



Fort Tejon Historical Association

A D J U T A N T ' S J O U R N A L

Calendar of Events

- October 6, 2012—Dragoons Living History
- November 3, 2012—Dragoons Living History
- November 10-11, 2012—Moorpark Civil War program
- December 1, 2012—Dragoons Living History Program

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Call for FTHA Board Nominations

There are four seats open for the December elections of the FTHA board of directors. The seats are currently held by Lana Bailey, Curtis Neil, Richard Hiestand and Linda Bosley (seat formerly held by Gina Kimmel).

Current FTHA members interested in running for a seat on the board should submit their name for consideration to the election committee via Mike Presswood,

mikeymash@yahoo.com, by the end of October.

Current members sub-



mitting their name for consideration must be able to attend monthly

weekend board meetings held at Fort Tejon and off-site.

The FTHA board would like to express it's appreciation and gratitude to Lana Bailey, Curtis Neil and Richard Hiestand for their service as board members. These board members will not seek re-election in December. The FTHA looks forward to their continued support and vision for the future of Fort Tejon.

Join the FTHA now and save \$\$\$

FTHA members can renew their membership now and receive the reminder of 2012 in addition to their 2013 membership! Membership forms are available online at Forttejon.org. Membership fees are \$30.00 a year for individuals and \$40.00 a year for families.

To all FTHA members,

We have had a very rough time as you all know the last 2 years. Fort Tejon on the closure list, vandalism, getting a reprieve in July, having to cancel the August event, and then finding out about funds cubby holed in the State Parks system. We now have a 2 year hold on closing any state park. Be assured that I and the other members of the board are doing everything to keep the park open and safe from being closed.

We are still not totally safe yet, it is only a 2 year hold. We will still be doing all we can to keep the park open. With all your help and support, this will happen. I wish to thank each and everyone of you for being a member and supporting the FTHA and Fort Tejon.

Even with all the hard work that comes with the position as President of the FTHA, I still value the friendship and comradeship we have at the fort. I look forward to working with the members in 2013—Steve Mata, President

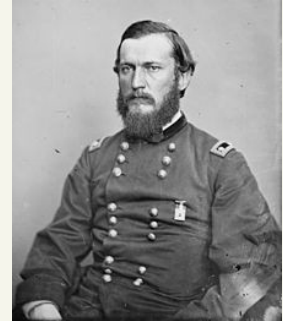
FORT TEJON

Battle of Georgia Landing October 27, 1862

Major general Benjamin Franklin Butler (United States) launched an expedition into the Bayou Lafourche region to eliminate the Confederate States Army threat from that area, to make sure that sugar and cotton products from there would come into Union hands and to secure it as a base for future military operations. He organized a brigade of about 4,000 men under the command of his protégé Brigadier general (United States) Godfrey Weitzel to accomplish the missions.

On October 25, Weitzel and his men arrived at Donaldsonville, Louisiana where the Lafourche meets the Mississippi River, and began an advance up the east bank of the bayou. The Confederates, under the command of Brig. Gen. Alfred Mouton attempted to concentrate to meet the threat. By October 27, the Confederates had occupied a position on the bayou above Labadieville, Louisiana. A little more than half the force was on the east bank while the rest of the men were on the west bank near Georgia Landing, generally without means of con-

centrating on one side or the other. As the Federal troops continued down the east bank, they encountered the Confederates at about 11:00 a.m. and began skirmishing. The Confederates fell back quickly. Weitzel then began crossing his men to the west bank to attack the troops there. For some time, these Confederate troops fought resolutely and brought the Union assault to a standstill, but they ran out of artillery ammunition and had to withdraw to Labadieville, opening up this portion of the Lafourche to the Union.



**Brigadier general
Godfrey Weitzel**

Don't Know Much About the Civil War

Q.—Who said, “It is well that war is so terrible—we should grow too fond of it”?

A.—Robert E. Lee made this observation while viewing the carnage of the Battle of Fredericksburg.

A LETTER FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

Lafayette J. Carneal, C.S.A.
Camp near Martinsburg, VA
October 15, 1862

Dear Papa,

I write you're a few lines to let you hear from me. I am quite well at this time and hope this may find you all the same. I have just returned from a scout with Gen. Stuart. We went through Pennsylvania and Maryland. We had a very good time and a hard time.

We were gone six days. The people in Pennsylvania were frightened almost to death. They thought we were going to kill all of them. Some nights we would travel all night. It was one of the greatest scouts Gen. Stuart ever took. We got plenty to eat in Pennsylvania. I enjoyed myself very well. In crossing back over the Potomac the Yankees were there to prevent our crossing but we drove them off and

came across and did not lose a man. We got 40 prisoners and 140 horses. There was 3 shells fell within 15 feet of me but I did not get hurt at all. It seems that the Lord was on our side.

I must now close. My love to all. Write soon and send me shoes the first chance.

From your affectionate son,
L.J. Carneal

CIVIL WAR FACT

After being forced to withdraw in the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, General George B. McClellan sent President Lincoln such an inflammatory dispatch

that the U.S. War Department censored the message before Lincoln saw it. The deleted lines: “If I save this army now, I tell you plainly, that I owe no

thanks to you or any other persons in Washington. You have done your best to sacrifice this army.”



General George B. McClellan

Ladies' Corner

Autumn Winds
By Jane H. Shaw



*The deep woods sigh, and stirs its
pleading leaves;
Within its heart is lying,
'Mong the late ruins over which it
grieves,
A sweet-breathed flower, the last,
the only,
To die and leave the wood so
lonely.
The deep wood moans, because
damp is the bed,
And chill, where it is lying;
And tears are shaken on its lowly
head,*

*The favorite flower, dying.
The wood is filled with low r
repining,
An autumn sun is on it shining.
This in the heart, when breeze of
trouble blows,
And shakes it into sighing,
A dearth will come, and desolating
woes,
And the last hope by dying;
But faith brings back the summer
morning,
And with it other hopes are
dawning.*

THE LIEUTENANT WAS A LADY

*Q.—What was unusual
about Confederate Lieu-
tenant Harry Buford, a
company commander un-
der General Bernard E.
Bee at First Manassas?*

*A.—Lieutenant Buford's
real name was Loreta*

*Velazquez and she was a
woman! She had entered
the Confederate army dis-
guised as a man—a cover-
up she claimed to have
maintained for almost
half of the war.*



First Lady
Mary Todd
Lincoln paid
\$2,000 for
her 1865
inauguration
dress.

RECIPES

Indian Trifle

Boil a quart of new milk with a large stick of cinnamon; thicken it with rice flour, first moistened with cold milk, and sweeten to your taste. Pour it into a dish and when cold cut it into the shape of a star, or any other shape you please; take out the spare rice and fill the shape with custard. Ornament

with slit almonds and spots of currant jelly.

Faith Pancakes

Two eggs, four tablespoons of sugar, a piece of butter large as a walnut, and teaspoonfuls of saleratus. Fry in lard to a nice brown. They are nice; try them.

Irish

Potatoes

Steam them well, and wring them in a towel to make them mealy; mash till there are no lumps left, and sweeten with common brown sugar, to the taste. They are now ready to be baked, fried or made into puddings.



Recipes from
Godey's Lady's
Book; Philadel-
phia, October
1858

Fires Near Fort Tejon

Dateline: Saturday, September 15, 2012

Reported by: Judith Kimball

On Saturday, September 15, 2012 as Karina Mooradian and Curtis Neil (FTHA board members), and Linda Bosley and Judith Kimball (Post Store mistresses and new AJ editors) were driving from dinner in Grapevine up to Fort Tejon, we passed two fires which had started at the edge of the freeway on the fort side and were now pushed by a vigorous breeze up the hills.

The first fire was small and appeared to have possibly been started by a lit cigarette, thoughtlessly tossed from a car. However, the second fire we encountered was much larger. It also started at the edge of the freeway, but had quickly blackened a swath of hillside several yards wide.

As Linda called the fire department, we rushed back to the fort to inform John Harmon and other camping there. These fires were only a mile north of the fort, and we were concerned that they might have to evacuate.

In order to report more accurately the location of the largest and nearest fire, we drove along Digier Road, past the pumping station. As we rose up the hill, we could see smoke and flames cresting the hill. The smoke glowed red above the flames which quickly spread from the bone-dry brush to the branches of oak trees, crackling as they fell victims to the fire. We waited until fire department vehicles began to arrive and left quickly so as not to be in their way.

We visited the fort one more time to show campers photographs of the fire taken by Karina and finally retired to our rooms for the night.

Upon inspection Sunday morning, we were pleased to see that the fires were out and that excellent fire department work had kept the fire contained as it had not reach Digier Road. We hope everyone will be careful during this hot, dry fire season, especially with lit cigarettes, remember to clear dry, brush around your homes, and always completely extinguish campfires.



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Acknowledgements

- The Civil War Quiz and Fact Book by Rod Gragg: Promontory Press, 1985
- Karina Mooradian, Ladies Corner

Adjutant's Journal

EDITORS' NOTES

Kind Readers,

This is our first edition of the Adjutant's Journal. It was a daunting task following in the footsteps of former editor, Richard Hiestand. We hope that you enjoyed our first foray into the world of publishing.

We welcome suggestions for articles and polite, constructive criticism for future editions of the AJ.

Your humble servants,

Judy Kimball and Linda Bosley

Email—barbielover6@sbcglobal.net

BROWN SIGNS BILL TO KEEP STATE PARKS OPEN

Together, the bills establish a two-year moratorium on park closures, provide about \$30 million in funding and give the department that manages California's 278 state parks new fundraising tools.

AB1478 by Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield, D-Woodland Hills, splits \$30 million to help state parks at risk of closure stay open, complete overdue maintenance, and provide \$10 million to match donations from private groups and local governments.

Department of Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Coleman resigned and a senior parks official was termi-

nated this summer after it was revealed that some employees kept \$54 million hidden in two special funds for more than a decade, even as dozens of parks were threatened with closure.

Brown's signature on the bills was a first step toward restoring public confidence in the management of parks, said Elizabeth Goldstein, president of the nonprofit California State Parks Foundation, which had rallied to save some of the sites. Nonprofit groups and local governments helped raise money and in some cases assumed responsibility for keeping the 70 state parks operating past a July 1 closure deadline.

"Putting this bill into law is a sign of good faith on the part of California's government that all the hard work of communities, organizations and donors across the state who stepped up to support their parks is recognized and appreciated," Goldstein said in a statement.

