



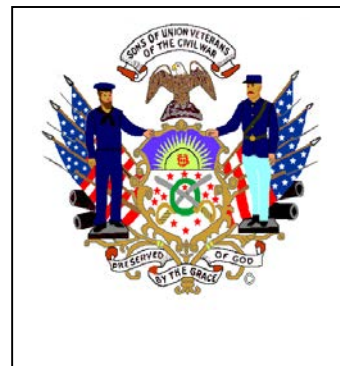
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General Alfred Pleasonton – Camp 24
Chartered 30 August 1999

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

September Issue

2012



New Meeting Location and Date change for meeting Wednesday September 19th at 6:00 p.m.

California Genealogical Society which is in Oakland at 2201 Broadway (the old Brueners Building) in the Lower Level and only a few steps from the BART station at 19th and Broadway. Parking behind the building cost \$5.00 after 5 p.m. Plenty of off street parking for free.

Please confirm your attendance with Commander Vaillant (jeffreyvaillant@hotmail.com) or Secretary Brad Schall, (bradsuvcw@wavecable.com)

October newsletter information should be sent to Brad Schall – bradsuvcw@wavecable.com two weeks prior to our meeting. October newsletter information needs to be received by Tuesday October 9, 2012.

Camp Commander's Column—September 2012 – Jeffrey Vaillant

Brothers

The Living History Day at Fort Point was excellent with Camp members Brad, Ken and John and myself present. We got into a brief discussion about the location of the Camp meeting as well as the day. I would like you all to consider some modifications.

First I will be returning from my step daughter's wedding in Portsmouth, NH on the 18th so could not make a meeting on the "traditional" third Tuesday. So I am thinking that for the September meeting it could be on the third Wednesday or the 19th of September. The meeting time would be 6:00 p.m.

Second the meals have been fine at the High Street Cafe; however, like Mountain Mike's the atmosphere is marginal for a Camp meeting. Chaplin Doug is a fine host as is his wife. I would like to move the meeting to the home of the California Genealogical Society which is in Oakland at 2201 Broadway (the old Brueners Building) in the Lower Level and only a few steps from the BART station at 19th and Broadway.

Camp 24 June Meeting Minutes

Call to Order—Commander

Roll Call—Secretary Brad (Absent) In attendance were Brothers Doug, Ken, John, Bruce and Jeff.

Pledge—All (Deferred due to location)

Prayer—Chaplin Doug (Deferred due to location)

Treasurer Report—Treasurer Bob Not present=No report

Membership Report—JVC Ken No report given.

Discussion Items

1. National Encampment = Who is attending? It appears Brother Ken will be driving down on Wednesday to be able to attend Thursday tour(s). Brother Jeff is driving down on Thursday. Brother Bruce will decide to either join Ken or Jeff or drive on his own so he can visit family in Riverside.
2. Memorial Day Activities = Roaring Camp/SVC Charlie (pictures posted on Department FaceBook page), Lone Tree/JVC Ken (everyone who watched the video of Ken reading Logan Order agreed he did a fine job and represented the Camp and SUVCW well).
3. Other Items for the Good of the Camp

Brother John pointed out the next Living History Day at Fort Point to be August 18th and hopes the Camp will be in attendance as it was this event that convinced him to join.

Brother Ken discussed the old GAR cemetery in San Francisco and Brother John joined the discussion with his knowledge. It was a good discussion.

Closing Prayer—Chaplin Doug

THERE WILL BE NO CAMP MEETING IN JULY NOR AUGUST. The next Camp meeting will be September 19th. New location.

Meetings are open to members and guests. 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.

Book report by Commander Jeffrey Vaillant

Book Review: I highly recommend Ronald Cannon's book *Headed for Dixie and Trouble: The Civil War Journal of Will L. Wade*. The journal was edited with an introduction and notes by Ron. It is published by Heritage Books and can be found at their website (www.heritagebooks.com) for sale at \$23.00. The cover jacket states "Like many soldiers in the Civil War, Private Will L. Wade of Company G, Eleventh Regiment of Iowa Volunteer infantry was not only literate but made use of his writing ability to keep a diary while in the army." In the Introduction to the book Ron traces Will's life from birth in Indiana in 1841, Will's father's suicide in January 1853, his mother's relocation to Iowa and then back to Indiana through Will's journal. After the War Will is in Illinois farming and reading medicine, he marries and migrates to Oregon in 1875, returns to Indianapolis 1879 to complete his medical training at Butler University and returns to Oregon until 1887 when he moves to Los Angeles. He lives a long time dying 18 February 1931 in South Pasadena. I found having this knowledge prior to reading the journal useful in understanding the writing. As Will's life was one of journey so was the journal which Ron details as part of the introduction.

