



*Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

# *The General*

*Department of  
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

Volume XXI Number 1

**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY**

Jan 31, 2015

Greetings Camp Brothers, welcome to 2015 ! At our Camp meeting in December we elected the officers who will guide our Camp in this new year. Returning for another year to the post of Camp Commander is Deane Poole, PCC Tom Helmantoler returns as Senior Vice and Pete Huelsenbeck stepped up to the office of Junior Vice Commander. PDC Jerry Sayre conducted the election and installation of the officers. We also drew the winning ticket for the M1860 Reproduction Colt revolver, our major fund-raising effort for the past year. Then we shared dinner together and had a good time of fellowship and camaraderie. As your Editor I have to apologize for this edition being quite late in getting published. I have been going through some serious health issues and working on the newsletter has had to take a backseat to other matters. I am still in

the midst of dealing with the issues but I will do my best to keep putting together The General. However, if any Brother would be interested in taking over this task, I would enjoy the chance to speak with him. The photo on this page was



taken at the December meeting: it details efforts to replace the roof on the historic Fallbrook church, once pastored by Wm. Pittenger. I would like to extend a very happy Valentine's Day to all of our lovely ladies—you are the greatest !!! I hope you will enjoy the following pages and I especially hope to see you at the next Camp meeting, February 21st at Coco's Restaurant on Balboa Ave at 3:00 pm. SVC Tom Helmantoler will present,

"How I got my Union ancestor's State Civil War Medal." Hope to see you there !!

*Dave Allyn, Editor*

2015 CAMP OFFICERS

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Color Bearer .....Brian Bingham  
Guide.....Tony Moffitt  
Guard.....open  
Historian.....Will Tisch PCC  
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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.

Wreaths Across America, Rosecrans National Cemetery

PCC Will Tisch participated with his SAR Comrades at this event in January and sent these photos for our enjoyment. Will played "Going Home" on entrance and "Scotland The Brave" on retirement of colors.



**Upcoming Lincoln Shrine Event** courtesy of Floyd Farrar

Hosted by the Lincoln Memorial Shrine and University of Redlands, the 83rd annual [Watchorn Lincoln Dinner](#) will take place on Thursday, February 12. The evening will include live music, great food, and a presentation by renowned Lincoln expert Dan Weinberg titled "From Boyhood to Assassination: Lincoln Artifacts Whisper Their Stories." Mr. Weinberg is the proprietor of Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc. in Chicago, and co-author of Lincoln's Assassins: Their Trial and Execution. For more information or to make a reservation, contact [\(909\) 798-7632](tel:9097987632); seats are \$45 for Lincoln Memorial Association members and \$55 for non-members. Reservations are required and space is limited.

**After 150 years, Confederate submarine's hull again revealed** by Bruce Smith, Associated Press

Conservator Virginie Ternisien works at removing the encrustation from the hull of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley at a conservation lab in North Charleston, S.C., on Jan. 27, 2015. Scientists say that after six months of work, about 70 percent of the encrusted sand, silt and rust from the outside of the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship has been removed. Scientists hope that when the entire hull is revealed, it will provide the clues as to why the Hunley sank after sinking a Union blockade ship off Charleston, S.C., in 1864. NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A century and a half after it sank and a decade and a half after it was raised, scientists are finally getting a look at the hull of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship. What they find may finally solve the mystery of why the hand-cranked submarine sank during the Civil War. "It's like unwrapping a Christmas gift after 15 years. We have been wanting to do this for many years now," said Paul Mardikian, senior conservator on the Hunley project. The Hunley sank the Union blockade ship USS Housatonic off Charleston in February 1864 as the South tried to break the Union blockade strangling the Confederacy. But the sub and its eight-man crew never made it back to shore. The Hunley sank the Union blockade ship USS Housatonic off Charleston in February 1864 as the South tried to break the Union blockade strangling the Confederacy. But the sub and its eight-man crew never made it back to shore. The Hunley was discovered off the South Carolina coast in 1995, raised in 2000 and brought to a conservation lab in North Charleston. It was covered with a hardened gunk of encrusted sand, sediment and rust that scientists call concretion. Last May, it was finally ready to be bathed in a solution of sodium hydroxide to loosen the encrustation. Then in August, scientists using small air-powered chisels and dental tools began the laborious job of removing the coating. Now about 70 percent of the outside hull has been revealed. Mardikian said the exposed hull indeed has revealed some things that may help solve the mystery of the sinking. "I would have to lie to you if I said we had not, but it's too early to talk about it yet," he said. "We have a submarine that is encrypted. It's like an Enigma machine." He said the clues will be studied closely as scientists try to piece together what happened to the 40-foot submarine that night in 1864. The Hunley had a 16-foot spar tipped with a charge of black powder that was exploded, sinking the Housatonic. After close examination of the spar two years ago, scientists speculated the crew was knocked unconscious by the shock wave of the explosion. When the Hunley was first raised, scientists speculated the crew may have run out of air before they could crank back to the coast. After the Hunley was raised, the sand and the silt and the remains of the crew in the interior were removed. In April 2004, thousands of men in Confederate gray and Union blue walked in a procession with the crew's coffins four miles from Charleston's waterfront Battery to Magnolia Cemetery in what has been called the last Confederate funeral.

