



Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

Volume XIX Number 4

Happy Thanksgiving ~ Merry Christmas

Nov 30, 2013

2013 San Diego Veterans Day Parade *by Dave Allyn*

On Monday, 11 November 2013, Camp 21 Brothers Will Tisch PCC, Tom Helmantoler PCC, CC Deane Poole, Dave Shafer and Dave Allyn, along with Eileen Tisch, Brenda Poole, Becky Harbaugh and little Stevie Harbaugh assembled along Harbor Drive taking up position 18 of Division 3 in the annual Veterans Day Parade in the city of San Diego. Our float, which was an auto-transporting trailer pulled by Br. Will's truck and decorated in red, white and blue bunting, carried the 10" Siege Mortar on loan from Mt. Hope Cemetery. Recently restored and mounted on it's fine new steel gun carriage, it was a fitting centerpiece for our display. The banner of our SVR unit, Co. G, 5th California Volunteer Infantry, was at the fore and our Regimental National and Camp Flags were mounted on either side. This year we chose to ride vs. march. The mortar drew many parade participants to our location prior to stepping off as many of the military found it most fascinating and had lots of questions. The Young Marines and their leaders stopped by — in groups — for an education by Brs Dave Shafer and Will Tisch on the history of this artillery piece. We fin-

ished the parade and at the end all agreed we had a most enjoyable and humbling day ! We owe Brother Will and Sister Eileen a debt of gratitude for all they have done in the ongoing efforts to restore the mortar and make it ready for its eventual return to "G.A.R. Hill" at Mt. Hope —

sometime in the near future. For yours truly the day began at Will and Eileen's home as we loaded up the truck with all of the items needed for our float, including muskets, bayonets, cartridge boxes, coolers with water, flags, blankets to cover the four bales of straw Will had bought for us to sit on. I made a mental note that the next time we use this float, we need to find a way to make it safe to stand up as it does make for a much better military appearance. About halfway thru

the parade we ended up standing and, braced between the mortar and a straw bale, I felt reasonably secure but it would have been just too bad if Br. Dave Shafer — who drove the truck — had hit a bad pothole ! By the way, Dave did a masterful job of piloting the truck. *Additional photos from the parade on Pg. 6 in this edition.*



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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.

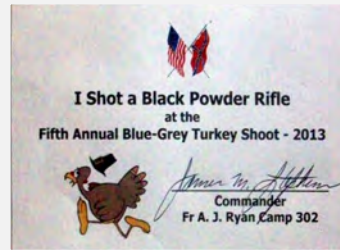
CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be mailed to Camp Secretary at address above. Failure to notify Camp of change of address will result in missed issues of *The General* and *The Banner*.

CAMP EMAIL DIRECTORY. If you wish to be included in the Camp Email Directory, send your permission and 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.

2013 Blue—Gray Turkey Shoot by Dave Allyn

On Saturday, 2 November, a large contingent of SUVCW and SCV Brothers assembled at the South Bay Rod and Gun Club in Dulzura, CA for the 5th Annual Blue-Gray Turkey Shoot. Among our Camp Brothers who participated were CC Deane Poole, Will Tisch PCC, Tony Moffitt, Dave Shafer and Dave Allyn. Although everyone shot quite well and bettered their individual scores from last year, our 'Confederate Cousins' took home the turkey for best bull's-eye, along with best overall score (Steve Smith) and best team shooting average. Everyone agreed we had a blast and that the S. Bay Rod & Gun Club is a great place to shoot with very good safety officers and good supervision. *Photos from the event below.*



(L) All shooters received this certificate signed by SCV Camp 302 CC Jim Stephens

Eileen Tisch (L) and Robin Adair (R) were the official scorers, here Eileen is measuring for closest-to-center of the bull



(L) Camp 21 SUVCW and Camp 302 SCV participants lined up for a group photo after the cease-fire sounded'



Below L, Steve Smith posed with his target showing all 5 shots in the black and the closest-to-center bulls-eye

Below R, Steve with Camp 302 CC Jim Stephens (L) and Camp 21 CC Deane Poole



128th Department Encampment Announcement

2014 Department Encampments October 26, 2013

Department Brothers and Sisters:

The survey results are in! The California and Pacific Departments of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are pleased to announce their 128th and 103rd respective annual Department Encampments.

