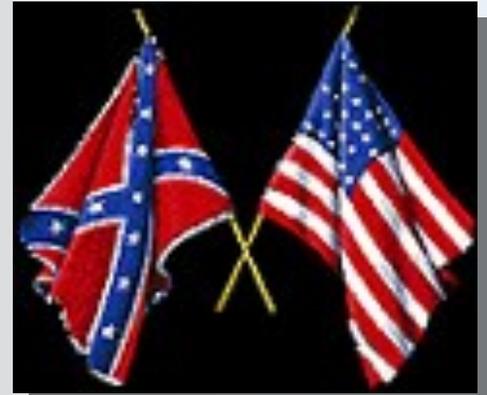




Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JANUARY 2016

Hello again. I hope that each and every one of you had a wonderful Christmas and that you have a great New Year.

As you know we didn't have our annual Christmas party. Gail had a family emergency and had to take care of things for her family on the date we had scheduled the get-together. I have been in contact with Gail and she has indicated that the problems that required her attention have, to some extent resolved themselves. I know that we all hope and pray that things continue to remain stable in her family.

As I reported in the last President's Report, the conference that our Round Table put on in November was a success. I am finishing up the books on the conference and intend to make a report at our meeting on the January 14 at the Denny's on Shaw in Clovis. As usual, if you want dinner you need to get there around 6:00 P.M. The meeting will start at 7:00P.M. This is our annual "Show and Tell" meeting, so if you would like to make a presentation, let Patty know.

This meeting will also be our meeting for the election of officers. All of the office positions are up for election. The requirements for running for office is that you are a dues paying member of the Round Table. You

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have to be a dues paying member to vote in the election and the \$35 dues of 2016 are due. You can give Lisa you dues at the meeting.

I had the opportunity to take a little Civil War run at the end of November and into December. I was gone 13 days, went to four battlefields in three states. In the process I took two tours put on by the Blue and Gray Education Society. They were the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. The tour was led by the park historian for the Chattanooga/Chickamauga National Military Park Mr. Jim Ogdan. Jim did a great job interpreting the battles and took us into some areas where I had never been before. We traveled around in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. I also took extra time before and after the tours to do some more wandering in the Chickamauga battlefield, and also did some rambling in the battlefields of Stones River and Franklin. While in Franklin, I got to touch base with our friend Thomas Cartwright. Thomas was kind enough to take me on a tour of the Lotz House there in Franklin.

The trip had quite a few "interesting" events. For the first four days, it rained almost continually. I made the 90 mile trip from Murfreesboro to Chattanooga on Thanksgiving Sunday. A trip that should have taken 1 to 2 hours took over 4 hours and it was bumper to bumper the whole way. I got into the hotel with just 5 minutes to spare before our first session began. It rained so much that the Tennessee River was at flood stage and Chickamauga Creek was running out of it's banks. We were all in rain gear for the beginning of the tour. After that the sky cleared up and the temperature went down below freezing. There was a lot of frost on the windows and on the fields that we went tromping through. I'm finding out that I'm getting a little old to take this long of a trip particularly when we were up bright and early every morning and didn't get back to the hotel until well after dark. Then I had to get something to eat and to download my pictures for the day. Once in a while I even got to process some of them, although I am still working on putting the shots together. Photo shop does take a while.

Speaking of photos, I am going to send Walt some of my shots and hope that he will be able to put them in this issue of the Bugle Call. Hope that you will enjoy them.

Well it's time to put this report to bed. Again I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and that you New Year will be a great one.

Yours,

Michael Green President

SJVCWRT

AFTER ACTION REPORT

BY RON VAUGHAN

Since there was no meeting, I have nothing to report. Therefore, I will offer a discussion of perhaps the biggest reminder that the Civil War continues to impact our present day world—the Confederate flag controversy. One of the top 5 stories on the weekly “Emerging Civil War” blog was the following (edited) article written by Steward Henderson, a Civil War Park interpreter, and living historian in telling the story of African American troops.

My Thoughts on the Confederate Flag

Posted on [June 27, 2015](#) by [stewardthenderson](#)

The current calls for the removal of the Confederate battle flag and subsequently all Confederate flags from public state buildings is long overdue. The battle flag was used in a war that the Confederacy lost—a war that almost destroyed this country.

However, these flags should not be removed from Civil War battlefields and museums. In this country, we no longer want to teach history, and we want to always try to be politically correct, thus we will be doomed to repeat our problems unless we can look at our history in context.

The Confederate battle flag has been a problem to many for decades and should have been dealt with years ago. However, many Southerners have stated that it was displayed in remembrance of their heritage. This flag has also been used by some Americans—Northerners as well as Southerners—to rebel against the Federal government’s policies.