<b>Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)</b>	<b>Time, Day, Month, Year</b>	<b>Contact Person(s)</b>
Camp Meeting, Coco's Rest. 5955 Balboa Ave. San Diego	21 FEB 2015 Sat @ 3:00 PM	CC Deane Poole
129th Annual Dept Encampment, Hawthorn Suites, 321 Bercut Dr. Sacramento, CA.	6-7 MAR 2015	CC Deane Poole
Camp Meeting, Coco's Rest. 5955 Balboa Ave. San Diego	11 APR 2015 Sat @ 3:00 PM	CC Deane Poole
Camp Meeting, Coco's Rest. 5955 Balboa Ave. San Diego	13 JUN 2015 Sat @ 3:00 PM	CC Deane Poole
Camp Meeting, Coco's Rest. 5955 Balboa Ave. San Diego	8 AUG 2015 Sat @ 3:00 PM	CC Deane Poole

## Meeting Minutes December 13, 2014

**Present:** Brothers Dave Allyn, Tom Helmantoler, Peter Huelsenbeck, John May, Anthony Moffitt, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch, and guests Brenda Boucher, Kim Sayre and Eileen Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Deane Poole at 3:18pm 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

none

### II. Announcements

Thanks expressed to Kim and Jerry Sayre for organizing luncheon honoring Lincoln Presenter Bill Peck held on Nov. 15.

Bill Peck is home from the hospital and D. Allyn will send a card.

The Turkey Shoot was canceled due to inclement weather. A new date in the Spring will be considered.

Installation of all Camp officers for the entire Department of California and Pacific will be held at Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles on Jan. 17.

SUVCW membership expires on Dec. 31. Dues are \$38 and should be sent to J. May. Checks may be made out to "SUVCW".

### III. New Members

none

### IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

### V. Officers' Reports

Sec. J. May reported correspondence, read by Kim Sayre, from Bill Peck thanking Kim and the Camp for the luncheon. Treas. J. May reported that the Camp has \$3,189.90 in the treasury of which \$1724.06 is in the Minter's Ranch Fund.

### VI. Committee Reports

W. Tisch reported that the mortar at Mt. Hope Cemetery needs more paint. A dedication of the mortar is tentatively scheduled for April 11, 2015.

W. Tisch reported that for the Minter's Ranch project, a location for the plaque is needed and he will visit the site, take pictures, and find an appropriate spot.

### VII. S.V.R. Report

none

### VIII. Upcoming Events

Dept. Encampment will be held in Sacramento in March. Next Camp Meeting will be held on Feb. 14, 2015.

### IX. Old Business

none

### X. New Business

1) Memorial Day in 2015 will be hosted by the Camp. D. Poole will head the organizing committee.

2) A motion (Sayre/Moffitt) to elect any Brother attending the Dept. Encampment as a delegate was approved. See J. May if credentials are needed.

3) Donations needed for a new roof at Sgt. Pittenger's church in Fallbrook. A motion (Helmantoler/Huelsenbeck) to donate \$150 to this cause was approved.

4) P. Huelsenbeck announced the donation to the Camp of a collection of historical newspapers.

5) T. Helmantoler will decide whether we will reinstitute the raffle fundraiser at the next meeting.

