



# Fort Tejon Historical Association

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

### Calendar of Events

- January 4—  
Dragoons Living  
History at fort
- January 12—FTHA  
board meeting,  
Los Encinos SHP  
at 11am
- January 18—new  
volunteer training  
at fort
- January 31-  
February 2—  
Second Cal.  
Volunteers Living  
History Program

### P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E



*Friends and fellow FTHA Members,*

*This will be my last message as FTHA President. I have held the position for the last six years and I have enjoyed almost every bit of it. A lot has changed in that time, the fort and the FTHA have been in peril more than once .*

*I have always had a "come and ask me" policy to all members of the FTHA. When I was elected six years ago, the board and the membership seemed to be at odds. I feel that I have opened the board up to all that are interested in the operations that keep the FTHA alive.*

*Being one of the last of the founding members still active at Fort Tejon and in the FTHA, time has been taking its toll on all of us. I am not leaving Fort Tejon or the FTHA by any means. I will still be a member. As the Union Commander, I will continue to be very active in the living history programs of the fort.*

*Wishing all of my fellow FTHA members a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year, I look forward to seeing you all again when we meet at the fort in 2014 for our 31st year of the FTHA!*

*Steve Mata*

*FTHA PRESIDENT*

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### 2014 ELECTION

At the December 8th board meeting, FTHA board members decided not to hold a formal election for the four seats that were available since only two members submitted their names as candidates. Additionally, the board did not want to incur the expenses relating to an election - printing ballots and postage - when there were not enough candidates to hold the

election.

The candidates, Brent Lamb and Karina Mooradian will be installed as board members at the January 2014 board meeting.

Special thanks to outgoing board members Lester Gilbert, Steve Mata and Mike Presswood for their hard work over the years and support of Fort Tejon through good and bad

times.

The new board will meet on January 12, 2014 at Los Encinos State Historic Park at 11am. At that time, the board will finalize the FTHA 2014 calendar. The calendar will be published on the FTHA website and January edition of the AJ.



## CIVIL WAR CORRESPONDENCE



From: Tally Simpson, Camp near Fredricksburg

To: Anna Simpson

Camp near Fred'burg

Dec 25th, 1862

My dear Sister

This is Christmas Day. The sun shines feebly through a thin cloud, the air is mild and pleasant, [and] a gentle breeze is making music through the leaves of the lofty pines that stand near our bivouac. All is quiet and still, and that very stillness recalls some sad and painful thoughts.

This day, one year ago, how many thousand families, gay and joyous, celebrating Merry Christmas, drinking health to absent members of their family, and sending upon the wings of love and affection long, deep, and sincere wishes for their safe return to the loving ones at home, but today are clad in the deepest mourning in memory to some lost and loved member of their circle. If all the dead (those killed since the war began) could be heaped in one pile and all the wounded be gathered together in one group, the pale faces of the dead and the groans of the wounded would send such a thrill of horror through the hearts of the originators of this war that their very souls would rack with such pain that they would prefer being dead and in torment than to stand before God with such terrible crimes blackening their characters. Add to this the cries and wailings of the mourners - mothers and fathers weeping for their sons, sisters for their brothers, wives for their husbands, and daughters for their fathers - [and] how deep would be the convictions of their consciences.

Yet they do not seem to think of the affliction and distress they are scattering broadcast over the land. When will this war end? Will another Christmas roll around and find us all wintering in camp? Oh! That peace may soon be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness.

*This letter is excerpted from a book titled Far, Far From Home. A collection of letters of Dick and Tally Simpson, members of the 3rd South Carolina Volunteers.*

A Christmas Quadrille, or Cricket on the Hearth. Dated 1846, periodical unknown.





# Ladies' Corner

## CHRISTMAS CAKE

To two pounds of flour well sifted unite  
Of loaf-sugar ounces sixteen;  
Two pounds of fresh butter, with  
eighteen fine eggs,  
And four pounds of currants washed  
clean;

Eight ounces of almonds well blanched  
and cut small,  
The same weight of citron sliced;  
Of orange and lemon-peel candied one  
pound,  
And a gill of pale brandy uniced;

A large nutmeg grated; exact half an  
ounce  
Of allspice, but only a quarter  
Of mace, coriander, and ginger well  
ground,  
Or pounded to dust in a mortar.

