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# AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY



## Company Dispatch

Official Newsletter of the American Civil War Society

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

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

**May 2010**





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**FOR ALL OPEN BOARD POSITIONS PLEASE  
CONTACT ANY PRESENT BOARD MEMBER**

**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**

**2 1758 Mirador**

**Mission Viejo, CA 92691**



**April 1864 Constructing telegraph lines**

## **Federal/Union Division:**

Division Commander– VACANT

Adjutant – VACANT

Infantry Brigade Cdr. – VACANT

Artillery Brigade Cdr. –VACANT

Artillery Adjutant–Lt. David Bolin

Division Chaplain – Rich Holt

Cavalry - VACANT

## **Confederate Division:**

Division Commander: Lt. Col. J. Shawn Stidger

Chief of Staff: Maj. Steve Hutton

Assistant Adjutant General: Capt. Gene Somers

Quartermaster: Lt. Ira Lack

:

## **Confederate Brigade Staff:**

### **Infantry**

Brigade Commander:: Major James M. Stytle

Brigade Adjutant: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Sanchez

Brigade Sgt. Major: Sgt. Major Marcus Brannan

### **Cavalry**

Brigade Commander: Major Scott Peca

Brigade Adjutant: Lt. John Riddler

Brigade Sgt. Major: 1st.Sergeant John Quessenberry

### **Artillery**

Brigade Commander: Major Mike Collins

Adjutant: Lt. Doug Carroll

Brigade Sgt. Major: Sgt. Major Sam Frankl





## ***PRESIDENT'S RAMBLING***

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE ARE FOUR POSITIONS OPEN ON THE  
ACWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**SECRETARY**

**UNION COMMANDER**

**CIVILIAN CORP DIRECTOR**

**PLEASE SEND ALL INQUIRIES TO [denubilo@roadrunner.com](mailto:denubilo@roadrunner.com)**

## **MILITARY DISPATCHES**

**CONFEDERATE COMMAND:                      No articles to report**

**UNION DIVISION:                              No articles to report**

**Due to non-participation and/or interest the MILITARY  
DISPATCHES section will be discontinued until further notice**

### ACWS Calendar of Events 2010

<b>May 15-16, 2010</b>	<b>Battle of Costa Mesa</b>	<b>Fairview Park Costa Mesa CA</b>	<b>ACWS Sponsored</b>
<b>May 16, 2010</b>	<b>Fort Tejon Tactical</b>	<b>Fort Tejon CA</b>	<b>FTHA</b>
<b>June 2010</b>	<b>TBD</b>		
<b>July 9-10, 2010</b>	<b>Fort MacArthur Civil War Days</b>	<b>San Pedro CA</b>	<b>Howitzers</b>
<b>July 17-18, 2010</b>	<b>Duncan Mills</b>	<b>Duncan Mills CA</b>	
<b>July 31 – Aug 1, 2010</b>	<b>Long Beach</b>	<b>El Dorado Reg Park Long Beach CA</b>	
<b>August 2010</b>	<b>TBD</b>		
<b>September 4-5, 2010</b>	<b>Huntington Beach</b>	<b>Huntington Beach, CA</b>	<b>ACWS Battalion in Support</b>
<b>Sept 25-26, 2010 or Sept 18-19, 2010</b>	<b>OERRM (tentative)</b>	<b>Perris CA</b>	<b>ACWS Sponsored</b>
<b>October 15-17, 2010</b>	<b>Kearney Park</b>	<b>Fresno CA</b>	<b>ACWS Sponsored SNLHA Sponsored</b>
<b>October 30-31, 2010</b>	<b>SMR</b>	<b>Spring Mountain Ranch Las Vegas NV</b>	
<b>Nov 13-14, 2010</b>	<b>Moorpark</b>	<b>Tijera Ranch Moorpark CA</b>	<b>ACWS Recommended</b>
<b>Nov 19-21, 2010</b>	<b>We Make History</b>	<b>Queen Creek AZ</b>	<b>ACWS Recommended</b>

#### **Additional organizations:**

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

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

**NCWA** [www.ncwa.org](http://www.ncwa.org)

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

**WeAreHistory:** <http://www.americanheritagefestival.com/ACWS>

## HOW IT ALL STARTED

**Lead-in to the War.** The origins of the Civil War are often viewed as present at the founding of the nation. The American Constitution did not mention slavery specifically, except to protect the slave trade for 20 years (1808). It counted slaves ("all other persons") as "three-fifths" of a person for purposes of congressional representation. The institution of slavery itself was left to the discretion of the states. As slavery disappeared from northern states, but remained viable in the South, two very different ways of life arose in these sections. Compromises regarding slavery, especially its extension to the new Western territories became more difficult to achieve. Social, political and economic power was at stake for both the North and the South.

Several historical events can be seen as efforts to resolve an issue, which was ultimately resolved only by secession and war. These include the [Missouri Compromise \(1820\)](#), the [Compromise of 1850](#), including the Fugitive Slave Act, and finally, the [Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854](#). This last piece of legislation allowed for "popular sovereignty," that is, a decision by settlers in Kansas and Nebraska whether they're new states would be slave or free. The struggle to determine the future of Kansas (known as "[Bleeding Kansas](#)") precipitated a level of violence that would not abate. This web page (appearing in 2005) begins with commemorative activities in the midst of that crisis.

