



BUGLE CALLS FEBRUARY, 2019

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

1. FEBRUARY 14TH MEETING
 2. UPCOMING EVENTS
 3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
 4. AFTER ACTION REPORT
 5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR
 6. PRESERVATION NEWS
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1. FEBRUARY 14TH 2019 MEETING

6:00 Dinner & social hour

7:00 Meeting

DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 710 W. SHAW AVE., CLOVIS

2. UPCOMING EVENTS

*March 3, 2019: Civil War Re-enactment at Mooney Grove, Visalia
2 Battles Sat pm, and 1 Sunday Noon. See CWRS website.

*March 14, SJVCWRT meeting, Denny's 6 pm.

*April 5 & 6, 2019 in Baton Rouge, LA for the 3rd Annual Baton Rouge
Civil War Symposium. <https://www.brcwrt.com/2019-symposium.html>

3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members,

This month's meeting will be on February 14th, Valentine's Day, at Denny's at 6:00 pm. The meeting topic will be Romance in the Civil War, including Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln.

Valentine's Day has been around for quite some time. A time to spend with loved ones and significant others. Even during the 19th century when our country was embattled in a great civil war, and with the significant loss of life. Valentines Day was still celebrated during the time by many of the women (wives and daughters), and husbands who weren't fighting. Those who were at home managed to create love letters, poems and sonnets, crafting them together, hence the Valentine's Day card. At the time, news and correspondence traveled very slow. I'm sure it took time for soldiers to receive them, but knowing that they got them was quite reassuring. Valentines Day was a time to take a step back from the chaos.

The following is a brief history of the Valentines Day card, from <https://www.smithsonianmag.com>.

The history of Valentine cards in north America owes a lot to Esther Howland. She popularized the cards just when they were needed most: during the Civil War. Valentines were especially important during the Civil War when husbands and wives, and young lovers were separated not only by miles but by the fear they would never see each other again, writes novelist Joan Itaska in her long-running Civil War history blog.

Howland turned DIY cards into an industry, so that now she is sometimes called "The Mother of the Valentine." At a time before printing technology had the sophistication it does today, making a really beautiful valentine at a price most people could afford meant doing it by hand. "Beautiful and elaborate European Valentines were available in mid-nineteenth century America, but their cost and rarity limited their market to a wealthy elite," writes the Library of Congress's Mary Champagne. And card-makers in New York made lithographed Valentines, but they "could hardly compare to the handcrafted valentines Esther Howland made famous." Howland

began selling valentines that looked like traditional handmade cards. But hers were made using an all-woman assembly line in her home, Itska writes.

Howland's cards were made collage style: layers and layers of pasted-together objects. She often used brightly colored scraps of paper underneath light-colored lace to get the benefit of negative space. These cards were meant to be sort of three-dimensional, because of the number of layers they had, and were "particularly effective when placed in an ornamental box made specifically to display these special valentines."

Howland is known for a number of innovations in the valentine industry, but maybe the one that shows that she really knew her market was the fact that her cards didn't come with a motto or verse on the outside. After all, as she knew, your love is unique and won't always fit with a pre-made card. "It is frequently the case that a valentine is found to suit, but the verse or sentiment is not right," she stated. As a solution, Howland's valentines had a verse on the inside.

In 1879, after incorporating as The New England Valentine Co., her company started publishing a Valentine Verse Book that had 131 verses inside it printed in multiple colors. "A verse could be chosen from the book, cut out and pasted over the original verse inside the card," writes Champagne.

Howland turned her card-making business into an empire that came to cater to other holidays as well, ultimately selling her business four decades later to her main competitor.

Read more at: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com>

Regards,
Michael Spencer

4. AFTER ACTION REPORT
OF MEETING OF JAN. 10TH
BY RON VAUGHAN

Eleven persons were present for the meeting, including Lisa's friend, Robin Hyatt.

During the meeting portion, Patty explained that President Michael, had to work. She discussed some possible speakers that she is trying to have come to present to us. The Sacramento CWRT will host the 2019 West Coast Conference, the 2nd weekend of Nov., the theme is "High Command".

Treasurer Gail reported our bank balance is \$5,577. It was discussed to donate \$4,000 to The Friends of Raymond Battlefield for replacing informational signs. The motion was approved by a vote of the 4 persons who were paid up members, at this time. Each sign will cost about \$500, so we will have 6 signs to possibly dedicate, and 2 signs for the Inland Empire CWRT. We agreed that Steve Madden, who has been active for years in CWRT activities, and is also a docent at The Lincoln Shrine, would nominate one of their members who has been very active in preservation efforts.

Our Show and Tell Night went very well. Not only did several members share, almost everyone took part in the discussions that were generated. The first to share was Wayne Scott, who discussed some of the books he has read about Lincoln. The "Killing Lincoln" book is very readable, but has some inaccurate facts.

Helen spoke about the book "1493", which has a Civil War tie, in that the Mason Dixon Line was drawn to delineate the northern limit of malaria.

Mike Green showed his power point presentation on our contributions to the Raymond Battlefield. I tried to show my PP on Carol Vaughan's great grandfather, who fought in the CW. However, my laptop decided there was a "network problem" and I failed to get the program to show, despite the fact that it had come right up when I first set up the machine at the meeting. It was very frustrating!

Gail shared memorabilia of her grandfather, Frank Egan, who was in WW I. It was interesting, even if not CW.

5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From a Civil War Valentine, which featured a cartoonish picture of “The Brave Volunteer” lighting a cigar with the burning fuse of an artillery shell! The verse reads:

“When this cruel war is over,
And our noble Volunteers
Home return to live in clover,
Shun’t we have good times, my dears?
Honor to the heroes, who by
Their brave deeds us captivate,
Think of all the kisses ruby
That upon their coming wait!

6. PRESERVATION NEWS

Mike Green has consulted with Parker Hills, and confirmed that the signs for the Raymond Battlefield will cost between \$500 and \$700. Therefore that will mean that our donation of \$4,000 will provide for about six signs, which will be decided to the following persons: 2 for Inland Empire CWRT—Steve Madden and Oscar Weingart, and for our RT it was decided that the persons will be Walter & Gail Schulze, Michael & Patricia Spencer, Mike & Carolyn Green, and Ron & Linda Vaughan.