### XI. Members' Minutes

none

### XII. Program

none

### XIII. Elections

Elections were conducted by Installing Officer J. Sayre.

Nominated and elected by acclamation were:

CDR, Deane Poole (nominated by T. Helmantoler)

SVC, Tom Helmantoler (D. Allyn)

JVC, Peter Huelsenbeck (D. Poole)

Sec./Treas., John May (D. Poole)

Council Members, Jerry Sayre (T. Helmantoler), David Allyn (D. Poole), and Will Tisch (J. May)

Appointed by CDR D. Poole:

Patriotic Instructor, John Finch

Signals Officer, Jerry Sayre

Chaplain, David Allyn

Newsletter Editor, David Allyn

Civil War Memorials Officer, David Shaffer

Graves Registration Officer, John May

Historian, Will Tisch

Eagle Scout Coordinator, Deane Poole

Counselor, Andrew Brooks

Color Bearer, Brian Bingham

Guide, Tony Moffitt

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

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

## 2015 Department Encampments

December 1, 2014

Department Brothers and Sisters:

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 129<sup>th</sup> and 104<sup>th</sup> respective annual Department Encampments.

The Encampments will be held March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and will once again return to the 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, there will be a traditional “campfire” gathering for socialization, with a no-host bar available. Dinner will be on your.

On Saturday morning we will start with the SUVVCW/ASUVVCW 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 Tad Campbell and National President Rachelle Campbell. A special guest speaker will educate and entertain the banquet attendees.

**\*\*\* 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.suvcac.org/encampment.html](http://www.suvcac.org/encampment.html)

Please respond by **FEBRUARY 15, 2015** 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  
Senior Vice Commander  
Department of California & Pacific  
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Phone: (408) 264-1794

PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Photos from the December Camp meeting, election and installation of 2015 Officers, and below, the drawing by our waitress for the M1860 Repro Colt revolver, at right—the winning ticket, & three Camp 1st Ladies !!





## This Day In The Civil War

On this day, January 31st, in 1865, the U.S. House of Representatives passes the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery in America. The amendment read, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude...shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

When the Civil War began, President Abraham Lincoln's professed goal was the restoration of the Union. But early in the war, the Union began keeping escaped slaves rather than returning them to their owners, so slavery essentially ended wherever the Union army was victorious. In September 1862, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in areas that were still in rebellion against the Union. This measure opened the issue of what to do about slavery in border states that had not seceded or in areas that had been captured by the Union before the proclamation.

In 1864, an amendment abolishing slavery passed the U.S. Senate but died in the House as Democrats rallied in the name of states' rights. The election of 1864 brought Lincoln back to the White House along with significant Republican majorities in both houses, so it appeared the amendment was headed for passage when the new Congress convened in March 1865. Lincoln preferred that the amendment receive bipartisan support--some Democrats indicated support for the measure, but many still resisted. The amendment passed 119 to 56, seven votes above the necessary two-thirds majority. Several Democrats abstained, but the 13th Amendment was sent to the states for ratification, which came in December 1865. With the passage of the amendment, the institution that had indelibly shaped American history was eradicated.

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

"artillery" - camp kettles, stoves, posts, tubs, iron foundries.

"bait" - a quantity of food. Example: "We ate ourselves a bait of collards."

"carriage trade" - rich, upper class

"Davis Boot" - named for Jefferson Davis when he was Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce, this soldier's foot apparel was worn by both North and South. Said to fit most men with a few standard sizes.

"Fitten" - Appropriate

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](http://www.sdcwrt.org)

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](http://www.civilwar.org), the home of the Civil War sesquicentennial.

**OUR NEXT MEETING: Saturday Feb 21, 2015 3:00 pm**

**SAT Feb 21, 2015 3:00 PM**

***LOCATION***

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

**Our Program**

**SVC Tom Helmantoler will  
present  
"How I Obtained My Union  
Ancestor's West Virginia  
State Medal"**

**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.

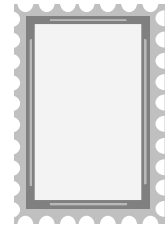
Fr E. Cnty CA 52: take CA 52 W to I-805 S, exit Mercury St./ Balboa Ave. Turn L on Mercury, then turn R on Balboa. Go W 1.6 mi, Coco's is on your left.

The General

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