I always thought the actual “Stars and Bars,” the first national flag, was the flag that maybe should have instead been used for remembering heritage. The battle flag is not the “Stars and Bars” flag, although it is often referred as such, and was used in Civil War battles.

In the 20th century, the battle flag was used as a symbol of hate . It had been tarnished by the fact that it was used by white hate groups like the Ku Klux Klan. More importantly, it was brought back by the Southern states in opposition to the civil rights movement, when blacks were fighting for the rights attained by virtue of the Union victory in the Civil War and the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, ratified after the war was over, guaranteeing those rights.

That flag is still used in the North as well as the South by people who are intolerant of diversity and equal rights in this country. So, to African Americans, Hispanics,

Jews, and others, the battle flag represents white supremacy and hate.

As a Civil War historian, I think all of the Confederate flags—the first national flag, second national, third national, and yes, the battle flag—must be represented in all of the American Civil War battlefields and museums. The Civil War was fought between the United States and the Confederacy, and we must educate our countrymen and the world about the actual history of the war—not in political correctness.

If all of the Civil War documents are read from before the Civil War until 1865, you will learn the true reasons of the war. If not for slavery, the Civil War would not have been fought.

The National Park Service and the various sesquicentennial organizations held hundreds of events in this country over the past six years, exploring this in depth, going into details about the events leading up to the war, the politics, and the cultures of the opposing sides. There were also plenty of battle reenactments.

The flags of the Confederacy are symbols that defended slavery. The actual soldiers may have had a variety of reasons why they fought the war, but the Confederacy fought for the right to maintain and expand slavery. There were many Union soldiers who believed in slavery, as well, so it was not just Southerners who wanted slavery.

I give tours and presentations on the Civil War often, and I talk about the bravery of soldiers—both Union and Confederate. I have to be objective and give both armies their due on and off of the battlefields. I admire the qualities of many soldiers—both Northern and Southern—and there are some that I do not admire in either army. However, I try with the utmost of my ability and knowledge, to tell the true story of all involved in that war. So, in the context of the Civil War, I can honestly see why people respect the symbols of the Confederacy.

However, it has to remain in the context of the war and not now.

Finally, I will recount a conversation with a German visitor that I spoke with on the Chancellorsville Battlefield one day after my “Stonewall Jackson Wounding tour.” He asked me why Americans still fly the Confederate battle flag after the war was lost. “In Germany, we cannot fly the Nazi flag,” he said.

I explained that during the surrenders of the Confederate armies, President Abraham Lincoln wanted surrenders that would welcome back fellow Americans to the country. He wanted the soldiers and people to reconcile the differences between the two halves of the country. After some time, led by the Civil War veterans, a period of reconciliation took place.

Around then, the former Confederate soldiers first told their stories of the war,

many Southerners wanted to honor their heritage and the country allowed it. Therefore, the flags were flown here.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

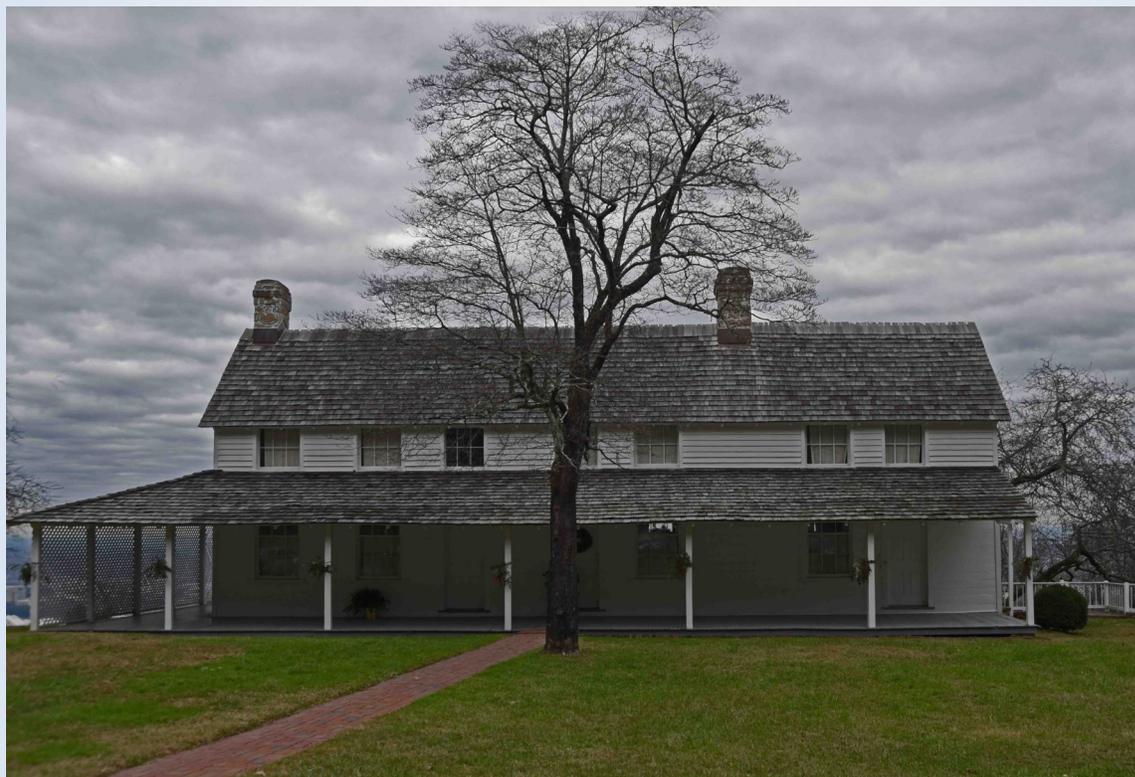
From "The Blue & Gray Laughing"

