

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL ARTILLERY SOCIETY

Commander's Call

Alan Ginos

With two work parties now under our belt, equipment maintenance is coming along nicely while horse training is just at the tip of the iceberg. Thanks to the following for making it happen: John Boyd, Ken Dombroski, Margaret Davis, George Duncan, Wes Faubel, Scott Foster, Teri Moretti, Joe Poulos, Justin Ruther, Heidi Wagner and Dennis Winfrey. Good camaraderie certainly make these days go well. So far two limbers have been sanded and painted; gun 1 is now sanded, carriage disassembled and awaiting further extensive wood work; 1 set of harness completely cleaned, and team 4 tack now reassembled complete and used for training. First time in many years that all 4 teams of tack have been totally ready to go. The container saddle racks for the funeral team are now in use, both containers rearranged and organized, and most CHAS supplies now stored in one container. And thanks also to Ray Ahrenholz, William Entriken, Donna Schulken and Judith Boling who completed their over winter work projects.

April 9 we have the Pacific Grove parade to do in the morning, and once back at Warhorse equipment maintenance and horse training will continue the rest of the weekend to get ready for Mariposa the following weekend. Mariposa promises to be a big event, and we want to attend in strength to work off the winter blues. One thing we want to accomplish at Mariposa is exposing many of the new horses to gunfire from the picket line at least. A second is to give a modified Team 2 some work before they head

to Roche Winery after the event for another season of trail rides and constant handling. How much we take to Mariposa will of course depend upon how many of you respond to the call to arms. Let's have a good turnout.



Dispatches from the Dog Tent

Ted Miljerich

By the time you read this article, the sun will be shining... I guarantee it!!! Yes Spring is upon us and another fully packed season we have ahead of us. We have work parties to finish preparations of our unit gear. We have parades and full battle events coming up in short order. As always I wish to remind everybody to respond to your calls to arms for all events. We know everybody can not make them all, but we need the feedback and your status one way or another to do the behind the scenes planning for each event. We really do appreciate your response in this area.

I am putting out a desperate call for help in finding a replacement treasurer for Keith Rodgers. Keith has stepped up to this board position and is doing the job very well. Keith has indicated to me some personal work issues have come into play which has required him to ask for help in with treasurer slot. Anyone willing to step up to this position, please respond to me or contact Keith as to the ins and outs of the job.

The 150th anniversary events call has been sparking some extra interest recently. We just may come up with the core group of 20 we need to make this happen. I wish to make a final call to all of you on the sidelines who have been thinking about this to say now is your time to let me know. Remember we need to get our ducks in a row early for this program. We can not wait till the last minute and then people saying well I wanted to go... but just never got with the program. If you are on the fence, just read the detailed article in the newsletter for more information. Let me know soon, time is running out for us all on this deal.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday April $27^{\rm th}$, 6:00 pm at Marie Callender's in Concord. As always, any member in good standing may attend or contact your member at large to send along any messages or input.

Roger Boling

Safety is everyone's job. I know this is trite, but it's true. We all work as a team, on the field of battle and off. If one person on the team is slipping, someone, maybe you, could get hurt. We are just getting into the start of the reenacting season. New and returning members alike should review the safety rules (see the website). It's always good to refresh your memory of the rules. Everybody should help each other so we can all have a safe year.

Though the weather has been fair and mild with a little rain so far, summer is coming along with higher temperatures. Heavy exercise, in heavy clothing, without water equals: dehydration, fatigue, heat cramps, fainting, and heat stroke. Never take the field without your basic safety item: a full canteen, ear plugs, and your hat. Drink plenty of water in camp. Also don't forget our four footed team members need water too. Help out with watering the horses when you can.

Let's all have a safe year.

Fundraising

Donna Schulken

Good work this past quarter with the Shares Card from SaveMart. We received an \$88.91 check from SaveMart. Keep shopping and keep using your SHARES cards. If anyone needs a card please let me know.

Keep using GOOD SEARCH as your search engine. It is so easy to do; you'd be surprised by using this simple search how much you can help CHAS.

I recently sent in a request to AAA's VIA Magazine to include Duncans Mills in their July/August issue under EVENTS. We don't have a guarantee, so look for it as your magazine comes out!

