



SOUTHWEST TIMES



March/April Edition

Number 1, Volume 1

PRESIDENTS COMMENT

Thanks to all the units and re-enactors which make up the SWCWA as well as all of the history enthusiasts who have attended our events this past year.

We kicked off the re-enacting season with the Lava River Tactical in Flagstaff back in August and a month later had over 50 of our re-enactors participate in Verde River Days at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood. November came and we held our 2nd annual marquee event "Brawl in the Fall" at Pioneer Village which was attended by 60+ Civil War re-enactors. Picacho is now on the horizon and will see the use of ground charges in all of the battles for the first time in the Park's history due to the efforts of the SWCWA and its leadership.

The SWCWA, since coming into existence over one year ago, has quickly become the single largest re-enacting association in the Four Corners region, (Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah). No small task for a re-enacting community that was politically divided and going nowhere fast. The SWCWA counts in its membership the largest artillery unit in the region – the 1st Texas (4 artillery pieces), the largest Union infantry unit in Arizona – the 1st New Mexico Co. B, the largest Union infantry unit in New Mexico – the 1st New Mexico Co. A, the two largest Confederate infantry units in Arizona – the 1st Texas Co. L and the 5th Texas Co. B as well as several other units – including the 3rd U.S. and 1st California.

The SWCWA over the past year has partnered with the Pioneer Living History Village as well as the National Park Service to put on various events including back-

country tacticals and are currently in talks with the Arizona Film Commission for areas where we can become involved with the film industry. One of our re-enactors has been on *Mythbusters* twice and was also in the movies *Gettysburg* and *Dances with Wolves* – so you never know when your re-enacting may lead to a part in a local production within Arizona – Just another benefit of membership.

Finally, the SWCWA is the most safety conscious and best insured re-enacting organization of its kind in the region, with a multimillion dollar liability policy covering our members.

Whether you want to become a re-enactor or are a history buff – get involved by joining our Association. Check our website out at www.SWCWA.com or sign up for membership at our events.

Finally, thanks to the hard work of the newly elected Board of the SWCWA – Mike Vander Maten – Treasurer, Don Jolley – Vice President and Roger Burke – Secretary.

Sincerely,

Joe Spikes

President – SouthWest Civil War Association

PICACHO PEAK

As most of you are aware, the Arizona State Parks Department has graciously hosted this event for many years. Unfortunately due to the current condition of Arizona's financial landscape, Picacho Peak State Park, as well as many other well known parks across the state, will be closing in June 2010 in an effort to help offset the

increasing budget crisis. Having said this we thought we'd take a minute to remind each of you of the importance of this particular site.

Picacho didn't have a remarkable impact on the Civil War, it didn't "turn the tide" or break the fortunes of either of the combatants. The battle, if you could call it that, didn't exemplify the great tactical skills of Lee or Grant and it didn't feature thousands of veteran soldiers. Instead, Picacho concluded a series of events which led to the official recognition of the Arizona Territory in 1863, the establishment and recognition of Prescott as the territorial capital, the 'settling' of vast previously undeveloped areas, the unlikely creation of, what has become, the nation's 5th largest metropolitan area and finally statehood in 1912.

Much of this was the direct result of the men of both the Confederacy and Union that many either remained or returned to the Arizona Territory to seek their fortunes mining, developing or governing a nascent piece of the arid Sonoran desert.

HISTORICAL

Civil War in the Southwest

Valverde, New Mexico - 21st February, 1862*

Under the command of General Sibley, about 2,000 Texans departed their camp early in the morning. Water was scarce and breakfast was only a bit of beef. They marched and rode to Valverde on the Rio Grande where they were soon engaged by the nearly 2,500 Union soldiers and 8 cannons under Col. Roberts.

At 8am the Texans, equipped mostly with old civilian hunting arms and shotguns, set a line of defense behind a low embankment. They held this line until the left flank, under Captain Baylor, was severely mauled by the Federals. At that point, nearly five hours into the battle, Union artillery moved close to the Confederate center, raking the line with grapeshot and canister. In danger of being flanked and decimated by the artillery, some 200 Texans, aided by the four 6-pounder cannons of Captain Teel's artillery, charged the Union battery. Although suffering numerous casualties, the Texans captured the battery and turned it on the Federals pressing Baylor. This effectively turned the tide of the battle and forced the

Federals to flee the field of battle, leaving it in the hands of the victorious Confederates.

