

November 2025
*Newsletter of the
California Historical Artillery Society*

THE CANNON'S MOUTH

Mark your Calendars
Annual Meeting
Saturday, January 17, 2026
Masonic Lodge
1601 N. Tracy Blvd
Tracy CA 05376
10 am

“Pup Tent” President” Message

It has been an eventful year for our organization to relocate and adjust to our new location in Oakdale. Thank you to all that helped in this project in the actual movement and behind the scenes financial help. Our horses are settling into their new surroundings. We continue to search for another location that will offer us lower costs in overhead and boarding. We continue to search for reenacting events and possibly parades to showcase our organization. This is becoming a challenge for various reasons including a diminished interest in the civil war era. We continue to regrow our membership and appreciate any and all avenues to accomplish this.

Our annual meeting will again take place in Tracy and include the usual schedule of 10 am starting time for reports from board members and general membership discussions. Followed by a catered luncheon and conclusion with unit officers' elections. We will also provide a link for zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Looking forward to seeing as many members as possible at our annual meeting.

In your service

Ted ' El Duce ' Miljevich

CHAS Commanders Report

Castle Noz Event, Snelling October 16-19, 2025

After Action Report – Castle Noz Engagement

A 3-inch wrought iron gun and a six-member team arrived promptly to successfully repel a reconnaissance raid by approximately 400 school children on the outskirts of Castle Noz. Due to limited personnel, officers and instructors assigned the children to crew positions as necessary. Minor property damage was reported (that's the trouble with not using the sight), including several vehicles and one rebel target. The horses on the picket line were designated as the cavalry station and received significant attention from participants.

Weather conditions were favorable, with comfortable temperatures throughout the event. Six tents were arranged in alignment on the north side of Union Camp's picket line, positioned just south of the street. Soft ground this year eliminated the need for masonry drills when securing tent stakes. Commissary cook Mike provided excellent meals over the duration of the event. On both evenings, a large bonfire was conducted at the Castle gatehouse and ignited by flaming arrows launched from the two towers. Both food vendors and one sutler were present to support personnel.

Drivers prepared and exercised new team members under the leadership of Big Guy. The field was well suited for maneuvering and training, offering ample space for activities.

The following morning began warm and sunny. The opposing forces repositioned to our flank; subsequent engagement involved additional personnel, including several members from the 20th Maine and an unattached Union private, completing the crew. Over the course of three battles spanning two days, our position was ultimately overrun, resulting in the withdrawal or loss of all but the primary team. No injuries or safety incidents were reported.

Please consult the Captain with any questions regarding this report.

Faithfully,

Captain William David Johnson
3rd US Artillery L & M

CHAS Board of Directors 2026 Candidates Statements

President

"I appreciate the years of support being your club president. I ask for your support again to continue another year as your club president.

In your service

Ted 'El Duce' Miljevich"

Vice President

Hello fellow CHAS members Lt. Berry at your service. I am announcing my candidacy for VICE President. Wow did we had an exciting and a challenging year in 2025, new horses, new location at the D cross ranch. CHAS did a great job Thank you all for supporting CHAS, everyone is awesome at what you do to make this club flourish! If selected I will due diligence to bring 2026 even more exciting and educational year! Let's do it again...carry on...

Lt. Michael G Berry XO

Treasurer

Being Treasurer helps keep my math and spreadsheet skills honed. Books are balanced between the bank and QuickBooks, tax reporting is on time, bills are paid timely. I would like to keep going. Alan Ginos

Recording Secretary

I am running for the Board position of Recording Secretary having served for the last 23 years and ask for your continued support. This has been one of the ways that I have been able to contribute to the organization, by keeping accurate minutes as well as representing the general membership in Board matters.

Thank you,

Scott Foster

Corresponding Secretary

Once again, I am asking for your vote for Corresponding Secretary. I have held this position since 2012 and welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the CHAS membership in this capacity. Best Regards, Judith A. Boling.

Member at Large

I would be delighted to serve as your member at large for another year.

