

Newsletter of *Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

Vol XXIV Number 4

LET FREEDOM RING

July 21, 2018

I hope everyone enjoyed the 4th of July Holiday this year and that your summer months have been fun and safe. Seems a little hotter and a little more humid to me, but it is the busiest time of year for the Finch household with yard maintenance, "day care" for out-of-school grandkids and vacation planning. We have been blessed with eight grandchildren. Two are Grand daughters. Four are now adults, one is married and, with her, we have two Great Grandsons. As you might suspect, I am grooming all of them for SUVCW membership. If there is one thing that I can point to, with that Grandfatherly sense of accomplishment, it has been road trips with my grandsons. This year, Grandson, Nate, now age 13, and I completed a 6 day/5 night tour of Arizona, visiting such places as the Petrified Forest, Meteor Crater, Page/Lake Powell, North Rim and several Native American ruins. It was a great trip. Arizona, before July, is very accommodating, with tolerable weather, a number of sights and the gas is typically much cheaper than here at home. I paid \$2.45/gallon in Globe! But, no matter where you may be driving, the natural beauty of our land is infinite. The driving experience comes with it's own rewards. Aside from the scenery, there are the historical and cultural aspects and the very interesting folks you meet along the way. I would encourage you to see "the USA in Your Chevrolet", or your Ford, Jeep, Toyota



or Subaru. Because I am frugal (well some say tightwad) I am always looking for bargains. You do this when your 13 year old grandson has been banned from most buffet places in the west, because they lose considerable money with him. The kid can eat you out of house and home. Several years ago, while visiting Zion National Park in Utah, I purchased the Golden Age Passport, commonly referred to as the "Golden Geezer Passport," but now called the Senior Pass, issued by the National Park Service. Turns out, this was a very good investment. The current rate for lifetime permit is \$80, but you will recoup that in short order. The card allowed me free entry at the Petrified Forest, The North Rim (\$35 per vehicle that day) and Montezuma's Castle. Here at home, you could use it to enter the Cabrillo Monument. It's good for all National Parks, National Monuments and Federal Recreation Entrances. I'm addressing a majority of the membership when I encourage you to take advantage of these offers and take some time to enjoy the beauty and the hospitality of our Blessed land. Happy Trails!

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John C. Finch

Editors Note: All photos this edition (except where noted) are courtesy of Kim Sayre

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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



Irish In the Civil War submitted by JVC John Keenan

This is a rework of a presentation that John May and I gave recently. It was reworked for the newsletter of the North County Friendly Sons of St Patrick newsletter. If it is useful there is no problem putting it in the General. Just say it's a version published in the NCFSSOSP newsletter.

In 1861 America was a very different place. Waves of Irish immigrants flooded the country as a result of the great famine or “An Gorta Mor” as well as the failed uprisings against British occupation. In 1861 there were approximately 1.6 million Irish in the United States. Most Irish immigrants migrated to the North but there were some populations of Irish in the South. There was a significant anti-Irish bias in private and in public and it was a factor in politics. Particularly in the North the American Party or the “Know Nothings” advocated to stop all Irish Catholic immigration and committed violent acts against Irish Catholics. They tried to keep them from the ballot box. When questioned by authorities they would answer that they “Knew Nothing.” Irish organizations such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians sent men to safeguard Irish Catholic Churches from mob attack. Signs and employment ads were often labeled with “No Irish Need Apply.” When the Civil War broke out Irish, in all sections, ran to the colors. Usually they went with their sections. Those in the North donned Union blue and those in the South the Confederate gray. Because the vast majority of Irish were in the North most of the Irish in the war fought for the North. Almost 150,000 Irishmen fought for the Union. By and large the Irish fought because they viewed the US as the best hope for freedom and they wanted to preserve the Union. Irish in the South fought because they saw an analogy in the fight for Southern Independence to Ireland’s fight for Independence from Britain. Some, North or South fought to gain military experience to take back to Ireland in a new fight for independence. Many Irish would only join and fight in all-Irish units. The Irish gave the Union twelve generals and the Confederates six. In the North, the most famous Irish unit was the Irish Brigade, commanded by General Thomas Meagher. It consisted of three New York regiments including the famous Fighting 69th, one Pennsylvania and one from Massachusetts. When they assaulted Marye’s Heights at the battle of Fredericksburg, one Confederate officer was heard to exclaim; “Here come those damn green flags again.”

