

# *The Cannon's Mouth*

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL ARTILLERY SOCIETY  
AUGUST 2010

## Commander's Call

*Alan Ginos*

Thanks to all that helped at Civil War Days. Whether manning the booths, parking, reenacting, info tent, weenie shack, and especially set up and tear down, we needed everyone and could have used many more. See Pvt Casini's report elsewhere in this issue on site cleanup activities.

From my perspective from the background and sidelines of the event, spectators were once again overwhelmingly positive. From walking through reenactors' camps, also felt the same positive energy about the event the public showed. Got many comments from reenactors willing to help us more next year to get ready for and put on the event. Official numbers are not in yet to gauge the event's financial success, but from the public and reenactors' view it was once again a great event to attend or participate in.

Did you notice the shiny new stripes on Sgt. Alto's coat? Yes, he has been promoted to Gun 1 Chief of the Piece. We are lucky that Scott will be attending UC Davis Law starting this fall to keep him in our fold for at least three more years.

Old Sac Labor Day weekend horse participation is canceled this year due to lack of funds from the organizers to pay us. Instead, we will set up a cannon display and recruiting booth in front of the military museum. Several members have already expressed an interest in manning the display. More information will follow with a call to arms as the event gets closer.

Several of us will attend and compete in the Western States Cavalry Championship to be held in Reno August 27-29. The fair organizers have asked to come with a gun team to do demonstrations throughout the event. Since Old Sac is no longer taking much manpower time over Labor Day, let me know if you would like to attend to participate in art'y demos like held at events.

On September 11 we will participate in an artillery demo at the Marina Equestrian Center in support of a proposed "warhorse museum" project. Drivers and cannoneers will be needed! More to follow.

## Dispatches from the Dog Tent

*Ted Milgovich*

DM 2010 is now in the history books! The event was a complete success and everyone seemed happy. The weather was cool and breezy for the most part. Reenactor turnout was better than expected considering we charged the reenactors a site fee this year. The reenactors, from my view, could say nothing but good things about the event and all that we did for them to put on a excellent, quality event. The public was also happy, though there were less of them this year. The economy is taking its toll on everybody it seems.

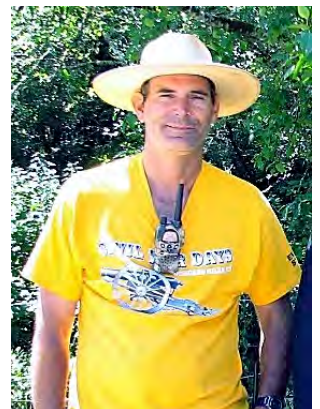
Everything seemed to go well this year. We were very low on members again this year, even lower than last year. Everybody did theirs job.

Hats off to the members who were in uniform doing the battles. From the sidelines the teams and guns looked great. Those who were working the event were working extra hard at doing so because of lower member participation. I'm not sure what we can do about this for next year, but for sure we need more unit help as to not over work those who are there.

Thanks to Alan Gino for setting up the event with our own President Lincoln. He addressed both the reenactors and public with period speeches and was a real hit, with both public and reenactors having a good time this year.

You can be sure we will be back again for *Civil War Days at Duncans Mills 2011*. Thanks to all of those who helped with the work parties, coming in during the week before the event, the event itself and the post clean-up of the site.

The next board meeting will be on Thursday August 12th, 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.



## Fundraising

*Donna Schulken*

For those of you who did not attend Duncans Mills this year, you surely missed a magnificent event! The weather was perfect with the gentle breezes from the coast coming up in the afternoon made it perfect. I can't wait until next year!

Fundraising is moving along; albeit not as well as I would like. Please continue to use your SHARES cards at the following grocery stores, Save Mart, Lucky, Food Maxx and S-Mart. The end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter was a few weeks back and we should be receiving a check in the mail shortly. Also, continue to use GOOD SEARCH as your search engine; along with going through GOOD SEARCH to get to Amazon, Bed, Bath and Beyond and other vendors you may be ordering from on line. If you didn't know, but if you utilize Good Search and you access those vendors from that search engine, they will donate a percentage of your purchase to CHAS.

