

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.

May-June 2012





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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.

Newsletter - Michael Akkerman

qaman249@verizon.net

COMPANY DISPATCH

20170 Ross Road

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Next Board Meeting

August 26, 2012

FOR ALL OPEN BOARD POSITIONS PLEASE CONTACT ANY CURRENT BOARD MEMBER



Federal/Union Division:

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Brigade Commander: Major Mike Collins **Brigade Adjutant:** Lt. Doug Carroll

Brigade Sgt. Major: Sgt. Major Sam Frankl

Editor's Note:

If you have an interesting story to share please send it to me. My email is 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. I want to thank all of our new members who have joined ACWS so far this year. For members that have not renewed for 2012, this will be the last Newsletter you will be sent via email. You can still go to the website to download future newsletters.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Raymond William Hill
Nichalás Mihora
The Novnna Household

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**.

Tony Alvarez	D.J. Brannon
Robert Arconti	Cynthia Botello
Frances Bangs	Christain Beilstein
John T. Bange	Tony Boyle
Tracy Bazzo	Claudia Boyle
El Roy IV Coddling	Tony Bazzo
Miranda Coddling	Jason Coffey
Sophie Blaylock	Donald C. DeeDe
Vincent Fernandez	Steven Fields
Karen Frey	Michael Fox
Evan Gregorio	Zechariah Geraroi
Stan Hetrick	Tracey Gorin
Sandy Hetrick	Karen Harriott
Debi Humphries	Carol Hurley
Keith Harriott	Micha Hanning
Chloe Hogan	Emma Orrin
Scott Huseth	Faith Myhra
Patricia Bottom	Gary Midgley
Victoire Johnson-Milkoff	Tara Schaltegger
Jason R. Lutu	Brat Nielsen
Ian MacMillan	Debbie Pavich
Mel Midgley	Bradley D. Richarson
Scott Peca	Steve Shockey
Janice Palmer	John Smoley
Ashley Rutter	Kenneth Serfass
Frank J. RuVolo	Lea Brannon
Debradawn Shockey	Lance Willis
Thomas Swisher	William D. II Wirtz
	Katherine Wright

☞ **A Word or Two From the PRESIDENT** ☞

From all accounts, the battle of Costa Mesa went very well. The feedback from all accounts was very positive. We are already making plans for next year's event. While at Costa Mesa I was approached by two ladies offering to be potential co-chairs of the Civilian Corps. Laurie Norton and Karen Norquist offered, and were approved by the board. They will fill a long-absent place in our organization. The next board meeting will be meeting on August 26th at a place to be determined. If there is anything you want discussed, let myself or a board member know. We set an agenda and only items on the agenda can be voted on.

It's been a busy spring and seems almost every weekend was some type of Civil War activity. I went to the Blue and Gray United Against Cancer walk in Fontana. Reverend Hurley had a great group there, and I found it very moving to see all the people come out in support. Memorial Day is coming up; I hope all of you take some time to remember those that gave their lives in service to this Country. I am planning to be at the Pioneer Cemetery in Sylmar. They have five Civil War veterans buried there. As part of the program we will do a wreath laying in their memory.

The ACWS exists for its members. The Board is here to serve you. If you know of a potential event site, have any suggestions or ideas, please we would like to hear them. It is members and supporters that make these events happen.

Regards,

David Grimsrud

📖 **MILITARY DISPATCHES** 📖

Confederate Command:

From: James R Tebbetts, Col, ACWS Confederate Command

To: Readers and Members of the Confederate Command

Date: May 5, 2012

Subject: Confederate Command Report

Past Events -

St. Catherine's Military School (Anaheim) - Was on March 24th and 25th and sponsored/hosted by the Washington Artillery and supported by ACWS. It is an event that is more living history and less reenactment, and had a smaller turn out than normal, with units representing including WA, 2nd Kentucky, 1st North Carolina, 18th Virginia and 8th Louisiana. As part of the weekend, students from local school districts were invited to attend and do a Q and A with the soldiers. Working with units attending, they attempted to include unit/state specific questions. I think it worked out well. It was a kind of poor turnout on Confederate side; I guess with Prado the next weekend people were aiming for that event. Next year's event will be on St Patrick's weekend.

