

BUGLE CALLS, AUGUST 2018

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



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- 1. AUGUST BARBEQUE, Sat. 18th, 12:00 to dark.**
Brian & Linda Clague's Cabin, Shaver Lake
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- 2. UPCOMING EVENTS:**
***SEPT. 13TH: Author Dana Lombardy, "Grant Rising"**
Book signing and lecture. He is also giving away a free used Civil War book to all attendees!
Denny's Restaurant, 710 W. SHAW, CLOVIS
***OCT.**
***NOV. DENNIS COLEMAN "The Birth of the Cavalry"**
-

- 3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Michael Spencer

Greetings members,

I hope that everyone is having great summer so far, aside from the triple digit heat. Which brings me to the **potluck BBQ in Shaver Lake at Brian and Linda's house August 18th. The gathering will commence about 12:00 pm, dinner will be at 4:00ish. A-L brings a side or main dish, M-Z dessert.** I look forward to seeing everyone.

On that note I had a great time while I was on vacation the last two weeks of June visiting my dad. I got to go fishing, hiking and other outdoor activities. I think my favorite part was going out to the Black Rock Desert in Nevada (where Burning Man is). And for the first time I went to Lassen Volcanic National Park, I got some amazing pictures of both places.

(Editor's Note: Regrettably, pics seldom survive Email transfers.)

4. AFTER ACTION REPORT

By Ron Vaughan

Below is some of the text from Michael's talk at the May meeting.

[Civil War in The Winter](#)
[By Michael Spencer](#)

Civil War winters were somewhat trying and monotonous for both the Confederate and Union armies. Impassable, muddy roads and harsh weather conditions precluded active operations. Disease was rampant, killing more men than battles. But with all the hardships winter also brought soldiers together and gave an opportunity to bond and enjoy permanent camps.

In the winter, large camps were established with more substantial shelter. Winter huts were built by armies out of trees mud

and soldiers canvases. Most huts included a chimney to keep the small space warm, some more effectively than others.

Camps were set up like small villages complete with crisscrossing lanes (company streets) churches and sutlers' shops. While this seemed cozy, though the villages lacked systems to provide clean h20 and clear waste. Food was predominately limited. Disease and death spread easily.

However bad weather, boredom was an ever present problem. Commanders and soldiers alike tried to establish activities and work to break the monotony. Camp up-keep, religious services, letter writing, card games, storytelling were part of camp life. The usual routine of army life was carried on day by day, with not many incidents to vary the camp life, occasionally the soldiers would engage in a snowball fight, in which generals, colonels, captains, and privates took part.

As the war progressed winter encampments displayed the resources available to each army. The Confederacy began to run low on supplies and food, and their camps suffered while Union might, supplies, and transportation facilitated a more comfortable winter for its soldiers.

Sam Watkins, Co H, 1st Tennessee Regiment, wrote in December 1864, "We march on the cold and hard-frozen ground, and when we walk about, the echo of our footsteps sound like the echo of a tombstone. The earth is crusted with snow, and the wind from the northwest is piercing our bones. We can see our ragged soldiers, with sunken cheeks and famine glisten eyes."

5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

Rather than humor, this time a short poem:

ROBERT E. LEE, By Julia Ward Howe

"A gallant foeman in the fight,
A brother when the fight was o'er,
The band that led the host with might,
The blesses torch of learning bore.

Thought may the minds of men divide,
Love makes the heart of nations one,
And so, thy soldier grave beside,
We honor thee, Virginia's son."

6. MAY ACTIVITIES:

A. LIBERTY CEMETARY CENTENNIAL & SESQUENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF MEMORIAL DAY. MAY 30TH 2018

Dr. David Davenport organized this commemorative event to observe the two anniversaries, and unveil a 30 ton monument donated by the Clampers of the Jim Savage Lodge. Also, participating were American Legion Post 509, Neil Kykendal's Civil Air Patrol, the JROTC of Design Science High School, Chaplin Col. Eddy, and others. I portrayed Gen. John Logan (then Senator) and read from his G.A.R. Order # 11, establishing the first Memorial Day, May 30th, 1868. My son Erik squeezed into a WWI uniform and read a 4 page text about the Fresno soldiers who died in WW I, and were buried in the newly established Liberty Cemetery, 100 years ago.

It was forecast to be 98 degrees that day, but God must have answered prayers, and we had a strong breeze that made it bearable to wear wool! The breeze was a blessing, but also a curse, as it blew down most of the large flags erected, and nearly swept away the text that presenters were reading. The sight of the hundreds of small flags on the graves, fluttering in the wind, was a sight to see. Fantastic job by David in organizing and typing up the readings.

B. WAR COLLEGE:

Over the Memorial Day weekend, I was invited by Dana Lombardy to speak at his "War College", part of the "Kublacon" Gaming Convention in Burlingame. I presented my talk on comparing the Mexican and American armies in 1846. Also, I gave my lecture on the Trans-Mississippi, as a way to advertise our West Coast CWRT Conference.