



# BATTLELINES



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association

VOL. XXIII, No 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

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

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, Jan 3**

Living History, Park

**Tuesday, Jan 19**

History Discussion, *Some Early San Diego Families*  
led by Shirley Buskirk.  
Escondido Library, 3:30-5:30 pm

**Friday, Jan 22**

Board Meeting, 11 am-1 pm

**Sunday, Feb 7**

Living History, Park

**Friday, Feb 26**

Board Meeting, 11 am-1 pm

**Note: No February History Discussion**

*Happy 2010!*



## BATTLE DAY 2009: Another Successful Event



Photos courtesy of Michelle Wolf (top) and Melvin Sweet (bottom).

*SPBVA 2010  
BOARD*

*MEMBERS*

*Shirley Buskirk  
Jim Caldwell  
Cliff Clifford  
Royce Clifford  
Tom Cook  
Randall Hamud  
Darlene Hansen  
Ron Hinrichs  
Gisela Koestner  
Richard Meyer  
Leroy Ross, Jr.  
Ellen Sweet  
Tom Vilicich  
Bob Wohl*

*These officers  
were elected for  
2010.*

*President:*

*Tom Vilicich*

*Vice-President:*

*Ron Hinrichs*

*President Emeritus:*

*Leroy Ross, Jr.*

*Treasurer:*

*Jim Caldwell*

*Recording Sec'y:*

*Ellen Sweet*

*Corporate Sec'y:*

*Ron Hinrichs*

## President's Message:



by Tom Vilicich

Well, we did it again! December 6, 2009 was the date of our annual battle reenactment. This would make it the 163rd anniversary of the battle.

There are so many people who helped in putting together the reenactment, that it is difficult to mention them all by name without forgetting someone. I do want to recognize one member who came the farthest. Bob Bowman came all the way from Ohio to be a part of the cannon crew!

As for the bigger picture, we must not forget the volunteers of SPBVA, the rangers, state park staff, volunteers from Old Town SHP, and the period military band. The mountain men numbers were not as strong as in past years, but we do appreciate the loyalty of those who did come out. The Young Marines arrived just in time to help out with the flag raising ceremony and the boy scouts were in charge of parking duties and Dutch

oven cooking.

The horses from Happy Trails Stables arrived nice and early, and new member Chris Dye brought his own horse and two others for use in the reenactment.

We lucked out with the weather. The weatherman kept promising rain on Sunday, but it stayed dry, making for a great day. I think the weather was the biggest worry that I had all day. I was glad that I was able to get home and unload my truck before the sky opened up. When it did, boy did the rain come down!

One of the visitors on Battle Day posted a video of the second performance on the reenactment on YouTube. Look for it under "Battle of San Pasqual.avi." Check it out. When I think about it, I have never seen the reenactment from that point of view.

Let's make 2010 the best year ever.



Tom Vilicich leading the charge

Courtesy of Melvin Sweet

*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 :  
February 26, 2010  
Contact editor,  
Ellen Sweet,  
ELSweet@att.net*

## History Discussions

by Ron Hinrichs

### November Discussion: Borders of California



Hmmm . . . The California Borders, led by Jim Caldwell. This should be a short talk about the Constitutional Convention decision on the eastern border. The others were easy. On the west was the Pacific Ocean. South border was determined by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Article V, "it is agreed that the said limit shall consist of a straight line drawn from the middle of the River Gila, where it unites with the Colorado, to a point on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, distant one marine league due south of the southernmost point of the port of San Diego." The north border was determined by the Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819, which designated the limits of the borders of Spain and the United States. The north boundary of Alta California was placed at the parallel of latitude 42.

The eastern border was the cause of much discussion in the convention and actually was not decided until 1980. Two ideas were proposed: 1) that included all the territory east of New Mexico and would include Salt Lake City, and 2) a line just east of the Sierras. The first was negated because the Mormons had not been included in the convention and it was thought that Congress would not approve such a large state. So the eastern boundary was set as follows: a line at the 120th meridian and latitude 42, turning south to latitude 39, thence southeast to intersect the

Colorado River at latitude 35, and down the center of the river to the south border.

In 1862 a dispute arose as to the location of the town of Susanville. Both California and Nevada claimed it and this led to a short skirmish with gunfire and a few wounded.

