



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 MAY 2013

Hello everyone. I hope that this message finds you in good health and good spirits.

Unfortunately I have learned that one of our good members, Alex Fabros, has been under the weather for the past two months. I want to wish Alex all the best and a speedy recovery.

Those of you that missed last month's program really missed out on something great. Don McCue did a great job talking about Abraham Lincoln. I know that Ron will do a great job talking about what Don talked about so I will not go into detail about the program. All that I have to say was that I learned quite a bit

Alex Fabros was scheduled to make a presentation on the relationship between the USA, CSA, and Mexico during the Civil War. Because of his illness he had to bow out of making the presentation. We are indeed lucky to have Ron Vaughn indicate that he is ready willing and able to pitch in and take on the task of putting on the program. I want to thank Ron personally for his willingness to take on this project. I know that his presentation will be excellent.

Speaking of the conference, we are moving forward on making this project a reality.

Have you signed up yet?

Remember we are depending on you to come through and support your Round Table in putting on this conference. For more information, go to our web page www.civilwarcruise.org. You can make your reservations by contacting Brenda or Michelle by email at travel@centralvalleytravel.com. The phone numbers are 559 686-1631 or 559 901-3046. We are depending on you.

Two weeks ago, I was able to talk to two Civil War Roundtables about our conference.

I put on my presentation on South Mountain to the North Bay Civil War Round Table on Wednesday and to the San Francisco Round Table on Thursday. While I was there I was able to distribute material about our conference as well as encourage them to come along on the cruise.

I am in the process of arranging to make my South Mountain presentation to the Peninsula Round Table sometime this summer. I will continue working to get as many people as possible to our conference.

At the end of April I traveled to Memphis and Vicksburg to go on an extended tour dealing with the Vicksburg campaign. I also did some more research on my presentation on the Battle of Port Hudson which I hope to have ready for our next meeting. Wish me luck in my endeavor.

It's time to end this and get it to Ron and Walt so that it comes out at the first of May.

Wishing you and yours all the best.

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

AFTER ACTION REPORT

SJVCWRT MEETING OF 4/11/13

By Ron Vaughan

MEETING:

*After dinner, the meeting was called to order by President Mike Green.

*Seventeen persons were present.

*Treasurer Walt Schulze reported the balance is \$2,111.68.

*V. P. Patty Spencer reported that the Kearney Park re-enactment will be Sept. 28-29, 2013.

*Wayne Scott shared flyers for the April 20-21 re-enactment at Mariposa.

PROGRAM:

. Our program was by Don McCue, Director of the Lincoln Shrine Museum, at 125 W. Vine St., Redlands, CA. He showed a short slide show of the museum. McCue's topic was "Lincoln's Greatest Decisions That Led Up To Emancipation."

He posed the question: Does Lincoln deserve to be known as an emancipator?

Lorenzo Bennet wrote a book stating that Lincoln was a racist, and Thomas Di Lorenzo criticized Lincoln for increasing Government power.

. McCue said that Lincoln did not start out as an abolitionist. At first he was only opposed to the ex-

pansion of slavery. But Lincoln became more interested when the Fugitive Slave Law allowed slave catchers to come North to pursue escaped slaves. The 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act caused Lincoln to have concern that the popular sovereignty provision could allow slavery to expand.

. During the Lincoln- Douglas Debate, Lincoln was accused of favoring equal rights for Blacks. Lincoln replied that he believed the White race was superior. This was used by some writers to say that Lincoln was racist, but they fail to quote the complete remark, where Abe stated that Blacks deserve equal rights.

. Emancipation was not mentioned by Lincoln or the Republican Party during the 1860 election. After secession, Lincoln was pressed to emancipate the slaves by Frederick Douglas and others, but he was concerned about the loyalty of the Border States. Fremont ordered the emancipation of slaves in Missouri, but Lincoln countermanded it. Secretary of War Cameron advocated recruiting Black troops, but Lincoln exiled him to be the ambassador to Russia. A big step toward emancipation was taken when General Ben Butler declared escaped slaves to be "contraband of war," and refused to return them to their owners.

. Events on the battlefield began to change Lincoln's position, as many campaigns were unsuccessful. Congress passed acts to confiscate slaves in captured Southern States, and also, freed slaves in the District of Columbia.

General David Hunter freed slaves in the islands on the Carolina coast. By July of 1862, Lincoln supports the idea of limited emancipation, but the series of defeats in the Eastern Theater prevent him from taking action.

. In August of 1862 Lincoln meets with Black leaders to discuss the idea of freed slaves returning to live in Africa. A few are interested, but most are not.

About the same time, Horace Greeley wrote an editorial demanding emancipation, but Lincoln responded that it was not the right time-- we had to save the Union first. He said "If I could save the Union without freeing the slaves, I would. If I could save the Union by freeing slaves, I would. I wish all were free." He wrote a draft for emancipation, but wanted to wait for a major victory. After Lee's invasion of the North was repulsed at Antietam, 9/17/62. Lincoln considered it enough of a victory to issue his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, 9/22/62, which became official January 1st 1863. Some have said that it freed no one, but actually it did-- the thousands of slaves in Union occupied territory. Soon Lincoln called for the enlistment of blacks in the US Army and Navy.

. In conclusion, McCue said that Lincoln had gradually evolved his opinion on Emancipation.

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NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM: MIKE WILL SPEAK ABOUT THE PORT HUDSON CAMPAIGN, ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOS AND OLD PICTURES.

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CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From Blue & Gray Laughing.

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. "An officer charged with the work complained to his Colonel-- that it was impossible to construct the battery, on account of the depth of the mud. 'But it must be done,' was the answer. 'Make requisition for anything you want in the way of force or materials, but the work must be done!'

. The subordinate sent in a requisition for what he thought necessary, and among the items was one for 'twenty five men, twenty feet tall, to work in mud eighteen feet deep!'