



*Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

# *The General*

*Department of  
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

Volume XXII Number 2

**HAPPY EASTER**

Mar 26, 2016

Our first public Camp event of the year, the Escondido Family History Fair, was a success. We showcased our Camp at a table decorated with identifying items of our Camp and of our Order. A number of attendees and other presenters stopped by and chatted with us, sometimes at length, and expressed an interest in our purpose and in our goals. I appreciate those that were able to support our display, Jerry



L-R; J. Sayre, M. Schooling, D. Poole, P. Huelsenbeck, J. Finch, D. Allyn, M. McBride, T. Helmantoler  
Camp Meeting, February 2016

Sayre, Monroe McBride, Peter Huelsenbeck, Dave and Gay Allyn. Although we did not pick up any new applicants on this date, we were able to take advantage of an opportunity to place our Camp in the public's eye. We may yet benefit. It may seem as though a long time until Memorial Day, however, plans are already underway for our participation.

This year a Confederate veteran will be honored, but our presence is no less important. We are involved in several ceremonies during that extended weekend. Please check this newsletter for times and locations. We will do our best to keep you in-

formed of any last minute changes, but consider attending, at least one of these events. You will not be disappointed and these are terrific teaching opportunities to your children and your grandchildren. Hope to see you there and hope you can attend our April meeting. Again, the date/time/location herein.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
*John C. Finch*

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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 and most appreciated: 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.



**Easter in The Civil War**

Sunday will be Easter. For many of us, there will be Church and then gathering with loved ones, family and friends, for a Easter Sunday meal. There will be ham or turkey or lamb for some with lots of salads and vegetables and desserts. As we sit down to such a sumptuous meal, we need to consider what did the soldiers on both sides have on Easter. Have you wondered what days Easter fell on during the War. They were March 31, 1861, April 20, 1862, April 5, 1863 , March 27, 1864 and April 10, 1865. We must remember that many soldiers went days without food and subsisted on water and what they could find. So on these Easters they did not enjoy the meals we do today. Here are a few accounts of the meals Confederates and Federals had on their Easter Sunday. They seem so thankful for what they got.

April 20, 1862 USA "This is Easter and a pretty day. We had 2 eggs a piece this morning" Alexander Gwen

April 5, 1863 CSA Warrenton, Mississippi  
 "Captain Carter and myself have just finished eating a hearty dinner of crawfish (the first I've ever tried)." William Chunn

April 5, 1863 CSA Camp Gregg near Guiney Station Va.  
 "We get plenty to eat. Each man gets 2 ounces of meat a day, but it's thick that 2 ounces will do a man generally about two days. It is fully one half inch thick and on half that is pure skin and you know that we ought not grumble. They say the next meat we draw will be a mule. I told the commissary to be certain and get a hind quarter." G.J. Huntley

April 5, 1863 CSA Camp of the 23rd NC Reg. Near Guinea Station, Va.  
 "The snow is about seven or eight inches deep. I don't think we will have a very gay Easter today as game is skearce, and we can get no eggs." Jer Coggin

March 27, 1864 CSA "Rations- bacon, meal, rice, sugar, coffee, candies, soap, and salt. Tom cooked so I had nothing to do." James Payton

March 27, 1864 CSA "Had a cup of genuine coffee this morning for breakfast-something unusual." John Jackman

March 27, 1864 CSA "Bacon or pork & cornbread." JP

March 27, 1864 USA "The beautiful Easter Sunday finds us all OK for it is as pretty and warm day, but we have no eggs. We could have them at 40 cents per doz but I guess we will do without this time." Daniel Chisholm

Accessed online 25 MAR 2016 at <http://civilwartalk.com/threads/easter-during-the-civil-war.71313/>

**News and Camp Calendar**

OAK ISLAND, N.C. (AP) — Scientists say a Civil War-era wreck discovered last month on the coast of North Carolina is likely that of the Confederate blockade runner Agnes E. Fry.

Underwater archaeologist Billy Ray Morris tells news outlets that divers were able to dive on the wreck again Wednesday.

He says it appears the wreck that was located by sonar last month is the Fry. Morris

says that vessel sank in December 1864 while making its fifth attempt to run past the Union blockade off the North Carolina coast.

The most recent dive confirms both engines and the paddlewheel are missing and at least one boiler of the vessel remains.

The wreck was found about 30 miles down the Cape Fear River from Wilmington.

*Courtesy of Rosemary Lowe via email*

<b>Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)</b>	<b>Time, Day, Month, Year</b>	<b>Contact Person(s)</b>
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	APR 9, 2016 Sat @ 3:00 pm	CC John Finch
* Memorial Day ceremony, Fallbrook Pioneer Odd Fellows Cemetery, 1300 Alturas Rd	MAY 28, 2016 Sat @ 10:30	PDC Jerry Sayre
* Veterans Service, SVR Color Guard, San Diego Veterans Memorial Museum, 2115 Park Blvd	MAY 28, 2016 Sat @ 1130	1st LT Tom Helmantoler
* Memorial Day ceremony, El Cajon Cemetery, 2080 Dehesa Rd, supporting El Cajon Elks Lodge 1812	MAY 29 Sun @ 2:00 pm	PCC Deane Poole/CC John Finch
Memorial Day ceremony, Vet's Assoc. of N. County, 1617 Mission Ave, Oceanside	May 30, 2016 Mon @ 10:00 am	John May
* Memorial Day ceremony, Mt. Hope Cemetery, 3751 Market St. San Diego	MAY 30, 2016 Mon @ 12:30 pm	CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	JUN 11, 2016 Sat @ 3:00 pm	CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	AUG 13, 2016 Sat @ 3:00 pm	Cc John Finch
* Veterans Service, SVR Color Guard, San Diego Veterans Memorial Museum, 2115 Park Blvd	AUG 27,, 2016 Sat @ 1130	1st LT Tom Helmantoler
* Huntington Beach Civil War Days reenactment,	SEP 3-4, 2015 Sat 8—4; Sun 9-4	PDC Jerry Sayre/CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	OCT 8, 2016 Sat @ 3:00 PM	CC John Finch
* Veterans Service, SVR Color Guard, San Diego Veterans Memorial Museum, 2115 Park Blvd	NOV 26, 2016 Sat @ 1130	1st LT Tom Helmantoler
Camp Meeting and Annual Christmas Party, location TBD	DEC ??, 2016 Time TBD	CC John Finch

## Minutes of Meeting Held February 13, 2016

**Present:** Brothers David Allyn, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, Peter Huelsenbeck, Monroe McBride, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, and guests Gay Allyn, Sandy Helmantoler, Rich DeRosa, and Kim Sayre.

The meeting was called to order by Commander John Finch at 3:03pm 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**

P. Huelsenbeck reported that he received several words of thanks for the gift baskets for the homeless that were assembled at the Christmas party.

The Camp expressed its appreciation to Pete and Nickki Huelsenbeck for hosting the Christmas party.

### **III. New Members**

none

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

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

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

Sec. J. May reported that 28 brothers have renewed membership and ten remain to do so. Correspondence has been received from the JROTC Instructor at Coronado High School who would like the Camp's participation in their annual awards ceremony. J. Finch will follow up with him.

Treas. J. May reported a Camp balance of \$3965.59, of which \$1013 is in the Minter's Ranch fund.

### **VI. Committee Reports**

none

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

In meeting after the Camp meeting, T. Helmantoler was re-elected Commander, 5<sup>th</sup> CA Volunteer INF, Co. G.

### **VIII. Upcoming Events**

VMMC memorial ceremony, Feb. 27, noon.  
Escondido Genealogy Fair, March 5, Mormon Church on Felicita, 9am-3pm.

### **IX. Old Business**

none

### **X. New Business**

1. Memorial Day activities discussed.
2. Escondido Genealogy Fair will be held March 5. J. Finch, J. Sayre and D. Allyn are planning on attending with the idea that we may be able to generate some new members.
3. A motion (Allyn/Sayre) was passed to explore the use of Craig's List as a recruiting tool.

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

none

### **XII. Program**

none.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Allyn and Cmdr. Finch adjourned the meeting at 4:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Helmantoler, Acting Secretary

## MEMORIAL DAY, A SHORT HISTORY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.

Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins, one thing is clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his [General Order No. 11](#). “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363). This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

### Red Poppies

In 1915, inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields,” Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led,  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies.

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help.

Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their “Buddy” Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

### National Moment of Remembrance

The “[National Moment of Remembrance](#)” resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans “To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to ‘[Taps](#).’”

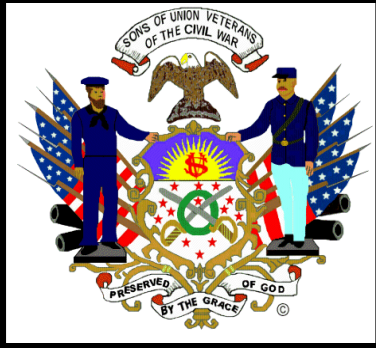
*Accessed online 25 MAR 2016 at [http://www.usmemorialday.org/?page\\_id=2](http://www.usmemorialday.org/?page_id=2)*

*From your Editor: Regretfully, I have no new photos to share for this newsletter. next time, hopefully I can fill this page with your photos—send to*

[svrsuvcw@yahoo.com](mailto:svrsuvcw@yahoo.com)



Camp namesake, Sgt. William Pittenger's Medal of Honor headstone, taken at 2015 Memorial Day service in Pioneer Cemetery, Fallbrook, CA.



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 !

### IN THE NEWS:

#### ILLINOIS Springfield:

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum here placed song books, sheet music and other resources online. There are more than 740 song sheets, song books and pieces of sheet music on the [www.ChroniclingIllinois.org](http://www.ChroniclingIllinois.org) website.

Courtesy of Rosemary Lowe

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)

## March in Civil War History, Events by Date

Welcome to The Civil War Institute's This Month in Civil War History for March.

President Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the sixteenth President of the United States on March 4th, 1861.

In his address, he appealed to the Southern states, encouraging them to come back into the Union by remarking "though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection."

In closing, he hoped that "the better angels of our nature" would avoid the oncoming war.

Exactly four years later, President Lincoln hummed a different tune at his second inaugural Address.

In this speech, much shorter than his first, he looked forward to the future.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all" he declared. Lincoln also affirmed that slavery was "somehow, the cause of the war."

On March 8<sup>th</sup> 1862, The Confederate Navy unleashed its new ironclad the *CSS Virginia* on the US Navy anchored at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

The next day, The US Navy deployed its own ironclad, the *USS Monitor*, which fought the *Virginia* to a draw, ushering in a new age of naval warfare.

That same month, the Confederate Ordnance Lab in Richmond, Virginia accidentally exploded, killing or injuring nearly 70 workers, most of whom were women.

I'm Jeff Lauck and this has been This Month in Civil War History, a coproduction of WZBT and the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College.

Accessed online 25 MAR 2016 at <http://gettysburgcompiler.com/2016/03/21/this-month-in-civil-war-history-march-2016/>

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 April 9, 2016 3:00pm**

**SAT 9 APR, 2016 3:00 PM**

***LOCATION***

**Mimi's Café Restaurant  
10788 WESTVIEW PKWY.  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92126**

**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>**

**Our Program**

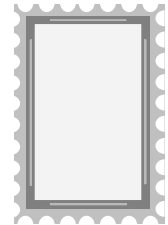
**We will have a time of sharing  
brief bios of our Union ancestor's  
service as we enjoy a meal  
together—come and be a  
participant—we'd love to  
hear your story !**

The General

**The General**



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