

Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

Department of
California & Pacific



Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War

Vol XXIV Number 5

WELCOME AUTUMN

Sept 22, 2018

I recently received a compiled result of a survey conducted to garner the opinion of select Departments of our Order as a guide for long range planning. Completed to recognize our strengths and to prioritize remedies for our weaknesses. I shared the results with you in my email of 11 September. An important element of leadership is to, periodically, examine the health of the organization to insure that it remain viable. Feedback from membership is also most important in determining morale and dedication. There are a number of means in which opinion can be solicited, but the "survey" is a quick and easily tabulated method that near immediately produces results. The problem with these surveys is that they frequently ask the wrong questions or ask for some detailed, lengthy comment. Most avoid these. I frequently receive a survey form for any of my vehicle maintenance appointments, my Dr. appointments and the purchase of any major appliance. And I'm sure they go to good use, too. Looking to our survey, we find that much of the issues of concern at the National level are felt up and down the hierarchy and are not dissimilar to the concerns of other Orders and social organizations. Most benevolent types of organizations are, collectively, suffering from declining membership, public misconception of purpose and an apathetic public. All these elements combine to depress the intent of the organization. Our survey revealed a section of interest to me in that they asked,



August Meeting

"What Priorities Should be Addressed in the Next 3 – 5 Years." What makes this section so important is that the solutions can be applied, not at only the National but also at the Dept. and Camp level. Here are examples:

- Grow our membership and increase retention.
- Build public awareness & raise visibility of SUVCW.
- Strengthen the Educational & Historic Preservation Components.
- Assess organizational structure, policies and build sustainability.

The objective of the survey was to identify problem areas and offer a possible solution. I ask of you to review these findings and advise me of your assessment. Are you in agreement with the remedy as well as the question? How might you have answered differently. But, I ask of you, more than that. I want to know

what we are doing that's right. What are our strengths? Most of you are continuing members. What keeps you with us?

At our Camp Meeting in October, we will nominate a new slate of Officers for the coming term. Having your opinion will be a helpful asset to plan for events and activities in the near future. Submit your comments to me at jan27@cox.net.

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

2017 CAMP OFFICERS

Commander John Finch
 619-426-4906 jan27@cox.net
 Sr. Vice Comdr.....Peter Huelsenbeck
 760-728-3769 Joym2308@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 dpoule001@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. LT 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 t h e S V R



Battlefield Monuments

The following article on battlefield monuments is from the website of the American Battlefield Trust (battlefields.org) which is a treasure trove of information on the Civil War

Fact #1: Most battlefield monuments, markers, and tablets were erected by veterans specifically for future generations to learn who did what, where, and when.

Civil War veterans were proud of their service and by the early 1880s were concerned by rapid changes taking hold of some battlefields. The population was growing, towns were expanding, and if something were not done quickly, these fields of battle may have been lost forever. While a battlefield preserve had been established at Gettysburg as the war still raged, the first National Military Park was established at Chickamauga and Chattanooga in 1890. At Chickamauga, veterans from both sides rallied together to create a "park capable of providing an accurate tool for military study." Today, military units from around the world utilize the National Park Service's battlefield parks, as well as the thousands of monuments and markers that help them to understand where the battle unfolded, why decisions were made, and how the lessons from the past can be implemented on battlefields of the future.

Fact #2: There are more than 6,000 markers, monuments, and tablets on Civil War battlefields.

As early as 1865, Civil War veterans began placing monuments to commemorate their wartime actions. By the mid-1880s, memorialization of Civil War battlefields was reaching a fever pitch. Hundreds of monuments and thousands of markers began to spring up over the next three decades. A vast majority of these monuments, markers and tablets denote Civil War units, rather than individual military figures. Many of the monuments were erected with private funds, but the placement of most of the markers and tablets was overseen, and paid for, by federal or state governments on newly acquired battlefield land at Chickamauga-Chattanooga, Gettysburg, Shiloh, Vicksburg and Antietam.

