

National Civil War Association

Dispatch

FEBRUARY, 2022



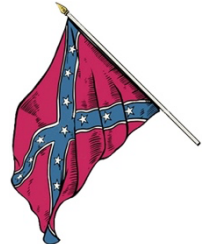
NCWA1863.org

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

NEXT COMBINED BOARD MEETING:

Saturday, April 9, 11:00 a.m.

**Round Table Pizza, 848 Southhampton Road
Benicia, CA 94510**



ELECTION RESULTS 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

President: Skott Borello
Vice President: Midirise Arnold
Secretary: Paola Loupe
Treasurer: Marcelo Pontin

FEDERAL BRIGADE

Brigade Commander: Nelson Snook
Chief of Infantry: Marcelo Pontin
Sergeant Major: Cosme Muñoz

CONFEDERATE BRIGADE

Brigade Commander: Jon Nickerson-Tremayne
Lieutenant Colonel: Robert Mayer
Major: Eric Paape

CIVILIAN CORPS

Mayor: Lynne Ashby
Vice Mayor: Debra Johnson
Town Clerk: Susan Pfiefer

A CHANCE TO BE INVOLVED!

A great opportunity is now available to join me in producing the NCWA election materials.

I'd really like to train someone to either help or someday even replace me in this daring, exciting and, dare I say, powerful endeavor. Attention to detail and discretion with membership data is very important. There are a few deadlines for sending and receiving election materials, but the time required is between September and December, so it's not a year-long job. Ideally the closer you are to Sacramento County the easier it will be to meet, but something like a 50-mile radius could be doable. Contact me, Kevin Groom by email at graytar1@aol.com.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you may know, President Skott Borello, besides being a rancher, is also an arborist and lumberjack, and does every sort of thing involving trees, including dealing with fallen ones. After the weather we have been having lately, he is up to his eyebrows in fallen trees, not to mention the care of his many animals, so he has asked that we post several pieces of information for him.

Let's all welcome our 2022 Administrative Board, which consists of Skott Borello, continuing as President; Midirise Arnold, Vice President; Marcelo Pontin, continuing as Treasurer; and Paola Loupe, Secretary. Nelson Snook will be taking over as commander of the Federal Brigade, Jon Nickerson-Tremayne will continue as CO of the Confederate Brigade, and Lynne Ashby will continue as Civilian Mayor. Thanks to all of these folks for stepping up.

The NCWA event at Stone Ranch is now listed as tentative, as the Stone Family is currently dealing with a medical situation. We will update this information as soon as it becomes available. We wish them all the best.

There will unfortunately be no event at Angel Island this year, but there is a possibility for 2023. The Angel Island folks are hoping to resume cannon-firing demos this summer, and can always use more volunteer gunners, whether or not you usually do artillery—you can be trained! So keep that in mind for those weekends when there are no NCWA events and you just can't go without reenacting!

As of now, our first NCWA event this year will be the School of the Soldier at Mahon Ranch in Elk Grove, March 19 and 20, with set-up on March 18. Hope to see you there!



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Ladies and Gentleman of the NCWA:

First I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Vice President.

I hope we can work together in these trying times to enjoy our hobby and be able to accurately educate the youth, and adults about the Civil War.

As Vice President, the Planning Committee is my main focus. I will also be working with the unit commanders and the event coordinators to make our events interesting and fun for us reenactors and the public as well. We are having our first planning meeting February 19, 2022 at 11:00 am at my home, 1174 Fetzner Lane, Oakley 94561. We hope to have an opportunity to hear from members interested in helping to plan events in person or by phone. Our focus will be discussing the Mahon Ranch event, as well as the school day. We will also cover scheduling battle times, flag raising, cannon demo, clothing demo, scenarios and much more, as well as other upcoming events, and some that we are working on as well.

If you have anything you would like to add the agenda, please sent it to my email: midirise1863@yahoo.com.

Your servant,
Midirise Arnold
NCWA Vice President



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to the 2022 reenacting season! I don't know about anyone else, but I am sure looking forward seeing everyone out at an event soon.

