



The Guidon

General Alfred Pleasonton – Camp 24
Chartered 30 August 1999

Department of California and Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

December Issue

2011



December Camp Meeting is a Christmas dinner at the home of Charlie Mabie, PDC – 7788 Peachtree Avenue, Newark, CA 94560.

Guests can arrive at 3 pm, with dinner at 4 pm. The camp will provide turkey, spuds, gravy, stuffing, and I (Charlie) will prepare whatever other dishes that are not brought. RSVP by Friday, December 2, 2011. Email Charlie to say what you want to bring (dessert, side dish, appetizer). editor@suvpac.org
Charlie Mabie address is: 7780 Peachtree Avenue, Newark, CA 94560, phone (510) 713-0650

From: Camp Commander's Jeffrey Vaillant Column—December 2011

We celebrated the life of Brother Lynn Owens on Monday, 21 November 2011 at the Trinity Baptist Church in Livermore, CA where it is my understanding he attended for 30+ years. It was a wonderful celebration that included the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, the U. S. Navy and the SUVCW Camp 24. Brothers PCinC Brad and PDC Charlie spoke about their relationship with Brother Lynn. Former Camp member and first Sergeant of Co. B, 8th California Bob Maerdian played the bag pipes and Chuck Gardali from Camp 9 and Dave Schleeter from Camp 23 attended. Kathy Mabie represented the Auxiliary. If space permits, the program will be part of this newsletter. Camp Secretary Brad is putting together a list of all past Camp Commanders which will be part of the newsletter as well as posted on the SUVCW website.

If you wish to make a contribution in Lynn's memory one consideration is the SUVCW Foundation (<http://suvcw-cf.org/>). Also, as a Camp we could consider a Camp donation at our January meeting.

Speaking of the website (<http://www.suvpac.org/camp24.html>) take a look at it to see that the information about you is correct. If not, then let Camp Secretary Brad know the correct information. I know I need to post under "My Union Ancestor" information. How about you?

Important dates for our calendars include:

4 December gathering at Camp SVC Charlie's home.

17 January 2012 Camp meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Castro Valley.

28-29 Living History Day at Fort Point which our Camp is one of the sponsors.

For 2012 think about whom you can bring to a meeting and think about how we can increase our membership.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Jeffrey Vaillant
Camp Commander

Activities for 2012

January meeting	January 17, 2012
Installation of Officers	
Fort Point Living History Days	January 28 and 29, 2012
February meeting	February 21, 2012
March Department Encampment	March 9 & 10 – San Luis Obispo
March meeting	March 20, 2012
Alcatraz Living History Day	Saturday April 14, 2012
April meeting	April 17, 2012
May meeting	May 15, 2012
Gibson Ranch Living History	May 18, 19, 2012
Memorial Day	May 28, 2012
Memorial Day – Traditional	May 30, 2012

Newsletter information should be sent to Brad Schall – bradsuvcw@wavecable.com two week prior to our meeting. January newsletter information needs to be received by January 3, 2012.

Minutes from the November 15, 2011 meeting

Good meeting.

Meeting was called to order by SVC Jeffrey Vaillant, pledge was led by Charlie Mabie and Doug James gave the prayer.

Bob Ebert gave Treasurers report.

Elections were held. Jeff Vaillant will be Commander, Charlie Mabie as SVC, and Ken Felton as JVC. Mark Wilson, Paul Hillar, and Bruce Hevelin will be Camp Council, Brad Schall, Secretary. Our Chaplain will be Doug James, who serves as such in the Masonic Lodge. Jeff Vaillant will announce appointed officers at our January meeting.

In attendance: Charlie Mabie, Jeff Vaillant, Paul Hillar, Ken Felton, Bruce Hevelin, Doug James, Bob Ebert.

We shared stories of Lynn Owens and looked at some photos.

We discussed the Camp dinner on the 4th, and that I will send an email out this weekend with details.

Reviewed FT. Point 150th event.

Charlie Mabie
Acting Secretary

A reminder about 2012 dues. We are now accepting dues and donations for 2012. Our Camp dues are \$28.00 per year and we accept donations for Camp, Department and National projects. Please send check made out to SUVCW to Treasurer Bob Ebert, 2873 Ptarmigan Drive #3, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Thank you to all that have sent in their dues.

