



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 5

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

Sept 26, 2009

## Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

Brothers and Sisters: I hope each of you had a pleasant and productive summer! I hope you survived the unseasonably hot weather we endured this past summer, as well. Summer has turned into Fall and we still have much to do to remember, "The Boys in Blue." The **October meeting** will be hosted by my wife, Sandy, and I at our home on **October 10 at 4 PM**. Our regular meeting will be followed by our annual Oktoberfest party. We'll furnish the brats, kraut, red cabbage, potato salad and polka music! Brother John May is working on his friend that owns a micro-brewery to furnish the beer and I'm hoping some of our members can bring the strudel or Black Forest cake. It's always fun. We're in the middle of a project in our front yard, so, if it isn't done at that time, please disregard the "war zone" look and go to the back yard where we'll meet. **Please let me know if you're attending and how many, so I'll know how much food to get.** Thanks! The most important upcoming event we have is the dedication of the headstone and plaque of our "**Last Soldier,**" Pvt. (or Lt., or Capt!) Thomas Chapman Shelly, at

Mt. Hope Cemetery in November. This will be our Remembrance Day ceremony for this year that we usually have at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Fallbrook at the Pittenger's gravesite. It is tentatively scheduled for November 14. SVC Jeff Malone and I have both been in contact with David Lugo of Mt.



At left, CC Tom Helmantoler laughs at the comic antics of Dept. Commander, Charlie Mabie at the Campfire held the evening before business commences at National Encampments.

Hope over the summer and it is pretty much in place. After extensive communication with the VA, Brother Jeff discovered that the headstone for Pvt. Shelly has been at Mt. Hope since October of 2007. I wish we had known that a long time ago, but what's done is done. We go on with our work from there. In addition, Barbara Mondt, DUVCW, who did the fine research on Pvt. Jesse Bennett for Memorial Day this year, has done the research on Pvt. Shelly and has informed me that descendants of Shelly

plan to be at the dedication. I have met with Mr. Lugo to select a location for the headstone, since Pvt. Shelly was cremated after death. Secretary/Treasurer John May has been working on the plaque that will be affixed to the large rock that was placed there for the flag pole dedication in

*(Continued on page 2)*

**2009 CAMP OFFICERS**

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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)

2006. It will be a fine monument to him and something that Bob Lowe would have been proud of. We will remember Brother Bob as well. We're hoping for a big turnout for this and all Orders will be invited. PDC Jerry Sayre, his wife Kim and I attended the National Encampment in Louisville, KY in August. It was a fine Encampment at a fine facility that did a good job of promoting excellent brotherhood and sisterhood among the Allied Orders. The Dept. of CA and Pacific had fifteen brothers present and definitely made our presence prominent. Only one other department had more members there. National SVC Leo Kennedy was elected C-in-C. In addition, Brother Brad Schall of our Department and Brother Tad Campbell were elected as National JVC and to the Council of Administration, respectively. It also became more apparent that there's a good chance our Department will host the 2012 National Encampment, somewhere in the Los Angeles area. In discussion with Brother Glen Roosevelt, part of the decision is based on the factors that no other department has volunteered to do it, plus it would be one hundred years since the last time our Department hosted, also in Los Angeles. It will require a lot of work, time and money for the Department to host but it could lead to more exposure for us, as well as make it easier for more of our Department's members to attend. There will be, of course, more on this item later. ***The December meeting will be for elections of new officers.*** We seriously need for people to consider what office they might like to take on as the new term arrives. It takes all of us for our order to function. If everyone does his part, no matter how small it may seem, it makes it easier for everyone. Please participate. More ideas from more people are valuable for all. Please consider taking an office and becoming more involved with the camp. Most offices require little time or work, other than at the meeting. ***It IS important.*** Thanks. I look forward to seeing you all, and I enjoy being your Commander.

