

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY



Company Dispatch

Official Newsletter of the American Civil War Society

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

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



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Artillery Brigade Commander: Maj. Mike Collins

Editor's Note:

Hello all ACWS members: What can I say I'M BACK. Many of you probably remember me as the very past PR Director and Newsletter Editor of the ACWS many years ago. Before going any further I wish to thank Michael Akkerman for his fantastic contributions to the ACWS Newsletter and his great work on the ACWS Board.

I ask all ACWS members who wish to contribute to the Newsletter to please contact me at Jbolin57@yahoo.com

❧A Word or Two From the PRESIDENT❧

They say "Nothing succeeds like success", and that is so true. This year started at Calico, the event was a resounding success. After a return to Orange Empire Railway Museum last year, after a five year absence, the second year was bigger better by far. Channel 5 News called it "The Best Civil War Reenactment West of the Rockies". I hope most of you were in our large mass photo; it was impressive. A Blog called "Recollections" selected us as the top 17th Civil War reenactment group in the country. I recommend looking over the blog, it has a lot on it, and may I say high praise indeed for various sources. We should all be proud of when we have accomplished.

These events do not just happen, they take time and hard work; our Board does a very good job. I want to thank Michele Akkerman for her years of service on the Board as membership and Civilian Chair, and Michael for doing both Membership and the Newsletter. Michael created an excellent membership spreadsheet, he will stay on as Membership Chair but resigned as Newsletter; feeling the jobs were just too time consuming. I want to thank them both very much.

So the new Board consists of myself as President, Ken Dacey as Vice President, Tracey Gorin as Secretary, Shelley Peters as Treasurer, Joyce Bolin as Civilian Director and Newsletter Editor, Jason Coffey as Federal Commander. The Confederate Commander position is open, but James Stytle has been doing an excellent job filling in. We hope to have a minimum of 2 quarterly meetings at events to allow more input from members, and all our meetings are open to the membership.

Between the time I write this and you are reading this we will have looked at two possible new sites for our events, both are very excited to work with us, and it is very promising. It's just a bit too early to give out details. We are on a roll, and I thank you all.

Dave Grimsrud

President ACWS

UPDATE

On August 6th and 7th the Orange County Heritage Museum is having a Living History. The address is 3101 Harvard St., Santa Ana, CA. They need both Yankees and Rebels, and those attending get a free supper Friday and Saturday. If you are interested you can email berdansharps@gmail.com. This is not an ACWS event, but it's a fun event, and the Museum is interesting.

OERM UPDATES

May 1861 (+155 years). Orders from Confederate Command were sent out to Col Stytle to move his troops to Parris California to repel an attack by Federal forces. Camp was set up on the edge of town near the rail yard. Early Saturday morning Federal Troops advanced on the railyard and were met by a strong Rebel force, after a battle the Federals were repulsed and fell back in full retreat. The action was not finished however, that afternoon a trainload of Federals surprised the Rebels as a strong force attacked from the town, driving back the Rebels in confusion. The day ended with the Federals in charge and they held a Lyceum and even served ice cream that evening. Sunday morning the Rebels attacked the Union troops holding the railyard, after a hard fought battle the Union troops drove the Rebels back and still held the railyard and the town. That afternoon Confederate reinforcements arrived by train and drove the Union troops out of town, killing and capturing the Federals. Col Stytle can now inform the Confederate Command that Parris is firmly in Rebel hands. Report submitted by Major David Grimsrud AAG



¤ MILITARY DISPATCHES ¤

¤ CONFEDERATE DIVISION ¤

Nothing submitted at the time of printing.

¤ UNION DIVISION ¤



From: Col. Jason Coffey, Commander, ACWS
Union Division

To: Readers Members of the Union Division

Date: May 1864

Subject: Union Division Command

Fellow members of the ACWS Federal Army,

Thank you for your strong attendance of our events this Spring 2016 calendar year. While we did miss Prado Dam, both Calico and OERM went well. It is very important that as members of an organization we take the time to support our organizations events. We also had the honor of signing up a Unit from Arizona that we have been working with at Picacho Pass for the last several years. David Beard and his friends are interested in attending one ACWS event in California and another in Nevada with us each year. Welcome aboard guys!

