

THE HISTORY OF THE BATTLE OF SAN PASQUAL.

The Battle of San Pasqual took place on December 6, 1846 between the United States forces led by Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny and Californios led by Major Andres Pico. This battle was only one of the military encounters in California in the U.S.-Mexican War, but it proved to be the bloodiest and the one with the most controversial outcome.

To conquer California for the United States, the Army of the West had marched in June 1846 from Fort Leavenworth, in what is now Kansas, across the southern desert where they endured the lack of water, lack of food, and poor condition of their cavalry mounts.

A few days out of Santa Fe, in what is now New Mexico, Brigadier General Kearny received erroneous word that California was in American hands and all was secure on the Pacific Coast.

Because of this misinformation, he sent two-thirds of his men back to Santa Fe and continued westward with a force of 100 men. The eastward bound scout, Kit Carson, was pressed into service as a guide for the army troops as they progressed onward.

The journey across the barren desert took its toll on the men and their mounts. When they finally encamped at Santa Maria (now Ramona) on the night of December 5, 1846, they were hungry, exhausted, and stiff from the cold and rain.

Nearby, a Californio force, led by Major Andres Pico, had encamped at the Native American pueblo of San Pasqual.

News of the Californios' presence was brought to Brigadier General Kearny, who sent a nighttime reconnaissance patrol to investigate the Californios' camp. Unfortunately, the presence of the patrol became known because of noises it made. Alerted to the possibility of attack, the Californios prepared for battle.

At dawn on a cold, rainy December 6th, the U.S. Troops rode over the hills between Santa Maria (now Ramona) and San Pasqual to face the Californios in the valley below.

In the resulting battle, the Californios' lances proved to be an overwhelming advantage over the U.S. troops' sabers (cavalry sword) and carbines (rifle) with dampened gunpowder. Eighteen soldiers were killed during the battle; three others died later of wounds, and one was missing in action. Pico reported that only one Californio was killed. This figure is controversial.

That night, the U.S. forces buried their dead, bound up their wounded, then tried to continue to San Diego the next morning. They were stopped just past Rancho San Bernardo at what came to be called Mule Hill (just above Lake Hodges). There they were besieged by the Californios until the morning of December 11th when additional troops arrived from San Diego to rescue them. The Californios departed when they sighted the U.S. relief column.

The Army of the West, wounded and bedraggled, finally reached San Diego on December 12, 1846.

Thank you for your interest in San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, part of the California State Parks system. For more information, please call (760) 737-2201 (weekends only) or (619) 220-5422, or visit our website at www.parks.ca.gov.

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

SPECIAL THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association
San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
California State Park Staff and Volunteers
San Diego Archaeological Center
California Pioneer Heritage Foundation
[San Dieguito River Park](#)
[Montebello Historical Society](#)
Boy Scout Troop 616, Scripps Ranch
Dennis Carlos

BATTLE REENACTMENT VIDEO

Available for viewing at the San Pasqual Battlefield Museum on the hour all day.



