

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY



Hallowed Ground Dispatch

Official Newsletter of the American Civil War Society

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

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

July-August 2014



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Artillery Brigade Adjutant: 1st 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 . 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. Below are those folks who have or will be celebrating a birthday in these two months. To the troops and civilians listed, let's hope they have a safe new year. To the other family members at home, keep the faith and pray all the men and boys come home soon!

Please join me and the rest of the ACWS Board in wishing them all a Happy Birthday and Welcome!

Happy Birthday

New & Returning Members

July	
Erin	Betts
Chuck H.	Conley
Heather	Codding
Aaron	Christensen
Pamela G.	Carroll
Alex	Zalesny
William C.	Flores
Rodger	Gulledge
David	Grimsrud
Terence M.	Humphries
Luke	Hopper
Gary	Ledford
Logan	Ledford
Nathan	Hogan
Thomas D.	Hoffmann
Jonathan	Kleiner
Emerson	Kleiner
Crystal	Kacmar
Jill	Lundgren
Alice B.	Nunn
Rebecca	Olsen
Marina	Perez
Karina	Quessenberry
John	Rotatori
Sandy	Schneeberger
Scott	Simmons
Kim	Sais
Niall	St.John
Glenn	Tunnell
Jack	Wells

August	
Patricia	Aguilar
Joyce A.	Bolin
Elliot	Codding
Larry	Duncan
Ray	Daniel
Manuel	Fernandes
Debra	Hardt
Terri	Hogan
Robert	Kacmar
Donald Rocky	Morales
Brett	Minor Sr.
Christopher	Quessenberry
Cheryl	Burton
Alen B.	Rothenberg
Richard "Dick"	Sartor
Mark	Schoenberger
Sarah	Tritt-Valencia
Andy	Webb
Howard	Wanhoff

NEW MEMBERS	
Jennifer	Berns
Brooke	Berns
Lindsay	Berns
Paul	Freeman
Robert L.	Flores
Hilary	Trytten

❧ A Word or Two From the PRESIDENT ❧

Well, can you believe the year is half over? The heat of summer is upon us and we take a break for the heat. Currently we are in negotiations with the Orange Empire Railroad Museum, located in Perris, California for an event on May 16⁻¹⁷, 2015. I am sure many of you “old timers” will remember the events at OERM; it has always been a favorite. New management is open to having us return, we can battle in their small town, and I spotted a nice grove of trees to one side that looks like a possible battlefield. A spring date will allow us to have an educational program for the local schools. More information will be announced once everything is in place.

We are also doing something a bit different, two events on the same weekend October 4th & 5th. For those up north we have Helendale, and in the south is the Poway Rendezvous. Both are small events. A few of us did Poway as a living history event last year; it’s in a nice park with a train going around the perimeter. For those of us up north, the town of Helendale has again invited us to participate in Mojave River Days, another living history event with two skirmishes. The ACWS will have insurance for both events, so I hope you can make one or the other.

Please plan now for our annual Spring Mountain Ranch event in Red Rock Canyon, just outside of Las Vegas. Please note the date change to Nov. 1 & 2. This is the 150th anniversary of Nevada’s admission to the Union, and I have been informed the Governor of Nevada has been invited. Wouldn’t it be great if he came and joined us for a battle? He could be on a cannon crew. If you have never been to SMR, Red Rock Canyon has scenic red cliffs and the ranch could pass as Virginia farmland. The battle sounds echo in the canyon. In one word--Awesome! Let’s make this the best Spring Mountain Ranch event yet.

As always, we are on the lookout for new venues. I will be touring one in late July, but if you know of any please pass them along. Everyone have a safe summer, and let’s have fun.

Regards,
David Grimsrud



~A Word or Two from the Vice-PRESIDENT~



July 2014

From the Vice President:

Hello all, and it is with profound happiness to know you are reading this. My family and I have arrived safely into Gettysburg town, and if you followed my “blogging” on Facebook while we traveled, you know the highs and many lows of our cross-country trek. We have been settling into our home in the heart of the historic section of town over the last few weeks while I also begin to generate hub-bub about my new walking tour I will lead for the Great T-shirt Company, “Grant’s Battle Walk.”

Some of my message is a repeat of some important information, but as summer is the season for repeats, some things must be done...

I hope all members took to heart my suggestions about building our membership. Remember, each of YOU can be our best recruiter, not only for the ACWS at large, but for each of your units among the Confederate and Federal armies. Even from the east coast, I am working on some folks back in San Diego County to come out to an event soon and then sign on for years of service or at least for the duration.

