
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.

August/September 2010





ACWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Paul DeNubilo

denubilo@roadrunner.com

Vice President – David Crichton

shasta5097@msn.com

Secretary – Sgt. Dave Grimsrud

btdave@qnet.com

Treasurer – Sgt. Maj Sam Frankl

ssfrankl@earthlink.net

Membership – Ken Dacey

kenbus@aol.com

Confederate Division – Lt. Col. Shawn Stidger

deadreb@yahoo.com

Union Division – Lt. Col. Ken Dacey

kenbus@aol.com

Civilian Corps– VACANT

Public Relations – Joyce Bolin

jbolin57@yahoo.com

**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



Federal/Union Division:

Division Commander– Lt. Col. Ken Dacey

Adjutant – VACANT

Infantry Brigade Cdr. – VACANT

Infantry Sgt Maj Michael Quinlan (Degregorio)

Artillery Brigade Cdr. – Maj. David Bolin

Artillery Adjutant – vacant

Division Chaplain – Rich Holt and Anthony

Delgadillo

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: 2nd 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

Next General Board Meeting

Johnny Rebs

Victorville CA

October 16th at 11:00 a.m..

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLING

It was nice to see all the ACWS members at Ft. Mac Arthur ! This event sure is growing. The first time I went we were only allowed to shoot primers!

The next ACWS event is back at one of our old stomping grounds the OERRM in Perris on Sept 18-19 with set up after noon on Friday. This has always been a great event for us. We will have the use of the train and will keep you informed of any other changes via your unit Commanders. But there have been some changes, almost ¼ of the battlefield in front of the round table has been blacktopped. Also financing is “bare bones” we will be splitting the gate profit after expenses but the board says not to worry! We have funds to cover any financial hit for this event.

We have the use of the Grizzly Flats RR barn for the gambling hall and the dance. There will have to be some planning for after hours entry. After 5 PM the reenactor entry will be at the “Alpine” gate. This gate is at the main entrance and was what we had used in the past. At 11PM the gate will be locked. Then our chance to make your fortune at Spring Mountain Ranch in Las Vegas. If not make your fortune then a good time at a historic park and part of Nevada Admission day celebration. So get your sock of quarters out for Oct 30 and 31! November is something special we have been asked to be part of the Boy Scouts 100th year celebration at Prado in November. A school day presentation on Friday the 12th and a Living History presentation on Saturday Nov 13. I know this conflicts with Moorpark but we cannot pick the day. This is going to be huge! They are expecting thousands of public participation. What is the Board up to? A statement was made at the last board meeting at Ft Mac. that the membership wants to know what the Board is doing. Other than planning the events, searching out new ones (We have two more potentials) we have filled the position of the Secretary and the Union Commander. That you all well know. We are still searching for a membership person until we find one. Ken Dacey will temporarily fill that job in addition to Union Commander. In

addition we are still limping along without a Civilian Coordinator. This is really hurting the ACWS. We pride ourselves on being a family organization but our civilians have no one on the Board to represent them and their programs.

Remember that famous photo of the nurse being kissed in Times Square on VE day? Her name is Edith Shain, she just passed away, Just short of seeing her hard work on making a memorial day official for VE day. The first celebration of her quest will be on Aug. 14 and will soon be a National Day of remembrance! For more info go to www.spiritof45.org. My unit will be at the Garden Grove Elks Lodge with my WWII Truck. Then home to get the gun for Fort Tejon.

Paul DeNubilo

COMMENTS FROM BOARD SECRETARY DAVE GRIMSRUD

I had a few ideas I wanted to submit to the board and members. First, I would like to suggest some scenarios at ACWS events. Pay Call, Sick Call, arrest and trial, drunk or desertion, I can think of several. The soldiers seem to enjoy the role-playing and it gathers a crowd. We make them fun and the spectators will remember them. My other idea, if it sounds good, how about an annual membership meeting? I know board meetings at events are open, but what if once a year at an event the members are invited for an open discussion. The ACWS is only as strong as its members, we welcome suggestions. The board really needs a Civilian Corp Director, it would add a whole dimension to the events. And I think some of us enjoy seeing the womenfolk in their finery.

Editor Comments: Great ideas Dave.



