



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2015

Hello and I hope all of you are doing well and getting ready to attend the West Coast Conference that our Round Table is putting on November 13,14 and 15 in Tulare. At the present time there are 7 of you signed up and have paid for the conference. I hope that we can get more of you involved.

As a matter of fact I am working on my program. I will have the opportunity of presenting it at our meeting on November 12. I have been having fun putting it together but [as usual] I seem to have more material than I need. Thank goodness because it is always better to have to cut rather than scurry around trying to find stuff to fill in.

Brian Clague put on a great presentation in October of his program for the conference. Ron will fill you in on what it is all about in his minutes.

We will be having people nominated for all of the offices at the November meeting. We will do our elections at the January meeting. Remember that to be able to run for an office and hold an office you need to be a member of the Round Table. At the present time there are only two families that have paid their 2016

dues so it's that time again.

F.Y.I. I announced at the last meeting that I will not run for the president. I have served two terms and it is time for someone else to take over. If you are interested, make sure you come to the November meeting and "throw your hat into the ring".

I have been reflecting on my tenure in office and I have come to the conclusion that there have been some good parts and some not so good parts. The good parts of my tenure are shared with my fellow officers. We have put on one Conference which was interesting and was somewhat successful [2013 the cruise conference] and are about to venture into our second conference which appears to be heading for some success [I define success as, if the people who are participating in it seem to have had a good time, and how profitable it was so that we can make a financial contribution to some worthy Civil War program]. We have put on a public forum with Parker Hills coming in to make his presentation. We have made significant contributions to the Raymond Battlefield and the F.O.R. and have our second cannon tube on the battlefield.

What hasn't been done, I take responsibility for. I haven't been able to increase our membership. Without an increase of active membership, I fear for the future of the Round Table. I take the responsibility of not being more proactive in getting our message out to the public and letting people know what a great organization we have here. I had some ideas as to how to accomplish that but just didn't follow through on them. For that I am sorry and ashamed. I took on this position with the hope that I would be able to make a difference and expand our organization. I just wasn't successful at doing that.

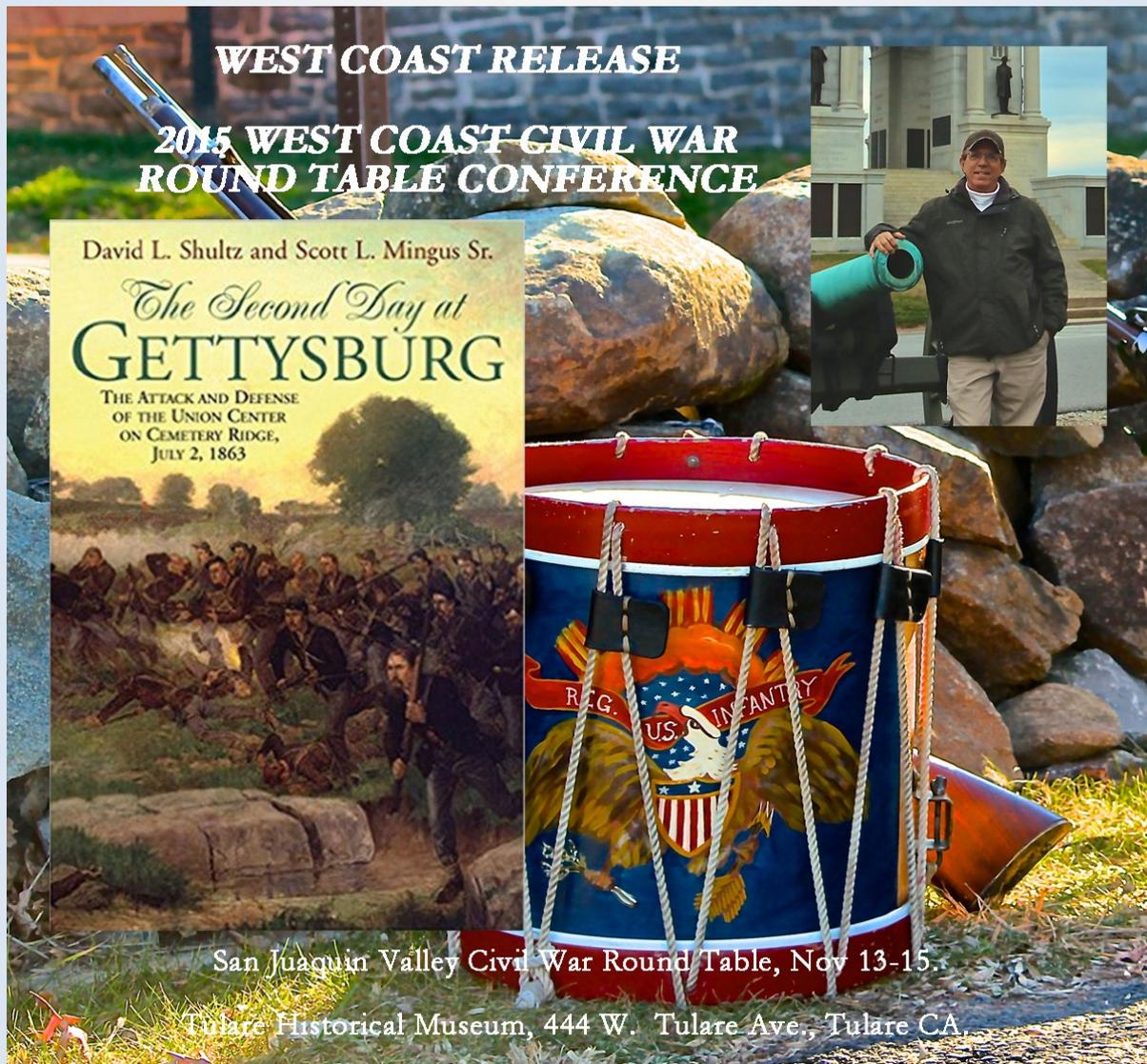
I couldn't have done any of the good stuff without the help and encouragement of Ron, Walt, Pattie, Brian, Michael, and Lisa and of course my lovely wife Carolyn who puts up with my strange passion.

