

~THE CALL TO ARMS~



NEWS LETTER OF THE COMSTOCK CIVIL WAR REENACTORS

Nineteenth Edition ~ March, 2008

The War is Ongoing! The Enemy is Engaged! The Call goes out to All Patriots to do their Duty!

Our beloved nation is under assault today by three great enemies: Abject Historical Ignorance, Indifference to Heritage, and Apathy toward Hard Won Liberties! If unopposed, these vile forces will destroy the society that has done more for human rights than any other in the history of civilization. As the great Historian Shelby Foote has so eloquently stated; *“Any understanding of this nation has to be based...on a [deep] knowledge about the Civil War. [The] Civil War defined us as what we are and it opened us to being what we became, good and bad. To understand the American character in our century it is imperative to learn about this enormous catastrophe of the nineteenth century.”*

Sadly, our schools are not teaching the richness and complexity of the American Story. Our public presses are concerned about current issues and rarely frame them in their historical context. Popular Culture happily wallows in the insipidness of fleeting celebrity and is blind to heroism in our past. A young child of our acquaintance, for example, recently asked her school librarian for a book about the Civil War. She was told they had none available for her reading level. This is more than a great tragedy. In our day, when a new generation is fighting against an evil and murderous totalitarianism, it is an *obscenity*.

What Can You Do to Stem the Tide of Ignorance and Indifference?

You can take the courageous history of the American Civil War and give it life and breath for every member of our community, the young and the not-so-young. You can join us by donning the uniforms, taking up the arms, and living the lives of our progenitors. You can revive the sentiments, the customs, and the culture of that by-gone day and make it vivid in the imaginations of all those we touch. Yes! Re-enacting is hard. Certainly! It can cost us money. But taking our ease and keeping

our change in our pockets leaves this great story virtually untold, to our great shame and even greater detriment.

It must also be noted, that reenacting is a family affair. There are vital roles to be played by mothers, fathers and children. Such opportunities are rare in our times. Reenacting is exciting for any who take part. Not uncommonly reenactors discover talents they never knew they had. The demands of the personas they adopt have forced many of us into our history books to explore the lives and roles of many individuals and organizations that are now largely forgotten.

In summary, Dear Reader, you must determine whether you have Confidence in your Culture. Have you Courage in your Conviction that America’s proud history must never be lost or forgotten? Join us in this Great and Worthy Cause! Join the Comstock Civil War Reenactors. Visit our virtual home at CCWR.us. See the attached materials to join us by real paper and print. Speak to any of our members and ask how you and your family can get involved.

A Word from Our President

Dear members;

We have a great year ahead of us. We have a couple of new events. One is the Rendezvous and one is Dayton. I think this is going to be one of the best years for the club.

Also excited about the tactical in Anderson, CA with the R.A.C.W. March 29&30. Check the schedule in the news letter or on the web. Come out and support our club and most of all come have FUN.

Some exciting news: Ken Ald has taken the job of recruiting.

Don't hesitate to call me day or night
(707) 616-3507, (775) 786-9754 or email
jack_eaves@yahoo.