### 1854

May 30, 1854

Kansas-Nebraska Act becomes law, Washington, D.C. This law gives the people of the two territories the authority to decide on the legal status of slavery. This effectively repeals the Missouri Compromise line of demarcation, which prohibited slavery in the states of the Louisiana Purchase above the southern boundary of Missouri 1.

August 1, 1854

The first settlers from the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Company, supporting a Free State, arrive in Lawrence, Kansas.

November 28, 1854

Thousands of armed Southerners, mostly from Missouri, come into Kansas to vote for a Pro slavery congressional delegate. Pro slavery forces win the election of 1854.

### 1855

March 13, 1855

More New Englanders (New England Emigrant Aid

Company), favoring a Free State, journey to Kansas to participate in the election of the territorial legislature.

March 30, 1855

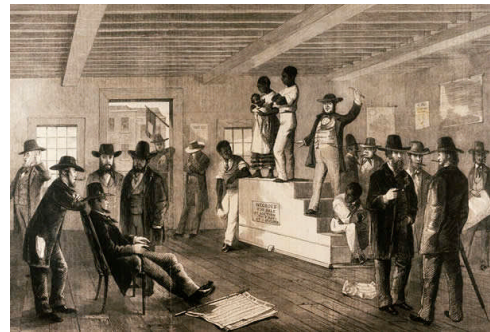
Voters elect members of the territorial legislature. Proslavery forces win the election. President Franklin Pierce recognizes this legislature, which incorporates the Missouri slave code.

Summer 1855

1200 New Englanders (New England Emigrant Aid Company) journey to Kansas. Henry Ward Beecher furnishes them with Sharp's rifles, which come to be known as "Beecher's Bibles."

October 23 - November 11, 1855

Free State advocates meet in Topeka, Kansas and adopt a state Constitution, which outlaws slavery, but also prohibits all free African-Americans from entering the state.



November 21, 1855

Wakarusa War. Charles W. Dow, a Free State advocate, is murdered by F.M. Coleman, a Pro slavery advocate, over a land dispute. After Sheriff Samuel J. Jones of Douglas County arrests not only Coleman, but a Free State witness, Jacob Branson, political tensions mount on both sides. When armed Free State men rescue Branson, each side begins to increase its forces. Pro slavery reinforcements come from Missouri and Free State advocates from around Kansas. They converge on Lawrence, Kansas.

December 6, 1855

Governor Wilson Shannon negotiates a settlement of the Wakarusa dispute and the combatants disperse. However, Thomas W. Barber, a Free State advocate, is killed by George W. Clarke, a Pro slavery advocate, as he leaves Lawrence to return home.

December 7, 1855

John Brown and his sons arrive in Lawrence to join the Free State effort as it concludes. He is made a captain of a company in the Kansas Volunteers. He and his family stay at the Free State Hotel. Brown joined his sons at their

settlement near Osawatomie, Kansas in October.

## 1856

New England abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher donates 25 rifles and his parishioners donate 25 Bibles to the Free State community of Wamego, KS. Today, the title of the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church refers to this event.

May 25-25, 1856

Pottawatomie Massacre. John Brown, four of his sons and two other abolitionist Free Staters hack to death five pro slavery men, supposedly in retaliation for the sacking of Lawrence and the caning of Senator Charles Sumner.

August 2, 1856

Burning of Taub Jones House. Pro slavery forces burn the original home of Free Stater Taub Jones, from which Jones escapes. He builds a second house, still standing, in the 1860s.

September 4, 1856

Repulse of James H. Lane. The people of Leecompton, KS, with the Camp Sackett Cavalry, prevent James Lane and his forces from sacking the town to liberate Free State prisoners held there. The prisoners are later moved to Lawrence.

## 1857-1858

Joel Grover, an abolitionist, builds a barn on his property in Lawrence, KS and uses it as a stop along the Underground Railroad. John Brown is said to have stopped there in January 1859 as he fled across Kansas with slaves taken from Missouri.

January 12-February 21, 1857

The Kansas Territorial Legislative Assembly, controlled by pro-slavery advocates, meets and calls for a Constitutional Convention.

March 6, 1857

Dred Scott Decision. U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney delivers the decision that the slave Dred Scott's suit for freedom should be dismissed. Taney goes on in his opinion to declare that "A free negro of the African race, whose ancestors were brought to this country and sold as slaves, is not a 'citizen' within the meaning of the Constitution of the United States." Furthermore, he declares that slave owners cannot be prohibited from maintaining slaves in the territories.

October 19, 1857

The Kansas Constitutional Convention meets and adopts a pro slavery constitution, the Leecompton Constitution, which it submits directly to Congress for approval. The constitution approves slavery in the territory and prohibits free African Americans

from living in Kansas. The constitution becomes a national issue, splits the Democratic Party and is a topic of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858.

## 1858

January 4, 1858

1858 Territorial Legislature (Free State) at Lawrence, KS. The newly elected territorial legislature, with an antislavery majority, meets in session in Leecompte, organizes and then adjourns to the friendlier environment of Lawrence for its session.

May 19, 1858

Marais des Cygnes Massacre. Pro slavery forces under Charles Hamilton capture 11 Free State men near Trading Post, KS and shoot them in a ravine near the site, killing five of them. The event, often referred to as a massacre, was reported nationwide.