This "Sagebrush War" led to a new survey of the eastern boundary. It turns out that the point of the 120th meridian and the latitude 42 had not been located properly. The two in charge of the new survey were J.F. Houghton from California and Butler Ives from Nevada. This survey started in 1863, stopped for two years, started and partially finished, but was stopped by the Civil War.

In 1872, the federal government hired Alexey Von Schmidt to resurvey the line. On reaching the Colorado River, he found that he was a few miles off. So he started back, but ran out of money. This left the line with a kink in it.

An 1893-1899 resurvey was made by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. This boundary was accepted by both states. A 1980 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the boundary as it existed in 1899.

#### Coming Attractions:

**Tuesday, January 19:** *Some Early San Diego Families* led by Shirley Buskirk.

**NOTE: There will be no February history discussion as the library will be closed that month.**

Discussions are held the third Tuesday of the month, 3:30-5:30 pm, at the Escondido Public Library, 239 S. Kalmia, 2nd floor conference room. Call Ron Hinrichs at 760.746-8380 for information.

*WE APPRECIATE OUR  
CORPORATE  
MEMBERS and  
ENCOURAGE YOUR  
PATRONAGE*

*Randall B. Hamud,  
Attorney at Law  
1200-Third Ave,  
Ste 1321, San Diego 92101  
619 696-0815*



*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*



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

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



### Rangers, old and new, at work for Battle Day

Top left: Retired ranger Elizabeth Allancorte helping new rangers, Wendy Aoki-Radley and Jason Archuleta, plan for the big day. Top right: Ranger Jason, center, making baskets. Below, Rangers Wendy and Jason directing traffic.



Photos by Melvin Sweet

#### *Thanks to these loyal members for their renewals:*

- |                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Buskirk, Shirley          | Escondido |
| Caron, Shelley Hayes      | Carlsbad  |
| Clifford, Brendan & Royce | Encinitas |
| Koestner, Gisela          | Poway     |
| Matheron, Richard & Kate  | Escondido |
| Novotny, Suzanne          | Aptos     |
| Trussell, Jane            | Escondido |

#### *A very big WELCOME to these NEW members!*

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Dye, Christopher | Escondido       |
| Hill, Greg       | Yucca Valley    |
| Mullins, Joe     | Rancho Santa Fe |

## First Sergeant's Corner

from Tom Vilicich

### SCHOOL OF THE TROOPER, MOUNTED

#### *Target practice.*

421.—For the target practice on horseback, the target should be 8 feet high and 3 feet broad, the proportions of a man mounted. At 5 feet of its height, it is marked with a black band 3 inches wide. This band is struck when the pieces are properly aimed.

The troopers are formed in one rank, 300 paces from, and opposite, the target.

A stake is planted in the direction from the squad to the target, to indicate the distance from which the troopers are to fire.

The carbine is first fired at 50 paces, and the pistol at 10. As the troopers become habituated to the target practice, the stake is progressively removed from the target, until at the distance of 100 paces for the carbine, and 30 for the pistol.

After the carbines are loaded, the instructor gives the following instructions:

Whenever a trooper *fires with the carbine*, he halts, facing the object at which he is to fire, and places his horse in such a direction that the piece is directed between the shoulder and the left ear.

To give the troopers the habit of placing themselves promptly to fire upon the objects placed in front, and upon their left or right, they are required to execute the movement hereinafter detailed.

1. The trooper designated leaves the rank, takes the position of *advance carbine*, and marches strait to the stake. Having reached it, he halts, cocks the carbine, fires, moves forward, and after taking a few steps, turns about; he returns, loading his piece at the same time, passes by the rear, and places himself on the left of the rank.

2. The trooper designated leaves the rank, takes the position of *advance carbine*, turns to the left, then to the right, and marches strait forward until he arrives abreast of the stake. There he turns to the right and directs himself upon the stake; when

he is near it, he turns to the left, halts, cocks his carbine, aims, and fires; he then turns to the right, and in loading his piece places himself on the left of the rank, passing by the rear.

3. The trooper designated leaves the rank, takes the position of *advance carbine*, turns to the right, then to the left, and marches strait forward until he arrives abreast of the stake. There he turns to the left, and directs himself upon the stake; when he is near it, he turns to the right, halts, cocks his piece, aims, and fires; he then turns to the left, and in loading his piece places himself on the left of the rank, passing by the rear.

The troopers, having executed these movements correctly *at the walk*, are exercised in them *at the trot* and *at the gallop*.

