

The Cannon's Mouth

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL ARTILLERY SOCIETY
AUGUST 2011

Commander's Call

Alan Ginos

What a pleasure and relief to have a successful Civil War Days (CWD) Duncans Mills behind us. With a better turnout of CHAS members and public this year than last, more outside help, great weather, fun battles and enthusiastic public and reenactor response, this one has to be considered a success. If you were there like more than 50 other CHAS members, you know what I mean. If you weren't you should make the next one a priority. To properly discuss the good, bad and ugly of this year's event and start early planning for next year, we have scheduled a meeting August 20th at the Military Museum in Old Sac. Meeting times and details will come out later.

If you would like to participate in the Camp Roberts Change of Command ceremony for the 143rd FA, contact Roger Boling, cwartificer@gmail.com. Date is August 6th 10 a.m., practice Friday afternoon. Sgt Thompson is taking the Parrott for firing during the ceremony.



Labor Day weekend we are contracted once again to supply a team and gun plus support equipment to provide a military presence to Gold Rush Days. This year unlike in the past, we will be there just Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Various people are

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Dispatches from the Dog Tent

Ted Milgovich

I heard from many people and reenactors that this year's Duncans Mills was our best. It is always hard to judge from my prospective 'our best' as we've had many good ones over the years. Yes this year's for sure was very organized in many areas. We had very good people helping in all areas and many things just fell into place ahead of schedule. We are going to capitalize on this positive event by having our first ever after action meeting to review the event to make it better and work out some of the issues that seem to come up from time to time. We plan to look at all ideas with open minds. This meeting is designed to round up the movers and shakers that put so much effort into the event, both pre and post work, behind the scenes, etc. Anybody and everybody is encouraged to put in their feed back. Judith Boling has volunteered to compile all ideas and input before the meeting from those who wish to send ideas to her. The meeting will take place on August 20th and is open to all. There will be a formal agenda to keep on track and cover all areas. For my part as de facto event coordinator, I wish to express a big and extended thank you to all who took part in the event in any form. We had many, many people doing a lot of work for this event. Both big and small, all your efforts made the big picture happen for us all. I would like to put my plug early to say that we need more firewood cut and split for next year's event and to complete our contractual obligation to use the site. This is labor intensive work to say the least. I know if I put a call for a work party to do this, the same core group would be there. But I wish to give them a break from this if possible. If we can just have some donations sent in from others who can't make a work party or who may not be able to do the hard work, I can round up laborers from the Casini campground and get this task done for the event. So on this work party call, just send in a donation to our treasurer and memo it DM wood splitting, I will take care of this project from there.

The next board meeting will be on Thursday September 15th, 6:00 pm at the Four Points Sheraton in Pleasanton. As always, any member in good standing may attend or contact your member at large to send along any messages or input.



needed to come for a day or more to help out and stay overnight if possible to help with horse watch in the middle of Old Town (and for those that have done this you know why we need open eyes all night long to watch both the horses and the camp).

No decision is yet made on our attendance this year at Tres Pinos. This non-horse event near Hollister is very small but does have a school day on Friday that is always good to participate in.

Please note the date change for the Fresno event to October 21-23. As the event is an invitational and has not agreed to pay us to bring horses, we will once again plan on attending without horses. This worked out just fine for us last year.

The Booster Clubs and Civil War Roundtable from Lake County really came through for us helping out in the background of CWD. To pay them back, we now have on our schedule Nov. 4-5 participation at the Bass Bowl football game at Clear Lake High School in Lakeport, pitting Clear Lake against Kelseyville. Since both schools sent helpers, we will root for both and fire a cannon after each touchdown. Saturday we will have horses in town at a fair and for a parade to pull the cannon. This is going to be a very fun time for those that attend, a great recruiting opportunity for both CHAS and CWD, and a valued payback to those who worked very hard for us during Friday-Sunday of CWD.

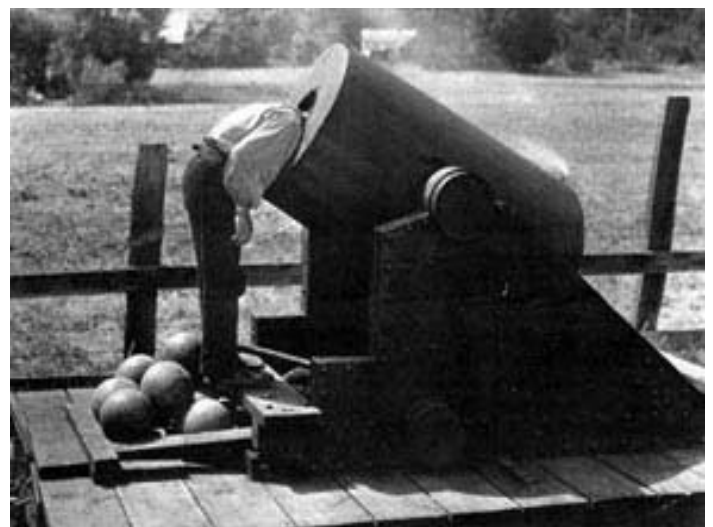
Stable Sgt Winfrey has a crew of local community service "volunteers" sanding, priming and painting every one of our gun and wagon trailers over the next month or so. The next time you see the trailers at an event they will be looking good. Replacing the roof on the blue horse trailer and better sealing the top on the red horse trailer are also in the works.

