

# 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.**

**July-August 2013**



## ACWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### **Federal/Union Division:**

**Division Commander:** Col. Ken Dacey  
**Adjutant:** Capt. Dave Bolin  
**Division Sgt. Major:** Michael Quinlan (Degregorio)  
**Infantry Battalion Cdr.:** VACANT  
**Artillery Brigade Cdr.:** Major Gary Wear  
**Division Chaplain:** Rich Holt and Anthony Delgadillo  
**Cavalry:** VACANT

### **Confederate Division:**

**Division Commander:** Col. James R. Tebbetts  
**Division Adjutant General:** Capt. Dave Grimsrud  
**Division Sgt Major/Provost:** Vacant  
**Division Clerk:** Sgt. Jay Stilson

### **Confederate Brigade Staff:**

**Infantry Brigade Commander:** Major James M. Stytle  
**Infantry Brigade Adjutant:** VACANT  
**Infantry Brigade Sgt. Major:** Sgt. Major Ray Daniel  
**Cavalry Brigade Commander:** Major Scott Peca  
**Cavalry Brigade Adjutant:** Capt. John Riddler  
**Cavalry Brigade Sgt. Major:** VACANT  
**Artillery Brigade Commander:** Major Mike Collins  
**Artillery Brigade Adjutant:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jose Justiniano, Jr  
**Artillery Brigade Sgt. Major:**

## Editor's Note:

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

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!

### NEW MEMBERS

Bruce	Carver
Mike	Rogers
Ken	Wagner
Joshua	Wear

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

July		August	
Heather	Codding	Patricia	Aguilar
Aaron	Christensen	Cheryl	Burton
Pamela	Carroll	Joyce	Bolin
William C.	Flores	Lynda	Codding
Rodger	Gulledge	Elliot	Codding
David	Grimsrud	Hal	Cardwell
Terence M.	Humphries	Larry	Duncan
Luke	Hopper	Ray	Daniel
Gary	Ledford	Manuel	Fernandes
Logan	Ledford	Ken	Hodges
Nathan	Hogan	Terri	Hogan
Thomas D.	Hoffmann	Sandra L.	Jenkins
William	Milkoff	Jeff	Lawson
Jonathan	Kleiner	Jason R.	Lutu Jr.
Emerson	Kleiner	Donald Rocky	Morales
Alice B.	Nunn	Donald	Nobles
Marina	Perez	Christopher	Quessenberry
Karina	Quessenberry	Richard "Dick"	Sartor
John	Rotatori	Robert	Tuseth
Scott	Stilson	Andy	Webb
Colton	Stump		
Scott	Simmons		
Kim	Sais		
Niall	St.John		
Glenn	Tunnell		
Jack	Wells		
Monique	Wright		

## ❧ A Word or Two From the PRESIDENT ❧

I recently had an online conference at which the discussion was “Will the hobby suffer a membership decline after the 150 year events are over”? My input was that the memberships of Civil War groups will decline after Gettysburg, in my opinion. This caught several participants by surprise, but most agreed. So many are looking forward to the Gettysburg events and there isn’t anything on that scale in the future. I think it’s sad but inevitable, but not hopeless.

It has always been if you get too old for the Infantry, move to the Artillery, and it is an option. However, I would like to suggest another option for anyone thinking about leaving the hobby for any reason: try the Civilian Corps. We have two great civilian coordinators in Laurie and Karen; you can develop a whole new character, camp, be with your military pals, and add a new dimension to the hobby. Please give it a thought.

As I write this many of you are driving or winging your way to Gettysburg, and I’m sure many more wish they were going. I hope everyone going had a wonderful experience, and give a good account of themselves. I wish I was going, but my arthritis and duties here stopped me from going. We all hope for fair weather, and safe trips to you all.

As you know a few events on our calendar have been canceled, for one reason or another. Wooden Nickel cannot get the permits needed, and Vail Lake was always broken promises. We would love to add 2-3 events to our schedule, from Ventura, to San Diego, the coast to Las Vegas; that’s the area our members live in. So if you know of any potential sites for an event please let me know, the board will look into them. Our next Board meeting is in early August, probably on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will be toward the southern part of our area, so if you want to attend, the meeting is open to members. Look at the website for further details as we will set a date, time, and place when everyone returns from the east. Everyone have a good summer. I hope to see you at the Fort Tejon Invitational in August.

Regards,

David Grimsrud

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



From the Vice President  
July 2013

Greetings all fellow living historians and reenactors. Although the guns along the Pacific have been relatively quiet this summer, things back east were very loud. I can speak for my unit at least, but I’m sure many of you are just as anxious for a little action on the field.

Having no event in July makes for a long, slow summer. Fortunately there are some events on the horizon, with Huntington Beach over Labor Day weekend and other events in the fall. This month I offer some things for unit commanders and their NCO’s to pay particular attention to, but first some thoughts on our hobby this year.

Our event at Vail Lake went as well as it did because of your cooperation and enthusiasm. I’d be telling a fib if I said how

great the onsite support was, so please rest assured your BOD is not going to allow any future events to be set up as this one. As things come up at events, please use your chain of command within your unit to voice them to the BOD, unless something is really immediate. We need your feedback good and bad so we know how best to support you and make your time travel experience memorable and fun.

I saw through Facebook that many of our members and other fellow reenactors made the trek to the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg for the 150<sup>th</sup> events. Plenty of battle action and camp life and even a massed brass band concert at the battlefield park allowed many of us to enjoy our particular niche.

Whether you do a composite impression or a specific person, take some time to create a life for your civil war persona. Aside from giving you more to speak on to the visiting public, it should just give you more grounding in your character. Before you know it, this will project from you without a word and make your impression that much more believable to our guests and at any events where you are asked to speak.

Many of you know this already, but a safety tip to remember is to keep hydrated. Anny of us who went back east can attest to this, and for myself doing a "Tour de Grant", wearing two layers of wool in Virginia and Mississippi in July can drain you pretty quickly. All I did was walk battlefield sites of the Overland Campaign and the Vicksburg park, and I was melting, I can only imagine how much more taxing it would have been to be in a battle scenario in that climate. Keep the fluids moving and those canteens full.

I appreciate the cooperation of our membership in my campaign to de-farb our camp lighting situation and hope to see some creativity in the use of period lighting set ups. Remember, since we don't need artificial lighting during the day, it's best to keep any non-period lighting items out of site during visiting hours.

I look forward to seeing you all soon, and hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer. I am anxious to smell the powder and hear the roar of the guns once again! On to Richmond!

Semper Fidelis,

Gunny Ken  
Kenneth J. Serfass

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

## **MILITARY DISPATCHES**

### **Confederate Command**

From: James R Tebbetts, Col.

ACWS Confederate Command

To: Members of the Confederate Command

Date: July 1, 1863 (+150 years)

Subject: Confederate Command Report

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



## ❧ UNION DIVISION ❧

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Union Division,

I wish to start with congratulating our Division for its performance at the Vail Lake event. Our battalion did well as always. We all pulled through despite not getting the amenities we were told we would get. Individual planning per our companies, such as bringing our own water, made it more bearable in putting up with all the stuff from the concert and other noise we don't normally see/hear at our events.

We now have a new division HQ flag. I had hoped it would have arrived before the Vail Lake event but, be as it may, it arrived at my home that Saturday of the event, So the new flag will be unveiled at the Huntington Beach event.

For future events, our next battalion event will be at Huntington Beach Aug. 31-Sept 1, and let's not forget Spring Mtn Ranch near Las Vegas Oct 26-27. I think there are a couple of more events coming out as well-- more details when I get them.

All Company and Brigade commanders are now tasked with preparing their units and get them marching to the engagements. Thank you, for those in attendance and for supporting the ACWS Union Division.

Your Obedient Servant,  
Col. Kenneth Dacey  
Commanding ACWS union Division  
=====

Officers and Soldiers of the Union Division,  
From your Division Sgt Major, Michael Quinlan

I would like to take some time to address Customs and Courtesies. We all know that when you approach an Officer, or one of higher rank, we need to render the proper salute and greeting. This is not only Army Regulation, but a time honored tradition between comrades in arms.

To properly salute when not carrying arms, is to bring your right hand up so the fingers touch the bill of your cap, palm out facing forward, and elbow even with the shoulder. Hold the salute until returned, then smartly bring your arm down to your side.

