



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 4

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

July 25, 2009

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

Brothers and Sisters of Camp 21:

I trust everyone is having a good, busy, relaxing, and enjoyable summer in the San Diego area. Not everybody is as lucky as we ! I also hope everyone enjoyed celebrating our Independence Day on July 4th. I have some nice things to report. All who attended the annual Blue-Grey Picnic, hosted by SCV Commander Roy Adair and his wife Robyn at the Naval Base, Coronado, in June, had a great time socializing with our Confederate cousins. Probably we all ate too much, too. The weather, however, was uncooperative and it almost seemed more like March than June ! The following weekend, of course, the weather was great. We were also treated to a guided tour of the Navy's Viet Nam Unit Memorial Monument by Commander Roy, and Brother John Howell, who were both instrumental in getting the Memorial built. It includes three small craft, including a PCF (Patrol Craft Fast) known as a "Swift Boat." John

served on one of these boats and gave us a good deal of information about them. I also wish to thank Brother Mike Schooling who gave everyone the guided tour of the *Star of India* and the other



Camp 21 Brothers & Sisters alongside the *Star of India* for our June meeting/tour led by Mike Schooling, 3rd from left

vessels at the Maritime Museum. It was quite informative and Mike proved to be an excellent docent. This, you may recall, was our June meeting. We'll have a full report of the various activities that have taken place since April's meeting at our August meeting. The nearest upcoming event will be the National Encampment in Louisville, KY, August 13-15. Camp 21 will be represented by PDC Jerry Sayre, his wife Kim, and myself. If

you've never attended a National, I highly recommend it. One gets to meet our Brothers from around the US, while renewing old friendships. Quite a bit of effort goes into planning a National and things are done well. Our Department is hoping to host the 2012 National, so seeing one up

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NEW Camp Website - <http://www.suvsac.org/camp21.html>

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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 need not be a reenactor to join. Annual dues are \$6.00. Interested SUVCW Brothers should contact the SVR Representative listed above.

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

(Continued from page 1)

close is very helpful. One may still register to attend this year's National Encampment; if interested, go to the National SUVCW online home-pages for details at http://suvchw.org/ There are many things to do and places to see in the Louisville area, including Lincoln's birthplace, the Louisville Slugger baseball bat factory, and Farmington Plantation of the Speed family. Joshua Speed was Lincoln's law partner and life-long friend. The work on The Last Soldier Project, being headed by SVC Jeff Malone, is moving ahead quite well. The headstone for Thomas Chapman Shelley was received some time ago and is at Mt. Hope Cemetery. In cooperation with David Lugo, Mt. Hope Manager, I have tentatively scheduled the ceremony to dedicate the memorial to be sometime in November, possibly on Remembrance Day. We'll discuss this at the August meeting, possibly on Remembrance Day. We'll discuss this at the August meeting. Our next major project will be Minter's Ranch, being headed by Gene Armistead, and after that, the restoration of the artillery mortar at Mt. Hope. Mr. Lugo is fully behind all of our projects. The situation with our JVC hasn't changed since the resignation of Monroe McBride due to a shift in his employment to Sacramento. I am in dire need of someone to fill that position. If ANYONE would be willing to serve as our Junior Vice Commander, no matter what the conditions, please contact me. It's not too early to begin considering who may fill offices for next year. If you feel like you need a change from your current office, or if you would like to fill a position but have never been an officer, contact Jeff Malone. I've already thought about what position I would like to have. I'm retired, but leaving the position of Camp Commander won't make me dead! The October meeting will be held at my home. Sandy and I are using it to host our annual Oktoberfest party. As we are currently right in the middle of redoing our front yard, it may not be done then and still a mess, but ignore that! Please let me know if you and your significant other intend to come so that I'll know how much food to make. We want everyone! There are other activities in which the Camp participates located elsewhere in the newsletter. Please join us when and where you can. I appreciate all the interest and work performed by our Brothers. We do all to remember our Union ancestors. They are our heroes. They saved our nation! Huzzah!!!

