



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume 19 Number 1

P. O. Box 5695 Fresno CA 93755 JANUARY 2010

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Board of Directors

President

David Paul Davenport
6156 N Mitre Ave
Fresno CA 93722
Phone (559) 277 3283
E-mail Address:
davidpauldavenport@yahoo.com

Vice-President and Programs

Michael Green
847 E. Pleasant
Tulare, CA 93274
Phone (559) 688-2134
E-mail Address: osogreen@aol.com

Treasurer & Web Master

Walter Schulze [Gail]
1432 Locust Ave
Clovis, CA 93611
Phone (559) 297-4481
E-mail Address: wschulze1@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Jonathon Schulze
1432 Locust Ave
Clovis, CA 93611
Phone (559) 297-4481
E-mail Address: wschulze1@sbcglobal.net

Past President

Brian Clague [Linda]
P O Box 116
Shaver Lake, CA 93664
Phone (559) 841-7161
E-mail Address: bclague@netptc.net

Bugle Call Editor

Ron Vaughan
730 E Tulare Ave
Tulare CA 93274
E-mail Address: ronvaughan@prodigy.net

Members at Large

Pattie Spencer and Michael Spencer
1548 W Vasser Ave Fresno CA 93705
Phone (559) 233 1059 (559) 304 8170
E-mail Address: pds8919@aol.com

President's Message for January, 2011

The next meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will take place on Thursday, January 13. Our speaker will be Mike Green, our vice-president, who will show pictures of his trip to Fredericksburg, Virginia, site on December 13, 1862, of arguably the worst Union defeat in the Civil War.

Our meeting takes place at Denny's Restaurant on Shaw Avenue in Clovis, just east of Willow. We gather at 6pm with the intention or ordering from the menu, eating, and paying our bill before we get down to business at 7. After the reading of minutes of our December meeting and a treasurer's report we will hold elections for the two positions for which there may be candidates. I write "may" because as I write this message on December 28, 2010, I am the only official candidate for the position of President. As per the decision of the Board of Directors sitting as a nominating committee in July, 2010, candidates were to make known their intention to seek election by notice in the December, 2010, Bugle Calls. Mine was the only Statement of Candidacy published. Since then Mike Green has indicated to me by email his desire to run for the Presidency. Patti Spencer, Treasurer from 2005-2008 and Vice-President from 2001-2002, has also informed me of her desire to again be our Vice-President. Our Constitution provides that in the absence of announced candidates for the offices of Treasurer and Secretary our current Treasurer, Walt Schulze, and current Secretary, Jonathon Schulze, continue in those offices. As such it appears reasonable to conclude at this time (again December 28) that our ballots will have only the offices of President and Vice-President listed and only that of President in contention.

Only dues paying members for 2011 are eligible to vote, so if you desire to participate please submit a check for \$35 per family, to Walt either by mail in advance of the election or before the meeting is called to order at 7pm.

CANIDATE'S STATEMENTS:

FOR PRESIDENT:

Dear members of the Round Table,

. My name is Michael Green and I am at present your vice president.

I have decided to run for the presidency of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table.

I didn't make this decision lightly. I have been a member of the Round Table for a relatively short time but have had the privilege of serving as your vice president for this past year. When the leadership approached me to serve in this position I was deeply honored. It is my intention to continue in the fine tradition of the leadership in the past. My intent is to be as inclusive as possible in our organization and attempt to increase the membership.

. I am a retired high school history teacher who lives in Tulare. I taught forty-one years in the California public school system with the last thirty eight years at Lindsay High School.

. My interest in the Civil War has been lifelong. I love to travel to Civil War sites and walk the hallowed ground. I study the battle before my treks and then try to get on the ground about the same time that the battle was fought. This means that on many occasions the weather has not been all that pleasant but that gives me a better understanding as to what those soldiers and sailors were going through.

Whether it's walking around on the field at Wilson's Creek Missouri in August or tromping through the streets and fields around Fredericksburg in late December with the temperature below freezing, I find that this gives me a much better perspective as to what those people were facing.

. I believe in historic preservation and to that end I was one of the members that worked hard for our Round Table to make a very generous donation to the battlefield at Raymond, Mississippi. I truly believe that preservation money should go to places where the vast majority of it goes to the purchase of land and to the improvement of the interpretation of the field, not to provide for the large overhead of offices and paid personnel. I will look closely at where the club's money will go.

