



BATTLELINES



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association

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

Newspapers Show the San Pasqual Battlefield Museum's Construction Images from the Escondido *Times-Advocate*

Planning for the park began in 1978. Dedication was December 6, 1986



Artist's model of the San Pasqual Battlefield Museum and Park, July 3, 1984



Groundbreaking event August 2, 1984. From left, Henry Rodriguez, La Jolla tribal elder; Sen. Bill Craven of Ocean-side; and Ben Cueva.



San Pasqual Battlefield Museum, now under construction, is \$207,000 over budget and six months behind schedule," November 25, 1985



State Park Ranger Joanne Nash set to staff the new state park and museum, January 13, 1986

President's Message:



by Tom Vilicich

I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday and will have a Happy and Healthy New Year's. Well, I am sad to still say that the park has yet to open. But I have some good news on the re-opening. The "powers that be" have been to San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park and have come up with a list of things that need to be done before it can be open again. This is mostly housekeeping and maintenance issues and clean up of the amphitheater. So, I am hoping that the park will open soon.

This January issue of *Battlelines* normally features photographs from the December Battle Day event. Unfortunately, this is the second year without a Battle Day. So there are no new photographs to share.

In Memoriam: Jane Trussell

Two years ago on December 22, 2019, a long-time SPBVA member and beloved principal and teacher for the San Pasqual Union School District passed away at the age of 100 at home in Escondido. We regret not acknowledging the passing of Jane Largent Trussell at that time.

Jane grew up in San Diego and attended Point Loma High School, graduating in 1937. She was active in the Girls' Athletic Association and an Honor Society Member. Jane continued her education at San Diego State College (SDSU), completing a teaching credential in 1942. Jane was hired by the San Pasqual Union School District shortly afterwards. Truly dedicated to teaching and education, Jane remained both principal and teacher (and sometimes bus driver) for 34 years.

In 1944, Jane became engaged to Franklin Trussell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Trussell of Escondido. They were married in June 1945. Franklin was a member of a pioneering 19th century San Pasqual Valley family. Several Trussell family members are still part of the SPBVA family.

Although Jane and Franklin had no children of their own, Jane's dedication to the children of San Pasqual and Escondido had a profound influence on the community.



Jane Largent Trussell, courtesy of R. Rhodes Trussell

State Park News: Megan Suster

by Gregg Giacobuzzi, State Park Interpreter

Unfortunately, Megan Suster, Interpreter II at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park and at San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, recently resigned her position effective December 10, 2021. Megan worked in the Del Sur Sector for about 18 months and looked to make significant organizational changes in both parks, in order to create a stronger structure for both entities. Most of the volunteers and some board members at both parks never met Megan personally due to the pandemic restrictions. Yet, her determination to improve the quality of our interpretive programming was very apparent. Megan focused much of her energy on the creation of park videos to support the interpretive endeavors due to the limited opportunities of face-to-face interpretation caused by the pandemic. She fostered many staff members in a way that showcased their hidden talents and creative juices.

In an unrelated circumstance, a new State Park interpreter III, replacing Karen Beery's position, has been put in motion. We hope that individual will be in place within the next 45 days. This new hire will be based out of the San Diego Coast District office and will oversee all interpretive activities within the San Diego Coast District.

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 (760) 807-7807

Battlelines:

Ellen Sweet
 Deadline Feb 25, 2022
 elsweet@gmail.com

First Sergeant's Corner

submitted by Tom Vilicich

The following information is from the *United States Army Tactics: Cavalry Manual*, 1874. Although this does not come from the 1841 manual that I have frequently quoted, there are not significant changes. Each Company had at least one farrier and a forage cart. There were two farriers at the Battle of San Pasqual—John L.[or S.] Roody of Company C, and David W. Johnson [or Johnston] of K Company, First US Dragoons. Farrier Johnson was killed in action December 6, 1846 at the Battle of San Pasqual.

Directions for shoeing horses.

1183. Horses should be shod at least once a month.

The length of the hoof indicates when a horse needs reshoeing, rather than the wear of the shoe.