For those of you who work for very large corporations, take a look at your internal WEB pages; there may be areas from within your corporation that allows for employees to track their participation and work in non-profit organizations. Remember the CHAS is a non-profit, 501-c 3 corporation which makes us fully non-profit, large companies, such as the one I work for usually have foundations that they use to donate to all sorts of non-profit causes. I am able to track all my hours I put into CHAS and the corporation foundation will donate a lump sum of money to CHAS. It is really worth looking into. If you have any questions on this please give me a call.

As most of us saw in an announcement from Capt. Ginos that we will not be bringing the horses up to Old Sac for Gold Rush Day's this year. Because of funding issues they are unable to pay us; which means we need to make that money up somehow, somehow. As you must realize the up keep of our equipment and in particular our horses is not cheap; so anything you can think of to generate funds for the unit let me know.

Throughout the coming year I will be soliciting large corporations, such as Tractor Supply and Trader Joe's to name a few to request donations to CHAS. We do have some interest from a large car/truck dealership up in the Petaluma area I am starting to work with, with the hope of having them become one of our sponsors for possibly Duncans Mills next year.

I will keep you all posted on our fundraising discussions and progress.

## The Recruiting Desk

*Wes Faubel*

Boy, what a summer! Duncans Mills went off better than ever and a hearty thank you goes out to all of those who made it happen.

Our current strength is at 89 brave and hearty souls with the addition of eight new members at the June 30<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Join me in extending a hearty CHAS welcome to Dean Moules, Mario Ramirez, Ellie Brady, Caitlin Brady, James Brady, Christopher Brady, Heidi Wagner, and William Entriiken.

Dean, Mario, Elle, Caitlin, and Heidi have all been assigned as drivers to the teams as shown in the roster included with this newsletter. William, James, and Christopher are assigned as cannoneers as also shown on the roster.

Hope to see you all soon,

Yr Obedient Svt  
Lt Casualty



*Bob Ebert and Alan Ginos accept the award for Best Horse Entry in the Danville 4th of July Parade. More photos and information from the event will appear in the September Cannon's Mouth*

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# GoodSearch

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## "Dear Cousin..."

*Pvt. Chris Henderson*

Dear Cousin,

I hope all is well with you and all the family at home. Please send my love to all and tell them I'm sorry. I expect you are pretty angry with me for stealing your papers, but there was no other way for me to enlist. The surgeon who examined me told me I looked old for 44 but passed me because my teeth were all present and sound. Might be he had experience with horses. So, I have traded my books for cannonballs, my name for yours, and life as a school teacher for a soldier's lot.



Right now we are in Virginia. I don't know where and have no doubt history will not know either. One of the fellows called it Duncan's Mills but I can't see Mill nor town to defend. Still, we met the enemy and fought hard for 2 days. Damned if I can tell you who claimed the Glory of Victory. Let me tell you a little about what soldiering is really all about before I write of the battle.

We fetched up to this pretty place about 2 weeks ago, told that the Rebs were advancing fast. Orders were flying like musket shot and we all ran like fools trying to follow them all. The first order of business was setting up camp. Expecting the enemy momentarily, our first abode was crude and less than the regimental exactness I had expected. Tents and wagons were all about with men sleeping where they might. I never reckoned that what I'd miss most about home was the civility of our privy. Rough latrines shared by rough men, many of whom impaired their aim with demon rum, made my heart warm to our old 2 seater out back.