. I love to take pictures and, with that in mind, I have had the opportunity to present power point programs to the Round Table in the past. I will be presenting a program on Fredericksburg for the January meeting. I will be emphasizing a part of the battle that hasn't been covered as much. That is the fight that Frank O'Reilly calls "The Real Battle of Fredericksburg", Prospect Hill and the Slaughter Pen. I hope that you can see this power point program.

. I trust that this gives you a bit of an idea as to who I am and what I stand for.

Thank you

Michael Green

Campaign Statement of Candidate David Davenport

I am David Paul Davenport, current President of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. I am seeking re-election for the two year term, 2011-2012. My initial hesitancy in seeking re-election has been resolved by the failure of UC Merced to hire me as a Lecturer in World History for the Spring, 2011, semester. As you know, the class I would have taught met on Thursday night so I would have missed four of the first five meetings of 2011. It is important that the President attend every meeting. It now appears that I will remain unemployed so I expect to attend all meetings of the SJVCWRT.

I have been a member of this organization since about 1993, the year after it was organized. Our "oldest" members can attest to my commitment to the Round Table. Before I left Fresno City College in 2002 I provided students with extra-credit when they attended Round Table meetings. And because few could afford the meals, I paid for these out of my own pocket. I also took part in the planning of what I suspect was our most successful West Coast Conference, that at the Tenya Lodge, near Yosemite, I believe in 1998. I then served on the planning committee for the 2002 Conference on Vicksburg, and as program

chair for the 2005 Conference on War in the Southwest, and the 2008 Conference on War in the Shenandoah Valley. This meant that in 2005 and 2008 I recruited all the speakers. From 2001-2004 I held a position of "member-at-large." From 2005-2009 I was Vice-President. As such I was largely responsible for recruiting speakers for our regular meetings. I have been President since March of 2009 (the date of our most recent elections). It is appropriate to mention that most of the programming for 2010 was accomplished by me and Brian Clague. The gentleman elected to the position of vice-president in March, 2009, resigned in December, 2009, without scheduling any programs for 2010. As a result, Mike Green was "drafted" in January, 2010, to both provide a program about the Battle of Franklin and to schedule programs for 2011; Ron Vaughn, editor of Bugle Calls, was called upon to speak in March, 2010, about opposition to the use of Colored Troops; Alex Fabros, presented an overview of the Battle of Raymond using miniature soldiers in April. The programs honoring Mr. Lincoln in February and Mr. Davis in May and those by Mary Townsend in September and Dan Sniffen in November were my work. Brian alone should receive your Kudos for contacting Thomas Lubas in Santa Rosa and Donald Stoker in Monterey, for our October and December meetings.

If I am re-elected I propose to continue our involvement with the Kearney Park Re-enactment which the other candidate has never attended. When this event will be staged in 2011 is unknown. It is likely to be in either very late September or a weekend in October. As you know, this is the most visible form of outreach for us, given that approximately 12,000 people attend. Many of our newest members have joined us there as a result of seeing the Save Our Battlefields banner which I created, or wishing to examine the items contributed for raffles by Ron Vaughn, Evan Jones, and others of us, or receiving a free book contributed by Bill Head, Mike Carter, and others after deciphering our secret message. I have overseen this booth for the past six years, usually doing the setup and take down, with the able assistance of only Vice-Presidential Candidate Pattie Spencer (who deserves your vote).

I am also open to the idea of having a booth at the Fresno Fair, but this requires a great deal of volunteer manpower. According to my contacts in the Fresno County Genealogical Society getting space is not hard.

I also propose to assist the Sacramento Round Table in their effort to host as 2011 West Coast Conference on November 11-13. The theme in this the sesquicentennial of the first year of the War is "1861: The First Year". I have already taken the initiative to discuss with Fred Bohmfalk how we in Fresno can assist them. The 2011 Conference flyer can be viewed at <http://www.sacramentocwrt.com/events/2011%20Poster.pdf>.

Lastly, I wish to offer for your consideration the possibility that we consider hosting a 2012 Conference with "1862: Confederacy Rising" as the theme. This might be possible if we can conserve our financial resources (and Mike's schedule for programs in 2011 appears to cost us little) and secure use of the Clovis Veteran's Memorial Building. However, we do need to recognize that Veteran's Day falls on Sunday of the second weekend in November, 2012. This may "rule out" that weekend for a Conference. The other candidate for the office of President has never participated in the planning of a Conference.

SJVCWRT members,

I Pattie Spencer have decided to run for Vice President of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. I have previously been vice president and from 05'-09' have been the treasurer of the round table. I've been a member of the round table for the past 11 years. It would be my honor to once again be your vice president.

Regards,

Patricia Spencer

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 12/9/10

By Ron Vaughan

There were 18 persons present for our Christmas meeting. I was a bit late due to a family emergency, so I missed the opening remarks of our speaker, Donald Stokes. (I did hear from our Treasurer, that he declined reimbursement for mileage or lodging, so that more of our funds could go towards preservation donations. Kudos Mr. Stokes!) He has authored a book, *The Grand Design: Strategy and the U.S. Civil War*.

Donald's talk focused on several key decisions that effected the war's outcome. First of all, he expressed the thought that the South made a big mistake in firing on Ft. Sumter. They could have just let the garrison sit there. They could have ignored Lincoln's supply ships. If they had not opened fire, the start of the war might have been delayed. This would have given the South more time to prepare. With no war, there would have been no blockade, and they could have sold more cotton and purchased more arms. Next, he discussed the Confederate's problem of needing to defend everything, which is difficult to do. Also, General Scott had the Anaconda Plan, with was a long war strategy, but Lincoln wanted a short war, as he recognized the political problems of public support in a long war.

A key Confederate mistake was General Pillow's violation of Kentucky neutrality. Kentucky as a buffer state, was valuable to the South, as it limited the avenues the North could approach, thereby defending a large part of the Confederacy's border. Davis should have rejected Pillow's plan to move into Ky., but General Pillow persuaded Davis to approve the advance. It was a disaster, because Grant reacted by occupying Paducah, and the way was open to attack up the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, right into the Confederate heartland.

Stokes spoke about the McClellans's little known Grand Plan for the war. It called for an army of 275,000 men, divided into several strong forces, hitting the Confederacy in a number of places: One army to clear Missouri and Arkansas, then move into Texas; Another to descend the Mississippi River; another to seize Nashville, then Decatur, Ala., then go to Chattanooga; Naval forces would attack and seize various coastal ports; and the largest force would capture Richmond and proceed south. Lincoln realized it was import for these forces to attack simultaneously, so the Confederates could not shift forces from one threatened point to another. However, there were problems with executing the plan-- McClellan took personal command of the Army of the Potomac, and when he became timid and did not move forward, neither did Halleck or Buell. Lincoln ordered them to move, but they did little. Fortunately, Foote and Grant took the initiative to attack, then Buell began to advance too, and took Nashville. McClellan wanted Buell to take Decatur and then on to Chattanooga. General Mitchell was actually across the river from the latter, but the opportunity was lost. When Lincoln finally relieved McClellan from command, he did not replace him as Commander in Chief. The various armies lacked overall co-ordination. Gen. Kearney opined that McClellan should have been removed from command of the army of the Potomac, but left as C in C. He believed he was effective at directing others to move, but not himself. (Editor's note: This is an intriguing idea!) Lincoln put Halleck in command to co-ordinate the armies in the West, but he did little. The next issue that Stokes discussed was the situation in 1863, with the North threatening Northern Virginia, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga. How could the Confederacy deal with these threats? Lee's plan was to invade the North and destroy the Army of the Potomac, which he calculated would demoralize Northern public support for continuing the war. Stokes opined that Lee had the wrong idea-- he needed to make the war as drawn out as possible, but the Gettysburg campaign mangled his army, and thereby shortened the war.

Stokes discussed Grant's grand strategy plan for 1864, which won the war: Grant would move on Richmond, Sherman attack Johnston, Steele to move south from Little Rock, and Banks & Farragut would take Mobile, then head into the heart of the southern Confederacy. (Of course the latter did not hap-

pen that way.)

Finally, he mentioned a big difference between Lincoln and Davis: Lincoln kept asking his Generals and Cabinet, "How can I win the war?"; but Davis never asked that question. Davis never could come up with an effective Grand Strategy to win the war.

During the Q & A session, Stokes was asked about the likely-hood of British intervention in the war. He said that the British Prime Minister put the question to the Royal Army and Admiralty. Their reply was that the Navy was not ready and the Army was still recovering from the Crimean War. Also, most of the soldiers available for action were Black West Indians, who might not fight to support help Southern slavery.

