



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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President's Message

By David Paul Davenport

Our next to the last meeting of 2010 features Dan Sniffen, a Fresno State Farm Insurance Agent. He will not be selling us insurance. Instead, he will be presenting the remarkable story of the "Free State of Winston", a Republic in Northern Alabama, created by Unionists who refused to support the Confederate State of Alabama. Some of these Union Loyalists were among Dan's ancestors.

For further information about the resistance to Confederate authority in places like northern Alabama I refer all of you to "Bitterly Divided: The South's Inner Civil War" by David Williams of Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia. A review of Professor William's book was published in our February 2010 Bugle Calls which can be viewed on our website www.sjvcwrt.com. Just go to the upper left of the home page and click on "Bugle Calls." This opens a listing of the back issues of Bugle Calls in pdf format. You will need to have Adobe Reader installed on your computer, but this is available at no charge over the internet.

We gather on November 11 at 6:00 pm at Denny's on Shaw Avenue in Clovis just east of Willow. Dan's talk will begin at 7:15 after a brief business meeting at 7 pm. Dinner is served shortly after you place your order from the menu. I should also remind you that Thursday's are Senior's night at Denny's, which I believe means that a second entree on the same check of equal or lesser value is free. And bring some extra cash. The framed prints and poster for which we sold raffle tickets at Kearney Park will be on display and I hope you will buy a ticket or two.

See you there.
David

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 10/14/10

By Ron Vaughan

Our attendance was wonderful, with 26 persons present! Included were two new members, Dallas and Diana, recruited at Kearney Park.

The drawing for the McPherson Book and the two statues was held. The book and Buffalo Soldier were won by non-members. Brian Claque won the Cavalryman, but said that it should go to myself. I had put in a couple of tickets, with the idea, that if I won, I would offer it for a future raffle. However, I learned that Wayne Scott had purchased a large number of tickets, in hopes of winning it for his office. Therefore I gave it to him. Later, when he had a winning book raffle ticket, he returned the favor.

Our speaker was Tom Lubas of the South Bay CWRT. His program, "Bleeding Kansas-- The Kansas - Missouri Border War." He opined that most writers on this controversial topic, have difficulty separating fact from bias. Tom stated "Only God knows the future, but it takes a historian to change the past!" He also, said that he believes both sides actions in the Kansas Border Wars were equally reprehensible!

Tom stated that it was significant that the most popular book in the North was "Uncle Tom's Cabin", while in the South, it was "Ivanhoe". Understanding the "Political Math" is necessary to understanding the Kansas problem. There was rivalry between the slave and the free states, requiring a balance.

In 1818, when Missouri Territory petitioned to become a state, the Missouri Compromise of 1820 kept the balance by admitting Maine at the same time. The next challenge came with the admission of California, which was settled by the Compromise of 1850, which was a package of five various "deals," which resulted in 16 free and 15 slave states. It was hoped that The Kansas - Nebraska Act of 1854, created those two territories and allowed for "popular sovereignty" or a vote to determine whether a new state would be free or slave. However, opposition created the formation of the new Republican Party, and the struggle to win the vote, ignited bloody conflict in Kansas. Abolitionists and pro-slavery activists immigrated to Kansas. The highlights of conflict in Kansas were as follows: The Wakarusa War in Nov. & Dec., 1855, around Lawrence; The Potawatomie Massacre of May, 1856; The Battle of Black Jack June, 1856; The Battle of Ossawatomie, July 1856, (John Brown was involved in the latter three fights); and finally The Marais des Cignes Massacre June, 1858. All of these events were played up in the press and horrified the Nation, increasing the political fever of the time. When the Civil War began, the infighting and revenge killings continued. Tom identified five kinds of protagonists: 1. Bushwackers, men from both sides, who fought for personal gain. 2. Jayhawkers

A CIVIL WAR VETERANS DAY POEM

Dr. Davenport found the following poem in the minutes of the Grand Army of the Republic encampment in Colorado from about 1890. Note the footnote, which includes information about local California GAR Camps.

The Little Bronze Button
By Comrade H. A. Webb, Aurora, Illinois.

(An air to be sung to the tune of "The Old Oaken Bucket")

There's a little bronze emblem
that's treasured more dearly
Than diamond, or ruby, or jewel,
or star,
To heroes entitled to wear it sincerely,

It links them together, these comrades of war.

What memories it brings of the dead and the living

Of fathers and brothers who struggled and fought,

Those veterans who fought to preserve us a nation

Are known by the button they wear on their coat.

Chorus:

The little bronze button, that glorified button,

The old soldier's button he wears on his coat.

Still keep it in view, that little bronze button,

And honor the wearers, old brave boys in blue,

They marched side by side 'twill never be forgotten,

'Tis the Grand Army button they wear and so true,

That little bronze button, the charm of the wearer,

The gray bearded soldiers who've laid by their arms,

They're mastering our heroes,

were Free Stater guerrillas, who clashed with the proslavery "Border Ruffians". 4. The Red Legs were an unofficial company of riders who wore red leather leggings, and tried to guard the Kansas border against incursions.

5. Partisans were the same as the earlier Border Ruffians, Southern fighters from Missouri. 6. Guerrillas were extreme Partisans. Tom described all of them as "Opportunistic Sociopaths", who manipulated their "cause" to their own advantage and often personal gain.

Tom listed five main players in the struggle: 1. Senator James Lane, an orator who became the President of the first Kansas Free State Convention. Later was elected Senator, and returned in 1861 as a General of Militia, and formed a brigade of Jayhawkers and Red Legs. He led raids on Southern towns and brought back freed slaves. 2. Col. Charles Jennison, was considered the most brutal of the Jayhawkers.

3. General Thomas Ewing Jr., was Col. of the 11th Kansas Infy., promoted to Brigadier General in 1863, in response to Bushwackers and Quantrill's Lawrence Raid, he issued General Order # 11, which required all citizens in the border counties to take a loyalty oath or leave. Troops took advantage of the order to get revenge. 4. The School Teacher, William Quantrill formed the most infamous band of guerillas that preyed upon Unionists. 5. Bloody Bill Anderson was one of Quantrill's men, but he thought Quantrill was too soft. Bill liked to plunder, terrorize, and kill all the Unionists he could. The stories of any one of these characters could be a complete talk by themselves.

This theme of intericine fighting will continue at our next meeting, Nov. 11th: Dan Sniffen will be speaking on "The Alabama Unionists and the Free State

each day by the hundreds, Those veterans who battled to save us our farms.

Chorus:

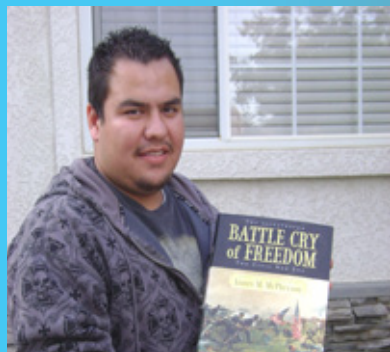
The little bronze button, that glorified button,
The old soldier's button he wears on his coat.

1. The term "comrade" was used as a generic greeting among members of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union Veterans organization established in Decatur, Illinois, in 1868. From its humble origins it spread nationally with Posts established even in rather small communities in every state. In 1890 there were over 400,000 members nationally, organized into Posts numbered within "Departments" in the order in which they were founded and usually given a name to honor a battle or leader. For example, the Post in Hanford, California, was McPherson Post 51. Gettysburg Post 59 was located at Tulare; Atlanta Post 92 at Fresno; Union Post 99 at Lemoore; Gov. Dick Yates Post 111 at Traver; Island No. 10 Post 109 at Selma; General G. Wright Post 111 at Visalia; Hurlbutt Post 127 at Bakersfield; Benjamin Butler Post 166 at Madera (later changed to Benjamin Harrison); and Porterville Post 167 at Porterville. There were 187 Posts in the Department of California, Nevada, and Hawaii Territory. Aurora Post 20 was, like Porterville, California, named for the town in which it met.

In 1860 Henry Webb was a member of Company D of the 96th Illinois Infantry.

HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY

This November 6th is the 150th Anniversary of the election of Abraham Lincoln as President. This event was the "match" that lit the "fuse" of Secession and War. This fuse had been laid down during the previous decades of North vs South rivalry and controversy.



Raffel Ticket Winner from Kearney Park

"Jeff Moosios of Madera won the raffle for James McPherson's Battle Cry of Freedom. Jeff is a senior at Fresno State majoring in History."

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From "Blue & Gray Laughing"

A soldier of the 24th Ohio saw two others from his company making a rude coffin. He inquired who it was for. "John Bince," said the others.

He replied, "Why John is sick. but not dead yet. It is bad to make a man's coffin when you don't know if he is going to die or not."

"Don't trouble yourself," replied the others. "Dr. Coe told us to make his coffin, and I guess he knows what remedy he gave John."

Minutes of the October 14 Meeting

Meeting begins 7:04

Raffle tickets from Kearny Park

Winner of battle cry of freedom: Jeff Moosios

Winner of union cavalry officer statue: Wayne Scott
Buffalo soldier statue winner: J. West

Walt Schulze gave the Treasurers report and the balance is \$1503.99

David discusses raffling prints from Kearny Park at November meeting and at the San Francisco

Mike introduces speaker Tom Lubas to give a presentation on Bloody Kansas, or the border wars between Kansas and Missouri.

Dave announces the November 11th meeting on Alabama Unionists and the free state of Winston being presented to us by Dan Sniffen

Dave raffles off books and ends the meeting at 8:31 PM

Respectively Submitted:

Jon Schulze
Secretary SJVCWRT

Pictures from Kearney Park 2010

"Our President, David Davenport, stands behind the copy of McPherson's Battle Cry of Freedom, one of the six items we raffled to raise funds for Preservation. \$400 was received from this, two statues donated by Ron Vaughn, a print donated by Don Troiani, a print donated by Mort Kunstler, and a poster donated by David Davenport."



"Dr. Peters lectures about Civil War Medicine in the tent sponsored by Fresno Community Hospital with the assistance of Dr. Brian Clague at the far right. Brian was facing a laptop computer so only his back side is shown."

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