The Recruiting Desk

Wes Faubel

The campaign season is rushing past us. On all fronts our arms are triumphant. This can be readily seen from the recent Duncans Mills Campaign; an excellent turnout and a superb example of combined arms operation.

No board meeting has been held since our last communication and I am unable to report new enlistees; however we have "straightened" our the paperwork on the reenlistments of some prior veterans. This brings our total battery and civilian strength to 88 members with five members awaiting processing at the upcoming Board of review.



Remember 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, , Tea Parlour, Fine Goods Emporium, and Bawdy House located at Camp Casualty in Northern California. Interested parties should contact me by dispatch at faubel@syix.com.

Remember the conflict is not over! We still need every able-bodied recruit we can get to crush the Rebel opposition. I look forward to seeing you all at the festivities of furlough in Sacramento or the final push of the season at Moorpark as we send the rebels home with a good thrashing for the winter.

Your Obedient Svt,

Lt Casualty

Fundraising

Donna Schulken

For those of you who were not able to attend Duncans Mills this year, you missed a great event! It was a wonderful event, which I believe was enjoyed by all who attended both public and re-enactors. But our work doesn't stop here; we have to begin to plan for next year and part of that planning is fundraising.

This year, we were able to sell more T-shirts than in the past and with the T-shirt sales along with simple donations we brought in over \$1700. At the same time, we took in \$650 in Horse Sponsorship; one in which was a single \$500 donation!!

I would also like to report that over this past month Verizon contributed \$750 to our coffers, and this was just for the hours that I put into to working with CHAS. As a non-profit organization I can register my hours with CHAS with my company. The Verizon Foundation contributes to non-profits that their employees volunteer hours with. I can do that twice per year making a total of \$1500 donated to CHAS from Verizon alone.

For those of you who work for large corporations, they will usually have a foundation where you too can register hours working for non-profits. If you do, register CHAS allowing us to reap the benefits. And, it is usually a simple form that may need to be completed.

In the meantime, we have a number of ways folks can help CHAS as a whole, and that is to use the SHARES cards at Save Mart, S-Mart, Lucky and Food Maxx grocery stores. Based on the grocery sales we receive a quarterly check that goes right to our bottom line without any outlay of money on your part other than buying the groceries you normally would buy anyway. How easy is that?

Also, don't forget to use GOOD SEARCH as your search engine!! Every little bit helps!

Remember the 3 T's Time, Talent and Treasure. It helps all of us keep CHAS alive.



After Action Report ~ Graeagle

Terry Thompson

Graeagle is a small logging town up in the hills. Founded in 1856, the town is fairly well established now. We heard of Rebel sympathizers that might be looking to disrupt the timbering so a small group of us headed up to help the locals. With only one team and two guns, we found a small group of Rebels camped by the lake. They too had two artillery pieces: mountain howitzers. Both armies had an abundance of Cavalry and we found much pride in rallying as they welded sabers. We engaged in a couple of skirmishes before deciding that we all would rather enjoy celebrating the nation's birthday. There must have been some Chinamen around as there were plenty of fireworks on Saturday night. The horses seemed to enjoy the show. As the rockets were fired, I checked the team and I am sure I heard, "Ooohs" and "Aahs" before they realized I was near.



As gun sergeant, I had previous dispatch to expect new recruits to train. Upon arrival, I found the team short one driver. As it seemed the right thing to do at the time, I relinquished the piece to the ever capable Sgt Alto. He performed admirably and used firm but fair instruction to the new recruits.

The team was driven by a "T" team – Ted, Terry, and Teri. Corporal Hell led us in some tight formations and even won a couple of bets with the cannoneers for our maneuvering skills. Goodlooking was my horse with Barney on the out. I feel so blessed that Goodlooking only tried to buck me off once.

Sunday the whole town came out for a parade which we were happy to fall into formation with soldiers from both sides.

Humbly reporting,
Sgt Terry Thompson

DUNCANS MILLS!



DUNCANS MILLS!



DUNCANS MILLS!



“Cooky”

Carolyn Faubel

Last weekend I spent as “Cooky” to a very special group of people, the members of CHAS, the California Historical Artillery Society. CHAS sponsors and puts on an American Civil War reenactment and Living History event about the middle of July each year in Duncans Mills, about 30 minutes west of Santa Rosa along the Russian River.

Because this is our own event, and we are the hosts, not the guests of the other reenacting clubs, our turnout is high, though we are spread pretty thin trying to cover all the duties of holding an event this large and well-attended. Some members were handling the front gate, some were working in the “Weenie Shack,” some were manning the information booth, others were involved with the publicity side of the event, the event coordinators were patrolling any problem areas with walkie-talkies, and the rest of us were just trying to provide the atmosphere and impression of wartime 1863 to the thousands of spectators.

