



## The Guidon

General Alfred Pleasonton – Camp 24  
Chartered 30 August 1999

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



**Wednesday May 21, 2014 Next Meeting**  
**Meeting Location – California Genealogical Society –**  
**2201 Broadway on the LL 2, Oakland, CA - Gathering at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7:00 pm**

## Camp Commander Corner

Spring is here, and Memorial Day will soon be upon us. Members of Gen. Alfred Pleasonton Camp No. 24 are welcome to join Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52, and Lincoln Camp No. 10, to greet Memorial Day weekend visitors at Roaring Camp, located in Felton, California. This event is hosted by the ACWA. We have a large display area with original and reproduction artillery and weapons, a display of Civil War signal corps equipment, and GAR and SUVCW memorabilia. This year, we will also demonstrate some Civil-War era cooking. More information will be shared at the May meeting, or you can contact me via email for more information. There are several opportunities to celebrate Memorial Day on Monday. We will also discuss where our members will be.

Have you been to our National Website? Just Google SUVCW, or go to [www.SUVCW.org](http://www.SUVCW.org). The website has an incredible amount of information about our organization, programs and special projects, information on other departments and camps, operational information, history, forms and documents...the list seems endless. So take a few minutes and browse this treasure trove of information.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next camp meeting.

Keeping green the memory of the Boys in Blue

Charlie Mabie, CC, PDC

## Minutes from Last Two Meetings

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR PLEASONTON CAMP #24

MINUTES OF CAMP MEETING, MARCH 19, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Brother Charles Mabie at 7:08 pm

Members in attendance: Brothers Charles Mabie, Jeffrey Vaillant, Ken Felton, John Gee, Steve Johnson

The matter of our camp's participation in Memorial Day activities was discussed. So far the following members have decided to participate in various ways:

-- Brother Ken Felton will attend the Hayward Cemetery Memorial Services

--Brother Jeffrey Vaillant will participate with the Santa Rosa Camp in the Memorial Day Parade in Novato

-- Brother Charles Mabie will attend the Memorial Service at the Union Cemetery in Redwood City

-- Brothers Steve Johnson and John Gee would like to participate in the National Cemetery in the Presidio if they can find out who is organizing the event  
Brother Ken will look into finding the person or agency to contact to gain access to the cemetery in Martinez so we can do a headstone cleaning day.  
The annual department Encampment will be in Sacramento again next year. There will be an auction to benefit the Department.  
The Department has decided to make a Department Seal which will used for Department business -- letters, orders, etc. It will be available for camps to use as well.  
Brother Charles will ask the webmaster to update changes in the roster on our camp's website.  
The meeting was concluded at 7:50 pm  
Respectfully submitted,

S. Johnson, Secretary

#### MINUTES OF CAMP 24 MEETING, APRIL 16, 2014

Members in attendance: Brothers Charles Mabie, Jeffrey Vaillant, John Gee, Douglas James, Steve Johnson

Meeting started at 7:06 pm with a payer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was agreed to make a donation of \$75 from the camp's treasury to the SUVCW Foundation, in memory of Brother Ken's mother. Brother Jeffrey will send Ken a note to that effect.

Brothers John G., Steve J., and Jeffrey V. will co-ordinate a visit to Martinez to gain access to the cemetery there, and to assess the condition of the Civil War veterans' headstones.

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of Camp 24's founding, it was agreed to have a picnic in the Presidio for our members, and to invite members of other local camps as well. This will be a pot-luck affair, to be followed by a tour of the Presidio National Cemetery for those who'd like to participate. The proposed date is August 24, which will be confirmed when reservations for a site are confirmed by Brother Steve J.

A request by a San Rafael teacher for re-enactors to participate in the school's Civil War Day will be forwarded to Mike Musante.

