



Newsletter of *Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

The General

Department of
California & Pacific



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

"Most Outstanding Camp in the Nation" ~ 2003

"Most Outstanding Brother in the Nation" ~ 2005

Volume XIV Number 6

"Best Camp Newsletter in the Nation" ~ 2004 & 2006

Nov. 8, 2008

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

Brothers: As we come to the end of 2008, we look back on a year of change. From the changes of where we hold our meetings, to the loss of our very valuable brother Bob Lowe, it has been a year of challenges. We continue the search for a permanent, affordable, centrally located, and sufficiently sized place to meet. It is much harder than it seems. Please always be looking for a location, as well. Losing Brother Bob was a major blow as he did so much for our Order, but just as our ancestors in Blue lost so many of their brothers in arms, and had to continue on with their task at hand, so must we. We are entering a very busy time of the year. Up soon are many events, including the Veteran's Day Parade (Nov. 11), Remembrance Day at the Pittenger gravesite (Nov. 15), the Mother Goose Parade (Nov. 23), the Fallbrook Christmas Parade (Dec. 5), and Camp 21 elections at our next meeting (Dec. 13). I hope everyone can attend at least some of these events. Our celebration of President Lincoln's birthday in February 2009, is

being coordinated between our group and the United Veterans Council. Please plan to be involved with that, too. Hey, it only happens every 100 years!! I stand ready to serve another year as your Camp Commander. I hope those of you that hold current offices will do likewise (I'll be contacting you), plus those currently not holding an office will give due consideration to holding an office. Please contact me soon (e-mail is fine) of your intentions. I know that an office is a job, and a responsibility. All we do, of course, is volunteer work, but as Brother Bob put it so well (and as each one of us should ask himself), "If I don't volunteer, who will?" Our ancestors, "The

Boys in Blue," answered that same call well - So should all of us. Any group such as ours is only as good as its participants. Life today isn't easy. Between the economic pressures we are all feeling, plus the demands put on our time, forgetting about such groups as SUVCW can become easy to do. Member-

(Continued on page 2)



A look back - Fallbrook, Memorial Day '08, Winnie & Wm. Pittenger's markers, Brenda Boucher & Eileen Tisch laid floral tributes

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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: send to Newsletter Editor listed above: space limitations may require editing.

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 & email address to Dave Allyn at: svrsuvcw@yahoo.com

SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE (SVR) is the uniformed contingent of the SUVCW. Uniforms are encouraged but not required. You do not have to be a reenactor to join. Annual dues are \$6.00. Interested Brothers should contact the SVR Representative listed above.

Veteran's Day 2008
A Proclamation by The President of The United States

On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the men and women who in defense of our freedom have bravely worn the uniform of the United States. From the fields and forests of war-torn Europe to the jungles of Southeast Asia, from the deserts of Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, brave patriots have protected our Nation's ideals, rescued millions from tyranny, and helped spread freedom around the globe. America's veterans answered the call when asked to protect our Nation from some of the most brutal and ruthless tyrants, terrorists, and militaries the world has ever known. They stood tall in the face of grave danger and enabled our Nation to become the greatest force for freedom in human history. Members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard have answered a high calling to serve and have helped secure America at every turn. Our country is forever indebted to our veterans for their quiet courage and exemplary service. We also remember and honor those who laid down their lives in freedom's defense. These brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice for our benefit. On Veterans Day, we remember these heroes for their valor, their loyalty, and their dedication. Their selfless sacrifices continue to inspire us today as we work to advance peace and extend freedom around the world. With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service members have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor America's veterans. NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2008, as Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 9 through November 15, 2008, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of our veterans through ceremonies and prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to support and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with commemorative expressions and programs. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

