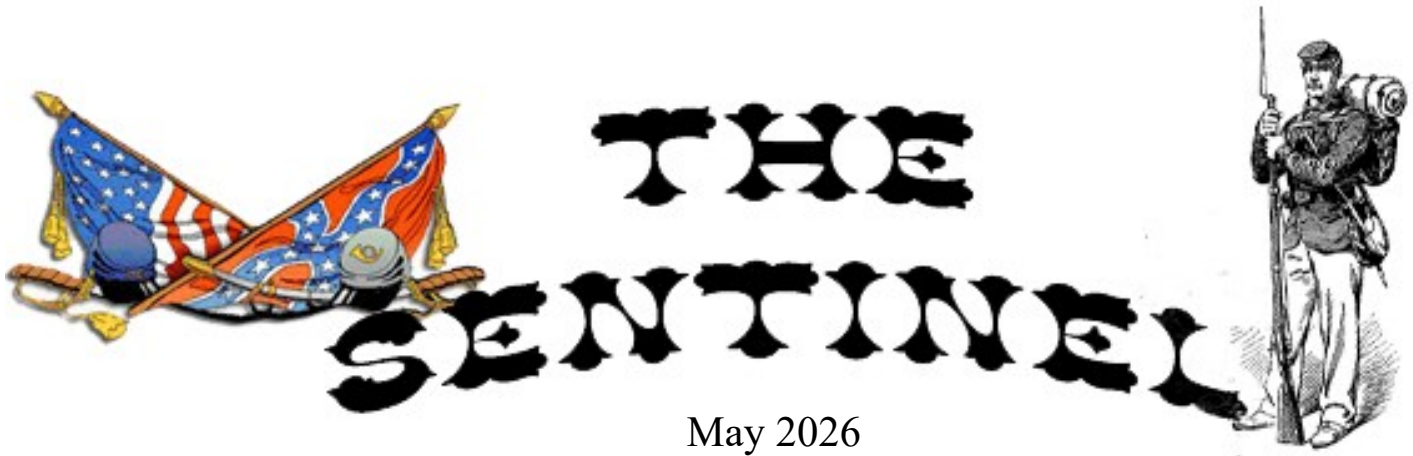




May 2026

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEVADA CIVIL WAR VOLUNTEERS

Who was General Stand Watie, and why was he the last Confederate general to surrender during the Civil War?

Two months after Appomattox, one Confederate general was still fighting. But Stand Watie wasn't fighting for the South—he was fighting for control of the Cherokee Nation.

As the only Native American to achieve the rank of general in the Confederate Army, Stand Watie was a wealthy Cherokee planter, lawyer, and political leader. Decades before the Civil War, he was a prominent member of the Treaty Party, a faction that signed the controversial Treaty of New Echota in 1835. That agreement led to the forced relocation of the Cherokee people, known as the Trail of Tears, and sparked a bitter internal feud with the faction led by Principal Chief John Ross.



When the Civil War began, the conflict spilled into the Indian Territory (modern-day Oklahoma). Chief Ross initially attempted to keep the Cherokee Nation neutral before ultimately aligning with the Union. Watie, however, allied with the Confederacy, viewing it as an opportunity to secure independence and power for his faction. He raised a regiment known as the Cherokee Mounted Rifles and waged a highly effective guerrilla campaign. His troops captured Union supply trains, seized the steamboat *J.R. Williams*, and fought essentially a civil war within a civil war against Union-allied Native Americans.

Watie became the last Confederate general to surrender for a few key reasons:

Geographic isolation: Operating in the Trans-Mississippi Theater, his forces were far removed from the collapsing eastern armies and federal supply lines. Word traveled slowly, and Union forces were spread thin in the West.

Political goals: Watie was not just fighting for the Confederacy; he was fighting for the sovereignty and control of his faction of the Cherokee Nation. He held out in hopes of leveraging his remaining military strength to negotiate a favorable peace treaty directly with the United States government.

Realizing that continued resistance was futile without the backing of the wider Confederate military, Watie finally laid down his arms on June 23, 1865, at Doaksville in the Choctaw Nation. His capitulation marked the official end of organized

Confederate military resistance, closing a chapter that was as much a devastating internal tribal conflict as it was a war between the North and South.



