



BUGLE CALLS, FEBRUARY 2022

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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1. COMING EVENTS:

A. FEBRUARY 10, MEETING: Tom Ebert: “The Prelude to War: 1850s”

DENNY’S RESTURANT, 710 W. SHAW

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Meeting:

B. MARCH 10 MEETING: Bernie Quinn: “Berdan’s Rifles”

C. APRIL 14 MEETING: Part 2 of Bernie Quinn’s “Berdan’s Rifles”

D. MAY 12 MEETING: To be determined

2. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

BY MICHAEL SPENCER

Once again, happy new year! On the topic of our meetings (which have resumed) Ron had mentioned ways to recruit more members or get more people to join (see

below). If anyone has suggestions or options on how to do so, let us know at our next meeting February 10th @ 6:00 pm. Also I am looking into making a poster board with our round table logo, so that it can be displayed while we have our meeting. It may draw attention of other diners inside Denny's. I have a few ideas on how to get more members. I have gone to the library in the past (many years ago). I will also check out local schools in Clovis. Teachers and students, I'm sure, are always looking for ways to give extra credit.

Civil War For the month of January....

*3 January. The Richmond, Virginia paper reports from North Carolina: "Wilmington, N. C., Jan. 3. --The secession flag, with fifteen stars, was raised here to-day by a large and enthusiastic gathering of people. A secession meeting was held to-night at the theatre, which was densely crowded. The secession feeling is increasing daily."

*9 January. After seceding from the Union on Dec. 20, 1860, South Carolina initiates hostilities by firing upon the *Star of the West*, an unarmed merchant vessel hired by the U. S. government to deliver troops and supplies to Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. The order to fire is given by Governor

Francis Pickens. The ship retreats. These are the first Confederate shots fired at a vessel flying the U. S. flag.

*9 January. Mississippi secedes from the Union.

*10 January. Florida secedes from the Union. At Pensacola the Federal garrison spike their guns and move offshore to Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island. Pickens will remain in Union hands throughout the war.

*11 January. Alabama secedes from the Union. Also, having written to the President to apologize, Governor John Ellis of North Carolina writes to militia commander John L. Cantwell in Wilmington with instructions to return Forts Johnson and Caswell which Cantwell's troops have seized to the U. S. government -- that North Carolina has no authority to take U. S. property.

*19 January. Georgia secedes from the Union. Also, Governor Ellis sends Charles E. Lee of the Charlotte Military Academy to the north with orders to buy arms and military equipment for North Carolina. The bill totals \$242,405.

*20 January. At Fort Sumter, commanding officer Major Robert Anderson asks that he be allowed to send the women and children in the fort to New York. His request is

granted and 17 women, 12 children under 10 years of age, and 11 infants under 2 years of age leave.

*26 January. Louisiana secedes from the Union.

*29 January. Kansas enters the Union as a state; their constitution prohibits slavery.

*31 January. The North Carolina legislature re-elects Thomas Clingman as U. S. senator. (At this time senators were not elected by popular vote.) Later this year the Senate will expel him for anti-Union activities and he will go on to be a Confederate general.

*February his month in North Carolina, opinion on secession is still divided. A South Carolina diarist writes, "N. C. seems in no hurry to join us, she certainly can't be called hasty".

Michael J Spencer

3. AFTER ACTION REPORT

1/13 MEETING, BY RON VAUGHAN

Twelve persons were present for our meeting. We missed Lisa Peters, who is always present, also Linda Vaughan was away. New member Steve Fraser came for the first time, though he has been following our website for some time, and he is excited about our November 2022 Conference speakers. Dr. Alan Carden (a member from past days) and his wife came, and we hope they will be back. North & South magazine publisher Keith Poltier planned to attend, but his car broke down. He hopes to come next month.

I reported that that we finally received a tax ID number for our organization. On 12/31, the Spencers drove to Tulare Sierra Bank, and we signed up for the new bank account and deposited \$1280.

Mike Green gave an update on preservation efforts at the Raymond Battlefield.

Our speaker was Peter Lee, who was born in London, England, and now a professor at Columbia College. He is a

re-enactor who represents Lt. Col. Fremantle, and is a member of the ACWA and the Stanislaus CWRT. He was seated next to Jason Cheng, and to our surprise, they began conversing in Mandarin! Peter had spent some years in Singapore.

Peter gave his presentation as Lt. Col. Fremantle, wearing an authentic full dress Royal Army uniform of the Cold Stream Guards. He told how he was stationed at Gibraltar, in June 1862, when the CSS Sumter docked for coal and minor repairs. He talked to Captain Rafael Semmes, and then decided to take leave and visit the South. He traveled to Matamoros, Mexico, then by carriage across Texas, then Eastward. During his travels he met General Kirby Smith, Braxton Bragg, Joe Johnston, Jefferson Davis, and eventually linked up with Lee's Army at Gettysburg. He related how he was impressed by the devastation caused by rifled artillery and muskets. Most of Peter/Fremantle's discussion involved British policy regarding the Union Blockade, the South's "King Cotton" diplomacy, and Confederate privateers. Following his presentation, there was a good Q & A and discussions.

Members were very generous with donations (\$80) for tickets for the book raffle.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT IDEAS:

I attended a zoom class on CWRT recruitment. Here are some of the ideas. Let's discuss what we can do.

- *Ask members for recruitment ideas
- *"Bring a Friend Meeting" Both get free raffle tickets?
- *Reward for recruiting? (free dinner?)
- *Make business cards to pass out.
- *Volunteer as a group for community project activity
- *Welcoming experience for new or prospective member
- *Make email template for members to send invites
- *Write a testimonial or story of how CWRT has impacted you
- *Google Analytics on who has looked at our website
- *List member benefits and how to join on website (What benefits?)

- * Welcome packet for new member
 - *Build a float for vets parade or county fair
 - *Apply for Non-profit status and apply for grant from Google
 - *Email & social media marketing?
 - *PSA on Media (KMJ?)
 - *Sign in front of meeting restaurant
 - *Put info at Libraries and Legion of Valor Museum.
 - *Outreach to CSUF & City Collage? Free membership to students?
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4. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From “The Blue & Gray Laughing”

“Yesterday One raw captain of a rural company... wanted to leave the squad he was drilling for a moment, and brought them to the “rest” in this style: ‘Squad break ranks! But if any of you leave your places till I come back, I will have you put in the guardhouse!’” (Footnote: At the command “rest!” soldiers are free to fall out and sit down in the immediate

area. The command “Break Ranks” allows the soldiers to wander off, so the young officer was green indeed!)

5. ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Part two of Verne Coles’ article from the 1994 Bugle Calls Echoes:

“The Civil War soldier was quite an ordinary human being rendered extraordinary by his confrontation with fate, coming to grips with something larger than himself. He never quite managed to look like a European-model soldier; incurably he looked precisely like he was—a civilian who had put on a uniform and taken up a weapon because there was a job to be done...

If he did nothing else, this soldier in blue or gray at least proved something about the way Americans react in the great moments of history. He displayed heroism without indulging in heroics. Perhaps the best way to get the true feeling of him is to visit one of our Civil War battlefields—those park-like expanses of lawn and trees with their military cemeteries where white headstones are ranked in admirable

military precision: the only real touch of military precision, I suppose, that our Civil War soldiers ever attained.”