After the talk we had a gift exchange. Wayne Scott alias Abe, handed out shiny new Lincoln dollars, that were issued on the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address.

Thank you Father Abraham!

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

from The Blue & Gray Laughing

"A bronzed blue jacket had just captured a mule and not without difficulty, mounted it, perching himself as near the animal's tail as there was a shadow of a chance-- the mule objecting in every way of a mule.

'Jack, sit more amidships,' said Hardy, the First Engineer of the Weehawken,

'and you'll ride easier.'

'Captain,' quoth old Salty, 'this is the first craft that I was ever in command of, and it is a pity if I can't stay on the quarter-deck.'"

OUR ROUNDTABLE IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table was founded in 1991 by two members of the Fresno State University faculty, Bill Head and the late Tim Johnson. Both were life-long students of the American Civil War who believed that the study of this seminal event in our nation's history was neglected by the public. As a result they joined with retired Sergeant Major of the Army Ken Moats and his wife, Barbara, and Fresno physician, Brian Clague and his wife, Linda, in forming an organization to promote the study of the American Civil War and advocate battlefield preservation.

Since its founding the SJVCWRT has contributed about \$40,000 to the interpretation of sites related to the Civil War. In 2010 this included purchase of the "Snyder Farm" tract at Gettysburg, restoration of Camp Nelson in Kentucky and Beauvoir at Biloxi, Mississippi, acquisition of the Carter Cotton Gin site at Franklin, Tennessee, and most significantly, a \$7,500 donation to the Friends of Raymond, Mississippi, for placing cannon and interpretive markers in memory of Robert Quist of Hanford, a long-time member and newsletter editor who passed away in September, 2009.

The money contributed over the years has come largely from the proceeds of Conferences hosted by the SJVCWRT. These gatherings have featured prominent authors such as, Ed Bearss, William C. Davis, Robert Krick, Craig Symonds, and Jeffrey Wert, to name but five, who have given their time and waived their customary speaking fees. These "West Coast Conferences" have been held for 26 years, not always in Fresno or Clovis. Those hosted by the SJVCWRT since 2000 focused in 2002 on Vicksburg, on War in the Southwest in 2005, on War in the Shenandoah Valley in 2008, and on the Campaign for Chattanooga in 2009.

The SJVCWRT meets monthly from September through May on the Second Thursday of each month in the banquet room of the Denny's Restaurant on Shaw Avenue at Willow in Clovis. Dinner begins at 6 pm followed by an educational program at about 7:15 P.M.

The SJVCWRT now has a paid membership of about 20, with dues collected to support the organization's website [www.sjvcwrt.com] and cover the expenses of speakers who come from afar. Members also receive free entry to the Civil War Revisited at Kearney Park provided they volunteer to

THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

As the SJVCWRT nears its 20th year it seems appropriate to identify the leaders who have guided us since it was formally organized in October, 1992.

PRESIDENT:

2009-2010: David Paul Davenport, Ph.D.

2005-2008: Brian Clague, M.D.

2003-2004: Tom Carr

2001-2002: Mike Carter

1999-2000: Ken Moats

1997-1998: Barbara Moats

1996: Bill Head

1995: John Taylor

Oct, 1993-1994: Charles Jorgensen

Oct, 1992-1993: Fred Holt

VICE PRESIDENT:

2010: Mike Greene

2009: Mike Gatley

2005-2008: David Davenport

2003-2004: Brian Clague
2001-2002: Pattie Spencer
1998-2000: Mike Carter
1997: Rick Kubiak
1996: Barbara Moats
1995: Bill Head
Oct, 1993-1994: John Taylor
Oct, 1992-1993: Charles Jorgensen

SECRETARY:

August, 2010: Jonathon Schulze
June, 2007- July, 2010 Bryce Kuykendall
2005-May, 2007: Phyllis Mann
1999-2004: Barbara Moats
1997-1998: Mike Carter
1996: Carol Berry
1995: Barbara Moats
Oct, 1993-1994: Verne Cole
Oct, 1992-1993: Linda Clague



Don Stocker our speaker.



The Neumann Family winners of this raffle print



Roundtable Members at dinner.



Roundtable members listening to our speaker.

**San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table
P O Box 5695
Fresno CA 93755**

Website: <http://SJVCWRT.com>