Terry Thompson

Member at Large

I am running for the Board Position of Member at Large CHAS' 2026 Year. I have been in various roles within CHAS for the past 24 years and have sat in on a number of Board of Director's Meetings rounding out my experience as a non-Board of Director Member. In this role, I'll be responsible for meeting the corporate needs of the general membership, acting as an advocate and spokesperson for the rights and options of members. Please consider voting for me as your Member of Large.

Karen Foster

Commander

I am announcing my candidacy for the 2026 CHAS commander. 2025 was a better year than the last few. 4 re-enactments, new locations, new recruits, and work parties with most members only suffering bumps and bruises. 2026 is going to be full of challenges with new horses in our herd at our D Cross ranch location. I would be proud to be your commander, if elected.

William David Johnson

Election Buddy online voting will take place in December. Paper ballots will also be available.

Thank you, Carolyn Faubel, for organizing the elections.

Historical/Educational:

Why are we called Battery L&M?

A short history of Regular Army artillery organization in the Civil War.

by Ken Dombroski, Ph.D. (Major, United States Army, Retired)

For those new members joining CHAS over the last few years, here's a bit of history on how the unit we portray in Civil War reenactments became Batteries L & M, 3rd U.S. Artillery.

In the pre-Civil War Regular Army, the four regiments of artillery, composed of 12 companies each, were used primarily to garrison the coastal forts along the east and west coasts of the country. Two of the companies of each of the artillery regiments were authorized to be equipped with light artillery pieces and serve as mounted field artillery batteries; the remaining 10 companies of each of the regiments were designated as foot artillery and manned the heavy guns of the coastal forts or served as infantry. Companies L and M of the 3rd U.S. Artillery

were foot artillery units stationed on the west coast in the years just before the war broke out. Congress had established the peacetime organization of the artillery back in 1821 and prescribed that “each company shall consist of one captain, two first lieutenants, two second lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, three artificers, two musicians, and forty-two privates.” (Sixteenth Congress, Sess.II, Ch.13, 1821)

Since the foot artillery companies were not mounted, there were no drivers and all the privates served as cannoneers. In reality, the foot artillery companies often served in dual roles, both as artillery in the forts and as infantry patrolling the frontier. Their uniforms reflected this status, more closely resembling the infantry rather than the cavalry uniforms of the period.



Foot Artillery sergeant in full dress uniform, very similar to an infantryman, per 1862 regulations. Artillerymen of the 3rd U.S. Artillery would have worn this uniform, but with dark blue trousers, while in California before the Civil War. Note the unique – and essentially useless – short sword issued to foot artillerymen. As with many uniform and equipment items of the period, this was a copy of the sword issued to French artillerymen.

In 1861, the regular army artillery regiments were shorthanded and their companies scattered throughout the country. In the pre-war years, regular units were rarely at their full authorized strength, and as the war began, they had to

compete for new recruits with the state-raised volunteer regiments with their more generous enlistment bounties and shorter terms of service.

In addition to authorizing the mustering into service of volunteer regiments to suppress the southern rebellion, Congress, in July 1861, added nine regiments of infantry, one of cavalry, and one of artillery to the wartime organization of the Regular Army. The new 5th U.S. Artillery was authorized many more soldiers than each of the existing four regular artillery regiments, and all of the 5th Artillery's subordinate units were equipped as mounted field artillery batteries:

The regiment of artillery hereby authorized shall consist of not more than twelve batteries; and each battery shall consist of one captain, one first and one second lieutenant, one first sergeant, one quartermaster-sergeant, four sergeants, eight corporals, two musicians, two artificers, one wagoner, and as many privates, not exceeding one hundred and twenty-two, as the President of the United States may, according to the requirements of the military service, direct. And there may be added to the aforesaid battery organization, at the discretion of the President, having due regard to the public necessities and means, one first and one second lieutenant, two sergeants, and four corporals. (General Orders, No. 48, War Dept., Adjt. General's Office, Washington, July 31, 1861)

The additional officers and non-commissioned officers were authorized for mounted batteries fielding six guns, which became the wartime standard for the Union mounted batteries from late 1861 until mid to late 1864, when many reverted back to four-gun batteries. Three of the lieutenants commanded sections of two gun detachments each, and one lieutenant commanded the caissons and performed staff duties for the battery. The six sergeants were chiefs of pieces. Six of the corporals were gunners and six were chiefs of the caissons. When the battery was at full strength, 52 of the privates were drivers, with the remaining 70 serving as cannoners. Each mounted field artillery battery had around 110 horses, not including the officers' mounts. Equipment included six cannons with limbers, six caissons with limbers, a battery forge with limber, and a battery wagon with limber. Three wagons were authorized per battery, primarily to carry grain for the horses.

