

The Cannon's Mouth

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL ARTILLERY SOCIETY
AUGUST 2009

Commander's Call

Alan Ginos

Duncans Mills 2009 saw more public and reenactor participation this year, which is pretty amazing given the times. More reflective of the times is that fewer CHAS members participated, meaning those that did were maxed out. The Hawkins and Lincolns, Scott Alto, Teri Moretti, John Boyd, Ted and others put in countless hours

before, during and after the event to get it done. Bvt. Major Faubel, and Bvt. Lt. Foster kept our military impression looking and performing well, while both brigade commanders kept a lively show for the public. The fields are now returned to pristine shape, great memories of the event linger with all those that attended, and accounting for revenues vs. expenses is underway.



DM gave us plenty of recruit prospects, and so far four applications have been voted in this week at the board meeting, and others to be contacted or in process bode well for the future. The four new members are:

- Naomi Griffith, veteran of 3rd U.S. activities in prior years, is assigned as driver Team 2
- Jake Jacobsen assigned as Cannoneer
- Joshua Gluch assigned as Cannoneer (with riding abilities)
- Pat Gluch, Josh's father, assigned to Artillery Support

Next on the list of our events is Old Sac over Labor Day weekend. A call to arms is forthcoming, but this four-day event is our 2nd biggest money-raising event after the DM event. We need many people to spend a day or more at this one, with some camping out with the horses overnight a priority. Read more elsewhere in this issue and respond to the call to arms when it comes out.

Dispatches from the Dog Tent

Ted Miljerich

Civil War Days 2009 is in the history books now. Wow, what a great event it was.! Excellent reenactor and public turnout was well shown. Our own unit attendance was down some, but those who did attend made it all happen. Hats off to all those who partook and put in the work to make it all happen. From the sidelines I observed our unit members on and off the battlefield and you all looked great and did a very good job. I wish to give my biggest "thanks you's" to the event staff members working "behind the scenes" for the event. These members just worked their butts off and not even dressing up to get into any of the "fun". Roz Johnson and her crew - Deborah Corlett, Barb Ginos, Judith Boling, Kay Allen and Karen Foster - at the time tunnel greeting the public. Terry and Karla Thompson, Paul Casini, Bob Lee, Dave Johnson, Chip and Sherry Langman, Gary Amari and Virginia Hawkins for all their hard work in the Casini's Weenies shack. You might have noticed that the lines for getting food were very, very long the whole weekend. John Boyd and the ACWA's William Entriiken for running the reenactor check in station the whole event. Alan Ginos for his excellent work on the PA system, keeping the public informed about CHAS, our "Sponsor a Rescued Horse" program, narrating the arty demos and the extra activities that came up during the event.

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Susan Ensign for all her pre-event organization, crowd control and excellent condition of the public areas. Sue also gets the long-distance award for coming in from Richmond Virginia to spend the week with us. Bill & Virginia Hawkins, I must say, take the title of longest at the event site. They both attended all the work parties, the week before the event AND the week after cleaning up. Bill is always in the lead with his work crew group. Not to mention Bill working crowd control the whole event and just being, as he himself told me "Ted's whipping boy." Others in uniform, but with extra big slots to fill include Teri Moretti, for extra effort in the event permit process, saving us permit fees and dealing with the red tape of city hall. Mike Johnson for organization the parking lot ensemble and making that all run soooooo smoothly. Scott Foster for communications and keeping things well organized between the event staff and the unit. Wes Faubel for an excellent job as Battery Commander for the weekend. Many, many members made up the various work parties. At each work party we seemed to have just enough people needed to get the work done. But I must commend the extra, extra effort of the following members at the second work party: Teri Moretti, Scott Alto, Barbara and Rafferty Lincoln, Matt Schug and Paul Casini. These members, after putting in a full day with the work party, then worked until 11:00 pm Sunday night to unload *by hand* 300 bails of CHAS horse feed and stack it into the hay barn.



Yes, as you can see Civil War Days only happens, and happens as well as it does, because of the efforts of all of our members working together. I would also like to acknowledge the members who could not partake in the event but sent in a donation to take the place of not being there. This did not go unnoticed.

I can for sure pass along the many, many great comments I heard and was told about what a great job we do at this event. We in CHAS have made a great name for ourselves in the eye of the public and the reenacting community. You all can be proud of that and take a well-deserved pat on the back. Thanks you all!!!

Ted Miljevich
DM event coordinator and President

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday September 15th, 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 message or input.

Member News

Longtime 3rd US and NCWA Brigade member Matt Foster married Nicole Johnson on July 25th. Matt is the son of the 3rd's 1st Sgt. Scott Foster and San Com member Karen. Matt's sister Kim also participated. Nicole and her parents, Jay and Debra are members of the NCWA's civilian unit. A period renewal of their vows will take place at the Tres Pinos event in September.



Many of our readers remember Ricky Abraham... though not like this! USA Pfc. Abraham is currently stationed at Ft. Lewis, WA until August 22nd when he will be deployed to Afghanistan. He's a member of the 19 Delta Cavalry Scouts, a reconnaissance unit, working Stryker light armored vehicles.

We all wish Ricky well and hope for his safe return soon!



Ricky with his girlfriend Courtney

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the California Historical Artillery Society Board Meeting: May 21, 2009

Present: Mike Johnson, John Boyd, Alan Ginos, Ted Miljevich, Scott Foster, Roger Boling, Judith Boling, Teri Moretti

Absent: Norm Roger

Guests: Mike Sablan

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

Minutes of the March 26, 2009 meeting were read and approved.

Officer Reports:

Vice President: John Boyd

John will be taking a gun to a May 30 school day presentation in Fairfax. Should check with school if waiver is needed to bring gun.

Treasurer: Mike Johnson

Reviewed the Checking and Disbursements.

Commanders:

Judith reported that the San Com members had a conference call meeting to discuss future plans and rank ratio issues.