From the School Coordinator, the following was sent out:
Hello Everyone,

On behalf of St. Catherine's Academy, thank you for participating in our Civil War Re-enactment on March 24th & 25th! We would especially like to thank you for your participation in the Trivia Challenge historical scavenger hunt. It is our hope that this document helps students to fully immerse themselves in the living history provided by your presence at the re-enactment. We wanted to share the completed Trivia Challenge with you so you can see what a successful learning experience you provided to the students in attendance!

Note it is in PDF and does take a few seconds to load:

<http://www.stcatherinesacademy.org/files/docs/2011triviachallengeanswers.pdf>.

Thank you!

Joanna Ronan

Director of Advancement/Marketing

P.S. Save the date for St. Catherine's 2013 Re-enactment: March 16 & 17, 2013!

Prado Dam (Chino) – This was held the weekend after St Catherine's on March 31st and April 1st. Sponsored by the SCCWA and supported by the ACWS. For those that were ACWS members, they got in free to the park with their membership card. Otherwise there was a \$10 entry fee. This is another good reason to join the ACWS. Our good friend Lt Col Keith Harriott will be in command of Confederate Forces. From the ACWS the 8th La won the 'Most Authentic Camp, Confederate,' congratulations.

Fairview Park (Costa Mesa) was held on April 14th and 15th (hopefully everyone got their tax paperwork done before the event). Setup began after noon on April 13 (yes, Friday the 13th). Weather was tremendously bad on Friday, with high winds and heavy rains. It cleared up for the weekend though, with some higher winds on Saturday. Great weather was had on Sunday. Good turn out on the Confederate side with dismounts (2nd KY, 1st NC, 8th TX (Terry's), 43rd VA, and 18th Virginia), infantry (8th LA, 10th VA, Hampton's, and 2nd FL) and artillery (Washington). Some good maneuvering was done during the weekend. A couple of good raffles were held for reenactors (military and civilian). Some of the ladies on the Confederate side had a pie auction, with monies going to Civil War Preservation. The poor weather on Friday 'snowed' in the caller for the Dance that was to be held, so did not have a dance caller.

From Col. Peca, the following is provided about the event: The Battle of Costa Mesa was a great success this year despite the weather. The rain on Friday, and wind on Saturday did not keep the reenactors and public from coming to the event. Our rain delay on Saturday proved to be a good idea it gave the re-enactors time to get to the event and set up and not miss any of the event. We entertained the public with short demonstrations from the Units who volunteered to fill up the delay time. This proved to be quite a hit with the public. Sunday was a great day the weather was fine and it showed with a record public attendance. Some of last year's suggestions were done this year with the battlefield chopped and a dance provided, my thanks to Mr. Carver for supplying the band. We are going to have the benches removed next year under the roof cover and lighting provided as well. President Lincoln was added this year and proved to be a great help to the event my thanks to Mr. Peck for all his efforts. The Costa Mesa Football Boosters did a grand job preparing our breakfast and dinner. I want to thank the sutlers who donated gifts for the ladies tea and military raffle. I want to mention that I have read numerous emails from the Newport-Mesa School District and the teachers want to thank all of you and your Units for all the work you do to teach the students. You cannot put a price on it. The Battles over the weekend went well. The public enjoyed them as well as a Costa Mesa City Council member who participated in one of the battles on Sunday. In closing I want to thank all of you and your Units for attending B.O.C.M. 2012 for without you there would be no event. I am proud to be part of an event that promotes a re-enactment for re-enactors and public awareness. I hope to see you all next year for B.O.C.M. 2013.