June 7-15, 1858

Repulse of James Montgomery. Captain James Montgomery, a Free Stater, and some followers, enter Fort Scott on June 7 and try to burn down the Western Hotel, a pro-slavery headquarters. Governor James Denver negotiates an agreement to remove federal troops.

June 16, 1858

Lincoln delivers the "House Divided" speech. Accepting the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate from the state of Illinois, Abraham Lincoln delivers a now famous speech before the Republican State Convention in the Old State Capitol in Springfield, IL. In it he predicts that the country will not be able to endure half slave and half free.

August 15-September 15, 1858

John Brown illness. John Brown stays in the cabin of his half-sister, Florella Adair, where he recovers from an illness.

August 21, 1858

1<sup>st</sup> Lincoln-Douglas debate. The first debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas during the Illinois U.S. Senatorial Campaign is held in Ottawa, IL. They both address the Kansas and Nebraska Act of 1854 and the Dred Scott decision in their debate over the expansion of slavery.

August 27, 1858

2<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln-Douglas debate. The second debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas is held in Freeport, IL. The candidates discuss the fugitive slave law, admission of slave states, slavery in the territories and District of Columbia, and interstate slave trade.

September 15, 1858

3<sup>rd</sup> Lincoln-Douglas debate. The third debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas is held in Jonesboro, IL. They fight over the meaning of popular sovereignty under the Kansas-Nebraska Act as contradicted by the Dred Scott decision.

September 18, 1858

4<sup>th</sup> Lincoln-Douglas debate. The fourth debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas is held in Charleston, IL. Candidates identify their respective positions on racial equality, but they spend most of this debate in argument over a speech by Judge Lyman Trumbull, then Republican Senator from Illinois.

October 7, 1858

5<sup>th</sup> Lincoln-Douglas debate. The fifth debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas is held in Galesburg, IL. They debate over the Kansas-Nebraska bill, as a demonstration of states' rights, and the meaning of slavery in the context of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, particularly in light of the Dred Scott decision.

October 13, 1858

6<sup>th</sup> Lincoln-Douglas debate. The sixth debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas is held in Quincy, IL. The candidates continue with topics from the Galesburg debates, including further comments on the Dred Scott decision and the expansion of slavery into the territories.

October 15, 1858

7<sup>th</sup> Lincoln-Douglas debate. The seventh and last debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas is held in Alton, IL. Both candidates revisit their remarks at the previous debates at Galesburg and Quincy. Then, both candidates defend former statements related to the overall slavery debate. Douglas discusses his opposition to the pro slavery Lecompton constitution. Lincoln defends his "House Divided" speech, in which he had criticized the Dred Scott decision as potentially making slavery national, but insists that he had not objected to its ruling against African Americans citizens.

December 16, 1858

Captain James Montgomery enters Fort Scott and frees Benjamin Rice, a Free State prisoner. J.H. Little, who fires on the party, is killed and his store raided.

December 20, 1858

John Brown slave raid. John Brown, with a company of Free Staters, raids two plantations in Missouri and frees 11 slaves, whom he brings back across the border into Kansas. One white slave owner is killed in the raid.

December 28, 1858

There is some evidence that on this date the eleven slaves freed by John Brown on December 20, 1858, and pursued across Kansas, were hiding under the Valentin Gerth cabin. Brown has to find a series of hiding places as he moves across Kansas and then North.

## 1859

January 13, 1859

Battle of the Spurs. John Ritchie helps John Brown escape with fugitive slaves during the Battle of the Spurs. Brown and his men flee from Deputy U.S. Marshal John P. Wood and a posse by fording the swollen waters of Straight Creek. On the same day the *Lawrence Republican* publishes John Brown's famous *Parallels* essay. While hiding in Moneka, KS in early January with these fugitive slaves, John Brown writes an essay explaining that the slave raid is a parallel action for the Marais des Cygnes massacre by pro slavery forces in May 1858.

February 1859

John Brown and the fugitive slaves arrive in Tabor, Iowa.

March 10, 1859

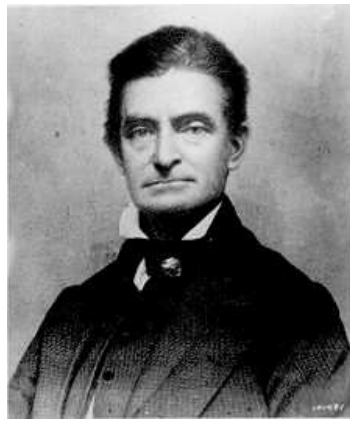
John Brown's fugitive slaves arrive in Detroit, MI.

March 13, 1859

John Brown ferries the fugitive slaves across the Detroit River into Windsor, Canada.

October 16-18, 1859

John Brown raid at Harper's Ferry, VA (now WV). John Brown sets out for Harper's Ferry with 21 men -- 5 African Americans, including Dangerfield Newby, who hopes to rescue his slave wife, and 16 white men, two of whom are Brown's sons. Brown and his men take the federal armory and arsenal, as well as local hostages. However, no slaves join them as they had hoped. The local militia pins Brown and his men down. Marines and soldiers are dispatched, under the leadership of then Colonel Robert E. Lee. In the end, ten of Brown's men are killed (including two African Americans and both of Brown's sons), seven are captured (including Brown), and five escape.



