

BATTLELINES



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association

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MAY/JUNE 2020

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

President's Message



by Tom Vilicich

I hope this issue of *Battlelines* finds you all in good health. Of course, COVID-19 has had an effect on the California State Parks system. In March, all State Parks and Beaches closed. This means that business is not as usual. We have had to cancel two military group visits and the National Forest Fire Department program. We still have one group scheduled for May. We are on a "wait and see" schedule for this group. It is a helicopter group from Camp Pendleton. They are wanting to bring out their entire command of 350 Marines. This would be a real challenge; I am looking forward to it. We will just have to wait and see what COVID-19 has to say.

There are other things that are not happening because of the pandemic. The San Diego County Fair has been postponed. We normally have an information booth there once a week during the event. Memorial Day at Fort Rosecrans the end of May is still up in the air. I hope to have more information by May 1, pending on several things including what happens at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. And, will there be a Fourth of July celebration this year? Will there be Soldiers and Citizens events during Stagecoach Days in August? I have lots of questions that cannot be answered until further notice.

On a brighter note, wild flowers are blooming from our recent rains. It has not been a big bloom this year. But I have pictures of what little bloom there was prior to the COVID-19 closures.

P.S. The other day I went to the bank to make a cash withdrawal. Never in my entire life would I have believed that I could walk into a bank with a mask on, ask for money, and not get into trouble for it!



Stay Safe!



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elsweet@gmail.com

State Park Update

Before the wake of COVID-19, there was a new star (badge) who arrived on March 1, 2020, to fill Ranger K. Shea's position. Ranger Jessica Murany came off the hill at Palomar State Park to test her wilderness skills in an urban historic park. Ranger J. Murany brings with her 15 years of law enforcement experience at three different parks: Ocotillo Wells for three years, San Diego Coast North Sector for two years, and Palomar State Park for nine. Ranger Murany brings with her a love for animals (horses, goats, cats, and dogs), the outdoors (traveling, fishing, dirt biking, and snowboarding), and a passion for parks (OHV, Wilderness, Coastal and Historic). She has experience in coordinating over 70 volunteers, park champions, and trail maintenance crews, and doing fire sup-

pression mitigation.

Please welcome Ranger Jessica Murany to the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park family as we weather this pandemic together.



Say "Hi" to Ranger Jessica Murany

Smallpox: A Step Back in Time By Ellen Sweet

The current coronavirus pandemic brought to mind the battle with the smallpox virus in Southern California in winter 1862 to spring 1863. Smallpox was particularly virulent among the Native Americans, who had no protective antibodies to this terrible disease.

In January 1863, District Judge Benjamin Hayes wrote to Alex Godey, Indian Superintendent of the Southern District of California: "The undersigned, citizens of the counties of San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino, beg leave respectfully to call your attention to the recent alarming spread of the

smallpox, within said counties, and especially among the Indian population, as well those domesticated upon the ranchos and in towns, as those who continue to live in their several rancherias. In the small town or settlement of San Juan Capistrano, about one hundred and thirty Indians have died of this disease, within the last three months, and it is now beginning to affect Temecula, Pala, San Ysabel, and the other principal rancherias of the mountains." [Orange, Riverside and Imperial counties were incorporated later.]

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Smallpox... *continued*

(Continued from page 2)

Correspondence and newspapers from that period show that fears and passions ran high. Rancho Montserate (Fallbrook) had at least eight smallpox cases by January 1863 and rancho owner Don Ysidro Alvarado, his wife, and several other family members fell victim. When the Alvarado family and friends tried to bury their dead at Mission San Luis Rey, neighboring rancher W.B. Coutts and a few others tried to stop the proceedings, claiming it would infect their ranches. The ensuing affair resulted in the death of at least one and the wounding of several others.

Cave J. Coutts of Rancho Guajome wrote his brother-in-law Abel Stearns in Los Angeles, April 5, 1863, "Smallpox reported as taking a fresh start at San Pasqual." A week later he wrote Stearns ur-

gently requesting matter to try re-vaccinating his family and crew. It was rodeo time and Coutts was very apprehensive. "Have vaccinated all hands quite a number of times, but am satisfied now that the matter was no count [meaning it was not effective], although it came from both [Dr. John S.] Griffin & [Dr. J.C.] Welsh. " [Note that Dr. Griffin is the same one from Kearny's army.]

During this time period, Coutts and others allowed no one from outside to visit their rancho—social distancing in 1863. "We are all badly scared about small pox—keep a sentinel posted to give notice of the approach of any one, and have to know all about them before they can come nearer than the corral." [Coutts to Stearns, January 3, 1863]

The Genesis of the American Cowboy in Texas

by Gil Garcia,
Senior Park Aide

The word "Texas" comes from the Indian word "Thechas," which means "friends." The Spanish spelled it and pronounced it "Tejas," and applied it to all the Indians of Texas. The early Americans changed the Spanish word Tejas into "Texias," and called themselves "Texians." Still later, the words became Texas and Texans.

