

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.3, July, 2022



Happy Fourth of July



Attention Company!

A message from the Camp Commander

Dear Brothers,

It was nice to see everyone at our Camp meeting at the American Legion Hall in Corona on June 18th. I believe we had a productive meeting.

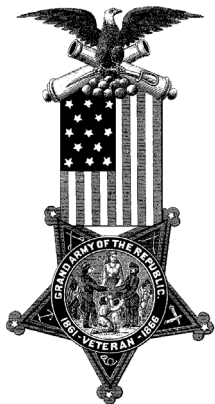
I would like to thank everyone who attended our Saturday May 28th Memorial Day Remembrance at Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery in downtown Riverside. I was surprised by the number of people in attendance; and it was a well done and very fitting remembrance to our fallen brothers. I would like to thank Brothers John Morris and Rudy Velasco for their efforts at making this event such a success.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Brian

Don't Forget,...

If you plan on going to the National Encampment in Grand Rapids this August remember to request your Encampment Credentials card from our Department Secretary. You will not be permitted to enter the meeting without the card.



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

Tentative Camp Calendar

August 11 – 14 – 141st National Encampment of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* in Grand Rapids, Michigan. You still have time to register but you will have to hurry. Deadlines begin in the middle of July. Encampment details can be found at:

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

Saturday, October 15 – Camp meeting, 10:00 a.m. American Legion Hall, 1024 S. Main St. Corona, CA. 92882.

Saturday, Nov. 5 – 8:00 a.m. Flag detail for Veterans Day at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery, Riverside.

Friday, Nov. 11 – Possible Camp 18 Veterans Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery. More information as plans develop.

Saturday, Dec. 3 – 9:00 a.m. Wreaths Across America ceremony “dry run practice” at Evergreen Cemetery.

Saturday, Dec. 10 – Camp Election meeting, 10:00 a.m. American Legion Hall, Corona.

Saturday, Dec. 17 – 9:00 a.m. 5th Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony with Evergreen Cemetery and Master of Ceremonies Brother John Morris. More information up-dates as we get closer to the event.

Contact Camp Secretary Rudy Velasco if you are interested in participating.



Camp Election Meeting in December

Camp 18 will hold Camp Officer elections at the meeting on December 10th this year at the American Legion Hall in Corona. As of this edition the Junior Camp Commander position is open as there have been no nominations.

Any member of the Camp can run for any position. There are also appointed positions. On the job training is available. Officers' positions are not difficult and require mostly interest in our Camp to do the job.

If interested contact the Camp Secretary or come to the October 15th Camp meeting at the Legion Hall.

Volunteers Wanted for Veterans Day

General Stoneman Camp 18 is in the preliminary stages of planning a Veterans Day service for Friday, 11 November 2022 and looking to see who is interested in participating. The service will be held at Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside.

We have six Camp Brothers who have already volunteered but we do not want to leave anybody out. If you are interested in participating contact the Camp Secretary. Hopefully we will have the plans for this service finalized for the October 15th Camp meeting. Come join us.

Reunification Day

On April 9th 2022, Camp 18 Jr. Vice Commander John Morris and daughter Sarah, Brother Cameron Quinn and his wife Neeta met at Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside to place a wreath at Grand Army of the Republic monument to mark the end of America's Civil War.

It was a very short ceremony, which went very well, in honor of remembering the Boys in Blue who answered Uncle Abe's call to preserve the Union.

Thank you, Brothers Morris and Quinn for acknowledging the sacrifice of our Union ancestors.



Photo above, left to right; Brothers Quinn and Morris place a wreath at the G.A.R. monument in Evergreen Cemetery on 9 April 2022.

Morris photo

Memorial Day Service Saturday, 28 May 2022



It was a very pleasant day for Camp 18 to hold a Memorial Day Service. The weather cooperated completely, barely reaching the low 80's with a light breeze.

Camp JVC John Morris met with a group of volunteers to place flags on the graves throughout the cemetery at 8:00 a.m. and everyone went to work straight away placing the flags.

The Memorial Service began at noon with an audience of approximately fifty. Camp Commander Brian Stephens welcomed all in attendance and explained why we gather for Memorial Day. Brothers Rudy Velasco PDC, Sr. Vice Commander Matt Crowder, Larry Duncan and Steve Doyle PCC made up the Camp Color Guard and presented the Colors while Kasey Borders played the National Anthem on her bugle. Acting Chaplain Brother John Morris gave the Invocation.

Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery Board President Etienne Caroline added some remarks about the cemetery grounds, maintenance and with continued donations, the likely future of the older and historical part of the cemetery.

Camp Commander Stephens continued the Service with a Memorial Day Address and General Logan's Order No.11.

As the Service continued, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War –Tent 87 President Judy Dillard and Camp 18 Brother Cameron Quinn added Civil War era poems.

Special friends and family members made some special additions to the service this year.

Continued on page 3, See Memorial,....