After Gettysburg, officers found a baffling musket on the battlefield. It hadn't been fired once, but it had been meticulously loaded 23 separate times.



It wasn't an isolated anomaly. Out of roughly 27,500 weapons recovered by ordnance officers tasked with clearing the 1863 battlefield, nearly 24,000 were still loaded. More than 12,000 of those contained two complete charges, and 6,000 had three to ten charges stacked on top of one another.

This physical evidence points to a profound reality of historical warfare. When standing in a firing line, a significant percentage of soldiers possessed a deep, psychological reluctance to shoot directly at the enemy. Instead of firing to kill, many men simply went through the complex motions of loading their weapons—biting the paper cartridge, pouring the powder, and ramming the lead ball down the barrel—and then raised their rifles to their shoulders to pantomime the act of shooting.

In the deafening noise and thick black-powder smoke of a Civil War battlefield, a soldier could easily blend in. The lack of recoil from an unfired weapon would go completely unnoticed by officers and peers alike. The soldier would then reload directly on top of the unfired round, desperate to look busy and fulfill their role in the unit without actually taking a human life.

While it is difficult to calculate the exact degree to which this changed the tactical outcome of Gettysburg specifically, this reluctance significantly diluted the lethality of infantry engagements throughout the war. Entire regiments would routinely stand 50 yards apart, exchanging volleys for hours, yet the total casualties fell drastically below the mathematical capabilities of the massed firearms. The reluctance to shoot meant that battles stretched on much longer than necessary, and decisive tactical victories were harder to achieve because the volume of effective fire was only a fraction of what commanders assumed it to be.

Military theorists eventually recognized that this natural human aversion to killing fundamentally altered battlefield dynamics. To overcome it, 20th-century militaries completely overhauled infantry training methods. They replaced traditional circular bullseye targets with human-shaped, pop-up silhouettes, conditioning soldiers to fire reflexively through muscle memory rather than forcing them to make a conscious moral choice in the heat of combat.

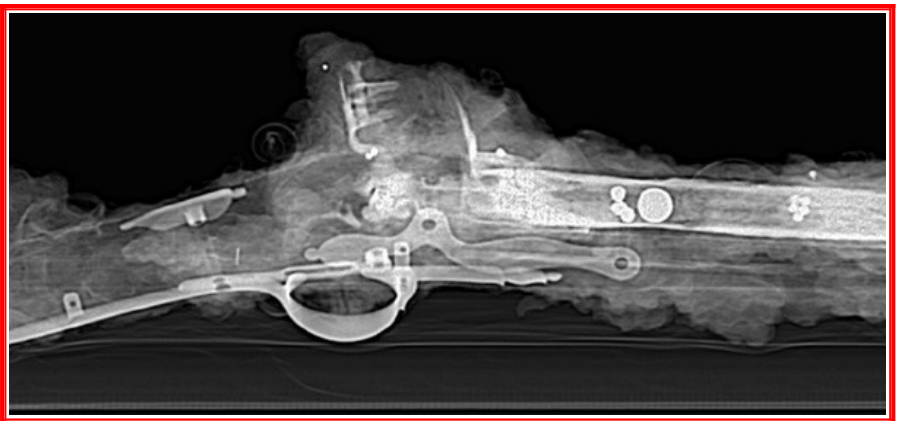


Fascinating... X-ray of working level Action Rifles.

To the right is an X-ray of a flintlock rifle. You can make out all the parts and see the powder and ball in the rifle and more.

The attached video shows the working, in X-ray of how three different level action rifles work.

Notice how the bullet in each rifle is inserted into the rifle barrel.



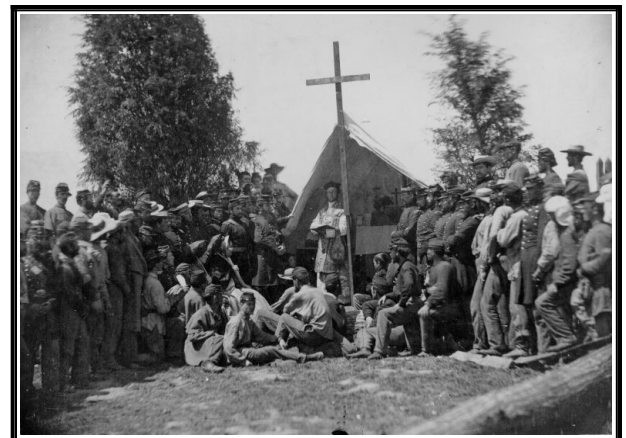
Now you know how they work.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1881890169132724>