Again, safety must also be highlighted in following up on the tragic cannon accident in Utah just a day or so prior to me sitting down to write this column. I am willing to wager that by the time this column goes to print and you read it, the story and subsequent firestorm crying for better safety regs and more supervision will have already run its course. It goes without saying, to we old salts, that safety is paramount, but surely even the newest tenderfoot must appreciate how deadly the activity can be if we fail to respect the weapons that we carry or operate. Safety is everybody’s responsibility and I implore all our field commanders, from the newest corporal of a squad to the commanders of our brigades, North & South, to ensure safety measures are adhered to and our members remain safe. Thanks for reading, and the horse has been sufficiently kicked...

Now, on to living in Gettysburg and some initial impressions of the folks here, in the “hobby”, and living history. The town itself is very walkable and as we meet locals we are warmly welcomed and offered help in all manners to aid our settling. The east coast reenactors do not hold a lock on perfection or all-over correctness. Farbiness is alive and well here and in some cases, fiercely defended way beyond what you may find permitted of the westerners by these “hardened” veterans of the east. (Wink)

Some of the same pet peeves of mine out west are thriving here as well, from the tube lamps in camp all the way through overdressed men in the ranks (sashes, pistols, sabers, and the like...) and excessive appearances of high-ranking men in uniform. (Majors and Colonels and Generals – OH MY!)

“Nobody’s a worker bee around here...” was a reference made which caught my ear. I tell you all now, don’t let the eastern reenactors make you believe they do it any better than any of you there. The secret is in the research and the openness that none of us knows everything.

I was also invited to be part of a new reenactor society here, which is not as organized as some of other organizations, such as the ACWS. The weekend of June 21

& 22 was set for them at the Daniel Lady Farm, just six miles from my front door, east of town on the Hanover Road. The grounds were active here in 1863, with a portion serving as a field hospital and additional areas known to have witnessed fighting all three days. There are sections where soldiers' graves are being recovered.

I'd like to say that these eastern reenactors of this group are as warm and welcoming as westerners, but sadly, in the case of these locals, they are not. There are multiple lessons from the encounters I had with some of them on set up day Friday that are perfect examples of what NOT to do when attracting new members. For me personally, the rub comes from the type of folks we've all encountered that do ZERO research but know everything on all subjects. It's simply rude to dismiss somebody on perception or lack of knowledge on an impression. To the quick – I was told by a person here, not even in a position of authority, that my Grant needs to be "MUCH more gray" and then a refusal to accept that in 1864, at age 42, Grant would not be nearly as gray as his days as president. It was useless to bring this person to understand how much research I've done to build the impression, not to mention how far too much feedback from others ALL over runs contrary to her declaration. So go some folks who are truly "know-nothings".

Days before the event, a few of the federal company commanders came to me asking for a bit more structure to the field command because "at past events nobody knew who was in overall command on the field and it was a big problem trying to plan scenarios." That was a red flag that warranted further observation. Sadly, my initial suspicions were confirmed, as to lack of attention to detail in so many regards, that this group has in a short time displayed they are not going to enjoy my endorsement or support. My concern is that being connected with a group with such a reputation can take away from what I am building as a Grant impressionist of the highest caliber (at least that's my goal).

Happily, out of this disappointment came an opportunity to meet the known leading impressionists of Robert E. Lee and George Meade, who were holding a debate in town at the Rupp house on Saturday afternoon. Both are fine gentlemen to begin with but even more, in character they truly bring those generals to life. Unbeknownst to me they were evaluating my impression as we bantered back in forth in first person mode and I am pleased and honored to say I exceeded their expectations in that regard, finding compliments as to not only possessing a "superior a resemblance," but as well having "an exceeding grasp" of the man, his life and subordinates beyond a few other "Grants" that they know. Coming from these men, the compliments meant the world, and also help confirm the advice Mr. Peck passed on to me and I share with you; "Know the man and his family, and you can become the man. Knowing numbers and dates won't make you convincing in first person, but knowing the background allows you to personify your impression." Good advice from one of the best, and here now is the proving ground I submit to you all.

The Antebellum Marine Band will be appearing in an east coast portion on July 4th again this year in my home town near Allentown, PA. Certain of my east coast band friends will perform again and some new ones as well. Already the "east coast unit" is building into something fine and special. My home town is holding a parade the following day and has asked me to present Grant as the Grand Marshall. I am all too pleased to honor the request.

If you our members are not able to attend the time line at Fort Macarthur in July or any other upcoming events, your summer dry spell can be relieved in Huntington Beach over Labor Day weekend. I plan to return for this, to field a Marine Detachment, have the Marine Band perform and also present my favorite general.

As always, I wish you all well as the year unfolds and that your lives become easier and your happiness richer.

I do indeed look forward to seeing you all at the Huntington Beach event over Labor Day weekend!

Best regards and Semper Fidelis,
Gunny Ken

AKA Lt. Gen US Grant/ Bandmaster, AMB/ CO, Mar Det USS Wabash

Yours respectfully,

Kenneth J. Serfass
VP ACWS

🏰 MILITARY DISPATCHES 🏰

🌀 CONFEDERATE DIVISION 🌀

From: James R Tebbetts, Col,
ACWS Confederate Command
To: Readers Members of the Confederate Command
Date: July 1, 1864 (+150 years)
Subject: Confederate Command Report

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



🌀 UNION DIVISION 🌀

Col. Kenneth Dacey, Commander, ACWS Union Division
No Report was submitted for this Newsletter's press time.

🌀 Civilian Director's Report 🌀

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

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It's hard to believe that half the year has gone flying by, and in four months membership renewals will begin. But between now and November 1, new members need only pay ½ of the annual dues. Single members (age 18 and older) would pay \$10. The basic family fee (two persons) would be \$15, with additional children (younger than age 18) \$2.50 each. Remember that adult children in the same household must apply as single members. So when you are recruiting, be sure to use this as a talking point to individuals interested in joining ACWS.

Again, as we do not have a current Civilian Coordinator, I'd like to remind all civilian members attending events we sponsor/support, to check in with me or Michael at our encampment (Society of Sobriety/Constable) in order to receive credit for the year end raffle drawing. Many of you were at the Costa Mesa event, yet did not check in with me. Those civilians belonging to a military unit should also come out of those camps and visit with the civilians, or, better yet, spend the day in the civilian area. Historically, only employed civilians stayed in camps doing their work. There is ample room underneath someone's fly to place your chair and engage in period conversation and activities. This will help the civilian area appear to be less of a display and more of a living history presentation.

Regards,
Michele Akkerman
Membership Director



Another October Event

For those of you who don't want to make the trip to the Helendale event on the first weekend of October, the city of Poway is having its annual **Rendezvous in Poway** at the Old Poway Park that same weekend from Thursday the 2nd through Sunday the 5th. It is a living history weekend featuring reenactors as mountain men, Civil War soldiers and civilians, and gunslingers of the Old West. School presentations are done on Thursday and Friday if you'd like to participate in those.

Some of us attended last year and had a great time in a venue with plenty of shade trees, grass, and regular bathrooms. On site camping is allowed, and a security guard is on duty at night. A campfire sing-along will be on Friday night, and a barn dance on Saturday night. So far, Michael and Michele Akkerman, and Shelley Peters with the Kansas Mercantile will be participating.

Our participation last year impressed the park and city officials, and the ACWS board would like to eventually have a Civil War living history weekend at Old Poway Park, hopefully in 2015. If you'd like to participate, please contact Recreation Coordinator Sean Hill to get registrations forms and liability releases — his email is sehill@poway.org, or call (858) 668-4579. Please also let Michele Akkerman know so she can coordinate the setting up of our participants-- micowl@aol.com or (951) 678-8979.

❧❧❧ THE CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS ❧❧❧

Gettysburg Opens Heritage Center Museum

The Gettysburg Civil War Wax Museum underwent major changes this year due to new ownership, and it's new name is the Gettysburg Heritage Center. The old wax figures were auctioned off along with antique furniture, light fixtures, backdrops and scenery, old books, and oil paintings, and will now have state-of-the-art displays. The center partnered with the Adams County Historical Society and the Center for Civil War photography to update the museum. New exhibits will also focus on Gettysburg's civilians, and offer insights into the town before, during and after the battle. On July 4th of this year, actor and playwright Stephen Lang will be at the Heritage Center from 12-2 p.m. to sign copies of the DVDs for "The Gettysburg Story," which he narrated, "Gettysburg," in which he played Gen. George Pickett, and "Gods and Generals," where he starred as Gen. Stonewall Jackson.