For those of you who have missed 'eventing' on a regular basis, I would encourage you to get involved in club activities to help make those club events a reality. There are a variety of ways you can help out, from serving on any (or many) of the various committees, to participating in School Days, to just lending a helping hand to your fellow reenactors. I know you have probably all heard it before, but it really is true: It is our club, and we all need to contribute to make it work.

Here's to a great 2022 season. See you all soon!

Lynne Ashby, Mayor



CHIEF OF STAFF CORNER

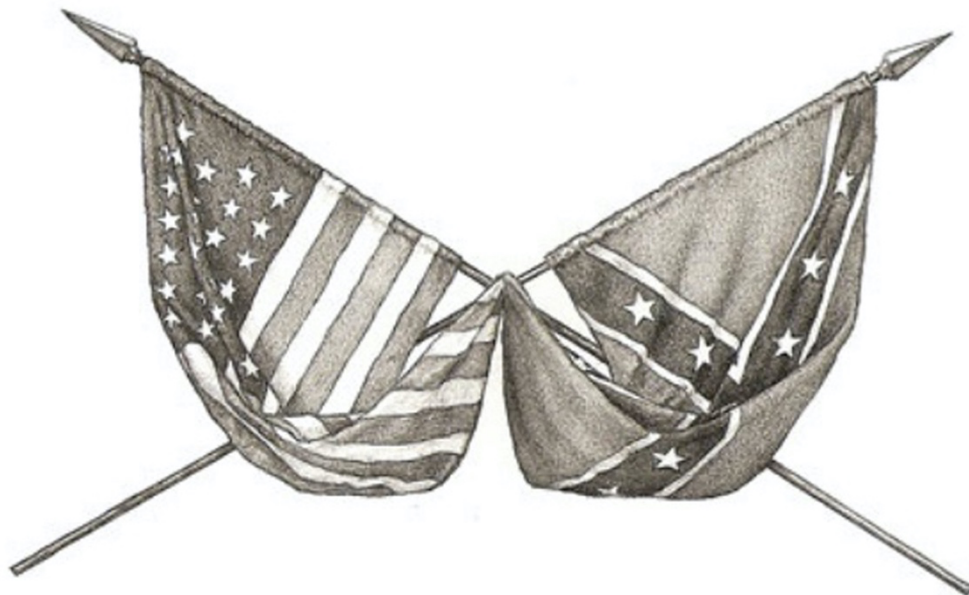
BLUE & GRAY BALL 2023

We are working on next year's ball. The location is good to go for another year. I am thinking we should sell Tickets for \$10 a head and kids under the age of 17 would be free. However, allow me to remind you that this is a admin board thing though and though. So, there will be no more planning until the new board gives us the go ahead.

Jon Nickerson-Tremayne
Colonel
Confederate Brigade

Members of the CS Brigade a new reenactment season is upon us. It is time to dust off the muskets and your gear for the upcoming reenactment season. To help get ready for the season we have put together a school of the soldier/ camp out. This will take place the weekend of March 11,12, and 13th. The school of the soldier will be held at Matt and Alice at 6181 China Hill Road El dorado CA. Space is limited so reservation will be appreciated by March 1st. For more info and to reserve your spot reach out to Robert Mayer at robert.j.mayer1@gmail.com or at 925-384-6475.

Robert Mayer
Lt. Colonel
Confederate Brigade



ANNOUNCEMENTS

20TH MAINE TRAIL STOLEN

Hello all. This is Jamin Gjerman from ACWA Federal Brigade Headquarters. I am very sorry to report that I am informed the 20th Maine company trailer has been STOLEN from Novato!!! This includes a large collection of tents, camp equipment, and numerous other pieces of gear. Tragically and perhaps most offensively, this also means that the NATIONAL AND STATE COLORS of the regiment have been stolen from us!!!! I will include pictures and more details when they become available to me. Please spread this information as FAR AND WIDE AS POSSIBLE. Please please please BE ON THE LOOKOUT for items for sale on Civil War reenactor sites and wrack your brains for ANY OTHER NON-REENACTOR SOURCES you can think of that might want such items (camping etc.). Also, if people not known to the hobby start selling items off, it's worth a shot. Some things, but not all will be marked with 20th Maine symbols such as "G", "20th Me.", and the red Maltese Cross.