He had seen enough of the bravery of the Irish previously at the battle of Antietam. Ironically, the Irish Brigade’s charge was met by one of the few Irish regiments in the South, the 24th Georgia. The 10th Tennessee was also a predominantly Irish Confederate regiment. The 33d Virginia had one company of Irish dubbed the Emerald Guard. They are credited historically with initiating the famed rebel yell while attacking at 1st Bull Run. Irish clergy figured prominently in the war. The most famous was Father William Corby. He was the chaplain of the Irish Brigade and before they were sent into the maelstrom of combat on the 2d day of fighting at Gettysburg, he gave them general



Irish Brigade at Fredericksburg

Irish In the Civil War (Cont from Pg.2)



10th Tenn CSA

absolution while standing on a rock. He told them, "Let everyman do his duty. For he who does not and is slain, will have his body returned with a letter from me to his parish priest to deny him a Christian burial." He went on to be the President of Notre Dame where legend has it he taught Knute Rockne motivational speaking. The Irish fought with valor throughout the conflict. After the war, a former Confederate General, was asked why the South lost: he replied, "The North had more Irish."

Fr. Corby at Gettysburg



Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Day, Month, Year	Contact Person(s)
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
Annual Blue/Gray Gator Beach BBQ, Navy Amphib Base, Coronado, Gator Beach, Cabana #5	AUG 25, 2018 10:00 AM—5:00 PM	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 June 9, 2018

Present: Brothers David Allyn, Gene Armistead, Jack Bruzas, John Finch, John May, Monroe McBride, Jerry Sayre, and guests Darlene Armistead and Kim Sayre.

The meeting was called to order by Commander John Finch at 1:40pm 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. Finch.

I. Honored Attendees

None

II. Announcements

Gay Allyn has completed her chemotherapy and will be starting radiation.

III. New Members

None

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

V. Officers' Reports

- Sec. J. May reported correspondence Br. Sloane Struse, who is about to be deployed to Afghanistan, but is also hopeful of a promotion.
- Treas. J. May stated that the treasury has \$5450.39.
- Chaplain D. Allyn reported that Don Fuselier, Chaplain for Lincoln Camp 10, has died.
- Newsletter Editor D. Allyn announced that the position as editor is currently open.
- Eagle Scout Coordinator, T. Helmantoler, is absent, but there are requests for two awards.

VI. Committee Reports

- J. Sayre reported that the Memorial Day event in Fallbrook was a resounding success with 50 attendees, including descendants of Gen. George McClellan.
- J. Finch reported the event in El Cajon was also successful, although attendance was not as large as in the past.
- J. Finch noted that the event at the La Vista Memorial Park in Chula Vista was very well attended. A band was present as well as the 82nd Airborne group.

VII. S.V.R. Report

The S.V.R. unit presented the colors for Memorial Day at Fallbrook and El Cajon.

VIII. Upcoming Events

- National Encampment, August 9-12 in Framingham, MA.
- Next Camp meeting, August 11, 10am at Mimi's Café.

IX. Old Business

- After research, it looks like the idea of establishing a Civil War Library is not possible.
- In regards to the problems with our Memorial Day participation at Mt. Hope Cemetery, J. Finch stated that the one in Chula Vista may be where we want to expend our efforts in the future.
- The revision of the Camp By-Laws has been completed. Copies were distributed. Please see Cmdr. Finch if you see any problems.
- The Civil War symposium in Temecula was a very worthwhile event. P. Huelsenbeck, J. Keenan, D. Lovato, and J. Sayre attended and they recommend it for next year.