When carrying your musket/rifle, at Shoulder Arms, you bring your Left Arm up so your Left Hand touches your piece near your Right Shoulder, the Iron Brigade will touch their Right Hand to their piece by the Left Shoulder. Remember that when the command to "Present Arms" is given that you smartly bring your piece to the center of your body with the hammer resting on your belt buckle.

When in camp and an officer enters you stand at attention and render the proper salute and greeting. When an officer of higher rank of that of the Company Commander enters the camp, the command of "Officer in Camp" is given by the first soldier to see them and the camp will rise and face the officer as they enter. On either occurrence once the officer has been addressed and has returned the salute, you may return to your activities. When performing Company Details or

work party, you do not need to stop and salute, but sitting around the camp fire does not count as company work.

Remember that all Customs of the Service will also be rendered to Confederate Officers as well, when in camp our out.

Our faithful adherence to the Customs of the Service will add much to the military reputation of your company and division. I would like to remind each member of the Division that we all need to enforce the Customs of the Service, and when you see a violation, bring to the individual's attention. Should you feel uncomfortable please tell your 1st Sgt, or me about the situation, and it will be addressed. All 1st Sgt and NCO's have the responsibility to train and enforce all regulations of the Army.

On closing I would remind all that the above notes are to be observed at all times , day or night when the division is deployed to the field.

Your Obedient Servant,  
Michael Quinlan, Sgt Major  
Col Dacey's Division

## ❧ Civilian Directors' Report ❧

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

We hope to hear from them about the successes they have encountered at our events.

Laurie Norton and Karen Norquist  
Civilian Coordinators

[Laurie.norcross@hotmail.com](mailto:Laurie.norcross@hotmail.com)

[Karen.norcross@hotmail.com](mailto:Karen.norcross@hotmail.com)

## ❧ Membership Director's Report ❧

At this time of year, as reenacting activity is a bit dormant, new memberships are also at a standstill. However, there is an incentive for those who are considering joining the ACWS, and if you know of anyone please pass on this information to him/her. **From July 1 to October 31, new single and basic family memberships are ½ of the regular annual fees.** Individuals can join for \$10, and a basic family fee for couples, parents, or guardians is \$15. There is no discount for children under 18 years of age, however, so their fee remains \$5 each. Family members age 18 and over must submit their own applications. Renewals for 2013 are not subject to any discounts, so those who were members through 2012 must still pay for the entire year to be in good standing.

The next ACWS Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 3 in the Temecula area. The location and time is yet to be determined, and an email will be sent out as a reminder. For those of you who do not have email and would like to attend, please call me at (951) 678-8979 for directions. All ACWS members are invited to attend board meetings and share in planning activities. If you cannot attend but have some ideas and suggestions that you'd like discussed, please send them to me via email or snail mail and I'll put them on the agenda.

Currently, I plan to be at the event in Huntington Beach on Labor Day weekend, so if you have any membership questions or friends who want to join, please come and see me in Civilian Towne.

Best regards,

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

### ❧❧❧❧❧❧❧ Civil War History ❧❧❧❧❧❧❧ Boys in Battle, Part 2

American children had been serving on merchant and naval vessels since before the American Revolution. An official Naval rank, *Boy*, fell just below ordinary seaman. In addition, a number of under aged sailors served as midshipmen, a much sought after position generally reserved for the "privileged." Most of the boys who served ranged in age from 8 to 15 years of age.

Just before the civil War, a previously abolished apprentice system was reinstated. According to Eleanor Bishop in *Ponies, Patriots and Powder Monkeys*, "Boys served mostly as 'powder monkeys,' carrying powder from the magazine to the guns—a dangerous job." Despite the hazards, a number of boys served with distinctions, some receiving the Navy's Medal of Honor.

Oscar E. Peck was a 14-year-old serving on the *USS Varuna* on April 24, 1862, during a Union effort to capture New Orleans. Peck acted gallantly as a powder monkey during an extremely close-range action in which the *Varuna* was repeatedly attacked, rammed and ultimately sunk. Peck and seven other shipmates received the Medal of Honor. Another boy, Irish-born 13-year-old Daniel Harrington, earned his award for courage shown during a shore mission to procure meat for his ship the *USS Pocahontas*. The party was attacked and Daniel helped administer aid to those wounded.