In 1821, Moses Austin petitioned and received approval for a 200,000-acre land grant in Tejas, a province of Mexico. He also received permission to bring 300 American families to settle the area. However, Moses died before completing his plans. His son Stephen Fuller Austin followed through and established the first Anglo-American colony there in 1825. American migration continued and more colonies were established. By 1832, approximately 3,500 Americans had settled along the lower Colorado and Brazos rivers.



Stephen Austin

Before the arrival of the Americans around the mid-1700s, cattle ranching had already begun spreading north into Texas and New Mexico. By this time, the mestizos (mixed race) had become the dominant vaqueros.

Almost a century later, the Americans in Texas would learn the art of cattle herding from the Mexican vaqueros. After learning the trade, they also called themselves vaqueros. Vaquero became "buckero" and buckero became "buckaroo." Vaquero attire, saddles, and other tack were adopted along with vaquero terminology.

RANCHO became *RANCH*

RANCHERO became *RANCHER*

CORRAL became *CORRAL*

LA RIATA became *LARIAT*

LAZO became *LASSO*

CHAPARERAS became *CHAPS*

MUSTENIO became *MUSTANG*

BRONCO means rough and wild

RODEO from the verb "*rodear*" means to encircle (the round up)

JAQUIMA pronounced *Hakeema* became *HACKAMORE*

REMUDA means to remount or exchange horses

The first generation of American cowboys in Texas were the buckaroos. They were known by that name for 30 to 40 years, but would eventually adopt the name "cowboy." There are three theories as to where the name cowboy originated or came

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Texas Cowboy ... *continued*

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from.

The first is that when the buckaroos went to fight in the Civil War in 1861, they left the young boys behind to take care of their cattle.

The second theory is that they left their black slaves behind to manage the cows. Because both the youngsters and the slaves were referred to as “boys,” the term cowboys came into use.

The third theory is that Irish drovers introduced the term. In the 1750s, the Irish began small cattle drives in the American colonies. They drove herds from Boston to New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. These cattle drives helped create the roads linking the northern colonies to the middle colonies. These Irish cowhands were usually referred to as drovers, but on occasion called “cowboys” as an insult. Eventually, some of these Irish drovers or cowboys migrated to Texas and introduced the term. Maybe the word “cowboy” came about as a result of all three theories.

Hernán Cortés himself brought the Spanish longhorn cattle called *criollo* from Hispaniola to Mexico, so that he would have beef on his expeditions. Some of these criollo cattle escaped, became wild, and grew into large herds. These longhorns grew tough and could survive on brush, if needed. They developed a fiery temper and a malicious cleverness. Being long-legged, they were very swift. They could use their long horns for defensive protection or as offensive weapons. The wild criollo was a very dangerous breed.

Out on the plains, the Indians preferred buffalo over the longhorns. The meat of the longhorn was somewhat tough and stringy, similar to venison. Wolves that followed the bison herds shied away from the longhorns because of their orneriness and their longhorns.

The Texas longhorn is the result of accidental crossbreeding of the wild descendants of the criollo cattle and the English long-



horns that some of the American settlers owned. The Texas longhorns were herded and moved during the famous cattle drives of the American buckaroo or cowboy.

Cowboys for these cattle drives came from many backgrounds. Some were discharged soldiers back from the Civil War, some were ex-slaves and mulattos, and some were Mexican-American vaqueros. Cattle drives were tough work. Cowboys would work sunrise to sunset and put in 12 to 14-hour days. The more experienced riders rode at the front of the herd. The less experienced riders rode at the back of the herd where conditions were more dusty. The most experienced cowboy was called “*El Segundo*” (the Second) and he rode alongside the trail boss. For the average size herd of 2,500 steers, 10 to 12 cowboys were needed with three horses for each cowhand.

Cattle drives were a major economic activity in the last half of the nineteenth century. Texas had lots of longhorn cattle and the country wanted beef. Between 1845 and 1895, 27 million head of cattle were driven from Texas to the railheads in Missouri, Wyoming, Kansas, and Nebraska.



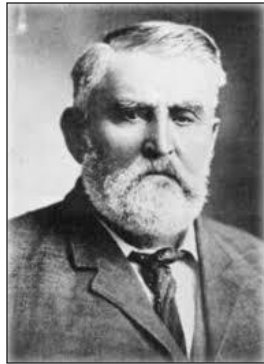
As early as 1845, the Shawnee Trail began to be used to move steers from Austin, Texas, to Sedalia, Missouri. A typical cattle drive consisted of anywhere from 1,500 to 3,500 cows in each herd. The Shawnee Trail was the first major route used to take Texas Longhorns to market in the Midwest. It was used until 1867.

The Goodnight-Loving Trail ran 700 miles from Fort Belknap, Texas, to Cheyenne, Wyoming. It

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Texas Cowboy ... *continued*

(Continued from page 4)
 was used during the Civil War (1861 to 1865) to supply beef to Confederate troops. Oliver Loving along with his partner Charles Goodnight founded the trail. Loving came to Texas from Kentucky in 1845. On a drive to New Mexico,



Charles Goodnight



Oliver Loving

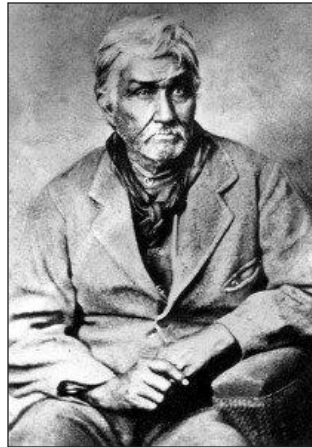
Oliver Loving scouted ahead of the cattle, and was badly wounded by Indians. He went for five days without food before he was rescued, but died of gangrene shortly thereafter. Charles Goodnight came to Texas from Illinois in 1846. He was a former Confederate soldier, Texas Ranger, and Indian fighter (Comanche). Unlike his partner, Charles lived a long life, passing away at the age of 93 in 1929.

The Chisholm Trail began to be used after the Civil War, starting in 1867. It was used for 20 years until 1887 and moved cattle from Brownsville,

Texas, to Abilene, Kansas. It was founded by Jesse Chisholm, a multicultural trader from Tennessee who was half Cherokee. Jesse spoke English, Cherokee, and Comanche and often mediated between the

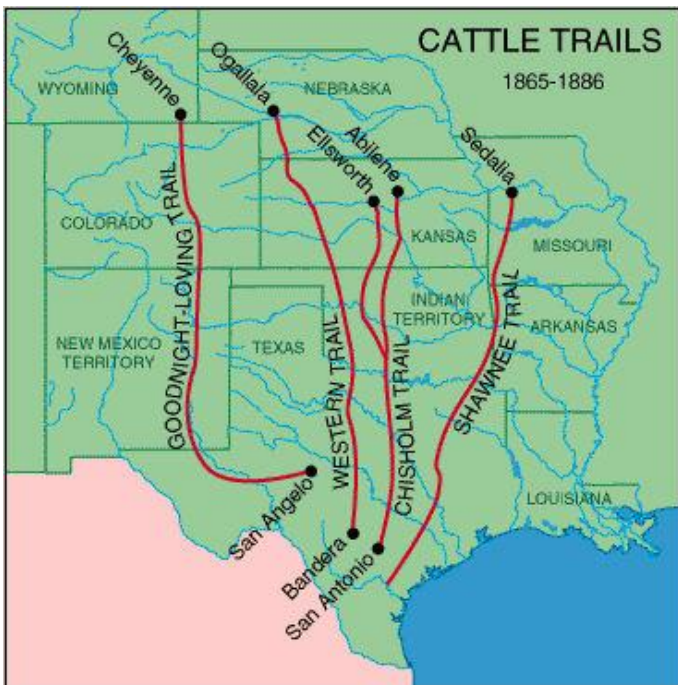
Indians and the whites. He was a merchant fur trader and owned a trading post at the southern terminus near the Red River. He also owned a trading post at the northern terminus near Kansas City. Together with his scout Black Bear, Chisholm developed the trail to transport his goods from one trading post to the other. He is said to have been an exceptionally honest and fair man.

Jesse Chisholm



The Western Trail ran from Brownsville, Texas, to Ogallala, Nebraska, and all points in between. It replaced the Chisholm Trail and was longer. The trail was first used by John Lytle in 1874. He transported 3,500 longhorns and within 5 years it became the most traveled trail in US history. This route was

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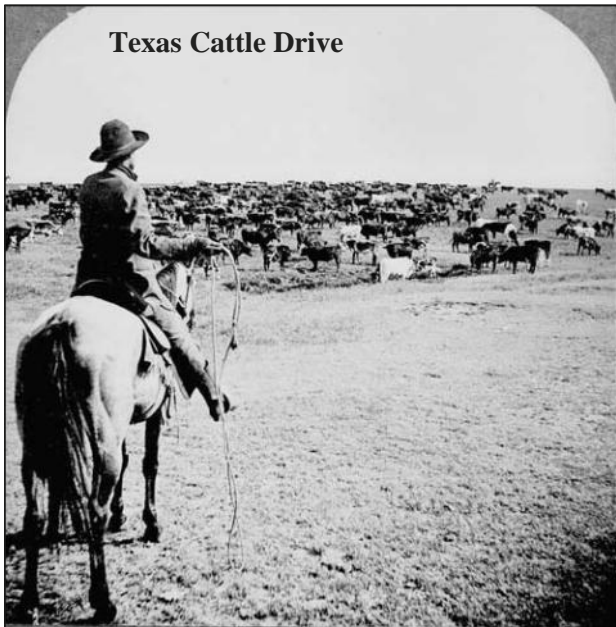
Texas Cowboy ... *continued*

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used until 1893.

