



The Guidon

General Alfred Pleasonton – Camp 24
Chartered 30 August 1999

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

January Issue

2012



Camp Meeting is Tuesday January 17, 2012 – Mountain Mike Pizza – Castro Valley
Shopping Center Social at 6:30 pm -----Meeting at 7:00 pm

Camp Commander's Column—January 2012 – Jeffrey Vaillant

Let me begin the New Year by thanking the Brothers who serve the Camp with their time, talent and abilities. Each Brother taking on responsibilities makes the Camp the best in the Department!! Have you checked the website (<http://www.suvpac.org/camp24.html>) to see that the information about you is correct? Let Camp Secretary Brad know correct information. I know I need to post under “My Union Ancestor” information. How about you? I am working on mine.

Important dates for our calendars include:

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

28-29 January 2012: Living History Day at Fort Point which our Camp as one of the sponsors.

14 April 2012: Living History Day on Alcatraz Island sponsored by the Friends of Civil War Alcatraz. Become a member of the FOCWA!!

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
Independence Day	July 4, 2012

Newsletter information should be sent to Brad Schall – bradsuvcw@wavecable.com two weeks prior to our meeting. February newsletter information needs to be received by Wednesday February 2, 2012.

Department Encampment March 9 and 10, 2012 – San Luis Obispo, CA
Commander-in-Chief Don Palmer and First Lady Kim Palmer will be in attendance.

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.

What say you? Let's discuss this at our next Camp meeting.

Perhaps consideration needs to be given to attaching a marker appropriate to the veteran's war so that we could use the SUVCW/GAR marker and the Spanish American group could use theirs and so forth?
Jeffrey Valliant, Commander

Stephen Twining has come up with a great Idea. Perhaps we should propose something like this in California.

Ordinance calls for icons on vets' graves
By Michael Hartwell, mhartwell@sentinelandenterprise.com Posted: 12/22/2011 06:52:09 AM EST

FITCHBURG -- A local man is attempting to create a city ordinance to mark existing gravestones of veterans so they can be identified and honored on occasions like Memorial Day. Stephen Twining is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, which he describes as a patriotic education group. He wants two-inch metal disks placed on the graves of all veterans in the city. "There's a lot of veterans' gravestones that have no military information on them, so people don't know they're veterans," said Twining, who is the graves-registration officer with the group. Twining said the recent veterans are honored more often than veterans of the Civil War and other conflicts that occurred before anyone living was born. He said Civil War veterans fought to preserve the Union, and their recognition should never expire. However, the motion is for all veterans, not just from the Civil War. As part of the group's graves-registration project, he has registered more than 8,000 veteran graves in New England, mostly in Massachusetts. He said people typically look for the metal flag holders to identify veteran graves, but those are being stolen and sold for scrap metal.

He said the older ones are made of bronze and they have started using aluminum flag holders instead. This is cheaper, but even those are being stolen.

His solution is to attach a small metal disc, called an appliqué, to the gravestones. The discs are polished aluminum engraved with a large "V" for veteran and use a powerful adhesive, which he said should last for six to eight years or longer.

Tuesday's City Council meeting recognized a petition Twining filed to establish a city ordinance to place the icons on the graves of veterans. The council moved the issue to the Legislative Affairs Committee, which meets next month and will vote to decide if the committee recommends the petition.

Twining filed the petition after making a request to the Cemetery Commission, but that body couldn't grant permission because it doesn't own the gravestones.

If an ordinance is drafted that will allow appliquéés to be placed on graves, Twining said he will seek funding from veterans' organizations in the city to purchase the icons. He said they cost 80 cents each for an order of 500, or \$1.68 each for 100.

Under Twining's plan, the appliquéés could be attached by volunteers, members of veterans' organizations or city employees.

From Commander Vaillant:

Next time in DC here are more records to view.
Happy New Year

U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Letters and Telegrams Sent by the Commander, compiled 07/1863 - 11/1863
ARC Identifier 4708256 / MLR Number A1-2 1440

Textual Records from the War Department. Army of the Potomac. Cavalry Corps. (02/1863 - 08/1864)
Archives I Reference Section, Textual Archives Services Division, Washington, DC
Series from Record Group 393: Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817 - 1947

THE ARCHIVAL RESEARCH CATALOG

U.S. National Archives & Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road

College Park, MD 20740 Please note: DO NOT REPLY to this message. This email message was sent from a notification-only address that cannot accept incoming email.