In removing shoes, raise the clinches first, lest the crust be torn and stubs left in the horn. Pare the sole until it yields under the pressure of the thumb; cut the walls down until they are but little higher than the contiguous sole, taking care to shorten the toe if necessary, it being frequently left too long; cut away the bars so as to make a gradual slope from the walls to the bottom of the commissures, which must be deepened; lower and open the heels, and take the bearing off them for at least an inch on each side of the frog, so that the walls at those parts will not be in immediate contact with the sole when first put on. Pay special attention to the removal of the *pegs* [the hard, horny substance which grows down at the heel, on each side of the frog and contiguous to it]; these pegs are apt to contract the foot or make it thrushy by pinching and narrowing the frog. The frog may be pared to stimulate its growth, and the cleft opened; otherwise it is left untouched.

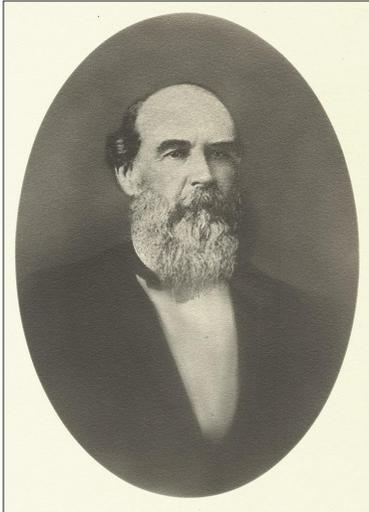
If a horse be flat-footed, pare the base or forward-part of the hoof very little, if at all, and shorten the toe as much as possible.

Forge the shoe to fit the foot; do not let it project beyond the heels; make its lower face perfectly flat. Avoid nailing too far back, particularly on the inside quarter; this is to be specially attended to the fore-foot. Use as few nails as possible; six are enough for an ordinary fore-foot, and seven for a hind-foot; horses with small feet should be shod forward with but five nails. In driving take care to give nails an outward direction, so that the points be brought out low down in the crust. Turn the clinches down so as to be broad and firm; in rasping them, never rasp the whole surface of the hoof. When calks are used, there should be three; one at the toe, the others at the heel.



Battle Account Recorded by John McHenry Hollingsworth

Submitted by
Ellen Sweet



James (John) McHenry Hollingsworth
Mount Vernon Ladies'
Association

Historians are familiar with several accounts or partial accounts of the Battle of San Pasqual as recorded by participants. A short account, based on conversations from two officers, was recorded in the *Journal of John McHenry Hollingsworth*, a lieutenant in Stevenson's Regiment in California. The California Historical Society published entries from the diary in their Quarterly, January 1923.

Born in Baltimore in 1823, John McHenry Hollingsworth was mustered into service on August 31, 1846. He was mustered out in Los Angeles in September 1848. He stayed in California for a time, serving in the California Constitutional Convention from the District of San Joaquin. As a great-grandson of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, it seems appropriate that he was interested in setting up the California government. He was chosen by Military Governor Bennet Riley to carry the new Constitution overland to Washington, DC.

At some point, Hollingsworth changed his name to James McHenry Hollingsworth. He passed away in 1889 after working as Georgetown collector for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, serving with the Potomac Light Infantry which was incorporated into the 1st Battalion District of Columbia Volunteers during the Civil War, and later superintending Mount Vernon, 1872-1885.