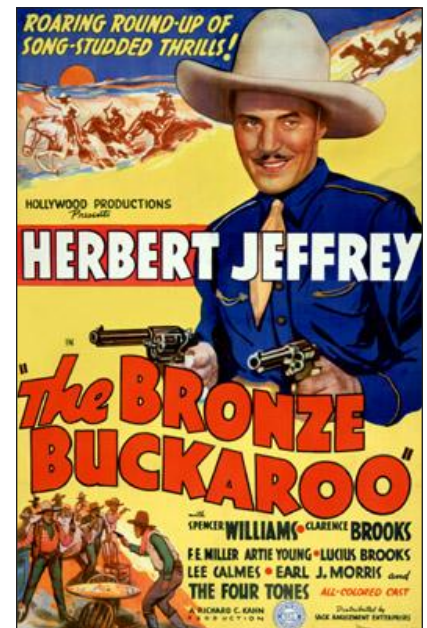
The heyday of the American cowboy lasted about five decades. Barbed wire invented in 1874 made it affordable for ranchers and farmers to start fencing off large areas. This would eventually help put an end to the open range. The railroads reached Texas in the 1870s and by the late 1880s had spread to the larger towns and cities. By the mid-1890s, long cat-

tle drives were no longer necessary and they passed into history.

After these legendary cattle drives from Texas—the Shawnee Trail, the Goodnight-Loving Trail, the Chisholm Trail, and the Great Western Trail—the American cowboy became a great cowboy in his own right. With help from Hollywood, the American cowboy became the icon of the West.



Vintage movie posters from Hollywood featuring the American cowboy



Principles of the Lance

CHARGE—LANCES (*as rear rank*), 2 times.

84.-1. At the first part of the command, which is CHARGE, execute the first time of No. 83, and step off 6 inches to the right with the right foot, bringing the left foot 3 inches in front of hollow of the right, as to be placed opposite to the interval on the right of the file-leader.

2. At the second part of the command, which is LANCES, bring down the lance as prescribed for the front rank, No. 83, in such a way that it shall fall between the file-leader and the man on his right, without touching them.

Carry—LANCES (*front and rear ranks*).

1 time, 2 motions.

85.-1. At the last part of the command, which is LANCES, turn on the left heel to face to the front, carrying the right heel by the side of the left: bring up the lance with the left hand, carrying it to the right shoulder, and place the right hand as in the position of *carried lance*.

2. Let go of the lance with the left hand, which is dropped quickly by the side.

The men of the rear rank resume their places behind their file-leader.

Order—LANCES.

1 time.

86.—At the last part of the command, which is LANCES, let the lance slip to the ground through the right hand, which seizes it immediately at the height of the stock, the elbow and forearm pressing against the staff, which is held perpendicularly, the butt on the line with and 1 inch from the right toe, the left hand hanging by the side.

Carry—LANCES.

1 time.

87.—At the first part of the command, which is LANCES, let go of the lance with the right hand, letting it rest against the hollow of the shoulder; extend the right arm downwards to its full length; seize the lance, the wrist turned inwards, the thumb on the front of the staff, the forefinger extended on the side. The others in rear; raise the butt of the lance about 2 inches from the ground by slightly bending the arm.

Shoulder—LANCES.

1 time.

88.—At the last part of the command, which is Lances, raise the lance with the right hand, and place it on the right shoulder, the point upwards and directed towards the rear and left; change the position of the right hand, placing the thumb underneath, the fingers on top, the arm half extended, the elbow down, without being pressed against the body.

Carry—LANCES.

1 time.

89.—At the last part of the command, which is LANCES, bring up the lance perpendicularly, placing the right hand in the position of *carry lance*, No. 80.

Order—LANCES.

As prescribed, No. 86.

REST.

90.—Let go of the lance, resting it against the shoulder, and replace the right hand extended on the staff.

At the command ATTENTION, resume the position of *order lances*, No. 86.

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

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

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

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

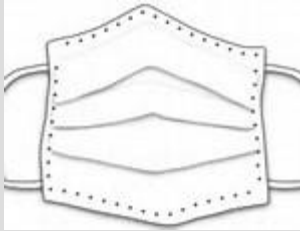
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

OCCUPATION _____ INTEREST/SKILLS _____

2020 CALENDAR

Until further notice, all events are cancelled and the park is closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic



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:

Bob & Judy Bowman, Franklin, OH
 Carole Chavez, Roll, AZ
 Janell Percy, Bermuda Dunes, CA



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