



# Mapping Graves in California

by Charles Beal, Generals Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17  
Department of California & Pacific

In 1999, the Civil War Round Table of Orange County located 730 Civil War Veteran graves in nine local cemeteries. Gordon Bricken maintained a database and I started to research local newspapers and GAR records for additional names to add to his listing.

While studying for a Land Surveyor's license, I thought about using my land surveying experience to document these graves.

My goal was to determine latitude & longitude coordinates, photograph every grave and to plot them on aerial photographs. As an added bonus, I would later discover that this project would also perpetuate the grave stones forever as many are becoming very hard to read.

I approached the County Surveyor, who agreed to loan me a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit capable of obtaining coordinates within the size of a dime. Another local surveyor also agreed to loan me the use



(Photo by Br. Floyd Farrar)

of his Total Station instrument and data collector. Using the GPS unit to set up my control points and the Total Station instrument, I collected data on a majority of the graves in two weekends with results of +/- 1.00 feet for each grave. Volunteers helped me with this project.

My project documented 701 Union (30 unmarked) and 89 Confederate (4 unmarked) veteran graves.

The data was stored on a DVD-Data disk that was distributed to local historical groups and local cemeteries. The coordinates and grave photos were also placed on Find-A-Grave at <http://www.findagrave.com>, making them available to the internet community.

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society has posted all of the data on its website at <http://www.santaanahistory.com/civil-war.html>.



## *"Before Manassas, there was Mexico"*

Many Civil War leaders and troops got their start in the war with Mexico. Leaders like Grant, Sherman, McClellan, and many of the soldiers they commanded, saw action in the Mexican War.

The Descendants of Mexican War Veterans is an organization of men and women who have an ancestor or just an interest in the Mexican War of 1846-1848.

Please visit our website [www.dmwv.org](http://www.dmwv.org) for membership information and to download an application, or send a request for an application with SASE to DMWV, Membership Dept., Box 830482, Richardson, Texas, 75083-0482

*Descendants of Mexican War Veterans*

# THE BANNER

Volume 111, Number 4 • The Journal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War • Summer, 2007

