

"Most Outstanding Camp in the Nation" ~ 2003

"Most Outstanding Brother in the Nation" ~ 2005

Volume XV Number 3

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

May 30, 2009

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

Brothers and Sisters:

As spring becomes summer, let me wish everyone a happy summer season and an enjoyable vaca-

tion, should you be able to take one. Happy Independence Day -Fourth of July, as well. I hope you were able to join us at Mt. Hope for our Memorial Day celebration with the SCV, or to attend one of the other Memorial Day events in the area. My thanks to Barbara Mondt of DUVCW, who did all the work for Our Honored Soldier, Jesse Bennett, buried at GAR Hill. Also, thanks to Will Tisch, who cleaned the headstone, Roy Adair of SCV, and all the others who helped plan and participate in the day's activities. Thanks to everyone, no matter where you were that day. I would also like to encourage everyone to attend the National En-

campment in August in Louisville, KY, especially if you've never attended one. They are quite well done and it's good to meet members from other

parts of the country. Dates, costs and forms are in "The Banner." Please also join us for the next meeting at the historic ship, *Star of India*. We will

> be given a guided tour by Brother Mike Schooling, who is a new docent there. Further information on the meeting can be found elsewhere in the General (Pg. 7). If you've never been to the Star of India, this is a good reason to see it, as well as attend the meeting! We will also be having the Blue/Grey picnic in Coronado on June 20. It is a potluck style, afternoon event, sure to have much good food and brotherhood with our SCV cousins. As was once said, "The only thing permanent in life change." With that in mind, I am sad to announce the resignation of Jr. Vice Commander, Monroe McBride,

from that post. Brother

Monroe's employer, due to economic conditions, closed its San Diego office and transferred him to (Continued on page 2)



15 May, S. AZ Vet. Mem. Cemetery, Sierra Vista. Dept. Chaplain & Camp 21 Commander Tom Helmantoler invokes Divine Blessings of Almighty God over the honored remains of Civil & Indian Wars veterans at SUVCW ceremony on the evening before their reinterment with full military honors

2009 CAMP OFFICERS

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| Description |

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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)

Sacramento. As he said to me, "The good news is I have a job. The bad news is that the job is in Sacramento." Monroe is not resigning from the Camp and will maintain his residence in Ramona, as his wife, Laurie, is a teacher there. I am actively searching for someone to fill that post, at least for the remainder of my time as your Commander. If you would like to get into the line of leadership in the Camp, or would be willing to fill the position for only the rest of the year, please contact me. PLEASE! All this brings me to an important part of this issue's message. This is not intended for the members that are regularly active in the Camp. Like most groups of our type, a relatively small number of the total membership is quite active. The problem we have is that the number active is dwindling, and the members are aging. We DESPERATLY NEED more people to become more active and help us out. We have many members that were active at one time but no longer are. It's easy to get out of the habit of participating in Camp activities and assume "someone else will do it." When Bob Lowe passed, I promised Rosemary that I wouldn't let the Camp die on my watch. I intend to fulfill that promise, but I do need your help. "Many hands make for light work" still applies here. If you haven't been coming to meetings, or are an SVR member and haven't been active, PLEASE become active again. We DO need your participation! We have had good programs over the last 18 months at meetings, and will continue to do so. Honoring our Union ancestors at ceremonial functions and events is just as important as it ever was. Our ancestors stepped up at a critical time in our nation's history and deserve to be remembered and honored as they always have. Please help us remember them as they helped us by saving the nation. Again, I do not intend to see Camp 21 die. We need to have more of our current membership be active and continue to recruit new members. Let us rededicate ourselves to the Camp. Thanks!

I remain proud to be your Commander. In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty, Tom H.

From the Editor: apologies for not sending out this edition on time. There were extenuating circumstances but please know it is my aim & duty to do all I can to ensure that you receive your Camp's newsletter in a timely manner. That said, I would like to appeal to you to rally to your Camp's side & that of your editor. We need more of you to participate in Camp functions - as Commander Tom has written - and we need more of you to send in articles for publication. This is a means of being involved, even if distance, health or finances will not allow you to attend meetings or events. Please send me anything of interest regarding your adventures in exploring your ancestor's story & your own experiences visiting museums or battlefield parks. If possible, send by e-mail attachment but even if you send me a hand-printed letter, I will happily transcribe your missive into a forthcoming edition. Thanks for your assistance!

