



Fort Tejon Historical Association

ADJUTANT'S JOURNAL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **June 6th - 7th** – FTHA Annual Civil War Reenactment At Fort Tejon
- **June 20th** – Ladies Victorian Tea At Fort Tejon – FTHA Fundraiser
- **July 4th** - 1856 Old Fashioned 4th Of July At Fort Tejon
- **August 1st** - Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History
- **September 5th** - Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History
- **September 19th** – Fort Tejon 5K Dagoon Run – FTHA Fundraiser
- **October 3rd** - Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History
- **October 3-4** – Off Site Event – Battle of Dominguez Hills
- **October 17th** – Peter Lebec Candlelight Ghost Tours – FTHA Fundraiser
- **Nov 7th** - Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History
- **Nov 1th - 15th** – Off Site Event – Marching Through History Expo
- **December 5th** - Frontier Army Days / Dragoons Living History

For Latest Updates

Please Visit Our Web Site At

<http://FortTejonCa.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dearest FTHA Members and Friends,

Despite panic and pandemic, the work at and for Fort Tejon has not ceased and we have a full 2020 calendar of events.

To date, California State Parks has taken various safety measures to avoid dangerous visitation surges and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Safety measures include temporarily closing all campgrounds, museums and visitor centers in the state park system; and cancelling all events in the month of April.

Again, this is TEMPORARY as we are taking it one month at a time and too soon for anyone to ASSUME that the Civil War event or the Victorian Tea scheduled for June to be canceled. I will keep you apprised of any and all updates. With that, I kindly ask you to join me in the pursuit of FTHA's decades-old commitment in the preservation of Fort Tejon and its history through period accurate historical interpretation, public education through historical events and outreach programs.

If you haven't already done so, please renew your dues and mail in the membership form which is available on our NEW website, www.FortTejonCA.org. You may also renew your membership and pay your dues ONLINE! Please see page 3 for details.

Also, if you are Facebook friendly, please go to the page Fort Tejon Historical Association and click on "Like" and suggest it to all your Facebook friends. Let us send a message to Sacramento that Fort Tejon is thriving through the support of its members, volunteers and "Friends." You can also follow us on Instagram at Fort Tejon Historical Assoc.

In closing, I encourage everyone to come to the monthly Frontier Army Days, on the first Saturday of every month, and volunteer at the Fort. Please contact me directly should you have any questions. I remain yours in common and glorious cause,

Karina Dunbar

President, Fort Tejon Historical Association

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STATUS OF FORT TEJON**A note from Micheal Deagon on the current status of Fort Tejon**

I wanted to give you a quick update on the status of living history at the fort. One day after our program and training, I left for a historic weapons training course being hosted by the National Park Service at Ft. McClellan in Alabama. As I was going through the training, I watched from half a continent away as the COVID-19 outbreak expanded. When I returned to the fort, I had to “hit the ground running” as I sought to catch up with how our park system is dealing with the outbreak day by day. In short, we’ve never had to face a situation like this before and are “treading new ground” as we face the demands this outbreak has placed upon us.

Specifically, Fort Tejon State Historic Park is closed right now. We have been ordered to barricade the parking lot and close and lock the entrance gates to the park, as well as the visitor center and the historic buildings. Park staff are still fully coming to work and taking advantage of the “down time” to more intensively clean, restore, upgrade, guard, etc. park interpretive displays, equipment, facilities, and resources. We are being careful to observe all COVID-19 outbreak precautions as we do so.

All camping reservations and interpretive events are cancelled until the end of April. This includes what would have been our Frontier Army Days Program for April and the second parent/teacher training for this year’s Student Living History Program (SLHP). Some schools have had to cancel their programs for this school year and many have rescheduled into May in hope that things will be better. If all goes well, May could very well be a busy month for training 4th, 5th, 8th, and 11th grade “recruits” for the regiment.

Rest assured that whenever we come out of this unprecedented crisis, your Fort Tejon will stand ready to resume her work. I will keep you advised of developments and we will continue to try to keep our social media sites updated for “virtual visitation.” Please take care of yourselves during this time because each and every one of you are necessary to the work done here that affects many lives, each uniquely, through the fort’s story and resources.

