



Bugle Call Echoes

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Fresno CA 93755

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**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

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From the President's Desk:

This month will see renewed interest in Fresno with the Civil War, as thousands gather at Kearney Park to witness the "Civil War Revisited". Pattie Spencer has done a great job interfacing with the Fresno Historical Society in obtaining our space. Many club members again participated either through reenacting or manning our booth. This year the Hunley returned which is a crowd favorite. I gave daily talks on Civil War Medicine in the open air classrooms. And Lewis Travel will be promoting their Shenandoah Tour for 2009. It will be a busy weekend.

The following week, on Oct. 30 Dennis Kohlmann from the Sacramento CWRT will bring a talk on J.E.B. Stuart and his role in the Gettysburg Campaign.

Our Nov. 7-9th West Coast Conference of the Civil War Round Tables is filling up with attendees. Get your tickets and plan to attend this event as well.

Brian Clague

P. S. Contact Bryce Kuykendall if you are planning to attend our October Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 30th at the Ramada Inn at the Shaw off-ramp of Highway 41. His number is 787-3632 or you can RSVP by dropping him an e-mail at bryce.kuykendall@gmail.com.

Free Tickets mailed to Volunteers for the Civil War Revisited at Fresno Kearney Park

Our SJVCWRT booth volunteers received free tickets for parking and admission to the Civil War Revisited Reenactment for Oct. 18th or 19th from Treasurer Pattie Spencer. The weather was perfect and there seemed to be more reenactors present for this two-day event. Special thanks to Pattie for lining up the help and V.P. David for all your efforts prior to and during the reenactment and to all the members who spent time at the booth. President Brian did a great job of giving a briefer but very interesting presentation on Medicine and Casualties During the Civil War in the outdoor classroom area.

See our website SJVCWRT.org

For up-to-date information and registration for the West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference in Clovis on November 7th, 8th, and 9th.

Special THANKS to Walter Schulze who has given our site a new and improved look!

Remaining 2008 SJVCWRT MEETINGS

- October 30th: Dennis Kohlmann - JEB Stuart at Gettysburg
- November 7-9: 24th Annual West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference at the Clovis Memorial Building at 6th and Hughes in Clovis, CA
- Saturday, December 6th: Annual Christmas party.

Round Table Speaker Dennis Kohlmann

... Returns to the SJVCWRT this Thursday to present his findings on **CSA Calvary leader J.E.B. Stuart at Gettysburg**. He last talked to our group in April 2007 when he reported on the **Irish Brigade**.

Dennis is a retired Air Force officer. He has studied the Civil War for over 20 years. In that time he has visited Gettysburg several times in two-day seminars. He is past president of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table.

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 9/25/08 The Battle of Fair Oaks/Seven Pines

By Ron Vaughan

Among several important announcements at our monthly meeting came the news that Evan Jones (during his summer service at Chickamauga) has essentially set up the 2009 CWRT conference--a line up of speakers on that famous battle.

Speaker Brad Schall told us of the progress of the Friends of Civil War Alcatraz. Check out their website photos.

Mr. Schall told the story of the battle of Fair Oaks/Seven Pines. He had an ancestor present, Andrew Jackson Schall of the 53rd Penn. Vol. Regt. He also mentioned a California connection with the battle, as the 71st Pennsylvania Regt was present, which was raised as the "5th California". (Actually, it was called the 1st Cal.)

I will share a few of Schall's interesting insights:

The Peninsula Campaign had the largest number of participants of the Civil War. It was the first campaign to feature ironclads and observation balloons. Professor Lowe had two balloons up at the time of the battle, sending reports of Confederate positions to Union HQ.

McClellan originally planned to move up the James River. This would have been a much different campaign than the advance along the York. Weather played an important role in the battle, when the rain-swollen Chickahominy caused the bridges to break, isolating part of the Union army.

Acoustic shadow also played a decisive role, preventing part of the Confederate Army from hearing that the fighting had begun, keeping them out of the battle. The Confederates mismanaged the battle. They had 11 brigades available, but at no time were more than 4 engaged.

McClellan suffered from a recurrence of malaria, and was incapacitated during the time of the battle. I think this made no difference, as he never contributed anything beyond initial planning to any other of his battles!

The most important impact of the battle on the course of the Civil War, is that General Johnston was wounded, and President Davis appointed R. E. Lee to command.

At 9:15, our speaker had just begun to speak about the 2nd Day of the battle, but I had to leave, as my wife was waiting to go home [Tulare]. This was not the first time for me or others to have to leave before the conclusion. E-mail discussions have produced a suggestion to start the meetings at 6:30. I understand that the Board will put this idea before the members. For one used to eating at 5:00, an early start is great, but I would prefer a trap door for the speakers who run past their hour!