Safety:

Mariposa:

Saturday the off wheel horse got tangled in tug. On Sunday, Rafferty was kicked by the wheel horse, Blackie, who managed to kick up and over the splinter bar. The team had been traveling at the trot to get over the hill, and had trouble slowing down after cresting the hill. The outrider must stay with the team.

Gibson:

The pawl on the forge trailer winch broke during unloading and the handle hit Wes' hand causing bruising. Wes is researching a better winch system for this trailer.

The girth strap (billet sewn to saddle) on an off horse saddle needs to be replaced. Alan has the leather to replace it and will take to Mark Weston for repair.

Fundraising/Financial:

As Dennis has retired, he needs to step back financially and physically in regards to horse care. Alan prepared a summary of how many horses we would need based upon the number of available drivers, which works out to 21, leaving 9 horses as surplus.

After considerable discussion as to the merits of selling a team along with the tack, or finding

groups willing to board horses in exchange for their being able to use them, the following options were proposed:

1. Have horses boarded out with CHAS keeping ownership. Ideally finding a program that would be able to utilize the horses.
2. Sell team and tack to another reenacting group.
3. Loan horses and tack to another reenacting group.
4. Give horses away and keep tack.
5. Emphasize the horse adoption program within the membership. Before stressing this option we should reduce the herd size.

In addition we should make efforts to increase membership such as inserting something into the DM program.

Fundraising dinner: Ted and Chip are going to visit the site. Alan has someone willing to help.

Materials and Acquisition:

A rammer fell off a gun and was drug along the ground, breaking the shaft. Retaining chains seem to be loose.

Several boxes and some harness were repaired. Ted reported that Dennis may want CHAS to takeover the registration and insurance on two of the haul trucks. He will try and get more information.

Roger will report on the Quaker gun at the next meeting.

Public Relations and Recruitment:

Accepted Jessica Christiansen for membership as a driver. She will be on team 2 with Teri as her mentor.

Scott Moretti has started working at Golden Gate Fields and will not be available for the Saturday night and Sunday meals at Duncan's Mills. We will need to have somebody else.

Concern was expressed about conversations, appearance and attitude around camp during public hours. Need to present a more period impression.

Historical Educational:

Al Plocher sent a note requesting appropriate wording for a sign to go along with the escort wagon now in the Ag Museum

Events:

Roaring Camp, Graeagle, Duncan's Mills, Old Sacramento, Tres Pinos, Fresno, Fort Mervin, Monterey

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.

GRAEAGLE!



“Old Sac Gold Rush Days 2009”

Wes Faubel

Attention 3rd US Artillery, Signal Corp, and the Gentle Ladies of the Sanitary Commission!

Once again it is time to strut our stuff and wow the civilian population of one of the leading towns of the Old West with our impression of quality living history (and help fill CHAS coffers too). Come and mix with mountain men, settlers, gun-fighters, and Indians! Stroll with your lady (or gentleman) on wooden board walks while enjoying a variety of fine food and quality entertainment. Yes, Gold Rush Days at Old Sacramento is on the horizon and approaching at a breakneck pace!



2005

This event is a money maker for us and is four full days, Friday September 4th through Monday Sept 7th (Labor Day) so sign up early and often. Please telegraph Mike Sablan at michaelsablan@aol.com to reserve your spot in what promises to be the biggest four day shindig west of the Mississippi. Indicate whether you are willing to come Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday. If possible please plan on spending a day and night.

Information will be provided by telegraph at a later date. If you have any questions about the event please do not hesitate to contact Mike.

Respectfully,

Lt Wes Faubel (aka Casualty)

Call to Arms: “Fortuna Civil War Days”

Scott Alto

Fortuna Civil War Days is back and The 3rd US has been invited by the host RACW to once again return to the reenactment.

The event is located behind the Redwood Curtain in my home county of Humboldt. With a large open field, Fortuna's site is excellent for an event of its size. With Humboldt's mild weather, the event is an excellent respite from the weather intensive events CHAS usually attends.

If we attend we will be attached to Major Don LaPorta's batteries of the RACW as a fixed gun. The coordinators of the event are excited to have us there, and our participation this year will hopefully mean that we will be able to have a little input as to the date for future events so we can bring our equine unit members. If you are interested in going, please contact me as soon as possible.



It should be a great weekend with lots of rounds fired! While the drive may be a bit longer than some might like, it will mostly be through the beautiful redwood forests of Mendocino and Humboldt counties, worth a trip in themselves. I hope that this will be the first of many trips back to the North Coast for our unit.

If you want to come, call me at (707) 832-8211 or (preferably) email me at scottalto@gmail.com.



Photos are from the 2003 Fortuna event

6-up Artillery Team for Sale

The California Historical Artillery Society has one of its four teams of six horses each up for sale with or without harness. The economic times have made it hard to recruit enough people to work with the 30 plus horses we have rescued from the harness racing circuit. Hay and other rising costs make it logical for us to cut back on unused resources at this time.



- Standard bred ex-race horses converted to Army duty and ready to work
- Color and size matched teams
- Used for battlefield work including cannon fire; civic parades; and military funerals
- Good pleasure riding horses with trail and beach experience
- Border States Leatherwork (Doug Kidd) harness used exclusively
- Trained by a group of artillery horse experts with over 70 mounts trained since 1991

For more information, please see our website at www.warhorse.org, and contact adginos@hotmail.com.

The following is a report on the success of the very first "Civil War Days at Duncans Mills" written by the event coordinator, Gary Amari.

