



Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

Volume XIX Number 1

May 18, 2013

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Deane Poole

Dear Brothers of Camp 21.

First off, I'd like to thank everyone for electing me as your Camp Commander. I'm honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve such a distinguished group.

Our first event is coming up: it's a big weekend for us - specifically we are at the Fallbrook cemetery to honor our namesake, Sgt. Wm. Pittenger and other Union soldiers buried there. The date is Saturday, May 25th at 9:00 am, muster time is 8:30.

On Sunday at 1:00 PM our Color Guard will be participating with the Elk's Lodge, 1812 at the El Cajon Cemetery for a Memorial Day ceremony, continuing a tradition begun several years ago by our beloved, fallen Brother, Bob Lowe.

Our big event is on Monday Memorial Day, May 27th at Mt. Hope Cemetery at

2:00 PM, muster at 1:00. Bob Filner, Mayor of San Diego is one of the keynote speakers. Rita Cartwright of the San Diego Opera will sing the National Anthem.

We would like all Brothers to join us for this special event, but regardless of whether you attend or not, be proud of the ancestry we have and please fly all appropriate flags.



The next Camp meeting will be June 8th at a location to be determined. Stay tuned for further announcements via email.

Always bear in mind the heritage of our Order inculcated in the principles of the GAR -- Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Deane I. Poole
Camp Commander

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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.

Cinco de Mayo: 1863 and 2013 by Tom Helmantoler, PCC

Most Civil War historians are not aware that the Battle of Puebla in 1863, fought in Mexico, was a pivotal victory for the Union, even though the Union didn't participate.

In simple terms, Napoleon III, of France, was attempting to build a French Empire in the Western Hemisphere, by taking over Mexico and aiding the Confederacy in the breakup of the USA. The fact that the peasant army under President Benito Juarez won that battle, didn't surrender, and keep the French army bottled up and occupied prevented Napoleon III from supplying the Confederates with cannons and other war materiel. Juarez achieved this by simply moving the government around the country, or, essentially wherever he happened to be. Mexico didn't exactly win, but it didn't lose either.

At the end of the Civil War, president Andrew Johnson, good for the word of the USA, sent 50,000 troops to the US-Mexico border to back our promises. Napoleon III withdrew French troops soon after. The puppet ruler he had installed, Maximilian, was caught and executed.

The centerpiece around this whole story was the friendship of Presidents Lincoln and Juarez. Although not well known, both men had great admiration for the other and the desire to keep both nations free in the Western Hemisphere. Both expressed this point to the other, and although they never met, this was the key part of their actions. They had a close, if only corresponding by letters, friendship.

On May 5, Brothers Will Tisch (*see Pg. 5 for Will's comments*) and Tom Helmantoler, who had traveled to Puebla last year to participate in the Cinco de Mayo Parade in Puebla as part of a MOLLUS/SUVCW contingent at the request of the Mexican Government, participated in the 150th anniversary of Cinco de Mayo in Los Angeles. The difference in the dates in that the Battle of Puebla was on May 5, 1862, and the first Cinco de Mayo in Los Angeles was celebrated one year later.

Brothers Tisch and Helmantoler were joined by Brothers Lin Malaznick (also a Puebla Parade participant) of Camp 4, Ken Walker of Camp 2, and Eric Rojo. Eric, a retired US Army Colonel with 31 years service, is a member of a Camp in the Washington DC area and is a new member of the 5th CVI, Co. G, as well. He organized, with others, the Puebla trip last year and was invited to speak in Los Angeles. Bro. Steve Siemsen, from Arizona, who coordinated the reburial of Union and Indian War troops in Sierra Vista, AZ. that we attended a few years ago, was also present. In addition, we were joined by LeRoy Martinez, a MOLLUS member, dressed as a California lancer, who carried the Mexican flag for this event. LeRoy's family goes back to the 1500's as his ancestor helped settle New Mexico.

In all things, the group was assisted by our Ladies, BJ Walker, Jessica de Alba, Eileen Tisch and Sandy Helmantoler.

A short parade around the plaza was led by Eric and Will, and then to the site of the event where the colors were placed.

In his speech, Eric recounted the importance of the Battle of Puebla; the key point he made was that Cinco de Mayo isn't just a Mexican holiday, but is also an American one as well. Without the Mexican victory, French influence in the Western Hemisphere might have been much greater, leading to the end of the USA.

The group also attended a book presentation led by David Hays-Bautista, Professor of History at UCLA, where he and Margarita Reyes, the Organizer of the Event, were presented with copies of the painting depicting the friendship of Lincoln and Juarez that was given to the Government of the State of Puebla last year.

