



Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

Volume XX Number 2

HAPPY EASTER

Mar 22, 2014

Guest, Sandra Ellis Presents Her Ancestor, Pvt. Edwin Ware, 2nd Cal Cav by SVC Tom Helmantoler PCC

At our February 8 meeting, Camp 21 was present for a real treat. Sandra Ellis, whose gr-gr grandfather, PVT Edwin Ware, who served in the 2nd CA Cavalry, 1864-66, detailed his life, his Union Army service, and subsequent struggles with his family. Sandra's Great Aunt, Elsie Hill, accompanied her to the meeting. When PVT Ware came home to N. California after the War, he married a Maidu Indian lady, which caused his family to disown him. PVT Ware's family was fairly prominent in the area of California where he lived. For a white person, certainly from an important family, to marry a Native American back then was greatly frowned upon. He severely limited and strained his contact with the Ware family after marrying. For example, Ware's daughter was allowed to attend school with her cousins for a year, but it went badly as the cousins felt they were too good for Ware's daughter; believing they were superior due to her being half Maidu. The 1800s were certainly a different time from now! In 1924, after battling Parkinson's disease for many years, PVT Ware died. In his last three months or so, he was moved to Petaluma for hospital care. While there, his wife and daughter were not allowed to visit him! What was worse, when he died, his body

was whisked away in the night by the Wares and buried in a shabby grave in a remote part of a cemetery, with a wooden marker that was hard to find. His family was never told where he was buried. This was to cause great anguish among Ms. Ellis' family for generations, often leading to tearful discussions about the whereabouts of his grave. Finally, about ten years ago, Ms. Ellis began researching in earnest. Between changes in the law, ancestry.com, and the assistance of family members and others, his grave was finally located. From there, she was able to get a court order to have his body exhumed and moved to San Diego for burial last December 30, at Miramar National Cemetery with deserved full military honors. As Sandra said in her remarks that day, "For most people, coming to this place is a time of sorrow. But for us, this is a time of joy!" True enough! Camp 21 fully participated in the honoring of PVT Edwin

Ware, which we were proud to do. We honor all 2.2 million men who served in the Union Army, 1861-1865, as we should—PVT Edwin Ware included. May God finally rest his soul in peace, forever!

More photos of Sandra at the February meeting are on Pg. 4



SVC Tom Helmantoler, PCC presents Sandra Ellis a Camp 21 Certificate of Appreciation

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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.

Vista Reenactment Report by Kim & Jerry Sayre

Hello, I found a newspaper article in the Vista Press about last weekend's Civil War Re-Enactment held in Vista, CA, at the Antique Gas and Steam Museum. I was quite happy to see such a long and detailed article. Although there are several spelling errors, I found it to be good information to the public. Link to article below. Jerry and I were interviewed by newspaper reporter Pat Murphy as he arrived at the event and I waved him over to our booth. In the article the SUVCW - Pittenger Camp 21 get's honorable mention. Lots more to report about the weekend...look for pictures in The General Newsletter. <http://thevistapress.com/civil-war-in-vista/>
 Enjoy! Kim. (Jerry's Wife)

The following is Mr. Murphy's report in the 9 MAR Vista Press:

The civil war between the North and South was fought in 1861 to 1865 but this weekend it came to life again in Vista. Pulling into the Antique Gas and Steam Museum in Vista I was greeted by members of Troop 7146 from the Boy Scouts of America. I was directed to a parking space where I climbed out of my car and headed to the ticket office at the main entrance. From there I was told to head down a dirt road where I was told the battle would take place. Trudging down the dusty road I passed the encampment of the Southern forces. Several rows of white canvas. A frame tents in three of four sections were flanked by larger white canvass tents that were apparently headquarters and kitchens. The camp was empty except for a few women in period dress. Approaching the battlefield I was stopped by a 7-man squad of southern fighters in various grey uniforms augmented with leather holsters and worn caps. The tallest of these soldiers told me that "I had to go around or put on a uniform." He proudly identified himself as Sergeant Christian Jensen of the 1st North Carolina Cavalry. Under my keen interrogation he revealed that he actually lives in Diamond Bar and works as a Senior Labor Compliance Analyst with the City of Los Angeles. He has been performing in these Civil War reenactments for about 15 years. The road forked just in front of a large grassy field. On the far side I saw that a number of metal bleachers had been erected and people were already seated. Others were milling about next to the bleachers. I hurried towards them but couldn't help noticing how beautiful the day had turned out. Pale blue skies were accented with designer clouds that looked like strokes of paint brushes. A nice breeze came from the West compensating for the summer like temperature. The soldiers were already on the field. The Union Army in neat looking blue uniforms was on the East end of the field. The Southern boys were on the West end and both groups had cannons behind them. Soldiers on horseback were riding back and forth between the cannons and the fighting men. The crowd was buzzing anxiously and there was that air of impending danger. People of all ages were waiting for the battle to begin. Many were attired in clothing identified with the 1800's. I spotted one woman with her bonnet, parasol, and flowing dress standing along the roadside behind the bleachers. Her name is Carol Wenda and her husband was out on the field with the Richmond Howitzers. She told me she loves the dresses and especially the grand balls like the Blue Grey Cotillion and Military Ball that will be held by the 2nd US Calvary, Company I, this coming June 28 in Yorba Linda. I next talked with President Abraham Lincoln (AKA Robert Broski) and his bodyguard Marshal Ward Hill Lamon (AKA Dennis Smith). The president was so real it made me blink. He is a life member of Lincoln Presenters an organization of men and women dedicated to bringing Abraham and Mary Lincoln to life through presentations that educate, entertain, and inspire. I overheard him explaining to another spectator how the original muskets that the war started with were responsible for the close proximity of the combatants on the battlefield. They are also associated with the 2nd US Cavalry. Suddenly shouts were coming from the battlefield as officers readied their men for battle. Following a command to "March 20 paces" the Union soldiers moved towards the enemy. They stopped, took aim, and "Volley fired" creating a thundering sound and a wall of smoke. The battle was underway as the Union forces slowly advanced and fired at their southern opponents. Soon both sides were volley firing at each other. At the same time, sorties were being carried out by men on horseback. They would ride out towards the other side as if they were teasing them. Sometimes they appeared to see how far into the enemy lines they could penetrate before being met by there counterparts on horseback. A Union marching band came onto the field behind the Union Army and added their music to the rising canopy of noise. I looked in the stands at all the children because I did not hear any crying. There were at least 10 strollers and I would have expected the din from the battle to have upset at least one of them. But, no, there was not even a whimper from the youngest of them as the noise grew louder and the cannons waged in. The first cannon fire came from the confederate emplacements. Smoke was drifting into the stands from the now cloudy field. The ground would shake with every round of cannon fire. The acrid smell of burnt gunpowder was in the air. Hoof beats, gunfire, and urgent shouts to command the next maneuver became a steady drone. Rebel soldiers started dropping to the ground where they would remain in a lifeless state. Standing next to the smoky grandstands were a large group of spectators and among them I spotted a young family all smiles and obviously enjoying the event. With introductions I met Andrew, his wife Allyse, 14 year-old daughter Shanae, sons Landon 4 and Emmet 2. Least but not last was Andrew's mom, Lynn, who told me that Andrew was somewhat of a history buff. Actually it turns out that Andrew was at one time teaching American History at Mira Costa College. He excitedly told me that he thought it was great that the history that is usually seen on the East coast was being (dramatically) presented here in North County. Suddenly there was a surge of grey that stopped the blue wall that threatened to push all the way to the Pacific Ocean. What had dwindled to almost scattered response now became a solid obstacle that was producing volley fire after volley fire. It didn't take long before there were Yankee

(More) PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK (Vista Reenactment)



Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Day, Month, Year	Contact Person(s)
Camp Meeting, Coco's Rest. 5955 Balboa Ave. San Diego	12 APR 2014 Sat. 3:00 PM	CC Deane Poole
* Memorial Day Ceremony, Pioneers Cemetery, Fallbrook Lunch at Z Café, Bonsall following ceremony	24 MAY 2014 1000 Hrs	Jerry Sayre PDC
* Co. G, 5th Cal Vol Inf Color Guard at VMMC, San Diego	24 MAY 2014 Sat. Muster at 1130 Hrs	T. Helmantoler PCC/W. Tisch PCC
* Memorial Day Ceremony, El Cajon Cemetery with Elk's Lodge 1812	24 MAY 2014 (Time Pending)	T. Helmantoler PCC/W. Tisch PCC
* Memorial Day Ceremony, Mt. Hope Cemetery, San Diego	26 MAY 2014 (Time Pending)	CC D. Poole/T. Helmantoler PCC
2014 Natl SUVCW & Allied Orders Encampment, Marietta, GA. Marietta Hilton, 500 Powder Springs St. 15 Miles NW of Atlanta	14-17 AUG 2014	Jerry Sayre PDC
* Co. G, 5th Cal Vol Inf Color Guard at VMMC, San Diego	23 AUG 2014 Sat. Muster at 1130 Hrs	T. Helmantoler PCC/W. Tisch PCC
* "XXI Huntington Beach Civil War Days," Central Park, Huntington Bch, CA reenactment - recruiting opportunity	30-31 AUG 2014	Jerry Sayre PDC
* Co. G, 5th Cal Vol Inf Color Guard at VMMC, San Diego	22 NOV 2014 Sat. Muster at 1130 Hrs	T. Helmantoler PCC/W. Tisch PCC