"Civil War Days" 2000, Epilogue

Duncans Mills, California

By Sgt. G. Amari, Event Coordinator

July 29th's work party was well attended as Ted and Gabriel, Chris Horn, Keith and Larry Rogers, Alan Ginos, Dave Johnson, Loren Griffith and I assembled at the site to complete the "takedown". Paul Casini, who is now a member of CHAS, was on site to let us in and show us how to move a bridge. The "Casini" method of picking up a bridge using a huge piece of earth moving equipment with a fork lift attachment made light work of three (3) very heavy bridges, much to our relief. Dave and Keith worked with Paul in setting up 2x4s as skids, guiding Paul in placing them and then fenced them all off to protect them from the cows. The group gathered stakes, ropes, 55 gal. Drums, and other materials which we relocated to an out of the way spot in the Redwood Grove. Alan and Dave (accompanied by his dogs) prowled the battlefield, campsites and meadows picking up residual foil and paper. We reworked gates, wobbly and downed fence and left the site ready for next year.

Should we do this next year? The accolades and kudos which continue to come from all quarters suggest that it would be well received. The reenactors, public and the Duncans Mills community / merchants all gave us high marks. Our paid attendance of 3,632 was an absolutely fabulous turnout, especially for a first time event. To make this a second time event, we will have to repeat much of what we did this year. We will need work parties to cut and split wood, cut brush and burn it. Set up camps, the parking lot, make a few more road signs and install them, etc... Arrangements with vendors and concessions have to be made. The permit process, corporate donations, publicity, public relations, graphics, and re-enactor coordination parts of the event will all have to be undertaken again. With this first event under our belts, I can see things that were overlooked and other things I would want to see us do somewhat differently. I imagine all of you have a similar list. Hold onto it. In the coming weeks, we will be conducting a post mortem and will want your input.

These past few weeks and the next few will allow me time to digest this whole experience while Linda and I normalize our lives, pay attention to making a living and remodel significant parts of our property to host our son, Joshua's, wedding in October. Once again, I want to thank each and everyone of you for making this event a success.

Civil War Days, Duncans Mills – The Back Story

*by Gary Amari,
Duncans Mills Event Coordinator
2000-2002*

In 1998, shortly after becoming a California non-profit educational corporation, the Board of Directors of the California Historical Artillery Society addressed the issue of raising funds to support what had become an increasingly expensive hobby, horse drawn civil war artillery re-enacting. Being a newly appointed member of the Bd. of Directors, I remember suggesting that CHAS should do something it is familiar with like "sponsor a reenactment". The Board agreed and authorized me to begin looking for a suitable event site and begin planning the event. At that time I really had no idea what an enormous effort it would take to realize the first Civil War Days. Over the course of the next the next year or so, with the help of several CHAS members, I began looking for a reenactment site. We also started dialogues with the major reenacting associations of Northern California, held meetings with the sponsors of previous reenactments, researched other non-profits fund raising ventures, talked with Sonoma County officials, local businesses and anyone whose participation and cooperation figured into creating a new Civil War re-enactment. Along with CHAS members Dennis Winfrey, Chip Langman and Axel Palmieri, I made visits to potential sites in Stanislaus, Monterey, Alameda and Sonoma counties, all of which proved unsuitable for one reason or another..



Finally in May 1999, CHAS member Loren Griffith made an appointment for he and I to meet with Paul Casini, who Loren knew, and whose ranch and campground in Duncans Mills, had potential as a reenactment site. Neither Loren nor I had been to "Freezeout Valley" as the current site is known to locals, and were in for quite a surprise. As we drove into Freezeout to meet Paul, Loren and I were

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met by the sight of a hundred or so RV's, tents, trucks and horse trailers, since this was the weekend of the annual Russian River Rodeo trail ride. Paul was out on the trail and so Loren and I walked the sight. It became clear very quickly we had found what we were looking for. A beautiful, isolated valley, devoid of modern contrivances, which was large enough to accommodate 800 re-enactors in three separate encampments (Federal, Confederate and Civilian / Sutler), a large battlefield with ample space for spectator seating, and adequate parking for spectator and re-enactor vehicles. Shortly afterward, we spoke with Paul and he was gung ho to do this. While he wasn't a civil war re-enactor at this time, he had done Mountain man rendezvous/re-enactments, and I could see he was intrigued by our proposal. Paul's years as President of the Russian River Rodeo Association and the local fire district made him sympathetic to the tasks awaiting us, and from that time on Paul Casini and the Casini Family Campgrounds were a co-sponsor of the event. Through Paul Casini we were fortunate to have the support of the Russian River Rodeo Association, the Guerneville Rotary, the Monte Rio Volunteer Fire Department and the goodwill of many people in the Duncans Mills area.



And so about a year before the 1st Civil War Days took place on *July 15th and 16th 2000*, CHAS began physical work on our Duncans Mills site. Throughout this time, I had the full support of CHAS and it's President, Ted Miljevich and our military commander, Larry Schneider. While I took administrative charge of the project, Ted spearheaded the conversion of a large 80 acre meadow, into a re-enactment site. Work parties were held during which trees were felled to clear the field and for re-enactor fire wood, fields were mowed, 3 bridges were built, bleachers repaired and moved on site, fences were mended and gates installed. We had to arrange for temporary toilet facilities and debris boxes. In order to create as authentic an environment as possible, we screened off the porta potties with burlap. Casini water tenders provided water trucks stationed near each



encampment so that the re-enactors will have water. We created the event logo, placing it on all of our road signs and on the thousands of flyers and leaflets we passed out in the weeks and months prior to the event. We made arrangements with another non profit, Jobs Daughters, to staff the parking lot and control traffic there and on Freezeout road. This first year and every year since the members of CHAS have donated hundreds of hours of their time in order to prepare the site for the event.

From the very beginning the idea was for Civil War Days/Duncans Mills to be an invitational event. After months of dialogue and discussions, the NCWA, ACWA and the RACW, agreed to put the event on their club calendars. Our advertising efforts included road signs, radio ads, newspaper advertising and feature articles about the event. I gave many radio and print interviews. The first year we had 3800 spectators and about 500 re-enactors attend the event. We realized then that we needed to improve on certain aspects of the event. In the following years we added 600 more bleacher seats, better spectator traffic control, rebuilt our bridges, built a new food concession building, expanded and improved our Event Souvenir program and opened up the battlefield so that there is would be better visibility from all over the bleachers. Now in it's tenth year, "Civil War Days" at Duncans Mills remains an exciting event for the re-enacting community and has become a midsummer event many people in Sonoma County regularly return to see.