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For questions about RESEARCH and records at the National Archives, contact Inquire@nara.gov

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

From Don J. Huffman, Carlin Camp, Department of California and Pacific

Saturday, November 12, 2011, the Ruby Mountain Symphony presented Salute to Veterans at the Elko, NV Convention Center in honor of veterans, and Carlin Camp 25 participated. Senior Vice Commander/Historian David A. Davis, PCC, gave a brief synopsis of the Civil War, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester presented Jerry Reynolds a certificate recognizing the medal of honor his grandfather received, and Chaplain/Patriotic Instructor Tyrone Davis took pictures. The orchestra played patriotic songs, and high school students read 400 to 500 page essays on the post-Civil War conflicts America fought in. A reception was held at the Northeastern Nevada Museum after the event.

Jerry Reynolds is the grandson of Harry Reynolds, which is the alias of Robert Smith who died January 5, 1930 and was buried in the Elko City Cemetery. Robert Smith was a Confederate drummer boy, who became a private in Troop M, 3rd U. S. Cavalry during the Indian Wars and was wounded three times. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery in action against the Sioux at Slim Buttes, Dakota Territory, on September 9, 1876. Carlin Camp 25 worked with the Medal of Honor Society in finding information on Robert Smith/Harry Reynolds.



Left to right, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester, Jerry Reynolds, and Senior Vice Commander/Historian David A. Davis, PCC, at the Northeastern Nevada Museum.

San Francisco Gold Rush Artifacts Discovered

Artifacts from San Francisco's Gold Rush days, including opium pipes from a Chinese laundry, have been discovered as the city digs its multibillion dollar transportation terminal.

The 70 artifacts have city archeologists eager to discover more.

"It's not often that you get a chance to stop for a moment and have a window into what used to be," said James M. Allan, an archeologist with William Self Associates, the firm ensuring the items are unearthed and preserved. "It gives you pause."

The \$4 billion Transbay Transit Center under construction in the South of Market financial district is billed as the "Grand Central Station of the West." The one million-square-foot bus and train station will serve as the northern end of California's planned high-speed rail line between San Francisco and Los Angeles; the West Coast's tallest skyscraper is slated to rise above the centre.

It occupies the same blocks once inhabited by working-class Irish immigrants and Chinese laborers who lived back to back on the sand dunes of the busy Gold Rush port known as Yerba Buena Cove.

Other artifacts included ceramic tea pots from China; French perfume bottles; dainty English serving dishes, apothecary jars and the heads of hand-painted porcelain dolls; as well as animal bone toothbrushes and abandoned chamber pots.

They all date back to the mid-to-late 1880s.

Today's residents and workers can see the exhibit in the lobby of the building that houses the Transbay Joint Powers Authority.

"I live and work in the neighborhood so I've been walking by the excavation site for a while and resisting the temptation to sneak in and see what might be lying around," said Tom Pagel, an investment adviser. "The neighborhood has changed so much in a relatively short period of time. It's a big evolution and gives you a glimpse into how the world has changed in those years."

The artifacts are accompanied by historic photos and documents, including an 1885 article from the San Francisco Chronicle in which Irish landlords – JS and Mary W Dolliver – were seeking \$500 in damages from Ah Wing and 11 Chinese tenants for the "offensive smells from the laundry that have injured the rental value of the plaintiff's premises."

