

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY



Hallowed Ground 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.

January-Feubuary 2014



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Editor's Note:

If you have an interesting story to share please send it to me at qaman249@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 past year.

North vs. South on New Year's Day, 1864

Thomas Nast, for *Harper's Weekly*



As you can see this is from January 1, 1864, showing the disparity of the conditions in the North and South. Let there be an end to this conflict, and bring all our boys home!

I want to mention those folks who have or will be celebrating a birthday in the months of January and February. To the troops listed, let's hope they have a safe new year, to the other family members at home, keep the faith and pray all the men and boys come home soon! Please join me and the ACWS Board in wishing them all a

Happy Birthday!

January		February	
Rudy	Aguilar	Michael	Akkerman
Chris	Becker	Zachary	Becker
Bernie	Cooper	Debra	Bowlin
Nathan	Creighton	Brett	Blansett
Dorothy Jane	DeBeaumont	Price	Carson
Danielle	Daniel	Sabrina	Codding
Ryan	Dompier	Tony	Delgadillo
Devin J.	Humphries	Lee	Diaz
Anthony	Melendrez	Craig	Frangenie
Tristen	Melendrez	Melody	Gibbons
Gary	Iverson	Scott	Hill
Jeremy A.	Lutu	Colleen	Hoffmann
Albert E	Nunn	Terence	Jenkins
Kathy	Nunn	Karen	Norquist
Barbara	Nobles	Irma	Perez
Briana	Quessenberry	Michelle	Pamplin
Todd	Tinsley	John E.	Quessenberry
Diana	Tuseth	Sergio F.	Valdovinos
Brian	Wiswell	Darren	Wiswell
Kyle	Walker	Amanda	Creighton
		Gary L.	Wear

♪A Word or Two From the PRESIDENT♪

As 2013 passes into history and 2014 opens a new page, I'm sure many of you are filling out the membership form and writing that check. I'd like to pause just a bit and ask you to think about the ACWS, what it does, and your part in it. Membership means something-- it means you have a voice, a say in things. If you have a thought, a comment, praise, or even a criticism, please use your voice and let us know. The ACWS should be a member-driven organization, with the board doing and working for its members. We are lucky here in Southern California that we have events almost year-round, starting with the Live Fire in January, and our first ACWS event is Calico in February. Our year ended in December with the Christmas Party (more on that in a separate column). Calico has changed a few things and asked us for a few adjustments, so if you are coming to Calico please read this. First, we get 10 RV campsites; however this year they may not be the same sites as in years past. Please contact me for an RV campsite. Those that had sites in past years will get first assignments, and these will be made based on the size of your rig; this is the best way to accommodate everyone. Calico will have a list of those getting RV sites. Last year a few people that had to leave early pulled their vehicles into the Town. I caught a lot of flak for this, so this year, **absolutely no vehicles in the Town during public hours**. If you need to leave early please do it before the Town opens, and if you need help packing just ask and I'm sure we can assist. Another concern of Calico's is the low numbers of participants for the battles on Monday. I know some cannot stay all 3 days as they don't get President's Day off; modern life interferes with the hobby. The Board has a meeting planned January 11, and we will discuss incentives for those that can stay, such as an extra raffle ticket, and maybe a hot breakfast instead of the box lunch. Again, if you have an opinion please let us know. And to everyone a Happy and Prosperous 2014.

Regards,

David Grimsrud

❧A Word or Two From the Vice-PRESIDENT❧



December 2013

Season's greetings to all my fellow living historians and reenactors! It is the season of giving and peace, so it's fitting that we come to a period of silence in the lines and across that clear, open space on the field. Winter camps are being made as comfortable as possible, and no doubt the pickets are sharing coffee and "baccy" at every opportunity when out of sight of sergeants and officers.

An important piece of business as the year ends is to renew your membership in the ACWS, so why not take the initiative now to do that before you read any further in the newsletter?