Thanks for the honor,  
 Tom Helmantoler  
 Commander

**This Day In Civil War History**

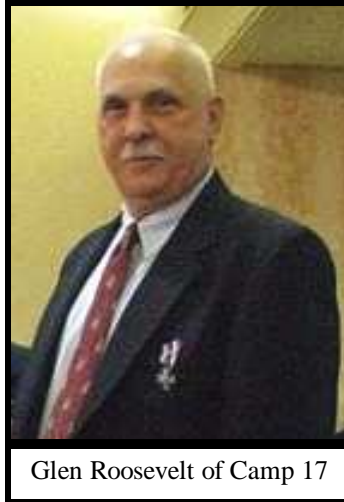
**September 26, 1862**

**NAVAL NOVELTY NEATLY NOTED**

Samuel duPont--yes, he was one of the Delaware duPont's, of munitions-making and later chemical manufacturing fame--was no young puppy. In 40 years in the Navy he had risen recently to the rank of rear admiral--but he was no opponent of innovation as long-serving officers sometimes were. He proved this today by inventing a concept which would prove exceedingly useful in blockade operations: a floating fuel depot. He ordered a large "coal hulk" to be fitted with a hoist. When full, the ship would hold 1000 tons of coal. With the hoist, it was vastly easier for other ships to simply pull up to this vessel for refueling. The first of these ships went into service today off the coast of Charleston, S. C., greatly increasing efficiency for both the blockade and the several campaigns of attack on the harbor and town.

**Impressions of the National Encampment and Louisville** by Tom Helmantoler

For anyone who has never been to the National Encampment, one must first know that, while the host city attempts to keep costs under control, it's not free and there are costs involved. These costs are for transportation (however one does it), lodging, and meals. While the costs do add up, it is manageable, and certainly worth the expense. I flew into the Louisville airport, and after calling the hotel, the Crowne Plaza, to get the shuttle, discovered, to my great delight, that the distance to the hotel was maybe half a mile or so. Not a bad commute!! After checking into my room and getting settled, I began meeting up with other members of the Dept. of Calif. and Pacific. It was late in the day in Louisville by that time, and dinner plans were in order. I met up with Bro. Glen Roosevelt and we decided to go to dinner together. Since neither of us had a car I went to the hotel desk for help with a place locally. We were told, "If you don't mind walking a bit....," we were told of a place "a half mile, or so" that seemed like what we had in mind. Well, about 2-3 miles of walking later, we "found" the place, much more hungry, tired and relieved to sit down and eat. By that time, it wasn't just a



Glen Roosevelt of Camp 17

leisurely dinner! We got directions for the return "walk," which turned into another "wild goose chase" that was rescued by Glen's Marine Corps instincts for location that got us back to the hotel with the end of the day in mind. Don't always trust the info you get at a hotel desk! I had hoped to see the Louisville Slugger Museum and see how wood baseball bats are made while in Louisville. How to get to the factory was the problem. So, with some reservation, I went to the hotel desk. As it turned out, the lady was quite helpful and directed me to the bus stop across the street. Knowing I had a limited amount of time, as I was scheduled to go to the Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Sight that afternoon, I left without eating to catch the earliest bus, which came right after 8 AM. On the trip into downtown, I talked with a lady who grew up there, and she gave directions as to where to get off, the location of the Museum, and where to catch the return bus. The Museum opened at 9 AM and I was on the first tour, which took about 45 minutes. The guide showed the manufacturing process, told us about the quality of wood and who gets the best (the pros), how bats are varnished

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Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
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 <i>muster at 11:00</i>	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Massing of The Colors, Balboa Pk, SD.	10:00 AM 1 November <i>muster at 10:30</i>	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Veterans Day Parade, County Admin Bldg, SD.	11 November <i>muster by 10:30</i>	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Combined "Remembrance Day" and "Last Soldier Project," Mt. Hope Cemetery, SD	14 November <i>muster time TBD</i>	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
* Mother Goose Parade, Downtown El Cajon	22 November <i>muster time/place TBD</i>	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
* Christmas Parade, Downtown Fallbrook	5 December <i>muster time/place TBD</i>	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 <i>muster at 11:00</i>	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch

## **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING August, 8 2009**

**Present:** Brothers Dave Allyn, Andrew Brooks, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, John Howell, Jeff Malone, John May, Dave Shaffer, Mike Schooling, Will Tisch, and guests Gay Allyn, Charmaine Malone, Janice Shaffer, 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 W. Tisch and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. Finch.

