



BUGLE CALLS, OCTOBER 2019

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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1. OCTOBER 10TH MEETING:

STEVE MADDEN from Southern CA will join us to speak on "Shades of Grey"

DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 710 W. SHAW AVE., CLOVIS
6:00 Dinner & social hour
7:00 Meeting

2. UPCOMING EVENTS:

- a. Oct. 19 & 20, KEARNEY PARK CIVIL WAR REVISTED
(Dates listed last month were in error!)
 - b. Nov. 8th – 10th: WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
CONFERENCE, Sacramento (Hosted by Sacramento CWRT)
 - c. NOV. 14th SJVCWRT MEETING: Mike Carter speaking: “An
Evening with Edward Porter Alexander.”
 - d. DEC. 12th CHRISTMAS PARTY
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3. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE BY MICHAEL SPENCER

Once again fall is here my favorite time of year. Our next meeting will be Thursday October 10th. The speaker for this month will be Steve Madden, his topic is Shades of Grey. While I was out and about shopping Pattie found a National Geographic magazine related to battle and maps at Winco Barnes & Noble might carry it.

On a side note: thinking of what to compose in this message, I thought of the Hunley which was on display at Civil War Revisited a few years ago. That being said, the 30th anniversary of the Historical Society Civil War Revisited is this October 19-20th.

The following is from Wikipedia regarding the CSS Hunley:

Name:	<i>H. L. Hunley</i>
Namesake:	Horace Lawson Hunley
Builder:	James McClintock
Laid down:	Early 1863
Launched:	July 1863
Acquired:	August 1863
In service:	February 17, 1864
Out of service:	February 17, 1864
Status:	Awaiting conservation
General characteristics	
Displacement:	7.5 short tons (6.8 metric tons)

Length:	39.5 ft (12.0 m) Unconfirmed.
Beam:	3.83 ft (1.17 m)
Propulsion:	Hand-cranked propeller
Speed:	4 knots (7.4 km/h; 4.6 mph) (surface)
Complement:	1 officer, 7 enlisted
Armament:	1 spar torpedo

H. L. HUNLEY (submarine)

H. L. Hunley, often referred to as *Hunley*, was a [submarine](#) of the [Confederate States of America](#) that played a small part in the [American Civil War](#). *Hunley* demonstrated the advantages and the dangers of undersea warfare. She was the first combat submarine to sink a warship ([USS Housatonic](#)), although *Hunley* was not completely submerged and, following her successful attack, was lost along with her crew before she could return to base. The Confederacy lost 21 crewmen in three sinkings of *Hunley* during her short career. She was named for her inventor, [Horace Lawson Hunley](#), shortly after she was taken into government service under the control of the [Confederate States Army](#) at [Charleston, South Carolina](#).

Hunley, nearly 40 feet (12 m) long, was built at [Mobile, Alabama](#), and launched in July 1863. She was then shipped by rail on August 12, 1863, to Charleston. *Hunley* (then referred to as the "fish boat", the "fish torpedo boat", or the "porpoise") sank on August 29, 1863, during a test run, killing five members of her crew. She sank again on October 15, 1863, killing all eight of her second crew, including Horace Hunley himself, who was aboard at the time, even though he was not a member of the Confederate military.

Both times *Hunley* was raised and returned to service. On February 17, 1864, *Hunley* attacked and sank the 1,240-[displacement ton United States Navy](#)^[2] [screw sloop-of-war USS Housatonic](#), which had been on [Union blockade](#)-duty in Charleston's outer harbor. *Hunley* did not survive the attack and also

sank, taking with her all eight members of her third crew, and was lost.

Finally located in 1995, *Hunley* was raised in 2000 and is on display in [North Charleston, South Carolina](#), at the [Warren Lasch Conservation Center](#) on the [Cooper River](#). Examination, in 2012, of recovered *Hunley* artifacts suggests that the submarine was as close as 20 feet (6 meters) to her target, *Housatonic*, when her deployed torpedo exploded, which caused the submarine's own loss.^[3]

4. AFTER ACTION REPORT: BY RON VAUGHAN

Twelve persons were present for our meeting. Michael Spencer was contacted by Carol Crook, who found some first edition Civil War books belonging to a relative. She had come across our website, and decided to donate them to us. Michael will try to find out their value. We discussed how we could use them for fund raising, and possibly host another conference. One topic considered would be Grant's 1864 overland campaign. The Fresno Wyndom has changed ownership and name, so we likely would not get the same deal as last time.

Mike Movius had inquired if we would host a CWRT Congress for the West Coast. Ron will inquire about how speakers are arranged for, and who pays for costs.

Mike Green reported on the signs project at Raymond Battlefield that we donated to. The cost of the signs has risen to \$1000 each, but should last for several decades.

Our speaker was Thomas Ebert, co-author with Allen Carden, of the book "Nicolay". Johann George Nicolay was President Lincoln's Personal Secretary. He was born in 1832 in Bavaria, and immigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1837, to Cincinnati. He was small, and couldn't do heavy work, but he was intelligent and had a thirst for learning. He eventually got a job with a newspaper in Pittsfield, Ill.

A lawyer who worked with Lincoln let George use his law library. Soon he became owner of the Free Press newspaper. He met Abraham Lincoln, and they became friends. George used his contacts with other German immigrant newspapers to help Lincoln's political campaigns. In the 1860 Presidential campaign, George became Lincoln's campaign secretary and wrote campaign material. Lincoln valued Nicolay for his connections to the German-American community.

Upon Lincoln's election, Nicolay accompanied him on the train to the Inauguration. Afterward, Lincoln's first official action was to appoint George to be his Private Secretary. John Hay was an assistant. George lived in the White House, but had to walk to the Willard's Hotel for meals. In the lobby, people began to ask George for influence with the President. This is where the term "lobbyist" was born!

In those days it was customary for anyone to walk into the White House, put their name on a list, and talk to the President. Lincoln could not get any work done, so Nicolay became a "gate keeper" for Lincoln. George decide who was important for the President to see.

In 1864 Nicolay received a draft notice. He did not want to fight in ranks, so he hired a substitute for \$550. Soon he was appointed to Be the U.S. Consul in Paris. In June 1865, George married a woman he had courted for 17 years. Four years later he was appointed to be Marshal of the U.S. Supreme Court. Nicolay and Hay researched Lincoln's papers, and wrote the most accurate book on Lincoln's life.

Ebert's talk was well presented, and lasted one hour, followed by questions. Wayne Scott, our Lincoln impersonator, was much involved in the conversation.

The Book raffle followed, including several books donated by Robin Hyatt. Thank you Robin for these and other donations.

5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From "The Blue & Gray Laughing."

Civil War humor could be grotesque. "I remember well, one poor fellow lying, with a scattered arm, upon the operating table at Fairfax Courthouse, while two surgeons were hurriedly consulting, or disputing, whether the arm should be taken off close to the shoulder, or down near the elbow: --'Long life to you, gentlemen, said the sufferer with brogue, 'and leave me enough to hug my girl with!'"

6. PRESERVATION NEWS:

The American Battlefield Trust, in conjunction with Land Conservancy of Adams County has saved 143 acres on the Plank Farm, at Gettysburg.

During the battle, and for weeks after, this farm owned by J.E. Plank, served as one of the largest hospitals in all of Gettysburg. More than 1,500 soldiers of both sides were treated here, including C.S.A. General John Bell Hood.

This is another example of historic ground saved through the generous donations of the Trust's supporters.