X. New Business

1. A discussion of current practices involving membership certificates took place. There are two versions available. No decision on how we should proceed was made.
2. D. Allyn noted that the newsletter is now available at our website.
3. J. Sayre reported that the gravesite of Asa Hebert at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Fallbrook needs repair. A motion (Armistead/McBride) to appoint J. Sayre as the head of a committee to look into the matter was approved.

XI. Members' Minutes

none

XII. Program

none

The closing prayer was offered by D. Allyn and Cmdr. Finch adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

MEMORIAL DAY PHOTOS



Fallbrook Odd Fellows Pioneer Cemetery. Above Left: Camp 21 Brothers. Above Rt: Bro. John Gilman, CAPT USN (Ret.) addresses the assembly. Left: Bro. John Keenan COL USMC (Ret.) shares with us. Right: Bro. Monroe McBride Speaks.



Below Left: Bros. Jerry Sayre and Tom Helmantoler Served as Color Bearers at the El Cajon Cemetery-Elks Lodge Ceremony. At Right, Bros. Deane Poole and Jerry Sayre fold the Flag under command of Bro. Tom Helmantoler.



Pittenger Camp Scrapbook



El Cajon



LaVista National City





Welcome New Brothers!

Larry M. Dicks whose ancestor served in the 8th TN Cavalry

Wes L. Scarbrough whose ancestor served in the 8th VT Infantry

HUZZAH !!!

Civil War Terms

(Attack) In Detail: To destroy the enemy piece by piece — by attacking smaller segments one at a time — instead of attacking the entire force all at once.

Infantry: A branch of the military in which soldiers traveled and fought on foot.

Insult: A sudden, open, unconcealed attack upon a fortified position with the intent of capturing it before its defenders could mount an effective defense.

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 Month in The Civil War

1861

- July 21 - War's first major battle erupts at Manassas (Bull Run), Virginia
- July 27 - Major General George McClellan put in command of the Federal Division of the Potomac
- July 31 - Ulysses S. Grant promoted to brigadier general

1862

- July 1 - Battle of Malvern Hill, Virginia
- July 12 - John Hunt Morgan's Confederate raiders capture Lebanon, Kentucky on their first raid
- July 13 - Garrison at Murfreesboro, Tennessee captured by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest
- July 14 - West Virginia Statehood Bill passes the Senate
- July 15 - CSS Arkansas sorties from Yazoo River and passes the combined Union fleets
- July 22 - President Lincoln presents the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet
- July 29 - Belle Boyd, Confederate spy, captured

1863

- July 1 - Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania begins
- July 2 - Second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, heavy fighting in The Wheatfield
- July 3 - Battle of Gettysburg concludes
- July 4 - Confederates surrender Vicksburg, Mississippi
- July 4 - Lee's forces begin to retreat from Gettysburg
- July 8 - Surrender of Port Hudson, Louisiana
- July 10 - Siege of Fort Wagner, Charleston Harbor, South Carolina begins
- July 13 - Draft riots in New York City
- July 18 - Assault on Battery Wagner, led by the 54th Massachusetts
- July 26 - John Hunt Morgan captured at Salineville, Ohio
- July 29 - Queen Victoria reconfirms British policy of neutrality

1864

- July 9 - Battle of Monocacy, Maryland
- July 12 - Early's raid of Fort Stevens, DC
- July 17 - Confederate General J.B. Hood replaces J. Johnston as commander of the Army of Tennessee
- July 22 - Battle of Atlanta, Georgia
- July 30 - Capture and burning of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
- July 30 - Battle of The Crater at Petersburg, Virginia

1865

- July 7 - Conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln are executed

Did you know that many past issues of The General are available at the Camp's website? They are archived and may be viewed or printed from the URL;

<http://www.suvsac.org/camp21.html>

The American Battlefield Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War and Revolutionary 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 <https://www.battlefields.org/>

NEXT MEETING: Sat Aug 11, 2018 10:00 AM

SAT AUG 11, 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

**Peter Huelsenbeck
will do a program
called**

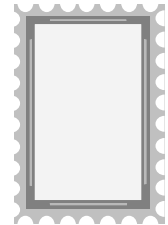
**"Weapons Recovered
at Gettysburg"**

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