Freezout Valley, near the Casini Family Campground is the site of our show. It is a timeless little valley tucked into the hilly terrain and redwood trees; there are no reminders of modern civilization to be seen once you enter. White canvas tents with rope supports line the “streets” of the Civilian town near the entrance. Trudging on up the valley and turning the corner brings you to the Union encampment and our camp, the site of the 3rd US Artillery.

CHAS, who portrays the 3rd US Artillery at reenactments, offers the unique sight of the horse-drawn artillery, 6 horses with 3 drivers (riders) pulling a full scale cannon and limber. If conditions are right, that is with experienced drivers and willing cannoneers, you’ll see 3 “limber rats” riding on the limber, sometimes hanging on for dear life!



My castle was the cook tent. Somehow I had to satisfy an average of 40 hungry soldiers from Friday night through Sunday afternoon with food, beverage and snacks. Friday night I made the usual spaghetti dinner, cleaned up, set the cook tent in order and laid down to sleep in my nearby canvas A-tent, my alarm set for 5am. I knew that I would have to be on top of every step in the morning because it was crucial to be absolutely punctual for the meal-time. Officers Call was at 8, and breakfast was at 7:30am. And the worst was that my usual helper was handling the front gate. I was on my own!

I love the first half hour of the breakfast preparation. I crawl out of my sleeping bag while it is still a little dark and pull on my wool trousers, brogans, cotton shirt and shell jacket. I smooth down my wild hair with my wool forage cap. The sight that greets me outside the door of my tent is the lone horse watch sitting in front of the fire that has been kept going all night. Sometimes the horse watch is dozing with the cape of his greatcoat pulled over his head, sometimes he greets me with an offer of help.

The first task I must do is to make a big pot of coffee. I fill the 2 gallon pot with water from the water can and set it on to boil on the 3 burner propane stove we have hidden inside the cook tent. Two oil lamps light the well-stocked tent with a homey glow, and the burner heats up the chilly interior comfortably. Once the coffee is out and set on the campfire grate to keep warm, I can begin putting the breakfast together.

Today I am serving ham; sometimes I have sausages, sometimes I cook bacon. I have already cooked 2 ham halves at home and sliced them up. Now I fill up a Dutch oven with the slices and set them over the fire with coals heaped on top. In a cooler part of the fire, I set a Dutch oven filled with tortillas to slowly warm up. I have learned that a big pot of oatmeal will stay warm for a long time, so I like to get that cooked and out of the way early. After it is boiled up, I wrap the pot in a wool blanket and set it out on the planks we use as a serving board.

I try to have 2 kinds of fruit to set out; grapes are always popular, so I have brought a few pounds of those, and I rope a volunteer to cut up a pineapple that I have brought. Someone has donated a watermelon, so I get someone to cut that up also and put the pieces in a bowl.

I'm getting more volunteers for help now, and that's a good thing because of the other breakfast tasks looming. Two large wash tubs have to be filled and set on the fire; one with wash water and one with rinse water, for everyone washes their own tin plates and utensils after they eat. The drinking water dispenser has to be filled so everyone can fill their canteens, and the hand washing station needs to be topped off with warm water and soap. In between, people are trying to give me their weekend chow bill payment so they won't have to worry about it later.

Condiments and toppings, all poured and transferred into period correct containers, are being flung onto the serving board by me and by my volunteers. Milk and juice are set out in metal pitchers. The hot Dutch ovens are hefted up on the boards. The last 10 minutes before breakfast call are reserved for the eggs. It takes 10 minutes to scramble them to perfection, and when they are done, I'll not have my eggs wait! Because of the crowd, I've decided to add another dozen and a half eggs to the usual flat of 5 dozen I cook. The big skillet is full of eggs with a half stick of butter to cook them in.



The eggs come out at 7:30 sharp and I ring the triangle. Right on time! For the moment I sit behind the boards in my chair drinking a cup of coffee, taking pleasure in the sight of folks filling their plates and enjoying their meal around the fire and in small clusters near tents and on sitting on "cracker boxes."

It doesn't take long for the food to disappear, and guys begin to head off to where they need to be, rolling rounds, Officers Call, the "sinks," training session for the new drivers. So then I eat a little breakfast too and take a few minutes to relax before it is time to clean up. It won't be long until I have to start getting the place ready for lunch, and I'm already thinking about how soon 11:30am will be here!



CHAS "Horse of the Month"

Buttercup

As everyone who has participated in CHAS knows, our horses are a very important and very special part of our impression. Although they may look like a sea of brown and black, each horse has a unique personality. Many members of our unit have a story about a CHAS horse and often the horses have a story of their own. Each month I will chose a horse to feature and try to highlight their personality or accomplishments. If you have a story to share about a CHAS horse, please e-mail it to me (mnfaubel@gmail.com)! – Melinda Faubel



Buttercup has a long and distinguished history in CHAS. He is the only remaining horse that went to Pennsylvania, a long time ago. He and others were sold to a former CHAS member years ago and went back east. Buttercup and Gunsmoke were used as a carriage team for a bed and breakfast. Chip Langman, CHAS member, related a story of riding Buttercup at Gettysburg and being unceremoniously dumped on the battlefield. Chip recalls looking around and realizing that there were 4 novice riders, 4 “good” horses....and Buttercup. Guess who Chip got to ride? Buttercup eventually re-enlisted with the unit and became a CHAS horse once more.

