



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 5/12/11

By Ron Vaughan

Eighteen persons were present this night. Walt Schulze reported our treasury balance is \$2,233. No minutes, as Secretary, Jon, is participating in a play.

There was a discussion about purchasing a Power Point projector that would have its own CD player. The reason for this need is that several presentations have been aborted due to the incompatibility of the available laptop and the projector on loan from Dr. Clague.

Mike Green donated \$100 towards the purchase and Henry Howison matched the pledge. Ken Moats moved that we purchase a system. After some discussion, it was decided to make a decision at a Board meeting following the general meeting, as we did not have a quorum of general members.

At the Board meeting David Davenport stated that the primary mission of our organization is preservation and such expenditure was not worth it. It was mentioned that our mission is education/preservation of the knowledge. As there was a store having a "going-out-of-business" sale ending in two days, the Board members thought it was urgent to make a decision. Of the 6 Board

members present, 3 voted for the purchase, 1 against and 2 abstained. Later, Dr. Davenport noted that most of the funds were raised with the promise to the donors that every cent would go towards battlefield preservation. It appears that several Board members agree with this view, so we should make every effort to replace any funds spent on a projector with special donations and fundraising. So far \$450 has been pledged.

Another item that Dr. Davenport brought up, is that it is the responsibility of the club President (and other members as well) to solicit donations of artworks for fund raising raffles at Kearney Park.

Our guest speaker was retired librarian, Tom Ebert, who has MAs in History and Library Science.

He was researching his ancestors that lived in Oswego, NY, and wound up writing a three volume work on the history of the 147th New York Volunteer Infantry Regt. Three of his great uncles (Magraf's) served in the regiment. The unit was mustered in September 22, 1862, the same day that the Emancipation proclamation was announced.

At first, the new regiment was assigned to fatigue duties around Washington. Eventually, it marched to Fredericksburg, but was not engaged. Afterwards, it participated in the infamous "Mud march". This miss-adventure, caused the men to become disgruntled, and several of the officers resigned. Their places were filled by promotions from the ranks of younger and better men.

The regiment was assigned to Wadsworth's Div. of the 1st Corps, and soon was on the march to Gettysburg. On the first day of the battle, the regiment was heavily engaged near the railroad cut. They were ordered to withdraw, but the order was not received. The Colonel was killed, along with half the men, and many more were wounded. The colors were almost lost as well. Later, only 80 men, of the 381 they started with, remained to rally around their flag. The 147th was sent to Culp's Hill, and was the only regiment to fight on all three days.

After Gettysburg, the vacant ranks were filled with new volunteers and draftees. The 147th was reassigned to the V Corps, under General Warren. . They were involved in the Wilderness fighting, and were outflanked by the Rebels. They had to retreat to avoid being cut off, losing their colonel and a few prisoners. One of those captured, was Private Michael Kelly, who was sent to Andersonville prison.

In order to avoid the suffering there, he volunteered to join the Confederate Army, the 7th Tennessee Regt.

Later, he was captured by Union troops, and imprisoned. At the end of the war, he took the loyalty oath, and was offered release, if he joined the 5th U.S. Infantry.

Meanwhile, the 147th had no rest, as it went from battle to battle: Spotsylvania, Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Hatcher's Run, Five Forks, and finally Appomattox. Grant did not allow the soldiers to celebrate Lee's surrender, but the people of Oswego celebrated all day. On June 17th, the regiment's survivors returned home. Of the 847 that had marched out of Oswego in '62, only 137 returned.

PRESIDENTS REPORT JUNE 2011

. Well its summer time and many of us will be off and tromping the battlefields, or in the case of our own Mr. Lincoln (Wayne Scott), traveling to many places to put on his wonderful presentation.

. It is so exciting that we are into the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. In parts of the nation, people are working toward putting on quite a show to honor the Civil War. In other areas there has been little or nothing done to recognize the events that took place 150 years ago. The fact that some have chosen to do nothing is unfortunate. But let us rejoice in the knowledge that most of the country is up and running for this important part of our history.

. The Round Table had a great presentation at our May 12 meeting where Thomas Ebert talked about the 147th New York infantry Regiment. Mr. Ebert started his research as a genealogical study because several of his family had served with the Regiment. I know that Ron will have a fine report on Mr. Ebert's talk, so I will just say that we were honored to have him make his presentation.

. The Executive committee voted to purchase a projector for the Round Table. We believe that the Round Table needs to have good equipment available to our guest speakers. We have had problems with getting the projector that Brian has been so gracious to loan to us, to connect with the computers that have been available. So the executive committee voted to purchase a projector. At this point we have had pledges or contributions from Brian and Linda Clague, Ron Vaughn, Henry Howison, Ken and Barbara Mott, and Mike Green to help to defray some or all of the expenses.

Brian has offered to keep loaning his projector to the Round Table and Alex Fabros has offered to loan his computer that seem to be able to talk to Brian's projector. The board discussed this possibility and decided that it would be better to purchase our own projector. The projector

will be available to rent to our members. The board felt that might be a way to help to defray the expenses of the projector.

. Brian and Linda Clague have graciously agreed to host the Round Table for our summer picnic. It will take place on July 9 at the home in Shaver Lake. More information will be forthcoming. Again the Clague's have been a mainstay for this organization. We can't thank them enough for all that they do.

. The Round Table will again participate as an exhibitor at the Civil War Re-enactment held yearly at Kearney Mansion. This required us to spend some money to be a part of the program and it also will mean that the Round Table will be in need of people to help to person our table. If you are interested in helping out, let us know.

. I'm sad to have to report that one of our leaders has decided to resign his office and withdraw from the SJCWRT. David Davenport, former president of the Round Table, has sent me his resignation. This came about after a vote that was taken by the executive committee. David disagreed with that vote. David has been a strong advocate of the round table and will be sorely missed. I personally want to wish David all the best in his future endeavors.

Your obedient servant

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

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