



## **BUGLE CALLS, MAY 2020**

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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**NO MAY MEETING!**

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## **2. COMING EVENTS:**

- \*June 11 Meeting? (to be determined)
  - \*August Barbeque
  - \*September 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting
  - \*October 8 Meeting
  - \*October Kearney Park Re-enactment?
  - \*November 5-7 West Coast CWRT Conference
  - \*November 12 Meeting
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## **3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

**By Michael Spencer**

Hello,

Well here we are, still in the midst of the coronavirus debacle. It is the uncertainty, but we're still here. Our normal meeting for May 14th will most likely be cancelled once again. Once this over in could there be a possibility of a June meeting.

I received a phone call from a gentleman who was reaching out to other Roundtable groups. He mentioned a website [battlefields.org](http://battlefields.org) (American Battlefield Trust ). I was able to navigate through the site, and I found it quite informative. Also, many CWRT's are trying virtual meetings. If you would like to read about Appomattox click the link on the webpage. It can also be seen on our Facebook page which I posted.

Regards,

Michael

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#### 4. AFTER ACTION REPORT:

By Ron Vaughan

A few years ago I presented a lecture on the service of U.S. Sanitary Commission. Then in 2018 I found information on California's substantial contribution to the commission. Last year I picked up a pamphlet about another aspect of the subject: "Children's Contributions to The U.S. Sanitary Commission." According to the article, during the Summer of 1863, the children of Chicago were completely taken by the "sanitary-fair mania" (fund-raiser events). These children's fairs were held on lawns of private houses, or on rainy days, in large parlors. They were planned and carried out completely by nine to sixteen years old children. One of these fairs raised about \$300.

Mary Livermore, a USC worker attended one of these fairs, and described it: "A boy of eleven stood at the gate, as custodian, seriously receiving the 5 cents admission fee. Another little boy, of ten, walked up and down the sidewalk, carrying a banner inscribed, 'SANITARY FAIR FOR THE SOLDIERS!' and drumming up customers: 'Here's your Sanitary Fair for the sick and wounded soldiers!' he shouted. 'All kinds of fancy goods, and cheap as dirt, and all for the soldiers! Walk up and buy, ladies and gentlemen!'"

"The fair tables were spread under the trees, with an assortment of cushions, needle books, pen-wipers, patriotic book-marks, dolls and candy. The national colors floated over the little saleswomen, some of the very smallest sitting in high dinner-chairs, and all conducting very seriously. Big brother and sisters stood behind them, to assist in making change."

The fair mania extended to the countryside, and children's letters were daily received containing various sums of money raised by their little enterprises. One day a carriage stopped at the door of the Commission, and a rosy-cheeked boy got out. He ran into the room with a two-dollar bill in his hand. 'I'm five years old today, and my

Grandpa gave me this to buy some candy. But I don't want none .  
Mama says to give it to the soldiers what gets shot.'

One day some of the soldiers received a box filled with towels, socks, shirts, drawers, handkerchiefs, and "comfort bags' containing combs, pins, needles, thread, and dried fruits. It contained a note that said:

"Dear Soldiers,

The little girls send this box to you. They hear that thirteen thousand of you are sick, or have been wounded. They are very sorry, and want to do something for you. They cannot do much, for they are small; but they have bought with their own money, and made what is in here. They hope it will do some good, and that you will all get well and come home. We pray to God for you night and morning."

These are a few examples of the wonderful contributions children made to the USSC.

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## **5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR:**

### **From "The Blue & Gray Laughing'**

"A telegraph operator was taken prisoner by a gang of guerillas in West Virginia, and the captain offered to spare his life on condition of his taking the oath to support the Southern Confederacy. He promptly replied that if, after a whole life's hard work, he had been unable to support himself, how could it be expected that he could support the Confederacy?"