It’s impossible to relate a Buttercup story without also talking about his former partner Gunsmoke, who passed over the “rainbow bridge” some time ago. Gunsmoke was Buttercup’s anchor and held his hand through events. Buttercup would become bored of the waiting on the battlefield and would start moving back and forth in harness, calling out to buddies (although in reality the only buddy he wanted to be with was Gunsmoke, who was beside him), and possibly even adding a few “airs above ground”. Gunsmoke would sigh, reach over and nip him, and cock one foot in relaxation as if to say “Really? We’ve been doing this 20 years and you are STILL pulling shenanigans?”

Buttercup’s antics are mostly for show – you could not ask for a more solid long-line horse on the battle field, and he can be trusted to stand stock still for a petting zoo with small children.

Buttercup continues to perform an exceptional job pulling the ambulance. His current partner is Gringo, who has seamlessly stepped into the role as Buttercup’s babysitter. He pretends to be bothered, she pretends to chastise him. It works well.

Although the long line teams are usually named for the left (near side) mare of the team, Buttercup gets the honor of having his team named after him. So if you hear the calls of “Buttercup step up!”, come introduce yourself to the right (off side) gelding and feed him a carrot. He deserves it.

If you have a picture that shows off Buttercup and would be suitable for the CHAS “sponsor a horse program”, please e-mail it to me! It needs to not include a rider or person, or be able to be cropped in such a way that only Buttercup is highlighted.

****The horse featured here, as well as the rest of the CHAS horses, is available for sponsorship. Please contact Sue Ensign, or visit the CHAS website for more information.*



Manning the booths at CWD -
(top) Paul Casini, John Boyd and Chip Langman
(bottom) Donna Schulken and Sharon Langman



The Tabern Times

2011 Edition



Welcome to the July 2011 edition of the **Tabern Times**. The Official Newsletter of the **Cock & Pullet Pub** and **Maverick's Gaming Hall**

Accounting Department

I am pleased to announce that even with the Economy at the state that it is now in, the California Reenactors have been extremely generous in their support and donation to **Camp Moore**.

While we have had a few events that due to weather have made it necessary to cancel or "bug out" early, the year has been most productive.

This year, while we may not be able to take back donations from the California folk in excess of what we have in previous years, we are confident that what we take back will be substantial, and as always highly appreciated by the good folk at **Camp Moore**.

WE of the **Cock and Pullet Pub**, and **Maverick's Gaming Hall**, wish to thank each and everyone who has supported our fund raising so far this year. With half of the year over, we will have four events on our calendar, and look forward to seeing all of you at the tables or at the Pub enjoying your favorite beverage and swapping stories with us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPRT OF CAMP MOORE!

Targeted Events for 2011

September 16-18

Tres Pinos
Tres Pinos, Ca

October 1-2

Helendale
Helendale, Ca

October 23-24

Kearney Park
Fresno, Ca

October 29-30

Spring Mountain Ranch
Las Vegas, Nv.

November 19-20

Camp Moore
Tangipahoa, Louisiana

Cock and Pullet and
Maverick's Gaming Hall
in a Movie

In 2009, at **Tres Pinos** California, and budding film director, named **Tim Graff** was shooting some scenes for an independent film titled, "**Blood Trains, Bullets and Badmen**". He asked several members of the cast of **the Cock & Pullet** and **Maverick's Gaming Hall** to be "extras" in it for authenticity purpose, as well as several of the reenactors of the **National Civil War Association (NCWA)**. **Mr. Graff** has just

recently finished the movie and is going to exhibit it at a showing sometime this year if all works out. A special showing may be arranged at **Tres Pinos** in the future as well, and rumor has it that, it will be showing at the Pub (although it be on a small computer screen), at **Tres Pinos** on **September 16-18**, when the **NCWA** does their annual reenactment. Several scenes were filmed in the Historic Saloon on the property at **Tres Pinos**, and you can easily see the **Cock and Pullet** cast, as well as several on the **Maverick's** Cast doing what they do best, that would be "hamming it up"! Those members that have a cameo role in the movie are: **Chris Benintende, Ken Dacey, Phillip Gallanders, Roger Hill, Dale Jacobs, Kevin Miller, Donnalee Simmons, and Scott Simmons**. Also of note, if you quickly catch it, you can see the **Maverick's** sign outside of the bar.

Kearney Park, Fresno

The Cock & Pullet Pub and **Maverick's Gaming Hall** have been invited by **Col. Chris Bowman, CSA** to provide evening entertainment celebrating the **150th** Anniversary of the War Between the States at **Kearney Park, Fresno, Ca**, on the evening of **23 October**. We look forward to seeing all that can attend and be a part of the festivities.

After Action Report ~ 1st Manassas

Submitted by Dan Burtz

"Unfortunately it was not really a horse friendly event and at 100 degree plus temps (plus VA humidity) made for a trying weekend, but it was a neat event to be a part of and observe from the sidelines if nothing else. There were over 8000 reenactors so it made for an impressive display " - Dan

Dragoons,

In keeping with the tradition of providing an After Action Report for each event, I have the honor to report the results from the superior performance of the Second Cavalry at Manassas 21-24 July.

Forewarned is Forearmed! All who went to Manassas last weekend knew that it was going to be logistically challenging. In the end, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and no one was hurt or suffered any injuries. Another successful reenactment. But the challenges were there. Manassas registration was not as bad as expected. They processed folks through quickly and did not require a health certificate for the horses (just Coggins). The drawback was, registration was closed on Friday night, and did not reopen. Anyone planning on arriving Sat and needed to register couldn't. In addition to closing registration, the event organizers close the only access in and out of the battlefield. They bussed in spectators from a nearby stadium. If you wanted to arrive late, it was a nightmare.

Knowing all this, our unit worked as a team. The advance parties, Scott Womack and Dan Burtz reconnoitered the area and made suggestions on the best way to set things. Early arrivers on Thursday; Ashley, Harry, Charlie, Barry, Jim... helped establish our camp, picket line, water, hay and firewood. We had shade and were able relax with out overheating. By the time I arrived at Manassas on Friday, the 2nd had a pretty comfortable set up. Hopsing once again had his Chuckwagon and Marci had an additional tent that looked like a bit odd. From a distance, it looked like an ordinary tent, but up close, it hid Marci's small car. This was useful if we needed air conditioning for anyone who might have fallen out due to the 100+ degree heat.

An important note was that on my arrival, it was reported that our guidon was stolen. At first we thought the Cornfeds took it in retribution to Cedar Creek. But as we asked around, our concern increased when no one was fessing up. Maybe it did get stolen. Luckily we had another



and Dan Burtz with is shiny new Dragoon uniform, rode as guidon carrier. He looked like a Dragoon poster boy! Prior to the battle, Lt Ashley did an impromptu saber drill with our troopers, explaining the proper way to hold and carry our sabers. I believe this helped for when I later gazed over our unit, I was greatly impressed that all sabers were properly carried with points up. We stayed, for the most part, on schedule for the event, having a drill demonstration at 0830 with the battle starting at 0930. For the reenactment, the script for the battle was a 29 slide Power Point presentation. The Cavalry was written into slide 3, for the initial skirmish; slide 26, for a flanking attack on Stuart when he hit the Zuavs; and slide 29, for a rear guard action when the confederates attacked retreating federal infantry squares. But like all good plans, most don't survive first contact. This was definitely the case on Sat. Brow beating sun and 100 degree heat did not help. On a shining note, we had plenty of support. Col Markajohn's son and friend helped on the field by staging ice and water where we held our position off the battlefield until we were needed. This shady spot was crucial to ensuring no one got overheated. The boys were a great help.

My lovely spouse arrived after the battle and met the belligerence of the event coordinators. After heated discussions at the stadium parking (and a good impression of "Rosy Parks"), she was able to commandeer a bus for herself and 5 other stranded reenactors back to the event. Since we only had



one battle, we were able to relax and spend some time at the sutlers.

Seeing how the events unfolded on Sat, our leadership decided to modify the drill slightly for Sunday. Instead of separate confederate and federal drills in front of the crowd, we shortened them up and combined them in the end to do a mass cavalry charge and skirmish in front of the spectators. We even had a goal of trying to capture the confederate mounted artillery piece. This drill/demonstration went off even better than expected. A report from Lt Ashley, who graciously decided to sit out on Sunday to let Trooper Charlie ride, stated that we were awe inspiring. (Lt Ashley was also escorting a lovely woman, Miss Jessica, so don't feel too poorly that he missed this day.) During this skirmish, 5 troopers were able to get through the confederate cavalry and get a hand on the artillery piece (4 from the 6th Ohio and Capt Dennis). At the end of this drill, our units formed a battalion front to salute one another. During this presentation, the 2nd VA formally returned our long lost (stolen) guidon. With the mystery solved, we now had two guidons on the field so trooper Dan carried both together.

