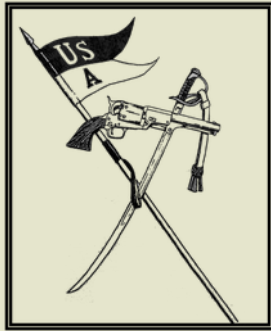


FORT TEJON
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



Fort Tejon Historical Association

ADJUTANT'S JOURNAL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **September 3rd-4th** – Off Site Event: Huntington Beach Civil War Days
- **October 1-2** -- Off Site Event: Battle of Dominguez Hill Reenactment
- **October 15th** – Death of Peter Lebec Ghost Walk at Fort Tejon
- **November 19th** – Autumn Quintilian at Fort Tejon

For Latest Updates
Please Visit Our Web Site At
<http://FortTejonCa.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dearest FTHA Members and friends,

Thank you all so much for your continued support of Fort Tejon. We had a wonderful Civil War event this June and I want to thank everyone that attended to make this event so memorable.

These events take many countless hours of planning and require contribution from many different folks to produce so I want to thank everyone who was involved and helped. The civil war event is our most important fundraiser for the year and is critical to support our programs at the park.

We are looking at adding a new event this year with our Autumn Quintilian. We think it will be a fun time for folks to put on their 19th century best and dance the nite away with friends. More details will follow.

I remain yours,

Karina Dunbar
FTHA President And Chairman

WEB SITE

As events are starting to open up again, We've updated the FTTHA events page.

FortTejonCa.org/events.html

Per FTTHA tradition, this page contains both Fort Tejon events as well as other Southern California events which may be interesting to fans of living history. If you are aware of any we might have missed that might be a good addition to the page, please let us know at info@forttejonca.org.

FORT TEJON CIVIL WAR EVENT – JUNE 2022

Fort Tejon hosted the annual FTHA Civil War Event on June 4th and 5th 2022. The event was well attended and provided much needed funds for the FTHA so that we can continue to sponsor and fund events at the fort. Please enjoy some photos taken by Nick Ellis.



All photos by Nick Ellis.

FORT TEJON CIVIL WAR EVENT – JUNE 2022



All photos by Nick Ellis.

FORT TEJON CIVIL WAR EVENT – JUNE 2022



All photos by Nick Ellis.

2021 / 2022 MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to everyone who has been a supporter of Fort Tejon. We rely on our membership to help maintain a strong voice in protecting and conserving the fort. Please note that we have lowered the dues rate:

\$20 - individual membership
\$30 - family membership

You can join at the following link : <http://FortTejonCa.org/join.html>

We want to thank all that have joined! We really appreciate your support!

SUPPORT FTTHA BY SHOPPING!

You can now use your Amazon shopping to support FTTHA! All you need to do is visit the web site <https://smile.amazon.com> and choose **Fort Tejon Historical Association** as your Amazon Smile charity. That's it! The FTTHA will receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases. This money will go to helping pay for wardrobe, and supplies for events at the fort.

FTTHA AT DRUM BARRACKS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Matt Schnittker attended the Civil War Technology Fair at Drum Barracks Civil War Museum with his Magic Lantern. Here's a few photos of the event. For more information on Drum Barracks, please visit their web site: <https://www.drumbarracks.org/index.php/en/>



FTHA AT DANA ADOBE



A few FTHA folks were able to attend the Heritage day at the Dana adobe and Cultural center in Nipomo Ca. on August 6th. It was a fun event with many local participants, vendors, and a great Taqueria! Matt brought his Tintype booth and caught some photos of the local attendees and volunteers.



A few locals including John Billinger and Kevin Dunbar from the FTHA.
Tintype by Matt Schnittker



Garrett and Jenna Dana. Garrett is a direct descendant of Captain William Dana.
Tintype by Matt Schnittker

The event was a lot of fun and many of us look forward to attending again next year. For more information the Dana Adobe, please visit their web site at:

<https://www.danaadobe.org/>

Chuck Olynyk created a YouTube video of the event as well which can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbilURclPkU>

FTHA AT DANA ADOBE

Dana Adobe sent a nice follow up to all the participants

Friends -

Just a quick email to thank each and every one of you for your enthusiastic participation in this year's Dana Adobe Heritage Days. Our goal this year was to present to the community a presentation of the Rancho Era in California's history as well as how William Dana, his family, and others contributed to the rich history of Alta California. We were also hoping to increase the participation from the Central Coast and hoped to add to the living history presence at the event. Thanks to your efforts and others, we were very successful and felt that the event was a real highlight for our community.

