



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
General Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24

NEWSLETTER for NOVEMBER 2019

Editor: Steve Johnson   Camp Commander: Ken Felton

**Results of Election of Camp Officers for 2020**

A ballot was sent to the camp's members with nominations for our camp officers for next year. The results were

Commander: Robert Mayer

Senior Vice-commander: John Gee

Junior-Vice Commander Ken Felton

Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Johnson

Council Members: Gary Hormel, Charlie Mabie

The investiture of officers will take place at Fort Point on Saturday, January 25, 2020, during Living History Day. The time will be announced closer to the event. Typically we have an officer of the Department who presides at the ceremony, which is attended by newly elected officers from one or two other camps as well. If you haven't witnessed the ceremony before, it is worth seeing and all camp members are encouraged to attend.

**Graveside Dedication at the National Cemetery, San Francisco**

Because of Brother Ken Felton's untiring research (who also serves as the graves registration officer), he discovered that a sailor in the Union Navy who is buried at the National Cemetery was a Medal of Honor recipient — however, there was no marker at his headstone to indicate this. The sailor, Matthew Arthur, was awarded the Medal of Honor on July 10, 1863, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving on board the *U.S.S. Carondelet* at the reduction of Forts Henry and Donnelson, Tennessee. Ken applied for a Medal of Honor marker from the Veteran's Administration, which was eventually sent and installed at the cemetery. On August 17th, Brother Ken was joined by Brother Dean Enderlin of the Department, and Cynthia Eddy of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at Arthur's gravesite; here a short memorial service was given to honor the service of this brave sailor, and wreaths were laid at his headstone. Also in attendance were members of Phil Sheridan Camp 4, and re-enactors of the 20th Maine, who provided the rifle salute at the end of the service.



Cynthia Eddy of the SUVCW Auxiliary and Brothers Ken Felton and Dean Enderlin at the gravesite of USN sailor Matthew Arthur. Arthur died in San Francisco in 1890 and was buried in the G.A.R. plot of the Golden Gate Cemetery near Lincoln Park. In 1912 his remains were brought to the National Cemetery at the Presidio. His grave is in the Officers Section. Section OS, row 16, grave 1. Near him is the grave of Pauline Cushman Fryer, a Union spy.

### **Living History Day on Alcatraz**

On September 14th members of Camp 24, along with members of Friends of Civil War Alcatraz, participated in the Living History Day activities on Alcatraz Island. Brothers Gary Hormel, Steve Johnson, and Robert Mayer engaged with the island visitors by giving tours of Fort Alcatraz, doing cannon demonstrations, and talking about our family connections to the Civil War.



Here Brother Gary Hormel portrays Captain Stewart, the early commander of Fort Alcatraz as he gives a walking tour

Brother Robert Mayer (in the background) assists an artillery re-enactor as they show a group of visitors how a howitzer was loaded and fired.



## Angel Island

This summer Brothers Johnson and Mayer assisted the rangers on Angel Island during the Civil War Days at Camp Reynolds. Battles were held on a weekend in June, during which Brother Johnson provided narration to the visitors and Brother Mayer held defend the island from Confederate sympathizers. This is held every June and is a perfect opportunity for camp members to promote the SUVCW.





Brother Robert Mayer helps to defend the island by firing a howitzer at the approaching rebels. Like the very first battle of the Civil War, civilians can picnic while watching the “battle”

Brother Steve Johnson in the bake house on Angel Island, standing next to an artillery soldier who looks suspiciously like a woman.



### Future Camp Meetings

The consensus of the current officers is to hold fewer meetings next year, so that members of the camp need only attend 3 meetings. Right now, the idea is to have a meeting in January at Fort Point, when new officers are installed. A second meeting would happen in early spring, to lay out the activities of the year. A third meeting would be held in the fall, for elections for new officers. Of course, we would have less formal meetings when we get together for Memorial Day, and Living History Days on Alcatraz, Angel Island, and Fort Point. This will be the first order of discussion at the next camp meeting, whose date and time will be announced.