And let's not forget the brave cadets from the Virginia Military Institute at the Battle of New Market in May 1864. When CSA General John Breckenridge realized that his thinly spread lines facing 6,500 Union troops and cannon, he made the difficult decision to use a reserve of 257 cadets to bolster Virginia's forces; the youngest was 15 years old. The eager lads, armed with old-fashioned muzzle-loading muskets, faced six cannon of the 30<sup>th</sup> NY Artillery and rifles of the 34<sup>th</sup> MA Infantry. After being pummeled with canister, grape shot and bullets, the cadets rallied at a fence line and began to pour a murderous fire on the Union defenders.

Frustrated with the slow reloading of their weapons, they fixed bayonets and charged the Union guns.

The cadets swarmed over the guns, flashing bayonets and dress swords. Cadet Oliver Evans climbed atop one captured gun, waving the VMI flag. When the Union soldiers fell back, the cadets pursued until Gen. Breckenridge ordered actions ceased. In the aftermath, it was discovered that ten cadets had been killed or mortally wounded, including 17-year old Thomas Garland Jefferson, the great nephew of President Thomas Jefferson. Another 57 had been wounded.

As the Civil War turned into years of fighting and death, a transformation took place among the once innocent boy soldiers. The youths who at first were ecstatic about the adventure became hardened lads who emotionally dissociated from the horrors around them. Many of them passed through sites of former battlefields and saw shallow graves uncovered by rains which exposed skeletons. Some boys went in search of a fallen brother or father after a battle, encountering hundreds of bodies, including those of soldiers their own age. Some boys were left physically and emotionally scarred, losing limbs and suffering from what is known today as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Still, the vast majority of these juvenile soldiers learned discipline, work ethics, the desire to succeed and self-reliability that helped them in post-war careers as doctors, lawyers, civic leaders, and journalists. In the end, under aged soldiers fought on most battlefields and earned themselves a rightful place in history.



powder monkey



Thomas Garland Jefferson

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

### Additional organizations and links of interest:

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

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

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

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

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

The History Channel Club: [www.historychannelclub.com](http://www.historychannelclub.com)

## ACWS 2012 Calendar of Events

Date	Event Name	Sponsor	Sponsored or Supported	Location
July 4-7	150 <sup>th</sup> Gettysburg Reenactment	GCA Group	Recommended	Gettysburg, PA
July 6-7	Old Fort MacArthur Days	FMHA	Supported	San Pedro, CA
August 3	ACWS Summer Dance (Tentative)	ACWS	Sponsored	Whittier, CA (tent)
August 17-18	Fort Tejon Invitational	FTHA	Supported	Lebec, CA
September 21-22	Drum Barracks Living History	Drum Brks	Supported	Wilmington, CA
October 5-6	Helendale	ACWS	Sponsored	Helendale, CA
October 12	ACWS Fall Family Dance	ACWS	Sponsored	Woodland Hills, CA
Oct 26-27	Spring Mountain Ranch	ACWS/SNLHA	Sponsored	Las Vegas, NV
December 7-8	Drum Barracks Christmas Theme Event	Drum Brks	Supported	Wilmington, CA
December 14-15	Vail Lake	ACWS	Sponsored	Temecula, CA
January 2014	15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Live Fire Invitational	IVLHA/ACWS	Sponsored	Seeley CA
October 2014	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nevada Statehood	ACWS/SNLHA	Sponsored	SMR, NV

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

## \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Ad Space For Sale \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

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

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

### Advertising fees as of 10/1/2012

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

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

Pictures were taken by our Vice President while at Gettysburg 150 anniversary this year.  
 Top Row left to right: CAC Bob Milne Morning Call  
 Bottom Row left to right: Grant HQ Tin Type Grant



Reading of the Declaration of Independence  
 (MICHAEL KUBEL / THE MORNING CALL / July 4, 2013 )

The Antebellum Marine Band conducted by Bandmaster Kenneth J. Serfass plays during the Reading of the Declaration of Independence celebration at the George Taylor House in Catasauqua on Thursday.





Pictures were taken by our Vice President while at Gettysburg 150 anniversary this year.

Top Row left to right: Trench Marker Confederate      Cario Ship

Bottom Row left to right: Grant overlooking the James      De Golyer





Pictures were taken by our Vice President while at Gettysburg 150 anniversary this year.  
 Top Row left to right: Parlor Pose Trench Marker Union  
 Bottom Row: HQ Whittle Grant Statue