Tom Helmantoler
Commander

* Saturday July 25 1863 *
* LEE LETTER LISTS LAMENTATIONS *
*
* President Jefferson Davis received a letter today written yesterday from *
* Robert E. Lee. One of the first lengthy notes in the aftermath of Gettysburg *
* (aside from battle reports) he endeavored to explain his current course of *
* actions. He had intended, Lee wrote, to march on the east side of the Blue *
* Ridge Mountains but had been prevented from crossing by high water and *
* "other obstacles." One of these, presumably, was the Army of the Potomac. *
*

The Sounds of Music of the American Civil War ~ by Gay Allyn ASUVCW

What a wonderful heritage we have here in America of music. It is said that we are a melting pot of people but that also applies to music. We have the reels and jigs of the Irish that are so lively and uplifting, the melancholy of the Russians, the romance of the Italians and French, the boldness of the Germans and the many combinations of the Gypsies. To this day, we have many of the spirituals of the black Africans. Also, much of our Bluegrass music is based on tunes from these other countries. The music derived from this war was of greater quantity and variety than from any other war involving America. Songs came from a variety of sources. *Battle Hymn of the Republic* borrowed its tune from a song sung at Methodist revivals. *Dixie* was a minstrel song that Daniel Emmett adapted from two Ohio black singers named Snowden. American soldiers would continue to sing *Battle Hymn of the Republic* in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. The Southern rock style of music has often used the Con-



Gilbert A. Marbury, drummer, Co H, 22d NY Infantry

federate Battle Flag as a symbol of the musical style. *Sweet Home Alabama* by Lynyrd Skynyrd was described as a "vivid example of a lingering Confederate mythology in Southern culture." A ballad from the war, *Aura Lee*, would become the basis of the song *Love Me Tender* by Elvis Presley. Presley also sang *An American Trilogy*, which was described as "smoothing" out *All My Trials*, the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and *Dixie* of its divisions, although *Dixie* still dominated the piece. To begin with we had, during the war, the drummers who kept the cadence for the troops and also into the battles. These were boys in their early teens and younger. They used these youngsters so that the older males would not be taken away from fighting. Drummers had to learn 39 different beats: fourteen for general use, and 24 for marching cadence. Buglers were given greater importance than drummers. They had to learn 49 separate calls just for infantry, with more needed for cavalry. These ranged from

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Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
Regular Meeting, Camp 21, Officer's Club, MCAS Miramar	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, 15 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, CC Tom Helmantoler's House	4:00 PM, 10 October	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Monthly Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Pk, SD	11:30 AM, 17 October muster at 11:00	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Massing of The Colors, Balboa Pk, SD.	10:00 AM 1 November	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Veterans Day Parade, County Admin Bldg, SD.	11 November	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Mother Goose Parade, Downtown El Cajon	22 November	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
* Christmas Parade, Downtown Fallbrook	5 December	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
Annual Social & Officer Elections Meeting, Camp 21, Location TBD	12 December	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Monthly Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Pk, SD	11:30 AM, 19 December 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 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) VMCMC 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.

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The Sounds of Music of the American Civil War (Cont) ~ by Gay Allyn ASUVCW

(Continued from page 3)

