



BATTLELINES



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association

VOL. XXIV, No 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

15808 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027 - 760-737-2201

CALENDAR

Sun, January 2

Living History, Park

Tues, January 18

History Discussion,
Escondido Library, 3:30 to
5:30 pm, *How States Got
Their Shapes*, led by Ron
Hinrichs

Fri, January 28

Board Meeting, 11 am-1 pm

Sat, January 29

Mormon Battalion Day, Old
Town SHP, 10 am-4 pm

Sun, February 6

Living History, Park

Tues, February 15

History Discussion,
Escondido Library, 3:30 to
5:30 pm, TBA

Fri, February 25

Board Meeting, 11 am-1 pm

HAPPY 2011



A Battle Day to Remember : December 5, 2010 Californios and Dragoons



Photos courtesy of Melvin Sweet

**SPBVA 2011
BOARD
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President's Message:



by Tom Vilicich

Well, we did it again! On December 5th we held the annual battle re-enactment at San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. The weather was perfect—you could not ask for a nicer December day.

On behalf of the SPBVA, I'd like to send out a big THANK YOU to all participants. I can't acknowledge everyone who was there, but I would like to thank Gregg Giacomuzzi and the State Park personnel from Old Town for their help in setting up and operating the many activities on Battle Day. It was Gregg's attention to detail and dedication that helped make this year's re-enactment the best ever.

I would also like to acknowledge the Army JROTC from Kearny High School for helping out with the opening ceremonies flag raising. I know

that I had a blast on Battle Day and I'm already counting down the days to next year's Battle Day.

On December 9, I opened the park for a group of 30 or more US Marines from Camp Pendleton's School of Infantry. They are a great group. When the US military comes out to the park for the lecture on the battle, it gives us one of the strongest reasons why we need to keep San Pasqual Battlefield SHP open. I don't think I have ever been at the park more than 5 minutes without talking to the general public about the history of the valley or the battle. And, of course, there are the school programs and the living history First Sundays and the other activities that we participate in during the year.

Hope you all had a happy holiday season.



Tom Vilicich
on Battle Day

Photo courtesy of
Melvin Sweet

Thanks to these loyal members for their renewals:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| • Buskirk, Shirley | Escondido |
| • Hill, Greg | Yucca Valley |
| • Jimenez, MaryLou & Sons | Cypress |
| • Koestner, Gisela | Poway |
| • Smith, Stan & Betsy | San Diego |

Please welcome new members:

Scott Wolf Family of Carlsbad

Park Hours:
Saturday &
Sunday, 10 am
to 5 pm.

**Park Phone
Number:**
(760) 737-2201

SPBVA Info:
Tom Vilicich
(951) 674-0185 or
Trooper284@aol.com

**School & Adult
Tours Contact:**
Darlene Hansen
(760) 480-6320

BATTLELINES
Contributions
Deadline :
Feb 25, 2011
Contact editor,
Ellen Sweet,
ELSweet@gmail.com

History Discussions

November Discussion: Owners of Rancho Peñasquitos

The November History Discussion continued the subject of Rancho Peñasquitos with Shirley Buskirk leading the talk about the various owners.

The original owner, Captain Francisco María Ruiz, commandant of the San Diego Presidio, built an adobe house on the property, which was later incorporated into the Johnson residence. Ruiz gave his title to the rancho to his grandnephew Francisco María Alvarado, who was active in politics being a *regidor* (councilman), town treasurer, and justice of the peace. He lost the ranch due to a \$420 debt, but his brother-in-law Pío Pico purchased it and gave it back to Alvarado.

In 1857, Alvarado transferred the rancho to his son Diego. His daughter Estéfana married George Alonzo Johnson in 1859. Johnson was a man interested in steamboats. He contracted to supply Ft. Yuma by ships up the Colorado River, first with sailing ships and then with steamboats. After marrying Estéfana, he enlarged the Ruiz adobe for himself and his family. In 1869 he purchased half of the rancho for \$1500. He encountered poor fortune and in 1880 lost the ranch.

Colonel Jacob Shell Taylor, a Texas cattleman, was the next major owner. He enlarged the residence to 14 rooms to operate a hotel, but he was more interested in developing Del Mar. He purchased property in the seashore town of Weed, changed the name to Del Mar, built a hotel, ran a phone line and stage to Peñasquitos. He tried to subdivide the Peñasquitos holding, but this activity fell through in the crash of 1889. Heavy rains ruined his Del Mar property and the hotel burned in 1891. Taylor returned to Texas.

by Ron Hinrichs

Adolph Levi, a San Diego land speculator, purchased the rancho in 1889. Levi was prominent in the San Diego Jewish community in B'nai B'rith and the Temple Beth Israel. The Temple served the Jewish community for a number of years. It was sold and later repurchased and moved to Old Town's Heritage Park.

In 1910 Levi sold the property to Charles F. Mohnike for \$100,000. He lived in Chula Vista and was interested in horticulture. He added acreage, planted fruit trees, started a garden, turned the adobe into a bunkhouse for the vaqueros, and built another adobe on the eastern part of the ranch.

Wirt Bowman of Nogales, Arizona, was the next owner. He started out as a telegrapher, but entered into development and politics. He started a casino in Tijuana, a brewery in Nogales after Prohibition ended, and the Caliente horse racing track. He was active in Nogales and Arizona politics.

Two cattlemen, George Sawday and Oliver Sexon, bought the ranch in 1921. They restocked it with cattle and continued the ranch house as quarters for the cowhands. In 1962 they sold it to Peñasquitos Inc.'s Irvin J. Kahn, who was a San Diego land developer. Shelter Island was among his developments. Kahn's involvement with the Mob led to his loss of the property.

In 1974 San Diego City and County obtained the property and formed the Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

Coming attractions: In January, Ron Hinrichs will lead the discussion on *How States Got Their Shapes*, a replay of the October talk which was rained out for many of the discussion attendees. See the *North County Times* in February for that month's topic.

**WE APPRECIATE
OUR CORPORATE
MEMBERS and
ENCOURAGE YOUR
PATRONAGE**

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**San Diego Archaeological
Center**
"preserving pieces of the past"
16666 San Pasqual Valley Rd
Escondido 92027
760 291-0370



Valley Camper Sales
450 West 13th Ave
Centre City Pkwy at
13th Ave, Escondido 92025
760 745-2463



**DRAGON LEVEL
MEMBERSHIP**
(\$100 or more this year)

**Foucar, Allen & Barbara
Hill, Greg
Key, Robert S.**

First Sergeant's Corner

from Tom Vilicich

SCHOOL OF THE PLATOON

The platoon marching in column by file, to form it to the front, to the left, or on right, into line.

448.—The column marching right in front, to form it to the front into line, the instructor commands:

1. Front into line.
2. MARCH.
3. HALT.
4. *Right*—DRESS.
5. FRONT.

At the command MARCH, the first file continues to march straight forward. The others oblique immediately to the left, march in the new direction, and each file makes a *quarter-turn to the right* on coming opposite the place he is to occupy in the platoon.

When the first file has marched 20 paces, the instructor commands HALT. At this command, it halts square to the front; the other files come up and form successively on the left of the first, and dress to the right.

At the command FRONT, turn the head to the front.

The instructor gives the command *Right*—DRESS immediately after HALT, and commands FRONT when the last file is aligned.

449.—The column marching left in front, the movement is executed following the same principles, but by inverse means, at the commands: 1. *Front into line*; 2. MARCH; 3. HALT; 4. *Left*—DRESS; 5. FRONT.

450.—The column marching right in front, to form it into line upon its left flank the instructor commands:

1. *Left into line*.
2. MARCH.
3. HALT.
4. *Right*—DRESS.

5. FRONT.

At the command MARCH, the first file turns to the left and moves straight forward; the other files continue to march on, and at 2 paces before arriving opposite to the place they are to occupy in the platoon, they turn successively to the left.

When the first file has marched 20 paces, the instructor commands HALT. At this command, it halts; the other files come up and form successively on the left of the first, and dress to the right.

At the command FRONT, turn the head to the front.

The instructor gives the command *Right*—DRESS immediately after HALT, and commands FRONT when the last file is aligned.

He observes that the troopers turn exactly upon the point indicated, and before arriving at it do not incline to the side of the formation.