For most Americans, and particularly those in uniform, home and hearth were and are the closest thoughts this time of year. So many of our thoughts and energy turn toward home and family at this time of year, and our ancestors whom we honor all year were no

different in that regard. A great number of our modern Christmas season traditions can be directly traced to the Victorian era and the Civil War period in general.

Our party at Calico Ghost Town on December 14 was a very nice way to reconnect with those traditions and celebrate together. Blue and Gray declared a truce and the men came together as Americans with their ladies and children to break bread and celebrate the season.

A chicken dinner was provided by the Calico restaurant, and the Antebellum Marine Band's brass quintet had the honor to provide carols to set the mood. After dinner, the guests joined in voice for some caroling fun which soon gave way to a wonderful rendition of Clement C. Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas" recited by Michele Akkerman for the children. It wasn't long after that the jolly old elf himself made his way through the picket lines and brought good cheer and small gifts for the children present. A final carol by all, "Silent Night", closed the evening and I'm pretty sure all left filled with the Christmas spirit we musicians strive to provide by our music.

We will all enjoy our pause to embrace family and rest and refit. While we do that, we can take a little time to do some reading perhaps and some research into ways to improve individual and unit impressions for the coming season.

We have a few more weeks before we kick off the season and the sesquicentennial of 1864 to be honored. Your Board of Directors will be meeting mid-month to plan and revise things in our society, so please let us know your likes, dislikes and concerns so we can better serve you and make this hobby more enjoyable.

Efforts are expected by all to make impressions more complete and at a minimum, visibly passable down to the 20 paces to which we often refer. Units must be prepared to step up the level of accuracy a bit and I ask your enthusiastic participation in this. We do need to focus on more honest impressions and shake off modern notions of dress, grooming and make up when we present ourselves to the public. Age verification is a safety concern, and we will expect complete cooperation in efforts to verify as such.

Females appearing as male combatants should take a moment to accept they are assuming a character as a man, and play along in that mindset. It's far too easy to fall back on suggesting a company or even a squad of vivandieres or other types of specialty troops that were part of the war, but not in any large numbers or gatherings as a convenient way to avoid a more honest and proper impression.

Many of our members take passionate pride in their impressions, and it's a sign of respect for this that ALL our membership should apply that same level of attention to detail in their personas. I promise you that if you take that to heart, your experience will be more fulfilling and rewarding. If cutting corners becomes the accepted norm to keep membership, then perhaps those that do are not the right fit for an organization dedicated to preserving and educating on true history. If this offends, then take a moment and ask yourself who is joining whom? Are you joining a historical organization or do you expect the history organization to be joining you?

To date I have not presented my documentation on the Marine Band or a Mar Det of the Wabash, but I intend to correct this at our next BOD meeting. I hope this will set the proper example for other units to follow.

Our society has let some things slide in that and some other areas in past years and unit commanders will be asked to take charge of this and especially in making impressions more believable and acceptable. Documentation is the key to setting you free in your impressions, so if you can find a reasonable source, that is a great reference toward a more accurate impression and more satisfaction in honoring our past.

I am already eager for our new season to begin at Calico Ghost Town in February and all the new year will offer.

As I wished for you all a Merry Christmas, so again do I wish to you all the very happiest and prosperous of new years!

Fondest greetings and Semper Fidelis,

Gunny Ken

Kenneth J. Serfass

General Grant, Capt. of Marines and Bandmaster of the Antebellum Marine Band

GySgt USMC (ret.)

¤ MILITARY DISPATCHES ¤

¤ CONFEDERATE DIVISION ¤

From: James R Tebbetts, Col,
ACWS Confederate Command
To: Readers Members of the Confederate Command
Date: December 31, 1863 (+150 years)
Subject: Confederate Command Report

Winter And Spring Activities - We now come to the end of the reenacting year. Next month is the Live Fire and a Living History in Yuma, AZ. Many units are holding their meetings for election of Officers and NCO's. Hope to see you at one or more of the events coming up this spring.

Calico Raffle Tickets - Here is a listing of eligible members and tickets earned for the 2013 ACWS reenacting year. This is correct as of December 10, 2013. IF you are missing, attended more events (you get one ticket per day), or whatever, have your 1st Sergeant/Company Commander send in an amended morning report showing names, event attended, days attended, etc.

