



BUGLE CALLS, FEBRUARY 2024

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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- 1. FEBRUARY 8th MEETING**

DENNY'S RESTAURANT

710 W. Shaw, Clovis

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Meeting

8:00 Program: "Bleeding Kansas" By Ron Vaughan

2. COMING EVENTS:

March 1 – 3: West Coast Civil War Conference, Monterey, CA

March 14th: Video on Battle of Franklin

April 11th: "Battle of Prairie Grove" by Ron Vaughan

May 9th ?

3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MICHAEL SPENCER

I received an email from David Woodbury who said congratulations on a successful conference. David also stated he has heard Parker Hills speak in the past. "He's tremendous", he quoted. He reminded both Pattie and I of the conference in Monterey coming up in March (1-3rd). Here is the website again with updated information www.whtours.org/1864-to-wars-end.html. There are still open spots available for this amazing conference. All information is located on the website link.

On that note, our next meeting will be February 8th. "Bloody Kansas", by speaker Ron Vaughn. At the last meeting we as a group decided to increase dues to \$40.00 per year. If you haven't paid yet please do so.

Regards,

Michael Spencer

The following tidbit is from BATTLEFIELDS.ORG

The Battle of Gettysburg marked the turning point of the Civil War. With more than 50,000 estimated casualties, the three-day engagement was the bloodiest single battle of the conflict.

How it ended

Union victory. Gettysburg ended Confederate general [Robert E. Lee](#)'s ambitious second quest to invade the North and bring the Civil War to a swift end. The loss there dashed the hopes of the Confederate States of America to become an independent nation.

In context

After a year of defensive victories in Virginia, Lee's objective was to win a battle north of the Mason-Dixon line in the hopes of forcing a negotiated end to the fighting. His loss at Gettysburg prevented him from realizing that goal. Instead, the defeated general fled south with a wagon train of wounded soldiers straining toward the Potomac. Union general [Meade](#) failed to pursue the retreating army, missing a critical opportunity to trap Lee and force a Confederate surrender. The bitterly divisive war raged on for another two years.

BEFORE THE BATTLE

On June 3, soon after his celebrated victory over Maj. Gen. [Joseph Hooker](#) at the [Battle of Chancellorsville](#), Gen. Robert E. Lee leads his troops north in his second invasion of enemy territory. The 75,000-man Army of Northern Virginia is in high spirits. In addition to seeking fresh supplies, the depleted soldiers look forward to availing themselves of food from the bountiful fields in Pennsylvania farm country, sustenance the war-ravaged landscape of Virginia can no longer provide.

Hooker also heads north, but he is reluctant to engage with Lee directly after the Union's humiliating defeat at Chancellorsville. This evasiveness is of increasing concern to President [Abraham Lincoln](#). Hooker is ultimately relieved of command in late June. His successor, Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade, continues to move the 90,000-man Army of the Potomac northward, following orders to keep his army between Lee and Washington, D.C. Meade prepares to defend the routes to the nation's capital, if necessary, but he also pursues Lee.

On June 15, three corps of Lee's army cross the Potomac, and by June 28 they reach the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. While Lee loses precious time awaiting intelligence on Union troop positions from his errant cavalry commander, Gen. [Jeb Stuart](#), a spy informs him that Meade is actually very close. Taking advantage of major local roads, which conveniently converge at the county seat, Lee orders his army to Gettysburg.

DURING THE BATTLE

UNION: [George G. Meade](#)—93,921

CONFEDERATE: [Robert E. Lee](#)—71,699

July 1. Early that morning a Confederate division under Maj. Gen. [Henry Heth](#) marches toward Gettysburg to seize supplies. In an unplanned engagement, they confront Union cavalry. Brig. Gen. [John Buford](#) slows the Confederate advance until the infantry of the Union I and XI Corps under Maj. Gen. [John F. Reynolds](#) arrives. Reynolds is killed in action. Soon Confederate reinforcements under

generals [A.P. Hill](#) and [Richard Ewell](#) reach the scene. By late afternoon, the wool-clad troops are battling ferociously in the sweltering heat. Thirty thousand Confederates overwhelm 20,000 Federals, who fall back through Gettysburg and fortify Cemetery Hill south of town.