I remain at your service,

Scott Peca

After Battle Report {Battle of Costa Mesa}

Col. Tebbetts, I arrived on the day of April 13 and found nothing to report in the way of any troop movement from "those people". The rain was heavy all afternoon and slowed to a wet mist by night fall. What members of my Brigade who were able to reach Fairview point on the 13Th set up camp in the rain and prepared to make the best of it. I sent out scouts to survey the neighboring towns to see if there were any troop movements heading for Fairview Point. I went to visit my home which is a short ride from Fairview Point to visit my family for the night. On my return to the Point on Saturday the scouts reported large Union troop movement heading for Fairview Point. My Brigade by late morning had grown in combatants and we planned to face "Those People" on the Battle Field. We were pushed back several times during the two days of battle due to a strange gun brought to the battle by "those people" that fired as quick as lighting and ripped holes in my Brigade. We were able to push them back and hold the Point. My Brigade has suffered heavy losses and will need to be resupplied as soon as possible before we can consider another fight soon. Units of the Brigade at Fairview Point:

1. 2ND Kentucky 26 combatants
2. 8TH Texas "Terry's Rangers" 8 Combatants
3. 1ST. North Carolina 12 Combatants
4. 18 TH Virginia 12 combatants
5. 43RD Virginia 3 Combatants

I remain at your service,

Lt. Col. Scott Peca / Cavalry Brigade

Glorietta Pass, New Mexico Territory (Near Santa Fe, NM) - This was held to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the event. Not sure if any South Californians went, but our good friends from Las Vegas (71st Pa and 4th TX) had a contingent there. From reports, administration of the event was very poor with a bit of lack of communication. Have seen some pictures, looked like an interesting event.

Upcoming Event Activities:

Fort Tejon - Last event, at least as of the writing of this article is on May20. Try and attend if you can. The Tejon Land Company, which owns about as much as the eye can see as one drives on the I-5 near Gorman/Lebec appears to have volunteered some land for the annual FTHA Invitational in August. More as it becomes available.

2nd US Dance (June 16th) - If you can make it, please come out and support our good Yankee friends. I believe there is a flyer in the last edition with relevant information.

La Quinta - New Date of the event, December 1 and 2, at Lake Cahuilla. Possible Christmas Theme with Santa (not me), Carolers, Band Concert, etc. More as it becomes available.

Gettysburg 150th - Official Gettysburg Reenactor Registration will open on August 1, 2012--Online registration will be available at that time--there will also be a printable registration form for mail-in registrations. Reenactors that register and participate at the 2012 event will be given the first opportunity to register for the 2013 (150th) event while at the 2012 event site. There is a numeric limitation, so get registered as soon as you can. It appears 'public tickets' will be going on sale on July 16, 2012. No word on pricing at this time.

From past discussions it appears there will be three groups associated with the ACWS going back to Gettysburg in July 2013 for the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. There will be infantry, dismounted cavalry, and artillery groups planning on attending. Keith Harriott will be commanding a composite group of infantry which will be falling in with our friends back east in the 1st Arkansas/Trans Mississippi Brigade. We may also have a few infantry soldiers from Britain (2-3)

and Italy (7-8) falling in with us also. According to Scott Peca a group of dismounts will also be going. Bob Hayes of Moody's Battery will also be going. If you might want to go with one of these groups, contact them for more information. I am helping with the paperwork for the infantry unit, so contact me if you have any questions, wanting to join, etc.

Miscellaneous Items:



For our members from the 2nd Kentucky, the picture to the left is provided. Per information associated with photo it, it is of Morgan's Men, in an Ohio POW camp.

❧ UNION DIVISION ❧

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Union Brigade--

Thanks you to all that attended the recent event at Prado Park. I know the camp layout was not all that great, and those concerns have been taken up with the organizer. I was told it will be better for next year. Otherwise the weather was pretty good. The battles were interesting, yet times for the battles could be changed on Saturday.

I am still looking for someone to step up to fill the Adjutant position on staff. Are there any suggestions on who would be good to fill this role?

I also want to at this time I want to let you all know if you have any concerns, issues, or comments please feel free to talk to me either at events or by wireless telegraph.

Our upcoming campaigns are the Long Beach event in July, and the Huntington Beach event in September. Updates and information will be sent out as I get them.

All Company and Brigade commanders are now tasked with preparing their units and get them marching to these engagements. Please report readiness to the Sgt. Major.

Your Obedient Servant,
Col. Kenneth Dacey
ACWS Brigade Commander

☞ Membership Director's Report ☞

As of May 25, our membership was a total of 352, with 74 Union combatants, 123 CSA combatants, 5 sutlers, 2 musicians, and 147 civilians (US/CS combined, men, women, and children). Of these, 310 are age 15 and older.

Special recognition goes to Monique Wright (8th LA) who successfully orchestrated a homemade pie auction at the Battle of Costa Mesa. The pies were made by our ladies, and the troops bid on them. A total of \$205 was raised and donated to the Civil War Preservation Trust, which acknowledged the Wright family for its efforts. There will be more pie auctions at future events, so save your loose change.

Civilian members will now have leadership as Karen Norquist and Laurie Norton have stepped forward to co-chair as Civilian Coordinators. The civilian trailer has been organized and we found a treasure trove of craft materials for children's activities, as well as children's games. We also found baseball bats and balls for those of you interested in playing (see article about baseball later in this edition).

As living historians, we have a commitment to portray Civil War Americans with as much authenticity as possible. It has been noticed of late that some reenactors have non-period equipment in camp, such as post-Civil War lanterns, conversing about contemporary events, or using cell phones in view of the public. The board gently reminds all of you to remain 'in period' at all times during public hours. If you really need to use your cell phone, please do so 'back stage' in a tent or away from camp. If you are not sure about equipment or accessories that are 'period correct,' please ask your company commander or the Civilian Corps directors for guidance.

One of the requirements of membership is that all members, both combatants and civilians, must take a safety test. Don't panic—you don't have to write an essay or memorize facts because it is an OPEN NOTES multiple choice test. There are links to the test on the ACWS website, and the answers are in our rules and regs, and the PACWR regulations. The test is especially important for members who go on the battlefield. Contact your company commander to find out which test you need to take.

To encourage new membership (not renewals), 2012 dues will be reduced from June 1 to October 31. Single memberships are \$10, and family memberships are \$15. If you know anyone who has hesitated to join because of costs, please let them know about this special offer.

As a final note, 2011 members who have not renewed for 2012 will no longer be receiving the newsletter via email. Dues have been payable since last November, and one of the benefits is to receive the Dispatch by email. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Your obedient servant,
Michele Akkerman

**NEXT BOARD MEETING IS AUGUST 26,
2012. PLACE TO BE DETERMINED.**

The National Pastime and Civil War Vets

With the 2012 baseball season well under way, it is fitting to talk about the Civil War’s connection to baseball. Not many people know that baseball existed before the Civil War, invented by Union General Abner Doubleday in 1839 in Cooperstown, NY, but that conflict changed the game that became the national pastime. According to George B. Kirsch in *Baseball in Blue and Gray: The National Pastime in the Civil War* (Princeton University Press), “The Civil War years proved crucial in securing the game’s place in the American heart. Soldiers with bats in their rucksacks spread baseball to training camps, war prisons and even front lines.”

Identifying the veterans who played major league baseball has been a frustrating process. But according to the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), there is “persuasive” evidence that 30 major league players and managers were Civil War veterans. Most had brief military and equally undistinguished playing careers. Of those on SABR’s list, only seven saw combat and only one is confirmed to have been wounded. None are in baseball’s Hall of Fame.

Dennis Coughlin might be baseball’s most grizzled CW vet, fighting in three famous battles: Gettysburg, The Wilderness, and Petersburg. While serving as a corporal with Co. E, NY 140th Infantry Regiment on June 26, 1864, Coughlin was wounded at Petersburg. He earned a promotion to sergeant on March 1, 1865 and was mustered out of service three months later on June 3. Coughlin went on to play eight games in the 1872 season for the Washington Nationals. The team actually recruited Coughlin, enticing him with a clerical job at the US Treasury in the days before baseball was openly professional.

About a year after Coughlin enlisted, Tom Carey of Brooklyn joined Co. C, 17th NY Infantry in September 1863 and was discharged in July 1865. During his service, the 17th fought in battles at Atlanta, Jonesboro, GA, and Bentonville, NC. Carey was a star infielder for the Baltimore Marylands before defecting to the Fort Wayne Kekiongas late in the 1870 season. As the second baseman for Fort Wayne, Carey played in the first “all-professional” major league game May 4, 1871 against the Cleveland Forest City club. In all, Carey played nine seasons of major league baseball, five in the National Association and four in the National League.