This is a free book I just received, from an ebook publisher/seller. Written by a GAR member, in 1910.
Happy New Year! Bruce Hevelin

>From Wikipedia -- "Si Klegg, a Civil War novel by John McElroy, author of Andersonville. According to Wikipedia: "John McElroy was born to Robert and Mary Henderson McElroy in Greenup County, Kentucky. When his father died, he traveled to St. Louis to become an apprentice in the printing business. As a sixteen year old in 1863, McElroy enlisted in the Union Army as a private in Company L of the 16th Illinois Cavalry regiment, having earlier served with local Union troops in operations near St. Louis. In January 1864, he was among dozens of men captured in a skirmish near Jonesville, Virginia, by Confederate cavalymen under William E. Jones. McElroy sent to a variety of camps before being assigned to Andersonville prison, where he remained for the rest of the war. After the war ended, McElroy was released from captivity and transported back to the North. He settled in Chicago and resumed the printer's trade. He became a local reporter and newspaperman before moving to Toledo, Ohio, to become an editor of the Toledo Blade. He married Elsie Pomeroy of Ottawa, Ohio, and raised a family. In 1879, he wrote Andersonville: A Story of Rebel Military Prisons, a non-fiction work based on his experiences during his fifteen-month incarceration. It quickly became a bestseller and remained popular for the next twenty years. In 1884, he moved from Toledo to Washington, D.C. to take over as editor and co-owner of the National Tribune. He was active in the local Grand Army of the Republic, serving as commander of the Department of the Potomac in 1896. In 1908, McElroy wrote The Economic Functions of Vice. The following year, he published Struggle for Missouri, a history of the bitter division over slavery that split the state's loyalties and led to armed conflict within its borders. In 1910, he wrote a Civil War novel entitled Si Klegg: His Transformation from a Raw Recruit to a Veteran."

"The political horizon looks dark and lowering; but the people, under Providence, will set all right." [Abraham Lincoln](#)

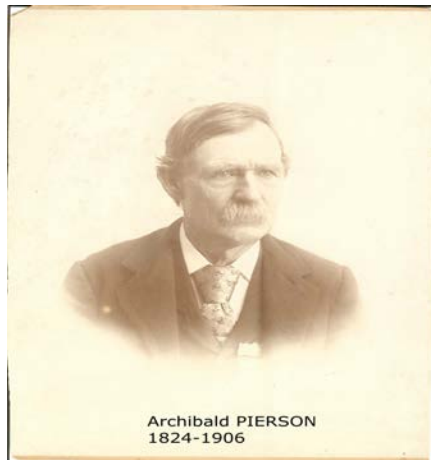
Trivia Questions

1. On February 3, 1862, President Lincoln rejected the offer of War Elephants from what nation?
2. Who was the featured speaker at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery?
3. What was the last southern state to secede?
4. What Union state had the highest per capita loss among its soldiers?
5. What was the only foreign state to officially recognize the Confederacy?
6. Who was the last man killed in action during the Civil War?
7. What state holds the distinction of providing proportionally the greatest number of soldiers in the Civil War? (18.8) of the state's 106,000 population, virtually all in the union?
8. The Emmett Rifle's were from what California town?
9. What Union General was born in Spain in 1815?
10. What is a fascine?

ANSWERS AT OUR JANUARY 17TH MEETING

My Union Ancestor
ARCHIBALD PIERSON

Great great grandfather of Jeffrey L. Vaillant
Company B, 10th Iowa Infantry



On the 29th of August 1862, Archibald Pierson enlisted at Brooklyn, Poweshiek County, Iowa into Company B, 10th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was almost 38 years old much older than most enlistees. He was one of 42 men from Carlisle that served in the 10th.

He was born in Boone County, Kentucky about the 8th of September 1824 the fourth son of Robert Pierson (ca. 1795-1843) and Nancy Render (ca. 1795-before 1838). His three older brothers [Ephraim (1816-1864), William (1822-1881), Joseph (1823-1886)] and younger brother [Granville (1828-1908)] fought for Iowa also.

Archibald married Mary “Polly” Adkins (1829-1873) in Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana on the 25th of September 1845. They had six children at the time of his enlistment—five daughters and a son. He was described at enlistment as being five feet, four inches tall with a fair complexion, sandy hair and blue eyes. He signed up for a three year term and obtained a \$25 bounty.

He probably joined the 10th in November 1862 in Oxford, MS where they intended to take part in a movement upon Vicksburg, but the surrender of Holly Springs with its stores compelled a change of plans and they marched to Memphis where the winter was spent. At some point he was promoted to Corporal; however, he did not retain this rank.

[He learned about his son Chester Robert’s death on the 4th of January 1863 in Carlisle.]

