



Bugle Call Echoes

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

November 2006

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2006 San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table Board of Directors

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From Our President,

For those members who sat out the Sacramento's Annual West Coast Symposium on the *War on the Waters*, they missed a great one. Many interesting topics and all were well presented. The conference was all that I hoped from it, and maybe more. One member captured the whole proceeding on video and promises to make a copy for our use. When available, it will be loaned for your enjoyment.

We have another interesting meeting coming Thursday, Nov. 30th, at the Ramada with leaders from the past [Lincoln and Jeff Davis] to illuminate the present. See page 2, and please plan to attend. You can expect band music from the Civil War era compliments of the Sacramento Brass Band during the dinner hour.

President
Brian Clague



Mark Your Calendars:

Round Table Will Join with Valley Reenactors for Christmas Party on Sat., December 16th

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table is pleased to announce that our 2006 Christmas Party will be held in conjunction with that of the Civil War Reenactments Society on Saturday, December 16, 2006, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 1610 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, California. The party begins at 6:00 PM.

Tickets for this gala event are \$18.00 for adults and \$6.00 for a child's plate. Checks must be made out to "C. W. R. S." and mailed to Mary Miller, the CWRS treasurer, at 799-A W. Marinette Ave., Exeter, CA 93221.

When buying tickets please choose from one of three entrees: Fettuccini Alfredo, Baked Lasagna, and Chicken Marsala. The child's plates is either spaghetti or Macaroni and Cheese.

Period dress is encouraged but not required. Gentlemen should wear civilian apparel or a clean uniform. Ladies should wear gowns without hoops or other appropriate day wear.



SJVCWRT November 30th End-of-the-Month Dinner to Feature Lincoln, Jeff Davis

The Round Table meeting on Thurs., November 30, 2006, should prove to be among our most memorable. In commemoration of Mr. Lincoln's Proclamation establishing a Day of Thanksgiving, a cease-fire has been declared and both President Lincoln (Wayne Scott) and President Davis (Steve Ganner) will be in attendance. Each has a greed to a lighthearted conversation about the issues facing these United States at the time of the 1860 election, the actions each man felt compelled to take with respect to the outcome of the election, and each man's "critique" of his own conduct of the war. And given enough encouragement from the audience we may also convince each man to speak of his aspirations for the future once the hostilities have ended.

To encourage a sense of "time travel" all who attend, who have the ability to do so, should plan on wearing period garb. One hopes that this will result in appearances by Dr. Meux (Charles Bailey), General Lee (Todd Holmes), and a host of others.

Those unable to wear period garb should also plan on participating by preparing questions for our esteemed guests. Pretty much anything should be considered as appropriate. Dr. Davenport, for example, plans to ask President Davis about his decision as Secretary of War in the Pierce Administration to experiment with camels in the arid Southwest.

And please remember to make your dinner reservation by calling Phyllis Mann at 229-3778 [afternoon or evenings, please] or e-mail Phyllis at pfm02@sbcglobal.net.



AFTER ACTION REPORT THE "UMPTENTH" BATTLE OF KEARNEY MANSION

By Ron Vaughan

I hope all of you travelled out to the park to view the full size replica of the submarine Hunley. It was very crowded, and would have been better if they had a viewing line and let in a dozen or so at a time, so that all could see. I dropped by after 5:00 so I could get unobstructed photos. Sac CWRT member George Foxworth was there Sat., manning the Hunley souvenir booth, where I purchased a replica of Lt. Dixon's bullet-dented gold dollar.

Our CWRT booth was great— good job Dr. Dave, Pattie, and others.

There were fewer re-enactors this year, especially Confederates. Not many came from So. Cal. due to a big time line event the same weekend. Our Fresno group, the 6th Iowa Infy. had 14 present, combined with a similar number of the 72nd N.Y. from N. Cal. The Union Infy had two battalions, each with four companies of 25-30 men each. We managed to do a number of complicated maneuvers without goofing up or getting anyone hurt.

The cavalry was not so lucky— four riders managed to find themselves flying off their horses. Only Ray Appleton (portraying a Union General), was seriously injured, when his horse became startled, slipped in its own "horse apples" and then fell on top of the (by then dismounted) rider.

AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR SJVCWRT MEETING OF 9/28/06

By Ron Vaughan

This meeting was a little different, in that the 30 members watched a CSPAN video presentation. The last "Bugle Call Echoes" provided an ample biography of Mary Chestnut and author Dr. Elizabeth Showalter Muhlenfeld, so I will not repeat that here.

If you stayed away from this meeting, because you thought a video would be boring, you missed out! What made the event truly memorable, was that the author was interviewed on the site of the Mulberry Plantation, S. C. where Mary Chestnut lived. We were able to view much of the beautiful grounds of the Plantation. Dr. Davenport fast forwarded through some of the parts of the video, that were less interesting, especially the viewer call-in questions, which he said were mostly inane. If I had been a caller, I would have asked her if she had any relation to Daniel Showalter, the California secessionist politician that shot a Republican and fled to the Confederacy.

According to Dr. Muhlenfeld, Mary C. is interesting to modern readers, because of behind-the-scenes knowledge of the CSA government and her many "irreverent" views and comments about Southern leaders, slavery, and feminism. If you wish to view the program, you may contact Dr. Dave to borrow the video, and watch in the privacy of your own home.

An added feature of the meeting was a brief presentation by Wayne Scott, about his recent trip to Illinois— the Lincoln home and museum. He appeared at the museum in his Lincoln reenactment outfit, and startled some visitors who mistook him for a wax figure! The highlight of his research at the museum was to find that one of his ancestors and Lincoln's father were cousins, or something like that (I can't always take notes fast enough to get it straight!)

**AFTER ACTION REPORT
SJVCWRT MEETING OF
10/26/06**

By Ron Vaughan



VP Dave Davenport
Working on
Speaker-Presenter
2007 Schedule

We had 28 persons present to hear Jim Stanbery's presentation on Civil War Naval Strategy. Jim noted that the CSA's 485 commissioned ships by the war's end (compared to 600 US), which was a remarkable accomplishment for a CSA Navy that started out with no ships.

He outlined four Strategic Priorities for the USA & CSA Navies:

I. Supporting/Opposing Movements by US Armies along major Southern Waterways.

A. Grant and Foote were successful on the Cumberland, Tennessee, and Mississippi Rivers.

B. McClellan had to change his plan of advance on Richmond via the James R. to the York R. due to the presence of the CSS Virginia.

C. Building a few Ironclads vs Building "Mosquito" Fleets with numbers of lightly protected vessels.

1. The "mosquito" fleets on the Mississippi were unsuccessful. i.e. Battle of Memphis.

2. CSA Ironclads in the various Southern coastal rivers were successful in intimidating the advance of Union fleets.

II. Closing/Securing Southern Ports

A. Major ports were Charleston, Wilmington, Mobile, and New Orleans.

B. New Orleans was captured in '62, but Charleston held until '64, Wilmington '65.

III. Taking/Holding the CSA's Strategic Estuaries

A. US captured Ft. Pulaski & Port Royal early in the war, but few successes on the Carolina and Georgia coast afterward.

B. Gen. R.E. Lee's 1st assignment was the SE coast, where he planned defenses up river and out of range of Union heavy naval guns. This combination of batteries, river obstacles, and small ironclads, was successful in resisting advances into the CSA interior, where there were many small machine shops and ship building facilities.

IV. Saving/Sinking Union Commerce on the High Seas

A. CSA raiders sunk some 200 US merchant ships, but it was a hollow triumph (only 1/5 of fleet).

B. US merchant fleet continued to increase and many ships changed their registration to foreign flags.

C. CSA should have tried to build more ironclads (instead of raiders) in foreign ports or to have imported steam engines and armor.

Round Table Vice President Dr. Dave Davenport has tentatively scheduled the following speakers for Jan-June of 2007. *NOTE It is also a reminder for members to renew their membership for the new year using the form on the back.*

Jan 25 - Bob Summers of the LACWRT will speak about "Music of the Civil War"

Feb 22 - On this date in 1732 George Washington was born. I am planning a birthday party for him with cake, ice cream, and speeches by anyone who wishes to make one about this Great Man. I also hope that people will be willing to discuss what they believe Washington's views on the Civil War might have been.

Mar 29 - Bill Head will present "The Effect of Religion on the Southern War Effort"

Apr 26 - Dennis Kohlman (Sacramento CWRT) will speak on "The Irish in the War"

May 31 - Fred Bohmfalk (Sacramento CWRT) will speak on "Stephen Foster and the Civil War"

Saturday, June 30, Our annual summer Picnic and Fourth of July celebration.



MEMBERSHIP FORM - The 2007 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 - \$12.50*

_____ NEWSLETTER ONLY - \$12.50*

*\$5.00 of each membership goes toward Civil War Battlefield Preservation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Bring this membership form and your check to our next monthly meeting, or mail it to our P.O. Box address listed below % Tom Carr-Membership.

Civil War Humor

From "Blue & Gray Laughing"

A Connecticut soldier wrote home that the commissary at Annapolis had given the boys so much mule meat that the ears of the whole regiment had grown 3 1/2 inches since their arrival!

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