



Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

Volume XXI Number 3

MEMORIAL DAY

May 21, 2015

The following is taken from the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs webpage, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs accessed May 18, 2015, located online at <http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/history.asp>

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Memorial Day History

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local Observances Claim To Be First Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a

cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

Official Birthplace Declared In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

(Continued on page 2)

2015 CAMP OFFICERS

CommanderDeane Poole
 858-373-8812 dpoole001@att.net
 Sr. Vice Comdr.....Tom Helmantoler PCC
 858-566-0012.....thelmantoler@gmail.com
 Jr. Vice Comdr.....Peter Huelsenbeck
 760-728-3769 petenikki@hughes.net
 Secretary John A. May
 2001 Lee Ct.
 Carlsbad, CA. 92008-2763
 760-994-5959 cbadjohnny@gmail.com
 TreasurerJohn A. May
 CouncilJerry Sayre PDC
 760-728-1444 cod26ia@icloud.com
 CouncilDave Allyn
 619-561-8581 svrsuvcw@yahoo.com
 Council Will Tisch PCC
 619-448-4818 tis346@cox.net
 ChaplainDave Allyn
 CounselorAndrew Brooks
 Patriotic Instructor John Finch
 619-426-4906 jan27@cox.net
 CW Mem. OfficerDavid Shaffer
 760-747-0853 djmules@sbcglobal.net
 Eagle Scout Coord.....CC Deane Poole
 Graves RegistrationJohn May
 Color BearerBrian Bingham
 Guide.....Tony Moffitt
 Guard.....open
 Historian.....Will Tisch PCC
 Quartermaster open
 Signals OfficerJerry Sayre, PDC
 SVR Rep.1LT Tom Helmantoler PCC
 858-566-0012 thelmantoler@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor..... Dave Allyn
 13460 Hwy. 8 Business Sp. #61
 Lakeside, CA. 92040-5201
 619-561-8581 svrsuvcw@yahoo.com

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.

Memorial Day History (Cont.)

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Some States Have Confederate Observances Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation's wars: "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day."

First Photo from New Meeting Location: Mimi's Rest. Westview Pkwy.



Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Day, Month, Year	Contact Person(s)
* Memorial Day Ceremony, Pioneer Odd Fellows Cemetery, Alturas Street, Fallbrook, CA Lunch at Z Café at 11:30 AM	23 MAY 2015 Sat @ 10:30 AM Muster at 9:45 AM	CC Deane Poole Jerry Sayre PDC
* Memorial Day Ceremony, El Cajon Cemetery	24 MAY 2015 1:00 PM	CC Deane Poole
Memorial Day Ceremony, Vet's Assoc. of N. County, 1617 Mission Ave. Oceanside	25 MAY 2015 Mon @ 10:00 AM	John May
* Memorial Day Ceremony, Mt. Hope Cemetery, San Diego	25 MAY 2015 Mon @ 1:00 PM	CC Deane Poole
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego	13 JUN 2015 Sat @ 3:00 PM	CC Deane Poole
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego	8 AUG 2015 Sat @ 3:00 PM	CC Deane Poole
2015 Nat'l SUVCW & Allied Orders Encampment, Richmond VA. Omni Hotel, 100 S. 12th St. Richmond, VA. 23219	20-23 AUG 2015	CC Deane Poole
Civil War Days, Huntington Beach, Reenactment	5-6 SEP 2015 Sat 8 am-4 pm, Sun 9 pm-4 pm	Jerry Sayre PDC CC Deane Poole

Minutes of Meeting Held April 18, 2015

Present: Brothers John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, Peter Huelsenbeck, John May, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch and guests Kim Sayre, and Eileen Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Deane Poole at 3:15pm at Mimi's Restaurant, 10787 Westview Pkwy., San Diego, California. The opening prayer was offered by T. Helmantoler and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. Sayre.

I. Honored Attendees

none

II. Announcements

Memorial Day observance at Mt. Hope Cemetery in San Diego scheduled for Monday, May 25 at 1:30pm.

Memorial Day observance at Fallbrook Odd Fellows Cemetery scheduled for Saturday, May 23 at 10:30am.

Memorial Day observance at Veterans Association of North County in Oceanside schedule to be announced.

Thanks expressed to Kim Sayre for scheduling new meeting place.

Update given on health of D. Allyn.

III. New Members

A motion (May/Sayre) to accept the membership application of John W. Gilman of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, whose ancestor served in the 21st ME INF, was approved.