The Encampments will be held March 7th and 8th, 2014 at Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham, 321 Bercut Drive in Sacramento, California. Some of the great perks of this hotel include: free airport shuttle; full breakfast; free parking; free banquet room to store our auction items; large space with tables and seating for visiting; easy access to I-5; and about a mile and a half from Old Town Sacramento.

On Friday evening, instead of the "campfire" gathering, dinner is on your own followed by a private tour of the California Military Museum from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. The Museum is in Old Town and car pools will be arranged for transportation.

On Saturday morning we will start with the SUVCW/ASUVCW Memorial Service, then conduct the business meeting portions of the Encampments. There will be a break for lunch in the banquet room. Saturday night will be the VIP Banquet with our honored guests: Commander-in-Chief Ken Freshley and wife Sue Freshley; National President Diane Mellor and Past Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor; Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell and National Vice President Rachelle Campbell; and DUVCW National President Carole Morton.

***** IMPORTANT *****

Please bring only Civil War related or Civil War period items to donate for the auction.

During the Encampments there will be opportunities for attendees to participate in fund raising for both the Sons and Auxiliary Departments.

We have negotiated with the Hawthorn Suites for special room rates for our members. The room rates are: **King Bed = \$79.00 per night; Two Queens = \$89.00 per night (excluding taxes)**. To reserve a room, please contact the Hawthorn Suites directly at **(916) 441-1200**. Tell them you are with the "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War". We recommend reserving early to guarantee a room at the above rates.

All Encampment documents and forms are available at the Department Encampment web page:
www.suvpac.org/encampment.html

Please respond by **JANUARY 15, 2014** as we need to plan for meals, transportation, etc. If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
Thomas T. Graham, PCC

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Day, Month, Year	Contact Person(s)
* Fallbrook Christmas Parade, Fallbrook, CA	Sat. 3:30 PM 7 DEC 2013	Jerry Sayre PDC
Camp Meeting, Coco's Rest. 5955 Balboa Ave. San Diego Election and Installation of Officers for 2014	Sat. 3:00 PM 14 DEC 2013	CC Deane Poole
Camp Meeting, Coco's Rest. 5955 Balboa Ave. San Diego	Sat. 3:00 PM 8 FEB 2014	CC Deane Poole
128th Annual Department Encampment, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham, 321 Bercut Drive, Sacramento, CA	March 7-8, 2014	CC Deane Poole/Jerry Sayre PDC
2014 National SUVCW and Allied Orders Encampment, Marietta, GA. Marietta Hilton, 500 Powder Springs St. 15 Miles NW of Atlanta	14-17 AUG 2014	Jerry Sayre PDC
* "XXI Huntington Beach Civil War Days," Central Park, Huntington Bch, CA reenactment - recruiting opportunity	30-31 AUG 2014	Jerry Sayre PDC

Minutes of Meeting held October 12, 2013

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, Tom Helmantoler, John May, Tony Moffitt, Deane Poole, David Shaffer, and guests Gay Allyn, Brenda Boucher and Jan Shaffer.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Deane Poole at 4:00pm at Coco's Restaurant, Balboa Avenue, San Diego, California. The opening prayer was offered by D. Allyn and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by T. Helmantoler.

I. Honored Attendees

None

II. Announcements

None

III. New Members

None

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved (Helmantoler/Allyn).

V. Officers' Reports

Treas. J. May reported that since the last report, the Camp has spent \$195.41 and has income of \$20.00. There is a total of \$2678.52 at present, of which \$520 is in the Minter's Ranch Fund.

VI. Committee Reports

1. D. Poole reported that the restoration of the mortar is going well. A motion (Helmantoler/Moffitt) was passed to allow the Camp to spend up to \$500 on the mortar restoration.
2. D. Poole reported that the Minter's Ranch Project needs corporate sponsorship and he is starting to send letters to potential sponsors. He will contact the national organization to get clarification on our tax status. A motion (Shaffer/Helmantoler) was passed to have the Camp match the \$300 given by the SDCWRT for the project.

VII. S.V.R. Report

No report was given.

