



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

MINUTES OF CAMP MEETING JUNE 15, 2016

Meeting was called to order by Commander Charles Kenyon at 7:09 pm

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

Treasurer's Report: Brother Johnson reported that as of May 31st, the camp has \$674.08, \$200 of which is in the Braden Schall Memorial Fund

The members recounted their participation at Memorial Day activities:

- Brothers Felton, Schall, and Johnson were in the military parade at the San Francisco Presidio and later assisted the Park Ranger at the National Cemetery in telling the story of some of the Union soldiers buried there;
- Brother Mayer was at the Brentwood Cemetery and assisted in firing the cannon for the 21-gun salute
- Brother Felton was also at the Felton Civil War event, and helped Brother Mabie in manning the SUVCW table

Brother Felton attended the ceremony in Galt, CA in which a new headstone was installed for a Civil War soldier.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, Brother Mayer attended the ROTC ceremony at De Anza High School in El Sobrante to pass out the ROTC Award from our camp.

We decided that members will be sent an e-mail about future meetings, and Brother Gee has volunteered to also call each member about upcoming meetings.

We agreed to not have a meeting in July, and to have the August meeting at Fort Point on Saturday, August 20th, which is Civil War Day there. We will participate in the various activities, and have our meeting on the second tier in the afternoon. (Time TBA)

Brother Hatton showed us his Infantry Sergeant's uniform that he will be wearing at future events. It is the same type of uniform that his ancestor wore in the Missouri regiment.

Brother Gee gave an excellent presentation on the Battle of Mobile Bay in August, 1864. Using hand crafted model ships, Brother Gee described how Rear Admiral David Farragut had his lead ships sail through a narrow channel lined with mines ("torpedoes")

as they were called), past Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines. A US monitor was lost, but the other ships managed to engage and defeat almost all the small Confederate navy. The one remaining Confederate ship, the ironclad *CSS Tennessee*, took on the whole Union Navy at this point and was inflicting some damage until outnumbered by Union monitors. She was eventually reduced to a useless hulk.

Farragut could now draw his attention to the forts, including Fort Powell, on the western side of the bay. All three now faced bombardment from the Union ships and attack by Union land forces. Within days the forts surrendered, one by one.

It was during this battle that Farragut lashed himself to the mast so he could see the battle over the smoke. He became famous for the words, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!", though he probably never said those exact words. In any case, he had proved to be an aggressive, clever tactician and worthy of the praise heaped upon him after this battle.

Our thanks to Brother John for putting together this very informative lecture.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.