Remember CHAS needs your 3 T's; TIME, TREASURE and TALENT! It is almost time for our season to start again for 2011 and we need everyone to participate, in particular with Duncans Mills!

Hope to hear from all of you soon with any new fundraising ideas.



The Recruiting Desk

Wes Faubel

Rush to the Colors! The campaign season is upon us! Has it caught you unprepared?

The grass is greening and the trees are blooming! Spring is here and as soon as the roads are dry enough to move, I expect the assembly to be played.

We have 51 members who have enlisted to battle the rebel horde and I have two applications to be presented at the board at the next meeting. This hardly seems to be sufficient to mount a good defense; let alone going over to the offense. Get your reenlistments in NOW! Remember, members will be dropped from the roster if reenlistment papers are not received by April 1st. (This allows the Command Staff to prepare their rosters.)

The 3rd US continues to look for a Chief Recruiting and Public Relations Officer. This prestigious duty has gone lacking for many years and the Board is seeking a candidate who will "drum-up" patriotism.

The position may be filled by either a military or civilian member. Mundane bookkeeping tasks will continue to be performed by the standing CHAS Membership Committee at CHAS Personnel Command, Bawdy House, Tea Parlour, and Fine Goods Emporium located at Camp Casualty in Northern California. Interested parties should contact me by dispatch at faubel@syix.com.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on the drill field....

Your Obedient Svt,

Lt Casualty



CIVIL WAR DAYS ANGELISLAND

April 2-3 2011

Join the National Civil War Association (NCWA) on Angel Island in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. Skirmishes at 11:30 and 2 on Saturday and 11:30 and 2 on Sunday

Medical, Signal, Infantry, Artillery and Civilian Demonstrations throughout both days.

www.ncwa.org



After Action Report ~ Mooney Grove

Terry Thompson

Attendance: Terry & Karla Thompson, Roger & Judith Bowling, and Donna Schulken. Lost members of the 5th US Bud Ike and Clayton Negrette and Richmond Howitzers Mark Riley.

Statistics: 28 rounds fired; 2 primer failures; round rolling paraphernalia to restock the limber; no primers; several pieces of loaner gear repaired

Visalia is a quaint little town between four creeks. It is the oldest town between San Francisco and Los Angeles – established in 1852. The Butterfield Stage line stopped in Visalia starting in 1859. Many hotels and saloons sprang up near the stage stop. Then the telegraph made it in 1860. That really opened up news from the East Coast and especially word of a possible Civil War. Population at the time was estimated between 600 and 700 folks.



Visalia was suspected of being a stop on the underground to the south, a role proved when Federal marshals intercepted a courier in 1861. The next step, obviously, was to send in troops.

The government was concerned about this stage stop and its proximity to the Kern County gold fields. Fort Babbitt (plaque is in front of El Presidente Restaurant) was formed by 2 companies of the 2nd California Cavalry. Secessionists were so active in 1862, "It is an everyday occurrence for them to ride through the streets of Visalia and hurrah for Jeff Davis and Stonewall Jackson, and often give groans for the Stars and Stripes," reported Camp Babbitt's first commander, Lieutenant Colonel George S. Evans.

Now, here we are to back up the troops from Fort Babbitt not realizing what deep Southern Sympathies are a part of this town. We expected light resistance only to find rebel forces easily outnumbering us 3 times. Thank goodness we had



artillerymen on leave from the 5th US Cavalry. We were able to also recruit from locals to help our cause.

The battles were really just skirmishes and there were some casualties but nothing too bad. Karl's true identity was almost disclosed after a flesh wound. Thanks to the quick thinking of the Nevada Detachment of the 7th Michigan Cavalry and the brandishing of a pistol, the medics agreed that Karl is a man. I think we need to watch those Nevada boys a little closer. One of them seems to be taking a liking to our Karl and there's a chance she may like him back.

Plenty of town folk came out to watch and we got a better feeling for the mood of locals. I think there are just a few crazies that are stirring up a bunch. Although I hear the men of Fort Babbitt have caused reason for the locals to distrust them.

