



# Bugle Calls



## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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### SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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### Presidents Message

This month marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the armed conflict of the American Civil War.

On April 12-13 1861, Confederate forces fired on Union forces holding Fort Sumter. Of course we all know what happened next. For four years this nation was put through trials and tribulations that could have easily destroyed it.

For those of us who spend much of their time looking at this conflict, the next four years will be a time of great joy and inspiration.

The more I study the Civil War, the more I find that I know so little about it. There are so many different aspects to follow and so many ideas to discuss. What is also interesting is that the more I study the Civil War the more things change. For example, when I first really started looking at the Civil War, George McClellan was considered somewhat of a loser, a man, who had all that he needed to finish the war but kept messing up. First he lost the battles on the Peninsula. Then he seemed to make sure that Pope would be humiliated. Finally there was his failure at Antietam. Almost everything that I read and heard lead inexplicitly to the conclusion that he was he was totally incompetent. Today may historians are starting to sing Little Mac's praises. Go figure.

Another aspect that is of great interest to me were the "Fact" that the actual fighting of the Civil War took place only on the East Coast, basically between the physical areas from Pennsylvania to Virginia and that it was totally a ground war. The rest of the country, as well as the seas around it and the rivers that run through it had little or nothing to do with what "really" happened in the war. We still have some well known experts who still profess that notion. For my part, I will have to disagree with those so called "experts." I have spent a great deal of time and energy looking at what happened in the Civil War that took place over the Appalachians. At the

beginning of this month I will be tromping and traveling down the highways and byways of the great state of Mississippi, following Grant's army as it moved forward from the greatest water born invasion that this country ever had prior to D-Day at Normandy, France. Grant moved three whole Corps down the Louisiana side of the Mississippi River and then transported them from Hard Times Plantation across the Mississippi to the Bruinsburg Plantation on the Mississippi side of the river. This whole water born invasion took place without a shot being fired. No mean feat. What I will be studying is the movement of this great army into the battles of Raymond and Jackson. It should be quite a ride.

For those that aren't able to do some of the things that I am fortunate to do, there are many opportunities that are going to be presenting themselves to all of us. From all of the information that has been presented on the internet, to the upcoming movie about the assassination of President Lincoln, to programs that will be running on the TV. Please, please, please don't forget all those great books that are out there and that will be coming out during the next four years.

It is a very exciting time for all of us Civil War Junkies.

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 3/10/11**

By Ron Vaughan

Only 11 persons were present, and our President and V.P. were out of town, so Walt Schultze presided. We had a nice informal meeting.

Dave Davenport presented his research on local GAR vets. He had discovered 256 Union Vets buried in Fresno. One George Jarvis claimed service, but Dave's research revealed it was all a lie. George was only 8 years old when the war began. Dave discussed some of the computer website resources. NBS CW Soldiers and Sailors has names, but no other information such as where they were from. American CW Database gives where they were from as well as ages, but user must pay a fee. Footnote.com has digitalized records, but only one state is completed so far.

Mike Green gave me a computer chip with a power point program to show, but Jon S. could not get it to play.

John displayed a replica rifle that his grandfather had used as a youth, for re-enactments in the 1940's. It was a Remington 1863 "Zouave" Rifle. Some say these rifles were not actually issued to troops in the CW.

I shared some memories of participating in the 1998 Gettysburg re-enactment with 26,000 other re-enactors.

As you can tell, it was a short meeting, and almost everyone walked out with a book from the

### **CIVIL WAR HUMOR**

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

A soldier of General Bragg's army was taken prisoner by the Yankees and escaped. He was called before General Bragg to give such information as he knew of the condition and intentions of the Yankee army. The following colloquy is said to have taken place:

General Bragg: "What is the Yankee General doing?"

Soldier: "Retreating."

Gen. Bragg (incredulous): "Do you even know what a retreat is?"

Soldier: "I ought to know, General. I have been with your army for nearly two years!"

# **SJVCWRT Meeting Minutes**

## **March 10th 2011**

The meeting was called to order by acting president Walt Schulze at 7:03 PM

Only 11 members were present at the meeting.

Jonathon read the minutes from last month's meeting.

The program for tonight was 'Show and Tell'

Dr. David Davenport gave a report about the genealogy project he is currently working on as well as a declaration he presented to the Fresno city consul.

Ron Vaughn talked about a re-enactment at Gettysburg he was in a few years ago.

Jonathon brought and talked about his replica rifle.

Ron Vaughn talked about several movies that involved re-enactors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonthon Schulze, Secretary

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