Chaplains and the Civil War, And today's Civil War Events

Clergymen of all faiths and denominations served with distinction in both Union and



Confederate armies, overseeing the moral and spiritual well-being of the troops. Such care proved essential to soldiers who faced the constant uncertainty of violence and death on the battlefield and reinforced the religious underpinnings of a society in which faith played a much more immediate role in daily life—the Civil War, after all, occurred in the midst of one of the largest evangelical revival movements (the Third Great Awakening) of the 19th century.

“Be what may, respectfully speaking, religion was the center and core of the lives of soldiers on both sides during the civil war era.

Chaplains numbered over 3,300 between both sides. They were vital to the spiritual lives of both Union and Confederate soldiers, as well as civilians.

They provided pastoral care, conducted services, and maintained morale, while also taking on roles like letter-writing, nursing, and acting as postmasters. Often facing danger, these men were essential to managing the high death. While some were fighting Chaplin's.

During our civil war reenactment events, the Chaplin on Sunday mornings conduct realistic service's, while wearing period clothing.

They often support the commanders on the battlefield.”

Jerry Parkman·Nevada Civil War Volunteers



Most military clergy during the Civil War served as regimental chaplains and accompanied the armies on campaign, although many were assigned to post and field hospitals as well. Regimental chaplains usually served as part of the headquarters or field and staff officers rather than being attached to specific companies.

In today's Civil War Reenactment events, many groups have a Chaplin or someone who stands in for them at events on Sunday mornings in a nondenominational role and everyone is welcome to attend, both reenactors and the public alike.





– Lee vs Grant -- What Turned the War in 1864, in favor of the North Grant did something that Lee did not expect

The Civil War pitted two legendary generals against each other: General Ulysses S. Grant of the Union and General Robert E. Lee of the Confederacy. Their distinct military strategies and decisions shaped pivotal battles, influencing the war's outcome and the nation's future.

Grant initiated a series of brutal, continuous engagements designed to bleed Lee's forces. Unlike Lee, who sought to outmaneuver Union forces, Grant's strategy focused on attrition. Grant understood that the Union's larger workforce would eventually overpower Lee's smaller army, leading to a war of exhaustion.

Lee was a master of defensive warfare, using terrain to his advantage, fortifying positions, and creating defensive lines that made it costly for Union forces to advance. His ability to maneuver smaller forces against larger ones showcased his strategic brilliance, though eventually, Grant's superior resources and workforce overwhelmed him.

The showdown between Grant and Lee occurred at Appomattox Court House, where Lee was forced to surrender to Grant. Grant's magnanimous terms showed his strategic brilliance in ending the war. Unlike Lee's attempts at further resistance, Grant recognized that peace and Union restoration were essential for the country's future.



Video submitted by Dan Foster

[https://youtu.be/
x2NXSjDstTw?
si=f7bhFZneyCQ3OJil](https://youtu.be/x2NXSjDstTw?si=f7bhFZneyCQ3OJil)



The Civil War Film Vault



Now for something that is a bit different for the Civil War Film Vault. A comedy.

When A Union Army outfit of misfits and rejects is sent to the Western territory, Southern spies try to figure out what they're doing there.

A real rarity - a civil war comedy.

A company of

Union army misfits is tasked with saving a shipment of gold from Confederate partisans and a beautiful spy.

Director: George Marshall. **Stars:** Glenn Ford, Stella Stevens and Melvyn Douglas.

It's a black and white romp through the lighter side of civil war story telling.

“Advance to the Rear”,(1964)

(AKA: “Company of Cowards”)



https://youtu.be/gVs7RyDT_4U?si=CTRAoIYGEBBPCVJQ



THE NCWV CAMP AT GENOA APRIL 25TH AND 26TH.