We had a spattering of rain one day but it dried out soon enough. As always, we appreciated having Ms Judith and Ms Donna to give us encouragements and make uniform repairs.

Your Southern Sgt Thompson

Historical excerpts from articles from the California Military Museum and Visalia Historical records.



After Action Report ~ Gun 1 Repair

1st Sqt. Scott Foster

* Photos by George Duncan

At the request of Captain Ginos and Lieutenant Faubel, I proceeded to Camp Warhorse to meet several other NCOs, our Farrier, the Stable Sgt., and under the capable supervision of Pvt. Ruther to perform a major Depot maintenance of Gun #1. Early reports suggested some concerns with metal rust affecting the structure of the wood carriage.



In surveying the condition of the gun, I decided it would be appropriate to remove as much hardware as practicable to investigate the structure of the wood and condition of the metal hardware. After finally finding the appropriate tools, we began to dismantle the gun. One issue we found, that many of the nuts that should be of similar size, were not. Despite this, we continued on the dismantling of the gun. We were careful to treat the gun and carriage with great care.



As you can see, we carefully used the finest tools and other aids to ensure no damage occurred while we dismantled the gun. Despite some unforeseen construction issues we managed to take the major pieces apart in order to perform a thorough inspection and be able to perform an excellent rebuild.



We found the carriage to be an interesting piece of construction. Obviously, the constructor of the cheek pieces did not talk to the person constructing the axle. The axle covering resembled a parquet floor, with many pieces put together to make an unusual, quirky, but serviceable axle cover.



I look forward to working with my fellow unit members in making the necessary repairs and rebuilding the piece to be something the unit will again be proud of.

First Sergeant Foster

More carriage rebuild photos next page!











"We all sleep very soundly"

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The Civil War Reenactors Rise Again

The 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War will make 2011 a banner year for the reenactment business



By Eric Spitznagel

Tom Hunge knows he's living in the heyday of the modern sutling business. The 67-year-old from Winchester, Va., can't seem to keep enough of his authentic-looking 19th century military supplies—from vintage pencils (25 cents each) to Whitworth rifles (\$1,000 and up)—on the shelves. "There have been days when I never put the phone down," he says. "I keep it next to my ear and write new orders for eight hours straight."

This April marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War, which, among other things, promises to make 2011 the biggest year for the Civil War reenactment business in 146 years. Hunge estimates that, after a dip in popularity over the past decade, there are now 50,000 serious reenactors in the U.S., a number likely to grow during the sesquicentennial. With a Civil War wardrobe and accessory kit—sans rifle—costing roughly \$1,000, 2011 also promises to be very kind to the sutling trade.

Hunge got into the business of sutling, or selling faux-military supplies, in 1961, during the war's centennial. Back then he hauled "six tons" of merchandise to a Gettysburg (Pa.) reenactment and "came home with an empty trailer and a cigar box full of cash," he says. Although his company, Winchester Sutler, now sells exclusively via mail order and the Internet, 2010 sales were up 50 percent from the previous year. In 2011, Hunge expects revenue to more than double. "It's not like we're General Motors," he laughs. "But people real-

ize there's money to be made in this business now."

Hunge isn't the only giddy sutler. Civil War nostalgia has grown into a micro-industry, with specialty stores across the country looking to sell everything from muskets and haversacks to tents and bone toothbrushes. Haberdashers are stocking extra 19th century costumes for Civil War era soldiers, civilians, and even children. Outfitting reenactors is an essential part of a multifaceted Civil War industry that kicks into high gear a few times per century. Bradley Hoch, chairman of the Gettysburg 150th Anniversary Steering Committee, thinks the number of visitors to the area could increase by 33 percent this year, to a record high of 4 million. During the entire sesquicentennial, says Hoch, "We might be looking at total tourist dollars of \$2.7 billion or more."

To lure these revelers, Hoch is planning "a rolling thunder of cannon fire." Beginning in April, when the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter, off the coast of Charleston, S.C., there will be demonstrations of events ranging from 19th century domestic life to the burning of Chambersburg, Pa., by Confederate troops. "We'll be using laser lights to simulate the burning," says Janet Pollard, director of Chambersburg's Visitors Bureau, "along with some smoke effects." Hoch and his team are already planning the reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg, scheduled for July 2013. And the pressure is on: The last major Gettysburg reenactment—during the 135th anniversary in 1998—was considered the benchmark, with an 30,000-plus players estimated and spectators.

