

American Civil War Society, Inc.



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.

MARCH/APRIL 2008



Gettysburg July 1863

**THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
SOCIETY**

Established in 1986

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The ACWS is a non-profit organization with the purposes of charitable and educational activities for the general public that demonstrate the language, conduct and manner of daily living of the civilian population and military forces during the American Civil War period (1861 – 1865) and the issues they faced during that conflict.

COMPANY DISPATCH

21758 Mirador

Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Union Division:

Division Commander – Lt. Col Gary Iverson

Adjunct – Capt. David Crichton

**Infantry Brigade Commander – Major
Keith De Luca**

**Artillery Brigade Commander - Major
Scott Simmons**

**Cavalry Brigade Commander - 2nd Lt.
Robert Kuehl**

Division Chaplain - Capt. Tony Delgadillo

Confederate Division:

**Division Commander - Lt. Colonel Keith P.
Harriott**

**Deputy Division Commander - Major Gary
Heine**

Division Adjutant – Capt. Jonathan Stidger

**Division Asst. Adjutant – 2nd Lt. Steve
Warwick**

**Artillery Brigade Commander - Major
Roger Price**

**Cavalry Brigade Commander - Major Scott
Peca**

Division Chaplain – Capt. Roger Hurley

ACWS Board of Directors

Quarterly Meeting

March 15, 2008 11:00 Am

Old Spaghetti Factory

11896 Foothill Blvd,

Rancho Cucamonga, CA

909 980-3585

ACWS 2008 Calendar of Events

| 2008 | EVENT | LOCATION |
|----------------------|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| Jan. 12 Jan 19/20 | Grand Ball Live Fire | Mission Inn, Riverside |
| Feb.2/3 | Dickens Fair | Riverside, CA |
| Feb 16-18 | Calico Ghost Town | Yermo, CA |
| | | |
| April 19-20 | St Catherine's Military School | Anaheim, CA |
| | | |
| May 3-4 | Wooden Nickel | Menifee, CA |
| | | |
| June 7-8 | Thousand Trails | Acton, CA |
| | | |
| July 4 | Support your local 4 th of July event | Reagan Library La Mirada Cabrillo Beach |
| | | |
| August 16-17 | Ft Tejon Invitational | Fort Tejon CA |
| Sept. 13-14 | Riley's Grand Encampment | Riley's Farm Beaumont, CA |
| | | |
| Oct 18 | City of La Habra Public Library Living History | La Habra CA |
| Oct 31-Nov 1 | Spring Mountain Ranch | Las Vegas, NV |
| | | |

For additional information on events in and around California, Arizona and Nevada, please visit the Fort Tejon Historical Association's Calendar of Events for 2007
<http://www.forttejon.org/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my memory this was the best Calico I have attended. I think this is my fifth one and now I have seen everything. Snow, rain, freeze, more rain, one sunny day and now, the almost perfect weather! High 60's and mid 75 degree weather all weekend!

That did help, but once again the best part of our events are our members, they came out in droves participated fully and the majority stayed over on Monday!

The camp grounds were full, I bet the motels were happy and we used up all the RV sites they let us have. You can be sure we will be discussing a new RV camp fee for next year. I bet we broke some attendance records this year!

Fantastic job on the battles, done completely safe and well executed. The street battle was fantastic! I am constantly impressed by our infantry and dismounts! Thanks to Mr. Colley and his crew of volunteer Civilian corps no one got shot who was not supposed to! They were everywhere making sure no one got on the battlefield who was not supposed to!

Donnalee and her ladies did all the community a service with their programs and I bet they all made Donnalee feel better about her new job as Civilian Corps director. I liked the knitting class but who was that not so pretty lady with the mustache? It looked like Sam Frankl's older sister! I hope she (?) didn't put her (?) eye out with the knitting needles!

Thank you to Pastor Hurley's wonderful daughter and her friend for volunteering to put the Bordello back on and all the volunteer men (looked like all Louisiana) who participated in the bordello program!

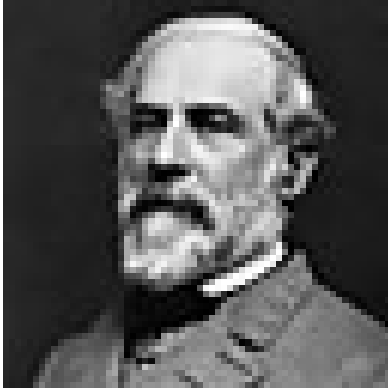
Thank you to Ken Guinn, Don Locke (Don came all the way from Kentucky), the Occasional strings, Spencer and Jackson, (really Randy, Leanne and Jenny), Gen. Jackson and all of those I did not name who make this event one of our best. Thanks to our membership chairman who put up with the cold house until we got her into the warm Town Hall.

I am sure proud of our ACWS!

Paul

The Prez prattles again.....





To all the members of the ACWS and the Town of Calico I wish to extend my thanks to each and everyone of you for the wonderful job you continue to do each and every year. This year was my 14th and one of the best for presentation to the public, camaraderie and attendance, not to mention the weather was great. The nay sayers who try to promote division in our organization, they just do not seem to get the point that we are about keeping history alive for the education of all and some good and exciting entertainment for those of the public who have supported us through the years, it not about us it is for them. I have had the privilege of meeting people who have attended nearly every year, children who have grown to their teen years who still appreciate our purpose.

The troops on both sides who welcomed me were wonderful and showed me the kindness I have humbly come to know and appreciate.

Living in Kentucky is not so very far when you have friends who welcome you like you have done. I continue to strive to do what I can in Kentucky and the surrounding area to promote the understanding of the history of the War Between the States and the love of our Country that has become apart of me over these many years, do in large part, to the example of all of you.

God Bless,

Don Locke
Aka Gen. Robert E. Lee



MILITARY DISPATCHES

CONFEDERATE MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS:



Members of the Legion,

Let me begin by saying how truly wonderful Calico 08' was this year. Not only was this the largest attended event in SoCal by re-enactors and spectators to date in 08' but it was incredible to see the excitement everyone held for this much anticipated annual event. I was humbled by the incredible spirit of co-operation between Confederates, Federals and Civilians! All I heard all weekend long was how so many thought this was our best Calico event in over a decade. Not to mention we were blessed with the best weather I can remember in some time. My hats off to all the members of the ACWS who helped make this years Calico not only the best one in recent memory but the premier event that it has always been!

Most of you heard at Calico about a minor change in the military structure of the Confederate ranks. We will now fall under the designation of a "Legion" rather than a Division. After considerable input from so many in the rank and file I felt this move will help all of us achieve great things as we continue to grow. We will continue to function within three distinct branches under my overall command. Only difference for now is that I will assume more direct control of the infantry (no cat calls!). I appreciate all the candid feedback I have received in these past several months from the rank and file as well as the great ideas and solutions so many offered. I believe the dedication and devotion that all of you show on a continuous basis is what allows us to be the finest assemblage of Confederate re-enactors west of the Mississippi. Thank you all!