Confederate casualties were 36 killed, 150 wounded and 1 missing. The Union suffered 68 killed, 150 wounded and 35 missing.*

Extracted from the journal of Sgt. AB Peticolas, CSA

Glorieta, New Mexico - 28th March, 1862*

A month after the Confederate victory at Valverde, the Texans had arrived at the mouth of Apache Canyon east of Santa Fe, where they prepared to choke Union access to the Santa Fe Trail.

The Confederate force, under Lt. Col. Scurry, consisted of about a thousand men and 3 cannons the Union forces, led by Col. Slough, numbered about 850 men and 8 cannons.

At 11am Union skirmishers met the Texan advance guard and fired the first shot of the Battle of Glorieta, sometimes called the Gettysburg of the West. Furious fighting broke out all along the line which spanned the narrow timber and rock-choked canyon.

By 2pm the Confederates had managed to push the Union right flank back a quarter of a mile. Gaining the high ground on the Union right, the Texans poured heavy fire into the federal positions, and forced their withdrawal into the canyon. By Battle's end, at 4:30pm, the Federals had retreated more than a mile with the Texans in firm command of the mouth of the canyon.

During the main battle, 490 Federals, led by Major Chivington, struck a fatal blow to the Texan advance. While attempting to link up with the main force, Chivington's men discovered the hidden Confederate 80 wagon supply train. They drove off the weak guard, slaughtered the draft animals and burned the supply wagons. The loss of these supplies spelled disaster for the confederates who, although having won a tactical victory, were now forced to begin a long and agonizing retreat back into Texas.

The Battle of Glorieta was a Union victory; the Santa Fe Trail was no longer threatened by Confederate forces and the garrison of Fort Union remained undefeated.

Confederate losses were 36 killed, 60 wounded and 25 missing. The Union suffered 38 killed, 64 wounded and 20 missing.*

Extracted from the journal of Sgt. AB Peticolas, CSA

Picacho Pass, Arizona - 15th April, 1862

Twelve Union cavalry troopers and one scout, commanded by Lieutenant Barrett, were conducting a sweep of the Picacho Pass area, looking for Confederates reported to be nearby. During their patrol they discovered and captured 3 Confederate lookouts, but failed to see 7 other Confederate soldiers before they opened fire. During the ensuing skirmish, Lt. Barrett and 2 of his men were killed and 3 others wounded. More than an hour later, both sides withdrew from the scene.

The remains of two Union soldiers buried at Picacho were later returned to California, but Lt. Barrett's grave, near the present railroad tracks, remains unmarked and undisturbed. Union reports indicate 2 Confederates may have been wounded, but there is no confirmation of this.

CIVILIAN CHATTER

Sewing Academy with Elizabeth Stewart Clark

Would you like to learn historic dressmaking in person, in an upbeat, encouraging atmosphere? I am pleased to announce that Elizabeth Stewart Clark is bringing her Sewing Academy to Prescott, Arizona! It is on the calendar for April 23-25, 2010. The information will be available soon on her website: www.elizabethstewartclark.com

As many of you know, this was planned in the Phoenix area last spring, but had to be canceled. When we contacted her and learned it was not being rescheduled, Marion Arrington and I asked if we could organize it and have it in Prescott. I'll let you know when the information is up on the website and you can register. Space is limited, so you will not want to delay, but in the meantime you can check out what kinds of classes are offered at Mrs. Clark's website.

If you know of anyone else, just forward this information on to them.

Ruth Ann Clark

dixiequiltr@gmail.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Rations

Standard daily rations by mid-war, in practical terms, consisted of a pound or so of beef, or more commonly pork, of indifferent quality, nine hardtack crackers, a rag full of coffee beans, enough sugar for the coffee, and a double handful of peas, beans, rice, or the like. Oh, and all they could beg, borrow, buy, or steal from the sutler and the locals. And remember these guys got \$6.00 a month - sometimes - which they promptly gambled away in Frog Town.