Will enlisted for three years and served that time. He did not reenlist when the opportunity was presented. He writes about the campaigns of Shiloh, Vicksburg and Atlanta and ends with his journey home after being discharged in 1864. Although the entries are brief they so paint a picture of life for the private soldier. To sum up that experience here is the entry for 3 July 1864: "Marched all of last night. Halted just after daylight and ate our breakfast. Started soon after for the extreme right, reached there at 2 P.M. rested until 4 P.M. when we moved to the front. Drove the enemy back until dusk, then fell back $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and camped." The next day he records "The 15 and 16 pushed the enemy until noon when the 11 [his regiment] and 13 took the front. Our company were sent out as skirmishers. We drove them on the run over hills and through brush into their works and within 75 yards of the guns, which we silenced. At dusk we fell back with a loss of 2 killed, and 8 wounded."

Appendix B is the Roster of Company G with short biographical sketches for each soldier. In addition to the readability of the book is the extensive and thorough research Ron completed in support of the journal entries. The footnotes on each page add to the scholarship and to the reader's knowledge. It is a great read.

P.S. from Brad

Brother Cannon is a good friend of Camp #24 and he and his family have participated in many northern California events. Brother Cannon is the Past Camp Commander of Ellsworth Camp #23 in Santa Rosa.

Nevada County Genealogical Society

Past Commander-in-Chief Brad Schall was one of the seminar speakers at the 19th annual "Digging for Your Roots" conference in Nevada City on Saturday August 25th.

Past Commander Schall's talk entitled Civil War Records discussed the use of the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1890 and 1910 Census in tracking your Civil War relative. He used his great grandfather's National Archive records to develop his Civil War story from 1861 till his death in 1926.

He then tracked his great grandfather by using the National Park Service Soldiers and Sailors system. There are eight steps you can take to develop your Civil War relative story. He then used the Sons of Union Veterans Graves Registration Data Base to illustrate where the class could register their Civil War relative. He concluded by discussing the GAR and the Allied Orders in northern California.

The conference subjects included beginning Genealogy, family search, Ancestry, Mocavo, writing your family history, Albion's Seed, using Google, DAR GRS, what your sibling will tell you and Civil War records.

Several requests were made for additional information on the Allied Orders. One hundred fifty people attended the conference.

From the General George Stoneman Camp Newsletter.

GOVERNOR STONEMAN.

Comrade George Stoneman, Governor of California, was presented, with a few appropriate remarks by the chairman, and spoke as follows :

Mr. President and Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic: It becomes my pleasant duty as the chief executive of this western commonwealth to extend you in the name of the people of California a fervent, sincere, and heartfelt welcome to our State.

From whatever sections of our broad land you may have come, whatever be the high or humble station of your present lives, you stand pedestaled on the firm foundation of love for our common country in the eyes of a people who feel that in honoring you, so far as their opportunities permit, they do no less honor to the nation and to themselves.

The smoke of Appomattox has long since faded in the sunshine of the Virginian vale. The ugly echoes of the cannon's thunder have long since died away in the softer harmonies of placid peace. In the grim bastions where all was destruction and din and death, the song-bird builds her nest and rears her young in stillness undisturbed.

Where the long lines of blue and of gray, of glittering metal and of determined men once made a great panorama of war from the Delaware to the Mississippi, no sign remains of the battles that were fought and the blood that was shed, except, perhaps, the broken wheel or the rusted gun-barrel that the plowshare of husbandry upturns, twenty years after, to a sky that is cloudless and serene.

To a generation that has grown up in America the long and bloody tale is but a story, and nothing more, but to many a man in this hall and to many a woman's heart throughout this land it is a reality whose vividness time can never diminish—a picture whose lurid lights and gloomy shades will fade when across it falls the velvet pall of death.

It may safely be said that with every man who took part in that mighty drama, its memories are more deeply impressed and are recalled with more vivid power than those of any other era of his life. Whether he looks back upon the toil and weary years of forced marches, the sickness and hardship of the camp, the agonies of prison and hospital, the deadly dangers that were hidden in the dark shadows of the picket

line, on the wild conflict of armed masses, the shriek and scream of shells, and the lightnings and thunders of the battle, all is so distinct that it seems as if it took place but yesterday and might to-morrow be renewed. Time and again have you fought your battles over. Time and again have you of old shared the common peril fighting for the common cause', the salvation and perpetuation of the country you love.

But while each of you has a volume of memories, all his own, the people have a memory as well. You remember what you did. The people remember how you did it, and the grand result that you accomplished. You fought for no personal gain ; for if there is any thing on earth that can compensate for the loss of life or of loved ones, it has yet to be discovered.

To the soldier valor is its own reward no less than virtue. Duty alone guided your steps, and grim courage held you to a path which led you knew not whither. Many of you wore, and now wear, the shoulder-straps that testified to your country's trust and confidence. Many of you wear that higher and holier badge, an empty sleeve. But all of you, from the humblest private who offered his all upon his country's altar, to the general or admiral who offered just as much but not any more than he, are now reaping a reward of which you did not think ; are receiving a tribute that is a credit as much to the people you fought for as to yourselves—a nation's reverence and a nation's honor for the loyalty, the bravery, and the nobility that in the past you have displayed, and in the present you typify.

