

BATTLELINES



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association

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Judge B.I. Hayes' Notes

An excerpt about San Pasqual and Native American Captain Panto from Judge Benjamin I Hayes' notes archived in the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley. (MSS C-E81, Folder 5 Notes on California Affairs)



Benjamin I. Hayes, 1849

San Pasqual.

H. H. Bancroft Collection
Bancroft Library

In the Spring of 1856 I visited this place, for no other purpose than to see the battle ground and verify what facts I might. Mr. Phillip Crosshwaite (who was in the battle) and Mr. Willie B. Coutts accompanied me. Upon understanding my object, the old Indian Captain, Panto, at once led me to a spot some fifty yards toward the hill, from the rocky elevation on which his own house stands, and at the edge of an Indian corral, near which three cows were grazing. This he pointed out as the spot where Capt. Ben. Moore fell.

He would be apt to remember this, from the fact that nothing is more talked of still, among Californians and Indians, than the bravery displayed by that officer.

Directly opposite to the southeast, at the distance of half a mile; - a patch of mustard and weeds and the dry river bed intervening; - the road is seen descending, the steep San Pasqual hill, precipices on either side. To the left northwestward is the cañada through which runs San Bernardo river, and up which a short distance the Californians had their horses grazing on that night. Their horses had all been turned out, with the exception of three or four, evidently without any suspicion of a hostile force so near them.

San Pascual.

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Hayes' San Pascual. . . *continued*

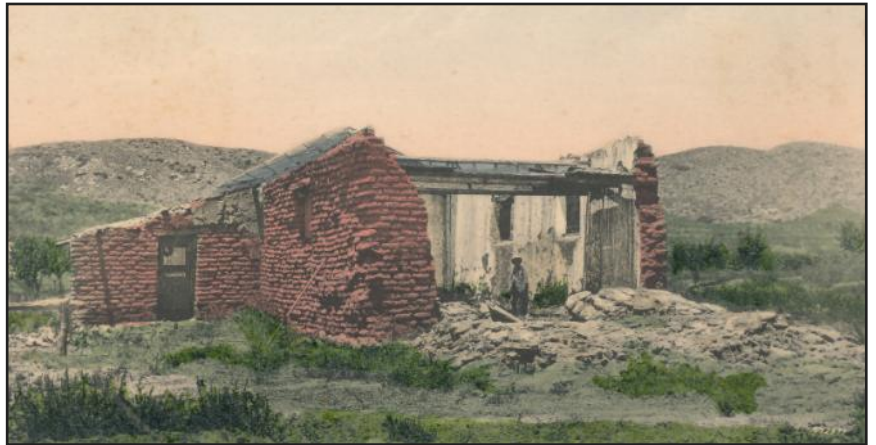
(Continued from page 1)

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**Postcard showing Ruins
of San Pasqual Chapel**



In Memory of . . .

SPBVA member Shelley Hayes Caron passed away on December 6, 2020. She was a descendant of the Marron and Osuna families, who participated in the Battle of San Pasqual representing the Californio side. Her great-great-grandfather was Silvestre Marron, the younger brother of the grantee of Rancho Agua Hedionda. Shelley lived in the Silvestre Marron adobe on a small piece of the original Mexican 1842 land grant. She generously invited the community to tour her home on many occasions, including SPBVA members.

Another great-great grandfather was Judge Benjamin I. Hayes, who arrived in California in late December 1849 and served as District Court Judge in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino for many years and who chronicled and archived much of the early history of Southern California. See pages 1-2 of *Battlelines* for an example of Judge Hayes' contribution to our early history.

SPBVA 2021**BOARD***Donald Coates**Randall Hamud**Darlene Hansen**Jody Hansen**Marci Trussell**Tom Vilicich**Bob Wohl***Emeritus:***Shirley Buskirk**Ron Hinrichs***President:***Tom Vilicich***Vice-President:***Don Coates***Treasurer/Sec'y:***Marci Trussell***SPBVA Info:**

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State Parks News

California State Parks, including San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, remain closed due to increased cases in the COVID-19 pandemic. With the start of vaccination in the populace, we look forward to an improved 2021.