Memorial continued from page 2,....

Bugler Kasey Border's uncle, Vietnam Veteran Spec 4 John Bierwirth made the wreath presentation to the U.S. Army flag escorted by Camp JVC Matt Crowder. Daughters of the American Revolution representative Diane Stephens presented a wreath to the Marine Corps flag escorted by Camp Brother Steve Doyle PCC. Susan Velasco presented a wreath to the Navy flag escorted by husband Rudy Velasco PDC. Michelle and Sarah Morris presented a wreath to the Air Force flag escorted by their father John Morris. Camie Quinn presented a wreath to the Coast Guard flag escorted by her father Cameron Quinn.



Photo above, left to right, Bugler Kasey Borders plays the Marine Corps. Hymn as Brother Doyle escorts Diane Stephens to the Marine Corps. flag. Hall photo

wreath to the POW/MIA flag escorted by Camp Brother Larry Duncan.

A very special addition to the ceremony this year as suggested by bugler Kasey Borders was the playing of each military service branch song as a wreath was presented to the corresponding flags; "Caissons Go Rolling Along", "Marine Corps. Hymn", "Anchors Aweigh", Wild Blue Yonder", "Semper Paratus (Coast Guard) and America the Beautiful was played as a wreath was presented to the MIA/POW flag.

Acting Chaplain John Morris gave the closing Benediction and the Camp 18 Musket Squad fired three -3 round volleys followed by "TAPS" played by Kasey Borders. The final act was inviting the audience to disperse flowers to the graves of the Civil War veterans buried in the G.A.R. circle.



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



A Special Thank you to:



First and foremost to our country's veterans of all wars, also Judy Dillard (Daughters of Union Veterans), Army Veteran John Bierwirth, Diane Stephens (Daughters of the American Revolution), Susan Velasco, Michelle Morris-Cao, Sarah Morris, Camie Quinn and Kasey Borders for participating.

Also,.... Camp 18 Brother John Morris and fellow compatriots for placing memorial flags.

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





Photo above; Camp 18 family and friend participants of the Memorial Day Service on May 28th. Photo far right; Brother Cameron Quinn and daughter Camie take a wreath to the Coast Guard Flag near the G.A.R. circle at Evergreen Cemetery. Velasco & Morris photos

The Underground Railroad Operator by Camp JVC John Morris

In honor of my Great-Great-Great Grandfather Abraham Morris, the Underground Railroad Operator for Wilkesville, Ohio during the Civil War.

In July 1863, General John Hunt Morgan led a confederate cavalry raid into Ohio. On the 17th of July 1863, General Morgan and his confederate troops entered Wilkesville, Ohio, and arrested my Great-Great-Great Grandfather, Abraham Morris, who along with my Great-Great-Great Grandmother, Nancy, served as the Underground Railroad operator for Wilkesville, helping slaves from Kentucky escape to freedom in the north.

Great Grandpa Abraham had been betrayed by a local southern sympathizer. General Morgan ordered my Great Grandfather to be hanged. The confederate troops led Grandpa Abraham to a tree nearby a horse corral, but first ordered him to feed the horses before they hanged him. Some kind of disturbance happened nearby, so Grandpa Abraham picked up a bag of horse feed and put it on his shoulder to hide his face, walked by the confederate sentry guarding the corral, jumped on a horse and rode away to safety. Later that evening, Grandpa Abraham and Dr. William Cline, a fellow abolitionist who owned the home where General Morgan was spending the night, got with General Morgan's personal valet, a slave, and promised to help him escape to freedom. They also asked the valet to steal back the money which Morgan's troops stole from the local villagers when the confederates first occupied Wilkesville. The valet entered Morgan's room while he was asleep and stole not only the money confiscated from the Wilkesville villagers but also Morgan's own money. Grandpa Abraham helped the valet escape to an Underground Railroad station in Carpenter, Ohio.

On the morning of 18 July 1863, Morgan and his troops departed from Wilkesville and a few days later, under pursuit by Union forces, fought a battle at Buffington Island while trying to escape from Ohio. General Morgan was captured and imprisoned along with many of his men in the Ohio Penitentiary.

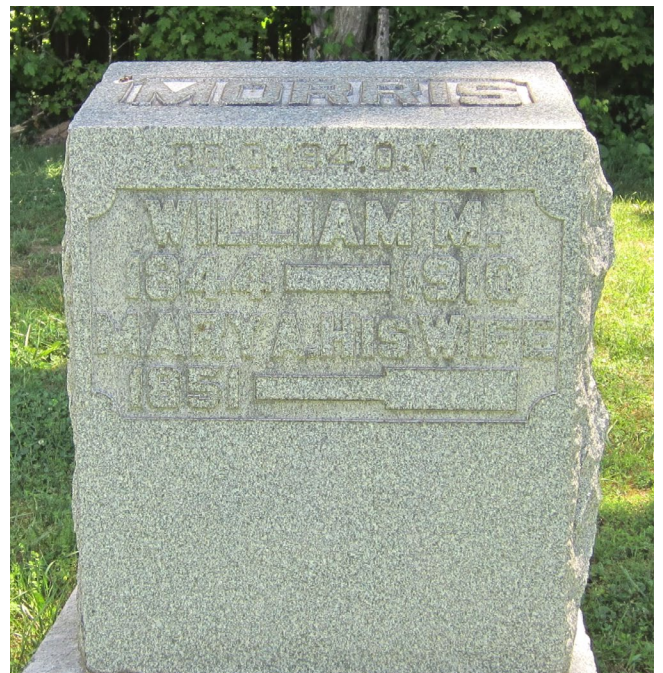


Photo of Great-Great Grandpa William Morgan Morris's tombstone. Note: the top/front inscription says 194th OVIR (Ohio Volunteer Infantry regiment)

Three of Abraham and Nancy's sons (William Morgan Morris, Francis Morris and Winfield Scott Morris) served in the Civil War. My Great-Great Grandfather William Morgan Morris served with the 194th Ohio Volunteer

Continued on page 5, see MORRIS

MORRIS, continued,....

Infantry Regiment and survived the war.

Great-Great Uncle Francis Morris served as a 1st Sergeant with the 33d Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment and was killed in action at the Battle of Perrysville, Kentucky, on 8 October 1862. Great-Great Uncle Winfield Scott Morris served with the 36th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment and was killed in action at the Battle of Cabletown, Virginia, on 19 July 1864. Their son-in-law, David Moore, served with the 116th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment and was captured by the confederates and died while in captivity on or about 15 August 1864 in the Southern prison camp known as "Bloody Andersonville."

Grandpa Abraham lived a long life and died on 5 March 1877, at the age of 75.

Confederate Sympathizer captured in the Temecula area in 1861

offered by Brother Burt Hogue

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the status of California was in flux. While it was generally known as pro-Union, there was a fair amount of Confederate sympathies within the state. Several men and groups of men tried with varying success to join the Confederacy from California, generally traveling along the Old Sonoran Road that runs through western Riverside County. One of these groups had as a member the notorious Dan Showalter.

Daniel Showalter was born in Pennsylvania but had been in California since 1852. Although in later depositions he would refer to himself simply as a miner, his "occupations" were much broader than that. According to his Wikipedia page, he was "a California miner, state legislator, duelist, secessionist and a Confederate States of America military officer in Texas.

By 1861, Showalter had been elected to the California State Assembly and was not one to keep his opinions to himself. When fellow Assemblymen put forth a measure to ensure that California would stand with the Union, Showalter and Charles Piercy, of San Bernardino, got into a verbal altercation about explaining their votes. The resolution passed 49 to 12, with Showalter placing an emphatic "no" vote.

This altercation led to a duel between the two men, which was fought May 26 and left Piercy and Showalter in police custody. Showalter was released on a technicality and opted to head to Nevada to lie low for a while.

By November of that year, military officials were hearing of a group of men forming at El Monte to ride to the Confederacy via Fort Yuma. These men were waiting for Showalter to join them. By now, Showalter was a wanted man for potentially drumming up support for potential Confederates moving to Texas.

By mid-November, Showalter was reported to be in Los Angeles with a party going to Texas. Unfortunately, conflicting information arose about their path of travel and the group led by Showalter was lost. Several military outposts were looking for him at this point.

On Nov. 27, a cavalry patrol from Camp Wright (at present-day Oak Grove) was looking for the Showalter party in the Aguanga region. Camping in Temecula the next night, they learned of a large party of men who had camped there just the night before. Early the next morning, the patrol broke camp and left in the direction of Warner's Ranch. Soon they came upon the Showalter party still having breakfast and quite unprepared to put up a fight. The entire party was forced to surrender to the very prepared cavalymen.

Although Showalter and his party protested that they were simply miners attempting to get to Sonora, the cavalymen were having none of it and the entire party was marched to Camp Wright where they were joined by more Union soldiers.

Showalter was eventually released after swearing an oath to the United States. It was a sham – he spent most of the Civil War in Texas fighting for the Confederacy. He survived the war and afterwards ran a hotel for a year or so in Mexico until he was killed as the result of a bar fight.

The Showalter party was probably the most famous of the groups to come through our region but certainly not the only.

The above article appeared in the Sunday, June 19th edition of the Riverside Press Enterprise, Corona-Norco edition.

JROTC Report

The JROTC Award ceremony season for 2022 is over, I believe. Camp 18 was contacted by only two high schools this season to assist with SUVCW awards for deserving Cadets. Camp 18 awards went to; Marine Cadet D. Phan, Murrieta Valley High School and Navy Cadet K. Pham, Corona High School. We're looking forward to more next season.



*General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Newsletter
69586 Borrego Rd.
Cathedral City, CA. 92234*