



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

GUIDON NEWSLETTER
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Editor: Steve Johnson, Camp Secretary

Graveside Ceremony for an Almost Forgotten Soldier

Thanks to the dogged determination of our Graves Registration Officer, Brother Ken Felton, the grave of a Union Soldier was found near a tree on the grounds of the Santa Cruz Memorial Cemetery. Using G.A.R. records, newspaper articles, and military documents, he found the grave belonged to Private Henry L. Barnett. In 1864 this young man of 18, who had been born into slavery in Mississippi, accepted the army's call and enlisted in Company D of the 112th U.S. Arkansas Volunteer Colored Infantry. He became an orderly as an assistant to an officer; in 1865 he helped with the Freedman's Bureau in distributing food, clothing and land to newly freed slaves.

Barnett made his way to California and joined the Appomatox Post #50 in Oakland. When he died in 1909 he was buried in the Tipton family plot in Santa Cruz; they had been his friend and employer for many years. There was no military headstone marking his grave, which Brother Ken ordered and was put into place by the cemetery staff. When the director of the cemetery, Randy Krassow, heard the Sons wanted to have a ceremony over the grave, he went right to work in helping to organize this as a community event. He invited the mayor, a city councilman, and a black minister of a local church; he also invited a local historian, Ross Gibson, to tell the story of Barnett's life as a veteran in California. Randy was able to obtain the services of an honor guard from the nearest California National Guard base, who added to the solemnity of the occasion. Meanwhile, thanks to the efforts of Brother Brad Hatton, we were able to invite a black Command Sergeant Major, Sharon Cambell, to speak about the contribution of black soldiers in the army during and after the Civil War. We also invited a black chaplain, Sgt. Fred Tittle of the U.S. Marine Corps, to give the invocation and benediction.



Commander Hormel welcomes CSM Campbell

The ceremony was a mix of the old and new. In the G.A.R. ritual of 1909, a wreath of evergreens (symbol of undying love of our comrades) is placed at the headstone, along with a wreath of grapevines (a symbol of honor & victory), and a bundle of white roses. The roses were placed by Denise Keplinger, wearing the required white dress, who was our “camp sister” for the day. The event was narrated by Senior Vice-commander Glenn Martin, who ably introduced the speakers and explained the rituals all during the ceremony. The modern part of the event came with the gun salute, the folding of the flag, and the playing of taps. The flag was presented to the Commander, who then gave it to the cemetery director, who said it will fly at Barnett’s grave every Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

We were pleased to be joined that day with two brothers from San Jose Camp 4, Commander Rick La Rosa, and Brother Paul Lavrischeff. Also attending was the president of the local NAACP, who was very pleased with the service, and the vice-mayor of Fremont. At the end, we all felt proud that after 114 years, this soldier finally received the honor and recognition he deserved for his military service. To see more photos of this event, go to

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/daver6/53197845286/in/photostream/>



Brothers of Camp 24 and 4 and dignitaries pose around the headstone of Henry L. Barnett

Next Camp Meeting October 14 in Fremont

Our next camp meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m Saturday, October 14, at Brother Brad Hatton’s house, located at 35296 Cano Court in Fremont. Social hour will start at 10 a.m., and the meeting will start at 11 a.m. This will be followed by a luncheon at noon. This is an

important meeting, as we will be having elections in October, planning for activities in 2024, hearing about the new Civil War lending library, and learning how to do school presentations. (from the editor: Please email me if you are coming)

Alcatraz Living History Day, October 21

The Friends of Civil War Alcatraz is hosting a Living History Day on Alcatraz on Saturday October 21st. If you haven't yet experienced what the day is like, think about joining us for part of the day and take a tour of Fort Alcatraz with Brothers Steve or Gary. The Third Artillery Band will be there, along with Mother Constance (medicine in the 1860s), Brother John Ferris (soldier's equipment), and Brother Randall Hawkinson of Monterey (uniforms & weapons). We could use help in manning the Sons information table. Please inform Brother Steve or Brother Gary if you plan to come. We'll even provide you with a lunch.

Veterans Day at the Presidio National Cemetery, Saturday, November 11th

As in previous years, brothers in our camp who are able to do so will meet at the National Cemetery in the Presidio on Veterans 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.

Commander's Message

I would like to thank all the Brothers this year who have contributed their time and energy for the good of the camp and the Sons. Thank you Brother Ken for your tireless research to find unmarked graves, Brother Glenn for visiting your local high school, Brother Steve for putting out the newsletter, Brother John for becoming a volunteer on Alcatraz, Brother Ray for sending us news from Hawaii, Brothers Robert and Jeffrey for joining us at the Presidio Cemetery on Memorial Day, and of course Brother Hatton for always welcoming us to his home for camp meetings and for feeding us. And again thanks to those of you who contributed to my travel expenses to the National Encampment, and to the ceremony for Private Barnett in Santa Cruz. It is an honor to be the commander of you all.

School Visitation in March

I have been contacted by a teacher in San Mateo for help in organizing a Civil War Day for their large middle school. We are working out the details. which I will share with you once they are finalized. A good opportunity for the Sons to shine (so to speak).

Another forgotten soldier, remembered https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y_Hi3SL7y8