Petersburg inspired Memorial Day, Researcher Says by Katherine Calos

If you want to thank someone for the national Memorial Day commemoration, you might start with the Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg. Their decoration of Confederate graves at Blandford Cemetery, which began June 9, 1866, inspired a Union general's wife in the spring of 1868 before the first national Decoration Day, on May 30, 1868. To James H. Ryan of Petersburg, that means Petersburg should get credit for inspiring the national Memorial Day. He has researched the connection and created the Web site MemorialDayOrigin.info to spread the word. After the Civil War ended, Gen. John A. Logan, husband of Mary Logan, was commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union Army veterans' organization. When Mary Logan returned from her visit to Petersburg, she described to him the decoration of graves she had seen there. Soon after, he issued his General Order No. 11 for Union veterans to decorate graves all over the nation on May 30, a date when the whole country would be blooming with flowers. Mary Logan wrote about the discussion for the Los Angeles Daily Times in 1903, and Ryan has posted the article on his Web site. The Petersburg ladies had picked June 9 for their original decoration because it was the anniversary of the 1864 battle that began the 10-month siege of Petersburg, Ryan said. Men and boys - mostly too old or too young to be in the Confederate army - held off the Union army on June 9 until Confederate reinforcements could arrive. When Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant finally broke through at Petersburg in April 1865, the Confederate government had to abandon Richmond. The Confederacy collapsed a week later with Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox. On the anniversary of the battle of men and boys, the Ladies Memorial Association decorated the graves with flags and flowers. In March 1868, when flags from the June 1867 decoration apparently had been supplemented with fresh decorations of early spring flowers, Mary Logan took note. "The weather was balmy and spring-like, and as we passed through the rows of graves I noticed that many of them had been strewn with beautiful blossoms and decorated with small flags of the dead Confederacy," she wrote. "The actions seemed to me to be a beautiful tribute to the soldier martyrs and grew upon me while I was returning to Washington. As soon as [Gen. Logan] met me at the station I told him of the graves of the Southern soldiers in the cemetery at Petersburg. He listened with great interest and then said: 'What a splendid thought! We will have it done all over the country." As far as Ryan is concerned, Petersburg has an ironclad case for inspiring the national observance. "Petersburg is not the first city to have a memorial day," Ryan said. "The tradition [of decorating graves] goes back to the Trojans and Persians. There were other cities that did this same thing, probably before Petersburg." Waterloo, N.Y., where Civil War graves first were decorated in May 1866, has been recognized as the nation's official birthplace of Memorial Day. "The key thing about our connection to Memorial Day is the logical connection, the chain of events," Ryan said. "We claim to be the source of inspiration and chain of events leading to the national Memorial Day." (taken from the Civil War Philadelphia automatic digest system email of May 22, 2009)

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
Regular Meeting, Camp 21, Tour Star of India followed by refreshments & brief business meeting, Elephant & Castle® Pub	1:00 PM, 13 June	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
Blue & Gray Picnic, Cabana #6, Naval Amphib base, Coronado Contact Tom Helmantoler for details	10 AM - sunset, 20 June	Tom Helmantoler
* Monthly Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Pk, SD	11:30 AM, 27 June muster at 11:00	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
Regular Meeting, Camp 21, Location TBA	4:00 PM, 8 August	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
128th National Encampment, Louisville, KY.	13-15 August	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
* Monthly Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Pk, SD	11:30 AM, 22 August muster at 11:00	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Large ACW Reenactment, Huntington Beach Info-recruiting table with Camps 2, 4 & 17	5-6 September	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
Regular Meeting, Camp 21, Location TBA	4:00 PM, 10 October	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Monthly Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Pk, SD	11:30 AM, 24 October muster at 11:00	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING April, 18 2009

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, Michael Clover, Robert Dodge, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone, John May, Monroe McBride, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, Will Tisch, and guests Gay Allyn, Mike Bailey, Brenda Boucher, Hilda Dodge, Tyler McBride, Leslie Day, Patrick Finch, Sandy Helmantoler, Kim Sayre, and Eileen Tisch. The meeting was called to order by Commander Tom Helmantoler at 4:05pm at the Officers Club, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, California. The opening prayer was offered D. Poole and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. Finch. Minute of the last meeting were approved (Sayre/McBride). J. May reminded the Camp that April 18 is the anniversary of Paul Revere's ride at the onset of the American Revolution.

I. Honored Attendees

PDC and Mrs. Jerry Sayre were in attendance.

II. Officers' Reports

- 1) JVC M. McBride that Eric Hamilton, whose ancestor served in the 4th Arkansas Cavalry, 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 \$1671.36 and has income of \$2578.35. The current balance is \$4868.16 with \$1325.45 of that in the Flagpole Restoration Fund and \$40.00 in the Minter's Ranch Memorial Fund.
 3) Secretary I. May reported correspondence from
- 3) Secretary J. May reported correspondence from The Civil War Preservation Trust thanking the Camp for our recent contribution

III. Committee Reports

- 1) T. Helmantoler reported that the Vista Irrigation District is close to approving the Minter's Ranch monument site.
- 2) J. Malone reported on the Last Soldier Project. The paperwork has been re-submitted to the Veterans Administration to obtain a headstone for Pvt. Shelly

IV. Upcoming Events

- 1) VMMC Service 4/25; muster at 11:00 am.
- 2) National Encampment 8/13 to 8/16 in Louisville, KY.
- 3) Next Camp meeting, 6/13 at a location to be announced.
- 4) Sierra Vista, AZ reburial of 14 Union veterans, 5/16.

- 5) Blue/Grey Picnic, 6/20
- 6) 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.

V. Old Business

1) J. Sayre reported on the Dept. Encampment. Attendance was good and the C-in-C was there. Charlie Mabie is the new Dept. Cmdr. There is a chance for the 2012 National Encampment to be held in CA.

VI. New Business

- 1) M. Schooling volunteered to present a JROTC Award at Mira Mesa High School on May 16.
- 2) J. May mentioned a parade in Oceanside on June 27. Our Camp is invited to participate.
- 3) T. Helmantoler reported that the Memorial Day service at Mt. Hope will honor Union veteran Jesse

Bennett. It will take place at 1:30pm on May 25.

4) M. McBride asked that a Civil War presenter attend a BSA Order of the Arrow meeting in Ramona on

Aug. 20 at 7pm.

5) M. Schooling offered to conduct a tour of the S.D. Maritime Museum for the Camp prior to the next

meeting.

6) D. Pool reported that Br. David Schaffer lost his mother. A letter of condolence from the Camp will be

sent.

VII. Raffle

The raffle raised \$50 for the Camp treasury. Winners included Patrick Finch, Kim Sayre, Taylor McBride, and J. Finch.

VIII. SVR Report

D. Allyn reported that two units in the Military District have disbanded. Recent activities include serving as the color guard at the S.D. Padres game on April 10.

IX. Members' Minutes

1) D. Poole enjoyed serving on the color guard at the Padres game.

(Continued on page 7)

