



BUGLE CALLS DEC. 2016

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1. DECEMBER MEETING-CHRISTMAS PARTY 12/8/16
EVERYONE WELCOME!
PLEASE RSVP TO GAIL SCHULZE BY DEC. 5th: (297-4481)
TIME: 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Schulze house, 1432 Locust Ave., Clovis

Taco Bar! Bring a dessert & drinks for yourself & guests.
If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped item of \$20 value.

2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE December 2016:

Hello to you all.

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you are on the way to getting ready for Christmas.

Last month Ron stepped in to fill the slot of a speaker who had to cancel at the last minute. He did a great job in a presentation about southern soldier who went south to Mexico after the war. It was a very interesting presentation and after we got the power point program started, it went along well.

This month we will be having our Christmas get together at Gail Schulze's place in Clovis on December 8. The party will start at 6:30 P.M. Gail will provide the taco bar and we are asking you to bring a small desert and a beverage. We will be having our usual gift exchange and we ask you to bring something with a value of about \$20.00. We always have fun mixing and matching the presents. I have also heard that Johnathan may be providing the entertainment. We were very impressed with the entertainment two years ago. I had some of my pictures from this years Civil War calendar in the last Bugle Call and I have the rest of them in this months newsletter. If you like them, come to the party this month and see if you can win one of the two calendars that will be in the gift exchange.

I want to remind you that this is the end of the year and that dues are due. The dues are \$35.00/family and they go to help defray the costs of our guest speakers. It also gives us an understanding as to who are full-fledged, voting members of the Round Table. Please bring your checks for the dues to the party so that you can give them to our treasure. If you are unable to join us at the party, please send them to Gail.

I received an email from General Hills at the Raymond Battlefield. After the 2015 West Coast Conference which we sponsored, we had a profit of \$5,000.00 and we decided to contribute it to the Raymond battlefield for the construction of a fence that will follow the historical fence that was there at the time of the battle. That fence should be put in this spring and it will add immeasurably to the understanding and interoperation of the battle. We asked that a plaque honoring the Brian and Linda and Ken and Barbara for all that these families have done for the Round Table. You will find a communication from General Hills about in what that plaque will be placed. I am looking forward in getting back to Mississippi and showing what our contribution went to.

If I don't see you at the party, I want to wish each and every one of you the best Christmas ever and a great 2017.

Yours:

Michael Green President SJVCWRT





3. AFTER ACTION REPORT OF SJVCWRT MEETING OF 11/10/16 By Ron Vaughan

*Meeting opened at 7:00 pm by President Mike Green.

*10 persons were present for our meeting. Mike G. made it after partial recovery from ankle surgery.

*It was suggested that we contact Fresno bee to get the meeting on the Club List. Also try for NPR , Channel 18, and “Meetup” website.

*Mike reported that the rail fence will be erected at Raymond Battlefield in the Spring. Our dedication sign will also be erected then on a cedar stump.

*Sacramento West Coast Conference will be Nov. 10-12, 2017. Maybe Redlands will host 2018.

*Gail reported no change in Bank balance. Annual Dues (\$35) for 2017 can be paid at Christmas Party Dec. 8th at Schulze home.

*Patti reported that author David Dixon will speak to us in January on "The Lost Gettysburg Speech." Mike Green has volunteered to do a talk for us in February. She is trying to get author and History Channel lecturer, Dana Lombardy to talk about his new book "Grant Rising" this Spring. Scheduled speaker for tonight, Fred Bohmfalk, was unable to make it due to a health issue of his wife. Hopefully she may be able to reschedule him later.

I had put together a Power Point of a lecture that I had given in the past to some college classes. This was in case of a speaker no show, which turned out to be just in time, as Fred was unable to come. The lecture was a distillation into 50 minutes of my 278 page Masters Thesis on the War with Mexico.

Why did I speak on this war to this CW group? Most of the eminent generals of the War Between the States were Lieutenants in 1846. Their experiences influenced their tactics and decisions in the Civil War.

The War with Mexico is popularly considered essentially a "done deal," a powerful U.S.A taking advantage of a smaller third rate country. But I disagree with this assumption.

Consider that in the War of 1812, the USA totally failed to successfully invade Canada, which was right on our doorstep. Furthermore, Spain lost the War for Mexico's Independence, and it's reinvasion attempt in 1829. French interventions in 1838-39, and later in 1862-1866 also failed. Finally, it took the USA 4 bloody years to defeat the Confederacy, despite over-whelming population, industry, and resources.

Some often stated reasons for U.S. victory over Mexico:

1. The U.S. had a numerically superior population (23 million vs Mexico's 7 million. (Similar numbers to the difference between the U.S.A and the C.S.A.)

- a. Fact: The Mexican Army had 33,000 soldiers vs the U.S. 10,000 Regulars.
 - b. Fact: The U.S. Army was almost always out numbered 2 or 3 to 1 in the battles.
2. U.S. had industrial superiority.
 - a. Fact: Yes, but we had to transport all the arms, supplies and troops thousands of miles to Mexico, across often stormy seas and barren deserts and mountains.
 - b. Fact: U.S. troops often had to rely upon Mexican food, clothing, and even cannon.
3. The U.S. soldiers were braver. A racist view.

Fact: There is ample testimony of Mexican soldiers standing bravely under.
4. Mexican political factionalism undermined defense.

Fact: Both countries were hampered by political and regional factionism, which would result in bloody civil wars in both of them in the 1850's-60's.
5. U.S. superior technology won the war.
 - a. The U.S. railroads, and telegraph lines did not extend anywhere near Mexico Steamships were few.
 - b. Fact: Both armies were primarily armed with smoothbore flintlock muskets and cannon.
 - c. Fact: The Texas Mounted had deadly revolvers, but there were only 1,000 Texans active in the war.
 - c. Fact: Both U.S. and Mexican Light Infantry were armed with rifles.
6. U.S. had artillery superiority.
 - a. Fact: In 1846 the Mexican Army had 687 cannon, including 32 field batteries.
 - b. Fact: The U.S. had only 4 field batteries, eventually increased to 10, but were always out-gunned.
7. U.S. naval supremacy guaranteed victory.
 - a. Fact: The U.S. Navy was greatly superior in size, but most of the vessels were too large and slow to be effective blockaders, or attack upon Mexico's coastal river ports.
 - b. Fact: The blockade had small impact on a country with little trade.

c. Fact: U.S. could not have won without naval support transporting supplies and troops, but Mexico could have won in spite of this.

COMPARISON OF FORCES:

*MEXICAN ARTILLERY:

- Mostly old worn guns, many small caliber.
- Poor mobility of the heavy carriages drawn by oxen or mules.
- Poor quality powder.
- Slow loading due to semi-fixed ammo .
- Gunners were fairly accurate.
- San Patricio Artillery was very efficient.

*U.S. ARTILLERY:

- Light Horse Artillery (“Flying Btys.”)
- Highly efficient gunners.
- Fixed ammunition.
- Shrapnel shells.
- A MAJOR FACTOR FOR VICTORIES

MEXICAN INFANTRY:

- Conscripts, poor motivation (except National Guards were volunteers)
- Most were poorly trained, although experienced.
- Most had poor marksmanship.
- Great endurance.
- Poorly led.

U.S. INFANTRY:

- All volunteers, including many Immigrants.
- REGULARS: Only 12 Regts+ 10 new
- Well drilled & disciplined.
- Good marksmanship & bayoneteers.
- Well led.
- VOLUNTEERS:
- Trained by Regulars
- Poor discipline.

MEXICAN OFFICERS:

- Promotion by politics rather than achievement.
- Many Ignorant of duties, brutal, & embezzled funds.

- “Anamiadores” Ordered soldiers to advance, instead of leading.

U.S. OFFICERS:

- VOLUNTEER Officers: Many elected by men & unqualified.
- REGULAR Officers were experienced professionals or West Point Grads.
- High quality of the Jr. Officers was an important factor in victory.

