



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 XV Number 2

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

Mar. 28, 2009

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

Brothers & Sisters; It has been a busy and hectic time for Camp 21 since we last met! We have had two major events occur and have one major event coming up next month. On February 12, 2009, we hosted the Lincoln's 200th Birthday event at the VMMC, and from all accounts, it was an unqualified success. The program included fine speeches by John May, Esmat Elhalaby (our speech contest winner, whose speech appears elsewhere in this newsletter), and myself. We all got nice congrats from several people. We also had the singing of our good friend Rita Cartwright of the San Diego Opera, who performed the National Anthem and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" for the audience of about 75 people, and Brother John Weber led Co. G, 6th US Infantry Re-enactors in a musket salute. Camp 21 awarded both Esmat and Rita one of our newly-minted commemorative coins for their work and Esmat was awarded a \$250 prize for winning the contest. The program was co-sponsored by Camp 21 and the United Veterans Council, Led by Pres. Will Hays (Capt., USN Ret.). The UVC was able to arrange through their good offices some fine media coverage, and I was able, through an old childhood friend, to get media coverage from the San Diego Union Tribune in the "Day and

Night" section. Our thanks for that coverage is to Mike Crowell. We set up the tent fly, thanks to Brother Jerry Sayre, PDC, (who was battling a cold) and had many visitors. All in all, it was a great day for the Camp and



CC Helmantoler speaks at 200th Lincoln B-Day Ceremony, VMMC. Also shown R to L, D. Poole, M. Monroe, E. Elhalaby, W. Hays, W. Tsch

Pres. Lincoln. We continued through the weekend with our displays of Civil War era artifacts and equipment. We had several musket firings, and had many visitors to our display inside the VMMC; the children viewing were especially impressed. We had many people take pictures of us with their children. My thanks go to the following people who put in time during the weekend: Will & Eileen Tisch, Deane Poole & Brenda Boucher, John Howell, Jerry & Kim Sayre, John May & Dave Allyn. Also, many thanks to Capt. Will Hays, Bob Summers (who videoed the program), and Paul Fusco (who helped set up for the event) of the VMMC, who all provided

great assistance in helping us have a successful celebration of President Lincoln's birthday. Everyone was great and it wouldn't have happened without the help of all of the above. March 5 and 6 saw the Dept. Encampment at Camp San Luis Obispo. Dept. Commander Jerry Sayre

(Continued on page 2)

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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.

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

(Continued from page 1)

passed the gavel to former Dept. SVC, Charlie Mabie, who will do a fine job! Glen Roosevelt was elevated to Dept. SVC and Tim Reese becomes the new Dept. JVC. Camp reports came in quite nicely. In giving our Camp report, I made special mention of Brother Bob Lowe and what he meant to our Camp and Department: in fact, the Dept. Encampment was dedicated in honor of Bob. Camp 21 remains one of the most active in the Dept. We raffled the fabulous Lincoln quilt made by Jan Shaffer with help from Brenda Poole and others; the profit went to the Department to help set up the 2012 National Encampment and to Camp 21. The Dept. raffle was a big success, as my car came home loaded. My thanks to Brothers Will Tisch and Jerry Sayre, as well as the women of Camp 21, Eileen Tisch, Rosemary Lowe, Julie Atzen, Kim Sayre, and my wife Sandy who all attended and were of great help in making the Encampment a big success, as well as a good time! Between the Lincoln 200th celebration, the Dept. Encampment, and the super sales work of Will & Eileen, we have sold about 170 of the 200 Lincoln coins we ordered. I am considering buying more. We are splitting the profit with the VMMC, since they co-sponsored the event. There will be more coins available at the meeting for anyone that still wants one. Thanks to the hard work of Brother Gene Armistead, the Vista Irrigation District has finally approved the building of a monument at Minter's Ranch near Lake Henshaw. It will commemorate that event where the Union helped hold California. Now, we need to raise the necessary money to build it. Gene is hard at work on this. Coming up next month will be several Memorial Day ceremonies that can be found listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Please try and attend at least one of them. The highlight will be at Mt. Hope on GAR Hill. It will be our year to host, and plans have been made. We are grateful to Mr. David Lugo of the City of San Diego for his constant support of our work. The honored Civil War veteran will be Jesse Bennett. The remembrance program will be presented by Barbara Mondt of the DUVCW. She has already lined up 8 of his descendents to attend, and may have as many as 10 more coming! We are co-hosting, as usual, with the SCV. I have already arranged for Rita Cartwright to perform as well. It begins at 1:30 on May 25 and I hope as many as possible can attend as this is one of our main events of the year. There will also be brothers attending ceremonies in Fallbrook, North County, El Cajon and Ft. Rosecrans on Pt. Loma. Our next meeting will be April 18 at 4 PM at the Officer's Club, MCAS. It will be a dinner meeting, with the Camp paying \$5 of the charge for your dinner. Please attend and RSVP with John May, Jeff Malone, or myself. Jeff will have menu options for all. The speaker will be Dr. Mike Bailey (my brother-in-law), who will speak on "Lincoln's Depression." He has been hard at work on this for some time. See you there !
 Commander Tom

IMPORTANT PLEASE RSVP FOR APRIL MEETING

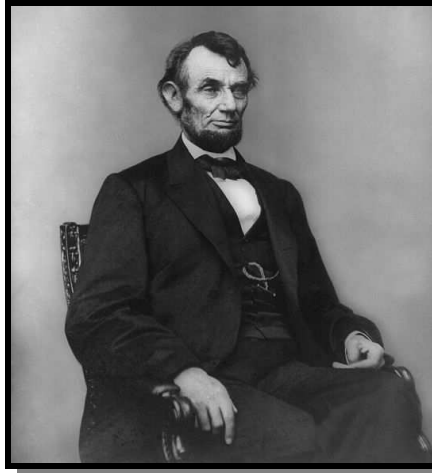
It is necessary for us to pre-order meals with the Officer's Club in advance. As soon as possible, email or call one of the following Camp 21 officers please;

Jeff Malone: 619-368-2879, jeffreymalone@alumni.sandiego.edu
 Tom Helmantoler: 858-566-0012, thelmantoler@gmail.com
 John May: 760-994-5959, jmmay@sdcoe.k12.ca.us

Tell him how many will be in your party. Camp 21 is paying \$5 towards the cost of each meal but we need as accurate a count as possible. Your cooperation is very much appreciated !

**“For The People” by Esmat Elhalaby, of Patrick Henry High School
2009 Pittenger Prize Orator**

November 19th, 1863 the man whose birth we celebrate today gave a speech in dedication of a battle, one that killed thousands of Americans who were fighting for the maintenance of the Republic. That day at Gettysburg, President Lincoln reminded all of us why we must fight to uphold our republic; in his final tricolon he exclaimed that government of, by and for the people, shall not perish from this earth. Lincoln chose “for the people” to end his famous phrase, for it is that that is most important in our nation’s experiment with democracy. The Civil War was the greatest test of our nation’s ability; it came less than one hundred years after the inception of our republic, with it came a rebirth of the revolutionary zeal that the founders held dear. A zeal that proclaimed that it is “we the people in order to form a more perfect union,” and “we (who) hold these truths to



be self-evident.” A zeal that has maintained a nation – one that constantly reminds us of the importance of unity, of respect. Today our nation once again is facing hardships - hardships that are the product of greed seeping into the pores of the highest leaders of industry and the most senior members of politics, individuals who have forgotten the sacrifices of former generations. But we must not worry, for if we stand strong, as Union soldiers of the Civil War did, and remember Lincoln’s words, we can have faith that our republic works for the people, for each and every person. American democracy is unique in its resilience, while other states have continually failed, we have preserved and prospered. But, we are not infallible, we can make mistakes, and have surly made them in the past. What is important is that we

(Continued on page 5)

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
Regular Meeting, Camp 21, MCAS Officer’s Club	4:00 PM, 18 April	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Monthly Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Pk, SD	11:30 AM, 25 April <i>muster at 11:00</i>	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Armed Forces Day Parade, Torrance	1:30 PM, 16 May <i>muster at 1:00 PM</i>	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
Reinterment Ceremony of Union & US Soldiers, So. AZ Vets Mem. Cemetery, Sierra Vista AZ. (see Pg. 7 for more information)	15-16 May	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* Memorial Day, Oddfellows cemetery, Fallbrook	11:00 AM, 23 May	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
* Memorial Day, El Cajon cemetery, El Cajon	2:30 PM, 24 May with Elk’s Lodge 1812	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
* Memorial Day, Mt Hope Cemetery, SD	1:30 PM, 25 May	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
Memorial Day, Oceanside Elk’s Lodge, 444 Country Club Ln.	10:00 AM, 25 May	John May
Memorial Day, Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery, Pt. Loma	10:00 AM, 25 May	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
Regular Meeting, Camp 21, MCAS Officer’s Club	4:00 PM, 13 June	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Monthly Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Pk, SD	11:30 AM, 27 June <i>muster at 11:00</i>	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
Regular Meeting, Camp 21, MCAS Officer’s Club	4:00 PM, 8 August	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
128th National Encampment, Louisville, KY.	13-15 August	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING February 21, 2009

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, Andrew Brooks, George Cavanaugh, Robert Dodge, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, John Howell, Jeff Malone, John May, Monroe McBride, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, Tom Stinson, Will Tisch, and guests Gay Allyn, Brenda Boucher, Hilda Dodge, Elaine Duckworth, Julie Howell, Charmaine Malone, Kim Sayre, and Eileen Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Tom Helmantoler at 4:15pm at the Officers Club, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, California. The opening prayer was offered by D. Poole and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. Finch.

I. Honored Attendees

Dept. Cmdr. and Mrs. Jerry Sayre were in attendance as was our presenter, Elaine Duckworth.

II. Officers' Reports

1) JVC M. McBride that Gene Zinn, whose ancestor served in the 88th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, has applied for membership. A motion (McBride/May) to approve this application was passed.

2) Treasurer J. May reported that since the last report, the Camp has spent \$1704.55 and has income of \$2145.00. The current balance is \$3561.18 with \$1325.45 of that in the Flagpole Restoration Fund and \$40.00 in the Minter's Ranch Memorial Fund.

3) Secretary J. May reported correspondence from Br. Charlie Mabie regarding the Dept. Encampment. He also noted that 55 members have renewed membership in the Camp for 2009.

III. Committee Reports

1) W. Tisch reported that the Lincoln Bicentennial Event was held from Feb. 12 to Feb. 14 and was very successful.

2) M. McBride reported that the Speech Contest winner was Esmat Elhalaby from Patrick Henry High School. He was an outstanding speaker and delivered the winning oration at the Lincoln Bicentennial event on Feb. 12.

3) J. Malone reported that the Minter's Ranch memorial was not on the agenda at the last meeting of the Vista Irrigation District. He will keep an eye on the next meeting.

4) T. Helmantoler reported that the Last Soldier Project is still waiting for news on the headstone. A motion (Malone/Sayre) was passed to have J. Malone re-apply for the headstone with the Veterans

Administration.

IV. Upcoming Events

1) VMMC Service 2/28; muster at 11:00 am.

2) Department Encampment 3/6 to 3/8 in San Luis Obispo.

3) Next Camp meeting, 4/18 at a location to be announced.

4) Arizona reburial, 5/16.

5) Memorial Day: 5/24, El Cajon Elks; 5/25, Fort Rosecrans; 5/25 Veterans Assoc. of North County at

10am; 5/25 Mt. Hope at 1:30pm.

6) National Encampment 8/6-8, Louisville, KY.

V. Old Business

1) T. Helmantoler reported that Lincoln Bicentennial coins are being sold, both through the Camp and at the VMMC. A motion (Sayre/Brooks) to purchase 200 coins for \$866 was passed. Profits will be split with VMMC.

2) Eileen Tisch reported that the Lincoln quilt, crafted by Jan Shaffer, will be raffled off with proceeds divided between the Camp and the Department.

3) Discussion of a suitable memorial for deceased Br. Bob Lowe, PDC, was tabled until next meeting.

VI. New Business

1) D. Poole is coordinating the Memorial Day program at El Cajon Elks and would like uniformed members to attend.

2) J. May is coordinating the Memorial Day Program for the Veterans Assoc. of North County and would like members to attend and help with laying of wreath and reading of General Orders #11.

3) A motion (Schooling/Sayre) was passed to hold the next meeting on April 18.

VII. Raffle

The raffle raised \$34 for the Camp treasury. Winners included A. Brooks, D. Allyn, W.

Tisch, Elaine Duckworth, J. Sayre, and J. Finch.

VIII. SVR Report

(Continued on page 7)

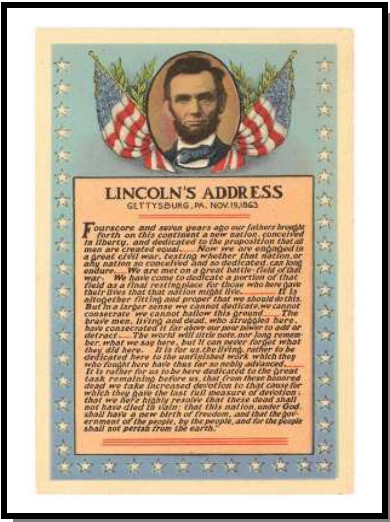
**“For The People” (Cont) by Esmat Elhalaby, of Patrick Henry High School
2009 Pittenger Prize Orator**

(Continued from page 3)



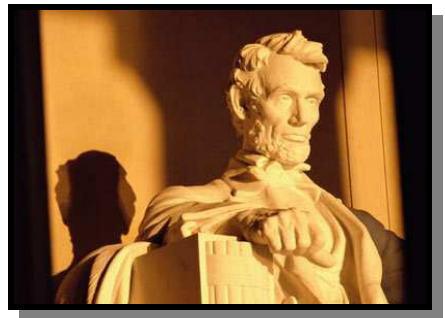
stand up for ourselves, *for the people*. Today there is continued talk of an economic stimulus, an attempt for our government to return our nation to a state of economic security, for a government must work *for the people*, it

must insure that all individuals proper. As this plan is drafted we must trust our government to work in the interest of the people, for it is we who elected these individuals to high office and it is we with the power to take it away. Even if we did not vote for those in power, even if we disagree with them, we must not forget that the government works for us, for all of us, just as President Lincoln worked not only for the Republicans of the north, not only for the whole of the Union, but he worked to save the white men of the south from themselves, and the slaves of the south from the clutches of servitude. It is this notion: that the government of the United States works in the interest of every citizen of the United States, regardless of race, creed, age or affiliation of any kind, that has allowed our democracy to thrive for the last two centuries.



It is this that defines us as Americans, it is this that we ourselves must not forget and must not hesitate to remind our elected representatives of. The tests we face today are not the same as those our Republic faced in the 1860's, today there is no physical border be-

tween the differing sides of opinion, today we stand at a precipice, slowly moving our way towards the evils of class-warfare and extremism. Today's problems, just as those of the past, have the ability to split our country. But we cannot make ourselves enemies, for the government of the United States represents a united people, and while Lincoln has passed, his words live on in every moment that we cease to think solely as individuals and think, and more importantly act as a group. The Civil War changed the United States, today it stands both as a reminder of our vulnerability, as well as our strength in the face of adversity. If we are to continue to live as we have: prosperous and free, we must not allow the relative ease of partisan politics to overtake us, for Lincoln's wisdom tells us to act



otherwise, to make difficult decisions in order to benefit the greater good. At the same time Lincoln was careful to keep the Republic from falling into the trenches of tyranny, he was cordial, respectful of the opinions of the minority. So let us heed his calls, - let us, we the people, be those who bring upon the rebirth of the ideas of the revolution, the rebirth of the words of Lincoln, words to be echoed across our nation, that government of the people, by the people, *for the people*, shall not perish from this earth.

Editor's Note: this is the 6th in our series of Lincoln Bicentennial articles. With thanks to all who contributed we end with this award-winning essay by Patrick Henry High Schooler, Esmat Elhalaby, who read his essay at our Lincoln 200th Birthday celebration.

PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



L, National Anthem preceding the Lincoln 200th B-Day ceremony at VMMC. R, marching off the colors at the conclusion. Below L & C, Cmdr Tom is interviewed by print & TV media. Below R, Tom & Will Tisch demonstrate loading & firing muskets



Above, Tom & John Howell at our display tables. Above R, Will shows youngsters how cartridges are made. Below, Brenda Boucher shows off nearly completed Lincoln Quilt. R, CinC Medert with ladies of our Dept. at San Luis Obispo Encampment



R, At Dept, CinC Medert congratulates Jerry Sayre, Past Dept. Cmdr, on his successful tenure as outgoing 1st Lady Kim Sayre looks



L & R, Our Color Guard at the Feb. VMMC monthly memorial service, where Vets deceased in the prior month are honored by the reading of their names & tolling of the bell



Minutes of Last Meeting, February 21, 2009 Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

W. Tisch reported that membership dues have been collected from all but four of last year's members.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Poole and Cmdr. Helmantoler adjourned the meeting at 5:25pm.