Fact #3: Battlefield memorialization was most often supervised by federal government commissions, comprised of Union and Confederate veterans.

Most early battlefield parks had a commission that oversaw their development. This included, but was not limited to, purchasing land, overseeing installation of park roads, placing monuments and tablets, and more. These commissions consisted of former veterans from both sides, most of whom participated in the relevant battle. For example, the Antietam Battlefield Board was made up of two former Union officers, Ezra Carmen and George B. Davis, and former Confederate officer Jedediah Hotchkiss.

Fact #4: The majority of the first monuments were constructed by Union veterans.

As early as 1865, Union veterans went back to the fields on which they fought to memorialize their deeds and their fallen comrades. In the days before national parks, veterans would purchase small plots of land from local farmers, churches and municipalities. From there, the veterans would employ a sculptor and/or monument manufacturer to design and build their monument. Some purchased their monument from a catalog; you may see the same soldier adorn a Union monument at Gettysburg and a Confederate monument at Chattanooga. The majority of Union monuments were placed from 1880 to 1918.

Confederate monuments were not as quick to spring up. Due to the shattered Southern economy, early monument funds were raised by the wives, widows and daughters of former Confederate soldiers. By holding book sales and tea parties, these ladies raised funds and started placing monuments. The majority of Confederate monuments were placed from 1900 to 1918, with a resurgence during the Civil War Centennial era of 1957-1965.

Fact #5: Battlefield monuments serve numerous purposes.

The majority of monuments on battlefields denote the position and movements of military units during given battles. Some markers simply denote geography. Other monuments depict the deeds of heroic men and women, such as the Clara Barton monument at Antietam, a forward aid station near the Wheatfield at Gettysburg, and the last-ditch stand at Chickamauga's Horseshoe Ridge. They show us that battlefields were more than places of combat—they were, and are, places of quiet remembrance. Long after the Civil war, they were utilized by the U.S. Army as training grounds. One marker at Gettysburg denotes the site of Camp Colt, a World War I tank training camp overseen by a young captain named Dwight D. Eisenhower. Above all, the monuments,

Battlefield Monuments (Cont)

memorials and tablets serve as a reminder of the sacrifice made by the men and women of the armed forces.

Fact #6: Because of their monuments, battlefields are also outdoor sculpture parks.

Civil War memorials are filled with symbolism, employing the artistic traditions of their respective time periods, from the 1860s to the present. Influential sculptors such as Felix de Weldon, creator of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington; Gutzon Borglum, the force behind Mount Rushmore; and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, whose work has been showcased in the Musée d'Orsay and Metropolitan Museum of Art, shaped some of the most famous Civil War monuments.

Sculptors took the job seriously. Noted artist and sculptor James Kelly created a number of famous Civil War monuments. His process included meeting with the subject (if they were still alive) and their colleagues; then he studied photographs and portraits from the time period. His statue of Gen. John Buford at Gettysburg was initially panned by friends of the deceased horseman, since Kelly did not place Buford atop a horse. One critic even suggested that it would be better for him “to stay home and not attend the unveiling.” But once the work was unveiled, a former classmate of Buford’s exclaimed, “I knew Buford at West Point, served with him in the Mexican War and saw him at Gettysburg. The proportions are good—the character is good. That’s Buford!”

Fact #7: Early national cemeteries played host to monuments.

The national cemeteries at Antietam, Chattanooga, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Shiloh and other battlefields predate the founding of many battlefield parks. Today, some 130 cemeteries are part of the National Cemetery System. Because the graveyards were protected ground, and the cemetery grounds were usually located near or on a major battlefield feature, some monuments were placed in and among the headstones.

