

**National Civil War Association**

# **Dispatch**

**MAY, 2021**



**NCWA1863.org**

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

**NEXT COMBINED BOARD MEETING:**

**Saturday, July 10, 2021, at 12:05 p.m.**

**Venue to be announced; details to follow.**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Skott Borello, 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry*

I want to thank everyone who helped make the Mahon Ranch event happen and worthwhile. It was good to see so many of our people after so long, and even better to hear so many of you express what great time it was. Lots of feedback from folks looking forward to getting back together with more events, both from our club and the visiting reenactors. Good thing we have more stuff planned! (see the event schedule)

The host was pleased with our presentation, and is looking ahead to an annual event each May, from here on! There is a lot of potential for growth with this event site and the landowner is eager to develop that potential.

Our school day was well attended (148 students and parents), all things considered, and we had lots of good comments from the home school people. Most of them had never attended an activity quite like that, and they were impressed with what our presenters shared. We will be doing this event again in the fall (October 8,9&10, 2021), and I hope that we will all pull together again to make it a great success.

I'm supposed to write an after action report for all of you, but I may not be the best person for the job. Most of the event was kind of a fog for me. I just barely caught the tail end of the first battle on Saturday. I rode onto the field as the action was winding down, with only a brief saber duel with Alan Ginos of CHAS being my only contribution to the engagement. The second battle was a fierce little fight, but again, horse stuff kept our attention from the overall engagement—after a charge, my mare and I ended up in an altercation with a low-hanging tree, and our intrepid super trooper Greg had a mishap with his saddle rigging when I cut his horse off on a rally! Needless to say, I can't provide the crucial details of strategies and tactics to accurately describe the intricacies of the engagement. I did hear a lot of shooting, though!

The Sunday action was interesting...After a lot of confusion with troop dispositions from headquarters, a field reconnaissance, and review of maps drawn up on the field, we still ended up with words between commanders at the outset of hostilities. Oh well, why should things change now? It was a good fight. The crowd really liked it, especially the opportunity to engage in the aftermath on the battlefield. My compliments to Col. Jon Nickerson-Tremayne for the 'engaging' battle scenario. Was it Chancellorsville after all, or Pea Ridge?

The host, Tom Mahon, and the representatives of the Elk Grove Historical Society (who helped manage the event), really liked that each battle, particularly Sunday's, was unique and that the spectators got to experience a different scenario for each show. It helped bring more folks back for Sunday (and hopefully October, as well!)

In addition, I'd like to thank all the civilian reenactors who attended. The townsfolk add a dimension to the event that the military camps just don't have. That war was fought on and around the home front, and without that civilian representation, the whole thing would be just a bit hollow. THANK YOU!

Also, my thanks not only to our members, but to all the visiting reenactors from the ACWA, NCWV, RACW & CHAS, who added so much in spirit, bodies and enthusiasm.  
Keep in touch everyone!.....Skott

# GOING TO THE DOGS

*By Skott Borello  
President, NCWA*

A situation has been developing that needs to be addressed with the membership of the NCWA. Over the past few events we have had more and more members either asking to bring their dogs to the events, or even just showing up with them.

It needs to be reiterated that our club, the NCWA, does not allow dogs at events.

In the NCWA Corporate Rules, on page 27 under ANIMALS:

*Members, guest participants, and spectators are not allowed to have dogs at NCWA controlled events. The only animals allowed are horses, mules, oxen and fowl; approved by the Branch Commanders prior to the event and safety tested, if appropriate. Any exceptions must be approved by the Branch Commanders and the Administrative Board prior to the event.*



Please read carefully:

If you feel you must bring your dog, you must get approval from both your Branch Commander (meaning Union Colonel, Confederate Colonel, or Civilian Mayor) and the Admin Board (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) *prior to the event*. If you don't or can't, then the dog is not allowed at the event. Getting approval from one or the other is insufficient.

So is thinking it's okay because so and so said it is okay, don't cut it either.

I am really sorry to point this out, and I know full well that enforcement of this rule may cause members to miss events altogether. But there were many incidents that I personally observed or were brought to my attention at our last event that have forced me to take action on the issue.

The circumstances included remarks about having to avoid dog droppings around camp, dogs lifting their legs on people's belongings, barking at passersby, running or wandering through the horses on picket lines, dogs running loose in the fields (it's a ranch with livestock), not returning to the owner immediately when called, etc., etc. I myself even saw a sweet little dog having to be pried from the jaws of the ranch dog.

I know that we all love our doggies, and most of them behave well enough most of the time, but that is not the point. We have the rule to protect the enjoyment of the membership at large at the events, and it is unfair for those who want to focus on the activity to have to accept the nuances and quirks of us dog people and our dogs. It is also unfair that some folks who really want the companionship of their pets follow the rules, but then see others who disregard said rules and bring their dogs anyway. And then we have more trouble.

So please, everybody, cooperate and follow the rules. Get the appropriate permission or leave the pets at home.

Another option is to attend Board meetings and propose implementation of rules more to your liking.

By the way—enforcement of this rule falls under the duties of the Branch Commanders. You will find it in the NCWA Corporate Rules under 'Colonel' on page 17, and 'Mayor' on page 19.

# SCHOOL IS FUN WITH THE NCWA!

*By Midirise Arnold  
School Day Coordinator*

*Here are a selection of responses from families who participated in our School Day at Mahon Ranch:*

☞ “We enjoyed that school day trip immensely. I hope the weekend was also a success. Asking around, there were several favorite things. My kids loved the cannon part a lot. My boys got to participate in handling the cannon, which they've studied a lot about, so that was educational gold. I will say they only had five kids come up and some of the other kids in our group would've liked to have given it a try or just gone up to touch it. It was very gripping!



“Other favorites were feeding the horses, the music center, and the centers discussing the uniforms, weaponry, and fighting tactics. Even the gift shop afterwards was just as interesting.

“The whole group, kids and adults alike, enjoyed all of the centers that we moved through. Some were a little drier in that it was more talking with "less action", so the younger kids lost some interest, but the topics were so fascinating that the older kids and adults were very intrigued. That being said, we know it was designed in mind for 10-year-old 4th graders. I had no idea about some of the info at the centers myself that were kind of mind blowing, like the embalming and Navy. Something hands-on for them might have made them even more memorable for the kids, but I couldn't tell you what you could use for hands-on for embalming. (!)

“We also enjoyed how people were moving around playing their parts, not in any center. There was a gentleman driving a horse and cart around who was interesting and didn't mind chatting with the kids. Another gentleman was really entertaining talking with us and chalked up some Confederate money. He gave my 7yr old a \$1000 bill, and she thought it was so cool! The tent camp set-up gave my boys the idea to set up tarp tents in the backyard to sleep in to see what it would've been like, and my girls now want to sew period dresses and bonnets as part of our Civil War unit.”

☞ “We can't wait to support you guys again next year! The older boys even wanted to join in in participating next year, and we grabbed the paperwork. We have already started to plan to go to another reenactment in September that was mentioned by one of the group leaders. All in all, this event did exactly what we as homeschool parents had hoped. The kids learned a lot, they were excited about it, made some real tangible connections to history, and made some fun memories with friends! Thank you again for putting this on and allowing us to be a part of it!”

☞ “My 9-year-old daughter and I enjoyed the school day very much. Her only disappointment was that our group did not get to go to the “station” that had the musical entertainment. We also went to the 12:30 battle on Saturday and even my teenaged son enjoyed it! My daughter wanted to come back for Sunday, but we had a previous engagement planned.

Thank you to everyone involved! Most of us there on Friday are homeschooling, and it was of such great educational value. My daughter also enjoys theater and appreciated the acting of the volunteers.”

# CHILDREN IN THE CIVIL WAR

It wasn't only grown-ups who were engaged in the fighting.

One of the best-known—and also the youngest—of the children who fought in the Civil War was John Clem, who tried to enlist for the first time at the age of nine, only to be sent home. He was eventually accepted as a drummer and mascot by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Volunteers, who chipped in to pay his salary until he was finally allowed to enlist officially at age 11. After being ordered to surrender by a Confederate colonel at the Battle of Chicamauga, Clem shot him instead, and became known as the Drummer Boy of Chicamauga. (Walt Disney made a fictionalized movie about him called *Johnny Shiloh*—possibly because “Chicamauga” was too hard to spell.) Clem was promoted to sergeant for his actions, making him the youngest non-commissioned officer in the history of the U.S. Army. He was mustered out in 1864, but re-enlisted in 1871, and retired as a colonel in 1915, the last Civil War veteran still serving in the Army.



Edwin Jemison enlisted in the Confederate Army at age 16 in 1861. He served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Louisiana Volunteer Infantry and was killed at Malvern Hill in 1862, charging up a slope into Union artillery. His portrait has become one of the most recognized images of the Civil War.



Susie King Taylor was born a slave in 1848, but at age seven was allowed to live with her free grandmother in Savannah, GA, and secretly attended school, as it was illegal to teach African Americans to read and write. When the war began, 13-year-old Susie moved with relatives to St. Simon's Island, where the Union Army was encamped. She organized a freedmen's school at the soldiers' request, and later married Sgt. Edward King of the 33<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry. She worked as a teacher, a cook, and a nurse, and later wrote her autobiography, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33d United States Colored Troops, Late 1st S.C. Volunteers*.



Orion P. Howe enlisted in the 55<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry at age 12. He was severely wounded at the battle of Vicksburg in 1863, but struggled through heavy enemy fire to reach General William T. Sherman with a report of the need for more ammunition. He recovered from his wound, re-enlisted in the same regiment, was made a corporal at age 15, and received the Medal of Honor for his actions at Vicksburg.



Charlie King enlisted in the 49<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania as a drummer at age 12. At the Battle of Antietam in 1862, he became the youngest soldier killed in battle in the Civil War.

Three Civil War children did not fight at all. Their photograph was found clutched in the hand of an unknown casualty at the Battle of Gettysburg. An article about the unknown soldier was eventually published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, under the headline, “Whose Father Was He?” and many copies of the photograph were distributed. As a result, the soldier was identified as Sgt. Amos Humiston, of the 154<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry, who died gazing at the faces of his children, Frank, Alice, and Fred.



# **2021 CIVIL WAR REENACTING EVENT SCHEDULE**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
July 17 & 18	Stone Ranch Camp Out, Tactical and Potluck	NCWA
September 3 - 7	Virginia City Heritage Days	CCWR
September 17 - 19 School Day September 17	Tres Piños	NCWA
October 22 - 25 School Days October 22 - 23	Kearney Park	Fresno County Historical Society

**IN THE EVENT OF ANY CHANGES TO THIS  
SCHEDULE, NEW INFORMATION WILL BE  
POSTED AS SOON AS IT BECOMES  
AVAILABLE.**

ncwa1863.org

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## NCWA CONTACT INFORMATION

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