

The Eagle Eye

Volume III, Issue IV

Non Facilie Viridis Est

AUGUST 1863 {2006}

SNAPSHOT EDITION!

2006 CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

Ardenwood

AUG. 19 & 20

NCWA Event / ACWA Supporting

Old Sacramento

**GOLD RUSH DAYS
SEPT. 1, 2, & 3**

NCWA Supported
{Details not yet available}

Nevada City

SEPT. 9 & 10

ACWA Event

Tres Pinos

SEPT. 15, 16, & 17

NCWA Event

Galt / Dry Creek

SEPT. 23, & 24

RACW Event

Modesto

OCT. 7 & 8

ACWA Event

Kearney Park

Fresno

OCT. 20, 21, & 22

NCWA Event
w/Friday School Day

Las Vegas, Nevada

OCT. 28 & 28

A New Event
Details to follow

SHARPSHOOTER'S KIT ON DISPLAY AT FORT POINT



The Sharpshooter Display proved to big a big draw, once the band stopped playing!

August 5th marked the return of troops to Fort Point, San Francisco. Although the contingent was small, our presence was appreciated by the park personnel and by our hosts, the ever gracious Bybergs.

Lieutenant Rogers and Corporal Manzo were in attendance to represent Company C along with rifleman Erik Byberg.

Traffic through the fort was moderate and weather was very favorable throughout the day.

The unique aspect of doing the Fort Point event is that you interact with many tourists from not only other states but more often than not, other countries. Some have a surprising knowledge of the American Civil War and others have not a clue.

The highlight of the day was Corporal Manzo's sharpshooter talk done completely in Spanish for a very interested family.

Next Fort Point event is February 2007.



SCENES FROM DUNCAN MILLS



1ST SGT. HANSON WORKING THE CROWD



Cassini Ranch, usually a nice respite from the Summer heat, was the scene of much hot fighting during July. Crowds were good this year and we managed to have a good time despite being stretched thin by our camp guard duties. Of particular interest was a French recruit, Clem, who served with us all weekend. Actually, Private Donovan's wife's cousin, he showed great enthusiasm and a natural aptitude for the deadly work of being a Sharpshooter in Union Army.



THE 1ST LIEUT. AND THE RECRUIT



PRIVATE DONOVAN AND KIN

LINCOLN, ONCE MORE INTO THE BREECH!



The hammer of this breech-loading rifle designed by Hiram Berdan, c. 1863, is cast as a likeness of then President Abraham Lincoln's head, so that essentially Lincoln fires at the enemy.

Courtesy Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming, gift of Olin Corporation, Winchester Arms Collection

An Excerpt from
THE CIVIL WAR: STRANGE AND FASCINATING FACTS
 Reviewed by Pvt. Tim Pedersen

Here is a very strange tale that I wish to share with my brothers in green that actually has a connection of sorts to Berdan's Sharpshooters. This story comes by way of a book titled "The Civil War: Strange and Fascinating Facts" by Burke Davis. The book has some really neat stories, facts and not so factual items. I found two mentions in this book of the Berdan Sharpshooters. The first was of the development of a calcium light flare for night shooting. The second I would classify as not only strange but clearly fiction and here it is for your amusement.



CALIFORNIA JACKSON?

Some latter-day tales of the war are a match for any of their predecessors. One concerning the fate of Stonewall Jackson is told by Roy A. Wykoff, Jr., of Davenport, Iowa:

In 1935 a retired army major, John Murphy, revealed to Wykoff that Stonewall Jackson was not killed at Chancellorsville, Virginia, in May, 1863, as his contemporaries and history would have it. Murphy declared that as a Confederate sergeant he had served as orderly to Jackson, and as proof displayed, a silver watch engraved: "To T.J. Jackson from Robert E. Lee."

Murphy's tale: "Stonewall Jackson and I deserted from the Confederate States Army on May 2, 1863 at 9 P.M. We rode up the Plank Road to the Mountain, or Mineral Springs, Road, at Chancellorsville, and crossed the Union lines there.

"Eventually we rode to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where we found a group of dead Federal soldiers. This was in July, 1863. General Jackson put on a Federal soldier's uniform and found in its pocket papers identifying its owner as Moses E. Milner, California Volunteers.