### **I. Honored Attendees**

Jan Shaffer, creator of the "Lincoln Quilt" was in attendance.

### **II. Officers' Reports**

1) No new members were inducted.  
2) Treasurer J. May reported that since the last report, the Camp has spent \$1846.89 and has income of \$791.50. The current balance is \$3412.77 with \$1325.45 of that in the Flagpole Restoration Fund and \$40.00 in the Minter's Ranch Memorial Fund. The Treasurer's Report from the last meeting was in error. The ending balance was \$4468.16, not the \$4868.16 reported.

3) Secretary J. May reported correspondence from the Veterans Association of North County informing us that Cory May, son of J. May, is a scholarship winner this year.

### **III. Committee Reports**

1) T. Helmantoler reported for the Minter's Ranch Project. G. Armistead has written County Supervisor Bill Horn, asking for his support.

2) J. Malone reported for the Last Soldiers Project that the stone for Pvt. Shelly is at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

### **IV. Upcoming Events**

- 1) VMMC Service, 8/15; muster at 11:00 am.
- 2) National Encampment, 8/13 to 8/16 in Louisville, KY.
- 3) Huntington Beach Reenactment, 9/5-6.
- 4) VMMC Service, 10/17
- 5) Next Camp meeting; 10/10 at home of T. Helmantoler.
- 6) Massing of the Colors, 11/1; Balboa Park

### **V. Old Business**

1) Memorial Day activities: a) T. Helmantoler reported that 10-12 were in attendance at the Pittenger gravesite, b) T. Helmantoler also reported on the service sponsored by El Cajon Elks, which included a visit to the grave of Br. Bob Lowe, c) W. Tisch reported that the Ft. Rosecrans ceremony

was very impressive and Cmdr. Tom Helmantoler read Gen. Logan's General Order #11, d) J. May reported that the ceremony sponsored by the Veterans Assoc. of North County had about 300 in attendance and Br. D. Swearingen read General Order #11, e) T. Helmantoler reported that the Mt. Hope ceremony went exceptionally well and there were about 90 people attending.

2) M. Schooling reported on the San Diego Maritime Museum tour that he led for about 14 members and guests in June.

3) D. Allyn reported on the very impressive reburial of 56 veterans in Tucson, AZ. Gov. Brewer was the featured speaker.

4) T. Helmantoler reported on a presentation by him at the San Diego Genealogical Society. He received a check for \$100, which he is donating to the Camp.

### **VI. New Business**

1) D. Shaffer suggested that we clean up the mortar on G.A.R. Hill. Anyone interested in helping, please contact him.

2) J. Malone informed the Camp of a "Turkey Shoot", sponsored by the Fr. A.J. Ryan Camp, SCV as a fundraiser, to be held Nov. 21.

3) Remembrance Day was brought up for discussion. A motion (May/Schooling) to table discussion and assign a committee to plan the event was passed. The committee consists of T. Helmantoler, J. Malone, and J. May).

4) J. May reminded the Camp that San Diego County resident and MOH recipient, John Finn celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this summer.

### **VII. Raffle**

The raffle raised \$46 for the Camp treasury. Winners included W. Tisch, D. Shaffer, J. May, D. Allyn, J. Howell, and T. Helmantoler.

### **VIII. SVR Report**

No SVR report.

After dinner, the closing prayer was offered by W. Tisch and Cmdr. Helmantoler adjourned the meeting at 7:20pm.

### **XI. Program**

The program by Br. Jeff Malone was postponed due to time constraints.