MITILARY DISPATCHES

CONFEDERATE COMMAND:

1 August, 2010

Folks of the Confederate Division:

Just returned from the engagements at Long Beach. I have to say I am impressed by our boys! I was back in command of the Sharpshooters Battalion for the weekend. I have to say our infantry was superb. Major Style, job well done! We made up about two thirds of the Confederate infantry for this weekend. From my vantage point I was able to see the cavalry doing extremely well. I will continue to say this, the ACWS Confederate contingent are the best groups in the Western United States. One item I want to mention is the attendance for Long Beach as impressive. We need that at ACWS events. Our next engagement for the ACWS is Orange Empire Railroad Museum, September 18th and 19th.

We then have Spring Mountain Ranch October 30 and 31, and to close the year, the Boy Scout Jamboree at Prado Regional Park, November 13 and 14. I also want to thank those of you for your response to my inquiries this weekend. I will do my best to address your wants and needs.

**Your obedient servant,
J. Shawn Stidger**



UNION DIVISION:

From the Lt. Colonel's desk

To the rank and file, and civilians of the Union Brigade.

Here is it the end of July and we have a few events coming up very soon. First off, we have our renewed event at the Orange Empire Railroad Museum. This is our next ACWS event. Prior to this event showing up I know many of us have already made plans to attend the Huntington Beach event. With this in mind I would like to see the best showing we can get at both of these events.

I wish to work with all of you in making our Brigade stronger in all categories, but for that to happen I need your help. That being said, I would like input from you, the company commanders and civilian leaders within our brigade, in areas that we may need to work on. Think about it and let me know. One area I think we need to work on is better communications all around.

Upcoming Events

We will put be putting a Brigade together for the Huntington Beach event. We also have the renewed event at the Orange Empire Railroad Museum later on Sept . 18-19 followed by SMR on Oct. 30-31. Don't forget the Boy Scout Celebration on November 13-14, 2010 at Prado Regional Park. Details to follow.

Lt Col. Kenneth Dacey
Union Commander ACWS

ACWS Calendar of Events 2010/2011

<p>August 7 & 8, 2010</p> <p>August 15, 2010</p>	<p>Norco Valley Fair Civil War Event</p> <p>FTHA Invitational</p>	<p>Norco, CA Raahauge Shooting Park</p> <p>Fort Tejon, CA</p>	<p>City of Norco</p> <p>FTHA</p>
<p>September 4-5, 2010</p> <p>Sept 18-19, 2010</p>	<p>Huntington Beach</p> <p>OERRM</p>	<p>Huntington Beach, CA</p> <p>Perris CA</p>	<p>ACWS Battalion in Support</p> <p>ACWS Sponsored</p>
<p>October 2-3, 2010</p> <p>October 2-3, 2010</p> <p>October 30-31, 2010</p>	<p>Kearney Park</p> <p>MTHE</p> <p>SMR</p>	<p>Fresno CA</p> <p>Prado Reg. Park</p> <p>Spring Mountain Ranch Las Vegas NV</p>	<p>ACWS Sponsored SNLHA Sponsored</p>
<p>Nov 13-14, 2010</p> <p>Nov 13-14, 2010</p> <p>Nov 19-21, 2010</p>	<p>Boy Scout Jamboree 100th Anniversary</p> <p>Moorpark</p> <p>We Make History</p>	<p>Prado Park</p> <p>Tijera Ranch Moorpark CA</p> <p>Queen Creek AZ</p>	<p>ACWS supported</p> <p>Rotary Club Sponsored</p>
<p>January 8, 2011</p> <p>January 29-30, 2011</p>	<p>ACWS Ball</p> <p>Yuma Quartermaster Depot</p>	<p>Mitten Bldg. Redlands CA</p> <p>Yuma AZ</p>	<p>ACWS Sponsored</p>
<p>February 19-21, 2011</p>	<p>Calico Ghost Town</p>	<p>Calico, CA</p>	<p>ACWS Sponsored</p>
<p>March 27-28, 2011</p>	<p>St. Catherine's Military School</p>	<p>Anaheim CA</p>	<p>Washington Artillery Sponsored and ACWS supported</p>

April 1-3, 2011	Prado	Prado Regional Park San Bernardino Cty	ACWS Battalion in Support
May , 2011	Battle of Costa Mesa	Costa Mesa, CA	ACWS sponsored

Additional organizations: PACWR: <http://www.pacwr.org/events.htm>
Fort Tejon: <http://www.forttejon.org>
NCWA www.ncwa.org
SWCWA <http://www.swcwa.com>
WeAreHistory: <http://www.americanheritagefestival.com/ACWS>

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[ACWS CLASSIFIED](#)

"Ye Old Mans Table Works" Is up and running making fine tables and trunks for all uses and fine dinning. Ye Old Man can make special sizes to fit your need s or he can make the same sizes the Old Man has in his camp. Ye Old Man is running a special of reduced prices this next month and would like to make yur camp a table for you to eat from and a trunk to store your wares. The trunks are 24, 30 and 35 inches wide. See me at the next event or see my photos on Yahoo groups or on Facebook under "Ye Old Mans Table Works"

Chris Ricker, Corporal,
Washington Artillery of New Orleans



CIVIL WAR ERA * VICTORIAN * BALL GOWN CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP

Start Now to create your own Civil War Ball Gown for the Grand Ball in January

A series of Ball Gown Construction Workshops will be offered.