It was a long day, but a satisfying experience.
Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Helmantoler, PCC

Photos from this event are on following pages.

Photos of Cinco De Mayo in LA event courtesy of Eileen and Will Tisch



Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
*Memorial Day Ceremony, Odd Fellows Cemetery	9:00 AM 25 May 2013 <i>Muster 8:30</i>	Jerry Sayre, PDC
*Memorial Day Ceremony, El Cajon Cemetery w/Elks Lodge	1:00 PM 26 May 2013 <i>Muster 12:30</i>	Tom Helmantoler, PCC
*Memorial Day Ceremony, Mt. Hope, San Diego	2:00 PM 27 May 2013 <i>Muster 1:30</i>	CC Deane Poole
Camp Meeting, (TBD)	4:00 PM 8 June 2013	CC Deane Poole
National SUVCW Encampment, Milwaukee, WI.	8-11 August 2013	Jerry Sayre, PDC

MINUTES OF MEETING Feb 9, 2013

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, Jim Churchyard, Tom Helmantoler, John May, Tony Moffitt, William Peck, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, David Schaffer, Will Tisch, and guests Gay Allyn, David Purchase, Kim Sayre, Janice Shaffer, Steve Smith, Jim Stephens, and Eileen Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Cmdr. D. Poole at 12:13pm at the First Christian Church, Fallbrook, CA. The invocation was offered by Chaplain D. Allyn and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by W. Tisch.

I. Honored Attendees

- 1) CDR Jim Stephens, Camp 302, SVC
- 2) Steve Smith, Past CA Div. CDR, SVC

II. Announcements

Memorial Day planning meeting will be held at D. Poole's home on Sunday, March 17 at 1pm.

Camp will be present on Memorial Day at Fallbrook (11am), El Cajon Elks Lodge (2pm Sunday), and Mt. Hope (1:30 pm).

Dept. Encampment in San Luis Obispo, March 8-9. Our Camp is committed to purchasing donuts. See J. May if you need credentials.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 13. A motion (Shaffer/Sayre) was carried to have the meeting at the Pittenger church if USD is unavailable.

III. New Members

none

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were not published.

V. Officers' Reports

- 1) Treas. J. May reported expenditures of \$ 602.30 and income of \$ 1394.50 to bring the Camp balance to \$3038.23, of which \$340.00 is in the Minter's Ranch Memorial Fund.
- 2) Sec. J. May reported no correspondence since the last meeting.

VI. Committee Reports

D. Shaffer reported that the form is completed to submit to the State of California for Minter's Ranch project. Money is still needed to pay for it. A motion (Sayre/Helmantoler) was passed to put the money raised in the pistol raffle into the Minter's Ranch fund.

W. Tisch reported that the carriage parts for the Mortar project have been taken to the Aerospace Restoration Facility at Gillespie Field where the work will be completed. A discussion followed regarding final placement of the mortar and future maintenance.

VII. S.V.R. Report

none

VIII. Upcoming Events

Memorial Day, May 27, 2013.
Next Camp Meeting, April 13, TBA

IX. Old Business

J. Sayre reported that the Turkey Shoot generated \$680 in income. He thanked J. Malone for purchasing the shooting range. The SVC representatives noted that they are looking into moving the event to a different range next year.

J. Sayre reported that the pistol raffle has generated \$400 thus far.

X. New Business

1) A motion (Sayre/Tisch) was passed to expend up to \$100 on honorariums for Memorial Day.

XI. Opportunity Drawing

none

XII. Members' Minutes

D. Shaffer mentioned that Br. G. Armistead has published a book, *Horses and Mules in the Civil War*.

J. May distributed copies of a newspaper column, "The Telling Humor of Abraham Lincoln".

XIII. Program

Camp members and guests were invited to a Fallbrook home to view a collection of Civil War weapons immediately following the meeting.

The closing prayer was offered by Chaplain D. Allyn and Cmdr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, John A. May, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES OF MEETING Apr 13, 2013

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, Tom Helmantoler, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, and Will Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Cmdr. D. Poole at 2:23pm at the home of Deane and Brenda Poole. The invocation was offered by Chaplain D. Allyn and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by W. Tisch.

I. Honored Attendees

none

II. Announcements

J. Sayre announced that yesterday was the 152nd anniversary of the attack on Ft. Sumter.

D. Allyn has accepted the position of newsletter editor.

J. Sayre gave report on the Department Encampment.

III. New Members

Steve Isaak has submitted an application form but not dues. A motion (Sayre/Helmantoler) was passed to approve his application as soon as dues are received.

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were not published.

V. Officers' Reports**VI. Committee Reports**

W. Tisch reported that the mortar is still being worked on and we are hoping for a July 4 placement.

Minter's Ranch Project seems to be stalled because of the lack of funds.

