

BUGLE CALL ECHOES



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE JUNE 2002

"No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck."

Frederick Douglass

June Program

Bill Bennett, a long-time member of the local Civil War Reenactment Society, will present a program on Saturday, June 29th at Woodward Park where he will share his outstanding Civil War gun collection. Mr. Bennett graciously displayed his collection at the 1998 Civil War Conference at the Tenaya Lodge. His father, Don, first started collecting Civil War guns in the 1930s. Bill will be happy to answer all your questions regarding firearms.

June 2002 Picnic

Our June meeting will be held on SATURDAY, June 29 at Woodward Park in Fresno. Please bring a main dish or salad. The club will furnish the bread and dessert plus soft drinks, iced tea, water, utensils and paper plates. Bring folding chairs for your comfort.

Location: We will be at the gazebo down the hill on the left. This is the same location as last year. We would appreciate an RSVP by Monday, June 24th. Call Ken Moats at 559-229-3654. The picnic starts at 11:30 and we will eat at 12:30.

President's Corner Abraham Lincoln, 1861

I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence. I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederation so long together. It was not the mere matter of separation of the colonies from the motherland, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to people of this country, but hope to the world, for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. This sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence.... I would rather be assassinated on the spot than surrender it.

Andrew Quist will Speak at Conference

After graduation from college Andrew Quist became a staff historian at historic Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Tennessee. He worked with Thomas Cartwright, director of the Carter House. His interest in the Civil War has been focused on the western theatre of operations, specifically, the Confederate Army of Tennessee. He edited a set of memoirs written by Captain Samuel H. Sprott of Company A, Fortieth Alabama Regiment, entitled, "Cush: A Civil War Memoir."

Mr. Quist will speak on the "Common Foot Soldier in the Confederate Army of Tennessee. His presentation will focus on the Atlanta Campaign of 1864.

CWRS to Hold Re-enactment in September

The local CWRS will sponsor the Civil War re-enactment at Kearny Park on September 28-29, 2002. Our Round Table will provide an information booth regarding our organization. We will need your help in manning the booth. The shifts are two hours each and you will receive free admission tickets to the event. If you can spare two hours on either Saturday or Sunday, please call our Vice President Patti Spencer at 233-1059.

July and August Programs

Because members tend to be away on vacation during the summer we will not hold our regular dinner meetings during July and August. Our first regular meeting will take place on Thursday, September 26th. Also, you will not receive a newsletter during July and August.

Preservation News

Keep in mind when you make your decision to attend or not to attend the Eighteenth Annual West Coast Civil War Conference on November 8-10 that all monies after conference expenses will be donated to the preservation of our national Civil War sites. After the conference our Round Table will have contributed approximately \$20,000 dollars toward this goal over the past eleven years. Your attendance will assure us that we reach this goal. You will receive registration materials in August/September.

Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

by James McPherson pp 749-50

On June 27 several Union divisions assaulted the southern spurs of Kennesaw Mountain near points where small streams divided Johnston's center from his two wings. As the temperature rose toward a hundred in the shade, Yankees recoiled from breastworks that rivaled those of Petersburg. After the attacks had been beaten back, a Confederate soldier looked around at his fellows. "I never saw so many broken down and exhausted men in my life," he wrote years later. "I was as sick as a horse, and as wet with blood and sweat as I could be, and many of our men were vomiting with excessive fatigue, over-exhaustion, and sunstroke; our tongues were parched and cracked for water, and our faces blackened with powder and smoke, and our dead and wounded were piled indiscriminately in the trenches." By early afternoon Sherman recognized failure and called off the operation. He had lost 3,000 killed and wounded--small numbers compared with battles in Virginia, but the largest for any engagement so far in Georgia--while inflicting only a fifth as many on the enemy.

Perhaps worse, from the Union viewpoint, the battle of Kennesaw Mountain bolstered southern morale and increased northern frustration. "Everyone feels unbounded confidence in General Johnston," wrote an Atlanta woman, while one of the city's newspapers declared Sherman's army "whipped" and soon to be "cut to pieces." Admittedly the invaders had suffered altogether fewer than 17,000 casualties in the campaign while driving to within twenty miles of Atlanta. But Johnston had lost only 14,000 men compared with Lee's 35,000, and morale in the Army of Tennessee was reported to be "as good as could be desired." After two months of fighting and 90,000 casualties on all fronts, Union armies seemed little if any closer to winning the war than when they started. "Who shall revive the withered hopes that bloomed at the opening of Grant's campaign?" asked the Democratic New York World.

Mark your calendar.....plan to attend the "Atlanta Campaign" on November 8-10. Registration materials will be mailed in August!

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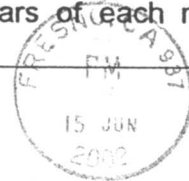
Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. My membership category is checked below:

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Clip this membership form and send it with your check to the **SJVCWRT, PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755**. The membership year is from January to December. Five dollars of each membership goes towards preservation.



SJVCWRT
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