An important addition is cinnamon, which  
Is better increased than diminished;  
The fourth of an ounce is sufficient. Now  
this

May be baked four good hours till finished



By late 1865 the country was starting to reunite as the horrors of war and the shock of Lincoln's assassination faded into memory. That December brought the first peacetime Christmas in five years. Most soldiers had been mustered out of the military and were home to celebrate the holiday with their families. Of course, many others had never returned home. Harper's published a poem titled "By the Christmas Hearth" that was more in line with the nation's hopeful spirit of reunification. The last stanza especially captures the cheerful holiday mood and eagerness of the American people to put the turbulent conflict behind them:

*Bring holly, rich with berries red,  
And bring the sacred mistletoe;  
Fill high each glass, and let hearts  
With kindest feelings flow;  
So sweet it seems at home once more  
To sit with those we hold most dear,  
And keep absence once again  
To keep the Merry Christmas here.*

## LINES

By: J.R. Conyngham

Will you ever weep, love,  
When I have passed away,  
When cold in death I sleep,  
love,  
Through many a weary day?

Will you place a wreath, love,

Upon my little mound  
At evening's holy hour, love,  
When shadows hover 'round?

Will you often come love,  
To view my lowly bed?  
Will you plant a flower, love,  
To blossom o'er my head?

Oh, kneel beside my grave, love,

And say - here lies my all !  
And let *one* pearly tear, love,  
Upon my bosom fall.



## AmeriCorps at the Peaceful Fort



On November 14, 2013, a team of AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) arrived at Fort Tejon State Historic Park ready to work and do whatever it took to beautify the fort and its historical structures.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based residential federal volunteer program for young adults between the ages of 18 to 24. Team members earn money for education while serving nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country.

Although the team at Fort Tejon, "Green 7", hailed from the Pacific Region based in Sacramento, it is made up of young men and women from all four corners of the country. When they were first assigned to Fort Tejon, they

did not know anything about the fort. After researching and looking at pictures, their interest heightened and they eagerly rolled up their sleeves and hit the barracks the day after their arrival. "Green 7" did just about everything you can think of. They stripped old paint, sanded, primed and painted; polished the wooden floors; mended uniforms and sewed buttons, and much, much more. They are scheduled to work at Fort Tejon until December 18, 2013.

Team "Green 7" is eagerly looking forward to the Volunteer Christmas Party where they will celebrate in period attire.

Everyone at Fort Tejon SHP and Fort Tejon Historical Association (FTHA) wish to extend a very warm welcome and THANK YOU to the young men and women of AmeriCorps NCCC "Green 7" for their dedication and hard work preserving the beauty of our beloved fort.

To learn more about AmeriCorp NCCC, please visit their website at:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ Americorps/ Americorps-nccc>



### *Join the FTHA now and save!*

FTHA members can renew their memberships now and receive the remainder of 2013 in addition to their 2014 membership!

- Membership forms are available online at [forttejon.org](http://forttejon.org)
- Membership fees are still only \$30 a year for individuals and \$40 a year for families.

Support the Fort Tejon Historical Association with your paid membership and plan to attend our exciting events throughout the new year in 2014.







**FORT TEJON  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

**FTHA  
P.O. Box 895  
Lebec, CA 93243**

Acknowledgements

- Karina Mooradian—Ladies Corner, AmeriCorps article, General's visit photos

**Adjutant's Journal**

**EDITORS' NOTES**

*Kind Readers,*

*Hey Dee—what's your favorite Christmas song? Dee -oh, um- Silent Night. Let's see, I'm kind of partial to ... Have a holly, jolly Christmas ala Burl Ives. I still watch Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer each year and Charlie Brown Christmas Special.*

*We can't believe another year has almost come and gone. This time last December, Dee became an official state park volunteer - fingerprinted and all that stuff. We are both looking forward to what the new year brings to our beloved fort and to seeing everyone at the Second Cal event in February. Have a lovely holiday season with family and friends*

*Does anyone want to share their New Year's resolutions with us? We would love to publish them in the January AJ. Give us a holler at the email addresses below.*

*Your humble servants,  
Linda Bosley and Dee Bosley*

*Email—lindabosley66@gmail.com or numbrsuf@yahoo.com*

**VISIT WITH STATE PARKS DIRECTOR  
RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL JACKSON**



On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, FTHA board members John Billinger, Karina Mooradian, Bob Zaricor, Larry Kelsey and Mike Presswood met with the new director of California State Parks, Major-General Jackson at the Tehachapi District Office in Palmdale. Regional Superintendent Kathy Weatherman hosted a luncheon attended by state park employees and cooperating associations from the district.

Fort Tejon staff, Sean Malis, Mike Deagon and John Claggett, cooked stew and all the trimmings over an open pit fire for General Jackson. The General tried on a Dragoon field jacket and posed for photos with board members. Larry Kelsey stated that he was "impressed with the General's honesty and openness regarding the future of state parks in California".

A cannon from the fort was brought for a firing demonstration. Many attendees were dressed in period clothing. Steve Ptomey, Tejon Sector Manager (Acting) wore a reproduction of California State Parks uniform from the 1930's to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the state parks. Steve stated, "I ...want to thank our many volunteers and Co-Operating Assn. that attended! We brought the Sector to the General! ...great job and my heartfelt thanks!"