



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

GUIDON NEWSLETTER
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Editor: Steve Johnson, Camp Secretary
Camp Commander: Gary Hormel

Living History Day at Fort Point - February 25

The Living History Day at Fort Point, previously scheduled in January and postponed because of the rain storms, will now take place on Saturday, February 25th. If the weather is good, we are anticipating hundreds of visitors. If you haven't been to this event, it is quite exciting because the old fort

comes back to life with soldier re-enactors, civilian re-enactors, cannon demonstrations, music of the 1860s played by the Fort Point Brass Band, medical and weapons exhibits, cooking demonstrations, lectures, and stirring flag ceremonies. The SUVCW typically mans a table to explain our organization to visitors and perhaps meet a person whose ancestor fought for the Union.



Brothers in our camp are

encouraged to attend to help man the table, and to join us as we induct one new member into our camp that day. If you plan to come, please arrive by 9:15 a.m. and drive to the front of the fort where you will be given a parking pass to park at Crissy Field; a shuttle will then take you to the fort. You don't need to be in a uniform to attend; just wear your SUVCW badge. Bring a lunch and warm clothing; snacks and coffee will be provided during the day. The event ends at 5 p.m., though you do not have to stay the whole time.

Next Camp 24 Meeting - Saturday, March 11, 2023.

Brother Brad Hatton will once again be our host at the next camp meeting and barbecue at his

home in Fremont. Members and their spouses are invited to come starting at 10:30 a.m. to his house at 39256 Cano Court. The meeting will start at 11:00 and the agenda will include planning for activities for this year, camp meeting dates and places, a membership report, and a welcome to any new members attending. Brother Hatton will be cooking tri-tips and offering his famous baked beans, and a potato salad. Members should bring their own favorite drinks. After the luncheon, Brother Gary will be giving a presentation on "Fort Sumter, Then and Now", based on his research and a visit to the fort in 2009. The full story of what led up to the bombardment and its effect on the soldiers inside the fort is very interesting and his talk will be accompanied by a photo presentation. If you plan to come, please let Brother Steve know by return email.

A Hawaiian Soldier Fights for the Union

Our camp brother in Hawaai, Ray Galas, sent me this little-known story of a Hawaiian man who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Here is the story, as related in the October 26, 2014 edition of *Hawaii News Now*:

"It has been my privilege to watch Kealoha move from the footnotes of history to the front pages of today," said Eric Mueller, Adjutant General, Hawaii Civil War Round Table. Private J.R. Kealoha, a Native Hawaiian soldier who fought in America's Civil War, died in 1877 and is buried at the historic Oahu Cemetery. But for the last 137 years, most people may not have known it.

It was in 2011 when Anita Manning came across Kealoha's name at the Hawaii State Archives. A card file told her the union soldier fought in the Civil War and where he was buried. Eager to find out more, she went to Oahu Cemetery only to be disappointed. "There was no headstone! And I was struck immediately that this man who had put himself in harm's way for my future had been forgotten," said Manning, Hawaii Sons of the Civil War committee.

Manning along with other historians submitted an application to the Veterans Administration to get a headstone for Kealoha but was denied because of they couldn't find any living next of kin. After years of appeals, a headstone was donated.

"Unlike many Hawaiians who fought in the Civil War, we know Kealoha's real name. We know his Hawaiian name because fortuitously on January 22, 1865, he ran into Colonel Samuel Chapman Armstrong," Hawaii Civil War Round Table President Justin Vance said. Armstrong was also from Hawaii and he later became a General. He wrote about his encounter with Kealoha on the battlefield and sent the letter back to Hawaii.

"Yesterday, as my orderly was holding my horse, I asked him where he was from. He said he was from Hawaii! He proved to be a full-blood kanaka, by the name of Kealoha, who came from the Islands last year. There is also another, by the name of Kaiwi, who lived near Judge Smith's, who left the Islands last July. I enjoyed seeing them very much and we had a good

jabber in kanaka. Kealoha is a private in the 41st Regiment US Colored Troops, and Kaiwi is a Private in the 28th U.S.C.T., in the pioneer corps. Both are good men and seemed glad to have seen me.”

Kealoha is one of 119 identified sons of Hawaii who fought in the Civil War. Little is known about them because most Hawaiians served under anglicized names because they were easier to pronounce. Below: Hawaii state flag is placed over his grave at a ceremony to honor him.



Dues Are Due

About half the brothers have not renewed their membership. Please note that the camp dues are now \$63. The national organization voted to raise the dues to offset the mailing of *The Banner*, the SUVCW magazine you receive in the mail. Also note that your included camp dues of \$30 can be reduced if it is a hardship right now; just contact Brother Gary at bmcuscg1@comcast.net . If you have not renewed your membership by the end of next week, I will have to list you as having been discharged from the SUVCW, because I have to send in the camp membership report to the national and department officers by then.

Lincoln's Birthday

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12th, 1809, near Hodgenville, Kentucky. His father Thomas was descended from an English weaver's apprentice who had migrated to Massachusetts in 1637. In 1816, faced with a lawsuit over title to his farm, Thomas moved his family - wife Nancy, Abraham and his sister Sarah - to Indiana. There he built a log and brush shelter for the family until he could build a log house. Two years later Thomas' wife died, a real blow to the small family. Within a year he married Sarah Johnston, who had two girls and a boy of her own. Sarah treated all the children as her own, but was especially fond of Abraham, who called her his "angel mother". Lincoln had little schooling but read the Bible, Weem's *The Life of George Washington*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and *Aesop's Fables*. At the age of 21 the family moved to Illinois, where Abraham worked as a surveyor, flatboatman, rail splitter, and postmaster in New Salem.¹ His experiences here as a young man shaped his later career as a politician and later as president. His understanding of family loss and hardship, seeing slave markets in New Orleans, serving in the Illinois militia, using stories to make a point, all helped to make him a man of strong character, wise humor, and a man deeply sensitive to other people's feelings and needs.

I will be on Alcatraz on his birthday to remind visitors of the legacy of one of our greatest presidents. Let's remember to put the flag up at our houses to honor this remarkable man.

¹ The old town of New Salem was abandoned by the 1920s. During the Great Depression of the 1930's, William Randolph Hearst bought the land of the old village and donated it to the state of Illinois. The town was rebuilt by the CCC in its original form of the 1840s as a historical park, and features costumed interpreters.