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

V. Officers' Reports

Sec. J. May reported correspondence from Paul Davis resigning from membership and from Dept. GAR Highway Officer, Thomas Chumley, PCC, requesting a donation to install new GAR Highway markers along the old route of the highway in California. A motion (Helmantoler/Sayre) to donate \$150 was approved.

Treas. J. May reported a Camp balance of \$4255.32, of which \$1013 is in the Minter's Ranch fund.

W. Tisch reported that the Camp color guard presented the colors at the S.D. Padre game on April 15.

J. Sayre reported that the Pittenger House in Fallbrook has been remodeled.

D. Poole reported that he has met with the San Diego Parks and Recreation Supervisor and obtained a permit for our Mt. Hope Memorial Day event. The city will supply a stage, chairs and sound system, but will need help in setting up and taking down. He will hold a planning meeting prior to the event.

W. Tisch noted that he will contact the Eagle Young Marines, print the program, and ask someone from VMMC to be a speaker for the Mt. Hope event. A motion (May/Helmantoler) to spend up to \$200 on honorariums for Memorial Day was approved.

D. Poole reported that the Camp will supply the color guard at the El Cajon Elks Memorial Day event on May 24.

T. Helmantoler reported that there are three JROTC awards to be presented and would like someone else to present one of them.

VI. Committee Reports

none

VII. S.V.R. Report

none

VIII. Upcoming Events

Memorial Day events as reported in Announcements.

Next Camp Meeting, Sat., June 13, 3pm at Mimi's in San Diego.

National Encampment in August.

IX. Old Business

1) The disposition of the historical newspapers given to the Camp is in the hands of D. Allyn.

X. New Business

1) The presentation of the Purple Heart was made by Camp members to the nephew of Cato Swalling, Machinist Mate, USN, who was killed in the sinking of the U.S.S. De Haven during WWII.

XI. Members' Minutes

J. May reminded the Camp that it was the 240th anniversary of the "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

T. Helmantoler told of doing Civil War presentation to schools.

P. Huelsenbeck is looking for ideas to include in next December's Camp meeting at his home.

J. Finch told of making a presentation at UCSD on Civil War genealogy.

W. Tisch mentioned that his g-g-grandfather described in his journal the reaction after the assassination of President Lincoln. He also made a presentation to the S.A.R. about the restored mortar.

J. Sayre noted that National CIC Tad Campbell was present at Appomattox for a ceremony marking the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War.

D. Poole reported that Br. Bill Peck was present at the Vista re-enactment.

XII. Program

none

The closing prayer was offered by T. Helmantoler and Cmdr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 4:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

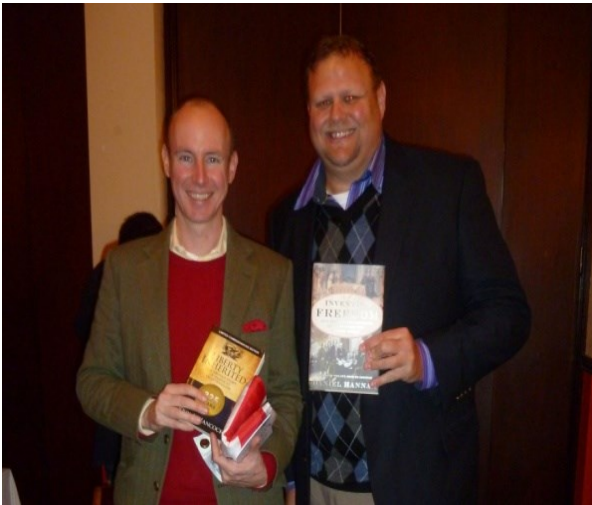
Our June Meeting Guest Speaker, John L. Hancock



John L. Hancock is generally recognized as one of the leading figures in the field of American exceptionalism, conservative history, and the foundational infrastructure of English-speaking societies. His bestselling book, *Liberty Inherited*, has been hailed as "one of the most significant of our times" and as "a refreshing antidote to the prevailing historical schools on both sides of the Atlantic." Recently, John was honored by Members of the British and European Parliaments when he was invited to a conservative conference in the UK. While in London, John received a private tour of Parliament and had the unique privilege of sitting in on a session of Parliament.

Besides writing, John speaks professionally on the genesis of American liberty and freedom. Through his knowledge of history, John demonstrates how conservative principles of limited government, individual freedom, private property, and free-market economics have a 500+ year track record of producing freedom and prosperity in every society that embraces them. In other words, as John emphatically states, "conservatism is the *Proven Alternative*."

John is also a Fellow at the American Freedom Alliance (a Los Angeles based think-tank) and co-host of the Unite IE Radio Show, which airs on KTIE AM 590 (part of the Salem Radio Network).



