

# AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY



## Company Dispatch

Official Newsletter of the American Civil War Society

American Civil War Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of our history for future generations.

**Signed editorials and letters are the views of the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the American Civil War Society.**

**September-October 2013**



## ACWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Dave Grimsrud  
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Newsletter Editor – Michael Akkerman  
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### Federal/Union Division:

**Division Commander:** Col. Ken Dacey

**Adjutant:** Capt. Dave Bolin

**Division Sgt. Major:** Michael Quinlan (Degregorio)

**Infantry Battalion Cdr.:** **VACANT**

**Artillery Brigade Cdr.:** Major Gary Wear

**Division Chaplain:** Rich Holt and Anthony Delgadillo

**Cavalry:** **VACANT**

### Confederate Division:

**Division Commander:** Col. James R. Tebbetts

**Division Adjutant General:** Capt. Dave Grimsrud

**Division Sgt Major/Provost:** **Vacant**

**Division Clerk:** Sgt. Jay Stilson

### Confederate Brigade Staff:

**Infantry Brigade Commander:** Major James M. Style

**Infantry Brigade Adjutant:** **VACANT**

**Infantry Brigade Sgt. Major:** Sgt. Major Ray Daniel

**Cavalry Brigade Commander:** Major Scott Peca

**Cavalry Brigade Adjutant:** Capt. John Riddler

**Cavalry Brigade Sgt. Major:** **VACANT**

**Artillery Brigade Commander:** Major Mike Collins

**Artillery Brigade Adjutant:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jose Justiniano, Jr

**Artillery Brigade Sgt. Major:**

## Editor's Note:

If you have an interesting story to share please send it to me at [gaman249@verizon.net](mailto:gaman249@verizon.net) . I hope to hear from you at the upcoming events. Have fun, be safe, and love one another. Remember, ACWS is **people** and **pet friendly** (yes, your dogs are welcome). I want to thank everyone who has come out to our events, and all of our new members who have joined ACWS so far this year.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!

New and Returning Members	
Brandon	Abraham
Bradford T.	Bowlin
Debra	Bowlin
Bonnie L.	Smith
Ian	Wagner
Austin	Steedman
Cathy	Wagner

I want to mention those folks in our group who have or will be celebrating a birthday in the months of May and June. Please join me and the ACWS Board in wishing them all a **Happy Birthday**.

September	
Wendy	Atkins
Crystal I	Bilyeu
Frank	Botello
Claude	Bangs
Doug	Carroll
Megan	Horan
Almaz	Holt
Julia	Melendrez
Anne	Knighten
Leleste	Kartley
Bobbe	Jacobs
Bonita	Mead
Gary T.	MacCleverty
Robert	MacMillan
Michael	Holton
Joshua	Ontiveros
Randy	Pike
Adrianna	Perez
Jeffrey Edward	Quessenberry
Bobby	Riggs
Daniel	Sawyer
Carlos	Silveira
Mark	Sais
Rebecca	Thelin
Daniel	Tuziak
Tom	Urquidez
Ken	Wagner
Charlette	Wright
Robert Jr.	Zoch

October	
Thomas	Atkins
Larry L.	Bilyeu
Bradford T.	Bowlin
David	Bolin
Jesse	Canales
William T.	Coates
Michael	Collins
Barbara	Collins
Janet	DeNubilo
Jesse	Guerra
Debbie	Gulledge
Gloria	Harroun
David	Hunter-Inman
Daniel	Hogan
Dale	Jacobs
Laurie	Norton
Jeremy	Lundberg
Ernest L.	Powell
Linda	Stilson
Donnalee	Simmons
James M.	Stytle
Cherie	Tinsley
Jasmine	Garcia
Ian	Wagner
Cathy	Wagner
Brian	Walker

## ❧ A Word or Two From the PRESIDENT ❧

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that in my opinion memberships would drop after Gettysburg's 150th anniversary. A few members emailed me about finding a way to stay active. It's nice to know my column is read, and I have asked David Creighton to write information about the Union's Invalid Corps, and James Tebbetts to write about a proposed Home Guard for the Confederates. I hope anyone considering options about staying active in the hobby will find the information useful.

Karen and Laurie, the ladies that coordinate the Civilian Corp have tendered their resignations. We are sorry to see them leave, but ill health forced them to make some tough decisions. Both want to remain active in the ACWS, and we wish them our best. Their enthusiasm will be missed, so please anyone willing to volunteer, we need your help.

On Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, I logged on in the morning and was hit with the sad news of Shawn Stidger's passing, after a gallant 4-year battle with brain cancer. Shawn was very active in the reenacting hobby and active in the ACWS. I only knew him a few months before he became ill, but he was an instant friend to all. The family could really use some support so we are looking into setting up a memorial fund so people can donate. I think this is the quickest and most direct method. Once the fund is arranged we will have more information. Please, if you can give anything the family is really in need. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. At the request of the family we will have a memorial service at Calico.

Regards,

David Grimsrud

## ❧ A Word or Two From the Vice-PRESIDENT ❧



From the Vice President  
August 2013

Greetings to all my fellow living historians and reenactors.

This past weekend found us all once again engaged in our hobby and amongst all our comrades. As I speak for my Marine Detachment, I can assure you all present enjoyed the entire weekend back under the canvas and on the field.

On the Union side, and in camp it was very pleasant to share the ground with all the units in Dacey's 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade, representing the ACWS en masse. To my knowledge there were no safety violators and no major heat casualties needing more than immediate attention on the company level. BRAVO! This means our leadership in the Senior NCO and junior officer ranks are doing what they need to as safety officers. Congratulations to you all. The humidity was close to intolerable at times, but please be assured it was very accurate for the actual fields back east we aspire to represent out here in Southern

California.

Next up for most is the Spring Mountain event in Nevada. I think it's wonderful how our organization can spread across more than one state and I hope to get out there from San Diego. A few weeks later near Corona will be the new event at Tom's Farm the Columbus Day weekend in October. That same weekend for some and for others will be living history events in Poway and Mountain Man life as well.

The year will be over before you know it, so too will our campaigning. Before it is, enjoy as much as possible. If along the way you have ideas for events or suggestions, pass them along to the BOD and we

can do our best to make this hobby more enjoyable all around. Our next meeting is in October, so there is time to communicate to us any issues you may have.

Before Christmas comes we hope to meet one last time this year to celebrate our season and our friendship with each other. Much like our tree trimming and caroling venture at Vail Lake, we'd like to have the society meet for a similar event this year. Please contact us to share ideas so this can be more enjoyable for all hands.

As before, I do appreciate the cooperation of our membership in my campaign to de-farb our camp lighting situations and other areas of period correctness. I know the Union Sgt Maj has address the practice of military courtesies before, so please do not let up in those small areas that make a difference for not only the public, but we reenactors immersing ourselves in the period.

With the school year beginning, perhaps you may be in touch with educators wishing for that special touch of what we can provide in living history instruction. Again, let us know! I look forward to seeing you all soon, at one event or another and of course, through Facebook.

Fondest greetings to you all and Semper Fidelis,  
Gunny Ken  
Kenneth J. Serfass

General Grant, Capt. of Marines and Bandmaster of the Antebellum Marine Band  
GySgt USMC (ret.)  
More Photos at the end of this newsletter:

## 🏰 **MILITARY DISPATCHES** 🏰

### 🌀 **CONFEDERATE DIVISION** 🌀

James R Tebbetts, Col., ACWS Confederate Command  
No Report was submitted for this Newsletter's press time.

### 🌀 **UNION DIVISION** 🌀

Col. Kenneth Dacey, Commander, ACWS Union Division  
No Report was submitted for this Newsletter's press time.

### 🌀 **Civilian Directors' Report** 🌀

No Report was submitted for this Newsletter's press times.

**Civilian Coordinators seats are vacant at present time.**

## ❧ Membership Director's Report ❧

As summer is winding down, we start looking ahead to the cooler temperatures of fall when corsets and wool uniforms feel much more comfortable. We also start looking ahead to a new membership year. The membership drive for 2014 begins November 1, and your ACWS Board does not plan at this time to have an increase in membership fees. However, for those who want the newsletter printed and mailed, **the fee will increase to \$7** in order to meet the increases in postage and paper. Dues for new members who join after October 31 will be applied to 2014.

The Old Poway Park Mountain Man event is coming up on October 11-13. If you have never been there, the park is lovely with trees, grass, and a small stream, and our participation could be the 'doorway' to having a "School of the Soldier/Civilian" event there next year. You were twice sent either an email or snail mail with registration materials, and as the ACWS liaison I ask that you return the completed forms to me as soon as possible if you plan to attend. I need to be able to tell the event coordinator how many of our members will participate and the space needed to accommodate us. Please return the paperwork to me by October 7, and let me know how much space you need for your camp site. My address is 20170 Ross Rd., Wildomar, CA 92595.

For the next newsletter, I'd like to know what is your favorite 19<sup>th</sup> century fall or winter holiday tradition, be it American, Victorian, Irish, or other culture. Send your responses to me by October 31 so we can all see how the best reenactors around celebrate the season!