In case you haven't noticed, this doesn't describe the fare of most reenactors. Rather than rant about Twinkies, six-packs of soda, and multiple trips to McDonalds, I will describe what works for me. Just one word of warning first, though. Test all these recipes at home on the stove before you go into the field. You will find the ingredients, amounts, temperatures, and cooking times that work for you. Most important, you'll know what you're getting yourself in for, living on this fare for almost three days.

It will increase morale and retention tremendously if you share about half of what you've got with the fresh fish. Give them a taste and let them watch you prepare it, but whatever you do **DO NOT** let the spectators share. That is, unless you like being sued. You are not a licensed food vendor.

The following list of stuff should all fit in your haversack without overloading it or bulging excessively. If your haversack bulges, you've got too much stuff for three days. The bill of fare is designed to demonstrate a variety of recipes and preparation methods. All of this is absolutely authentic, though perhaps a bit more diverse than a real soldier would have had, unless he was part of a mess with some good foragers.

Shopping list:

A good-size slab of bacon, preferably un-sliced, but I'm not picky

Several pieces of hardtack

Enough dried white Navy Beans or peas to fill your mucket half full

A small carrot

A couple of apples or equivalent for eating No bananas or kiwi fruit, please.

A small onion and I do mean small

Three small potatoes

A bit of corn meal, tied up in a rag

A small handful of cabbage

Enough rice to fill your mucket about one inch from the bottom. I've cheated with minute rice before.

Some salt and pepper - the period equivalent of those little bottles of Tabasco they put in MREs today

Unground coffee beans and some raw sugar, if you drink coffee

Friday evening:

You pull in after work, park the car, and pack out your gear. You don't have a lot because you're not a FARB who brings everything under the sun. Hiking in, you actually look more like a soldier on campaign. Your first two priorities are to find a place to stash your gear and set up your tent, and a place where it's legal to have a fire. Always carry a portable butane stove in the trunk - just in case.

Grab your mess rag, a sharp knife, and canteen half or frying pan, canteen, bacon, and plate. Slice some bacon into the pan, add 2 ounces of water, and put it on the fire on low heat. Replace water in the pan as needed. It will take maybe 6 oz of water to do this right. Eat the bacon, but save a few pieces in your mucket. Now drop a piece of hardtack in the hot grease. Crank up the heat just a tad for this. When the hardtack has soaked up all that salty bacon grease, enjoy your skillygallee. Oh, did I mention that skillygallee will linger in the digestive system about as long as a can of stewed prunes? Actually, a bit shorter. But hey, it's authentic!

Before retiring, take that mucket with the bacon you saved and fill it half full of beans. Slice up your carrot and put into the mix, then fill it to the top with water. Cover it to keep the bugs out, and put it somewhere safe where it can sit overnight. A tablespoon of bicarb in the mix at this point will prevent your noisy bodily emissions from alerting the enemy to your unit's presence while you're hiding in the corn field waiting to flank them during the Saturday tactical.

Saturday morning

On Saturday, roll call, drill, and camp chores leave little time. A couple hardtack crackers and an apple will make breakfast. Grab that mucket with the beans (which will have swelled up by now) and add water to cover the beans. Put it on low heat to cook slowly until lunch. Check back a couple times and add water if needed. Too thin, Add some corn meal.

Saturday lunch

Ahhhh! Campbell's never made anything this good! Authentic, and extremely yummy. Remember no real man needs a spoon when he has a cup. Clean up and it's off to the corn field to hide.

Saturday dinner

A tried and true recipe to clean the taste of sulfur out of your mouth and nose. Get out your bacon, potatoes, and onion. In your pan, cube the bacon into 3/4 inch pieces in the bottom. Thin-slice the potato and cover the bacon. Add 4 ounces of water and let it simmer. When it's almost done, dice up the onion and throw it on top. That'll clean your nose out. Add a few pinches of corn meal to thicken. Just a little bit of cabbage works here, too.

Sunday morning

Now's the time to start thinking about what you can cook to use up everything you've got left. Swap food with your pards. First, let's cook that rice. Fill the mucket about one finger joint deep with rice. Cover it with about twice as much water, and put on medium heat until it boils. Take it off the heat, cover it, and let it steam for 20 minutes while you pack all your excess gear off to your car. Put all the rest of your cookables in your pan and have a repeat of Saturday night dinner with what's left, along with your rice.