Some great CWD photos and a video at

<http://www.sonomauncorked.com/wine-country-events/annual-events/civil-war-days-duncans-mills/>

After Action Report - Duncans Mills

Paul Casini

Camp Caisson
28 July, 1863
Station Report

The signs of the great battles fought at nearby Freeze Out Flats have all been healed over. The land has been put to bed until the next encounter of armies and civilians, onlookers and combatants. Wagons, cannon, horse and infernal flying machines are all gone and nearly forgotten.

Memories of hard work in preparation for the fight will last the season and beyond however. The difficult work of building creek crossings, erecting fences, laying out camps, digging sinks and all the many tasks has been enormous. Everyone has worked so hard to make it a glorious event. We must thank the Good Lord for providing wonderful weather as warm days and cool evenings. We must thank our fellow comrades for filling the military and civilian ranks. And we must pat ourselves a bit on the back for achieving our goals.

I personally want to thank each of you who worked so hard to take care of the land. To be easy on the pastures, fences and gates. I want to thank you all for being so patient with the cattle even though they were being so stubborn. I would offer them to the unit for winter meat but fear that they are so mean that we would choke on the meal.



I want to thank the woodcutting details. They worked hard to provide warmth in camps. The gate sentries and station guards that worked long into the night. Thank you for keeping an eye on things. Those who prepared meals and worked with me in the Weenie Palace, thank you. Especially those that did the clean up. Hard, dirty work but done with smiles. Special thanks to our leader and my true friend, Ted. Without his guidance and drive, we would be without our guideon.

We should all be very thankful to belong to a unit like CHAS. Pretty special bunch of folks. I count myself blessed. It's too long a list to name everyone. I'll just say "Thanks everyone".

Respectfully submitted
Pvt P. Casini



*We continue to have the best program of any event!
It's all due to the hard work of
Margie and Mike Wilson*



*Once again, Mike and Suzi Kelley, their family
and the Job's Daughters did an outstanding job
running the public parking lot*

After Action Report - Duncans Mills

Major Casualty

Attention Battery! Well Done!

Once again you have all worked together to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to wage a campaign of utter destruction upon our rebel foe.

Captain Ginos informed me that he was once again being detached to the fleshpots of Washington (the "War Department"). His message stated that not only would I take command of the battery, but that as a mark of his confidence, would also command the entire artillery reserve for the upcoming campaign.



Jumping two paygrades (and dragging 1Sgt Foster kicking and screaming up with me) I felt the full weight of command as I arrived in Freezeout Valley. The cook tent was up, but the cook fly was not and the dinner hour was fast approaching. I was informed that troopers were disappearing as fast as they arrived; snatched up by strange aliens in white vehicles and gold underwear. (I swear!). One of the aliens (who looked remarkably like Mr. Foster) counseled me to stay in camp and finish setting up. He assured me that my men would eventually return for supper.

Having no choice but to do as he said, I lashed Pvt Tristan to my arm and proceeded to set up canvas. First the cook fly, then the command tent. During this time I had to repeatedly fight off efforts to steal Pvt Tristan, but finally the fly was up and supper served. And do you know that true to the alien's word all the troopers came in. Of course I know of nothing that will bring an artillery battery together quicker than food. In fact we had managed to pull in the Washington Artillery from all the way down south!



Seeing all of the bodies and knowing that with our cook they would stick around to be fed, I began to feel better about our chances for the morrow's campaign.

That good feeling lasted until next morning after Officers call. When I came back to camp and called formation I discovered that we were short on numbers once again. Neither 1st Sgt/Lt Foster nor I could figure out where they had gotten to. But the enemy was nigh and we had no time to send out search parties.

Barely getting the horse teams ready for the Artillery Demo, we arrived on time with both teams, but without our usual morning shake-down exercises. This included my horse. It seems that Glory has an aversion to Majors; or at least this one. As soon as I got on her she bucked, reared and placed her feet in a manner to tell me that this was not going to work. Rapidly I shifted my saddle to a likely looking and handsome horse on the line (Blade) and we immediately left for the demo.

The Artillery Demo went off flawlessly amid "Oohs" and "Aahs" from the assembled public at our display of martial effectiveness and trick riding. The trick riding component was unscripted and



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consisted of Blade evincing as strong a dislike of cannon fire as Glory had of carrying me. Not one horse on two gun teams moved as the cannon went off; just Blade. Blade decided that HE was too close and beat a hasty and inglorious retreat with me clinging to his back. Maintaining a prudent distance, Blade and I were able to complete the drill and move gingerly back to the lead to return to camp.

After giving the necessary orders for the gun crews to stage for the rebel assault, I paused to consider my horse and command options. I realized that I could either train Blade to gunfire or lead the Artillery into battle, but probably not both at once. I had almost come to the conclusion that I was going to make a dashing (and hopefully fleet) foot officer when I spied yet another horse on the line that was already tacked up. Since the horse belonged to the ambulance corps and they don't carry guns (and are civilians to boot!), I promptly requisitioned the same just in time for the skirmishing to start.



Now I know that many of you will have a hard time believing what follows, but I have witnesses that are upright and sober men who will swear to its truth.

Our brave Cav boys were out whipping the socks off the Rebs when one of the rebel horses reared up and fell on its rider. This is not the strange part, (unless you just don't believe that there was a major horse accident in which I was not involved in some way). What happened next was passing strange. A bright red craft came with thunder out of the sky and set down on the field to pick up the injured rider. It looked like no angel or valkryie that I have ever heard described; more something like what the good book describes for the end of the world.



