



Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

Volume XXII Number 3

REMEMBER OUR HEROES

May 21, 2016

As your Commander, I have had much more exposure, this year, to the efforts of the many people that work to make our Memorial Day ceremonies the success that they are. In years past I was merely a spectator, but felt that my very presence was sufficient to qualify as a contributor to the program. Oh, sure, I would help to set up a few chairs and help a few, more feeble than myself, to find comfortable seating and such.

This year, however, I was invited by the Sons of Confederate Veterans to help in the initial planning and subsequent development. Things to consider are the content of the program, who says what and when; there are a number of special guests, some talented singers and a speaker; an essay contest winner and host of others that assist with parking and technical support. It has been a learning experience.

It all comes together and the result is a ceremony that is solemn yet pays homage to these men, all now gone, but not forgotten. Let us never forget their resolve to preserve our great nation.

I urge you to attend one (or more) of these events over the Memorial Day weekend. Be that welcomed spectator. Reflect on the meaning. And,

take one of the event coordinators aside and thank them for making it all possible.

Hope to see you there.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John C. Finch

+++++

From your Editor:

In this edition we are featuring photos from the Camp's past. In place of recent pics we hope you will find it pleasing to view our Camp as it once was, with views of passed Brothers and current Brothers in younger times. All photos are courtesy of Kim Sayre. Also, on a personal note, I will not be attending any of the Camp's Memorial Day events because I will be attending my eldest grandson's High School Graduation in Hastings, Michigan over the Holiday weekend. I do intend to be present at the next Camp meeting. I hope to see many of you in the photos Kim will submit to me for our July issue. Thank you for your continued support of our Camp.

Your servant in F, C, & L,

Dave Allyn

Editor

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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.



Memorial Day History from U.S. Dept. of Veteran's Affairs

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.

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.

Continued on Pg. 5

News and Camp Calendar

SHARPSBURG, Md. (AP) — Managers of Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland say a \$1.7 million restoration of the park's most photographed feature will keep it closed to visitors during the busy summer season.

Superintendent Susan Trail told The Herald-Mail (bit.ly/1RRbznQ) newspaper of Hagerstown that the Burnside Bridge will remain closed until at least this fall.

Problems surfaced in January 2014 when some stones from the three-arch bridge fell into Antietam Creek. An investigation revealed substantial deterioration and structural instability.

Park managers had hoped to temporarily reopen the pedestrian bridge this spring and then resume work this fall.

The 180-year-old bridge played a key role in the 1862 Battle of Antietam. A small number of Confederates defending the critical crossing held off Union forces commanded by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside for several hours.

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.

Contributed by Rosemary Lowe via email

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Day, Month,Year	Contact Person(s)
* 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 April 9, 2016

Present: Brothers David Allyn, John Finch, Monroe McBride, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, and guests Gay Allyn and Kim Sayre.

The meeting was called to order by Commander John Finch at 3:10pm 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 PDC.

I. Honored Attendees

none

II. Announcements

Br. Peter Huelsenbeck is having surgery.
Br. Will Tisch's son-in-law is recovering from health problems.

III. New Members

A motion (Sayre/McBride) to accept the membership application of Edward Chavez, from Hawaii, whose ancestor served in the 116th Ohio Infantry was approved.

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

V. Officers' Reports

Sec. J. May reported that 33 brothers have renewed membership and four remain to do so. Treas. J. May reported a Camp balance of \$4119.59, of which \$1013 is in the Minter's Ranch fund.

VI. Committee Reports

none

VII. S.V.R. Report

none

VIII. Upcoming Events

Memorial Day observance, Fallbrook Odd Fellows Cemetery, Sat., May

28 at 10:30am.

Memorial Day, El Cajon Elks Lodge, Sun., May 29 at 2:00pm.

Memorial Day, San Diego Mt. Hope Cemetery, Mon., May 30. Time TBA.

IX. Old Business

Escondido Genealogy Fair went well. Eagle Scout Coordinator still needed. ROTC paperwork needs to be submitted.

X. New Business

1. A motion (Sayre/Allyn) to donate \$50 to the winner of the Memorial Day Essay Contest was approved. J. May will bring check to Mt. Hope.
2. Chula Vista Family Discovery Day is scheduled for Sat., May 21 from 8:30am to 1:00pm.

XI. Members' Minutes

none

XII. Program

none.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Allyn and Cmdr. Finch adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Deane Poole, Acting Secretary

Memorial Day History from U.S. Dept. of Veteran's Affairs (con't from Pg. 2)

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."

Accessed 5/22/16 at <http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/history.asp>



Pittenger Camp Scrapbook





Welcome New Brother!

**Edward R. Chavez
of Mililani, HI.
Whose ancestor
served in the 116th
Ohio Infantry**

HUZZAH !!!

Civil War Slang

**SHEET IRON CRACKERS--
hardtack**

SARDINE BOX--cap box

PEPPERBOX--pistol

**HORSE SENSE--on the ball or
being smart**

**GREENHORN, BUGGER,
SKUNK--officers**

HORNETS--bullets

**POSSUM--a pal, friend, or
buddy**

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

May in Civil War History

May 24, 1861- Union forces cross the Potomac River and occupy Arlington Heights, the home of future Confederate General Robert E. Lee. It is during the occupation of nearby Alexandria that Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, commander of the 11th New York Infantry and a close friend of the Lincolns, is shot dead by the owner of the Marshall House just after removing a Confederate flag from its roof.

May 25, 1862- First Battle of Winchester, Virginia. After two weeks of maneuvering and battles at Cross Keys and Front Royal, General "Stonewall" Jackson attacks Union forces at Winchester and successfully drives them from the city. The victory is the culmination of his 1862 Valley Campaign.

May 31-June 1, 1862- The Battle of Seven Pines near Richmond, Virginia. General Joseph Johnston, commander of the Confederate army in Virginia is wounded and replaced by Robert E. Lee who renames his command the "Army of Northern Virginia".

May 18, 1863- Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi begins. Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant attack Confederate defenses outside the city on May 19-22. If Vicksburg falls, the Mississippi River will be completely controlled by the Union.

May 14-15, 1864- Battle of Resaca, Georgia. General Sherman's armies are blocked at Resaca by General Johnston's Army of Tennessee. After two days of maneuvering and intense fighting, Johnston withdraws. Sherman will advance but take precautions against ordering any further massed assaults where high casualties may occur.

May 4, 1865- General Richard Taylor surrenders Confederate forces in the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana.

May 10, 1865- Confederate President Jefferson Davis is captured near Irwinville, Georgia.

May 12, 1865- The final battle of the Civil War takes place at Palmito Ranch, Texas. It is a Confederate victory.

May 23, 1865- The Grand Review of the Army of the Potomac in Washington, DC

May 24, 1865- The Grand Review of General Sherman's Army in Washington, DC

May 26, 1865- General Simon Bolivar Buckner enters into terms for surrender of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi, which are agreed to on June 2, 1865. The Civil War officially ends.

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 11 June 2016 3:00pm

SAT 11 JUN, 2016 3:00

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

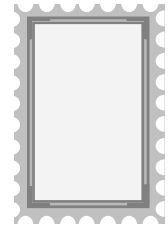
**We will have a time of sharing
brief bios of our Union ancestor's
service as we enjoy a meal
together—come and be a
participant—we'd love to
hear your story !**

The General

The General



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