



Bugle Call Echoes

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume 17 Number 4

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From the President's Desk:

I admit that I have not visited every Civil War battlefield, nor every battlefield park, but I am probably still on firm ground in stating that the Vicksburg National Military Park is the best preserved of the large Civil War sites. I suspect that most of you who have visited the park would agree with me. Many of the trenches are still present. The redans are in near usable condition. Many of the caves in which the civilian population lived, although closed to the public, still exist. Why even the Cairo could do battle again!

What few of us know is the story behind the creation of the Vicksburg National Military Park. At first glance this story appears to be very straight forward. Soon after the war the Mississippi River changed course and the city was cut-off from the main shipping channel. As a result the city fell on hard times. The modernization of the river front that took place in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Memphis did not take place in Vicksburg so its historic waterfront was not destroyed. The city stagnated and never grew so the historic core never received a "face lift" and the defenses built by Pemberton's army (and the Negroes who worked for them) were never leveled to accommodate housing tracts.

Likewise, Mississippi has never been as prosperous as much of the rest of the United States, so unlike so much of Civil War Virginia and what is now metropolitan Atlanta the state of Mississippi has never been as threatened with development. It is rather easy to walk the routes followed by Grant's advancing Yankees in the Vicksburg Campaign, save in downtown Jackson. So, Vicksburg is "preserved" because of its "misfortune" --- or so goes the simple story.

Paul Harvey, who made a reputation by sharing with his radio audience "the rest of the story", passed away a few weeks ago but the Civil War community in the San Joaquin Valley has professor Chris Waldrep of San Francisco State University to share with us on April 30 "the rest of the story" about the founding of the Vicksburg National Military Park which is a good deal more complex than that suggested by yours truly in the above text. It was, in fact, a story involving much controversy. What that controversy was (and to an extent still is) will be detailed by Professor Waldrep.

Make your dinner reservations by contacting Bryce Kuykendall at the number or email provided on the left. See you on the 30th.

David D

Do We Have Your E-Mail Address ???

"WE MUST HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR ALL PEOPLE WISHING TO RECEIVE BUGLE CALLS. WE WILL NO LONGER DISTRIBUTE A PAPER COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER BEGINNING AUGUST 1. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE E-MAIL AND YOU WISH TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE BUGLE CALLS YOU MUST NOTIFY THE EDITOR, BOB QUIST IN WRITING BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2009, THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE E-MAIL TO WHICH WE CAN SEND BUGLE CALLS."

The April issue of the Bugle Call Echoes is now available for your viewing on our website <http://sjvcwrt.com> Enjoy.

Web Master Walt Schulze

Speaker's Bio:

Dr. Christopher Waldrep
Speaking on Vicksburg on April 30

Our speaker this month is Christopher Waldrep, Professor of American Constitutional History at the California State University, San Francisco. Professor Waldrep has written or edited ten books on the New South and serves as an editor for the **Journal of Southern History**. His scholarship was honored in 1999 with the McLemore Prize. His lecture will draw on themes from his book **Vicksburg's Long Shadow: The Civil War Legacy of Race and Remembrance**, which details the founding of the Vicksburg National Military Park.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!
San Joaquin Valley Civil War
Round Table Website:
sjvcwrt.com

West Coast Conference Site

The official web site for this year's West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference is open for registration. Please forward the site to anyone you think may be interested in joining us in October.

You can open the site by clicking below:

<http://www.chattanooga2009.com>

Best regards,

Evan Jones

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

A very gentle Southern lady was driving across the Savannah River Bridge in Georgia one day. As she neared the top of the bridge, she noticed a young man fixing (ready) to jump.

She stopped her car, rolled down the window and said, 'Please don't jump, think of your dear mother and father.'

He replied, 'Mom and Dad are both dead; I'm going to jump.'

She said, 'Well, think of your wife and children.' He replied, 'I'm not married and I don't have any kids.'

She said, 'Well, think of Robert E. Lee.' He replied, 'Who's Robert E. Lee?'

She replied, 'Well bless your heart, just go ahead and jump, you dumb Yankee.'

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 3/26/09

By Ron Vaughan

The old saying that "One picture is worth a thousand words" comes to mind as I write about this meeting. The 21 persons present were treated to an encyclopedia's worth of information from the many pictures we viewed, with our special 3 D glasses.

Ron Perisho, had set up two projectors to give us this 3 D experience. Unfortunately, it is difficult for me to write about a presentation that was 95% visual! There were so many interesting pictures. One of the numerous tidbits of information was that 90% of the CW photos were taken with two-lens stereo cameras, that developed single negatives with two images each. The stereo-optican viewers were very poplar as a means of entertainment in those days.

The process of taking a photograph was complicated. The photographer spent half an hour preparing a plate in his dark room. Then he put the wet plate in a sealed box, ran the plate to the camera, and took the picture before the plate dried. It took at least 10 seconds to take the picture, then he ran it back to the dark room for three stage processing. Obviously, this process was not conducive to taking battlefield action shots, which is the main reason why there are none. Ron mentioned that the reason why there are so few Confederate photographs, is because the needed chemicals were in short supply in the South, and were more valuable for making gun-powder.

Treasurer Walter Schulze presented his March 2009 Treasurer's Report
[please see the next page]

I add to this report, mention of the first SJVCWRT "South Valley" meeting on April 13th at Doug Roger's home in Visalia. Besides Doug, those present were myself, Bob Quist, Tom Rosedahl, Mike Green, and Doug's friend John Englert.

Doug and his wife prepared delicious burgers and then we informally discussed the Vicksburg campaign, in preparation for our up coming April Round Table. We shared memories of visits to the battlefield, and looked through various books that were brought, and watched two Powerpoint presentations on the Cairo and Port Gibson. We plan to meet again May 20th.

2009 SJV Civil War Round Table Membership Past Due

Our 2009 membership year began in January. If you have not already renewed your membership in the SJVCWRT please use the form printed below. Please keep in mind that the cost of membership is \$30 for an individual or family.

Your membership allows us to bring speakers from out of town, support Civil War battlefield preservation, and sponsor our website, sjvcwrt.com.

2009 SJVCWRT Membership Form

Please begin/renew my membership in the SJVCWRT, an organization dedicated to informing the public about the Civil War in general and about the need for preservation of Civil War sites. As a member I will receive the Bugle Call Echoes, our monthly newsletter, either electronically or on paper; regular invitations to our monthly meetings; and free tickets to the annual Civil War re-enactment at Fresno's Kearney Park; if I agree to work for two hours at our information booth

Name _____

Regular Address _____

E-mail address _____

Book Review

"New at the Fig Garden Branch of the Fresno County Library, where I work 6-10 hours a week, is **Lincoln's Admiral: the Civil War Campaigns of David Farragut** by James P. Duffy, a freelance author whose previous works focused on the Second World War. Yes, this book was published in 1997, but the only way the Fresno County Library acquires anything quickly is by donations from patrons, so Lincoln's Admiral has only recently been added to the collection at the Fig Garden Branch. The call number is 973.75092 DUF.

In a sense the book is "mis-titled" because it is a biography of one of America's best known naval leaders. In fact, the first chapter summarizes the life of his father, Jorge Farragut, a native of the Spanish Island of Minorca, who joined the American rebellion against Britain in 1776. After the war he settled in Tennessee where he married and started a family before relocating to New Orleans in 1807.

The subject of our book was the second of two sons. Sadly, his mother died of cholera when he was eight. Since his father was once again on active military duty, most likely suppressing piracy along the Gulf Coast, our future Admiral was taken in by the family of Commodore David Porter, Jr. who secured for him an appointment at the age of nine as a midshipman in the United States Navy. In 1811 Farragut was assigned to the 36-gun frigate *Essex*, one of the most famous ships in American history. In fact, the book **Master and Commander** and the movie featuring Russell Crow as Captain Aubrey of *H.M.S. Surprise*, is actually based on the voyage of *Essex* --- *Essex* is not *Surprise*, however; *Essex* is the French-flagged *Acheron*. Of particular note is the scene in which a member of the crew presents Aubrey with a model of the French vessel, a model of *Essex*, one of the "super frigates" designed by Joshua Humphreys of Philadelphia, to battle the French during the undeclared war of 1798. One of these super-frigates, the *U.S.S. Constitution*, is actually still afloat and on active duty in Boston harbor.

The point is that Farragut began his distinguished career at the age of nine aboard one of the most famous war ships in American history. For the remainder of his life he served the United States. He fought pirates in the Caribbean (but not Captain Jack Sparrow), slavers in the Atlantic, and Mexicans from 1846-1848. He was also responsible for the founding of the Naval Academy at Annapolis by insisting that midshipmen receive more training than what could be accomplished aboard ship. He also supervised the design and construction of the Naval Shipyard at Mare Island in the 1850s.

The vast majority of the book details his extraordinary work in defeating the Confederate defenders of New Orleans, Vicksburg, Port Hudson, and Mobile. His reward was promotion to the rank of Admiral, the first in American history. He also never retired despite suffering several heart attacks in 1869. In fact, less than one week before he died of a stroke in 1870 he conducted an inspection of the Portsmouth (New Hampshire) Naval Yards. Duffy's work is well-written, a "good read" for anyone interested in the naval aspects of the War Between the States in general and the contribution of David Farragut in particular.

Any more Shirts Out There !?!

The Club needs orders for eight more club shirts to complete the minimum order for 30 embroidered shirts. If you haven't placed an order contact Walt.

Cost of Meals Increasing to \$18.00

Effective the April 30, 2009 SJVCWRT meeting, the cost of dinners will increase to \$18.00. This is necessary for 2 reasons:

1. For the past year the hotel has been charging us \$17.15 per meal served. The board was under the impression that we were being charged \$17.00 per meal, and this is what we have been charging the membership.
2. Effective April 1, 2009 the state sales tax increased by 1%.

The board will explore other options for our meetings; e.g. other locations or catering arrangements. Should you have any suggestions for new locations please let David or Walt know prior to our April 30th meeting.

SJVCWRT Board



Treasurer's Report for March 2009

Beginning balance as of March 9, 2009 \$205.25

Income:

Membership dues 240.00

Dinners 0.00

Raffle tickets 36.00

Shirts 240.00

Conference Registrations 675.00

Proceeds from previous closed account 805.75

Bank incentive 25.00

Total \$2,227.00

Expenses:

Checking account stamp 19.80

Petty cash 50.00

Total \$69.80

Balance March 24, 2009 \$2,157.20

The Remaining 2009 Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 30. Chris Waldrep, San Francisco State University. "Vicksburg's Long Shadow, the Founding of a National Military Park."

Thursday, May 28. Shaun Ardemagni will host "The Boheman Brigade: Civil War Correspondents", a C-SPAN Book TV episode.

Saturday, July 4: Annual Fourth of July party, at Shaver Lake.

Thursday, September 10. Fred Bohmfalk. "Baseball in the Civil War"

Thursday, October 8. Ginny and Tim Karlberg. "The Cal 100 in Fact and Legend".

Friday, October 2 to Sunday, October 4. The Civil War Revisited: Fresno's Kearney Park

Friday, October 23 to Sunday, October 25. 25th Annual Civil War Conference. "**The Campaigns for Chattanooga**". Clovis Veterans Memorial Building.

Thursday, November 12. Mary Townsend. My great-great-grandfather Major General Peter Osterhaus.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR from "*Blue and Gray Laughing*"

"One of our companies is composed of emigres from the fair land of Poland. One day, as the Colonel was writing in his private office in the barracks, he desired a bundle of papers, which were on the top of a high chest. Having nothing at hand to get them down with, he dispatched his orderly, who was one of the Polish gentry, to bring him a long pole. 'And mind,' said the Colonel, 'to bring the longest pole you can find.' Off went the son of Poland and soon he returned, bringing with him a tall brother patriot and saying as he entered, 'Kollnel, dis is de longest Pole in mine kompany!'"

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

Website: SJVCWRT.com

San Joaquin Valley Hosting 25th Annual West Coast Conference

Evan Jones has lined up noted speakers and Park Rangers to come to Fresno-Clovis on **October 23-25**, at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building to examine **The Campaign for Chattanooga**. The conference line-up of speakers include:

Steven Woodworth - [Keynote Speaker]

Professor, Texas Christian University

James Ogden - Chief Historian, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

Glenn Robertson - Director, Combat Studies Institute, Ft. Leavenworth

James Stanbery - Professor, Los Angeles Harbor College

Wiley Sword - Author/Historian

Lee White - Park Ranger, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

Chris Young - Former Park Ranger, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

Evan Jones - Former Park Ranger, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

Plan now to attend the 25th West Coast Conference in 2009. Registration and more details can be obtained at the conference web site at www.chattanooga2009.com