Sword Stolen From Statue at Abraham Lincoln's Tomb

http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/11/13/sword-stolen-from-statue-at-abraham-lincolns-tomb/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+foxnews%2Fnational%28Internal+++US+Latest+++Text%29

Published November 13, 2011

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A statue on top of Abraham Lincoln's tomb in Illinois is missing its sword for the second time in over a hundred years after thieves apparently made off with part of the copper sculpture, the State Journal-Register reported.

An employee at the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Ill., noticed last week that the copper sword held by a replica of a Civil War artillery officer was missing.

According to the report, the sword was broken off at the handle, with no damage done to the rest of the artillery officer statue or the other statues in the group of four -- representing the Civil War cavalry, infantry and navy -- atop the tomb.

The statue's original bronze sword was stolen in 1890, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency spokesman Dave Blanchette said.

He said the copper sword was likely stolen while the cemetery was closed, because "anyone who would have gone up would have been noticed by a worker" during the day.

The cemetery previously stationed an overnight security guard at the tomb, but the position was eliminated due to budget cuts.

Blanchette said cemetery officials plan to repair the statue.

The tomb is occasionally a target for vandalism, but thefts from the tomb are rare, he said.

In F. C. & L.
Lt. Don Wilt, Adj.
Co. B, 8th Reg. CA Inf., SVR



SUVCW LEADERSHIP COMMUNIQUE #1 **WHY A VISION?**

Donald D. Palmer, Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
28 October 2011

Since the National Encampment in Reston, several Brothers have asked me, "Why do we need a vision?" This answer is simple, but needs some explanation. "Vision" is a widely used term, but not well understood in the context of business operations. Unfortunately, many leaders

don't understand what vision is, or why it is important. Over the past few years, I researched this topic to a great extent and pulled together some information from various references to help answer that question. I will first tackle the general topic of "vision" and then expand on the vision defined for our organization as defined in my General Orders #1 dated 26 August 2011.

First, consider this excerpt from a SKY Magazine article by Mapes in 1991, as it applies to many organizations today:

"A specialist was hired to develop and present a series of half-day training seminars on empowerment and teamwork for the managers of a large international oil company. Fifteen minutes into the first presentation, he took a headlong plunge into the trap of assumption. With great intent, he laid the groundwork for what he considered the heart of empowerment-team-building, family, and community. He praised the need for energy, commitment, and passion for production. At what he thought was the appropriate time, he asked the group of 40 managers the simple question on which he was to ground his entire talk: "What is the vision of your company?" No one raised a hand. The speaker thought they might be shy, so he gently encouraged them. The room grew deadly silent. Everyone was looking at everyone else, and he had a sinking sensation in his stomach. "Your company does have a vision, doesn't it?" he asked. A few people shrugged, and a few shook their heads. He was dumbfounded. How could any group or individual strive toward greatness and mastery without a vision? That's exactly the point.....they can't. They can maintain, they can survive; but they can't expect to achieve greatness."

Much of the literature on vision focuses on "for-profit" businesses and corporations, but it clearly applies for "non-profit" organizations as well. One definition of vision comes from Burt Nanus, a well-known expert on the subject. Nanus defines a vision as a **realistic, credible, attractive future for [an] organization**. Let's dissect this definition:

- **Realistic:** A vision must be based in reality to be meaningful for an organization. For example, if you're developing a vision for a computer software company that has carved out a small niche in the market developing instructional software and has a 1.5 percent share of the computer software market, a vision to overtake Microsoft and dominate the software market is not realistic!
- **Credible:** A vision must be believable to be relevant. To whom must a vision be credible? Most importantly, to the members of the organization. If these people do not find the vision credible, it will not be meaningful or serve a useful purpose. Two purposes of a vision include inspiring those in the organization to achieve a level of excellence, and to provide purpose and direction for the work of those people. A vision that is not credible will accomplish neither.
- **Attractive:** If a vision is going to inspire and motivate those in the organization, it must be attractive. People must want to be part of this future that's envisioned for the organization.
- **Future:** A vision is not in the present, it is in the future. In this respect, the image of the leader gazing off into the distance to formulate a vision may not be a bad one. A vision is not where you are now, it's where you want to be in the future.

