



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
Pleasanton CAMP #24

MINUTES OF CAMP MEETING APRIL 20, 2016

Meeting was called to order by Commander Charles Kenyon at 7:02 pm

Members in attendance: Brothers Jeffrey Vaillant, Ken Felton, John Gee, Steve Johnson, Brad Hatton, Robert Mayer

Treasurer's Report: Brother Johnson reported that as of April 1st the camp has \$674.08, \$200 of which is in the Braden Schall Memorial Fund

Brother Felton reported on the Department Encampment, which he attended in March. He briefly summarized the activities of Camp 24, and also reported that the Department has registered 800 graves so far.

The following Brothers will be at the Presidio of San Francisco Memorial Day event on May 30th: Kenyon, Gee, Johnson, Schall. Our participation will include:

- providing a flag ceremony and raising the garrison flag at Fort Point
- marching in the parade to the Presidio National Cemetery
- attending the ceremonies at the Cemetery
- assisting Park Rangers with a tour of the cemetery by telling stories of the Civil War soldiers, a female Union spy, and a Union General buried there
- having a Victorian picnic outside if the weather is clear
- visiting Fort Point to do interpretation and take down the flag in ceremony

Brother Gee, our camp's guest speaker co-ordinator, was able to bring a guest to the meeting. We were fortunate to have Ranger Makoto Valdez of Fort Point, who came to speak about General Albert Sydney Johnston. It was a very informative talk, and among the facts he provided about the general were:

1. He was born in Kentucky, and was one of 18 children
2. He attended Transylvania University where he was inspired by heroic stories of the War of 1812
3. Albert attended West Point. At 6 ft. 1 in. tall he was a fine horseman and was 9th in the graduating class of 1826.
4. He was offered an engineering position or to be the aide to General Winfield Scott, but he wanted to be a field officer.
5. He was a friend of Jefferson Davis at Westpoint

6. He fought in the war of Texas independence
7. He was challenged to a duel and was shot in the hip; lost feeling in his leg
8. Advanced to general, and was assigned to the West Coast in 1860
9. Was approached by Confederate plotters to surrender Fort Point, but he refused
10. Resigned his commission and rode to Texas; eventually made it to Richmond where he was made General of the Western Army of the Confederacy
11. Made it a point to lead ahead of his men; was shot in the leg at the Battle of Shiloh and may not have even felt it because of the previous nerve damage; died April 6, 1862
12. He was the highest ranking soldier to die on either side

We thanked Ranger Valdez for his excellent presentation.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Stephen Johnson
Secretary, Camp 24