



BUGLE CALLS, MARCH 2020

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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1. MARCH 12TH MEETING:

PROGRAM:

Mike Carter impersonating General Edward Porter Alexander:

“Two Generals, One Lady”

Denny's Restaurant: 710 W. Shaw, Clovis

6:00 Social Hour and meal

7:00 Meeting and Program

2. COMING EVENTS:

*APRIL 4TH CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE IN TEMECULA (Gazette 665)

*APRIL 9TH MEETING: Bernie Quinn (Sacramento CWRT): "Berdan's Sharpshooters."

*MAY14TH MEETING: Illene Iverson, author of a book about her great grandfather Colonel Upton Hayes.

*NO MEETINGS IN JUNE OR JULY

*AUGUST BARBEQUE AT SHAVER LAKE (Date to be announced)

*Nov. 6 –8, 2020, West Coast Civil War Roundtable Conference:

“LOOKING AT LEE VS GRANT IN 1864, WITH 2020 VISION”

Wyndham Garden Airport Hotel, Fresno.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

BY MICHAEL SPENCER

Greetings everyone! Here is a heads up on our next meeting on March 12th. Same Bat time, same Bat channel at Denny's! Pattie, Ron, Linda, & myself met up on the 24th at the Wyndham Airport Gardens. We met with Sibyl Bayona, who is the same person who helped us set up our 2018 conference. The planned date is Nov. 6-8, 2020. We got estimated costs for meals and room use. Basically the same arrangements as 2018. We estimated 60 attendees, but can increase that number, but not decrease it. I will bring the proposed costs to our meeting. Mike Carter will be speaking on two Generals and a Lady.

Regards,

Michael Spencer

4. AFTER ACTION REPORT:

MEETING OF FEB. 13TH

BY RON VAUGHAN

There were twelve persons present at our meeting at Denny's. Linda Vaughan brought some Valentine decorations and strewed some heart candies around the tables.

- * No Treasurer's Report. The bank did not allow Mike Green and Michael Spencer to be added to the account, as it is in the name of Gail and under her SS number.
- * Mike Green reported 23 signs have been produced with our donation money, and will soon be installed on the Raymond Battlefield.
- * Discussion of our 2020 Conference plans. Mike Green urged members to be involved and join a conference planning committee.
- * Program with slides by Ron Vaughan on "Lee's Retreat From Gettysburg". It was based upon a book that my cousin David picked up at a visit to Gettysburg. I was working on a summery for this article, when the entire ten page text of my speech disappeared from my One Drive! Very crazy, as the Cloud is supposed to save everything!

A brief summery follows: The traditional explanation is that Lee decided to invade the North with the hope of inflicting yet another defeat on the Army of The Potomac. While this is true, Lee had a much more important motive. In the Winter of 1862-63, Virginia had been ravaged by war. Confederates could find few supplies of food, and supply trains from other states were scarce. Lee's troops were living on rations cut to one quarter—1/4 pound of salted meat per day. His army was starving. Also, poor rations led to increased sickness. In

addition, Lee's 36,000 horses were dying of disease, because they had little fodder.

To address this problem, in June, 1863, Lee launched his most ambitious plan of the war, an invasion of Pennsylvania's rich Cumberland Valley. Lee issued strict instructions to his commanders: Take from the citizens, what is necessary for the army, giving CSA money or certificates. If the inhabitants refused to comply, their property would be seized. Lee's plan was to stay in Pennsylvania for two months.

However, on July 3rd, the Battle of Gettysburg concluded the invasion. In many ways the battle was a draw, the Confederates and Union held their positions all day of the 4th. At 1:00 AM on the 4th, Lee had issued his orders for withdrawal and retreat. The wagon trains of wounded, Corps trains, and captured supplies were each 25 to 40 miles long! After several cavalry clashes, where some of the wagons were captured, they all arrived on July 7th through 9th, at the Potomac River. There they found the river had risen, too deep to ford and their Pontoon Bridge destroyed by Union cavalry. Lee had his army entrench in a long line covering the crossing points.

Meade arrived on July 12th, and after probes of the Confederate defenses, his Corps Commanders advised against an attack. By July 13th the river had fallen, and a new pontoon bridge had been constructed. Lee's Armt began crossing that night. On the morning of the 14th, Meade was surprised to learn that Lee had withdrawn most of his army. Meade immediately order Kilpatrick's cavalry to attack the 3,000 man rear guard of Heath's Division. In two hours of fighting a number of Confederates were killed or captured. Among them, General Pettigrew was mortally wounded. I think it is ironic, that Heth's Division was the first to engage at Gettysburg, and would be the last to fight in the campaign. Also, ironic, is that Pettigrew was one of the few generals in Pickett's Charge to survive, only to die here!

Author Kent Brown, opines that although the Battle of Gettysburg was a Confederate loss, the invasion of Pennsylvania may not have been. In fact, Lee managed to successfully bring out a more than forty five mile long train of quartermaster and subsistence wagons, filled with impressed goods. There were about 6,000 vehicles, and 30 to 40,000 horses and mules pulling them. About half of these had been captured in the North. Along with them, thousands of tons of hay and grain were captured, to feed these animals. Also, the Confederates brought away 40 to 50,000 head of cattle, 25,000 sheep, and thousands of hogs. For the first time during the war, Lee's army had fresh meat available for the foreseeable future. In addition, thousands of barrels of flour were acquired to feed the soldiers. In addition, Lee brought home large quantities of harness and saddles, iron bars, sheets of steel, forges, bellows, tools, wagon parts, coal, coal oil, tar, cloth, hats, and medicinal items—all required to keep the army operating in the field. The supplies meant the difference between the army staying intact, and falling apart. These fresh supplies extended the life of the Army of Northern Virginia until the Southern harvests later in the year.

5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR FROM "THE BLUE & GRAY LAUGHING"

"Our commissaries seem to think that by feeding soldiers on dough, they make them doughty warriors. They mistake, and men miss steak."