

# Stoneman Dispatch

## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Email: [camp18@suvpac.org](mailto:camp18@suvpac.org) Web: [www.suvpac.org/camp18.html](http://www.suvpac.org/camp18.html)

Volume 13, No.4, September, 2022

### Attention Company!

#### A message from the Camp Commander

Brothers,

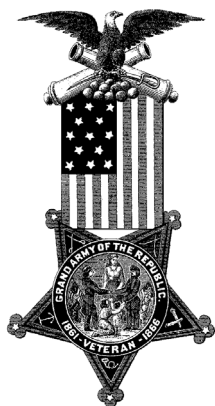
I hope everyone had a great summer. I enjoyed attending the National Encampment in Grand Rapids, Michigan August 11 -13 and the second annual cannon firing at the Lincoln Shrine in Redlands on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to join us at our next meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> as we plan and prepare for the Evergreen Historic Memorial Cemetery 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. and our first Veteran's Day event also at the Evergreen Historic Memorial Cemetery on Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please join me in congratulating our Camp 18 Graves Registration Officer Mike Emmett for receiving the Department of California and Pacific Graves Registration Certificate. He is on track to complete even more Civil War Grave Registrations this year. Huzzah Mike!

Save the date for the 137<sup>th</sup> Department of California and Pacific Encampment in Bakersfield, CA on March 17-18, 2023. Please attend to support the election and witness the installation of our own Past Camp 18 Commander Brother Steven Doyle to the position of Department Commander. Please consider stepping up to serve as a Camp Officer next year. Elections are coming soon.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Brian Stephens



### Tentative Camp Calendar

**Please note, the meeting date for October has been changed.**

**Saturday, October 8** - Camp meeting, 10:00 a.m. American Legion Hall, 1024 S. Main St. Corona, CA. 92882.

**Saturday, Oct. 15** – Camp 18 Musket Squad detail at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. More information on page 2.

**Saturday, Nov. 5** – 8:00 a.m. Flag Detail for Veterans Day at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery, 4414 14<sup>th</sup> St. Riverside. If you want to help place the flags on some of our Veterans' graves be at the cemetery at 8:00 a.m.

**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. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony with Evergreen Cemetery and Master of Ceremonies Brother John Morris. More information updates as we get closer to the event. Contact Camp Secretary Rudy Velasco if you are interested in participating.

### Trivia

Who was the youngest Union General?

Answer on page 4,...

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

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## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Evergreen Cemetery

On Saturday, 15 October, from 5:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m, Evergreen Cemetery will be celebrating 150 years of being in existence. Also being acknowledged will be early and significant Riverside residents Christopher C. Miller and Charles M. Dexter and their contributions to the city, cemetery and the local G.A.R. Post 118.

Camp 18 has been asked to provide a uniformed Honor Guard and fire three – 3 round musket volleys in honor of the Civil War veterans buried in the Grand Army of the Potomac circle there at Evergreen.

Camp 18 Honor Guard for this event consists of Camp Commander Brian Stephens, SVC Matt Crowder and Rudy Velasco PDC.

You are all welcomed to attend, Civil War uniforms are encouraged but NOT necessary. If you wish to participate with the musket squad contact the Camp Secretary.



*Photo above, California delegation to the National Encampment in Grand Rapids, MI. From left to right are Camp 18 Commander Brian Stephens, Brother Linn Malaznik, Dept. Commander Frank Avila, Past Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell and Dean Enderlin PDC.*

## 141<sup>st</sup> National Encampment of the SUVCW

A report from Camp Commander Brian Stephens

The 141st Annual National Encampment in Grand Rapids, Michigan on August 11 – 13, 2022, began with an optional bus tour stopping at three destinations. The May House, designed by Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, Greenwood Cemetery for the Comrade Charles Ellet Headstone Rededication Ceremony, and then lunch and guided tour of the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.

The National SUVCW Council of Administration (CoA) met on Thursday evening and again on Sunday. On Friday, the meeting began with a joint memorial service and presentation of National Officers and Allied Orders. Followed by National Officer and Committee Reports, continuing Saturday with Department Reports.

Awards were presented to several Brothers who had sponsored more than five new members in 2021. The most being 12 new members.

The Encampment culminated Saturday with the election and installation of new National Officers, an Allied Orders Dinner Banquet, and new Commander in Chief Reception; ending with a non-denominational religious service on Sunday morning.

Here are highlights of the items covered under new business:

The Encampment Delegates after much discussion voted down a motion to save money by

discontinuing the printing and mailing of a hard copy edition of the Banner Newsletter by switching to an electronic version e-mailed to the Camp Secretaries for distribution starting with the next edition. The majority present felt it was important to provide a hard copy using the National membership database for direct communication and not rely on the Camp Secretaries to distribute via e-mail. It was noted that a hard copy magazine is an important membership benefit and was worth the cost.

Seeking another way to raise much needed revenue, the Encampment Delegates then entertained and debated several motions on a National dues increase. Finally passing a motion to increase national dues by \$10.00 starting in 2023.

In addition to the current Eagle Scout Awards, consideration will be given to add similar SUVCW award certificates for Sea Scouts and Venture Scouts. Membership Applications will be revised to show applicants family lineage from the bottom up vs. the current top-down listing method. This will align the SUVCW application with other patriotic lineage organizations.

The SUVCW is not currently listed on the IRS website for not-for-profit corporations, any Department or Camp needing to confirm proof of status in order to qualify for grants and/or accept tax exempt donations may contact the National Treasurer for a copy of the IRS Letter confirming our status.

The 2023 National Encampment will be in Nashua, New Hampshire on August 3-6 at the Events Center/Courtyard by Marriott.



Photos above; left, newly elected Commander-in-Chief Bruce Frail take the helm. Right, 141<sup>st</sup> National Encampment medal from Grand Rapids Michigan.



**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        |

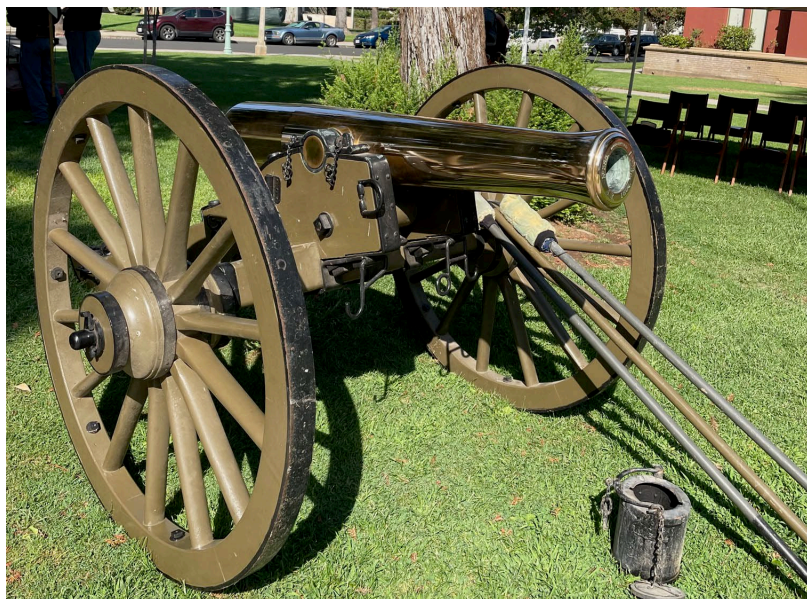
**Appointed**

- |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 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 &<br>JROTC Coordinator | Rudy Velasco III |

**Lincoln Memorial Shrine Celebrates One Year  
anniversary of donated reproduction  
Napoleon Canon**

On Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, Camp Commander Brian Stephens and Camp Secretary Rudy Velasco met at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine in Redlands to help celebrate the first anniversary of the donation of the reproduction 12 pound Napoleon smooth bore cannon to the museum, shown in the photo below.

*Continued on page 4, see ANNIVERSARY*



*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](mailto:rev03@dc.rr.com)



**Anniversary continued,...**

Camp 18 set up an “information table” with paper handouts and a Springfield musket to draw attention.

The celebration started at 10:00 a.m. and a crowd of about 100 spectators gathered to see the cannon demonstration. After a brief introduction on the use of artillery during the Civil War, the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Light Artillery reenactors fired the big gun four times.



*Above, cannon firing demonstration number 3. G. Justin photo*

Civil War era music performed by the Camp Carleton Cornet band entertained the crowd before and in between the firing demonstrations. There was also an appearance by President Abraham Lincoln, impersonator Robert Broski.

The crowd started thinning out and going inside to tour the museum by 11:00 a.m.

We did enjoy speaking with a handful of people that asked about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and a few really enjoyed learning about our 1861 Springfield musket and how they were loaded and fired.



*Photo above; from the left are Camp Secretary Rudy Velasco and Camp Commander Brian Stephens at the Lincoln Shrine on August 20<sup>th</sup>. G. Justin photo*

**Trivia**

*answer from page 1*

(Who was the youngest Union General?)

Galusha Pennypacker, born in Valley Forge, was promoted to general at the age of twenty in February 1865.

**Camp Election Meeting**

Camp 18 will be holding our Officer Election meeting on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and we are looking for a nomination or a volunteer for Camp Jr. Vice Commander.

Basically the purpose of the office of Junior Vice Commander is to assist with the recruitment and retention of Brothers (Members, Associates, and Juniors). Our Camp has elections every year but our Officers informally remain in their positions for a two year commitment. Activities of this Officer should include;

- (a) Contacting prospective Brothers whose names are supplied to the Camp by the Department Junior Vice Commander.
- (b) Supplying prospective Brothers with membership materials including two membership applications, a copy of a SUVCW organization descriptive leaflet, and an invitation to the next Camp meeting.
- (c) Keeping track of applicants' progress in completing membership applications.
- (d) Encouraging delinquent Brothers to remain in the Order.

On the job training is always available and what better way to learn how the Camp operates. Contact the Camp Secretary if interested.

At our October meeting we will be introducing two possible candidates for membership.

**Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans  
Avoid Conscription, Volunteers wanted**

For what-ever reasons, membership in the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is dwindling and the Department of California & Pacific of that Auxiliary is looking for volunteers and or recruits.

*Continued on page 5, see AUXILIARY*

**AUXILIARY** *continued,....*

You do not have to be a direct descendent of a Civil War Veteran to belong to this organization. Just an affection for the history is enough to belong.

If you are the wife, daughter, granddaughter, niece of a member of the Sons of Union Veterans or a direct descendent of a Civil War veteran and would like to become a member of this organization that works and helps the Sons of Union Veterans, contact Auxiliary President Melinie Caines at email: [proskcaines@earthlink.net](mailto:proskcaines@earthlink.net) or phone (310)322-3882.

### Stars and Stripes Symbol of the Complete Union

As the United States split apart in early 1861, the U.S. flag was in danger of splitting as well. Thirty-three stars represented the states then in the Union. Still, even as a 34<sup>th</sup> star was added with the admission of Kansas on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1861, there were increasing calls for the removal of 11 stars for the 11 seceding states. Some radicals actually produced 23-star flags, while others even omitted the stars which stood for the border states. There were even those who cut down the number of stripes to nine – removing stripes for the four Southern states from among the original 13.

Samuel F.B. Morse, artist, inventor of the telegraph and the president of the American Society for the Promotion of the National Union, suggested cutting the “Stars and Stripes” diagonally from the upper left to the lower right. The resulting triangular design would contain 23 stars and six and a half stripes, filled out to a rectangular shape with a field of white.

President Abraham Lincoln, however, would entertain no such ideas. He felt that creating a national symbol that completely excluded the Confederate states would grant *de facto* recognition to those states. Since the states had seceded illegally, he reasoned, they were still technically part of the Union and must be represented on the flag. So the 34-star flag continued to fly until July 4, 1863 when West Virginia was admitted. The addition of Nevada on October 31, 1864 made it a 36-star flag.

It was during the Civil War that reverence for the American flag took on an almost religious intensity. The Stars and Stripes started appearing in Northern churches for the first time, while the U.S. flag that had flown over Fort Sumter was exhibited all over the North as a fundraiser. “When the stars and stripes went down at Sumter, they went up in every town...in the loyal states... Its prose became poetry and there was seen in it a sacred

value which it had never before possessed.”

**Fascinating Fact:** Most Union battle units never received the newer flags and continued to use the 34-state design.

### William “Willie” Johnston Drummer Boy with Honors

Many underage boys managed to join the ranks in the Civil War, but the youngest brave souls who put themselves in the line of fire were the drummer boys and the cavalry buglers. These youths also sounded the daily calls and played with the band for drill and ceremonies. One of the youngest boys in the Union ranks – and youngest person to ever earn the Medal of Honor – was drummer boy William “Willie” Johnston.

Johnston was born in mid-state New York on 12 July 1850 to Englishman William H.B. Johnston and his wife who died giving birth to Willie. Living in Vermont in the summer of 1861, Willie’s father joined Company D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vermont Infantry. Willie left his step-mother in July 1861 and “joined” the unit as a drummer boy to march beside his father, who served in the color guard. On 1 December 1861, at age 11 and 5 months, Johnston enlisted at Camp Griffin, VA. Johnston and his father saw action at Lee’s Mill VA. on 16 April 1862. On 1 May 1862, the boy standing just 5 feet tall, was officially mustered in at Cold Harbor.

During the Seven Days’ battles in the summer of 1862, Johnston showed his bravery during a near rout. While others hastily left their gear and fled, Johnston kept his head and his drum and when he and the others reached Harrison’s Landing, his was the only drum available to use at divisional parade. For his composure on that battlefield, Johnston was issued a Medal of Honor by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton on 16 September 1863.

After the Peninsular campaign, Johnston became sick and was hospitalized at Fort Monroe until he transferred in December to Baltimore’s General Hospital where he had recovered by April 1863. He reenlisted on 15 February 1864 and briefly toured with the Regimental Brass Band then went to Company H, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vermont before being discharged at Brattleboro, VT, on 31 August 1865.

Willie died on 16 September 1941.

**Fascinating Fact:** Johnston’s postwar Activities are not known but in 1888 his drum with his Medal of Honor attached was found in an old house in Chelsea, Mass.



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