After the troopers have been exercised in firing the pistol at the halt, the instructor gives them the following instructions:

To fire the pistol in marching, the trooper should not halt, neither change the direction or gait.

To fire to the front, the trooper designated leaves the rank, *draws the pistol*, and cocks it. Having arrived abreast of the point from which he is to fire, he aims, fires, marches on a few steps, turns about, and places himself on the left of the rank, at the same time loading his pistol.

To fire to the right or to the left, the trooper executes the 3d or 2d movement indicated for the carbine, except that he does not halt, neither faces the target, but fires without changing his direction.

To fire to the rear, the trooper designated leaves the ranks, *draws the pistol*, cocks it, and marches towards the target, so as to leave it a little on his right, having arrived at the proper distance, he turns about, and, when he finds himself between the target and the rank, he aims, fires to the rear at the target and returns, in loading his pistol, placing himself on the left of the rank.

These movements being executed correctly *at the walk*, are repeated *at the trot* and *at the gallop*.

From the River Park: Friends of the Sikes Adobe will be meeting on Wednesday, Jan 13, 2010, at 10:00 am at Old Poway Park, Poway Historical Society, 14114 Midland Rd. Agenda includes report on reconstruction, reopening plans for June 2010, and long term goals and projects. Questions or suggestions may be directed to Anne Pierce Cooper, [anne@sdrp.org](mailto:anne@sdrp.org) or 858 674-2275, ext 19.



**Battle Day Re-enactment by Dragoons and Californios**



Photos courtesy of Michelle Wolf





**Dragoons,  
Sailors, and  
Mountain Men  
with guide Kit  
Carson**



First three photos courtesy of Michelle Wolf.  
Cannon shot courtesy of Melvin Sweet

## A Day of Activities



Demonstration area activities: Basketmaking, corn husk dolls, salsa making, leather work and blacksmith in background



Washington Square Citizen's Brass Band led opening exercises



Photos courtesy of Michelle Wolf (top two and center left) and Melvin Sweet (center right and bottom two)





Top left: Abel Silvas as Running Grunion  
 Center: Music by Los Californios and dancing by Los Bailadores of Old Town.  
 Top right: Surveying demonstration by new member Greg Hill  
 Bottom: Salute to the Fallen



## Amphitheater Performances

Photos courtesy of Melvin Sweet (top four) and Michelle Wolf (bottom two)





SPBVA table and cooking for volunteers with help from the Scouts



## Volunteers at Work

Kit Carson and Dragoons

Photos courtesy of Melvin Sweet (top two and center left) and Michelle Wolf (center right and bottom)

Flag salute



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 19**  
**3:30—5:30 pm**  
**Some Early**  
**San Diego Families**  
**led by Shirley Buskirk**



**NOTE: There is no February discussion as the library will be closed that month.**

**Please call Ron Hinrichs 760 746-8380 for information**  
**Escondido Public Library, 239 S. Kalmia, 2nd floor conference room**

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BATTLELINES JAN/FEB 2010

## OFF THE SHELF...

by Shirley Buskirk

Happy New Year! Did you make any New Year's resolutions? It's not too late, you know. May I suggest resolving to read one book a month? It doesn't require any work—just a comfortable chair and a good light. Think of it as therapy—a book can take you out of your everyday world, away from the cares of real life.

I have hundreds of books around my house—many still unread. But I've run out of room, so my resolution is to read those books I've inherited or picked up at a thrift shop and then pass them on so someone else can discover them.

Now I'm not supposed to be suggesting thrift shops. I'm supposed to tell you what you can buy at retail prices, but I'll be honest with you. You'll never find most of the books we sell in any thrift shop and besides, the people who our books want to hold on to them.

I had planned to tell you about two new books, but

I haven't had time to read them. It may be January to you, but for me it is ten days before Christmas and I haven't written a card, bought a gift, or put up a tree yet, and I have three days to turn this in. So here's what I'm going to do. I'll tell you what the blurbs have to say about these two books and by the next issue I'll have read them and be able to tell you more about them.

*Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California* seemed appropriate. The park was closed for eleven months last year because of damage caused by the Witch Creek fire and we all need to know how to make our homes safer from wildfires. The other book, *Just Before Sunset*, is about the Kumeyaay Indians of Southern California and tells about their legends, tribal customs, and history.

To be continued . . .

Why not join Shirley in reading these two books? They are available at the SP visitor center.