Michael Deagon
State Park Interpreter I
Fort Tejon State Historic Park
4201 Fort Tejon Road / P.O. Box 895
Lebec, California 93243
661-248-6692 / Fax: 661-248-8373
Work Wk.: Wednesday - Sunday, 8a.m. - 4:30p.m.
www.parks.ca.gov/forttejon

POST STORE - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We continue to need help with events at the fort. We especially need help with operations at the Post Store including, but not limited to, setting up, cleaning up and customer services. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to board@forttejonca.org as soon as possible. If you have a creative or interesting way you'd like to help with historic interpretations such as operating the telegraph, please let us know as well.

2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Thank you to everyone who has been a supporter of Fort Tejon. It's time to renew our annual Membership. We have also attached 2020 FTHA membership applications to this edition of the AJ. This year, we also are offering a new option of renewing on line. If you'd like to try the on-line version, it is available on the Fort Tejon web site.

<http://FortTejonCa.org/join.html>

We rely on our membership to help maintain a strong voice in protecting and conserving the fort. Please note that we have lowered the dues rate:

\$20 - individual membership

\$30 - family membership

The 2020 form is available on the web site as well. 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 VISITOR TO THE WEB SITE

Mr. Schnittker and the FTHA family,

Just sending your officers a big thumbs up! We needed some info on the Civil War + the Reconstruction era so the info on your links page gave us some awesome references to boost our efforts. We enjoyed reading about the history of Fort Tejon too! Our troop is currently working on creating "quilts" made from construction paper with different squares that will educate viewers about the Civil War. Your website gave us a lot of ideas for topics so we knew we had to reach out and say thanks!

Thanks again and a big salute from our troop! Take care
Boy Scout Troop 325

.....Thanks John and thanks to Boy Scout Troop 325. Glad you enjoyed the site!

MARCH FRONTIER ARMY DAYS

The Fort Tejon Historical Association was on site to help with the March 7th Frontier Army Days Living History event. This was a big event since it involved teacher training for the state parks overnight program as well as public visitors. The Post Store was opened up for folks to shop for souvenirs and we also had the tin type photo studio and telegraph display set up. People were able to get a “hands on” demonstration of typing out their name in morse code. We look forward to times when we can re-open these activities for park visitors.



FT TEJON DRAGOON DAYS / LIVING HISTORY EVENT MARCH 7TH



FT TEJON 2ND CALVARY EVENT JAN 24-26

A note from Micheal Deagon on the Jan24-26 Second Cavalry Event

Happy Winter Quarters to Everybody!,

Speaking of which, our recent annual Winter quarters-esque event, the 2nd California Volunteers Event, went exceedingly well. The company of soldiers present for duty was one of the “smartest” looking, and perhaps most accurate, companies that I’ve seen represent the story of the men who were here over 150 years ago. Their dedication and passion for living history was evident as they embraced their weekend of soldierly duties. These duties properly included lots of the “fatigue” activities . . . the overzealous assigning of which by the officers of 150 years ago were a chief complaint among the original soldiers. Creativity on the part of our “living historians,” however, turned this fatigue duty into a modern public benefit for the park in that fence posts guarding the ruins were repaired and firewood was processed for the programs.

The greater historical community of Fort Tejon was also brought to life during the 2nd Cal. event by the variety of citizen impressions. Ms. Mary researched and made into a reality some incredibly delicious mid-1800s recipes in the kitchen that serviced 1st Lt. “Iron Fists” Dal Bello’s residence while Cpl. “Jefe de Fuego” Harmon maintained military moral through his constant culinary efforts as the mess hall superintendent. The anvil was “singing” again as steel emerged in various characters from the coal fires of “Blacksmith Bill’s” shop. Ms. Mercy explained the details of the necessity of a company laundress at mid-19th century military posts to many an interested visitor while Jennifer Waters, Don Smith and young Gordon Smith, who made his debut at Fort Tejon this year, and their loyal canine companion helped visitors understand the variety of travelers who would have passed through a hub like Fort Tejon during an era of incredible social flux that was found in the new frontier state called California. We also added photographic evidence of the event to our Facebook and Instagram pages soon for the world’s enjoyment. Thank you all!