For Big Sutling, the sesquicentennial couldn't have come at a better time. During the '90s, "It wasn't unusual to have 20,000 reenactors on the field," says Rea Andrew Redd, a Civil War player and director of the Eberly Library at Waynesburg University in western Pennsylvania. "You sometimes had to pinch yourself." Over the past decade, though, the numbers have dropped significantly, Redd says. According to Tony Horwitz, author of Confederates in the Attic, a post-9/11 mentality is partly to blame. "It's harder to play-act war when we have two real ones," he says. Horwitz also points to a generational shift: "Younger people, addicted as they are to computers and other devices, aren't as keen on spending their weekends in the 19th century."

For veteran reenactors, however, there is nowhere they'd rather be. Scott Harris, director of Virginia's New Market Battlefield State Historical Park, recalls one role player who paid for inexpertly done dental care "so his bridgework and fillings would look more like they did in 1860." According to Horwitz, many reenactors "will starve themselves to achieve the gaunt, hollow-eyed look of underfed Confederates."

Others, he notes, might "soak their uniform buttons in urine to oxidize the metal and give it the patina it would have had in the 1860s. They'll sleep in ditches and avoid modern words when in the field. They'll do everything short of firing live ammunition."

This enthusiasm is now spreading to parts of the U.S. not known for Civil War lust. Amateur historian Phil Williams is co-organizing an event called Freedom Fair in Colorado Springs, Colo. He hopes the festival, built around reenactments, will run for three weeks during each sesquicentennial summer, up to 2014. Williams doesn't mind that Colorado didn't join the Union until 1876, more than a decade after the war ended. "Colorado boasts 290 days of sunshine," he says. "We have a lot of green, lush area around us that can be used for reenactment battles. If we put up enough buildings that kinda look like Gettysburg, people will get the basic idea."

Yet historical accuracy can be divisive. Michael Givens, commander-in-chief of the reenactment outfit The Sons of Confederate Veterans, says his

organization's goal is to "make sure that the true history of the South is represented." In December the SCV involved in a \$100-per-person "Secession Ball" in Charleston that featured a reenactment of the signing of South Carolina's Ordinance of Secession—as NAACP protesters picketed outside. The SCV's staging of Confederate President Jefferson Davis's swearing-in ceremony-held on Feb. 19 in Montgomery, Ala.—was also controversial.

Politics aside, many Union descendants are also heeding the call. Jeff Chandler, a real estate investor in Kissimmee, Fla., is the great-greatgrandson of a member of the Fifth Regiment Maine Volunteer Infantry, which fought in Gettysburg. Last July Chandler visited a Gettysburg reenactment as a spectator and decided, "I want to feel their struggles, everything they went through." He's now ready to pay thousands of dollars for authentic-looking uniforms. accoutrements, and arms. "Whatever you put into this," he says proudly, "you're going to get back."

A handy checklist of 19th century-themed haberdashers and sutlers

Toiletries

Mercury Supply
Company Sutler
Livingston, Tex.
Beard got lice? Remember your wood lice comb
(\$5.75). Down there?
Country Gent crotch
powder costs \$7.50 per tin.

Mattresses

C & D Jarnagin
Corinth, Miss.
A mattress tick (\$32.95)
can be filled with "hay,
straw, or dry leaves" for
the kind of comfort
and lumbar support that
unpaid 19th century
infantrymen craved.

Currency

Circle KB
Salmon, Idaho
Replica Civil War currency
costs just \$9.99 per
packet. It looks sort of like
Monopoly money and is
only slightly less valuable.

Headgear

Dirty Billy's Hats
Gettysburg, Pa.
Pieces at Dirty Billy's,
which has created Civil
War hats for stars
such as Martin Sheen,
range from \$100 to
\$16,000 (for an authentic
Confederate kepi).

Weaponry

Back Creek Gun Shop Winchester, Va. Back Creek peddles musket powder and weapon sundries such as cannon fuses (\$5 per 25 feet) and bullet lubricant (\$3 for an 8-oz. tub).

Kids' Clothes

Fall Creek Suttlery Lebanon, Ind. Juniors can dress like historical Army brats in sack coats (\$74) and shell jackets (\$165 and up–and learn the horror of war!

Wagons: Do we really know them? Part 3

Submitted by Al Plocher

Studebaker and John Deere were among the most popular American makers of farm wagons in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century's. Their wagons and others can still be found in the U.S. and Canada and many remain in use. One thing that cannot be determined through pictures is the Most John Deere and track width. Studebaker wagons built prior to 1918 had a wheel track width of 60 inches. The introduction of automobiles, which usually had 56-inch wheel track widths, influenced changes at John Deere and Studebaker. Both companies began to manufacture and sell farm wagons with 56-inch wheel track widths. In the Sears-Roebuck Catalog from 1908 two widths are shown. The "Narrow Track" of 4 feet 8 inches and the "Wide Track" of 5 feet 2 inches are shown, with the note that all wagons and buggies are available in either track width.



John Deere double-tree horse-drawn wagon made of oak and hickory

Farm wagons got hard use, so it is likely that any found in Grantville will be from the early-twentieth century. It is possible that all the up-time wagons will have the later 56-inch wheel tracks. One can see 56-inch wheel tracks becoming a standard throughout Europe.

Farm wagons could haul from 1,500 to 5,000 pounds, depending on their size. These farm wagons are made for slow walking speeds and hard use, but not for carrying large loads of freight long distances. Given improvements in the roads, the up -time farm wagon will still be useful as a light to medium freight wagon.

Freight wagons have always been special purpose wagons. Their use in the U.S. dates back to colonial times and references indicate that the U.S. versions were copies of German models built by German settlers. The German and Dutch heavy freight wagons range from the spindle framed wagon mentioned above to straight sided, boxy wagons that look more like nineteenth-century American freight wagons. There is evidence that English freight wagons of the late-16th century could carry 4 tons. By the end of the 17th century, the largest English freight wagons were capable of hauling 8 tons.

Given the references to large freight wagons, we can accept that by 1632 there were heavy freight wagons capable of carrying at least 4 tons in Europe. Going by English evidence and the fact that English wagon building lagged behind European wagon building, we could argue that heavy freight wagons could carry up to 6 or even 8 tons of cargo.

These largest freight wagons required teams of twelve horses.



Read more: http://www.farmcollector.com/multimedia/image-gallery.aspx?id=26474#ixzz1I5nQQZT6

McClellan Saddle for Sale

Made by Doug Kidd*

Includes:

- ★ Saddle (semi-quarter bar tree) with covered stirrups, girth, surcingle
- **★** Saddle Blanket
- **★** Saddle Bags
- ★ Breast Collar
- **★** Crupper*
- **★** Bridle*
- ★ Bit with reins*
- **★** Halter*
- ★ Feedbag*

Note - Items with (*) are not Doug Kidd made.

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Contact:

Melinda Faubel (209) 201-3726 Mnfaubel@gmail.com

"Saddle is in excellent shape. I've done several 50 milers in it and really love the comfort and security. An excellent reenacting saddle, or an everyday saddle." ~ Mel



150th Anniversary Events Back East

Many of you are aware that there has been discussion of moving a team, gun and limber east for the duration of the 150th anniversary events starting in 2012 through 2015. The idea in simplest form is to have a positioned set of equipment staged so some of us can fly in, do an event, and come back here. Basically with a minimum of about 8 CHAS members and friends needed at 2 or 3 events per year.

To translate the simple ideas in to practicality, here are some specifics:

- Not intended to have the same 8 people going to all the events. Really need 20 people committed to going to one or two events per year to ensure we get 8 at each event.
- Open to CHAS members and others who would like to work with us
- Incremental costs of transporting the equipment from and to CA, estimated at \$5,000 each way, or \$10,000 to move a gun and horse trailer there and back, will need to be covered by those wanting to do this.
- Amortizing the \$10,000 over 5 years is \$2,000 per year. With 20 people committed at \$100 each per year over and above unit dues, the movement cost would be covered.
- Will mean leaving a complete horse haul truck and trailer, team and tack, plus a gun/limber/trailer there for the duration.
- While we can reasonably expect to add some help and maybe even money from those back East who would love to have us come, we cannot count on any help other than from our existing ranks and any friends that sign up.

We have a couple of places we can board the horses and equipment lined up in either Virginia or Ohio. Food, vet care and maintenance would still be a CHAS cost, but either place is free to use otherwise.

So how many are interested in having the chance to fall in with your own unit at huge reenactments commemorating the $150^{\rm th}$ anniversary of the events? We had a show of hands at the last two annual meetings, now we are asking for a show of hands with money in them to get serious about this idea.

Please contact Ted Miljevich directly if you are interested or have suggestions or comments.

2011 Schedule of Events

April April 2 - 3 Skyline Park, Napa. CANCELLED April 2 - 3 NCWA Living History. Angel Island. Attend as individual. "Good Old Days Parade". Pacific Grove. April 9 - 10 1 or more teams/wagon. \$. After the parade, equipment work party and horse training will continue at War horse the rest of Saturday and Sunday. Contact Alan Ginos. April 15 - 17 Mariposa Civil War Days. ACWA Battles & Encampment. 2 teams & guns, support units. Contact Alan Ginos. May May 20 - 22 Gibson Ranch, Sacramento. NCWA Battles & Encampment. 1 team & gun. School day Friday. Contact Alan Ginos. May 28 - 30 Roaring Camp, Felton. ACWA Battles & Encampment. 1 gun. Contact Scott Foster. June June 11 - 12 Ardenwood Farm, Fremont. CANCELLED June 24 - 26 NCWA Living History. Oakhurst. Attend as individual. June 25 - 26 Duncans Mills. CHAS weekend work party. Contact Ted Miljevich. July July 1 - 3 38th Mohawk Valley Independence Day. Graeagle, CA. CCWR, fireworks, parade. Contact Wes Faubel. July 4 Danville 4th of July Parade. 2 teams, ambulance. \$\$. Contact Alan Ginos. Duncans Mills. Pre-event work party. July 11 - 15 Contact Ted Miljevich. Civil War Days at Duncans Mills. July 16 - 17 CHAS Invitational. Battles & encamp. 2 teams, guns & support. \$\$\$. Maximum effort Contact Ted Miljevich. July 23 - 24 Duncans Mills. Post-event work party. Contact Ted Miljevich. September

October

Oct. 1 - 2 Kearny Park, Fresno. FHS Invitational. Battles & encampment . 2 guns, support units. School Day Friday. Contact Scott Foster.

Note: "\$" & "\$\$" denotes revenue producing events for CHAS

November

Nov 12 -13 Moorpark Farm, Moorpark. 2 teams & guns, ambulance. School Day Friday. Contact Alan Ginos.

Nov 19 - 20 Camp Warhorse, Salinas. CHAS Weekend "Put-Away" Work Party. Contact TBD.

December

Happy Holidays!





"Pedes ne me" t-shirts! \$15.



http://www.cafepress.com/chas_sutler

Sept 16 - 18 Tres Pinos. NCWA Battles & Encampment. 1 gun, no horses. Contact TBD

California History Artillery Society Board of Directors 2011

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Submissions for the next issue are due no later than **March 24, 2011**

Chairman of the Board of the California Historical Artillery Society: Ted Miljevich

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Important Web Addresses

Civil War Days at Duncans Mills Web Site:

http://www.civilwardays.net/707-922-5901 or 831-751-6978

CHAS Web Site:

http://www.warhorse.org

Pacific Area Civil War Reenactors Members ~

American Civil War Association (ACWA)

http://www.acwa.org/

American Civil War Society (ACWS)

http://www.acws.net/

Civil War Re-enactment Society (CWRS)

http://www.cwrs.info

Comstock Civil War Reenactors (CCWR)

http://www.ccwr.us/

Fort Tejon Historical Association (FTHA)

http://www.forttejon.org/

Reenactors of the American Civil War (RACW)

http://www.racw1861.org

War Between The States Historical Assn (WBSHA)

http://www.wbsha.org/

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