Dates: Saturdays, 9 AM to 6 PM

Where: Nuevo , CA 92567

Teacher: Shelley Peters

Prerequisite: A corset and hoopskirt. Intermediate knowledge of sewing required
A corset or period underpinnings can be constructed, also.

What: Student will be measured, a muslin mock up will be made and fitted over your corset, and period construction methods discussed and taught. The teacher will be available to discuss patterns, fabrics, and the design of your ball gown or day dress previous to the class. Homework is required in order to finish your garment.

Cost: \$40 per day/ session

Provided: Ideas, muslin, pattern paper, chocolate, individual instruction

What you need to bring:

Your corset

The pattern of your choice (The *Truly Victorian* pattern is shown below and is the preferred pattern.)

Sewing Machine

Basic Drawing & Cutting Kit

Basic Sewing Kit

Your fabric (if approved prior to the class) or ideas and samples of possible fabric choices and designs.

Potluck Lunch item

Available for sale as needed:

Patterns

Boning

Grommets with use of grommet setter

Call or send payment to reserve your place to:

Shelley Peters

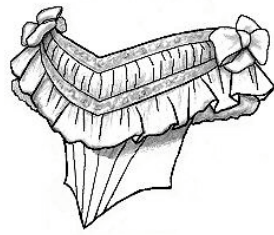
Proprietress, Kansas Mercantile

20071 Hansen Ave, Nuevo, Ca 92567

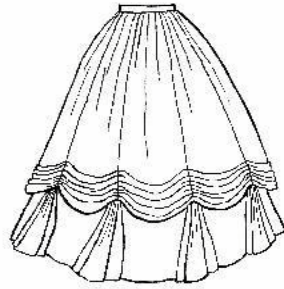
951-928-9601 home

951-334-8054 cell

Email ShelleyPeters@verizon.net to be put on the Workshop Notification email List



Truly Victorian #442



Truly Victorian #240

Dry Goods! Dry Goods!

--Our stock on everything new and desirable in the way of Dry Goods, for the Summer and Fall trade, has never been as good at this season as it is now. To reduce it as much as possible, we will from this date offer everything at prices much reduced. For the Dressmaker, hook and eye tape, cotton twill tape for the protection of hems, boning, corset lacing, coutil, corset bags of the fanciest oriental brocades, and the latest in French and English Fashion Patterns. For the Gentleman, arm garters, silk cravats in brown and other colors, fine wool derby and top hats and Pork Pie Hats, shirts in plentiful supply. Several of the most recent copies of the *Citizen's Companion* as well as a full line of books, all excellent reading. The latest fad in parlour Games and paper dolls. For the Lady, corsets, ready and custom made, Chemises, Drawers, Petticoats, Hoopskirts, both plain and ruffled, Collars, Cuffs, Handkerchiefs, Gloves, Hair Nets, A New Selection of Parasol and Tape Lace Fans will be available for you summer comfort. Several of the finest paisley wraps for the cool season approaching and every desirable addition to the ladies wardrobe can be obtained. Our knowledgeable clerks, L Jackson, A MacKenzie & E Bolin will be glad to be of service to you.

S Peters

Kansas Mercantile 15 Main Street





2011 ACWS GRAND BALL UPDATE

The 2011 ACWS Grand Ball will be held in the historic Mitten Building located in Redlands, CA on the evening of January 8th 2011. (*See the previous issue of the Company Dispatch for the history of the building.*)

NEW CATERER

The **Mill Creek Cattle Co.** will be serving our supper meal at the Grand Ball in 2011. When you make your reservations for the Grand Ball you will choose between three entrée choices: Tri-tip (beef), Chicken Marsala, or Spinach Lasagna (vegetarian). Accompanying each entrée will be a green salad, three cheese potato casserole, vegetable medley, and bread rolls with butter. Coffee or tea will be available or if you prefer, a glass of wine may be purchased from the bar.