CALLING ALL SPEAKERS!



The NCWA Speakers Bureau is recruiting Public Speakers to provide Civil War presentations at schools and libraries. Share your experience and knowledge of the Civil War with students and the public. Union, Confederate, and Civilian speakers are needed. Public Speaking training available upon request. Contact the NCWA Speakers Bureau at Galen1845@att.net or melanivp@pacbell.net.

Galen Dunham
Cal 100
Army of the Potomac
USA

Melani Van Petten
Norfolk Light Artillery Blues
Army of Northern Virginia
CSA

FACEBOOK

It should be pointed out that Facebook is not an appropriate method of official communication with the NCWA, but is rather a social platform. Not everyone sees Facebook, and if that is used as an official means of communication, some people will not be informed. If you would like information to be shared with the club in general you are welcome to post it on Facebook, but please also contact a member of the Administrative Board, and it can be sent as an email or included in *The Dispatch*. Contact information for the Administrative Board and company commanders is available at ncwa1863.org, as well as in this newsletter.

ABRAHAM GALLOWAY

FREEDOM FIGHTER AND UNION SPY

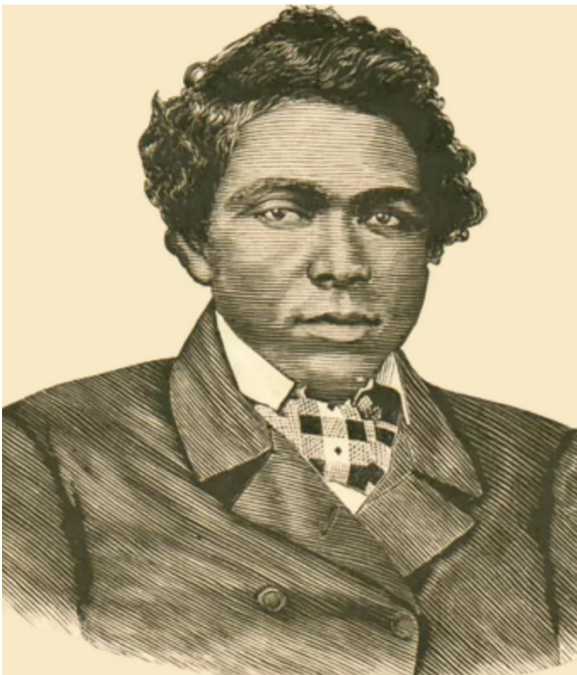
by Elizabeth Blair

He has been compared to James Bond and Malcolm X, though his name has largely been left out of the history books.

Abraham Galloway was an African American who escaped enslavement in North Carolina, became a Union spy during the Civil War and recruited black soldiers to fight with the North. That's the short version. The fuller picture would include his work as a revolutionary and being one of the first African Americans elected to the North Carolina Senate.

David Cecelski, author of *The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway and the Slaves Civil War*, called him a “swashbuckling figure who wouldn’t take sass from Northern or Southern or black or white, Union or Confederate.”

“Galloway is like the supersecret agent who travels from North Carolina to the Mississippi River Valley,” said the late historian Hari Jones. “He gets captured by the Confederates, escapes, takes on two, three men at one time. He’s that kind of a guy, but he’s almost unbelievable because he’s been left out of the narrative for so long.”



Galloway was a man with swagger who openly carries a pistol in his belt. He was born on February 8, 1837, in a small fishing village on the Cape Fear River. He and his mother were enslaved; Abraham worked as a brick mason. At age 20, he escaped to Philadelphia and then Canada by hiding in the hold of a ship carrying barrels of turpentine, tar and rosin. He traveled to Haiti to join revolutionaries planning an attack on the American South that never materialized.

