

*Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

# *The General*

*Department of  
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

Vol XXIV Number 3

## **MEMORIAL DAY**

May 19, 2018

*Camp Commander John Finch approved the following for publication.*

Received via email:

**Report to Camp 21 from Tom Helmantoler PCC**

This is what I have done since the last meeting on getting Mt. Hope for Memorial Day, as I said I would do.

I contacted the offices of my San Diego City Councilman Mark Kersey and Mayor Kevin Faulconer (In short, one never talks to the elected person, just a staff person) After about two weeks, I was contacted by a staff person, Justin, from Kersey's office, who confirmed our first, brief discussion that such decisions come under the Mayor's Office.

From there, I wrote an email to the Mayor stating our situation. As I did with Kersey, I emphasized that SCV Camp 302 had opted out of participation. Within a few days, I was contacted by a lady named Darnisha Hunter from Faulconer's office. She told me that due to continuing budget shortfalls, the City could no longer support us as they have in the past, but did say she wanted to be invited to whatever ceremony we set up. She also referred us to possible support from a group by the name of Veterans United.

After this much, I talked with Commander Finch, who did more investigation. He found that the cost for the use of Mt.

Hope is about \$520, and that Veterans United is simply a company that helps veterans get mortgage loans.

After discovering all this, I decided to contact the San Diego Union-Tribune through my contact, Karen Pearlman. However, her beat is East County, so she handed me off to another writer, David Garrick. Shortly after, Mr. Garrick had an article in the paper about other groups wanting to use City facilities, and being charged for it. I never talked with him, but the article showed me that bigger fish than us are being denied. So, it seems the City either doesn't have the resources, or won't commit them.

Simply stated, Brothers, I gave it my best shot, and we didn't win this time. Unless we have a spare \$500 to spend for the day, we are out of luck for this year. And, for possibly many more.

Thanks for listening.

FCL,

Tom Helmantoler, PCC

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**From Camp Commander, John Finch:**

10 May 2018

Brother Tom Helmantoler is addressing the unfortunate issue that has arisen concerning our participation in the Annual Memorial Day Service at Mt. Hope. I anticipate that we will seek some recourse

2017 CAMP OFFICERS

Commander .....John Finch
619-426-4906 jan27@cox.net
Sr. Vice Comdr.....Peter Huelsenbeck
760-728-3769 Joy2308@hotmail.com
Jr. Vice Comdr.....John Keenan
760-509-4611 keenanja@aol.com
Secretary ..... John A. May
2001 Lee Ct.
Carlsbad, CA. 92008-2763
760-994-5959 cbadjohnny@gmail.com
Treasurer .....John A. May
Council .....Mike Schooling
858-530-2141 suvmike@yahoo.com
Council .....Jerry Sayre PDC
760-728-1444 cod26ia@icloud.com
Council .....Deane Poole
858-373-8812 dpool001@att.net
Chaplain .....Dave Allyn
Counselor .....Andrew Brooks
Patriotic Instructor .....Clay Hoffman
858-603-3322 clay.hoffman312@gmail.com
CW Mem. Officer .....David Shaffer
760-747-0853 djmules@sbcglobal.net
Eagle Scout Coord.....Deane Poole PCC
Graves Registration .....John May
Color Bearer .....Brian Bingham
Guide.....open
Guard.....open
Historian.....Will Tisch PCC
Quartermaster ..... open
Signals Officer .....Jerry 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 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



Camp News Continued from Pg 1

in the immediate future, but for now we have been invited to join the Memorial Day Program at La Vista Cemetery in National City, Monday, 28 May, 1-3 pm. We are yet in discussion as to the extent of that participation, and as soon as that is finalized, I will promulgate further information. Please see the times and locations of our Memorial Day activities listed on Pg.3 in this issue and I hope to see you at one or more conducted on each of the three-day weekend.

Another issue, also of importance, that I need to present to you has to do with revisions to our Camp Bylaws. Pursuant to Commander-in-Chief General Order #22 (2013-2014), regarding Junior and Junior Associate membership and General Order #18 (2017-2018) that mandates a specific language required to secure a group exemption per tax exempt status, 501(c)3), the revisions have been entered. All Camps are involved and have a September deadline. I will email a copy to the membership prior to our June meeting and will place the revisions on the agenda for discussion.

This has been my first exposure to our Camp Bylaws and it has been quite the experience for me. Thankfully, our Secretary/Treasurer, John May, holds the master copy, dated September 1995, of the bylaws, plus subsequent amendments. It might interest you to know that the signatures are those of Gene C. Armistead and Tom J. Stinson. The most recent change/revision was 11 October 2003. For approval these revisions must be presented to the membership at a general meeting (that will be in June) and then open for discussion and a vote at the following Camp meeting, in August. Most of this is cut and dry, but if you have questions or comments, please contact me. Also, we now have a digital version of our bylaws and I hope to place that at our website for easy reference.

Wishing you all Peace and Love on this Memorial Day weekend.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John C. Finch

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Editor's Comment: In the interest of getting news to our Brotheres and interested parties in advance of Memorial Day weekend this edition has been rushed through minus photos. My apologies to anyone who might have submitted photos or any other feedback, articles etc. and so forth. Our staff endeavors to provide it's readers with news you can use and sometimes we even succeed, after a fashion but we hope you understand. Thank you for your patience!

**DECORATION DAY/MEMORIAL DAY (from History Channel)**

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2018 occurs on Monday, May 28. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season. The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time. It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "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. Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars. For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday. Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C. Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because it unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

<b>Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)</b>	<b>Time, Day, Month,Year</b>	<b>Contact Person(s)</b>
* Memorial Day Ceremony, Fallbrook Pioneer's Cemetery, 467 W. Clemmons Ln.	MAY 26 Sat @ 1000 AM	CC John Finch 1LT T. Helmantoler PCC
* Memorial Day Ceremony, with Elks Lodge 1812, El Cajon Cemetery, 2080 Dehesa Rd, El Cajon, CA	MAY 27 Sun @ 1300	Deane Poole PCC 1LT T. Helmantoler PCC
* Memorial Day Ceremony, La Vista Cemetery, 3191 Orange St. National City, CA.	MAY 28 Mon @ 1300-1500	CC John Finch 1LT T. Helmantoler PCC
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	JUN 9, 2018 Sat @ 10:00 AM	CC John Finch
137th Annual SUVCW National Encampment Framingham, MA. (details forthcoming)	AUG 9-12	CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	AUG 11, 2018 Sat @ 10:00 AM	CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	OCT 13, 2018 Sat @ 10:00 AM	CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	DEC 8, 2018 Sat @ 10:00 AM	CC John Finch

## Minutes of Meeting Held April 14, 2018

**Present:** Brothers David Allyn, Jack Bruzas, Gene Armistead, John Finch, John Gilman, Tom Helmantoler, Peter Huelsenbeck, John Keenan, Chris Kennelley, Dimas Lovato, John May, Jerry Sayre, Wes Scarbrough, Dave Shaffer, and guests, Darlene Armistead, Mary May, Steve Perdue, and Kim Sayre.

The meeting was called to order by Commander John Finch at 10:00am 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 D. Lovato.

### I. Honored Attendees

New members Chris Kenneley and Wes Scarbrough were present along with Jack Bruzas who has reinstated his membership after several years absence.

### II. Announcements

T. Helmantoler's wife, Sandy is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Gay Allyn is recovering from her surgery and is doing well.

CMDR J. Finch reminded us that today is the anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

### III. New Members

Wes Scarbrough, whose ancestor served in the 8<sup>th</sup> VT Infantry and Larry Dicks, whose ancestor served in the 8<sup>th</sup> TN Cavalry, have applied for membership. A motion (Keenan/Huelsenbeck) to accept their applications was approved. Chris Kennelley is a transfer from Stoneman Camp 18.

### IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

### V. Officers' Reports

Sec. J. May reported correspondence from Br. S. Struse who is about to be deployed to Afghanistan, and from Br. Z. Forsythe who has transferred to a camp in Florida.

Treas. J. May stated that the treasury has \$6934.65.

SVC P. Huelsenbeck announced that the event with the Fallbrook Historical Society was well done and that there is still time to sign up for the Civil War Program coming up in Temecula.

JVC J. Keenan reported that the Civil War Trust Facebook page is currently featuring "California and the Civil War".

Chaplain D. Allyn reminded us that this year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Memorial Day. He circulated a medal and coin commemorating the event that can be purchased by the SUCVW Charitable Trust.

Newsletter Editor D. Allyn announced that he is looking for someone to take over from him. Please contact him for more information.

Eagle Scout Coordinator T. Helmantoler reported that two scouts have recently been honored; Eli Murdock on March 24, and Kinoa Oliveria on April 8.

J. Sayre reported on the Dept. Encampment in Bakersfield. Only 19 brothers were present and CIC Mark Day was in attendance.

### VI. Committee Reports

none

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

T. Helmantoler announced that there are 14 members and that there is about \$650 in the treasury.

### VIII. Upcoming Events

Zion Christian School in Fallbrook is hosting a History Program, May 11.

Memorial Day, Odd Fellows Cemetery, May 26. J. Sayre will organize.

Memorial Day, El Cajon Elks Lodge, May 27.

Next Camp meeting, June 9, 10am at Mimi's Café.

### IX. Old Business

Discussion continued on how to use \$2500 donation.

Point Loma Nazarene College is not interested in housing a Civil War library. Minter's Ranch project could be completed if someone takes charge and fills out the paperwork with the State of California. It was previously agreed that the Camp would table the project until someone steps forward to lead it. A motion (Huelsenbeck/Armistead) to return the donations given to the Camp for the project was approved.

The Camp has previously agreed to contribute to the Dr. Stephenson Memorial Project, undertaken by the Dept. of Illinois. J. May will submit the wording on the brick being purchased.

### X. New Business

1. The Memorial Day event in Fallbrook will require an insurance payment. A motion (Huelsenbeck/Armistead) that we pay this was approved.

Mt. Hope Cemetery will charge the Camp a fee if we are to have a Memorial Day event there. T. Helmantoler will follow up with the City Council. Camp by-laws need to be in compliance with the National organization.

Next year's Dept. Encampment is being planned and input as to date and place should be sent to Rudy Velasco.

### XI. Members' Minutes

none

### XII. Program

J. Huelsenbeck gave a talk on "Admiral Dahlgren's Navy".

The closing prayer was offered by D. Allyn and Cmdr. Finch adjourned the meeting at 11:40am.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**John May, Secretary**

**POEM: TWO VOICES (submitted by SVC John Keenan)**

At the time of the Spanish-American War there was a great reconciliation between those who wore Blue and those who wore Gray. My great grandfather cut these poems out, illustrated with a picture of Yankee and Rebel shaking hands, and pasted it inside the frame of his discharge papers from the Irish Brigade.

**Two Voices****A Southern Volunteer**

Yes sir, I fought with Stonewall, and faced the fight with Lee;  
 but now this Union's gone to war, make one more gun for me!  
 I didn't shrink from Sherman, as he galloped to the sea,  
 but now this Union's gone to war, make one more gun for me!  
 I was with'em at Manassas, the bully boys in gray,  
 I heard the thunder roaring, round Stonewall Jackson's way.  
 And many times this sword of mine, has blazed the way for Lee,  
 but now this Union's gone to war, make one more gun for me!  
 I'm not so full o' fighting, nor half so full o' fun,  
 as I was back in the sixties, when I shouldered my old gun.  
 It may be that my hair is white-such things you know must be,  
 but now this Union's gone to war, make one more gun for me!  
 I ain't forgot my raisin' nor how in sixty two, or thereabouts with battle shouts, I charged the boys in blue.

And I say, I fought with Stonewall, and blazed the way for Lee,  
 but now this Union's gone to war, make one more gun for me!  
 -*Atlanta Constitution*

**His Northern Brother**

Just make it two, old fellow, I want to stand once more,  
 beneath the old flag with you, as in the days of yore.  
 Our fathers stood together, and fought on land and sea,  
 the battles fierce that made us, a nation of the free.  
 I whipped you down at Vicksburg, you licked me at Bull Run,  
 on many a field we struggled, when neither a victory won.  
 You wore the Gray of Southland, I wore the Northern Blue;  
 like men we did our duty, when the screaming bullets flew.  
 Four years we fought like devils, but when the war was done,  
 your hand met mine in friendly clasp, our two hearts beat as one.  
 No North, No South, for us we know,  
 once more we stand together, to fight one common foe.  
 My head, like yours, is frosty - old age is creeping in;  
 Life's sun is slowly sinking, my days are soon to end.  
 But if our country's honor, needs once again her son,  
 I'm ready too, old fellow - so get another gun!  
 -*Minneapolis Journal*

From "War Time Echoes: Patriotic Poems, Heroic and Pathetic, Humorous and Dialectic of the Spanish America War" Selected and arranged by Henry James Brownlee, The Werner Co, 1898.



