



Newsletter of *Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

The General

Department of
California & Pacific



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

Volume XX Number 3

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

May 17, 2014

SUVCW Camp 21 Civil War Mortar Project by Will Tisch PCC

The Mount Hope Civil War Mortar project began in 2005 with a vision to bring a 10" Civil War Siege Mortar into a condition of worthy presentation. The Mortar was given to the Grand Army here in San Diego in 1898 to be used as a monument to the Brave men and families of the Civil War, 1861-1865. It originally was used in service to protect Mare Island and a Naval Gun emplacement. It was then displayed at Horton Plaza for a period of time then transported to Grand Army of the Republic Hill at Mount Hope Cemetery where it was positioned on a slab of concrete for over 114 years. There were shells that were also given to the GAR but those shells have been lost to time, whereabouts unknown. Over the years the Mortar rusted and pitted from corrosion and was defaced by graffiti. Even a bird's nest was found in the barrel. This was a case of poor care and over the years many did not even know what it was. Plus there was no carriage to support the Mortar. The cemetery faced financial hurdles over the years due to San Diego City budget challenges and did not have the staffing necessary to care for all monuments in a worthy fashion, of which there are many. So our Sergeant William Pittenger Camp 21 took on the Challenge to resurrect the Mortar to its near original proud condition of presentation. No easy feat since the Mortar weighs about 1 ton. We started by ordering Blueprints of the original

carriage in 2011 and then began to manufacture it. Although the carriage is not an exact replica, it mimics the original almost perfectly. Our Camp Brothers helped by donating money, time and work. Over a period of two years the Mortar was returned to GAR Hill in April 2014 as a gift to the Memory of the Boys in Blue and their families and the City of San Diego who are very, very pleased with our efforts. Our Brothers as a team need no thanks but satisfaction for a completed goal of their fine memory is reward enough. Interesting facts about the Mortar: It would fire a 10" shell or ball one mile on 4 pounds of powder. It would take down a ship of great size with a direct hit. The original Mortar and Carriage weighed two tons and was transported on a retractable caisson metal carriage for deployment. It had replaceable parts such as the trunnion caps that during firing would become non functional over sustained battle. Many thanks to all Camp Brothers and the San Diego



This is how the mortar looked before the restoration project began

Aerospace Restoration Facility at Gillespie Field for their assistance. *(Editors note: along with Bro. Will, Bro. Dave Shaffer, his wife, Jan and some youngsters Jan recruited assisted getting the mortar moved to Mt. Hope. The Camp thanks them for their outstanding efforts!*

See Pg. 2 for another photo → → →

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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.

SUVCW Camp 21 Civil War Mortar Project by Will Tisch PCC

Below: photo of the completed mortar resting on it's new carriage at "GAR Hill," Mt. Hope Cemetery. Plans for a re-dedication ceremony this year are pending



New Statue of Lincoln Unveiled At Valley Forge by Tom Helmantoler, PCC

May 2, 2014 was a big day at the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Campus in Valley Forge, PA, where a new statue of President Lincoln was unveiled by National Board President Bill Perry of Utah. The statue is located near the entrance to the Medal of Honor Grove that includes monuments with plaques of all Medal of Honor recipients, including SGT William Pittenger, our Camp namesake. Each state has one of these monuments in the Grove. Participating in the ceremony was SVC Tom Helmantoler, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The ceremony included an excellent reciting of the Gettysburg Address by President Lincoln, portrayed by Bob Gleason of the Philadelphia area. "President Lincoln" later remarked to SVC Tom, "You are about the size of McClellan. Fired him twice"!! The ceremony was emceed by FFVF CEO Mike Di Yeso, and the state was donated by Bill Perry, er, "Anonymously."

Photos of this event from Bro. Tom appear on Pg. 3 → → → →

New Statue of Lincoln Unveiled At Valley Forge (Cont)



← the unveiling



↑ Rt, NROTC Color Guard, Tom & "Pres. Lincoln"

→ Tom & MC Mike De Yeso.