OVER NIGHT ACCOMODATIONS

The ACWS Ball Committee has made arrangements with the **Ayres Hotel** for a block of rooms at the discounted price of \$99 per night for ACWS members. Sandy Kavanaugh, Sales Manager for the Ayres Hotel, gave the committee a tour of the rooms and facilities. The Hotel, which is only 1.3 miles of the site for the ACWS Grand Ball, provides lovely rooms with queen size beds, a heated patio area next to the heated pool, and breakfast! All of these luxuries are included with the special ACWS room rate. The ACWS room rate is available for Friday and/or Saturday nights, January 7th and 8th. As a lovely bonus the public areas of the hotel display photos depicting the history of the Redlands area and the owners of the Ayres Hotel.

When making your hotel reservations at the Ayres Hotel, tell them you are with the ACWS and wish to receive the ACWS room rate. The special ACWS room rate is only available with direct telephone reservations or direct e-mail (computer reservations through their website will not give you the ACWS special room rate). The special ACWS room rate is only available for reservations made before December 17, 2010. So don't wait too long before you make your plans!

Ayres Hotel
1015 W. Colton Ave.
Redlands, CA 92374
(909) 335-9024
skavanaugh@ayreshotels.com

LADIES! CHANGING ROOM WILL BE AVAILABLE

For those of you who do not like to travel attired in your ball gowns, a changing room (separate from the restroom) will be available for your use. This is for ladies only. The room, while not overly large, provides adequate space for changing into your ball gown. There is a mirror in the room, so that you can check your gown, both front and back. Please do not leave your traveling clothes in the room as that would decrease the space available for the next lady that would like to change into her gown.



Lady's changing room in the Mitten Building.

The American Civil War Society is pleased to announce the
2011 Grand Ball will be held on
Saturday, January 8th in the 1890 historic Mitten Building located at
345A North 5th Street, Redlands, California

:
Join fellow reenactors and guests at 6:30 p.m. for a no-host Social
Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.
Dancing starts at 8 p.m. with music by the Occasional Strings with Steve Crane as
Master Caller

Kevin Bohn Photography will be providing Ball photos

:
An **Early Bird Special** for tickets at \$45 per person for ACWS members,
\$55 per person for non-ACWS guests,
is available from July 1st to October 31, 2010.
November 1st to December 15, 2010 ticket prices are \$50 for ACWS members,
\$60 for non-ACWS guests.
After December 15th the ticket prices are \$55 for ACWS members,
\$65 for non-ACWS guests.

:
See the ACWS website, www.ACWS.net, for hotel room suggestions and menu
descriptions. Visit the ACWS American Civil War Society on Facebook

:
How to purchase tickets:
Mail this completed form with your check made payable to ACWS to:

ACWS The Grand Ball c/o Donnalee Simmons
4323 North Skylark Court, Moorpark, CA 93021

Mr. or Rank & Unit _____

Mrs./Miss or Title _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please circle your entrée:

Chicken Marsala

Tri-Tip Beef

Spinach Lasagna



ORANGE EMPIRE RAILWAY MUSEUM BATTLE

September 18-19, 2010

Perris, California

**Sponsored by the ACWS and
Orange Empire Railway Museum**

Two battles daily

Saturday 11:30 am and 3 p.m.

Sunday 11:30 am and 2 pm

North & South Civil War encampments

Hear the cannon fire, smell the gunpowder

Ladies Tea 2:00 pm Harvey Girl Bldg.

The Cock and Pullet Tavern

VISIT WWW.ACWS.NET FOR DETAILS

DIRECTIONS

From 215 Freeway

Exit 4th Street go West to a left on A.

For the reenactors entrance and parking pass entrance to museum

At the stop light turn left

Cross the railroad tracks and turn left into the gate

OERRM Reenactor's Schedule

FRIDAY September 17th

- Noon Park is open for camp set up
- 10:00 pm After hours access ends (except for emergency).

SATURDAY September 18th

- 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Snack shack open
- 9:00 am Gates open to the public, Camps open for public viewing
- 11:30 am First battle.
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm Ladies Tea - Harvey Girl House
- 3:00 pm Second battle
- 5:00 pm Gates closed to the public
- 7:00 pm Gambling hall opens
- 10:00 pm After hours access ceases

SUNDAY September 19th

- 8:00 am – 2:00 pm Snack shack opens
- 9:00 am Gates open to the public
- 9:00 am Church – everyone is welcomed
- 11:30 am First Battle
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm Second Battle
- 3:00 pm Gates closed to the public. Camps can begin take down.

