

Bugle Call Echoes

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table
Fresno, CA March 2007 Vol. 15 No. 3

San Joaquin Valley
Civil War Round Table 2007
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From the President's Desk,

Everyone who attended Washington's Birthday party was delighted with the variety of activities organized for the chief executive's birthday remembrance. Thank you, Dave Davenport, for the great party. It is GOOD to remember the extraordinary role that our forefathers' and the Father of our Country played in the creation of our unique experiment.

We have a different experience this month with a discussion of the role of religion in the fervor of Civil War excitement. This should be an interesting view into a most important part of the individual lives of the civil war participants." God was not on trial in the civil war, but His reputation seemed at risk as both sides called on Him for support.

Brian Clague M.D.



For dinner reservations for Thurs.,
March 29th, and to learn more about
*The Effect of Religion on the Southern
War Effort* with Bill Head at the Ramada Inn
at the Shaw off-ramp on Freeway 41...
contact Secretary Phyllis Mann at 229-
3778 [afternoons or evenings, please] or e-
mail at:

pfm02@sbcglobal.net

Another version of "Dixie"

David Davenport reports that he recently purchased Rebel Rhymes and Rhapsodies, a collection of verses edited by Frank Moore and published in New York by George P. Putnam in 1864. Mr. Moore notes in his preface that "It has been the purpose of the editor to present as full a selection of the Songs and Ballads of the Southern People as will illustrate the spirit which actuates them in their Rebellion against the Government and Laws of the United States. Most of the pieces have been published in magazines and periodical literature of the South, while many are copies of ballad sheets and songs circulated in the Rebel armies, and which have come into the possession of the forces of the Union in their various marches and advances during the present conflict."

David reports that the volume contains 142 of these "songs and ballads" including "The Star of the West" by *Anonymous*, and at least three others with instructions that they be sung to the tune of "Dixie land". These will be reprinted in this and future issues of Bugle Call for the enjoyment of our readers, especially Robert Summers of the Los Angeles Civil War Round Table, because they appear to be versions of "Dixie" about which Bob spoke at our January 25th dinner-meeting.

Mr. Morris cited the Charleston Mercury as the source for these lyrics.

OUR BRAVES IN VIRGINIA (Sung to the tune of *Dixie Land*)

We have ridden from the brave Southwest,
On fiery steeds, with throbbing breast;
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!
With sabres flash and rifle true, -
Hurrah! hurrah!
The Northern ranks we will cut through,
And charge for Old Virginia, boys.
Hurrah! hurrah!
Then charge for Old Virginia.

We have come from the cloud-capp'd mountains,
From the land of purest fountains;
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!
Our sweethearts and wives conjure us, -
Hurrah! hurrah!
Not to leave a foe before us,
And strike for Old Virginia, boys, &c.

Then we'll rally to the bugle call;
For Southern rights we'll fight and fall;
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!
Our gray-haired sires sternly say, -
Hurrah! hurrah!
That we must die or win the day.
Three cheers for Old Virginia, boys, &c.

Then our silken banner wave on high;
For Southern homes we'll fight and die.
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!
Our cause is right, our quarrel just, -
Hurrah! hurrah!
We'll in the God of battles trust,
And conquer for Virginia, boys, &c.

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING 2/22/07

by Ron Vaughan



This George Washington Birthday Bash, was "sold out—standing room" only! As the last person to arrive, I had no place to sit, until the waiters made arrangements. It was a great party—too bad the Clagues were snowed in up at Shaver Lake.

Dr. Dave had a large Washington bust with party hat, along with a birthday cake. He read some excerpts from GW's letters and his Farewell Address to Congress.