Sunday's Battle was a repeat of Sat and unfolded much better. (maybe it was just a dress rehearsal on Sat?) Infantry movements were on time and the proceeded nicely. Our unit performed admirably. The best way to describe events on the

battlefield is from our own troopers. Here is a report by Trooper Ace on an incident he witnessed that day:

"Captain Sopko ,I respectfully submit this report so you can include this incident in your AAR. To acknowledge the skill ,valor and conspicuous gallantry exhibited by trooper Dan Burtz at the battle of 1rst. Manassas on 23 July. As guidon ,while carrying 2 guidons trooper Burtz was attacked and pursued by 3 or 4 of the enemy endeavoring to capture our flags. With skillful riding he out maneuvered his pursuers, then as one began to bear down, dropped reins ,drew pistol with his left hand and fired two rounds over his shoulder ,rendering that pursuer dead in the saddle. At this point myself and two troopers from the 6th. Ohio arrived ,the remaining enemy promptly retreated to their lines empty handed. Previous to this , I was engaged with the enemy ,when suddenly the pursuers rushed past after our flag. I then turned to pursue and therefore was a direct eye witness. Faithfully submitted 24 July. Trooper ace."

In the end, the battle went well, no one from our unit was injured, and we all had a great time. Upon returning to camp, the departure from the event was not pretty. We had to wait until all the spectators left before we could get our vehicles in. The battle was finished by 1200, but we really could not get our vehicles into camp until after 1400. Once again, everyone realized that we were not getting out soon, so we waited. I believe all were out of camp and safely on the road by 1700.

The great 150th anniversary of 1st Manassas is over! It was my privilege and honor to lead you troopers on the field. Everyone pitched in to help. Trooper Charlie did a huge share by arriving early and assisting with firewood, water and picket lines. He also brought all the watermelon. I know it must have pained him to see us leave camp without him on Sat but thanks to Lt Ashley, he got to ride and fight handsomely on Sunday. Lt Ashley did an outstanding job keeping the lines of communication going and assisting were needed. Much thanks! Sgt Barry was exceptional on the field. His competence in getting our unit where it needed to be when it needed to be there demonstrates that HE is our Sgt. Corp Scott and Harry did an outstanding job both on and off the battlefield. There exceptional work kept us all in line and safe.

We did it! And it was all because of you. Thank you!

I have the greatest honor to be your most obedient servant,

Capt Mark Sopko
2nd US Cav Co A/9th VA Cav Co D

The First Seven Days: Battle of Mechanicsville June 26, 1862

(Submitted by Al Plocher)

After the Battle of Seven Pines, which concluded on June 1, 1862, the Union Army of the Potomac, commanded by Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, sat passively at the outskirts of the Confederate capital of Richmond. The newly appointed commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, General Robert E. Lee, devoted most of the month to reorganizing his army and preparing an offensive intended to drive the Union invaders away from the capital. He also sent for reinforcements— Stonewall Jackson arrived on June 25 with four divisions (his own, now commanded by Brig. Gen. Charles S. Winder, and those of Maj. Gen. Richard S. Ewell, Brig. Gen. William H. C. Whiting, and Maj. Gen. D.H. Hill) from the Shenandoah Valley following his successful Valley Campaign.

The Union Army straddled the rain-swollen Chickahominy River. The bulk of the army, four corps, was arrayed in a semicircular line south of the river. The remainder, the V Corps under Brig. Gen. Fitz John Porter, was north of the river near Mechanicsville in an L-shaped line facing north-south behind Beaver Dam Creek and southeast along the Chickahominy. Lee's plan was to cross the Chickahominy with the bulk of his army to attack the Union north flank, leaving only two divisions (under Maj. Gens. Benjamin Huger and John B. Magruder) to hold a line of entrenchments against McClellan's superior strength. This would concentrate about 65,500 troops to oppose 30,000, leaving only 25,000 to protect Richmond and to contain the other 60,000 men of the Union Army. It was a risky plan that required careful execution, but Lee knew that he could not win in a battle of attrition or siege against

the Union Army. The Confederate cavalry under Brig. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart had reconnoitered Porter's right flank (as part of a daring, although militarily pointless, circumnavigation of the entire Union Army from June 12 to June 15) and found it vulnerable. McClellan was aware of Jackson's arrival and presence at Ashland Station, but did nothing to reinforce Porter's vulnerable corps north of the river.

Lee's plan called for Jackson to begin the attack on Porter's north flank early on June 26. Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill's Light Division was to advance from Meadow Bridge when he heard Jackson's guns, clear the Union pickets from Mechanicsville, and then move to Beaver Dam Creek. Maj. Gens. D.H. Hill and James Longstreet were to pass through Mechanicsville, D.H. Hill to support Jackson and Longstreet to support A.P. Hill. Lee did not anticipate that the Union entrenchments behind the creek would have to be assaulted, expecting that Jackson's flanking movement would force Porter to abandon his line. South of the river, Magruder and Huger were to demonstrate to deceive the four Union corps on their front.

Lee's intricate plan went awry immediately. Jackson's men, fatigued from their recent campaign and lengthy march, ran at least four hours behind schedule. By 3 p.m., A.P. Hill grew impatient and began his attack without orders, a frontal assault with 11,000 men. The Union division of Brig. Gen. George A. McCall was forced back. Porter reinforced McCall with the brigades of Brig. Gens. John H. Martindale and Charles Griffin and extended and strengthened his right flank. He fell back and concentrated along Beaver Dam Creek and Ellerson's Mill. There, 14,000 well entrenched soldiers, aided by 32 guns in six batteries, repulsed repeated Confederate attacks with substantial casualties.