It seems the Rebs had not been informed of our fateful appointment, which gave us some time to appreciate the beauty of the country. The meadows are golden with grass, speckled with wild flowers,



cooled by smoky mist, and rich with cow droppings, making the trek to the above mentioned latrines troublesome. (Thank you for your boots which I also purloined; they make the trip possible.) Trees cover the hills so densely that the Confederates might have been sitting in the tree tops watching us arrive for all we could see. The land owner, a good man by the name of Paul, was very generous with firewood, water, all the wild turkeys we could shoot, and access, but having experienced the steely eyes of our commanding officers, I can't help wondering what part intimidation played in the bargain.

Remember reading Milton's poem with the line, ". . . they also serve who only stand and wait"? I am here to testify that the Army is not inspired by classic literature. They sure have the process of waiting perfected but there was no standing. For a week after we got here we were worked like the toughest hired hands. I commenced cleaning an old out-building at the edge of the meadow, rousting families of mice from tenements in the eaves. I swept and scrubbed as if Ma's ghost was standing behind me. Officially it was supposed to be Officer's HQ but rumor has it that it was used for the sale of Army provisions to civilians for the purpose of padding some pockets. The boys have also said there were civilian women working inside. Can't be true but such rumors abound in camp. I even heard there were women about one night offering the





officers "sorbet"! (Guess that is a euphemism for sordid favors.)

Our only rest was in the camp at night. Pvt. Robert is our cook and much beloved by all. His face is handsome almost to the point of prettiness. He's been kind enough to help me with my laundry as I have been in camp only for a few hours sleep at a time. One comrade, young Tristan, was good enough to let me sleep through my horse watch, unbeknownst to the Sarge! Despite the work and waiting we are a jolly band of men and boys and there is much laughter and music in camp every evening.

Anytime we looked like taking a rest during the day an officer appeared in the distance, barked at a Sergeant, who came along and bared his teeth growling orders at us. Wasting sunlight is a capital offense in the Army! You wouldn't recognize your pale schoolmarmish cousin. In the course of painting bridges (why I don't know), moving every bale of hay in the republic then moving it again, posting fences, unloading and reloading wagons full of supplies and wood, and tending the horses, I have changed skin color several times. The first day I looked like a Red Indian, then a quadroon, and now am the color of old leather. The work went on until this past Saturday and would have no doubt continued indefinitely but for the arrival of our Sesech



guests. By now camp was orderly lines of tents at attention, crowned by the officer and Mess tents. At the end of the row stood the picket line with the horses as restless and ready as we were for a fight. And fight we did!

Every grumble from the ranks disappeared as we hitched the teams, loaded the cannons, and moved into the battlefield. All around us infantry men fired and fell. The noise of rifle, pistol, cannon, and screams blended into a roar over which the eerie banshee screech of the Rebel Yell rose and fell on the wind. There seems to be no order on the field, men surge and retreat, run and crawl, exhibit rare fear and insane courage. Driving the team in battle has no relationship to the riding you and I have done together, a war horse no relation to our well mannered but skittish farm horses. In the course of



2 days we lost 2 guns and their crews but by some miracle, none of the horses, drivers, outriders or command. The cavalry did not fare so well and we mourn the death of their captain, a fine man with a kind word for all. One moment I was sure we'd won, the next the advantage shifted to the Rebs. By the time both sides left the field for the last time our command said we'd won. Wonder what General Lee was telling his troops.

Our First Sergeant has become our hero, our officers, Olympian in stature, and every one of us who left the battlefield sound, is taller, prouder, and ready to do whatever soldiering is needed, be it digging latrines or hauling artillery. I am a better man for being here. Now we will prepare to move on to the next battle and do this all again. Only God knows where and for how long.

So cousin, I fight in your name. Keep yourself, your wife, and children safe and well. God willing I'll be home before long, back to my books and pupils, this life a mere memory.

Your cousin,  
Private "Chris" Henderson

# After Action Report ~ Duncans Mills

*Paul Casini*

Camp Caisson, Duncans Mills, VA  
25 July 1863

Sirs,

I was notified of a small detail of artillerists to be ordered to Caisson for cleanup and repair duty following the engagement fought here last week. Several tasks remained even after the initial detachment made its quick primary sweep of the battlefield so the tasks were identified and orders given.

