



## **BUGLE CALLS, APRIL 2026**

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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### **1. APRIL 9TH MEETING**

Denny's Restaurant, 710 W. Shaw, Clovis

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Meeting: Topic is CSA General John Pelham.

8:30 Book Raffle

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### **2. COMING EVENTS:**

**MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**NO JUNE OR JULY, OR AUGUST MEETING**

**Note: last 2 Augusts I tried hosting a luncheon meeting at the Tulare Museum, with a visit to the grave of Tulare's C. W. Medal of honor winner,**

**but only Spencers came down, so due to lack of interest, no further attempt.**

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### **3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MICHAEL SPENCER**

Hello All,

Our next meeting will fall on April 9th at 6:00pm. This famous date also coincides with Robert E Lee's surrender to Ulysses S Grant. The conclusion of the civil war at Appomattox Courthouse.

In the village of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865, [Robert E. Lee surrenders](#) his 28,000 Confederate troops to Union General Ulysses S. Grant, effectively ending the American [Civil War](#). Forced to abandon the Confederate capital of Richmond, blocked from joining the surviving Confederate force in North Carolina, and harassed constantly by Union cavalry, Lee had no other option. In retreating from the Union army's Appomattox Campaign, the Army of Northern Virginia had

stumbled through the Virginia countryside stripped of food and supplies. At one point, Union cavalry forces under General [Philip Sheridan](#) had actually outrun Lee's army, blocking their retreat and taking 6,000 prisoners at Sayler's Creek. Desertions were mounting daily, and by April 8 the Confederates were surrounded with no possibility of escape. On April 9, Lee sent a message to Grant announcing his willingness to surrender. The two generals met in the parlor of the Wilmer McLean home at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Lee and Grant, both holding the highest rank in their respective armies, had known each other slightly during the Mexican War and exchanged awkward personal inquiries. Characteristically, Grant arrived in his muddy field uniform while Lee had turned out in full dress attire, complete with sash and sword. Lee asked for the terms, and Grant hurriedly wrote them out. All officers and men were to be pardoned, and they would be sent home with their private property—most important, the horses, which could be used for a

late spring planting. Officers would keep their side arms, and Lee's starving men would be given Union rations.

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#### **4. SECRETARY'S AFTER ACTION REPORT, 3/18 MEETING, BY RON VAUGHAN**

I spoke on CSA Officer John Pelham. Young Pelham attended West Point Military Academy, but resigned when the war was about to break out. He was assigned as a Lieutenant of horse artillery with Stuart's Cavalry, engaging in over 60 encounters. His shining encounter was at Fredericksburg, where, he advanced two guns forward to enfilade the advancing Union line, which contributed to the repulse of the Union attack.

His guns location is now called "Pelham's Corner" in his honor. He was killed in the Battle of Kelly's Ford 3/17/1863.

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## 5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From “The Blue & Gray Laughing”

“Captain Davy Crockett, of Arkansas, grandson of the celebrated Davy Crockett, was going home on a leave of absence during the last days of the War. He had ridden all day, and hungry and weary, he stopped at nightfall at a house along the way and asked for lodging. ‘Can’t take you,’ said an old man at the door. ‘Got nothing to eat. The rebels, they comes along and eats up all we got, and then the Yankees, they comes along and they eats up the balance!’”