October 25-November 2, 1859

In Jefferson County Courthouse in Charleston, VA (now WV), John Brown is tried for his raid and insurrection of the Harper's Ferry arsenal. The trial leads to the examination and execution of Brown and his conspirators.

During the Civil War, the process of taking photographs was complex and time-consuming. Two photographers would arrive at a location. One would mix chemicals and pour them on a clean glass plate. After the chemicals were given time to evaporate, the glass plate would be sensitized by being immersed -- in darkness -- in a bath solution. Placed in a holder, the plate would then be inserted in the camera, which had been positioned and focused by the other photographer. Exposure of the plate and development of the photograph had to be completed within minutes; then the exposed plate was rushed to the darkroom wagon for developing. Each fragile glass plate had to be treated with great care after development -- a difficult task on a battlefield.

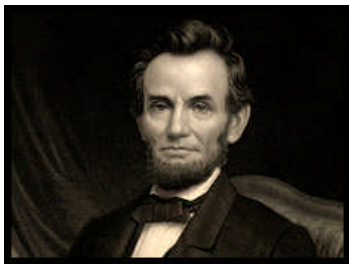


Cold Harbor, Va.  
Photographer's wagon and tent  
Between 1860 and 1865

## THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR

### 1860

The results of the 1860 census show a total population of 31,183,582 including 3,950,528 slaves or 13% of the population. Slaves equal 2% of the population in what would be Northern Aligned States and 39% in Southern Aligned States. The total population for Northern Aligned States was 22,080,250 and for Southern Aligned States was 9,103,332. In the Northern Aligned States 8% of the families owned slaves and 31% in the Southern Aligned States. 57% of the population in South Carolina were slaves and 49% of the families in Mississippi owned slaves.



November - Abraham Lincoln is elected president. Lincoln received 40% of the popular vote and won 59% of the Electoral votes. He was not even on the ballot in the deep south.

December - On December 20th South Carolina convention passes ordinance of secession thus seceding from the Union. The Declaration of Secession for South Carolina states, "We affirm that these ends for which this Government was instituted have been defeated, and the Government itself has been made destructive of them by the action of the non-slaveholding States. Those States have assume the right of deciding upon the propriety of our domestic institutions; and have denied the rights of property established in fifteen of the States and recognized by the Constitution; they have denounced as sinful the institution of slavery; they have permitted open establishment among them of societies, whose avowed object is to disturb the peace and to eloign the property of the citizens of other States. They have encouraged and assisted thousands of our slaves to leave their homes; and those who remain, have been incited by emissaries, books and pictures to servile insurrection."

On December 26th U.S. Major-General Robert Anderson moves his troops from Ft. Moultrie, in Charleston, South Carolina, to Ft. Sumter.

### January 1861



On January 9th an unarmed merchant ship, *Star of the West*, arrives in Charleston Harbor with troops and supplies to reinforce Ft. Sumter. The ship is fired upon and retreats. Also on this day Mississippi secedes from the Union. The Declaration of Secession for Mississippi states, "Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery - the greatest material interest of the world. Its labor supplies the product which constitutes by far the largest and most important portions of commerce of the earth."

January 10th - Florida secedes from the Union.

January 11th - Alabama secedes from the Union.

January 16th - The Senate refuses to consider the The Crittenden Compromise, one of several failed attempts to ease tension between the North and South. The compromise contained six proposals for constitutional amendments, and four proposals for Congressional resolution including the re-application of the north/south boundary from the Missouri Compromise, stated that the federal government could not interfere with slavery where it already existed and could not interfere with the recovery of slaves from any part of the Union.

January 19th - Georgia secedes from the Union. On January 29th Georgia's Declaration of Secession is approved stating, "For the last ten years we have had numerous and serious causes of complaint against our non-slave-holding confederate States with reference to the subject of African slavery. They have endeavored to weaken our security, to disturb our domestic peace and tranquility, and persistently refused to comply with their express constitutional obligations to us in reference to that property, and by the use of their power in the Federal

Government have striven to deprive us of an equal enjoyment of the common Territories of the Republic."

January 26th - Louisiana secedes from the Union.

January 29th - Kansas becomes the thirty fourth state and enters the Union as a free state in 1861.

### **February 1861**

February 1st - The Texas Legislature votes to secede from the Union. In a general election, held on February 23, 1861, voters ratified secession by a better than three to one margin. In the Texas Declaration of Secession it states, "In all the non-slaveholding States, in violation of that good faith and comity which should exist between entirely distinct nations, the people have formed themselves into a great sectional party, now strong enough in numbers to control the affairs of each of those States, based upon an unnatural feeling of hostility to these Southern States and their beneficent and patriarchal system of African slavery, proclaiming the debasing doctrine of equality of all men, irrespective of race or color - a doctrine at war with nature, in opposition to the experience of mankind, and in violation of the plainest revelations of Divine Law. They demand the abolition of negro slavery throughout the confederacy, the recognition of political equality between the white and negro races, and avow their determination to press on their crusade against us, so long as a negro slave remains in these States."

February 8th - Provisional Constitution of the Confederacy adopted in Montgomery, Alabama.

February 9th - Jefferson Davis unanimously elected President of the Confederacy by delegates to the Montgomery convention.