By the time Galloway was back in the U.S., his reputation as a cunning, determined abolitionist was known to Union leaders in the North. They were looking for African Americans whom they could recruit as spies. “They realize that they’re about to send a lot of their young men into the South, and they don’t have the kind of intelligence-gathering capacity that they want and need,” writer Cecelski explains.

He says Galloway became one of the Union’s most trusted spies.

When the Union planned to invade the North Carolina coast, Galloway was the perfect insider to scout the coastline for the best landings.

In his book, Cecelski writes, “Without a topographical engineer at hand, Galloway had to rely on local sailors and pilots for insights about the navigability of inlets, the twists and turns of channels, and details of winds, tides, and currents. For all that information, his most reliable source was watermen like those around whom he’d grown up in Smithville and Wilmington.”

Galloway may have worked for the Union Army, but he didn’t trust it. He’d seen racism within its ranks firsthand. In Vicksburg, Mississippi, he was attached to a Union regiment that tried to dig a strategic canal across a bend in the Mississippi River. When Union soldiers began to get sick and die from disease and exhaustion, they enlisted African Americans from nearby plantations. Cecelski says the soldiers promised them protection in exchange for their labor. Many of them also fell ill and died. The ditch was never completed, and the Union Army withdrew, leaving the African Americans behind.

In his book, Cecelski quotes from the letter of a soldier who wrote that the African Americans were left “to the tender mercies of anyone who chose to arrest them.” Cecelski writes, “Their prospects must have made Galloway cringe. Arrest, he had to know, was the least of their worries.” Confederates who caught African Americans aiding the North were often sold back into enslavement or killed.

Still, for all of his mistrust, Galloway helped recruit thousands of black soldiers to fight with the North. In a line from a one-man play about Galloway, playwright and actor Howard Craft says, “A slave will not be free without much killing. There was no story in history or in Scripture where an enslaved people *talk* their way out of bondage.”

“You’re talking about someone who was definitely from the Malcolm X school of self-defense,” says the playwright. He notes that a lot of people don’t know about the contributions of African Americans during the Civil War, including that they made up 10% of the Union Army.

He says ever since he learned about this radical Union spy from his home state, he has been a fan.

Abraham Galloway didn’t stop fighting for human rights once the Civil War ended. In 1868, he became one of the first African Americans elected to the North Carolina Senate. He advocated for women’s suffrage and railed against the widespread use of the n-word.

Galloway died unexpectedly of an illness at age 33. His obituary in *The Christian Recorder* called him “bold, brave, defiant and a patriot.” Some 6,000 people gathered in downtown Wilmington, NC for his funeral.

Excerpted from All Things Considered, National Public Radio

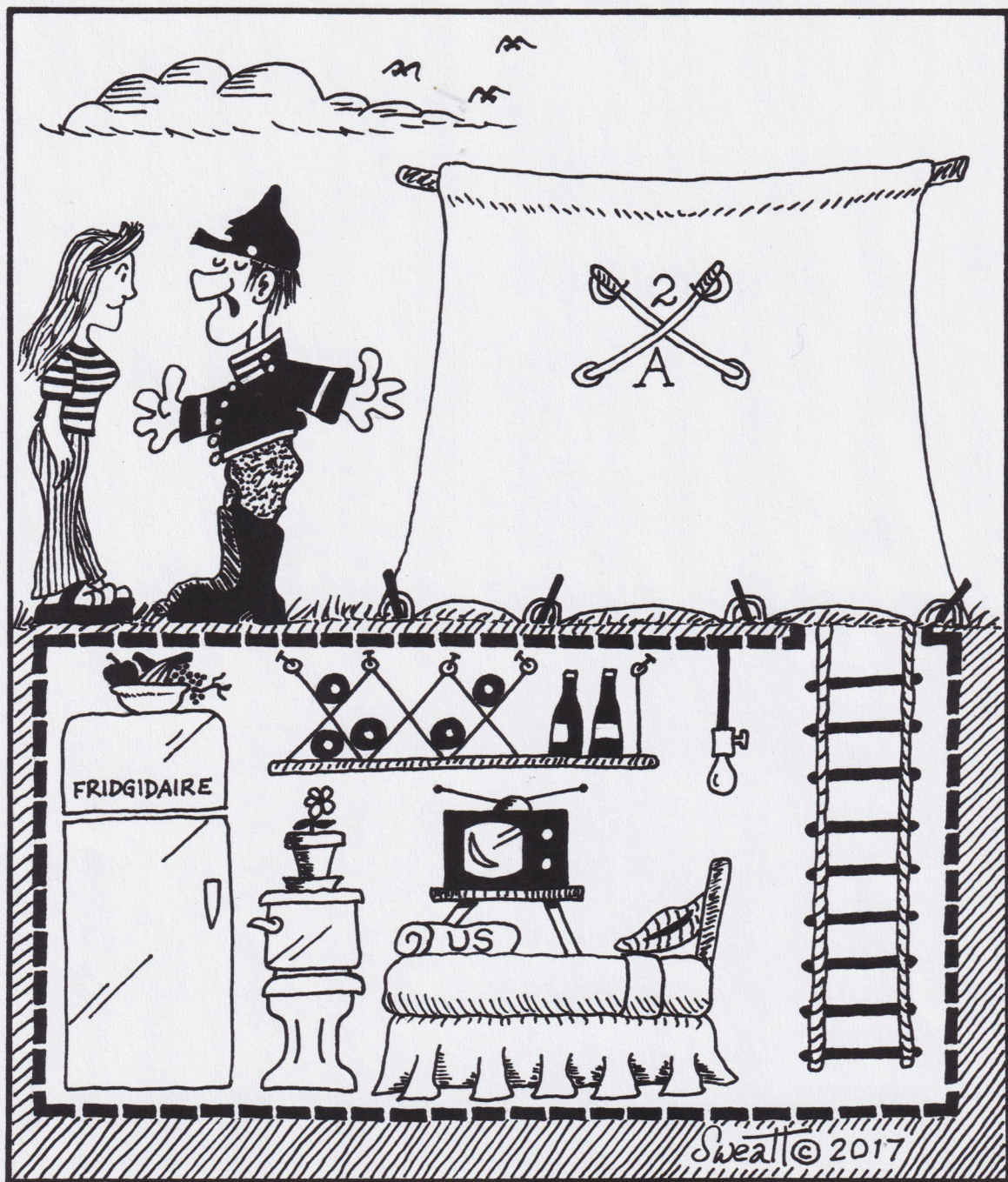
SPLICE THE MAIN BRACE

In days of yore, the great ships of the sea were propelled only by the wind in their square sails. The sails were attached to spars called 'yards' and the lines to trim the sails were called 'braces'. These ran from the end of each yard to the deck. The 'Main Brace' was the largest and heaviest of all the running rigging, and to splice it (when required) was one of the most difficult tasks on board ship. And so it was that to those who 'Spliced the Main Brace' went a double issue of rum. In time, the expression became synonymous with a double issue of rum.

Before the year 1800, the order to "*Splice the Main Brace*" was always given for a Fleet Review, a Royal birth, or under difficult conditions of cold and fatigue-- and usually just before battle. In more recent times, this old expression is sometimes used by sailors as an invitation to board a vessel or enter private quarters for free drink and hospitality--and to say to a friend, "*Let's 'Splice the Main Brace'!*" is synonymous with, "*Let's have a drink!*"

Kevin Groom
James River Squadron
CSA





"Oh yes, ma'am, we reenactors pretty much live the way the actual soldiers lived."

2022 CIVIL WAR EVENT SCHEDULE

DATES	EVENT	SPONSOR
March 18-20	School of the Soldier Mahon Ranch Elk Grove, CA	NCWA
April 30-May 1 (School Day April 29)	Mahon Ranch Elk Grove, CA	NCWA
May 27-29	The Battle of Stone Ranch (tentative)	NCWA
September 17-18 (School Day September 16)	Tres Piños, CA	NCWA



ncwa1863.org

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NCWA CONTACT INFORMATION

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