Next up for many of us is our local 4th of July celebrations, and Fort Mac. If anyone needs to bend my ear about something I will be there with the 6th Roman Legion camp as usual. Even if you are not a participant, Fort Mac is a great event to walk around and see what other folks do, without the fear of people trying to cross-recruit

you for their era or unit. Any of the Federals who wish to attend with the ACWS can go as Infantry with our 8th Louisiana or Artillery with our Washington Artillery.

This fall we start off with Huntington Beach on the Saturday and Sunday or Labor Day weekend! As always it is fun to attend. Last year seemed to go particularly well, and was lacking the usual external political headaches onsite. So please let me know the strength of your units ASAP so we can start planning the ACWS Battalion.

Next would be Helendale, but the overall ACWS support has been low, and the few Federals in attendance have decided it is not worth attending in that light. I have brought it to the ACWS Board's attention not to anticipate any Union at Helendale this year. In place of this unsupported event, we are looking for the weekend of September 24 & 25 for an alternate event that we hope the membership will better support.

Last but not least in our Fall lineup would be Spring Mountain Ranch October 22 & 23, 2016 the week before Halloween in honor of Nevada Day. In the ACWS each year the Federal numbers increasingly are supported by Nevada and Utah reenactors willing to travel to California. In turn we hope that you will be able to come and help us once a year at this beautiful venue to help recreate life during the Civil War to the people in Las Vegas. More event details are at the event website snlha.org under the tab "Las Vegas Reenactment".

We are still pending information on the fall Holiday party or Dance, so please keep your eyes out for that.

Enjoy your summer, and may you also find time to clean your gear!

Yours in service,

Jason Coffey,
Colonel
Commanding,
ACWS Federal Army



Officers and NCOs of the various Federal Units in the ACWS



❧ Civilian Director's Report ❧

Well here I am again. Civilian Corp Director for the ACWS. While I get myself acquainted with all the requirements and inner movements of the ACWS Civilian Corp – I ask that if you have any questions please send them along to me at jbolin57@yahoo.com

My ideas for the Civilian Corp are simple right now. I wish to organize, encourage and direct any and all civilians to participate in all of the ACWS events. If you have a “special” talent and wish to impersonate an original or certain character of the Civil War please let me know. Let’s get some excitement into our group. I myself impersonate Rose O’Neil Greenhow, the Confederate spy. If you have a special interest or talent and wish to have a workshop just let me know and let’s work on it.

What does it take to run an army?

By Jason Coffey, ACWS Federal Commander

So often we discuss ratios, ranks and numbers. At the end of the day the public is looking towards us for the best possible display, not what suits our own ego. There are certain truths that become self-evident when we do research into the structure of a Company, Regiment, Brigade, Division, Corp, and Army. So let us start from the bottom and explore what is needed to run an event properly, as we explore "What it takes to run an Army?"

To start with we have the basic "Units" of Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry that make up the ACWS. We need a couple of cannons with 3 to 6 crew each run by a Captain to represent a Battery. It is nice to have a handful of guys on horseback (under an officer) representing a Cav Troop. It is a bonus to have a mixture of attached and independent Civilians... but the core of each side is the Infantry.

To represent this, we need at least a couple of Infantry Companies representing a Battalion. Each Company having about 8 to 10 people, representing about a quarter the size of the real deal; led by an Officer to move it, a Sergeant to oversee the fire, and a pair of Corporals to keep the lines dressed. Ultimately after some experience on the field for their organization, each Unit has the right for their senior leadership to be a Captain and 1st Sergeant to oversee them. Likewise they all have Regimental Colors that they may carry from time to time or post in camp.