February 11th - President elect Abraham Lincoln leaves Springfield, Illinois, on his trip to Washington, D.C., arriving on Saturday, February 23. Lincoln addresses a crowd, many of them friends - view Lincoln's Farewell Address.

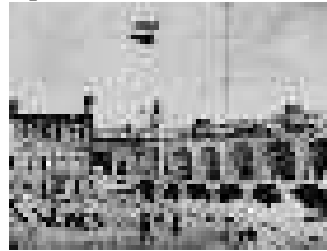
February 18th - Jefferson Davis inaugurated as President of the Confederacy.

### **March 1861**

March 4th - Abraham Lincoln inaugurated as sixteenth president of the United States - view

Lincoln's First Inaugural Address.  
March 6th - The Confederate Congress authorizes an army of volunteers.

### **April 1861**



April 12th, 4:30 am - South Carolina's Fort Sumter is fired upon by the Confederates - The War Begins.

April 13th - U.S. Major-General Anderson surrenders Ft. Sumter.

April 15th - In Washington, President Lincoln issues a proclamation announcing an "insurrection," and calls for 75,000 troops to be raised from the militia of the several States of the Union.

April 17th - Virginia secedes from the Union.

### **May 1861**

May 6th - Arkansas secedes from the Union.

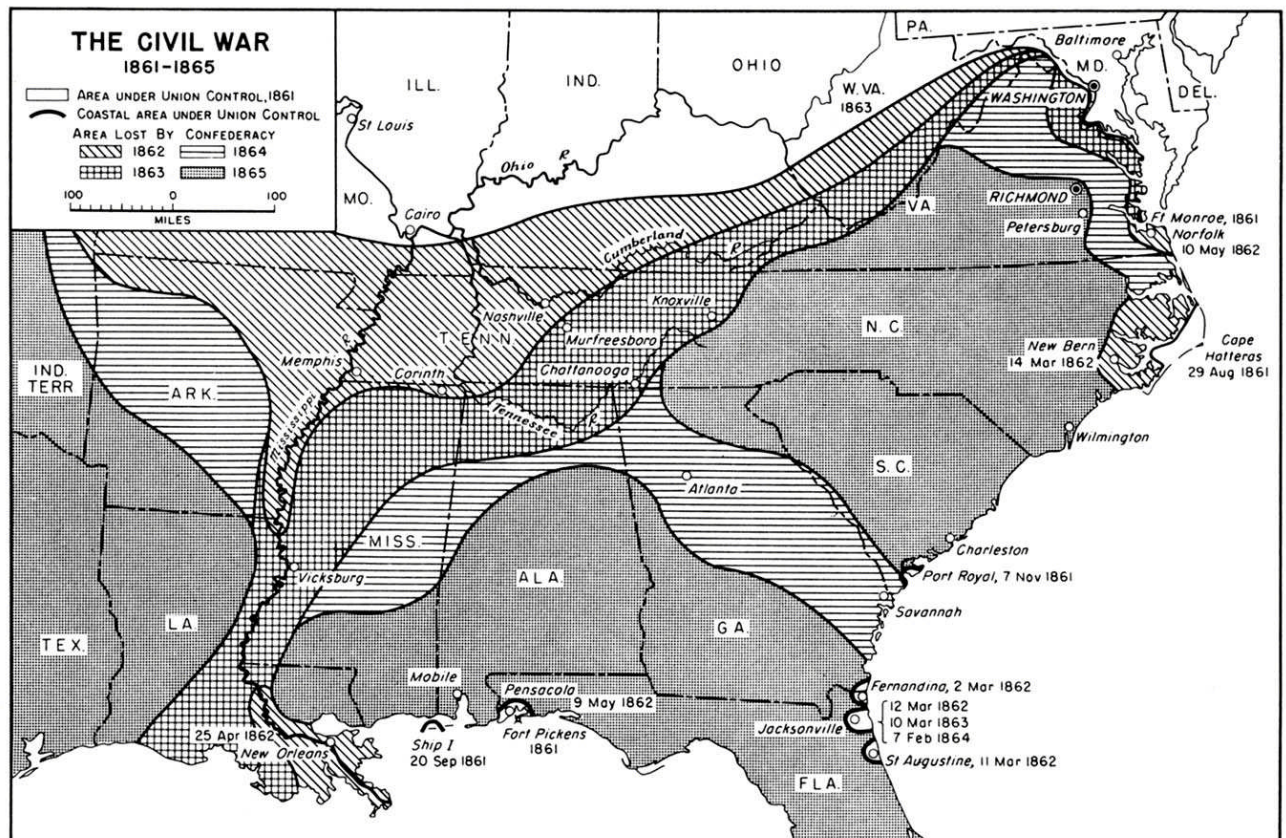
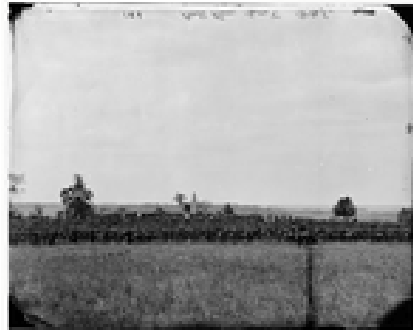
May 20th - North Carolina secedes from the Union.

### **June 1861**

June 8th - Tennessee secedes from the Union.