Account of the Battle of San Pas Quall

I will now give my readers an account of the Battle of San Pas quall as it was given to me by two of the officers who were engaged in it—I think it will differ somewhat from General K's official report—at the same time I will confine myself to facts—Genl Kearney had been in the country but a few days when he was met by Captn Gelepsie [Gillespie] with a small force, not more than thirty men—Genl K had about one hundred thus making one hundred and thirty in all—He was informed by Captn G of the state of the country and that a large force of Californians was in the field under the command of Genl Andrew Pico Genl Kearney was then advancing towards Santo Diego which place Gilepsie was just from. The morning after he was informed by his scouts that the enemy were not far from him and the night following news, was brought that a body of horsemen were encamped some six miles in front and they had a large number of led horses—Genl K then planned a surprize of the enemy's camp with the hope of seizing the horses to mount his men they having only the mules they had brought from the states and about twelve broken down horses—He sent Lieut. Hammond with a few dragoons to reconnoitre the situation of the enemy's camp during the night—Lieut H made his reconnaissance but was discovered and made a hasty retreat—on his return—Genl K determined to march and attack them that night—Captn Moore led the advance—Lieut Davidson was in command of the battery of Howitzers held in reserve—Major Swords was in the rear with the baggage train—At six in the morning they were descending a hill when a small party of the enemy were seen near a ravine filled with undergrowth—the moment they got down the hill, they charged at full speed and were received by a fire of small arms from a concealed body of riflemen and on turning the bend of the ravine found themselves in the presence of three hundred of the enemy—Genl K says but Genl Pico says he had one hundred men only—In the charge that was made those who were best mounted outstripped the others and first engaged the enemy and were killed—Among whom were Capts Moore & Johnson and Lieut Hammond mortally wounded—Kearney's men then commenced firing but the carbines of the dragoons were wet from the rain of the night before—Dr. Griffin one of the Genl staff told me that he tried hard to give the general the slip wishing to be in the first charge but was discovered and ordered to the

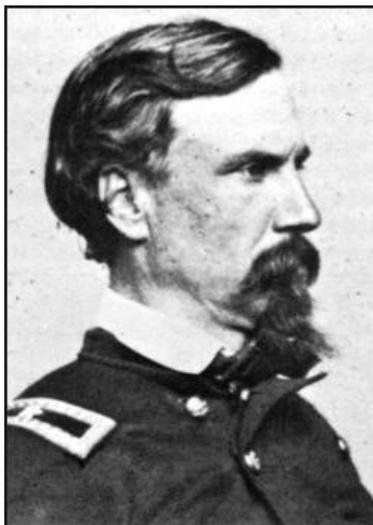
(Continued on page 5)

Hollingsworth journal . . . *continued*

(Continued from page 4)

rear—and still determined to take part in the action was obliged to make a circuit to avoid be seen by the Genl and in doing this was chased by four of the enemy. He endeavoured to shoot his double barrell gun at them but it was wet and would not go off and he was compelled to throw it away and put spurs to his mule and take shelter among the dragoons Lieut Davidson in the mean time came up with his battery but could not get a position to use it—every time he attempted it found he would be firing into his own men and endangering their lives—He therefore told the non commissioned officier to take the battery to the devil drew his sabre and dashed into the fight—He was attacked by two Californians one he killed with his pistol and parried the blow of the others lance with his sabre—the Californian then ran—Lieut D says that before the fight he begged Genl Kearney to let him go in advance with his battery but he refused and ordered him to the rear—But after the fight was over the Genl admitted the result would have been different had the battery been in the front the mules ran away with one gun during the action after Davidson left the battery—as Dr Griffin went into the fight he met Lieut Hammond—he said Dr I am wounded very severely I think mortally—the Dr told him to get down and he would examine his wound—it was mortal for he died that night —The returns of the battle shew thirty killed, wounded and missing—of the enemy none were found on the field though no doubt many were killed a number of horses of the enemy were found dead The enemy fell back as our forces advanced leaving Genl Kearney in possession of the field—I have given all particulars of this fight having taken some pains to get at the truth and had these facts from those who were eye witnesses of the battle—

There was a great mistake made somewhere but who made it is the difficulty to determine as the officers who were in it generally do not like to talk about it—The Californians claim a victory but as our troops kept the field and the Californians retreated the victory was ours although dearly bought—Genl Kearney took a position next day upon a high hill near at hand where he was obliged to remain and feed his men upon sore backed mules until he was reinforced by a detachment of sailors sent from the Congress— [The USS *Congress* was the flagship of Commodore Robert F. Stockton]



**Hollingsworth's informants:
John Wynn Davidson, left,
and Dr. John Strother Griffin,
center**



General Stephen Watts Kearny

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

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2022 CALENDAR

Saturday, January 1
New Year's Day

Monday, January 17
Martin Luther King Day

Friday, January 28
Board Meeting, 11 am

Monday, February 21
Presidents' Day

Friday, February 25
Board Meeting, 11 am