten off for being drunk, but has gotten drunk on my whisky!" laughed Magruder heartily. "I did not send for you because you were drunk. Someone said you could explain why soldier's pay was put at such odd numbers. Now you get \$11 per month, and I get \$301. How do you explain that?" asked Magruder.

"That's easy, General," Logan replied. "I get \$10 a month for the work that I do as a private and \$1 for the honor of being a soldier, and you get \$300 for the honor of being a general and and \$1 for the work you do," explained Logan.

General Magruder may have hoodwinked General McClellan on the penninsula by marching his troops in circles to make his army seem larger than it was, but he had been no match for this witty, witty Irishman.



April 1862

April of 1862 was a very busy month during the Civil War.

April 1

In the East: McClellan's troops start landing on the Peninsula.

April 2

In the East: McClellan and his staff arrive at Ft. Monroe. On the James River Union gun boats start shelling Yorktown.

In the West: Grant awaits reinforcements. His troops are camped around Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. Many of his troops are camped away from the river close to a small church called Shiloh

April 3

In the East: Lincoln is concerned that only 20,000 troops are left to defend Washington. He orders that McDowell's Corp be held back from heading south to join up with McClellan. McClellan protests that his 100,000 troops are not enough to defeat the Southern forces lined up against him. Confederate General Magruder has 20,000 troops to defend Yorktown.

The congress votes to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. The vote is 29 to 14 in the Senate.

April 4

In the East: Magruder is still holding out with his 20,000 men. McClellan is calling for more troops.

In the West: Confederate General A.S. Johnston just can't get all of his troops ready to attack Grant. As for Grant, he still doesn't have a clue the Johnston has his army ready to strike.

On the Mississippi: The union forces still haven't taken Island 10. The Confederates hold Island 10 and that blocks the movement of material down the river.

April 5

In the East: John Magruder has completely bamboozled McClellan by marching his troops around in circles in places where he knows that the Union can see them. McClellan is completely taken in by the ruse and thinks Magruder is being reinforced.

In the West: Albert Sydney Johnston still hasn't got his troops aligned for the attack. He postpones it attack for one more day. Grant has heard that there is movement to his front but completely dismisses the information.

On the Mississippi: Union gunboats steamed past Island 10. This was a great boost for the local troops.

At the mouth of the Mississippi: Flag Officer Farragut took a personal look at Forts Jackson and St. Philip which guarded the approaches to New Orleans.

April 6

In the West: All hell breaks loose as General Johnston sends his Confederate troops streaming toward Shiloh Church. The Union forces lead by Sherman are taken completely off guard. Grant, who is in Savannah Tenn. Several miles downriver from Pittsburg Landing is eating breakfast when news of the attack is brought to him. He orders General Lew Wallace, who is at Crump's landing

to march immediately to Shiloh Church. The first units of General Don Carlos Buell's army are just arriving at Savannah but most of Buell's troop are still en route.

For most of the day the Confederate forces push the Union forces back until their backs are to the Tennessee River and it looks like a smashing Confederate victory but late in the afternoon a bullet strikes General Johnston in the leg and before anyone can do anything about it he bleeds to death. This changes the tenor of the battle. The Confederate command falls to General Pierre G.T. Beauregard and the "Creole" general decides to hold off delivering the final blow until the next day. The Union holds on by the skin of its teeth.

April 7

In the West: General Lew Wallace's division arrives at the field after a long march. General Buell's troop have also arrived and Grant launches a strong assault. Beauregard's troops are driven back and the battle is a victory for the Union. The butcher's bill was unbelievable with the Union losing 13,047 which included 1,754 deaths. The Confederates lost 10,694 with 1,723 dead. In total nearly 24,000 Americans were killed, wounded, or missing in a two day battle. There were more casualties at Shiloh than at the Battle of Waterloo.

On the Mississippi: Union General John Pope along with Flag officer Foote, using the gunboats USS Carondelet and USS Pittsburg to smash the Confederate defenses on Island number 10. Pope then ordered his men to attack and the island was taken. This opened the Mississippi all the way to Memphis.

April 9

In Richmond VA: The Confederate passed a conscription law to get the necessary manpower for the army.

In New Orleans: The threat of Farragut and his ship became more and more of an issue. The populous wanted the armed ships that had been sent North to counter Foote be sent back to defend New Orleans. Confederate Secretary of the Navy Mallory felt that the real threat was to Memphis so he didn't send the ships back. This was a very bad decision.

April 10

In Washington: a joint resolution was passed calling for the gradual emancipation of the slaves in all states. Lincoln signed it.

In the West: The clean up after the battle of Shiloh continued and the Union army is making its slow march to the railroad hub at Corinth Mississippi

April 12

In the area just North of Atlanta Georgia: One of the greatest adventures of the war took place. The Great Locomotive Chase, where Union soldiers under the leadership of James Anderson stole the locomotive "The General" at Big Shanty with the plan to move the General North toward Chattanooga, tearing up the tracks and burning the bridges as they went. The idea was to cut Chattanooga from reinforcements from Atlanta and attack and take the town. William Fuller, the conductor of the train didn't appreciate his train being hijacked and started off running after the General. Eventually Fuller was able to get another locomotive, "The Texas" and was able to run Anderson down before he was able to achieve his objective. The General ran out of fuel around Ringgold Ga. Many of Fuller's men were captured and eventually Fuller and seven other soldiers were executed by hanging. Several of the men were awarded the first Congressional Medals of Honor but not Fuller. He was a civilian and was not eligible for the honor. If you want to see the two loco-

motives that took place in this exciting adventure you can find the General in the Train Museum at Kennesaw Mountain Ga. and the Texas at the Cyclorama in down town Atlanta. Both are in beautiful condition.

In the East: McClellan is digging in for a siege of Yorktown.

April 16

In Richmond: President Davis signs the bill authorizing the draft of all white males between the ages of 17 and 35. The North will pattern their draft bill after the Confederate bill.

On the Lower Mississippi: Farragut has his fleet just below Forts Jackson and St. Philip.

April 20

In the West: General Halleck [who has relieved General Grant of command and has demoted Grant to second in command] is slowly moving his forces toward Corinth. Grant is so upset about his demotion that he is about to resign his commission. He is talked out of it by his friend Sherman.

April 21

On the lower Mississippi: Farragut can't move his fleet past the two forts because of chains across the Mississippi. He sends a party lead by Captain Bell to break the chains. Bell is partly successful and the fleet will be able to move up the river.

April 24

On the lower Mississippi: At 2 A.M. Farragut moves his fleet past the forts and brushes by the Confederate gunboats and the ram CSS Manassas and moves his fleet up the river and captures the city of New Orleans.

April 28

On the lower Mississippi: Forts Jackson and St Philip officially surrender to the Union. Farragut threatens to bombard the city if the population doesn't show respect for the Union flag.

April 29

Outside Corinth Mississippi: General Halleck's 100,000 men are facing Beauregard's 65,000 men. But Halleck is moving very slowly toward the city.

I hope that you are enjoying this information. It has given me a better grasp of what was going on in all of the areas of the war.

Again parts of this article is from "The Civil War Years" by Robert W. Denny.

Yours

Michael Green