MEXICAN GENERALS:

Many were political enemies
 Some revolted against the government.
 Most were too passive/inactive.
 Only Perez and Vasquez were good.

U.S. GENERALS:

- Polk appointed inexperienced Democrats.
- Only Taylor, Worth & Wool good.
- Twiggs was experienced, but poor.
- Pillow knew little.

COMMANDERS IN CHIEF:

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA:

- Dictator of Mexico for 25 years.
- Opportunistic & mistrusted.
- Too vain & jealous.
- Good at organizing, but failed to provide adequate supplies.
- Poor strategist-failed to see weak points, or the big picture.

WINFIELD SCOTT:

- Major Factor in US Victory!
- Won most of the few victories in 1812.
- Not a military genius, but good.
- Bold, but not rash.
- Good planner.
- Relied upon his Topographical Engineers, especially Capt.

R.E. Lee.

- Good administrator. Treated Mexican people fairly.

CONCLUSION: USA was victorious due to:

- Quality of it's leaders (especially the West Point Grads).
- Professionalism and efficiency of the Arty. & the Regular Infy.
- Success of the Navy and the Quartermaster Dept. in keeping the Army supplied.
- Poor quality of Mexican Generals.
- *****
- **LOSSES:**
- MEXICO lost 13,000 casualties, 7,000 captured.
- U.S.A. lost 1,548 killed in battle, 10,970 died of disease & wounds, 8,600 deserted.
- Deadliest war ever; 110 out of every 1,000 died. (In ACW 65 of 1,000 died.)

4. FALL 2016 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE, COSTA MESA

Brian Clague and I drove down to Costa Mesa for this conference the last weekend of October. It was sponsored by the Pasadena and Orange County CWRTs. It was attended by about 90 persons, and was very enjoyable.

The theme was "War and Remembrance". There were eleven great speakers. The best ones (in my opinion) were Eric Wittenberg, who reassessed the careers of Custer and Sheridan, James Hessler on Sickles, Paul Gillette on the James-Younger Gang, Ted Savas on the successful search for the battlefield of Payne's Farm (1864), and Evan Jones on Lincoln's last days. Brian and I recalled how, years ago, young Evan gave his very first Round Table talk—it was halting, but even then, he was filled with spirit, that has not left him today!.

The con room was conveniently located near the main lobby and the lounge. They had several tables with all kinds of raffle items, a silent auction, and a live auction. Ted Savas and Lee Merideth had a whole wall of books to sell. On Saturday there was a display of several original uniforms.

5. 2017 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE NEWS:

Sponsored by the Sacramento Civil War RoundTable

When: Nov. 10 – 12, 2017

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento, CA

Theme: Lesser Known CW Battles

Speakers: Jack Davis, Thomas Cartwright, Ron Perisho (CW in 3D), Ted Savas, Jim Stanbery, Brian Wills.

More info. Contact Paul Ruud: paulgruud@gmail.com
(530) 906-5460

6. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From The Blue & Gray Laughing:

“The rebs say that General Hooker don’t fight far (fair), for he don’t come rot up squar and fight ‘em, but weuns go way arround and shoot ‘em endways, then they say they have to fall back.”

7. RAYMOND STUMP PHOTO

Mike,

My man working on the tree stump with the San Joaquin plaque for the fence came up with a much better idea than my oak tree section. He had a chunk of a huge cedar tree stump, so he sandblasted it. The top side (not seen in the photos) has been highly polished, and the whole thing has been give a couple of coats of sealant. He said this will last infinitely longer than the oak, and he will run an iron rod through the stump and sink the rod in concrete. All he needs for me to do is show him where to place the stump, so next week, after my final tour of 2016 ends this Sunday, I will go down and take GPS measurements so that we can get the stump installed.

The fence will follow. Not exactly in the right order, but I have long ago learned to take things as they come.

The stump looks great. See attached photos.

Parker