I want to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to have served you in the office of President and I want to wish my successor, whomever that might be all the success in the world.

Yours

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT



Hello Ron,

We took the liberty and sent this proclaiming our new book's release. Being I am a Californian we could not think of a better venue to offer our new product. Our intention is to sell only during designated off hours whereas I will otherwise participate as a visitor who is looking forward to your fine venue of presenters and titles. I have been out of state and am looking forward to rekindling old CW community friendships as well as making new.

If acceptable could you please send me the information (cost) I need to set up one small table.

Looking forward to meeting you.

Best,
David Shultz

AFTER ACTION REPORT OF THE SJVCWRT MEETING OF OCT. 8/2015

BY RON VAUGHAN

Fifteen persons attended the meeting. The West Coast Conference was discussed. We had lost a couple speakers, but managed to obtain a quality replacement: Sam Craghead will speak on the CSS Shenandoah. He is Publicity Director for the American CW Museum in Richmond.

The Schulze's will host our Christmas meeting, 2nd Thursday of Dec. It will feature the popular taco bar, and some of Jonathon's band will entertain us. There will be a \$20 value gift exchange. Please bring a dessert to share and drinks for your family.

The program was Dr. Brian Clague, speaking on the advances in medical practices during the Civil War. **A**t the beginning of the war, medical practices had not changed in 100 years. "Heroic medicine" and the over-reliance upon calomil, mercury, and blistering for treatments predominated. As the war progressed they started to use alcohol, quinine, cod liver oil, and other useful medications. Pharmaceutical companies were formed, though many meds were high in alcohol content.

After 1st Bull Run, the US Army began to reorganize their Medical Department. In 1862 General William Hammond was appointed to head the dept. He began to institute reforms: 1. Improve the quality of doctors. 2. Promote elite doctors to leadership positions. 3. Improve the recruiting and training of regimental surgeons. 4. Hammond purchased medical books and printed numerous articles on treatments. 5. Insisted on detailed record keeping by the regimental surgeons. 6. Require autopsy reports and specimen collections, to be sent to the Army Medical Museum. 7. A library of medical articles was established. 8. Encourage medical research. All of these contributed towards learning better treatment techniques. 9. Establish Specialty Hospitals, that improved care.

Dr. Clague reported that during the war there were 229,000 gunshot wounds treated—32,000 died, and 87,000 needed amputations. Early in the war 50% died of gangrene infections. But by the end to the war, they had learned how to aggressively treat gangrene, so that very few died.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR **From The Blue & Gray Laughing**

1865 Humor: "The only joke we ever heard of being perpetrated by General Sherman is the following: As he rode into the city of Raleigh, North Carolina, he overtook a regiment of veterans singing snatches of various favorite songs. For a few moments Sherman listened, and then called out, 'Well boys, that's good enough, but I'll tell you what I would sing... Raleigh round the flag, boys!'"

