



# Bugle Calls

**INDEPENDENCE  
DAY PICNIC**  
Saturday, July 11th,  
will be the CWRT's  
Club Fourth of July  
party at the Clagues'

## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

**Volume 17 Number 5**

**P. O. Box 5695 Fresno CA 93755**

**May 2009**

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL  
WAR ROUND TABLE**

**President David Paul Davenport**  
6156 N Mitre Ave  
Fresno CA 93722 559 277 3283  
davidpauldavenport@yahoo.com

**Vice-President and Programs  
Michael Gatley MD**  
1698 Goshen Clovis, CA 93611  
(559) 322-9262  
mgatley@comcast.net

**Treasurer and Web Master  
Walter Schulze [Gail]**  
1432 Locust Ave Clovis, CA 93611  
559-297-4481  
wschulze1@sbcglobal.net

**Secretary Bryce Kuykendall**  
21001 East Weldon Sanger CA 93657  
559 787 3632  
bryce.kuykendall@gmail.com

**Member at Large and Chauffeur  
to the Secretary Neil Kuykendall]**  
21001 East Weldon Sanger CA 93657  
559 787 3632

**Past President Brian Clague [Linda]**  
P O Box 116  
Shaver Lake, CA 93664 559-841-7161  
bclague@netptc.net

**Publicity Lydia Flores**  
8316 North Raisina Avenue  
Fresno, Ca 93720-2083 559-435-7360  
flolyd@att.net

**Bugle Calls Editor Bob Quist [Judy]**  
504 E Magnolia Ave  
Hanford CA 93230 559 582 9520  
bquist1@sbcglobal.net

**Contributing Editor Ron Vaughan**  
730 E Tulare Ave Tulare CA 93274  
ronvaughan@prodigy.net

**Members at Large:  
Pattie Spencer and Michael Spencer**  
1548 W Vasser Ave Fresno CA 93705  
559 233 1059 559 304 8170  
pds8919@aol.com

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although participants in battles have for centuries recorded their thoughts (past tense) it wasn't until the telegraph and Morse code became available in the 1840s that observers of conflict could report what they were seeing (present tense). It was even later (or more recent) that newspapers could print literally within hours what their "correspondents" provided.

The American Civil War was the first major conflict in which newspaper reporters provided their editors and publishers with first-hand accounts of conflict literally within minutes of the actual events. A number of these men became famous for their observations and some were also accomplished artists.

On Thursday May 28 Shaun Ardemagni will host a presentation and discussion of the role of newspaper correspondents in providing their readers with news from the front. She will introduce the topic and then lead a discussion of an episode of BookTV featuring James Perry author of "**A Bohemian Brigade: The Civil War Correspondents, Mostly Roughly, sometimes ready.**"

Join us in discussing the importance of "imbedded" journalists and accomplished artists from 150 years ago.

Visitors are always welcome. In fact, a first-time visitor attending during the month of his or her birth, will receive dinner at no cost."

We must have an e-mail address for all members wishing to receive the *Bugle Calls*. We will no longer mail a paper copy of the newsletter beginning July 1. If you do not have e-mail and wish to continue to receive the newsletter please notify Editor Bob Quist in writing before July 1 so that we can continue to mail your *Bugle Calls*.

### Just a Reminder

**Our May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28 at the Ramada Inn. Meeting starts with dinner at 6:30PM. Please RSVP with me via my e-mail at wschulze1@sbcglobal.net, or a phone call at 297-4481.**

Also we now have orders for 25 shirts, which means only 5 to go before I can place the order. I would like to place this order after our May meeting, so if you are considering ordering a shirt please do it as soon as possible.

Thanks,  
Walt Schulze  
Treasurer

# 2009 History Under Siege

## Civil War Trust Preservation Society's List of the 10 Most Endangered Civil War

Although many battlefields are in danger of being lost forever, CWPT is making significant progress toward ensuring their protection. In 2008 CWPT rescued hallowed ground in eight states, at such legendary battlefields like Morris Island, SC, Shiloh, TN, and Appomattox Court House, VA. Since CWPT was created more than two decades ago, they have protected more than 25,000 acres of battlefield land in 19 states. The top 10 battlefields that are most in need of protection in 2009 are listed alphabetically below:

### GETTYSBURG, PA

Although Gettysburg is the best-known of all CW battlefields, it faces threats to its preservation and interpretation. Many historically significant locations on the battlefield lie just outside the boundaries of Gettysburg National Military Park and are vulnerable to residential or commercial development. Currently, a Comfort Suites hotel is under construction on Cemetery Hill. Another threatened property lies NW of town along Route 30, the Chambersburg Pike. Gettysburg Country Club, scene of Confederate attacks on McPherson Ridge, went bankrupt in 2008.

### MONOCACY, MD

Officials in Frederick County, MD, are weighing the possibility of building a "waste-to-energy facility" along the banks of the Monocacy River near the historic Worthington Farm. It would process trash from Frederick and Carroll counties, burning up to 1,500 tons per day with a proposed smokestack of 350 feet. The 100 foot tall main facility would also be visible from many key battlefield vantage points as the site is just a few hundred yards from the edge of the national park.

### NEW MARKET HEIGHTS, VA

Three thousand U S Colored Troops were involved in fighting here where they lost more than 800 men in one hour. Of 16 Medals of Honor awarded to African American troops during the CW, 14 were earned by soldiers fighting at New Market Heights.

Despite New Market Heights' indisputable historic significance, no portion of the battlefield has been protected by any preservation organization, including the National Park Service. Henrico County has purchased land within the core of the battlefield several years ago but the area is not open to the public and is served by only one roadside marker noting the battlefield location. Residential housing and congestion is creeping in and the planned widening of Route 5 threatens 75 acres of the battlefield.

### CEDAR CREEK, VA

Limestone mining operations across portions of the Cedar Creek Battlefield have long been one of the most dramatic and visible threats facing any Civil War battlefield. Heavy machinery and slag piles are already visible from many battlefield locations. Despite vehement public opposition the Frederick County Board in May 2008 rezoned 394 acres for extractive manufacturing, greatly increasing the size of the mine.

Cedar Creek is also one of approximately 15 battlefields across MD, PA, VA, and WV threatened by a proposed network of high-voltage electric transmission lines.

### FORT GAINES, AL

Sitting on Dauphin Island at the entrance of Mobile Bay, Fort Gaines occupies a strategic site that had been the scene of military conflict more than 150 years before the Civil War. In August 1864 it was the site of a naval siege begun by Adm. David Farragut's fleet of 18 ships.

Today Fort Gaines faces a foe equal to Farragut's fleet: the Gulf of Mexico. Each year waves reclaim an average of 10 feet of land, with 400 feet of historic battlefield already lost. Eventually the Gulf could bisect the island, stranding Fort Gaines.

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## SJVCWRT MEETING OF 4/30/09

By Ron Vaughan

We had 23 listeners present for our speaker, Dr. Christopher Waldrop, who spoke to us about his latest book, **"Vicksburg's Long Shadow: The CW Legacy of Race and Remembrance."** He spoke about the development of the battlefield park. William Rigby played the leading role in lobbying the US Government to establish the park, and planning for it, including the selection of what the boundaries would be. Nothing was accomplished until the Spanish American War sparked patriotism. The new park was administered by the War Department.

The park languished until WWI, when it was decided to have a veterans reunion at Vicksburg. The Government provided funds for the reunion, so that it could promote patriotism for the war effort. After WWI, interest in the park slumped again due to the anti-war sentiment of the times. Even white Southerners were not interested.

Roosevelt's New Deal program was a boon to the park. He placed the battlefield parks under the National Parks Administration, and used the C.C.C. workers to clean up the parks. Vicksburg was covered with debris and even commercial signs and enterprises. During WWII our Government decided to celebrate the 4th of July for the "first time" since the 1863 siege. Waldrop said this was not true, as Blacks in Vicksburg had been celebrating the 4th all along.

He reported to us about a race riot during the Reconstruction period. Blacks had obtained the right to vote, and elected a Black Sheriff. Then whites removed him from office, large numbers of Blacks gathered to protest. The local whites met them on the old battlefield and opened fire; hundreds were killed.

# OBITUARY - Warren E. Grabau

Carol Berry sent me this obituary when we found out that Warren Grabau had died. He was our guide on the Vicksburg trip several of us took in the spring of 1998. That was a wonderful trip. Warren had a great sense of humor and a vast store of knowledge about the Vicksburg Campaign. We toured in an air-conditioned bus with Warren up front with mike in hand keeping us spellbound as we toured the ground where it all began, leading up to what became the National Park. Several in the Round Table will remember him.

Barbara Moats

Warren Edward Grabau died Monday, December 8, 2008, at River Region Medical Center. He was 89. Born in Albion, Michigan, he was the son of the late Carl John Grabau and Agnes Marie Luebke. Mr. Grabau had been a resident of Vicksburg since 1956, except for a brief period when he lived in Kansas and for six years which he spent in London, England.

Mr. Grabau held BS and MS degrees in geology from Michigan State University. He began his career as a consulting geologist for a private company in Rockford, IL. He then worked for the U.S. Geological Survey in Washington, D.C. He spent most of his professional career at the Waterways Experiment Station. He retired in 1985 after serving as research natural scientist for the Corps of Engineers at the USA Research, Development & Standardization Group in London, England. He was awarded the Department of the Army R&C Achievement award in 1970 and the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service award in 1973 and 1984. During his career, he authored numerous technical papers on a variety of subjects.

After retirement, Mr. Grabau devoted most of his time to research and writing about the Civil War. He is the author of *Ninety-Eight Days, A Geographer's View of the Vicksburg Campaign*. He and Edwin C. Bearss authored *The Battle of Jackson, May 14, 1863*; and they found the Union ironclad gunboat *Cairo* in the Yazoo River in 1956. His most recent publication, with Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Parker Hills is *Vicksburg Campaign, driving tour guide, for the Friends of Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail*. He also authored *The Evolution of Geomorphology* with H. J. Walker.

He was preceded in death by two sisters and three brothers; He is survived by his daughter, Kathryn Grabau Davis of Mooresville, AL and his sister, Betty Smith of Marshall, MO. A Celebration of Life service will be at 11 am Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at Crawford Street United Methodist Church. Visitation will be at the church from 10 am until the hour of the service.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Crawford Street United Methodist Church or Millsaps College or to charities of choice. Riles Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

The May issue of the *Bugle Calls* is now available for your viewing on our website:

<http://sjvcwrt.com>. Enjoy  
Webmaster Walt Schulze

## CIVIL WAR HUMOR from "Blue & Gray Laughing"

A Western paper reports that an Arkansas Rebel cavalry colonel mounts his men by the following order:  
"First order: "Prepare fer ter git onter yer creeters."  
Second order: "Git!"

## CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST 2009 History Under Siege

Continued from page 2

### PORT GIBSON, MS

Site of the opening phase of US Grant's Vicksburg Campaign in April-May 1863. Major threat comes from the widening of US Highway 61 and move it from the town center to the east, skirting the battlefield. Historians and preservationists are eager to secure protection for the remaining parts of the battlefield. One plan is to include the land at Port Gibson and Champion Hill within the umbrella of Vicksburg National Military Park as it has given this area as one of its top expansion priorities.

### SABINE PASS, TX

The 2005 hurricane season dealt the Gulf Coast a devastating barrage. Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site received an almost direct hit from Hurricane Rita, and it was later hit again by Hurricane Ike causing damage so severe that the site was closed until May 2009.

### SOUTH MOUNTAIN, MD

This site is also adversely affected by planned electric transmission lines in this region. A site nearby has been purchased to erect a \$55m natural gas compression station.

### SPRING HILL, TN

The intense pressures at play in the Nashville area have posed major challenges for the Spring Hill Battlefield. General Motors wants to sell 500 acres of unused land surrounding the Rippavilla Plantation. This may become a residential area, with apartments, hotel, theatre, restaurants, etc. adjacent to the battlefield.

### WILDERNESS, VA

WalMart would like to build a super center less than a quarter of a mile from Wilderness National Battlefield - It would be the 5th WalMart within a 20 mile radius and would increase the pressure for additional development.

**Civil War Preservation Trust** is committed to protecting the last tangible links to the most tragic conflict in American history on the many battlefields where the conflict was decided. With 60,000 members CWPT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization. Over the years it has protected forever more than 25,000 acres of hallowed ground at nearly 100 sites in 19 states.

## The Remaining 2009 Meeting Schedule

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

Saturday, July 11: Annual Fourth of July party, at Shaver Lake. Bring a friend!

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

Thursday, October 8. Ginny and Tim Karlberg. "The California 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.

## 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](http://www.chattanooga2009.com)

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**Fresno CA 93755**

**Website:** <http://SJVCWRT.com>