The meeting was dismissed at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Johnson

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Column  
SVC Jeffrey Vaillant  
Grave Markers Article from Dick Eastman Genealogy newsletter

I received the following email message from newsletter reader Lynne Kay Shuffield:

After almost 50 years of lying in all but forgotten unmarked graves, two World War I veterans will finally receive their rightful government headstones after a Court Order is issued by Galveston County Probate Court Judge Kimberly Sullivan, Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 11 am, 600 59th St., Suite 2305, Galveston, Texas, 775571.

The Veteran's Administration initially denied headstones for Privates Frank Ellis and Oscar Juenger, US Army, because they currently have no next of kin. This did not deter a tenaciously dedicated local historian and genealogist, Deborah Gammon, who has, for more than 3 years, been gathering data, doing genealogical research and reconstructing their service records in hopes of officially marking their graves.

After contacting Galveston County 56th District Court Judge Lonnie Cox for help with a Court Order to name her next of kin, Cox arranged for League City attorney Jack Ewing to donate his services to draft and to submit the Court Order to be presented in Probate Court. Once the order is signed, the Veterans Administration has agreed to process the headstone request.

Once both headstones are in place at the Fairview Cemetery, where Ellis and Juenger were buried in 1965, a ceremony honoring the men's service to their country is planned.

The historic Fairview Cemetery is located at the end of Kansas Street in League City, TX. Established in 1900, the 114- year old cemetery holds approximately 1200 residents of League City and several surrounding communities and holds a Texas Historic Cemetery designation.

In 2013, the VA changed its rules/policy and began requiring all veteran headstone applications to come from authorized family or the deceased veteran only, halting efforts from veterans groups to provide headstones to homeless veterans or veterans lacking next of kin.

Under this policy, the VA has stopped accepting veteran headstone applications from anyone except individuals who they recognized as authorized family members or the veteran themselves.

On 16 May 2013, a bill was introduced in the U.S. Congress, H.R. 2018 - Honor Those Who Serve Act, which would amend current VA policy to allow such groups as veteran organizations (VFW or American Legion), military researchers, local historians, and other civic organizations to request headstones on behalf of fallen veterans to ensure a proper military burial.

You can read the text of this bill on-line at ...

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr2018/text>

Everyone should contact their local members of Congress to co-sponsor this bill and get it out of committee.

### **Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Column SVC Jeffrey Vaillant**

Camp Commander's Column—December 2013 (Sorry I didn't do a December newsletter and left this out)

PCinC Brad Schall spoke at the San Francisco Civil War Roundtable about Thaddeus Stevens. The talk combined information from the movie Lincoln in which Tommy Lee Jones portrays Thaddeus Stevens, the internet ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thaddeus\\_Stevens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thaddeus_Stevens)) and Hans L. Trefousse's book Thaddeus Stevens: Nineteenth Century Egalitarian (University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1997). Frankly I did not know much about Thaddeus Stevens and Brother Brad's talk whetted my interest. So, it was off to amazon.com after the meeting to purchase the book ([http://www.amazon.com/Thaddeus-Stevens-Civil-War-America-ebook/dp/B00AYLH15U/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1386818078&sr=1-1&keywords=thaddeus+stevens](http://www.amazon.com/Thaddeus-Stevens-Civil-War-America-ebook/dp/B00AYLH15U/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1386818078&sr=1-1&keywords=thaddeus+stevens)).

“The city of York, which became Steven's home in 1815...was the home of...the York Academy, and ungraded school which, needing a teacher, had attracted Stevens in the first place.” Thaddeus applied himself to study for admission to the bar which he accomplished in 1816 taking the exam in next door Maryland. He returns to Pennsylvania and Gettysburg where he established his practice. He is elected to the federal House of Representatives and establishes himself in a leadership position. By July 1861 he was the Chairman of Ways and Means. In that role he singlehandedly funded the beginning of the Civil War.” A loan bill calling for the issue of up to \$250 million in 7 percent twenty-year bonds, and of temporary treasury notes payable after three years at 7.3 percent, as well as an offer of \$100 million authorized abroad became law—Stevens forced it through with only one hour allowed for debate—and a supplementary measure on August 5 enabled the Secretary of the Treasury to

issue additional bonds at 6 percent. In additions, the committee also asked Congress to legitimize Lincoln’s use of unauthorized funds at the beginning of the emergency.” (Page 114)