The first complete stone memorial erected at Gettysburg is an urn dedicated to the 1st Minnesota Infantry, which sits in the Minnesota section of Soldiers National Cemetery. Shiloh National Cemetery is nestled on the banks of the Tennessee River, and was once part of the Federal defensive line; one of the Federal monuments in the cemetery is to the 9th Illinois Infantry. Fredericksburg National Cemetery, atop famed Marye’s Heights, contains several Federal monuments as well as a monument to a Confederate unit, Parker’s Battery, which fought there in the Second Battle of Fredericksburg.

Fact #8: The legs of general’s horses on equestrian monuments at Gettysburg do not tell you if they were wounded or killed.

One myth that persists to this day has to do with the mounted general officers memorialized at Gettysburg. Some early guides claimed that if a mounted officer’s horse had all of its feet on the ground (that is, on the monument), this meant that the officer had come out of the battle unscathed. If one foot was in the air, they had been wounded. If two were in the air, they had been killed. While this is a wonderful anecdote and happens to align in some cases, it is not true, and the sculptors of these monuments said so.

Fact #9: Some park commissions tried to differentiate between Union and Confederate tablets and markers.

The hundreds of tablets and markers that dot some Civil War battlefields can make it hard to follow the action and differentiate between Union and Confederate units. The early park commission at Gettysburg designed the bases of its monuments to differentiate between the two sides. For example, a Union brigade’s tablet is situated on a square granite base, while Confederate brigade markers are placed on round bases. At Shiloh, a variety of different shapes and colors are used on its tablets—blue for some Union, red for Confederates, black for campsites, and yellow for the Army of the Ohio.

Fact #10: Monuments are not always accurately placed on battlefields.

Park commissioners were often challenged on monument locations. Many times, the early parks did not own the land on which a unit fought. Veterans looked to rectify this by placing text on the monument that would help clarify where they actually fought. A monument might state “300 yards north of here,” or “500 yards south of here.” Commissions also wanted to avoid haphazard placement of monuments. At Gettysburg, this meant that monuments had to be placed along the main line of battle. The problem is that units move around a lot, and these locations were at times arbitrary and vague. This approach helped to make monument placement uniform, but it also kept Confederate monuments away from Union monuments. For example, Confederate units attacking Little Round Top entered the battle along Warfield and Seminary ridges, up to one mile away from the main Union battle line. While former Confederates fought with the commissions to place monuments closer to where they had engaged the Federals, they were overruled at almost every turn.

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Day, Month, Year	Contact Person(s)
Annual Blue-Gray “Turkey Shoot.” Range #2 at South Bay Rod & Gun Club, 1020 Marron Road, Dulzura. \$20 for 5 shots.	OCT 6, 2018 Noon—5:00	Dave Allyn 619-561-8581 CALL ME TO REGISTER
Camp Meeting, Mimi’s Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	OCT 13, 2018 Sat @ 10:00 AM	CC John Finch
* Remembrance Day Ceremony, Fallbrook Historical Society, Pittenger House, 1730 S. Hill (at Rocky Crest Dr.)	NOV 17, 2018 Sat @ 10:00 AM	CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Officer Elections and Annual Christmas Party, Mimi’s Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	DEC 8, 2018 Sat @ 10:00 AM	CC John Finch

Minutes of Meeting Held August 11, 2018

Present: Brothers David Allyn, Gene Armistead, Jack Bruzas, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, Peter Huelsenbeck, John Keenan, Dimas Lovato, John May, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, and guests Gay Allyn, Darlene Armistead, Kevin Leahy, 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

Kevin Leahy, whose ancestor served in the 58th NY Volunteer Infantry, was present.

II. Announcements

M. Schooling is recovering from surgery for skin cancer.

III. New Members

Kevin Leahy was accepted as a member (Armistead/Finch)

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

V. Officers' Reports

Sec. J. May reported correspondence Br.

Sloane Struse, who is serving in Afghanistan, and Br. Larry Dicks, who is interested in our members in Hawaii.

Treas. J. May stated that the treasury has \$5400.39.