Minutes of Meeting held February 8, 2014

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, Pete Huelsenbeck, Jeff Malone, John May, Tony Moffitt, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, David Shaffer, Will Tisch and guests Gay Allyn, Sandra Ellis, Sandy Helmantoler, Elsie Hill, Nikki Huelsenbeck, Kim Sayre, Marilyn Steiber, and Eileen Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Deane Poole at 3:10pm 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. Moffitt.

I. Honored Attendees

Sandra Ellis from Irvine and her aunt Elsie Hill were present.

II. Announcements

Vista reenactment will take place Mar. 8-9.

III. New Members

None

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting, with correction showing money raised from pistol raffle totals \$770, were approved (Allyn/Sayre).

V. Officers' Reports

Sec. J. May reported correspondence from Donald Martin, PDC, who is Chair of the National Civil War Memorial Fund. He asks us to re-submit our request for funds during the interval between May 1 and June 15. J. May will re-submit the form filled out by G. Armistead.
Treas. J. May reported a Camp balance of \$3229.97.

VI. Committee Reports

- D. Shaffer reported that the mortar is at his home and still needs some work.
- D. Poole reported that for the Minter's Ranch project, we will submit the request for funds to the National Civil War Memorial Fund.

VII. S.V.R. Report

No report was given.

VIII. Upcoming Events

- Dept. Encampment will be held in Sacramento in March 7-9
- Vista Reenactment, March 8-9.

IX. Old Business

None

X. New Business

- 1) Motion to give our presenter, Sarah Ellis, \$25 to cover driving expenses (Helmantoler/Huelsenbeck) was passed.

XI. Members' Minutes

No Members' Minutes.

XII. Program

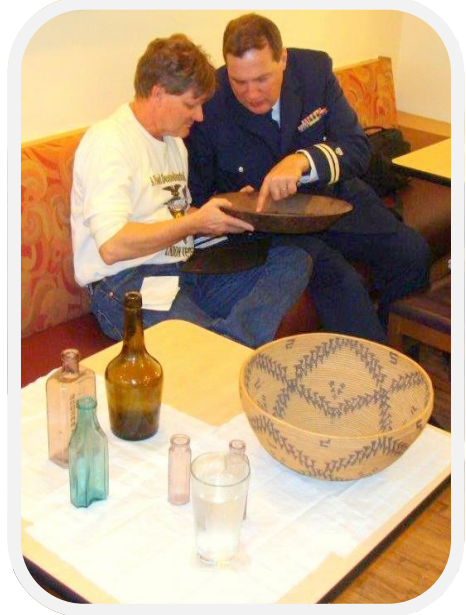
Sarah Ellis told the story of the life, death, and re-interment of Edwin Ware, 2nd CAL CAV, at Miramar National Cemetery. T. Helmantoler presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Allyn and Cmdr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 3:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

Guest, Sandra Ellis Presents Her Ancestor, Private Edwin Ware, 2nd Cal Cav by Tom Helmantoler PCC



Above, Ms. Ellis shows newspaper article highlighting Pvt. Ware's re-interment: Center, Gr. Aunt Elsie & Ms. Ellis: Right, CC Deane Poole and PCC Will Tisch examine a Maidu Indian basket artifact—on table are antique bottles found at her ancestor's home. Below, Ms. Ellis presented slides including her ancestor's wood marker at his original resting place and photos from the Dec. 30 ceremony at Miramar Nat'l Cemetery. After a fine presentation, she took questions—there were many and we all learned much from her sharing her story of the long awaited re-interment—with honors—denied him for so long.

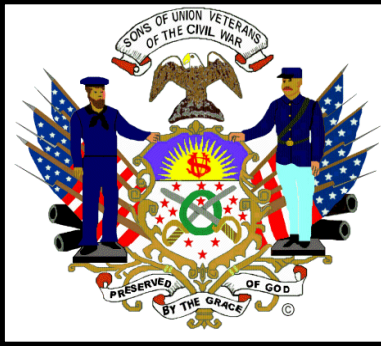


PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Vista Reenactment Report by Kim & Jerry Sayre

Cont from Pg 2



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

Acknowledge the Corn - to admit the truth, confess a lie, or acknowledge an obvious personal shortcoming

