



BATTLELINES



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association

VOL. XXXIII, No 2

WWW.SPBVA.ORG

MARCH/APRIL 2020

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

President's Message:



by Tom Vilicich



**Photos taken in
Old Town SD on
Mormon
Battalion Day in
January 2020**

By MaryLou Jimenez

Well, it is official! Marci Trussell was voted on to the SPBVA board of directors at the annual meeting in October. And at the last board meeting she was nominated to and accepted the position of Treasurer/Secretary for the year 2020. The other election results are as follows: president, once again, will be me, Tom Vilicich, and Don Coates continues as vice-president.

This last year was a busy one at the park. We opened during non-business hours for special tours. We had three school tours, two adult tours, and 18 military tours. It looks like it is gearing up to be just as busy for 2020. Already, we have had three tours and have four more scheduled for March.

It looks like we will be at the fair in Del Mar again this summer. The question is, would any of the SPBVA membership like to join us in manning our information booth? You get to meet all kinds of people. The first year that we attended the fair, I met some descendants of President Polk. So, you never know who you are going to run into at the fair. If you would like to join us at the fair or other events, please send me an email at trooper284@aol.com. We could sure use the help!

We are also expecting to take part in the Memorial Day service at Fort Rosecrans the end of May. If you have never been to a national cemetery on Memorial Day, it is the perfect year to start. As a Navy veteran, I can't think of any place I would rather be on Memorial Day.

**SPBVA 2020
BOARD**

*Donald Coates
Randall Hamud
Darlene Hansen
Jody Hansen
Marcí Trussell
Tom Vilicich
Bob Wohl*

Emeritus:

*Shirley Buskirk
Ron Hinrichs*

President:

Tom Vilicich

Vice-President:

Don Coates

Treasurer/Secretary:

Marcí Trussell

SPBVA Info:

Tom Vilicich
(951) 674-0185 or
Trooper284@aol.com
School/Adult Tours:
Darlene Hansen
(760) 807-7807

Battlelines:

Ellen Sweet
Deadline Apr24, 2020

First Sergeant's Corner

submitted by Tom Vilicich

I have, over the years, concentrated on the Dragoons and their weapons and tactics. Did you know that the 1841 Dragoon manual has the Manual of the Lance in it?

Principles of the lance

80.—The lance perpendicular in the right hand, which holds it 2 feet from the butt, the arm nearly extended, the wrist turned in, the thumb in front of the staff, the forefinger extended on the side, the others in rear, the butt of the lance 2 inches from the ground. The staff against the hollow of the shoulder, the left hand hanging by the side.

Manual of the lance.

Present—LANCES.

1 time.

81.—At the last part of the command, which is LANCES, bring the lance with the right hand 4 inches from and opposite to the left eye, the right arm nearly extended; seize it quickly with the left hand at the height of the elbow, the thumb extended along the staff; change the position of the right hand, extending the fingers in front of the staff, the thumb behind it.

Carry—LANCES.

1 time.

82.—At the last part of the command, which is LANCES, change the right hand to the position of *carried lance*, No. 80; bring the lance to the right shoulder with both hands, and drop the left hand by the side.

CHARGE—LANCES, (as front rank.)

2 times.

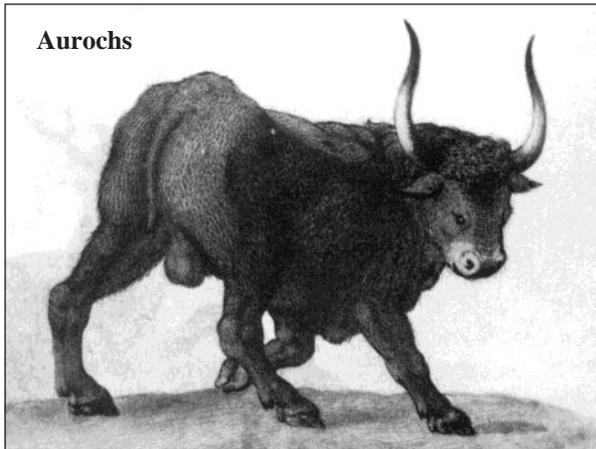
83.—1. At the first part of the command, which is CHARGE, make a half-face to the right on the left heel, carrying the right foot square behind the left, the hollow of it opposite to and 3 inches from the left heel; detach the lance with right hand perpendicularly, 4 inches from the shoulder.

—2. At the command, which is LANCES, bring down the lance with the right hand into the left, which seizes it 18 inches from the right, the left elbow near the body, the upper part of the body inclining forward, the right hand resting upon the right hip, the point of the lance as high as the eyes.

I shall continue the Manual of the Lance next time.

The Vaca and the Vaquero

“*Vaca*” is the Spanish word for “cow” and a “*vaquero*” is a “cowboy.” The origin of the vaca is a very interesting story. All cattle are descended from an extinct wild ancestor called aurochs. Aurochs were huge animals that stood seven feet at the shoulder and weighed 2,200 pounds. They originated in the sub-continent of India and then spread north into China and west into the Middle East. Over the centuries,



Aurochs

various breeds were developed and brought further west into northern Africa, across to the Iberian Peninsula, and eventually into Spain. From there, they spread into Europe. The last recorded aurochs died in Poland in 1627.



Cortés

The Spanish longhorns were descendants of the Moorish-Andalusian cattle which descended from aurochs. There were five breeds of Spanish longhorns brought to the New World. One was the *berenda*, with its white body and black markings around the neck and ears. Another was the tan to red *retinto*, with its long narrow head. A third was the ancient black *ganado prieto*, also known as the Andalusian fighting bull. Another was the *Asturian Mountain* cattle—the least hostile. The *criollo* breed was the hardest and used by Hernán Cortés for food in his conquest of Mexico.

by Gil Garcia, Senior Park Aide



Christopher Columbus

During Columbus’ historic voyage of 1492, he brought the first horses and cows to the Caribbean on his three ships. Two years later, he returned with 17 ships, more horses, and Spanish longhorn cattle. During this second voyage and a third one with 26 ships, he also brought colonists to begin populating the New World. By 1504, cattle ranching in Hispaniola was underway. Shortly thereafter, the Spaniards brought horses and cows from Hispaniola to Mexico, where they continued to multiply.

After Cortés conquered Mexico, he paid his soldiers by giving them horses and cows and land grants called “*encomiendas*.” The *encomienda* started during the re-conquest of Muslim Spain. It was used to extract tribute from Muslims and Jews. In the Americas, the *encomienda* was a Spanish labor system that rewarded conquerors with the labor of the conquered subjects, *i.e.*, the Indians. These *encomiendas* were the first *ranchos*. Cortés and his men established the first *ranchos* in 1531. The Spanish soldiers became the *rancheros* (the owners of the *ranchos*) and they taught the Mexican Indians to be the *vaqueros* (cowboys). Cortés branded his herds with three crosses. This was the first recorded brand in North America.



First cowboy

(Continued on page 4)

The Vaca ... *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

Vaquero culture was inherited from the Spanish cavalry, who adopted it from the Moorish “zenata.” The word zenata is “jinete” in Spanish and “rider” in English. The Spanish vaqueros learned their riding skills and the use of the lance from the jinetes of the Spanish cavalry. Other equestrian terminology can be traced back to Arab rule in Spain by the Islamic Moors. The bridle or heavy nose band today called a “hackamore” derives from the Spanish word “jaquima” (pronounced “hakeema”), which in turn is derived from the Arabic word “sakima.” Even the word “adobe,” the mud bricks used to make the *casas* and *haciendas* comes from the Arabic word “at-tub.”

Jinete of the Spanish cavalry



So the first cowboys in America were the Indians—the Indians of Mexico. The vaquero’s children learned the trade early in life. Between the ages of five and ten years, they often practiced their roping skills. They began by roping a chair, a fence post, or any other stationary object. Later, they would practice on moving objects such as a dog, cat, pig, chickens, etc. By the time they were 10 to 12-years old, some children had become very proficient with the lasso and could rope moving objects while they themselves were riding a horse. A few of the 12-year olds could sometimes even break horses. Eventually these young boys would become vaqueros about the age of 14. A seasoned vaquero could stop a horse in its tracks or send it into a gallop with only the slightest sway of the reins.

The operators of the first ranchos and haciendas around Mexico City engaged in many money making businesses: cattle, lumber, sheep, mining,

farming, etc. Haciendas were enclosed communities where workers and their families answered to the *hacendado* or *patrón* (the ranch owner). The land owners provided them with food, clothing, shelter, and religious instruction. The vaqueros, hacienda workers, and their families, in turn, provided the labor. The patrón and his family lived in the large house while the laborers lived in small huts called “*jacals*.” Vaqueros could be referred to as jinetes (riders). Only the hacendado, the patrón, or some other wealthy businessman could be referred to as a “*caballero*.” One of the highest stations you could have in life was to be a caballero. Caballero literally means “horseman.” Another meaning of caballero is “gentleman” and refers to the wealthy ranchero. Even today, you see caballeros used on the restroom doors in Mexican restaurants.

Over the next 300 years, the Spanish would move north, first establishing missions and presidios and then ranchos and pueblos. The Indian vaqueros branded and herded cattle for the missions. They also drove herds north to other missions and ranchos. During this time, many Spaniards mixed with the Native Americans population and a mixed race of people called “*mestizos*” was born. The mestizos would later become the dominant vaqueros in Texas, New Mexico, and California.

Mestizo vaquero



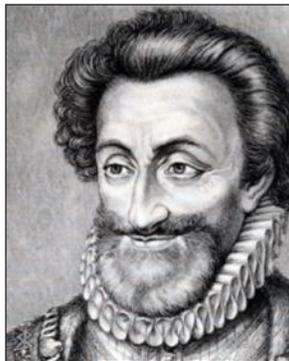
The Spanish had exploited the Indian population in the Caribbean so badly that many of them died from excessively harsh labor and disease. They would soon be replaced by African slaves. Black slaves and mulattos would eventually become part of the vaquero story. Mulattos were the result of the Spanish mixing with the African slaves.

(Continued on page 5)

The Vaca ... *continued*

(Continued from page 4)

The conquistadors sent expeditions up the Rio Grande through Texas and New Mexico. Francisco Vásquez de Coronado sent the first expedition, led by Hernando de Alarcón in 1540. However, it would not be until 1598 that the Spanish would begin colonizing this area. Mission San Gabriel was established that year in New Mexico by Juan de Oñate. Oñate, a descendant of a wealthy mining family from Zacatecas, New Spain, won the contract to settle New Mexico. This expedition to colonize introduced new animals and plants into the area. An inventory of Oñate's livestock before he left Zacatecas included 846 goats, 198 oxen for carts, 2,517 sheep, 316 horses, 41 mules, 53 hogs, 500 calves, and 799 cows, steer, and bulls. Before the Pueblo Indian Revolt of 1680, cattle ran at will over the ranges of New Mexico.



Oñate

The presidio and pueblo of Santa Fe were established by Governor Pedro de Peralta in 1610. These settlers would be driven out during the Pueblo Revolt. During this time, New Mexico consisted of 21 distinct Puebloan groups. The uprising was a success for a time in that the Pueblo Indians won their independence. Independence lasted only 12 years. Weakened by attacks from other tribes and drought, the Spanish were able to re-conquer them in 1692.

Colonizing resumed, eventually with the establishment of 24 missions and several presidios in New Mexico. Few land grants for ranchos were given during Spanish rule. Once under Mexican

rule, many more ranchos would be established in New Mexico.



Peralta

As in New Mexico, the earliest land grants in Texas were made by the Spanish crown to establish missions and presidios. In the 1690s, the first cattle arrived at Corpus Christi de la Isleta and Mission San Antonio de Senecú. These two missions were established in 1680. Between 1680 and 1793, thirty-five missions and nine presidios were established in Texas. Many of the missions had herds which were tended by the Indian and mestizo vaqueros.

Ranchos in southern Texas began in 1749 when the governor of Nuevo Leon, José de Escandón brought 3,000 settlers and 146 soldiers to settle the area along the Rio Grande. The first ranchos were under constant threat of attack by hostile Indians. In spite of this, ranching there was a success. The land grants were laid out in *porciones* (portions), long thin strips of land beginning at the river and stretching inland on both sides of the Rio Grande. Ranchos began to spread throughout Texas. By 1821, Mexico had won its independence from Spain, the mestizos had become the dominant vaqueros, and the story of the American cowboy was about to begin.



Escandón

Don José de Escandón

JOIN NOW! Our non-profit organization supports the activities of the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. All members receive *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

www.spbva.org

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

- ___ Student (\$5) ___ Sustaining (\$50) ___ Dragoon (\$100 or more)
- ___ Individual (\$15) ___ Organization (\$25) ___ Benefactor (\$1,000 or more)
- ___ Family (\$20) ___ Corporate (\$100) Please make checks payable to: SPBVA

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

OCCUPATION _____ INTEREST/SKILLS _____

2020 CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1
Living History, Park

Friday, March 20
Board Meeting, 11 am-1 pm

Sunday, April 5
Living History, Park

Friday, April 17
Board Meeting, 11 am-1 pm

Park Phone:
(760) 737-2201 weekends
or (619) 220-5422
www.parks.ca.gov
www.spbva.org

Park Hours:
Saturdays & Sundays,
10 am to 4 pm Oct — Mar;
10 am to 5 pm Apr—Sep

Membership Renewals:

Alexa Clausen, Escondido	Gisela Koestner, Poway
Don & Vicky Coates, Escondido	Richard Meyer, Barstow
Will Gorenfeld, Novato	Tom Vilicich, Corona

- **Bob & Judy Bowman**
- **Justin & Michelle Burkhard**
- **Donald & Vicky Coates**
- **Jane Stokes Cowgill**
- **Jake Enriquez Family**
- **Allen & Suzanne Foucar**
- **David Frazee**
- **David Herbert**
- **Bob Johnson—Milo Johnson**
Automotive
- **Ellen Sweet**
- **Thomas M. Vilicich**
- **Bob & Robyn Wohl**



Dragoon Level Members