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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
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President's Message

With the recent 160-Year Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, did anyone ever wonder what would have been the consequences if the North had lost the Battle? Possibly the loss of Washington D.C.?; perhaps the Capture of President Abraham Lincoln?; or maybe even what General Robert E. Lee wanted to do - put a letter of Surrender of the Union on President Lincoln's Desk.

At the time before the Battle, it was considered the high water mark for the Confederacy and it was about to become the first major attack and or Battle in the Northern United States. It was also an attack that was intended to help the Confederates relieve a besieged Vicksburg, Mississippi which was surrounded by the Union at the time.

Fortunately for the Union, the Confederate high mark ended with the defeat of General George Pickett's Charge when General Pickett lost his whole Division while trying to penetrate the Center of the Union line and most of it's concentrated artillery on July 3, 1863. In the Battle of Gettysburg, nine (9) Confederate Generals died and unfortunately for the Confederacy on July 4th, 1863, Vicksburg surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant and the Union forces.

I hope all of you had a happier 4th of July this year than the Confederates did 160 years ago.

James C. Juanitas, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, June 14, 2023
DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 3520 AUBURN BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 17:

MEMBERS – 17: Carol Breiter, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Jean Breiter, Steve Breiter, Harvey & Marsha Cain-Jutovsky, Wayne & Nina Henley, Alejandro Lizarraga, Jaime Lizarraga, Bernie Quinn, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield, Richard Sickert, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, and John Zasso.

GUESTS – 00: No Guests.

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Carol Breiter at 7:04 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jean Breiter.
2. Treasurer George Foxworth made a report on the Hof Brau. He met the Manager on site and received the word that they plan to re-open at some date in the future. Probably far in the future.
3. New members and guests were introduced. None were present. Vice President Breiter announced that Program Director Bernie Quinn resigned. He was thanked for his service.
4. The raffle was conducted by Vice President Breiter. Books and bottles of wine were offered as prizes. The raffle raised \$38.00. Vice President Breiter introduced the speaker.
5. The speaker was Bernie Quinn and his topic was "George A. Forsyth." George Alexander Forsyth was born on November 7, 1837 in Muncy, Pennsylvania. He studied law at the Chicago Law Institute, which led to an apprenticeship with Attorney Isaac N. Arnold, a close friend of Abraham Lincoln.
6. Forsyth enlisted with the Chicago Dragoons, serving as a Private, shortly after the Civil War began. His first commission came in September 1861 as a First Lieutenant in the 8th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry. During his time with the 8th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, he participated in many battles.
7. He was promoted to Captain in February 1862. He ended as a Brevet Brigadier General (March 1865) and was aide to Major General Philip Sheridan. He accompanied Sheridan at the Battle of Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign (1864 - 1865).
8. Forsyth became a member of the regular US Army in 1866; he was placed on frontier duty in the Far West. He became a Major of the 9th US Cavalry in two years. In 1868, Major General Sheridan sent Forsyth and a force of 50 frontiersmen and scouts well versed in the terrain and Indian Warfare. He would lead this force most often against the Cheyenne in Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. The men were organized as a company of cavalry, they were not officially soldiers, rather employees of the Army.
9. The Battle that Forsyth is most known for is the Battle of Beecher Island in Colorado. The Battle took place along, and eventually in, the Arikaree River. It lasted for 9 days, beginning September 16, 1868. During the Battle, Forsyth and his men were driven to a small sandy island (later named Beecher Island) and warded off repeat attacks from three converging bands of Cheyenne, Sioux, and Arapaho warriors. During the assault, Forsyth was wounded in two different incidents.
10. The Battle of Beecher Island earned him a Brevet to Brigadier General. He then served as Military Secretary from 1869 - 1873. He continued his military career into the 1880s, including serving as the Lieutenant Colonel of the 4th Cavalry during the Apache Wars.
11. He retired for medical reasons March 25, 1890. In 1904, he was promoted to Colonel on the retired list. He died at Rockport, Massachusetts on September 12, 1915, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.
12. The next Executive Board Meeting is July 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM, Brookfields at Madison and I-80.

Submitted by George W. Foxworth for Secretary (Vacant)

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on June 14, 2023 was \$4,812.94. Thanks to Vice President Breiter and members, the raffle brought in \$38.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2023

Date	Speaker	Topic
July 12th	"Jean Breiter"	"More Horse Problems"
August 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
September 13th	"Arnd F. Gartner"	"To Be Determined"
October 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
November 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
December 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2023 Membership

The 2023 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2023. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew at a meeting or send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to **Sacramento Civil War Round Table** and send them to:

George W. Foxworth
9463 Salishan Court
Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the first day of each month for that month's **Battle Cry**. However, you can submit articles at anytime. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

gwofforth@sbcglobal.net

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

The Friends of Civil War Alcatraz (FOCWA) is a group of individuals interested in the Civil War history of Alcatraz island. We are made up of teachers, veterans, historians, and others who like to research and read about how Alcatraz became an important Fort for the protection of San Francisco during the Civil War.

Some of our members are also National Park Service volunteers who assist the rangers in giving public programs, in uniform, about the Union soldiers stationed on the Island and interesting events that occurred there between 1859 and 1865. We publish a newsletter every month, which can be found on our website www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org.

We also visit schools and organizations to tell that early history of the Island, long before it became the notorious Federal prison. And we conduct living history days twice a year, in conjunction with the American Civil War Association, to give the public an idea of what the Island was like as a Union Fort.

Submitted by Steve Johnson

Oliver Rice Chase

Oliver Rice Chase was born in Millbury, Massachusetts in July of 1821 to Silas and Lucinda Chase. He was 26 years old and had been living in London when he was granted a patent for the invention of “improvements in machinery for manufacturing lozenges and for other purposes.”

The Industrial Revolution was in full swing. The sewing machine, rotary printing press, safety pin, and grain elevators had recently been invented. Work would finally be less arduous. Goods and services would become cheaper and easier to obtain.

Oliver Chase had been making “lozenges” for apothecary shops. Lozenges were touted as being able to cure anything from sore throats to bad breath. The lozenges were meant to make “chewable indigestion medicine” more palatable to the taste by adding peppermint, brown sugar and gum Arabic. Up until now, the lozenges were cut by hand.



Due to slave labor on large plantations, sugar had become plentiful and cheap. Boston had easy access to sugar as it was a major port for the Triangle Trade. In 1850, Chase was granted a second patent for a machine that pulverized refined sugar.

Oliver started experimenting with making medicine-free lozenges. This was a novel foray into producing a new kind of candy. He believed that he could make a “sweets” business out of his original creation. Soon enough, Chase and Company was founded. Oliver took in his older and younger brothers, Silas Edwin Chase (1811-1872), and Daniel Greenwood Chase (1819-1899), as partners. Their factory was on South Boston’s Melcher Street. This venture marked the beginning of producing candy commercially in large amounts.

Chase perfected the lozenge into a pastel wafer disk with a chalky consistency. The original flavors were lemon (yellow), lime (green), orange (orange), licorice (dark grey), chocolate (brown), clove (purple), cinnamon (white), and wintergreen (pink). Twenty four wafers came in a pack that was fashioned out of wax paper. The wafers were made of corn syrup, sugar, gelatin, gums, and food coloring.

The War was a boon for Chase and Company. The North was where most industry in the United States was to be found and New England became the “official birthplace of commercial candy.”

The Chase creation was a perfect treat for a Civil War soldier on the move. The brothers originally called their product “Peerless Wafers” but early on, the soldiers renamed them “Hub Wafers.” (Hub was the nickname for Boston where the wafers were made.) The new candy didn’t melt in high temperatures. They had a shelf life of two years. They didn’t break when mailed by loving relatives and were wildly popular with the men. There were not many candies that wouldn’t decay under harsh living conditions or being carried for extended periods in haversacks.

In 1864, Daniel Chase took the Chase Lozenge Machine to Chicago. From there he could better service the growing territories further West with the portable candy.

Soldiers remained loyal to the habits they developed during the War. On their return home, they continued to drink Borden’s condensed milk, wash with their government issued Ivory soap, and share the hub wafers with their family and friends.

In 1866, Daniel Chase devised a way to stamp short love notes onto the round wafers with vegetable dye. He had gotten this idea from a slightly larger scalloped shaped candy called “cockles.” At the beginning, the messages were quite wordy. “How long shall I have to wait?” “Please send a lock of your hair by return mail.” “Married in pink, he will take a drink.” Obviously they needed to be shortened. Soon they were cooing “Be Mine,” Kiss Me,” “Be True,” and “Yours 4 Ever.” These new disks with notes came to be called Motto Wafers. In 1901, the Company used the same formula to add a second product to create heart shaped candies. Today they are universally known as “Conversation Hearts” and recognized everywhere around the world.

In 1871, the Great Chicago Fire destroyed the Chase Candy Factory. The following year, another huge conflagration in Boston destroyed the original manufacturing plant. The brothers rebuilt and went on.

The newest confection had become so popular that in *Twice Told Tales*, Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote that the candy was “...prized by children for their sweetness, and much more for their mottoes, which they enclose, by love-sick maids and bachelors.”

Oliver Chase retired in 1888. His brothers, Daniel and Silas, continued to work at the Company.

By 1899, the US Government included the original disc sweets as part of a soldier’s rations because they were said to “improve morale, increase caloric intake, and improve endurance and health.”



In 1901, Chase and Company merged with Fobes, Hayward, & Company and Wright & Moody to become the New England Confectionary Company. Their original and most famous candy wafer was now named *Neccos*. The New England Confectionary Company is the oldest candy company in the United States, continuously manufacturing candy that is still sold in its original form.

Oliver died on December 2, 1902 in New Hampshire where he had been living for two years. He was 81 years old. He was cremated and his ashes are buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Suffolk County, Massachusetts with no tombstone. His first wife, Abba Amanda Fletcher, had predeceased him in 1849 at the young age of 32. She is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery in Northbridge, Massachusetts.

In 1913, an arctic expedition brought and distributed *Neccos* to the Eskimo children of what later became the State of Alaska. In 1928, Rear Admiral Byrd took two and a half tons of *Neccos* on his South Pole expedition, enough for every man to be able to consume at least a pound a week on their two-year journey.

In the 1940s, *Neccos* turned over part of its Massachusetts plant for the manufacture of war materials. It also used its candy facilities to make and provide rations during World War II.

In 2010, *Neccos* asked the public to submit new sayings for the hearts. “Tweet Me,” “Text Me,” and “Love Bug” were among the top three.

Nothing lasts forever. Sadly, sales had waned. The Company was forced into bankruptcy in July of 2018. They put up a simple notice featuring three Conversation Hearts. The messages read, “Miss U 2.” “Wait for Me.” “Be Back Soon.”

The Great *Neccos* Wafer Panic began with buying sprees of the Company’s remaining inventory. One 23 year-old woman offered her 2003 Honda Accord in exchange for a stockpile of *Neccos*.

In 2020, Spangler Candy, of Bryan, Ohio, purchased the *Neccos* brand. *Neccos*, Conversation Hearts, Candy Buttons, and Canada Mints would return to the market.

Today Conversation Hearts make up 40% of Valentine’s Candy sales, selling eight billion in the weeks leading up to the sweethearts holiday. Annual sales often reach up to \$100 million.

The original 1927 Cambridge candy factory is now home to Novartis, a huge pharmaceutical company. \$175 million was spent converting the building for pharmaceutical production. Sugar had to be scraped off the original walls.

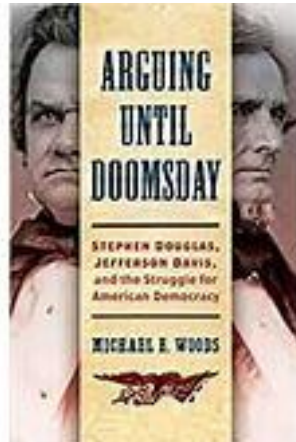
Neccos and Conversation Hearts have not been universally loved. Some believe that they taste like “tropical drywall,” “stale Tums,” and “flat disks of flavored chalk.” The bitter flavors of clove and licorice have been called “an abomination.” One fellow, who blogs under the name BCN Blog, has said that even calling *Neccos* candy “is like saying a funeral is an afternoon activity for the whole family.” As far as Conversation Hearts are concerned, he claims that the messages look like “texts from an apathetic hooker” and anyone who enjoys them must “have the palate of a ...naïve goat.” In conclusion, BCN adds, “There are two kinds of people...those who eat *Neccos* and those who aren’t disgusting.”

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Arguing Until Doomsday: Stephen Douglas, Jefferson Davis, and the Struggle for American Democracy

Michael E. Woods. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2020. 352 pp. \$34.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-4696-5641-0.

Reviewed by Thomas Balcerski (Eastern Connecticut State University). Published on H-South (December, 2020). Commissioned by Bennett Parten.



In our present moment of partisan strife, we are made ever more aware of fissures not just between, but within, political parties. Indeed, conflict among members of the same party has been at the heart of antebellum political historiography. The idea of pairing two prominent Democrats--in this case Stephen Douglas of Illinois and Jefferson Davis of Mississippi--in a biographical fashion promises to illuminate how personal differences impacted a party and a nation. With *Arguing until Doomsday*, Michael Woods has written a book that is at once a scholarly contribution to antebellum history and a timely reminder of how shaky partisanship really is.

From the outset, Woods argues for his biographical approach as a central methodological concern and hints at an important payoff made by his book: "Only when contrasted with Davis can we understand why Douglas aroused so much loathing among southern Democrats. Only through a cross-sectional rivalry can we comprehend why some Southerners called for secession, whether Lincoln or Douglas was elected in 1860. Only with a cotton state politico in the picture can we explain why Lincoln and Douglas joined forces against Davis's Southern Republic" (p. 5). Both "less and more than a traditional biography" (p. 6), *Arguing until Doomsday* reveals "three interlocking stories: personal, partisan, and national" (p. 7). In these three aims, the author is largely successful.

The scholarly stakes of the volume are deeply entrenched, for the disintegration of the Democratic Party (also known as the Democracy) has long fascinated historians. Woods casts his lot with the "body of scholarship on the Civil War-era Democratic Party ... that stresses internal diversity and disagreement, foregrounds Northern Democrats who were neither embryonic Republicans nor proslavery 'doughfaces,' and explores both what held Democrats together and what them apart" (p. 8). In the detailed footnotes, Woods cites numerous works, most notably Roy Nichols's *Disruption of the American Democracy* (1948). Later, Woods returns to Nichols's argument to explain in greater detail how these several long-term forces "evolved over many years" (p. 45). Accordingly, Woods's emphasis on "property rights and majoritarianism" (p. 9) restores agency to Douglas and Davis as individual actors and adds to a

burgeoning subfield of scholarship on the Civil War era.

A biographical approach requires the writer to begin at the beginning and proceed chronically. Woods honors this method by starting with a look at the West, the region of the country where each man settled as an adult. Yet Davis's Mississippi and Douglas's Illinois "inhabited very different Wests" (p. 15). Woods finds moments of Davis's emerging antipathy toward popular sovereignty, when as a young Lieutenant in the US Army he was tasked with evicting squatters on Government land in Iowa. By contrast, Douglas "followed the pioneer spirit wherever it led, from spread-eagle expansionism to avid real estate speculation" (p. 30). At the same time, Woods contends, Illinois, for all its longitudinal vastness, better represented a "microcosm of the North than of the Nation" (p. 40). In his politics, Douglas was quickly becoming "the ideal type of an Illinois Jacksonian" (p. 41).

Woods is particularly perspicacious in his conceptualization of the Democratic Party during its Jacksonian phase. A "coalition of factions, cliques, and local machines," the Democracy was a "party in motion, as a shifting and perennially uneasy alliance among partisans striving to win elections back home while maintaining national power" (p. 45). Woods traces the contours of the Democratic Party's early history and notes the influence of John C. Calhoun. Davis, he avers, was less Calhoun's political heir than a "fellow traveler" (p. 98) in the Democracy. Likewise, the career of Martin Van Buren demonstrates "structural and contextual" (p. 53) challenges to its long-term viability. Jacksonians both, of the two Douglas naturally showed a special concern for knitting together the Old Northwest. Davis and Douglas first clashed over the issue of territorial expansion as Members of the House of Representatives during the 1840s. The conflict pitted "Douglas's majoritarian instincts" against "Davis's dedication to slaveholders' property rights" (p. 74). In many ways, they would continue to fight this battle for the next fifteen years.

The War with Mexico eventually brought both men to the US Senate. On a personal level, Douglas had shifted his attention toward Chicago real estate, while Davis prospered at Davis Bend in Mississippi. The two men found common ground for a change in their rejection of the "common-property doctrine" (p. 89) espoused by the free soil movement. Indeed, their rejection of abolitionism was a core tenet of their Democratic creed. At the same time, disagreements over the democratic character of popular sovereignty curtailed the possibilities for unity; even as Douglas defended the practice, Davis assailed it as submitting to "King Numbers" (p. 91). Their lack of a "common philosophy" (p. 96) also limited their political power and by 1850 had begun to threaten to tear the party apart.

Woods hammers home this point about arguments over majoritarian politics and makes an important corrective in the process. Following the Compromise of 1850, the "central story of late antebellum politics was not Southern resistance to Federal overreach but northern reactions to minority rule" (p. 112), he argues. Cries of the "Slave Power" became ever more forceful during these years. Other political consequences followed: Douglas inspired the "Young America" movement, while Davis took a turn serving as Secretary of War in the Cabinet of President Franklin Pierce. Suitable attention is given to the infamous "camel episode" (p. 122), in which Davis fantastically authorized the purchase of these pack animals for use by the US Army. Likewise, the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, with its repeal of the Missouri Compromise, once more found Douglas and Davis rowing in the same direction, even as they may not have recognized just where they were going.

The events of the Buchanan Administration proved critically divisive for Davis and Douglas. These years once again revealed the contrast between Douglas's majoritarian commitments and Davis's anti-majoritarian leanings. The same old issues of decades prior resurfaced, too: while "partisanship dominated Kansas debates ... sectional alignments were forming on internal

improvements" (p. 145), Woods notes. As had been the case before, a shared belief in white supremacy was a point of unity in the partisanship of Davis and Douglas, but it "provided no single template for lawmaking" (p. 155). Similarly, the partisan divisions, always mutable during these years, shifted like sand blowing in the wind as the Democratic Party splintered. Douglas's resistance to the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution illustrates the point. Once more, Douglas and Davis emerged as "champions of hostile sectional factions" (p. 166).

Back home, Douglas participated in the famous series of debates with Abraham Lincoln that propelled both men to presidential nominations in 1860. In that critical year, Douglas came to realize, the Democracy could "stand for White men's democracy or White masters' property, but not both" (p. 178). Incredibly, Douglas and Davis could still unite on the principle of territorial expansion into the Caribbean basin, a potent reminder that imperialism coalesces nationalism. Yet the issue of a Federal slave code to govern Western Territories proved an immovable thorn in the Democracy's side. Here, their disagreement was so noteworthy that Alfred Iverson complained that they could "go on ... arguing against each other from this until doomsday" (p. 183), providing Woods with his title. Once more, each man battled the other for control of the party. Southern Democrats followed a "rule or ruin" attitude, while the Northern Douglasites retorted with "rule or Republican" (p. 195). And they kept arguing with other, well into the Congressional Session of 1860.

Many must have felt doomsday really was approaching during the election of 1860. Douglas ran for President on his usual platform of popular sovereignty as panacea, but he turned to a fiercely pro-Union stance in the face of Southern intransigence. Soon enough, he began to campaign less for President and more for the preservation of the Union itself. Doomsday had truly arrived, for the Democracy had lost the one quality that had appealed to voters for a generation: "national unity" (p. 209). Following the election of Lincoln, Douglas abandoned his commitment to decentralized government, in what Woods describes as a "panicky effort at statesmanship" (p. 218). Like so many others, he supported a proposed Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution to protect slavery in every part of the United States. Always a cheerleader for his beloved Northwest, Douglas offered intimate counsel to Lincoln until his untimely death in 1861.

Davis, by contrast, discovered that the same fissures within the national Democratic Party had carried forward into the Confederacy over which he presided. His new nation "could not evade the conflicts over property and democracy that he had hoped to transcend" (p. 213), Wood observes. Before becoming President of the Confederate States of America, Davis looked to avoid earlier mistakes of getting ahead of his constituency and counseled a "cooperationist" approach to secession. He quickly changed his tune, though, once the popular will of Mississippi became known. Yet Davis maintained his penchant for anti-majoritarianism, a stance made all the more troubling by the destructive events of the Civil War. "After fifteen years of conflict with Stephen Douglas over public power and private property, "majority rule and slaveholders' prerogatives," Woods concludes, "Davis hoped that a Republic unshackled from Free States could achieve a more perfect unity" (p. 226). Of course, he could not do so. The "tension between property and democracy" (p. 227) has never fully resolved, revealing ultimately the many facets of political coalitions.

This is a beautifully written book that moves effortlessly across the sweep of the Nineteenth Century. Woods is at home with his material, having exhaustively explored the primary sources and the major biographies pertaining to each man. The genius of the book is, it must be said, its biographical approach, narrow enough to keep a reader interested and deep enough not to lose the forest for the trees. Arguing until Domsday offers a creative template and a path forward for political history itself. Historians should take note.

Submitted by Bruce A, Castleman, Ph.D

2023 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

November 3 - 5, 2023



WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL, 5090 East Clinton Way, FRESNO, CA 93727-1506, (1-844-208-0446, 1-559-494-4992, or 1-559-252-3611), \$112.00 per night with Group Block ID# 141218, (Fresno Airport).

“160th Anniversary of the Vicksburg Campaign.”

HOSTED BY THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CWRT. For more information, see Website: SJVCWRT2.com

SPEAKERS & TOPICS:

General Parker Hills; Author & Civil War Tour Guide; Various topics on Vicksburg. General U.S. Grant (Dr. Curt Fields); Grant Interpreter; Grant at Vicksburg. Jim Stanbery; Educator & Historian; Grant vs Pemberton. Ron Vaughan; San Joaquin Valley CWRT; Battle of Milliken's Bend & The Adventures of Bowen's Missouri Troops in the Bayous.

Friday Night Dinner Begins at 5:30 PM.

Ron Vaughan, MA.; (Conference Coordinator: ronvaughan@prodigy.net).

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: \$225.00 PER PERSON for Weekend, including meals until October 1, 2023. After October 1, \$250.00. Breakfast on your own. Coffee, water, and pastries provided during the Conference.

(Non participants who wish Dinner Friday or Saturday nights: \$35.00 each meal.)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

Email _____

Member of which CWRT/ORG _____

Address Check to **San Joaquin Valley CWRT.**

Send Check and Registration to: **Ron Vaughan (Conference Coordinator), 730 East Tulare Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274-4336.**