



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

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

Sept- October Issue 2015



October Meeting
Wednesday October 21, 2015
Meeting Location – California Genealogical Society –
2201 Broadway on the LL 2, Oakland, CA - Gathering at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7:00 pm

COMMANDER’S REPORT : Ken Felton

It has been a busy Summer this year. After the Fourth of July Celebrations, Robert Mayer of General Alfred Pleasonton Camp No. 24 presented an Eagle Scout Commendation Certificate to a new Eagle Scout on July 11th in Martinez, California. Also Commander Kenneth G. Felton and Junior Vice Commander Charles Kenyon assisted a local Junior Girl Scouts troop in helping to maintain the GAR Plot grave sites at Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, California on Saturday, August 29th. This Junior Girl Scout Troop #33067 worked hard all morning at Mountain View Cemetery on their Bronze Award - Community Service Project, and they did a great job in honoring all of our country’s veterans. We should continue to assist and help the local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and issue certificates of commendation whenever we can.



Photograph of Junior Girl Scout Troop #33067 and Charles Kenyon (far left) and Kenneth G. Felton (far right) in front of the GAR Monument at the GAR Plot at Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, California.

While at Mountain View Cemetery on August 29th, 2015, Kenneth G. Felton located the grave of John Simon Dumser, a past National Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. His grave site is marked with a Family Monument, which is shown on the next page.



John Simon Dumser enlisted on February 8, 1864 at Elgin, Illinois as a Private in Co. K of the 52nd Illinois Infantry. He participated in several battles in the South, including Kenesaw Mountain, Siege of Atlanta and also Sherman's march "Atlanta to the sea". John S. Dumser was discharged on July 6, 1865 at Louisville, Kentucky. This headstone photograph was added to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's National Database of grave sites of Civil War veterans.

On August 29, 2015, I also found the grave site of John Delos Presher, a Private in Company G of the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry. He was a veteran of the U.S. Civil War. His grave site is Grave #3221 in the Veterans Plot (Plot No. 45)., and it was not found listed in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's National Graves Database. I just finished submitting this grave of John Delos Presher to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's National Graves Database.

I found the McKinley Memorial Tree at another Veterans Plot (Plot No. 45) at Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, California on August 29, 2015. This McKinley Memorial Tree was planted by the GAR and Kindred Orders on May 30, 1902. A photograph of the tree and its marker are found on the next page. This marker is located at Grave Site No. 371 in Plot No. 45 at Mountain View Cemetery.



The McKinley Memorial Tree is shown in the center of this photograph.

Photograph of the marker, near to the tree.



Photograph of the marker, near to the tree.

Several camp brothers participated in the Civil War History Day at Fort Point on August 15th, including myself, Secretary Steve Johnson, Senior Vice Commander John Gee, and Junior Vice Commander Charles Kenyon, Camp Members are encouraged to attend the Civil War History Day at Alcatraz, another great event, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2015. Please contact Brad Schall to sign-up for this event.

The next Camp meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2015 at the Meeting Room of the California Genealogical Society in Oakland, CA. We can discuss the upcoming big event at Alcatraz at this September 17th meeting.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

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In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Ken Felton, Commander
General Alfred Pleasonton Camp #24

Time for renewal of membership

Membership dues for calendar year 2016 are now due. Membership runs from January to December 31 each year. General Alfred Pleasonton dues are \$26.00 per year. We send \$18.00 a year to National for per capita and \$3.00 to the Department of California and Pacific. Our Camp keeps \$5.00 for expenses. You can also send additional donations that we will use for Camp projects.

