

Stoneman Dispatch

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Email: camp18@suvpac.org Web: www.suvpac.org/camp18.html

Volume 13, No.1, January, 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Attention Company!

A message from the Camp Commander

Dear Brothers,

Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued membership and participation in our Camp and events that perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and its ideals. Please plan to join us for our next meeting on Saturday February 19th at the American Legion Post 216 – 1024 S. Main St. Corona, CA starting at 10 a.m. Where we will begin planning our calendar of events for 2022.

Thanks to many special Brothers, we can celebrate the new year knowing that we did not sit idle last year and were able to continue our work despite a global pandemic. In addition to hosting hybrid and in-person meetings, Camp 18 members planned and executed two major events last year. Our traditional Memorial Day Ceremony in May and Wreaths Across America in December, both at the GAR Monument in Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery in downtown Riverside. We also assisted with an Eagle Scout Project to clean the GAR Monument and surrounding Civil War veteran's headstones at the same Cemetery; and Graves

Registration Officer Michael Emmett registered 490 Civil War Veteran's grave

Continued on page 2, see REMARKS

Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, February 5 – Lincoln Shrine Open House G.A.R./SUVCW display, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. 125 West Vine Street, Redlands.

Saturday, Feb. 19th – Camp Meeting, American Legion Hall, 1024-B South Main St, Corona. 10:00 a.m.

March 18 – 19 – Planned 136th Annual Department Encampment, Bakersfield. Plans are still in the works. As soon as plans are confirmed we will pass along the information. Stay tuned.

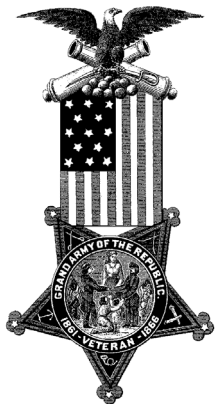
Saturday, April 16 – Camp Meeting, American Legion Hall, Corona. 10:00 a.m.

Trivia

Where were the following battles?

- 1) The Hornets' Nest,
- 2) The Sunken Lane,
- 3) The Crater,
- 4) Bloody Lane,
- 5) The Battle Above the Clouds.

Answers on page 5,.....



*Dedicated to Preserving the Memory
of the Grand Army of the Republic
And the soldiers who Fought to Save the Union 1861 - 1865*



REMARKS Continued,....

locations in 2021. Special thanks to Junior Vice-Commander John Morris for his work in planning and scripting our events; the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery, as well as the Evergreen Memorial Park and Mausoleum Board of Directors for their support and participation; and those of you who participated. Thank you all! Including our meeting hosts from American Legion Post 216 Glen Roosevelt and Burt Hogue.

I look forward to seeing you in 2022, as we continue to work together to support the mission of our Camp and honor the memory of our forefathers who fought to preserve the union and end slavery.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Brian Stephens
Camp Commander

General Order #4

**Commander-in-Chief Michael Paquette
31 December 2021**

Passing of Real Son John Wilson Oliver Jr.

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Real Son and Life Member John Wilson Oliver Jr., on 15 November 2021, at the age of 96 years. Brother Oliver was a member of the Major William Anderson McTeer Camp 39 of the Department of Tennessee and had resided in Morristown, Tennessee prior to his passing.

Brother Oliver was the son of John Wilson Oliver, Sr., who was mustered into service into Company F, 4th Tennessee Infantry with the rank of private. The 4th Tennessee Infantry was subsequently re-organized into the 1st Tennessee Cavalry. The unit was engaged in numerous actions in Eastern and Middle Tennessee, Northern Alabama, and Northern and Central Georgia including the Battles of Franklin and Nashville and the pursuit of General John Bell Hood. He was honorably discharged August 2, 1865.

In remembrance of Real Son and Brother John Wilson Oliver Jr. all Brothers will attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badges.

This order shall remain in effect for 30 days from this date.

Annual Dues

Brothers, it is that time of year again when we continue our commitment to the Memory of the Boys in Blue and renew our membership in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Everyone should have received the renewal notice in the mail along with an already addressed Return envelope.

To stay in line with the Department's and National's Report & Renewal dates we need all dues to be received by January 31, 2022. We are happy to mention that we are waiting on just a few Brothers to send their renewal.

Please email Camp Secretary Rudy with any concerns; rev03@dc.rr.com

Veterans Day Flag Detail

at

Evergreen Historical Memorial Cemetery, Riverside

On Saturday morning, 6 November 2021, Camp 18 JVC John Morris and his two daughters gathered with Camp SVC Matt Crowder and Steve Doyle PCC at Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside to place flags on the Veterans graves for Veterans Day. There are over 1000 veterans interred at Evergreen including one Medal of Honor recipient. Thank you Brothers for putting in the time to remember our Country's heroes.

