

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY

Company Dispatch

Official Newsletter of the American Civil War Society

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

Happy New Year

2017

Editor's Note:

Well here it is 2017...WOW....it took all of 2016 to get here. Now I only have a short message for the ACWS membership. ONE I'd like to welcome all new ACWS members to our Civil War reenacting family. We promise a great year of fantastic role playing of the American Civil War. Get involved and ask questions and let's get 2017 off to a great start with Calico on February 18/19th at the Calico Ghost Town. TWO I'd like to welcome our new President of the ACWS Board of Directors, Ken Dacey. A very warm thank you to our outgoing President David Grimsrud for his long years of service to the ACWS. There will be an open Board meeting at Calico on Saturday Feb. 18th at appx. 4:15 pm at the Town Hall. Please join us to welcome our new Board of Directors. Comments and questions are always welcomed.

More to come later on with the passing of the months. As editor of the Company Dispatch I'm always looking for new ideas, articles and stories. I'm also looking for fantastic photos of our events and I could sure use a "reporter" or two in the camps to let the ACWS members know what's going on with our group. Just stop me when you can and let me know your interests.

Again, thanks for 2016 and now let's celebrate 2017 with great events and fun.

Joyce Bolin

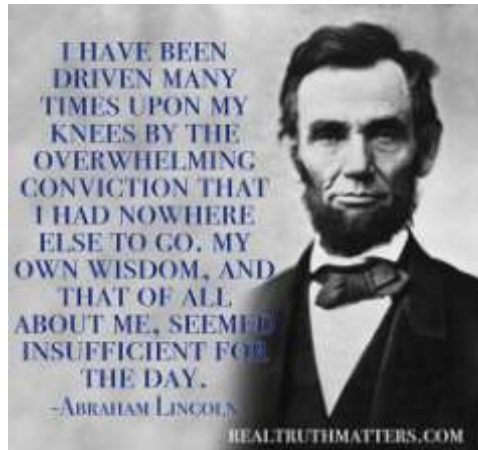
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the chair of the President of the ACWS,

I hope everyone had a good holiday season. We have had some changes and hopefully for the better. As the new President, I wish to let you all know I will be approachable for comments and ideas. I want to thank our membership for their support of our events. Let us all work together and make this a great year for all of us. As we are stronger together than apart.

Kenneth Dacey
President, ACWS



VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Message to ACWS Membership:

An Executive Board meeting was held on Jan 7th, 2017.
During this meeting a few changes to your Board of directors was made.

I have assumed the Vice President position left vacant by Ken Dacey being moved in the President position.
I will continue as Membership director as well.
At 2017 Calico event we will be having a Board meeting, we will be posting the place and time.
So look forward to seeing you at this event.

Michael Akkerman,
Vice President &
Membership Director



All these thousands of men. Many of them not much more than boys. Each one of them some mother's son, some sister's brother, some daughter's father. Each one of them a whole person loved and cherished in some home far away. Many of them will never return. An army is power. Its entire purpose is to coerce others. This power cannot be used carelessly or recklessly. This power can do great harm. We have seen more suffering than any man should ever see, and if there is going to be an end to it, it must be an end that justifies the cost. Now, somewhere out there is the Confederate army. They claim they are fighting for their independence, for their freedom. Now, I cannot question their integrity. I believe they are wrong but I cannot question it. But I do question a system that defends its own freedom while it denies it to an entire race of men. I will admit it, Tom. War is a scourge, but so is slavery. It is the systematic coercion of one group of men over another. It has been around since the book of Genesis. It exists in every corner of the world, but that is no excuse for us to tolerate it here when we find it right in front of our very eyes in our own country. As God as my witness, there is no one I hold in my heart dearer than you. But if your life, or mine is part of the price to end this curse and free the Negro, then let God's work be done.

[Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain](#)

COMMANDER'S ORDERS

Fellow members of the ACWS,

As I write this the Holidays have wrapped up, kids are back in school, and we are a month away from another wonderful Calico event. So it is time to get ready for the new reenacting year; to wipe the oil out of our guns, time to roll a few blanks, and remember to stitch up that pair of pants that started to come apart last fall. It is also a great time to get with your Unit Commanders on your Authenticity, and make sure you know what (and from where) to buy things to finish your "Kit" so you can go to events without being a burden on your Unit's supply of Loaner Gear.

Also please make sure to take care of your ACWS Memberships before the 1st of February. If you do not get those sent in before then, you may not get your Membership Cards in time. If you do not have your Membership Cards in advance of the event, you may be charged the "per head" entrance fee. If that occurs, please understand that the entrance fee is not refundable by Calico or the ACWS. Your Unit Commander's also appreciate you being there at First Call, not being delayed at the gate or membership booth.

You do need your membership card or a day pass to take the field during the event, Unit Commanders should check this (and Cartridge Boxes) before ever forming up. To simplify things we have a new Minor Card for

under 14 years old clearly showing birthdays to reduce the issues we have had in the past. Please make sure that all Minors have proper Adult Guardianship during the weekend.

In this issue of the newsletter there should be a schedule for Calico, and you will note the only significant change from last year is that the Union will be down in the Corral and the Confederates up by the top by the Restaurant and Stage. If you are curious as to why, we made this decision last summer in hopes of better space management. It is not so much that we have “more or less” of either “side” portrayed at the event, rather it is about the fact that many of our Confederates actually camp in RV’s or Hotels onsite or nearby. This helps us provide more full display areas for the Spectators and the Site.