July 1861 Public demand pushed General-in-Chief Winfield Scott to advance on the South before adequately training his untried troops. Scott ordered General Irvin McDowell to advance on Confederate troops stationed at Manassas Junction, Virginia. McDowell attacked on July 21, and was initially successful, but the introduction of Confederate reinforcements resulted in a Southern victory and a chaotic retreat toward Washington by federal troops.

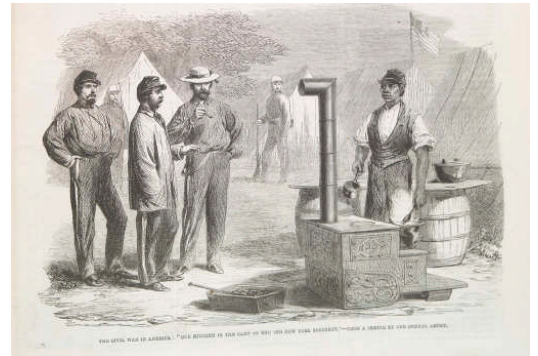
None of the included photographs of First Bull Run were made at the time of battle (July 21); the photographers had to wait until the Confederate Army evacuated Centreville and Manassas in March 1862. Their views of various landmarks of the previous summer are arranged according to the direction of the federal advance, a long flanking movement by Sudley's Ford.





**This photograph shows what a temporary Union commissary depot looked like during the war. Large wooden barrels containing salted meat, coffee beans, and sugar are stacked next to crates of hardtack. It took a lot of food to feed the army even for one day!**

*(photo Library of Congress)*



## Confederate Johnnie Cake Recipe

**two cups of cornmeal**

**2/3 cup of milk**

**2 tablespoons vegetable oil**

**2 teaspoon baking soda**

**1/2 teaspoon of salt**

Mix ingredients into a stiff batter and form eight biscuit-sized "dodgers". Bake on a lightly greased sheet at 350 degrees for twenty to twenty five minutes or until brown. **Or**, spoon the batter into hot cooking oil in a frying pan over a low flame. Remove the corn dodgers and let cool on a paper towel, spread with a little butter or molasses, and you have a real southern treat!

## Union Hardtack Recipe

**2 cups of flour**

**1/2 to 3/4 cup water**

**1 tablespoon of Crisco or vegetable fat**

**6 pinches of salt**

Mix the ingredients together into a stiff batter, knead several times, and spread the dough out flat to a thickness of 1/2 inch on a non-greased cookie sheet. Bake for one-half an hour at 400 degrees.

Remove from oven, cut dough into 3-inch squares, and punch four rows of holes, four holes per row into the dough. Turn dough over, return to the oven and bake another one-half hour. Turn oven off and leave the door closed. Leave the hardtack in the oven until cool. Remove and enjoy!

## The Distaff Soldier:



**By Dawn Beresovoy and Wendy Atkins**

Let me start off by giving credit where credit is due. Everything I learned about being a good distaff soldier I learned from Wendy Atkins. It is with the deepest respect that I write this article in hopes that what I have learned from her can be passed on to other females who want to do it right.

Yes, I did the “girl thing” for years. I wore all seven layers and cooked for the unit and did the sewing and truly delved into my role as a female in camp, and I enjoyed it. One warm and dry Calico, many years ago, my then 15 year old son, asked if I would fall in with him in ranks for a late birthday present. I have never donned the dresses and underpinnings again. After my first adventure on the field with the men I knew I needed help to get my new male impression right. I also knew exactly where to turn. Within the ranks was what I considered to be *the* stellar example of a distaff soldier, or a female impersonating a male soldier: Wendy aka Wendell Stone. I sat down with Wendy one evening at some event and asked her for help. Without being critical, and with all of her support she taught me things that I totally took to heart and have tried to put in to practice.

First and foremost: OBSERVE. Women and men are different. Women walk differently, they sit differently, they use their hands differently and they talk differently. So number one advice for females that want to hide within the ranks and do a quality male impression is to start by observing. We have all heard of the five foot rule, which is that people should not be able to determine if you are a female if they are within five feet of you, but that is only a starting point. I would like to touch on some male versus female mannerisms then move on to a good exterior impression.

Women tend to swing their arms more than men when they walk. Be conscious of your arm swing, and avoid using your hands when you talk. Men generally talk with subtle body motions versus hands and arm motions so observe and mimic them. We gals are taught from an early age to cross our legs when we sit, while men just don’t cross their legs in the same way women do. Women cross their legs at the knees and men cross them with one ankle on the opposite knee with the thighs wide, or they do not cross their legs much at all. Be aware of how you sit and mimic your male counterparts. Give firm handshakes.

