

BUGLE CALL ECHOES

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
MAY 2004 - VOL 12 ISSUE 5



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello again to all and welcome back.

Last month our presentation was by Ron Vaughan on the Battle of Pea Ridge. Thanks Ron for the nice job. It is always great to have our own members as speakers at our monthly meetings. If you have a topic of interest that you would like to present to the group, please see Brian Clague who does a wonderful job as our program chair.

We have recently gotten word from Civil War Preservation Trust that the acquisitions at Bentonville are now complete; 6.2 acres have been closed on at Bristoe Station, and a deal is in process which will save 60 acres at the Mansfield battlefield site in Louisiana. Right now Civil War Preservation Trust is working with Central Virginia Battlefields Trust to rescue more ground from development at Chancellorsville at the site of Jackson's Flank Attack on May 2, 1863. Jackson was later to die at Chancellorsville, killed by confederate fire. Lee was to say later that he lost his right arm when he lost Jackson.

Much progress is being made to save hallowed ground but much more remains to be done. The SJVCWRT is contributing to many of the fund-raising drives to save this land, particularly when preservation organizations are coming up with matching funds. Our dollars can then go so much farther. I would encourage members to consider joining the preservation organizations and contributing individually when possible. We are running short on time to rescue these sacred grounds from the developers who would buy these lands for malls, shopping centers, and residential developments.

We are still in need of a volunteer for the publicity for SJVCWRT. Lydia has done an excellent job and will help the new person get started. Please see me or any of the officers or board members if you can be of help with this vital job.

This month we are happy to have Ray Avila come to Fresno to speak on General Kershaw. Ray has spoken to our group before and always does a fine job.

Please join us on Thursday, May 27th at the Ramada Inn.

Tom

MAY 29TH MEETING

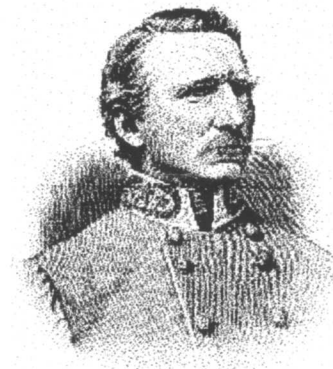
Phil Avilla will give a talk on "General Kershaw, CSA, His Life, his Battles and Victories with the Army of Virginia and Tennessee."

Ramada Inn - Shaw at Highway 41 -
No-host Social Hour 6PM/Dinner 7PM
(\$16) - Program at 8PM

Our speaker, Phil Avila, began his interest in the Civil War during his preparation for teaching the subject in high school, over 45 years ago. That interest deepened to his free time when he cofounded the North Bay Civil

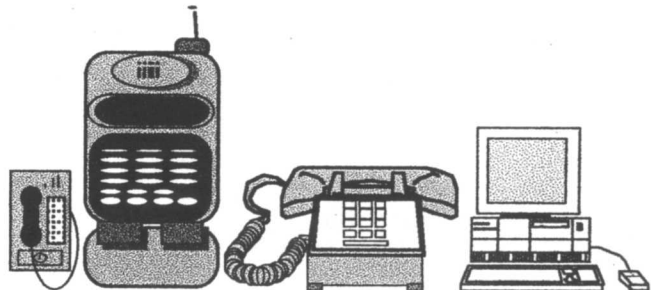
War Roundtable some 15 years ago. In addition to speaking engagements throughout California, he has attended the Civil War Institute at Gettysberg eight times, most of the West Coast Roundtable Symposiums, and has visited most of the major battlefields of the War. Phil lives in Sebastapol with his wife Lyn,

together they have a son Aaron and a daughter Rosie, and he comes prepared to discuss the life of General Kershaw, CSA.



Brig. General Joseph Kershaw
(Battles & Leaders)

FOR RESERVATIONS



Please let us know if you are coming as we need to get a count for the hotel.

KEN/BARB 229-3654 bhmfresno@comcast.net

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT Meeting of 4/29/04

By Ron Vaughan

Very few members missed this meeting (29 persons were present). Thank you to all for your attendance at my talk on "The Battle of Pea Ridge--the Gettysburg of the Trans-Mississippi". Also, Thank you again to Dr. Clague for his invaluable assistance in putting my pictures and maps on power point. There is a scarcity of material on this topic, but I have found it very interesting to study.

The Trans-Mississippi Theater was unique: The Federals were usually outnumbered and out gunned. In contrast to the Eastern Theater, in the West, it was often the Confederates who were poorly led, poorly organized and poorly trained. Due to their experience in the Mexican War and Indian fighting, Westerners used more practical tactics, such as greater use of skirmishers, fighting from a prone position, and close artillery support. There was much greater depredation to civil life due to over zealous foraging and guerrilla activity. Western Federals were more motivated than Easterners, because so many had been actively involved in working to make their State part of the Union. Western Confederates were more conservative, less avid about States Rights and Slavery, and more divided in their loyalties. Indian troops served in both the US and CS armies. The major players were a diverse lot. Union Commander Brig. Gen. Samuel Curtis, born 1807 in N.Y., was a West Point grad, a civil engineer, a lawyer, Congressman, Mexican War vet, promoted to Brig Gen 12/25/61 and assigned to command the SW District of Missouri. He has been described as a mediocre commander, deliberative and unimaginative, but he had some able subordinates, among them Q.M. Capt. Phil Sheridan, whose superb staff work made possible the advance of the army 200 miles beyond its base. In any event, he won a battle at a time when other Union armies were not, except Grant at Ft. Donelson. Curtis was promoted to Maj. Gen. after the victory and remained in command of the District. He later would repel Price's 1864 large scale raid into Mo.