LETTERS TO AND FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

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

“A Tale of Two Dances”

By Tom Atkins

Most of you know I'm an old-time dance caller. I sort of “picked it up” from Dennis Riley, back in the 90s. When I joined the ACWS. I was asked to call my first dance at a small reenactment, in the evening, with only two musicians. I'm not one to “blow my own horn”, but it came off very well, and led to larger dances with a full band. The ACWS Civilian Corps, then being led by Wendy Armstrong (the future Mrs. Atkins) asked if I would consider doing a formal evening dinner dance for the Society. Thus began my association with the ACWS Ball. Over the years, the Ball got more elegant, moving from hotels to the Queen Mary Ballroom and finally the Grand Music Room of the Mission Inn. During this time I continued to call event dances and was even proclaimed by a past Board President, “The Official Dance Master of the ACWS”. In 2009, the ACWS Board, citing financial reasons, moved the Ball from the Mission Inn to a local Masonic Lodge in Norwalk. I was asked to call the Ball as usual, and did so. But, I was dismayed by the lowering of the quality of the Ball being foisted upon the ACWS members. I was told they would search for a better location for the next year, which didn't happen. After the Ball, I reviewed it in my Whitesmoke “Past Events” column. I cannot say it was a good review. And I concluded by saying that ACWS members deserved better. The Ball was held in the same place in 2010 and “someone else” was asked to call it. That was fine with me, as I probably would have declined, since no attempt was made to better the location. For the 2011 ACWS Ball, all my suggestions were taken, and the Ball is now moved to a fine historic

building in Redlands, perfect for the gowns and uniforms of the attendees. Any, you know what? Despite my long association with the ACWS, the “someone else” was chosen to call at the new location. Recently, I cornered a Board member (who shall remain nameless) and asked why I wasn't being offered the Ball anymore. He told me because I had “bad mouthed” the 2009 Ball. Well, it needed “bad-mouthing”, if that's what I did, even if it cost me the chance to call it. Perhaps the current ACWS Board President may want to reconsider the “Official Dance Master of the ACWS” proclamation that I was awarded. Or, perhaps, swallow the sour grapes and honor it?

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The ACWS Board of Directors welcomes any and all comments and recommendations from its membership. We encourage all members to participate and volunteer for committees and appointed positions for the ACWS. To my knowledge, I have never known of any position as “The Official Dance Master Caller” for the ACWS. The ACWS membership has a few members that have called the dances in the past and each has been paid for calling a dance or Ball including Mr. Atkins. I welcome confirmation from the Board if this is an appointed position with the Board of Directors or not. As all Board members, appointed or not, all are volunteers and no one is paid.

One of the comments that I heard from our members after the Mission Inn Ball was that it was too expensive to attend. After the 2008

Ball at the Mission Inn it was advised that the costs for the Ball would include a 25% increase due to the economy at that time. As many of our members know, 2008 hit many of our members financially. By the end of 2008 many of our members had lost their jobs and their financial status was precarious to say the least. The members still wanted a Ball but maybe a scale down version was more appropriate for the times. The Masonic Lodge was offered by our own Board member at the time, Gary Iverson. The cost was much more affordable for our members and many folks loved the town hall feeling that it gave and much more “period correct” for the situation. After the 2009 Ball Mr. Atkins printed in the Whitesmoke Newsletter several negative comments regarding the Ball. In 2010, the Ball again was at the Masonic Lodge. The Ball Committee decided not to burden Mr. Atkins with calling the Ball as we knew he did not like the Masonic Lodge. We received many wonderful comments from the membership and many were so appreciative of the lower cost of the Ball and the young caller, during the continued recession we were all experiencing. Again, Mr. Atkins printed his disapproval of the Ball at the Masonic Lodge (even though he did not attend the Ball). In May of 2010 current Board member, Shawn Stidger, said he found a place to consider for the 2011 Ball – The Mitten Bldg. in Redlands CA. The Ball Committee followed up with Shawn and all met at the Mitten Bldg. and loved it. At no time did this current Ball Committee receive any recommendations from Mr. Atkins regarding possible locations.

The Ball Committee, current and past, has worked very hard to bring the ACWS membership a positive and enjoyable Ball each year. Mr. Atkins is respected by his unit and other ACWS members and we do not wish to start a “battle of wits” or any other negative comment battle with this issue. The ACWS membership deserves much more than continued conflicts during these uncertain times of stress and financial discharge.