Jackson and his command arrived late in the afternoon, but, unable to find A.P. Hill or D.H. Hill, did nothing. Although a major battle was raging within earshot, he ordered his troops to bivouac for the evening. Although Jackson did not attack, his position near Porter's flank caused McClellan to order Porter to withdraw after dark behind Boatswain's Swamp, 5 miles to the east. McClellan was concerned that the Confederate buildup on his right flank threatened his supply line, the Richmond and York River Railroad north of the Chickahominy, and he decided to shift his base of supply to the James River. He also believed that the diversions by Huger and Magruder south of the river meant that he was seriously outnumbered. This was a strategic decision of grave import because it meant that, without the railroad to supply his army, he would be forced to abandon his siege of Richmond.



*"Army of the Potomac - The Rebels Evacuating
Mechanicsville Under The Fire of Union Batteries" -
Sketched by Mr. A. R. Waud*

A.P. Hill, now with Longstreet and D.H. Hill behind him, continued his attack, despite orders from Lee to hold his ground. His assault was beaten back with heavy casualties.



Gen A. P. Hill

Overall, the battle was a Union tactical victory, in which the Confederates suffered heavy casualties and achieved none of their specific objectives due to the seriously flawed execution of Lee's plan. Instead of over 60,000 men crushing the enemy's flank, only five brigades, about 15,000 men, had seen action. Their losses were 1,484 versus Porter's 361. Lee's staff recalled that he was "deeply, bitterly disappointed" by Jackson's performance, but communication breakdowns, poorly written orders from Lee, and bad judgment across most of Lee's subordinates were to blame.

Despite the short-term Union success, however, it was the start of a strategic debacle and the unraveling of the Peninsula Campaign. McClellan began to withdraw his army to the southeast and never regained the initiative. The next day the Seven Days Battles continued as Lee again assaulted Porter in the Battle of Gaines' Mill.

(from an article in the American War Series: Civil War Topics 1861-1865)



MORE DUNCANS MILLS!



He who said he made a small fortune in the horse business probably started out with a large fortune.

~ Anon.

SHILOH 2012

Shiloh is one of the reenactments being discussed for CHAS participation.

Planning is quickly moving forward on the Shiloh event. There will be a train, that can even accommodate artillery, for those who wish to ride starting in Omaha, NE to the event site. Here is a note from General Crowder:

Gentlemen, The following information is a result of my latest adventure with our partners in the every growing effort to bring you the finest and most exciting events possible. I sincerely hope you will all be as excited as we are with all the terrific things that are going on in preparation for these events for our folks.

We made the trip to Omaha NE. to meet with the senior executives from the Union Pacific Railroad which was made possible by the efforts of our good friend and fellow reenactor who most of us know Mr. Bill Somervell who is currently a member of Terry's Texas Rangers. On behalf of the entire First Federal Division and every member, our personal thanks to you for all your wonderful work in making this happen.

The Union Pacific RR is now a confirmed and proud partner of the Blue Gray Alliance for the Shiloh Event in March/April 2012. The UP folks treated us in the highest regard and has gone above and beyond all expectations that any of us could imagine. Their personal treatment made us feel extremely comfortable and honored to be their guest and especially to have been selected to be a partner with this most amazing and outstanding Corporations.

Here is the latest update that I can pass on to all of you. We are still working on logistics for this "once in a lifetime" adventure and will forward final arrangements to you as soon as they are available. I am hoping this will give you enough basic information for the moment and in time for you to begin preparations for the event of the cycle that each of you should be thrilled about. We can accommodate 325 passengers only and will be served on a first come first serve selection. WE think we have room for perhaps 6 to 8 Cannons on the flat cars. Your gear can be placed in a secure box type car or you can send it along with your ride home.

The artillery pieces that wish to be carried on the special flatbed car will still load in Omaha on Monday March 26, 2012 and should be at the Rail site on Sunday prior.

The train and THIRTEEN CARS will then leave for the first leg and stop in Kansas City MO. and will

arrive at the station on Tuesday morning where the first soldiers and civilians in proper period attire will board for the journey South. It will stop in Jefferson city where we will load additional folks as well as a short ceremony of which we will be involved in along with much press coverage. The next stop will be in St. Louis Tuesday afternoon where we will continue taking on soldiers and civilians and we will spend the night here. You can sleep on the train, throw your bed rolls on the ground at the station or locate a hotel, whichever suits your wishes best.

Wednesday AM the train will depart for Memphis where we are working on transportation from the terminal to the event site as well as food for all of you who attend the ride. This is the first time in 150 years that troops will travel in period attire from the far West to the battle of Shiloh or any other battle. History is being made again for you.

At the same time, our WIG friends are attempting to gain access to an additional paddle wheel boat to accommodate more troops as they have already filled their quota for the first one. More information and updates will be announced on this as well. I am sure that all of you have checked the web site by now and also know that we have signed a contract with the folks who will be setting up the CSS Hunley at the site for all of our folks to view at NO CHARGE.

