



The Guidon
General Alfred Pleasonton – Camp 24
Chartered 30 August 1999

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

February Issue

2015



Meeting Next

Wednesday February 18th, 2015

Meeting Location – California Genealogical Society –

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

Be advised that Brother Charlie Kenyon will give a talk about the world of Civil War re-enacting. Charlie has been involved in re-enactments for years. So, everything you wanted to know about ACWA re-enacting but were afraid to ask will be part of our coming meeting.

John Gee, Senior Vice Commander

Camp Commander Ken Felton Report

General Alfred Pleasonton Camp No. 24 was well represented at Fort Point on January 24th, 2015 for the “Civil War” Living History Day. In attendance was: Commander Ken Felton; Senior Vice Commander, John Gee; Junior Vice Commander, Charles Kenyon; Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Johnson; Chaplin/Color Bearer, Charles Mabie; Council Member, Robert Mayer; and Counselor, Jeffrey Vaillant. Commander, Timothy P. Reese, for the Department of California & Pacific, installed Camp No. 24’s new officers (listed above), along with some of the officers for Camp No. 10 and Camp No. 23.

The weather was good and this event was well attended by the general public. Everyone seemed to enjoy the exhibits and demonstrations. I hope that we can have an equally successful event at the Alcatraz “Civil War” Living History Day, which is scheduled for February 28, 2015.

I will let you know when the next “Clean-up” day is scheduled for Alhambra Cemetery, Martinez, CA. It will be announced later, but should be sometime in the early “Spring 2015”. Our Camp needs to place a priority on helping preserve an old and run down cemetery, where several “Civil War” veterans are buried. Last October, I found the grave site location for Captain Morgan Hurst Bailhache, a GAR member of the General Canby Post No. 77 of Martinez, California. He served from March of 1863 until November of 1865 as a Captain in the US Army - Infantry with the Assistant Adjutant General’s - United States Volunteers, and later became the Senior Vice Commander of the General Canby Post. Morgan Hurst Bailhache was married in Springfield, Illinois on October 11, 1864. The Bailhache surname must have been well known by President Abraham Lincoln, as Morgan Hurst Bailhache had 3 cousins also living in Springfield, Illinois in the 1860s, with family members that were nearby to the Abraham Lincoln household.

The 3 Bailhache cousins are: William Bailhache; Preston Bailhache; and Arthur Lee Bailhache. They were all officers on the Union side in the Civil War. Arthur Lee Bailhache died in 1862 from an illness. He was buried on

the property at the Bailhache family home in Springfield, Illinois. The grave site location of Arthur Lee Bailhache has not been registered into the SUVCW National Graves Database, and the location is not know at this time. William Bailhache was a partner/owner of the Illinois State Journal newspaper of Springfield, Illinois and his wife was the daughter of Mason Brayman, a Lawyer friend of Abraham Lincoln, and she was a Political Adviser to Abraham Lincoln. Mason Brayman lived in the Abraham Lincoln family home, as a tenant. Preston Bailhache was a doctor and he worked in the same doctor office as a Doctor Wallace in Springfield, Illinois. Doctor Wallace was a brother-in-law of Abraham Lincoln and he was also the doctor who cared for the Abraham Lincoln family.

The grave headstone for Morgan Hurst Bailhache was difficult to read. He died on December 4, 1891. After three visits to the Alhambra Cemetery in Martinez, California, I finally found the grave site. I first found the "Bailhache" surname on the boarder of the family plot. There was only one upright headstone in this family plot, but I could not read it until later in the day, when the sun was at the correct angle, so that the hard to read marks could be seen easier. See the photographs below.



"Bailhache" surname on the border of the family plot.



Photograph of the upright headstone in the Bailhache family plot. I could not read this headstone at this early time of the day.



Later in the day, I could read the upright headstone. It reads: "CAPT. M. H. BAILHACHE A. A. GEN'L U.S. VOLS".

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Ken Felton, Commander
General Alfred Pleasonton Camp #24

From an email from a friend

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE STORY.. AND MANY, MANY THANKS TO ADMIRAL NIMITZ WHO RECOGNIZED IT FOR WHAT IT WAS... WONDERFUL...

Pearl Harbor - What God Did That Day

Really interesting, and I never knew this little bit of history:

Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time.

In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor " by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941.

There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters every where you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice.

Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained:

Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning.

Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired.

As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg , Texas -- he was a born optimist. But anyway you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST.

2015 Camp #24 schedule

February 18 - Camp Meeting, Oakland, 7 pm

February 28 – Alcatraz Living History Day

March 6-8 - Department Encampment, Sacramento

April 15 - Camp Meeting, Oakland, 7 pm

April 24-26 – Boy Scout program - Livermore

May 25 - Memorial Day at the Presidio

June 17 - Camp Meeting, Oakland, 7 pm

July 4th - Various Fourth of July Events

August 19-23 - National Encampment, Richmond VA

August (TBD) - Civil War Day, Fort Point

September 16 - Camp Meeting, Oakland, 7 pm

October (TBD) - Civil War Encampment, Fort Mervine, Monterey

October 21 - Camp Meeting, Oakland, 7 pm

November 11 - Veteran's Day Activities

November 18th - Camp Meeting, Oakland, 7 pm Election of Officers

Camp minutes are on the Camp #24 website. Thank you Secretary Steve

General Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 Officers for 2015

Commander: Ken Felton

Senior Vice Commander: John Gee

Junior Vice Commander: Charles Kenyon

Secretary: Steve Johnson

Treasurer: Steve Johnson

Council: Bruce Hevelin, Jeffrey Vaillant PCC, Robert Mayer

Chaplin: Charlie Mabie

Patriotic Instructor: Brad Schall

Color Bearer: Charles Mabie, PDC

Guard: Ben Mabie

Graves Registration: Ken Felton

Memorials Officer: Brad Schall, PCinC

Counselor: Jeffrey Vaillant, PCC

Eagle Scout: Charles Mabie, PDC

Newsletter Editor: Brad Schall, PCinC

We try and put out the newsletter a week or 10 days before our Monthly meeting or during special events. Please submit articles to Brad Schall at dschall@starstream.net