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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT OCTOBER 2012

Hello all

It has been an interesting month. I have spent most of my time working on getting the 2013 conference going.

I am proud and happy to announce that Dr. Craig Symonds has agreed to serve as our keynote speaker and will also make a presentation on the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

For those of you that haven't heard of Professor Symonds, he is a well known author of Civil War books and served as the Civil War historian at the United States Naval Academy. Many of us have had the pleasure of hearing Craig's presentations. He is always entertaining and informative. We are very lucky to have Craig as one of our speakers.

After his great presentation on cartoon propaganda during the Civil War, Alex Fabros informed me that part of his history masters' thesis was on the diplomatic relations between the United States and the government of Mexico. We were looking for a speaker to cover the diplomacy between the United States and the Confederate State with Mexico during the Civil War. This would include the taking over of Mexico by French forces during the Civil War and the reaction of the two governments, Confederate and Union, to this situation. This should be a very interesting

presentation and we thank Alex for stepping up for this task.

The Round Table will start taking reservations for the 2013 conference/cruise at the beginning of November. Of course we hope that most of you will join us at the conference that we are sponsoring. It is important to get a good number of reservations in ASAP. We will start our push at the West Coast Conference.

Speaking of the West Coast Conference. The 2012 conference is scheduled for November 2 through 4. It is going to be housed at the Hotel Hartford in Costa Mesa and they will have an interesting set of speakers who will focus on the events of the Civil War in 1862. They have also offered the opportunity to travel to several places in the southern California area that have background dealing with the Civil War. Walt Schulze and I will be heading down to the conference on the second. I hope to see many of you at the conference. It is important to support our sister Round Tables.

Our speaker this month is some guy who is going to try to let you see how important the Battle of South Mountain was and what it would be like to have had to fight in those battles. There are actually three separate battles as well as an explanation what was going on before the battles and why this action was so important. His focus will not be to talk about all the movements of every division and company in the fight, but rather to see, through photographic methods, what the ground was like. The program will be a power point presentation. I know that the speaker hopes that you will enjoy the program. By the way, I happen to be the speaker.

October is when our designated battlefield, Raymond, Mississippi, will have its re-enactment. While the re enactment is being presented, a small program will take place dedicating the latest canon our Round Table contributed to the battlefield.

The canon will be dedicated to a young man, Cameron Owen, from the Vicksburg area who worked on the canon crew at the National Military Park and then went on to serve his country as an Army Ranger. He had a tour in Iraq and then came home. He passed away at an early age. We want to wish the family of Cameron the best and hope that the program is a success.

We will again will have a booth at the Kearny Park reenactment at the end of the month. We will need as many of you as possible to help out at the booth. Please contact Patty if you are willing to put some time into helping out. The nice thing about helping out is that you get into the event for free. So contact Patty today.

Speaking of Patty, we are still looking for someone to host the Christmas get together. The time is short and we need someone to step up and volunteer now.

So contact Patty if you are willing to take this on.

I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at Denny's on Shaw in Clovis on Thursday, October 11. Remember if you want to have dinner please get there about 6 P.M. The business meeting will start at 7:00P.M. and the presentation on the Battle of South

Mountain will start about 7:15. It should be over at about 8:15. See you there.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Green

President, SJVCWRT

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 9/13/12

By Ron Vaughan

NEWS:

Mike entered 18 photos at the Tulare County Fair, and won 11 ribbons, including "Best of Show!" Congratulations Mike!

2013 CWRT Conference Cruise: Craig Symonds has agreed to be keynote speaker. He is joining the slate of speakers mentioned in the last Bugle Calls, plus Jim Stanbury. Reservations for the Carnival Cruise open in November 2012. Cruise leaves Fri. 11/1/13 at 6 pm, and returns Monday 6 am. More information will be forth-coming.

Jonathon Schulze is enlisting in the military, so I have been appointed Secretary.

If there are any volunteers for Secretary or Newsletter Editor-- let us know.

Our non-profit status has been approved through the diligent efforts of Dr. Clague. A few more steps are required to achieve 501-C. Brian is working on this.

We discussed the possible alternative restaurants for our meetings. Some commented that they enjoy the economy of the Senior Specials at Denneys, but it is a small space and sometimes noisy. Marie Callendars at Shaw and Cedar was suggested, and many expressed that they liked the menu choices there. (Note that as of the end of Sept, a number of Marie Callendars in the Bay area have closed due to financial losses. We will have to see if this affects Frseno.)

Walt Schulze reported that our Treasury Balance as of 9/1/12, is \$1,690.21.

In Sept. I sent out nearly 70 snail mail letters with copies of the newsletter, to encourage attendance at the Sept meeting, but the result of the effort was only 15 persons present. Only 7 letters were returned by the P.O.

At our Oct. meeting, Mike Green will present a program on the Battle of South Mountain; Nov. Tom Lubas will speak about the controversial General Benjamin Butler; Dec. will be a Christmas party. We are hoping that someone will volunteer their house, otherwise it will be at Denney's as usual.

Alex Fabros's 30 minute power point presentation dealt with anti-bellum and CW political cartoons. He had dozens of old cartoons on the screen, which are just part of his collection of over a thousand.

The political cartoons of the day varied in quality, from rough wood-cuts, to very well drawn detailed pictures, and sometimes in color. Sometimes the cartoon took up the entire front page of a newspaper or magazine. Alex showed how symbols came to be used, such as the Democrat donkey and the Republican elephant.

Sometimes the public was depicted as a buffoon, who is easily swayed by politicians. (We still see this to-day!) We saw how elections were frequently depicted as some form of a foot or horse race. (Just like modern times.) Alex showed the famous 1864 cartoon of Lincoln saying "Don't switch horses in the middle of a race." As in modern times, there were cartoons showing a candidate flip-flopping or being two-faced. I think the one that stood out the most in my mind depicted a slave tearing a map of the U.S. in half, along the Mason Dixon line.

It was a most enjoyable presentation.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From "Blue & Gray Laughing"

"Quartermasters in the army have a habit that whenever the men surreptitiously confiscate a pig or lamb, they seize it and make use there of at headquarters. The boys of an Indiana Regiment, in a recent case, were too fast for their Quartermaster. It happened this way: while out on picket they captured a nice young dog, dressed it neatly, and brought it into camp, taking care that the Quartermaster should get wind of it. It was seized, and the headquarters ate, as they supposed, some nice fresh lamb. The joke was too good to keep quiet, and the Quartermaster was teased so unmercifully that a special order had to be issued to stop the fun."

CIVIL WAR QUIZ

Bring your answers to the next meeting. The most correct will win a book, providing at least one raffle ticket was purchased.

- 1. What guerrilla was hanged in front of U.S. Colored Troops for the reported massacre of black prisoners at Saltville?
- 2. Who was the last surviving general of the CSA?
- 3. What general was reduced to the rank of colonel after having been drunk at Mill Springs, Ky., in 1862?
- 4. What future general lent travel money to U.S. Grant when Grant resigned from the Army in California?
- 5. Who refused to use peeper on his food, saying it gave him pains in his left leg?
- 6. Weighing in at 320 pounds, who was the heaviest Codfederate general?
- 7. What brigadier general, who was once Governor of Virginia, suffered constantly from pleurisy?
- 8. Under the CSA Furlough and Bounty Act of 1862, how much cash did

a soldier receive for a three year enlistment?

- 9. Which five Indian tribes furnished warriors who fought under Albert Pike?
- 10. What general was carried on the roll of a New Orleans unit as an honorary private, with the color sergeant answering "Absent on duty!" when the roster was called?