Remains of Civil & Indian Wars Veterans Laid to Rest in Arizona

On 15 May, SVR 6th Military District Chief of Staff, Lt. & Camp 21 Bro. Will Tisch, PCC and I left the East County, drove to San Diego's airport and boarded a flight to Phoenix. Thus began our little adventure into the deserts of Arizona to participate in the re-burial of 14 Union Veterans of the famed "California Column" and more then 30 Vets from the Indian Wars who had been unearthed in downtown Tucson during an excavation for an addition to the City-County Courts Bldg in 2005. These men had all died while on active duty and had been buried between 1862 - 1884 in what was then called the "National Cemetery of Tucson," but due to the vareties of life in the wild west of the late 1800's, their graves had been built over with buildings and a parking lot. When the excavation began, it was known they would find graves but no one knew how many would eventually be found. News accounts I have read put the figure at more then 1500, mostly civilians. About 61 military graves were found and the remains were collected and stored until Sierra Vista's Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery set aside a special area, known as the Historic Soldier's Cemetery, for these fallen few who had been all but forgotten. Arriving at the Phoenix Skyharbor airport, Will & I headed straight by bus to the rental cars, which are in their own special terminal building! After what seemed like an eternity (I even had a phone call from Kim Sayre asking where we were while we stood in line) we finally got headed south on the highway to Tucson. With Will's GPS system, chirping happily to us about staying on course, we made the drive, stopping once for a bite to eat. When we got to Sierra Vista, we went to our motel to change into uniforms, then to the cemetery to join the others for the ceremony - which had been planned by esteemed Brother, Stephen Siemsen who portrays a

Post Commander. Stephen is a retired Army CWO who now works for the Army at Ft. Huachuca which is adjacent to the cemetery and had charge of the remains. Present for the Friday ceremony were Camp 21 Brothers, Commander Tom Helmantoler, PDC Jerry Sayre with Kim Sayre DU-VCW, as well as Will & myself. Also present were Camp 2 Bro. Phil Caines & wife Melanie, ASUVCW. Each soldier's remains had been placed in a small wooden casket and all of the caskets were arranged in front of the dais. Brother Siemsen led the service by explaining how it came to be that we were there, I briefly addressed the gathering of perhaps 70 persons, connecting Memorial Day to this occasion, and then each of the Brothers & Sisters present read portions of the names of the dead & their units & dates of death. As each name was read, Melanie Caines, dressed as a widow, rang a bell. Of interest is that each veteran's name is known but few of the remains could be matched or identified. Following the ceremony we went to the Sierra Vista VFW Hall for their steak fry. This is the largest VFW Post in AZ & third largest anywhere. We felt very welcome and the food was quite good and too plentiful! After a good night's rest, Will & I joined Bro. Siemsen & a few others to raise a garrison-sized, 35-star National Flag. A local reenactor & SCV member, Joe Smith, fired a 12-pounder mountain howitzer in salute. Joe made all of the small wooden caskets using his time & funds. Then we all went to a favorite local bistro for breakfast and headed back to the cemetery for the big event. Before that commenced, Will & I went to the administration bldg to view a beautiful stone marker that was to have been installed on May 30, the 'Real Memorial Day,' in the Historic Soldier's portion of the cemetery. Then we joined a crowd of about 800 under a bright blue Arizona sky to witness this ceremony, along with the honorable Governor of the State, Jan Brewer. As beautiful as was this day, the ceremony unfolded before our eyes. Amidst the fitting & eloquent speeches, the highpoint -I'm sure - for all in attendance was the simultaneous folding of the 35-star flags which draped the 61 caskets by active duty members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force & Coast Guard along with our very own SVR Brothers, Jerry Sayre, Phil Caines & Don Hotchkiss. Then came a massive salute by Army howitzers & echoed-taps played by two buglers. At the end of the ceremony, the caskets were carried by the same uniformed servicemen &

women to their graves, their path lined with Boy Scouts and laid to rest with honors. Afterwards, I had the honor of being interviewed by a local Tucson TV station, a portion of which actually made it through the editing process & was seen that evening on Channel 9. I also had the honor of meeting Gov. Brewer who delayed her departure to mingle with the many people attending. After a fine lunch at the VFW hall, some of us enjoyed a very fine concert of 19th-century selections by the 4th Regiment Cavalry Band at the Veterans Memo-

rial Park. Later, we drove to

Tombstone where we were



The Flags are folded simultaneously by Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen & Coast Guardsmen, with Brothers, Jerry Sayre PDC, Phil Caines, Camp 2, & Don Hotchkiss, Camp 12 (not shown)

PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK







23 May, Mem. Day, Fallbrook Oddfellows Cemetery, Camp Brothers & Sisters assemble to remember our Honored Dead







24 May, Mem. Day, El Cajon Cemetery, Camp 21 Brothers & Sister assemble with Elk's from Lodge 1812 to pay honor to a Veteran. After, we visited the grave of our Dear Departed Brother, Bob Lowe PDC, to pay respects with decorations & prayers

Below: 25 May, photos from Mem. Day at Ft. Rosecrans Natl. Cemetery & San Diego's Mt Hope where Union Veteran Jesse Bennett, Co. E, 3rd Iowa Inf. was honored. Camp Chaplain Deane Poole presented National Flags to two of his descendants















Welcome New Brother!