As I was preparing hot coffee for the detachment I heard a familiar knock at the door and found to my happiness my old comrade Pvt Amari, of the Dago-a-GoGo days, smiling widely. After a fond embrace we sat over a cup of coffee and waited for the others to arrive. We waited for quite a while and then decided it best to begin work. We were by ourselves because Pvt Hawkins had worked like a mule all week long and needed to tend to chores at home so he departed on the first train out Friday. Bill and the lovely Virginia deserve a hearty thanks from all of us for working alone and getting much of the tough work done. He gathered all the scattered firewood and returned it to the wood shed, he gathered all the steel drums and stacked them. He picked up litter and rounded up burlap and many other tasks with no one else around. We are fortunate to have him in the unit and 'Ginny' too.

Pvt Amari and I loaded our wagon with everything we could find that was not tied down and took it to the van for loading. We opted to wait for help to get that task completed. Gary worked on some bridge construction work remaining on the new bridge sections then before departing for home we loaded a gun for him to take with him. Not an easy task for

to old gray Cannoneers but we managed. Don't count us grey beards out too quickly. A couple of glasses of Dr Crow's horse liniment and varnish remover and we were ready to load the forge.



Soon Corpl's Alto and Boyd arrived and rolled up their sleeves readying for work. Both Gary and I had to leave for other duties but while I was gone, John and Scott stacked materials, moved more equipment and worked at securing the famous Weenie Palace for winter. I thought it'd told them that they need not worry about water proofing it as a very thick coat of Wiener Grease has permeated through the wood banishing any foolish termite or bug from it's structure but they worked feverishly for hours and did a fine job. After dark I found them enjoying charred beef steaks and other vittles around the campfire, tired but satisfied with a good day's work. We bid John good night as he headed for his tin dog tent so Scott and I headed back to Camp where he could bathe in the water trough while I went on guard duty for the night.

The next morning, Scott left for the battlefield to meet up with John and begin work, awaiting my arrival with the equipment for loading materials. Unfortunately, I got tied up with the mules and horses and did not arrive till afternoon where I saw that Pvt Bob Ebert had joined their ranks and was busy gathering up spent cartridges and powder bags. We finished the task of loading the van and then set to the daunting task of loading the rolling stock. The four of us loaded a gun/limber, caisson/limber and the forge/battery wagon. I must say that these men deserve extra rum rations as they cannot have any of mine. I need it to rub on my joints and sanitize my wounds.

With nearly all the orders complete we bid ourselves farewell and everyone departed. The battlefield where so many soldiers fought has been cleaned, healed and put to bed. Peaceful quiet is now abundant with only the lowing of the cattle and call of the Osprey to sing to it. Many memories once again.

Respectfully submitted  
Pvt P Casini



# DUNCANS MILLS!



# DUNCANS MILLS!



# Identifying Vintage Wagon Manufacturers

By David Sneed

Submitted by Al Plocher

## Part I

### **“Psst! Hey buddy, wanna buy a watch?” OR Wagon identity crisis**

That dubious phrase conjures up visions of a shifty-eyed street peddler hawking a host of inexpensive, brand name timepieces. The picture also highlights a common risk for collectors.

While a “good deal” might be the Holy Grail for many, locating a truly great find is much more difficult. Chief among the challenges for vintage farm wagon enthusiasts is the need to know and authenticate the maker. Brand name is important because it can greatly affect sentimental, historical and resale values.

With a heritage firmly tied to settlement of the West and the great cattle drives of the 1800s, wood-wheeled farm wagons have been prominent fixtures on the American landscape for centuries. It's a legacy and viability so strong that some brands were still being built into the 1950s and '60s. Today, their period look and connection to America's early history have made quality, original wagons increasingly coveted. Certain brand names have taken on particular significance; a provenance (documented history for a particular collectible) can also benefit values.