In the spring of 1863 the 10th Iowa was part of the Yazoo Pass expedition and after that moved to Milliken’s Bend.

In May 1863 he was at Champion Hill, MS where according to his pension papers he suffered health causing pleurisy and heart disease. The Union losses in this battle were 410 killed, 1844 wounded and 187 missing. This engagement is viewed as the turning point of the Vicksburg campaign.

“The Tenth was in the campaign of General Grant which resulted in the capture of Vicksburg and the entire confederate army under General Pemberton. At the battle of Champion Hill, the Tenth bore a conspicuous part in that bloody conflict. The brigade of which it formed a part was thrown in to check the rebel advance when Hovey's division was overwhelmed by superior numbers. The brigade did its work nobly, but at a fearful sacrifice, losing half of its number. The Tenth lost nearly 50 per cent of those engaged. In the assault on Vicksburg, May 22d, the Tenth made two heroic charges.”

In September 1863 he is reported “absent left in convalescent camp at Vicksburg”. Shortly thereafter he is the Brigade carpenter as he had been previously.

“In the campaign of Chattanooga, the Tenth was in several severe battles, always displaying its usual gallantry. P. P. Henderson had been promoted to colonel upon the resignation of Perczel, and Major McCalla was made lieutenant-colonel in place of Small, resigned, with Robert Lusby as major.

In February, 1864, the regiment re-enlisted as veterans, and was in Sherman's campaign through Georgia, fighting bravely in many of the battles.”

[SOURCE, Benjamin F. Gue, Biographies and Portraits of the Progressive Men of Iowa, Volume 1, p. 96 & 98]

“Archibald was part of the Campaign to the Sea during which time he developed varicose veins and he continued as a Divisional Headquarters carpenter. “

“On the 3d of October [1864] the regiment moved from Kingston to Cartersville, and thence to Atlanta, where General Sherman had concentrated his army, preparatory to beginning his march to Savannah.”

“The story of that great march through the State of Georgia, "from Atlanta to the Sea," has been immortalized in song, and has its place in history as one of the most remarkable military expeditions ever undertaken, or accomplished. The Tenth Iowa, as a part of the Third Division of the Fifteenth Army Corps, participated actively in this great march, and in the reduction of the enemy's works around Savannah, the capture of Fort McAllister, the opening of communication with the federal fleet in the harbor, and the occupation of the city, on the 21st day of December, 1864, after which the regiment went into camp a short distance from the city and remained there until January 9, 1865.

On the last named date, the concluding campaign of the war began. The regiment with its brigade and division crossed the river and entered the State of South Carolina, and began the long and toilsome march towards the North.

For nearly three months the march was continued, under the most difficult conditions; sometimes over almost impassable roads, wading through swamps, crossing swollen streams, through almost incessant rains, and frequent skirmishes with the enemy, now rendered desperate by the certainty that their last line of resistance must soon be overcome.

At last, after marching nearly five hundred miles, the Fifteenth Corps entered Goldsboro, N. C, on the 22d day of March, 1865, and went into camp for a season of rest and recuperation. Up to this time the troops had been compelled to subsist mainly upon such supplies as could be obtained from the country through which they passed, and which had often been found deficient, both in quantity and quality. Here, however, supplies were obtained in abundance from the seaboard, and the soldiers improved rapidly in health and strength.”

[SOURCE: Roster & Record of Iowa Soldiers During the War of the Rebellion, Volume 2, p. 145-52]

“The regiment left Goldsboro on the 7th of April. Their next halting place was at Raleigh, N. C, where they witnessed the capitulation of the rebel army under General Johnston and the removal of the last organized resistance to the Union army in its victorious march to Petersburg and Richmond, and on to Washington. Arrived at Washington, the regiment participated in the grand review, and afterwards returned to its camp near the city, where it remained until early in June, when it was ordered to Louisville, Ky., where it remained until the latter part of June, when it was ordered to proceed to Little Rock, Ark., where it arrived early in July. Here it remained until August 15, 1865, on which date it was mustered out of the service, and proceeded to Davenport, Iowa, where it was disbanded, and the men were sent to their homes.”

