



Bugle Call Echoes

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

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2007 San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table Board of Directors

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From Our President,

We have another interesting meeting coming Thursday, January 25th, at the Ramada with Bob Summers re. Music of the Civil War. We'll find out about the following quote, *"I don't see how we can have an army without music."* See page 2 for the individual who made this statement and also an interesting overview of Mr. Summers' research on Civil War music.

Robert Summers, past president of the Los Angeles Civil War Round Table, is a veteran speaker at Round Table meetings in Central and Southern California. Now retired he has been researching various topics since the age of twelve when he visited the battlefield at Gettysburg.

Please plan to attend and RSVP to our Secretary Phyllis Mann. You can expect music from the Civil War era during the dinner hour.

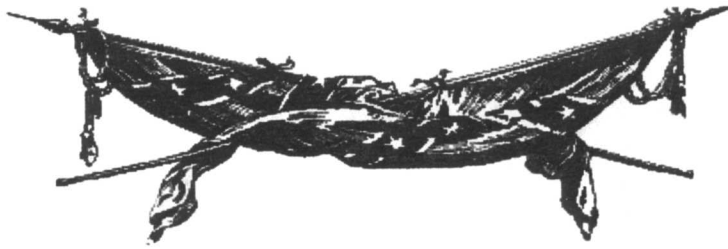
President
Brian Clague



2008 Conference Set in Stone

The executive board of the SJVCWRT met in December (at two different tables on the same night) at Popolo's Pizza and voted to accept the challenge of our President to host the 2008 West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference. We agreed that it would be held November 7-9, 2008, at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, the venue used for our 2005 Conference.

The theme of the 2008 Conference will be "War in the Shenandoah Valley" and we have lined up Robert K. Krick (for sure) and Jeffry Wert (likely) as our principal speakers. Professor Gary Gallagher of the University of Virginia, Jim Stanberry, and our own David Davenport, have also been invited to speak. Additional speakers will be announced in coming weeks.



“I don't see how we can have an army without music”

- R. E. Lee

Music of the Civil War will be the focus of Bob Summers' talk at the first meeting of 2007 on Thursday, January 25th. He will integrate two aspects of this topic, 1. How “Dixie” was played in different parts of the country at different times before, during, and immediately after the war, and 2. How music in general was important to the soldiers in camp and on the battlefield.

To explore this topic Bob will focus on the Regimental Band of the 26th North Carolina State Troops. The 26th was among the most heroic regiments of the war and its band was said to be “the finest band in the Confederacy.” Unlike most Confederate State's regiments, the 26th was not formed in its entirety from men of only one or two counties. Each of its ten companies were originally independent companies recruited in the mountains and western piedmont of the state. Some, in fact, “saw the elephant” at 1st Manassas before joining together to form the 26th on August 27, 1861, at Raleigh under Col. Zebulon Baird Vance, a popular prewar Whig Congressman from Asheville.

The 26th N.C. was first assigned to defend coastal North Carolina and then to defend Richmond in McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. It was then reassigned to coastal Carolina before once again being sent to Virginia where it earned laurels as part of the Army of Northern Virginia at Antietam, Gettysburg, Grant's Overland Campaign, and the defense of Petersburg.

On the second day of Gettysburg it was commanded by Brig. Gen. Pettigrew and saw action to the immediate north of the infamous “Angle” as part of Pickett's/Pettigrew's charge. Eight hundred men emerged from the trees to begin this assault on Union troops and only 216

survived. Another 130 were lost the next day and the decimated unit was nearly disbanded. However, its valor under fire resulted in a plethora of new recruits and the unit survived intact until its surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, when its 120 members stacked arms for the last time. A total of 2175 men had served in the 26th at one time or another. Of these 329 were KIA, 782 were WIA, and 767 were captured. The number of the latter who returned to their homes after their release could not be ascertained by this writer.

The regimental brass band of the 26th North Carolina was formed by musicians from the Moravian Church at Salem, North Carolina, in the early spring of 1862. These men had played together for a number of years and decked out in beautifully tailored uniforms they played “polkas and waltzes” while under fire to bolster the morale of the fighting men.

Although required to surrender their instruments upon surrendering the regimental colors at Appomattox C.H., members of the band didn't give up their sheet music. These “band books”, the only such sheet music to survive to the present, were discovered in the 1950s by Dr. Frederick Fennel of the Eastman School of Music.

The band books of the 26th N.C. have since provided musicians with considerable insight as to how Civil War period music was performed and how it was decided which instrument would play what notes (is this the same as arranging?). It is also worth noting that many of the instruments used in those days are not used in modern brass bands. As a result “Dixie” and other tunes sounded much different then than they do now, an aspect of “Music of the Civil War” that will be revealed to us by Bob Summers in his exciting talk on Thursday the 25th.

As always please notify Phyllis Mann of your intent to attend: 559-229-3778 or by emailing her atpfm02@sbcglobal.net



AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING 30 November 06 By RON VAUGHAN

This was the one of the most entertaining meetings of the year, or at least one with the greatest variety! Dr. Clague ran a continuous slide show of pictures taken at various SJVCWRT events. Dr. Davenport posed as the 1860's British Ambassador and read three short stories by Ambrose Bierce. The main course of the evening was commentary from two Presidents: Lincoln and Davis.

It was pointed out that they had much in common: both were born in Ky, not far apart; both served in the Blackhawk War; both lost two sons; both suffered from melancholy; both served in Congress; both opposed the war with Mexico, but supported the troops; both condemned John Brown's Raid; both were political moderates who attempted to bring compromise; both had problems with implementing the draft; neither regarded the Negro as equal.

There were several questions and lively discussions about the right of secession, and who was responsible for starting the war.



The article below is from past *Bugle Call Echoes'* editor Charlie Jorgenson and comes from the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Kenosha wants to open museum about Civil War

Wisconsin saw no battles, but officials see relevance

by COLIN FLY

Kenosha, Wis -- Not a single Civil War battle ever took place in Wisconsin. Nevertheless, officials hope to make this city halfway between Milwaukee and Chicago home to a \$15M Civil War Museum.

Six Midwestern states - Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin - sent more than a half a million men to battle. When they returned to the Midwest they were changed forever.

Museum curator Dan Joyce said about 94,000 Wisconsin residents - roughly one-in-two able bodied men - enlisted even though the state had entered the Union only 13 years before the war began.

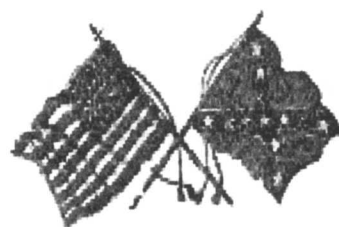
The museum is seen as a boost to tourism as it is a billion dollar a year industry. At Gettysburg

alone, visitors spend \$121 million annually, according to the Civil War Preservation Trust.

John Anatarmanian, mayor of Kenosha said, "People will ask the question 'Why?'" The museum will affect the surrounding states as well that formed the Iron Brigade.

The Iron Brigade - originally made up of three Wisconsin units and another from Indiana - was considered by many historians to be the best fighting brigade in the Union Army. The brigade, which later included men from Michigan to offset losses, also suffered the Union's highest percentage of casualties.

Museum officials want to reveal the stories behind some of the casualties. Also, what happened at home during the war? What happened to the women and children? What happened to the farms?



2007 Meeting Schedule

Round Table Vice President Dr. Dave Davenport has tentatively scheduled the following speakers for Jan-June of 2007.

NOTE *It is also a reminder for members to renew their membership for the new year using the form on the back.*

Jan 25 - Bob Summers of the LACWRT will speak about "Music of the Civil War"

Feb 22 - On this date in 1732 George Washington was born. I am planning a birthday party for him with cake, ice cream, and speeches by anyone who wishes to make one about this great man. I also hope that people will be willing to discuss what they believe Washington's views on the Civil War might have been.

Mar 29 - Bill Head will present "The Effect of Religion on the Southern War Effort"

Apr 26 - Dennis Kohlman (Sacramento CWRT) will speak on "The Irish in the War"

May 31 - Fred Bohmfalk (Sacramento CWRT) will speak on "Stephen Foster and the Civil War"

Saturday, June 30, Our annual summer Picnic and Fourth of July celebration.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - The 2007 membership year is from January to December

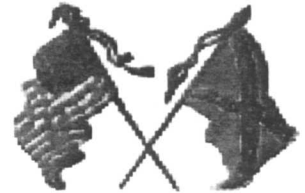
Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY membership - \$25.00*

STUDENT membership - \$12.50*

NEWSLETTER ONLY - \$12.50*

*\$5.00 of each membership goes toward Civil War Battlefield Preservation



name _____

address _____

phone _____ email _____

Bring this membership form and your check to our next monthly meeting, or mail it to our P.O. Box address listed below % Tom Carr - Membership.

At the '**Bloody Angle**' during the **Battle of Spotsylvania** one of the fiercest charges of the entire war took place as brigade after brigade of the Union army poured over the Confederate breastworks. The Union forces captured more than 2,000 Confederate troops, including Gen. Edward Johnson, and took 20 cannon that the Confederates had brought forward that very morning. When the Union forces tried to advance on the second Confederate line, however, they were driven back in fighting that inflicted a dreadful toll on both sides in a battle that lasted from 4 AM until midnight. - *The Civil War Quiz Book*

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