Vintage wagons, like nearly anyone or anything today, are susceptible to lost, mistaken and even stolen identities. The ravages of time, weather and neglect have taken a heavy toll on the majority of these retired workhorses. With most relegated to the outdoors and other poorly controlled environments, natural deterioration of recognizable marks only adds to the number of lost and easily mistaken characteristics.



Photo courtesy of  
Wheels That Won The West Archives

*Vintage wagons like this 1924 Peter Schuttler with triple box and spring seat are difficult to find with this much original paint still intact.*

As quality wagons become harder to find, unscrupulous opportunists and a general lack of accurate, published information can also hamper the ability to positively identify a maker. Further complicating the puzzles are the thousands upon thousands of wagon manufacturers that hung out a shingle during the 19th and early 20th centuries. With every builder came a different set of design and construction standards, and standards often changed from year to year with the same maker. Even if a name is still evident on an old gear (undercarriage) or box, there may be little or no information readily available on the brand's history.

Another confusing obstacle is that builders routinely assigned a multitude of different brand names to their wagons; names that may not clearly point to a specific manufacturer. Identification of every surviving vehicle can be very difficult – if not impossible. However, if you're partial to whodunit mysteries or a well-scripted detective show, the pursuit itself can be just as enjoyable as actually finding the ideal wagon.

The maker almost always left clues. Approaching the task with the attention of an archaeologist and the patience of Job can yield surprising results. To help find residual clues, we'll start by breaking the vehicle into three sections: metalwork, paint and woodwork.

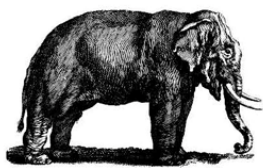
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Sneed, David. (2009, April). Identifying Vintage Wagon Manufacturers. *Farm Collector*, 2009, from <http://www.farmcollector.com/equipment/vintage-wagon-manufacturers.aspx>

Mr. Sneed is an early western vehicle historian, writer, collector and founder of the Wheels That Won The West® archives. Contact at [info@wheelsthatwonthewest.com](mailto:info@wheelsthatwonthewest.com).



These drawings of Donna Schulken and Ray Ahrenholz are by new CHAS member Bill Russell. Bill is a San Rafael illustrator and journalist who's researching a book on Civil War Reenactors. To see more of his drawings go to [www.ProfileReportage.com](http://www.ProfileReportage.com).



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# 3rd US Roster Assignments 2010

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

## Gun/Team 1

<b>Chief of Piece</b>	<b>Alto, Scott</b>	Captain
<b>Gun Cpl</b>		Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Ahrenholz, Ray	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Brady, Chris	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Faubel, Bethany	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Lemasters, Michael	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Lincoln, Rafferty	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Miller, Ky	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Rejaian, Amir	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Thompson, Karla	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Thorne, Taylor	Gun Sgt.

<b>Team Corporal</b>	<b>Johnson, Mike</b>	Gun Sgt.
Driver	Berry, Mike	Team Cpl.
Driver	Bricklin, Nathan	Team Cpl.
Driver	Gluch, Josh	Team Cpl.
Driver	Horton, Jim	Team Cpl.
Driver	Miljevich, Ted	Team Cpl.
Driver	Moules, Dean	Team Cpl.
Driver	Poulos, Joe	Team Cpl.

## Artificers

<b>Chief Artificer</b>	<b>Griffith, Loren</b>	1st. Sgt.
Artificer	Amari, Gary	Chief Art.
Artificer	Boling, Roger	Chief Art.
Artificer	Faubel, Tristan	Chief Art.
Artificer	Gluch, Pat	Chief Art.
Artificer	Johnson, Dave	Chief Art.
Artificer	Lee, Robert	Chief Art.
Artificer	Weston, Mark	Chief Art.