You were fantastic! Over and over we heard from the people who attended that your presentations were interesting, very informative, and included all sorts of great authentic history. As a fellow reenactor (I know, some of us hate that term...), I was impressed over and over at your dedication, your historical impressions, and your cheerful enthusiasm towards the public. True professional historians in every sense. As a veteran of over 45 years of living-history, you were simply awesome.

In our post-Heritage Day docent meeting, our dedicated staff were very impressed and enthusiastic in making next year's event even better. That is largely because of your efforts and dedication. Thank you so much. There are many ideas for making the living-history presentations better next year and I would welcome any suggestions or ideas that you may have. We would love to build on what we started! If you have suggestions, please reply to me directly. We hope to expand it next year and would love to have you back! Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions or if you have any suggestions for next year.

Thanks Again!
Historically Yours,
Terry Handy



REMEMBERING THE PAST – THE TULE RIVER WAR

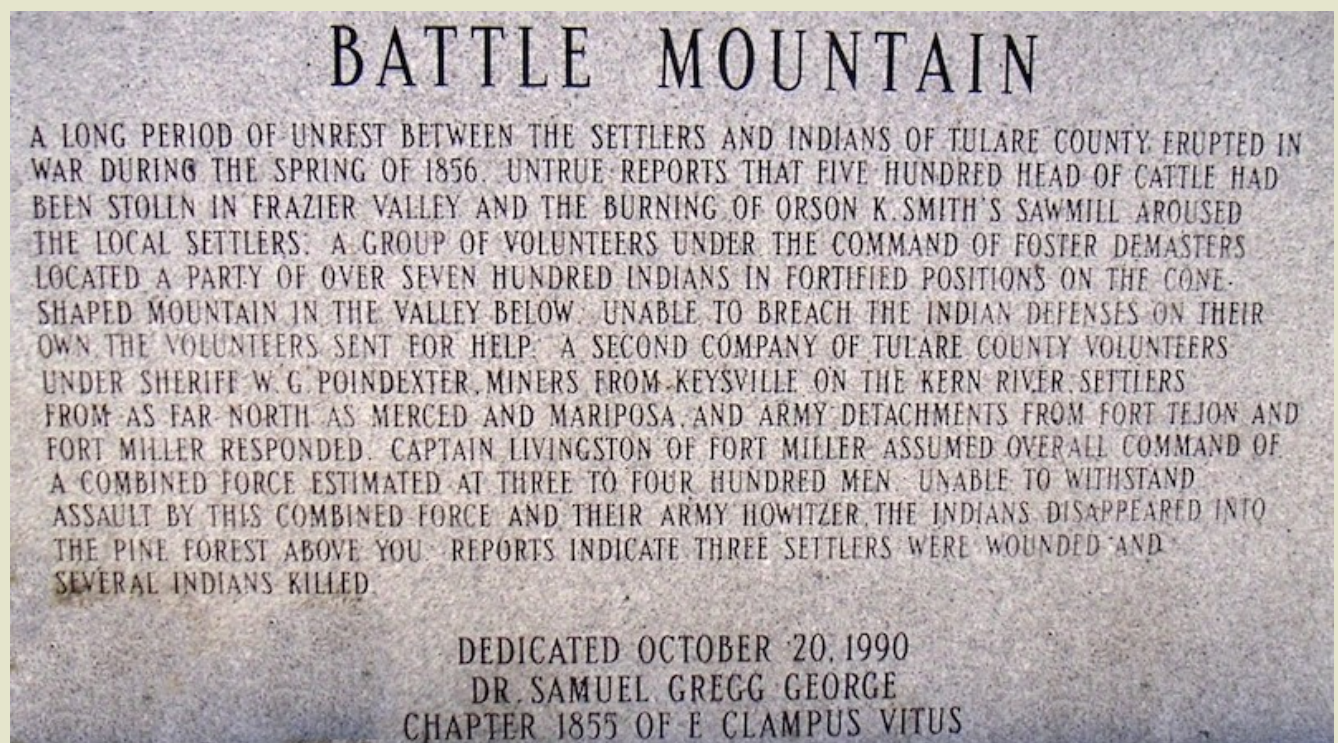
Private William Thorpe and the Tule River War

With Content from Sean Malis

Private William Thorpe, of Company A, was the only soldier of that company to die while the company was at Fort Tejon. He did not die at the Fort. He drowned at Four Creeks, northeast of Fort Tejon, near modern day Visalia.

William Thorpe was from Chester, England. Born in 1832, he was 22 years old when he signed up in New York City for the U.S. Army. He had hazel eyes, brown hair, a dark complexion, stood five feet seven, and one-half inch tall. He listed his civilian trade as painter. It was February 20, 1855, Private Thorpe was assigned to the mounted service and came to California with a large detachment of dragoon recruits commanded by Captain Gardiner. He arrived at Fort Tejon on June 16, 1855, and was assigned to Company A four days later, according to instructions specified in Special Orders No. 31, Department of the Pacific, May 21, 1855.

A long period of unrest between the settlers and Indians of Tulare County erupted in war during the spring of 1856. False claims that five hundred head of cattle had been stolen in Frazier Valley and a fire at Orson K. Smith's sawmill aroused the local settlers. Although some tried to calm the excited settlers, the thirst for confrontation was too great. Settlers and miners from distant parts of California came to join the fight and a military command was formed under Forest DeMasters.. A second company of Tulare County volunteers under Sheriff W.G. Poindexter, miners from Keyville on the Kern River, settlers from as far north as Merced and Mariposa, and Army detachments from Fort Tejon and Fort Miller responded. Thorpe was with 1st Lieut. Benjamin Allston's detachment of about 40 Dragoons sent into the San Joaquin Valley from Fort Tejon.



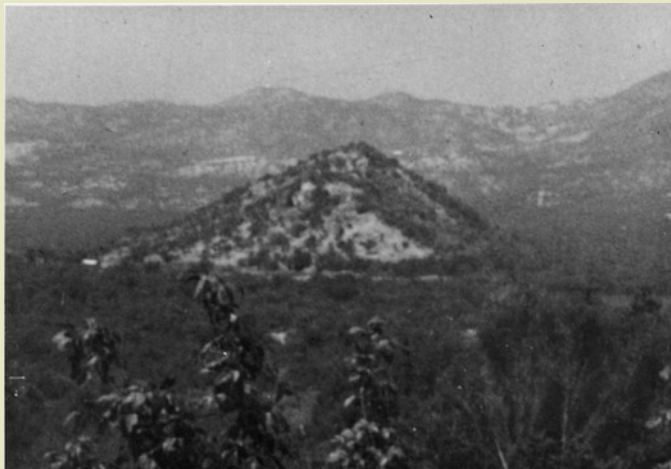
The Battle Mountain monument erected by E Clampus Vitus

REMEMBERING THE PAST – THE TULE RIVER WAR

After all had reached camp, a consultation was held and it was agreed to divide the command into four divisions and attack the Indians at daybreak the following morning. Parties were sent out to view the country so that the several divisions might be guided to their respective positions without confusion. The Indians unexpectedly made a vigorous attack on the party, precipitating the engagement. Armed with only bows and a few pistols, they were repelled by Livingston whose men fired on the Indians and forced a retreat on what is today known as “Battle Mountain” above the Tule River. The Indians disappeared into the pine forest. Reports indicated three settlers were wounded and about one hundred Indians killed. The howitzers were never fired.

The “war” was over, the Dragoons escorted the self-appointed “Indian Peace Commissioner” and self-proclaimed “General” Edward F. Beale. As the fort Tejon Dragoons headed home, Private Thorpe went to cross a stream. Unfortunately, the crossing was unsuccessful and he drowned while riding his horse across. The year-end report indicates that it was June 5, 1856 and that he was buried “near the camp near the crossing” at Four Creeks. Before Private Thorpe’s pay records could be settled, the government wanted an accounting for: 1 pistol, percussion, 1 horse blanket, 1 curry comb and brush, 1 set of spurs and straps, 1 valise, 1 sabre knot and 1 set of shoulder straps (Metallic Scales.)

In retrospect, George Stewart wrote "Thus ended the Tule river war of 1856; a war that might have been prevented had there been an honest desire on the part of the white settlers to do so, and one that brought little glory to those who participated therein. Certainly the whites were not blameless, and it is too seldom, indeed, that they have been in the many struggles with the aboriginal inhabitants of this continent.”



