

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.2, April, 2022

Attention Company!

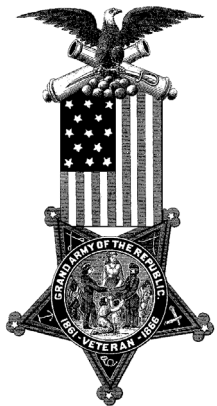
A message from the Camp Commander

Dear Brothers,

It was an honor and a privilege to represent Camp 18 at the Department of California and Pacific 136th Annual Encampment held in Bakersfield, CA last month. I was proud to report on all our Camp activities and nominate Brother Steven Doyle for another term as the Department Senior Vice-Commander. Among our many activities last year, the highlights of our Camp report were the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery that was recorded and posted on the National SUVCW website; and the activity of our Camp 18 Graves Registration Officer – Brother Mike Emmett. Last year he registered 490 Civil War soldier's graves of which 426 belong to Union soldiers. The registrations were mostly in Pennsylvania. Since 2012, Brother Emmett has successfully registered 4,673 Civil War Soldiers graves across the U.S. In addition to our notable camp activities, we were well represented by our PCC/PDC Rudy Velasco, PCC/DSVC Steven Doyle, CC Brian Stephens, and first-time attendee SVC Matt Crowder. Our camp enjoys a well-deserved reputation for leadership and service to our organization. Thank you!

Being a successor organization to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), our annual flagship event has always been on Memorial Day which began as Decorations Day started by the GAR to honor those who served and gave their lives to preserve the Union. This year with the

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Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, April 9 – End of the Civil War recognition and wreath laying at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside, 9:00 a.m. For more information email Brother Morris; john.morris.6@us.af.mil

Saturday, April 16 – Camp Meeting, American Legion Hall, 1024 S. Main St. Corona, CA. 92882. 10:00 a.m.

---Volunteers Needed---

Saturday, May 28 – Annual Memorial Day Flag Detail, Evergreen Cemetery, 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 28 – Camp 18's Memorial Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. Details still being arranged and will be distributed when finalized. Approximate start time is 10:00 a.m. Let us know if you would like to participate.

Saturday, June 18 – Camp Meeting, American Legion Hall, Corona. 10:00 a.m.

August 11 – 14 – 141st National Encampment of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* in Grand Rapids, MI. More Encampment details can be viewed at;

www.suvcwmi.org/2022NatEncampment/2022Encampment.php

Saturday, October 15 – Camp Meeting, American Legion Hall, Corona. 10:00 a.m.

Thank you to all who donated to help Boy Scout Brandon Cabrera who is working on his Eagle Scout Project of providing “Essential Kits” for 100 homeless U.S. Veterans transitioning to more permanent housing at March Air Base, Riverside.



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

MESSAGE continued,

leadership of Camp 18 Junior Vice-Commander John Morris we are planning a repeat performance on Saturday May 28th at the GAR monument in Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery. Where we will again honor those (including our Camp Brothers) who have served in the U.S. Military. We owe you all a big and sincere THANK YOU!

Please plan on joining us at our April 16th meeting at the American Legion Post 216 Hall in Corona, CA. We will be reviewing our plans for this event and conducting the initiation ceremony for our newest member Brother Cameron Quinn. I hope to see you there.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Brian Stephens,
Commander, Camp 18

Lincoln Shrine Display

by
Steve Doyle, PCC

On February 5th this year, Camp 18 set up our Civil War/GAR display at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine and Museum in Redlands.

Finally, after two years of Covid, the city of Redlands was able to have their Lincoln Shrine open again, to celebrate President Lincoln's birthday. As in previous years, Brother Rudy and I talked with the passersby about SUVCW and the Civil War. But the crowds weren't as big as in previous years because they didn't have a parade. Even still, there was a steady stream of people stopping by to look at our display, with a few even taking pictures.

One particular gentleman to whom I talked with mentioned that he was a retired Physician and that he had an extensive Civil War era Surgical Kit and that it was in a display case in the Lincoln Shrine. As soon as we finished talking I went to see it and it truly was an impressive collection. Not only were there many surgical instruments for surgery, but he also had examples of other items I had never heard of or seen:

-An "Amputation Chain Saw" (two handles connected to a sharp chain) that was used in close quarters to cut large bones after the surrounding tissue had been cut.

-An "Ether Canister" that was used to anesthetize soldiers during the operation procedures.

-Two bullets with grooves on them, with the

caption: "According to Civil War mythology, bullets were used by patients to bite on during surgical procedures, giving rise to the term, "bite the bullet". As a choking hazard, it is unlikely that bullets were used for this purpose. The bite marks on these bullets were likely made by foraging hogs in the forest."



Photo above; Display case at the Lincoln Shrine showing the medical tools described in Brother Doyle's report.

