



# Bugle Call Echoes

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

February 2005

Vol. 13 Issue 2

## San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table 2005 Board of Directors

**President:** Brian Clague [Linda]

PO Box 116 Shaver Lake CA 93664

559-841-7161 bclague@netptc.net

**Vice President:** Dave Davenport

6156 N Mitre Ave Fresno CA 93705

277-3283

davidpauldavenport@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:** Pattie Spencer

1548 W Vasser Ave Fresno CA 93705

233-1059 cell phone: 304-8170

**Secretary:** Phyllis Mann

4880 N Hulbert Ave #102

Fresno CA 93705 229-3778

pfm02@cvip.net

**Publicity:** Shaun Ardemagni

2580 E Los Altos Fresno CA 93710

299-7453 rampchamp@aol.com

**Newsletter:** Bob Quist [Judy]

504 E Magnolia Ave

Hanford CA 93230 582-9520

bquist1@sbcglobal.net

**Directors:** Mike & Gloria Carter

1576 E Cornwall Fresno CA 93720

mikecarter@paula.com

gloria.carter@cvcb.com

322-  
9474

**Past President:** Tom Carr [Kathy]

31771 Blackfoot Rd

Coarsegold CA 93614

642-4204 carrt@yahoo.com

## From the President's Desk:

The January meeting was well attended and every one there was treated to passionate displays of family history, family momentos, civil war artifacts, and much more by club members. Ron Vaughn's article will do justice to the event. If you missed this one, you will be disappointed. We were sorry for David Davenport whose untimely brief illness prevented his presence with all of the informative input he provides.

There was discussion of changing the meeting date in November to allow the presentation of "General Grant and his wife," who will be appearing at the subsequent Kearney Park Reenactment the next day. The club showed strong support for the idea.

See the calendar of events below for the remainder of the year and we look forward to seeing you this week.

## 2005 Round Table Programs and Speakers

*[we meet the last Thursday of the month at Fresno's Ramada Inn]*

February 24 The 8th Wisconsin and 'Old Abe' with Phyllis Mann

March 31<sup>st</sup> Civil War Battlefield Maps with Michele Jardine

April 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting

April 28<sup>th</sup> Battle of Perryville with Brad Schall

May 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

May 26<sup>th</sup> The Confederate Navy

June 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

June 25<sup>th</sup> Potluck picnic at the Kuykendalls

Sept. 22 The Grants: Larry and Constance Clowers and Fundraiser

Sept. 23-25 Civil War Reenactment at Kearney Park

October 27<sup>th</sup>

Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> West Coast Civil War Symposium in Phoenix

December 1 Christmas Party at the Carr's new home

Alexander Stephens, V.P. of the CSA with Zoyd Luce

2005 Memberships  
Due Now

Your 2005 membership year is from January to December. If you have not renewed your membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Roundtable, they are due now. Use the form on the back to become current. The cost of membership remains the same:

Individual or family -  
\$25.00

Student or newsletter only - \$12.50

As always, \$5.00 of each membership goes toward Civil War Battlefield Preservation.

To make Dinner Reservations for our Thursday, February 24th meeting at the Ramada Inn at the Shaw offramp on Highway 41...  
... contact Secretary Phyllis Mann at 229-3778 [afternoons or evenings please].



## AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 1/27/05

Twenty-eight and a baby (Thomas Murray) were present for the dinner meeting. President Dr. Brian Clague presided over our annual show and tell night. Bill Head proudly displayed his "Jerry Russell Memorial Award" awarded to him at the last West Coast CWRT Conference. Brian and Tanya Murrey entertained us with a couple of fife and drum tunes. Phyllis Mann shred information about a recent article in *Smithsonian* about the *CSS Alabama* (contact her if you would like a photo copy.) Walter Russell and Joe Summers passed around their great grandfather's (one Union and one Confederate) .31 and .36 cal. Colt revolvers. Fortunately no blood was spilled this time! Cal 100 reenactor Allen Croft passed around a copy of the *Official Atlas of the CW*, available at low price at Barnes and Noble, and also available on CD. Lincoln re-enactor Wayne Scott shared some of his experiences playing this role. He is actually the same height as Lincoln—6'4", with a real beard! He shared some remarks by Lincoln "You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong!" My contribution was to display my CW chess set, which I have spent years collecting or hand casting the figures, then painting them. Unlike commercially available sets, each figure represents a different US or CSA regiment. I hope to see all of you at the next meeting!

Ron Vaughn

## Book Review on Northern Naval Superiority

The book is *Northern Naval Superiority and the Economics of the American Civil War* by David G. Surdam, University of South Carolina Press, 2001, Pg. 286.

As one sage once said, "the devil is in the detail." Nothing could be closer to the truth when it comes to discussions about the effectiveness of both the closure of the Mississippi and the major ports of New Orleans and Mobile to the ending of the war. As recently as the Modesto meeting I heard Jim Stanbury say that the closure of Mississippi did little to influence the flow of foodstuffs and materials to the Eastern Confederacy.

Surdam provides compelling arguments for the following: the lost export money hurt the South more than the expended revenues taxed the North; the blockade contributed to the logistics problem of food and supplies and with the final closure of Norfolk to trade between the lines led to the surrender of the main Confederacy army in Virginia; the blockade forced reliance on railroads while depriving the South of materials to improve and repair them; the stringent block met international requirements of law; and through selective loosening of the barricade to trade, the North maintained cotton trade to support Northern manufacturing of needed war materials as well as to aid European merchants in their search for cotton supplies, thus aiding their policy of preventing intervention. While lost revenue from cotton proved difficult, the important loss of trade most effected their ability to transport needed foodstuffs.

Both sides grappled with the best use to be made of King Cotton's role throughout the war, but by reducing the flow of cotton to less than 1/15<sup>th</sup> of antebellum levels, the North held the advantage in this critical area.

This book is a most interesting look at the importance of supplies and transportation both naval as well as railroad during the Civil War.

Brian Clague

## 'Old Abe" and the 8th Wisconsin title of Phyllis Mann's topic for February Meeting

Phyllis Mann, the secretary of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table, will be the featured speaker at meeting on February 24th. She is recently retired from the Fresno Unified School District where she was a special education teacher.

Phyllis, a native of Wisconsin, served eight years in the United States Army. Initially she was a member of the Signal Corps during the Korean War (why she was allowed to enlist at the age of two is a mystery to this editor). Later she was an Occupational Therapist in the Army Medical Specialist Corps. Phyllis has had a life-long interest in the Civil War but only recently joined our Round Table at the invitation of Louise Richardson. She has a special interest Wisconsin 8th Infantry Regiment.

The Eighth was organized 13 September 1861 at Fond DuLac, Wisconsin. Assigned to the Western Theatre the most notable of its more than 40 official battles where engagements at Iuka and Corinth, Mississippi, and Nashville, Tennessee. It last saw action near Mobile, Alabama, in April, 1865.

Through its illustrious career "Old Abe", an eagle, served as its mascot. Although it was tethered near the battleline in every engagement Old Abe survived the war without losing a feather. Phyllis will bring this noble bird, currently the symbol of the 101st Airborne, alive at our meeting on Thursday, February 24th.

David D.

## March Meeting Topic

Professor Michele Jardine is tentatively scheduled to speak to us at our meeting on March 31. She is currently on the faculty of history at California State University, Fresno.

## Mark Your Calendars: June Potluck Saturday, June 25th

Be absolutely certain that you plan now to attend our annual summer potluck on Saturday, June 25th. It will be held in the scenic foothill community of "Tivey Valley" at the home and acreage of Neil Kuykendall and family.

This event will be very well-attended so car pooling is advisable. The Kuykendalls have invited the 125 members of the Civil War Reenactment Society to attend and bring their rifles for a live shoot. I hope this means that participants will be firing live ammunition at targets, not that there is any intent to draw bead on a living thing.

## Civil War Teaser

"Do you want to know the ten most important Civil War books as identified by the editors of *American Heritage* in December, 2004? If so, watch this spot in the March *Bugle Call*.

David D

## Civil War Historian New Magazine promises to Keep History Alive!

Passed around at our last meeting a flyer for subscribing to a new Civil War publication. Readers will discover in each issue articles on military and civilian topics and research into the people and artifacts that make the Civil War so fascinating.

Each issue includes -- histories of regimental units; reenactment event listings, military uniform and equipment studies, how-to articles for novice reenactors, reenactor classifieds, civilian clothing and lifestyle research articles, database for reenactor unit contacts, reprints of period publications, updates on endangered sites and preservation successes.

A year's subscription is \$26 for six issues along with a free issue and \$2 going to Civil War Preservation Trust.

Check out their website -- [www.civilwarhistorian.com](http://www.civilwarhistorian.com) and/or call their tollfreenumber at 1-888-760-8108

## December Program Change

Please mark your calendars for a Thursday, December 1, meeting. Yes, the first Thursday in December. Our regular meeting time in November falls on Thanksgiving so our December 1st meeting is that of November postponed a week. This will also be our Christmas Party.

Tom Carr and his wife have graciously offered to host this wing ding at their new home in SE Fresno.

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 P. O. Box below:

