



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

MINUTES OF THE CAMP MEETING
July 17, 2018

Meeting at the Albany City Library was called to order by Commander Ken Felton at 6:45 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brother Johnson reported that the camp had \$782.26 — \$200 of which is in the Braden Schall Memorial Fund.

Camp Business:

- Brother Ken Felton will attend the National Encampment in Boston, August 9 - 12
- Brother John Gee gave a brief report about our visit to the National Park Archives at the Presidio. Ranger Amanda Wilford gave us a tour showing only a tiny fraction of the millions of items held by the Archives. Photos and documents related to Alcatraz and Fort Point were on display, and she said our members always have access to materials relevant to programs we want to give about those two sites.
- Four brothers from our camp will be attending the Living History Day at Fort Point on August 18th.

Brother Ken described his research into the life of Matthew Arthur, who is buried at the Presidio National Cemetery. He discovered Arthur had been buried previously at the G.A.R. Cemetery at Land's End, and was moved to the National Cemetery, but without any records of his service. Through diligent research Ken discovered Arthur was a recipient of the Medal of Honor for his service aboard the *USS Carondelet* in 1863. Ken brought his research to the attention of the cemetery staff 6 years ago but they weren't convinced. But at the last Memorial Day ceremony in May Ken discovered a Medal of Honor marker had finally been placed on his headstone. Good work, Brother Ken.

Guest Speaker was Brother John Gee, who gave a talk about the naval battle of Charleston in 1863. Using ship models on a scale model of the forts and islands of Charleston harbor, John described how the Union ships, including several monitors, were simply outgunned by the cannons from the shore and the forts, and eventually had to withdraw. It was a battle insisted upon by Lincoln, but in the end proved a disaster for the Union. Charleston wasn't taken until 1865, by a land invasion.

The next meeting will be held at Fort Point on Saturday, August 18th.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer, Camp 24