From the pen of Toni Westbrook VanCleave



Here are a few photos Yvonne Sullivan took of our Genoa Western Heritage Days encampment. Shame on me for not getting a

few more photos. We had a good day Saturday with hundreds of visitors through camp! Union and Confederate soldiers



drilled and trained together others demonstrated the proper procedure

(only) for loading and firing a cannon. We had Dr. Mary Edwards Walker and our camp surgeon, quilters and a swap meet. But it was a cold and blustery, windy weekend after 3:00 p.m. We had very yummy potluck dinner and successful

meeting. Looking forward to our next encampment at Fort Churchill Memorial weekend.



Up Coming Events

May 22-24--Ft Churchill--Memorial weekend is early this year! Typically, a "living history" event where we do get some groups of cub scouts, etc. who love to come through our stations and learn about Rex's musical instruments, soldiering, Paulette's quilting and firing the cannon. We may be able to have shooting demonstrations/practice with the proper leadership of Captain Duran. Group dinner (not official potluck) and June meeting Sat 23rd evening.



May 25--VA Cemetery event--Fernley

May 30--Dayton Main Street event--time TBD

June 11-13--State Fair of Nevada--Reno--setup time TBD
(possibly Weds evening)

June 26-28--Fallon--DeGoyler Buckin' Horse and Bull Bash--Fri
(load-in) thru Sun (break camp)

July 4th Weekend--Mike Creager is recruiting various military
for the Fallon Parade--

Sept/Oct (TBD)--Ft Churchill again

Other nearby club events:

RACW----Graeagle July 4th weekend (3-5 TBD)

CCWR--Labor Day weekend (Sept 4-6 TBD) Labor Day is late this year!



IF you have an article or something you'd like posted in The Sentinel send it to the editor, Tom Cooley no later than the 3rd Sunday of the month to make the next months publication.

tcooley1313@gmail.com.



Update on The Blacksmith Shop

Project at Fort Klamath

(As printed in the Cascade Civil War Society
newsletter, The Growler.)



Fort Klamath

As it may look now, not much is going on with the Blacksmith Shop Project. But that look is deceiving. There really is a lot going on. The Klamath County museum and the Project Leaders have heard back from Salem and been given a green light to move forward with the shop with only a few proviso that are easily met. At the same time, Gina Janelli has been talking to contractors about becoming involved with the various

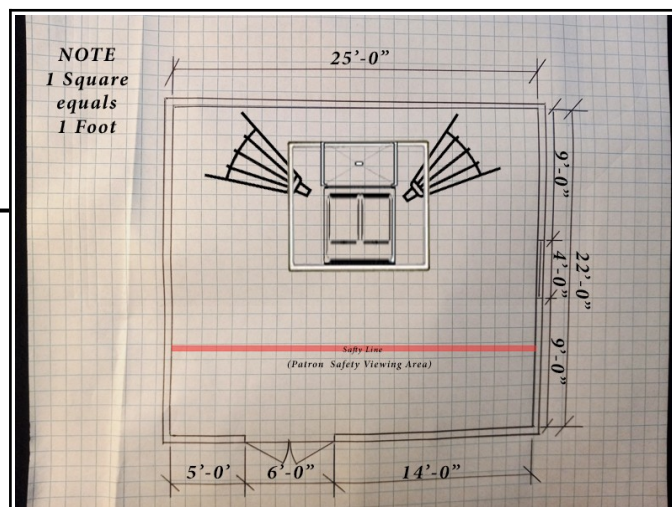


matters of laying a concrete slab down and then have the Webber cabin reassembled on that concrete flooring. Remember the Webber cabin is the period log cabin that was disassembled a number of years ago and put in storage. The cabin has been graciously donated to the project to become the Blacksmith shop. Richard Rambo has been hard at work finding information on different ways to build a forge. And trust us, there are a LOT of ways to build a blacksmith forge so he has gone through a lot of sources looking at forges. Meanwhile, Tom

Cooley was tasked with coming up with a simple basic floor plan design for the building.

In early May, the project leaders are hoping to get together with some serious contractors and get some awareness for costs and what needs to be done.

So, even though things look quiet right now, it's anything but quiet and the hopes of getting this project up and running are riding high right now,



Its time to hummmm along and Get into the Spirit of the Music

Go ahead and *hummmm* along with this great patriotic song with Kermit the Frog and some of his friends. It works for me!



<https://youtu.be/r0ZcY5ABf8s?si=giABvXuWqCjpD5QZ>