Nanus goes on to say that the right vision for an organization, one that is a *realistic, credible, attractive future for that organization*, can accomplish a number of things for the organization:

- **It attracts commitment and energizes people.** This is one of the primary reasons for establishing a vision for an organization....its motivational effect. When people can see that the organization is committed to a vision - and that entails more than just having a vision

statement - it generates enthusiasm about the course the organization intends to follow, and increases the commitment of people to work toward achieving that vision.

- **It creates meaning in members' lives.** A vision allows people to feel like they are part of a greater whole, and hence provides meaning for their work. The right vision will mean something to everyone in the organization if they can see how their efforts contribute to that vision. Consider the difference between the hotel service worker who can only say, "I make beds and clean bathrooms," to the one who can also say, "I'm part of a team committed to becoming the worldwide leader in providing quality service to our hotel guests." The work is the same, but the context and meaning of the work is different.
- **It establishes a standard of excellence.** A vision serves a very important function in establishing a standard of excellence. In fact, a good vision is all about excellence. Tom Peters, the author of *In Search of Excellence*, talks about going into an organization where a number of problems existed. When he attempted to get the organization's leadership to address the problems, he got the defensive response, "But we're no worse than anyone else!" Peters cites this sarcastically as a great vision for an organization: "Acme Widgets: We're No Worse than Anyone Else!" A vision so characterized by lack of motivation would neither invigorate nor excite anyone about that organization. The standard of excellence also can serve as a continuing goal and stimulate quality improvement programs, as well as providing a measure of the worth of the organization.
- **It bridges the present and the future.** The right vision takes the organization out of the present and focuses it on the future. It's easy to get caught up in the crises of the day, and to lose sight of where you were heading. A good vision can orient you on the future, and provide positive direction. The vision alone isn't enough to move you from the present to the future, however. That's where a strategic plan comes in. A vision is the desired future state for the organization; the strategic plan is how to get from where you are now to where you want to be in the future.

Another definition of vision comes from Oren Harari: "**Vision should describe a set of ideals and priorities, a picture of the future, a sense of what makes the organization special and unique, a core set of principles that the organization stands for, and a broad set of compelling criteria that will help define organizational success.**" Are there any differences between Nanus's and Harari's definitions of vision? What are the similarities? Do these definitions help clarify the concept of vision and bring it into focus?

Now, let's discuss our SUVCW vision as it is currently defined, which I refer to as Vision 2020....

"To be recognized by Government, academia and the general public as the leading source of information pertaining to: (1) history, genealogy and preservation initiatives associated with the Grand Army of the Republic and the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines who fought to preserve the Union and (2) patriotism, the duties of citizenship and honoring those that made the supreme sacrifice in defense of this Nation."

Our mission, as defined by our Federal Charter, is as follows...

- To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and those who fought to save the Union 1861 to 1865;
- to assist in every practicable way in the preservation and making available for research of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members;
- to cooperate in doing honor to all who have patriotically served our country in any war;

- to teach patriotism, and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our Flag;
- to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, or make for the destruction or impairment of our constitutional Union;
- and to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, of equal rights, and of impartial justice for all

What does this all mean to us? In its simplest sense, it boils down to reaching the public...be it on Civil War history, genealogical research and information, or the elements of good citizenship. Have we fared well in reaching the public up to this point? In some aspects, we have. However, the largest segment of the public either mistakenly identifies the SUVCW with other organizations, or knows nothing about us at all. So given our current state, can we say...mission accomplished? Vision 2020 takes the key elements of our mission and defines where we want to be by the year 2020. How will we measure success? Among other things, we can certainly track volume of web site searches, official requests for information (Gov't, academia, youth groups, etc.), opportunities for community involvement (lectures, living history programs, etc.) and membership growth.

