

# BUGLE CALL ECHOES

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MARCH 2004 - VOL 12 ISSUE 3

MARCH 25TH MEETING



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello again to all.

Thanks to Paula Siegel for her wonderful presentation last month on Harriet Tubman. Because of the great work of our program director Brian Clague, we continue to have excellent speakers for our monthly meetings. Thanks Brian. I hope we can convince you to remain at this job in the future.

Speaking of duties within our organization, I want to remind everyone that elections for officers will be held at the November meeting. In addition to officers, we will also be needing a publicity person to take over for Lydia Flores and someone to take over newsletter publication from Charlie Jorgensen. Thanks to both Lydia and Charlie who volunteered and did excellent jobs. I'm sure that they would be willing to spend a little time helping their successors take over these jobs so no one has to reinvent the wheel. Please consider how you can help this wonderful organization. If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot. Some of our members have worked hard for years and they need a break. We all owe a big debt of gratitude to Ken and Barbara Moats, Bill Head, Mike and Gloria Carter, and Brian Clague. If you are currently on the Board of Directors, please consider becoming an Officer and I hope that everyone else will consider becoming a member of the Board.

This month we look forward to a return visit from a past presenter, Ray Bisio, who will talk about "Things you should know about the Civil War but don't." I hope to see all of you this month at the Ramada Inn on March 25th.

Ray Bisio will give a talk on "Things you should know about the Civil War but Don't."

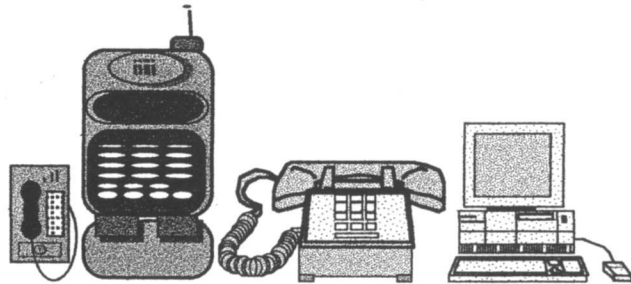
Ramada Inn - Shaw at Highway 41 -  
No-host Social Hour 6PM/Dinner 7PM  
(\$16) - Program at 8PM -

PLEASE CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

Ray has been a student of the Civil War for more than forty years. It's only been in the last fourteen years that he has become an active participant. He has been presenting at Roundtables for the past six or seven years. Though most of his talks are in California he has gone to out of state Roundtables many times and given many presentations on the Gettysburg Campaign, Civil War medicine, Civil War music and many other topics.

Ray is currently a reenactor with the American Civil War Association, which he helped found in 1995. For six summers Ray worked for the National Military Park Service as a VIP (Volunteer in Parks) at Gettysburg. His duties consisted of presentations to visitors, leading park tours, research and other duties. Tonight he will talk on his favorite Civil War subject.

## FOR RESERVATIONS



Please let us know if you are coming as we need to get a count for the hotel.

KEN/BARB 229-3654 [bhmfresno@comcast.net](mailto:bhmfresno@comcast.net)

## AFTER ACTION REPORT MEETING OF 2/26/04

By Ron Vaughan

There were 21 persons present on a very rainy night. If you missed it, I will say that we were treated to an interesting talk by Paula Siegel about the life of Harriet Tubman. I was expecting a short and simple presentation about this woman. I was familiar with the basic story of Tubman and the underground railroad, but Paula added much more dimension to Harriet.

She was born Harriet Ross in 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland. Her father was a free black, but her mother and 10 siblings were slaves. Their owner, Edward Brodus, had a small unproductive farm, so he went into slave breeding and selling or hiring out his slaves. Mr. Brodus was not cruel, but the people who hired Harriet were. Harriet was taken from her family at age 6 to be a 24 hour a day baby-sitter. She was beaten when ever the child cried, and poor treatment caused Harriet to become sick. She was sent back to her mother, who nursed her back to health. She was soon sent out on other jobs, and other ill treatment.