What might be considered the first “world series” of major league baseball was in 1884 with a post-season clash, best-of-three series, between the National League’s Providence (RI) Grays and the New York Metropolitans of the American Association. The Grays’ manager was CW veteran Frank Bancroft, who led the Grays to victory and the title “world champions” from the newspaper *Sporting Life*. This competition was the forerunner of the modern World Series, first played in 1903.

Other notables include vets such as Morgan Bulkeley, the first National League president, and Abraham G. Mills and Nicholas E. Young, who also were officers of the National League. And of all CW vets, Dick McBride had the longest major league career, playing 15 seasons with the Philadelphia Athletics.

(Source: article by Tim Dyhouse in VFW magazine, May 2012)



1869 Cleveland Forest City club



General Abner Doubleday

Civil War Veterans and the American Dream

After WWII, polls among veterans showed that the desire to own and farm land far outranked nearly all other ambitions. This is a long-lived American tradition, one of the reasons why the Americas were colonized, and why immigrants came in large numbers to the United States in the 19th century. Starting with Revolutionary War veterans settling in the Ohio Valley, the tradition really took root after the Civil War. Veterans, both blue and gray, moved across the Great Plains and broke the sod beyond the Continental Divide. The development of the West owes much of its progress to veteran homesteaders.

What made it possible for hundreds of CW veterans to start a new life out west was the passage of the Homestead Act, signed into law by Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862. The first farm was established near Beatrice, NB, the first of over 100,000 homesteads in that state. The law allowed citizens to claim 160 acres of non-occupied, surveyed public land. It required payment of a nominal fee, that the applicant reside on the land for five years, provided he or she was head of the household, age 21, and a citizen (or with intent to become a citizen).

At first Confederate veterans and sympathizers were denied the opportunity, and preferences for Union veterans were debated. In the House of Representatives, one bill would have paid a bounty of \$30 in lieu of land for three months minimum service, while another favored land grants in addition to the bounties. However, in the Senate land grants for veterans were not supported, and the bounties were eliminated, allowing for passage of the Homestead Act. The first to sign up was a Union soldier, Daniel Freeman, who was allowed to file early in order to avoid being considered AWOL.

Life on the Great Plains was difficult at best. Extremes of weather conditions, locusts, floods, and loneliness were too much for many settlers, and half of them returned to the East. Though many veterans found it hard to believe that free land would not be their special reward, it was the case. After the war, newspaper advice columns warned: "Soldiers who served in the late war have no privileges connected with the homestead law." But that would change within five years when revisions to the act began to be made.

Starting in 1870, a veteran who served at least 90 days could stake a claim for 160 acres on "double premium reserved land" along a railroad. This was twice the amount of land allowed for civilians on such prized tracts. Then in 1872, Union vets were permitted to deduct the length of their service from the five-year residency requirement. In all cases, however, one year of living on and cultivating the land was mandatory. This concession, more than any other, drew veterans to the West rapidly and in large numbers. One vet in Nebraska likened homesteading to combat. "If you are willing to do all a soldier's duty—drill, guard, and fatigue—here is room for you. But if you seek to be company clerks, or orderlies at headquarters, do not come to the front. . . .I have a few soldier friends who, one year ago, took homesteads here, who are going to put in long crops this year. . . . We offer you here, at first, land, labor, discouragement—ultimately a home, independence, and respect."

In his memoirs, US General William T. Sherman paid tribute to those who stayed for the long haul, and had great respect for those men. Just how many veterans persevered is estimated to be in large numbers, and historians are working with the National Archives to document the number of CW veterans who helped settle the West because of the Homestead Act of 1862.



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.

ACWS 2012 Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	
June 1- Oct. 31	Dues reduction for new members	\$10 single, \$15 family
Aug. 18-19	Ft. Tejon Invitational	ACWS supported
Aug. 26	ACWS Board Meeting	
Oct. 13	ACWS Barn Dance, Reseda (tentative)	Supports DAV and Navy ROTC
Oct. 27-28	Spring Mountain Ranch, Las Vegas	ACWS sponsored
Nov. 1	Membership renewal for 2013 begins	
Dec. 1-2	La Quinta, CA (tentative)	ACWS sponsored

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