Respectfully submitted,  
John May, Secretary

# Impressions of the National Encampment and Louisville by Tom Helmantoler

(Continued from page 3)

and burn labeled, and let us hold bats currently being made for major league players. I got to hold the bat of David Eckstein, a current member of the Padres. We also saw the museum, which has bats of many famous players, including Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb. In addition, we saw a short movie and paid the obligatory trip to the gift shop, where I was relieved of some of my money, of course! I did buy a customized bat for my grandson there. I then left, wanting to make sure I got back in time for the Lincoln trip. I waited about 45 minutes for the bus to show up and was getting anxious when it did. When I got to the hotel, I had about enough time to run to my room and drop off my things and run to the bus to leave. The Lincoln Birthplace is located in Hodgenville, KY, about an hour from Louisville. One can only imagine how isolated it must have been for him as a child. He lived there about seven years, after which, Thomas Lincoln lost possession of the land in what appears to be something of a shady real estate deal. They moved to Indiana at that time, which is where his mother passed away. There is a nice NPS museum there as well as a reconstructed log cabin on the site of the original. It is enclosed by a substantial building to protect it. It's very impressive, and is in a setting that is beautiful, including a natural spring that was their main water source. It was a nice piece of land that I'm sure Thomas Lincoln hated to lose. It's definitely worth see-



C-in-C Medert presenting an award to California & Pacific Commander, Charlie Mabie



Bardstown, KY Singers entertain at banquet



Former Dept First Lady Kim Sayre & PDC Jerry at the Allied Orders banquet

ing. After seeing this, we went into town for a museum owned by some local people that has several life-sized dioramas, as well as other Civil War-era artifacts and papers. A short trip to the local ice cream shop was appreciated in the warm weather as well!! The next two days included the National Encampment with the usual committee and officer reports, and the elections of new officers. Our new C-in-C is Leo Kennedy of Rhode Island, who will be a fine C-in-C. Other elections, including that of our own Brad Schaal of the Dept. of CA and Pacific, are outlined in Commander's Corner. The Saturday night banquet was delightful. The food was excellent. The entertainment was provided by a singing group from Bardstown, KY, that sang several Civil War-era songs. They were excellent, as well. At the end of the evening, we were all given a lithograph portrait of President Lincoln in his youth, autographed by the artist. As my wife just became a Lead Administrator at Lincoln High School in San Diego, she had it framed and took it to school to hang in her office. It is being put to good display!! I flew out of Louisville early Sunday morning to Chicago to visit my relatives in Illinois, but left with fond memories. The Dept. of CA and Pacific was very well represented with 15 members present. I believe only Pennsylvania had more, but it could have been another Dept. But, there was only one. Our presence was noticed. We've become a large player in our Order, which makes it imperative that we do a good job of hosting in 2012.

### PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Above, Newly confirmed honorary "Kentucky Colonels" holding their certificates. Each National Officer had this honor conferred at the national Encampment, Louisville, KY. Our own Jerry Sayre is seated in the middle of the front row.

At Right: National Patriotic Instructor Jerry Sayre, PDC addresses the Encampment. His stirring remarks were posted online by Br. Floyd Farrar of Camp 2 - ask Jerry for a transcript - well worth hearing !



Above: our Dept. Delegates (Cdr Tom Helmantoler & Jerry Sayre, PDC of Camp 21 are 2nd & 3rd from left, in front row)



Above: C-in-C Dave Medert swearing in newly elected National Officers for 2009-2010



Above; photos from Kim Sayre taken at the Andersonville National Historic Site in GA with the Illinois monument above center.

Below, from Huntington Beach "Civil War Days" reenactment, 5-6 Sep, L-R, Jerry demonstrates loading a Springfield; a very fine brass band was new this year ; Kim Sayre shows how to fix a bayonet onto a Springfield barrel.