Honored to be your President
Major-Captain Jack

A Message from Civilian Director

Dear Civilians,

A new year has begun and how excited we are about this year! Our schedule is full and many of the things we have always hoped for in sponsorship and cooperation have arrived. We will be joining the RACW for our tactical. The RACW civilians are eager and happy to have us join them. The civilian tactical will take place primarily on Saturday to allow us to watch and enjoy the military efforts on Sunday. For tactical Information look at the www.RACW.org web site for directions and further information. Wen: March 29-30, 10AM-4PM on Saturday, Sunday 9AM church service. Where: Anderson Park, Anderson, CA (Directions on the RACW web site) What: Sunny Spencer is coordinating our end of the tactical and any questions need to be directed to her or to me. Izabella will be running a swap meet all day on Saturday so bring those things to trade or sell. She will also be holding regular swap meets for re-enactors only at every CCWR and RACW events this year. There will be sewing: so bring any problems as there will be experts to help, and/or hand sewing or hat work as Sheila will be there to help with decorating hats. Also Deanna Johnson (Sister Rodella) is making a handkerchief quilt and hopes re-enactors will donate their extra handkerchiefs to this effort. The quilt will be a group effort to be raffled off at the Christmas Ball or maybe even sooner. We are making Victorian friendship button bracelets. Please bring buttons to share and to use in your own. These were the rage during the Civil War period as old buttons were a good source of new jewelry and demonstrated affection between friends. We are having hair demonstrations and discussions for every type of hair and hair pieces. One of our members will be assisting in any persona problems. We will take our safety tests while at the RACW civilians vote on club business. (If you are unable to come to the Tactical please download the test from the website and send it to me to be graded.) There will be a Pot Luck Lunch so bring something to share. In the afternoon the military will be offering a 1 hour training on how to behave if you are a civilian on the field during a battle as a nurse or immediately after or before the battle. Don't miss out on this! General warm and good exchanges will also be the order of the day. A small swap meet will unofficially go on all day Saturday. I look forward with joy to seeing all of you this wonderful year. May your days be filled with joy and blessings. Do not hesitate to get in touch. Mrs. Izabella, Civilian Commander [www. Izabella1860@yahoo.com](mailto:www.Izabella1860@yahoo.com) (775) 786-9754.

Exciting Up-Coming Events for 2008

March 15 St Patrick's Day Parade, Virginia City

March 29-30 Combined Tactical CCWR and RACW, Anderson, CA

April 11-14 Civil War Conference in Oregon City. (Reception Thurs. night. Workshops all day Friday, conference presentations all day Sat. and Sun. For more informations go to www.lstovi.29thmaine.org Rebecca and Jim Ross are involved and there will be experts from the east to enliven the event.

April 25-27 RACW Event. Dog Island in Red Bluff, CA.

May 9-10 Dayton's Oodles of Noodles: *A new event!!!* CCWR will participate in the popular Italian Festival in Dayton. We have been invited to do a School Day on Friday the 9th with a small encampment. Saturday the 10th between 10Am and 2PM there will be recruitment drive at the festival. At 7PM there will be a Ball at a Victorian Hall. As our Civilian Commander notes: We have no costs at this event. Everything is provided by Dayton and they are working on getting us a sponsor to cover our expenses. This is a wonderful opportunity to recruit and mine a new area and have some fun. We would always enjoy having new civilians, too.

May 16-18 RACW Event Yreka Wilderness and School Day in Yreka, CA

Gibson Ranch Reenactment. See the ACWA website link on www.ccwrt.us webpage

June 13-15: Carson City Rendezvous!!! See more information about this from Sunny's news spot in this Call to Arms Dispatch.

July 4-6 Mohawk Valley Reenactment, Graeagle, CA Always a spectacular weekend in one of the most picturesque towns in the Sierras.

July 19-20 Duncan Mills, CA, sponsored by CHAS) go to CCWR website for links.

August 2 Shingletown event in Shingletown, CA. A new RACW event for living history and a small battle.

August 30-September 1 CCWR event at Virginia City. NOT to be MISSED! Bigger and even Better this year! Historic V&T Steam engine beautifully restored and roaring down the tracks again! Many train battles. Victorian Tea including an antique show, fashion show and presentations by historians. Also this year, the historic submarine of the Confederate State's Navy, the *Hunley* (traveling replica) will be on display.

September 20-21 Dry Creek Civil War Days, Clements, CA. This RACW event will host living history and battles on Sat and Sunday.

October-November TBA RACW Butte College event in Chico, CA

October-November TBA RACW event in Anderson, CA.

November 8-9 Moorpark, CA Rotary Club Charity Event. Perhaps the largest assembly of Re-enactors on the West Coast.

December 6 Sparks Christmas Parade 11AM CCWR event.

December 6 5PM Virginia City Lighted Christmas parade.