Eagle Scout Update

On 25 October 2021 we received an Eagle Scout Commendation request and were able to accommodate.

Eagle Scout Lawson Matthews from Troop 777 in Cardiff earned his Eagle rank on 25 March 2021. His Eagle project was building two cabinets, trophy shelves and a drum harness rack for Digueno Middle School.

Because of the COVID virus plans for the Court of Honor have been on hold. I am sure that, even after 7 months since the Eagle rank was earned, the Commendation Certificate that Lawson received in October was appreciated.

At 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, 18 September 2021, Camp Commander Brian Stephens, Rudy Velasco and John Morris met Eagle Scout Candidate Daniel Roche and about 25 other scouts, parents and friends that turned

Continued on page 3, see EAGLE

EAGLE *continued...*

out to help Daniel complete his Eagle project at Evergreen Historical Memorial Cemetery in Riverside.

Daniel, a scout in Troop 2 – Riverside, chose the project of cleaning the G.A.R. monument and 92 headstones at the Grand Army of the Republic Circle which also includes Spanish American War



Photo Above, left to right is Rudy Velasco, Eagle Scout Daniel Roche, Camp Commander Brian Stephens and John Morris ready to help clean the headstones at Evergreen Cemetery.

veterans. After the fundraising drive was completed, Daniel purchased the necessary cleaning supplies and protective gear for the volunteers and was ready to take up his role to direct, guide, encourage, explain and oversee the cleanup operation. The goal for the Scout was to plan, organize and manage the project. The D/2 biological cleaning solution is not harmful to vegetation, pets or humans but did a very nice job on the headstones.

Brandon Cabrera, another Troop 2 Scout working on his Eagle Scout project has asked if Camp 18 would like to help him reach his goal. He is trying to put together 100 Essential Kits for our Veterans that are housed at March Air Force Base. He believes this is a good way for them to get started when they move in. Items that he is looking for to put the 100 kits together are listed below; (100 of each)

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Shampoo & Conditioner | Blankets |
| Bar soap | Socks |
| Toothpaste & Toothbrush | Backpacks or plastic totes |
| Deodorant | Nail clippers |
| Dish Sponges | Flashlights |
| Dish soap | First Aid kits |
| Toilet Paper | Laundry soap |
| Towels & Washcloths | Dish towels |
| Batteries | |
| Refillable water bottles | |

Continued on page 4,...



**General George Stoneman Jr.
Camp 18 Officers**

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Camp Commander, | Brian Stephens |
| Sr. Vice Cmdr, | Matt Crowder |
| Jr. Vice Cmdr, | John Morris |
| Sec/Treas, | Rudy Velasco III |
| Camp Council #1 | Michael Emmett |
| Camp Council #2 | Rudolph Velasco IV |
| Camp Council #3 | Benny White |

Appointed

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Camp Chaplain | Bill Daley PCC |
| Camp Historian | Burt Hogue |
| Camp Guide | Bodie Crowder |
| Camp Guard | Steve Doyle PCC |
| Graves Registration | Michael Emmett |
| Newsletter Editor | Rudy Velasco III |
| Patriotic Instructor | Steve Doyle PCC |
| Eagle Scout & | |
| JROTC Coordinator | Rudy Velasco III |

If you have something of interest that you would like to add to this newsletter, something that our **Brothers** might enjoy like an article, a photo or a Civil War event, contact the Editor, Rudy Velasco for placement. rev03@dc.rr.com



Camp 18 has invited Brandon to come and speak about his Eagle Scout project at our February 19th meeting at the American Legion Hall in Corona.

If you are interested in providing Brandon with any of his suggested items you can bring them to the February meeting so he can pick them up after his visit.

We are looking forward to Daniel's and Brandon's Eagle Scouts Court of Honor, whenever that happens.

Good Job Fellas.



Photo above, left to right, Camp JVC John Morris and CC Brian Stephens spray the D/2 solution on the headstones to clean them on 9/18/2021 at Evergreen Cemetery.



Report from Camp 18's Intrepid Graves Registration Officer Michael Emmett

As another year comes to an end, I feel the need to give a report of, not only of Graves Registration, but also of my experiences related to the SUVCW.

My son, Michael E. S. Emmett, is also a member of our chapter and is doing well in South Carolina where he is currently in his fourth year of a PhD program in history. A couple of years back he published his Master's Thesis on the Port Royal Experiment as seen through the eyes of James Seymour Severance, whose papers I own. His focus for his PhD is taking him to Fort Sumter and the Fort Sumter Club which originated on the steamship, *Oceanus* which originated in New York and sailed to Fort Sumter for the re-raising of the flag by General Robert Anderson on April 15, 1865. Because of his extensive work on a fairly

unknown topic, he has been invited to speak, twice, once by ZOOM, and another, in person, at the British American Nineteenth Century History association (BrANCH) meetings. I accompanied my son on his second invite to Coventry, England, where an august body of historians met in October 2021. I, too, was in attendance, not as a speaker, but as a guest with appropriate privileges accorded members. Michael did well and we, both, made some useful contacts of people interested in our Civil War in America.