IX. Program

Teacher Elaine Duckworth gave a talk and slide show on her battlefield tour. A Certification of Appreciation was presented by Cmdr. Helmantoler on behalf of the Camp.

Respectfully submitted,
John May, Secretary



Welcome New Brother!

**Gene Zinn, of Fallbrook
whose ancestor served in
the 88th Ohio Volunteer
Infantry**

HUZZAH !!!

"DECADERS"

Harry A. Thaete III 05-99

Adam G. Ogan 05-99

Michael C. Ogan 05-99

**Congratulations on
attaining 10 years of
membership in the
SUVCW**

**Thank you Brothers for
your continued
commitment to the
objectives of our Order !**

The San Diego Civil War Roundtable meets the Third Wednesday of each month, 7 PM at Palisades Presbyterian Church 6301 Birchwood St., San Diego & is open to the public. For further information, contact Pres. Dave Tooley 858-672-2593 or on the Web at www.sdcwrt.org



A few of the beautiful 200th Lincoln's Birthday Commemorative Coins (shown above) are still available for \$10 from Treasurer John May. Price includes shipping. The profits from sales of these coins are being split between Camp 21 & the VMMC, who co-sponsored the Camp's ceremony on Feb. 12th.

Union Dead to be Reinterred in Arizona on May 16th, 2009

The remains of 70 soldiers buried between 1862 & 1878 were discovered during a construction project in downtown Tucson, AZ. The 14 Union soldiers were California Volunteer Infantry & Cavalry that were part of the famed 'California Column' - most are unknown. The bulk of the recovered soldiers were U.S. Regulars serving in Arizona between 1866-78, with most of them identified. The remains will be moved by escorted military convoy from Tucson to the Southern Arizona Vets Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista, Fri. 15 May. On Sat. 16 May, the soldiers will be buried in an elaborate ceremony in a special cemetery set aside exclusively for them. Vets, SUVCW members, & Civil War & Indian War re-enactors are encouraged to attend. Event organizers are still accepting volunteers to serve as pall-bearers. Brothers interested in attending or serving as pall-bearers are urged to contact the undersigned for more information. To donate to the construction of the historic cemetery wall, see www.geocities.com/savmc.

Stephen Siemsen
Lincoln-Cushing Camp 2 residing in Sierra Vista, AZ
shs1954@googlemail.com or stephen.siemsen@us.army.mil

OUR NEXT MEETING: Sat. Apr. 18 2009 *NOTE Location & Date !*

April 18, 2009 4:00 PM

LOCATION
Officer's Club
Bldg. 4472
Anderson Ave.
MCAS Miramar

Our Program

Our speaker is Dr. Mike Bailey,
Tom Helmantoler's brother-in-
law, who will speak on "Lincoln's
Depression"
Dr. Mike has spoken to our Camp
in the past & is always well
received

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:

If you do not have a DOD ID and/or a DOD sticker on your car, please allow 10 extra minutes and follow the new procedures to enter MCAS Miramar.

Exit **MIRAMAR WAY** off Hwy 15 and enter MCAS Miramar through the Main/East gate. Tell the sentry you need a "**day pass**" - be sure driver has his ID, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance. When they ask what your business is on the base, simply tell the sentry that you have a meeting of Pittenege Camp 21, SUVCW at the Officer's Club. Once on the base, drive West on Miramar Way and turn **RIGHT** at the 2nd stop light, onto Mitscher. Turn **LEFT** at Elrod Ave. (1st light, at McDonalds corner) drive to end of Elrod. Turn **Right** on Anderson Ave. The O Club will be on your left before the next intersection.

If you have DOD ID and/or DOD sticker on your car, please continue to use the North gate off Miramar Road, turn **RIGHT** at Elrod, go to end, **RIGHT** on Anderson, O Club is on Left before next intersection.

The General

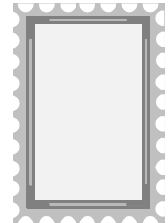
The General



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"In God We Trust"

"One Nation Under God"



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

Get The General by E-mail & Save Camp Resources + Call 619-561-8581