



Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

Vol 27 No. 1

2026

December 6th Camp 21 Meeting and installation of officers



Dr. Wayne Eder, PCC/6th Military District SVR Commanding Major, Owen Stiles DC, and Pittenger Camp 21's 2026 Officers, John May, PCC Secretary/Treasure, Tom Helmantoler, PCC Chaplain, Jerry Sayre, PDC/JVC, Fred Hall CC, and Larry Stolinski SVC.

Our final meeting of the year was held on December 6, 2025 at La Cucina Restaurant. After the Installation of Officers we had our Christmas lunch to celebrate the end of the year.

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2025 CAMP OFFICERS

Commander Fred Hall, CC
fghall4sd@hotmail.com

Sr. Vice Commander..... Larry Stolinski, SVC
Navychiefmn@yahoo.com

Jr. Vice Commander..... Jerry Sayre, PDC
cod26ia@icloud

Secretary/Treasurer John A. May, PCC
2001 Lee Ct. Carlsbad, CA. 92008-2763
cbadjohnny@gmail.com

Councilman Tom Helmantoler, PCC
thelmantoler@gmail.com

Councilman John Keenan, PCC
keenanja@aol.com

Councilman Jerry Sayre, PDC
cod26ia@icloud

Chaplain Thomas E. Helmantoler, PCC
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Patriotic Instructor..... Kirby Hitt
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Eagle Scout Coord..... John Keenan PCC
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Graves Registration John A. May, PCC
E-mail: cbadjohnny@gmail.com

Historian..... Clay Hoffman
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SVR..... Fred Hall, CC
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Newsletter Editor..... Ron Sheehan
ronsheehan@me.com

THE GENERAL is the official newsletter of Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It's published each odd-numbered month for Camp members. It's also available by newsletter exchange to other SUVCW or Allied Orders groups. Such groups are welcome to reprint articles from The General with attribution. Brief articles are invited and most appreciated: send to Newsletter Editor listed above: space

CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be mailed to Camp Secretary at address above. Failure to notify Camp of change of address will result in missed issues of The General and The Banner.

CAMP EMAIL DIRECTORY. If you wish to be included in the Camp Email Directory, send your permission and email address to John A. May
2001 Lee Ct. Carlsbad, CA. 92008-2763
cbadjohnny@gmail.com

SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE(SVR) is the uniformed contingent of the SUVCW. Uniforms are encouraged but not required. You need not be a re-enactor to join. Annual dues are \$5.00. Interested SUVCW Brothers should contact the SVP Rep Fred Hall, CC
fghall4sd@hotmail.com

Camp 21 Calendar for 2026

FEBRUARY

7th Lincoln Shrine Open House - 11:00 - 3:00 - Free to the Public
125 West Vine Street Redlands, CA - Museum - (909) 798-7636
Boy Scouts Lincoln Pilgrimage will precede the event with a program on the steps of the Shrine at around 10:30am. We will have our Camp Booth set up.

14th MEETING 10:00 am
First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall, 318 West Fig St.
Fallbrook, CA

MARCH

6th – 7th DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT
Four Points by Sheraton Bakersfield
5101 California Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93309

March 25th MEDAL OF HONOR DAY, Wednesday at 10:00 am
Pittenger's Gravesite - Fallbrook Odd Fellows Cemetery
On the corner of Alturas Road and Clemens Lane, Fallbrook, CA.
92028 (Entrance on Clemens Lane).

APRIL

11th MEETING 10:00 am
First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall, 318 West Fig St.
Fallbrook, CA

MAY

23rd MEMORIAL DAY (TBD)

JUNE

13th MEETING 10:00 am
VFW Post 3788, 7785 Othello Ave, San Diego, CA 92111.