Name_____

Due Amount_____

Donation_____

Total_____

Please make your checks out to: SUVCW, Camp #24

You can give your dues at the Camp meeting to Commander Felton, Secretary - Treasurer Steve Johnson

You can mail them to Brother Steve Johnson, SUVCW, 384 Heathcliff, Pacifica, CA 9404

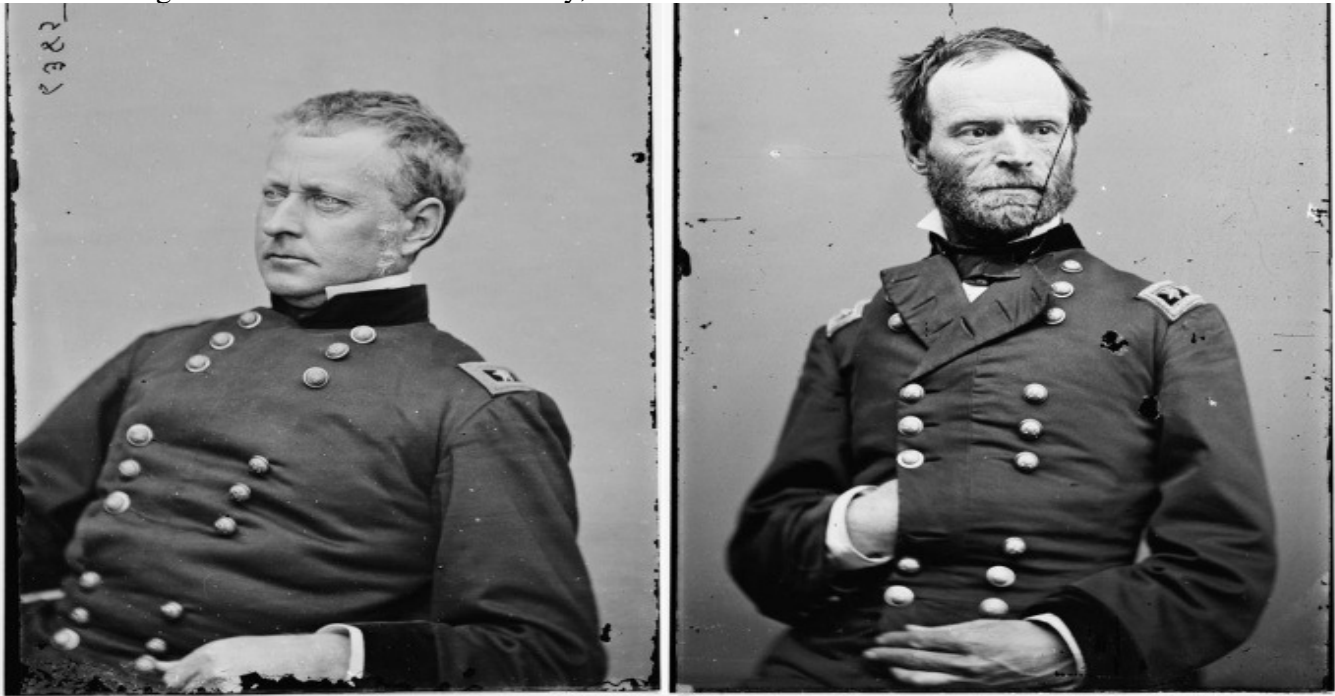
Facts about California in the Civil War

From Civil war.org – Civil War Trust

Fact 3: A number of high profile officers of the Civil War were stationed in California before the Civil War including William Sherman and Joseph Hooker.

Some of the Civil War's most famous figures spent time in California before the war. [William Sherman](#) performed various administrative duties in California when it became a U.S. territory, including accompanying military governor Col. Richard Mason during the inspection to confirm the presence of gold in California. Sherman was in good company in California before the Civil War, among his fellow residents were [Ulysses S. Grant](#), who spent time in San Francisco during the Gold Rush, [Joseph Hooker](#), who led a state militia from 1859-1861, and Mark Twain, who moved to California during the Civil War at the age of 29, following a stint in a Confederate State Militia.

Before serving as Generals in the Union Army, both



Hooker and William Sherman resided in California. (Library of Congress)

oseph

Fact 4: Though they fought against each other during the Battle of Gettysburg, Winfield Scott Hancock and Lewis Armistead were good friends when they served as quartermasters in Southern California.

In the years before the Civil War, [Winfield Scott Hancock](#) served as assistant quartermaster under [Albert Johnston](#). While in California, Hancock became good friends with soon-to-be Confederate General [Lewis Armistead](#). Their friendship grew throughout their time in California. When Armistead made the decision to resign from the United States Army and join the Confederacy he left Hancock's wife his prayer books with the words "Trust in God and Fear Nothing" inscribed in the book and he left Hancock a new major's uniform.

