



Fort Tejon Historical Association

ADJUTANT'S JOURNAL

Calendar of Events

- March 9-10—Vista Civil War event
- April 6- Dragoon Living History at Fort Tejon
- April 7 -FTHA board meeting 11am at Los Encinos SHP, Encino
- April 6-7—Prado Civil War event
- April 20-21 Costa Mesa Civil War event

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President's Message

Fellow Members,

I hope this finds you well and getting ready for this year's calendar of events. I would like to bring two of these events to your attention. In September, we are having our first Fort Tejon Timeline event depicting various time periods at the fort. We are looking for a Peter Lebec, a few 1830's - 40's Californios, 1856 Dragoons, 1864 Civil War Infantry, 1880's California Infantry, 1890's Civilians, WWI Cavalry, and 1930's U.S. Artillery. Also, civilians for each time period, a 1900-1920 car or truck and a 1940-50 car or truck with outfits to go with their cars.

There will be stations set up around the parade ground and various areas to display your time period. We are only looking

for 2-4 persons per station, so if you have something that will fit into this timeline, please contact me. This will be a two day event and it is still in the planning stages. I'm sure the FTHA can provide the meat for a BBQ for all that participate in our timeline.

The second event I'd like to talk about is the big spring invitational we were planning for this year. We have a great spot at Tejon Ranch, better then the first site but, due to ranch scheduling conflicts the invitational will be held next year in 2014.

When we get to meet at our first event of the year, please find me and ask how things are going for the invitational and the FTHA in general.

We have a new membership

director, Disa Mata and soon, if not by the time you get your AJ, the new FTHA cards will be mailed out. Please sign it and keep your FTHA membership card in your gear so you have it on you at our next event. If you haven't mailed in your dues, the membership forms are available at the FTHA website – www.forttejon.org. The new membership director will expedite the cards to you ASAP!

Yours in a common but glorious cause,
Steve Mata
FTHA
PRESIDENT



FTHA Volunteers in Action

Over President's Day weekend, FTHA members participated in the second annual Civil War encampment at the Strathearn Museum in Simi Valley.

John Billinger, Mike Presswood, Lana Bailey, Landis Potter and many other FTHA volunteers conducted military drills and educated the

public on life as a soldier and civilian during the Civil War.



Ladies of Fort Tejon

The Ladies of Fort Tejon recreated the dining room of the Officer's house complete with table, chairs, linens and tea service. Additionally, the ladies distributed Fort Tejon literature, discussed upcoming FTHA events and signed up new members during the event.

St. Patrick's Day during the Civil War

Some of the celebrations we take for granted had to be ignored during the Civil War if they occurred on a day of battle. However, we have a record of a pleasant St. Patrick's Day in 1863 spent with the Union Army of the Potomac, documented by Edwin Forbes (Library of Congress). At this time the Irish Brigade was composed of the 63rd, 69th and 88th of New York and the 28th Massachusetts and 116th Pennsylvania regiments.

The Brigade Quartermaster traveled to Washington to obtain a variety of food for the post race banquet, which included 35 hams, a side of roasted ox and a pig stuffed with boiled turkeys, chickens, ducks and small game. As for alcohol, 8 baskets of champagne, 10 gallons of rum and 10 gallons of whiskey were procured.

After a general invitation was announced to all of the army of the Potomac officers, great care was taken in choosing Captains Gosson and Hogan to mix the punch. After several test tastings, the steadfast captains had to be relieved of this responsibility due to becoming overwhelmed by the task.

In the 9th Massachusetts, Colonel Guiney assigned Adjutant M. W. Phalen and Quartermaster Mooney to obtain for Washington provisions for the day. The whole division was invited to attend the following events: sack race, race for a greased pig, climbing a greased pole, horse racing, mock dress parade, jumping matches and refreshments. Prizes included money, the greased pig and a pass for a ten day leave.

March 17, 1863 was an ideal, sunny day which the Irish Brigade began with religious services, followed by horse racing at 11 am. After lunch, events proceeded with a one-half mile foot race, casting weights of 10 to 14 pounds, catching the soaped pig, a one-half mile hurdle race, a wheelbarrow race (contestant's were blindfolded), a 500 yard jumping-in-sack race and a dancing contest of Irish reels, jigs and hornpipes.

At the 9th Massachusetts, the greased pole was tried by several contestants but no one was able to reach the top and win the 10 day pass. Afterwards each man enjoyed "a gill of whiskey", shared with the 62nd Pennsylvania regiment.

For a day and night, the men enjoyed the games, drinking, poetry readings and songs. Happily, Edwin Forbes, a special artist with Frank Leslie's magazine, was in attendance and we have his pictorial record of the joyful 1863 St. Patrick's Day activities, which was the last celebration for many of the men as the Battles of Chancellerville and Gettysburg loomed darkly in their futures.