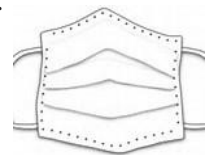
State Parks has provided online programs to provide learning during this closure. You may take a virtual walking tour of Old Town created with the support of the Boosters of Old Town San Diego (BOOT) and NWB Imaging. https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30468

You can also follow a virtual San Pasqual Battle Day event online at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=655 and watch a Facebook page for the park at <https://www.facebook.com/sanpasqualbattlefieldshp>.

You can also send photos for posting or other materials to Lucy Chalgren at Lucy.Chalgren@parks.ca.gov

In the meantime, please remember to stay home as much as possible, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, stay socially distanced, and keep staying positive and patient.

For those people interested in volunteering once the park is open again, please contact State Parks Interpreter II Megan Suster for the volunteer agreement form and the Bear in Mind workbook which needs to be completed. You can reach Megan at Megan.Suster@parks.ca.gov.

**First Sergeant's Corner****submitted by Tom Vilicich***Charge in column.*

963.—The charge in column is used against infantry formed in column or square. For this purpose, the regiment is formed in close column, and the squadrons take successively a distance equal to double their front, so that when the first squadron charges, it may be promptly followed by the second, which, if the first forces a passage, throws itself into the square and finishes the defeat of it. If the first squadron is repulsed, it retires by the right and left to form at the rear of the column, and uncovers the front of the second squadron; this squadron renews the charge; if it does not succeed, it makes way for the third, and so on until the charge shall have completely succeeded.

These charges in rapid succession should at length break the square, especially if they are directed, as they always should be, against the angles, which are the weakest points when not protected by artillery.

The squadrons which have not charged are sent in pursuit until they are stopped by the *rally*; they then return and place themselves in column behind the squadrons already formed, or in their rank and place in line if the regiment is deployed.

In the charge by echelons and in column, the Lieutenant Colonel and Major charge at the head of the squadrons which the Colonel designates.

Letters from the War with Mexico

submitted and introduced by
Will Gorenfeld

The war with Mexico, which began in April 1846, was but a little over six months old when this article was published on January 14, 1847, in the Washington, D.C., *The Daily Union*. By this time, President James K. Polk's plans to quickly "conquer a peace" had not occurred. This was so, even though Polk's early goals of taking possession of both New Mexico and California from Mexico had been swiftly accomplished by elements of forces under the commands of General Stephen W. Kearny and Commodore John Sloat.

In the present article, we read of Kearny's plan to march from New Mexico to California and to declare himself military governor of the state. The article discusses that as Kearny was near Albuquerque, he met Kit Carson, riding east, bearing dispatches from Captain John Fremont stating that California has been conquered. Kearny then trimmed his column to two companies of dragoons and headed for California where, on December 6, 1846, Californio vaqueros at San Pasqual would defeat him.

Before departing, Kearny turned command of remaining three companies of dragoons to Captain John Burgwin, with instructions that they return to Santa Fe. On February 7, 1847, the Captain would lose his life from wounds he received during the conquest of Taos.

The Daily Union.

VOLUME II.

"LIBERTY, THE UNION, AND THE CONSTITUTION."

NUMBER 221.

CITY OF WASHINGTON, THURSDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 14, 1847.

From the St. Louis, (Mo.) Republican, Dec. 29.

Later from Santa Fe.

Commencement of hostilities with the Indians.—Situation of the Dragoons, Traders, &c.

Last night's mail from the west brought us the following letter from a correspondent at Fort Leavenworth, giving the most important portions of the news received by the late express from Santa Fe:

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Dec. 21, 1846.

DEAR SIR: Although I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, I send you for your disposal the following items of intelligence, this day received by *express from Santa Fe*. An officer of the medical department of the Army, writes to this effect, under date of the 9th November, from Santa Fe: "Captain Grier and Lieutenant Wilson, with two soldiers, (of the first dragoons,) pursued and overtook a large party of *Navahjoes*, and killed two of them, recapturing, at the same time, a flock of sheep. The rest of the company being mounted on poor mules, could not overtake the Indians. The captain's horse was wounded: no other damage done."

