



BUGLE CALLS, NOVEMBER 2021

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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1. COMING EVENTS:

A. November 11th CWRT Meeting, “Show & Tell” Bring a book, picture, or artifact to show and talk about. Please let Patti know what you will bring.

DENNY’S RESTURANT, 710 W. SHAW

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Meeting:

7:15 Program:

8:15 Book Raffle

B. December 9th: Christmas Party

DENNY’S RESTURANT, 710 W. SHAW

Bring a gift for a “Yankee Swap”. Also, some Christmas goodies for a dessert would be nice!

There will be a short slide show of Civil War Christmas scenes, along with a short essay on how the war changed the holiday.

C. January 13th: “Colonel Freemantle In Person,”

AKA Peter Lee.

D. February 10th: “Prelude to War: The 1850’s,”
Tom Ebert.

E. March 10th: “Berdan’s Rifles,” Bernie Quinn.

2. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello members,

It is with great sadness, one of our past members David Davenport has passed away, succumbing to an aggressive form of liver cancer 10-27-2021. David Davenport was a value to our Round Table; he has made many contributions towards our group.

Mr. Davenport was a history teacher for Fresno City College, he also work the Fresno county library system. He has also been an active participant as a CW re-enactment at the annual Kearney Park Civil War Revisited. Mr. David P Davenport will be greatly missed.

If you wish to send a card to Dave's mother, her address is:

*Mrs. Ruth Davenport
290 Lincoln St.
Coalinga, CA 93210*

On that note our next meeting will be 11-11-21 Thursday. The meeting will be show & tell. The Christmas party is 12-09-21 with a Yankee swap. Peter Lee will speak on 1-13-21 as Col. Fremantle.

Regards,
Michael Spencer

3. AFTER ACTION REPORT

By Ron Vaughan, Secretary

Eight persons were present at our meeting. It seems we had competition from the Dodgers vs Giants game. Mike Green was released from Rehab Hospital today, and is at home doing well. Since Mike Green

resigned as Treasurer, and no one volunteered to be treasurer, it was decided to combine the office with the Secretary (Ron Vaughan) as a “Secretary-Treasurer” position. Tom Ebert moved to vote on this and Patty Spencer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Ron will set up the bank account. Many checks are on hand that were never deposited, so they may not be honored. When I went to the Bank of Sierra to set up an account, they said tax ID # was needed. Gayle had set up our previous account using her SSA # instead. Bank said they could not now do such a thing. I went on IRS site and applied for a number. It required payment of \$250. Hopefully the number will be received soon.

I spoke with a power-point program on “The Whole Story of The Battle of Little Round Top, Gettysburg.” It was based on a book “America’s Bloody Hill OF Destiny” by Phillip Thomas Tucker. The author’s thesis is that the fighting on the right flank of Vincent’s Brigade was more important than Col. Chamberlain’s celebrated stand on the left.

Here is a summary of my talk: I outlined General Lee's battle plan for July 2nd 1863, and how things went awry with the wounding of General Hood at the outset, making General Evander Law the new Division commander, of which he was unaware for some time. Law's Brigade was intended to skirt the base of the Round Tops and hit Cemetery Ridge. However, two Alabama regiments became involved in chasing the U.S. Sharpshooters Regiment over Big Round Top. Two other Alabama regiments veered off towards Devil's Den. The Texas Brigade became split, with the 4th & 5th Texas joining the attack on Little Round Top. The days marching and one mile charge had caused the Confederates to be exhausted and very thirsty, but they came on regardless.

Meanwhile, General Govenour Warren, had noticed the build up of Confederate troops and sent out couriers to bring troops to the undefended Little Round Top. Colonel Strong Vincent's Brigade was the first to arrive on the hill, just in time. Law seems to have had about 4,800 men, while Vincent had 2,800.

The position of the 20th Maine was critical, as it was bent into a horseshoe shape by the 15th Alabama. With his men out of ammunition, Chamberlain ordered a bayonet charge. At the same time, Law had ordered his troops to withdraw. Which came first, is a subject of debate.

On the Union right flank, the under-strength 16th Michigan was being pressed by the 4th Texas, who gradually were outflanking them. Finally the 16th broke and began to retreat, with the Texans in pursuit. Just then Col. Stephen Weed's Union Brigade arrived on the scene. They had been double timing up and over the crest. The leading regiment was the 140th New York, led by Col. Patrick O'Rourke. They seem to have been a column of divisions (a column with a front of 2 companies wide, and 10 ranks deep). The column smashed into the Texans, and after a vicious melee in which O'Rourke was killed, the Texans were defeated. Soon after the rest of Weed's Brigade arrived and took up positions.

Law's command suffered 1366 casualties, while Vincent's Brigade lost 565, including Col. Vincent.

4. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From “Blue & Gray Laughing”

“Grant came to Coffeeville, with a portion of his army, 20 miles from our (Confederate) camp. One of our mischievous lads came riding into camp, saying that he just got very important news from the headquarters of General Pemberton. ‘What is it?’ cried out many eager voices.

‘There has been a flag of truce sent into town.’ ‘Who sent it?’ demanded the excited crowd. ‘Old Grant himself,’ was the reply. ‘Well, what does he want?’ ‘Oh, nothing much—only he says that he wishes to conduct war on civilized principles, and as he intends to shell this town, he requests that the women, children, and the Mississippi regiment of cavalry be removed from all danger.’”