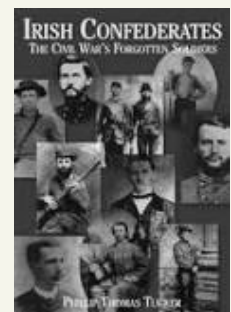


CONFEDERATE IRISH SOLDIERS

A lot has been written about the 150,000 Irishmen who fought for the Union during the War Between the States but do you know about the 30,000 equally brave Irishmen who fought for the Confederacy?

The Union's Irish Brigade, which was perhaps 80% Irish, was unique. No effort was made to consolidate Confederate Irish into large units. For the most part, they were scattered throughout the South's regionally raised regiments, though many company-sized units, and several battalions, were formed from Irish volunteers--the Emmet Guards of Mobile, Alabama; the Southern Celts and St. Mary's Volunteers of the 13th Louisiana; the Irish Volunteers of the 5th Georgia; the O'Connell Guards of the 17th Virginia; the Emerald Guards of the 9th Louisiana; the Sarsfield Rangers of the 7th Louisiana—to name just a few of the more than 45 distinctly Irish companies.

The 8th Alabama Irish Brigade made their mark in history fighting for the Confederacy and is remembered for their Erin Go Braugh! flag with a field of green with Faugh A Ballagh on bottom that is Irish for "clear the way."



Ladies' Corner

Reybold's plan for Preserving Peaches

Three and a half pounds of sugar to one gallon of pump water; make a syrup, and let it get cold; gill the can with fruit, and pour in the cold syrup; set the can in water, and let it come to a boil; boil briskly for three minutes, and then seal.

Cider Cake

Cider cake is very good, to be baked in small loaves. One pound and a half of flour, half a pound of sugar, quarter of a pound of butter, half a pint of cider, one teaspoon of pearlash; spice to your taste. Baketill it turns easily in the pans. I should think about half an hour.



Relaxing Tea Blend

This blend will help you relax after a long day.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup dried spearmint
- 1 cup dried lemon balm
- 1/4 cup dried lemon grass
- 1/2 cup dried catnip
- 3/4 cup dried chamomile flowers
- 2 tbs. dried lavender flowers

Combine the herbs and store in an air tight container in a dark cool location. Make tea using 2 teaspoons of herb blend for each cup.

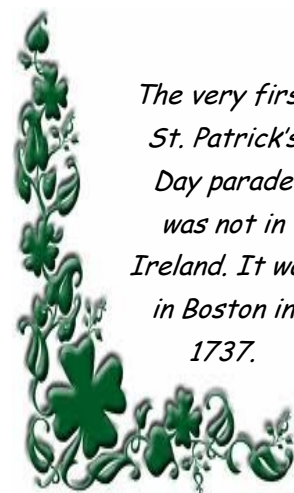
INNOCENCE

By: W. S. Gaffney

How sweet the charm of
innocence
As seen in nature's germinating
bud;
How pure the bright embryo
gem,
Fresh moulded by the hand
of god!
As in the crystal's lustrous
glow
Most bright amount the
things of earth,
So is that sweetly sleeping
charm
Unconscious of its hallowed
birth!

How pure the bright the
cherub glow
Which deep within the guile-
less heart
Of childhood rests, in sweet
repose
Heaven's elysian counter-
part!
And oh! That its supernal
spell
Might never know its price-
less bliss!
Alas! that Eden-tinted buds
Should open in a world like
this!

Such would I wish, that all
might live
In God's immaculate decree!
Such would I wish, that all
might die,
As living, every soul should
be!
And would we enter
heaven's gate,
And mingle with the blest
above,
A childlike heart we all must
wear,
Adorned with purity and
love.



*The very first
St. Patrick's
Day parade
was not in
Ireland. It was
in Boston in
1737.*

Wilmington, North Carolina
March 25th 1865

My Dear Father,

Came up the river and tied-up to the wharf this forenoon, and are now awaiting orders. It is very probable that we will return to Beaufort N.C. and march to join Sherman from that point. I matters not to us if they will only let us off this cursed steamer and lead us to the front before the fun is over. At Beaufort we will draw arms & accoutrements and if all is true we hear we may have a chance to use them in getting through, Isn't it glorious. Here the Shores are green and bright, peach-trees in full bloom, ducks flying around, and everything my lively. The chance to get letters away will soon be passed so don't find fault with me for not writing more. I take every chance.

Hope you are all well at home, and imagine you employed with the Spring work. Hire plenty, and neither overwork yourself or Dave Hope Dave is peppering chickens & ducks this fine, clear, spring morning.