Harriet was a rebellious child (some said it was because of her Ashante ancestry), so one after another of her assignments did not work out. At age 15 she tried to help a runaway slave and the master hit her in the head with a lead weight. The dent in her forehead caused a concussion and for the rest of her life she suffered from narcolepsy. Also, she began to have visions.



Her owner wanted to sell her, but no one wanted to buy "damaged goods". She was afraid of being sold away from her family. She became very religious and prayed fervently for her master to become a Christian and change. When he didn't change, she became frustrated and prayed that God would kill him. When Mr. Brodus abruptly died, she was overwhelmed with guilt. She began to pray constantly in everything she did.

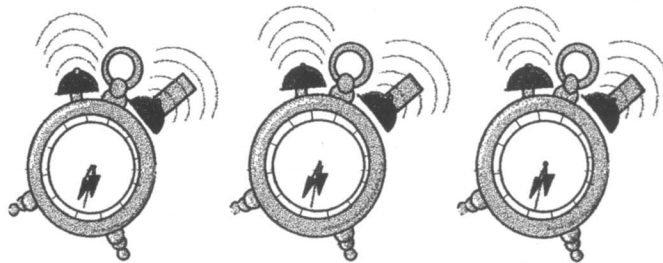
At age 24 she fell in love and married John Tubman, a free black. But he was not kind and she began to have visions of running away. Finally, she ran to a neighborly white woman, who she sensed would help her. The woman was a Quaker, who sent

her to a house that was part of the underground railroad. In six days she was safe in Pennsylvania.

Since the early days of slavery in America, there were people who would help slaves. One owner said that it seemed like his slaves had disappeared to an underground road. This concept spread and as railroads became more prevalent, the term for the secret network of safe houses became the "underground railroad".

In Philadelphia, she met Abolitionist Thomas Garrett, who helped find work and a place to live. She became active in the Abolitionist movement, and soon she began to desire to help others escape, especially her family. She made 19 separate trips into the South to bring people out. She had many miraculous escapes from dangerous situations. Some of these escapes were the result of her shrewd actions and some seemed to be amazing answers to her prayers. Some called her "magic" and some called her "miracle". She would sneak up to working slaves and let them know she was there by singing hymns about going to the Promised Land, so she became known as "Moses". She became so famous that there were "wanted dead or alive" posters all over, with up to \$12,000 reward. Her many adventures would fill a book or make for an wonderful movie script. She was involved with John Brown in planning his ill-fated raid, but at the last moment, she had a long narcolepsy spell, and they left without her. Again her luck had held.

When the Civil War began, she was enlisted as a scout and spy. Despite her valorous work, at the end of the war she was never paid. After the war, she raised funds and opened the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged. Eventually, she married Nelson Davis, who she had nursed when he was a soldier in the 8th US Colored Regt. She lived until 92 years old. Paula said Harriet is a role model for everyone who is enslaved by fears and situations. She was an example of someone who escaped bondage and then helped others to freedom.

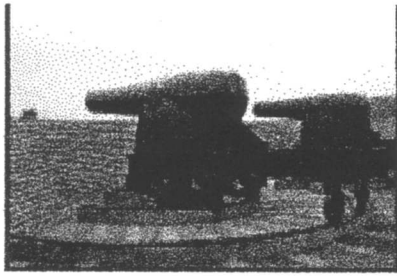


**It's that time again - 2004 Membership dues time  
Form on the back**

The following is a brief excerpt from *Civil War Artillery Projectiles* by Jack W. Melton, Jr.

## COLUMBIADS

A Columbiad was a heavy iron artillery piece which could fire shot and shell at a high angle of elevation using a heavy powder charge. Columbiads were usually classified as seacoast defense weapons and were mounted in fortifications along the rivers and other waterways.