(Continued on page 5)

William Grier

Claredon Wilson

Letters . . . *continued*

(Continued from page 4)

An officer of the first dragoons, writing from Albuquerque, under date of the 25th of October, says to his correspondent: "To-morrow I start on an expedition to the south." "You have been made acquainted with many of the transactions that have occurred with us—of Gen. Kearny's fearing that the Mormons, under Allen, would not reach Santa Fe in time to undertake the expedition to California, abandoning his first arrangements, and taking the dragoons with him; of his sending Capt. Cooke to command the battalion of Mormons, on receiving the intelligence of Capt. Allen's death; and finally, of his having again changed his plan, on receipt of the news brought by Carson of Fremont's movements in California, after we had marched one hundred and sixty miles from Santa Fe." "I have [at Albuquerque] a '*sol disant*' squadron of cavalry, numbering 175 men. I would feel perfectly satisfied with my situation, were not my command so truly ineffectual. All of our horses, you know, have been sent to Missouri, under the belief that they could not sustain the fatigues, and no forage, of the march to California. When the detachment for the march was finally made up at Socorro, all of the really serviceable mules were selected for it, out of the companies that were to remain in this country—so that now I have not only my mounts, but for my teams, the sorriest lot of animals that were ever seen. I had the greatest difficulty in performing the march back to this place, and I find myself with scarce the ability to move from it. * *

I received to-day a call upon me, which demands prompt attention, and which requires the exertion of my utmost ability. After the pacification of the country, the Chihuahua traders continued their journey towards the south, in order that they might avail themselves of the opening to be effected for them by the operations of General Wool's army, for the entrance of their goods into Chihuahua.

James Allen

Philip St. George Cooke

John Wool

It seems that some had trusted too far to the peaceful professions of the Mexicans. They have all halted about one hundred and fifth miles from here, and having good reasons, they say, to believe that the Mexicans from the settlements of El Passo, design making an attack on them, for plunder, have written up for troops to protect them. The value of their property is estimated at half a million of dollars. Although these traders have by their own imprudence placed themselves in this danger, yet the protection of so many

(Continued on page 6)

Letters . . . *continued*

(Continued from page 5)

American lives, and of so large an amount of American Property, is a matter of great importance; and I feel it incumbent on me, feeble and small as is my force, to make an effort to accomplish it. What would I not give to have with me a squadron of dragoons! Since receiving the letter from the traders, I have received letters from Governor Bent, the intelligence communicated in which, tends to confirm the impression that there is a very general feeling of discontent existing among the people of the province; and that efforts have been made to get up an opposition towards us, the first development of which, is to be an attack on the traders below. It is said that a force of one thousand men has been assembled at *El Passo del Norte*, to act in concert with the people above in this business. If this should be, or could our approach for the protection of the traders be unknown to them, we may yet have the *satisfaction* and *enjoyment* of a battle, with these people. Of the fatigues and hardships of a quasi war, the 1st dragoons have had enough, but we cannot boast the honor of having been in a “stricken field.”

Charles Bent

Gen. Kearny, in making his arrangements for his expedition to California, under the impression that troops enough for the maintenance of the American supremacy in this country, were on their way here, and would soon arrive, gave orders that Colonel Doniphan’s regiment should proceed by El Passo to join General Wool’s army *en route* to Chihuahua. I have just learned that Doniphan left Santa Fe, yesterday, *en route* to El Passo. We are much concerned at the prospect of starvation among us before spring. The supply of provisions is far short of the demand, and that to be drawn from the country, is far short of the supposed deficiency.

Alexander Doniphan

The Columbia (Boone county) *Statesman* announces the reception of a letter from Santa Fe by the same arrival, dated on the 19th November. From this letter, the editor learns that Price’s regiment is stationed in that place for the winter, and that great sickness prevails among the troops.

Sterling Price



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 _____

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