Had a terrible voyage our, having adverse weather, a poor craft, too little room. All of which you will easily appreciate. Two of the New Yorkers died, one of fever, the other of measles. Many are sick. But it is pretty near at our end, and I, with the majority of the rest, are jubilant. Don't-fret-about-me, I am in Splendid Spirits.

At Beaufort we expect to get a couple of days to wash up and recruit a little [?] before beginning the march and I will write from there; but after learning Beaufort you may not hear from me for some time.

Love to all,

Your Affectionate Son,
Alexander S. Christie



**F O R T T E J O N
H I S T O R I C A L
A S S O C I A T I O N**

**FTHA
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Acknowledgements

- Karina Mooradian, Ladies Corner
- Library of Congress
- Judy Kimball—St. Patrick's Day research

Adjutant's Journal

EDITORS' NOTES

Kind Readers,

Our new membership director, Disa Mata, asked that we remind everyone that your FTHA membership starts on January 1st of each year and ends December 31st.

Membership applications for supporting memberships and full memberships are available at www.forttejon.org.

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed.

May the luck of the Irish be with you this month.

Please take a moment to review the updated FTHA calendar on page five. See you at the fort!

Your humble servants,

Judy Kimball and Linda Bosley

Email—lindabosley66@gmail.com



**F T H A M e m b e r P r o f i l e
- R u s s S t a n l e y -**

During the Second Cal event in early February, I had the opportunity to sit down with longtime Fort Tejon supporter, Russ Stanley. Russ recounted his first experiences at the fort as we sat by the fire in the dining room of the Officer's house.

Russ first visited Fort Tejon on his 14th birthday. That day he watch several hundred Civil War re-enactors stage battles on the parade ground. During high school, his shop teacher invited Russ to the fort after a discussion of black powder. Russ started out as a re-enactor in an artillery unit working as a "powder monkey", but in his heart he knew he wanted to be in the infantry.

Over the years, Russ has belonged to three different Infantry units. He is currently the

company commander of the First Texas, Company A. Russ explained that First Texas does mainstream events and puts on their own events. He prefers to participate in "emersion events" where there are no spectators or modern intrusions.

Russ elaborated that he enjoys re-enacting as a soldier and a civilian in the 1860's. He "strives for authenticity" in his clothing, armaments and actions. Russ introduced me to a new term— Stitch Counter. The term is associated with re-enactors that wear clothing made from fabric loomed and dyed using 19th century techniques. Then actual period patterns are followed to create hand sewn garments.

Russ introduced me to his daughter, Christine. It was

Christine's first event at the fort and she was very busy as the cook's assistant in the Officer's house kitchen. She fully embraced her duties and new identity of the era.

I left Russ sitting in the parlor reading a book written in the mid 1800's. As I exited the room, a group of Boy Scouts entered and asked Russ what he was doing. Russ patiently answered that he and his daughter were traveling from Los Angeles by stage to a small town in Northern California. He hoped that the stage would arrive tomorrow so they could continue on to their destination. Their eager young faces tilted upward as they listened attentively as Russ went on to describe his life as a Civil War era man.

-L. B.

FTHA 2013 CALENDAR—updated 2/3/13

DATES	EVENT
January 5, 2013	California Frontier / Dragoon Living History Program FTHA board meeting – count election ballots
February 2-3, 2013	2nd California Living History Program
March 2, 2013	California Frontier Army Day/Dragoon LH Program
April 6, 2013	California Frontier Army Day/Dragoon LH Program
May 4, 2012	California Frontier Army Day/Dragoon LH Program
May 11, 2013	Fort Tejon Volunteer Work Day
June 1, 2013	California Frontier Army Day/Dragoon LH Program Ladies High Tea (fundraiser)
June 15-16, 2013	Fort Tejon Civil War Reenactment - Sunday battles
July 4, 2013	California Frontier 4th of July Celebration & Federal Living History
July 5-7, 2013	Fort Tejon Federal Living History
August 3, 2013	California Frontier / Dragoon Living History Program
August 10, 2013	Fort Tejon Volunteer Work Day
August 17-18, 2013	Fort Tejon Civil War Reenactment - Sunday battles
September 7, 2013	California Frontier / Dragoon Living History Program
Sept. 14-15, 2013	Fort Tejon Timeline event/Foxtail Rangers Picnic (fundraiser)
October 5, 2013	California Frontier / Dragoon Living History Program
October 12, 2013	Fort Tejon Volunteer Work Day
October 19, 2013	Peter Lebec Day/Ghost walk tours (fundraiser)
November 7, 2013	California Frontier / Dragoon Living History Program
December 7, 2013	California Frontier / Dragoon Living History Program