Its departure left us all stunned, but there are some things no mortal is meant to know and life must go on. Evidently relieved that the beast was not there for them, the troopers all perked right up and, returning to the common and familiar, attacked the Rebs again.

The campaign proceeded in this fashion for two days (thankfully without any more visitations). Many times I had my doubts that we would prevail. It seemed that troopers disappeared at random only to reappear at meal times.

But prevail we did! And each of you can be proud that we overcame each and every time to keep the guns firing. We always had them where they were needed the most. Often our guns were in exposed positions and were sadly captured more than once. Drivers and cannoneers worked closely together to hold horses and even ate with them because we did not have enough people for lunch relief.

While woefully incomplete, the following special mentions are a sample of what will be included in the official dispatches.

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1Sgt/Lt Foster was awarded a battlefield brevet promotion and executed his duties in an exemplary manner. Moreover, after declining the offer of a horse (rather profanely), he displayed the most outstanding fleetness of foot in placing an artillery team that I have ever seen. His rapidity of movement and fire was a constant threat to the Rebel flank.

The next example is always a near call as to whether the mention should be in complementary dispatches or Courts Martial charges. Cpls Johnson and Moretti exhibited their usual capability of organization, leadership, and riding skill; including some maneuvers that are not in any manual that I have ever seen. I am still waiting to hear why Cpl Moretti's team kept running into Cpl Johnson's, but I was constantly reassured that it served a military purpose.

I especially commend Cpl Moretti for constantly training her drivers on clearing the horses from tug entanglements. Still it is best that the training not be during a battle and that if the swing driver is to dismount to clear a tug they have should not have to climb 6-feet back up out of a hole in order to reach the tug.



These examples barely touch upon the bravery and selflessness in our cause that I witnessed. A catalog of all the battery's actions would be much too long for this letter, but will not be left out of my report to Captain Ginos. My hat is off to you all with a hearty three cheers!

Unfortunately in any campaign there are those on the opposite end of the spectrum. It pains me to have to acknowledge the conduct of some of our troopers, but the good and the bad must be held equally to the light.

The conduct of Trooper Terry Thompson did not escape my notice. Although always present at breakfast and often at supper, this soldier was never in uniform. Thompson also did not make even one formation, but seemed to have a habit of disappearing from immediately after breakfast until lights out. When in camp, Trooper Thompson often had the evidence of strong drink about her.



Discrete inquiries revealed that Thompson was in the habit of loitering at a den of questionable repute at the local cross roads. The type of business can be deduced from its name which combined its Italian owner with "Weenie Palace". I blush to go further into detail since we all know that businesses of this type often exist only to bring the innocent to shame and part soldiers from their hard earned money. Worse, Trooper Thompson had lured others of the battery into following her questionable lead. Reportedly Trooper Casini, Trooper Karl Thompson, and even Artificer Robert Lee (who is mature enough to know better!) spent considerable time at this establishment.

Regretfully I found out about this den of iniquity too late and was too pressed in my official duties to shut it down. But do not be tempted to emulate these Troopers! They will be most strictly punished to limit that Military Law, custom, and COMMON DECENCY allow!.....Just as soon as Captain Ginos and I can ascertain first-hand the complete truth of the establishment's more outlandish claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

1st Lt/Major Casualty

DUNCANS MILLS!

Go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/41180180@N08/sets/> for more!



Matt & Alice Schug



"Rail Fence"



A very lucky Bonnie Doyle!

DUNCANS MILLS!

Go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/41180180@N08/sets/> for more!



Civil War Days Thanks!

I would just like to share with everybody that was at Duncans Mills this year on how good it was to see all of you. I haven't gone to any re-enactments since I've relocated to Virginia so I had no stories to tell of how they are or aren't - that can come later. It was so nice to see all of you again, to be able to sit down and chat (even though I didn't do as much as I really wanted to), it was just good being there. CHAS is one of the things that I do so much miss; the people that I have come to know and of course the horses. I am so glad that the DM event is the one that I chose to come to this year. This event is I know a special one to many of you as well as myself; just being in the surroundings - there is just something special about it.

Also, thank you Ray Ahrenholz for all your help in the information booth. You were in there the whole weekend - thank you so very much. Al Plocher was also in the booth all day Saturday - thank you so much. As always, you are a walking/talking information booth and the people love talking with you. And I don't want to forget Judith Boling for filling in also. Thank you very much. With the help of all three of you, I was able to assist Teddy in things that needed to be done - we both thank you again.

It was just so very good to see everybody, I miss all of you so much and I miss CHAS. Please, all of you take care.

~ Sue Ensign



Sue and live in Spotsylvania Virginia along with 20 Llamas, 17 sheep, 3 mini donkeys, 2 ducks, 5 cats and 3 dogs

More Duncans Mills Thanks!

The Washington Artillery would just like to thank all our pards at CHAS for the hospitality and courtesy extended to the contingent that attended as the 3rd U.S. Co "F".

Special thanks to our battery officer Wes Faubel and Lt Scott Foster for putting up with our relaxed attitude toward officers. You guys did a great job and it was a pleasure and honor to serve with the CHAS!

The meals were fantastic and thank your dear lady Carolyn for the chow!

Pvt. Paul De Nubilo
GHP Washington Artillery



On behalf of myself and the ACWA Battalion, it was a pleasure to work with all of you. I had a lot of fun. The battles were great. Based on all of the smiles I saw on people's faces, I believe everyone had a great time.

Hats off to Mr. Miljevich and Ginos (and all of the other hard working members of CHAS) for all of the hard work and effort they put in to the event.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Fresno,

Tom Bispo
ACWA

Yes! Excellent event!

To Alan, Ted, and rest of CHAS: Excellent management, especially the emergency medical and last day traffic!

P.A. Milligan

PHOTO CAPTION CONTEST!



Send your captions to
3rdusmounted@warhorse.org and we'll post
them in next month's Cannon's Mouth.