Doyle photo

-Shackles used as handcuffs to restrain slaves, acquired from the Alexandria Slave Pen in Virginia from 1828 to 1861. When the city was returned to American control by United States Armed Forces in 1861, the building was used as a military prison for the remainder of the war.

-It is estimated that over 60,000 amputations were performed during the Civil War.

Goes to show you, it's not just us teaching others about the Civil War; we too can learn things at these displays.

Editor's notes; It was great to see Camp 18 Brothers Gene Justin and Mark Radeleff while they were visiting the Lincoln Shrine Open House and all of the other Civil War era displays on the Shrine's open lawn area.

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DISPLAY *continued,*

There were several loading & firing demonstrations of a 10 pound Parrott rifle put on by Battery B, 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery reenacting group. Each time the cannon fired it set off car alarms.



The visiting Camp Carlton Cornet Band, shown in the photo above, is always guaranteed to put the listener in a patriotic mood.

In a follow-up email received from Associate Archivist Maria at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine, over 400 people attended this year's Open House which was the 50th anniversary of the event. Under recent virus circumstances, I would say this attendance was fantastic.



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



Welcome New Camp 18 Brother

Camp 18 welcomes new member Cameron Quinn of La Quinta, CA. into our Camp.

Brother Quinn was unanimously voted into our Ranks at the February Camp Meeting at the American Legion Hall in Corona.

Brother Quinn joins us honoring the Civil War service of his Great Grandfather Cameron Hayes who served with Co. H, 11th Illinois Infantry and Co. F, 8th Illinois Infantry and was Honorably Discharged in April 1866.

Huzzah Huzzah Huzzah!

JROTC Report

Camp 18 has received only one JROTC award application so far in 2022. This request is from Murrieta Valley High School and the Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday 16 April at 9:00 a.m. which is the same day and approximate time as the next Camp meeting. More to report in the next camp newsletter,... stand by.

Morris Family Military History during the final days of the Civil War

by

Camp Sr. Vice Commander Brother John Morris

On 1 April 1865, the Battle of Five Forks was fought between the Union Army and General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, ending in a Union Army victory. The Battle of Five Forks was significant because the Union Army was able to seize Five Forks, the key to control of the South Side Railroad, a vital supply line and evacuation route for the Confederate forces, and breach the flank of the Confederate lines, directly threatening their ability to protect Petersburg and Richmond, forcing General Lee to begin the withdrawal of his forces from Petersburg and Richmond and begin his retreat that ultimately ended at a place called Appomattox Court House.

On 2 April 1865, after the Union victory at Five Forks, the day before, General Lee was preparing to withdraw his remaining forces of the Army of Northern Virginia out of Petersburg and Richmond and flee south to join General Joseph Johnston and his confederate Army of North Carolina. In order to buy time to effect an orderly withdraw, the confederate troops manning Fort Gregg would have to make a last ditch, fight to the last bullet stand and hold off the Union Army until the confederate forces could get away. The confederate stand, dubbed "The Confederate Alamo" allowed General Lee to successfully withdraw his forces from both Petersburg and Richmond and begin his march south. Fort Gregg fell to the Union Army on the morning of 3 April 1865.

On 9 April 1865, the Union Army engaged and successfully encircled General Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia as they were retreating through Appomattox Court House, Virginia, preventing his breakthrough to North Carolina and forcing him to surrender to General Grant later that afternoon.

My great-great Uncle, Thomas McMaster, served in Company A, 2nd West Virginia Cavalry Regiment at the Battle of Five Forks and was severely wounded. He lived to see the Confederate surrender on 9 April and later died from his wounds at Fort Monroe, VA, on 28 April 1865. His body was brought home and he is buried in Miles Cemetery in Rutland, Ohio (my hometown). He was 20 years old when he died.

My great, great Cousin, David Longstreth, served with Company G, 116th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and along with several thousand other Union soldiers, participated in the assault and eventual capture of Fort Gregg. He was wounded during the attack.

My great-great Grandfather, Nelson J. Ward, was a

Private in Company K, 62nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment and served at the Battle of Appomattox Court House. He was severely wounded during the battle (a confederate cannon shell exploded overhead, with a piece of the cannon ball hitting and embedding into his head. He fell to the ground and was later evacuated to a hospital, where the surgeons removed portions of his skull. He survived his wound but was pretty much an invalid for the next 60 years. His injuries and aftermath are chronicled on pages 169 and 271 in William Marvell's book, "Lee's Last Retreat: The Flight To Appomattox," and on page 293 of "The Medical and Surgical History of The War of the Rebellion: 1861-1865."



On Saturday, 28 May 2022, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Brother Morris will lead an annual gathering to place flags for Memorial Day week on the veterans' graves at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery. All Camp Brothers and family members are invited to participate, the Camp's Memorial Day Service to follow a bit later that day.

136th Annual Department Encampment of California & Pacific- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 2022

by

Steve Doyle, PCC

Well, we were finally able to have an actual *physical* Encampment this year. We had an attendance of 35 Brothers and Guests, one of whom was Commander-in-Chief, Mike Paquette. Unfortunately, our Auxiliary Sisters were not able to join us this year, but we are hoping they will be able to next year.

Camp 18 had a good attendance this year with Brothers Rudy, Matt, Brian, as well as myself in attendance. I hope Brothers Matt and Brian enjoyed attending this year.

Some highlights of the Encampment: Brother Owen Stiles announced his "retirement" from being the Department Secretary/Treasurer for the past 10 years, and was awarded a Past

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ENCAMPMENT *continued,*

Department Commander's badge for his loyal service in that "paperwork infested" position. His replacement will be new Brother Randy Dhinsda and Brother Owen will be orienting him in the coming months. Also, regarding Brother Randy of Clovis, California: he received a plaque for bringing 10 new Brothers into our Department. I am hoping he will share his secrets with us . . . Because of his efforts there is hope that we may be able to start a new camp in the Fresno area!



Photo above, left to right; Sons of Union Veterans Commander-in-Chief Michael Paquette, Department Commander Frank Avila, Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdr. Steve Doyle, Camp 18 Commander Brian Stephens, Camp 18 Sr. Vice Cmdr. Matt Crowder and Past Department Commander Rudy Velasco

Brother Rudy officiated as Department Chaplain and I was re-elected as Department Senior Vice Commander for another term. My first year was been a learning curve, but I expect this next term of office will be much easier. The feedback I got from Brothers at the Encampment was very favorable as far as the 4 Points Sheraton Hotel and meals were concerned, and so, in all likelihood, we will return to this site next year (March 19th and 20th?). Set your calendars, Ok?

I would be remiss in also not mentioning that Brother Mike Emmett also received an award for his registering of over 400 Civil War burial sites this past year, bringing his grand total to over the past 10 years of registering civil war graves to 4,673. Once again, Congratulations, Brother Mike!

Other news from Commander-in-Chief Paquette: There is a Kit Carson statue in Santa Fe, New Mexico

that is not popular with the Indigenous Peoples there. It was placed there by the G.A.R., is on federal property, is an historic landmark, and is currently boarded up in plywood now. When the G.A.R. closed they did not pass along documentation of ownership to National SUVCW. Even if we cannot prove ownership, we feel we are the stewards to this monument. There is an organization in Lexington, Kentucky, where Kit Carson is from, who wants it and this may be the outcome.

****EDITOR'S NOTE, there is a great amount Federal involvement with this issue and a lot of red tape to go through to find out who is legally responsible for the statue but to begin your debate you can start your research on line at; www.krqe.com/news/new-mexico/santa-fe-mayor-hits-roadblock-in-removal-plan-of-obelisk-honoring-kit-carson/**

Another report from the C-in-C was that, from a new National Parks Services Policy, we are no longer allowed to put flags on graves in National Parks anymore. If you put flags on graves, you must put them on *every* grave. What we can do is, allow other organizations to put their flags first, and then put ours on our Veterans' graves afterwards.

Brother Paquette reported that it is hoped that Congress will soon pass legislation promoting General Grant to Five Star General of the Army status. It is hoped it will be passed in time for General Grant's birthday in April.

He encouraged us to continue/increase our efforts regarding the Eagle Scout and ROTC programs as it promotes marketability for our Order. Brother Commander-in-Chief Paquette also reported that he considers Department Commanders part of the National Executive level and he wants to continue having Zoom meetings with all of them. He went on to say that the SUVCW Constitution & Regulations explains what the various positions are, but does not provide any training as far as doing the responsibilities of the positions. There may be more on this issue as Senior C-in-C, Bruce Frail, is also interested in this topic.

Finally, Brother Paquette encouraged all Department Commanders to report their camps' extraordinary activities so that they can be acknowledged and receive awards from National.

In other news, Brother Stiles reported that the S.A.R. now requires a 12 hour class regarding the

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ENCAMPMENT FINALS *continued,*

the firing of muskets: 6 hours in class and 6 hours on the range.

One other important matter to report is that Brother Glenn Roosevelt from Camp #17 was instrumental in providing a new washer and dryer in the Ladies G.A.R. Home. This is a home for indigent woman of Union Veterans ancestry and houses 10-12 women. Huhzah, Huhzah, Hahzah, for Camp 17 regarding this.

Brothers, we now have 319 Brothers in our Department and so are allowed to send 14 delegates to the National Encampment in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in August. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact me or Rudy (newsletter Editor) and we will be glad to assist you in attending.



Photo above, left to right, Department Commander Frank Avila, Dept. Secretary Owen Stiles, Commander-in-Chief Michael Paquette and Department Councilor and Chief of Staff Dan Earl at the Department Encampment in Bakersfield on March 19, 2022.



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