10th VA - Busic, Gary A. - 6; Busic, Collette - 2; Doyle, Tom - 2; Magwood, Richard - 2; Snow, Jacob - 4;

17th VA - Jacobs, Dale - 3;

2nd KY - Gulledge, Rodger - 4; Peca, Scott - 4; Quessenberry, John E. - 2; Quessenberry, Christopher - 2; Webb, Andy - 4;

4th TX - Barth, Michael - 2; Cosner, Joseph - 2; Elkins, Scott - 2; Hill, Raymond William - 2; Eggert, Robert - 4;



8th AL - Harriott, Keith 2;

8th LA, E - Atkins, Tom - 11; Becker, Zachary - 2; Daniel, Ray - 7; Felix, Nathan - 2; Hopper, Edward - 3; Stytle, James M. - 5;

8th LA, F - Hopper, Luke - 3; Mussenden, Alexander - 6; Nielsen, Brad - 2; Nielsen, Conner - 2;

Washington Artillery - Carroll, Doug - 5; Carson, Price - 2; Collins, Michael - 5; Cronin, Joshua - 3; DeNubilo, Paul - 3; Ricker, Chris L - 3; Shockey, Steve - 3; Stilson, Jay - 2; Stilson, Scott - 2;

Remember, per Confederate command policy, one can earn a ticket for each day at an ACWS Sponsored Event (Calico, St. Cat's, Fairview Park, Helendale, Spring Mountain, etc) or supported (Prado, Ft Tejon Invitational, Huntington Beach, etc.).

From the Battalion Commanders:

Major Jim Stytle - I'd like to see a maximum turnout of members of the Confederacy. Besides being a three day event, there will be some free meals, free dancing, good battles, and the like. Additionally, we will be having a Memorial Service for Jonathan Stidger Saturday Afternoon.

Major Mike Collins - No report

Lt Col Scott Peca - No report

All Battalion commanders ask that all company commanders poll their troops and let them know of your attendees. This so we can plan for camp sites, food needs and the like.

PAST EVENTS - Christmas Party - Calico - I did not make it--one of the horses on the carriage had a limp, but heard it was a good turnout and fun event. I would hope one of the other columnists writes about the event.

FUTURE EVENTS - A wide variety of activities are coming up in the local area for the next few months. Besides reenactments, there will be living histories, and live fire opportunities--a good variety of events one can take advantage of in the next few months.

Live Fire (Near Seeley, Ca - El Centro) - January 18-19, 2014 - Annual event. Monday is MLK day so most all of us have a day off to drive back.

Yuma, Az Quartermaster Quarters living history event - January 25-26

Calico - February 15-17, 2014 - Annual event. For those eligible with tickets for the annual raffle, we will be drawing tickets Sunday afternoon after 2nd battle. Winner need not be present. We will also be honoring Shawn Stidger with a memorial ceremony Saturday afternoon. I would like all the Confederates to wear a black armband for

the ceremony. For you cheap people out there, I will be getting some black cloth for armbands for you, but may not have enough for all of you, so go and buy your own. IF you can swing it, try and stay over for Monday. Many of us have the day off. The ACWS is working on a couple of enticements, like a Monday-only raffle, or a free meal.

Battalion of the Common Soldier (Cherry Valley) - Moved to February 22-23, 2014 - UAOV Infantry Brigade Command in conjunction with the Battalion of the Common Soldier will be hosting a Camp of Instruction School of the Infantry at Mile High Cherry Ranch in Cherry Valley, CA (near Riley's Farm, just over the hill). You and your Company are invited to attend. Over these 2 days we will cover the topics (among others) such as: School of the Soldier, School of the Company, School of the Battalion, School of the Officer, School of the Color Guard, etc. Cost will be minimal to

cover any amenities and will be determined. Camp setup can begin in the afternoon of Friday Feb. 21. A more detailed schedule and directions to the site will be forth coming in a later communiqué. If you are interested please respond and give suggestions as to the amenities you would like to see; the fewer these are, the lower the cost per person. From Lt. Col. Gary A. Busic (lewis.gunner@verizon.net)

150th Events - Next 'big' one it will be Spotsylvania/Wilderness in April/May of 2014. Not sure if a group is going from South California, but if you are interested in attending, I have an infantry unit you can fall in with back there. Let me know. Possible second choice would be Cedar Creek, in October 2014. Super long range is Appomattox in April 2015. For those with a Louisiana leaning, November 2014 is the 150th Anniversary of the Capture of Camp Moore.



