



## The Guidon

General Alfred Pleasonton – Camp 24  
Chartered 30 August 1999

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

March Issue

2012



**New Meeting Location**  
**We need a count for dinner**  
**Please let Commander Vaillant know**  
**[jeffreyvaillant@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreyvaillant@hotmail.com)**

Camp Meeting is Tuesday March 20, 2012 – High Street Station Cafe – 1303 High St. (High St. & Encinal), Alameda, CA 94501 Social at 6:00 pm -----Meeting at 7:00 pm

Newsletter information should be sent to Brad Schall – [bradsuvcw@wavecable.com](mailto:bradsuvcw@wavecable.com) two weeks prior to our meeting. April newsletter information needs to be received by Friday April 6, 2012..

Camp Commander's Column—March 2012 – Jeffrey Vaillant

Last month I indicated I would let you know about a Civil War book in my library.

The *State of Jones The Small Southern County That Seceded from the Confederacy* by Sally Jenkins and John Stauffer was published by Doubleday in 2009. I do not recall how this book came to my attention and I do know it is a page turner! From the cover leaf:

“The State of Jones is a true story about the South during the Civil War---the real South. Not the South that has been mythologized in novels and movies, but an authentic, hardscrabble place where poor men were forced to fight a rich man's war for slavery and cotton. In Jones County, Mississippi, a farmer named Newton Knight lead his neighbors, white and black alike, in an insurrection against the Confederacy at the height of the Civil War. Knight's life story mirror's the little-known story of class struggles in the South—and it shatters the image of the Confederacy as a unified front against the Union.

This riveting investigative account takes us inside the battle of Corinth, where thousands lost their lives over less than a quarter mile of land, and to the dreadful siege of Vicksburg, presenting a gritty picture of a war in which generals sacrificed thousand through their arrogance and ignorance. Off the battlefield the Newton Knight story is rich in drama as well. He was a man with two loves: his wife, who was forced to flee her home simply to survive, and an ex-slave named Rachel, who, in effect, became his second wife. It was Rachel who cared for Knight during the war when he was hunted by Confederates and, later, when members of the Knight clan sought revenge for the disgrace he had brought upon the family name.”

There are 58 pages of endnotes reflecting a well-researched book and an 8 page Bibliography describing the efforts to unearth information.

I found the most chilling part of the book was at the very end when Newton Knight's great grandson, Davis Knight, was put on trial for the crime of miscegenation, the mixing of racial blood. Davis Knight, a World War II veteran who received an honorable discharge from the navy, appeared for the case of *The State of Mississippi v. Davis Knight*. At the time period of 1948 the State of Mississippi legally defined anyone with one-eighth or more African ancestry as a Negro. The jury found Davis Knight guilty; however, on November 14, 1949, the Mississippi Supreme Court overturned the conviction. Davis' sister Louvenia battled the State of Mississippi for five years starting 1960 on whether her children were white and thus could attend white schools. The state officials decided the children should be enrolled in a white school "in order to preserve segregation". I believe the issue of preserving the Union and Emancipation from the Civil War is still an issue today.

### Camp 24 February Meeting Agenda Minutes

Call to Order—Commander Jeff Vaillant

Those present were Kenneth Felton (JVC), Charles Mabie (SVC and PDC), Jeff Vaillant (CC). Brad Schall (Secretary), Bob Ebert (Treasurer), Douglas James (Chaplain), we had two guests, Patti Schall and Katy Douglas.

Rituals were suspended because of location in meeting room including it seemed like ten thousand young soccer players.

Minutes as written were approved. Treasurer Report: Treasurer Bob Ebert reported we had about \$800.00 and change after \$500.00 donation to the Department National Encampment fund.

Brothers Schall, Mabie, Vaillant, Felton and Wilson were elected to attend the Department Encampment in San Luis Obispo. This is the largest delegation that we have had for several years.

Motion was made by Douglas James and seconded by Charlie Mabie that we change our meeting place to the High Street Station Café at 1303 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501, (510) 995-8049. Katy James will make the arrangements.

Department and Camp newsletters were discussed.

Card was signed for Brother Bruce Hevelin on the death of his father.

Fort Point was discussed by Charlie Mabie and all agreed that it was a great event. We should make it a signature event again next year. The recruiting station was a big hit.

Former and deceased Brother Corky Reed uniform donated to Friends of Civil War Alcatraz who have donated the uniform to the National Park Service. It is now on display at Fortress Alcatraz.

Recruiting discussed by JVC Kenny Felton. Ken also discussed a new list of American Indians that fought in the Civil War.

Ken Felton discussed Graves Registration.

Removed GAR Post marker from Evergreen Cemetery was discussed and Commander Vaillant will contact PCC Enderlin to discuss details and set a date for placing the marker back in the cemetery.

Brad Schall and Jeff Vaillant discussed Alcatraz Living History day on Saturday April 14. Commander Vaillant will be in charge of the kitchen detail, Co. B, 8<sup>th</sup> California will be the Provost.

Charlie Mabie discussed two new Lincoln movies.

We discussed raffle items for the Department encampment and agreed that they should be brought to the encampment individually.

Ken Felton will attend the SUVCW leadership training session in Sacramento on February 25, 2012.

Ken Felton and Jeff Vaillant will contact Lone Tree Cemetery about Memorial Day services.

Meeting adjured among **huzzahs** from the Castro Valley Soccer club at 8:25 p.m...

Brad Schall, PCinC  
Camp Secretary

### Did you Know

New stars are added to our flag on July 4 after a new state is added to the Union. The Federal government did not recognize the Confederacy seceding from the Union and therefore never deleted those states stars from our flag. The 35 star flag was flown over the United States from 1863 to the present time. All United States flags are legally accepted by the Federal government as current and can be flown at any time.

#### How many names has the Sons of Union Veterans had?

1877	Sons of Veterans (Missouri – Camp name and number unknown)
1878	Philadelphia Sons of Veterans
1879	Sons of Veterans (know as Earp Sons of Veterans)
1882	Sons of Veterans of the United States of America
1888	Sons (Post System of New York
1922	Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Information was taken from the SUVCW national website. Original prepared by Past National Historian David B. Orr.

#### Activities for 2012

March Department Encampment March 9 & 10 – San Luis Obispo

March meeting March 20, 2012

Alcatraz Living History Day April 14, 2012 - Saturday

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

June meeting June 19, 2012

July meeting No meeting in July

Independence Day July 4, 2012

August meeting No meeting in August

National Encampment August 9 – 11, 2012

September meeting September 18, 2012

October meeting October 16, 2012

November meeting November 20, 2012

131 National Encampment

August 9-12, 2012

Los Angeles, California

This is our opportunity to attend a National Encampment in our Department. One Hundred years ago the GAR met in Los Angeles for there Encampment.

Come join the fun in Los Angeles. Meet your fellow Brothers from all over the United States.

## Leadership Workshop

First workshop on SUVCW Leadership training for Camp 22 and 24 was held in Lincoln, California on Saturday February 25, 2012. Brad Schall, PCinC led the seminar and was pleased that members from both Camps attended. Attending were Ken Felton, Jon Henry, Charles Lyons, Jim Monteton, Danny Warner, Don Wilt.

Subjects discussed:

SUVCW history

1888 GAR Convention and Commander-in-Chief Rea discussion on why the GAR should recognize the Sons of Veterans

Roundtable discussion of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Charters, Constitution, Deed of Conveyance and Ritual

Roundtable discussion on survey taken by officers of Camp 22 and 24

- (a) Why did you join the SUVCW
- (b) Whom did you contact
- (c) What was your impression of your first meeting
- (d) Do you attend meeting regularly
- (e) What do you like most about our meetings
- (f) What did you like least about our meetings
- (g) What would you suggest for a monthly program
- (h) One problem that the Camp has

National Organization Chart

Camp Organization Charts

How to run a meeting

Meeting Agendas

Where do you get your authority?

Job Description

Job Responsible

We held roundtable discussion on Job Description and responsibility.

Four and a half hours later we stopped. We agreed to continue the email part of the training and set up a second session after our Department Encampment in March.

Everyone is invited to attend these sessions.



Junior Vice-Commanders

I'll take the chocolate and you can have the Carmel



Left to right

Don Wilt, Ken Felton, Jim Monteton

Charles Lyons, Jon Henry, Danny Warner

Greetings Brother Vaillant!

Thanks for the reminder about the recently discovered GAR monument. This is turning into an amazing project. Here's a run down on our discoveries so far:

At the 2011 Veterans Day parade in Petaluma, I was approached by a Marin County man named Guy Rowan Clow who tipped me off to the presence of a GAR monument stored in a back corner of Mt. Tamalpais Cemetery in San Rafael. Clow is actually a prospective SUVCW member, so he has taken an interest in GAR items near his hometown. This was a new discovery for our Camp, so we put it on our priority list to investigate.

Camp 23 Brother Ron Cannon passes through San Rafael regularly, so he went up to the cemetery in late November to have a look. He found the two-piece monument and photographed it (see attached). The photographs confirm that the monument is associated with Lyon Post, No. 8, GAR. Lyon Post was based in Oakland, so the discovery of the monument in storage in Marin County was quite a surprise.

Digging through old newspapers, I was able to figure out at least part of the story. A monument -- described in the 31 May 1915 issue of the *Oakland Tribune* as a "monument of Lyon Post No. 8 G.A.R, 'In Memory of our Comrades of the War of the Rebellion,' " -- was dedicated at Evergreen Cemetery in Oakland on Memorial Day that year. The description in that article almost exactly matches the inscription on the granite monument we found. The inscription on the tablet at Mount Tamalpais reads:

LYON POST  
NO. 8,  
GRAND ARMY  
OF THE  
REPUBLIC.

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IN MEMORY OF  
THE COMRADES  
OF THE WAR OF  
THE REBELLION.

So, how did this monument get across the Bay? Obviously, someone went to a great deal of trouble to transport several tons of granite for safekeeping to Marin County! The answer must lie in the history of the Mount Tamalpais and Evergreen Cemeteries. Both are operated by the same company. In talking with our

Camp 23 Brother Brian Pinarretta (who works for the current owner of both), it sounds like these two cemeteries have passed through several owners over the years. One of them must have made the decision to relocate the monument to storage at Mount Tamalpais.

So, we have an interesting opportunity here! Camp 23 would be honored to work with our Brothers in Camp 24 to find a way to restore this monument to its rightful location. With our Camp 23 Brother Brian working for the cemetery owner, we have a unique situation where we have a man "on the inside" who might be able to assist with making this a beneficial project for not just the SUVCW but also for the cemeteries. The same company also handles Sunrise Cemetery in Vallejo, where the Samuel Brown headstone rededication in 2010 generated some very positive publicity and good feelings in the community. This project might very well be similarly well received.

In doing some further research, I've found that the GAR plot in Evergreen cemetery has a really interesting history with multiple monuments/memorials besides the Lyon Post monument. Brother Ron Cannon visited the cemetery in late November and discovered a flag pole and a memorial bench that need to be documented (see attached photo of the bench). The bench was dedicated on Memorial Day 1939. The flag pole (or its predecessor) has a history that dates back to when the plot was deeded by the Evergreen Cemetery

Association to Lyon Post in June 1904. The first flag pole in the plot was dedicated on 17 June 1904 (Battle of Bunker Hill Day). The original flag pole was of two pieces (the lower mast from Maine, and the upper from California). It was a gift to the GAR by Col. F. S. Hastings of San Leandro. Full details on this dedication ceremony were published in a full page spread in the *Oakland Tribune* on 18 June 1904. I have the article, along with a bunch of others.

But wait, there's more! An article in the *Oakland Tribune*, dated 13 June 1904, notes that the GAR plot at Evergreen was originally ornamented with the "four brass field pieces and several hundred four-inch shells," loaned to Lyon Post by Senator George C. Perkins. These items were added to the plot shortly after it was deeded to Lyon Post by the Cemetery Association. Where did they go? That's going to require more research.

In light of this amazing history, I'm starting some new "case file" headings in the DMO records (each will need a Memorials Assessment Form 61):

- CA-Alameda-Oakland-Evergreen Cem GAR Plot-1915 Lyon Post monument
- CA-Alameda-Oakland-Evergreen Cem GAR Plot-1904 Flag Pole
- CA-Alameda-Oakland-Evergreen Cem GAR Plot-1904 Cannons and Arty Shells
- CA-Alameda-Oakland-Evergreen Cem GAR Plot-1939 Memorial Bench

We have our work cut out for us! Hopefully, we can find a space in Evergreen Cemetery that will allow for the return of the Lyon Post monument. It's an exciting find, and it needs to go home. Let's talk more about this after the Department Encampment.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Dean Enderlin, PCC  
Memorials Officer, Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp 23  
Department Memorials Officer, Dept. of California & Pacific, SUVCW



## Trivia Questions

April 25<sup>th</sup> 1861 a delegation of 20 Sioux and Chippewa warriors led by Chief Red Cloud offered the service of 300 warriors to the Union. This was in response to what?

Union Brigadier General Randolph B. Marcy was the father-in-law to what Commander of the Army of the Potomac?

William Pittenger and the crew of the General needed to go 110 miles to reach the Union lines. How far did they get? A. 37 miles b. 87 miles c. 107 miles

The minimum height to attend West Point was what for most Civil War officers?  
a. 5.5 b. 4.9 c. 5.2

Who wrote the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin?"

Answers at our March 20 meeting.

### War Units of General Alfred Pleasonton's Brothers Ancestors:

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

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

General Alfred Pleasonton Camp #24 meets on the third Tuesday of the month at a variety of locations in the East Bay. – 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

Invite a friend who has an interest in the Civil War.

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

Website Information

National Website: [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)  
National Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/suvcw>  
Department Website: [www.suvm.org](http://www.suvm.org)  
Camp 24 website: [www.suvm.org/camp24.html](http://www.suvm.org/camp24.html)  
Friends of Civil War Alcatraz: [www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org](http://www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org)

From the song "Heal the Wounds"

Heal the wound but leave the scar  
A reminder of how merciful You are  
I am broken, torn apart, take the pieces of this heart  
And heal the wound but leave the scar