In London with Daniel Hannan (Member European Parliament) and Jonathan Lord (Member of British Parliament)

John Hancock has traced the origins of American liberty back to their earliest roots, in the political struggles of early modern England...this book is a refreshing antidote to the prevailing historical schools on both sides of the Atlantic. – Daniel Hannan (MEP, Columnist, Author)

*Liberty Inherited is one of the most significant [books] of our times, explaining the genesis of American liberty and freedom.-- Nick Adams (Bestselling Author of *The American Boomerang*)*

PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Photos from 15 APR SD Padres game, Petco Park. SVR 5th Cal. Inf. Co G Color Guard; J. Sayre, W. Tisch, T. Helmantoler, D. Poole, B. Bingham trooped the Colors during the National Anthem. Afterwards, the CG and ladies enjoyed watching the game. Photos courtesy of Eileen Tisch and Kim Sayre.





Welcome New Brother!

John W. Gilman
of
Ewa Beach, HI,
whose ancestor served
in the
21st ME INF

HUZZAH !!!

Civil War Slang

Sunday Soldiers / Parlor Soldiers - derogatory terms for unsuitable soldiers

Tennessee or Virginia Quick Step - diarrhea

Top Rail - first class, top quality

Traps - equipment, belongings

Vidette - a sentry same as Picket but usually on horseback

Wallpapered - drunk

Wrathy - angry

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

Tuesday May 21 1861

PRICE PROMOTES PRO-SECESSION PROCLAMATION

A deal was cut in St. Louis, Mo. today between Gen. William S. Harney and Gen. Sterling Price, both of the Union army, agreeing that Price would command the state militia to maintain order. The only problem with this in some people's eyes was that Price was well-known to be pro-secession. Harney, who seemed to be much more concerned that the St. Louis Riots not be renewed, even promised in this deal that he would not bring in Federal officers as long as order was maintained. Pro-union locals and officers were not amused.

Wednesday May 21 1862

FEDERALS FEAR FAST FOOTED FORCES

"Foot cavalry" was what they were beginning to call the soldiers of Thomas J. Jackson, for the speed with which they could maneuver up and down the Shenandoah Valley. These fast marchers were headed north in a section known as the Luray Valley today, headed for a town called Front Royal. There were some federal troops there, and they went out for a reconnaissance but found nothing. Gen. Banks had no real idea where Jackson was either but was heading his men north as well.

Thursday May 21 1863

YAZOO YARD YIELDED

The actions of the Federal Navy in the river warfare of the Western Theater is little noted today, but during the war their effects were considerable. A flotilla was sent up the Yazoo River today, its destination Yazoo City. There was a Confederate navy yard there, and its occupants did not even wait for the flotilla to arrive. As soon as its mission became known the yard was abandoned, its shops destroyed, and three ships--two steamships and an un-completed gunboat--were burned.

Saturday May 21 1864

GERMAN GENERAL GETS GATE

One of the worst curses of the Union Army was the "political generals". One of these was Gen. Franz Sigel, a native of Germany who was massively popular among the large number of troops who were immigrants from that country. For some of these men the only phrase of English that they knew was "I fights mit Sigel!" which they would repeat if they became separated from their units. Sigel, alas, was not a very good general, and today he was replaced by Gen. David Hunter on the grounds that Sigel had not done very well in the Shenandoah Valley action recently.

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 13, 2015 3:00 pm

SAT JUN 13, 2015 3:00

LOCATION

**Mimi's Restaurant
10788 Westview Pkwy.
San Diego, California.**

Our Program

Mr. John L. Hancock will speak on the genesis of American liberty and freedom. Mr. Hancock is a recognized author and speaker on the subject of American Exceptionalism and History. Don't miss this exciting opportunity !

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:

From the North: take I-15 South to Mira Mesa Blvd, turn right, take first left, Mimi's is visible from Mira Mesa Blvd.

From the South: take I-15 North to Mira Mesa Blvd, turn left go under freeway, Mimi's is visible from Mira Mesa Blvd.

From anywhere in San Diego County: take whatever road will get you to the Mira Mesa Blvd exits off I-15, then follow above directions.

Restaurant phone number: **858-566-6667**

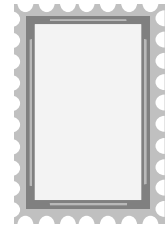
**For personalized directions go to
<http://mimiscafe.com>**

The General

The General



Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21
Dave Allyn, Newsletter Editor
13460 Hwy. 8 Bus., Spc. #61
Lakeside, CA. 92040 - 5201



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