Again, we welcome any and all comments to continue the positive attributes to the great organization of the ACWS.

Joyce Bolin
ACWS PR Director
Editor – Company Dispatch

LETTERS TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The ACWS Board and Committees are run by unpaid volunteers. If you don't like the way things are done, get on the Board or join a Committee and work to make changes that you would like. There have been many chances to join, yet our members are reluctant. Could it be that they don't want to put themselves in the position to be criticized by certain individuals? It is so much easier to sit back and criticize the efforts of others, rather than asking yourself, could I do something to help make it better and then do it. I personally have learned that I will never live up to Mr. Atkins standards. No matter where the ball is held, something will be wrong. The dance floor too small or made of the wrong material. The food too hot or too cold or the wrong choice of food. The members enjoying themselves to loudly. The way people are dressed. I know I can not make everyone happy.

I have invested many hours to the 2011 ball already. Finding a location, checking out hotels, checking out caterers, worrying about the costs, designing fliers, writing articles to promote the ball. It hurts me deeply the way Mr. Atkins makes his comments. He does it in a destructive rather than constructive manner. Instead of addressing someone individually, he would rather have an article published for everyone to see. Does he not realize that putting on an event takes a lot of effort and when you say an event was bad or something adversely affected you at the event that you are not appreciative of the effort the organizers put into that event?

I feel the hurt of his comments personally and then I feel the hurt of those he is hurting by association. Members who would offer to be on committees, but don't feel they have thick enough skin to take his criticism. The ACWS members who would prefer to stay out of the politics. What is the caller that has been asked to be the dance master at the ball supposed to think? I remember a lesson my mother tried to teach me, which I may not have fully learned, but I am trying: "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

When the ACWS has a dance at a reenactment or the ball, the caller and musicians are paid by the ACWS. They are not unpaid volunteers, like the rest of us. I know I will have to endure Mr. Atkins remarks, but I don't wish to have to pay him also! You reap what you sew.

Mr. Atkins you are a great caller. You have a level of knowledge regarding the civil war era that I will never be able to attain. Too bad that you don't want to pass on your knowledge to the next generation of reenactors by helping new younger callers mature and develop into great dance callers. My efforts and money are directed to providing the opportunity for others who want to share and participate in ACWS events. Remember, this is my last ball. The Ball Committee is wide open for whoever wishes to run the ACWS Ball in 2012!

Donnalee Simmons,
ACWS 2011 Ball Committee member

Camp Moore Support - Just a passing note, the Cock and Pullet and Maverick's Gaming House (C&P/MGH) has been traveling north and south providing period entertainment for the participants at reenactments here in California. This year is the 10th Anniversary

of this historic preservation committed group, and they have a commemorative glass mug available for \$15.00. It is a never empty mug, at the event it is purchased at. The next event that they will be at here in South California is the OERRM event in mid-September. OERRM is the locale of the first C&P/MGH event, fully 10 years ago. I invite all readers of this newsletter, those over the age of 18 for gaming and 21 for adult beverages, to participate at this event. All net proceeds go to support the good work of the people at Camp Moore, Louisiana. In South California, C&P/MGH has operated at Blythe and Costa Mesa. Operations have also occurred in Central (Visalia, Mariposa) and Northern California (Knight's Ferry, Gibson Ranch), where they did exceptionally well. Let's have a tremendous turn out at OERRM and see if we can match or exceed the proceeds from these other events.

150th Manassas Reenactment - 2011 marks the beginning of the 150th Cycle of reenactments of major and some minor battles of the Civil War. In July 2011 (July 22-24) will be the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas, Bull Run to you Yanks. Currently it is estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 reenactors will participate at this event. From South California Co. B, 1st Louisiana Special Battalion, and Companies E and F of the 8th Louisiana Regiment will be sending men and arms to defend the Old Dominion State. We will be part of a multi-national, multi-state Battalion representing the original 1st Louisiana Special Battalion. The GGG Nephew of Major Roubidoux Wheat will be in command. If you are interested in attending this event and need a 'home' to fall in, be you Confederate or Unionista, contact Capt James R Tebbetts in the 8th Louisiana Camp. We also intend to be at the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg too.

Submitted by Jim Tebbetts



**The 21st Annual
Civil War Revisited
at Kearney Park**

October 2 & 3, 2010

WAR IN THE VALLEY

Shenandoah Valley Campaign - 1862

Join the Fresno Historical Society at Kearney Park for its first “Invitational” event! The event is open to all Reenactment Clubs and is being planned by a committee of California-based reenactors.

