

"It is one of the most creditable marches on record. I only wish our Army here had the mobility and endurance of the California troops." – Oct. 13, 1862 letter by Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, General-in-Chief, to Brig. Gen. Wright, commanding the Department of the Pacific, regarding the march of the Column from California into Arizona and New Mexico.

The March of the COLUMN FROM CALIFORNIA

March 23-27, 2011
**Anza Borrego Desert State Park
and vicinity**

- * Experience the March of the California Column coming over Little Pass into **Blair Valley around Noon on Friday March 25th**
- * Visit with the soldiers at their overnight camp at **Vallecito Stage Station (Vallecito County Park – Highway S2, mile marker 34-35) on Friday night and Saturday morning before 10:00 AM.**



In the Spring of 1862, more than 2,000 Federal soldiers -- mostly California volunteers, with a small contingent of U.S. Regular artillery -- set out from southern California to assist in repelling a Confederate invasion of New Mexico Territory (which then included Arizona). Under Col. (later Brig. General) James H. Carleton, these troops marched to the Rio Grande River and beyond, eventually penetrating as far as western Texas. Along the way, they had a few brushes with Confederate troops and a number of hostile encounters with indigenous Apache tribes.

Visit us in March 2011, as we recreate a portion of the Californians' epic trek. This march, about 32 miles in length, will follow almost exactly the historic path taken by Carleton's men as they hiked through northern San Diego County along the Southern Overland Trail.

You can see the Column on the Trail, when they march over Little Pass and stop in **Blair Valley around Noon on Friday March 25th** You can also visit with the soldiers at their overnight camp at **Vallecito Stage Station (Vallecito County Park – Highway S2, mile marker 34-35) on Friday night and Saturday morning before 10:00 AM.** Stay at the Stage Station for the rest of the day Saturday and share in the interpretive events for Vallecito Days 2011.

Event web site: <http://calcol2011.4thuscok.org/calcolH.html>