There can be no more beautiful sight to the patriotic citizen than that of a great mass of people twenty-one years after war has ceased making a joyous and festal occasion of the reunion of those veterans who long ago went forth to war. Much though the occasion may mean to you, to the country it means more. It is a grand exemplar of the great truth that here, in the farthest spot of the Far West—on the verge of a

great territory that stretches from ocean to ocean across a mighty continent—the same flag floats as waves above the surges of the Atlantic ; the same laws govern ; the same

spirit of patriotism binds in an indissoluble bond the people of the West and of the East, of the North and of the South, in unchangeable love for and fidelity to the grand Government of the United States. The same spirit that a century ago prompted our revolutionary sires to rise and set free the land of their adoption beats hard and strongly in the national heart of to-day. And the bitter family quarrel of 1861, greatly as it is to be deplored, but served when it was over to make the Union firmer and more lasting than before.

This is the great lesson that is to be drawn from celebrations like the present. Not only the success, but the very existence, of a nation is to be measured by the patriotism of its people.

I wish from the bottom of my heart that the master mind that found "books in running brooks and sermons in stones, and good in everything," could have written the book, the sermon and the moral that were to be found in your veteran ranks as they marched along our streets to-day. It would be a sermon, a lesson in loyalty, of the greatest value and the deepest good. It might cause the people in their eager strife for riches and happiness to stop and think. It might remind them that there are higher claims than those of commerce ; that there are greater honors than those that wealth confers ; that among their obligations as business men and citizens they should ever remember the weighty debt whose principal and interest the3' may at any time be called upon to pay—the debt they owe their country for a freedom, a liberty, and a protection in their individual pursuit of happiness such as is enjoyed by the citizens of no other country upon God's earth to-day. [Applause.]

But aside from the pleasure' which we feel as Californians on an occasion in which the host is no less honored than the guest, it is a source of gratification throughout the State that its beauty and its rare valleys will be beheld by so many new and intelligent eyes. That the stories, its wonderful productions and rare advantages do not properly belong among fairy tales, you will now have a chance to see for yourselves.

Do not imagine that the city of San Francisco constitutes the entire State. The residents of this municipality will doubtless try to convince you that when you have seen this famous city there will be little left to inspect. It is my duty, however, to tell you that the possible fogs and not uncommon winds you may have found here do not properly represent the wonderful climate of which you perhaps have heard in connection with California. That to the north, the south, and the east of you are 100,000 square miles of harvest-lands, where the grain lies heaped in tons ; of vineyards whose purple richness will soon be bursting from a thousand presses. There are sights to be seen that no other State in the Union can equal.

There are wonders of nature's handiwork in our woods and among our mountains that are the rarest of the kind upon the earth. And most important of all are the leagues upon leagues of soil as yet but scarcely tried ; there are comfortable abiding places and happy homes for all who may choose to remain among us. It is a long time since the war. Every man who took part in it has now begun to grow old, and when the hardships that passed unnoticed in younger life begin to tell upon growing age, the advantages of living in a land where the thermometer obstinately declines to rise above 90 degrees in the hottest summer, and deliberately refuses to go below zero in the coldest winter are too obvious to need comment. The blizzard we are aware of only through the Associated Press dispatches. The thunder-storm to us is a rare and pleasing spectacle, and when a man leaves his home in California he never comes back to find that his house has been attached without warning by Mother Nature and carried off by a deputy sheriff in the shape of a cyclone.

In whatever direction you may journey in our State and from whatever personal standpoint you may investigate and inquire, your inquiries will be amply rewarded. You will find on every hand undeveloped opportunities awaiting the advent of enterprise and industry. You will everywhere receive a hearty welcome, and you will find that among the productions of California is a bounteous crop of the Christian virtues, with hospitality standing at their head. [Applaxise.]

123rd SUVCW National Encampment in Los Angeles

It was a success and you can be proud of your Department and the committee that put on the National Encampment. Everyone and I mean everyone did an outstanding job. We will share our experience at our meeting. Some photograph for you to enjoy.

Tad Campbell, PDC elected National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. This is a well deserved journey that Brother Campbell is embarking on. Camp #24 sends our congratulations.



Camp #24 – Department of California and Pacific

Bruce Hevelin, Brad Schall, Commander Jeff Vaillant, Charles Mabie and Ken Felton

Annual Dues are \$26.00 and can be sent to Brother Bob Ebert at 2873 Ptarmigan Drive #3, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Company B annual dues are \$6.00 and can be sent to Brother Fred Bohmfalk 8517 Annette Engle Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.



Department of California and Pacific at National Encampment

Alcatraz Living History Day September 29, 2012
Contact Brad or Jeff if you want to be part of the Living History Day
This is a signature event



I would suggest Union Boy in the fifth at Golden Gate Fields – 4 to 1

Bring an item for show and tell to our next meeting. Do you have any memorabilia from your Civil War relative?

The Berkeley Historical Society, 1931 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 has some of the Alameda County GAR Posts records. You may see these items by calling 510 848-0181, telling them you are with the SUVCW and you are doing research.