JULY

4th Independence Day **250 Anniversary**
4th 149th Anniversary of the Fort Moore flag raising at 10 AM. (Formally Camp Benning) 451 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

19th USS BENNINGTON MEMORIAL
Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery
1700 Cabrillo Memorial Dr., San Diego CA 92106

July 30 - Aug.2nd National Encampment, Gettysburg, PA

AUGUST

8th MEETING 10:00 am
VFW Post 3788, 7785 Othello Ave, San Diego, CA
92111.

BLUE/GRAY BBQ (date to be decided)

SEPTEMBER

5th-6th Huntington Beach Civil War Days
HB Central Park - On Gothard between Slater and
Talbert.

11th, Patriot Day

OCTOBER

10th MEETING (ELECTIONS) 10:00 am
First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall,
318 West Fig St.
Fallbrook, CA

NOVEMBER

14th REMEMBRANCE DAY , Saturday 1:00
Fallbrook Pittenger House,
1730 South Hill Ave
Fallbrook, CA 92028

DECEMBER

5th MEETING (INSTALLATION) 1:00 pm

December 5th 2025 Camp 21 Meeting, Continued;

This concluded the Camp Meeting and Installation of New Camp Officers for 2026. Then we all enjoyed a nice meal together.

We said our Thank You's and Goodbyes to Department Commander Owen Stiles for making the trip to do the Honors of Installing Pittenger Camp 21 Officers.

Next... Several Brothers were off to participate in the Fallbrook Christmas Parade...



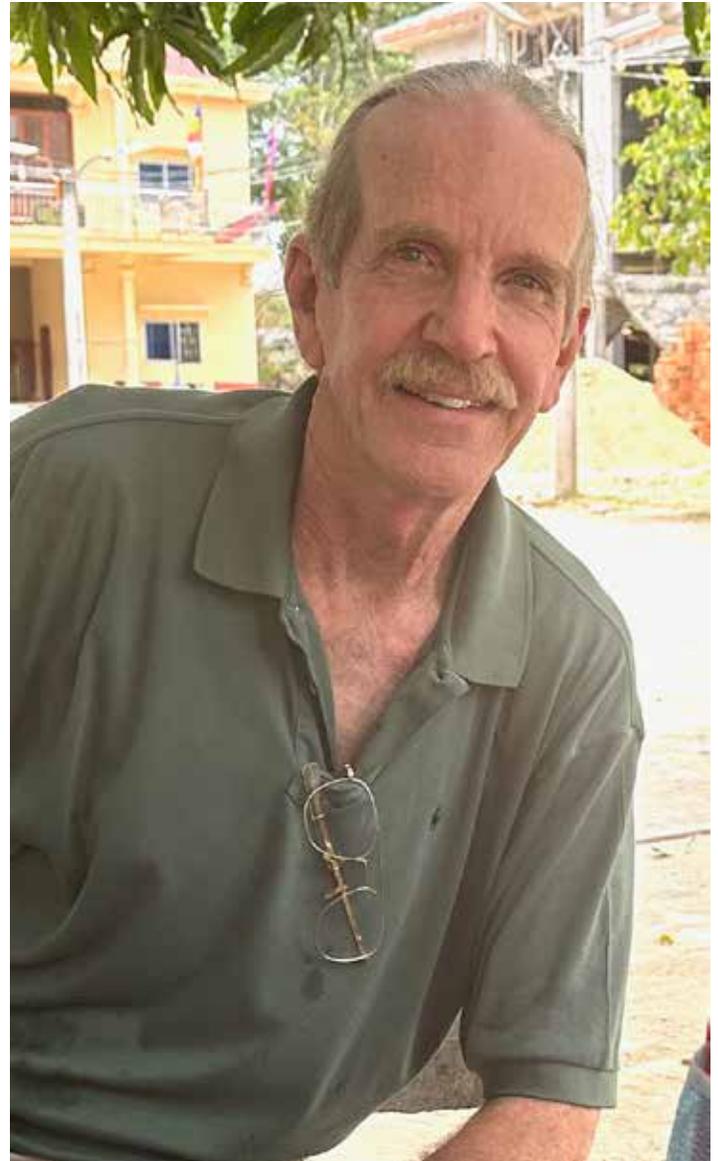
Kirby Hitt PI, Brother Dimas Lovato, Dr. Wayne Eder, PCC/6th Military District SVR Commanding Major, Wayne Eder II, Doug Wright PSVC, Owen Stiles DC, Tom Helmantoler, PCC Chaplain, John May, PCC Secretary/Treasurer, Jerry Sayre, PDC/JVC, Fred Hall CC, Larry Stolinski, SVC, and Brother Trevor Stolinski.

Fred Hall new Camp Commander



Dr. Wayne Eder, PCC/6th Military District SVR Commanding Major getting ready to pin Fred Hall, CC with his new Camp Commander Badge.

NEW MEMBERS



Michael Ogan

I have four direct-line ancestors who served in the Union Army during the Civil War, all on my father's side; two great-grandfathers and two great-great grandfathers. My father, Billy G. Ogan, was a member of Pittenger Camp for many years before he passed in 2019. Here are a few details on my ancestors:

1. Samuel Ogan (1844-1926), Private, 8th Regiment Kansas Volunteers (later became Kansas Infantry); served Dec 1861 - Jan 1866. His unit saw action in Battle of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Siege of Atlanta.

2. Stephen A. Ogan (Samuel's father) (1818-1894), Private, 11th Regiment Kansas Cavalry; served Sep 1862 - Sep 1865. I have no specific information on



A gift presentation to Department Commander Owen Stiles from the Brothers of Pittenger Camp 21.

where he served, other than as a teamster in the Quartermaster's department in the "Southwest."

3. Daniel Hylas Fraser (1832-1916), Sergeant, 11th Regiment Kansas Cavalry; served Sep 1862 - Sep 1865. Participated in the battles of Cane Hill, Prairie Grove and Van Buren.

4. Thomas West (1827-1870), Corporal, 36th Regiment Iowa Infantry; served Sep 1862 - Aug 1865. Taken POW Apr 1864 during battle of Mark's Mills, Arkansas, held at Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas, exchanged Aug 1865.



Ben Herman

We have a new member in Hawaii, Ben Herman.

This means we have FIVE Sons of Union Veterans who reside in Hawaii !!

I would like to do an article, highlighting our Hawaiian members in our quarterly newsletter, The General.

Would you be so kind as to please send me a photo of yourself with a brief description of your ancestry.

Wouldn't it be grand if the five of you could send a group photo !!!

You may live West of San Diego, but you are not forgotten.

From, Ben Herman:

Here are the ancestors in my family and the campaigns that they were potentially a part of.

PVT Isaiah Harper, Company C, 6th Indiana Cavalry 1862-1863

-Kentucky 1862

-Tulahoma 1863

PVT Squire H Tague, Company B, 29th Indiana Infantry 1864-1865

-Atlanta 1864

-Franklin 1864

-Nashville 1864

PVT John S Walton, Company A, 15th Kentucky Infantry 1861-1865

-Shiloh 1862

-Kentucky 1862

-Murfreesboro 1862-1863

-Tulahoma 1863

-Chickamuagu 1863

Special Camp 21 Meeting

Brothers,

The Officers of Sgt Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, held a special meeting today, January 24th, 2026, at 10:00 am. on line.

A quorum was met.

The purpose of the meeting was to vote-in four new members;

Brad Quinlin

Ethan Maxon

Tad Campbell

Tray Goodman

The vote was unanimous. We welcome our new Camp 21, members.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Fred Hall Commander

Notes from our Historian Clay Hoffman

General Sylvanus Thayer

The fifth Superintendent of the United States Military Academy and an ancestor of Pittenger Camp Commander Fred Hall, General Sylvanus Thayer was born to a patriotic family in Braintree, Massachusetts on June 9, 1785. A graduate of both Dartmouth College and West Point, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1808. As an engineer, his first assignment was to oversee the construction of Fort Warren in Boston Harbor.

During the War of 1812, Thayer led the fortification and defense of Norfolk, Virginia, before spending two years in France, studying at the French Ecole Polytechnique. In 1817, President James Monroe asked him to serve as superintendent of his alma mater, the U.S. Military Academy.

While leading the academy, he implemented traditions that remain in place today, including values of honor and discipline, as well as strict physical conditioning. He originated the demerit system and set a standard for high academic performance, along with requiring cadets to possess a military bearing and appearance at all times.

Known as the “Father of the Military Academy”, Thayer also established the standard four-year curriculum, organizing the cadets into four classes, and set July 1st as the date each year when the graduating class was commissioned and the entering class was sworn in. During his stewardship, the academy also became a leading engineering school.

After fifteen years at West Point, Thayer returned to duty with the Army Corps of Engineers, and spent the majority of the next 30 years serving as the chief engineer of the Boston area, which included overseeing the building of Fort Independence. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Philosophical Society.

Thayer retired from the Army Corps of Engineers on June 1, 1863. In April 1864, President Lincoln nominated him for the honorary grade of brevet brigadier general of the regular army, which was backdated to May 31, 1863, the day before his retirement. Fort Thayer --- part of the defenses of Washington, D.C. during the Civil War --- was built and named in his honor.

In 1867, Thayer donated \$40,000 to Dartmouth College to create the Thayer School of Engineering, which ranks as one of America’s finest schools in the field today. He also funded the founding of Thayer Academy in Braintree, Massachusetts, which opened in 1877.

General Thayer died on September 7, 1872 at age 87 in Braintree and is buried at the West Point Cemetery, located in the center of the Academy he built. Today, his papers and manuscripts are part of the collections of the West Point and Dartmouth College libraries. His boyhood home in Braintree is a historic site and open to the public.



NEXT MEETING: February 14th Camp Meeting at First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall, 318 West Fig St. Fallbrook, CA 10AM

Membership Badge

If you have not yet ordered your SUVCW Membership Badge, now is a good time to do so if you are able.

This Membership Badge along with your Camp Name Tag, are encouraged for All to wear at every Camp Meeting and all Camp Events.

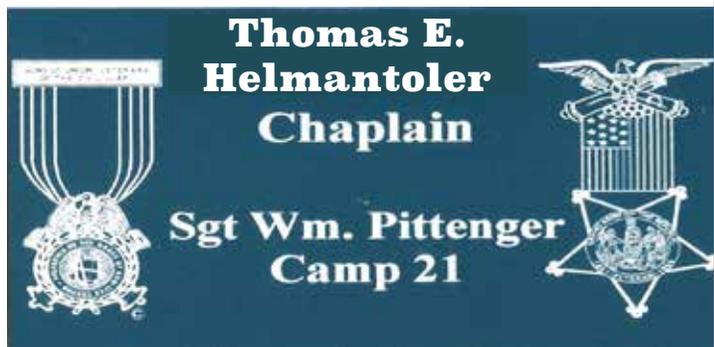


Preserving the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic & "The Boys in Blue" 1861-1865

The General



Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21
Ron Sheehan, Newsletter Editor
2867 Dove St.
San Diego, CA 92103



Name Tag

If you would like to order a Pittenger Camp 21 Name Badge, please email Jerry Sayre PDC at: cod26ia@icloud.com with the following information:

- 1) Your Name as you would like it engraved.
 - 2) Camp Office title added if you are holding an Office Position and would like that on your Name Badge. (This could change from year to year).
 - 3) Specify if you prefer a Pin Clasp or Magnet on the back.
- Once this information is received, you will get a return e-mail with information on where to mail your check for \$20.00.
Checks should be made out to Jerry Sayre, PDC.