Michael Deagon
State Park Interpreter I



FT TEJON 2ND CALVARY EVENT JAN 24-26



FT TEJON 2ND CALVARY EVENT JAN 24-26



BATTLE OF RIO SAN GABRIEL – JANUARY 11TH

The Fort Tejon Historical Association attended the Battle of Rio San Gabriel at the Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe Museum to represent Fort Tejon. This was the first event where the local Montebello museum incorporated a Mountain Howitzer which was much enjoyed by the crowds. Lots of folks visited the FTHA table and had questions about our engaging display..

THE MONTEBELLO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

BATTLE

of RIO SAN GABRIEL

REENACTMENT

JANUARY 11TH 2020 • 11AM - 4PM
At The Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe Museum
946 N. Adobe Ave, Montebello, CA 90640

Living history period music & vintage dancers.
Audience participation Fandango dancing. Uniformed American & Californio reenactors.
Experience the smell of the black powder from the musket firing demonstrations!




FREE EVENT

Follow us on I.G. @JMSanchez_Adobe • www.MontebelloHistoricalSociety.org
Food & drinks available for purchase • Rain does not cancel!

A NON PROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION



BANNING MUSEUM TALK

FTHA Board member Matt Schnittker was invited to speak at the Banning Museum to give a talk on how he learned Wet Plate Photography. Focus was on learning the process, but activities at Fort Tejon and our monthly Dragoon Days living history program was discussed as well. The talk was attended by about 30 folks and was followed by lots of questions.



Friends of Banning Museum Presents

“Alchemy & Art - An Exploration into Wet Plate Photography”

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 10:00am Stagecoach Barn

Learning wet plate photography can seem like an incredible hurdle. The equipment is expensive, the chemicals are illusive, and the process can feel as much like alchemical magic as it does technology. In this lecture, Matthew Schnittker will reveal how he overcame these hurdles and went from pouring his first plate to working his first public event as a wet plate photographer. He'll also demonstrate the process live and talk through the steps from a technical perspective.

Admission to the lecture is FREE for Friends of Banning Museum members and children under 12. Non-members are \$5.00. For more information or to RSVP please call 310-548-2005.



The Banning Museum
401 East "M" Street
Wilmington, CA 90744

(310) 548-2005 for more information
www.thebanningmuseum.org

The Banning Museum is a facility of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation & Parks & is operated in cooperation with the Friends of Banning Museum. Friends of Banning Museum is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "Preserve History, Promote Education & Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit."



11/26/2019

Photos from the talk can be seen on the Banning Museum Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/thebanningmuseum/>

OUR FIRST EVER 5K!

The FTHA conducted its first ever 5K run at Fort Tejon. This was a fundraiser to support the FTHA. Our FTHA Volunteers helped run the event. A great deal of planning and preparation went into making the event a success. This was a first event and it went well, but we look forward to a much bigger event next year.



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

It seems incredible that it's only been a year since I started as editor of the Adjutant's Journal and Fort Tejon Web Site. Reviving the web site and the AJ took some effort, but with the help of many, we got it done. It was about this same time that I poured my first plate for wet plate photography and started down the road at learning mid 1800's photo processes. It's been an exciting year.

I want to thank all of our readers for their patience as the rest of the board and I worked to get all these things moving. They have all been interesting and challenging projects on their own. Now, as we wait for the park to re-open, I look forward to another year of engaging activities as well as sharing them with you here in our newsletter.

Besides the wet plate photo studio, I also hope to bring more telegraph demonstrations to Fort Tejon this year. We are told there was an operating telegraph just east of the current park entrance and we hope to make this yet another hands on experience for visitors of the park.

We all want to thank everyone for their membership and participation in FTHA activities. As you may imagine, we are always interested in stories and photos that folks have to share, so if you have a suggestion for the AJ, please don't hesitate to send it to me. I can be reached directly as mschnitt@forttejonca.org.

Looking forward to an Exciting 2020.

-Matt