Best regards,

Michele Akkerman  
Membership Director  
[micowl@aol.com](mailto:micowl@aol.com)  
951-678-8979

*Have a Festive Fall  
and a Happy Halloween!!*



## The Swamp Angel – By the Numbers

As the siege of Charleston, SC, dragged on during the summer of 1863, Union commanders explored a number of options they hoped would help them finally conquer the cradle city of the Southern rebellion. Perhaps the most novel effort was the brainchild of Col. Edward Serrell of the 1<sup>st</sup> NY Engineers. Shortly after the Federals' unsuccessful assault on Battery Wagner in July, Serrell spent 17 days exploring the marshy swampland between Morris and James islands, looking for a patch of ground solid enough to hold an artillery batter that could pummel heavily fortified Charleston from afar.

Serrell's creation, dubbed the "Swamp Angel" by a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, was a modified **200** pounder, 8-inch Parrott rifle weighing **16,500** pounds, requiring a **20**-pound powder charge to fire a round directly into Charleston, more than 4 ½ miles away. Pilings to hold the gun, gun crew and platform had to be dug **20** feet into the muck. In all, **307** tons of timber and **28** tons of lumber were used to construct the battery, with its foundation and gun deck capable of supporting **513** and **123** pounds per square inch, respectively; the gun and carriage alone weighed **24,000** pounds. A trestle road 2 ½ miles long and two to four feet wide was laid to reach the batter, and **2,300** men helped to carry **13,000** sandbags weighing **812** tons. The gun's first shot was fired at 1:30 a.m. on August 22. The following day, however, the barrel exploded as it fired its 36<sup>th</sup> round, permanently knocking the Swamp Angel out of commission.

## Rebel Flags On the High Seas

Before radio, naval vessels relied on flags to identify themselves and signal their intentions at sea and in port, as well as relay critical information to other ships. The US Navy used a unique signal-flag system to relay its coded messages, and Confederate commanders – most of them former Union bluejackets who had resigned their commissions – basically copied that system when the South's Navy was established in March 1861. Union Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles kept a personal collection of captured Confederate banners after the war, and were recently displayed in at exhibit at the Mariners' Museum in Hampton Roads, VA.



The South never had the natural resources and shipyards enjoyed by the North, but its fleet proved to be a resilient foe of the larger Union Navy. Included in the Confederate pantheon of ships that struck fear and panic in Northern sailors were CSS *Alabama*, CSS *Florida*, CSS *Shenandoah* and the ironclad CSS *Virginia*. In addition, the important ports of Wilmington, SC, and Mobile, ALA – key supply points through the Union blockade – stayed in Southern hands until late in the war. The South's "Brown Water Navy" was also effective in wreaking havoc on the Federals on inland rivers such as the Mississippi and Tennessee.

Rebel blockade runners, though not officially sanctioned by the Confederate Navy, played a key role in circumventing the Union blockade. These renegade vessels would sometimes fly foreign flags while at sea to fool crews of Union warships

into thinking the vessel was a friendly ship on a routine commerce mission. In addition, ships flew a foreign flag as a sign of courtesy to a foreign government while in one of that country's ports.

(Both articles are from Civil War Times, August 2013)

### Webs Sites and New Publications

"Voices From the Past: Civil War Soldiers' Letter and Diaries," hosted by the Indiana Magazine of History, shares article-length full transcriptions of wartime letter and diaries of Union soldiers from Western regiments, usually from Indiana and Kentucky, that previously appeared in the magazine. But in perusing nearly 60 publications, site visitors can learn in which regiment a man served and his length of service, and read an abstract of the article along with excerpts of some of the best material. Then users can click on "article" to read the full transcription and editorial commentary.

These are fascinating: detailed descriptions of the fighting at Antietam, Stones River, Gettysburg and elsewhere. Some of the men are impressed with African-American Union soldiers, while others are disgusted by emancipation and the sense of equality that they fear black military service promotes. In one case a 14-year-old boy describes the burning of Columbia, SC, while in another a man writes home about the discovery of a female soldier in their ranks. There are brutal descriptions of Union soldiers killing Confederate prisoners, Confederates killing civilians and a father explaining to his young son how the soldiers will shoot or "cut Secessionists head off."

