



*Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

# *The General*

*Department of  
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

Volume XXI Number 6

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Nov 21, 2015

From Commander-Elect, John Finch:  
Sirs;  
I thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me as your Commander for this next term. I am humbled at the prospect but I accept in the spirit of honoring the continuity of our order. I am pleased with the professional level of officers and support staff and I will rely on your individual experiences and knowledge to guide me and correct me as may be needed.  
Let us begin  
Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
John C. Finch

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Greetings Brothers and Friends,  
As your Chaplain and Newsletter Editor I have the sad duty to report the passing unto our Eternal Commander of our beloved Brother William (Bill) T. Peck, longtime Abraham Lincoln Presenter who departed on 3 Nov, 2015, having fought a good fight and having kept the Faith. Bill enjoyed portraying the Nation's 16th President and was a fun-loving, caring and kind man who loved children most. Here is a post from The Huntington Beach Civil War Days Facebook page:

It is with somber hearts that we inform everyone that Bill Peck passed away peacefully today at 12:45am. Please join us in thoughts and prayers for his family, friends and loved ones. He was a passionate historian and educator who touched thousands with his charisma and knowledge. We are extremely grateful to have had him as our President Lincoln presenter for over twenty years. He will be greatly missed by all. The most fitting words that come to mind for this solemn occasion come from the mouth of President Lincoln himself when he left Illinois as President-Elect in February of 1861:

"My friends, no one, not in my situation, can appreciate my

feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell." (more on Pg. 7)



**2015 CAMP OFFICERS**

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                                   Carlsbad, CA. 92008-2763  
                                   760-994-5959   cbadjohnny@gmail.com  
 Treasurer .....John A. May  
 Council .....Jerry Sayre PDC  
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 Eagle Scout Coord.....CC Deane Poole  
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 Guide.....Tony Moffitt  
 Guard.....open  
 Historian.....Will Tisch PCC  
 Quartermaster ..... open  
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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.

**INVITATION FROM NIKKI & PETER HUELSENBECK**

**You're invited to the Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War  
 Christmas party on December 12<sup>th</sup>  
 after the 2:00 meeting and installation of new officers  
 at the home of Pete & Nikki Huelsenbeck  
 1014 S. Ridge Drive, Fallbrook  
 760 728-3769**

**PLEASE BRING  
 A dish to share in a crock pot or electric skillet  
 if it needs to be hot  
 A small appetizer  
 Your own drinks  
 A gift (about \$20.00) for the gift exchange**

**Please email (petenikki@hughes.net) regrets  
 and what food you will be bringing  
 Here is a list of what people have signed up for as of NOV 4:**

- MAIN DISH – ham, Swedish meatballs**
- SIDE DISH – baked beans, fettuccini alfredo**
- SALAD – fresh fruit salad**
- VEGETABLE – none**
- DESSERT – Cookies, pumpkin pie**

**Also bring items for the homeless packages that the women will  
 be putting together during the men's meeting.**

**Directions from I-15  
 Exit the I-15 at Mission, Fallbrook  
 turn west onto Mission Road**

**Turn left onto Live Oak Park Road  
 (about 1 mile from the freeway exit)**

**Turn left onto Ridge Drive**

**Please park at the bottom of the driveway  
 If you have difficulty walking, drive up the driveway**

**Camp Announcements and Calendar**

Past National Commander in Chief Tad Campbell and Past National Auxiliary President Rachelle Campbell, along with their daughter Junior Auxiliary Member Emelia Campbell, will be attending Pittenger Camp's December 12th Camp Meeting/Christmas Party at 2:00 pm. Our "Honored Guests" will be driving down from their home in Gilroy, CA. Pittenger Camp's newly elected officers for 2016 will be installed by PCinC Tad Campbell.

At right; SUVCW PCinC Tad and ASUVCW PNP Rachelle Campbell with daughter, Junior ASUVCW Sister Emelia

Bro Tad and Sister Rachelle have been to many events during their terms of office and have many fond memories to share with us. We hope many of you will be present to meet them and to offer your thanks and congratulations on their successful completion of their time of leading our Allied Organizations.



**Pittenger Camp 21 Meeting/Christmas Party to be held at 2:00 pm at the home of Peter and Nikki Huelsenbeck - 1014 S. Ridge Drive, Fallbrook, CA 92028**

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Day, Month, Year	Contact Person(s)
* VMMC Memorial Service, SVR Color Guard, Co. G	Sat 28 NOV 2015 (muster 1130)	Tom Helmantoler/Will Tisch
Camp Meeting, at JVC Peter & Nikki Huelsenbeck's home, 1014 S. Ridge Dr. Fallbrook - Annual Camp Party	12 DEC 2015 Sat @ 2:00 PM	CC Deane Poole/JVC Huelsenbeck
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	FEB 2016 Sat @ 3:00 PM	John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	APR 2016 Sat @ 3:00 PM	John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	JUN 2016 Sat @ 3:00 PM	John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	AUG 2016 Sat @ 3:00 PM	John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	OCT 2016 Sat @ 3:00 PM	John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	DEC 2016 Sat @ 3:00 PM	John Finch

## Minutes of Meeting Held October 24 2015

**Present:** Brothers David Allyn, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, Peter Huelsenbeck, John May, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, and guests Gay Allyn, Sandy Helmantoler, Nikki Huelsenbeck, Kim Sayre, and Eileen Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Deane Poole at 3:07pm at Mimi's Restaurant, 10787 Westview Pkwy., San Diego, California. The opening prayer was offered by D. Allyn and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. Sayre.

### **I. Honored Attendees**

none

### **II. Announcements**

Brother T. Helmantoler is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Brother M. Schooling is recovering from skin cancer surgery.

Brother J. Sayre presented our donation to the First Christian Church of Fallbrook.

President of the DUV has asked if the Camp intends to make a donation toward a memorial bench at Mt. Hope Cemetery. More information is needed before we can act.

Huntington Beach re-enactment was a successful event.

SUVCW has a newly-elected CIC, Gene Mortorff.

### **III. New Members**

none.

### **IV. Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

### **V. Officers' Reports**

Sec. J. May reported no further correspondence.

Treas. J. May reported a Camp balance of \$2847.27, of which \$1013 is in the Minter's Ranch fund.

### **VI. Committee Reports**

Chaplain D. Allyn reported correspondence from a brother in Hawaii regarding the possible for-

mation of a new camp.

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

None

### **VIII. Upcoming Events**

Turkey Shoot at South Bay Rod and Gun Club, Sat., Nov. 7 at 8am.

Remembrance Day, Fallbrook Pioneer Cemetery, Sat., Nov. 21 at 10:30am.

Fallbrook Christmas Parade, Dec. 5.

December meeting and Christmas party at P. Huelsenbeck home, Sat., Dec. 12, 2pm.

### **IX. Old Business**

none

### **X. New Business**

1. M. Schooling suggested that the Camp award the ROTC award to SDSU cadets. He will look into the matter and will make the presentations.
2. Elections for Camp Officers for 2016 were conducted. Nominated and duly elected were: a) Commander, John Finch; SVC, Tom Helmantoler; JVC, Peter Huelsenbeck; Secretary, John May; Treasurer, John May; Council, Mike Schooling, Will Tisch, Deane Poole.

### **XI. Members' Minutes**

none

### **XII. Program**

none.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Allyn and Cmdr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

## 7 Nov 2015 Black Powder "Turkey Shoot"

*Email from Camp 302 SCV Commander Jim Stephens:*

Ladies and Gentlemen - I wish to commend all those who made this year's annual event. It was a great success. Everyone had a good time and all our thirteen shooters had the opportunity to fire the muskets. Special thanks to Joanne Frazier and David Boyle for the fantastic support they provided us. Their constant help and suggestions got us over several glitches that made this shoot a lot of fun. Please pass on to Tom Fox of the South Bay Rod & Gun Club thanks for all the help he provided. I want to thank Deane Poole of the William Pittenger Camp 21 and others who provided equipment and supplies to make things go much smoother. Dave Boyle was a life saver many times over for giving us the items and helping to unplug "Nipples" and removing broken brushes and a few other items that did not belong in a barrel of a gun.

Hazel and Devenia, you ladies did a great job during the shooting. Ladies, it was nice meeting your family who attended. Once again, Deane Poole came through when Hazel could not pull the trigger on my musket. Deane's weapon came to the rescue. And of course, Deane was the winner this year with the highest score. Congratulations Deane. Also, thanks to you and Dave Allyn for representing Camp 21.

Thanks to all those who brought snacks and refreshments. It was well appreciated. I think we can look forward to next year's musket shoot.

Commander Jim



Pittenger Camp Scrapbook—Remembrance Day, 21 Nov 2015 Fallbrook





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. Unless you ask you'll likely not discover who may be descended from a Union Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Revenue Cutter Veteran of the American Civil War. There are millions out there !!

### Civil War Slang

**John Barleycorn - beer**

**Jonah - someone who is or brings bad luck**

**Knock into a Cocked Hat - to knock someone senseless or thoroughly shock him**

**Let 'er Rip - let it happen, bring it on**

**Light Out - leave in haste**

**Long Sweetening - molasses**

**Opening the Ball - starting the battle**

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)

## In Memoriam, Rest In Peace Bro. William T. (Bill) Peck

The following are items of interest on the life of William T. Peck, our departed Brother.

“Mr. Peck has been presenting Abraham Lincoln since 1981. A Living Historian, he is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild, a Lifetime member of the Abraham Lincoln Presenters and a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. In his travels he has presented Lincoln for the Siemens Corporation in Philadelphia, the American International Toy Fair in New York City, the California State Fair in Sacramento, California, the Business Objects Company of Chicago, as well as many others, and has made appearances in many of our states, particularly in his native state of Illinois, and most recently in Arizona. Mr. Peck is an instructional expert for the GATE program in the San Diego Unified School District, San Diego, California. He touches on the content standards for Social Studies, particularly for Grade 8. He visits many schools during the year as well as Civil War Reenactments, libraries, Senior Centers, civic organizations, churches and is available year round. He retired from the San Diego, California Superior Court as a Judges Courtroom clerk in 1997 and now Abraham Lincoln is his passion. Mr. Peck is one of the finest Lincoln presenters in the nation. He has made numerous appearances for the Forest Lawn Memorial Parks Education Programs for school students. You may also find Mr. Peck on the History Channel where he has portrayed Lincoln several times with the most recent being “The Hunt for John Wilkes Booth,” which first appeared on December 23, 2007. He has been in numerous video and screen productions through recent years.” (from his webpage)

“HUNTINGTON BEACH – Mr. Lincoln will hang his hat on Saturday after 21 years of speaking at the Huntington Beach Civil War Days re-enactment at Huntington Beach Central Park. Bill Peck, 84, has impersonated Abraham Lincoln for more than 30 years. He’s known for annual performances at the local Civil War re-enactment, and frequent appearances at the Nixon Presidential Library & Museum and at schools and special events around Southern California. He’s retiring Saturday because he is fighting Lou Gehrig's disease. “He’s really a leader in our re-enactment community,” said Darrell Rivers, the grandson of Maureen Rivers, a co-founder of Huntington Beach Civil War Days. “He’s been an integral part in making the event what it is today.” Peck will be brought out to the park in a wheelchair and plans to recite the Gettysburg Address as Lincoln for the last time from a bar stool. He’ll be honored by about 800 re-enactors who will muster dressed as opposing Civil War soldiers at a retirement ceremony at 2:30 p.m. “I have enjoyed Huntington Beach more than any speaking engagements anywhere,” Peck said.” (from Orange County Register online)

“UPDATE Hello family, friends and to each and everyone of you that have taken the time to stop by to read William's page. First, William and I want to thank each and everyone that have donated to William's care fund, every contribution has been so greatly appreciated. I must apologize for not being able to thank each of you personally and I pray that you understand. William and I will never forget your generosity. It is with great sorrow that I must announce that William went to be with the Lord on Nov. 3rd. Williams life was compromised by the fluoroquinolone antibiotic group with side effects known to mimic neurodegenerative diseases, like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Learn more at <http://www.saferpills.org/>

Memorial donations will be humbly excepted with much appreciation.  
Thank you, Debra “

(from GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/mx6e30> added by Debra Peck)

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 December 12, 2015 2:00 pm**

**SAT 12 DEC, 2015 2:00**

***LOCATION***

**Home of Peter & Nikki  
Huelsenbeck  
1014 S. Ridge Drive,  
Fallbrook**

**DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:**

**Exit the I-15 at Mission, Fallbrook  
and turn west onto Mission Road**

**Turn left onto Live Oak Park Road  
(about 1 mile from the freeway exit)**

**Turn left onto Ridge Drive**

**Please park at the bottom of the driveway**

**If you have difficulty walking, drive up the  
driveway**

**Our Program**

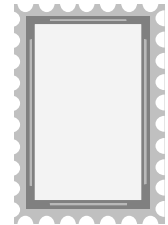
**Installation of new  
officers followed by  
Annual Camp 21  
Christmas Party**

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*