We have also contracted for an additional 320 acres which is added to the nearly 2000 acres we already have for this amazing expedition.

So, To recap this, The Shiloh event will have troops coming from the West by train, troops coming from the North by paddle wheel boat, the CSS Hunley will be on site, over 2000 acres next to the ORIGINAL BATTLEFIELD AND !!!!!!!!! This site in on the actual field known as "The Fallen Timbers" This piece of land is where Sherman was nearly captured and where Nathan Bedford Forrest received his first serious wound from a Federal infantryman from the 77th Ohio at point blank range.... Who knows, you may be fighting on that very spot???? Discussion are now underway with the Civil War Battlefield Preservation folks as this letter is being written to help save and preserve this site forever...

In closing, please remember that this train ride is ONE WAY and you will need to make your own arrangements for a ride home from the event. Also, This is a vintage train and is the oldest engine and cars in existence that are still operating. While it is not period it is and will be a thrill.. Here are a few pictures so you can get a feel of how this will be.

B.G. Terry Crowder, First Federal Division

3rd US Roster Assignments 2011

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
Company Clerk	Boling, Roger	1st. Sgt.	Provisioner	Faubel, Carolyn	1st. Sgt.

Gun/Team 1

Chief of Piece	Alto, Scott	Captain
Gun Cpl		Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Ahrenholz, Ray	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Dunne, Cary	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Faubel, Bethany	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Gillich, John	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Lemasters, Michael	Gun Sgt.

Team Corporal

Driver	Berry, Mike	Team Cpl.
Driver	Bricklin, Nathan	Team Cpl.
Driver	Faubel, Loreleigh	Team Cpl.
Driver	Fischer, Pete	Team Cpl.
Driver	Horton, Jim	Team Cpl.
Driver	Miljevich, Ted	Team Cpl.

Gun/Team 4

Chief of Piece	Thompson, Terry	1st. Sgt.
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Artificers

Chief Artificer	Griffith, Loren	1st. Sgt.
Artificer	Faubel, Tristan	Chief Art.
Artificer	Johnson, Dave	Chief Art.
Artificer	Lee, Robert	Chief Art.
Artificer	Weston, Mark	Chief Art.

Signal Corps.

Ken Dombroski

Supporting

Laura Cohan
Margaret Davis
Sarah Rah

Gun/Team 2

Chief of Piece	Duncan, George	1st. Sgt.
Gun Cpl	Boyd, John	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Birkelbach, Ryan	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Brady, Christopher	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Brady, James	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Ebert, Bob	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Entriken, William	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Keeton, James	Gun Sgt.
Cannoneer	Neikirk, Janice	Gun Sgt.

Team Corporal

Driver	Brady, Caitlin	Team Cpl.
Driver	Brady, Ellie	Team Cpl.
Driver	Creager, Mike	Team Cpl.
Driver	Neikirk, Garth	Team Cpl.
Driver	Thompson, Karla	Team Cpl.
Driver	Ruther, Justin	Team Cpl.
Driver	Wagner, Heidi	Team Cpl.

Unassigned

Unassigned	Amari, Gary	1st. Sgt.
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	Ginos, Steve	Team Cpl.
Unassigned	Hawkins, Bill	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Johnson, William	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Justiniano, Joe	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Langman, Chip	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Lewis, Thom	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Maciver, Al	Team Cpl.
Unassigned	Macy, Mary Kay	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Martinez, Thomas	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Moretti, Scott	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Rogers, Keith	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Rogers, Laurie	1st. Sgt.
Unassigned	Sims, Ed	1st. Sgt.

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Our Care Code: **chas**



Schedule of Events

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

2011

August

August 5 - 6 143rd Field Artillery Change of Command, Camp Roberts, 1 gun.
Contact TBA

September

Sept. 3 - 5 Twelfth Annual Gold Rush Days. Old Sacramento. CHAS living history & encampment. 1 team/gun, support unit. \$\$\$. Rotating attendance needed.
Contact TBD.

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

October

Oct. 22 - 23 Kearny Park, Fresno. FHS Invitational. Battles & encampment . 2 guns, support units. School Day Friday.
Contact Scott Foster.

November

Nov 4 - 5 Bass Bowl Football Game. 1 team & gun.
Contact Alan Ginos.

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!*

2012

March

March 31 - April 1 SCCWA Battles & Encampment.
Prado Reg, Park, Chino.

June

June 30 - July 1 40th Mohawk Valley Independence Day Celebration. Graeagle, CA.
CCWR Battles & Encampment. \$\$.
Contact Alan Ginos.

July

July 14 - 15 **Civil War Days at Duncans Mills.**
CHAS Invitational. Battles & encamp. 2 teams, guns & support. \$\$\$\$.
Maximum effort Contact Ted Miljevich.



http://www.cafepress.com/chas_sutler



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



\$15.00



\$5.00



\$15.00

For t-shirts, hats, etc contact Donna Schulken
dschulken@earthlink.net

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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>

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than **August 24, 2011**