A couple of residents of Calico

8TH LOUISIANA, COMPANIES E (FRANKLIN SHARP SHOOTERS) AND F (OPELOUSAS GUARDS)

The 8th Louisiana Infantry was organized in June 1861 at Camp Moore, Louisiana, approximately 80 miles north of New Orleans. The 8th Louisiana Civil War reenactment unit in California is made up of two companies,



Companies E and F. The first of these companies, Company E, Franklin Sharpshooters, came from a rural area north of Baton Rouge called Franklin Parish. The men were mostly farmers and townsmen. The second of these companies, Company F, Opelousas Guards, hail from Saint Landry Parish, located northwesterly of New Orleans. These men had similar background as those from Franklin Parish.

The 8th participated in all the major campaigns of the Army of Northern Virginia (ANV). First major actions were in the Shenandoah under General Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson. The 8th was part of all three of the 'invasions' of the Union in 1862, 1863, and 1864. The regiment surrendered

at Appomattox Court House, in April 1865, with a total of 57 officers and enlisted personnel. Of the 1,321 men enrolled in the regiment during the war, 252 were killed, 171 died of disease, two were murdered, one died in an accident, and about 80 deserted. As a side fact, the 8th Louisiana had the largest number of Scandinavians of all Louisiana units, and the third highest of all Confederate units.

Seen here is the flag of Company Co F. The local unit carries a reproduction of this flag. Co E was presented a flag. I have the news article, but a description of the flag is not found. At one time I had a picture of the regimental flag of the 8th, the one captured at Rappahannock Station in 1863, but seem to have misplaced it. The flag currently resides in Memorial Hall in New Orleans. The regimental flag carried at local events by the 8th is a reproduction of this flag.

Field Trip - In November I went to Camp Moore, Louisiana. I took a side trip to Fort DeRussy, Louisiana. Fort DeRussy is located four miles north of Marksville, Louisiana, and was a stronghold during the American Civil War, defending the lower Red River Valley. The fort was named for Colonel Lewis G. DeRussy, the oldest West Point graduate to serve in the Confederate Army. DeRussy, a prominent engineer in civilian life, was the engineering officer in charge of the construction of the first fortifications at the fort. The remains of the Colonel were exhumed from an abandoned grave and reinterred on the grounds of the fort on September 26, 1999. As a side note, Fort DeRussy located in Honolulu is named for Lewis' brother. He is also famous as being the oldest general in the US Army, being promoted to Brigadier General on his death bed at 97 years old.



Also on the site is a monument to the slaves that help build the fort. Yes, the slaves. It is the only monument to those in slavery that supported the Confederate war effort. There are a couple of quotes on the monument. One from General Richard Taylor noted how well the slaves were being treated. The second from an observer (sorry, misplaced his name) noted how well the slaves were not being treated.

The Battle of Fort De Russey was part of the Red River Campaign in the Civil War and took place in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. On March 12, 1864, Brigadier General A.J. Smith and Brigadier General Joseph Mower led their men towards Shreveport, Louisiana, which they wanted to capture. The Union troops sailed



down Berwick Bay and Bayou Teche with some difficulty because of obstructions Confederate forces placed there. Fort De Russey, however, blocked the Union advance, and was garrisoned with 350 Confederate soldiers. The fort also had a gun battery defended with iron armor in case of Union ironclad ships attacking them. The Union launched

