



Fort Tejon Historical Association

ADJUTANT'S JOURNAL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 3rd – California Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History
- September 7th -- California Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History
- October 5th -- California Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History
- October 5 / 6 – FTHA at Battle of Dominguez Hills Reenactment (offsite)
- October 19th – Fort Tejon 5K Dragoon Run
- November 2nd – California Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History
- December 7th – California Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History – Volunteer Old Time Christmas

Please Visit :

<http://forttejonca.org/events.html>

For the latest updates.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dearest FTHA Members and Friends,

The last couple of months Fort Tejon was buzzing with one excellent and successful event after another. We've had some wonderful and successful events and fundraiser at the fort so far this year and I wanted to thank everyone who was involved. We had wonderful participation at our Annual Civil War Reenactment, Victorian Tea Party, and the park's annual 4th of July celebration.

Time now to relax for just a little bit before we dive in the next fundraiser, a 5K Dragoon Run at the Fort planned for in October.

In the interim, we will be representing our beloved Fort Tejon at Old Town San Diego's *Soldiers & Civilians* event next month and at the *Battle of Dominguez Hill* reenactment in early October. I look forward to seeing you there!

I remain yours,

Karina Dunbar
FTHA President and Chairman

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WEB SITE UPDATE

We are back on line! We now live at a new domain name:

FortTejonCa.org.

Please update your links and bookmarks to point to the new location.

VICTORIAN TEA

Steam certainly rose from our cups of tea as we were wrapped in history on June 15th as we hosted our 7th annual Victorian Tea. Due to the event's popularity, tickets were sold out weeks in advance.

With the unwavering assistance from the park interpretative staff and FTHA volunteers, the ladies and gents enjoyed the variety of teas, refreshing lemonade and rose water which complimented the assortment of delicate finger sandwiches and delectable pastries and desserts. Our guests joyfully participated in the games and proudly accepted their game and raffle prizes.

The charming ladies of the Red Hat Society were so happy that they inquired to possibly having the FTHA host a private tea party just for their group. The event ended with warm embraces and promises to return next year.





2019 FTHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

We need your help! Much of our membership has not yet renewed for 2019. We'd love folks to confirm their membership for this year. We rely on our membership to help maintain a strong voice in protecting and conserving the fort. We'd like to ask again that folks renew their membership. Although this has traditionally not been done in the past, the board has approved a pro-rated membership for folks joining now since we are half way through the year.

~~\$30~~ - individual membership - **Pro-Rated to \$15**

~~\$40~~ - family membership - **Pro-Rated to \$20**

The 2019 FTHA membership applications are attached to this edition of the AJ. A huge THANK YOU to all our past members for their continuing support of Fort Tejon and welcome all new members. We need your support to keep Fort Tejon a vital part of our state parks system.

A NOTE FROM A READER

Dear Fort Tejon Historical Association,

I wanted let you know how much use and enjoyment I got from all the Civil War resources on your Fort Tejon Historical Association page http://www.forttejonca.org/reenacting_links.html . I've always considered myself a fan of military history and the Civil War is no exception to that. Now that I'm retired I like to spend a lot of my free time reading up on historic battles and wars so naturally I was pretty happy to discover your association's page. I've always been a strong believer that good work should be recognized and acknowledged so I hope you don't mind me taking up a part of your day to thank you for putting all of that information together!

I also thought you might enjoy hearing how you turned a young man named Christopher into a military history fan as well. He's the son of my next door neighbors and a good kid. He's always seemed to enjoy hearing about historic wars so I told him about your page and he said he loved it. I guess he finds the American Civil War particularly fascinating. The one thing he struggled to understand though was how something as simple as cotton could be such a huge factor at the time. He did some research on his own and found this article that does a great job of explaining it all - <https://www.lulus.com/blog/resources/the-role-of-cotton-in-the-civil-war/> . I thought it seemed like just the kind of thing others might want to read about as well.

Thanks again for everything!
Arthur M.

.... Thank's Arthur, Glad you enjoyed the site.

OUR 2019 CIVIL WAR EVENT

This year's event was another great success and we thank everyone that attended. It's great collaboration that makes these events so successful and we thank you all. There was some confusion at the event due to information that hasn't been updated on the web site. Please know we are working on fixing this. We also hope to publish a "Do's and Don'ts" to help folks be more informed.

Mike Foster, Director of Civil War Programs for FTHA noted, "I would like to thank everyone who attended our last April/ May CIVIL WAR EVENT and a special thank you to the park staff. We are looking into the possibility of doing 2 events each year and I would love to see that happen. We would love to get input so please reach out with your thoughts. "

You can reach Mike and the rest of the board at : info@FortTejonCA.org



1850'S PHOTOGRAPHY COMES TO FORT TEJON

For those that have attended a recent event at Fort Tejon, you might have seen something new – A crazy contraption that looks like a giant camera.



What you are seeing is actually a portable darkroom used for Wet Plate Photography. I originally put it together for the annual Civil War reenactment at SCVi Charter School. My hope was to also bring this to Fort Tejon. We made a first attempt at this during this year's Civil War reenactment. Admittedly, this was a bit ambitious since we've only been doing this for three months! As this was our first event with a tricky process, there were some bumps along the way, though we still were able to make some great images. Here are some examples of photos that came from both Dagoon Days as well as the Civil War event.