Firm handshakes are far more masculine and emphasizes sincerity. The respect you will gain from doing some of these very simple things will be overwhelming. Now most of us gals have a higher pitched voice then our fellow men. That is how God intended it I guess and it can be difficult to change your voice. Imitating an accent whether Southern or otherwise does not make you seem more manly, but if you can pull it off, by all means go for it. When I am in ranks or formation and I need to talk to the guys, I do it very quietly (though my unit may laugh when they read this) so my voice isn't the voice that is heard from the public or staff. This small step goes a long way. If you are a distaff soldier with an NCO position or when asked questions by the public try your best not to completely change your voice so you sound ridiculous, but lower the tone a notch or two. Remember, that just because we are impersonating a male doesn't mean we use terms like 'dude'. In my particular unit I am surrounded by mostly men under 30 and they often use language that generally I would consider foul. Using foul language does not make you more masculine, so keep the foul words to a minimum. As for your male persona, try to stay in your role all day, in between battles and as much as possible after hours as well. Here again, you will gain the respect of your counterparts. The physical appearance of distaff soldiers is KEY to doing a good impression. Some women are just naturally prettier then others and if you have been graced with beauty, relish in it. Be proud to be a woman and dress as a woman. Wear the beautiful dresses and enjoy the role to your hearts content. Some women are just not meant to pass as men no matter HOW hard they try. So to all of those lovely ladies, your reenactors friends love you to be women. Also, a lot of women are, well, larger breasted. This can be a major problem in trying to impersonate a male. I use a very tight sports bra to keep my 'sisters' well flattened as well as to eliminate movement. If you have them, bound them up girls. Many will suggest that you do not cross your canteen strap or cartridge box strap across your chest. I do cross mine and here is the

reason: If I am the *only* one in ranks with uncrossed straps I stick out. However, if you are well endowed, consider wearing your cartridge box on you belt and remove the strap altogether. Also, wear your jackets! Wearing jackets covers a lot! All the men wear them so we need to do that as well. Here is another idea: put your cartridge box under your jacket! If the weather is hot and wearing a jacket is not required, please consider wearing at least a vest. Here again, the vest will hide your feminine shape.

Hair, now this is an important issue and one that can define you as a good or bad distaff soldier. My husband does not want me to cut my hair and I for one enjoy being feminine while not at events, so I will not cut my hair. I do, however have to make sure that my hair is contained, and well, at events. I put my hair into a tight ponytail and bound it under my hat. For most girls wearing kepis just doesn't work with long pinned up hair, so I recommend slouch hats if possible. Do not use the excuse that some men have long hair. Women with long hair in uniform look like women in uniform. Men with long hair have every male attribute there is and they look like men even if their hair is braided down their backs with bows. One suggestion that might work for some of you is to have a dual haircut. What that means is to trim the lower, underneath portion of you hair so that when you do put on a hair and pin your hair up, you have some short hair on the neck that resembles a mans haircut. When girls try to put their hair under a forage cap, the cap gets taller and looks silly but a slouch hat will hide a myriad of female attributes. The brim should be worn low on the brow so your face can be hidden more effectively. I actually have sewn hair combs onto the inside sweatband so that my hat will not fall off when I am running or when I take hits. Another simple idea for keeping your hat from falling off is to use a chinstrap or some sort. A reminder: during prayers or when the men are asked to remove their hats; I keep mine on and either kneel in respect with my hand on top of my hat, or just place my hand on my hat and bow my head. If

I remove my hat my hair might fall and reveal the fact that I am female. I have always found the use of glue on facial hair to not only fail, but the use of these mustaches sticks out like a sore thumb. Avoid spending your money on fake mustaches as they fall off easily and do not hide a thing. You can tell a fake mustache a mile away.

Now we come to make-up and jewelry. Make up and jewelry are simply no nos. any makeup, eyeliner, blush, mascara and even fingernail polish are like the cardinal sins of distaff soldiers. Remove makeup, nail polish and all jewelry prior to even arriving at the event. Some makeup just isn't as easy to remove as others and men usually don't carry nail polish or makeup remover with them. Wedding rings are a stickler for some women and I can respect the need and desire to wear your wedding ring. May I suggest a plain silver or gold band? I bought a very inexpensive silver band to wear at events. Ladies, long fingernails are just not conducive to reenacting and well, they are just another female attribute that we need to hide. Cut them short please.

I have a short story that I want to share with you about fingernails. Just this past St. Catherine's event Earl McCrary taught me a valuable lesson. He asked me if my fingernails were dirty. I looked at my nails and he started to laugh. Why? Well there is a real difference on how women and men will look at their fingernails and Earl got me on this one. When men look at their fingernails they usually will have their hand palm up with curled in fingers, while women will usually turn their hands palm down with fingers extended. Try this on a few of your friends and see what happens. Earl McCrary taught me that once again, I can never be too careful about my persona. Thanks Earl.

Now we move on to the importance of uniforms and appearance. Though each unit requires different and sometimes specific uniforms, we women need to be conscious of how we look. First, as I said above, wear your

jacket. I suggest that you buy your clothing on the larger side. Nothing gives away a female reenactor more than tight clothing. In regular pants I would wear a size 30 waist but my uniform pants are size 34. Yes, I have to use suspenders to keep them up but here again, the bulk of the clothing hides my feminine shape. Though I am revealing more information than I might need to, I will tell you my chest is a 36, but my jacket is a 44. The same thing can be said of shirts, buy larger to hide your shape. Now for the final issue: Rifles and marching. Learn to use your rifle and strive to do it better than those around you. Learn how to clean it, carry it, repair it, maintain and fire it. Nothing screams woman like having to ask for help from one of your fellow reenactors. When in formation, limit the smiles and chatter (I am a guilty of violating this myself) and above all know your drill and commands. Impress the men around you with your skill and ability to learn.

