



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

MINUTES OF THE CAMP MEETING  
September 20, 2017

Meeting at the Albany City Library was called to order by Commander Ken Felton at 6:55 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brother Johnson reported that as of August 30th, the camp has \$579, \$200 of which is in the Braden Schall Memorial Fund.

Brother Felton reported that he awarded the SUVCW commendation to an Eagle Scout in Palo Alto this month, as well one JROTC Award.

Discussion:

- Brother Brad Hatton showed us the trophy he won in the Newark Founders Day Parade held there recently. Brad was the only one in a military uniform; he was wearing a Union Army sergeant's uniform, the same as his ancestor.
- Brothers were informed about the Civil War re-enactment at Fort Mervine in Monterey, October 14-15
- Brothers were also informed there would be a cemetery clean-up on October 14th at the Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery in Martinez, where a number of Union soldiers are buried.
- It was decided to have the election of officers for 2018 at the next camp meeting. Brothers John Gee and Steve Johnson indicated they would be willing to serve in their same positions next year.
- It was also decided to have no meetings in November or December due to the busy holidays. The first meeting in 2018 will be at Fort Point during the Civil War Day event, now tentatively scheduled for January 27th, 2018. At that time there will be the investiture of new camp officers.

In lieu of a guest speaker, each member present talked about their Union ancestor.

Brother John Gee spoke of his ancestor **Joseph Niebert**. Joseph joined the 4th Ohio Cavalry when he was just 17. According to family lore, Joseph's father was against this and came to the camp to fetch him back, but Joseph hid. Joseph was captured in 1862 and was a prisoner-of-war until exchanged. He returned to service and his unit was involved in skirmishes in Bowling Green, Nashville, Lexington, Murfreesboro, among others. He re-enlisted in 1864, and in the last month of the war was badly wounded.

Brother Steve Johnson described his ancestor, **Daniel McNulty**, as the son of an immigrant from County Donegal, Ireland, who no doubt fled the terrible famine there. Daniel joined the

6th Illinois Light Artillery, whose unit saw action at Gettysburg and St. Petersburg, Daniel lost his hearing - the fate of many artillerymen - and for the rest of his life in Chicago received a pension (after many letters and affidavits sent to the Pension Board).

Brother Ken Felton talked of his ancestor **Hugh Douglas Dike**, who was living in Green County, Tennessee when Confederate recruiters came to sign him up for the army. When Hugh refused, being a Union man, he was jailed. His paid paid the \$1000 ransom to get him out of jail, and (since he could still be recruited) he fled to Kentucky. There he joined the 9th Tennessee Cavalry and was eventually stationed in his home town. His unit was involved in the 1864 raid on Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan's camp, and the general's death, in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Brother Jeffrey Vaillant's ancestor was **Archibald Pierson**, who served in the 10th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. This regiment was involved in the battle of Corinth (1862), the siege of Vicksburg (1863) and later that year in the Battle of Mission Ridge. The following year the regiment was part of the attack on Savannah. (Secretary's note: in reading the history of the 10th Iowa, I noted that in 1862 they lost 90 men to an attack of measles, emphasizing that many men in the Civil War fell more to disease than to battle). Archibald went on to father 15 children, and today there are 77 descendants who can thank him for his virility.

Brother Brad Hatton had 2 relatives on his father's side and one on his mother's side that were Union soldiers. One ancestor, **George Lauck**, joined the Illinois 12th Volunteer Infantry, whose engagements included the Battle of Corinth and the attack on Atlanta. He was promoted to Corporal and then to Sergeant. Thanks to his German heritage, he later started the Santa Clara Brewery. Brother Brad proudly wears his sergeant's uniform whenever he can, to honor his Union soldier ancestor.

It was decided to hold our next camp meeting on **Tuesday, October 17th**, at the Albany City Library, at 7 pm. At that time we will vote for new officers, so all members should attend that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Johnson  
Secretary, Camp 24