



The Guidon

General Alfred Pleasonton – Camp 24
Chartered 30 August 1999

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

November/December Issue

2012



Holiday Greetings to all

November –December meeting will be our annual Christmas dinner at the Mabie's. Vittles will be served on Sunday December 2nd at 3:00. Camp and the Mabie's will be furnishing the main course and the rest is Pot Luck. Charlie will be sending out an email prior to the dinner with what you are to bring. We of course have invited the adjoining camps to attend. We need a head count so please let Commander Jeff or Secretary Brad know if you will be attending.

New Meeting Location seems to be working
January meeting will be Wednesday 16 January 2013

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)

January newsletter information should be sent to Brad Schall – bradsuvcw@wavecable.com by December 28, 2012.

Camp Commander's Column—November - December 2012 – Jeffrey Vaillant
Camp Commander's Column—October

At the 131st Annual National Encampment, SUVCW, in Los Angeles in August the Banquet of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic treated the diners to a concert by The Band of the California Battalion (<http://civilwarband.lbcc.cc.ca.us/>). From their website:

"The Band of the California Battalion is an accurate portrayal of a battalion or brigade level band of the Union Army during the Civil War. The instrumentation is completely different from the modern concert band. The Civil War era band did not utilize woodwind instruments. Amongst the brass instruments, there are no French Horns or Trombones. These omitted instruments were much too fragile to stand up to rigorous field usage.

The band is made entirely of a single family of brass instruments called sax horns. These instruments were developed by Adolph Sax who later developed the saxophone. The sax horns blended together with a mellow tone quality when played softly or bright and brassy when played loudly.

A group such as this would be expected to provide music for all military occasions. A typical band would play for military formations, parades, dances, social events, religious services, and during actual battles.

Nothing during this period in history kept a soldier marching and fighting like a good meal and a good band. Many regiments owe their success to the motivation provided by their bands.

This type of band remained popular from about 1845 to the 1880s. Its dominance was eclipsed by the wind orchestra or concert band instrumentation popularized by band leaders like John Philip Sousa. The wind orchestra required around 50 musicians and thus was not practical or economical for field usage. This larger band became a fixture of the permanent army post rather than following the soldiers into battle. The Band of the California Battalion has the appearance of a band that has been in the field for some time. The flashy parade garb has given way to standard infantry and cavalry uniforms. Due to casualties, replacements had to be garnered from other branches of the service. You will notice uniforms of the infantry, cavalry, engineers, medical service, and even a naval cadet. The band kept the army together so top priority was given to keeping the musical ensemble intact."

Their rendition of our National anthem was played in the 1860's and was terrific. We have folks locally who love the music of the Civil War called Fort Point Garrison Brass Band (<http://www.fortpointbrassband.org/>).

Their mission statement:

- Visually and musically portray an authentic 19th Century American Brass Band.
- Educate audiences on the history of bands, instruments, musicians, and their daily life during this era.
- Preserve, strengthen & promote traditional American Brass Band music.
- Acquire and use period appropriate music, uniforms, instruments, and equipment.
- Research and recognize the role of brass bands in California history.

I purchased their first CD called California Grand March which features the following:

TRACK LIST

1. We Are Coming Father Abra'am
2. California Grand March
3. Hail Columbia
4. Glory Hallelujah
5. Marching Through Georgia
6. President's Hymn
7. Louisville March

8. Cheer Boys Cheer
9. Yellow Rose of Texas
10. Goober Peas
11. Old Joe Hooker
12. Dixie & Bonnie Blue Flag
13. Jenny Lind Polka
14. Come Dearest the Daylight is Gone
15. Slumber Polka
16. Lilly Bell Quick Step
17. Sweet Home
18. Vacant Chair
- 19 .When Johnny Comes Marching Home

"The recording took place on the 1st floor level of Fort Point in a 20'x20' brick cannon casemate in September 2010. Original 150+ year old 19th century brass wind instruments were used for this recording to reproduce the authenticity of sound that would have been heard in the 1850's - 1870's at this fort (Gold Rush & Civil War era)."

I will bring their CD to the Camp meeting for all to enjoy.

Camp 24 October Meeting Minutes - October 17, 2012 - Oakland, CA

Call to Order—Commander Vaillant

Roll Call—Secretary Brad Schall In attendance were Brothers Chaplain Doug James, SVC Charlie Mabie, JVC Ken Felton, Secretary Brad Schall, Bruce Hevelin and guests Patti Schall and Katy Douglas.

Opening prayer - Chaplain James

Pledge—All

Committee Reports

Alcatraz Living History Day - Brad Schall, Jeffrey Vaillant

Ft. Mervine Living History - Ken Felton

Placerville Genealogical talk - Brad Schall

Christmas Party - Charlie Mabie, Sunday December 2nd, 2012, 3:00 p.m. at the Mabie's home. Camp will furnish meat, potatoes and bread. Other items will be pot luck. Charlie will send out details with more information.

Treasurer Report—Treasurer Bob Not present=No report

Membership Report—JVC Ken

Discussion Items:

Combining November and December meetings. Our November meeting scheduled two days before Thanksgiving so we decided to have a combined November and December with a Christmas dinner. All agreed that chow at Charlie's house was always a good thing.

Annual dues to remain the same for 2013. Please send you dues to Brother Bob Ebert.

Commander Jeff past out annual dues letter.

Brad Schall turned over to GRO Ken Felton graves registration forms from the Presidio Cemetery in San Francisco. Bruce Hevelin and Brad Schall talked about how the camp gathered these reports.

Commander Jeff discussed cleaning grave stones. We will have a report at our next meeting from Brad Schall on Camp 22 grave cleaning project.

Discussion of Camp officers for 2013. Officers present agreed to stay in their positions for 2013.

Steve Johnson was unable to make the meeting and show the Power Point presentation on California and the Civil War. Steve will make that presentation at our February meeting.

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.

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.

Fort Point Living History Day will be January 26, 2013. We will have a recruiting booth.

Alcatraz first 2013 Living History day will be Saturday March 23, 2013. We hope to open the Civil War Trail on Alcatraz Island. Ranger Vance has been working on this project along with Camp #24 and FOCWA. Ranger Vance will be retiring in April of 2013.



You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

Abraham Lincoln

Activities for 2013

Camp meeting – Wednesday January 16, 2013

Fort Point – Saturday January 26, 2013

Museum Day at the California Military Museum. We will have a recruiting table. Saturday February 2, 2013

Camp meeting – Wednesday February 20, 2013

127th Department of California and Pacific Encampment in San Luis Obispo – March 8 & 9

Camp meeting Wednesday March 20, 2013

Alcatraz Living History Day – Saturday March 23, 2013

Camp meeting Wednesday April 17, 2013

Camp meeting Wednesday May 15, 2013

Memorial Day at Lone Tree Cemetery – Monday May 27, 2013

Camp meeting Wednesday June 19, 2013

No July Camp meeting

No August Camp meeting

National Encampment in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 8-11, 2013

Camp meeting Wednesday September 18, 2013

Camp meeting Wednesday October 16, 2013

Camp meeting Wednesday November 20, 2013

General Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 Officers for 2013

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

Color Bearer: Charles Mabie

Guard: Ben Mabie

Graves Registration: Ken Felton

Memorials Officer and Counselor : Brad Schall, PCinC

Eagle Scout: Charles Mabie

Newsletter Editor: Brad Schall, PCinC