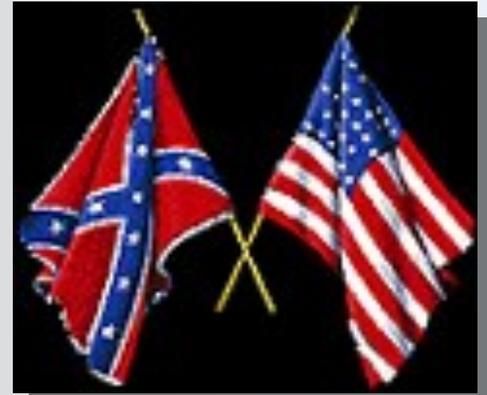




Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENTS REPORT DECEMBER 2013

Good day:

First, I want to wish you and yours a very happy holiday season.

The Round Table will be celebrating the season with our annual holiday party on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at the Schulze's home at 1432 Locust Ave, Clovis 93611. The Round Table will provide the main course but we are asking you to call 559 297 4481 and indicate if you are going to attend, how many people will be attending with you and what dish you will be willing to bring. There was a signup sheet that went around at our last meeting but we still need other dishes.

There will be a gift exchange. Please bring something that costs less than \$20.00 for the exchange.

Our November meeting had a wonderful presentation dealing with the Pinkerton agency during and after the war. I know that Ron will have a full description of the presentation so I will leave it with the fact that I found it a very interesting and informative presenta-

tion.

I am happy to say that apparently our conference was a critical success. We are still figuring out our expenses and will have that information to you in January. I have received several email from the participants and will share portions of them with you now.

Craig Symons wrote " Again, congratulations on coordinating a very well run symposium under somewhat trying conditions. Marylou and I had fun."

Michael Oddenino sent the following "Congratulations on pulling off a very successful conference notwithstanding the many challenges you faced. I am confident that the attendees very much enjoyed the conference as well as having it on a cruise ship. You guys did a great job."

Bob Siefken sent the following

"I wanted to thank the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table officers/volunteers for the recent 2013 West Coast Civil War Round Table Cruise Conference. The venue was unique and the speakers/topics exceptional. Specifically, the only real hole in my civil war battlefield travels is Vicksburg and, after hearing Parker Hills, I am already making plans to visit Mississippi! This is the 5th WCCWRTC I have been able to attend and it was truly an exceptional conference that was by far the best of the 5!! Now that I am retired I hope this was the 1st of many, many more. Many, many thanks to you, your round table officers and volunteers for a most enjoyable weekend of civil war! "

General Parker Hills sent

"Thanks for all your hard work in making the seminar a success. I know it had to be tough, then add to that the stress of Friday's events at LAX, and you really paid your dues."

John Herberick stated

"Michael: Thank you and Brian and your Round Table for a wonderful and most informative weekend! Your efforts at this and past WCCWRT have added greatly to my knowledge and understanding of the Civil War and given me the opportunity to meet Brian Steele Wills, Craig Symonds, and The General, among others."

Richard Hatcher said:

"Thank you for the kind words regarding the presentations by myself, Mary and

Jean. We had a great time with some great folks. Hopefully we will be able to participate in another conference in the future.”

With comments like these, it sounds like we did a good job and our speakers as well as our participants appear to have enjoyed themselves as well as learned something about 1863 in the Civil War. This makes it all worthwhile.

Just a reminder that the dues are due. That is \$35.00 for the family. Our new year starts January 1. Please get the money in as quickly as possible. This is what keeps our Round Table solvent.

The election of officers will take place at our January meeting. All offices are up for election. Their terms are for two years. If you want to place your name into consideration, contact our secretary Ron Vaughan at 559 686 3633 and let him know of your intentions.

At the present time there are two people who have indicated that they are willing to run for office. Ron Vaughan has indicated that he will be willing to continue as secretary and Mike Green has indicated that he will be willing to continue as president. We still need people to fill the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and two members at large. We do need you help to keep this organization running.