2009 National Civil War Association Winter Conference in Benicia

**The National Civil War Association
In partnership with
The Benicia Historical Museum**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again the NCWA is pleased to present our Winter Quarters Conference event for 2009. The coming conference will once again be held at the historic Camel Barns in Benicia California. Please join us February 27 through March 1st as we hear presentations by some of the hobby's most recognizable names. We are once again pleased to have Les Jensen, Juanita Leish, Nick Sekela and Mark Tackitt with us again this year along with all our other very special guest lecturers. We are also all very excited to bring several new presenters to our conference offering this year including, Kevin O'Beirne, Darilyn Barrett, and Elizabeth Ontis.

Registration for the 2009 event has now opened and the registration papers are all available at www.ncwa.org. The rates are as follows:

Add \$10.00 to any registration fee to receive a copy of all conference handouts and materials. Materials will be available for pickup at check-in.

We encourage you all to keep informed about the upcoming event by checking www.ncwa.org often.

Jen Roger

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CW Humor from "Blue & Gray Laughing"

"A Charleston, S.C. paper claimed that if Braxton Bragg was near to the gates of Heaven and invited in, at the critical moment he would fall back!"

BOOK REVIEW

To give members a little more background in our dinner topic on Thursday with Dennis Kohlmann Dave received this review recently from the History Book Club.

What follows is a review of Jeff Wert's new book on JEB Stuart.

Wert, Jeffrey D. **Cavalryman of the Lost Cause: a biography of J.E.B. Stuart.** New York: Simon and Schuster, 2008. Reviewed by William C. Davis.

Only Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson have attracted more biographies of leading figures of the Army of Northern Virginia than James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart. They first appeared while the Confederacy was yet alive, and they continued thereafter at a regular pace down to the present. Best known, probably, was John W. Thompson's 1930 work *Jeb Stuart* a well-written and wholly sympathetic work that was not superseded until Emory M. Thomas brought forth his *Bold Dragoon: The Life of J. E. B. Stuart* in 1986. This was the first truly scholarly work to address Stuart, his milieu and his legacy, and it has remained the standard to the present.

And yet in the two decades since Thomas's book appeared, even more untapped sources have come to light, along with more scholarly work on the army and the cause that Stuart served, and so Jeffrey Wert determined that a new generation was ready for a new biography. Wert will be no stranger to Book Club readers, with his solid biographies of General James Longstreet, Colonel John Singleton Mosby and George Armstrong Custer. Wert performs exemplary research and writes with a dramatic flair that does not compromise sound judgment.

Dramatic flair is just what Jeb Stuart brought to the war, and it has often not served him well since. He was --- and is --- often dismissed as a glory hound, a man having more fun playing a role from Sir Walter Scott than performing useful service. Yet Stuart was probably the ideal cavalryman, keenly sensitive to useful intelligence, ever mindful of the benefits that raids on supply lines and the enemy interior could have in slowing a main army. He possibly only failed Lee once, at Gettysburg, and even there myth has obscured the reality of his performance in that campaign, as well as his influence -- if any --- on the outcome of the battle.

Wert is no hagiographer. He holds Stuart to account for some poor judgment in the Gettysburg campaign and elsewhere, but he offers it in a context that Stuart's critics heretofore have too often ignored. The result is a portrait that is more understanding than sympathetic. And at the end of the day, Stuart still emerges a close contender for the title one of his old friends --- turned Yankee enemy --- gave him of being "the greatest cavalry officer ever foaled in America."

Current CSFU Production 'Shiloh Rules'

By Doris Baizley

Directed by Terry Miller

SHILOH RULES, by Doris Baizley, is a comedy about Civil War re-enactors staging the bloody battle of Shiloh. The re-enactors gather on the actual battlefield in West Tennessee. Among them are Clara May Abbott (Carly Oliver), a hardcore Union nurse re-enactor and her young trainee, Meg (Nicole Arbino). Clara has won honors at past events and hungers for more. Her fierce rival is Cecilia Pettison (Samantha Calabrese), a hardcore Confederate refugee re-enactor. She is also aided by a trainee, Lucy Gale (Natalie Row). The trainees don't share the narrow obsession of their mentors; they're also at Shiloh for the novelty, for academic credit and to meet guys.

Another amusing character is the Widow Beckwith (Danielle Jorn), a concessionaire who's out to gather dollars from both sides. Another, Officer Wilson (Brittney Caldwell), is a U.S. Park Guard who likes peace and quiet and is not particularly interested in the Civil War. She will have her hands full trying to keep order.