Readers may want to click on the link at the top of the home page, "Complete List of Site Contents," to browse through the abstracts before diving into the sources. The site address is [www.indiana.edu/~imaghist/online\\_content/vcsfrmpst/voices\\_cvlwr/index.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~imaghist/online_content/vcsfrmpst/voices_cvlwr/index.html)



The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War (University of Oklahoma Press) is a book written by Clarissa W. Confer about the Five Civilized Tribes' involvement in the Civil War after decades of tensions with the US government. Two factors lay behind the Cherokees' decision to fight for the Confederacy. First and foremost were memories of the "Trail of Tears," the Cherokees' forced removal from Georgia to Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma; second was the fact that they owned some 4,000 slaves. Initially Chief John Ross tried to remain neutral, but the Lincoln administration left him little choice but to side with the South: the government stopped paying tribal annuities in 1861. Meanwhile, Richmond had already organized

a Bureau of Indian Affairs. Albert Pike and Brig. General Ben McCulloch established relations with the Cherokees, and the South offered them the right to participate in its legislature.

This is an important book on an overlooked topic that still influences us today. The conflict had disastrous consequences for those who fought for the South. But in the end, Brig. Gen. Stand Watie's standing as the last Rebel general to surrender says something about the Native American soldiers.

(reviewed by Thomas Zacharis in Civil War Times)

**MEMBERS**—The ACWS is a non-profit corporation, and as a volunteer your expenses are tax deductible. Expenses include food, equipment, clothing, and mileage when traveling to events. So, remember to save your receipts and document your travel mileage in order to claim them as a tax deduction when filing your income tax returns.

**Additional organizations and links of interest:**

- PACWR: <http://www.pacwr.org/events.htm>
- Fort Tejon: <http://www.forttejon.org>
- NCWA [www.ncwa.org](http://www.ncwa.org)
- SWCWA <http://www.swcwa.com>
- We Are History: <http://www.americanheritagefestival.com/ACWS>
- The History Channel Club: [www.historychannelclub.com](http://www.historychannelclub.com)

**ACWS 2013 Calendar of Events**

Date	Event Name	Sponsor	Sponsored or Supported	Location
September 21-22	Drum Barracks Living History	Drum Brks	Supported	Wilmington, CA
October 5-6	Helendale	ACWS	Sponsored	Helendale, CA
<b>October 10-13</b>	<b>New Event</b> Rendezvous at Poway Park	City of Poway	<b>Supported</b>	<b>Poway, CA</b>
Oct 26-27	Spring Mountain Ranch	ACWS/SNLHA	Sponsored	Las Vegas, NV
December 7-8	Drum Barracks Christmas Theme Event	Drum Brks	Supported	Wilmington, CA
December 14-15	Vail Lake	ACWS	Sponsored	Temecula, CA
January 2014	15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Live Fire Invitational	IVLHA/ACWS	Sponsored	Seeley CA
October 2014	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nevada Statehood	ACWS/SNLHA	Sponsored	SMR, NV

Dates subject to change, but not more than a week or so.

**\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Ad Space For Sale \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$**

If you are a vendor and want to reach every ACWS member 6 times a year and not just at an event, then this could be a cost effective place for you.

You provide the copy and pictures you wish to display. We will be selling space based on the size of your ad and the number of times you run it. You may buy a 1/8, 1/4, 1/2 or even a full page and change the copy each cycle of the newsletter. All art and copy must be sent to the Editor 45 days before the edition in which you want it to be published. Your check for the run of your ad must be received 30 days before the first cycle of the newsletter in which you want it to be published. The editor reserves the right to refuse all or part of an ad, and you will be notified of changes to or if your ad is rejected for publishing.

Advertising fees as of 10/1/2013

Frequency	Full Page Cost/Issue	Half Page Cost/Issue	Quarter Page Cost/Issue	Eighth Page Cost/Issue
1 Issue	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.00
2 - 5 Issues	\$ 30.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 15.00
Year - 6 Issues	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00

For Members wanting to place non-commercial “Want Ads” or “For Sale” ads, there is no charge. Be sure to include a description of the item, sale price, and contact information. So if you have any equipment or clothing that is not being used and is taking up space for new items, take this opportunity to let members know that you have something to sell.

**\*\*\*\*\* FOR SALE by MEMBER \*\*\*\*\***

I am selling the following tent:

20' x 24' Panther Primatives Wall Tent

6' Wall for Tent

Medium Green Braid on Standard Scallops

20'x24' Sod Cloth

12'x20' Ground Cloth

Set Up Package for 20'x24' Tent. This includes all poles, ropes, stakes, etc.

Bought in 12/2004 and setup 4 - 5 times

Price \$900.00 if you come to San Diego and provide the muscle. Up to \$1200.00 if I deliver and provide the muscle. Deliveries will only be made within Southern California (San Diego, Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernandino to Barstow and Los Angeles Counties.)

Email me at [dtdelgadillo@gmail.com](mailto:dtdelgadillo@gmail.com)

or call (619) 838-3272 - leave a message

David Delgadillo