We were not able to announce the winner of the Jerry Russell award for 2013 in our last newsletter because the recipient didn't know that they had been the honoree. The award has now been presented and I am proud and happy to say that the recipient is our old friend Fred Balmfolk from the Sacramento chapter. Fred has been a leader in working to interoperate Civil War Alcatraz. The award is well deserved. Congratulations to Fred for a job well done.

I am excited that I have been invited to submit some of my photographs for their possible inclusion in an upcoming National Geographic book on the Civil War. I got the invitation from Len Riedel from the Blue and Gray Education Society. If the book is published, some of the profits will go to support the Blue and Gray. I have given my permission to use my photos only if the Blue and Gray profit from this project. This is the third time my photos will have been published. I won a first place in the Civil War Preservation Trust photo contest a few years ago and had several of them displayed



Fred Bohmfalk receiving the Jerry Russell Award

in Parker Hills book "The Art of Commemoration" which dealt with the statuary in the Vicksburg National Battlefield.

I am looking forward to our next regular meeting which will be on January 9, 2014 at the Denny's on Shaw Avenue in Clovis. The dinner will be at 6:00 P.M. and the meeting will start at 7:00 P.M. Our topic will be "show and tell" So bring your short topic No longer than 15 minutes. Here is your chance to talk about something that is of interest to you and not have to make a full presentation.

Again I want to thank all of you for all the work you have been doing for the Round Table.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Yours:

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

Pictures of Civil War Cruise 2013



Craig Symonds

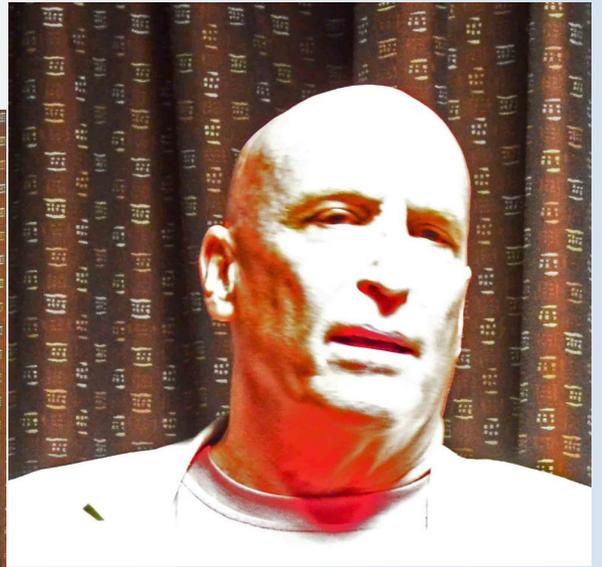


Richard Hatcher

Civil War Cruise 2013



Mary Hatcher and Jean Hutchinson



Michael Oddenino



Gen Parker Hills



Ron Vaughan



Brian Clauge

Civil War Cruise 2013



Panel Discussion



Speakers

AFTER ACTION REPORT

SJVCWRT MEETING OF 11/14/13

By Ron Vaughan

. The meeting was opened promptly at 7:00 by President Mike Green, Fourteen persons were present. Mike reviewed the cruise conference. He announced the recipient of this year's Jerry Russell Award: Fred Bomfaulk, of the Sacramento CWRT. Fred was unable to attend the conference, so the award was presented to another member to deliver to Fred at their next meeting. We had kept it quiet until then, so he would not find out before the meeting.

. Wayne Scott read a message about his misfortune in not being able to be admitted onto the ship.

. Treasurer Walt Schulze reported that our ending balance in the checking account as of today is \$5,185. We still need to reconcile the final conference expenses.

. Nominations are open for club officers. Walt is stepping down from Treasurer, so we need someone to fill that job. Next month will be a Christmas Party at the Schulze's.

. V.P. Patty Spencer introduced our speaker for the night. Rob Ashly is in the hospital due to a stroke. His co-presenter, Tim Springer, was on hand to give us an entertaining program about Alan Pinkerton. Tim is a teacher of history at two jr. college campuses. Mike was dressed for the part, wearing a blue wool frock coat, cut away at the waist. Mike explained that Pinkerton designed this coat for his detectives, so that they could more easily reach their revolver, or run after a suspect. In addition, Mike wore a Pinkerton Detective Agency badge and holstered Colt revolver. Mike was not only very enthusiastic about his subject, but he also liked our club, and immediately filled out an application!