A view of Battle Mountain and Rock Barricades from Battle Mountain near Porterville Ca.
Images from the Tulare County Library

<https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/object/cavpp%3A176022>

<https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/object/cavpp%3A176023>

<https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/object/cavpp%3A176024>

References/Bibliography:

Private Thorpe Drowns – by Sean Malis

The Tule River War – Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tule_River_War

History Of Tulare And Kings Counties (1913) -

<https://archive.org/details/historyoftularek00mene/page/20/mode/1up>

Tulare County Library - <https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/search/Battle%20Mountain?type=dismax>

A TALE OF TWO DARLOTS

A Tale of Two Darlots
By Matthew Schnittker

I use 19th Century lenses for both my Magic Lantern shows as well as the Tintype Photography studio at Fort Tejon. Darlot was a popular 19th century lens maker and their lenses were ubiquitous in both photography and projection. Although these lenses are often interchangeable, contemporary literature warns that "objectives made for lantern work are not suitable for photography" (Hepworth, 1889), due to differences in "Chemical Focus" vs. visual focus. This is because UV rays may focus differently than visible light in some lenses. This not a problem in lantern projection. However, since Wet Plate Photography is mostly UV sensitive, it can be a problem in photography.

I have a Darlot lens on my tintype camera that I use to make 4x5 wet plate photographs and also one on my Marcy Sciopticon Projector. Both are of the Petzval design have about a 1 5/8 inch front lens, 6 inch focal length and are around F 3.7.



Although the lenses were identical, I noticed they did not perform identically. The Lens on the camera worked great, but the lens on the Marcy had an unusually high amount of "fall off" in the focus as I moved from the center to the edges. There often is some of this on Petzval lenses, but this was extreme. You can see in the picture below that the infant to the lower right is well out of focus.



A TALE OF TWO DARLOTS

I had never taken the time to dig into it, but had recently received an inquiry from a friend who was experiencing a similar problem. This inspired me to take a closer look. Petzval lenses like these use two pairs of lenses. This configuration was referred to as being "of two combinations". (Hepworth, 1889). If lenses were swapped, there are multiple combinations that could produce the wrong result. I was prepared to reference my Petzval diagram if things were needing attention.



Petzval Lens Design (Neblette, 1973)



I decided to take a deeper look and disassemble the lens from the Magic Lantern. Removing the lenses, they both looked very close to identical. Lenses were tightly installed and the glass was clear and clean. However, on closer inspection, the problem revealed itself! The rear lens on the Marcy had not been installed properly. You could even see where the retaining ring was loose. I had to pull the lens apart and get the elements into their proper place and then things were right as rain!



A TALE OF TWO DARLOTS



A Dallmeyer Lens with notches carved for “Soft Focus”

This problem actually reminded me of a trick played by a 19th century lens maker - Dallmeyer. The Dallmeyer lenses had a "Soft Focus" feature where you could unscrew the lens in the back to "soften" the focus. This softened focus would make lines and wrinkles softer. The lens actually had hash marks on the back so the photographer could "dial In" the amount of softening wanted. The Dallmeyer was a much more expensive lens. While a Darlot lens of 6 inch focus might be around \$20, a similar Dallmeyer was over \$100. (Gatchel, 1888)

As the lenses we use in Photography and Magic Lantern projection are often over 100 years old, it's no surprise to find one that has been played with. The trick is reminding myself to check each and every lens to make sure it is as it should be.

Sources:

Photographic Lenses, C.B. Neblette, Morgan & Morgan Publishers, 1973

The Book Of The Lantern, T.C. Hepworth, Edward L Wilson Publishers, 1889

Illustrated Catalogue, W.D. Gatchell, Courier-Journal Job Printing Company, 1888

**FORT TEJON
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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ADJUTANT'S JOURNAL

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Kind Readers,

It's summer and Living History events are happening again. I very much enjoyed attending the Heritage Day at Dana Adobe as well as the Civil War Technology Fair at Drum Barracks Civil War museum. A major event is coming up in Huntington Beach with their Civil War Reenactment and I hope to see many of you there as well.

Although we are still working out events at Fort Tejon, we hope to be in full swing soon now that COVID restrictions are rolling back.

Special thanks to Nick Ellis for all the photographs of our Civil War event. The content in this newsletter contains contribution from many, so please let me know if there is anything you'd like to add. The more people that participate by submitting content, the richer our updates can be.

Also note that we've updated our FTHA logo to a full color version! All FTHA members should be seeing this version on their membership cards.

Kind regards,

Matt Schnittker
mschnitt@FortTejonCa.org