JVC J. Keenan thanked the daughter of Dave and Gay Allyn for the calligraphy in making a membership certificate.

Chaplain D. Allyn reported that former Br. Roger Rothrock (MG, USA, Ret.), has died. Newsletter Editor D. Allyn announced that the position as editor is currently open. Eagle Scout Coordinator T. Helmantoler reported that a Court of Honor will be held for twin boys on Sept. 23.

ROTC Coordinator M. Schooling, reported that 8 cadets at SDSU have been given certificates.

VI. Committee Reports

none

VII. S.V.R. Report

none

VIII. Upcoming Events

National Encampment, August 9-12 in Framingham, MA.

Blue/Gray Beach BBQ, August 25, 10am to 5pm at the Navy Amphibious Base, Coronado.

Huntington Beach re-enactment, Sept. 1-2 in Huntington Beach.

Next Camp meeting, Oct. 13, 10am at Mimi's Café.

Vista re-enactment, Nov. 10-11 in Vista.

IX. Old Business

A motion (Armistead/May) to approve the

revisions to the Camp By-Laws was approved.

Certificate of Membership was again discussed. A motion (Armistead/Huelsenbeck) was passed allowing for each new member to receive a basic certificate sent by the JVC. If any member wishes an up-graded version, the JVC will direct them.

X. New Business

1. G. Armistead suggested that we make a donation to the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History. P. Huelsenbeck will research the organization.
2. J. Finch noted that a slate of officers is needed for 2019.
3. The December Camp Meeting/Christmas Party will be coming up and we should begin planning. Kim Sayre will start looking into ideas.
4. J. Sayre reported that the grave of Asa Hebard at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Fallbrook is in need of repair. He will do more research and report back at the next meeting.

XI. Members' Minutes

- D. Allyn noted that the Camp Facebook page has information on the re-interment of two Union veterans.
- J. Sayre announced the birth of a third great-grandchild.
- G. Armistead shared a copy of his latest book, An Arch Rebel Like Myself.
- J. Keenan reminded the Camp that Remembrance Day is fast approaching and that we need to start planning.
- T. Helmantoler announced that his son, Mark, is joining the Camp and that he has a second grandchild due in September.
- D. Poole remarked that it was encouraging to see Gay Allyn back with us. Gay thanked all for their support during her illness.

XII. Program

- P. Huelsenbeck conducted a program on the weapons recovered from the Gettysburg battlefield.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Allyn and Cmdr. Finch adjourned the meeting at 11:07am.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

CAMP PHOTOS



New Brother, Kevin Leahy speaking on his ancestor's unit at the August meeting.



Brother John Gilman attended the SUVCW National Encampment in Framingham, MA. Here are photos he sent in. Above is the approach to Georges Island, below left is The Flag over Ft. Warren and below right is the Department of California and Pacific Delegation. He writes, "These are from the tour the day before the National meetings. Fort Warren was used as a POW camp, mostly for Confederate officers. The CO, one Colonel Justin Dimick, had a reputation for running a very benevolent camp - only 13 prisoners died there, 6 or 7 of them among the first group to arrive, all with serious battle injuries. The others died of natural causes, things like heart attacks, when their time was just up. Dimick was apparently a very devout man, provided religious services to both Union and Confederate men during his tenure (Can't keep those Chaplains down!). He was shocked when the first group of prisoners to arrive numbered 700-800, he only had food and such for about 150. He appealed to the people of Boston for assistance, and they provided the food, blankets, and other essentials needed until a better supply system could be established."



Pittenger Camp Scrapbook



Jerry Sayre PDC at Huntington Beach Civil War Days Reenactment. Jerry and wife Kim have been faithfully representing Pittenger Camp 21 at this event (Largest in SoCal) for many years. They set up the tent fly, table with artifacts and replicas and help visitors understand what happened in 1861-1865 from the Union Point of view. It Takes a lot of work to accomplish this and the Camp extends our heartfelt thanks to the Sayres for all they do. HUZAZH !!!



Jerry built the rifle rack he is featuring in this photo, in order to make it easier for visitors to have an authentic idea of what the weapons used looked and felt like because it is a hands-on display. Often heard from the visitors is, "I had no idea these weighed so much!" Over the years Jerry has fielded just about every question imaginable. Some of the youngsters surprise him with their queries but no matter what they ask, Jerry has the answer!

Here's Brother Monroe McBride with Jerry at Huntington Beach. Brothers and friends are always welcome at our displays. Should they wish to join in and help answer questions they are more than helpful as the booth often gets too busy to accommodate everyone of the curious spectators. When the mock battles are in progress things ease up for Jerry and the brothers from the other SUVCW Camps in attendance—usually, Camps 2, 17, & 18.





Welcome New Brothers!

Kevin M. Leahy
whose ancestor served
in the 58th NY Volunteer
Infantry

HUZZAH !!!

Civil War Terms

“Infernal Machine”: A term of contempt for torpedoes (either the land or the water variety). This term was also used to describe the Confederate vessel H.L. Hunley- the first successful submarine.

Instant: Used in letters and reports, “Instant” referred to a particular day in the same month. For example, Robert E. Lee's Report Concerning the Attack at Harpers Ferry, written on October 19, 1859, states that Lee arrived on the “night of the 17th instant”. The “17th instant” would be October 17th.

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

- September 3 - Confederate troops enter Kentucky, ending the state's neutral status
- September 6 - Federal forces seize Paducah, Kentucky
- September 10 - Engagement at Carnifex Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia)
- September 12 - Siege of Lexington, Missouri begins
- September 12 to 15 - Battle of Cheat Mountain, Virginia (now West Virginia)
- September 20 - Union garrison surrenders Lexington, Missouri
- September 26 - Skirmish near Fort Thorn, New Mexico Territory

1862

- September 13 - Federal soldiers near Frederick, Maryland find Lee's Special Order No. 191
- September 14 - Battle of South Mountain Gaps, Maryland
- September 15 - Capture of Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia)
- September 17 - Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg), Maryland
- September 22 - President Lincoln issues his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

1863

- September 8 - Confederates repulse attack at Sabine Pass (Fort Griffin), Texas
- September 9 - Federal army enters Chattanooga, Tennessee
- September 15 - Lincoln suspends writ of habeas corpus
- September 19 - Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia

1864

- September 2 - Federal Army enters Atlanta
- September 7 - Evacuation of Atlanta citizens ordered by Union General William T. Sherman
- September 8 - George McClellan accepts nomination as Democratic candidate for President
- September 19 - Battle of Third Winchester (Opequon), Virginia
- September 22 - Battle of Fisher's Hill, Virginia
- September 24 - Battle of Pilot Knob (Fort Davidson), Missouri
- September 29 - Battle of Fort Harrison (Chaffin's Farm), Virginia
- September 30 - Battle of Peebles' Farm, Virginia

1865

By September all CSA forces had surrendered, war ended and the nation began to recover from the worst war it had ever fought or would fight to date, in terms of lives lost and fortunes spent. Not to mention the families who were torn asunder and would never recover.

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 Oct 13, 2018 10:00 AM

SAT OCT 13, 2018 10:00AM

LOCATION

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

Our Program

Gene Armistead PDC will present "Dan Showalter After Minter's Ranch." Gene will have copies of his new book, "An Arch Rebel Like Myself: Dan Showalter and the Civil War in California and Texas" for sale at \$39.95.

A review of Gene's book can be found at
<https://cwba.blogspot.com/2018/08/review-arch-rebel-like-myself-dan.html>

The Amazon listing for the book is
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0746674612>

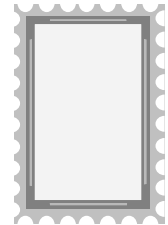


The General

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