Although still practicing and learning, I hope to continue to bring the studio to events at Fort Tejon. This is a great opportunity for folks to walk away with a photo as they would have looked when the fort was still active. It's also a good fund raiser for the fort since there has been tremendous interest. If you see me at an event, please drop by and say hello and I'll be happy to demonstrate the process. Just watch for our portable darkroom.

-Matt Schnittker

FORT TEJON SHP AT RANCHO CAMULOS

Fort Tejon was able to roll out the cannon and the fort display for SCVi Charter school's annual Civil War reenactment at Rancho Camulos. This event is attended by students, teachers and the public. They were even able to fire the Mountain Howitzer! Thanks to Michael Deagon and Mary Schmidt of Fort Tejon SHP staff for working the event!

**FAREWELL TO LES GILBERT**

It is with great sorrow and heavy heart that we pass on this news.

We learned this recently that Les Gilbert passed away. Les was a long time FTHA Board member, and many may remember him as the cook for several years at the FTHA Invitational. He had been in bad health for a few years. Les will be remembered as being one of the good guys who said like it is and didn't mince words. He was a Marine Corps combat veteran and he received the Purple Heart during his Vietnam service.

He will be greatly missed.



1856 OLD FASHIONED FORTH OF JULY

Congratulations on a well-run event in honor of the founding of our American republic! The attending public certainly appreciated and enjoyed their holiday experience. The quality of the experience put forward was due to the skills, knowledge, dedication, and great attitude that every volunteer brought in service of the event as well as the “oodles” of preparation that the park staff committed to the presentation. Many visitors of a wide array of ages took part in the tug-of-war contest, the Great egg toss, incredibly fast potatoes sack races, and the delicious and ever-popular pie eating finale. In fact, the pie-eating champion for the 9 to 18 year old group, Makai, made it a point to return to successfully defend his title for a third year again.

Visitors commented to me about how the cannon crews looked and moved “very military smart” during the salute to each state of the Union. Pistol, now in his 26th year of horse life, brought Sgt. Walton (Kerry Savee) with him to provide the always popular mounted Dragoon impression. He even took Sgt. Walton on a great saber charge demonstration as we gave the final gun salute to the latest state to join the Union – California!

Before the games and cannon salute, visitors were plunging into the living history stations to experience life on a frontier Army post like Fort Tejon. They actually took pleasure in cleaning plenty of dirty soldier laundry with their bare hands. Every kid in the park also seemed to have their own hand-made candle, custom-made blacksmith souvenir, or their own unique “leavings doll”. Several families spoke about their first ever sampling of home-made butter at the officer’s kitchen with our lovely Winifred. Thanks to Mercy’s willingness to host “the pit,” many also told me about their first experience in jumping in and making a proper, “Army regulation” adobe brick. Pvt. Jordan even was able to spring right from his duties with the cannon salute make the tack and saddlery shop come alive and remind people of how essential that kind of work would have been to mid-nineteenth century mounted fighting command.

Thanks to Matt Schnittker, our newest FTHA board member, folks also had the opportunity to “have their image struck” at his newly established tin-type field studio. Speaking of the Fort Tejon Historical Association, many thanks are due to the board, and especially Karina, for making sure that we had the food needed for the kitchen demonstration, pies, eggs, and prizes for the competitions, and making the post store was available for visitors. It’s worth noting that at the end of the event, “Blacksmith Bill” and I had the opportunity to talk with a gentleman who intended to make a brief stop-over at “the Fort Tejon exit,” but instead ended up participating in the day’s event and activities until the very end . . . thanks to you!

Check out the evidence on our Facebook and Instagram pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/forttejon/> and <https://www.instagram.com/forttejonshp/> .

Michael Deagon
State Park Interpreter I
Fort Tejon State Historic Park

1856 OLD FASHIONED FORTH OF JULY



FORT TEJON**HISTORICAL****ASSOCIATION****FTHA****P.O. BOX 1424****SIMI VALLEY, CA 93062****ADJUTANT'S JOURNAL****INFO@FORTTEJONCA.ORG****EDITOR'S NOTE**

Kind Readers,

It's hard to believe it's only been a few months since I started helping out at Fort Tejon. I am honored to have yet another opportunity to bring you an edition of the Adjutant's Journal.

It's great to announce that our web site is again available at a new domain : FortTejonCa.org. Some have asked about the new domain name. We were not able to regain ownership of the FortTejon.org domain due to a problem with the email addresses associated with it. . This is really unfortunate but we needed to get the web site up and running again so we created a new domain. We also set up a Google Mail (GSuite for Non Profits) domain so we can prevent this problem in the future.

With the current configuration of the web site, editing is a labor intensive task which includes hand editing HTML and CSS files. It takes a while to get updates in place. Though, please reach out with anything you feel needs updating or improvement. I'll slowly be going through the content to bring it up to date.

Please reach out with questions or concerns and make sure to visit the new site at FortTejonCA.org !

Kind regards

-Matt Schnittker
mschnitt@FortTejonCa.org

