



Sgt. William Pittenger Camp No. 21, Old San Diego County  
Department of California & Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

# THE GENERAL

Volume XVIII Number 4

July 2012

Cinco de Mayo in Puebla



by Tom Helmantoler, PCC

Brother Will Tisch, PCC, and I were accorded a most extraordinary opportunity in May, at the invitation of Mexican officials, to attend the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Puebla over the Cinco de Mayo weekend. Our group included SUVCW and Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States members, totaling about twenty in all, including some spouses.

During the Civil War, France, using the excuse of collecting money owed to it, Emperor Napoleon III, used this excuse to invade Mexico and attempted to use it as a way to rebuild a French empire in the western hemisphere. An informal friendship between Pres. Lincoln and the Mexican leader, Benito Juarez, allowed Mexico to resist French takeover and keep France bottled up there. It also, therefore, prevented France from aiding the Confederacy, to the Union advantage. This was accomplished because of the defeat of the French at the Battle of Puebla, on May 5, 1862. Juarez never surrendered to the government of Mexico, and after the Civil War, Pres. Andrew Johnson sent 50,000 Union troops to the Rio Grande. This encouraged the Mexican overthrow of Napoleon's puppet ruler, Maximilian, who was captured and shot, ending Napoleon's adventuring in the west.

Other than some onerous travel issues including Mt. "Popo", the volcano outside of Puebla "spitting" ash into the air preventing flights from Mexico City (about 100 miles) to Puebla, and a two hour, unscheduled bus ride, the weekend was a great experience and a success.

The main focus of the weekend was the Cinco de Mayo Parade. For those SVR members that have done parades, it was a difficult one. The weather was warm and humid. Part of it was uphill, and with the staging and setup walk-

ing, it was probably about five miles of walking and marching. However, the crowd was estimated to be between 350,000 and one million people. The crowd lining the road was at least fifteen deep and included many dignitaries, including Pres. Felipe Calderon of Mexico, the governor of the State of Puebla and many others.



Above, SVR members take part in historic commemoration.

The coordinator of the event was Brother Eric Rojo of Washington, DC. He had excellent contacts in Mexico, and except for a few minor glitches down there, everything went exceedingly well.

The first morning we were there, we attended a breakfast that included the unveiling of a painting of Lincoln and Juarez done by an Ecuadorean artist. It included speeches by the Mexican state Representative for Puebla, Eric Rojo,

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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. Those interested should contact SVR Rep. Capt. Jerry Sayre, 760-728-1444 cod26ia@roadrunner.com

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and Jeff Burden, Commander of MOLLUS.

We then went on a walking guided tour of Puebla, seeing fine homes, art work, the old library, where the 1910 Mexican Revolution began (with bullet holes in the building!), the Rosary Chapel (which includes 120 pounds of gold leaf in its decoration!), and the Mexican State legislative building.

That evening, we first attended a concert of the Puebla Symphony (which had a great version of the 1812 Overture), conducted by New York trained Puebla native Alondra de la Parra, and attended by Pres. Calderon.

Following that, we attended the gala banquet, hosted by the Governor and attended by Pres. Calderon as well. In his speech, the President recognized our attendance, and thanked us, a great honor. It included a group of teenagers re-enacting the Battle of Puebla.

The next morning was the Parade, which included, as all parades do, a good bit of waiting to get into position. The time went away quickly as we were surrounded by groups of junior high age kids who ALL wanted their pictures taken with us. They were just delightful, friendly and intrigued by our uniforms, especially the hats. The kids were in the parade por-



Above, the MOLLUS and SUVCW delegation to Puebla pose for a group photograph.

traying different times in Puebla history, and carrying banners of Lincoln and Juarez.

We encountered a small amount of anti-American feeling, but some actually asked us why we were there and were fine with why.

After the parade, we attended lunch at one of the premier talavera companies in Puebla, Talavera Celia. Talavera is the colorful, painted earthenware dishes made there, and for which

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the city is famous.

That evening, Eric Rojo introduced us to mescal, the drink made from “wild” agave plants, as opposed to tequila, which is made from farm raised agave. It is just as potent!

The last morning, Sunday, we were feted at a special meeting of the City Council of Puebla, where we were thanked and individually presented with a very nice certificate from the mayor of Puebla, Eduardo Rivera, recognizing us as Distinguished Visitors, or, essentially, honorary citizens of the City of Puebla, a great honor.

We then, had to beat a hasty retreat to Mexico City to catch our planes back to the USA.