← Bob Gleason/Pres Lincoln & Tom



Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Day, Month, Year	Contact Person(s)
* Memorial Day Ceremony, Pioneers Cemetery, Fallbrook Lunch a 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, Mt. Hope Cemetery, San Diego	26 MAY 2014 1330 Hrs/1:30 PM	CC D. Poole/T. Helmantoler PCC
Memorial Day Ceremony, Vet's Assoc. of N. County, Oceanside	26 MAY 2014 1000 Hrs	John May
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
Camp Meeting, Coco's Rest. 5955 Balboa Ave. San Diego	14 JUN 2014 Sat. 3:00 PM	CC Deane Poole
* 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 April 12, 2014

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, John May, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch and guests Gay Allyn, Brenda Boucher, Kim Sayre, and Eileen Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Deane Poole at 3:15pm 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
Memorial Day observance at Mt. Hope Cemetery in San Diego scheduled for Monday, May 26 at 1:30pm.
Memorial Day observance at Fallbrook Odd Fellows Cemetery scheduled for Saturday, May 24 at 10am.
Memorial Day observance at Veterans Association of North County in Oceanside scheduled for Monday, May 26 at 10am.

III. New Members
none

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting
Minutes of the last meeting were approved (Helmantoler/Sayre).

V. Officers' Reports
Sec. J. May reported correspondence from Jim Churchyard resigning from membership and Gene Armistead with information about the Southern Museum.
Treas. J. May reported a Camp balance of \$3985.69, of which \$1013 is in the Minter's Ranch fund.

VI. Committee Reports
T. Helmantoler reported that Memorial Day at Mt. Hope is organized by the SCV this year. A meeting is scheduled with the cemetery staff on May 5.
J. May reported that for the Minter's Ranch project, we will submit the application for a grant to the National Civil War Memorial Fund.

W. Tisch reported that the restoration of the mortar is complete and it is installed at Mt. Hope. A motion (Sayre/May) was passed to reimburse Br. Tisch for additional mortar expenses up to \$50.

VII. S.V.R. Report
J Sayre has retired as Commanding Officer of Co. G. (Ed. Note: 1LT T. Helmantoler is new CO)

VIII. Upcoming Events
Memorial Day events as reported in Announcements.
Next Camp Meeting, Sat., June 14, 3pm at Coco's in San Diego.
National Encampment in August.

IX. Old Business
Essay winner will read at Memorial Day at Mt. Hope. A motion (Sayre/Helmantoler) was passed to purchase a U.S. Savings Bond to present to the winner.
A motion (Helmantoler/May) was approved to provide a \$50 honorarium to singer Rita Cartwright.
J. Sayre reports that 79 tickets have been sold for the pistol raffle.

X. New Business
1) As a fundraising activity, it was suggested that we raffle off a Henry rifle.

XI. Members' Minutes
None.

XII. Program
(Ed. Note: corrected minutes ref: program)
SVC Tom Helmantoler presented a report on the book, This Republic of Suffering by Drew Gilpin Faust with discussion after

The closing prayer was offered by D. Allyn and Cmdr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 4:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

Report On A Soldier's Wife's Marker Replacement by Jerry Sayre PDC

Your Editor received the following via email:

My Dear Brother Dave, I do have a small item to contribute. I have started my annual cleaning at Oddfellows Cemetery in advance of Memorial Day Weekend. As I was cleaning the Tracy Plot, I discovered that Hannah's marker had fallen over. She is the wife of Sgt. James E Tracy of the 189th NY Inf (Main street, Last plot on the right). I have been keeping it painted for the last few years (above ground), but it finally gave way. I doubt it was the original marker since she has been gone 114 years. I decided to make a new one for her, so I got a piece of 2 x 12 redwood, 4 feet long and shaped it to look like a regular headstone. I painted it, put her info on it, and then gave it a good coat of Polyurethane, and set about to reset it next to her husband and family. With it being 2 inch thick redwood and well coated, by the time it goes again, I'll be long gone and it will fall to another to redo. We do these things for the "Boys in Blue" and theirs. Few, if any, will even notice that it has been replaced, but "If Other Eyes Grow Dull, Other Hands Slack, Other Hearts Cold in this Solemn Trust, Ours Shall Keep it Well, As Long As The Light and Warmth of Life remain in Us"