"Confederate prisoners captured at Cheraw said it was no use fighting Sherman, for if the Devil had him in Hell, he would flank him and get to Heaven."

Michael's photos



Tennessee River from Lookout MT



Craven House Lookout Mountain



Clouds over Chichamauga battlefield close to Hag's Monument



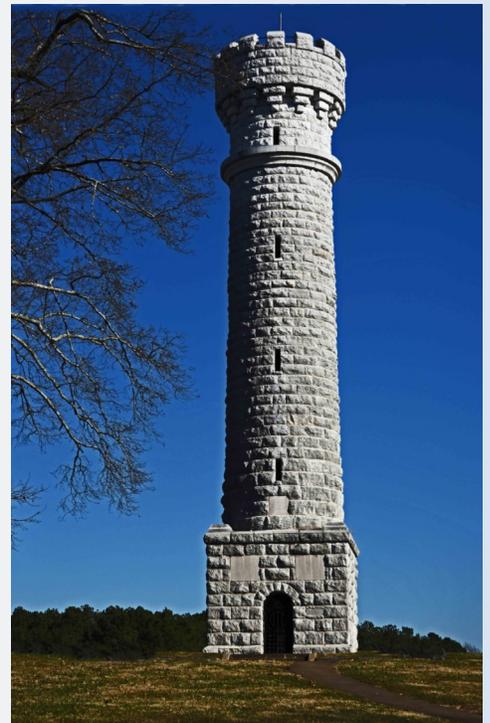
Overlook from top of Lookout Mountain



Hooker taking lookout Mt mural



Bullet holes in side of out building at Carter House Franklin Tenn.



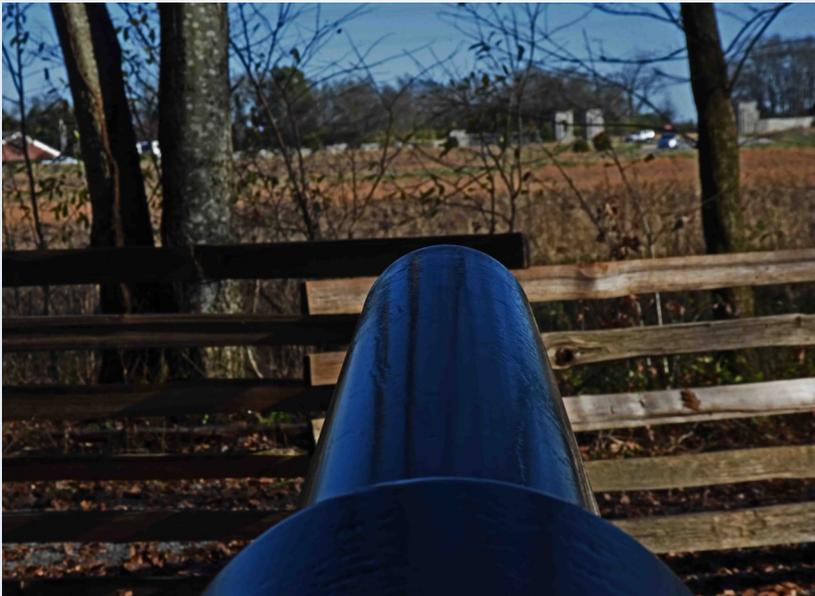
Wilder's Tower



View that General Hood would have seen from Winstead Hill into Franklin



Built in foxholes at Stones River. A place called the Slaughter Pen. The rocks were split and had a gap in between so that the Union troops could fight from them and be somewhat protected.



Looking down the tube of a Union gun. Confederates were advancing across the field in front. Stones River