July 2. On the second day of battle, the Union defends a fishhook-shaped range of hills and ridges south of Gettysburg. The Confederates wrap around the Union position in a longer line. That afternoon Lee launches a heavy assault commanded by Lieut. Gen. [James Longstreet](#) on the Union left flank. Fierce fighting rages at Devil's Den, [Little Round Top](#), the Wheatfield, the Peach Orchard, and Cemetery Ridge as Longstreet's men close in on the Union position. Using their shorter interior lines, Union II Corps commander Maj. Gen. [Winfield S. Hancock](#) and others move reinforcements quickly to blunt Confederate advances. On the Federal right, Confederate demonstrations escalate into full-scale assaults on East Cemetery Hill and [Culp's Hill](#). Although the Confederates gain ground on both ends of their line, the Union defenders hold strong positions as darkness falls.

July 3. Believing his enemy to be weakened, Lee seeks to capitalize on the previous day's gains with renewed attacks on the Union line. Heavy fighting resumes on Culp's Hill as Union troops attempt to recapture ground lost the previous day. Cavalry battles flare to the east and south, but the main event is a dramatic infantry assault by 12,500 Confederates commanded by Longstreet against the center of the Union position on Cemetery Ridge. Though undermanned, the

Virginia infantry division of Brig. Gen. [George E. Pickett](#) constitutes about half of the attacking force. Pickett, ordered by Lee to advance his division toward the enemy through a mile of unprotected farmland, replies, “General, I have no division,” but the order stands. During Pickett’s Charge, as it is famously known, only one Confederate brigade temporarily reaches the top of the ridge—afterwards referred to as the High Watermark of the Confederacy. This daring strategy ultimately proves a disastrous sacrifice for the Confederates, with casualties approaching 60 percent. Repulsed by close-range Union rifle and artillery fire, the Confederates retreat. Lee withdraws his army from Gettysburg late on the rainy afternoon of July 4 and trudges back to Virginia with severely reduced ranks of wasted and battle-scarred men.



**George E.
Pickett**

Biography
of Civil War
Confederate
General
George
Edward
Pickett

AFTERMATH, LOSSES:

- UNION: 23,049
- CONFEDERATE: 28,063

As many as 51,000 soldiers from both armies are killed, wounded, captured or missing in the three-day battle. The carnage is overwhelming, but the Union victory buoys Lincoln's hopes of ending the war.

4. AFTER ACTION REPORT, Meeting of January 11

BY RON VAUGHAN, SECRETARY- TREASURER

11 persons present. Dues of \$35 were paid by 6 members/couples. Group voted to increase dues to \$40. Voted for Mike Green to look into having a monument to Parker Hill, in Raymond, Miss.

Almost everyone presented something for "Show & Tell":

-Tom spoke of his new book: "America's Manifest Destiny, 1607 – 1898." Also, he shared about a book "Apostles of Disunion" by Charles Dawson, It is about the secession crisis, and how Slavery was the main cause of the Civil War. Mike Green brought a number of his enlarged battlefield pictures.

-Michael Spencer shared from a book on Union and Confederate financing of the war. He noted that the CSA had no income tax, due to a negative vote of the States. Instead, they printed money and issued bonds. After the war, CSA States paid out millions to veterans until the 1940s.

-Steve shared excerpts from a book on Stonewall Jackson, by James Robertson. He was always calm during battles. He donated money to a Black church, which eventually had a memorial window dedicated to him, because they considered him to be “The Blackman’s Friend.”

-Lisa shared her Civil War cookbook, which has recipes for CW food, such as how to cook salt pork.

-Jason brought a post CW US cavalry belt with cap pouch, ammo pouch, and holster. Wayne Scott / Abe Lincoln shared info about his Mississippi River cruise, and talked about Vicksburg Campaign. He also had various Lincoln pictures on display.

5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

FROM “THE BLUE & GRAY LAUGHING”

“Now what do you call this ‘ere? Is it beef? Or mutton? Or Pork? D’ye suppose I kin eat sech garbage an do half a day’s work? I say flesh and blood can’t stand it, this starvin’ a feller because he’s

went an felt patriotic an 'list hisself for the wars! Now suppose one of 'em chaps... the ones who've got all the tin was kep' on a cracker a day, with siplied bacon as us boys have been! Only, I'd jes' like for to feed'em, and show 'em how long it 'ud be afore they got fat and jolly on the Red Tape that's starving me!"