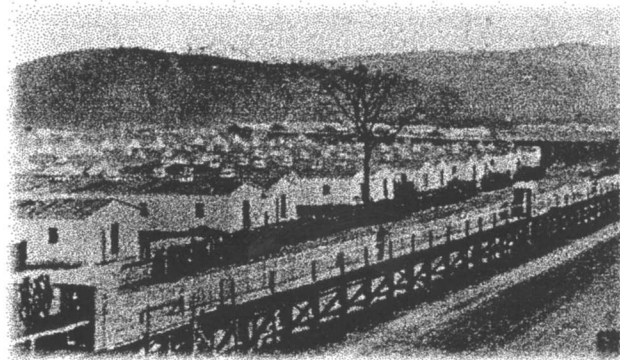
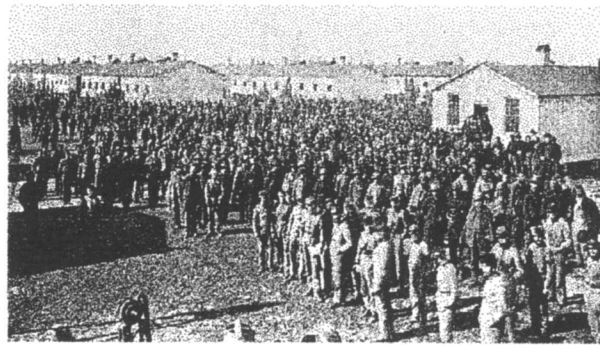


The original Columbiad, a 50-pounder, was invented in 1811 by Col. George Bomford and it was used in the War of 1812. Shortly afterwards it was considered obsolete and retired.

The weapon was produced again in 1844 in 8- and 10-inch models. In 1858, a version was produced which eliminated the chamber in the breech, which strengthened the gun. In 1861, Lt. Thomas J. Rodman, of the U.S. Ordnance Department, contracted with the Fort Pitt Foundry in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to produce Columbiads using a special casting method he had developed in 1844. His process, which caused less stress on the gun during casting thereby preventing cracks from forming, was a success and the Columbiad became widely known as a Rodman gun.

Columbiads were produced in 8-, 10-, 12-, 13-, 15-, and 20-inch models and were primarily smoothbore even though a few rifled models were turned out. The Confederates continued to produce their Columbiads by the old method and experimented with banding and rifling the weapon. Under this method, a Confederate Columbiad was capable of firing a 225-pound shot a distance of 1,800 yards.

Compared to guns, howitzers, and mortars, the Columbiads saw very little action. By the end of the Civil War these heavy weapons were obsolete, replaced by more effective weapons which had been developed during the war.



**What are these two vacation spots and where are they?**

**Absolutely no prizes will be awarded. See page 4.**

## AMBITIOUS PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD LIFETIME THEATER'S PRODUCTION OF *KILLER ANGELS* - WITH 9 ACTORS

(SEE ATTACHED REVIEW)

**Coming  
Soon**

**April 29th Ron Vaughan: Battle of Pea Ridge**

**May 27th Ray Avila: General Kershaw**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2004

President	Tom Carr	Dave Davenport	Director
President	Brian Clague	Patricia Spencer	Director
Ken Moats	Treasurer	Bob Quist	Director
Barbara Moats	Secretary	Gloria Carter	Alternate
Charles Jorgensen	Newsletter	Mike Carter	Past President
Lydia Flores	Publicity		

Photos - page 3: (T) Camp Douglas -Chicago 26K Conf.prisoners 4K died -(B) Elmira NY 12k/3k

MEMBERSHIP FORM      MEMBERSHIP YEAR - JANUARY TO DECEMBER

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table  
Membership -Individual/Family \$25 -----\$12.50 Student or Newsletter only  
\$5 OF EACH MEMBERSHIP GOES TOWARD CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Any specific area of Civil War interest? \_\_\_\_\_

Bring this membership form and your check to a meeting or mail to:

SJVCWRT  
PO BOX 5695  
FRESNO, CA 93755