[SOURCE: Roster & Record of Iowa Soldiers During the War of the Rebellion, Volume 2, p. 145-52]

“Archibald was discharged on the 28th of May 1865 near Washington, D.C. with a \$75 bounty due. He returned home to continue his family and life in Carlisle where he had four more children. Wife Polly died in childbirth in 1873 and he remarried to Sarah Catherine Armstrong (1851-1928) on 7th September 1875. They had a family of five children.”

War Units of General Alfred Pleasonton's Brothers 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

Gatehouse Press, Publisher of Morningside books and the Gettysburg Magazine

(Editor opinion: Best Civil War magazine published)

Gatehouse Press, publisher of Morningside Books and The Gettysburg Magazine, announces a new online Civil War magazine. The magazine features articles covering all aspects of the Civil War. In addition to articles on personalities and battle actions, the site has first person accounts, On This Day articles, articles on visiting Civil War sites, and a Photo of the Day. New articles will post each Monday and Thursday. And it's all FREE. No subscription is required to access everything on the site.

Our site is for our readers. Do you have photos of Civil War sites? Submit them to us for our Photo of the Day. Have you visited a Civil War site? Send your story to our Civil War Experience page. Tell us about your visit. What should others who are going there do and see? And don't forget to include pictures of your visit.

For more than forty years Morningside Books and The Gettysburg Magazine have been bringing readers top quality material on the Civil War. Our new website continues that tradition.

Be sure to bookmark our site and visit it often. And don't forget to tell all your friends about it as well. We think you'll enjoy it! www.gatehouse-press.com



General Alfred Pleasonton Camp #24 Christmas Dinner
By Charlie Mabie, PDC

On December 4, 2011, Camp 24 hosted a Christmas party at the home of Charlie and Kathy Mabie. Members from Camp 23 and Camp 4 were also in attendance, as well as ladies from their respective auxiliaries. After dinner and dessert, some attendees retired to the garage for an impromptu show-and-tell about historic firearms development.

General Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 Officers for 2012

Camp Commander: Jeffrey Vaillant

Senior Vice Commander: Charles Mabie, PDC

Junior Vice Commander: Ken Felton

Secretary: Brad Schall, PCinC

Treasurer: Bob Ebert

Council: Paul Hiller, Bruce Hevelin, vacant

Chaplin: Douglas James

Counselor: Brad Schall, PCinC

Color Bearer: Charles Mabie

Guard: Ben Mabie

Graves Registration: Ken Felton

Memorials Officer: Brad Schall, PCinC

Eagle Scout: Charles Mabie

Newsletter Editor: Brad Schall, PCinC

Signals Officer: vacant

Patriotic Instructor: vacant

Historian: vacant

SUVCW Embroidered Patches

Small 2¹/₄ inch oval
for use on any piece
of clothing, back
packs, athletic
bags, etc.

Royal blue twill
base with words
and banner in
white. The center
emblem design, with
the eagle, is made
with a shiny gold thread.



**\$5.00 each plus \$1.00 S&H for first five.
\$2.00 S&H for six or more.**

Send check, or money order, payable to:
Phil Sheridan Camp 4, P.O. Box 24969,
San Jose, CA 95154
E-mail: philsheridan4@aol.com

General Alfred Pleasonton Camp #24 meets on the third Tuesday of the month at – Mountain Mike Pizza –
Castro Valley Shopping Center Social at 6:30 pm -----Meeting at 7:00 pm

Meetings are open to members and guest. Please come and join us in honoring the Boys in Blue

Camp #24 services the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa and shares the county of San Francisco with
Camp #4

Our Condolences goes to the families of the Lynn Owens, Thomas J. Brown, Dan Bunnell and Brad Schall.

Brother Lynn R. Owens, Commander of Gen. Alfred Pleasonton Camp No. 24, passed away on 4 November,
2011

Brother Thomas J. Brown, Past Commander of Lincoln Camp No. 10 passed away on 14 November, 2011

Brother Daniel M. Bunnell, Past Department Commander whose father Albert E. Bunnell passed away 28
November, 2011

Brother Brad Schall, Past Commander-in-Chief whose mother-in-law Ruby Pinker passed away 4 December,
2011

Website Information

National Website: www.suvcw.org

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

Department Website: www.suvcw.org

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

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL