



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

GUIDON NEWSLETTER
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Camp Commander: Gary Hormel

Camp Welcomes New Member

During the Living History Day at Fort Point in February a time was set aside so that the officers of Camp 24 and Camp 23 (Santa Rosa) could take the oath of office for the current year. At the same time, Senior Vice-commander Glenn Martin officiated at the induction of brother Alan Case into Camp 24. Brother Alan, who lives in Martinez, had a great-grandfather on his father's side who served in Company E of the 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. John Elam Case Sr. was mustered into service in 1862 and was discharged the following year due to a disability. Here is our newly inducted brother Alan with Junior Vice-commander Jeffrey Nibert, Commander Gary Hormel, and Senior Vice-commander Glenn Martin. Welcome, brother Alan!



Alcatraz Living History Day

The Friends of Civil War Alcatraz hosted a Living History Day on Alcatraz on April 15th. Several members of the SUVCW were in attendance, including brother Randal

Hawkinson, Commander of Lincoln Camp 10, who came all the way from Monterey to be part of the program. He, along with young William Haskett of the ACWA (and who came from Turlock), exhibited items typically carried by soldiers on the Civil War. Commander Gary and brother Steve also gave tours of the island. Part of our mission that day was to remind people that much of the duties of a Civil War soldier were monotonous and routine, but necessary. Fortunately, the Third Artillery Band was there to keep the day from being

routine — visitors were quite surprised to hear tunes of the 1860s as the boat arrived at the Alcatraz dock.¹ Thanks to all those who helped make the day a success.



Brother Randall and William Haskett and the table of display items.



The 3rd Artillery Band plays for visitors

Memorial Day at the Presidio National Cemetery, Monday, May 29th

As in previous years, brothers in our camp who are able to do so will meet at the National Cemetery in the Presidio on Memorial Day to greet visitors, salute veterans, and at noon give short talks at the headstones of notable Civil War persons. We will have a picnic afterward on the Presidio grounds. Please bring a lunch, beverage, sunscreen, and meet at the cemetery gate at 10 a.m. if you plan to come.

Next Camp Meeting June 10 in Fremont

Brother Brad Hatton will once again host our next camp meeting, scheduled for Saturday, June 10th at 11 a.m. Social hour will start at 10 a.m., and the meeting will start at 11 a.m. This will be followed by a luncheon with barbecued chicken, potato salad, and dessert. After lunch, for those who can stay Brother Steve will give a short presentation on the Pacific Squadron of the U.S. Navy during the Civil War.

A President Gets Arrested by Brother Don Wilt, Camp 22

Trump is not the only president to get arrested. In 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant was arrested for speeding on his horse-drawn carriage in Washington, DC. This was not an impeachable offense, but Grant still faced consequences. Grant was arrested at the corner of 13th and M streets in the nation's capital. The story of his arrest was once told in a September

¹ If any member wants to buy a cd of their music, let me know and I'll bring it to the camp meeting for you. The cost is only \$10

27, 1908, edition of the *Washington Evening Star* with the headline: "Only Policeman Who Ever Arrested a President."

The police officer who arrested him was a black man who fought in the Civil War named William H. West, who gave his account of the incident to *The Star*. Grant apparently had a penchant for speeding and a love for fast horses and had more than one run-in with West.

On the first occasion, the president was somewhat sassy with the officer as he stopped his carriage. The city was having problems with speeding at the time, and a mother and child had recently been injured as a result.

Grant said, "Well, officer, what do you want with me?"

West replied, "I want to inform you, Mr. President, that you are violating the law by speeding along this street. Your fast driving, sir, has set the example for a lot of other gentlemen."

Grant apologized and told the officer it would not happen again. But on the very next day Grant was speeding so fast through Georgetown in an area West was patrolling it took the officer an entire block to slow the president down. Grant apparently greeted the officer with a smile and looked like a "schoolboy who had been caught in a guilty act by a teacher." West informed the president he'd violated the city's speeding laws, again.

"I cautioned you yesterday, Mr. President, about fast driving, and you said, sir, that it would not occur again," West reportedly told Grant. "I am very sorry, Mr. President, to have to do it, for you are the chief of the nation, and I am nothing but a policeman, but duty is duty, sir, and I will have to place you under arrest."

The president and other speeders were taken to the local police station. Officers at the station were reportedly unsure if they could charge a sitting president if he'd not been impeached. In the end, Grant paid a \$20 bond but didn't show up to court, so the bond was forfeited.



"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." -Abraham Lincoln