

THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – August 1, 2013
Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society

150TH ANNIVERSARY – BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

The most famous battle of the War Between the States, America's Civil War, was fought July 1 – 3, 1863, in and around the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of this historic event. The battle resulted in the largest number of casualties of the entire war and is often described as the war's turning point. Union Major General George Gordon Meade's Army of the Potomac defeated attacks by Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, ending Lee's invasion of the North.

Between 46,000 and 51,000 soldiers from both armies lost their lives in the three-day battle. On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln used the dedication ceremony for the Gettysburg National Cemetery to honor the fallen Union soldiers and redefine the purpose of the war in his historic Gettysburg Address.

In 2007, San Diego resident Annette Hubbell visited the East Coast historical sites and this visit was the catalyst for her acting career. She and her husband stayed at a bread and breakfast with a unique feature: actors circulating among the guests telling stories of the Civil War. Annette was hooked and decided to tell the story of Gettysburg when she returned to San Diego. The Alpine Historical Society is pleased to announce that Annette's program, *Witness to Gettysburg*, will be presented on Sunday, August 18, 2013, from 2:00 to 3:45 p.m. at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. Attendees are asked for an \$8 per person donation for this event. Refreshments will be served during the 15-minute intermission. Miss Hattie Elizabeth Turner, played by Annette Hubbell, will tell about how a town of 2,400 coped with 30,000 casualties following the Battle of Gettysburg. For more information about the program, or to RSVP, one may contact Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 or info@alpinehistory.org.

After the Civil War, and following the demise of the local rancheros, settlers from the defeated south began to settle on the fringes of the old ranchos in Viejas Valley and Harbison Canyon. Adam Beaty, who was one of the founders of the community, was one of these. He and his wife first settled in Harbison Canyon in 1869 and were actively involved in the transition from an isolated frontier area to a well-established community.

Another Alpine pioneer, Edward Alanson Foss, volunteered to serve as a soldier for the Union in 1862. During the Battle of Gaines Mill, he was wounded, captured by the Confederates, and sent to Libby Prison. A bullet lodged in the marrow bone of his leg and at that time medical expertise was limited and the bullet was not removed. He spent the rest of his life in pain from this injury; however, after arriving in Alpine, he was actively involved in the community and farmed his property to support his family.

Bea LaForce, in her book, *Alpine, History of a Mountain Settlement*, mentions two other Civil War Veterans who came to Alpine: Reverend Clark, who shared the duties of preacher for six

years when services were held in the Town Hall and Dr. Hereford, who had an apple orchard in Sacraero Valley and was known to have done some emergency medical work.

In the 1920s another Civil War Veteran, Captain Harry Jeremiah Parks, found his way to Alpine and made his home in a cottage, which he called the Doll House, behind the old Log Cabin Café. Captain Parks was the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War. That, in and of itself, is very special; however, his medal was even more special for two reasons. First, he was but sixteen years of age when he received the nation's highest military honor, awarded for uncommon valor in action above and beyond the call of duty in combat against an armed enemy. The second reason is that the medal was pinned on his chest by President Abraham Lincoln. The entire transcript of how he won his medal, written by Captain Parks at the request of the War Department, can be found on the Historical Research, People of Alpine, Harry Jeremiah Parks' page of the Society's website, www.alpinehistory.org. It is a fascinating story.

Carol Walker and her husband Paul lived in Alpine for 19 years. Carol is the webmaster and newsletter editor for the Alpine Historical Society. She can be reached at cwalker@alpinehistory.org or 619-467-7766. Be sure to check out the Society's website: www.alpinehistory.org.