So how do you clean the sticky, gooey, starchy rice mess out of the inside of a mucket? Glad you asked. Be sure the fresh fish watch to see how easy it is. Fill the mucket with water and set it beside the fire to boil. It'll boil clean.

Sunday lunch

Apple, hardtack, whatever. Stay away from offers of leftover skillygallee if you've got a long drive home.

"Cowboy Coffee"

I haven't covered coffee because I have no use for it, but this is how to make it. Wrap your load of un-ground beans in a double layer of rag, put them on a rock, and mash them up with the butt of your musket. You now have grounds. To the coffee grounds, add some sugar, and tie the entire mess up in a rag. Turbinado or raw sugar, which you can buy at the grocery store, is close to what the soldiers would have been issued.

To make a cup of coffee, take a handful of grounds & sugar from the rag and toss them in the bottom of the cup. Fill the cup with water and set it by the fire to boil. Just before you drink it, add a bit of cold water to settle the grounds. That's it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to everyone who has sent in their applications and fees for 2010! Your support has allowed us to move forward with purchasing a \$2,000,000 liability insurance policy for our member's protection and peace of mind while reenacting. We will be issuing to all registered members a membership card with the policy number and limited coverage information for you to take with you to reenacting events. If you have not joined the SWCWA and do not have insurance coverage, you are taking an unnecessary risk. More and more reenacting events are requiring proof of insurance to participate. For \$20 per/year single membership and \$30 per/year family membership you can have this very affordable coverage.

We would also like to give a big thanks to Roger Burke and Joe Spikes for all their efforts in getting the paperwork together and dealing with the State and IRS in setting up the Corporation and registering as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation! This was an enormous task made even more complicated by State budget cuts, etc.

The 501(c)3 non-profit status will allow us to receive tax-deductible donations that we can turn around and use to facilitate the educational functions of our organization through reenactments and other living history events. If you would like to contribute, we would welcome any personal or business donations. Receipts will be provided.

Please contact me at phxdutch@msn.com if you have any questions.

Your Servant,
Mike Vander Maten
SWCWA Treasurer

SWCWA GENERAL MEETING

The SWCWA will be having a General meeting on Saturday evening March 13, 2010 at Picacho Pass.

All members are welcome to attend and provide their thoughts and suggestions.

We are always looking for anyone willing to volunteer to help with events, communications, etc.

NEWSLETTER

This is the first bi-monthly publication of the SWCWA and we would always like your suggestions on what you would like to see in future editions.

The SWCWA Times is always looking for a good story or summary to include so if you have something you'd like to see published please send it to us.

SWCWA WEBSITE

Don't forget to check on the website for new items, biographies, unit information, history, impression information, etc.

www.SWCWA.com

Saturday & Sunday, March 13-14

9:30 am Gates open

10:15 am Artillery Demonstration - *Battlefield*

Spencer & Jackson Traveling Theatrical Troupe - *Encampment*

11:00 am Re-enactment of Battle of Valverde - *Battlefield*

11:30 am Fashion Show - *Sutler's Row* Church Service - *Sutler's Row*

Noon "Soldiering in the Southwest" Presentation - *Sutler's Row*

12:30 pm Spencer & Jackson Traveling Theatrical Troupe - *Encampment*

Civilian Living History Demonstrations (spinning, bullet making, displays) - *Encampment*

1:00 pm Artillery Demonstration - *Battlefield*

1:30 pm Re-enactment of Battle of Glorieta Pass - *Battlefield*

2:15 pm 4th U.S. Cavalry Regimental Band - *Sutler's Row*

Tea Party - *Encampment*

Fashion Show - *Sutler's Row*

3:00 pm Cavalry Demonstration - *Battlefield*

Civilian Living History Demonstrations (spinning, bullet making, displays) - *Encampment*

Cavalry Demonstration - *Battlefield*

Civilian Living History Demonstrations (spinning, bullet making, displays) - *Encampment*

Spencer & Jackson Traveling Theatrical Troupe - *Encampment*

3:30 pm Re-enactment of Battle of Picacho Pass - *Battlefield*

4:00 pm Spencer & Jackson Traveling Theatrical - *Encampment*

All times are approximate and subject to change.