



BUGLE CALL ECHOES



Vol. 7 No. 9. September 1999

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

Knowing in part may make a fine tale, but wisdom comes from seeing the whole.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM NOTES

Tom Goodrich will be our guest speaker at the September meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. His topic: First Civil War—Bleeding Kansas.

Born in Lawrence (the Free-State capital of Kansas), raised in nearby Leecompton (the Pro-Slavery capital), now living near Topeka (the current capital), Tom's love of history came early and easily. After graduating from Washburn University in 1973 with a BA in history, he traveled extensively at home and abroad, painting watercolors for a living. In 1991, his first book, "Bloody Dawn—the Story of the Lawrence Massacre," was published. Four years later came "Black Flag—Guerrilla Warfare on the Western Border, 1861-1865." This was followed by "Scalp Dance—Indian Warfare on the High Plains, 1865-1879;" "War to the Knife—Bleeding Kansas, 1854-1861;" and "Bloody Bill Anderson—The Short, Savage Life of a Civil War Guerrilla." All five books were selections of either the History Book Club, Military Book Club (main selection) or Doubleday Book Club.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will be held on Thursday, September 30, 1999, at the Ramada Inn, Shaw Avenue and Highway 41 in Fresno.

A no-host social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 7 p.m.

Please send your check for \$15 (\$10 for students under 25) to cover the cost of the meal to Gloria Carter, PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755, or call 559/322-9474 to advise her you will be attending the meeting.

Tom has appeared as a guest on numerous radio and TV programs including the Ted Efav Show (WCTU New York); Adam's World (WNN Miami), the Tom Leather's Show (KMBZ Kansas City) and the Let's Talk show (WIBW Topeka). He is currently completing a volume detailing the last months of World War II in Europe. Tom and his wife will be traveling on the West Coast this fall and will be speaking to numerous round tables in California.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Sorry I missed the August meeting. My "bayonet wounds" are healing and I will be back with the Effectives soon. See you at the September meeting.

The October fund raiser is rapidly approaching; Mike is working hard on it. We will be raffling off a Two Day Get-Away in Monterey. We hope all members will actively sell tickets for the "Get-Away." It can be a real money-maker. If each member sells one book of ten tickets, we would raise

a lot of money. The money made on this fund raiser is earmarked for preservation.

The dinner meal for the October 28th event will be \$20 and the Round Table will keep \$5 of that amount. Start talking it up. Invite your family, friends and neighbors. Reconstruction will be the topic. You don't want to miss this one presented by Dr. Leon Litwack.

In conjunction with the Fresno City and County Historical Society, Borders (Books) will be transformed into a Civil War camp

from Wednesday, Sept. 15th through Sunday, Oct. 3rd. This is a prelude to the Civil War Revisited battle reenactment at Kearney Park on October 2nd and 3rd.

Here's the schedule:

Sat., Sept. 18, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Civil War Era Crafts. During this special storytime, the Golden Valley Girl Scouts will teach children how to make cornhusk dolls and animals. Valley youngsters will have fun while learning about the 1860s.

Fri., Sept. 24, 9:00-11:00 p.m.

1860s Folk Music. Traditional fiddle tunes, Irish tunes, and the music of the Civil War era.

Sat., Sept 25, 9:00 a.m.

Meet A Civil War General Portrayed by Ray Appleton. Radio personality Ray Appleton and other Civil War reenactors from the National Civil War Association will hand out tickets at Borders to The Civil War Revisited.

Sat., Sept. 25, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Weaving and Spinning Demonstration - Rug Making Demonstration. During this storytime two special events take place. Members of the Fresno Spinners & Weavers will help youngsters try their hand at the loom, plus members of the Central California Chapter of the National Association of Traditional Hooking Artists will demonstrate how to make beautiful rugs from strips of wool.

Sat., Sept. 25, 9:00-11:00 p.m.

California Old Time Fiddlers. These expert fiddlers range in age from children to seniors.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet others who enjoy learning about the Civil War era. Tell them about our Round Table and invite them to a meeting.

Ken Moats

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THE CIVIL WAR REVISITED

The theme of this year's reenactment at Kearney Park in Fresno is The Battle of Chickamauga. Dates for *The Civil War Revisited* are Saturday, October 2, 1999, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, October 3, 1999, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Battles are scheduled on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Admission to the park is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, children 5 and under free.

On Saturday evening, there will be a campfire dinner, entertainment, dancing, brandy, cigars, and fireworks. For ticket information for this Saturday evening event, call the Historical Society at 559/441-0862.



THE ART OF COMMAND

The 2nd annual Conference on the Art of Command in the Civil War is scheduled for October 15-17, 1999, in Middleburg, Virginia. Presented by Middleburg Beautification and Preservation Inc. and The John Singleton Mosby Heritage Area, the conference will be held at the National Sporting Library. Speakers include Dennis Frye, Ed Bearss, Robert E. L. Krick, Robert K. Krick, Jeffrey Wert, Bud Hall, Robert O'Neill Jr. and Brian S. Wills.

Topic of the seminar is "Cavalry" and includes a tour of Brandy Station Battlefield.

For more information, call 800/752-6118. Cost of the seminar is \$195 per person.

JAMES FRANKLIN HARRIS*by Carol Berry*

From a simple query from a man in Texas last May, I have learned more about my mother's family in four months than I'd ever learned in the first 50+ years of my life.

On May 10, 1999, Paul Harris of Longview, Texas, sent me a brief e-mail message. His question: "What do you know about the Sarah Elizabeth Harris in your post?"

The post Paul was referring was one of the genealogy queries I had out on the Internet regarding my mother's family from Georgia. I could trace my family back only to my great grandparents, Tom and Sarah Harris Jenkins, who lived in Blue Ridge, Georgia. Blue Ridge is located in the northern-most part of the state and an area which had strong Union leanings during the Civil War. I knew that Sarah's maiden name was Harris, knew that Tom had been sheriff of Fannin County from 1911-1914, and knew the names of some of Sarah and Tom's children, including my grandmother, Mildred Mae. Beyond that, the information was scanty. I had posted these few details on the Internet to see if anyone recognized my family.

To my surprise and delight, as the result of Paul's contacting me, I learned that Sarah Harris' father, James Franklin Harris, had served with the 39th Georgia during the Civil War. He is listed on the muster roll for Company G, 39th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry. Company G of the 39th Georgia was known as the "Gilmer Lions."

The 39th Georgia was organized in Dalton, Georgia, in the spring of 1862. The regiment was a part of Cumming's Brigade, Stevenson's Division, Lee's corps, Army of Tennessee. Ordered first to Tennessee and then Mississippi, it saw action at Champion Hill and then was at Vicksburg. On July 4, 1863, the 39th Georgia was one of the units

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captured at Vicksburg. The regiment later participated in the campaigns of the Army of Tennessee from Chattanooga to Nashville to Bentonville.

I have been able to obtain several Confederate Army records pertaining to James Franklin Harris from the National Archives. The majority of the records are pay vouchers or records of his whereabouts. There are also several supply requests. One indicates that on the 4th of October 1863, J. F. Harris signed a Special Requisition for two axes and helms, two mess pans and one water bucket. The explanation for needing the items: "I certify that the above Requisition is correct and that the Articles are absolutely requisite for the public service rendered so by the following circumstances having lost all our Camp Equipage at Vicksburg, Miss."

However, the most interesting record in the file is the parole slip my great great grandfather signed on July 8, 1863, near Vicksburg. I've included a copy of that parole with this article; it appears on the following page. Subsequently, James Harris appears on a list of "effective men of the 39th Georgia Regiment furloughed at Enterprise, Miss."

Although seriously wounded in the face at Chattanooga, my great great grandfather survived the war. He had gone off to war the father of five children; he and his wife had three more after he returned home -- twins James Fletcher and Mary Ann, born in 1866, and Robert Lee, born 1869. Paul Harris of Longview, Texas, is the great grandson of James Fletcher.

James Franklin Harris died on May 9, 1904, and is buried in Sand Flat, Johnson County, Texas.

(Another part of the story is that I have recently discovered that a daughter of James Fletcher Harris, born in Georgia in 1888, died in 1972 in Merced, California.)

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, JULY 1863.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, KNOW YE THAT:

I J. F. Harris a Lieut of Co. G 35th Reg't Georgia

Vols. C. S. A., being a prisoner of War, in the hands of the United States Forces, in virtue of the capitulation of the city of Vicksburg and its Garrison, by Lieut. Gen. John C. Pemberton, C. S. A., Commanding, on the 4th day of July, 1863, do in pursuance of the terms of said capitulation, give this my solemn parole under oath—

That I will not take up arms again against the United States, nor serve in any military, police, or constabulary force in any Fort, Garrison or field work, held by the Confederate States of America, against the United States of America, nor as guard of any prisons, depots or stores nor discharge any duties usually performed by Officers or soldiers against the United States of America, until duly exchanged by the proper authorities.

J. F. Harris 2nd Lt
Co G, 35th Reg't Georgia Vols

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Vicksburg, Miss., this day of July 1863.

J. O. Pullen 2nd Reg't Illinois Vols
Captain AND PAROLING OFFICER.

DIRECTORS FOR 1999

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GENERAL BENJAMIN HARRISON

In the following letter written during his Civil War service with the 70th Indiana Infantry, Benjamin Harrison, future US President, writes to his wife on the evening before the battle at Resaca, Georgia. Harrison served as president from 1889 to 1893.

May 13, 1864

I must write you tonight as we look for battle tomorrow, and God only knows who shall come safely through it. . . . May God in His great mercy give us a great victory and may the nation give Him the praise....

You will perhaps like to know how I feel on the eve of my first great battle. Well, I do not feel in the least excited, nor in any sense of shrinking. I am in my usual good spirits, though not at all insensible to grave responsibilities and risks which I must bear tomorrow. I am thinking much of you and the dear children and my whole heart comes out towards you in tenderness and love and many earnest prayers will I send up to God this night, should you lose a husband and they a father in the fight, that in His grace you may find abundant consolation and in His providence abundant temporal comfort and support. I know you will not forget me, "should I be numbered among the slain," but let your grief be tempered by the consolation that I died for my country and in Christ. If God gives me strength I mean to bear myself bravely-come what will, so that

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you may have no cause to blush for me, though you should be forced to mourn.

But I have said these things only against the possibility of death, and not in any spirit of despondency, nor to awaken needless anxiety in your heart. Probably this letter will not be sent forward until the issue of the battle is known and I will precede it by a telegram if I can get one through, though this is doubtful. You must not burthen your heart with too much anxiety, as doubtless you will be in suspense for some days before you hear from me. Let us calmly put our trust in God and wait the issue. If it be prosperous for our country and for me, let us lift a glad song of praise, and if adverse to either, let us humbly bow to the decrees of Him who doeth all things well.

... I must make this letter short, as we need a good rest tonight and shall probably be awakened early in the morning. I might say much more, but this is enough. I love you, my dear wife, with all the devotion of a full heart, and my children as the apple of my eyes. But the obligations of a soldier are upon me, and these dear domestic ties are only the stronger incentive to quit myself well in the fight.

May the large storehouses of God's grace and providence always be open to you and them. My blessing rests upon you. Remember me affectionately to Irwin, Jennie and their families, also to Mr. Nixon, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Ray and all of my family in the old P[resbyterian]. Ch[urch]. who may inquire for me, and particularly to the members of my old Bible class and the dear Sabbath School. Should I come alive through the fight to get home. I hope to see you all in good time. Farewell and God bless you.

Benjamin Harrison

PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 1999

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 29, 1999	Nathan Boyer	<i>Civil War Prison Camps</i>
February 25	Dr. Allen Carden	<i>Abraham Lincoln</i>
March 25	John Peterson	<i>Gouverneur Warren</i>
April 29	Shelton Johnson	<i>Yosemite and Sequoia Black Infantry and Cavalry</i>
May 27	Philip Avila	<i>The Bear Goes East: California in the Civil War</i>
June 24 – Backyard potluck at the Moats?	Carol Berry	<i>A Woman's War: The Homefront</i>
July 29	Jack Leathers	<i>Texans in the Confederacy</i>
August 26	Dr. Helen Trimpi	<i>Harvard Confederates</i>
September 30	Tom Goodrich	<i>First Civil War—Bleeding Kansas</i>
October 28 (note date change)	Dr. Leon Litwack	<i>Reconstruction</i>
November 18	Mike Carter	<i>States' Rights and Secession</i>
December	No regular meeting	

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. My membership category is checked below:

_____ Individual \$25 _____ Family \$35 _____ \$10 Student or Newsletter

Name _____

Address _____

Clip this membership form and send it with your check to the SJVCWRT, PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755.

The membership year is from January to December. Five dollars of each membership goes towards preservation.



The 15th Annual
West Coast Civil War Round Table
Conference
Presents

**“THE BLOODY ROAD TO
RICHMOND”**

**Grant vs. Lee: The Overland Campaign of 1864
Wilderness to Cold Harbor
135th Anniversary**



SPONSORED BY THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF LONG BEACH

November 5th thru 7th 1999: **Buena Park Hotel and Convention Center,**
7675 Crescent Ave, Buena Park, CA , 90620,
Tel. 714-995 1111.

Airport shuttle available from LAX and John Wayne – 714-938 8900 or hotel can handle.

Presenters: **Gordon C. Rhea**, Award winning Civil War author
Robert K. Krick, Leading authority on CSA, Army of Northern VA.
John Y. Simon, Award winning authority on U.S. Grant
Patrick Brady, Puget Sound Round Table member and author
Debbie Petite, South Bay Civil War Round Table
Kevin O’Brien, Irish Brigade researcher and author
Jerry Russell, National Chairman, CWRT Associates

CONFERENCE FEES: (a) Before October 5th 1999 ---- \$150.
(b) After October 5th 1999 ---- \$170.

Fees include Friday conference and banquet, Saturday all day conference, lunch and banquet, Sunday morning conference and lunch. Fees do not include lodging. Call hotel for room reservations and special room rates of \$79 + tax per night. (Before Oct. 5th.) Mention the conference to get these rates.

Registration Form

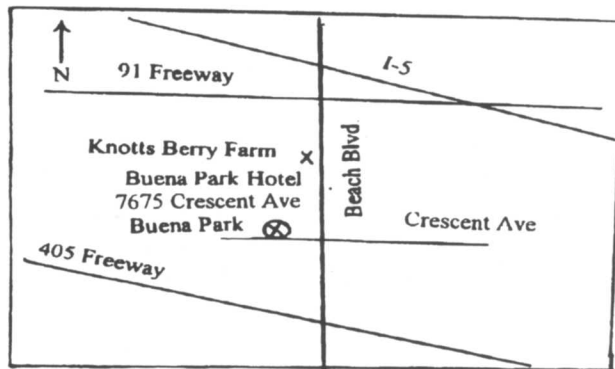
Name _____ Street _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____ Amount Encl. _____

Partial Attendance Rates: Friday only: \$40. Sat. only: \$100. Sunday only: \$50.
Phone Harold Bernstein at 310-541 5047 for special requirements or for additional information.

Mail Registration form to: WCCWRT Registration, 1510 Backbay Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

Food only prices: Lunches, \$25., Banquets, \$40.

Bring the family. The location is a family tourist area with the following attractions and more: Knotts Berry Farm, Ripley's Believe it or Not Museum, Hollywood Wax Museum, Wild Bill's Dinner Show, Medieval Times, Disney Land, Queen Mary, and The Buena Park Mall.



PROGRAM

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| Friday, Nov. 5: | 4:00 - 6:00pm Registration |
| | 6:00 - 7:00 Command Post (No Host Bar) |
| | 7:00 - 8:00 Banquet |
| | 8:00 - 9:00pm Gordon Rhea: Overview of 1864 Overland Campaign |
| Saturday, Nov. 6: | 8:30 - 9:30am John Y. Simon: Why Grant Went East to Fight Lee. |
| | 9:45 - 10:45 Robert K. Krick: "Lee to the Rear;" The Texan's Cry. |
| | 11:00 - 12:00 Debbie Petite: Gen. James Longstreet at the Wilderness |
| | 12:00 - 1:15 Lunch |
| | 1:15 - 2:15 Kevin O'Brien: Irish Brigade During Overland Campaign |
| | 2:30 - 3:30 Gordon Rhea: Overview of Union Command |
| | 3:45 - 4:45 Patrick Brady: Volunteers v.s. Conscripts at Cold Harbor |
| | 7:00 - 8:00 Banquet |
| | 8:00 - 9:30 Panel Discussion: Rhea, Simon, Krick, Brady, Petite, et. al. |
| Sunday, Nov. 7 | 9:00 - 10:00 Robert Krick: The Confederate Experience at the Bloody Angle |
| | 10:15 - 11:15 Gordon Rhea: Confederate Leadership during the Overland Campaign |
| | 11:30 - 12:15 John Y. Simon: Grant's Performance during the Overland Campaign |
| | 12:15 - 1:15 Lunch - Jerry Russell, CWRT Associates |
| | 1:30 - 2:30 Final Session -.Questions & Answers with Presentors |