### Impressions of the National Encampment by Tom Helmantoler

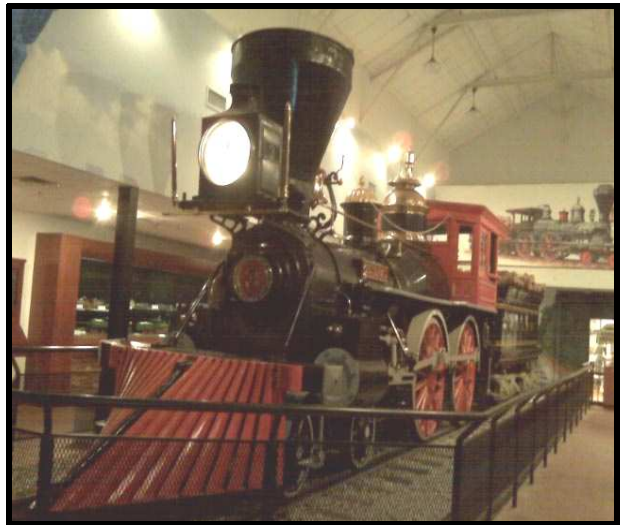
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Such experiences in life aren't about the activities as much as they are with the people one meets. I enjoyed all of our Department's people, as well as Bro. Gary Parrot of Colorado (a former member of our Dept.), and the people from the Peoria, Il, camp that I once visited, as well as others from other Allied Orders. I also had the surprise of one of my former students from Julian High School coming up to me to say hello. He is now Camp Commander in a camp near Pittsburgh, PA! Whether it was the booming voice of National Chaplain Jerry Kowalski's voice during prayer, DC Charlie Mabie ("The Human PA System") mangling the Rhode Island accent, or laughing at the many oddball things that occurred during the Encampment, it was overall, a good time, one I recommend to all, at least once while you're a member and can do it. It's worth the effort and expense.

Editors's note: photos in this article and some on Pg. 6 are by Floyd Farrar of Camp 2 and used with his permission - Thanks Brother Floyd!



At Right, "The General" stands as silent witness to the heroic events our Camp's namesake, Wm. Pittenger with his comrades who followed James Andrews, suffered in the cause of saving the Union. Kim & Jerry visited this famous locomotive at the Kennesaw, GA. Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History while on their trip to the National Encampment in Louisville, KY. Photo by Kim Sayre



### This Day In Civil War History

Thursday Sept. 26 1861

#### HUMILIATION HOLIDAY HARDLY HELD

It is difficult to imagine in these later days when errors and misdeeds are atoned for by plea bargains and talk-show appearances, but attitudes were different in 19th century America. Today was observed, in the North, a "day of humiliation, fasting and prayer" by declaration of Abraham Lincoln. The Bible was a more prominent part of public life in those times, and it is mentioned many times in that book that the Lord will look with added favor on a nation which "humbles itself before Him." However, it was not a day of rest in the Confederacy, resulting in fights and skirmishes in Fort Thorn, New Mexico Territory; Hunter's Farm, near Belmont, Missouri; and at the mouth of the Muddy River in Kentucky.



### 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"

William E. Howell 09-99

Congratulations on attaining 10 years of membership in the SUVCW  
Thank you Brother 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. Oct. 10, 2009 *NOTE Location, Date & Time !***

**October 10, 2009 4:00 PM**

***LOCATION***

**The Helmantoler's Home  
10716 Brookview Ln.  
San Diego, CA. 92131-1207  
858-566-0012**

**Our Program**

Camp business and planning meeting plus the annual Helmantoler Oktoberfest party

**DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:**

**From The North:** I-15 South to Mira Mesa Blvd. Left to Scripps Ranch Blvd. Right to Scripps Lake Blvd. Left to Red Cedar Dr. Right to Grayfox St. continue to bottom of hill, Right on Brookview; 4th house on Right.

**From The South:** I-15 North to Carroll Canyon Rd. Right to Scripps Ranch Blvd. Right to Aviary Dr. Left to Red Cedar Dr. Left on Red Cedar then Left on Grayfox St. and down the hill to Brookview; 4th house on the Right.

Call Tom at 858-566-0012 if you need help

The General

The General

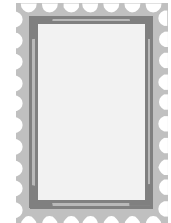


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*Preserving the memory of the G. A. R. & "The Boys in Blue"*

*"In God We Trust"*

*"One Nation Under God"*



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