## Gun/Team 2

<b>Chief of Piece</b>	<b>Duncan, George</b>	1st. Sgt.
<b>Gun Cpl</b>	<b>Boyd, John</b>	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Bono, Joe	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Brady, Jim	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Ebert, Bob	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Entriken, William	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Lincoln, Barbara	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Sablan, Mike	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Thompson, Terry	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Thorne, Philip	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	White, Malcolm	Gun Sgt.

<b>Team Corporal</b>	<b>Moretti, Teri</b>	Gun Sgt.
Driver	Brady, Caitlin	Team Cpl.
Driver	Brady, Ellie	Team Cpl.
Driver	Rejaian, Katie	Team Cpl.
Driver	Ramirez, Mario	Team Cpl.
Driver	Ruther, Justin	Team Cpl.
Driver	Wagner, Heidi	Team Cpl.

## Unassigned

Unassigned	Bailey, Wendy	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Bricklin, Jared	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Bricklin, Sydney	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Burtz, Dan	Team Cpl.
Unassigned	Byrne, Jeanne	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Ensign, Sue	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Hawkins, Bill	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Johnson, William	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Justiniano, Joe	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Langman, Chip	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Maciver, Al	Team Cpl.
Unassigned	Martinez, Thomas	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Rogers, Keith	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Rogers, Laurie	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Sims, Ed	1st. Sgt.

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C·A·R·E

# 2010 Schedule of Events

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

## August

August 28 Alcatraz Living History Day. Hosted by the Friends of Civil War Alcatraz and the National Park Service. San Francisco. The web site has the details.  
www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org

## September

Sept. 4 - 7 Ninth Annual Gold Rush Days. Old Sacramento. Static gun display at Military Museum. Recruiting and information opportunity.  
No encampment, rotating attendance needed. Contact George Duncan

Sept 11 Arty Demo. Marina Equestrian Center. Gun and Team. Info to follow.

Sept 18 - 19 Tres Pinos. NCWA Living History.

## October

Oct. 1 - 3 Kearny Park, Fresno. Fresno Historical Society Invitational Battles & encampment . 1 team, 2 guns, support units. School Day Friday.

## November

Nov 13 - 14 Moorpark Farm, Moorpark. Richmond Howitzers. 2 teams & guns. Battles & encampment. School Day Friday. \$.

Nov 13 NCWA Civilian Forum.



## CHAS T-shirts Are Back!

You asked for them! "Pedes ne me" t-shirts will be at Mariposa. Get them, and other great stuff, before they're sold out. \$15.



\$15.00



\$5.00



\$15.00

## Brogans

By Terry Thompson

The latest style in Civil War Footwear  
Wool socks needed, 1 -- no 2 pair  
Even better, Jell inserts to lessen the care  
Brogans.

Made of leather but feels like cardboard  
When do they break in - help me Lord  
Time to soak them at the next river ford  
Brogans

Battle done and we are safely home  
Feet are soaking in a hot bubbly foam  
So this will end my poem  
Brogans



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



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**Treasurer**

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**2010 Unit Command**

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**Military Executive Officer**

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**Sanitary Commission Commander**

Judith Boling (559) 627-3160 sancomlady@sbcglobal.net

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**2010 Committees**

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Alan Ginos (925) 945-1502 adginos@hotmail.com

**Recruitment**

Wes Faubel (530) 741-1259 faubel@syix.com

**Bylaws/Rules**

Wes Faubel (530) 741-1259 faubel@syix.com

**Historical Educational/Archives**

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**Events**

Alan Ginos (925) 945-1502 adginos@hotmail.com

*Chairman of the Board of the  
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**For CHAS Membership Information Contact:**

Wes Faubel (530) 741-1259 faubel@syix.com

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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/>

**National Civil War Association (NCWA)**

<http://www.ncwa.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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Submissions for the next issue are due no later  
than **August 24, 2010**