a multi-purpose expedition into Rebel Gen. E. Kirby Smith's Trans-Mississippi Department, headquartered in Shreveport, Louisiana, in early 1864. Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks and Rear Adm. David D. Porter jointly commanded the combined force. Porter's fleet and Brig. Gen. A.J. Smith's XVI and XVII Army Corps detachments of the Army of the Tennessee set out on March 12, 1864, up the Red River, the most direct route to Shreveport. Banks, with the XIII and XIX Army Corps, advanced by way of Berwick Bay and Bayou Teche. After removing various obstructions that the Rebels had placed in the river, the major impediment to the Union expedition was the formidable Fort DeRussy, an earthen fortification with a partly iron-plated battery designed to resist the fire of Union ironclads that might come up river. Union Brig. Gen. A.J. Smith's command had embarked on transports at Vicksburg and then disembarked at Simmesport, on the 12th, about thirty miles from Fort DeRussy. Smith sent out some troops on the morning of the 13th to determine if any enemy was in their path. This force dispersed and chased an enemy brigade, after which Smith set his men in motion up the Fort DeRussy road. They did not proceed far before night. Early the next morning, March 14, they continued the march, discovering that a Confederate division threatened their advance. Mindful of this threat, Smith had to place part of his command in a position to intercept these Rebel forces if they attacked. Upon arriving at the fort, the enemy garrison of 350 men opened fire. Smith decided to use Mower's division, XVI Army Corps, to take the fort and set about positioning it for the attack. Around 6:30 pm, Smith ordered a charge on the fort and about twenty minutes later, Mower's men scaled the parapet, causing the enemy to surrender. Fort DeRussy, which some had said was impregnable, had fallen and the Red River to Alexandria was open.

❧ UNION DIVISION ❧

Col. Kenneth Dacey, Commander, ACWS Union Division

To the Ladies and Gentlemen of our Union Division.

I again wish to thank you all for your support in the past year. Without you, none of what we do can happen. As we enter the new year I would like for us all to work to make us better as an organization, in appearance and function.

If you have not already, please send in your membership paperwork as soon as possible to our membership director Michele Akkerman. Read her report on page 10 for deadlines in order to be in good standing for Calico. At that event on President's Weekend we will be located at the southern end of town. I would also like to see as many as possible stay for Monday, as this is a 3 day event.

If you have any questions about what we are doing, or have reasonable suggestions, please feel free to contact me!

Col Kenneth Dacey
Union Division Commander, ACWS

IMPORTANT NOTICE-- All members of the 71st PA are requested to contact Jason Coffey (jayce921@yahoo.com) and send him your addresses (postal and email) so that he may update his rosters and contact you with some important information.

❧ Civilian Director's Report ❧

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

The Civilian Coordinator's seat is vacant at present time. Please contact Dave Grimsrud if you are interested in filling this much needed position.

ACWS MEMBERSHIP REPORT ACWS

Happy New Year to all of you, and let's make 2014 the best ACWS year ever!! As I reported in the last newsletter, membership renewals for 2014 began on November 1. The envelopes have been arriving steadily, and new cards will be sent after January 10. Dues have remained affordable at \$20 for an individual (age 18 and over), \$30 for a family (two persons) and \$5 additional for each child under 18 years of age. The only increase is the fee for receiving a mailed copy of the newsletter; it is \$7 (up \$2) to offset the increase in the cost of postage, ink, and paper. Besides saving \$7, another advantage of using an email is that members receive important messages much sooner than snail mail. The Board encourages all members to be "green" and have the newsletter sent via email.

Returning members should resolve in 2014 to help increase membership by either recruiting new members or encouraging former/lapsed members to "re-up." The units of the 71st PA and 8th LA consistently lead other units in getting new recruits, and I challenge all units to meet or beat these efforts. What could also help with civilian recruits is a Civilian Director who would organize camp activities, the logistics of civilian encampments, and crowd control with the battles. Perhaps a civilian committee with delegated tasks could be organized, and that way one person would not have to be responsible for all civilian activities. All those who are interested can let me know and we could have a meeting to get started. Overseeing civilian activities is not restricted to the ladies – any interested civilian gentleman is welcome to participate.

