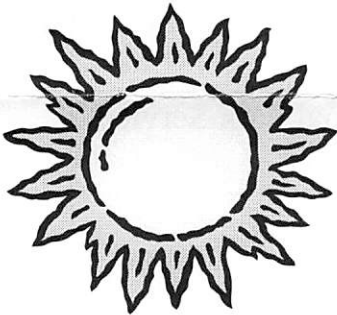


It's Still a Battlefield

When Mexican and United States troops confronted each other on the battlefield of Palo Alto cannon blasts and musket fire were not their only concerns. They also faced a number of hazards from the venomous animals, prickly plants, and the harsh environment of the field.

Today, the thunder of cannon and the rattle of muskets are distant memories. But the natural hazards remain and make the site a potentially dangerous area. Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park encourages you to be aware of possible dangers and follow guidelines to minimize your risk. It's still a battlefield out there. Don't become another casualty.

The Enemy

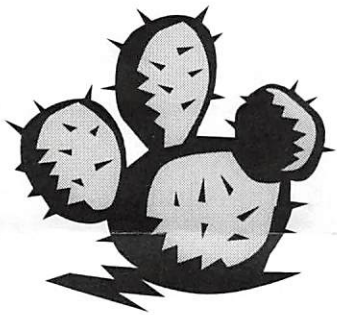
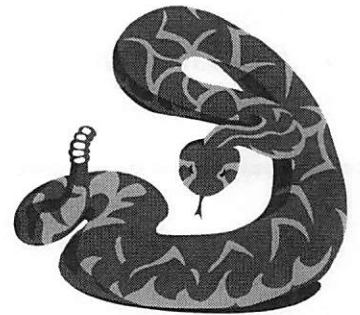


A vertical sun comes through the sleazy canvas with force enough to bake one's brains, however thick the skull may be.

Captain George McCall
July 2, 1846

I saw a rabbit, a rat, a rattlesnake and a tarantula emerge from the very same hole. Near my tent I killed another rattler that was six-feet long.

Capt. Edmund Kirby-Smith
April 17, 1846

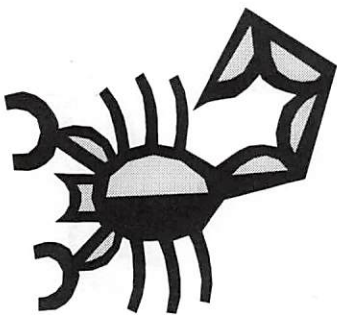
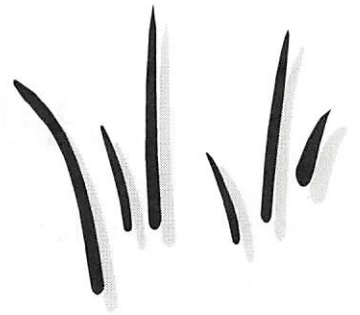


There is a thicket in this country—Chaparral—which is almost impassable when you are off the road, and which consists of thick thorny bushes, that tear your clothes to pieces in trying to get through them.

Lt. George G. Meade
May 9, 1846
May 9, 1846

The grass was tall, very stiff, and each stalk was pointed at the top, and hard and almost as sharp as a darning needle.

Lt. Ulysses S. Grant
Memoirs



Also annoying are the innumerable crowd of ticks and red bugs, who fasten and prey with an instinctive avidity.

Lt. Col. George W. Hughes
July 15, 1847

Defend Yourself



To make your visit to Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park more enjoyable and safe, please follow a number of precautions to defend yourself.

- ◆ Stay on marked paths and designated areas—do not wander onto the prairie or into the brush.
- ◆ Be alert for snakes, thorny plants, stinging insects, and other plant and animal threats.
- ◆ Be aware of the dangers of heat and sun exposure—during prolonged exposure to sun be sure to drink plenty of water.
- ◆ Do not touch plants and animals found along the edge of the trails and parking areas.
- ◆ Always stay with groups or in the company of a companion.
- ◆ Undergrowth can be highly flammable, do not use open flames and refrain from smoking.
- ◆ Visit park facilities only during designated hours.
- ◆ Check your clothing and body for ticks upon departure.
- ◆ Report any dangers to a park ranger as soon as possible.

Be a Friendly Invader



Although many of the plants and animals of Palo Alto Battlefield can be dangerous, the field is their home and they are only defending their territory. Please recognize that you are the outsider and respect the inhabitants of this area.

- ◆ Do not remove any plants, animal life or historical objects from the field.
- ◆ Avoid dangerous species, but do not kill or injure them.
- ◆ Recognize that hunting is not allowed—carrying a weapon onto National Park Service property is a federal crime.
- ◆ Metal detectors and digging are prohibited
- ◆ Place litter in trash cans—not on the ground.
- ◆ Please report any violation of these rules to a park ranger.

If You Are Injured



The most common treatment for casualties of the Battle of Palo Alto was amputation. Such measures are extremely unlikely for any wounds incurred on the modern-day field.

- ◆ For minor cuts and scrapes: Use basic first aid.
- ◆ For heat exhaustion or sun-stroke: Get into shade or a cool environment, drink fluids, sponge off with cool water, and seek immediate medical attention.

For other emergencies: Contact 911 or seek a park ranger who can obtain help for you.

A Final Note

Please be aware that Palo Alto Battlefield is a developing park with a limited staff. A park ranger may not be available to provide immediate assistance. We recommend that you always plan your visit as part of a group or with a companion who can assist you in time of need.

For other questions or problems, please give us a call at (956) 541-2785.