Jerry sent the following photos to show the work accomplished. Thanks for your newsletter contribution ! Good Work, Brother!



PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



SVC Tom Helmantoler PCC
Our Speaker for April



Camp 21 Meeting, 12 APR 14



Above, Will and Jerry in a candid moment
at April's meeting



↑ A "Blast From The Past" L-R, Will Tisch (SAR) Steve
Smith (SCV) and Jerry Sayre (SUVCW) at an event



SUVCW Brothers from Camps 4, 10, 17, 21, 22 Huntington Beach
Sep of 2007

← another old photo I thought Brothers
might enjoy, from the 2007 Huntington
Beach reenactment



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

Bread Bag - haversack

Bully! - exclamation meaning, 'terrific!' or 'hurrah!'

Camp canard - tall tale circulating around camp as gossip

Conniption Fit - hysterics, temper tantrum

Dog Robber - soldier detailed from the ranks to act as cook

Go Boil Your Shirt! - take a hike! get lost! bug off!

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 Day In The Civil War

Friday May 17 1861

HERO HOOKER HIRED, HAPPY

Joseph Hooker was a West Point graduate and a hero of the Mexican War, winning a field promotion at the battle of Chapultepec. Unfortunately, he had somehow gotten on the wrong side of Gen. Winfield Scott, who was the reigning chief of the US Army between Mexico and the Civil War. Hooker quit in disgust and took up farming and business in California. When the war broke out he tried to reenlist, but Scott still had it in for him and blocked it. Today he made it, appointed Brigadier General on the defenses of Washington.

Saturday May 17 1862

RAPPAHANNOCK RUMBLE RILES RICHMOND

It looked like the end of the war was imminent. Gen. George McClellan, USA, had the Army of the Potomac settled in very nearly at the gates of the Confederate capital. The next step was to activate the army of Gen. McDowell, currently on the banks of the Rappahannock River, and bring them in to reinforce McClellan. Two armies, one city....surely this meant the capture of the rebel capital and the end of the war. Right...?

Sunday May 17 1863

BIG BLACK BRIDGE BURNED

The bayous east of Vicksburg were beginning to dry up and be less of an impediment, but the Big Black River was still wet and deep. Pemberton's Confederates were backed up against this waterway, waiting for a division which had gotten separated to rejoin them. Grant was on their heels, however, and they were forced to cross the Black in some disorder, burning the bridges behind them. The missing division, cut off, moved to link up with Gen. Johnston instead.

Tuesday May 17 1864

JOINT JUGGERNAUT JOLTS JOHNSTON

Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston, CSA, was a very wily commander--he won few battles but was very hard to catch. There was quite a group trying today. He assembled his army at Adairsville, GA, after a march from Calhoun. There he discovered that Gen. Thomas' Federal Army of the Cumberland was in front of him, and Schofield and McPherson were moving in fast on either flank. Johnston's solution was to split his army, sending two corps to Cassville and the other to Kingston. Moving at night, weary as they were, they escaped the trap.

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 June 14, 2014, 3:00 pm

14 JUNE, 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

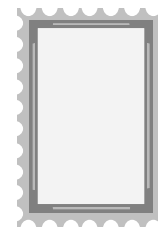
**Bro. John Finch will present
"Using Genealogy to Identify
Your Civil War Ancestor"
Come and hear more!
Join the discussion!**

The General

The General



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