



# 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 REPORT

I hope that all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I want to wish you and yours the best in this holiday season. Last month was one that had a lot going on. Evan Jones and I were given the opportunity to plug our December 8 th program on a local television station. We made two short shows that were hosted by Beth Marne. Unfortunately, I was out of town when they aired. It is my understanding that the program went off well. After that the round table having the pleasure of hosting our friend Jim Stanberry. Jim gave us an interesting and informative talk about the makeup of the two nations that vied with each other during the Civil War. One of his important points was that when the American people come to a cross roads and have to choose between smaller or larger government, it has always opted for the larger government. We appreciate that Jim does such a good job presenting his points. I know that he was very happy with the way his program was received. The questions and dialogue after the presentation were outstanding and Jim enjoyed the interplay very much.

The very next day it was off to the West Coast Civil War Roundtable Conference in Sacramento.

About 115 participants were treated to an outstanding set of speakers which included Craig Simon, Jack Davis, and Jim Stanberry. The topic was 1861, and it covered many topics dealing with the lead up to and the first actions of the Civil War.

Our Round Table was well represented with Ron Vaughan, David Davenport, Brian and Linda Clague and myself in attendance. We also had other people from our area that attended and several of us worked hard to see if we could get them to join our organization.

I was given the opportunity to talk about our special meeting slated for December 8. I am happy to say that members of

the Sacramento Round Table started making plans to car pool down to Clovis for our presentation. I am also very happy to announce that three participants of the conference told me that they would not be able to attend but gave me a total of \$110.00 toward our project. That money is already in the bank. The Orange County Round Table volunteered to sponsor the 2012 conference and I indicated that our Round Table wanted to host the 2013 conference. The possibility of having the conference on a cruise ship was well received. Our committee will be continue to look into this option.

While at the conference, I made acquaintance with a gentlemen who lives in the same neighborhood as my mother-in-law. He was kind enough to invite me to the San Francisco Civil War Round Table meeting. I took him up on his offer and had the pleasure of spending some time with the members of that group. I also was given time to announce our meeting on the 8 th. I hope that we might get some of their members coming down to our program.

I spent time last week finalizing the arrangements with the Clovis Veterans' Memorial Building. Evan Jones and I met with General Markarian and worked out the logistics of our meeting. As you all know, the facilities are top notch and the people that work for the Memorial District are doing all that they can to help us out. We should have no problems with the facilities.

Unfortunately one of our speakers, Shelton Johnson, will not be able to be with us. Mr. Johnson told us that due to a very heavy schedule he just would not be able to make our program. He will be missed but the show will go on.

This program is a special one for our organization and we will need as many people at the program as possible. It will be a fundraiser to help battlefield preservation at the battlefield in Raymond Mississippi. It will feature General Parker Hills who will deliver a talk and power point presentation on the topic of General Ulysses S. Grant: A Military Genius or Just Plain Lucky?

General Hills is the co author with Ed Bearss of the award winning book *Receding Tide: Vicksburg and Gettysburg – The Campaigns that Changed the Civil War*. We will have the book available for purchase and the General will be more than happy to autograph them for you.

We are having the program at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Clovis and it is important to know that **THERE WILL BE NO DINNER AVAILABLE** at this meeting. The public is invited and they will be charged \$10.00 to attend. The profits from this meeting will be contributed to The Friends of Raymond. Our members will be admitted at no charge but I need to let you know that the dues for the 2012 year are due at this meeting. [The dues will remain with our Round Table].

After General Hills' presentation we will set up for a Town Hall meeting the topic of which will be "Why America Needs Historic Green Space. Our National Parks, Our History and You!"

This part of the program will be moderated by Dr. Brian Clague. We will have a panel which will include General Hills talking about the need for preservation of lands. It should be interesting.

We already have several people who have gone above and beyond to make this program a success. Dr. and Mrs. Clague have already made a substantial donation toward our goal. Henry Howison has indicated that has pledged a very nice sum toward the program. Alex Fabros has made his sailing ship available for a weekend cruse on the San Francisco Bay. We will be having a silent auction to see who will win that wonderful opportunity. Evan Jones has donated and solicited several pictures as well as other documents for the cause. Ron Vaughn has donated a statue and Mrs. Kuykendall has donated a handmade doll. The Blue and Gray Education Society has donated five leather bound copies of "Receding Tide" as well as providing us regular copies of the book at their cost for sale after the meeting.

I'm sure that with the generosity of this group we will reach or exceed our goal of \$5,000.00 for the contribution to the Friend of Raymond.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE attend this meeting and bring along all of your friends. You will be

entertained by a great speaker who put on one of the best power point programs I have ever seen. The program is for a great cause and we want to do the best that we can to make a great showing.

With all that said, I want to wish you the happiest holidays and a great New Year.

As I write this message I have been informed that our good friend and back bone of our organization Walt Schulze will be undergoing surgery., again He has had a tough time of it these last few months but every time I have interacted with him, he has always had a great attitude. Please keep him in your hearts and in your prayers.

Respectfully Yours

Michael Green

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

By Ron Vaughan

We had 18 persons present for our meeting. Keith Poulter, editor of North & South magazine spoke of his special subscription offer of only \$9.99 for a year.

We discussed the problems with the placement of our booth at Kearney Park, which limited visibility and access by the visitors. We did not sell many raffle tickets for our artwork. It is the editor's opinion that, besides the above factors, the \$10 per ticket price was too high for this economy. In the past, we have raised more funds through volume sales of \$1 tickets, or 6 for \$5. We must remember this for the future. While I am on the subject of artwork, for many years we have been blessed to have donations from the artists. In contrast, the organizers of the recent Sacramento conference were unsuccessful in obtaining any donations. I understand that our recent donations were due to the efforts of Evan Jones' connections and winning ways.

Our guest speaker was Jim Stanbery, who was on his way to the Sacramento conference. Jim's topic was "Two New Nations." Jim affirmed that the issue of slavery was a root cause of the war, but it was also about whether we are a federation or a nation. The USA and the CSA each claimed to be what our founders intended to begin with— a state centered federal union, or a nation centered federal nation. The former's citizens owed allegiance to both their state and the nation, while the latter's citizens owed ultimate allegiance to the nation.

Many men enlisted out of loyalty to their state, because their state stayed with the Union, or aligned itself with the Confederacy. 1861 was an awakening for many. When the new Confederacy fired upon Fort Sumter, Northerners realized that "our flag" had been fired upon! Before the war, people spoke of "these" United States; after the war the phrase became "the" United States. The war had settled whether or not we were one nation "indivisible!" The 1868 14th Amendment clarified that all that are born here (including the ex-slaves) are "citizens of the United States," not citizens of a state. The war shifted the discussion from questions of state obligations to questions of individual allegiance to the nation.

Concerning the antebellum discussions about the right of a state to secede, Jim noted that only the original 13 colonies had come together "to form a perfect union." The rest of the states were federally created. Even Texas and Hawaii (who had been independent nations), once they were annexed, had to wait until the federal government granted statehood. Stanbery compared the US Constitution with the one devised by the authors (Misters Howell, Cobb, Stephens, and Toombs) of the CS Constitution. The CS document copied the US wording, except some words were changed. "We the people..." was changed to "each sovereign state..." Jim pointed out that the authors wrote the words "form a permanent federal government," so that there was no provision for a state to secede from the Confederacy! The CSA

document also prohibited the use of taxes to foster industry. They wanted the CSA to be a nation focused upon family farms. (The plantations were viewed as just big family farms!) Jim would present this same talk again at the CW conference, so we got a preview.

## **THE WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE IN SACRAMENTO, 2011**

By Ron Vaughan

Several members of our group attended: Brian and Linda Clague, Mike Green, Dave Davenport, myself and wife Linda. The rest of you missed a very enjoyable event! The Sacramento RT were excellent hosts, and kept the program on schedule. The speakers exhibited a spirit of camaraderie, enlivening their talks with exchanges of humorous jests. Most of the speakers were familiar to us: Craig Symonds, Jack Davis, Jim Stanberry, Ron Perisho had previously presented to SJCWRTon CW in 3D, and Larry Tag with a talk on "The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln." Also presenting was Dr. Brian Wills (Virginian), who was hilarious, but his subject matter meandered like the Mississippi! Nevertheless, he left us with a good impression of the Southern point of view and culture.

The topic for the conference was the first year of the war, 1861. The speakers topics were: "Causes, Goals, and Readiness of North & South," "Secession & Ft. Sumter," "Strategies of North & South," "1st Manassas," "Highlights of Battles Other Than Manassas," "Abraham Lincoln," "Jefferson Davis," "Competition for the Border States," "Two New Nations," "Looking ahead to 1862," and a final "Panel Discussion."

There were two raffles featuring forty books, a nice reproduction of a Sanitary Commission quilt, and some prints of Godey's Ladies. The women participants exhibited much interest over the prints and quilt. For the book raffle, they used the method of holding up a book and drawing a ticket. Several winners were not pleased— ie. one lady won a book she had donated, while another won a novel on the Revolution, instead of CW. I bring this up, because I think most prefer our method, where the winners go to the table and pick what they want. I hope I can make time to share summaries of some of the lectures in future newsletters.

### Important Reminders

Membership dues is due and payable by the start of the December meeting. Dues is \$35.00 per family.

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