The winning caption may receive a prize -
possibly a fine dining experience of sno-cones
and nachos next time Casini's Weenies is open!

From the Deep South

Ric Morrow

Here's a couple photos from an event at the Fayetteville Arsenal in North Carolina this past weekend. Reilly's Battery, 1st North Carolina did artillery demonstrations all afternoon for the folks visiting the Cape Fear Museum next to the old arsenal ruins. (web - <http://www.reillysbattery.org>)



As you can see, the Morgans are quite a bit smaller than the Standardbreds of 3rd U.S.; makes for a lot shorter fall in case you happen to come out of the saddle unexpectedly. You'll also notice the leg brace on the ugly Reb on the left leg. We also sometimes do a four-up with two lead drivers, which also makes for some very interesting bruises at the end of the ride. Our main event this year is the 145th anniversary of the battle of Cedar Creek, most of our other events are living history types for the rest of the year. Just keeping in touch and hope to get the honor to ride with Battery L, 3rd U.S. sometime in the future again.

Ric



The Recruiting Desk

Wes Faubel

History repeats itself as we come out of the Duncans Mills campaign with a surge in membership. Four new members were approved at the July 28th Board of Directors meeting. This brings our current membership to 90 members with three more pending for the next board meeting. This does not include other pending inquiries.

See Captain Ginos' Commanders Call for the lowdown on our new (and returning) pard names and assignments.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Old Sacramento.

Yr Obedient Svt

Lt Casualty



Safety First!

Mike Johnson

California's Heating Up: How Much Do You Know About Heat-Related Illness Prevention?

One hundred degree days are here and it's once again time to pass along heat safety information and illness-prevention tips.

Heat illness occurs when your body holds in more heat than it loses and as a result, your temperature rises. And this can mean trouble ahead.

Outdoor workers and people working in warm buildings are at greater risk when they:

- are dehydrated
- aren't used to working in the heat
- are in poor health or are elderly
- have had a previous heat-related illness
- are on a low-salt diet
- are taking medications or over-the-counter drugs



And did you know the outside temperature doesn't even have to be in the 100s to be potentially dangerous? According to the National Weather Service Heat Index, 90 degrees in

the shade with 30 percent humidity calls for a warning of "extreme caution" for heat illnesses including heat exhaustion, cramps and heat stroke.

When it's above 100 degrees in the shade, the Heat Index registers "extreme danger." In either case, limit work or stop working altogether.

To help prevent heat-related illnesses, health experts recommend wearing lightweight clothing, drinking plenty of cool water BEFORE heading out to work as well as while working (at least one 8 oz. cup every 20 minutes) and taking frequent rest breaks in the shade or a cool area when working in the sun. Also try to schedule outdoor work for early mornings when possible and to avoid heated areas. To stay hydrated, choose water or sports beverages over sodas and other drinks containing caffeine or sugar. Avoid alcohol altogether as the more you drink the more dehydrated you'll become.

Heat Illness symptoms to be aware of include profuse sweating or no sweating, a pale or flushed complexion and flu-like symptoms such as sudden weakness, nausea, fever, chills and headaches. Other red-flag symptoms include dizziness, loss of coordination, blurry vision, confusion, fainting, vomiting and seizures.

If you or a co-worker experiences any of these symptoms or simply begins feeling ill, stop working, tell someone, and take a break in a shady, cool area. Workers suffering from painful muscle spasms or tired muscles should also take a break in the shade and drink cool water or a sports beverage. Do not give or take salt tablets or fever medications.

If a co-worker loses consciousness, move him or her to a shaded area and immediately seek medical help. Until help arrives, cool the worker with fanning, by soaking his or her clothing with cool water and by applying cool compresses. Don't attempt to give him or her anything to drink.

If you have any questions about how to prevent or treat a heat-related illness, visit the Cal-OSHA/DOSH Web site at www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/HeatIllnessInfo.html.

Co. A

Greg Sweatt



History of the 3rd U.S.

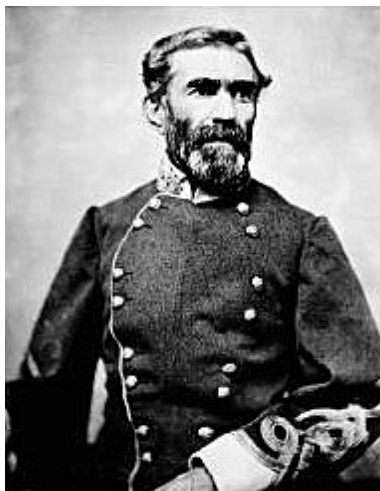
Al Fletcher

THE THIRD REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY

By LIEUT. WM. E. BIRKHIMER, ADJUTANT

Part VIII

There has always been an amiable tradition in the army since Buena Vista that General Taylor; when Bragg came up at the interesting moment above referred to, remarked "A little more grape, Captain Bragg." This has been echoed in popular histories of the war, until the incident has obtained general credence. Now the spirit of the supposititious occurrence is above criticism; it has the true ring of the, battle-field. Artillerymen have, therefore, permitted it to pass unchallenged, not knowing but that it might have occurred, and not wishing to spoil a good story; at the same time, as they knew very well that Bragg carried no grape in his ammunition chests, they doubted its truth, yet with a conscious look of commiseration, patronizingly put the whole thing down as doubtless the not unnatural mistake of an infantry general. Fair play, however, demands that this reflection on old "Rough and Ready's" technical knowledge be removed. Bragg himself has furnished the evidence that the incident, as



Braxton Bragg

as narrated, never transpired. Afterwards when he was lieutenant general, his attention was called to it, and he said that he remembered the circumstance perfectly; but that General Taylor, far from wasting any time on imaginary grape, called out in clarion tones, "Captain, give them hell." The transition was doubtless made

by some one more piously than truthfully inclined. We tender, as seems fitting in this year of jubilee and "historical sketches" this the *amende honorable* to our infantry brethren, craving pardon for having given countenance to an insinuation, which we all felt was probably unjust, against the accuracy of the professional language of one of the best and truest soldiers they have ever produced; one under whom every artilleryman loved and was proud to serve; one whose indomitable will and honesty of character triumphed over every obstacle, turning, as at Buena Vista, seeming disaster into glorious victory !