. Alan Pinkerton was born in Glasgow, Scotland, August 25, 1820. He worked as a cooper, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1842, building a cabin north-west of Chicago. Pinkerton worked for Abolitionist leaders, and his home became a stop on the Under ground Rail Road. While he was looking for suitable wood for barrel making, he overheard a plot by smugglers. He assisted police in arresting them, and he became interested in police work. In 1849 he was appointed a detective in Chicago. Eventually he joined his brother Robert with Pinkerton & Co, a rail road detective agency.

. While working with the trains, Alan met George McClellan, V. P. of the Illinois Central R.R., and also he met the railroad's lawyer, Abraham Lincoln. He served as a guard for Lincoln on the way to his inauguration, and foiled an assassination plot in Baltimore. When the Civil War broke out, he began doing intelligence work for McClellan in western Virginia. He and his agents discovered that the citizens there were not happy with

secession. His reports influenced the Lincoln Government into arranging the secession of n.w. Va., and the founding of the new state of West Virginia. Pinkerton developed a network of agents throughout the South.

. Much has been written about McClellan getting intelligence reports that over-estimated Confederate Army numbers. According to Mike's research, the spy's counts were fairly accurate, but the reports were passed up the U.S. Army chain of command, where officers at various levels thought that surely the numbers were too low, and revised the totals upward. When McClellan was relieved of command, Pinkerton resigned also. After Booth's assassination of Lincoln, Pinkerton was full of regret. He said that if he was still in charge of guarding the President, he would have had more than one guard present.

. Pinkerton was responsible for many modern concepts in detective work, such as "shadowing" a suspect, "assuming a role" (undercover work), and developing a "rap sheet" containing a description and record of the suspect. He also was among the first to not only hire women, but to make women managers over teams of agents.

. After the war, Pinkerton returned to chasing down train robbers, including the James and Younger Gangs.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From "The Blue & Gray Laughing"

. (A contribution from a Missouri lady) "During the siege of Vicksburg, some of the 6th Missouri Cavalry visited the former residence of "President Davis," and found the blacks all very much alarmed at the near approach of General Grant, whom they believed would immediately devour them! The frightened slaves asked numberless questions of the boys as to what they should do to appease him if he should visit them. The boys told them the general was not very frightful, and if they would assemble in the yard on his approach and give him three cheers they would be safe. They were very much amused on returning to find that the slaves had nicely swept a place under the trees in the yard and had set out three of the very best chairs the mansion could afford!"

Book Report

JOHN BELL HOOD

The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General I just finished reading an interesting book written by a friend of mine Stephen [Sam] M. Hood.

I have had the pleasure of the friendship of Sam for some time. Sam is a relation of John Bell Hood and we have had many interesting discussions about his relative. Sam has worked at defending John Bell Hood's reputation. He has recently come across a treasure trove of the official papers of Hood and now has hard evidence to refute much of what has been written about Hood.

The book spends a great deal of time going over Hood's war time record and with this new evidence is able to start questioning much of the negative information about Hood that has been in print for some time.

The majority of the book goes over the period of time in 1863 where Hood was ordered to take over the Confederate Army of the Tennessee.

He was ordered to relieve Joseph Johnston who had the army in a defensive position around Atlanta. He immediately ordered that the army become more offensively motivated and sent the army to attack Sherman's army four times.

When it became obvious that the city could not be saved, Hood moved his army out and moved it west into Alabama. In short order Hood devised a plan to retake Tennessee. After consulting with the Confederate government in Richmond and his superiors in his region, he moved his army to the Tennessee border and proceeded to attack the union forces in that state.

This aggressive movement resulted in the actions at Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville along with other actions at Murphysboro.

I will not go into the activities in these battle, but suffices to be said these actions have been heavily annualized and much of the blame for their outcome has fallen on John Bell Hoods head.

Sam has worked hard to question some of the "TRUTHS" that have been written. If you have studied this part of Civil War history it would behoove you to take another look.

Good job Sam.