"General Jackson joined the 1st U.S. Sharpshooters at Gettysburg, the regiment under Colonel Hiram Berdan.

"In 1867-68, General Jackson was a scout for General Custer and served also under the name of 'California Joe' Milner in the Black Hills for General Crook.

"In 1876, this man (General Stonewall Jackson, alias 'California Joe' Milner) was shot from ambush near Fort Robinson, Nebraska, by two cattle rustlers.

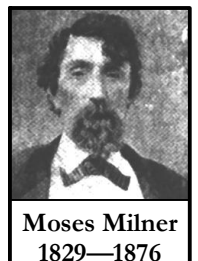
"On November 1, as a lieutenant of the 14th U.S. Infantry, I buried this man, Jackson-Milner, in a lead-sheathed coffin at Fort Robinson military cemetery."

As evidence, offered in face of the testimony of hundreds who saw Stonewall in his casket before his Richmond burial in May, 1863, Wykoff cites the records from Fort McPherson National Cemetery at Maxwell Nebraska, where a grave numbered 59211, Section S, is occupied by Moses E. Milner. Officials confirm the record of Milner's burial, but know nothing of the legend itself.

Fun story, eh? Davis's book also has some other very interesting "facts" and firsts. One of them reminded me of the episode on "Mythbusters" where they tried to reproduce a Rebel rocket but could not really get the thing off the ground. The book mentions that the rocket was multi staged and while they were able to recover the first stage, the rest of the rocket was never found. I found the book on Amazon.com and recommend it as an inexpensive and fun read.

—Pvt. Tim Pedersen

EDITOR'S NOTE: Moses Milner was a famed scout and indeed was the "California Joe" that once served as a scout for Custer when he was not drunk. He and Truman Head were entirely different people and Milner was never in the U.S. Sharpshooters.



Moses Milner
1829—1876

The Eagle Eye

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST
COAST BERDAN
SHARPSHOOTERS



Proudly serving the Berdan
Sharpshooters of the the NCWA,
ACWA, RACW, and NCWC

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2006 CAMPAIGN {CONTINUED}

Moorpark
NOVEMBER 4 & 5
Southern California
non-club affiliated event

Duncans Mills
**NOVEMBER
18, 19, & 20**
TACTICAL
CHAS / NCWA Non-Public Event

When planning to attend any event, please respond to the muster email so that our expected numbers may be passed along to the brigade staff. This timely information is used to plan the layout of the Union Camp at each event site.

FROM THE PATENT PORTABLE DESK OF 1ST LT. D.W. ROGERS

Many thanks to those who were able to make Duncan Mills this year. I know it was a hot and exhausting event, but at least we should have our obligations to Brigade finished for the year.

For those unaware, we had an incident after the close of the event where some person apparently took some trash to the Confederate camp and deposited it there. They identified themselves as a Berdan following orders. Ted was directly informed of this by Alan Ginos {CHAS artillery Captain} rather than through channels as a courtesy to us.

Now, it may seem patently obvious to us that we would not be involved in this kind of behavior, but I assured Alan that I would contact everyone that attended as a show of good faith. Just as I thought would be the case, we had nothing to do with this prank and the story will probably end with the miscreant never being identified.

I just wanted to let everyone know that there should be no hard feelings toward CHAS or Captain Ginos as he was completely professional, respectful, and non-accusatory throughout. If I find out any more information, I would certainly let everyone know.

1st Lt. Dave Rogers



Please consider submitting an article today. If you find something of interest on the web, personal experiences, old newspaper articles, obscure books or the like. Let us know about it.

**If you have friends or family that have taken photos of our recent events, please share them with us.
*Many thanks to our contributors this month.***

PRESENT, ARMS!, ER, BB GUN!

Private Ballard {left} proves that manual of arms must be learned at a tender age.

All reports that this is a photo of the private and her brother at the very first McCloud event seem to be erroneous. It is believed correct, however, that the young recruit managed to slip a piece of paper into those Keds and state, "I is over eighteen!"

This technique was more frequently used in the South owing to the fact that it is easier to conceal the slip of paper under feet with extra toes!