One more word aside: When the Mexican reserves pierced our lines just before Bragg "saved the day" there fell, gallantly fighting at the head of his regiment, Col. William R. McKee of the 2d Kentucky. An educated soldier, his was an exalted and noble spirit! A fitting sire of that other accomplished officer, Major George W. McKee, whose death the army and a host of devoted friends recently have been called upon to mourn. Stricken down in the prime of intellectual vigor, in Major McKee the army saw pass away one of its brightest ornaments and most useful members, one upon whom nature had showered her choicest gifts; possessed at once of every attribute which renders man respected, admired, beloved.

We will now follow the companies of the Third on other theatres of operation. Before General Scott left the Losbos Islands he had designated H as a mounted company. It served as such during the war, commanded first by Captain Wall and then by Steptoe. A, B and G arrived at Vera Cruz in time to take part in the siege, March 9-28, 1847, being joined April 11, by K. Colonel Gates with headquarters were, with D, temporarily established at Tampico, an important port of entry, and the capital of a district held under military government with Gates as governor. D remained at Tampico and vicinity during the whole war, being equipped part of the time as horse artillery. F, in which W. T. Sherman was a subaltern, was at Monterey, Upper California. I was being recruited, and L and M not yet organized.

At Vera Cruz Captain John R. Vinton was killed in the trenches by one of the first shots from the enemy. It was one of those singular cases in which death results from the close proximity of a projectile in its flight. His clothes were not even disarranged.



"SERVICE ON THE LINE"

Ordnance rocket and Howitzer battery
at Vera Cruz, Mexico,
March 25, 1847

The projectile, afterwards recovered unexploded, now rests upon his grave at Providence, R. It was a Paixhan shell, and, when the fuse was drawn, was found to contain 320 leaden bullets. In the death of Captain Vinton the Third lost another of its most valuable officers.

In organizing the army for the advance upon the City of Mexico A, B, G, K, formed a battalion under command of Lieut-Col. Belton, 3d Artillery, in the 1st (Garland's) brigade, Worth's division, and here the battalion remained during the war, except, that, at Perote, A was stopped, and I, under Captain Burke took its place. In the advance H was assigned to Patterson's volunteer division, and it served with the volunteers until the army left Mexico.

Vera Cruz was an affair wholly of engineering and siege artillery. The next battle, at Cerro Gordo, was one, on our side, almost wholly of infantry. Unfortunately, moreover, Worth's division, which had done most of the work at Vera Cruz, did not get into position at Cerro Gordo until there was little for it to do. By one of those accidents which sometimes happens, Worth, while going into action, was halted to permit Pillow to file in front of him into position on the extreme left. As a result, when Worth reached the Cerro Gordo hill he found the enemy already fleeing from it, and could therefore only join in the unsatisfactory duty of facilitating that flight. H, however, was more fortunate. The armament of the company consisted of four 12-pdr. brass guns and two 24-pdr. howitzers. The battle was fought on the 18th of April 1847. During the night of the 17th, Steptoe and Lt. H. Brown, 3d Artillery, after immense toil, in which they were assisted by the infantry, placed the two 24-pdr. howitzers on the hill Atalaya 900 yards from the Cerro Gordo, the stronghold of the Mexicans, and from which next day, during the assault, they were served with great effect upon the enemy. For his conduct here Steptoe was brevetted major.



"Battle of Cerro Gordo"

Top 10 Exercises to Become a Better Equestrian

From Melinda Faubel's blog

10. Drop a heavy steel object on your foot. Don't pick it up right away. Shout, "Get off, Stupid, GET OFF!"
9. Leap out of a moving vehicle and practice "relaxing into the fall." Roll lithely into a ball and spring to your feet.
8. Learn to grab your checkbook out of your purse and write out a \$500 check without even looking down.
7. Jog long distances carrying a halter and a carrot. Go ahead and tell the neighbors what you are doing - they might as well know now.
6. Affix a pair of reins to a moving freight train and practice pulling to a halt. Smile as if you are having fun.
5. Hone your fibbing skills: "See hon, moving hay bales is FUN!" and "No, really, I'm glad your lucky performance and multimillion dollar horse won the blue ribbon. I am just thankful that my hard work and actual ability won me second place."
4. Practice dialing your chiropractor's number with both arms paralyzed to the shoulder and one foot anchoring the lead rope of a frisky horse.
3. Borrow the US Army's slogan: Be All That You Can Be -- bitten, thrown, kicked, slimed, trampled, frozen...
2. Lie face down in a puddle of mud in your most expensive riding clothes and repeat to yourself, "This is a learning experience, this is a learning experience, this is ..."
1. THE NUMBER ONE EXERCISE TO BECOME A BETTER EQUESTRIAN: Marry money.

Check out her blog - Boots and Saddles! - at www.bootsandsaddles4mel.blogspot.com



You are Cordially Invited to
attend the Period Wedding of

Miss. Nicole Johnson

to

Sgt. Major Matthew Foster

At the Tres Pinos Reenactment

Saturday September 18th, 2009

At 1pm in the Afternoon

In the School Yard

Reception to Immediately Follow

Please no gifts

3rd US Roster Assignments 2009

Role	Name	Report To	Role	Name	Report To
Commanding Officer	Ginos, Alan		Stable Sgt.	Winfrey, Dennis	XO
Executive Officer	Faubel, Wes	Captain	Teamster	Faubel, Melinda	XO
1st Sergeant	Foster, Scott	Captain	Teamster	Casini, Paul	XO
			Commissary Sgt.	Moretti, Scott	1st. Sgt.