Stevens was a Radical Republican well out in front of many issues. “By the time Congress adjourned in July 1862, Stevens had become one of the best known radicals in Washington as well as in the nation. Constantly agitating for an end to slavery, the enrolment of black troops, a vigorous prosecution of the way, and its financing through legal tender notes, he had become a symbol of change for his countrymen, and his recognized positions of leadership made him one of the most influential members of the House.” (Page 124)

“Throughout the Civil War, Stevens had been critical of Lincoln. Considering the president too hesitant and too slow-moving about the abolition of slavery, he failed to appreciate the chief executive’s consummate political skill...Both were dedicated to the abolition of slavery and the maintenance of the union, and it was in fact their different ways of approaching their goal that in the end made its realization possible.” (Page 150)

This was a great book to read and it can best be summarized by the jacket statement that “Trefousse traces Steven’s career through its major phases: from his days in the Pennsylvania state legislature, when he antagonized Freemasons, slaveholders and Jacksonian Democrats, to his political involvement during Reconstruction, when he helped author the Fourteenth Amendment and spurred on the passage of the Reconstruction Acts and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.” The book is well sourced with an extensive bibliography.

## Voices from the Civil War

by Melissa Shimkus

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Currently, the Civil War (1861-1865) is being commemorated by a number of individuals and organizations in the United States. One of the remarkable highlights of the Library of Congress’s “The Civil War in America” exhibition, which closed in January 2014, is still freely accessible: The “Voices from the Civil War Blog,” (<http://blogs.loc.gov/civil-war-voices/>), which showcased materials from the physical and online exhibit, and features entries from the personal memoirs, diaries, and letters of those who lived through this turbulent era.

The website is a blog rather than a static site, which means that the entries are organized by the date the item posted on the website rather than chronologically by the original document date that is displayed. The blog can be searched by any keyword in the post or browsed by the author or month and year of the original document.

The entries are transcripts of specific passages from the Library of Congress Manuscript Division and chronicle both Northern and Southern views. These entries are the personal words of people like Walt Whitman, Ulysses S. Grant, Clara Barton, Robert E. Lee, and many others. Clicking on the image provided redirects to the online exhibit which offers an enhanced experience. Further details relating to the individual and document are supplied, along with links to any other materials in that particular set of papers. Each of the images can be enlarged and printed, and for those who have trouble reading the handwritten script, a transcript is also available.

The personal accounts, from those who were directly affected by the War that describe both events and daily life are a bonus for historical and genealogical researchers who seek to learn more about this era. Stories that should be preserved can be found within these papers, such as John Chase’s tale of being left for dead following the Battle of Gettysburg. Chase, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, is chronicled in the blog because after losing his right arm and suffering an assortment of other injuries, he won a “left-handed penmanship contest” held by “Soldiers’ Friend Newspaper.”

As our country continues remembering the War Between the States, take the time to read the words of those who truly experienced our great nation when it was divided. Some examples of these are available on the “Voices from the Civil War Blog.”

**Jeffrey L. Vaillant**



Lincoln Death Days celebration on 12 April, 2014.

Lincoln Death Days celebration on 12 April, 2014. Past Commander-in-Chief Schall layed a wreath in honor of our 16<sup>th</sup> President. Wreath was presented by General Alfred Pleasanton Camp #24 in Castro Valley, California Senior Vice-Commander Tad Campbell was the MC for the event and National Commander-in-Chief Freshley gave the address. The SUVCW and MOLLUS jointly sponsor this ceremony every year. It is worth attending. There is a luncheon at the President Lincoln hotel and then a ceremony honoring the founder of the GAR at the Stephenson gravesite in Peterboro, Illinois.

