



## **BUGLE CALLS, December 2019**

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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## **1. SJVCWRT CHRISTMAS PARTY, DEC. 12**

6:00 PM AT GAIL SCHULZE'S

1001 SYLMAR AVE, SPACE 58, CLOVIS

**Please RSVP #559-916-6725 and she will tell you the Gate Code to enter!!**

**Dinner catered by Michael Spencer.**

You may bring Christmas goodies and a gift for "Yankee Swap".

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## **2. UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**, DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 710 W. SHAW, CLOVIS

SHOW & TELL NIGHT (Bring a Civil War related book or item and share it's story.)

ALSO: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

FEBRUARY 13: No topic at this time

MARCH 12: Keith Poulter, editor of North & South Magazine

APRIL 4: TEMECULA CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE: "1865"

APRIL 9: Bernie Quin (Sacramento CWRT) “Berdan’s Sharpshooters”

MAY 14: No topic at this time

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### **3. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:**

**BY MICHAEL SPENCER**

Greetings members,

This year as we gather around the table to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and family, and give thanks for the daily blessings we have. Those who don’t this time of year, the less fortunate and those who don’t get to be home ( military service ), we also give thanks.

That being said our Christmas party will be at Gail's house on December 12th starting at 6pm. I will be providing the food catered by California Pizza Kitchen.

Here is some history on Thanksgiving during Civil War times...

By November 1861, the American Civil War was in full swing. Eleven states seceded from the Union, Federal troops had been called up, and the two armies had engaged in battles including Manassas and Wilson’s Creek. Though perhaps some of the initial excitement of war remained, a break came for Confederate soldiers

in mid-November, 1861. Perhaps following the [example of George Washington from 1789](#), Confederate President Jefferson Davis declared a "[day of fasting, humiliation and prayer](#)" to take place on November 15, 1861. While this proclamation was very similar to others that Davis issued which specifically called for a day of "thanksgiving," that word does not appear in this message.

From the headquarters of the Valley District, Major General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson ordered drills to be suspended for the day (see orders below). A day of fasting is completely opposite from the way most of us celebrate Thanksgiving today. Although there was no turkey, green bean casserole or pumpkin pie, we can presume that this brief respite was as welcomed by those soldiers who had spent months away from home as our modern holiday is to us.

Two years later, in 1863, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln began a tradition that Americans know well today, declaring that a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise" would be observed on the last Thursday of November (see this proclamation below as well). While it wasn't made an official national holiday until 1941, the day of Thanksgiving clearly has roots throughout American history.

Regards,

Michael Spencer

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#### **4. AFTER ACTION REPORT:**

**BY RON VAUGHAN**

##### **A. SJVCWRT MEETING OF NOV. 14:**

Fourteen persons were present for our meeting. Sadly, it was the last one for Robin Hyatt, who is moving to Florida. She has attended most of our meeting this year, and donated several books for our raffles. A special visitor was Keith Poulter, editor of North & South Magazine, which has re-begun publishing, a few months ago. Many of us immediately jumped at the chance to subscribe. Keith promised to do a program for us.

The Spencers, Mike Green, and the Vaughans attended the CWRT West Coast Conference in Sacramento last weekend. Many attendees expressed that it was one of the best. At an early Saturday meeting of leaders, no one offered to host next year. Orange County offered to host it in Costa Mesa, if someone else could organize speakers, with Ted Sava's help. Patty Spencer offered our leadership for this. At the conference we soon had several volunteers to be presenters: Sarah Bierle, Dave Powell, Chris Mackowsky, and Jim Stanbery. All are excellent speakers!

Treasurer Gail reported we have \$1135 in our bank account. She announced that she wishes to resign as Treasurer, since she has been doing the job for several years. Elections at our January meeting.

Our December Christmas Party will be at Gail's home Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Michael Spencer will cater a dinner.

Mike Green shared news from Raymond Battlefield. A section of battlefield owned by Gatis Farms is for sale. They are interested in buying land on the far west end of the battlefield that the Friends of Raymond own, so it is hoped a deal can be arranged to swap land parcels.

Our Special Guest was General Edward Porter Alexander (AKA Mike Carter). He represented the former Confederate officer (Chief of Artillery in Longstreet's Corps) in his later years reminiscing about events in the war. 37 years after the guns went silent. The General discussed his views of various disagreements between Longstreet and Lee leading up to Gettysburg. Alexander stated that Longstreet was usually slow to act, but when he finally did, the blow was hard. Mike's performance was fantastic! He kept in character to entire evening.

#### **B. 2019 WEST COAST CWRT CONFERENCE, NOV 8-10:**

The event hosted by the Sacramento CWRT was attended by 68 persons. Paul Ruud was the Conference Chairman. The meals were all delicious. There were cards on each table with names of the speakers, so that one could dine with one of them. Some large prints and a large quilt made in a Sanitary Fair style were auctioned off—the prints went for \$50 to \$100 each and the quilt top bid was \$1200! Unbelievable!

The Theme was LEADERSHIP. The great speakers and topics were as follows:

FRIDAY: David Powell “Contrasting Bragg and Rosecrans at Chickamauga”

SATURDAY: Chris Mackowski,. “Burnside at Fredricksburg, Reconsidered”; Paul Kahan, “Amiable Scoundrel—Lincoln’s Secretary of War” (Cameron); Edwin Kennedy, “Horses in the CW”; Ted Savas, “The War Outside My Window”; David Powell, “Grant at Chattanooga”; Michael Oddenino, “Lincoln Douglas Debates of 1858”; Chris Mackowski, “The Furious Struggle: Chancellorsville and the High Tide of the Confederacy”;

SUNDAY: Sarah Bierle, “Contrast of Sigel and Breckenridge at New Market”; Jim Stanbery, “Could the Confederacy Done Any Better Than Jefferson Davis?”; Paul Kahan, “Preserving the Civil War’s Legacy—The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant.”

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

From “The Blue & Gray Laughing”

“In one of our Southern Cities, a new commandant having been assigned there to duty, applied in person at the residence of a Mrs. Measle, one of the handsomest mansions in the town. ( He desired to make it his new headquarters) The conversation was as follows:

“Madam, I am Brigadier-General Joseph D. Wilkinson,  
commander of this District.

“I am Mrs. Elizabeth Measle. You can’t get it! Good morning.”

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## **6. PRESERVATION NEWS:**

The Battle of Stone’s River, Tenn. Was fought from Dec/ 31, 1862, to Jan. 2 1863. There were 25,000 casualties and was a major Union victory in the war. It does not have the attention of other more famous battles, but a report created by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, to determine the significance of battle sites, designates Stones River as a Class A site. This means it had a "decisive influence on a campaign and a direct impact on the course of the war." Only 12% of battlefield sites carry the designation.

Only 600 acres has been preserved. Much of the ground has been lost to development. The American Battlefield Trust is seeking public donations to buy 42 acres for preservation.