



The Guidon

General Alfred Pleasonton – Camp 24
Chartered 30 August 1999

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

September Issue

2013



Wednesday September 18, 2013 Next Meeting

California Genealogical Society - 2201 Broadway on the LL 2, Oakland, CA
Gathering at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7:00 pm

Commander's Report

The Russians Were Here - The Russians Were Here
Or
How the Russian Naval Fleet in San Francisco Bay Influenced the Civil War

By Commander Jeffrey Vaillant

On a visit to the military cemetery (dating to 1858) in the Mare Island Heritage Preserve at the south end of the island, I noticed amongst the decayed and mostly illegible plaques three new granite headstones in Russian, in English at the bottom is engraved Russian Sailor. What could that be all about? Back to the Preserve visitor center, we asked Myrna Hayes, director of the preserve and center. She unfolded the story of how San Francisco was very much involved in the Civil War which did not make the history books.

Certainly all the attention has been on the horrific battlefields in the east. However, the Bay Area was extremely important because of the gold shipments financing the war for the north leaving the docks several times a month down to Panama, then across the Isthmus to another ship taking it to New York. The Confederacy was well aware of that and sent one overland expedition from Arizona that was unsuccessful and authorized several of its commerce raider ships to attack the port if the opportunity arose. In addition, the loyalties of the population were divided because of the many southerners that had immigrated here. There was at least one plot to overtake the Union war ship on station in the harbor.

So the city population was very nervous during the war. The armaments at Fort Point and Alcatraz were inadequate and The North couldn't spare any additional cannon because of the difficulties back east including the defense of the capitol itself.

Another worry was that a British war ship might attack the Bay. Great Britain and France were inclined to support the Confederacy. They viewed the united North and South as a rapidly growing nation that threatened their world wide dominance at that time. And of course they needed the South's cotton and tobacco supplies.

Meanwhile there were other international maneuverings going on. Poland was rebelling and seeking independence from Russia. Polish émigrés throughout Europe were successfully lobbying governments to support an independent

Poland. Strongly worded letters were sent to Moscow particularly from Great Britain and France implying military action. Russia took them seriously enough to begin defense preparations.

The commander of the naval forces built a dozen war ships powered by both sail and steam engine- six in the Baltic and six in Vladivostok in the Pacific. In a masterful stroke in early summer of 1863 he ordered them to leave one by one days apart so as to not create suspicion. In late summer they all arrived one by one –six in New York harbor and the other six in San Francisco Bay.

This action left Britain and France with the dilemma of having a loose sizable fleet of Russian war ships that would not be tied up by winter ice and easy blockades. If war were declared, then they would be available to devastate the European merchant fleets. Particularly, Britain would be vulnerable.

So we have strange bedfellows in Russia, the Tsar led autocracy and the Union democracy. Both were trying to suppress rebellious states and worrying about other countries getting involved. Diplomats from both Russia and the Union expressed support for each other. And the North welcomed both Russian fleets on each coast with open arms. The Russian admiral stationed in the Bay said he would help defend San Francisco against naval attack.

San Francisco was particularly welcoming with many ceremonies and formal fancy balls that lasted a year until summer of 1864 when it became evident that Britain and France were not going to get involved in either country's affairs.

In the meantime each of the Russian ships underwent repairs and overhaul at the new shipyard at Mare Island. While there for many weeks, the people of Vallejo also treated the Russians very well. If the Russians ever looked south toward what is now the Crockett shore, there were only bare hills with the Judge Crockett ranch.

When back on station off the San Francisco waterfront, several times when fire broke out in the city, the Russian sailors came ashore to help fight the blazes. In one particularly bad fire on the wharfs, six sailors lost their lives and were subsequently buried with honors at the Mare Island cemetery. The gravestones became decayed and broken so in 2010 the Russian consulate replaced three that could still be identified with new ones that we see so prominently today.

More details about this time can be found in C.D. Kroll's book "Friends in Peace and War": The Russian Navy's Landmark Visit to Civil War San Francisco. The close diplomatic ties that developed in 1863 had much to do with the U.S. bargain purchase of Alaska in 1867.

National Encampment held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Attending from California and Pacific were: Camp #2, Philip Caines, PCC; Loren Bures, PCC Camp #4 Frank Avila, PCC; Tad Campbell, SVCinC; Thomas Graham, PCC; Linn Malaznik; Camp #10, Department Commander Timothy Reese; Camp #17 Glen Roosevelt, PDC; Michael Roosevelt; Camp #21 Jerry R. Sayre, PDC; Camp #22 Michael Drouin; Camp #23 Dean Enderlin, PCC.

Newly Elected Officers for 2013-2014

Commander-in-Chief KEN FRESHLEY, PDC, Dept. of Ohio
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief TAD CAMPBELL, PDC, Dept. of California and Pacific
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief EUGENE MORTORFF, PDC, Dept. of the Chesapeake
National Secretary ALAN RUSS, PDC, Dept. of Kansas
National Treasurer RICHARD ORR, PCINC, Dept. of Pennsylvania, three year term
National Quartermaster DANNY WHEELER, PCINC, Dept. of New York, three year term

Council of Administration (three year term - two seats open):
EDWARD NORRIS, DC, Dept. of Massachusetts and WALTER BUSCH, PDC, Dept. of Missouri



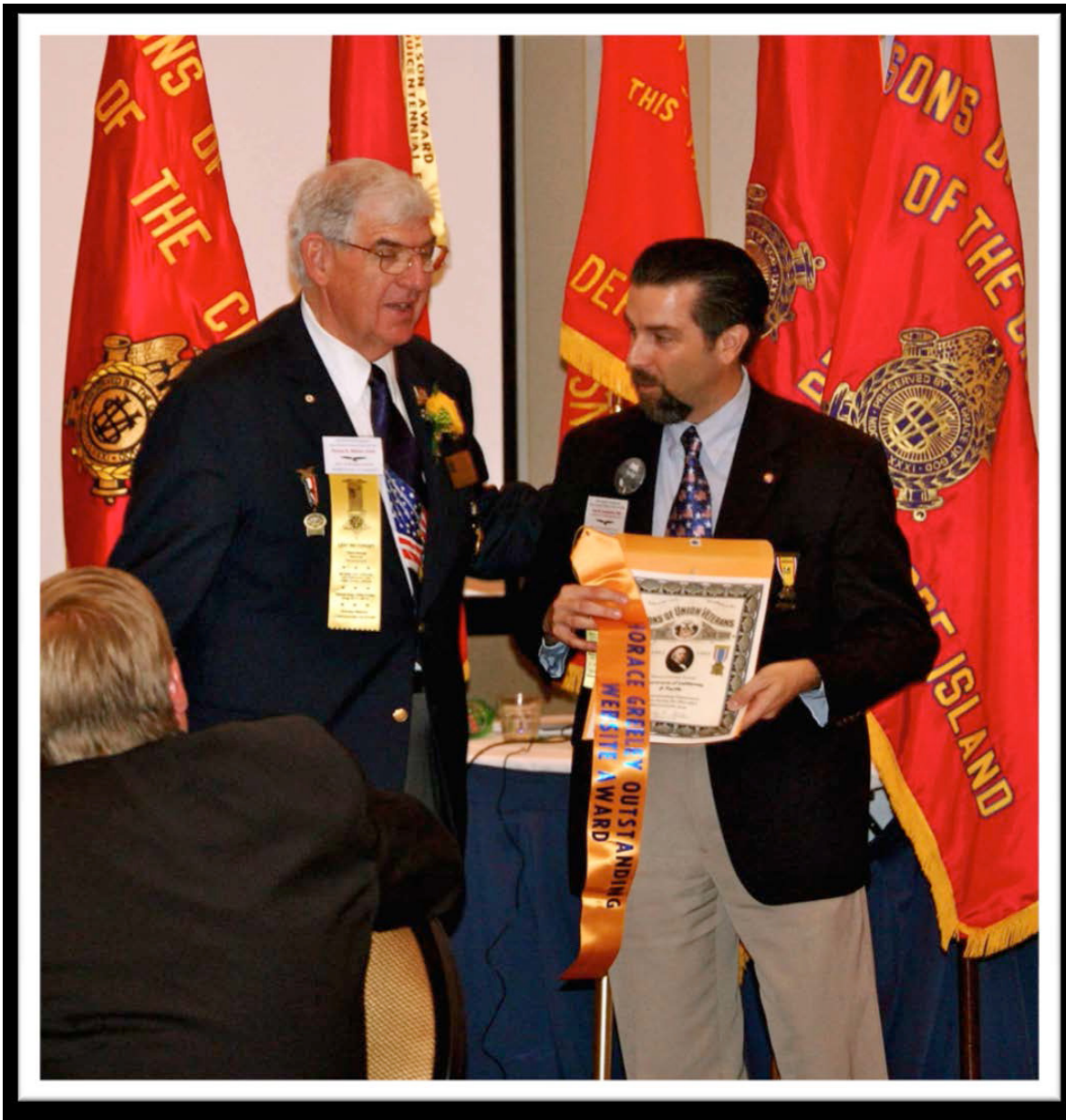
California Delegation to the National Encampment

L-R: Linn Malaznik, Dean Enderlin, Jerry Sayre, Glen Roosevelt, Tad Campbell, Tom Graham, Tim Reese, Michael Roosevelt, Frank Avila and Phil Caines

National Encampment Schedule

2014 — Atlanta Hilton, Marietta, Georgia
2015 — Omni Richmond Hotel, Richmond, Virginia
2016 — Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, Illinois

Mark your schedule to attend the 2014 National Encampment in Marietta, Georgia. Our very own Tad Campbell will be running for National Commander-in-Chief. All Californians need to be there to support our favorite son.



**Tad Campbell accepts Horace Greeley Award
National Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor presents to Tad Campbell,
Department Signals Officer the Horace
Greeley Award for Most Outstanding Department Website**

October newsletter information should be sent to Brad Schall at bradsuvw@wavecable.com by October 3, 2013. October meeting is the 16.

FORT POINT LIVING HISTORY DAY – 17 AUGUST, 2013

Fort Point Living History day on Saturday August 17 was represented by five SUVCW Camps. The 20th Maine Reenactment Group along with the National Park Service holds two events per year at Ft. Point. This venue has been an excellent opportunity for the general public to learn about local Civil War history. Two members of Camp 24 are Civil War interrupters at Ft. Point. Brothers John Gee and Steve Johnson donate their time to teach Civil War history. Another patriotic opportunity for SUVCW members in helping us meet our mission to the public.

This year Friends of Civil War Alcatraz had a display and passed out flyers to reenactors and SUVCW members to join them on Saturday September 28, 2013 for a Living History day on the Island.

Everyone had a good time and several people expressed interest in SUVCW membership.

SUVCW Camps and members that attended:

Camp 4, Frank Avila

Camp 10 Garrett Hasslinger

Camp #22 Don Wilt and Eric Wilt

Camp #23 Mace Gjerman and Jamin Gjerman

Camp #24 Ken Felton, Steve Johnson, John Gee, Jeffrey Vaillant and Brad Schall



August 30, 2013 was our Camp's 15 Anniversary

History of the GAR by Brad Schall

A little known fact is that after the Civil War the GAR and Union Veterans formed towns and settlements for Union soldiers. I had the opportunity to visit one of them in St. Cloud, Florida while I was commander-in-Chief.

One of them was Zepherhills, Florida and below is a story by Andy Turner.

First, some history from Zepherhills website.

Feb. 1909. Capt. Howard B. Jeffries, a Civil War veteran from Pennsylvania, searching for a site for a colony for Union Civil War veterans, selects the site of Abbott.

Aug. 6, 1909. The land for Zephyrhills is purchased for the Zephyrhills Colony by Capt. Jeffries, according to a 1928 newspaper article.

