

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 7, No.1, January, 2016

Happy New Year!

A Message from the Camp Commander

First of all, I wish to thank you all for putting your trust in me to be your next Camp Commander. I look forward to the challenges of this stewardship in the coming year and hope that I will be found worthy of the task. Like the Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz, I will probably be a little rusty for a while, but with your patience and support, I hope to, “get moving.”

On Friday, April 15, 2016, the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society is planning on celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument, located at 6th and E Streets at Pioneer Park in San Bernardino. I think this is an important event that our camp should be involved in, whether as a color guard, musket volley, or just showing our numbers as SUVCW. Also, *The Sun* newspaper will be there and this would be a great opportunity for us to get some publicity for our camp and SUVCW. I am in contact with one of the board members, Nick Cataldo, to see what role he would like us to play in the ceremony. Nick is also a columnist for *The Sun* and is a great contact person to have for the future. I will email progress reports as they are made available to me. Please mark this on your calendars and I hope to see as many of you there as possible. A reminder: this is literally a “*once in a life time event.*”

Our annual California and Pacific SUVCW Department Encampment is

More on page 2, see COMMANDER.....

Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 6 – Camp Display at the Lincoln Shrine Open House in Redlands. 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 20 – Camp meeting, American Legion Hall in Corona. 1024 S. Main St. 12:00 p.m.

March 4–5 – Department Encampment, Sacramento, CA.

Friday, April 15 – possible Camp Color Guard for C.W. Soldiers & Sailors monument re-dedication at Pioneer Park, San Bernardino.

Saturday, April 16 – Camp meeting. Location to be announced.

Saturday, May 28 – Memorial Day Service at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Riverside. 12:00 p.m.

Annual Camp Dues

We are happy to announce that almost all the dues have been collected for 2016. Only a few Brothers have yet to mail them in, so we are doing O.K. New membership cards for this year should be in the mail in the next week or so. Thank you everybody!

Department Encampment 2016

Again this year, as in the past two, the Sons of Union Veteran’s Department Encampment will be held at the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham in Sacramento on Friday and Saturday, March 4th and 5th.

If you are entertaining any thoughts of possibly attending the Encampment, it is **essential** that you see the **Registration forms** on line at:

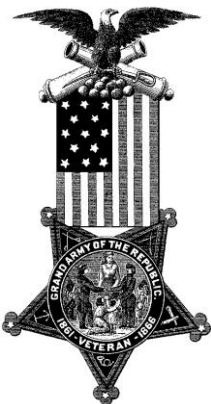
www.suvpac.org/encampment.html

There is a January 15th deadline for Registration.

More on page 2, lower left, See Encampment....

*Dedicated to Preserving the Memory
of the Grand Army of the Republic*

And the soldiers who Fought to Save the Union 1861 - 1865



Commander *continued from page 1,*

coming up on March 5th and 6th and will be in Sacramento again. We submitted a proposal to have the 2016 Encampment in Riverside, but the numbers just weren't there. One of the main issues is that there are so many more northern camp Brothers attending the Encampment every year, and so it's hard to convince them to come South once in a while. In the past two years, several of us have car pooled to Sacramento and left a day early to make sure we are refreshed for the Friday (March 4th) "**Campfire**" evening events. If any of you are interested in going or have any questions about this event, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to coordinate ride sharing/hotel rooms, etc., to minimize expenses.

I wish to thank all of my Camp Brothers who have renewed their memberships for 2016. Even if you are not able to participate in camp activities, any more than your continued memberships, I, for one, greatly appreciate this support. I am especially appreciative of our two previous camp commanders (PCC) Richard Burns and Bill Daley and having them as resources to guide me with my new responsibilities. And we can all be proud of our long time SUVCW Brother, Rudy Velasco III, for being voted in as the Departmental Junior Vice Commander for 2015 & 2016. His wealth of information and guidance is invaluable!

I look forward to 2016 and being your camp commander. At this time I would encourage all of you to contact me regarding any questions or comments you have about our camp and its events during the coming year. Please feel free to contact me by whatever means you feel comfortable: Phone: 909-862-6129, or email: psychrn10@aol.com

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Steve Doyle, C.C.

ENCAMPMENT *continued from page 1,*

If you would like Registration forms and cannot access them on line, call the Editor, Rudy (760)770-9237 and I will put them in the mail to you.

The Hawthorn Suites, 321 Bercut Dr, is very comfortable and has served us well in the past. The rooms with a King bed are at \$79.00 per night and two queen beds are \$89.00 per night, plus taxes. Reservations can be made at (916)441-1200.

Registration for this 130th annual Department

Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is \$45.00 and includes Saturday's lunch. Saturday evening's VIP dinner with SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Eugene Mortorff is offered for \$40.00 per plate and you can choose a beef, chicken or vegetarian dinner.

We hope to see you at the Encampment.

2015 Graves Registration Report
by Brother Mike Emett
Camp 18 Graves Registration Officer

I am pleased to submit to my Camp Brothers the following report regarding Civil War soldier's graves registration:

In 2015 I handled 650 files.

Two (2) were rejected due to lack of proof beyond individual's statement of participation in the War.

I researched forty (40) cases that were duplicates and needed no further information.

I corrected or updated ninety-eight (98) cases that had been previously approved, but were incorrect in significant areas, such as regiment or state, or added useful information to the file.

I, finally, submitted 510 new soldiers to the SUVCW grave registration database that were approved. Of these 510, 307 soldiers were buried in California, 115 buried in Montana, 88 were from the other states. 69 of the 510 were Confederate veterans.

My best case was PVT Thomas P. Kinnear, Company D, 6 Illinois Cavalry. He is a Union soldier buried in Starrville, Texas. I was able to track him down after purchasing his Burnside carbine at a local Montana gun show.

Paying Tribute to a Civil War Veteran
by Camp Commander Steve Doyle

On Saturday, November 21st, I participated in a cemetery tour of Mt. View Cemetery in San Bernardino. When I read the article in *The Sun* newspaper about the tour, it mentioned that they would be stopping at the grave site of **William Billings**, whose gravestone says he was, "**Guard to Abraham Lincoln**". Although historians have disputed this claim, they agree that Billings could have been on duty the night that Lincoln was assassinated. The article went on to say that, although not necessary, participants were encouraged to do the tour, "in period dress."

Continued on page 3, see Tribute...

Tribute *continued,*

When I contacted the writer of the article, Nick Cataldo, about doing the tour in my Union uniform, he was most enthusiastic, and asked if I wanted to be a presenter and give a brief comment about Private Billings at his grave site during the tour. Since there are no known relatives in the San Bernardino area who could do this, I told him I would be honored to say a few words when we came to his grave site.

When I went to the cemetery on the day of the tour, I was the only person in a Union uniform. But many people had dressed in 19th century attire and I was pretty

well received by all the participants. We toured about 20 grave sites of San Bernardino's more well-known citizenry, with various presenters and relatives stating a few words at each grave site. Three of the more notable internments were: James Earp, the oldest of the Earp brothers; Col. Joseph "Chuck" Rodriguez, Korean Medal of Honor recipient; and Leland Norton, a WWII pilot who died in May, 1944, after parachuting from his bomber after it had been hit by German anti-aircraft batteries in France. Norton Air Base in San Bernardino is named after him.

When we arrived at William Billings gravesite, I avoided the controversy about his being a guard to Abraham Lincoln, and just focused on his personal life. Private Billings was born in 1836 in Ohio and was in the 73rd Ohio Infantry Regiment, that had fought at Gettysburg. He was wounded on the third day of battle during Pickett's Charge and was subsequently assigned to the Veterans' Reserve Corps (formerly the Invalid Reserve Corps), in Washington, D.C. The Veterans' Reserve Corps was made up of both wounded veterans who could still fire weapons and post guard duty, and other veterans, who were unable to fire weapons, but were used in non-combative roles like cooks and orderlies. I went on to say that William Billings would later marry and have 6 children, most of whom had left Ohio. When he died in 1929, William was living with one of his daughters in Silsbee, California (Imperial County) and that's why he was buried here at Mt. View Cemetery.

Although one of the shorter presentations during the tour, it was well received and several in the tour thanked me for honoring this Civil War soldier: only one of too many . . . I salute you, Private Billings.



21 Nov. 2015, Camp Commander Steve Doyle at Pvt. Wm. Billings' headstone in Mountain View Cemetery, San Bernardino, CA. Doyle photo



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

Camp Commander,	Steve Doyle
Sr. Vice Cmdr,	Richard Burns
Jr. Vice Cmdr,	Michael Bullard
Sec/Treas,	Rudy Velasco III
Camp Council #1	Michael Emmett
Camp Council #2	Rudolph Velasco IV
Camp Council #3	John Morris

Appointed

Camp Chaplain	Bill Daley
Camp Historian	Burt Hogue
Graves Registration	Michael Emmett
Newsletter Editor	Rudy Velasco III
Patriotic Instructor	Richard Burns
JROTC & Eagle	Richard Burns &
Scout 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 Election Meeting December 12th 2015

Our Camp election meeting was once again held at the Palm Springs Air Museum and all Brothers and wives attending appeared to have a great time. I know Brother Mike Bullard enjoyed the planes and jets outside of the main hangers after the meeting as well as myself.

The meeting started as usual with the Pledge, the American Creed and the Invocation. At the “New Business” portion of the meeting, the Camp introduced a new award that may carry on through the years to come. The **General Stoneman Award** was awarded to Brother Steve Doyle for his **“Enthusiasm and Loyal Service”** to Camp 18. Brother Steve has also shown a great passion for the Sons of Union Veterans in general.

After a short break for lunch, the Camp continued to the Officer elections for the next term. All of the results can be seen on page 3 under the portrait of General Stoneman but we would like to welcome some Brothers new to the Camp’s Officer Positions. First, *Welcome* Steve Doyle as the new Camp Commander.

Welcome Jr. Vice Commander Mike Bullard and Camp Council John Morris. Thank you, All Officers, elected and appointed.

**General Order No. 07
From Commander-in-Chief
Eugene Mortorff**

By order of the Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW, the Department of the “Southwest” was established on December 3rd, 2015.

The new Department is composed of the states of New Mexico and Arizona and has three established Camps, all in Arizona, at this time.

Existing Camps are of the Department are: Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 of Phoenix, Arizona, General R.H.G. Minty Camp No. 2 of Tucson, AZ and General U.S. Grant Camp No. 3 of Flagstaff, AZ.

Congratulations to the New Department of the Southwest in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Civil War Hardtack

Was anyone brave enough to try the Hardtack recipe from the last edition of the Stoneman Dispatch? Let the Editor know so we can pass on the results to our Brothers.

Photo at right:

Angie Daley attaches a “Past Camp Commander” badge on outgoing Camp Commander Bill Daley at the election meeting at the Air Museum in Palm Springs. “Thank you for your service, Commander”

S. Velasco photo



Photo above: left, Camp Commander Elect Steve Doyle hands Out Going Commander Bill Daley his Past Camp Commander Appreciation Plaque. *S. Velasco photo*

**General Order No. 08
From Commander-in-Chief
Eugene Mortorff**

It is with deep regret that I announce the passing of Real Son Brother Charlie Brock of London, Kentucky. He passed away on July 9th, 2014 at the age of 100. He was a member of Fort Duffield Camp #1 of the Department of Kentucky. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy (Gilbert) Brock. Burial was performed at Hale Cemetery, London, Kentucky.

The National Web site, the Charters of all Departments and Camps and memberships badges should be draped in black for a period of 30 days from the date of this General Order.

Dated this 17th day of December 2015.

Did You Know?

An assault by Union Forces on the well-fortified town of Vicksburg, Mississippi, was interrupted by flooding on Dec. 29, 1862. The heavy rain helped the Confederates successfully thwart the invasion.

Predicted El Nino is coming to California this year.

Veterans' Day at the Inland Empire Military Museum

By Camp Commander Steve Doyle

On Saturday, November 7th, 2015 our Department JVC and Camp 18 Secretary/Treasurer, Rudy Velasco III, and I set up our display for the "Cruizin E Street" Veteran's Day Parade and Car Show at the Inland Empire Military Museum in San Bernardino.

Although our display was rather sparse, we had several people stop by and discuss why we are SUVCW. Of special note was Rudy's new banner, hanging in the back of the display, making it easier for people to see who we are.



Photo above; the small Camp 18 display at the Veterans' Day parade and Car show in San Bernardino in November, 2015.

Photo below right; Camp 18 Brothers at the Air Museum meeting, back row from the left; Camp Jr Vice Commander Mike Bullard, Brother Jim Crowell, Camp Commander Steve Doyle, Past Camp Commander Bill Daley. Bottom row from left; Rudolph Velasco IV and Rudy Velasco III.

S. Velasco photo

The parade started at 10:00 a.m. and included the San Bernardino High School Marching band, several JROTC groups, the Inland Empire Chapter 47 of the Viet Nam Veterans of America along with many military vehicles. Many vintage type cars were also parked along "E" street. The parade finished in front of the Inland Empire Military Museum located at the corner of 14th and "E" streets in San Bernardino, Sponsors of the "Cruizin E Street" event.



While arranging for our display for the Veterans' Day event, I had occasion to speak to one of the volunteers at the museum, Mario Montecino. He and James Valdez, Jr. open the museum every Saturday and Sunday from 11:00-17:00, but are also willing to open during the week for special occasions. They can be reached at (909)-888-0477 or (909)-883-3186, respectively.

Mario reminded me that they have a re-dedication of their POW/MIA plaque every year and that we are welcome to participate, as we did last year. POW/MIA Recognition/Remembrance Day is the 3rd Friday of every September, but the museum usually has the ceremony on the last Saturday in September. Something we can put down on our calendar for next year.

Mario also mentioned that the museum is interested in participating in the 100th Anniversary of the San Bernardino Pioneer Cemetery Civil War monument next year.

The monument, along with several cannons, is located at the corner of 6th and E Streets in San Bernardino. The monument was dedicated on April 15, 1916.

Trivia

Question: What young actor was one of the militiamen present at the raid on Harper's Ferry in October 1859?

Answer: John Wilkes Booth, later to become infamous as Lincoln's assassin.



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