This summer, Edda Fields-Black, a professor from Carnegie Mellon University contacted me, via my son, concerning my papers regarding James Seymour Severance. She is currently writing a book about Harriet Tubman and the Battle of Congaree Creek in South Carolina on February 15, 1865. She asked to review my papers, all originals, and agreed to fly to Montana for a week to go through them. When she left, she was not only appreciative, but satisfied. She found some useful information, heretofore unknown, to use for her book. She has invited Michael and myself to be present in June 2023 at the presentation of her book in Beaufort, South Carolina.

I have currently registered some 400 soldiers, blue and gray, in our SUVCW database this year. Since I am almost exclusively registering the dead of Gettysburg, there are a lot of unknowns, particularly among the Confederates. It is a slow process, but moving along. By this time next year, I hope to have the entire cemetery registered. About half the graves have been registered, so I am merely having to weed out the registered from the unregistered.

On a less positive note, I have, along with my fellow members of Camp Compliment-Chapman #2 in Montana, resigned my membership in that camp. The leadership and fraternity that we enjoy in California and Pacific Department do not exist in the Department of Wyoming, Colorado, et al.,. We have shut down the camp due to the lack of leadership coming out of those who are in charge. It is a sad day, and I'm sorry it had to happen. We all should feel blessed by the leadership coming out of our Department.

It's been a busy year, hope to see you all in March 2022.

Please see my final report for 2021 on page 5 of this newsletter,

Happy New Year to all!

GRAVE REGISTRATION REPORT 2021 FINAL

Michael S. Emmett, Grave Registration Officer
George Stoneman Camp 18
Department of California and the Pacific

Total graves registered 2021	490
Union graves	426
Confederates graves	64
Most prominent state recorded - Pennsylvania (415)	
Total graves registered 2012-2021 =	4673
Significant graves:	
James Bolles Coit,	Brigadier General (Brevet)
John L. Little,	Recipient: Kearney Cross
George Westinghouse,	Inventor

I have been reviewing graves at Gettysburg National for the past 18 months; that has been my focus. I plan to complete this project by the end of next year.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Michael Emmett
GRO, Stoneman Camp 18

Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Evergreen Historical Memorial Cemetery with General Stoneman Camp 18

A report from Brother John Morris

Special Thank you to Riverside Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson, Cemetery and Military Staff for participation.

General George Stoneman Camp 18, Sons of The Union Veterans of the Civil War, participated in the fourth annual National Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony at Evergreen Memorial Park and Cemetery in downtown Riverside, California, on Saturday morning, the 18th of December 2021.

National Wreaths Across America Day is an event scheduled each December since 2006 dedicated to remembering the sacrifices veterans have made in wars since the American Revolution. The goal of the National Wreaths Across America program is to remember our fallen US veterans, honor those who served and are still serving and teach our children the value of freedom.

During the ceremony, Camp 18 served as the Honor Guard, presenting the colors at the start of The National Anthem and posting the colors afterwards. Members of the Camp also served as the escorts for the

US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force and US Coast Guard wreath layers as they laid their wreaths at the base of their respective service flagpoles, and served as the musket volley squad prior to TAPS being played. After the ceremony, members of the camp helped place over 900 wreaths on veteran graves throughout the cemetery. Camp Members who participated in the ceremony were: Brother Brian Stephens, Camp Commander; Brother Matt Crowder, Senior Vice Commander; Brother John Morris, Junior Vice Commander; Brother Rudy Velasco, Camp Secretary; Brother Benny White; Brother Bill Daley, Past Camp Commander and Brother Steve Doyle, Past Camp Commander.

Camp 18 also Thanks Kasey Borders for playing TAPS for the Ceremony and Master of Ceremonies Brother John Morris for putting the program together.

The ceremony was covered by both the Riverside *Press-Enterprise* newspaper and the *San Bernardino Sun*.

A you-tube video of the Wreaths Across American Ceremony can be viewed at;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScEv7Wq6LC0>



Photo above; Camp 18 Chaplain Bill Daley PCC,(left) escorted by Camp Commander Brian Stephens (right, in uniform) pay respect and salute the wreath placed at the Marine Corps. Flag at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery.

TRIVIA - Answers from page 1,...

- 1) Shiloh, 2) Gettysburg, 3) Petersburg,
- 4) Antietam, 5) Lookout Mountain.



*General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Newsletter
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