December 13th CCWR Christmas Ball

A Dispatch from Sunny Spencer

This year the Spring Tactical will be held in conjunction with the RACW. I am the Civilian CCWR coordinator and can be contacted at sunny1860s@yahoo.com (Editor's note, please note the "s" after 1860 in Miss Spencer's e-mail address.) Go to www.racw.org/Events/Tactical.htm for map and schedule. I'll provide further information to the civilians presently. I am also the coordinator of the Carson City Rendezvous in June, 13-15 at Mills Park in Carson City. This is a huge opportunity for our club. (Editor's Note: It is a mark of the growing esteem in which the CCWR is held by the community that we have been asked to come to the Rendezvous!) Be aware that swap meets will be held at all CCWR events this year, usually on Saturday mornings between 8 and 8:45 in the Civilian Town. Bring your stuff, large or small to swap or sell. The next CCWR Board Meeting is scheduled for March 15th, 2008 at the JM Restaurant on the corner of Plumb and Virginia in Reno.

Words about Reenacting within the Cultural and Religious Framework of mid-19th Century America. Excellent Reminder from the 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry (1stvirgina.com)

"While many reenacting units do a fine job in their quest for physical authenticity through research into the tangibles such as uniforms and weaponry, it seems to be rare and nearly unknown for units to explore, develop and portray what was far more important in making the people of the era who they were, namely the intangibles. Social expectations, religious beliefs, values, political awareness, etc. are what made our ancestors who they were and thus dictated what they did and why. A reenactor who is appropriately attired and yet portrays 21st century worldviews, morality, demeanor, politics, etc. is missing the bigger part of the picture and misleading the public." (Taken from the homepage of the 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry.)

The Citizen's Companion (Vol. XIV, number 4) excerpted sections from a book by Robert J. Miller (Both Prayed to the Same God; Lexington Publishers, 2007)

which describes the societal landscape in the mid-19th Century. It was devout, alive with religious beliefs having experienced the Second Great Awakening that had rolled across a young America leaving thousands of new evangelicals. No social or cultural institution could weekly influence the numbers of people that could the churches. In the mid-19th Century, there was almost universal assent to the existence of the Divine Being. This belief was so widely accepted that atheism or agnosticism would have been unthinkable, a bizarre aberration, in fact.

In antebellum America, North or South, no group of men had a stronger grip on the public mind and affection than the clergymen of the day. They were "the public custodians of the popular conscience." Pulpits thundered with a vehemence and rectitude that would be unrecognizable today.

Your Editor portrays a woman whose service to the Northern soldiers was driven by religious conviction (a character drawn from the story of Mother Bickerdyke.) Subsequent issues of the Call to Arms will explore how religious belief and spiritual conviction typical of the era can and should be used to strengthen our historical representations.

Classified Advertisements

Sunny Spencer will have a Wall Tent for sale this year if anyone is interested. Contact information in her news spot above.

(Editor's Note: The Call to Arms offers free advertizing for all CCWR Club members. Send information to :sanitary.commission@yahoo.com)

Dear Reader:

Attached you will find an application for enlistment in the Comstock Civil War Reenactors. As stated above, there are countless urgent reasons for becoming active in this great endeavor. If you agree, please fill in the form and send it in. If you are a member, please give it to a friend and importune them to join.

Humbly yrs,
Sister Lois
United States Sanitary Commission

Comstock Civil War Reenactors Application for Enlistment

Type of Membership: New _____ Renewal _____

Number of persons in Family Membership: _____

Please list name(s) of enlistee(s) and age(s) of any minors:

Address

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Brigade Affiliation: Please check

U.S. Armed Forces	C.S.A. Armed Forces	Civilian Corps
2 nd U.S. Regular Infantry Co. C	4 th Virginia Co. A	Confederate Refugees
1 st U.S. Sharpshooters	7 th Virginia Cavalry	Townfolk
81 st Pennsylvania	Hardaway's Alabama Battery	Sanitary Commission
1 st Nevada Cavalry		Christian Commission
4 th U.S. Artillery Co. B		Sutler
		Medical Corps

Do you have a medical condition or physical limitation restricting your activities?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please elaborate:

Member Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian of minor children: _____

Individual membership 30.00; Family membership \$45.00 Please make checks or money orders out to CCWR and mail to:

P.O. Box 21373

Reno, NV 89515-1373

(Club use only)

Date received:

Brigade Commander Approval:

Amount Received: _____ *(Check / Cash)*

Membership Number:

Unit Commander Approval:

Date approved and Card Mailed:
