

Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*


Volume VIII Number 5

September 23, 2002

**5th California Volunteer Infantry, Co. G, SVR
Presents Colors at Padre Game**

SAN DIEGO PADRES



 *Color Guard - August 30, 2002*

Camp website- <http://hometown.aol.com/pittengercamp21>

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THE GENERAL is the official newsletter of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, SUVCW. It is published each odd-numbered month for Camp members. It is also available by newsletter exchange to other SUVCW and Allied Order groups. Such groups are welcome to reprint articles from *The General* with attribution. Brief articles are invited and should be sent to the Newsletter Editor at the address provided above with the understanding that space limitation may require editing.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be immediately mailed to the Camp Secretary at the address above. Please include phone number and email address. Failure to notify the 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 Pittenger Camp Email Directory, please email Bob Lowe at the above address.

SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE (SVR) is the uniformed component of the SUVCW. You do not have to be a reenactor to join. Annual dues are \$5.00. Interested Brothers should contact the Camp Secretary or SVR representative shown above.

The San Diego Civil War Round Table meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the John D. Spreckles Masonic Lodge, 3858 Front Street, San Diego. For further information contact President Dave Tooley at (858) 672 - 2593.

Huntington Beach Civil War Days

A joint Pittenger Camp 21/Rosecrans Camp 2 effort was made to recruit new members and inform the public of the SUVCW during the annual Huntington Beach Civil War Days that took place 31 August - 1 September, 2002. Our four table display was one of the busiest attractions at the event. While adults were informed of our Order's existence and purposes, kids of all ages were entertained with hands-on experience with Civil War weapons and accoutrements. This also gave us an opportunity to inform the attendees of the impending formation of an Orange County Camp which will be established in 2003. The tables and shelters couldn't have looked more attractive with Camp, SUVCW, National Flags and banners flying and Linn Hoadley's (Camp 2) display of authentic Civil War camp items. Much literature and nearly 8 pounds of hard candy were distributed to grateful passers-by. Many thanks to those hardy Camp 21 souls that manned our section of the display. During the 2-day event, Dave Allyn, Larry Fillhard, Bob Lowe, Dale Rakestraw, Jerry Sayre and Will Tisch performed excellent "table duty". A special "Huzzah" to Bros. Fillhard, Lowe and Rakestraw, who were "present for duty" on both days. Our uniformed members looked wonderful! Other Camp members who dropped by to relieve the "table tenders" or just to say hello were; Tom & Tim Stinson, Ernie Powell, Charles Beal, Colin McKim, Ken Gilliam and John Pollard Sr. We would be remiss without thanking our ever-present ladies; Eileen Jackson (ASUVCW), Eileen Tisch and Kim Sayre for their support, assistance and smiling faces.

Remembrance Day in Fallbrook

A Remembrance Day Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, November 17, 2002 at the gravesite of William Pittenger in Fallbrook, CA. This is the 4th annual event sponsored by the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21. The event will commence at 1:00PM at the Odd Fellows Cemetery, 1400 block of Alturas Road. Please consider attending with your family. Direct questions or comments to Remembrance Day Chairman Larry Fillhard at (760) 739-7243 or via email at fillhard@nethere.com. Honor your ancestor by attending and wearing your membership badge or nametag.



New Camp Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members of our Camp. We are delighted to have you among our ranks.

Richard Raver of San Juan Capistrano whose ancestor served in the 12th Michigan Inf.

David Robin of Perris whose ancestor served in the 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

John May of Carlsbad whose ancestor served in the 4th Massachusetts Infantry.

Mathew Vlasak of Santa Ana who joins us as an Associate Member.

Max Purkiser of San Diego whose ancestor served in the 24th Indiana Infantry.