The two would not see each other again until the [Battle of Gettysburg](#). On July 3, 1863 during the third and final day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Armistead was mortally wounded. As he lie wounded, Armistead asked a soldier about Hancock, and after learning that Hancock had been wounded Armistead exclaimed "Not both of us on the

same day!” He then instructed Union Captain Henry Bingham to “tell General Hancock, from me, that I have done him and you all a grave injustice.”

Fact 1: The Union and the Confederacy both wanted California’s support, but for different reasons.

California was viewed as a valuable asset to the Union due to its rich gold deposits. The gold was a very valuable resource for the Union. Grant once said on the topic of California’s support to the war effort, “I do not know what we would do in this great national emergency if it were not for the gold sent from California.”

While the Confederacy was equally interested in the gold resources, California had another resource that Confederacy desperately needed. The coast of Southern California would have provided the Confederacy with a much needed open harbor, unaffected by the Union Blockade.

The Union Blockade, nicknamed Scott's Great Snake, made the open harbors of California desirable to the Confederacy. (Wikimedia Commons)

Fact 2: There was a vocal secessionist faction in Southern California.

During the secession crisis, Northern California was securely in the Union’s hands. Southern California, however, had a vocal minority of Southerners who had moved during the Gold Rush that wished to have Southern California secede from the Union and join the Confederacy. This vocal movement led to the rise of a number of pro-Confederate groups in Southern California including the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles and chapters of the Knights of the Golden Circle, a group that had previously been dedicated to annexing 25 states in Mexico, to be added to the United States as slave states.

We will continue in October with fact 4 and 5

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

People Places and Things – Answers to questions from June Newsletter

1. Sherman’s march to the **Sea**
2. Lincoln’s Gettysburg **address**
3. The great locomotive **chase**
4. The Battle of Stone’s **Mountain**, Tennessee
5. The Battle of Wilson’s **Creek**, Missouri

People Places and Things – September Newsletter Fill in missing blanks
Answers in next month newsletter

6. The Battle of Mobil _ _ _ , Alabama
7. The Rebel _ _ _ _ , also known as “The Holler”
8. The Gray and the _ _ _ _
9. The Confederate _ _ _ _ _ , of America
10. The Army of the _ _ _ _ _ , General George McClellan’s

Allied Order Leaders in 2015-2015

Woman’s Relief Corps
Cindy Zerkowski – National President

Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic
Carolyn Agosto – National President

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865
Sally Redinger – National President

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Eugene G. Mortorff – National Commander
Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Linda Kronberg – National President

Commander Mortorff in his General Order number two (2) says

“Many hands make light work. A famous saying that sometimes is forgotten. We, as the Allied Orders are many. Our sisters are ready, and eager, to help us in our work. We must be equally eager to help them in theirs. I charge every Camp and Department (where possible) to make positive contact with our sisters to plan joint event (s) that will further our shared missions. Once done, please publicize the results in the media and especially sending articles to “The Banner”

From Brother Don Wilt, Camp #22, Sacramento

Listed below is a link to a preview for the movie, The Unknowns, about the guards of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is scheduled for release on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015.

Sound up. Scroll down & click to start.

<http://www.theunknownsmovie.com/>

2015 Camp #24 schedule

October 21 - Camp Meeting, Oakland, 7 pm

November 11 - Veteran's Day Activities

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

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

2015-2016 National Officers elected at Richmond, Virginia

Commander-in-Chief
Eugene R. Mortorff, PDC

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief
Donald L. Martin, PDC

Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief
Mark R. Day, PDC

National Treasurer
Richard D. Orr, PCinC

National Secretary
Alan Russ, PDC

National Quartermaster
Danny Wheeler, PCinC

Council of Administration:

Edward J. Norris, PDC - 2016

Walter E. Busch, PDC – 2016

Brian C. Pierson, PDC – 2017

Donald W. Shaw, PDC – 2018

John M. McNulty, PDC - 2018

Go to Friends of Civil War website for information on Living History Day on the Island.

Friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org

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