Curtis's second in command was Brig Gen. Franz Sigel, ex Minister of War for the 1848 German Revolutionary Government. He was teaching at the St. Louis Military School when the war broke out and helped rally and organize the German-American volunteers for



the Union. Sigel made the list of the wars worst generals, but at Pea Ridge, he ably conducted a dangerous US withdrawal in the face of overwhelming forces, and later used his artillery in excellent close support of the Union attack.

Commander of Missouri Troops was Maj. Gen. Stirling Price. He was born in Va. in 1809, moved to Mo., where he was elected to the Legislature, Congress and Governor's office. He was commander of the Mo. State Guard at the outbreak of the war. He was a natural leader and his men affectionately called him "Old Pap". He could not get along with the commander of Confederate Arkansas/Texas Troops, Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch.

McCulloch was born in 1811 in Tenn. He fought under Houston in the Texas Revolution, and raised a Ranger company for the Mexican War. He was a good scout, fighter, organizer, and disciplinarian (discipline was something the Mo. troops lacked). He derisively called the Mo. troops "Huckleberry Cavalry".

Because of the lack of co-operation between Price and McCulloch, President Davis appointed Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn to command the Army of the West. When he received the news, Van Dorn wrote to his wife, "I must have St. Louis, then Huzza!" HE was a West Point grad, 52nd in a class of 56, served in the US 7th Infantry in the Mexican War and the Comanche War, where he was wounded 4 times.

The fourth Confederate character was Albert Pike, a Harvard grad and lawyer, with no military experience, who was appointed CSA Commissioner to the Indians. He successfully concluded treaties with the Five Civilized Tribes to side with the CSA. Unfortunately, his efforts came to nought, when his Indians became totally disorganized in their excitement over their capture of a US battery. He had not been informed of the battle plan, but found himself in command of McCulloch's Div., after McCulloch and both his Brigade commanders were killed or captured.

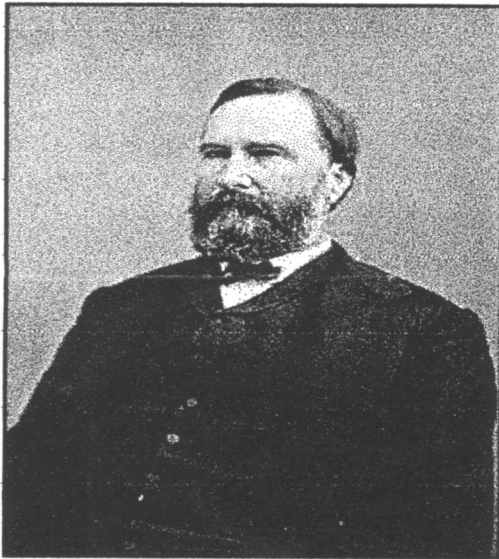
The Confederate Army suffered 1,000 casualties, 300 captured and thousands missing in the disastrous retreat. General Sigel wrote "It was not a "great" battle. like Gettysburg..., but it virtually cleared S.W. Mo. of the enemy, gave peace to the people of Mo. at least for 2 years, and made it possible for our veterans to reinforce the armies under Rosecranz, Grant, and Sherman."

WHO ARE THESE GUYS ?



What do they have to do with our next program?

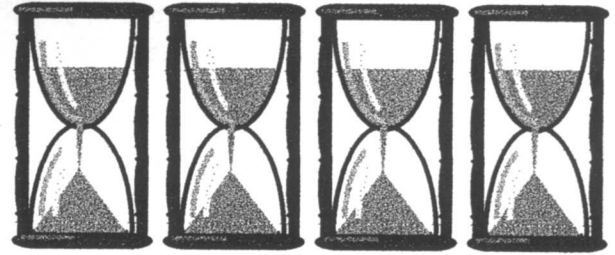
One giant hint they are all "Rebs"



Big deal since two of them are in uniform



See page 4



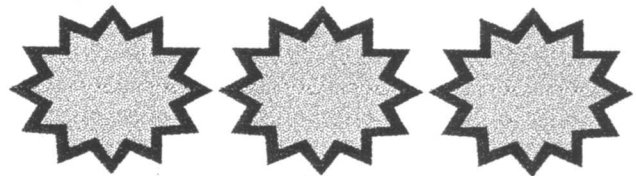
HELP - WE NEED YOUR HELP

CIVIL WAR REVISITED WILL BE SEPT. 25TH (SAT) AND 26TH (SUN)

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF OUR BOOTH - TWO HOUR PERIODS - THIS IS A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OUR GROUP TO THE PUBLIC AND HELP IN OUR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION WORK. WE WERE SHORT-HANDED LAST YEAR. YOU GET INTO THE REINACTMENT FREE WHEN YOU VOLUNTEER.

CALL PATTIE SPENCER 304-8170

SIGN UP FOR A TWO HOUR PERIOD SATURDAY 10AM-6PM, OR SUNDAY 10AM-4PM. (IF WE HAVE TO DRAFT PEOPLE THEY WILL GET THE MIDNITE TO 2AM TIME SLOT)



SEPTEMBER 24TH IS CIVIL WAR TIMETRAVEL FOR THE 5TH AND 8TH GRADES WHO TRAVEL TO VARIOUS STOPS SUCH AS GENERAL LEE, MARY CHESTNUT, PRESIDENT LINCOLN. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A VOLUNTEER GUIDE PLEASE CALL SHARON HIIGEL 441-0862

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2004

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Ken Moats	Treasurer
Barbara Moats	Secretary
Charles Jorgensen	Newsletter
Lydia Flores	Publicity

Dave Davenport	Director
Patricia Spencer	Director
Bob Quist	Director
Gloria Carter	Alternate
Mike Carter	Past President

Photos from page 3: Some of Kershaw's commanders: Top down McLaws, Longstreet, Beauregard

MEMBERSHIP FORM MEMBERSHIP YEAR - JANUARY TO DECEMBER

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table
Membership -Individual/Family \$25 -----\$12.50 Student or Newsletter only
\$5 OF EACH MEMBERSHIP GOES TOWARD CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Any specific area of Civil War interest? _____

Bring this membership form and your check to a meeting or mail to:

SJVCWRT
PO BOX 5695
FRESNO, CA 93755



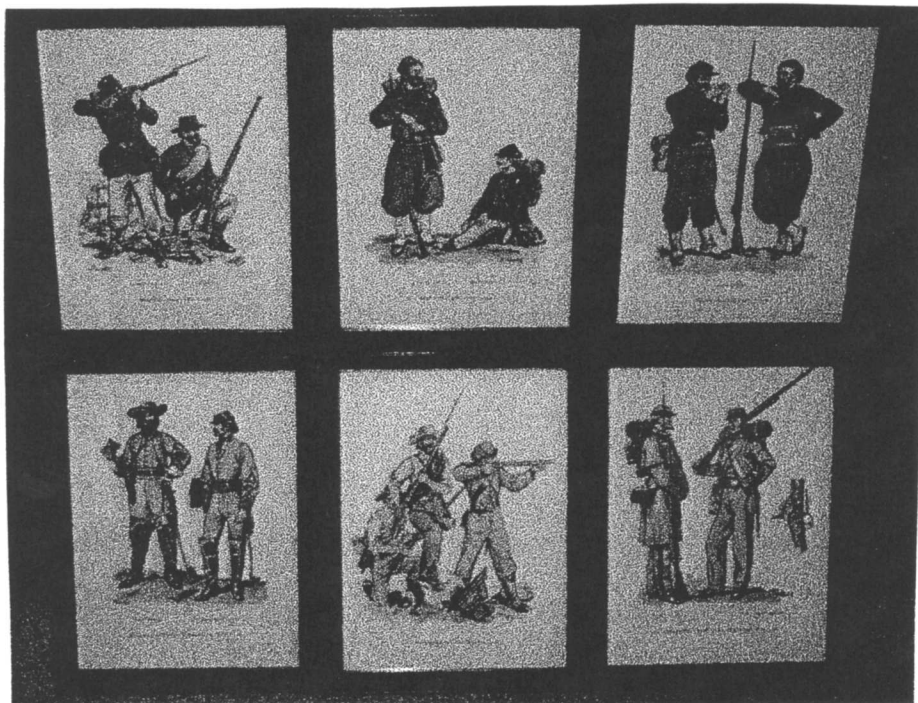
SILENT AUCTION

AUCTION CLOSSES AFTER JUNE 26TH MEETING 50% OF FINAL BID GOES TO THE SJVCWRT FOR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

CURRENT BID IS \$35.00 (NOT ENOUGH)
FOR THAT PRICE I'LL PUT THEM BACK UP ON THE WALL

EMAIL YOUR BIDS, PHONE, OR DO IT IN PERSON AT THE JUNE MEETING
CHARLIE JORGENSEN CHJFRESNO@COMCAST.NET OR 559-449-0333

FRITZ KREDEL
COLOR PLATES FROM
"SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN ARMY"
10" X 13" - FRAMED



FEDERAL INFANTRY - 1861
Iron Brigade of the West
Vermont Brigade

NEW YORK ZOUAVES - 1863
5th New York
44th New York

LOUISIANA ZOUAVES
Captain and Zouave

7TH REGIMENT - NEW YORK STATE MILITIA - 1861
Private in overcoat
Private in full field equipment

CONFEDERATE INFANTRY - 1863

STUART'S CAVALRY DIVISION, C.S.A - 1862
Colonel of Cavalry