Oct. 15, 1909. A newspaper reports that the State Department of Delaware issued certificates of incorporation to the Zephyr Hills Colony Co., to develop industrial farming and manufacturing colonies in Florida. The incorporators are Ferdinand M. Jeffries, of Pleasantville, N. J.; Wallace Campbell, of Bayonne, N. J.; William L. B. G. Allen and G. G. Baker, of New York. The capital stock is \$500,000.

Nov. 9, 1909. An advertisement in the *Tampa Morning Tribune* has: “Mr. H. B. Jeffries of New York City, the Vice-President of the Zephyrhills Colony Company, is in the city [Tampa] and has opened up headquarters in Suite 219, American Bank Building, with the Stebbins Realty Co. He will be here only a short time, as he will soon move up to the Colony site, where he is now locating a town site.”

1912. The Grand Army of the Republic Hall is constructed in Zephyrhills.

Oct. 30, 1914. The *Dade City Banner* reports, “We have just instituted a new G. A. R. Post, ‘Farragut, No. 41, Dept of Florida.’ The officers of Farragut Post are: Commander, Benjamin Franklin Gilbert; Senior Vice Commander, H. W. Kirby; Junior Vice Commander, L. A. Barnett; Adjutant, Samuel E. Nyce; Quartermaster, J. C. Percival; Officer of the Day, C. G. Hopkins; Officer of the Guard, Rev. J. A. Ball; Chaplain, Rev. E. T. Gray; Patriotic Instructor, Lemuel P. Stovens. They already have between 25 and 30 members, with more coming. They have pledged themselves not to proselyte the members of Garfield Post—from which the members of this new Post have chiefly withdrawn—or in any way antagonize the welfare of that Post, preferring rather to cultivate the spirit of true fraternity, charity and loyalty towards all comrades, and thus give to these words meaning more than of “Sounding brass of a clanging symbol.” We are building a fine M. E. Church, which, it is expected, will be ready to occupy sometime in December.”

A joint installation of Garfield Post and Garfield Relief corps was held at the Tabernacle last Saturday afternoon. After the installation the president, Mrs. Leekley, gave a short talk. Mrs. Prisk, on behalf of the corps, presented Mrs. Leekley, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Calvert with recognition pins. Mrs. Lowry then presented Mrs. Prisk, the retiring president, with a recognition pin. Mrs. Prisk then presented the corps and post with the history of the stars and stripes, to be framed and hung in the lodge hall. Mrs. Laura B. Prisk, the retiring president, was the founder of the corps here and has done much for the society.

Last Monday was the opening day of our public school for the years 1914-15. When the school had assembled, Garfield Woman’s Relief Corps, represented by their president, Mrs. DeRyder, and the patriotic instructor, Mrs. J. L. Geiger, accompanied by a few of its members, presented to the school a very nice present, the Stars and Stripes, which was need by the school very badly.

Grand Army hall, Garfield Post, now the American Legion hall, was an imposing porchless edifice on 8th Street where the town’s few Model Ts had difficulty negotiating the deep sand. The Zephyrhills Cornet Band, forerunner of the Citizen Band, cut a figure in parade circles from St. Petersburg to St. Cloud. Without uniforms for two years, they blossomed forth in spic and span white shirts, pants and caps in the third year as they continued to tootle their way into the hearts of a music loving citizenry. Young couples spooned 'neath the moss hung oaks by Zephyr Lake and Professor Morris' Museum was a cultural center.

Singular Meeting of Two Old Veterans

August 8, 2013 by Andy Turner

As they say, it's a small world. You never know who you are going to run into and when. Such was the case of two Civil War veterans who once faced each other on the field of battle and later bumped into each other as old men.

The following article, from the February 1911 edition of Confederate Veteran, tells of the unlikely meeting of two former foes.

Singular Meeting of Two Old Veterans

The Tampa (Fla.) Tribune prints a remarkable yet very reasonable story from Zephyr Hills, a new colony town in Florida, concerning two veterans who battered each other with their muskets at Malvern Hill in the battle there. The veterans were William H. Hopkins, who was in a New York regiment, and Samuel Stafford, who was in the 5th Florida.

The story goes on to say that at Malvern Hill, Va., the Union forces charged an entrenched line of Confederates and a fierce and bloody hand-to-hand fight took place. The two men, now grizzled and old, were boys. They met face to face, hand to hand, gun to gun, and saw each other well. Both had emptied their rifles into the ranks of their respective foes, and with clubbed guns they attacked each other, each demanding surrender. Neither would yield, and they fought with the fierceness of youth and the determination of brave men, each of whom had faith in the righteousness of the cause for which he struggled. Hopkins dealt Stafford a heavy blow with the butt of his gun on the head, and at the same instant Stafford had brought the butt of his gun crashing upon the head of Hopkins, the hammer striking his eye, and both fell. Stafford arose in a very short time, dazed and terribly hurt; but the attack had failed, and the Union troops, defeated, had fled, or those who were able to flee and were not captured. Hopkins lay upon the earth unconscious, apparently dead, and became a prisoner. A bullet had struck his head, inflicting a most dangerous wound, while the blow of Stafford had fractured his skull. The Confederate boy looked down upon the still form of his enemy, who was covered with blood and gave no sign of life, and his humane heart stood still in horror. He began to weep over his enemy, and undertook to wash the blood from his face. An officer asked him what he was crying about, and he said: "I have killed a man. I did not know him. Why should I kill him?"

It was nearly three months before Hopkins himself knew that he was alive, before he recovered consciousness. The sight of his right eye was gone. The blow he struck Stafford resulted in the destruction of his right eye. Neither saw the other after that fight until now. These two old men, each having but one eye, met by chance. Stafford lives within the bounds of the colony; Hopkins is a colonist. When chance led them to the same group near colony headquarters, they greeted each other casually as strangers; then each took a second look and a third. Each being struck by the similarity of their mutually unfortunate state, they looked upon each other with growing interest. Stafford said: "I seem to remember you. I wonder if we ever met before?"

Hopkins answered: "As soon as I saw you I thought I ought to know; but I do not, I guess. My name is Hopkins."

"My name is Stafford. I live just over yonder. I lost my eye in a fight at Malvern Hill. How did you lose yours? Was it in the war? Were you wounded?"

"Yes," Hopkins responded in surprise. "I was struck on the head by a Reb at Malvern Hill when we charged their intrenchment. Well, that was the man you remind me of."

"You are the Yankee who refused to surrender and knocked me on the head with the butt of your gun, I believe," said Stafford; and when each told the details of the fight, it became evident that these gray-haired men were the boys who fought so terribly in battle hand to hand that day at Malvern Hill. And each battered the other to the destruction of his right eye.

About Andy Turner

Andy Turner is a lifelong student of the Civil War. For fifteen years he has been editor of The Gettysburg Magazine, and owner and publisher for the last five. When he added book publishing to the Magazine business, Gatehouse Press was born. A former 8th grade history teacher, Turner has expanded Gatehouse which now publishes the Magazine, Morningside books, and the new online magazine.

I have written permission to publish in our newsletter articles from Gatehouse Press. Brad Schall

Activities for 2013

Camp meeting Wednesday September 18, 2013

Alcatraz Living History Day September 28, 2013

Camp meeting Wednesday October 16, 2013

150th anniversary of Gettysburg address – Gettysburg, PA – November 19, 2013

150th anniversary of Gettysburg address – Old Sacramento Cemetery – November 19, 2013
Join Camp #22

Camp meeting Wednesday November 20, 2013
Election of Officers for 2014. Volunteers needed.

57th GAR Gettysburg Parade – Gettysburg, PA – November 23rd, 2013

General Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 Officers for 2013

Commander: Jeffrey Vaillant, PCC
Senior Vice Commander: Charlie 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, PDC
Guard: Ben Mabie
Graves Registration: Ken Felton
Memorials Officer and Counselor: Brad Schall, PCinC
Eagle Scout: Charles Mabie, PDC
Newsletter Editor: Brad Schall, PCinC

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

Annual Dues are \$28.00 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. Company B dues are due by December 31st, 2013.

Honoring the Boys in Blue Every Day of the Year

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