

National Civil War Association

Dispatch

DECEMBER 2019



NCWA1863.org

P.O. Box 266, Santa Clara, California 95052

NEXT COMBINED BOARD MEETING:

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

Round Table Pizza, 878 Southampton Road, Benicia, CA 94510

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Wow! Half Moon Bay was a fantastic event: wonderful weather; excellent facilities; plentiful wood; helpful and friendly hosts; intelligent and engaging Public and a nearby Pub! The school kids on Friday were interested in what the Presenters had to say and even asked insightful questions. Although the numbers of students were down from the original anticipated numbers, the kids that were able to attend were interested and attentive. One group even walked over from their nearby school. Now that is an eager group of students!

This event was also a great example of how publicity pays off. People were well-informed as to what they would be seeing and the subject matter in general. I had several interesting and in-depth conversations over the weekend on a variety of topics. A great many people (Public, site hosts and reenactors) mentioned plans and ideas for next years' event. Make sure this event is one of your 'must do' events for 2020.

Our final 'event' for this year is the Woodland Christmas Parade on Dec. 14. Bundle up a bit, have your rain duds ready just in case (parade happens rain-or-shine) and join us for a fun day! We usually finish up the parade at a local brewery for a yummy catered lunch and re-hash the past year together, perhaps come up with a few scenarios for next year, share a laugh of two, and celebrate the holidays together. More details should be available either in this Dispatch or on the NCWA Facebook page. Please join us!

And finally, a few reminders for everyone. First of all—please vote. Our club elections are in December, with the results announced at the Annual Meeting (which is open to all members) in January. This is your club, and your vote matters so please get your ballots filled in and returned ASAP. Second, please renew your memberships as soon as you can—the earlier the better. We have some bills as a club that come due early in 2020, and the funds from membership dues really help. Beat the rush and re-up early! And finally, try to get at least one thing from your "to do" list done before the first event of 2020. Yes, I am an optimist...!

Lynne Ashby, Mayor

NCWA Civilian Corps





A Reenactor's Christmas!

AFTER ACTION REPORT:

HALF MOON BAY

This was our last action of the year before we all settle into Winter Camp and we finished well. I left Martinez at 1:30 p.m. and it was smooth sailing until I hit CA92. The heavy traffic was my first indication that HMB is a destination spot. Finally, I turned left on Main and turned left again on Higgins Canyon and there, sitting up on a hill, was the Johnston House. There was a spacious area to set up my tents and the cool weather made for a "no sweat" set up. The Johnston House is a museum and I had an excellent tour and visited the gift shop to support the location.

Friday night Charles invited Rick, Marcelo, and me to eat dinner at Cameron's British Pub. The fish and chips was OK. Marcelo that the shepherd's pie was too rich. We made it back to the encampment later for singing and consuming adult beverages.

This event was unique for me personally because my wife came with my friend and co-author Maureen Arcuri. Maureen used to perform with me at RenFaire. We've written two books so far and we are working on the third and last of our trilogy. Maureen brought me to my first action back in 2016 near Sacramento. Sharon and Maureen enjoyed the action and got to go to the beach and do some shopping as well. Danny came later with Melissa and they brought, for the first time, our new company mascot, Bowser. Bowser is an English bulldog and like the English, he is incredibly ugly but unlike the English he is very friendly.

We had two battles on Saturday and they were both well attended. The patrons seemed quite impressed with our performance and there was a lot of interest. I was talking to people all day, and they came to me. John M, you should have been there! On Saturday we had the support of the 20th Maine from the ACWA. We can reciprocate that support next January at Fort Point.

I had some slightly negative feedback from the crowd in that they could clearly hear our conversation on the battlefield, so we should all strive to stay in 1863 in front of our patrons.

Saturday night Danny, Melissa, Bowser, Sharon and Maureen, and I at the Sacrilege Brewery on Main St. where their motto is "What would Jesus brew?" The food was good and the beer was better. I drove back on my own as Danny wisely decided to sleep in a hotel bed with his girlfriend than spend a night on a cot next to his dear old dad. Saturday night we were singing despite some technical difficulties. Our group was introduced to the Poxy Boggards. If you are interested, you may find their album Liver Let Die on your favorite music source.

Sunday morning I was selected to form a detail to honor our veterans. November 10 is also the birthday of the USMC, and a rebel sergeant who was a Marine read a brief dedication. We stacked arms and uncovered to the playing of taps, and fired a salute along with a reb detail.

Church call was attended by a number of patrons. The singing was great. The homily was a little longer than my attention span. It made me miss our own Chaplain Terry.

The Last Battle saw me, as the only NCO beside Gabe, leading a squad into battle. Initially, we were successful in flanking and capturing the reb cannon but then a squad of nasty Secesh ran us off, and we

started a new 8th Ohio tradition of getting shot in the arse. As we were shot to pieces, lying there, wounded and dying, we were ignobly executed by Glenn, the ruthless reb commander—while I was trying to surrender, his henchmen executed me! I did my best imitation of Willem Dafoe in “Platoon”.

Usually, after the battle, we quickly pack up and leave, but we had lots of patrons coming over and talking to us. That's both good and bad, I suppose. Everybody seemed happy we were there, and people were asking if we were coming back next year.

The Fighting Fools were well represented at this event. Scott was there and I got to meet his real commanding officer—his Mom. Norm was there and did us proud. Tim and Gabe were there and Gabe performed well as First Sergeant. Nelson came on Saturday and shared his wisdom. The Dutchman, Jeff, brought his experience and really lead my detail at the last battle. Mateus and Yvonne came with their set up. Mike Sanders was there with his experience, his great stories, and his insults to my heritage—I think that means he likes me but don't tell him I think that. Rick was there with his great setup and helped me as I forgot my tool bag this weekend. I can always count on Rick to try my home brew. Marcelo and Charles lead us along with Major Mike. Daniel Joseph came and that also means a lot to me. Don't worry—he never reads his e-mails. My deepest apologies if I left out anybody. For those of you who could not make it, please try to come again next year. We all know how life gets in the way sometimes. Lastly, thank you for making a place for me and Danny in this great organization. I hope to see you all at Woodland. Cosmé, Danny and I are coming to the parade and staying for the after party. I hope that doesn't defer any of the rest of you from attending.

Submitted by your most humble servant,

Cpl. M. White
Co B, Hibernian Guards
The 8th OVI



2020 CIVIL WAR REENACTING EVENT SCHEDULE

DATES	EVENT	SPONSOR
April 4-5 School Day April 3	Marysville	NCWA, RACW
May 2-3 School Day May 1	Elk Grove	NCWA
June 13-14	Angel Island	NCWA
July 25-26	Duncan's Mills	CHAS
September 19-20 School Day September 18	Tres Pinos	NCWA
November 7-8 School Day November 6	Half Moon Bay	NCWA

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

PLEASE GO TO

[NCWA1863.ORG/EVENT-CALENDAR/](https://ncwa1863.org/event-calendar/)



SANTA CLAUS IN CAMP.—[SEE PAGE 6.]