



BUGLE CALLS, OCTOBER 2025

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- 1. OCTOBER MEETING**
- 2. COMING EVENTS**
- 3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**
- 4. AFTER ACTION REPORT**
- 5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR**

1. OCTOBER 9TH: SJVCWRT MEETING

Denny's Restaurant, 710 W. Shaw, Fresno

Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00

Program 7:30- 8:30

Book Raffle 8:30

SPEAKER: RON VAUGHAN

SPEAKING ABOUT "The Life of William Nelson Fritts, a Union Soldier 5th Tennessee Infantry."

2. COMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 13 MEETING: Zethin McKinley presenting: "A Confederate General (Tyree Bell) in California."

DECEMBER 11 MEETING (Christmas Party)

3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MICHAEL SPENCER

Hello All,

Welcome back. Last month's speaker, Tonya Graham McQuade, spoke about her book. A State Divided, The Civil War Letters of James Calaway Hale & Benjamin Petree of Andrew County Missouri. Tonya's talk was very interesting. She told how she came across family letters and intricately included them into her book. The letters were all out of order in one box. My one question I asked after was, how was she able to read and decipher the writings. Tonya said being an English teacher made the process easier. Some of the letters were torn and missing pieces, which made it a bit difficult to understand. A State Divided can be found on Amazon for purchase. There is a blog of hers which you can also follow at chasinghistoricalroots.blogspot.com. You can also find her at emerging civil war.

Our next meeting is October 9th our guest speaker is the Life of William Nelson Fritts, a Union Soldier 5th Tennessee Infantry.

Also a reminder the traveling Vietnam wall is in Clovis in October. The info is in the past two Bugle Calls.

Regards,

Michael J Spencer

4. AFTER ACTION REPORT

BY RON VAUGHAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER

Meeting of Sept. 11, 2025

(10 persons present, including presenter & her spouse.

*Our bank account has \$3,441. \$200 paid for Room at Comfort Inn for presenter and husband. After dinner, Tonya McQuade had a slide show and talked about her book, "A State Divided", and her research for it. She had found a box of letters written by her CW relative. She and her spouse visited towns and battlefields mentioned in the letters. After her talk, she had her book for sale. She is a retired English teacher, which she said helped her decipher the poor handwriting in the letters!

5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From "Blue & Gray Laughing"

"Sometime after we arrived in Virginia we heard that quite a large number of letters for our regiment were detained at Indianapolis for postage. I over heard a couple of soldiers conversing about the letters. One inquired, 'What will be done with them?' The other replied, 'I suppose they will be sent to the dead letter office, and after we get killed, we can get them.'"