### General Alfred Pleasanton Camp 24 Officers for 2013

- Commander: Charles Mabie, PDC
- Senior Vice Commander: Jeffrey Vaillant, SVC
- Junior Vice Commander: Ken Felton
- Secretary: Steve Johnson
- Treasurer: Steve Johnson
- Council: Brad Schall, Bruce Hevelin, Jeffrey Vaillant
- 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 History Corner**  
**Brad Schall, PCinC**

Information on the Charter

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, General Alfred Pleasonton, Camp #24, Department of California and Pacific.

30 August 1999 – Charter date

Commander-in-Chief - Danny L. Wheeler

National Secretary – Todd A. Shillington, Jr.

Department Commander – Gene C. Armistead

Department Secretary – Charles O. Davis

Russell N. Bearrows	Nate Pyles
Richard Campbell	Charles J. Reed
Robert Ebert	Braden Schall
David Ernest	Christopher Schall
Eugene Fortune	Donald B. Schall
Robert A. Hill	Edward Sebress
Zoyd Luce	Alan Streit
Robert C. Maerdian	Robert L. Stupey
Vincent Potts	

Original members still involved with Camp. Robert Ebert, Braden Schall, Christopher Schall, Donald B. (Brad) Schall.

Deceased members: Richard Campbell, Eugene Fortune, Charles J. Reed

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 Steve Johnson at 384 Heathcliff, Pacific, CA 94044.

Honoring the Boys in Blue Every Day of the Year

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, 5<sup>th</sup> Light Artillery Battery F, Regular US

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

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

Minnesota: 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Heavy Artillery, Co. D, Brackets Battalion, Minnesota Cavalry



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, 4<sup>th</sup> Ohio Cavalry  
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, Company C, 9<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry  
West Virginia: 11<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Infantry  
Wisconsin: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Light Artillery, 30<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry

Please send additions or corrections to Brad Schall at [dschall@starstream.net](mailto:dschall@starstream.net)

Camp meeting – May 21, 2014  
Presidio Memorial Day – May 26, 2014 at 10:30 am  
Camp meeting – June 18, 2014  
No Camp meetings in July or August  
National Encampment – August 8, 9  
Go to [suvew.org](http://suvew.org) for details  
Ft. Point Living History Day – August 16 and 17, 2014  
Camp #24 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, August 24. Picnic at Presidio, San Francisco.

Alcatraz Living History Day – October 4, 2014  
8th Annual Fort Mervine's Civil War Encampment for October 4th and 5th, 2014

Gettysburg Remembrance Day – November 15, 2014  
Go to [suvew.org](http://suvew.org) for details

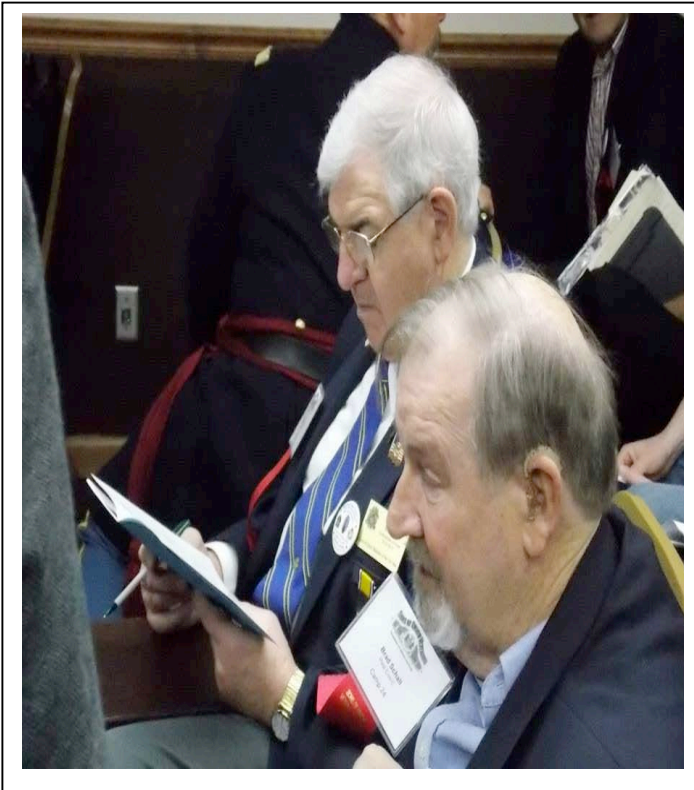
Department Encampment – Sacramento, California



National Commander Ken  
Freshley and Department  
Commander Reese



Commander Mabie  
receiving  
Certificate from  
Department  
Commander Reese



Past Commander-in-Chief  
Perley Mellor &  
Brad Schall



Presidio Memorial Day Service: The Presidio's Memorial Day Commemoration

May 26, at 10:30 am

San Francisco's biggest Memorial Day observance. The 191st U.S. Army Band leads a parade from the Main Post (near Lincoln and Sheridan streets) to San Francisco National Cemetery. There, a formal ceremony (11 am-12 noon) includes music, remarks by military and civilian dignitaries and a 21-gun salute. The National Park Service then leads 30-minute tours of the cemetery.

The cemetery in the Presidio is an official National Historic Landmark District. It contains the graves of more than 35,000 veterans and their family members, dating back to the 1846 war with Mexico.

We should meet at 10:00 am by the flag pole on the Presidio grounds. The Ceremony will be over at noon and maybe we all could have lunch together.

I plan to be there, Steve Johnson and John Gee have indicated they will be there. It would be nice if we could have several others from the Camp. Uniforms not necessary.

8th Annual Fort Mervine's Civil War Encampment Promo's for October 4th and 5th, 2014, we have CHAS and Norfolk Light Inf. Blues, A Cannon of the north and one of the south, plus a horse team. For top line up, we have the NCWA Professional Civilian Guild, Soldiers and Citizens Society, We have the SVR doing the firing detail (any Civil War org or association, union and confederate are free to fall in) Two Firing Demo's daily at 11:30am and at 2:30 pm, day lengths 10-4 on Sat and 10-3pm on Sunday. Over night camping, bathrooms on grounds. overlooking beautiful Monterey Bay, Wharf and DT in 15 minute walk. UNION and Confederate welcome of an org or associations

Contact Encamp Director: Tim Reese at [commander@suvpac.org](mailto:commander@suvpac.org) or call (831)422-3619 Hm or (831)596-8056 cell. Oct 3rd is School day, NJROTC and JROTC Cadets (est. 300) so far lined up. Thursday Oct 2 will be available for early Tent Set up and arrival.

Eternal Sentinels, By Robin Shields

“Does anyone remember me  
When I but flesh and blood  
With determined gait toiled these hallowed grounds  
Locked here now in effigy  
On plowshare with the enemy  
Do you wonder if I weep??”

“Immortal eyes, nameless faces  
Timeless reverie, their names forever on my lips  
I rage in silence  
And stand eternal sentinel of the cost of war  
Do you wonder what I see???”

“My frozen breath cannot cry out  
Oh to lift a bronzed arm and wave in gallantry  
Raise a bugle to cold lips to sound a call  
Do you never hear my plea???”

“Under quite moonlight  
Hearts race and Hoof beats rumble on  
The lights within us glow again  
In the stony gazes of the brethren  
Eternal sentinels of the souls.”

City of Monterey's  
**HISTORY FEST 2014**

**ADMISSION FREE & PARKING IS FREE**

Oct. 4th,  
Saturday  
10-4:pm

**Presidio  
Museum  
Grounds.**

Oct 5th,  
Sunday  
10-3:pm

**8th ANNUAL**



Hosting is the:

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE  
CIVIL WAR & Auxiliary**

A NON-PROFIT ORG.

Also appearing:

**CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL ARTILLERY SOCIETY**

**Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR)**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY