



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.

June/July 2009





**THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
SOCIETY
Established in 1986**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS –ACWS

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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

Adjutant – Capt. David Crichton

Infantry Brigade Commander – Major Keith DeLuca

Artillery Brigade Commander-Major Scott Simmons

Adjutant-Lt. David Bolin

Cavalry Brigade Commander-2nd Lt. Robert Kuehl

Division Chaplain - Capt. Tony Delgadillo

Confederate Division:

Division Commander – Lt. Col. Shawn Stidger

Chief of Staff – Maj. Steve Hutton

Adjutant – Capt. Gene Somers

Clerk/Quartermaster – Lt. Ira Lack

Artillery Brigade Commander- Major Mike Collins
Adjutant- Capt. Doug Carroll
Sgt. Maj. – Sgt. Maj. Sam Frankl

Cavalry Brigade Commander-Major Scott Peca
Infantry Command Brigade: Maj. Jim Style
Adjutant- Capt. Don Nobles
Sgt. Maj. – Sgt. Maj. Marcus Brannan

Division Chaplain – Capt. Roger Hurley



ACWS BOARD MEETING

JUNE 28, 2009 11 AM
JOHNNY REB'S RESTAURANT
ORANGE CA

MILITARY DISPATCHES



CONFEDERATE COMMAND:

Hdqtrs, Infantry Brigade, Near Blythe,
Ca.
April 28, 1864.

Major Steve Hutton,
Chief of Staff, Stidger's Division

Major: I have the honor herewith to submit to you a report of the operations of my command from April 18 to April 19, 1864, embracing the several engagements near Blythe, California.

Reports from the Cavalry Brigade indicated that Union forces were concentrating in the vicinity of Blythe. In response to this reported buildup, the Infantry Brigade was ordered to move to the vicinity of Blythe and be prepared to counter any move the Union forces might make.

With Union troops reportedly still in the vicinity of Prado Park and possibly preparing to move to the vicinity of Costa Mesa it was necessary to leave several companies of the Brigade there to counter that threat. The remainder of the Brigade consisting of the 8th Alabama Co. I and part of Co. E 8th Louisiana were ordered to proceed to the vicinity of Blythe. These elements arrived on Friday and set up camp. Union troops were observed moving into the area and setting up camp also.

Saturday morning dawned bright and we were able to observe that the number of Union forces appeared to be equal with our own. The Infantry started out the day with drill as they had a fresh fish and they wanted to be ready to meet the Union forces.

About 1:30pm the Infantry was ordered to advance forward of the guns and form a skirmish line. As they advanced a Union battle line came out to meet them. At one point in the battle Union brought up a mountain howitzer on the right side of their line which had a devastating effect on our battle line. One of our field guns took out the mountain howitzer and the infantry continued to press the Union line until they were compelled to capitulate.

About 3:30pm the Infantry was ordered to return to the field. Initially, the Infantry force was split half on the right side of the field and half on the left side of the field. At one point 1st Sergeant Fernand of the 8th Alabama was shot & killed by a Union soldier. 1st Sergeant Fernand's wife Kathy came from the rear where she had been tending the wounded, yelling "you killed my husband". She wrestled Pvt. Dudley's musket from him and shot the offending Yankee dead. The battle continued to rage for some time until it was necessary to retire from the field in the face of superior forces.

2ND. Kentucky Head Quarters
Bell's Station
Date May 12

To: Col Shawn Stidger
C.S.A. Division

Sir,

Upon my arrival to Costa Mesa Town I stopped the advance of our Cavalry at Fairveiw Park which is a short distance from my farm. I had the area secured and we watched the Federals set up camps closer to the Bluffs. The ground here is good for a fight which I knew would happen soon. On May 9Th as ordered we checked the Federal Line on the Left Flank met some resistance but pushed the Federal line back as our own Infantry advanced I saw the opportunity to pull off line and run my Brigade behind our own line to mask my plan. We came out on our far right flank to hit the Federal weak point there. With the efforts of both Infantry and Cavalry moving in coordinated advance maneuvers, I was able to cut off the Federals escape as well as capturing the Federal Battery. Casualties were light for my Brigade, and we made ready for any other Federal

advance. Just before sunset the Federal advance did come and my Brigade found themselves cut off from our Infantry lines we were being cut down like chafes of wheat. I ordered a retreat and we left the Field with heavy casualties to the Brigade. On the morning of May 10 I found the Brigade low in numbers but high in honor for those who remained to finish the fight. At first we were pushed further back but by the afternoon we captured a Howitzer to present to you and our Chief of Artillery. I and a few other troopers ran the gun until we ran out of rounds. At that point I asked permission to leave the piece and join my Brigade. Captain Inman led the Cavalry Brigade until my return. With our Infantry pushing hard on the Federal right flank and Center it gave me the opportunity to crush the Federal Battery standing unprotected and then giving me room to block the Federal retreat. Fairveiw Park Station is in Confederate hands.

I remain at your service,
Major Peca

17 May, 1863

To: ACWB Confederate Division

Gentlemen,

I have to apologize for not writing this in my own hand. Time has escaped me. I want to thank you for a successful Winter-Spring campaign. We have held the silver at Calico and forced the federal army back the Arizona border. We had them just about of South California but they rallied. We met the Federal counterattack in Costa Mesa to resounding results. I asked for a decisive victory and that is exactly what was delivered, capturing 3 guns in two days. My compliments to you all. I have no idea if we can catch up to the Federal army because watching their color bearer run, I do not know if he stopped yet, but he moved fairly quickly. I also would like to thank Kanawah's Cavalry Brigade for their assistance, it was invaluable. We also got ourselves back into the win column in Base Ball. We won, and I think the score was 8 to 3.

The Cavalry is out and scouting for us and we will be patient until we find where the Federal army is going to amass again. The latest word from our spies we have is they will meet again in October for a late fall campaign starting in Menifee. Instead of forcing them to Arizona, I would like to drive the Federals through Nevada this time. We will be prepared for this attack. I am currently searching for farm for us to drill on. I have a potential place near Cherry Valley and will have word to you folks soon. I am looking about mid-August for this drill. Please contact your brigade commander if you are interested. I am planning having a very good trip to an old friend so we can have a great area to drill on.

Another item I would like to address with the best Confederate Troops in South California. I would like the company commanders to send historical facts about your companies to the Asst. Adj. Gen. Gene Somers. You can send him a letter through wine to this address:

grumpyolslob@aol.com. We would like to start incorporating these into the battles and start having the respective brigades portray the company we are doing the scenario for. For example, the 8th Alabama charged a fortified position and captured 2 cannon. The infantry would take the field a the 8th Alabama, with their colors. The Infantry brigade would portray the 8th for that battle. I would like to do this for each company we have in our ranks.

I would like thank you all, for attending the events we have had. They have been on short notice

and they have been enjoyable. The folks in Blythe have treated us very hospitably and I thank them for all of the support. I can see this Confederate Division is going to be the strength for our cause and keep the drums beating until the Federal Government relents on their oppression.

You Obedient Servant,

Col. J. Shawn Stilzer

Commanding, South California Division, Dept. of the Southwest.





CIVILIAN CHATTER

It is hard to believe the year is half over already. Even with the shaky economy, I am amazed we have had such a successful first half of the year. We were able to add two wonderful events, one in Blythe and one in Costa Mesa. Hopefully these events will grow and become regular annual events. Unfortunately, two other events, Wooden Nickel and Acton, have been postponed by the sponsors. As the economy improves, I am hopeful these events will return to our schedule.

LOOKING BACK

In less than two months, the citizens of Blythe rallied together to provide the ACWS with a beautiful park on the Colorado River where we could provide them with a civil war era experience. While the short notice for a new reenactment is difficult for some reenactors, as many of us need time to arrange our schedules, the citizens of Blythe did an outstanding job of providing us with red carpet service. The "can do" attitude of the citizens of Blythe and of those reenactors that were able to attend made the event one the most pleasurable events I have attended in a long time.



The Ricker family camp.

Camps were set up on along the river on green grass shaded by large trees. A cool breeze kept the days comfortable. The **Occasional Strings** set up under a big shade tree and provided music during the day. Local musicians brought their instruments and join in with the fun. The children's games and croquet were set up for the kids and young adults to play. A large number of students with their questionnaires made the rounds through the camps. Thank You's go to the **Ricker family** and **Larry Bouthcher** for answering all those civilian and medical questions. Thank You, **Anne Frankl** for helping with the children's activities and the quilting and embroidery demonstrations. Contacts were made with the local Quilting Guild and Red Hat Society, so hopefully next year we will be able to provide a joint tea.

As the crowds diminished on Saturday night, trucks arrived, table and chairs were unloaded, and the citizens of Blythe served all the reenactors a delicious dinner. The warm friendships made between the community organizers and reenactors over the weekend left everyone with the good feeling of a job well done.



Larry Bouthcher's camp.



Local children having a tea party.

Due to the sudden death of a dear friend two days before the event, I was not able to attend the reenactment in Costa Mesa. I hope it went well and I am anxious to hear from our members their impressions.

LOOKING FORWARD

I am sad to report Thousand Trails in Acton has postponed the reenactment in June.

For those that enjoy doing living history, there is an event in Barstow June 5 -7. The **1st Annual Harvey House Hullabaloo** is sponsored by The Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce with the Reenactment Guild of America. There will be encampments covering the years 1865 – 1907. Dave Crichton, ACWS Secretary, is coordinating a group of ACWS members to represent the civil war era. If you are interested in going, contact Dave at shasta5097@msn.com or 760-255-1852.

July is "**support your local 4th of July event!**" Month. One such event that I am aware of is the 4th of July parade in old town Temecula. R. Weisfeld, S.C. Sharpshooters, is coordinating a group to march in the parade. If you are interested in going, contact Pvt. Weisfeld at rweistaz@aol.com.

Donnalee Simmons
dlsimmon@pacbell.net

ACWS, Civilian Corps Director (805) 529-3762

ACWS 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SUPPORT/ SPONSORED
4th of July 2009	Support Your Local Event		
Sept TBD 2009	Riley's Farm	Oak Glen CA	ACWS
Oct 10-11, 2009	Wooden Nickel	Menifee, CA	ACWS
Oct 31-Nov 1, 2009	Spring Mountain Ranch SMR	Las Vegas NV	
January 9, 2010	Grand Ball	Masonic Lodge Norwalk CA	ACWS Public and Reenactors Invited

Links to 2009 Calendar of Events for additional organizations:

PACWR: <http://www.pacwr.org/events.htm>

Fort Tejon: <http://www.forttejon.org/>

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

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

Conditions for Event Support

FINAL VERSION (as adopted 1-31-04)

Definitions:

Sponsored events – This event is completely sponsored by the ACWS. We provide insurance, artillery reimbursements, infantry powder issues, approved impressions, provide for command structure, make maximum effort to turn out membership, publicize event in our newsletter, and cover any additional expenses required. We contract and control any proceeds. All conditions above will be specified in written contract.

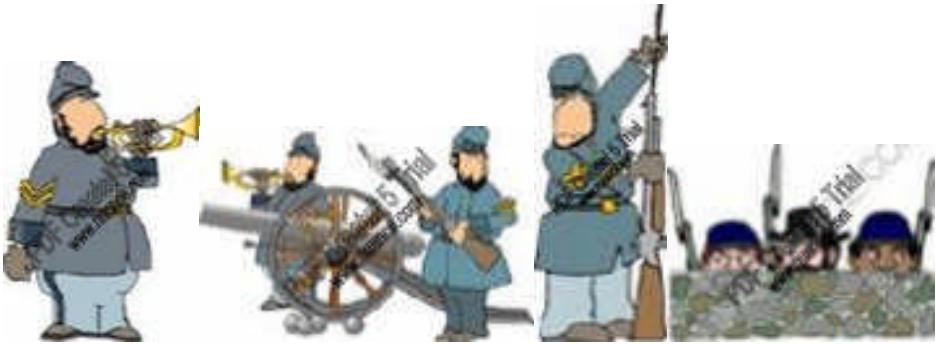
Co-sponsored events - This event is co-sponsored by the ACWS in association with an other recognized entity. We will provide ACWS member insurance and may provide event insurance at additional cost. (if ACWS event insurance is used, ALL ACWS rules and regulations as published in ACWS gold book SHALL apply). Event will provide artillery reimbursements, infantry powder reimbursements and additional expenses (subject to negotiations) at normal ACWS rates. ACWS will provide approved impressions, provide and/or share command structure, make maximum effort to turn out membership, publicize event in our newsletter, and cover any additional expenses negotiated and required. All conditions above will be specified in written contract.

Supported events – ACWS provides auxiliary support for this event. **We provide liability insurance for our registered members only**, we can not provide event insurance. ACWS provides no artillery reimbursements, no infantry powder issue. ACWS recommends inclusion of our impressions (i.e. Grant/Lee) and shares command positions. ACWS advertises event in the ACWS newsletter. We may receive proceeds from this event by agreement.

Conditions for support:

- 1) All members of ACWS will be accepted without exception.
- 2) Artillery gun slots will be guaranteed at least 2 ea. Confederate and 2 ea. Union for ACWS *full sized* guns (batteries to be determined by ACWS).
- 3) Artillery powder reimbursement will be paid to ACWS guns at the same rate as those applied to *any and all other* full sized cannon participating in the event.
- 4) ACWS units will be held within one cohesive military unit (brigade/battalion etc.) and be commanded by ACWS command structure.
- 5) ACWS command staff (U.S. and C.S.) will be included in scenario planning.
- 6) Participating ACWS members will adhere to ACWS safety rules and regulations. These rules and regulations will supersede any other event rules for our members.
- 7) ACWS will be allowed to establish and staff an informational/promotional booth at this event.

Recommended events – ACWS will list this event in our calendar. **NO ACWS INSURANCE WILL APPLY.**



EDITOR'S NOTES

Wow what a great train of events lately. Unfortunately I was out of state for the Blythe event but from what I have been told it turned out GREAT! I have talked to so many folks about their experience at Blythe and so far no complaints at all just cheering for having a fantastic event in Blythe. The City of Blythe was thrilled with the experience and wants the ACWS to come back to their community next year. We will inform everyone of a date as soon as possible for 2010.

Now on to the Battle of Costa Mesa. The event was small but it was late in getting completely prepared for us. Lots of lessons to be learned here. But all and all it was wonderful. The community was so enthusiastic about having a Civil War reenactment in their own neighborhood. I've heard a couple of "unhappy" remarks but all and all it too turned out to be a great event. Beautiful weather and once again great folks to be around. Unfortunately at the very last minute The Lion's Club pulled out of the event and they were suppose to feed the troops and public. We immediately had the Commanders contact their troops and tell everyone to bring their own food. We searched high and low for someone to replace the Lion's Club and came up with the "Food Coach". They did a great job and helped out in a pinch. Some folks didn't like the WALL of the school. Well I have seen worst. At the Prado event they had RVs parked in and around the entire encampment. Including in between the units and civilian areas. That took away from the authentic environment completely. Well I guess we can't make everyone happy. But we are trying. We are already working on a different date (not on Mother's Day weekend) and are lining up some great food vendors and additional craftsman displays.

Another note. I wish to thank some folks for pitching in and helping me out at Costa Mesa. Special thanks to Rebecca Stidger for jumping in and putting on a great Lady's Tea on Saturday. Rebecca went all out and made these wonderful tea sandwiches and desserts including petit fours – WOW what a treat. Special thanks again to Elroy and the folks that helped with the crowd control. Thank you, thank you and thank you.

As a last note. A special thanks to Lt. David Bolin and Sgt. Prescott that took over the recruitment of our Junior Cadets and gave these youngsters a great experience. Lt. Bolin and Sgt. Prescott drilled the kids and then marched them over to the battlefield for a small battle with some Confederate forces that were forging the area. We had about 8 kids that were involved and they all had huge smiles on their faces when they were discharged at the end of the event. Again thanks to Lt. Bolin and Sgt Prescott for

stepping up to the plate and getting it done. PS Also thanks to Lt. Col. Stidger for having his men take on the advancement of these Union recruitments and giving them a great experience at Civil War reenacting.

*Thanks again
Joyce Bolin
ACWS PR Director/Editor*



25th Annual
West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference
October 23-25, 2009
Clovis, California

The Campaign for Chattanooga

Featuring:

**Steven Woodworth, (Keynote Speaker) Professor, Texas Christian University Wiley
Sword, Author & Historian**

**William Glenn Robertson, Director, Combat Studies Institute, Fort Leavenworth
James Ogden, Chief Historian, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park
James Stanbery, Professor, Los Angeles Harbor College**

**Lee White, Staff Historian, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park
Chris Young, Former Park Ranger, Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP
Evan Jones, Former Park Ranger, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park**

For registration and program information, please consult our website:

www.chattanooga2009.com

Join us for the 25th Anniversary of the West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference. Sorry, we are unable to accept bank cards of any kind. All Performance features gunfire, explosions and other loud noise. Small children and pets not recommended.

For More Information visit www.civilwardays.net

Call (707) 922-5901 or (831) 751-6978



**AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY
PRESENTS THE
“GRAND BALL”
JANUARY 9, 2010
NORWALK MASONIC LODGE
12345 Rosecrans Avenue
NORWALK, CA**

Social hour will be from 6 to 7 pm with a cash bar. A sit down dinner will be served promptly at 7:30 pm

*Dancing will be from 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm
Music by the Occasional Strings*

A limited number of tickets will be sold and will go on sale beginning July 1, 2009.

Ball tickets purchased before Dec. 12, 2009 are ACWS member \$45.00 per ADULT - after Dec. 12th the price is \$50.00 per ADULT ticket.

*Non-ACWS members prices is \$50.00 per adult and after Dec. 12th \$55.00
There are NO REFUNDS AFTER DECEMBER 15TH, 2009*

Kevin Bohn Photography will be pleased to offer on-site portraits

A discount rate of \$99.00 is being given at the Marriott Hotel located at 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, California. For hotel reservations please call (800)228-9290 or (562)863-5555 and mention ACWS for the discounted rates. Please visit www.acws.net for additional information on meal selection and other important information.

With great enthusiasm from our membership it has been requested that we conduct another RAFFLE

*So be prepared to see great prizes at the Ball
Tickets will be \$1 and 6 for \$5
Pistol tickets will be \$5 each*

DINNER MENU

Beef Kabobs Dinner & name of person: #_____ Name('s)_____

New Orleans Chicken Dinner & name of person: # Name('s) _____

Veggie Lasagna Dinner & name of Person: # Name(s)

Total dollars due: _____ Check # _____ Cash _____ date rcvd: _____

Name: Mr. / Rank _____ Mrs./Miss: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone # _____ (needed for contact in case of a que

**Mail all checks to:
ACWS Grand Ball
c/o Samuel Frankl
21910 Germain Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311-2109**

Thank you,

ACWS Ball Committee



Barstow, California proudly presents:
1st Annual
Harvey House Hullabaloo



JUNE 5TH-7TH. 2009

3 full days of Living History

THE BARSTOW AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
in conjunction with the
REENACTMENT GUILD OF AMERICA
present an **Invitational Extravaganza Event**

Historical Mojave River Trail Ride, Harvey Girls, Historical Encampments, Skit Competitions, Music, Vendors, BBQ, Costume Contest, Fast Draw Shootout, Cowboy Auction, Door Prizes, Western Art, Old West Cowboy Impersonators, Vintage Wagons/Rides, Railroad Cars, Cowboy Church. Old West History at it's Best!!

ATTENTION ACWS MEMBERS!!!!

The ACWS is already registered. If interested or need more information please respond to Captain Dave Crichton. Deadline for participation is 29 May 2009 at shasta5097@msn.com. This is primarily a living history event. However if we have enough blue and gray we could do a small skirmish for the public.

THIS IS A GREAT RECRUITING OPPORTUNITY!

ALL OTHER ACWS NEWS



5th US Battery B featured on History Channel

Recently, our good friends in the 5th US, Battery B were called on to provide the demonstrations and information about Civil war artillery pieces. This time it was for a new History Channel Program entitled "Lock and Load" and stars R., Lee Ermey (gunny). As you can see from the attached photos, R. Lee received some real hands on training and gun time with the 5th US. Stand by for the date this episode will show. Congratulations to our valiant boys in the 5th US for standing up to the challenge of television filming.



JENNY LIND

The following cake was named for Jenny Lind, the greatest soprano of the mid-eighteen hundreds. The "Swedish Nightingale," as she was fondly called, made only one U.S. tour, 1850-1852. For anyone who had the privilege of seeing her, it was a rare and thrilling occasion. In 1851, Benjamin Grierson, his sister Mary, his brother John, and John's wife Elizabeth all shared this experience. The following is taken from a letter written by Mary Grierson to her future sister-in-law Alice Kirk, describing the events that surrounded her journey from Jacksonville to St. Louis to hear Jenny Lind:

"Oh! I must not forget the joy of my life. I have heard—have seen—Jenny—living—breathing—singing, Jenny Lind. I must say only what all say that she is above all description. She must be heard. Could I have known what I would have lost by not hearing her, it would have been a life-long sorrow, but I have heard her. I could talk of her for hours, but I cannot write. When she came to St. Louis, Ben went down to hear her. I thought it right. But the high price of the tickets compelled me to decide that I ought not to think of such an indulgence for myself. John was there on business—went to the first concert—came home with such descriptions of her music and such an urgent request for me to come that Elizabeth, Mr. Howard and I set off. I shall always be glad that I have heard her. Indeed I would have considered myself paid—for expense and trouble—in listening to one solo on the violincello played by a young man—one of the orchestra. Oh! I wish you could have heard it. Our seats cost us \$6.50 each—besides the expense of going and coming and our expenses there. The poor I know ought not to expect to indulge themselves as the rich can, but we cannot estimate Jenny Lind's singing in dollars and cents. They are nothing. She gave five concerts in St. Louis. Ben heard them all."

THE JENNY LIND CAKE

2 eggs	3-1/2 cups flour
2 cups of sugar	3 teaspoonfuls baking powder
1/2 cup of butter	Flavor to taste, rind of the
1 cup of sweet cream or milk	lemon, if thought best, salt

Cream for the inside

2 apples, grated
1 cup of white sugar
1 egg. Cook until it boils up, then add the juice of one lemon.
To be baked like Jelly Cake and spread with the cream.

2 cups sugar	3 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 cup butter, margarine, or lard	1 teaspoon salt
2 eggs, large	1 teaspoon vanilla or 2 teaspoons
1 cup sweet cream or milk	lemon or orange peel, grated
3-1/2 cups flour	

Cream the sugar with shortening until light. Add eggs and beat well. Stir in milk and flavoring. Sift flour, salt, and baking powder together and add to the creamed mixture. Blend until batter is smooth. Turn batter into two 9-inch layer pans that have been greased and floured. Bake at 350° for about 35 minutes or until cakes test done.

Cream Filling

2 apples, grated or 1-1/2 cups applesauce
1 egg (plus 1 tablespoon cornstarch if you do use applesauce and it is thin)
1 cup white sugar
2 to 3 tablespoons lemon juice or 1 to 2 tablespoons lemonade concentrate

Bring apples (or applesauce), beaten egg, and sugar to a boil. Remove from heat and add lemon juice or lemonade concentrate. When cakes are cool, split the layers. Place first layer of cake on the plate and alternate layers of cake and filling until both are used up.