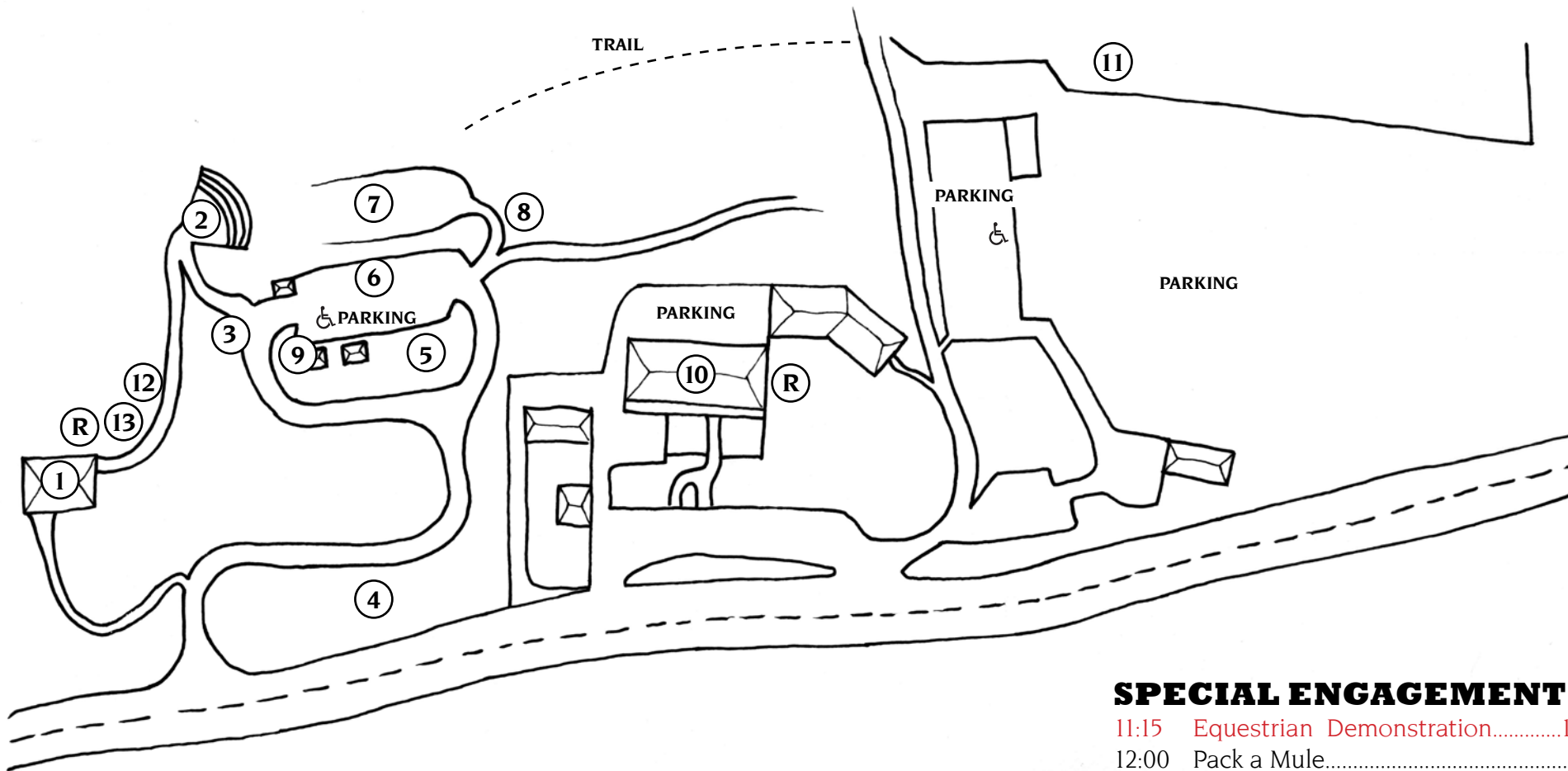
SAN PASQUAL BATTLEFIELD STATE HISTORIC PARK

BATTLE DAY.

DECEMBER 2, 2018.
11:00 AM-3:00 PM.



Commemorating the 1846 Battle of San Pasqual, the bloodiest battle fought in California during the U.S.-Mexican War.



LEGEND

- 1. San Pasqual Battlefield Museum & Water
- 2. Amphitheater
- 3. San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association & Event Information
- 4. Flag Pole
- 5. California Encampment
- 6. Food Vendor
- 7. U.S. Encampment
- 8. Corral
- 9. Volunteer Sign In
- 10. San Diego Archaeological Center
- 11. Equestrian Demonstration Area
- 12. Mexican-American War Exhibit
- 13. Mule Hill Display
- R Restrooms

AMPHITHEATER

11:00 - 11:25	Bird Singers
11:25 - 11:50	Battle Story
11:55 - 12:15	The Army of the West: Epilogue and Legacy
12:15 - 12:35	General Kearny
12:35 - 12:50	Cannon Firing
12:50 - 1:15	Emory and his Explorers at San Pasqual
1:15 - 1:40	Battle Story
1:40 - 2:05	Los Galgo: The California Lancers
2:05 - 2:35	Black Powder Demonstration
2:35 - 2:55	Closing Ceremony Salute to the Fallen

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT

11:15	Equestrian Demonstration.....	11.
12:00	Pack a Mule.....	8.
1:30	Equestrian Demonstration.....	11.
2:00	Pack a Mule.....	8.

ENCAMPMENT AREAS

Blacksmithing.....	5.
California Exhibit.....	5.
Roping	5.
Rawhide Leather Braiding.....	5.
Knife Handle Carving.....	5.
Hat Making.....	5.
Mapping the West.....	7.
Mexican War Panels.....	7.
Camp Cooking.....	7.
Draagoon Camp	7.
Enlistment Station.....	7.
Mormon Battalion.....	7.

Hear the booming twelve-pound Mountain Howitzer cannon.

The Mountain Howitzer, designed to be light-weight and highly portable, was the optimal artillery piece for mounted/draagoon units. This cannon can be broken down into three loads for transport by pack animals where roads were poorly maintained or nonexistent, perfect for troops on the frontier.

Witness the partnership of soldiers and their mounts.

Mounted cavalry soldiers, or dragoons, drilled extensively to maintain combat skills. Soldiers were trained to use a pistol, sabre, and carbine on rings or stationary objects while riding. One popular exercise you will see today is known as "Running of the Heads."

Smell the hearty fare for hungry troops.

The Army of the West traveled thousands of miles from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas into the Western frontier. Food was scarce, carried in the pack trains, lasting for weeks or until the column could be re-supplied. The food supplies had to withstand the elements of heat, wind, and time. Dry beans, coffee, salt pork and hard biscuits, known as Hard Tack, became the common ration. Soldier's rations were augmented with wild game when the opportunity arose.