VIII. Upcoming Events

1. On October 26, Camps from the L.A. area are visiting to see the grave of Sgt. Pittenger and the Pittenger House. A motion (May/Helmantoler) was passed to have the Camp donate \$50 to the Fallbrook Historical Society for their help in hosting the event.
2. Christmas Parade in Fallbrook, Dec. 7. A motion (Helmantoler/Moffitt) was passed to have the Camp pay the \$20 entry fee.
3. Veterans Day Parade in San Diego, Nov. 11. Contact W. Tisch if interested. A motion (Helmantoler/Moffitt) was passed to have the Camp pay the entry fee, if there is one.

IX. Old Business

none

X. New Business

XI. Members' Minutes

No Members' Minutes.

XII. Program

None

The closing prayer was offered by Chaplain D. Allyn and Cmdr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

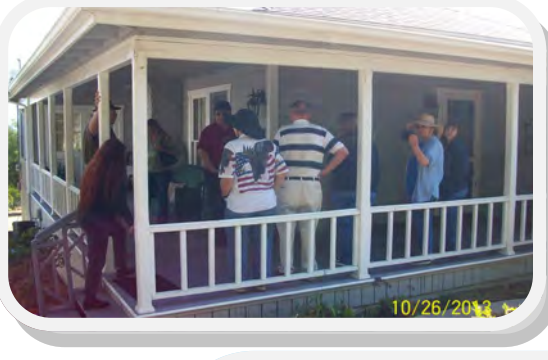
Remembrance Day 23 Nov 2013 by Dave Allyn

Saturday, 23 Nov the Camp assembled at the graveside of Sgt. Pittenger and wife, Winnie in the Old Pioneer Cemetery (formerly Odd Fellows cemetery) in Fallbrook to commemorate Pres. Lincoln's dedication remarks given 150 years earlier in Gettysburg, PA. Camp SVC Will Tisch PCC officiated and we were led in singing "The Battle Hymn of The Republic" by Bro. Ernie Powell. Bro. Tom Helmantoler PCC keynoted the day by remarking upon the unique cadence or speaking style of "Father Abraham," as he was affectionately called by Union troops. Bro. Jerry Sayre, PDC recited the famous 272 words of the President's "few appropriate remarks" from memory, taps were sounded and colors retired. After capturing photos to remember our service, we repaired to the Z Café in Bonsall where we enjoyed a most convivial repast. Our thanks to Bro. Jerry and Sister Kim Sayre for organizing and hosting this event—it was a time for recalling an historic day from the mid-war year of 1863. I don't recall who said it first but the quote goes like this, "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is probably the greatest speech ever heard on the North American continent." I, for one, wholeheartedly agree !
Photos below courtesy of Kim Sayre



PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK

A collection of photos from our events, including the 26 Oct informal gathering at Pittenger's gravesite, house & Fallbrook Historical Museum with Bros & Sisters from LA & Orange Cty area hosted by the Sayres. Also photos of the Vets Day Parade





No New Members have been reported since our last edition. Please do all you can to assure the continuance of our Order by talking it up to relatives and friends.

We have a "Recruiting Newsletter" version of *The General* available to aid you in recruitment. Contact any officer for a copy - or several copies.

Civil War Slang

Arkansas Toothpick - a long, sharp knife

Beat the Dutch - if that don't beat all

Bragg's Body Guard - lice

Big Bugs - big wigs, important people

Bully for You - good for you

Company Q - fictitious unit designation for the sick list

Hard Case - tough guy

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

THIS DATE IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Sat Nov. 30 1861 **TRENT TURMOIL TAKING TROUBLING TURN**

The "Trent Affair", as it was beginning to be called on both sides of the Atlantic, was rapidly turning from a glorious triumph for the US Navy, particularly Captain Charles Wilkes of the USS San Jacinto, into a hideous embarrassment for the US diplomatic corps. Today the British Foreign Secretary, John, Lord Russell, composed a letter to be sent to Lord Lyons, the minister (ambassador) to the United States. In it he directed Lyons to inform the American government that if the Confederate ministers Mason and Slidell were not released to British custody, and if an apology for their seizure from a British ship were not forthcoming, Lyon was to close the embassy and return to London with the entire legation.