VII. S.V.R. Report

none

VIII. Upcoming Events

Memorial Day, May 27, 2013, Mt. Hope.

Next Camp Meeting, TBA

IX. Old Business

J. Sayre reported that we have no access to the Odd Fellows Cemetery and may have to cancel Memorial Day observance there.

We will not participate in the Memorial Day observance at the El Cajon Elks Lodge.

J. May will read G.O. #11 at VANC observance in Oceanside.

Motion (Helmantoler/Tisch) passed to pay Rita \$75 honorarium and to print certificates for Mayor Filner, Rita, Kim Mathes, and Cmdr. of Young Marines.

X. New Business

- 1) J. Sayre described the Great Train Chase.
- 2) Eric Rojo will deliver Cinco de Mayo address in L.A.

T. Helmantoler and W. Tisch will be in the **honor guard**.

D. Allyn discussed the theft of bronze cemetery markers.

XI. Opportunity Drawing

none

XII. Members' Minutes

none

XIII. Program

Mike Mendoza presented a talk on "The Glorious Reality of War."

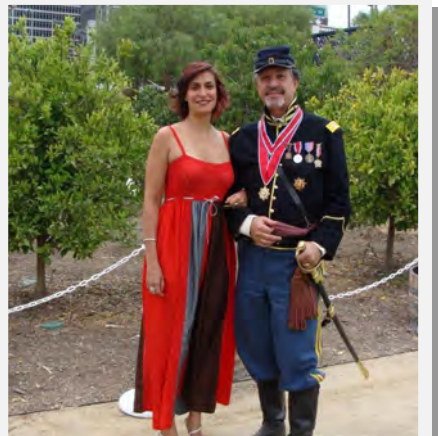
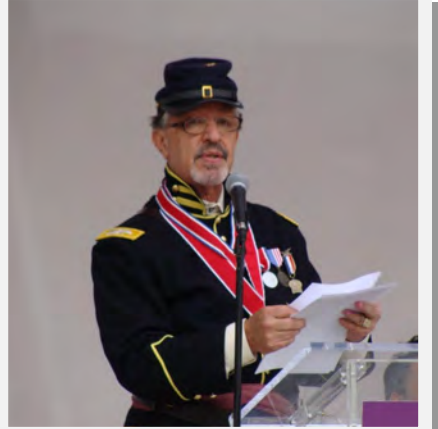
The closing prayer was offered by Chaplain D. Allyn and Cmdr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Helmantoler

Acting Secretary

Photos of Cinco De Mayo in LA event courtesy of Eileen and Will Tisch



Camp 21 Bros Tom Helmantoler & Will Tisch had the privilege of marching with the SVR Color Guard in LA to commemorate the 151st Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla, or "Cinco de Mayo" where an undermanned Mexican Army & Farmers defeated the Professional French Army. It is surmised by historians to have aided the Union to victory by inhibiting the transfer of arms to the South by the French through Mexico. Pres. Lincoln & Mexican Presidente Benito Juarez were very much aware of the threat of the French and worked together to thwart their efforts. In 1863, a large commemoration occurred in Los Angeles raising both the US 34-Star Flag and the Mexican National Flag together to show unity of our two Nations. The significance today of the 150th Anniversary of that commemoration is to help improve relations between the US and our Mexican ally. It also serves to teach our history to young people to help them understand the contributions & sacrifices made for our Nations today. Your Camp Brothers marched proudly alongside SUV Brothers, Col. Eric Rojo, USA (Ret), Linn Malaznik, Ken Walker, and Compatriot Leroy Martinez of MOLLUS and the Sons of the American Revolution, whose prominent family dates back to the 1500's in N. America. Brothers were also treated to two fine meals of Tamales and Burritos. We were held in high esteem throughout the large and much publicized event. Also in attendance and who aided us in this commemoration was Brother Steven Siemsen from Sierra Vista Arizona and Dr. David Bautista, UCLA Professor. It was very enjoyable for all of us and was carried out in the true tradition of our SUVCW. Respectfully Submitted, SVC Will Tisch, PCC

PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



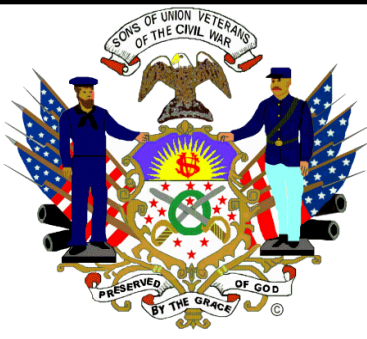
Kim & Jerry Sayre cleaning up Pittenger's grave site for Memorial Day, 25 May at Fallbrook. Great work! Thanks Kim & Jerry!!



Dept. Encampment, Dave Allyn, Jerry Sayre, Tad & Rachelle Campbell, CinC Perley Mellor, Glen Roosevelt, Dave reads CC Deane Poole's Camp report



Our April meeting at CC Deane Poole's home. Our guest, Michael Mendoza, receives certificate of appreciation from CC Deane. Michael's presentation was very well received! He spoke about his new book, "Glorious, Reality of War," a novel based on the 17-page letter of Union Vet, Charles Wesley Rickard, to his grown daughter, written in 1925. Along with copies of his book he brought some very interesting artifacts, papers and photos, which belonged to Mr. Rickard. The meeting was topped off with a delicious chili & cornbread supper prepared by Brenda and the Ladies of our Camp. Thanks Commander Deane and Brenda for hosting the meeting—HUZZAH !!!



Welcome New Brothers!

HUZZAH !!!

Robert W and Ryan T Ackles
whose ancestor served in
3rd AR (US) Cavalry

Anthony K Moffitt
whose ancestor served in
2nd NC (US) Mounted Infantry

“DECADERS”

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

Sloane Struse (06-02)

John A May (08-02)

Brian R Bingham (02-03)

Steven E Simpson (06-03)

**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

Photos of Cinco De Mayo in LA event courtesy of Eileen and Will Tisch



From your Editor: This is my first edition since re-assuming the role as Editor of our Camp’s newsletter, *The General*. I want to take a moment to ask for your help in making this a *Camp project*. How is that done? It is up to the Brothers of our Camp to submit articles, photos, commentary, etc. Without your input the project cannot succeed. I would like to run reports from you on any vacation trips you take in which *some* Civil War related activity occurs. Even if it is only a photo of a monument with a brief caption—everything helps! I prefer computer generated documents but if you can only send me had-written input, I do not mind transcribing. With your assistance we can be proud of *The General*—wont you please help? Thanks for your help in the past, I look forward to more in future! Yours Sincerely, Dave Allyn

The Civil War Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation’s endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds. To date, it has preserved more than 34,000 acres of battlefield land in 20 states, including nearly 18,400 in Virginia. Learn more at www.civilwar.org, the home of the Civil War sesquicentennial.

OUR NEXT MEETING: Saturday June 8, 2013, 4 pm

June 8, 2013 4:00 PM

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:

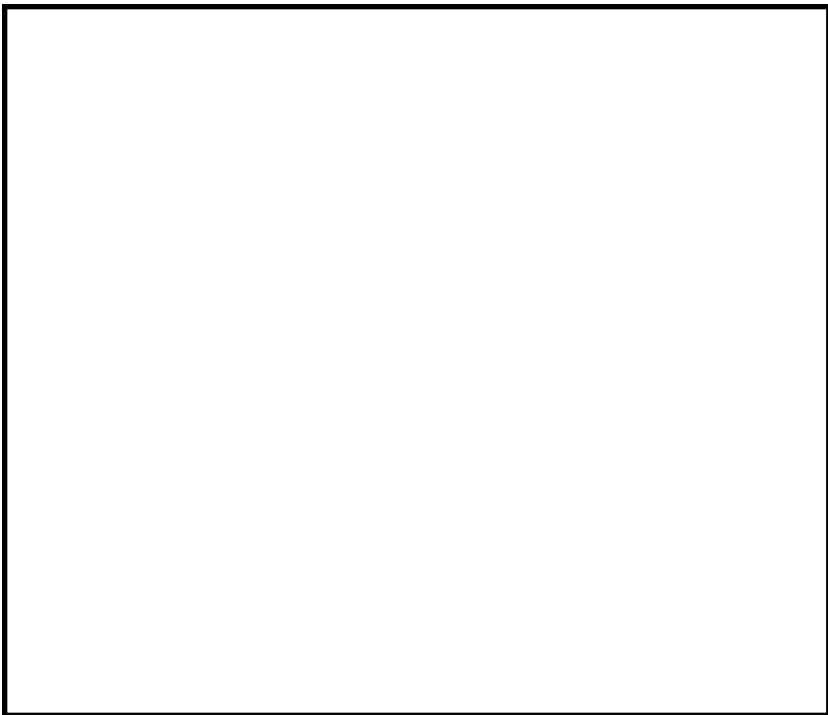
LOCATION

TBD

Stay Tuned for further info

Our Program

TBD

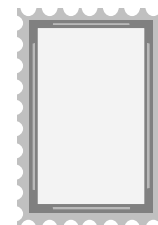


The General

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Preserving the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic & "The Boys in Blue," 1861 - 1865