For more info, visit the museum website <http://www.gettysburgmuseum.com/>



Gettysburg Heritage Center



Former museum "inhabitants"



Stephen Lang



CIVIL WAR HISTORY



Canada and the Civil War

John Boyko's book Blood and Daring: How Canada Fought the American Civil War and Forged a Nation describes Canada's role in the Civil War, and how the war forced Canada's colonies to unite under a central government. Before the attack on Ft. Sumter, Secretary of State William Seward had recommended that the U.S. attack Canada in order to draw Britain into the war and force it to support its colonies. In turn, Americans would stop fighting in order to fight a common enemy, Britain. Canadians feared that a loss would force them to become part of the U.S., something they certainly did not want.

According to Boyko, Canada posed a threat to the U.S. because it was not certain how Britain would react when the Civil War began. Britain declared itself neutral, but was specifically vague in order to aid the Confederacy by building and selling ships to the CSA. Many Canadians hoped the CSA would win the war thereby splitting the U.S. and making it far less of a threat to Canada and Britain.

The weakly united confederation of Canadian colonies decided to take action to prevent an American takeover, and a possible expulsion from the British Empire by those in Parliament who had had enough of the North American colonial experience. With the Union victories of Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1864, Canada anticipated that the North would win. As the Union had the largest and richest army in the world, Canada had to act fast to create a unifying government. Canada saw the American system of a representative democratic republic and the theory of states' rights as a failure, and had no option other than to adopt Britain's model of a parliamentary democracy with power vested in the House of Commons (a lawmaking body of representatives) and very little power for the chief executive and provinces.

So to what extent was Canada involved in the Civil War? During the war, about 40,000 Canadians broke the law and joined both U.S. and C.S. armies to fight, including the famous Sarah Edmonds who dressed up as a man, went to war as an army nurse and later became a spy. The Underground Railroad took escaped slaves to Canada where slavery had been outlawed. Canada also became a haven for Southern spies and conspirators, especially in Montreal and Toronto. CSA President Jefferson Davis put Jacob Thompson in charge of organizing a spy ring in Canada. Thompson set up the spy ring with a budget of \$5 million, a massive sum in the 1860s. Some Canadians raided Northern POW camps to free Confederate prisoners. John Wilkes Booth planned Lincoln's assassination in Montreal and organized the money for the conspiracy through a bank there. After the war, George Pickett and other C.S. military and political leaders fled to Canada and returned to the U.S. after amnesty was declared.

In conclusion, Canada isn't just a country which physically shares a continent with the United States, but which shares history when our country was torn apart by war. Canada could have become part of our country, but chose to learn a lesson from the strife of the Civil War and formed a united country that would ensure its sovereignty. And perhaps best of all, Canada remains a close friend and ally of the United States.

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. The ACWS tax ID number is 33-0747524.

Additional organizations and links of interest:

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

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

NCWA www.ncwa.org

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

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

The History Channel Club: www.historychannelclub.com

ACWS 2014 Calendar of Events

Sponsored and Supported Events

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

Date	Event Name	Sponsor	Sponsored or Supported	Location
July 5-6	Old Fort MacArthur Days	FMHA	Supported	San Pedro, CA
August 16-17	Fort Tejon Invitational	FTHA	Supported	Lebec, CA
September 20-21	Drum Barracks Living History	Drum Brks	Supported	Wilmington, CA
October 4-5	Helendale	ACWS	Sponsored	Helendale, CA
Nov 1-2	Spring Mountain Ranch (150 th Anv NV Statehood)	ACWS/SNLHA	Sponsored	Las Vegas, NV
Nov 11	Reagan Library Vet Day	Library	Supported	Simi Valley, CA
December 6-7	Drum Barracks Christmas Theme Event	Drum Brks	Supported	Wilmington, CA
December 13	Christmas Party (TENT)	Newland House	Sponsored	Huntington Bch, CA
January 2015	16 th Annual Live Fire Invitational	IVLHA/ACWS	Sponsored	Seeley, CA
February 2015	Calico	ACWS	Sponsored	Calico, CA
April 2015	150 th Anniversary of Lee's Surrender	TBD	Support	Appomattox, VA

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

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

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

Advertising fees as of 1/1/2014

Frequency	Full Page Cost/Issue	Half Page Cost/Issue	Quarter Page Cost/Issue	Eighth Page Cost/Issue
1 Issue	\$ 20.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00
2 - 5 Issues	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.00
Year - 6 Issues	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00

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

***** FOR SALE by MEMBER *****



Felt and leather saddle pad for McClellan Saddle \$40.00
760-868-3029 / vomjubel@aol.com

ACWS NEWSLETTER
Michele Akkerman
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Wildomar, CA 92595-8273