The goal is to put together a weekend everyone will enjoy and remember ---- reenactors and the public alike. We would love to hear from you. Let us know if you would like to join the committee and participate in the planning process. We welcome your input and need all your great ideas!

Contact Information

Overall Commander	Charles Henry	559.280.9455	mytstonewall@aol.com
Union Brigade	Tom Bispo	559.729.6578	sierratec34@hotmail.com
	Joe Fiftick	916.250.6970	jfiffick@calcompserv.com
Confederate Brigade	Chris Bowman	209.814.2874	chrisbowman19@hotmail.com
Hospital	Andrew Hill	559.284.3134	hilla@fosterfarms.com
Civilian Town	Jennifer Roger	415.435.3522	jreb63@aol.com
Historical Society	Carole Lester	559.441.0862	fhspr@aol.com

- A **Special Raffle** to Thank and Acknowledge Participants!
 - The return of **Ground Charges** to the battle!
 - **Camp Scenarios** featured ---- post office, cooking over a fire, laundry, mapping!
 - More **Dancing!**
- And join us at **Camp Night** for Dinner, Music, Entertainment, Dancing, Cannon Fire & Fireworks!

F r e s n o H i s t o r i c a l S o c i e t y 5 5 9 . 4 4 1 . 0 8 6 2 w w w . V a l l e y H i s t o r y . o r g

Gown worn by wife of Secretary of the Interior Lincoln's Inaugural *Ball* 1863



The wife of the Secretary of the Interior wore this gown to President Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural ball. Margaret Usher's husband, John Palmer Usher, first became acquainted with Lincoln in the mid-1850s when both men were attorneys in Indiana and Illinois. Lincoln appointed Usher Secretary of the Interior in 1863 after the latter had served nearly a year as Assistant Secretary. Upon learning of her husband's appointment, Margaret wrote from Indiana: "I do most heartily congratulate you and rejoice in your good fortune. I do not believe that Mr. Lincoln could have made a better selection." The couple was living in Washington, D.C., when, two years later, President Lincoln was reelected for a second term. He was inaugurated on March 4, 1865. Because of Usher's position in the president's cabinet, he and his wife of course received an invitation to the inaugural ball held two evenings later. Margaret Usher chose to wear this smoke blue silk gown with blue velvet trim and gold silk balls to the ball. Her dress consists of a bodice (pictured below, left), skirt and jacket (pictured above, right). One newspaper reported that 5,000 people attended the event. Usher resigned from his post just four days after the ball. Lincoln accepted his resignation and agreed that Usher would step down in May. In the meantime, Margaret left Washington to visit relatives in Illinois. The day after she left, John Wilkes Booth shot the President while he attended a performance at Ford's Theatre. The President died the following morning.