**Welcome New Brothers!**

**Steven J. Crow whose ancestor served in the 1st TN Mounted Inf.**

**Christopher Kennelley whose ancestor served in the 46th IL Vol. Inf.**

**Ernest J. Mortenson whose ancestor served in the 21st CT Vol. Inf.**

**Dimas J. Lovato Associate Member  
HUZZAH !!!**

**This Month in The Civil War**

1861

- May 3 - Lincoln calls for volunteers to join the Union Army for a three-year term
- May 6 - Arkansas and Tennessee adopt Ordinances of Secession. Tennessee schedules a referendum for June 8
- May 20 - North Carolina adopts an Ordinance of Secession
- May 20 - Kentucky declares its neutrality
- May 21 - The Confederate Congress agrees to move the Confederate capital from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond, Virginia

1862

- May 11 - Confederate sailors blow up the CSS Virginia (Ex-USS Merrimack) to keep her from falling into Union hands
- May 15 - Battle of Drewry's Bluff, Virginia
- May 20 - Lincoln signs the Homestead Act
- May 23 - Engagement at Front Royal, Virginia

1863

- May 19 - First assault on Vicksburg, Mississippi
- May 22 - Second assault on Vicksburg

1864

- May 7 - Sherman begins his Atlanta campaign
- May 8 - Battle of Spotsylvania, Virginia
- May 23 - Battle of North Anna River, Virginia

1865

- May 4 - Surrender of Confederate General Richard Taylor's forces at Citronelle, Alabama
- May 10 - Confederate President Jefferson Davis captured by U.S. troops at Irwinville, Georgia
- May 12 - Skirmish at Palmito Ranch, Texas - the last engagement of the Civil War
- May 26 - Surrender of Confederate General E.K. Smith's Trans-Mississippi forces, New Orleans, Louisiana
- May 29 - President Andrew Johnson proclaims amnesty for most ex-Confederates

**Civil War Terms**

**Howitzer:** A cannon which fired hollow projectiles and was generally lighter and shorter than its solid-shot cousins. Howitzer projectiles had a smaller powder charge. Also, canister projectiles contained more small balls than other types. Howitzers were useful in defending fortifications and causing disorder within an attacking force.

**Indian Territory:** The area that is now Oklahoma (except for the panhandle.)

**Pittenger Camp Facebook Page by Editor Dave Allyn**

Our Camp now has it's own Facebook page! Thanks to my daughter, Emily Hope Allyn, who set it up and made it a reality. In Facebook (FB) protocol she made it a, "Club/closed group"; meaning you have to join it by submitting a "request." If you have a Facebook page this is an easy process: from your FB page go to our page; **Sons of Union Veterans Pittenger Camp 21**, then locate the "**JOIN**" (this group) button, push it - which will send me a message to add you to our page. You will get a "request sent" response on your computer/tablet/smartphone, then after I add you to our group page you will get a notification. You **do** have to have a FB page to join but you don't have to be on FB to view content on our page. A word about internet security: many people have expressed concern and even some fear of social media (such as Facebook) and I respect those concerns. That is why our Camp has no requirement to join Facebook and we have no plans to use only Facebook to send our brothers news of interest, etc. The General will still continue to be our principal means of reporting with email as the main means of getting pressing news disseminated. I view our FB page as another means of getting the existence of our Camp before the general public. Millions are using FB daily to search for various organizations; it's quite possible our FB page might attract somebody's attention. Our Camp 21 Brothers are encouraged to join

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 46,000 acres of battlefield land in 23 states. Learn more at [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org), the home of the Civil War sesquicentennial.

**NEXT MEETING: Sat June 9, 2018 10:00 AM**

**SAT June 9, 2018 10:00AM**

**DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:**

***LOCATION***

Mimi's Restaurant  
10788 Westview Pkwy  
San Diego, CA.

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***

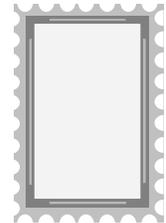
**To Be Announced  
Come and be surprised**

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*