Eric Hamilton, of Murrieta whose ancestor served in the 4th Arkansas Volunteer Cavalry (US)

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

Minutes of Last Meeting, February 21, 2009 Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

2) J. Malone found some of his ancestors' grave sites in PA. The closing prayer was offered by D. Poole and Cmdr. Helmantoler adjourned the meeting at 5:05pm.

X. Program

Dr. Mike Bailey gave a presentation on "Abraham Lincoln's Depression."

Respectfully submitted, John May, Secretary

Remains of Civil & Indian Wars Soldier's Laid to Rest (Cont.)

treated to a personal tour by Bro. Siemsen of the town cemetery (not "Boot Hill"), where there are not a few GAR graves & a prominent GAR Marker. Early Sunday morning, Will & I visited the cemetery to pay our departing respects to the men who had been laid - finally - in the kind of graves they deserved. Then it was off to Phoenix, and a fine flight home to San Diego where we drank in the intoxicating view & the sweet smell of our beautiful bay with its cool breezes so lacking in S. Arizona. It was a great trip with so many wonderful experiences. I shall not soon meet any finer people than I did on this memorable occasion. I hope one day to go back to see the Historic Soldier's Cemetery in Sierra Vista, complete with landscaping & with the new GAR marker proudly installed alongside the graves of the soldiers we had the privilege to honor. My thanks to Brother Stephen Siemsen for his faithful service in preparing the 15 May service & for acting as a most gracious host - thanks Brother! Thanks also go to Lt. Will Tisch for his faithful assistance & many helps he gave in getting us from here to there and back again with a minimum of hassle & lots of good humor - well done Sir! Except for one bad call by Will's GPS system (where she insisted we drive East to get to Tucson!) the little talking box performed well & even found food & water when we needed sustenance makes you wonder how we got along without such contrivances!

I remain yours in service to the SUVCW & SVR,

Dave Allyn, Major 6th Military District Commanding Sons of Veterans Reserve, SUVCW



A few of the beautiful 200th Lincoln's Birthday Commerative 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.

OUR NEXT MEETING: Sat. June 13, 2009 NOTE Location, Date & Time!

June 13, 2009 1:00 PM

LOCATION

San Diego Maritime Museum's
Star of India
1492 N. Harbor Dr.
San Diego

Our Program

Our own Camp 21 Brother Mike Schooling will conduct a tour for us of the ship, *Star of India*, centerpice of the Maritime Museum's collection of historic vessels, where Mike serves as a docent.

Cost is \$14/person

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:

The Maritime Museum of San Diego is easy to find from all freeways. It's right on the big bay, downtown on Harbor Drive. Take the Hawthorn St. Exit off N-5, turn left at Harbor Dr. or take Sassafras St. exit off S-5, merge onto Kettner Blvd, turn right at W. Laurel St., then left on N. Harbor Dr. There is coin-op parking by the ship but it is often full. There is a large municipal parking lot across the street, south of the County Admin Bldg, & there is a large parking lot at the corner of Harbor Dr. & Broadway. Please come early so you can find parking and get to the ship, ready for the tour to begin promtly at 1:00 PM. After our tour, those who wish to may reform at the Elephant & Castle Pub®, located in the Holiday Inn across from the Museum for a short business meeting & refreshments. The E&C is a British-style pub-restaurant serving typical English & American menu items at reasonable prices. Find their menu at the webpage below:

http://www.elephantcastle.com/content/locations/sandiego_menu

The General





Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 Dave Allyn, Newsletter Editor 13460 Hwy. 8 Business, Sp. #102 Lakeside, CA. 92040 - 5229 "In God We Trust"

"One Nation Under God"



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