Event wise for the rest of the year we are looking toward supporting Picacho Pass and Huntington Beach as usual in March and September respectively. We also have OERM the 3rd weekend in May, and Las Vegas the 3rd weekend in October. We are looking into what it will take financially to continue or start a couple of other events before we get into any more details on that.

Last but not least, and closest to my heart, we are finally ready to start completing and approving revisions to the ACWS Bylaws and ACWS Gold Book. I am excited to get some changes made to the infamous Rank Ratios, which while a good idea, do not actually follow the regulation books – for instance Infantry are supposed to have a Corporal at each end of the first Rank. Likewise clarifying where Promotions come from, Ages on the battlefield, and Division Staff make-ups.

Yours in service

Jason Coffey

Director (Federal Forces)

ACWS, Inc

MILITARY DISPATCHES

It’s very difficult sometimes to get things started in a new year. Our Commanders mean well but sometimes they forget that our military need orders for the upcoming events. Like Calico which comes up on February 18 and 19, 2017. I encourage all our troops to contact their commanders when they have something to say about a battle or an event that needs their attention. I’m also looking for military reporters to write articles about military life during the Civil War and especially during the ACWS events. Just contact me and let’s talk.



War illustrations

The primary way for the public to get news of campaigns, battles and other events during the Civil War was through newspapers. Newspaper companies printed stories sent to them from reporters who accompanied the armies or from letters sent to them by soldiers. A reporter with the army was called a **correspondent** and it was his job to stay close to headquarters and get reports from the officers in command or one of their staff. Correspondents wrote their stories based on a number of sources and sometimes added opinions on how they thought things were going, opinions that were not always favorable to the commanding generals. Once the story was written, it was transmitted to the newspaper office or a central news agency by **telegraph**. If the telegraph was not available, then it had to be transported by courier. Most of the correspondents with the Army of the Potomac worked for newspapers in New York, Boston, Chicago, and other major northern cities, or for a news "bureau" or agency that employed many different reporters and sold their stories to newspaper companies. The stories they submitted were the first news the public received of a battle. Southern correspondents did not have the luxuries that Northern correspondents did and only a few ever accompanied the Confederate armies in the field. Many Southern reporters remained in Richmond where they got information from the Confederate War Department offices and then wrote their stories.

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QUESTION: A temporary fortification that is chest high is called a _____.

CIVILIAN COOKING RECIPES FOR REENATING EVENTS

Do you have a special recipes that you like to use at Civil War reenactments?? Well let me know and let's share with others. I have certain dishes I make at events. I love to cook on my open grill especially breakfast and dinner. Do you know how to dutch oven cook? I learned from my dear friend Donnalee Simmons. I miss doing it as often as we use to but when I get the chance I do it. Soooooo let me know what you like and give it to me for the next Newsletter. Just to give a little taste of what I'm talking about here's my recipe for Biscuits and Gravy.

This is a quick and easy breakfast that is much loved by the lads, even if they are not Southrons. Whip up a batch of breakfast ballast for your hungry soldiers to keep them marching all day.

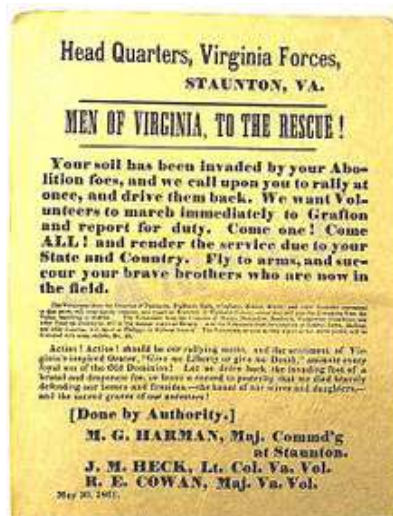
- 2 pounds of lean pork sausage
- Four by handfuls (approx. 1 cup)
- Milk - 2 quarts to one gallon (depending on the size of your company)
- Biscuits - 2 per person

In a large, deep skillet cook 2 pounds of pork sausage until well done. Stir often to keep from burning and to crumble the meat. Do not drain. Move skillet over coals or low heat. Sprinkle flour over meat and stir gently, add flour until fat is absorbed and the consistency of a rue. Slowly add milk while stirring to make the gravy, until mixture simmers. Adjust amount of milk used to preferred gravy thickness.

Split two warm biscuits in a tin pan and cover with hot gravy. Serve with fresh fruit.



An 1861 Confederate recruiting poster from Virginia, urging men to join the Confederate cause and fight off the U.S. Army, which it refers to as a "brutal and desperate foe".



ANSWER: Breastplates

ACWS 2017 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
Feb 18/19, 2017	Calico Ghost Town Civil War Days	ACWS	Sponsored	Calico, CA
March 18/19, 2017	SWCWA Picacho Pass	SWCWA		Picacho Pass, AZ
April 1/ 2, 2017	CWA Moorpark			Moorpark CA
May 20/21, 2017	Orange Empire Railroad Museum OERM		Sponsored	Perris CA
June 2017				
July 2017	Fort MacArthur Days		Supported	San Pedro CA
August 2017				
September 2-3, 2017	Huntington Beach Historical Society		Supported	Huntington Beach CA
October 20-21, 2017	New Event TBD	ACWS/SNLHA	Sponsored	Las Vegas, NV
November 2017				
December 2017				

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 NESLETTER

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United American Civil War Society