The defense of Calico was a hard fought three days. The Union forces who opposed us were determined to dislodge us from the town and take for themselves not only the town but the precious silver mines which have become invaluable in supporting our cause. I was compelled to use the entire Legion in order to hold the Union in check. With the invaluable help of Major Peca leading the Cavalry and Captain Collins over seeing the artillery we were able to drive the Union from the town and keep our beloved colors flying over the town of Calico. Our victory came at an appalling cost of human life as the Legion was down to 25% effective strength after three long hard fought days. I wish we could be afforded more time to see to that our wounded recover sufficiently and to recruit new numbers but our Legion has been ordered to muster all able bodied men and proceed to the crossroads of Wooden Nickel. It is here we will be sure to engage the federals under the able command of Lieutenant Colonel Iverson and staff. We will need to muster the entire Legion in order to drive them from these vital crossroads and send them further north from our lands. I am looking forward to taking the field with all of you my most cherished soldiers!

I am looking forward to a great year of hard fighting and spending time with great friends. I'm also looking forward to a few new events we hope to add to the 08' calendar. And on a smaller note all you soldiers will be excited to hear that we have a large group of women who will be volunteering next year to see that Hank's Hotel of Calico will be in full swing! Proper guard mounts will of course be in place!

If your still interested in joining us in July back in Gettysburg PA for the 145th you still have time to join the 120+ of us who will be attending together. Just get in contact with me ASAP as the deadline for registration is almost here.

Until Wooden Nickel I wish you all good health and safe travels!

Best Regards,
Lt. Colonel Keith P. Harriott

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Calico Battle Report:
Major S. Peca / Cavalry Brigade
Harriott's Legend

Sir,

Upon my arrival to Calico Town, my scouting party led by Lt. David Hunter Inman informed me that the Federals were forming at the front of Town and would surely be ready to start an advance soon. My Brigade set camp near the school house and waited for further orders.

On Saturday morning we were ordered to advance on the earth ruins in the Town. I sent the 2ND Kentucky to the high ground just below the Rail station we held the high ground there for the duration of the Battle with light casualties. Late afternoon we ordered to assist in crossing the bridge to the school house. I felt it a foolish move to rush such a narrow bridge. A group of sharp shooters rushed the bridge assisted by our cover fire but met their fate in their valiant charge. With a group of engineers and what was left of my Brigade we covered the withdrawal of Lt. Col Harriott.

We suffered heavy casualties but with the fine medical staff of Lt. Quarto my Brigade was ready for Sunday's engagement. It was reported early Sunday morning that a group of Federals rushed the Town but were pushed back to their lines. Late Sunday morning my Brigade was ordered to hold the high bluff south of the Rail Road track below the bridge. Captain Ridler led the 1st line and Lt. Hunter the 2ND line. When ordered to advance we suffered heavy casualties. Withdrawing back to the school house I formed a defensive line to hold the bridge from attack. My Brigade held this position until the end of the engagement. I remain at your service,
Major Peca



MILITARY DISPATCHES

FEDERAL MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS:

SPECIAL FIELD ORDER No. 2.
HDQRS. ACWS Union Division. , DEPT. OF Calif.,
Los Angeles, California, 28 February, 1863.

To Officer Commanding the Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery Regiments, Union Brigade

It has been reported that units of the Confederacy are preparing to move again. It is apparent from information obtained that the Wooden Nickel Ranch is their intended gathering point for an eventual attack on the town of Menifee. We anticipate three days of battle, and need your participation on May 3 and 4, 1863. With the loss of the Town of Calico the Union cannot, and will not allow, the Confederacy to gain a further foot hold in Southern California. By February 12, 1863 you are to report to either myself or my Division Adjutant with your unit name, if you expect to attend or not, commander rank and name, the number mustering, length of enlistment at this location (how many days), type and quantity of tentage/fly's/or cooking area requested.

As we all know there is limited area available to set up our encampment. To address this situation, each unit will be assigned a set space in which to establish camp. No one is to establish camp without direction from myself of the Union Division Adjutant. Again, camp space will be allocated to your unit.

You are hereby ordered to take what volunteers you can muster, move to vicinity of the Wooden Nickel Ranch, locate and join other volunteer units converging on the area. There you will assist in actions against this incursion by the opposing force. Keep in mind that you will need your current ACWS card with the proper safety certification.

You are to report upon arrival to the Union Division HDQRS by locating either myself or the Union Division Adjutant. You will proceed so as not to arrive later than 1PM on May 2, 1863. Again, we need as many forces as possible to help ward off the impending threat.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel Gary Iverson:
Commanding, ACWS Union Division





From ACWS Union Headquarters;

With two events under our belts so far this year, I can securely say that the ACWS Union Division is in fine shape. We are in the process of growing and with the Union Division Staff now being complete a great deal of positive progress is being made.

Speaking of positive progress - By now you all know that we have a new ACWS Union unit. This new Union unit is the 4th New Jersey. The 4th New Jersey, and at their first event (Calico), fielded a good number of soldiers. With such a great start I am sure this unit is going to continue to be a great asset to the ACWS Union forces.

On another positive note – I was amazed at the number of soldiers that attended Calico from the 10th New York. My congratulations to the new Unit Commander of the 10th New York, Second Lieutenant Rock Morales. Between Rocky and his First Sergeant Chris Russell, the 10th is growing and is now one of the larger ACWS Union units. I look forward to even more growth from this outstanding unit in the future.

On still another positive note – I was pleased to see the number of soldiers from the 7th Wisconsin combine with others to have a sizable force.

On yet another positive note - Of course the 71st Pennsylvania showed up with their usual expansive numbers of soldiers. I am always happy to see am pleased to see all of my friends for the 71st show up, and as always the 71st stepped up and helped (as did everyone) when help was needed. I am also appreciative of Gary Johnson, Elroy Coddling, and Lynda Coddling stepping up to help Faye Crichton make sure I got fed. Again, the new spirit of cooperation is pervading all aspects of the Union camp. Another thanks goes to Elroy Coddling for helping again with crowd control. Crowd control is really a tough job, and especially so at Calico. All that helped with crowd control have my thanks.

I am pleased to announce that the ACWS Union Command Staff now has a full compliment of very qualified staff members. Calico was the first event that the Union Staff functioned together, and the amount of cooperation and experience showed. Calico was a great success due in part to the unity, cooperation, and fun that the Union Division staff brings to every event.

MORE ON CALICO

As you can see from the Calico After Action Report, Calico was a great success. After conducting an exit poll, it was determined that this Calico was one of the most exciting and enjoyable ever. I just say for my personal part that with over 11 years attendance at Calico, I

must concur. Calico was well attended, well organized, and down right fun. If you missed this event, you missed a great event.

A big thank you to captain Dave Crichton for establishing a well planned camping plan for Calico this year. Thanks to Captain Crichton everyone had ample room (even with the large number of soldiers and tents that showed up). We also had room for some folks that showed up unexpected. Again, my appreciate goes out to Captain Crichton for his excellent planning skills, and for every thing else he did.

My thanks also goes out to Major Keith De Luca for his excellent leadership of the Infantry forces at Calico. Major De Luca was assisted by Brevet Lieutenant Vincent Fernandez and Sergeant-Major David Fernandez. Together this team ensured the scenarios at Calico were safe, and that is not easy to do with the close proximities inherent to Calico.

My thanks also go out to Major Scott Simmons and Sergeant-Major Doug Carroll for their continued skill and safe operation of the Union Artillery at Calico. The changing of sides, the close proximity of the crowds, and the response to scenario changes were a great challenge that all of the Union Artillery folks met successfully. They even let a couple of rookies (myself and Captain Dave Crichton) fire the cannons. My personal thanks for that exciting opportunity...it was just another fun part of Calico for me this year.



Finally, my thanks to the Unit Commanders and NCO's from all the units that showed up at Calico. The new level of cooperation and comradely is manifesting itself into everyone having a great time. Without the continued support of all of you, Calico this year just wouldn't have been the same. I chalk the success of Calico up to all of the above. Together the ACWS Union forces will continue to thrive.

One last note on Calico - There were rumors floating around that Calico was not going to be well attended. The actual attendance showed just the opposite. At Calico on Saturday we fielded 60 Union soldiers. On Sunday at Calico we fielded 64 Union soldiers. Monday at Calico we had enough troops to match the Confederate forces, but I somehow lost the exact count (I think we had about 25, but don't quote me on that). After reviewing the event, I think these attendance figures having us exceed some past years and matching most every other year.

SCENARIO - SPY IN OUR MIDST

A word of caution...It appears that key information regarding Union troop movements, troop strength, and other vital information has been apparently leaked to the Confederacy. This is just a warning to be caution to whom you speak. Union Command Staff members have an idea of who the spy might be, and we anticipate taking action no later that the Wooden Nickel event. If you have any input on this issue, please come to the next Wooden Nickel encampment. Again, it is anticipated that actions will be taken at that time to deal with this security threat.

What in the world could this mean??

**Artillery Brigade Headquarters, ACWS Union Division-Department of So. Calif.
After Action Report-Battle of Calico, Ca; Feb. 16-18**

To: Lt Col. Gary Iverson-Commanding ACWS Division

Sir:

Contained herein is the Artillery Brigade After Action Report for the Battle of Calico. The Artillery Brigade consisting of Battery B-4th U.S., Battery D-5th U.S. and Battery F-3rd U.S.; commanded respectively by Captain B. Riggs, Lt. A. Variz and Sgt. R. Hill. Inventory consisted of 3 Mtn. Howitzers with ammo chests, 2 10 lb Parrott Rifles with limbers and 1 antiquated 6 lb smooth-bore with limber, recently captured this past fall from the Confederates in Nevada Territory.

Day 1 (16 Feb.)

The Artillery Brigade, after being ordered to move out from winter quarters, arrived at Calico on Feb 15 with the rest of the Division, only to find however, that a legion of Confederates occupied the town. Camp was setup on the outskirts of the town. The guns were strategically placed and plans were made to liberate the town.

The morning dawned bright and cool. Orders were given to advance upon the town and as we marched up a canyon with the infantry, an artillery barrage from the enemy let loose from the surrounding hills. Fortunately their range was off and very little damage was done. As the infantry rounded a bend in the canyon bottom they were surprised to see a Confederate Mtn. Howitzer with a minimal crew. After a short skirmish most of the gun crew were killed or captured and the gun turned over to our artillery. Division scouts reported that the rebels were occupying the Silver Bowl area just up the canyon. We advanced the captured Mtn Howitzer to the edge of the bowl, where Lt. Variz of Battery D opened up on the advancing enemy. Braving both enemy musket and counter battery fire, the men of Battery D bravely kept up firing so as to allow the infantry to advance. The enemy forces were too

much however, and made a push on our brave lads, resulting in our retreat.

Towards the end of the battle, Battery D was over-run by the enemy resulting in many of the brave cannoneers being killed or captured.

That afternoon, Battery F joined what was left of Battery D on the knife like ridge near the school house to enfilade the enemy positions in town with shot and shell. The Confederates divided their forces and tried to attack our strong-hold from two sides. Spotting this maneuver from our vantage point, our guns were turned to protect each flank. As the Rebs tried to advance over the bridge on our left flank, they were met by a volley of musket balls from our infantry but also with canister rounds from Battery D. The result was many bodies of the enemy strewn on the bridge works, making it nearly impossible for the rest of the enemy to advance. Meanwhile, Battery F had their guns trained on Confederate forces advancing on our right flank. Several well placed cannon shots decimated much of advancing troops and sent the rest in retreat. We had gained access to much of town that day but the Confederates still held portions of it, especially in the valuable mining area.

Day 2 (17 Feb.)

Taking up positions in the Silver Bowl, Battery F's Mtn. Howitzer was joined by Battery B's Mtn. Howitzer on a strategic overlook. The enemy was spotted marching in columns and orders were given to fire. The enemy returned fire which was largely ineffective. Because of the terrain, it was difficult to observe the results of firing, but judging from the amount of Rebs that made it into the Silver Bowl, our firing appeared to also be ineffective. Ferocious hand to hand fighting broke out, leaving many on both sides dead or gravely wounded. Well placed canister rounds fired from our batteries decimated the enemy and sent what was left of them on a quick retreat back into the desert. I would personally like to commend the gun crews and their leaders of both batteries for standing their ground, and executing two perfect battery fires in the face of advancing enemy troops.

During the brilliant sunny afternoon, the brigade moved their guns to the middle of town in an area formally occupied by the Confederate troops. Batteries B and F opened up with their cannons, targeting positions held by the Confederates within the hills. Of special

note; Lt. Col. Iverson and his adjutant, Capt. Crichton, had the honors of firing the first rounds. Confederate cannons returning fire started to rain shell and shot on to the town very near our positions. Our infantry attempted to assail the Confederate stronghold, but to no avail. Our assault stalled and the infantry was pushed back, eventually falling back behind the guns. A company of Confederates showed themselves at the top of Main Street; orders were given to Battery F to trail the Mtn. Howitzer so that it was facing directly up the street. Once the enemy realized they were looking down the muzzle of a cannon-they literally froze (what they didn't realize was that the ammunition for the Mtn. Howitzer had been expended). This maneuver gave our infantry enough time to re-form behind the guns and make a final attempt to push the Rebels back. Several other companies of Confederates joined the stalled company and finally realized that the Mtn. Howitzer was not going to fire. The enemy made a daring advance and in no time Batteries B and F were surrounded. Many of our brigade were killed or captured and the cannons lost.

Day 3 (18 Feb.)

As the good weather held, the town seemed to be swelling with civilians as word spread about the major battle taking place. During the night, the brigade took up positions on Artillery Point, looking out over the town. Batteries D and F manned the guns similar to that previously discussed in Day 1. The Confederates again split their forces and tried to flank us. Between the strength of our infantry and the accuracy of our cannons, the Rebs were turned back. Round after round of canister shot from Battery D kept the enemy from crossing the bridge; in fact bodies of dead soldiers were piled so high that it made it difficult for anyone to cross. Battery F had their sights on the enemy cannon position in town. Several rounds of case and solid shot did their magic, destroying the enemy's guns. Battery F also took aim on a retreating company of grey (actually butternut) coats with several rounds of case shot. The results were bodies strewn up and down the road, the coats changing in color to scarlet red. Our infantry charged in

and routed the remaining Confederates, killing and capturing many. It look liked the town of Calico was ours; however there was still much fight in what remained of the Confederates.

By the afternoon, the enemy had reformed and been strengthened by the arrival of at least 1 brigade. Our scouts had spotted them at the outside of town and orders were given for our Division to attack the Confederates where they camped and then withdraw to the Silver Bowl where our batteries would open up on them. Our infantry caught them in formation and a raging battle ensued on the main street of town. Civilians who came to Calico to watch the conflict suddenly became enveloped within the battle, however, most of them wisely took cover in the town's buildings.

Our infantry retreated into the Silver Bowl with the Rebs in pursuit. Once our boys were safely situated, the guns of Battery D opened up on the advancing enemy, quickly stalling their advance. Both infantries took aim at each other resulting in many dead and dying in a matter of a few minutes. Seeing the futility of the situation, a cease fire was called by one of the commanders and a parlay commenced. Commanders of both sides along with their respective staffs met in the middle of the battlefield. Harsh words were spoken; a pushing and shoving match erupted, much like that between two school boys. Someone drew a pistol and fired, resulting in the staffs of both commanders pulling pistols and firing. The entire Union and Confederate command staffs went down either dead or wounded. The rest of the soldiers on both sides stared in disbelief. As the shock of the massacre wore off, both sides opened up with muskets and pistols. Sadly, the Union was overrun and without command, retreated back into the desert. Respectfully Sir,

I remain your obedient Servant,

Maj. S. T. Simmons,
Cmd'g Artillery Brigade,
ACWS Division, Dept. of So. California



Monument to Gen. John Buford whose cavalry fought a delaying action until the 1st Corps arrived on the field. The cannon at far left fired the opening cannon shot of the battle. Looking west toward Herr Ridge *Monument*: In memory of Major General John Buford Comdg. 1st Div. Cav. Corps Army of the Potomac who with the first inspiration of a cavalry officer selected this battlefield July 1st, 1863

To: Lt Col Iverson, Officer Commanding Union Division Forces, Dept of Los Angeles, California

From: Captain David Crichton, Adjutant, Union (Iverson's) Division, Dept of Los Angeles, California

Subject: Report on Action at Calico Station, Vicinity Barstow, California, Dept of Los Angeles

Following the orders issued by the Secretary of War as issued to the Dept of Los Angeles and also Special Order #1 issued by the Commander of the Union (Iverson's) began to mobilize. Units were recalled from their current outposts and patrols with orders to move on and hold just South of Calico Station. There were several units that unfortunately had to be left in contact in order to ensure further incursions by forces belonging to those states currently in rebellion did not make further gains. These orders were to be carried out not later than sunrise on 16 February. The following units were recalled and arrived on station as ordered: The 4th New Jersey, 7th Wisconsin, 10th NY, 71st PVI, and assorted members from other units as available. Our orders were simple – storm Calico Station and hold it for the Union.

The afternoon of the 15th saw the advance party including the Division Adjutant arriving and establishing camp just South of Calico Station as Ordered. Elements of the 71st PVI and 7th Wisconsin soon arrived. After establishing camp the Adjutant dispatched elements of the 7th and 71st to reconnoiter and attempt to determine the enemy strength. These elements reported that the enemy was in fact occupying the Station in force. Pickets were set for early warning and to assist those units still arriving.

The morning of 16 February dawned clear and cold. The camp was filled with the sounds of troops preparing for the fight they already knew was coming. Soldiers were writing letters to family, tags being pinned inside jackets so if they should fall in the battle they would be identified later. Weapons being cleaned checked and rechecked. Cartridge boxes being filled and in many cases pockets, just in case. The order was heavy marching order as we intended on taking and holding the station. Soon the Division was ordered to form and the air was suddenly electrified with excitement as much as sad anticipation. The Division formed and began its march towards the Southern approach to Calico Station. It was hoped that by a show of force the rebels might simply withdraw. So with the Division Colors uncased the Division made its approach up to Calico Station. Suddenly a canon blast followed by the sound of musketry; and the fight was on. It became evident very quickly that this rebel force was not going to give ground easily. The Union Force fought its way steadily into the Southern part of the Station. Just as we reached Old China Town the rebels threw everything they had at us and we had no choice but to give back the ground we had fought so hard for. The Division Commander realized that this initial assault wasn't going to work and ordered the Division back South. Under a flag of truce we gathered our dead and wounded. At the same time the Division Commander sent another reconnaissance element wide around west and North of the Station to see if there might be a way to take the Station from the North. After refitting the Division was ordered to form and we began the approach on the station following the route reconed earlier. We stormed the area around the School House, it appeared that maybe we had surprised the rebels as we rapidly gained ground until we encountered stiff resistance at the bridge. The fight went back and forth for a bit, but we weren't about to give ground this time. We had won a hard fought foot hold in the station. However we knew we were in for a very hard time taking Calico Station. Under a flag of truce we retrieved our dead and wounded. Thank goodness that courtesy was still being extended, but it must be noted they used this time also to gather their dead and wounded. We went into camp and

posted pickets as early warning.

February 17th saw the Union Division once again preparing for an assault on the Station from the South. We moved rapidly into Old China Town and took up positions to meet the rebel counterattack. We didn't have to wait long. The rebels hit us with a fury. However, the union Division poured an absolutely unrelentless and murderous fire on them. We had gained a foot hold in the South and we meant to keep it.

We had hurt the rebels and moved out to push them harder. This fight was short but very vicious.

The rebels now also knew that we meant to take the Station and were very determined.

Our elation at taking the Sothern part of the Station was short lived as word from our element in the North indicated the rebels were moving on them in force. We took stock of what we had to spare and sent them to the Northern post. Upon arrival we moved into a fight in progress. We pushed through the rebels up to the school house and it appeared we were going to be successful in holding this foothold when the rebels threw in their reserves. We found ourselves in a fight greatly out numbered but determined to give ground only at great cost. Slowly we were pushed back off the hill and forced to concede the School house ground back to the rebels. It was with heavy heart that we gathered our dead and wounded and moved back South to our foothold there. The dusk was gathering when a loud voice proclaimed that "we'll show them Rebs a thing or two in the morning, we're not done yet". The Union Division consolidated and took stock of our losses. The Division Commander sent word through the camp to ensure preparations were made for a morning assault. He was determined that the rebels would not hold this Station. Pickets were posted as early warning and the troops settled down to some well deserved rest.

As the morning of the 18th dawned the Division Commander received a morning report that sent a shock through his system. The losses in dead and wounded were much greater than had been first reported. His determination to take the Station and hold it was just as solid now as before. The hard fights had not dampened his or his staff's spirit and will to move forward, to carry out his orders. We gathered our remaining forces and determined to regain the Northern foothold we moved on the School House. Our charge was quick and drove the rebel pickets back. The rebels however quickly regrouped and started probing our flanks to find a weakness in our defensive stance. The action was often sharp and violent as the rebels came at us again and again. We were determined to hold what we had gained and stood our ground again and again. The rebels pulled back and we had regained the foothold we had lost the night before, plus we had hurt the rebel force. We weren't able to determine how bad as they withdrew beyond our sight capability. Under flag of truce we allowed the Rebs to gather their dead and wounded. As the day turned to afternoon the Rebs cut all approaches to our troops holding the Northern point.

LtCol Iverson decided to try and push his way through town and relieve the Northern point at the same time gaining the main line of transportation and communication in town. We pushed our way all the way to the Northern point and were able to relieve the troops there who rapidly joined the main body. As we were consolidating the Rebels began a push in force on our forward pickets. LtCol Iverson withdrew the pickets and began a fighting withdrawal under pressure through the town. The fighting was hot and close.

Try as we might the rebel force continued to push us into Old China Town. This is where LtCol Iverson decided to make his stand. We held against charge after charge; however the Rebel force was just too massive to hold for long. Unexpectedly the Rebel commander suddenly ordered his troops to cease fire.

LtCol Iverson followed suit, if for no other reason to give his troops a chance to reconsolidate. The rebel Commander came forward with his staff. LtCol Iverson along with his adjutant, Infantry and Artillery Brigade commanders also moved forward to a spot roughly half way between the forces. It became apparent rapidly when the Rebel commander demanded our surrender that LtCol Iverson's blood was up. The heat and volume of the verbal exchange between the two escalated rapidly. The rebel commander

appeared to step forward and LtCol Iverson pushed him back. The Rebel Assistant Adjutant stepped forward with his hand on his pistol as if to draw it. I, the adjutant immediately fearing he was going to shoot the commander drew my side arm and fired five shots into the Rebel adjutant and commander before I was grievously wounded. As I lay there in great pain I heard a crescendo of firing that grew and just as rapidly faded. I later learned that all the staff were wounded and later exchanged or paroled. I also sadly learned that we lost 2/3's of our Division in that engagement to either mortal wounds, severe wounds or counted among the missing, presumed dead or captured. At last count of the 1,250 troops able to make it out of Calico Station and regroup only 1,000 stand fit for duty.

I am submitting the proper documents requesting immediate replacements and immediate re-supply of ammunition, food, water and other essentials.

I remain your obedient servant,

Captain David Crichton, Adjutant, Union (Iverson's) Division



SPIES??? WHERE? HOW?

The North and South made extensive use of spies during the American Civil War.

Intelligence and espionage work was decentralized on both sides with individual commanders forming their own intelligence or secret service bureaus. Each side still used age-old intelligence techniques, such as code-breaking, deception, and covert surveillance and even women to battle their cause and increase their chances. Tactical or battlefield intelligence became vital to both armies in the field. Units of spies and scouts reported directly to the commanders of armies in the field. They provided details on troop movements and strengths. The distinction between spies and scouts was one that had life or death consequences. If you were caught in disguise and not in your army's uniform you could be considered a spy and could be hanged. The nature of this secret work means that much information about missions and agents was undocumented or destroyed, but a substantial body of historical research provides a revealing look at the development of espionage and military intelligence during this period.



About Rose O'Neal Greenhow.

Rose O'Neal Greenhow was born in Montgomery County, Maryland in 1817. "Wild Rose", as she was called from a young age, was a leader in Washington society, a passionate secessionist, and one of the most renowned spies in the Civil War. Among her accomplishments was the secret message she sent to General Pierre G.T. Beauregard which ultimately caused him to win the battle of Bull Run. She spied so successfully for the Confederacy that Jefferson Davis credited her with winning the battle of Manassas.

She was imprisoned for her efforts first in her own home and then in the Old Capital Prison. Despite her confinement, Greenhow continued getting messages to the Confederacy by means of cryptic notes which traveled in unlikely places such as the inside of a woman's bun of hair. After her second prison term, she was exiled to the Confederate states where she was received warmly by President Jefferson Davis.

Gettysburg - Cannon position during Pickett's Charge

One of the bloodiest and devastating military maneuvers ever attempted was Pickett's Charge. To see the landscape in which this event took place, you have to shake your head at what Lee was thinking about. I know Lee wanted to weaken the Union's left flank in hopes that the center would then collapse but Wow! What a chance when you see what the south had to cross to achieve that.

This is shot along one of the lines where the North positioned cannon and pretty much fired at will on the charging South.



20th Maine Monument at Gettysburg

"In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear, but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls. And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field to ponder and dream; And lo! the shadow of a mighty presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision pass into their souls."

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain: 20th Maine, Speaking at the dedication of the Monument to the 20th Maine October 3, 1889, Gettysburg, PA

CIVILIAN CHATTER

Calico Reminiscences:

I would like to thank you all for making Calico such a great success! Needless to say I was quite nervous as this was my first reenactment as your ACWS Civilian Corps Director. The support I have received has made me so happy. I will say there is a lot of work involved, but seeing everyone enjoy themselves makes it all worth it and gives me the energy to go on to the next event.

Thank you, Faye Crichton for the cooking demonstration. It was very informative and well received. Thank you, Lisa Coffey for hosting the Ladies' Tea and to all the ladies who brought goodies. The ideas generated at the gathering will keep us very busy indeed. Thank you, Anne Frankl, Maritza Torres and Sally Ricker for staying in Town Hall while I was out on crowd control during the battles.

I apologize for running out of the knitting supplies for the Beginning Knitting Class. I under estimated the demand. I hope not to make that mistake again. I will replenish my supplies and have them at Wooden Nickel for those still interested in learning how to knit. Thank you, Gina Kimmel, Debbie Bogdan, and Maritza, Torres for bringing period toys for the children's social. I definitely had fun getting down on the floor and playing with the kids. Thanks to the Occasional Strings and Tom Atkins for the dancing in the street. It was great seeing everyone have so much fun. While I ran out of steam for the Saturday night dance, I did get to see it start and the Spencer & Jackson Theatrical Troupe had a packed house on Sunday night!

I want to give a great big THANK YOU to ElRoy Codding for heading up the crowd control at Calico. Thank you ElRoy

for coordinating with the military, Calico Park Service, and our own ACWS civilian crowd control volunteers. Without you and your team of crowd control volunteers, our battles would not have taken place. As I took up a crowd control position at each battle, I know what is involved. Your efforts are truly appreciated. Thank you everyone who helped with crowd control for making Calico such a safe and great event.



Congratulations to Landon Creighton, who is a 5 year old ACWS confederate civilian, for winning one of the raffle prizes at the drawing after the second battle on Monday. Four raffle prizes were donated by G & M Mercantile. Landon was the lucky winner for the civilians.

While I tried to make it into all the camps each day, I know I was not able to meet all of you. If I missed you I apologize.

Thank you everyone for sharing your great ideas for activities at future events. I will try to incorporate as many as possible. I appreciate the words of wisdom that many of you have offered me. I am still learning my job and it warms my heart to know that you are all pulling for me to succeed. With

the group we had at Calico how could I fail!

2008 Script Program:

The 2008 Script Program is underway. You earn script by attending ACWS events, one script per day. Extra script is earned by helping with various activities such as crowd control, tea hostess, children socials, etc. I keep the script with your name on it until the end of the year when there will be a drawing for the 2008 ACWS civilian raffle prize. The more active you are, the better your chances in winning the prize. So if I don't see you when I pass through the camps, seek me out to get your script. The next event to earn Script is the Wooden Nickel event in May.

Safety Testing:

ACWS has joined other reenacting groups from central and northern California to provide a common set of Safety Rules for the betterment of reenacting in California. Having brought forth this common safety standard, a uniformed safety practice can be found at each Civil War Event. The *Pacific Area Civil War Reenactor Safety Rules* can be found on the ACWS website, www.ACWS.net. Please take the time to review these rules. They are designed to make our camps and reenactments a safe place to be.

There is also a General Safety Test on the ACWS website. Each adult ACWS Civilian needs to take this test. Print out the test, put your name and signature on the test, take the test, and turn it in to me at the next event. After grading the test your ACWS membership card will be stamped to show that you have passed the test. You only need to take the test once a year.

Your stamped ACWS membership card also allows you to participate in events by the other participating reenacting groups,

which are: ACWA (American Civil War Association), NCWA (National Civil War Association), CHAS (California Historical Artillery Society), RACW (Reenactors of the American Civil War), CWRS (Civil War Reenactors Society), and WBSHA (War Between the States Historical Association).



UP-Coming Events:

St. Catherine's Military School is on April 19-20 in Anaheim, CA. This event is put on by the Washington Artillery Reenactors and supported by ACWS. Let me know if you are planning to attend and I will let Paul DeNubilo, the event coordinator, know.

The next ACWS event is Wooden Nickel in Menifee, CA. on May 3-4. If you are planning to attend this event, please let me know. If you have an impression that you would like to appear on the schedule, contact me. I am working on a schedule and plan for the civilians.

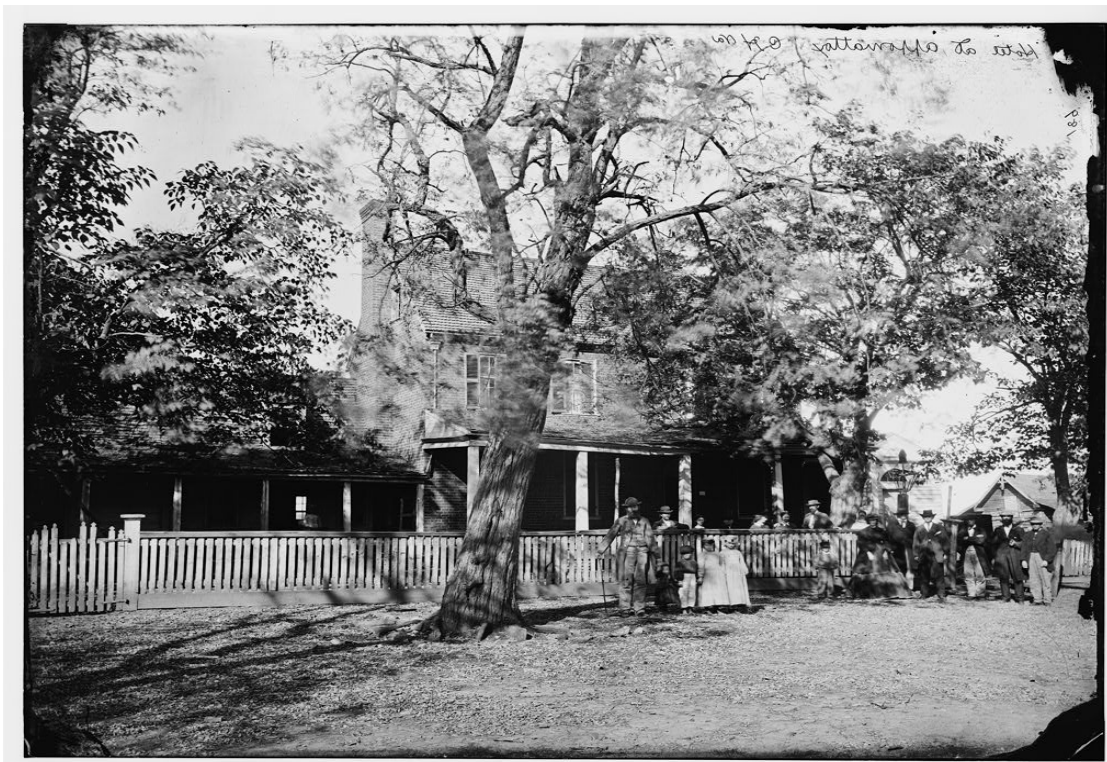
Donnalee Simmons,
ACWS Civilian Corps Director
dlsimmon@pacbell.net
(805) 529-3762

SAVE THE DATE

A new living history event has been scheduled with the CITY OF LA HABRA. The one day event, October 18th, will be held adjacent to the La Habra Public Library. Robin Young, robinyoung@earthlink.net, (562) 691-9945 is the ACWS Event Coordinator.

I am also looking for volunteers for the mid-year Ladies Tea Committee and the school scholarship award program committee. If you have any ideas, concerns or suggestions you want the ACWS Board to address, just let me know. I am looking forward to representing you on the ACWS Board.

Donnalee Simmons,
ACWS Civilian Corps Director
dlsimmon@pacbell.net (805) 529-3762



Civilians in Front of the Hotel - Appomattox Court House, VA, April 1865

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!

FOR A CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY EVENT TO PORTRAY

THE *DREADFUL UNCERTAINTY* OF LIFE IN AN 1863

BORDER TOWN TWIXT NORTH & SOUTH

WHERE NO ONE KNOWS IF THE NEXT MILITARY UNIT TO RIDE THROUGH TOWN WILL BE UNION OR CONFEDERATE; WHERE LADIES SMUGGLE CONTRABAND UNDER THEIR HOOPS; WHERE MERCHANTS SELL THEIR WARES TO ANYONE WITH MONEY; WHERE DECENT PEOPLE TRY HARD TO MAKE A LIVING, AND RAISE THEIR FAMILIES; A TOWN WHERE BANDS PLAY, PREACHERS PREACH AND DANCES ARE SPECIAL EVENTS. QUICK! HIDE YOUR DAUGHTERS & YOUR CHICKENS, HERE COME FORAGERS!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18, 2008 10 AM TO 3 PM

EL CENTRO PARK LA HABRA CA (ORANGE COUNTY)

(Featuring grass lawns, shade, restrooms, free paved parking)

Calling all military units, bands and musicians, sutlers, nurses, telegraphers, aeronauts, politicians, reporters, doctors, cooks, photographers, abolitionists, seamstresses, sanitary commission volunteers, laundresses, craftspersons, generals, presidents and first ladies, quilters, reverends, wives, town belles, school marms, vivandieres, spies, snake oil salesmen, dance callers, refugees, demonstrators of flags, weapons and historical objects and processes in general. All preregistered impressionists will be assigned a slot on the event schedule!

This Living history event is co-sponsored by the ACWS, the city of La Habra, the Orange County Public Library, La Habra branch library, in partnership with the La Habra and Lowell Joint School Districts.

SAVE THE DATE! Further details forthcoming later in the year.
To volunteer, or for more information, contact Robinyoung@earthlink.net

CIVILIAN APPRECIATION

Hello Donnalee,

I just wanted to thank you personally as well as the ACWS for a wonderful time at Calico last weekend. I apologize for not introducing myself and family to you then. My name is Kerri Denike and you so graciously played Pick-up-Sticks with my daughters, Shelby (11) and Avery (9) at the Children's Social on Sunday. They enjoyed it very much, as did I at the Ladies Tea on Saturday. This was our 3rd year to attend the Calico event and as always we had a fabulous time! Our family is very interested in this period of history and are seriously considering joining your organization. We may see you again soon at one of the upcoming events.

Thank you again from the Denike family - Bill, Kerri, Shelby and Avery

Editor's Note: KUDOS to Donnalee for making Calico a huge success for the civilians and the public. I have heard great reports and have received many emails about the wonderful activities you had for the children as well as for the adults. Fantastic start for 2008.

Joyce Bolin

Peachtree Street with Wagon Traffic - Atlanta, GA, 1864





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Are you interested in writing articles or doing research for the Company Dispatch Newsletter? Are you a civilian reenactor looking for something to do during our events? Our Civilian Corp needs bucket brigade folks to help during events and crowd control during the battles. Get involved with your membership to the ACWS. We have a need for soldiers and civilians to help with the Membership Booth and the Recruitment Booth during events.

YOU ARE NEEDED!!

Contact Donnalee Simmons, Civilian Corp Director

Joyce Bolin, PR Director/Editor

Debbie Bogdan, Membership Director.

Everyone can help. GET INVOLVED.

A Family Experience – Relive History



The Civil War is brought to life!

April 19 & 20, 2008

9:30am – 3pm

- *Meet President Abraham Lincoln and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant*
- *Tour Confederate and Union encampments*
- *Watch battles with over 200 re-enactors*
- *Visit the sutler's marketplace*

Admission:

Adults: \$7.⁰⁰

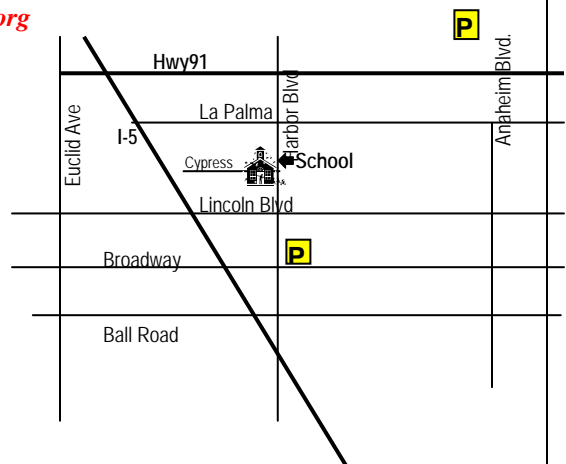
*Students & Senior \$4.⁰⁰

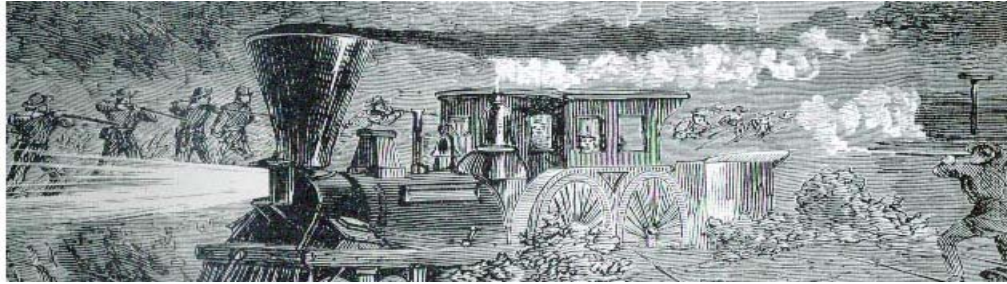
**Schools: Study Guides are available at www.stcatherinesmilitaryacademy.org*

St. Catherine's Military Academy

**215 N. Harbor Blvd
Anaheim, CA 92805
714-772-1363 x 134**

Parking for this event can be found at the corner of Harbor Blvd & Broadway
(Wells Fargo Parking Structure) or across from City Hall on Anaheim Blvd.
(Parking structure behind Von's Shopping Center.) Thank you.





CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT

Sponsored by the

American Civil War Society

May 3 and 4, 2008

At

Wooden Nickel Ranch

25690 Holland Road

Menifee, CA92584

Two battle re-enactments at
11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. daily

North & South Civil War encampments

Hear the cannon fire, smell the gunpowder

Visit our Civilian Town, Fashion Shows, Ladies Tea,

Period Dance Sat Night and much more.

For Directions

Visit us online at:

[ttp://www.acws.net/wooden_nickel.html](http://www.acws.net/wooden_nickel.html)

CLASSIFIEDS

Oh my gosh I need to replace some of my reenacting stuff.
Maybe I need a new tent or cooking gear.....where do I look and
who might have something to sell or trade?

Have something you need to sell trade or buy???

List it in this section today.

Contact Joyce Bolin

jbolin@bonnebridges.com

To Henri G. Beauchet
Louisiana
April 1863

My dearest Mr. Beauchet,

It is with great regret that I must let you know that I will not be able to attend the festival of Blue Hydrangeas in early May. During a most recent tea, an acquaintance, Mrs. Iverson, you might remember her husband Lt. Col. Iverson, he's the commander of the Union troops during this horrible conflict, I overheard Mrs. Iverson state that her husband will be heading to Wooden Nickel the first week of May with at least 1200 blue hydrangeas for the festival. They are gathering the blooms for presentation at Wooden Nickel and are bolstering success. I am sure with your appreciation of the importance of seizing the opportunity you will forward this exciting news to our mutual admirer of these beautiful blooms to Mr. Harriott of the Southern States for his immediate attention.

*With warm regards,
RG*

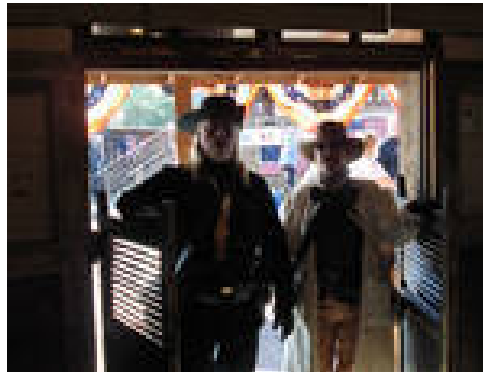
Pards,

Enclosed are a few images from our recent sojourn in the Calico mining camp. Most of the silver was played out, but the washing water was first rate. There was even a portrait of J.B. Hickok in the saloon, with whom Davis rode in his Jayhawking days in Kansas.

J.A. Davis, Harper's Weekly

C.J. Lipsey, New York Times

<http://www.jamesallendavis.com>



February 16, 1862 Near Fort Donelson, Tennessee 11:30 am



Our glorious victory today has made General Grant the man of the hour. The Rebel prisoners lounge about in their scores, clad in threadbare overcoats and blankets and exchanging plugs of tobacco for Yankee coffee and hardtack. They present a singularly indigent appearance, considering their boastfulness of only a year prior, when they no doubt marched off to sunder the Union with bands playing Secessionist airs and gaudy red flags flying. Where are their fire-eating politicians now, as they languish in the humiliation of captivity, destined to sit out the remainder of the Rebellion in a Northern prison camp? No more lazy afternoons in the Sunny South; no more corncakes and roasted hog and mellowed sour mash; no more delusions of feudal grandeur. All this has been – and will be – replaced by icy winters in Camp Douglas, paltry rations doled out by surly guards, and sparse accommodations in a prison barracks. Most of the captives have the look of simple dirt farmers, honest yeomen led astray by antiquated doctrines of nullification and State sovereignty, preached by portly planters who remain ensconced in their slaveholding comfort many miles from here in Charleston, Mobile, and New Orleans.

I managed to secure a few minutes of conversation with a surprisingly eloquent hog farmer named Mr. Cisney, a private in a Mississippi battery who seemed to harbor no particular enmity toward individual “Yankees” such as myself, but remained convinced in defeat of the tyranny of the federal government, and who held a particularly acerbic contempt for President Lincoln, who has assumed the figure of some ancient and foul despot in his mind and in those of his comrades-in-arms. Pvt. Cisney leaves a wife and five children in Philadelphia County (the irony of this name astounds me!), all of whom share his heartfelt devotion to the Secessionist “cause.” Even with the majority of his neighbors supporting the Southern Confederacy, I was surprised to hear from him that there remain Unionist pockets in the Cotton States, including guerrilla groups which sound like our Jayhawking bands back in Kansas (needless to say, I said nothing to him about my own prior associations west of the Mississippi). There does not appear to be the Secessionist unanimity in Dixie that Jeff Davis and his cadre of traitors have flaunted in the Southern press. Despite their victory at Manassas last year and the incompetence of certain of our generals, it is unlikely that such unwarranted bravado alone will secure their much coveted Southern independence.

2:30 pm, bivouacked along the Tennessee River. I am now observing deployments from the porch of an abandoned schoolhouse with Lipsey of the *New York Times*. Looking through the opaque windows, I can see two men from an Ohio regiment replacing the portrait of Jeff Davis



with that of President Lincoln, whose image was no doubt removed from its honored place above the blackboard after Tennessee declared for the Confederacy. General Washington's portrait remains undisturbed, as he continues to inspire combatants on both sides of this current civil conflict, a reminder of the common heritage shared by fratricidal antagonists.

The entire meaning of our national identity now hangs on the current contest, with one side arguing for perpetual Union, and the other for states' rights at all costs. This schoolhouse displays the same sacred documents to be found in its counterparts in New England or Pennsylvania or Iowa or Kansas – the same immortal words, “All men are created equal,” “in order to form a more perfect Union,” etc., yet the students in this Tennessee schoolhouse, so recently displaced by the ravages of war to flee southward with their Secessionist parents – were taught an entirely different interpretation of them than their tousled-headed counterparts in the Northern states. One begs to discover how the Secessionists interpret the words about Union, as it remains to be seen if they value the concept at all.

General Andrew Jackson, Governor Houston of Texas, and Presidents Washington and Madison themselves, while all valiant and noble Southerners, all valued the sanctity and perpetuity of the Union of the States during their own lifetimes, and dedicated their most admirable efforts to its longevity and preservation, a fact of history which seems to elude the leaders and ideologues of the Southern Confederacy. The Rebels do not comprehend that the very “rights” and “freedom” they fight to defend *depend* upon the strength and longevity of the Federal Union. Do the Rebels not remember the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and the arduous and sometimes acrimonious debates of ratification in 1788, which settled the question of States' rights once and for all? Did not nine of the thirteen original States, including South Carolina and Georgia, adopt the new Constitution in its entirety on the first ballot, including the greater powers granted to the Congress and the Presidency?

J.A. Davis, *Harper's Weekly*

C.J. Lipsey, *New York Times*

Riverside Dickens Festival by Shelley Peters



As the church bells chimed on the hour and a half, London Town sprang up among the turn of the century buildings in Historic Downtown Riverside. Folks started arriving in Victorian attire for the weekend Festival celebrating the birthday of Charles Dickens, prolific writer about the common folk in the nineteenth century.

The American Civil War Society was represented in the American Pavilion and offered hospitality to the travelers abroad who came to escape the current unpleasantness in the States.

A fine display of the Confederate National flags waved in the breeze as Captain Duke (Jeff Budewski) and Jefferson Davis (John Smoley) talked to the visitors about what Dickens thought the War between the states was really about. Visiting children asked the questions on their scavenger hunt and got a stamp, which proved that they learned what important event was going on in the United States during this time. A Civil War sailor (Steve Clugston) brought his violin and entertained us during Tea in the afternoon.

Thanks to Larry Boutcher and Firehouse Mike Collins who helped the Widow Peters set up on Friday. Thanks to Andy and Alysia Webb, Gina and Chris Kimmel, Cat Lane and Jordan Fried, Scott Huseh and his parents, and Tonya and Ivan Clevenger for talking to the visitors.

It was nice to see the ACWS Civilian Director Donnalee and Scott Simmons who drove all the way from Ventura County to support this Living History event.

Thanks to Pauline Bingham, Beth Kleiner and Bernice Wayman for modeling their corsets and gowns in the Fashion Show.

Although a rainy morning shut down the outside activities on Sunday, the indoor ones continued. Thanks to Scott Huseh and Doug Grant for helping to take down the wet tentage.





LINE CAMP-FIRE PRODUCE THE TASTY APPETIZER



Recipes are for 12" diameter, 4" deep (baking) Dutch ovens. I like to line my Dutch oven with two layers of heavy duty foil just to make clean-up easier. I always use Kingsford Charcoal briquettes for consistency. Use 15 on the top and 10 on the bottom to produce about a 350 degree oven. All recipes below have cooking times based on this configuration.

Southwest Tamale Pie

Ingredients:

- 3 small cans of spiced or flavored beans. However, chili beans, black beans, Louisiana style beans, etc., will also work great.
- 2 pounds of pork cut into 1 inch cubes (You could use chicken or beef just as well. We prefer the pork flavor in this dish.)
- One yellow or brown onion, chopped.
- ½ to 1 cup of grated cheddar or jack cheese.
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic.
- 1 tablespoon of red chili sauce (optional).
- 1 can of Marie Callendar's Southwest Cornbread Mix. This is probably a local California brand. It is cornbread mix spiced with red and green bell peppers and hot spices. You can use any

package of cornbread mix as a substitute. Prepare using baking instructions on the package (adjust for altitude if you are above 5000 ft by adding extra liquid). When camping I usually mix the cornbread in the 1 gallon freezer bag and it saves a lot of cleanup.

- 1 tub of sour cream to serve with the cooked tamale pie.

Preparation:

- Dump the beans, onions, pork, garlic, and chili sauce in the bottom of the Dutch oven and mix with a spoon. Be careful not to tear the foil lining.
- Sprinkle the cheese on top of the mixture.
- Pour the cornbread mix over the cheese and even out all over using the backside of a spoon.

Cooking:

- Usually takes 50-60 minutes. It is done when both the pork and cornbread are fully cooked.