battle commands to calls for such things meal time. During evenings in camp the men would play some instruments they had brought from home, such as banjos, guitars, fiddles, and maybe a mandolin or two. In May 1861 the United States War Department officially approved that every regiment of infantry and artillery could have a brass band with 24 members, while a cavalry regiment could have one of sixteen members. The Confederate army would also have brass bands. This was followed by a Union army regulation of July 1861 requiring every infantry, artillery, or cavalry company to have two musicians and for there to be a twenty-four man band for every regiment. The July 1861 requirement was ignored as the war dragged on, as riflemen were more needed than musicians. In July 1862 the brass bands of the Union were disassembled by the adjutant general, although the soldiers that comprised them were sometimes reenlisted and assigned to musician roles. A survey in October 1861 found that 75% of Union regiments had a band. By December 1861 the Union army had 28,000 musicians in 618 bands; a ratio of one soldier out of 41 who served the army was as a musician, and the Confederate army was believed to have a similar ratio. Musicians were often given special privileges. Union general Phillip Sheridan gave his cavalry bands the best horses and special uniforms, believing "Music has done its share, and more than its share, in winning this war." Whole songs were sometimes played during battles. The survivors of the disastrous Pickett's Charge returned to their lines under the tune *Nearer My God to Thee*. At the Battle of Five Forks, Union musi-



3rd New Hampshire Inf. Band with instruments at camp in Hilton Head, SC.



Unknown bugler with large field artillery piece, location unknown

cians under orders from Sheridan played *Nelly Bly* while being shot at on the front lines. Samuel P. Heintzelman, the commander of the III Corps, saw many of his musicians cowering at the back lines at the Battle of Williamsburg, and ordered them to play anything, as it appeared it was all they were good for. Their music rallied the Union forces, forcing the Confederates to withdraw. It was said that music was the equivalent of "a thousand men" on one's side. Robert E. Lee himself said, "I don't think we could have an army without music." Often, musicians were ordered to leave the battlefield and assist the surgeons. One notable time was the 20th Maine's musicians at Little Round Top. As the rest of the

regiment were driving back wave after wave of Confederates, the musicians of the regiment were not just performing amputations, but doing it in a very quick manner. Musical duels between the two sides were common, as they listened to each other while the music traveled across the countryside. The night before the Battle of Stones River, bands from both sides dueled with separate songs, until both sides started playing *Home! Sweet Home!* - at which time, soldiers on both sides started singing together - as one. Both sides sang *Maryland, My Maryland*, although the lyrics were slightly different. Another popular song for both was *Lorena*. *When Johnny Comes Marching Home* was written in 1863 by Patrick Gilmore, an immigrant from Ireland, and was

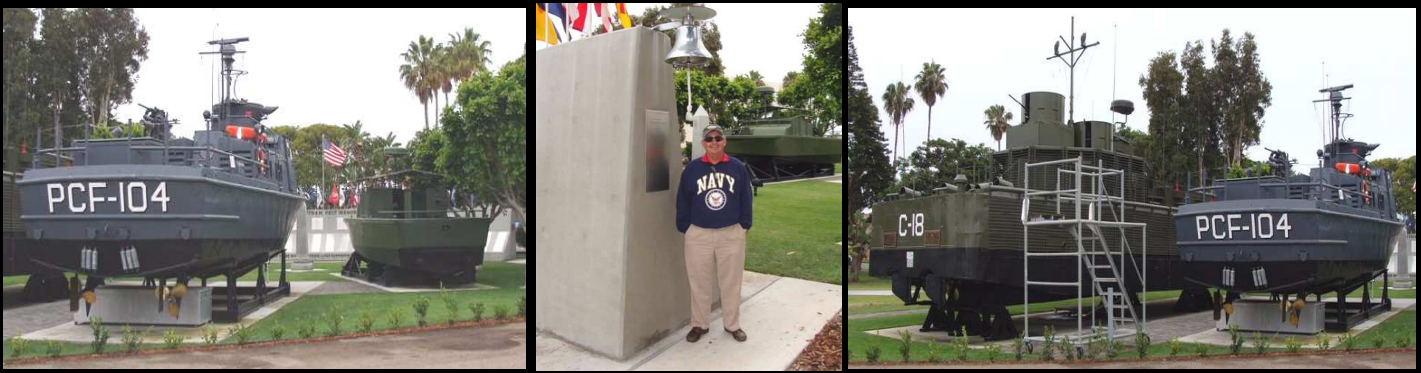
also enjoyed by both sides. Too often, in our modern society we forget how much our ancestors influenced the present - this is manifestly clear when we examine the musical fabric of America.

Much of the content of this article was taken from Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_the_American_Civil_War

PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



L to R, Aboard Russian Sub with Star of India in background, inside the sub, and Will Tisch hamming it up with an armed, cut-throat of a pirate lass. We had a very enjoyable tour and a nice lunch afterwards. Thanks again go to Bro. Mike Schooling!!



At the Viet Nam War Memorial: Bro. John Howell, center, flanked by exhibits of Navy small craft used in the riverine operations on the Mekong Delta and elsewhere. John served aboard a "Swift Boat" like PCF-104 shown above L and R.



L & R: photos from the annual "Grey-Blue" (or "Blue-Grey") picnic held at the Navy Base, Coronado and hosted by our Confederate Cousins led by Commander Roy Adair. Despite the weather, a good time was had by all in attendance. As can be seen by the clothing choices, it was anything but a typical San Diego 4th of July. What's this we keep hearing about??? — Global warming!



Below: Dept. Encampment, L-R, Jerry Sayre, PDC, CinC Dave Medert, CC Tom Helmantoler & Will Tisch, PCC after wreath-laying ceremony, GAR section, Ladysmith Cemetery, San Luis Obispo



Above: "Ready - Aim ..." CC Tom Helmantoler, Chaplain Deane Poole & Jerry Sayre, PDC at VMMC Memorial Service, 27 June. Camp 21 alternates with the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution providing color & honor guards for the monthly ceremony honoring recently deceased veterans



Above, Jerry Sayre, PDC explains features of the Henry repeating rifle to visitors at San Pedro's "Old Ft. MacArthur Days," 10-11 July, billed as the "Biggest Reenactment Show & Living History Event in the City of Angels"

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

Editor's Note: no notes were taken at the informal June meeting/tour. Because the notes of a meeting require approval by the membership of the Camp, I re-ran the above notes.



Thursday July 25 1861

CRITTENDEN COMPROMISE CRUISES CONGRESS

There had been attempts at compromises for years, even decades in attempts to reconcile the institution of slavery with the American ideals of freedom for all men. Today the last of these compromise offers passed US the Senate by a vote of 30-5. Known as the Crittenden Resolution, it was a statement that the Union was fighting "to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and to preserve the Union" and not to interfere with slavery. This last attempt to fend off more secession and wider war did neither.

Monday July 25 1864

PESTS PLAGUE PETERSBURG PLANS

The siege of Petersburg dragged wearily on. U.S Grant came up with an almost mischievous plan today. He dispatched the Second Corps, along with two divisions of cavalry, to the north bank of the James River. They were to tear up railroads and threaten Richmond in any other ways their hearts desired. They were essentially ordered to be pests, in hopes that Lee would detach some forces to drive them off.



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.



Welcome New Brother!

There are no new members to report as of publication date & time. Please remember to do some light recruiting among friends & neighbors ... after all, there are likely 100 million descendants of Union men alive today and somewhere near 50% are males!

"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

OUR NEXT MEETING: Sat. Aug. 8, 2009 *NOTE Location, Date & Time !*

August 8, 2009 4:00 PM

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

Our Program

SVC Jeff Malone wil speak about
his ancestor,
Pvt. Monroe C. Peek, Co. M,
5th US Cavalry, who served on
Gen. Alfred Pleasanton's staff
along with such notables as
George A. Custer

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 Pittenegr 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

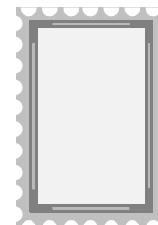


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Preserving the memory of the G. A. R. & "The Boys in Blue"

"In God We Trust"

"One Nation Under God"



Get *The General* by E-mail & \$ave Camp Resources + Call 619-561-8581