



# **BUGLE CALLS, DECEMBER 2017**

## **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

1. DECEMBER MEETING
  2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
  3. AFTER ACTION REPORT
  4. CIVIL WAR HUMOR
  5. 2017 WEST COAST CWRT CONFERENCE
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### **1. DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

**Taco bar at Gail Schulze's home, 1432 Locust Ave., Clovis, CA**

**RSVP by 12/12 to (559- 297- 4481)**

**Bring drinks, desserts, and a gift (\$15- 20 value) for the exchange.**

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## **2. Final Presidents Report, December 2017**

I've had a hard time getting going on this report. As you can see this will be my final report to you as your president.

I have been honored to be your president for some time. I have looked back in my records and find that the first time I wrote one of these was March of 2011.

I don't know whether to thank Ron or to cuss him out for getting me involved with the SJVCWRT. Ron had let me know about the group and because of my big interest in the Civil War, I took a ride up to Fresno to see what the Round Table was all about. My only interest was to share my love of the subject with other people that felt the same way as I do. I found many of them in the Round Table and I do appreciate the opportunity of getting to know all of you.

All of a sudden I kind of felt like I was paraphrasing that old Rogers and Hammerstein song from "Oklahoma" "I'm just a GUY who can't say NO" All of a sudden I was the Vice President of the Round Table and then Bang. I was drafted to run for the presidency. The round table was in an interesting situation at that time and all of a sudden I had people encouraging me to run for president. So I did, and thanks to all of you I won. It really wasn't my intentions ions to take an active part in the group but there I was.

Since that time we have put on two successful West Coast Conferences, a panel discussion, contributed quite a bit of money to our chosen battlefield at Raymond Mississippi where we have helped out with two cannon tubes, become a “General” in our direct contributions and funded our latest venture, subsidizing the rebuilding of the historical fence that was on the battlefield at the time of the battle. I am very proud of what this organization has been able to do during my tenure. Now we are well on our way to putting on the next West Coast Conference. Not bad for a Round Table that has less than 20 paying members.

With that being said, I want to wish each and every one of you well and remind you that your 2018 dues are due. [I paid my \$35.00] at the last meeting]

For the last time

Yours

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

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**3. AFTER ACTION REPORT:  
MEETING OF THE SJVCWRT OF NOV.  
BY RON VAUGHAN**

Sixteen persons were present for the meeting. Gail reported there is \$3,516 in our bank account.

Dues are due for 2018 @ \$35 per person or couple.  
The Christmas Party will at her house.

Lisa shared her newly acquired G.I. Joe's with Civil War uniforms and equipment.

Our guest speaker was author and retired history and math teacher, Meg Groeling. She spoke about Col. Elmer Ellsworth. He was born May 11, 1839, in Mechanicville, NY. He moved to Illinois and studied law with Abraham Lincoln. In addition to the law, he studied military science in his spare time.

He had a friend who reportedly had been a surgeon with a French Zouave Regiment. Elmer became interested in their snappy drill, and formed a drill team, dressed in the gaudy Zouave uniform. The unit became famous as it toured several cities. Ellsworth trained several state militia units.

Meg's research discovered that Elmer performed a series of stump speeches in October for Lincoln's 1860 Presidential campaign, and his speeches are credited with helping swing the vote for Lincoln in Sangamon County. Then Elmer accompanied Lincoln on the inaugural train to Washington. Elmer became a close friend of the Lincolns, and played with the children.

April 15<sup>th</sup>, Elmer traveled to New York City to organize the 11<sup>th</sup> NY "Fire Zouaves", recruited from firemen. He was elected to be their Colonel, and brought the unit to protect the Capitol. He and Lincoln were both aggravated by the sight of the large Confederate flag flying across the river in Alexandria. When the Union forces moved across the river to occupy Alexandria,

Elmer led his Zouaves to capture the offending flag on top of the Marshal House. As Ellsworth descended the stairs with the flag, the manager, James Jackson, popped out with a shotgun and fired a blast into the colonel's heart.

Lincoln arranged for Ellsworth's body to lay in state in the East Room of the White House. Thousands mourned the first officer to fall in the war, and thousands enlisted to answer the call "Remember Ellsworth". The 44<sup>th</sup> New York Regt. adopted the name "The Ellsworth Avengers."

Meg donated one of her books and an Ellsworth memorial emblem to our raffle.

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#### **4. CIVIL WAR HUMOR: From "The Blue & Grey Laughing"**

Abe, once reminded of the enormous cost of the war, remarked, 'Ah, yes! That reminds me of a wooden-legged amateur who happened to be with a Virginia skirmishing party when a shell burst near him, smashing his artificial limb to bits and sending a piece of iron through the calf of a soldier near him. The soldier grinned and bore it like a man, while the amateur was loud and emphatic in his lamentations. Being rebuked by the wounded soldier, he replied, 'Oh, yes, it's all well enough for it. Your leg didn't cost you anything and will heal up, but I paid two hundred dollars for mine!'"

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#### **5. WEST COAST CWRT CONFERENCE:**

Mike Green and I traveled to the conference in Sacramento. It was great that the dining and meeting rooms were adjacent to the lobby.

The attendees were friendly, and the meals were good. It was a very “relaxed” schedule, with lots of breaks between speakers.

The theme was “Lesser Known Battles”. The Jerry Russell award went to Sac con organizer Paul Ruud, and a second one to historian Jack Davis.

Jack gave two unique presentations, one “The Confederate Kardashian” Lorretta Velasquez. His research concluded that she was a total fraud, who was good at manipulating the media.

The second was based upon a trove of letters recently discovered in an attic! They were the letters of General Gabriel Wharton and his wife, all packed away in 15 boxes and two trunks. The humorous historian, Brian Wills from Kennesaw State U., gave two talks on Monocacy and the really little known Longstreet’s Suffolk campaign.

Ted Savas presented the amazing tale of the CSS Arkansas. Jim Stanberry usually thinks outside the box, and poked a lot of holes in some of the theories of the Battle of Spring Hill. It was curious that they brought back Thomas Cartwright to repeat his talks from 2014 on the Battles of Franklin and Brice’s Cross Roads. However, his riveting style was made even better with some nice maps. Jim’s tech support guy, Doug, was instrumental in helping these projections.