2002 Camp Schedule

- October 12 -** Camp Meeting
Escondido, CA.
- Nov. 17 -** Remembrance Day
Fallbrook, CA.
- December 7-8 -** Victorian Xmas
@ Drum Barracks
Wilmington, CA.
- December 14 -** Camp Meeting
Escondido, CA.
(Important Election Meeting)

My Union Ancestor by Richard Sauerheber

Reuben Sauerhaber, my great-great-grandfather, was born in 1841 at Levenworth, Indiana. With the exception of the Civil War years, this would remain his lifetime residence. On 7 November 1861, Reuben enlisted as a Private in Company F of the 49th Indiana Infantry. As part of the Army of the Ohio, the 49th Indiana was involved in all aspects of the Cumberland Gap Campaign from 28 March - 18 June 1862. During this period, GGrandpa was captured, paroled in October 1862 and, on 10 January 1863, was exchanged. Returning to his regiment, now a part of the Army of the Tennessee, Reuben saw action in the Vicksburg Campaign, particularly the Battle of Thompson's Hill near Port Gibson. The 49th Indiana was commended by President Abraham Lincoln for its meritorious action at the Battle of Thompson's Hill. Promoted to the rank of Corporal, Reuben remained with the regiment until his discharge at the end of his enlistment.

Returning to Levenworth, Indiana, he resumed his pre-war occupation of blacksmith. Reuben kept an anchor he had made for the war effort, passing it on to his grandson Dexter Patrick. My grandfather Dexter, in turn, presented the anchor to me where it remains a treasured family heirloom. Reuben was the first person in our family to be photographed when he sat before a camera at his time of enlistment. GGrandfather Sauerheber died on 21 February 1912 and is buried in Cedar Hills Cemetery in his beloved Levenworth, Indiana. I am very proud of my great-great Grandfather and his service to the Union cause.

More About Dues

The July newsletter reported our Camp's ammendment of its ByLaws to (1) change the dues year for all members to end on Dec. 31st annually and (2) to increase the Camp portion of the annual dues by \$3.50 to a total of \$12.00. The report explained how this would be phased in and also stated that an increase in the National portion was expected to be voted upon at the August National Encampment. Well, they did! The Encampment voted to increase the National portion of dues by \$6.00 to a total of \$18.00. For many years total SUVCW dues have been much less than those assessed by comparable organizations. It has likewise been a long time since National increased its dues. Increased costs, a desire to further fund memorial restorations (\$1.00 of the increase), and the need to adqutely fund our organization's quarterly, The Banner, account for the increase voted.

Total annual dues, effective 1 January 2003, will therefore be \$33.00 - still less than those of many comparable organizations and putting our Camp at the mid-point of most SUVCW Camps. Of this total, National will receive \$18.00, Department will receive \$3.00, and our Camp will retain \$12.00. This works out to be only \$2.75 per month per member - still a bargain to be part of the only National Organization dedicated to honoring our ancestors who served the cause of the National Union from 1861 through 1865!

As explained in the July newsletter, conversion to the new dues year will be on a prorated basis, as each members dues expire, and will last through next summer. Dues already paid will remain valid until the expiration date of your membership card. A Dues Notice, detailing precisely the proration, will be mailed to each member with the newsletter preceding their expiration date.

Your assistance in this conversion through prompt payment of the amount billed will be appreciated.

Gene Armistead PDC, Camp Treasurer

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF SGT. WM. PITTENGER CAMP 21, SUVCW
HELD SATURDAY, 10 AUGUST 2002 AT ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by CC Ed Berger at Charlie's Family Restaurant, 210 N. Ivy St., Escondido, CA., with 17 Brothers attending (Dave Allyn, Gene Armistead, Ed Berger, Jerry Cady, Jim Churchyard, John Costa, Larry Fillhard, John Finch, Gary Henson, Tom Helmantoler, Colin McKim, John Pollard, Ernie Powell, Dale Rakestraw, Chuck Rothlauf, Mike Schooling, Tom Stinson, Mark Woolfington) and 7 guests (Jerry Freeland, Eileen Jackson, Linda McKim, Linda Pollard, Marianne Raver, Richard Raver, Mathew Vlasak). Camp Chaplain, Ernie Powell, delivered the opening prayer and Gene Armistead led the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted that Camp members Bob Lowe, Jerry Sayre and Dan Nation are attending the National Encampment this weekend, in Springfield, IL.

A motion (Armistead/Helmantoler) to approve the minutes of the June meeting as published in the July newsletter passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Gene Armistead, reported our current balance is \$1,743.29.

JVC Woolfington read the report of new members: Richard D. Raver of San Juan Capistrano, whose ancestor served in the 12 MI Inf; John A. May of Carlsbad, whose ancestor served in the 4th MA Inf; David G. Robin of Perris, whose ancestor served in the 4th PA Cav; and Mathew Vlasak of Santa Ana who is joining as an Associate Member. A motion (Armistead/Helmantoler) that all four be formally elected to membership and considered initiated as of the dates their applications were received passed unanimously.

Eagle Scout Coordinator, John Finch, made a report that the Dep't. of California and Pacific leads all dept's. in presentation of Eagle Scout Certificates throughout the Nation. Dave Allyn made a brief statement requesting other members to assist in presenting certificates.

Larry Fillhard made a report on the Fallbrook Veteran's Day/Remembrance Day committee progress. He said they need money for ribbons, flags, etc. A motion (Helmantoler/Woolfington) to authorize the expenditure of up to \$100 for materials was made. After some discussion, the motion passed 18:1. A speaker has not as yet been identified.

CC Berger then read correspondence received from other camp commanders, and other sources. Ed reports he has accepted an appointment from the CinC to serve on the National SUVCW Legislative Committee. A property list has been created by Bob Lowe PDC to assist in ensuring we know the whereabouts of each item; the list was circulated with the request that any additional items be noted and the name of the member holding said item be added to the list. Tom Stinson says his son is working on his Eagle Scout badge and would like to address our group as a part of the requirements. CC Berger said he would add this to the agenda for next meeting.

Members minutes: John Pollard announced a new movie, "SeaBiscuit; an American Legend," will be released within a year and it features the story of his uncle, Red Pollard, who rode this horse to it's greatest victory. There is a book out by the same title. Dave Allyn mentioned that our SVR unit will take part in the Oct. 5th Tustin Tiller Days parade. Mark Woolfington talked about his program and encouraged others to prepare a program for a future meeting. Gary Henson brought some 3" solid shots to show and "sell" from Pine Bluff, AR. Jerry Cady spoke of his ancestor's service in various battles in AR. and with Sherman's Army. Chuck Rothlauf spoke of his ancestor's service and death in battle at Gettysburg and how learning of this has affected his life. Gene Armistead has a copy of "Battles and Leaders" he wants to sell/trade. Tom Helmantoler spoke of his ancestor's service under Phil Sheridan. Ed Berger reminded us of the reenactment in Huntington Beach, 8/31& 9/1 where we will be manning our info table and the need for additional help. Dick Raver spoke of his ancestor's service in AR. He is also an SAR member and friend of Jim Churchyard. Colin McKim spoke of the book he obtained on his ancestor's service in the 6th US Inf. Tom Helmantoler told of a genealogical assistant available through the Internet: the company is "DC Research" Tom found it very valuable and reasonably priced.

The book raffle earned \$65: The first prize winner, Gene Armistead, won a VHS copy of "The Great Locomotive Chase." John Finch won an audio tape of the movie, "Gettysburg." Jerry Cady won a copy of "Grant Takes Command." John Costa won a copy of "Life of Frederick Douglas." Chuck Rothlauf and Colin McKim won copies of Civil War magazines.

Our program was presented by Mark Woolfington, who spoke on Hood's Nashville Campaign, covering the battles of Spring Hill, and Nashville. Chaplain Ernie Powell delivered the closing prayer. CC Ed Berger closed the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Allyn, Camp Secretary

National Encampment Holds Elections:

West Advances

submitted by Daniel R. Earl, Dept. Secretary

Last month eleven delegates from the Department of California and Pacific traveled to Springfield, Illinois to represent the Brothers of our Department. A great deal of business was transacted, including the election of new officers. As many of you may know, this is generally pro forma since the sitting Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief are "expected" to move up to the next rank. This indeed was the case, as usual, with the election this summer. Brother **Robert Grim** was elected Commander-in-Chief and Brother **Kent Armstrong** was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

The election that always brings the most controversy is that of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, since it usually involves bringing in "fresh blood" from the organization, and an eventual change in leadership and policy for the Order. This year the short list was narrowed down to two brothers, **Joseph Long, Jr.**, PDC of the Department of Pennsylvania and **Stephen Michaels**, PDC of the Department of Wisconsin.

After some exceptional nomination speeches, and a great deal of debate, Brother **Steve Michaels** was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. As Brother **Michaels** demonstrated to the membership, he is more than qualified for the position and all have a great deal of faith in his abilities to carry out his duties. The "Western Army" as some are referring to them (including primarily Departments west of the Mississippi River, in addition to some eastern Department alliances) has become an informal coalition of Departments seeking increased representation for Departments in the western United States. Although Wisconsin is not west of the Mississippi, it was clear that those supporting Brother **Michaels** felt he would faithfully represent western interests in a more steadfast manner than has been done in the past.

The election of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief was not the only contended election. The "Western Army" was also pleased to re-elect (from a one year term to a three year term) Brother **Robert Petrovic** of Missouri. Brother **Petrovic** has been very understanding of western concerns and the alliance is convinced he will serve them well.

What about the elections for Secretary and Treasurer? Those positions were filled last year and are held for three-year terms. Brother **Ed Krieser**, PDC is serving as National Secretary, and Brother **Max Newman** is serving as National Treasurer.

Additional Notes on the National Encampment

Special appreciation should be given for the time, effort and financial commitment made by the Pittenger Camp 21 members who served as Delegates to the 121st National Encampment in Springfield, Illinois. Brothers **Jerry Sayre** (CSVC), **Dan Nation** and **Bob Lowe** (PDC) served admirably as representatives of our Camp and Department of California & Pacific. With ample time for scheduling, it is hoped that additional Camp 21 Brothers will consider serving as Delegates to the next National Encampment to be held at Fort Mitchell, Kentucky on 7 - 10 August 2003.


News of Company G, 5th Calif. Volunteer Infantry, SVR

The next event for SVR Company G, 5th Calif. Volunteers will be the Tustin Tiller Days Parade, Saturday 5 October 2002. All uniformed members are encouraged to participate, in light marching order (no knapsacks) including muskets & accouterments, with haversacks and white cotton gloves. Members may park at 1st Lt. Mark Woolfington's Church lot NOT LATER THAN BY 8:30AM; the parade steps off at 10:00, SHARP!!! All SUVCW Brothers are encouraged to attend and cheer the company on, with your loud and hearty HUZZAHS!!! The parade route is East on Main from Pacific, North at C St, then East on 1st, & North on Prospect Ave: ends before Boneta Way. The theme is "75th Diamond Jubilee -- History, Heritage, and Promise," celebrating Tustin's 75th anniversary. Plans are being made for the company to participate in the Mother Goose Parade in El Cajon, Sunday, 24 November 2002; More to come.

NEXT CAMP MEETING

October 12, 2002 - 4 PM

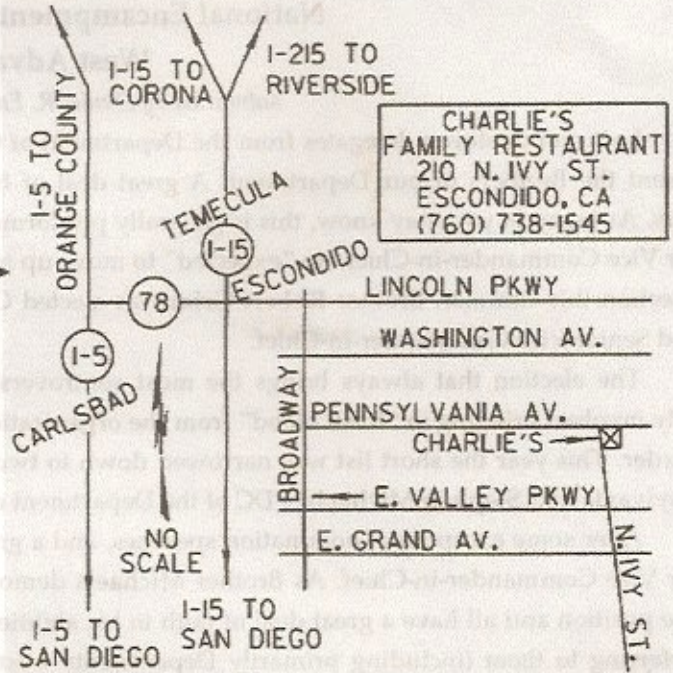
**CHARLIE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT
210 NORTH IVY STREET
ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA**

A map to our meeting location is provided 

OCTOBER PROGRAM by WILLIAM TISCH

Brother Tisch will present a program on a rarely-discussed action during the Civil War. We're certain you will enjoy Will's presentation on the -

"NAVAL ASSAULT of FORT FISHER"



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SVR