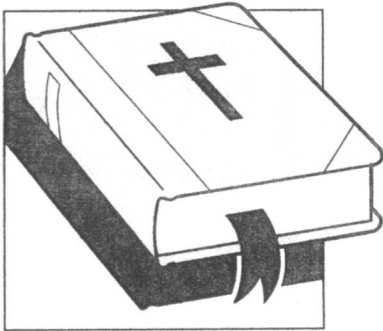
Dave had asked me to show up in my Bicentennial outfit and read GW's Farewell Address to the Continental Army. At first I was reluctant to read such a wordy, very formal document, and a little weird because he spoke of himself in third person. However, I realized the historical importance of the address— it forestalled a mutiny and takeover by the army of the Continental Government. Actually it was not so much GW's words, but how human and sympathetic he became to the audience, when he had to struggle reading the address with spectacles. This brought many to tears, particularly when they thought of the sacrifices Washington had made for the country. Our nation could have gone the way of so many Latin American countries, with endless military dictatorships. Some wanted to make GW king. When King George III of England heard of Washington's retirement, he was amazed and declared George Washington to be the greatest man of their time.

Doris provided commentary on GW, relating to the Civil War, and Slavery; the Washingtons' owned over 300 slaves, but he came to view slavery as wrong. As President he declined to tackle the slavery issue, however, for fear of disunion.

Robert shared more of GW's views on slavery; he would not sell off older, less useful slaves, because he did not want to breakup their families. Also, the terms of his will freed all his slaves.

Bill Head read an eulogy from a book by Joseph Ellis, in which were the immortal words, "He was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of countrymen."

'The Effect of Religion on the Southern War Effort' Topic of Bill Head's presentation at next Round Table Meeting Thursday, March 29th



Bill Head will present a program entitled "The Effect of Religion on the Southern War Effort". During the American Civil War both the North and South were profoundly affected by religion. In our public school education we were taught that the causes of war were slavery, states' rights, and economics.

Religion played a key role during the 30 years leading up to the Rebellion, during the years of warfare, and the period of Reconstruction following the conflict. Civil War historian James E. Wood states "at no time was organized religion in the United States more active politically than the 20 years prior to the Civil War."

Bill Head retired from California State University, Fresno where he served as Director of Career Services. His last six years were spent teaching in the Advanced Studies Department. Prior to his 18 years at the University, Bill was principal/superintendent of the Spring Valley School District in Madera County.

Bill is a founding member of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table, serving as President, Vice President, program chair, and newsletter editor. He chaired or co-chaired three West Coast Civil War conferences plus two independent conferences. He was selected as the first recipient of the Jerry Russell Civil War Preservation Memorial Award. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees at CSUF.



2007 Round Table Schedule continued

March 29 - Bill Head will present *The Effect of Religion on the Southern War Effort*

April 26 - Dennis Kohlman of the Sacramento Round Table will speak on *The Irish in the War*

May 31 - Fred Bohmfalk also of the Sacramento CWRT, will speak on *Stephen Foster and the Civil War*

Saturday, June 30 - Our Annual Summer Picnic and 4th of July celebration at Linda and Brian Clague's at Shaver Lake.

July and August - summer break

Sept. 27 - Phil Avila (North Bay CWRT) of Sebastapool will speak on *The Life and Times of Wade Hampton of South Carolina*.

Note:

[The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will put it to the membership for a vote to meet the last Thursday of the month (rather than the 4th Thursday) except during June, July and December]

The board would also like to increase our dues from \$25 to \$30 a year to establish a web site.

2007 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 Post Office Box listed on the return address below, and mark **Membership** on the lower left corner of your envelope:*

Q. The only soldier to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War was killed in the massacre at the Little Big Horn in 1876. Name him.

A. Thomas Ward Custer, the younger brother of Gen. George Custer. Still only 19, in the last days of the war he captured the rebel flag in two engagements within three days, on April 3 and April 6, 1865. In the latter battle of Saylor's Creek, he was wounded in the face but continued to fight. His older brother had to place him under military arrest and have him forcibly removed from the field to get medical attention.

The Civil War Quiz Book by John Malone



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