All in all, it was a great experience. The treatment we received from everyone there, from dignitaries, to common people, to children, was overwhelming. We loved all of it, and it gets better the more I think about it. While such things are happening, it is hard to absorb its full meaning,

but it was an experience I’ll never forget. I’d do it again in a heartbeat!



Top right, Mr. Lincoln and Will Tisch, PCC. Above, teens holding banners of Lincoln and Juarez in Puebla during the Cinco de Mayo Parade.



**PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK: Memorial Day Weekend, May 2012**



Above, Memorial Day observances took place on Saturday, May 26, 2012 at Oddfellows Cemetery in Fallbrook, California. Sergeant Albert Brandon, Company I, 25th Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry, United States Army, was specifically honored this year by the members of the William Pittenger Camp.



Above, Memorial Day observances took place on Sunday, May 27, 2012 at El Cajon Cemetery in El Cajon, California. The ceremonies were under the auspices of Elks Lodge No. 1812 with members of the William Pittenger Camp participating.



Above, Memorial Day observances took place on Monday, May 28, 2012 at Mount Hope Cemetery in San Diego, California. The ceremonies were under the auspices of Stonewall Jackson Chapter No. 476, United Daughters of the Confederacy with members of the William Pittenger Camp participating. The honoree was Sergeant William Martin Baines, Company G, 4th Texas Infantry, Confederate States Army. Sergeant Baines is an ancestor of President Lyndon Baines Johnson.



**131st Annual National Encampment, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**



***DON'T MISS OUT, MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!***

***2012 National Encampment***

*August 9, 10 & 11, 2012*

*Los Angeles Airport Marriott*

*5855 West Century Boulevard*

*Los Angeles, CA 90045*

*Call Marriott Toll-free: 1-800-228-9290*

*Special Room Rate of \$99 (plus tax)*

*Reduced Self-Parking Fee of \$10 per day (plus tax - regularly \$27.50)*

*Complimentary shuttle to and from LAX Airport*

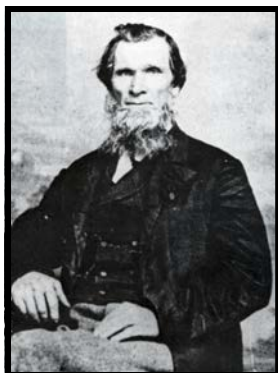
*Use Group Code "suvsvva" or tell them you are with the*

*"Allied Orders of the G.A.R."*

*For forms and more details, visit:*

*<http://www.suvsuva.org/2012.html>*

## Charter Member of Heintzleman Post No. 33, Grand Army of the Republic



**Joseph Farley**  
 Sep. 16, 1812 - Jan. 4, 1887  
 Private, Company I  
 30th Regiment, Iowa Infantry

**Interment at Mount Hope Cemetery,  
 Grand Army of the Republic,  
 Section 1, Lot 43, Grave 9-A**



Joseph Farley was a native of Gallatin County, Illinois. He was the son of Edward Farley and Lettice McMullen. He married Sarah Maria Robinson on February 16, 1836 in Hancock County, Illinois. Joseph Farley enlisted as a Private in Company I, 30th Regiment, Iowa Infantry in August 1862. Joseph Farley was discharged in August 1863 due to wounds he received in his neck, side, and thigh. Joseph Farley was a Charter Member of Heintzleman Post No. 33, Grand Army of the Republic and served as the Post's first Officer of the Day.

San Diego Union (Ca.), Sunday, January 16, 1887, Page 3

### THE COURTS

Mrs. Sarah M. Farley has petitioned for letters of testamentary of the estate of Joseph Farley deceased. The value of the estate is estimated to be \$1,925, in good real property.

San Diego Union (Ca.), Tuesday, February 1, 1887, Page 3

### Superior Court

In the estate of Joseph Farley, deceased – Sarah M. Farley appointed administratrix.

Events & Location	Date	Time
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 131st Annual National Encampment at Los Angeles Airport Marriott 5855 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles, California	Thursday, August 9, 2012	TBD
	Friday, August 10, 2012	TBD
	Saturday, August 11, 2012	TBD
	Sunday, August 12, 2012	TBD
Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp No. 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp Meeting at University of San Diego 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California	Saturday, August 18, 2012	4:00 PM
Fr. A. J. Ryan Camp No. 302, Sons of Confederate Veterans Annual Blue & Gray Beach Party at Gator Beach Cabanas, Naval Base Coronado Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California	Saturday, August 25, 2012	TBD
Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp No. 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp Meeting at University of San Diego 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California	Saturday, October 20, 2012	4:00 PM
Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp No. 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Fourth Annual Blue & Gray Turkey Shoot at P2K Range 2082 Willow Glen Drive, El Cajon, California	Saturday, October 27, 2012	9:00 AM
San Diego County Veterans Day Parade Committee Veterans Day Parade 2012 4141 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California	Monday, November 12, 2012	11:00 AM
Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp No. 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp Meeting at University of San Diego 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California	Saturday, December 8, 2012	4:00 PM





## HISTORICAL NEWS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC & ALLIED ORDERS

The San Diego Civil War Round Table meets the Third Wednesday of each month, 7 PM at Palisades Presbyterian Church 6301 Birchwood Street, San Diego and is open to the public. For further information, contact President Dave Tooley 858-672-2593 or on the Web at [www.sdcwrt.org](http://www.sdcwrt.org)

SDCWRT  
c/o David Tooley  
11375 Nawa Way  
San Diego, CA 92129-1116

### A Post Formed.

At a meeting in Odd Fellows hall Sunday night of ex-soldiers and sailors of the late war, the following named gentlemen signed a roll for the purpose of organizing a post of the Grand Army of the Republic: Joseph Farley, Chas. L. Fox, J. B. Hooker, C. Huntington, D. F. Jones, J. W. Langdon, M. A. Luce, John W. McKee, Chas. G. Pierce, H. B. Rice, F. A. T. Shaw, John A. Kooker, John A. Thoman, E. C. Folsom, M. Fitzgerald, M. D. Hamilton, J. P. Jones, Curtis Johnson, J. W. Leonard, Joseph Leonard, Samuel McClung, Wm. Remsen, L. L. Sigman, Wm. A. Winder, B. P. Campbell, B. H. Palmer. It was decided to call the organization "Heintzleman Post No. —, of San Diego." Judge M. A. Luce presided and Dr. E. C. Folsom was made secretary.

The above article was clipped from page three of *The Sun* (San Diego, Ca.) published Wednesday, August 31, 1881.

### Grand Army of the Republic.

Pursuant to the published call, a meeting of ex-soldiers and sailors of the late war was held in Odd Fellows' Hall last evening for the purpose of organizing a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Judge M. A. Luce was called to the chair and Dr. E. C. Folsom chosen Secretary. The following gentlemen signified their intention to become members, and signed the roll:

M. D. Hamilton.	John A. Kooker.
J. P. Jones,	C. Huntington.
J. W. Langdon,	Samuel McClung.
J. W. Leonard,	John A. Thoman.
Wm. A. Winder,	Curtis Johnson.
M. A. Luce,	M. L. Pieman,
B. H. Palmer,	Chas. L. Fox,
D. F. Jones,	Wm. Remsen.
Joseph Leonard,	J. B. Hooker.
Joseph Farley,	E. C. Folsom.
R. P. Campbell,	H. B. Rice,
Chas. O. Pierce,	M. Fitzgerald.
John W. McKee,	F. A. T. Shaw.

It was, after discussion, decided that the new Post should be called "Heintzleman Post. No. —, of San Diego."

The article (left) was clipped from page three of *The San Diego Union* published Saturday, August 27, 1881.

**OUR NEXT MEETING: Saturday, August 18, 2012**

**August 18, 2012 4:00 PM**

***LOCATION***  
**Boardroom 120**  
**Degheri Alumni Center**  
**University of San Diego**  
**5998 Alcalá Park**  
**San Diego, CA 92110**

*Our Program*

TBD

**DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:**

From the North: Use I-5 South, exit Sea World Dr. & Te-colote Rd. and proceed left at stoplight toward Morena Blvd. Turn right on Morena, left on Napa, and left on Linda Vista Rd. Travel to the second stoplight to USD's Main entrance, turn left and enter campus.

From the South: Use I-5 North, exit Morena Blvd. (signs will say: Morena Blvd. use I-8 East) Stay to the right and follow the signs for Morena Blvd. Take the first right onto Linda Vista Rd. Travel to the third stoplight to USD's Main entrance, turn left and enter campus.

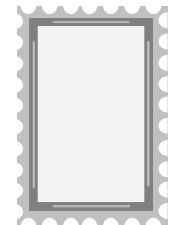
From the East: Use I-8 West, exit at Morena Blvd., go right onto Linda Vista Rd. and travel to the third stoplight to USD's Main entrance, turn left and enter campus.

The General

*The General*



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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
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*Preserving the Memory of the Grand Army of the Republic  
and our Ancestors who Fought to Preserve the Union  
1861 - 1865*

***Plan Ahead! Veterans Day: Monday, November 12, 2012***