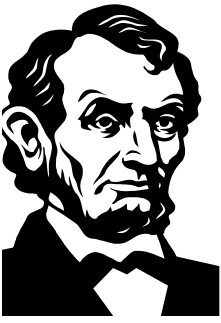
Before the event opens officially, Union and Confederate troops attack each other, and things spiral out of control from there. Along with plenty of laughs, the play offers insights into the Civil War, not to mention some national wounds that have yet to heal.

Playwright Baizley is a founding member of L.A. Theater Works and for seven years was resident playwright for the Mark Taper Forum's ITP Company for young audiences. Her plays *SHILOH RULES*, *MRS. CALIFORNIA* and her adaptation of *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* have been performed at many regional theatres, including the Mark Taper Forum, Cleveland Playhouse, Alabama Shakespeare Festival and ACT Seattle. They have also been produced by Fresno State, the Second Space and Valley high schools. Her recent play, *SEXSTING*, produced by the Salt Lake Acting Company, was nominated for a 2008 American Theatre Critics Association new play award.

Baizley has said that she became interested in historical re-enactments when she and her husband, Ed, accidentally drove through a re-enactment of the Battle of Montreal. "We saw people loading 18th century weapons into Volvo station wagons," she said, "It was amazing! That Summer we spent on the East Coast; there were several Civil War re-enactments." In writing the play, she wanted to give a "back-stage" look at an event and to focus on the roles of women in it.

Performances at the Dennis & Cheryl Woods Theatre on October 31, November 1-2 & 4-8, 2008. All Performances begin at 8PM except on Sunday when it begins at 2PM.

Ticket Prices: General Admission \$17; Fresno State Faculty/Staff, Alumni Association Members*, Seniors (60+) & Non-Fresno State Students (Under 5 not admitted) \$15; Fresno State Students* \$10 *ID Required. Box Office Hours Monday - Friday - Noon to 5PM. North Entrance Speech Arts Building Phone - 278-2216 Fax 278-7215 Web Site - <http://www.csufresno.edu/theatreartse-mail-pamd@csufresno.edu>. University Theatre Box Office is at 5201 North Maple Avenue M/S SA46 Fresno CA 93740-8027. Pamela Dyer- Business & Promotions Manager Theatre Arts Department California State University, Fresno 559-278-7512559-278-7215 - FAX www.csufresno.edu/Theatre



**You are invited to take part in the
24th Annual West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference
November 7-9, 2008 in Clovis, California
"The Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley"**

Presenters:

Robert K. Krick, Jeffry Wert, Jim Stanbery, Peter Cozzens, Evan Jones, Don and Bill Bennett, David Paul Davenport, and Emily and Olivia Moats.

- The Brass Band of the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will regale Registrants with music of the period on Friday the 7th before dinner.
- A special showing of **Shenandoah** with Jimmy Stewart will be presented in the barely a year old auditorium of the Veterans Memorial Building on Friday, Nov. 7th at 9 PM.
- An **optional tour** on Saturday the 8th from 9 AM to noon features a tour of the Fresno home of Dr. Meux (portrayed by Charles Baley), an assistant surgeon in the 9th Tennessee Vol. Inf. (CSA) who moved to Fresno after losing his slaves and other valuables as a result of the war, and a tour to the Grand Army of the
- Republic Memorial and internments of Union Veterans of the War at Fresno's Mountain View Cemetery, led by GAR historian Fred Bohmfalk of Elk Grove.
- The classic movie Bloody Shenandoah, narrated by Burgess Meredith, will be shown at approximately 9 PM. Following the Keynote Address after dinner on Saturday the 8th.
- Hundreds of books will be for sale, as well as information about a Lewis Travel tour of the Shenandoah Valley in April 2009 will be available and a display of Civil War artifacts and weaponry.
- **LODGING:** Comfort Suites (143 Clovis Ave, 559-299-9992) and Best Western Clovis Cole (415 Clovis Ave, 559-299-1547). Hotels in Old Town Clovis have reserved blocks of rooms for West Coast Conference attendees at \$109.00 for a double room. Ask for the Civil War Conference Rate. Meetings will be held at Clovis's Veterans Memorial Building at Hughes and 6th Street less than two blocks from the two hotels.
- Registration fee of \$175.00, includes six meals (Dinner Friday, Nov. 7th, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday the 8th, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday the 9th). Register on line, contact Pattie Spencer, or at the door.

See SJVCWRT.org for more information.

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Civil War Round Table
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