The mounted battery organization of 152 officers and men authorized for the new 5th U.S. Artillery was adopted for the volunteer batteries, but the other four regular artillery regiments remained at their pre-war congressionally authorized strength. As war clouds loomed overhead, the pre-war foot artillery companies of these four regular artillery regiments required vigorous recruiting and

consolidation of existing units in order to field the mounted artillery batteries needed to fight in the coming campaigns.

Companies C, G, H, L, and M of the 3rd U.S. Artillery were dispatched from California in October 1861 to New York to join Companies E and F in the war effort back east. Company M was attached to Company L and they were reequipped as a consolidated mounted battery with six 10 lb. Parrott rifles. Initially assigned to the Army of the Potomac, Batteries L&M, 3rd U.S. Artillery, would serve in both the eastern and western theaters of the war: from the siege of Yorktown in April-May 1862 through to the Fredericksburg campaign in December 1862; transferring to Kentucky and campaigning in the west through the siege of Vicksburg and into Mississippi and eastern Tennessee until March 1864; returning east to the Army of the Potomac to fight in the Wilderness campaign in May 1864; and finally finishing out the last year of the war as part of the defenses of Washington, DC.



Light Artillery, Private.

Light Artillery private in full dress uniform, per 1861 regulations. The ornate shako was unique to the light artillery companies and a holdover from an earlier era. Artillerymen in Batteries L&M would have worn this uniform, substituting the

forage cap for the shako in the field, once they were reequipped as light artilleryman in late 1861.

Once reorganized and equipped as mounted field artillery, Batteries L&M, 3rd U.S. Artillery, would have adopted the uniform of the light artillery. Instead of the frock coat and Hardee hat, the light artillerymen wore red-trimmed shell jackets and light blue trousers, similar to the cavalry uniform of the period. For cold weather campaigning, light artillerymen were issued the double-breasted cavalry greatcoat. Unique to the light artillery was the ornate dress shako, a holdover from their Mexican War days and a symbol of their elite status in the Army. While rakish in appearance, the shako was rarely worn in the field. Most period photographs of light artillerymen in action show them wearing the more practical army field uniform: sack coat and light blue trousers with the forage cap, although some artillerymen preferred the more distinctive shell jacket – at least for the photographer.



Great Coat, Mounted Men

Light artilleryman in mounted greatcoat. The light artillery saber, also of French design, was issued to mounted artillery batteries. This soldier is carrying a revolver; they were usually issued only to the non-commissioned officers in the mounted artillery.

Upcoming Events

Possible Events for CHAS to attend in 2026: Definite dates have not been set.

January

CHAS Annual meeting: January 17, 2026, Tracy Masonic Lodge

March

Knights Ferry: ACWA, in late March

April/May

Oakdale Rodeo Parade: Saturday of second week in April

Mahon Ranch: April or May

July

Graeagle: RACW, July 4 Weekend

October

Castle Noz: ACWA, third weekend in October.

Redding: RACW, in October

Time to renew our memberships but the U.S. Postal Service will not deliver your renewal without my name in the address.

Send it to:

Judith Boling
CHAS Recruiting
340 East Oak Avenue #110
Visalia, California 93291

Minutes for the August 26, 2025
Board Meeting of the California Historical Artillery Society

Meeting held by Zoom Video Conference

Present: Ted Miljevich, Alan Ginos, Scott Foster, Judith Boling, Mike Berry, Karen Foster, Terry Thompson

Guests: Ken Dombroski

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

Minutes of the June 17, 2025, meeting were read, corrected as necessary and approved.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Alan:

The current Chase balance is \$27,486.36.

Reviewed Deposits and Expenditures.

M/S/P to accept financial report.

Commanders Report:

Mike gave a summary of the Graeagle event.

Committee Reports:

Safety: Terry

Alan: Horse cookies worked well at calming the horses during the Graeagle fireworks.

Fundraising:

There was discussion regarding the final draft of the horse support letter. Alan complimented Judith on her organization and editing of the letter after all the comments and requested changes.

Remove the Treasurer link in the letter heading.

Ted will go ahead and get the letter printed and mailed as soon as he gets the current mailing list.

Materials and Acquisitions:

Wood is not ready for the Caisson trailer.

Dodge cannot be registered in California as we cannot get a '98 emissions sticker issued. We will continue to lease the truck from Teri for \$100.00 per month and

she will cover the insurance and registration, and we will also carry insurance as well.

Dean McCracken has sold 7 of the 10 saddles he had from us and is willing to sell more if they are cleaned.

One more van at Casini's to sell.

Dave is working on the caisson limber. Missing latch on limber chest.

Gun and Limber at Ted's needs the wheels tightened.

Ken said he will donate a haversack for use with Gun 1

Ted is concerned about horse care costs. We still need to find a less costly alternative.

Recruitment and Public Relations:

Recruitment:

We need an individual application from Abigail Berry.

M/S/P to accept the following from the 9th Virginia Dismounted Cavalry:

Logan Benter:

Joshua Vasquez:

M/S/P to accept Mark Oldridge as Cannoneer with Mike as mentor.

Reviewed revised 2026 application adding 9th Virginia as a role. Discussion was tabled until Wes is back.

Reviewed list of those who have not renewed their membership. Most are from the 9th Virginia.

Public Relations: Terry to send Cannons Mouth format to Karen in both Word and Publisher.

Website: Mike will work with Alan on it. B&B would like to update the website to make it cell phone friendly. Cost would be about \$2500.00. Alan recommended we do not do it until we can update it regularly.

Historical/Educational:

Ken will assume taking care of it.

Events:

Noz Castle, October 17-19

ACWA will take over the Mahon Ranch Event.

RACW is planning on returning to Graeagle.

Next meeting: November 18, 6:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Mission Statement

The California Historical Artillery Society is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the life and times of the military horse with emphasis on horse drawn artillery and complementary impressions.

CALIFORNIA HISTORY ARTILLERY SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

President

Ted Miljevich chaselduce@aol.com

Vice President

Mike Berry deatharmor7@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Scott Foster 3rdartyscott@sbcglobal.net

Corresponding Secretary

Judith Boling bigmama2@gmail.com

Treasurer

Alan Ginos adginos@hotmail.com

Members at Large

Terry Thompson kuketj@gmail.com

Karen Foster foster_scott@sbcglobal.net

Important Web Addresses

California Historical Artillery Society

www.warhorse.org

Pacific Area Civil War Reenactors

<http://pacwr.net>

American Civil War Association (ACWA)

www.acwa.org/

Reenactors of the American Civil War (RACW)

www.racw.org

Comstock Civil War Reenactors (CCWR)

www.ccwr.us

Battle Born Civil War Reenactors (BBCWR)

www.bbcwr.us

Nevada Civil War Volunteers (NCWV)

www.nevadacivilwar.org

*Chairman of the Board of the
California Historic Artillery Society:*

Ted Miljevich

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Opinions expressed in *Cannon's Mouth* articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, CHAS, its governing Board, membership, or anybody else.

Contributed articles and photographs should be addressed to *The Cannon's Mouth*, c/o Karen Foster, 4446 Richmond Ave. Fremont, CA 945346 or e-mailed to foster-scott@sbcglobal.net. Materials may be submitted via CD, thumb drive, or memory card. Submitted materials will not be returned except by prior arrangement.

Changes in mailing address should be submitted to: CHAS Recording Secretary, c/o S. Foster, 4446 Richmond Ave., Fremont, CA 94536 or e-mail to 3rdartyscott@sbcglobal.net.