Gun/Team 1

Chief of Piece	Foster, Scott	Captain
Gun Cpl	Alto, Scott	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Ahrenholz, Ray	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Hall, David	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Jacobsen, Jake	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Lemasters, Michael	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Lincoln, Rafferty	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Sablan, Scott	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Thompson, Karla	Gun Sgt.

Team Corporal	Johnson, Mike	Gun Sgt.
Driver	Berry, Mike	Team Cpl.
Driver	Burtz, Dan	Team Cpl.
Driver	Faubel, Loreleigh	Team Cpl.
Driver	Miljevich, Ted	Team Cpl.
Driver	Virga, Tony	Team Cpl.

Artificers

Chief Artificer	Griffith, Loren	1st. Sgt.
Artificer	Blair, Michael	Chief Art.
Artificer	Boling, Roger	Chief Art.
Artificer	Faubel, Tristan	Chief Art.
Artificer	Johnson, Dave	Chief Art.
Artificer	Lee, Robert	Chief Art.
Artificer	Plocher, Al	Chief Art.
Artificer	Weston, Mark	Chief Art.

Signal Corps

Private	Mosher, Chris	1st. Sgt.
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Gun/Team 2

Chief of Piece	Duncan, George	1st. Sgt.
Gun Cpl	Boyd, John	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Dunne, Cary	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Ebert, Bob	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Gluch, Josh	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Lincoln, Barbara	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Sablan, Mike	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Thompson, Terry	Gun Sgt.

Team Corporal	Moretti, Teri	Gun Sgt.
Driver	Christiansen, Jessica	Team Cpl.
Driver	Gilliland, John	Team Cpl.
Driver	Griffith, Naomi	Team Cpl.
Driver	Horton, Jim	Team Cpl.
Driver	Ruther, Justin	Team Cpl.
Driver	Sullivan, Lisa	Team Cpl.
Driver	Thompson, Doug	Team Cpl.
Driver	Whitehead, Dave	Team Cpl.

Unassigned

Unassigned	Amari, Gary	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Bailey, Wendy	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Bradford, Bryan	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Bradford, Lisa	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Byrne, Jeanne	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Claytor, Kermit	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Ensign, Sue	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Foster, Matt	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Foley, Mike	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Foley, Shirley	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Fulks, Andy	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Hawkins, Bill	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Justiniano, Joe	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Langman, Chip	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Maciver, Al	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Martinez, Thomas	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Rogers, Keith	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Rogers, Laurie	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Sims, Ed	1st. Sgt.

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Shop at the Country Supply website:
www.countrysupply.com
 and they will donate a percentage of your purchases!
 Simply enter our Care Code when you complete your order.

Our Care Code: **chas**

2009 Schedule of Events

August

Aug 22 - 23 ACWA living history & gun demos.
OVERNIGHT EVENT!
Ft. Point , San Francisco. Contact
Mike Musante-mikemusante@hotmail.com

September

Sept. 4 - 7 Eighth Annual Gold Rush Days. Old
Sacramento. CHAS living history &
encampment. 1 team/gun, support unit.
\$\$\$. Rotating attendance needed.
Contact Mike Sablan.

Sept 18 - 20 Tres Pinos. NCWA Battles &
Encampment. 1 gun, no horses.

Sept 19 - 20 Fortuna. RACW Battles &
Encampment. 1 gun, no horses.
Tentative Contact Scott Alto.

October

Oct. 2 - 4 Kearny Park, Fresno. NCWA Invitational.
Battles & encampment . 2 teams & guns,
support units. School Day Friday.
Contact Alan Ginos.
*One of the largest annual events west of
the Mississippi.*

Oct. 31 Alcatraz Living History Day. Hosted by
DATE the Friends of Civil War Alcatraz and the
CHANGE! National Park Service. San Francisco.

November

Nov 6 - 8 Moorpark Farm, Moorpark. Richmond
Howitzers. 2 teams & guns. Battles
& encampment. School Day Friday. \$.
Contact Alan Ginos.
*One of the largest annual events west of
the Mississippi.*

Nov 14 CHAS Weekend "Put-Away" Work Party.
Contact Alan Ginos.

Nov 19 CHAS Dinner Fundraising Event.
Monterey County. Contact Ted Miljevich.

December

Happy Holidays!

2010

April

April 10 - 11 SCCWA Battles & Encampment.
Prado Reg, Park, Chino.

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

July 24 - 25 Civil War Days at Duncans Mills.

CHAS Invitational. Battles & encamp.
2 teams, guns & support. \$\$\$\$.
Maximum effort Contact Ted Miljevich.
*One of the largest annual events west of
the Mississippi.*

Get your cool CHAS Gear!

We now have hats (as modeled by Bethany
Faubel) and pins. And don't forget the *Civil War
Days* t-shirts and CHAS mugs. Contact Mike
Johnson at 3rdusmounted@warhorse.org for your
purchases!



\$15.00



\$5.00



\$15.00

And don't forget CHAS's own Café Press
store for calendars, clock, bags and more!



http://www.cafepress.com/chas_sutler

*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.*

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Important Web Addresses

Civil War Days at Duncans Mills Web Site:

<http://www.civilwardays.net/> 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.cwrs.us/>

Fort Tejon Historical Association (FTHA)

<http://www.forttejon.org/>

National Civil War Association (NCWA)

<http://www.ncwa.org/>

Reenactors of the American Civil War (RACW)

<http://www.cwrs.info>

War Between The States Historical Assn (WBSHA)

<http://www.wbsha.org/>

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Contributed articles and photographs should be addressed to *The Cannon's Mouth*, c/o M. Johnson, 334 Kevin Ct., Auburn, CA 95603, or e-mailed to mjohnson@cfsa.org. Materials may also be submitted via CD or floppy disk (in PC format). Submitted materials will not be returned unless 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.

Submissions for the next issue are due no later
than **August 24, 2009**