Moving up the chain each pair of Batteries, each Cav Squadron, and each Infantry Battalion need a Major to lead them. Each of these selects a Regimental Color to carry, and often carries a Brigade flag with it. If there is more than one Battalion, then we have a true "Branch" in need of a Lieutenant Colonel to run it. In either case, this is why most groups tend to top out with a "full bird" Colonel. Each Branch tends to be allowed a Lieutenant as Adjutant, and a Sergeant Major as Staff. In this case they often carry the Brigade Color instead, or occasionally that of a Division. It is not unreasonable for some of these duties to also fall on Company Commanders, as many of their specific duties are between battles, and this helps to not take away from our "Number of Rifles on the Field".

All of this culminates with the overall Colonel and his Staff that lead the "Army" of Federal or Confederate forces within the ACWS. Each "Army" tends to post the Division Colors and a plain Federal or

Confederate National Color at their Headquarters, from time to time I have seen organizations post a Corps Color instead. In this vein is where I wanted to drive this article - and explore what an organizations Army Headquarters should look like. According to the 1861 US Army Regulations a Regimental Staff consists of the following: Adjutant General, Assistant Inspector General, Aide-de-Camp, Quartermaster Officer, Commissary Officer, Engineering Officer, Judge Advocate, Ordnance Officer, Mustering Officer, Provost Marshal, Army Chief Musician, and the Army Surgeon. At a glance we can see that all of these positions are Officers, however, the majority are Staff that do not take the field - perhaps lending better towards "Display Tents" at events by folks who are semi-retired from the hobby.

Of these we immediately can classify Quartermaster, Commissary, Engineering, and Ordnance as strictly "Display Tents" with no direct function related to the battlefield at an event. However, when we can have people do this, without taking away from our "Number of Rifles on the Field", it greatly enhances the education about the 1860's Army we can offer to the Public (and ourselves).

Next we know that the Provost Marshal, Army Chief Musician, and Army Surgeon all have readily defined roles on and or off the battlefield. Clearly each of these can also provide "Display Tents" as well, but each have a direct role in the demonstrations the Army puts on all weekend; Military Police, Field Music, and Medical. In addition to these, we know that the Adjutant General is the senior Clerk of the Army responsible to the Army Commander for all of the misc. paperwork, the runners, and so forth.

Next I would like to introduce a handful of positions that we are not typically using, but could be of use. First and most straight forward is that of the Aide-de-Camp. We often wonder how we can keep the next generation involved, once or while waiting, to carry a musket. If we can find an energetic minor, who is knowledgeable, understands they are a "Cadet" not a true "Officer", and is willing to play along... this can be a unique impression... and truly mimic the European military concept it comes from.

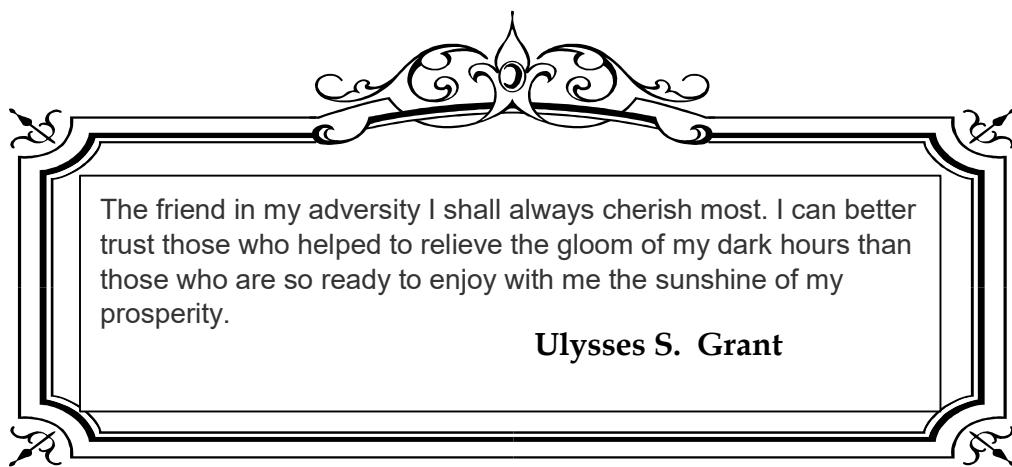
Secondly we have a great opportunity in the form of a Mustering Officer. Imagine if every Unit had a website linked to the ACWS website? What if they also had Fliers in the field to hand out for interested Recruits? This second part in specific could be consolidated under a single Mustering Officer - in addition to handing out information in your own Units camp. They could also assist with the ACWS Membership Director, and Army Commander, on behalf of each Army's annual membership processing.