Beat the Dutch - if that don't beat all

Bivouac - to camp without formal shelter or in temporary circumstances

Contraband - escaped slaves who sought refuge behind Union lines

Duds - clothing

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

bodies on the ground and a retreat was started. The battle that had gone past the reviewing stands towards the Confederate side was now slowly edging back across the viewing area. Some of the audience (obvious Southern sympathizers) cheered on as the Blue-bellies were pushed farther and farther back. All at once the gunfire and cannon roar ceased. The Confederate Army appeared to have won the battle despite being up against a larger force. The silence was broken when a lone bugle began playing TAPS. While the mournful sound grabbed at our hearts, the soldiers from both factions stood at attention. Some saluted and some removed their hats in respect. When the last note dissipated into the blue sky the stands erupted in applause. What a show! This was live theatre at its best with history lessons on top. However it wasn't over. The Armies congregated in separate clusters. Banners and flags were brought to the front and the cannons were abandoned as gunners joined the infantrymen. The marching band re-appeared. In the confusion of battle I hadn't even noticed their departure. Now with the music from brass and drums floating across the area, the order to “pass in review” was given and the brave soldiers marched past the reviewing stands. Immediately following the parade President Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg address. Later there were Gun Demos by the cannons closest to the exit. The reenactment actors who had awed us for over 30 minutes left for their respective camps where they would get well deserved refreshment and rest up for the next show. Shuttles appeared for those that might find the warm walk back to the main part of the park too taxing. I preferred to walk but I did engage in an interesting discussion with shuttle driver Randy Staheli. Randy is a volunteer for the Gas and Steam Engine Museum. He and his wife, Marcelia live in central Utah and make the 1400 mile trip 4 times a year to volunteer here in Vista. He said that this was one of the most unique museums that he has ever seen. Also, it gives them a good excuse to leave Utah in the winter. Before leaving I walked through the camps and the market area. I observed small groups of men and women sitting on old wooden furniture in front of the canvass tents under canvass tarps that provided some relief from the sun. Continuing their excellent performance they were eating and drinking from tin ware. A few had passed on these comforts to join us the visitors in the snack shack area. Behind the snack shack were round tables shaded by large California Pepper trees sprouting little clusters of red berries. Next to this area was a wooden pavilion and atop the pavilion was a smaller group of uniformed musicians playing inspiring military like melodies. The larger tents in the market area bore unique names like Georgia Relief Society, Kansas Mercantile, Knots and Nails, G & M Mercantile and The Yankee Reb. Entering these tents was like stepping back in time. Here one could purchase period costumes, uniforms, replica guns, books, and wooden toys. Custom leather works and sewing lessons were available. At Brodiaea's Fashions youngsters were being shown how to hand crank the old sewing machines. Stitching from the 1800s was being described. Just outside the market area was where I found Dr. Malarkey talking about the History of Medicine as he stood beside a realistic looking stack of severed limbs. He was explaining to a gathered crowd how during the Civil War the recovery rate from serious wounds was only about 25 percent. Today's doctors and the amazing prosthetics that have been created have greatly improved that rate. At the Son's of Union Veterans of the Civil War I met two very nice people from nearby Fallbrook. Kim and Jerry Sayre are descendants of Civil War soldiers. The banner at the back of their tent had the name Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 in large letters across it. I learned that William was one of the first 6 soldiers to be awarded our Nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor. The former soldier and later Minister took part in the famous “Andrews Raid” and is interred in Fallbrook. Jerry Sayre told me it was an honor to tend to Pittenger's gravesite and the gravesites of several other Civil War soldiers in the Odd fellows graveyard. When I was asked to take this writing assignment I had no idea how captivating the experience would be. I actually learned a lot and I look forward to next year. I would recommend this event to students of all ages. Article written by Pat Murphy

Photos from Vista on Pgs 3 & 5 are by Kim Sayre

The 2014 National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic 14-17 August 2014, Marietta, Georgia. Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Siege of Atlanta, the 2014 National Encampment site will be in Marietta, a suburb of Atlanta and the site of Marietta National Cemetery and the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. This will be the first time a National Encampment of the Allied Orders will be held in Georgia. Encampment website: <http://www.2014nationalencampment.com/>

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, the Trust has preserved more than 38,500 acres of battlefield land in 20 states. Learn more at www.civilwar.org, the home of the Civil War sesquicentennial.

OUR NEXT MEETING: Saturday April 12, 2014, 3:00 pm

APR 12, 2014 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

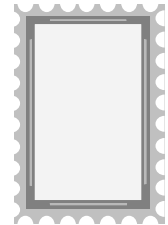
SVC Tom Helmantoler will report on
"This Republic of Suffering,"
Harvard President
Drew Gilpin Faust's book on
death in the Civil War.
An open discussion will follow

The General

The General



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