



BUGLE CALLS, JANUARY 2023

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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1. JANUARY 12th MEETING: “Show and Tell”

Bring a Book or object to tell about.

Denny’s Restaurant

710 W. Shaw, Clovis

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Meeting

8:30 Book Raffle

2. COMING EVENTS:

February 9th Meeting:

3. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

By Michael Spencer

Hi There,

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. My apologies for no president message last newsletter. It’s that time of year again annual dues are here, and can be paid at next month’s meeting. January’s meeting is on the 12th as always at Denny’s in Clovis. I believe it’s show and tell: bring an object or whatever books people may want to talk about. See ya next year in 2023. Happy New Year.

Michael Spencer

4. AFTER ACTION REPORT

By Ron Vaughan

*Meeting called to order at 7:00 by President Michael Spencer.

*Ten persons were present for our Christmas Meeting and Party.

*Announcement that the Westerners Club meets the 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

*Tom Ebert announced that his book has been published: "Abraham Lincoln and His Times: A Source Book on His Life and Presidency, Slavery, and the Civil War." McFarland Publishing Company, Jefferson, NC. (Available at Amazon, \$125)

*Mike Green proposed we donate \$2,000 from our \$1800 profit for two benches (made from preserved wood from old 1860s bridge) for Raymond Battlefield. He suggested we name plaque for Lisa Peters, as she has been a long- time member and served as club officer. Helen proposed that since there are two benches, we could have two names and solicit donations for the 2nd. This proposal was approved by vote. Various names were discussed for the 2nd, bench, but no decision made. Later, Mike and discussed that we would not have had such a

profit, if not for Steve Madden's \$1,000 donation, so we should consider adding his name to a bench.

* Michael Spencer presented a brief talk on Robert E. Lee's home, The Dewent House, after his surrender, April 9th 1865. Financially broken, and uncertain of his future, and ill in health, Lee sought "some small little home in the woods" where he might live simply as a farmer and provide for his family. At the end of June, Mrs. Elizabeth Randolph Cocke offered him sanctuary at this cottage, near Powhatan, Virginia. Here Lee found the quietness he needed to focus on his future. He often rode his famous warhorse, Traveller, through the countryside and conversed with surprised farmers. From Derwent he communicated with former comrades and others who sought his advice. To many Southerners, Lee remained a leader and a model of proper conduct during Military Reconstruction. Late in the summer, Judge John W. Brokenbrough of Lexington, asked Lee to become the president of Washington College there. July 4th, 1865, Lee accepted, leaving his Powhatan retreat on September 15 and devoting the remainder of his life to the education of young men.

*After this we had a gift exchange game. Everyone picked up a gift, then a die was passed around which when rolled, determined whether gifts were passed right, or left, could be swapped, or unwrapped. It was a different way of doing the "Yankee Swap".

*After the Book Raffle, Wayne Scott talked about his experience on the Honor Flight to D.C. He was asked to wear his Lincoln outfit and give the “Gettysburg Address” at the Lincoln Memorial. It was a memorable trip.

*Meeting ended at 8:20.

Additional Note: A few days ago, I received a \$100 donation from Robert Orr, who had attended the conference for one day, and expressed the wish that he could have been there the whole weekend, as it was a “Great Conference.”

5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From “The Blue & Gray Laughing”

“In the Battle of Bull Run, a soldier around who, the cannon shot where flying particularly thick, on seeing one strike and bury itself in a bank near him, sprang to the hole it scooped out, remarking, ‘Shoot away! You can’t hit twice in the same place.’ At that instant, another shot struck a few feet away, almost covering the fellow with sand and gravel. Emerging from what had so nearly become his grave, he continued the unfinished sentence: ‘But you can come so pesky near it that the first hole is uncomfortable.’”

6. STRANGER THAN FICTION?

Sixty-seven of the 101 soldiers of the Monroe County Grenadiers (Company of the 27th Indiana Regiment) were 6 feet tall or taller. Their Captain was David C. Van Buskirk, who was 6 feet 10 ½ inches tall, and weighed 380 pounds. He had a reputation as “the “biggest Yankee in the World.”
(From “Civil War Times”10/2012)