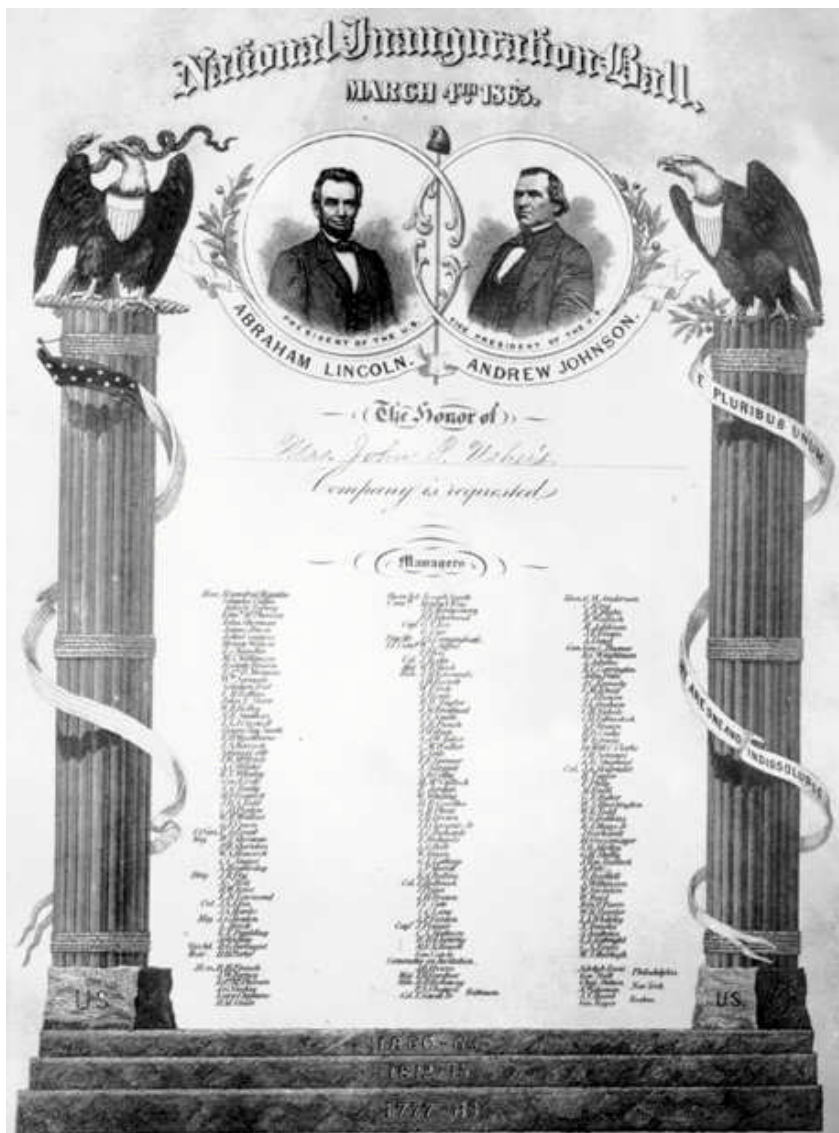
Usher wrote to his wife after Lincoln's death and described the events surrounding the assassination. Usher had attended a cabinet meeting the morning of April 14 where, he claimed, "the President never appeared to better advantage." Later that day, Usher dined with friends and returned to his hotel

where he learned that the President had been shot. He rushed to the side of the dying leader:

"I found the President in a house opposite the theatre into which with some difficulty I was permitted to enter. He was upon a bed in a low back room with a shed roof scarcely large enough to admit twenty persons. I heard his thick heavy breathing as soon as I entered the outside door. . . . Soon Mrs. Lincoln came in and the scene that then occurred beggars description . . . he never opened his eyes or spoke a word but remained wholly insensible. His breathing was deep almost a snore till toward the last it was almost a moan."

One month later, Usher stepped down as Secretary as he and the President had agreed. He wrote to Margaret, "My dear wife, This is the last of the Secretary. In the morning I turn all over to Mr. Harlan." Usher left Washington for Kansas to become the Solicitor General for the Eastern Division of the Union Pacific Railroad. Eventually he and Margaret settled in Lawrence, Kansas, where Usher served as Mayor from 1879 to 1881. Margaret lived in Lawrence until her death in 1911.

This dress is in the collection of the [Kansas Museum of History](#). A copy of the invitation is in the Kansas Historical Society's Center for Historical Research.





The American Civil War Society's

2010 Southwest Invitational Civil War Reenactment

October 29 - 31, 2010, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Las Vegas, Nevada



Participant Name(s): _____

Email Address: _____ **Phone** _____

I am a combatant with (circle one): US Unit CS Unit US Unattached CS Unattached

I am a civilian reenacting with (circle one): Civilian Towne US Unit CS Unit

Unit Name, Association, and State: _____

Commander's Name, Email, and Phone: _____

I am the driver of a vehicle and will need a vehicle Pass (circle one): Yes No

(Carpooling is encouraged. If you do not have a vehicle pass, you will have to pay a \$10 State Park fee per car for the weekend.

Interested in purchasing a souvenir tee shirt?

Reserve yours now for \$12 each by filling out the section below. Shirts will only be printed in the quantities **pre-paid** and pre-ordered **30 days before** the event. Additional orders may be paid for onsite. Please make checks or Money Orders to the ACWS. Shirts will be printed in a "light" but "non-white" color. *Please reserve me the following souvenir shirt(s):*

Artillery			Cavalry			Infantry			Civilian		
Qty	Size	Total	Qty	Size	Total	Qty	Size	Total	Qty	Size	Total
___	XXL	___	___	XXL	___	___	XXL	___	___	XXL	___
___	XL	___	___	XL	___	___	XL	___	___	XL	___
___	L	___	___	L	___	___	L	___	___	L	___
___	M	___	___	M	___	___	M	___	___	M	___

Please complete and mail after June 1, and before October 1, 2010 to:

Jason Coffey
1321 Pinto Rock Ln #101
Las Vegas, NV 89128

Please email questions or answers to: jayce921@yahoo.com or call (702) 354-6875