Now that the vision has been communicated, how do we go about implementing it? This is where **strategic planning** comes in. To describe the relationship between strategic visioning and strategic planning.....**visioning can be considered as establishing where we want the organization to be in the future; strategic planning determines how we get there.** Strategic planning links the present to the future, and shows how we intend to move toward our vision. The process of strategic planning first involves developing goals to help us achieve our vision, then identifying actions that will enable the organization to reach these goals. That's what we will be doing next. As you may be aware, I have established the special committee on Vision and Planning led by PCC David LaBrot to develop the strategic plan needed to implement this vision. During the next several months, this committee will be working with other committees and officers of this organization to help develop this strategic plan. At a minimum, this plan will include strategies for effective advertising to increase public awareness, increasing membership, improving cooperation between Allied Orders, growing youth programs, establishing stretch goals on key data gathering initiatives and developing sound financial strategies.

Hopefully, this provides a better understanding of our vision, why we established it, and what we will be doing to develop a plan to achieve it. My next communiqué will focus on "Branding"....what it is and why it is important for organizations with growth goals.

Website information:

National Website: www.suvcw.org

National Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/suvcw>

Department Website: www.suvmac.org

Camp 24 website: www.suvmac.org/camp24.html

131 National Encampment
August 9-12, 2012
Los Angeles, California

The California Brigade (Philadelphia Brigade)

by Gary Lash

Seldom, among the records of American soldiery, have the uncertainties of official procedure been more strikingly illustrated than in the case of the four so-called "California" regiments of 1861, which were destined to win fame and glory as the "Philadelphia Brigade."

On April 21st, 1861, a meeting of citizens of California was held at the Metropolitan Hotel in New York City, Senator Edward D. Baker being one of the vice-presidents. Resolutions were adopted "to raise a regiment composed of men from the Pacific coast and others who might choose to join."

Early in May, 1861, a number of citizens of the Pacific coast, who were in Washington, decided that California ought to be represented in the Army of the Union upon the Atlantic slope, and to that end urged Edward D. Baker, then United States Senator from Oregon, to form a regiment in the East to the credit of that distant State. Senator Baker decided to undertake the task provided that he be allowed to enlist men for three years. At the insistence of the President, the Secretary of War addressed Senator Baker as follows: "You are authorized to raise for the service of the United States a regiment of troops (infantry), with yourself as colonel, to be taken as a portion of any troops that may be called from the State of California by the United States, and to be known as the 'California Regiment.' Orders will be issued to the mustering officer in New York to muster the same into service as presented.

The Union force of actual Californians comprised eight regiments of infantry, two regiments and one battalion of cavalry and a battalion of mountaineers, all of which were engaged throughout the war in maintaining order in the Department of the Pacific.

Senator Edward D. Baker was, at this time, a striking figure among the great men of the nation. He was fifty years old, and of commanding appearance and great eloquence. Born in London, England, he had emigrated in 1815, with his father's family, to Philadelphia, where his father taught school, and the future United States Senator found, when old enough, work as a weaver in a mill near Eleventh and Christian streets. When he was nineteen years old the Baker family moved to Illinois, where his career ran parallel with that of his friend and sometime opponent, Abraham Lincoln. Thus, in time, Baker became a Congressman, forsaking this honor to lead a regiment in the war with Mexico. Upon his return he was again sent to Congress from Illinois, after which he became associated with Isaac J. Wistar, of Philadelphia, in a law firm at San Francisco. It was largely due to his influence that California was held against secession intrigue. In December, 1860, Col. Baker found himself once more in Washington, as the first Senator from the State of Oregon. When, a few months later, the opportunity came to him to again assume the sword, he looked to New York city for the material of his projected regiment. Mr. Wistar, an old Indian fighter, advised him, however, to depend upon Philadelphia, and the latter, who became one of his officers, began recruiting here. As a result, of the ten companies raised, nine were from Philadelphia and one from New York city. As fast as companies were formed they were sent to New York city for muster and to camp at Fort Schuyler. They were regarded as a part of the regular army. They were uniformed in gray suits, which had been confiscated in New York when just ready to be shipped to a Confederate artillery regiment. The "First California Regiment" paraded in Philadelphia upon June 29th, 1861, many people supposing the men to be actual California soldiers. After a brief stay at Suffolk Park they were sent south. While in camp at Washington the regiment was increased to fifteen companies, the accessions coming from Philadelphia. Senator John C. Breckenridge tried to induce a revolt in the camp during the absence of Col. Baker, but the eloquence of their leader, upon his return, prevailed.

In October, 1861, by authority of the President, Col. Baker increased his command to a brigade. The additional regiments thus credited to California were those of Colonels Owen, Baxter and Morehead, all from Philadelphia, respectively designated the 2nd, 3rd and 5th California Regiments. The 4th California Regiment, as planned, was composed of artillery and cavalry. These troops were soon detached. After the unfortunate affair at Ball's Bluff, in which Col. Baker was killed, the State of Pennsylvania claimed these four splendid infantry regiments as a part of its quota, and they became known as "the Philadelphia Brigade," Pennsylvania Volunteers. The gray uniforms of the

initial regiment, then designated the 71st Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, had been discarded for the Union blue, and the men were no longer in danger of being mistaken by their comrades for Confederates. Under the command of Brig.-Gen. W. W. Burns, they were now identified with Gen. Sedgwick's Division of the Second Corps.

The Philadelphia Brigade was unique in the history of the Civil War as the only organization of its kind coming from a single city of the North. The story of its achievements and losses forms one of the most brilliant pages in the annals of our citizen soldiery of the patriotic Quaker City.

Book Review by Brad Schall

The Won Cause by Barbara A. Gannon, published by UNC Press

Taken from the book cover insert. " In the years after the Civil War, black and white Union soldiers who survived the horrific struggle joined the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – the Union army's largest veterans' organization. In this thoroughly researched and groundbreaking study, Barbara Gannon chronicles black and white veterans' efforts to create and sustain the nation's first interracial organization.

According to the conventional view, the freedoms and interest of African American veterans were not defended by white Union veterans after the war, despite the shared traditions of sacrifice among both black and white soldiers. In the Won Cause, however, Gannon challenges this scholarship, arguing that although black veterans still suffered under the contemporary racial mores, the GAR honored its black members in many instances and ascribed them a greater equality than previous studies have shown. Using evidence of integrated post and veterans' thoughts on their comradeship and the cause, Gannon reveals that white veterans embraced black veterans because their membership in the GAR demonstrated that their wartime suffering created a transcendent bond-comradeship-that overcame even the most pernicious social barrier-race-based separation. By upholding a more inclusive memory of a war fought for liberty as well as union, the GAR's "Won Cause" challenged the Lost Cause version of Civil War memory."

I found the book fascinating and it created a desire to do more research. You can go to www.blackgar.com for more information. The information on California is lacking some research. I have already found three more Posts that were integrated.

War Units of our Ancestors:

1st United States Sharpshooters, 5th United States Infantry, 16th United States Infantry, 1st Corp Army of the Potomac, II Corp Army of the Potomac, District of Columbia: 2nd District of Columbia Infantry
Illinois: 11th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, 31st Illinois, 34 Illinois Infantry, 35 Illinois Volunteer Infantry, 65th Illinois, 80th Illinois Infantry, 87th Illinois Infantry, 119th Illinois, 142nd Illinois, 131 Illinois, 136 Illinois Infantry, 98 Illinois Mounted Infantry, 1st Illinois Volunteer Light Artillery Colvin Battery
Indiana: 51st Indiana, 65th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, 130th Indiana Volunteers, 6th Indiana
Iowa: 3rd Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, 10th Iowa, 44th Iowa
Kansas: Co. B 3rd Kansas, 8th Kansas Infantry, 15th Kansas
Kentucky: 55th Kentucky Mounted Infantry
Maine: 13th Maine Artillery
Michigan: 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, 12th Michigan, 22th Michigan Infantry
Minnesota: 1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery
Mississippi: 1st Mississippi Marine Brigade
Missouri: 21st Missouri
New Hampshire: 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry
Ohio: 8th Ohio, 80th Ohio, 100th Ohio, 172nd Ohio
Pennsylvania: 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, 13th Pennsylvania, 18th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, 63rd Pennsylvania, 67 Pennsylvania, 71st Pennsylvania/1st California Infantry, 79th Pennsylvania, 100th Pennsylvania Volunteers, Co. B 215th Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Provisional Cavalry
New York: 69th New York Volunteers, 154th New York Volunteers, 134th New York Volunteers, 7th New York Heavy Artillery.
Tennessee: 4th East Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry
West Virginia: 11th West Virginia Infantry
Wisconsin: 3rd Wisconsin Light Artillery, 30th Wisconsin Infantry