Sun Nov. 30 1862 **SEMMES SEEKS SOUTHERN SPOILS**

Captain Raphael Semmes, Confederate States Navy, was the most feared commerce raider of the war. His mission was not to fight United States warships in combat, but to work amounted to the flip side of the Union blockade of Southern shipping. He attacked any ship owned by an American, or headed for an American port, and seized it. He was extremely courteous by the standards of the day: he never killed the crews he captured, and in fact on many occasions would put everyone aboard the last ship captured for the day and turn it loose on bond, rather than burn it. He had wreaked as much havoc as he could in the waters of the North Atlantic, and besides it was getting cold and stormy there this time of year. He moved his base of operation to the Leeward Islands, and celebrated by taking the Porter Cook today. This one he burned.

Mon Nov. 30 1863 **BRAGG BUYS BIG BOOT**

Gen. Braxton Bragg had been commander of the Army of Tennessee almost since its inception, and the Army of Mississippi prior to that. His major triumph had been at the battle of Chickamauga, which had bottled up Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland in Chattanooga for a good long time. The breakthrough had finally come, though, and a few days ago the disaster at Missionary Ridge had been the final straw. He had submitted a letter to President Jefferson Davis asking to be relieved of command. His friendship with Davis was of many years standing, though, and perhaps he thought the request would be denied, as similar requests from Robert E. Lee had been. It was, however, accepted today, and Bragg was directed to turn over command to Gen. William Joseph Hardee.

Wed Nov. 30 1864 **FRANKLIN FIGHTING FATAL FOR FIVE**

Confederate General John Bell Hood had been searching for Union General John Schofield for quite some time. He had the misfortune to catch him today, at Franklin, Tenn., and after Schofield's men had had time to dig in and prepare positions. Starting in late afternoon the charges began, over two miles of open ground. Hood hit the first Union line, and after a time it fell back. Hood took this as a sign of success, not realizing that the withdrawal was planned, and led to a second, even better dug-in, Union line. This one did not break, and the battle was brutal. Five Confederate generals died this day: States Rights Gist, H.B. Granbury, John Adams, O.F. Strahl, and, possibly the worst loss the South could have sustained, the brilliant Patrick Cleburne. Another, John C. Carter, sustained wounds that would prove mortal. In the army the losses were just as horrendous: 6300 casualties out of an attacking force of 27,000, including 54 irreplaceable regimental commanders lost.

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 December 14, 2013, 3:00 pm

Dec 14, 2013 3:00 PM

LOCATION

**Coco's Bakery Restaurant
5955 Balboa Ave
San Diego
(858) 279-5363**

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:

Fr N. Cnty I-5: take I-5 S to I-805 S, exit Balboa Ave. Go W less than 1 mile, Coco's is on your left.

Fr N. Cnty I-15: take I-15 S to CA 163 S, exit Mercury St./ Balboa Ave. Turn L on Mercury, then R on Balboa. Go W 1.6 mi, Coco's is on your left.

Fr S. Cnty I-805: take I-805 N to Balboa Ave. exit, turn L (W) go less than 1 mile, Coco's is on your left.

Fr S. Cnty I-5: take I-5 N to CA 163 N to I-805 N to Balboa Ave. exit, turn L (W) go less than 1 mile, Coco's is on your left.

Fr E. Cnty I-8: take I-8 W to I-805 N to Balboa Ave. exit, turn L (W) go less than 1 mile, Coco's is on your left.

Fr E. Cnty CA 52: take CA 52 W to I-805 S, exit Mercury St./ Balboa Ave. Turn L on Mercury, then turn R on Balboa. Go W 1.6 mi, Coco's is on your left.

Our Program

**Election and Installation of
Camp Officers for 2014**

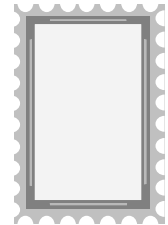
**Any brother may run for any elected
office – no second is required – your
support for this important meeting is
requested**

The General

The General



Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21
Dave Allyn, Newsletter Editor
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Preserving the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic & "The Boys in Blue," 1861 - 1865

*Your Editor wishes to extend to all Brothers, Sisters and their families best wishes for a safe and glorious Holiday Season
Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year in 2014 !!!*