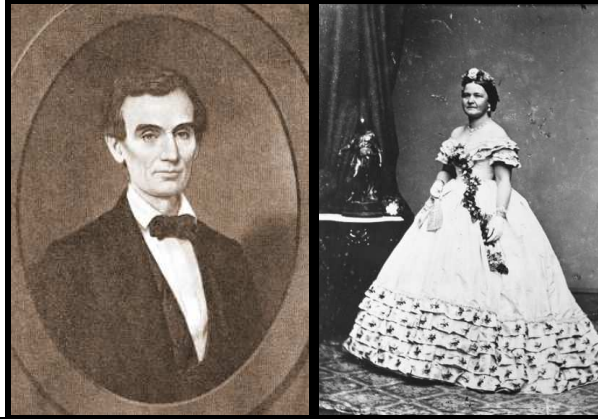
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ship in our group isn't an obligation, of course, but if we all do a little bit all the time, the memory of our ancestors will never die. The simplest participation is to attend the meetings. The interest is still out there. I was contacted by a lady from El Cajon recently during the VMCM monthly memorial service wanting me to do my program about the War. That wasn't atypical. Many people want to know more about that period of our history. We can provide that for our country. Lastly, with this time of the year rapidly passing, the Holidays will soon be on us. I wish everyone the best of the Holiday Season and a Happy (and prosperous!) New Year. May God bless us all, and our Order.

Commander Tom

Abraham Lincoln and His Depression by Marc Stockwell-Moniz

Many historians, as well as history-buffs, believe that our beloved sixteenth Commander-in-Chief, President Abraham Lincoln, suffered from bouts of depression. This knowledge certainly isn't new. A recent study suggests that Lincoln was suffering from depression as a child. While riding a horse one day, he was whipping the animal so hard that once off the horse he suffered a concussion when the horse kicked him in the head. Doctors suggest that it may have caused a "petit mal" and possibly this brought on attacks of transient aphasia, where Abraham would be "in another world" and fall into deep sleeps while visually awake. Or perhaps he suffered from mercury poisoning. However, certainly by early adulthood, Abraham Lincoln was battling this terrible malady. As a child, Lincoln's only brother died in infancy. His mother, aunt and uncle all succumbed to an epidemic when he was nine years old. Ten years later, his sister died giving birth to a still-born infant. His father and mother were disposed to melancholy, and one side of his family was "thick with mental dis-



On the left, etching of a youthful Lincoln and at right, a photo of Mary Todd

ease." These events in young Lincoln's life were challenging and no doubt helped set the tone for later depression. As a young man Lincoln was studying furiously to become a lawyer. At this time in his life, he was solidifying his position on many subjects, including religion and politics. However, sometimes he would get overwhelmed by his thoughts and sink into a depression for a few hours-or a few days. Perhaps his first major bout with depression came when his friend, Ann Rutledge died in 1835. Many historians contend that Ann was a love interest for Abraham. It was at this time that Lincoln exhibited strange behavior walking in the rain for days in the woods alone and often talking of suicide. A neighborly couple took him in for a few weeks and helped him escape from his melancholy. By 1839, Abraham Lincoln met the woman to whom he would marry. Her name was Mary Todd. She came from a well-to-do family who kept slaves. Although different in many ways, Mary and Abraham

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Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
* Veteran's Day Parade, San Diego, CA. All SUCVW Brothers are Welcome to march with the SVR - in uniform or otherwise.	10:30 AM, Nov 11, 2008 Parade steps off at 11	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* Color Guard for DUVCW Veteran's Day Ceremony, La Vista Cemetery, 3191 Orange Ave, National City. Sweetwater exit off I-805, E to Orange, L to La Vista Cemetery.	1:00 PM, Nov 11, 2008 (assemble as soon as we arrive from the Vet's parade)	Tom Helmantoler, Will Tisch
* Remembrance Day, Fallbrook Oddfellows Cemetery	11:00 AM, Nov. 15, 2008	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
* 62nd Annual Mother Goose Parade, El Cajon, CA.	10:00 AM, Nov 23, 2008 (assemble at Rosemary Lowe's home by 9:00)	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* Christmas Parade, Fallbrook, CA.	5:00 PM, Dec 6, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
Election of 2009 Officers & Camp Meeting with Potluck Social, at Deane & Brenda Poole's home - see directions on Pg.8	4:00 PM, Dec 13, 2008 <i>set-up at 3:30 pm</i>	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA	11:15 AM, Dec 20, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING October 11, 2008

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, George Cavanaugh, Jeff Malone, Jerry Sayre, Deane Poole, Mike Schooling, Will Tisch, and guests Gay Allyn, Kim Sayre, Brenda Poole and Rosemary Lowe.

The meeting was called to order by SVC Jeff Malone at 4:01 pm at the Restoration Warehouse of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, California.

The opening prayer was offered by Deane Poole and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by G. Cavanaugh.

I. Honored Attendees

Dept. Cmdr. and Mrs. Jerry Sayre are in attendance.

II. Acting Secretary appointed.

SVC Malone appointed D. Allyn Acting Secretary for this meeting only

III. Presentations

No presentations were made

IV. Minutes of August Meeting

A motion (Sayre/Allyn) to approve the minutes of the last meeting, as published in The General, passed.

V. Officers' Reports

- 1) D. Allyn reported for JVC M. McBride that we had one new application for Associate Membership from Mr. William Behana of El Cajon. A motion (Sayre/Allyn) to accept Mr. Behana's application as of the date received passed unanimously.
- 2) Secretary/Treas. J. May absent - no reports filed.

VI. Committee Reports

- 1) SVC Malone reported for Br. Gene Arimistead that no further progress on the Minter's Ranch project has occurred.
- 2) The Last Soldier Project: nothing new to report.
- 3) SVC Malone led discussion on the Lincoln 200th Birthday Committee plans. W. Tisch said he will contact the United Veterans Council Will Hays to arrange a meeting at 9:00 am 25 Oct. at VMMC to discuss plans. The committee will plan to meet with Mr. Hays at that time.
- 4) Fundraiser project - Brenda Poole has almost completed final work on the Jan Shaffer Lincoln quilt.

VII. Upcoming Events

- 1) Memorial Service at VMMC, 25 Oct..
- 2) Veterans Day Parade, 11:00 am 11 Nov.
- 3) DUVCW Ceremony, 11 Nov. 1:00 pm
- 4) Remembrance Day, Fallbrook, 15 Nov 11:00 am.
- 5) Mother Goose Parade, El Cajon, 23 Nov. 9:00 am.
- 6) Fallbrook Christmas Parade, 6 Dec. 5:00 pm.
- 7) Next Meeting. Potluck Social & Elections/Instal-

lation, D. Poole's home, San Diego. 4:00 pm.

VIII. Raffle

The raffle netted \$30 for the Camp treasury. Raffle winners included D. Allyn, W. Tisch, J. Sayre. D. Poole.

IX. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

X. New Business

- 1) A motion (Schooling/Allyn) passed unanimously to hold the Dec. meeting at Deane & Brenda Poole's house. (Deane & Branda having already offered the use of their home)
- 2) A motion (Sayre/Schooling) passed unanimously to have a Potluck Dinner at the Dec. meeting.
- 3) A motion (Schooling/Poole) to nominate T. Hel mantoler and Jeff Mallone to the offices of Camp Commander and Sr. Vice Cmdr. respectively passed unanimously.

XI. SVR Report

No report was given.

XII. Program

SVC Malone asked each Brother present to explain how he became involved in the study of Civil War history, provide any biographical information about his ancestor's service and any other topics related to how he came to be a member of our Order. Each Brother present took from 5 to 10 minutes re-telling his personal 'story' and then SVC Malone shared some recent information he had found via the internet of how he had obtained color copies of National Archives service and pension records from a private supplier. Samples of said items were passed around and all agreed they were very beautiful and much better than the black & white copies provided by the National Archives. If interested in obtaining records in color for your ancestor(s) contact SVC Mallone.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Poole and SVC. Malone adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Allyn, Acting Secretary for Date of Meeting, 11 Oct. 2008

Abraham Lincoln and His Depression (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

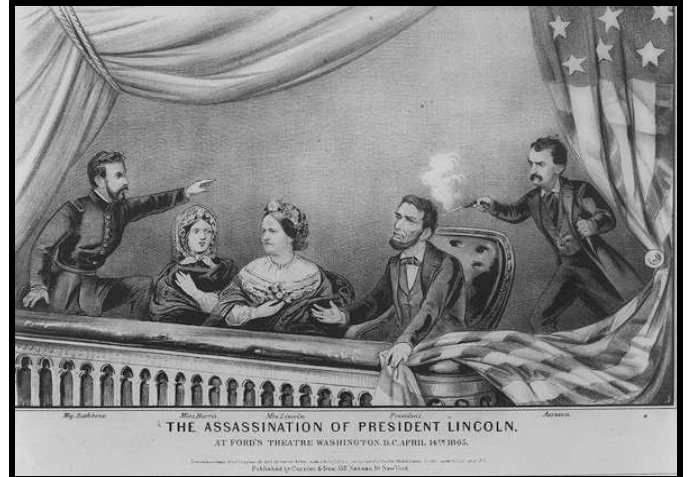
shared important things. They had both lost their mothers at a very young age. And they both, in turn, felt somewhat lost in spite of having strong personalities. They both suffered from their “mood swings.” After they fell in love, Abraham was afraid and confused by his feelings, as he always had trouble with close relationships. And Mary’s family was not exactly happy with the engagement. This led Abraham to write to his friend John Todd Stuart. He said, “I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on the earth.” Friends even worried that Lincoln might kill himself. After being elected to Congress and serving two years, Abraham Lincoln and family moved back to Springfield, Illinois in 1849. But things took a dark turn at home. Little Eddie, only three-years-old, became sick and died two months later in early 1850. Both



Lawyer A. Lincoln,
US Congressman

Abraham and Mary were devastated. Mary shut herself in her room and cried for weeks. Abraham somehow found a way to fight off major depression as he sank himself into his work. Less than one year later, Lincoln’s father died. During his days as president of the United States, with the nation ripping itself apart, the stresses that were upon Lincoln’s shoulders were frankly colossal. Did the life Lincoln lived prior to his presidency actually help him manage the day-to-day decisions of the war? Perhaps the insight that Lincoln acquired from a lifetime of sorrow and despair helped him become stronger with his fortitude. Battlefield defeats, the death of son Willie at age eleven and decisions that would anger even his closest political allies were ever present in Lincoln’s extreme emotional stress. However, Lin-

coln was able to battle through his demons as he played the biggest role of anybody in keeping the union of the United States together. Ironically, on April 14, 1865, on an evening where Lincoln possibly could have relaxed at Ford’s Theatre watching the play; “Our American Cousin,” he was assassinated by actor and Confederate sympathizer, John Wilkes Booth.



The next day, on April 15, Lincoln died, aged 56 years, two months and three days. Fighting depression for our great President was finally over. Now the whole nation would know what it was like to fight this terrible illness as the mourning for our sixteenth president began nationwide.



Lying-in-State, Executive Mansion (now
The White House), East Room

Editor’s Note: this is the 4th in our on-going series of Lincoln Bicentennial articles. Our desire is to run similar articles on our beloved 16th President from now to the celebration of his 200th birthday. Contributors to this effort are asked to submit articles now - all are welcome - we need your help !

PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Co. G, 5th CVI Color Guard at the 25 Oct VMMC Memorial service



SVR Color Guard; DC J. Sayre PCC, W. Tisch PCC, D. Allyn, CC T. Helmantoler, & D. Poole at VMMC

Below: photos from Military Order of the World Wars 53rd "Massing of the Colors," Balboa Park, 1 Nov. SVR Color Guard was DC J.Sayre PCC, W. Tisch PCC, D. Allyn, & D. Poole; assisting were K. Sayre, R. Lowe, E. Tisch & B. Boucher



Left. USMC Honor Guard fires salute, Below, USMC Bugler plays "Taps." Below Left, R. Lowe, B. Boucher & K. Sayre listen to speakers.



Above, SVR Color Guard (Mid) & some of the many color guards. Below; Color Guard & Brenda



OUR NEXT MEETING: Sat. Dec. 13 2008 *NOTE Location !*

December 13, 2008 4:00

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:

LOCATION

**Deane & Brenda Poole's
House
4466 Mt. Herbert Ave.
San Diego, CA. 92117**

From the 805 Fwy North or South, exit Balboa Ave. ~ go West to Genesee Ave. Turn Right (N) on Genesee, go to the third Left turn, which is Mt. Herbert Ave. Turn Left, (W) go thru four intersections to 4466. Park on area streets.

Our Program

This is our Annual Potluck Social & Officer Elections. Bring a dish to pass and whatever you care to drink-bring spouse & family too !

If you need help with directions from your location, call Deane or Brenda at:

(858) 278-9094

The General

The General

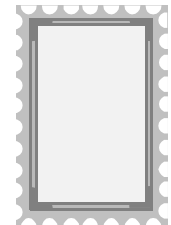


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Preserving the memory of the G. A. R. & "The Boys in Blue"

"In God We Trust"

"One Nation Under God"



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