Third is the Judge Advocate General (JAG) for a Regiment, at a glance this is more of a "Vignette" or "Role Play" type position. This person would work with Unit Commanders to set up legal scenarios ranging from Court Martials, to anything hand in hand with the Provost Marshal. They could also encourage and support scenarios like Pay Call and Mail Call within individual Units as well. Also a fun fact about this role,

is that it is all off the battlefield, so would allow the reenactor to still swap out coats and take up a rifle if they wished.

Last but not least is the role of Assistant Inspector General. Like the JAG, it allows the person to swap out their coat and grab a rifle to participate in the battle demonstrations. However it does play a clearer role off the battlefield as it relates to a variety of troop actions. Obviously this person would work with the Army Staff to develop, train, and schedule any sorts of Parades, Dress Parades, and even the Battalion Formations. They also would be in a position to work on behalf of the Army Commander, with the Unit Commanders, on any issues related to "impressions and authenticity" in camps, drill, and attire.

So then the question still remains, "What does it take to run an army?" After evaluating the various components, this quickly comes to light. Each Units Officer(s), each Units NCO(s) (both Sergeants and Corporals), each Battalion Commander, each (Infantry) Battalion Adjutant and Sergeant Major, each Branch Commander, each Branch Adjutant and Sergeant Major, the Army Commander, and last but not least his Headquarters Staff. It is a large group of people, but it is also a large project to manage as well. The more hands on deck, and ideas to draw from, make the process a whole lot simpler and more fun for even the leadership.



The friend in my adversity I shall always cherish most. I can better trust those who helped to relieve the gloom of my dark hours than those who are so ready to enjoy with me the sunshine of my prosperity.

Ulysses S. Grant

The Press Enterprise

PERRIS: Civil War simulated with battles at railway museum

Costumed soldiers staged mock battles over the weekend at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris.
STAFF REPORT

Published: May 22, 2016 Updated: May 23, 2016 6:43 p.m.



Rifles fired. Explosions echoed. Soldiers scrambled. It was a weekend of Civil War reenactments, staged at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris.

The festivities began Saturday and concluded Sunday. In addition to mock battles, there were encampments made to look like those of the Union and Confederate armies.

The event fit in with museum's mission because the Civil War was the first major conflict in which trains were heavily used.

Contact the writer: community@pe.com

Union soldier and Victorville resident Jason Roy Kauffin fires his rifle at Confederate soldiers during a Civil War reenactment at Sunday, May 22, at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris.





Union soldiers charge advancing Confederate soldiers Sunday, May 22, during a Civil War reenactment at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris.



Perris.

People watch from a train as Union and Confederate armies battle during a Civil War reenactment Sunday, May 22, at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris. Our dear Tracey



Gorin and friend.



Our own Shelley Peters and our fantastic ladies at ease and at work at OERM

Additional organizations and links of interest:

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

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

NCWA www.newa.org

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

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

The History Channel Club: www.historychannelclub.com

ACWS 2016 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
Sept 24-25, 2016	Civil War Days at Bogart Part	ACWS		Cherry Valley, CA
October 21-23, 2016	Spring Mountain Ranch	ACWS/SNLHA	Sponsored	Las Vegas, NV
Nov 11, 2016	Reagan Library Vet Day	Library	Supported	Simi Valley, CA
December 6-7, 2016	Drum Barracks Christmas Theme Event	Drum Barracks	Supported	Wilmington, CA
December TBD	Christmas Party		Sponsored	Huntington Bch, CA

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