

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 14, No.2, March, 2023

Looking forward to the Department Encampment

Next weekend Camp 18 will be sending 7 Brothers to the Department Encampment in Bakersfield and I am sure everyone going is looking forward to attending.

We have a couple of “old Pros” and several “first timers” attending. These encampments are great for the comradery, making new friends and being reacquainted with old ones.

Best of luck to these Camp Representatives in their travels to and from the Encampment.

A full report of the Encampment will be in the next issue of the Stoneman Dispatch.

A Report from Camp 18 Graves Registration Officer Brother Michael Emett

Howdy, for those of you new to General Stoneman Camp 18, my name is Mike Emett, a charter member of the post, who is detached to Shepherd, Montana. Currently, and for the past 10 years, I have been the Camp’s Grave Registration Officer. During this period, I have registered 6782 graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers. Recently, I have been instructed from National not to register Confederates even though the registration form has a spot for marking “Confederate.” I have been registering both as I consider ALL soldiers worth remembering.

Continued on page 2, see REPORT,...

Tentative Camp Calendar

also see the tentative annual calendar on page 5

March 17 – 18 – 137th Department Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Bakersfield.

Saturday March 25 – Wreath Laying Ceremony for National Medal of Honor Day at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery, Riverside. Contact Brother John Morris for more information.

Saturday April 15 – Camp Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post 216 in Corona.

Saturday May 27 – Memorial Day Flag Detail at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery. 8:00 a.m.

Monday May 29 – Camp 18 Memorial Day Service. Plans are still being made, location and time to be announced.

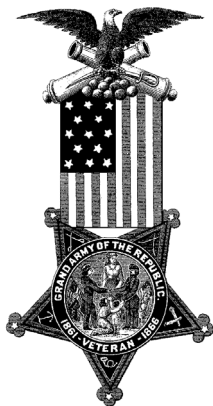
Saturday June 17 – Camp Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post 216, Corona.

Trivia

Although comprising only one percent of the population of the North, African-Americans made up what percentage of the Union Army at the end of the Civil War?



Answer top page 4,.....



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



REPORT *continued from page 1,*

In light of the current “cancel culture” movement which has been destroying or removing monuments to our great ancestors, Blue or Gray, I have felt the necessity to protect the honor of both sides of the great conflict.

My recent project involved the registration of 2100 soldiers to the national database; 2039 Union and 61 Confederate. I started out the year 2022 by focusing on the graves at Gettysburg National that I started the previous year. Included are numerous “unknown” burials and a few Confederates. Upon completion of those records, I started digging into Montana cemeteries as well as following other leads. I will be the first to admit that I have made some errors over the years as well as omitting some information that I would have liked to include, my overall successes far outweigh my misadventures. A Brief breakdown of the successes are as follows:

690 Pennsylvania burials (to include Gettysburg)

230 Indiana burials;

159 Ohio burials;

144 Illinois burials;

141 Montana burials;

100 Kansas burials;

25 California burials;

611 burials divvied up between 36 other states.

(Alaska, Hawaii, Arizona, Delaware, North Dakota, and New Mexico contributed none to my tally).

I always find a few notables when I scour the graveyards. Among the individuals I was privileged to encounter were William E. Miller Medal of Honor recipient who is buried at Gettysburg; William Allen, another Medal of Honor recipient; Henry F. Warren who was a survivor of the *Sultana* disaster at the end of the war; Major Joel Elliott, KIA at Washita during the Indian Wars. He was allegedly abandoned by LTC George Armstrong Custer when he fled the Washita River after the “battle”; George Dagwell who was a bodyguard for President Lincoln; and a female nurse, Mary Frances (Stokes) Maxwell, who was awarded a pension for her service.

For me it is humbling to find these records and find out small bits and pieces of their sacrifice to the National cause. Among the records, I found one U.S. Colored Troop and one Native American (Indian). Some soldiers served for the major duration of the war; one served less than a week. There were records for sailors; even some records for men who served in the infantry and then served as sailors. An interesting mix of Americana.

In other news, my son took his final “Comp” exam for his PhD today 1/23/2023; won’t know the outcome for a few days. He is in his fifth year of the program and hopes to get his doctorate next summer. His dissertation will have something to do with Fort Sumter where he volunteers, in his free time, as a docent. Mike II (not junior) is a member of our Camp, detached even further than I am. He is a Gamecock at the other USC; University of South Carolina, Columbia, which has a bit of a Union history in and of itself.

Also, Dr. Edda Fields-Black, of Carnegie-Mellon in Pennsylvania, has a scheduled a release date for her upcoming book, *Combee: Harriet Tubman, The Combahee Raid*, sometime this year. My son, Mike II and I have been invited to the book’s release and signing in appreciation for the help and support that we gave to her. More on that as it becomes clear.



Photo above; Camp 18 Graves Registration Officer Brother Mike Emmett leans against the desk with the 2100 graves registration files for last year. Nice job, Brother



Welcome New Brother!

Camp 18 welcomes new Brother Richard Foy to the Camp.

Brother Foy joins the Camp as a Dual Member with his primary Camp being General William Lytle Camp 10 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and honoring the service of his Union Civil War Veteran Great-Great Grandfather Corporal Jacob Moore of Company F, 108th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Huzah, Huzzah, Huzzah!

Defending Democracy, October 4, 2023
Celebrating the Democracy
Defended by our Union Civil War Forefathers
 at the
Lynn Auditorium - 3 City Hall Square, Lynn MA, 01901
Camp 18 Brother Steve Matthews will be participating

Why this event?

We are in 2023 and the celebration of the 160th anniversary of 3 momentous events in the history of our Country:

1. The Emancipation Proclamation

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the freedom of enslaved people (almost all of whom were African American) in states that had seceded from our country. This resulted in thousands of African Americans joining the Union Army and fighting, including paying the ultimate price of giving their lives to liberate all from Slavery.

2. The Battle of Gettysburg

This battle is seen by many as the critical battle turning the tide in the Civil War.

3. The Gettysburg Address

President Lincoln honored those who died in this battle to usher in a new birth of freedom. Saying “from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion-that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain-that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth”.

After 700,000 of our citizens died in this Civil War, a period of Reconstruction began, where the formerly enslaved people were to become full citizens of our country and three new amendments were added to the Constitution of our great country.

The Stakeholders in this event honor the sacrifice and memory of our Union Soldiers and the Freedom and Democracy that they have given us.

Stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

The Grand Army of the Republic- This historic Union Army Post commemorated Lynn soldiers sacrifice in the Civil War. In addition, the GAR, contains the acclaimed “From Battlefield to Ballot Box” exhibit. The GAR is represented by its curator Wendy Joseph.

The Lynn Museum/Lynn Arts documents centuries of Lynn’s history, art and culture, including the life of Frederick Douglass, the most avid Freedom Fighter for the Abolition of Slavery, who lived with his family in Lynn for seven years. The Lynn Museum recently completed the highly acclaimed exhibit “**Untold Stories:**



General George Stoneman Jr.
Camp 18 Officers

Camp Commander,	Matt Crowder
Sr. Vice Cmdr,	John Morris
Jr. Vice Cmdr,	vacant
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

Continued on page 4, see Democracy,...



Trivia Answer from page 1,....

By the end of the Civil War, ten percent of the Union Army were black soldiers. Many of them were freed slaves from the Border States.

Democracy continued,...

a **History of Black People in Lynn,**” sharing stories, artifacts, and events within Lynn’s Black community from the 17th-21st centuries. Doneeca Thurston, its Executive Director represents the LM/LA.

The Author of Finding Mary, Steve Matthews. Steve Matthews’ family has an eight generations history in Lynn. His search for his mom’s birth parents/family revealed that some of his mom’s South Carolina and North Carolina ancestors were enslavers. Finding this history has inspired him to actively support such public events supporting democracy for everyone in our country.

The Lynn Teachers Union, Lynn School Department, Community and Labor Organizations.

This event will include renowned speakers discussing the Civil War and Reconstruction and current issues related to these events such as voting rights and teaching the truth about history and will also include a presentation by Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas, living historians.

For more information concerning this event and/or funding/donations please contact Brother Steve Matthews; email: sem52754@gmail.com or phone (213)503-1659

Lincoln Shrine Display

On Saturday, February 4, Camp 18 set up the usual SUVVCW/GAR display at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine in Redlands for the 50th anniversary of the annual Open House. Once again a great time was had by all who attended.

The Open House was preceded by the 82nd Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage Parade, which in the past has attracted thousands of Scouts and other youth to honor the ideals and life of President Abraham Lincoln.

This year is the first pilgrimage/parade after two years of cancellations due to COVID-19 lockdowns and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the California Inland Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America.



Photo above; many Scouts visited the Camp 18 display. There was a steady flow of visitors all day.

G. Justin photo

There were the typical Civil War organizations, societies and related groups with displays all over the central lawn of the Lincoln Shrine.

The Camp Carlton Cornet brass band played 1860’s period patriotic music throughout the day and the 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery demonstrated what it was like for an Artillery Crew to **“Live Fire”** a Civil War cannon 3 times. Spectators covered their ears and the car alarms were set off all over the area when the reproduction 12 pound Napoleon fired. Typical black smoke filled the area!

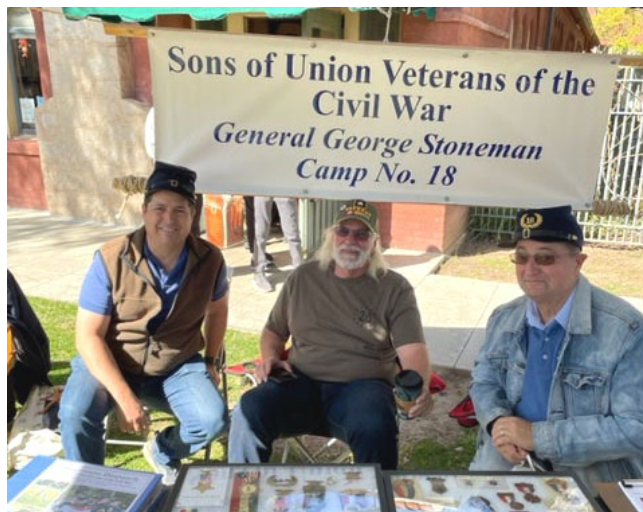


Photo above; left to right, Camp Cmdr. Matt Crowder, Rick Gay (friend) & Camp 18 Brother Steve Matthews.

Continued on page 5, see Display....

Display, continued,

The event came to a close about 3:00 p.m. with everybody covering their ears for the final firing demonstration of the canon and a President Lincoln Impersonator speaking on the Emancipation Proclamation.

Thank You to Camp 18 Brothers Mark Radeleff, Gene Justin, Steve Matthews, Steve Doyle, Rudy Velasco and Matt Crowder for helping with or visiting the Camp display.

*The following is an article taken from Corona Courier newspaper from May 04, 1901.
Spelling and punctuation are as in the article (sic)*

Custer Camp, S.V.

The new local camp of Sons of Veterans was auspiciously mustered in last Saturday night at the Masonic hall, "with pomp, with revelry and with triumph." Capt. Handley of Camp Rosecrans Los Angeles, conducted the ceremonies, being ably assisted by Past Captains Skinner and Washburn of the same camp. Carlton Post, G.A.R., of this city, was present as the guest of honor, and the event was a success in every way.

Camp Custer is its name, in honor of the famous scout and Indian fighter, and twenty-two names are on the muster roll, with a prospect of many more being added at subsequent "encampments." Camp Custer's first complement of officers is as follows;

Captain L. L. Andrews; first lieutenant F. M. Baird; second lieutenant B. F. Austin; chaplain C. F. Larabee; first sergeant Geo. H. Merriam; quartermaster sergeant W. P. Miles; sergeant of the guard Jos. Chaney; color sergeant A. Humble; principal musician Loyal Kelly; corporal of the guard Will Crittendon; camp guard Burr Anderson; camp picket Fred Joseph; camp council C. F. Larabee, Geo. H. Merriam and B. F. Austin.

Geo. H. Merriam and W. A. Hively were elected delegates to La Fiesta de las Flores at Los Angeles next week.

After the mustering-in ceremonies were over and some necessary business had been transacted, the new camp and their visitors retired to Wood & Grow's oyster parlors where they toyed with the festive bivalve and otherwise disported themselves until a late hour.

2023 Camp Annual Calendar

general idea/dates may change

January**February**

Saturday 4th - Lincoln Shrine Display.

Saturday 18th - Camp Meeting

March

Fri. & Sat. 17 – 18 - Department Encampment, Bakersfield.

Saturday 25th – Medal of Honor Day

April

Sunday 9th – Attention to; 158th Anniversary of Lee's Surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Saturday 15th – Camp Meeting.

May

Saturday 27th - Memorial Day weekend Flag Detail at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

May 27 - 30 – Camp Memorial Day Ceremony. Date and location to be announced.

June

Saturday 17th – Camp Meeting

July**August**

3 – 6th - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment. Nashua, New Hampshire.
<https://suvcw.org/2023-national-encampment/>

September**October**

Saturday 21 – Camp Meeting

November

Friday 10th – Veterans Day Flag Detail at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

Saturday 11th – Camp Veterans Day Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

December

Saturday 9th – Camp Meeting.

Saturday 16th – National Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.



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