WEST COAST CONFERENCE UPDATE

We have only 26 seats left, as of Oct. 29th. We were in need of more dinner tables, and thought of renting some, when the Tulare Salvation Army Corps volunteered to loan theirs, and help with setting them up!

Ted Savas is hosting a Civil War "Jeopardy" Game. It is hoped that we might have individuals or teams from different Round Tables participating.

Mike Green and I set up a display in the Tulare Museum, featuring many things from his collection, about thirty beautiful photos, 5 large ironclad models, artillery shells, a dozen large "action figures" of generals and soldiers, plus other items. I contributed a Civil War chess set that I painted, plus a number of other painted miniatures, and miscellaneous artifacts. The display will be up until the end of December. The local newspaper printed a nice article on the display and coming conference.

KEARNY PARK CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT:

By Ron Vaughan

It was perfect weather for the event, as the skies were mostly cloudy, making it more comfortable, especially for those of us wearing wool! The crowds were smaller, and there were fewer exhibit booths. The increase in the charge to \$150 for the booths, helped us decide to stay out, and probably others.

I heard that they did not invite Ray Appleton to be present as a historical general. I was told that as a result, he said some uncomplimentary things about the Fresno Historical Society on his radio program. This might be one reason why the crowds were smaller. For over 25 years he has talked up the event, giving free publicity on his show. It is very unfortunate for the event, and for the Historical Society, which needs more revenue than ever, now that they are finally opening a historical museum.

Dr. Clague gave his medical talks, and I saw Patti driving in. I met our two "college girls"(regrettably, I forget their names—it is bad to get old!) at the event. They were having a fun time at the hoe down. I am not sure if other members attended, as many were out of town. (Another reason why we did not have a booth.)

I fell in with the 69th New York Infantry,(along with a few of our 6th Iowa). Since their Captain was absent, 1st Sgt. Mike Gatley invited me to serve as their Lieutenant. Mike is quite a recruiter, enlisting 4 "fresh fish on Saturday, and a couple more on Sunday. We needed the reinforcements, as the Union was outnumbered by the Confederates, especially in artillery and cavalry!

During the first Saturday battle, Colonel Kelly ordered me to capture one rebel cannon. This is seldom condoned due to safety rules, and then there was the Confederate supporting infantry to consider! It seemed crazy! But to paraphrase, it was not ours to reason why, but ours to do or die! I led the company forward, and over ran the gun, then we turned left and captured all rest of the suddenly docile Reb gunners, with their 10 cannon. It turned out that this had been prearranged.

The second battle was rather brief, as the Confederates were eager for revenge, and quickly over ran us, rather than draw things out. Starting at 4:00, instead of 6:00, it was not the usual "twilight battle." Nor did the smoke engulf the battlefield, as in the last couple of years. Instead, in the humidity, it drifted off to the east, and clouded up beneath the trees for a while. Our camp guard said he could not see the battlefield anymore!

For the Sunday battle, it was unclear to us, who was supposed to win. In the ensuing fire-fight, the 69th took heavy casualties, and soon only three privates were left with me. Even the Colonel had gone down. Our Major ordered the remaining Federal to fall back, then led a retreat to the trees. The Confederate cavalry used up their ammo and fell back, and their infantry was advancing on our center, blasting away at our remaining infantry and artillery. Suddenly the Major ordered us to form up with the 20th Maine and advance quickly. We took the Rebels in the flank and rolled them up. Then I was ordered to take my three, plus three 2nd Wisconsin survivors to the left, to box in the remaining Rebs. They soon surrendered. It was the most amazing "4th quarter" come-back I have ever experienced!

PRESERVATION NEWS FLASH:

Last weekend, there was a big celebration to dedicate preservation at Fleetwood Hill (Battle of Brandy Station).

There is a campaign on by the Civil War Trust to save a few acres at Antietam. There is a short window of opportunity open now. See the CWPT website for info and donation opportunities.

From The Civil War Trust

On October 16, 2015 this was received by the "Friends of Civil War Alcatraz"

Congratulation on a job well done.

