



BUGLE CALLS, NOVEMBER 2022

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- 1. WEST COAST CWRT CONFERENCE**
- 2. NOVEMBER MEETING**
- 3. COMING EVENTS**
- 4. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**
- 5. AFTER ACTION REPORT**
- 6. WHY "DIXIE"? + CIVIL WAR HUMOR**

1. WEST COAST CWRT CONFERENCE:

As of time of writing, there are 42 attendees, with others who are expected. Five Teachers from the John Adams School will be attending! Due illness or schedule conflicts, Ted Savas, Chris Mackowski, and Eric Whittenburg are unable to attend. Nevertheless, Gordon Rhea will be able to cover most of the topics.

2. NOVEMBER 10TH MEETING:

Denny's Restaurant

710 W. Shaw Ave. Clovis

Michael Spencer will speak on FREDRICK DOUGLASS.

- 6:00 PM Dinner & Social Hour
 - 7:00 Meeting and Speaker
 - 8:30 Book Raffle
-

3. COMING EVENTS:

A. DECEMBER 8TH CHRISTMAS PARTY

B. JANUARY 12TH MEETING: “Show & Tell” Bring a book, or an object to tell about.

4. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

By Michael Spencer

Greetings,

Hope all is well. Our conference was off to a rocky start, but we were successful in making it happen. I am looking forward to seeing you there (those that signed up). I’d hoped we’d have a bigger turnout. If we have another conference, we will be much more thorough with timing and planning (using social media outlets).

Our next meeting is November 10th, following the conference at Denny’s in Clovis. The topic of discussion is Frederick Douglass; I will be speaking. See ya then.

Regards,

Michael Spencer

5. AFTER ACTION REPORT: October Meeting

By Ron Vaughan, Secretary/Treasurer

Fifteen persons were present for the meeting, including Professor Alan Carden and spouse.

Wayne Scott reported he has been selected for the Honor Flight to D.C. and he has been asked to read the Gettysburg Address (in Abe L. garb) at the Lincoln Memorial.

Ron reported he deposited \$5,000 in the bank account, from 25 persons who have registered for our conference.

Tom Ebert gave a presentation on Lincoln and Emancipation.

According to some recent revisionists, Lincoln was not The Great Emancipator, but a racist! Did he really free the slaves?

According to Tom, in those days just about everyone was racist, but the audience can decide.

Abe's father, Thomas Lincoln was a devout Baptist, who hated slavery. So he moved his family from Kentucky to Illinois.

Thomas imbued his son with hatred for slavery. This was reinforced when Abe took a raft trip to New Orleans, and observed

first hand, the devastating effects the institution had on both white and black people alike.

When Lincoln studied law, he held most dear, two fundamental documents: The declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. While the founders proclaimed the ideal that “all men are created equal”, they recognized slavery in the Constitution. Some founders believed that slavery was a dying institution, but slave owners fought to protect it.

Looking at Lincoln’s activities prior to 1854, we find little opposition to slavery on his part. However, in 1837 he introduced a resolution to the Illinois Legislature citing slavery as both an “injustice and bad policy”. During his one term in Congress, he did vote for versions of the Wilmot Proviso to ban slavery into the Mexican Cession, but so did almost every Northern Congressman. At this point Lincoln was not in the forefront of the antislavery movement.

When President Pierce signed the Kansas Nebraska Act in 1854, Lincoln became truly engaged in the antislavery movement, not directly against slavery, but to the spread of it. Throughout the 1850’s Lincoln was steadfast in his crusade against the extension of slavery, but he was not for political equality, or intermingling of races. He was for equal access before the law.

Lincoln won the Republican Party nomination for President in May 1860. The Party platform recognized slavery in states where it existed, but opposed its expansion into other states. In his inaugural address, he reassured the South that he had no intention to seek the end of slavery. He would remain loyal to the law and the Constitution. Without the Civil War, Lincoln may have been just another undistinguished President. He wasn't ready to lead where the Northern public was not ready to go.

Nevertheless, as Dave Davenport said, the South believed slavery was doomed, and by starting a war, they eventually brought about the end of slavery!

In May, 1861, fugitive slaves fled to Fort Monroe, and General Benjamin Butler declared they were "contraband of war". In July Congress upheld this view, but did not free them. Lincoln did not force the issue, so as not to cause the border states to be pushed into joining the Confederacy. But as early as December, 1861, Lincoln asked Congress to authorize funds to purchase slaves from willing masters or slave states, and colonize former slaves in a land outside the USA. Lincoln was at his lawyerly best, as he moved toward abolition.

On April 16, 1862, Congress passed legislation that freed slaves in Washington D.C. On July 17, 1862, Congress passed an act which

declared slaves seized in the war would be forever free. On July 22, Lincoln discussed with his cabinet the idea of issuing an Emancipation Proclamation. William Seward recommended to delay it until the Union had a credible victory. This came at Antietam on September 17th. Before issuing his proclamation, Lincoln was required by law to give warning. On July 25th, Lincoln announced that all slave owners should consider the Confiscation Act, that would free slaves owned by persons in rebellion, should they come into Union hands. The Proclamation's practical effect was to declare to the South that the war would now be over the future existence of slavery, and that the war would become a war to the knife, since neither side could back down.

The Union Army was now unquestionably an army of liberation for 4 million slaves. It gave final sanction that African Americans could enlist and fight for freedom.

The Radicals wanted Lincoln to abolish slavery by decree throughout the Union, but he had no authority to do that.

As former Confederate states rejoined the Union, Lincoln worked with pro-Union Governors to abolish slavery in their states through constitutional processes. However, the Radical Republican element in Congress rejected piecemeal emancipation, and introduced the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery everywhere.

They would change the Constitution to conform to the Declaration. Now there was no longer talk of compensation or colonies. Lincoln twisted arms and, bribed, and cajoled enough Democrats to vote yes to push through the amendment on January 31st, 1865.

Lincoln had made a fascinating journey from his views in 1858, until his death. His views had changed greatly.

So what are the facts: **1.** Lincoln was antislavery throughout his life. **2.** He was devoted to the Declaration and the Constitution, and sought to reconcile the dichotomy between “equality” and “slavery” embodied in those documents. **3.** From the time of his 1st annual message, he was looking toward an American future without slavery. He had to move cautiously because it was critical to retain the border states. **4.** Throughout his term, he was finding a path to ending slavery. **5.** Lincoln signed the Emancipation Declaration and continued to defend it. **6.** He pushed very hard for the passing of the 13th Amendment, a radical idea. It took another year of bloody war to finally convince the Northern Public. **7.**

From the beginning of the war, Lincoln began evolving and was developing a vision for a different America. His vision is reflected in the Gettysburg Address and the 2nd Inaugural Address, pointing

to a nation based on the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

6A. WHY “DIXIE?”

We think of the South when we hear the term “Dixie”. Before the Civil War, the economy of New Orleans was bursting at the seams, as the river front was lined for miles with steamboats discharging cotton, and loading cargo. The city had a large French speaking population, so money printed by The Old Citizens, Bank was in French and English. The \$10 bill was the most popular. It was printed with both a “10” and the French term for 10: “Dix”. The riverboat men enthusiastically spoke about going down river to get more of those good old “Dixies”! Hence the deep South became known as Dixie ever since.

6B. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From “The Blue & Gray Laughing”

“Reverend Beattie, of Bethel Church, presented a revolver to of the officers of the Seventh Regiment, before his departure with the following injunction: ‘If you get in a tight place and have to use it, ask God’s blessing if you have time, but be sure and not let

your enemy get the start of you. You can say ‘Amen’ after you shoot.’”