



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
General Pleasonton Camp #24

MINUTES OF THE CAMP MEETING  
NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Meeting was called to order by Commander Charles Kenyon at 7:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Members in attendance: Brothers Charles Kenyon, Ken Felton, John Gee, Steve Johnson, Robert Mayer, Bruce Hevelin, Jeffrey Vaillant, Gary Hormel

Treasurer's Report: Brother Johnson reported that as of May 31st, the camp has \$593, \$200 of which is in the Braden Schall Memorial Fund. \$96.08 was spent on membership certificates, ROTC certificates, and officer's certificates.

Brother Robert Mayer submitted his paperwork to become a full-fledged member of the camp. His ancestor was William Kieth, who joined the 4th West Virginia in June of 1861. His unit saw action notably at Vicksburg MS and Missionary Ridge, TN. Though his unit was mustered out on July 4th, 1864, they fought a battle on July 18th, at Sinker's Ferry, WV.

The brothers present unanimously voted to accept Brother Mayer as our newest member.

Brother Johnson offered to do the member certificates in calligraphy and will be given out at the next meeting, in January, to those who attended this meeting.

Candidates for next year's officers were discussed and voted upon. The officers for 2017 are:

Ken Felton, Commander

Jon Gee, Vice-commander

Robert Mayer, Jr. Vice-commander

Steve Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer and Patriotic Instructor

Bruce Hevelin, Council Member

Jeffrey Vaillant, Council Member

Gary Hormel, Council Member

Installation of officers will take place at our next scheduled meeting, January 28, 2017, at Fort Point. Members are invited to come in uniform (If they have one) and participate in the Civil War Day taking place that day, from 10 am to 5 pm. The camp meeting will take place around 1 pm. Members can help man the SUVCW table during the day.

JohnGee was our speaker for the evening, and his topic was "Mexico During the Civil War". The salient points of his talk were:

- Starting in 1857 Mexico underwent a revolution during which President Benito Juarez refused to pay interest on the loans to European creditor nations.
- The navies of Britain, France, and Spain occupied the port of Veracruz in 1861 and stayed to collect tariffs from trading ships as payment owed to them
- The navies of Britain and Spain left, but Napoleon III of France decided to legitimize French rule in the Americas by appointing an Austrian prince, Ferdinand Maximilian, as Emperor of Mexico, who was supported by Mexican conservatives and royalists.
- Republicans in Mexican society resisted French occupation, and the Mexican army defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla, on May 5, 1862 (the origin of Cinco de Mayo celebrations)
- French reinforcements subsequently defeated the Mexican army and fought a succession of battles with Mexican forces
- Maximilian was enthroned in 1864 in Veracruz and espoused liberal reforms in the country, which alienated the conservatives and didn't win over the republicans, who hated monarchies
- During this time there was little the United States could do, since of course Lincoln was totally absorbed in the Civil War
- After the Civil War, arms began flowing south to the Mexican republicans and American troops were forming on the border; Napoleon saw the handwriting on the wall
- In 1866 Napoleon withdrew the French Army, and Maximilian was eventually captured and shot. Thus ended French adventurism in Mexico.

(note: some info was added by the editor)

We thanked Brother John for his informative talk; he promises to have a speaker for the February meeting.

Members are reminded that they can start renewing their memberships for 2017; some have already paid. Please send your check for \$30, made out to "SUVCW Camp 24", to Steve Johnson, 384 Heathcliff Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044. Memberships are due by January 10.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Johnson  
Secretary Treasurer, Camp 24