In closing I would like to quote a wonderful article entitled *The Distaff Soldier* written by Wendell Stone for the 8<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Whitesmoke Sun Courier:

**“Impersonating a soldier is a commitment. It is not a lark or something to do because ‘I felt like it.’ In real life, the women who did fight with the soldiers were few and dedicated to their role. Some did go off on what they thought would be an adventure. Some followed their lovers or husbands. Others believed dearly in the cause of their chosen side and went to fight with the men. All feared detection. These women threw aside Victorian conventions, cut their hair and donned men’s clothing, something most women would barely think of doing. By nature, the girls who went to war were what we refer to as ‘tomboys.’ The bulk of the women stayed to themselves, and kept quiet to avoid detection. There is evidence of those who had allies among the men they fought with. Someone who would keep her identity a secret provided she proved herself an able combatant. The average time of service seems to be 3 to 6 months**

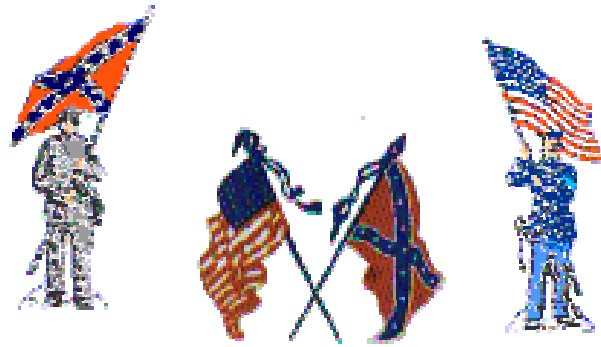
(although there are exceptions) before being identified as a female. Something as subtle as how a woman in disguise put her socks on could result in her being discovered. Of course being wounded or killed would reveal a soldier's sex. Most women who were discovered were put in a dress and sent home. In one particular case, a girl tried to kill herself after being detected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. Their courage and commitment are just 2 reasons why I embrace high standards for today's distaff soldier. The goal is to be treated and judged as a man. We will probably never know just who and how many females fought as men. Few kept diaries. But whoever they are, we as females owe them our respect. We owe the men who fought and gave their lives the same respect. Show this by a level of commitment that matches theirs."



**NEW FACEBOOK SITE FOR THE ACWS**

**ACWS American Civil War Society**

**"friends" can post pictures, start discussions, etc. The page will be monitored; inappropriate posts or pictures will be removed.**



## **BATTLE OF COSTA MESA CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT**

**Fairview Park**

**Costa Mesa, California**

**Presented by the ACWS – AMVETS and the  
City of Costa Mesa**

Two battles daily

Saturday 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Sunday 11 am and 2 pm

North & South Civil War encampments

Hear the cannon fire, smell the gunpowder

Period base ball game

Visit the Sutlers row for great shopping and much more



# BATTLE OF COSTA MESA, MAY 15-16, 2010

## ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

### **FRIDAY**

12:00            Reenactor set up

### **SATURDAY**

0800 approx. Free pancake breakfast for reenactors sponsored by IHOP and prepared by the Estancia High Booster club

9:00 am        Gates open to the public

12:00           Lunch

1:30 pm        1<sup>st</sup> Battle

3:30 pm        2<sup>nd</sup> Battle

4:30 pm        **Base Ball Game**

5:00 pm        Gates closed to the public.

### **SUNDAY**

0800            Free pancake breakfast IHOP/Estancia Boosters club

9:00 am        Gates open to the public, Church – everyone is welcomed.

11:00 am       1<sup>st</sup> Battle

12:00           Lunch

2:00 pm        2<sup>nd</sup> Battle

3:00 pm        Gates closed to the public. Camps can begin take down.

## MESSAGE TO CONFEDERATE TROOPS

25 April, 2010

Well folks, it has been awhile. I know we are doing very well and will continue to force our foe out of California. The next area we have reports have come from are in the Costa Mesa area. Maj. Scot Peca and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky have scouted the area and have asked for our support to meet the opposing Federal forces. It is May 15 and 16 at Fairview Park. They have changed the layout for this years conflict. The CSA will be camping in the same area, but we are not to be fighting under the seating of the school's stadium. Parking should be across the street like last year. For all of his hard work for this event, I am promoting Maj. Peca to Lt. Col until my arrival Saturday morning. My new job in Richmond has me arriving later than expected. You will give him all the respect he has merited. He has supported us for a long time and has earned this position. Lt. Col. Peca, I have all the faith in you and will see you Saturday. I am asking the ACWS membership for some assistance. I have been asked by a close friend to try and provide some living history for a Memorial Day Barbecue at the Pettis Veteran's Hospital in Loma Linda. The lunch will be on Saturday, May 29, 2010. We will set up some small canvas and I will be onsite at 9:00am. Lunch will be served at 11:00am. We will need all time periods, so if you also do WWI, WWII, Vietnam, etc. Please come in those periods as well. We are still working on weapons, the Homeland Security details are a little stiff. We will let you know at a later date about bringing weapons. I would really like to see some lady folk. Our primary job is to talk to the veterans and maybe serve those who are immobile. I have served them during Monday Night Football, and it is a great experience. They are extremely appreciative of what is done for them. The address is: VA Medical Ctr-Loma Linda (909) 825-7084 11201 Benton St, Loma Linda, CA

I will be talking to you all at Costa Mesa. I need to have a Company Commanders and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgts. meeting Saturday night.

Thank you for your time,

Lt. Col. Shawn Stidger  
ACWS Confederate Command