Civil War Days at Calico is our first major event on **February 15-17, 2014**. As a reminder, this is what will be done regarding paying dues prior to the event and being able to participate:

1. For **renewing/new members**, I must receive the completed application and fees by **Wednesday, February 12** in order to prepare membership cards and a gate list to waive the park entry fee. Any applications not filled out completely/correctly will not be processed. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

2. For **invited units**, I must receive a list of those participating, along with signed release forms and all weekend fees, by **Wednesday, February 12** in order to prepare weekend passes and a gate list to waive the park entry fee. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

3. I will process renewals/new memberships/weekend passes for all participants (military and civilian) on Friday between 3 and 5 p.m., only with a fully completed application or liability release form, and fees in the **EXACT amount of cash, or a check**. On Saturday, I will accept renewals/new memberships/event passes for **combatant** participants between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. if they want to participate in the first battle, and payment must be **exact cash, or a check**.

4. Persons who wait until arriving at Calico to renew membership or buy a weekend pass will have to pay the park entry fee.

Military commanders need to remind their unit members of the advantage of renewing early, and should also pass on the above information to any invited units.

Your obedient servant,
Michele Akkerman
Membership Director
micowl@aol.com
951-678-8979

Civil War History

On Valentine's Day

This year Valentine's Day falls on a Friday, the day many of us will be arriving at Calico for our annual Presidents' Weekend event. Some of us will be able to celebrate with a romantic dinner (once camp gets set up), or give a present as a token of affection. What did our 19th century predecessors do to celebrate this holiday which honors love?

Valentine's Day had been celebrated in Europe for centuries, as both a religious and secular holiday. However, the real beginnings of Valentine's Day in the United States date to the 1800s and start with a woman named Esther Howland. Howland was a student at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts and she started making cards for the holiday after she received one made in England. Her father owned a stationary store and so she was able to sell them through him. Before long, the business grew into an empire and Esther was hiring friends to help her with the business, making Worcester Massachusetts the center of the Valentine's Day industry in the United States.

Esther was so successful that by the mid-1850s, everyone was sending Valentine's Day cards to each other and the editors of the New York Times had had enough of the whole business. They published an editorial on February 14, 1856 calling the practice costly and indecent and wondering why people needed to waste money on such a frivolous thing. The article read:

"Our beaux and belles are satisfied with a few miserable lines, neatly written upon fine paper, or else they purchase a printed Valentine with verses readymade, some of which are costly, and many of which are cheap and indecent. In any case, whether decent or indecent, they only please the silly and give the vicious an opportunity to develop their propensities, and place them, anonymously, before the comparatively virtuous. The custom with us has no useful feature, and the sooner it is abolished the better."

However, in spite of the complaints of the New York Times editor for Valentine's Day in the 1800s, the industry continued to grow. Even the Civil War couldn't stop it. People continued to send the missives to their loved ones and the industry became what it is today: A day of love for couples everywhere.

What kinds of gifts were given on Valentine's Day in the mid-19th century? Certainly flowers, especially roses, arranged in small bouquets called tussie-mussies were the most common. A scented handkerchief from a lady to her beloved man could be kept in a coat breast pocket. Love tokens made of silver were very popular, as were lockets containing hair of a loved one. And, of course, chocolate candies were made popular by the Whitman Company as a Valentine's Day gift. So, remember to gift your loved one with a special item deserving of his or her affection.



Love Token Bracelet

~~~THE CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS~~~

The Civil War Trust's *Campaign 150: Our Time, Our Legacy* to raise funds to save battlefields had a successful year in 2013. Just 18 months after it launched, the Trust received more than \$36 million in gifts and commitments—a full 90% of the total \$40 million goal! According to the CW Trust, "the funds raised in this effort will allow us to save a significant amount of additional hallowed ground, the last physical link to this pivotal moment in our nation's past. Moreover, these funds will help the Trust continue to grow its outstanding array of innovative education programs, including our ever-growing series of Battle App guides—GPS-enabled multimedia smartphone tours of battlefields featuring the expertise of top historians." The ACWS contributed to this fund last year with a pie auction at the Costa Mesa event, and we hope to do so again.

Efforts to preserve Civil War battlefields are about honoring the memory of the soldiers on both sides who fought and died. But it's also about showing respect for the courage of all of America's men and women in uniform. This is evident in the activities in which many ACWS members participate, such as Veterans Day parades, flag raising ceremonies, or visiting VA hospitals. As Joshua Chamberlain (the hero of Little Round Top in Gettysburg) said at the dedication of the 20th Maine Monument at Gettysburg in 1889, "those who fell here—those who have fallen before or since—those who linger, yet a little longer, soon to follow; all are mustered in one great company."

A new initiative demonstrates brotherhood of service connecting warriors past and present. Called the "Honor Our Soldiers" initiative, the CW Trust has launched a multimedia campaign to honor American veterans, past and present. It started by asking CW Trust members to share their reflections on this brotherhood of service, and the response was universal: the willingness to serve is a tie that binds all generations of America's fighting men and women. There is no expiration date on this type of heroism; to ignore, dishonor or disrespect the service of one era—past, present or future—discredits the service of all.

Veterans who would like to share their experiences and how they inform their commitment to battlefield preservation are invited to email veterans@civilwar.org. Profiles will be featured online. To find out more about the project, visit the Honor Our Soldiers website at www.honoroursoldier.org.



From Your ACWS Board—Dave Grimsrud, Jim Tebbetts, Ken Dacey, Ken Serfass, Michele and Michael Akkerman, and David Cartwright

Christmas 2013 – By Dave Grimsrud

Calico Ghost town was nice enough to invite us to hold our Christmas party there. If you pre-registered you got admission to the Park, so you could spend time going through the town. Michele Akkerman set up a period Christmas tree decoration-making table, and those that made ornaments enjoyed it. Calico set us up for an all-you can-eat buffet dinner in “The Old Miners Café,” which included barbequed beans, chicken, salad, rolls and butter. You also had a beverage, and a scoop of ice cream for dessert. The reviews on the chicken were excellent, and I loved the beans. During dinner, we were entertained by the Antebellum Marine Band, all dressed in red, playing mostly period carols and holiday favorites. After the meal, Michele Akkerman read “A Visit from St. Nicholas.” I must admit I missed it, as I went to find Santa Claus, so he could visit with the kids. Upon finding him, I was directed to hold his reindeer, as they were anxious to get back to the North Pole. Santa made his entrance and gave all the children a stocking with gifts and then he

posed for photographs. When Santa returned to his sleigh he told me about Joe Cronin’s young son. It seems he was excited to meet Santa, and as he approached Joe’s son’s face lit up, his eyes wide open in the magic, delight, and innocence of Christmas. As he climbed into his sleigh Santa said all that made this trip worthwhile, and he gave me a huge smile, then in the wink of an eye he was off.

Last year we had our party in the south, this year in the east; we want to make this an annual event, but have it move so everyone can enjoy without a long drive. We will start planning early, so please keep the ACWS Christmas Party in mind.





REMEMBRANCE DAY REFLECTIONS – GETTYSBURG 150th, NOVEMBER 2013

I was blessed again this November to participate in the 150th observation of Remembrance Day in Gettysburg PA. I had the honor to act as Drum Major once again for the Federal City Brass Band as they assisted various companies laying wreaths in the soldiers cemetery on the morning of the parade. As a native of Pennsylvania, growing up two hours east of this hallowed ground should have prepared me for the weather, but after living in So Cal full time since 2002, and before that for most of the 90's has "thinned the blood," as it were.

No matter the cold, as I stood amongst the grave markers and tombstones where so many Americans gave their last full measure of devotion, enduring the cold was the least of my worries in the moment there of honoring our fallen. It is humbling to participate in ceremonies such as those and thoughts of how to better salute them with our impressions were close in my mind. We owe it to their memories to do what we do safely and as correctly as we can to see to it that what they did is not forgotten.

The Remembrance Day parade was truly memorable and was my first one in the



persona as Lt. Gen US Grant. Any of us can read accounts of parades of the Civil War period. From the comments on the glint of bayonets in the sun, the swagger of the columns of marching men, to the admiring waves and

cheers from the men and ladies along the parade route, nothing can prepare you to actually experience it yourself. I walked ten feet ahead of the Federal City band on the route and at first was stunned at the grand reception I received as General Grant and then came to recall his own recollections on his own experiences. There were waving and cheering admirers "thanking" me for saving the Union right down to fawning ladies tossing and even offering me flowers as I walked by them. It was thrilling to feel that sensation first hand and again, HUMBLING to be there to represent the General commanding on such an auspicious occasion.

The true pinnacle for me that day was the sunset serenade on Little Round Top,

featuring musicians from many of the participating bands. I shared conducting duties with Jari Villanueva, leader of the Federal City boys, and the rock on which we stood to lead them put us directly in the line of the wind. The wind was relentless on us, bending the trees atop the hill like blades of grass while we played. The warmth from the spirit of the music kept the chill at bay with stirring patriotic airs and then some hymns



to the fallen, men of the north and south who never left the wheat field, the peach orchard, devil's den or the heights of Little Round Top. The final selection, "Sweet Home" closed the day, very near to sunset and as the light faded, a lone bugler sounded taps for the boys still on the field around us. I had the personal honor to play a period E flat, over-the-shoulder tuba on that final tune, part of the band, sharing the duties with brother musicians. For me there could be no more fitting way to salute and pay tribute to them.



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

SWCWA <http://www.swcwa.com>

We Are History: <http://www.americanheritagefestival.com/ACWS>

The History Channel Club: www.historychannelclub.com

ACWS 2014 Calendar of Events

Sponsored and Supported Events

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

Date	Event Name	Sponsor	Sponsored or Supported	Location
January 18-19	15 th Annual IVLHA Live Fire	IVLHA/ACWS	Sponsored	Seeley, CA
January 25-26	Yuma Quartermaster Depot	IVLHA	Supported	Yuma, AZ
February 8	Lincoln Shrine Living History	Indie/ACWS	Sponsored	Redlands, CA
February 15-17	Calico Civil War Days	ACWS	Sponsored	Yermo, CA
March 15-16	St. Catherine's Reenactment & Living History	ACWS/WA	Sponsored	Anaheim, CA
March 15-16	Picacho Peak, AZ	Arizona	Supported	Picacho Peak, AZ
April 5-6	Prado Park	SCCWA	Supported	Chino, CA
April 19-20 or May 4-5 TBD	Fairview Park	ACWS	Sponsored	Costa Mesa, CA
Apr 26-27	BSA Camp Out	BSA SG	Support	Monrovia, CA
April TBD	150 th Wilderness/Mule Shoe	Unk		Virginia
July 5-6	Old Fort MacArthur Days	FMHA	Supported	San Pedro, CA
August 16-17	Fort Tejon Invitational	FTHA	Supported	Lebec, CA
September 20-21	Drum Barracks Living History	Drum Brks	Supported	Wilmington, CA
October 4-5	Helendale	ACWS	Sponsored	Helendale, CA
Oct 25-26	Spring Mountain Ranch (150 th Anv NV Statehood)	ACWS/SNLHA	Sponsored	Las Vegas, NV
Nov 11	Reagan Library Vet Day	Library	Supported	Simi Valley, CA
December 6-7	Drum Barracks Christmas Theme Event	Drum Brks	Supported	Wilmington, CA
December 13	Christmas Party (TENT)	Newlin House	Sponsored	Huntington Bch, CA
January 2015	16 th Annual Live Fire Invitational	IVLHA/ACWS	Sponsored	Seeley, CA
April 2015	150 th Anniversary of Lee's Surrender	TBD	Support	Appomattox, VA

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ 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 1/1/2014

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 Primitives 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 Bernardino to Barstow and Los Angeles Counties.)

Email me at dtdelgadillo@gmail.com

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

David Delgadillo