451.—The column marching left in front, to form in line on the right flank, the movement is executed following the same principles, but inverse means, at the command:

1. *Right into line*; 2. MARCH; 3. HALT; 4. *Left*—DRESS. 5. FRONT.

452.—The column marching right in front, to form in line upon the prolongation and in advance of its right flank, the instructor commands:

1. *On right into line*.
2. MARCH.
3. HALT.
4. *Right*—DRESS.
5. FRONT.

At the command MARCH, the first file turns to the right and moves straight forward; the other files continue to march on, and each turn successively to the right at 1 pace before arriving opposite to the place they are to occupy in the platoon.

(Continued on page 5)

First Sergeant's continued . . .

(Continued from page 4)

yond the point where the one preceding turned.

When the first file has marched 20 paces, the instructor commands HALT. At this command, it halts; the other files come up and form successively on the left of the first, and dress to the right.

At the command FRONT, turn the head to the front.

The instructor gives the command *Right*—DRESS

immediately after HALT, and commands FRONT when the last file is aligned.

453.—The column marching left in front, to form in line upon the prolongation and in advance of its left flank, the movement is executed following the same principles, but by inverse means, at the commands: 1. *On left into line*; 2. MARCH; 3. HALT; 4. *Left*—Dress; 5. FRONT.



Activities for everyone. A good time was had by all.

Top photos courtesy of Michelle Wolf; lower photos from Melvin Sweet





More volunteers at work



Photos courtesy of Michelle Wolf



JOIN NOW! Our non-profit organization supports the activities of the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. All members receive a subscription to *BATTLELINES*, a 10% discount on all bookstore items, special programs, field trips, history discussions, and opportunities to participate in our Living History Sundays and in our annual December re-enactment of the Battle.

SAN PASQUAL BATTLEFIELD VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

P.O. Box 300816, Escondido, CA 92030-0816

(760) 737-2201

This is my/our membership application & dues for the following category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dragoon (\$100 or more)
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization (\$25)	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$1,000 or more)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20)	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (\$100)	Please make checks payable to: SPBVA

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

OCCUPATION _____ INTEREST/SKILLS _____

SPBVA'S HISTORY DISCUSSIONS:

Tuesday, January 18 3:30—5:30 pm

How States Got Their Shapes

(a replay of the rained out Oct discussion)

led by Ron Hinrichs



Tuesday, February 15 3:30—5:30 pm

To be announced in the *North County Times*

Please call Ron Hinrichs 760 746-8380 for information.

Escondido Public Library, 239 S. Kalmia, 2nd floor conference room.

BATTLELINES

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BATTLELINES

JAN/FEB 2011

OFF THE SHELF...

by Shirley Buskirk

If you're having a hard time breaking the shopping habit, I have a suggestion. At the Battlefield we have some interesting items that will allow you to keep on shopping, but won't break your budget.

For "under a dollar"-tax included-you can get a postcard for a quarter. There are five to choose from. Two are of the stained glass windows in the visitor center: a Mexican Californio on horseback with his lance and two dragoons riding into battle with sabers drawn. Two others are copies of paintings: Lt. Gillespie firing the howitzer at the charging Mexicans and the relief party from San Diego arriving on Mule Hill. The fifth postcard is of the plaque depicting Lt. Beale and Kit Carson arriving in San Diego. Information is on the back. All five cost a dollar—a bargain!

Twenty-five cents is all that it takes to buy a copy of the *Butterfield Express*, a 1960s newspaper devoted to history. We sell three issues. They're a little

brown around the edges and some of the pages are tearing along the fold, but they're still a bargain. One features Kearny and the Army of the West's trip to California and the Battle at San Pasqual; another tells about a cast iron stove being sent to Ohio for burial instead of Capt. Johnston's body; and the third covers the war in California and reviews Emory's *Notes of a Military Reconnaissance*. Emory was in charge of Kearny's topographical engineers. His battle map sells for a quarter, and the set, which includes the map of the trip from Santa Fe, costs a dollar.

Also in the dollar bracket are three military reports: Gillespie's battle report to Commodore Stockton, and Kearny's trip from Santa Fe and the battle. Other dollar buys are cannon diagrams and lists of birds and plants in the valley. We also sell ten items for under five dollars and eleven more for under ten, but you'll have to come in and find out about those yourself.