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## "Returning the Lost Medal of Honor to the Pittenger Family."

Written by Jerry Sayre, PDC

This story starts, like many do, with a phone call. I received a call-in early November 2024 and was asked "Are You the Guy who takes care of the Old Cemetery? My answer was yes, I'm not alone, but I've been caring for the Old Cemetery for over 25 years.

"Well, My Name is Anne Wayman" and over the next 45 minutes we discussed the fact that she was William Pittenger's Great Granddaughter and that the Medal of Honor was missing and had been missing for about 50 years. I was aware of both facts but let the story play out. The purpose of the call was to enlist my help in trying to find the lost Medal of Honor.

Sgt. William Pittenger was a member of Andrew's Raiders and was one of the first 6 to receive the "Never Before Awarded" Medal of Honor on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1863. Their daring raid 200 miles behind enemy lines to steal a locomotive was known as "Andrews Raid" or "The Great Locomotive Chase."



Anne Wayman,  
Great Granddaughter

My first call was to my friend, Brad Quinlin who works closely with the Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga, TN and is an expert in Civil War history especially the "Great Locomotive Chase". I asked Brad if he was aware of any groups or individuals who might deal in collecting Medals. He told me that most of them were gone because now it is illegal to buy or sell a Medal of Honor. "Why don't we try to get a Replacement?" "We may never find the original."

"Can we do that?" was my reply and thus set off on a nearly 18-month journey to get Anne and her family a replacement Medal of Honor.

Dozens of phone calls and several inquiries later, I ended up calling the office of the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon. (I didn't know that you can't normally do that), and a very polite Staff Sergeant directed me to the "Chief of Decorations and Awards" stationed at Fort Knox in Kentucky.

The Lieutenant Colonel and I spoke often over the following weeks. One of the problems was we were looking for an 1863 Medal of Honor rather than a modern one. They don't make one and have no way to reproduce one.

The Medal of Honor is our Nation's highest and most Prized Decoration. The Army takes it very seriously and during our conversations I came to believe it wasn't going to be easy to get what we wanted.

During this quest, I was researching all the "Raiders" and the whereabouts of the First Medals of Honor. This little side journey gave me better insight to both the history of the "Andrews Raiders" and how we preserve their history. After several phone calls and much genealogical investigation I found that of the original 21 medals that were awarded 12 were accounted for, meaning 9 were missing including William Pittenger's Medal of Honor.

I was able to speak with many descendants of the "Raiders" and made friends along the way. 5 descendants from several states are now members of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 of the SUVCW. Our latest being Tom Hinshaw. He is Pittenger's Great-Great Grandson.

A couple of months ago, it became clear My Quest was not going to happen as we had hoped when "Lawyers got Involved". I was told that I had no standing as I was not a descendant. There was no way we could have a reproduction of the "1863 Medal of Honor" and we would have to purchase it out of the country.

We were able to procure Museum Quality, Reproduction of an 1863 Medal of Honor.

My wife Kim and I set up the first ever "Everything Pittenger Tour" here in Fallbrook. It started at Fallbrook Historical Society where Pittenger's house sits after extensive restoration. Then the tour went to the Fallbrook Oddfellows Pioneer Cemetery where William Pittenger rests in a fully reconstructed grave site. Finally, the tour came to the very Church where William Pittenger served as Pastor in the 1890's, followed by a luncheon where we gathered to meet and greet Brad Quinlin who flew out from Georgia to be with us and give a program on his 12 year quest to have the descendants of the Last 2 Raiders receive their ancestors' Medals from 1863. (163 years later).

A gathering of 41 Tour participants including 7 direct Descendants of William Pittenger including Anne Wayman (Great Granddaughter), her 3 children (Great-Great Grandchildren) and a Grandchild (Great Great-Great Granddaughter), and another family of descendants (1 Great-Great Grandson and 1 Great-Great Granddaughter) gathered for a luncheon and Brad's Program and we, the "Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War", were able to provide a replacement Medal of Honor to the Pittenger Family. It was a very heartfelt and wonderful ending to this journey... or is it? Stay tuned!



#### Sgt William Pittenger Descendants

L to R: Emily Wilder (GGG Granddaughter); Michael Wilder (GG Grandson); Steve Wilder (GG Grandson); Tom Hinshaw (GG Grandson); Linda Wilder (GG Granddaughter); Merri Naples (GG Granddaughter); Dorothy Hinshaw; and seated Anne Wayman (G Granddaughter) holding the Medal of Honor in front of Sgt. William Pittenger's Church

# DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS MESSAGE

By Dr. Wayne L. Eder, DC



Greetings, Brothers & Friends!

Welcome to our **FIRST, NEW** Department Newsletter, the *California & Pacific Dispatch*. After a lengthy absence of our newsletter, I hope you enjoy what your Brothers have to share in this issue. Please keep in mind that if we do not document our activities, they did not happen. It is up to us to share our efforts in honoring the *Boys in Blue*. I can personally attest that our department is busy, having attended so many meetings and activities through the years. Please share your pictures and articles! We would love to hear from you.

First, let me thank each of you for your support in the recent election for Department Commander at our 140th Annual Encampment in Bakersfield. It was great seeing everyone, and I am truly honored and humbled to have been elected to this esteemed position. I vow not to let you down as your Department Commander and look forward to working with you this year.

As Department Commander, I realize that you would like my participation in your events. My schedule fills up quickly, so please let me know if you need my assistance with anything. Please see the attached schedule to see what I am attending this year.

I also have two pending events in Nevada for which I am awaiting dates. For installation officers, please email me ASAP so I can begin scheduling, either in person or via Zoom. I may also have another Department Officer assist with your installation as applicable.

I look forward to a great year and working with each of you and your camps. Please keep new members informed on the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) and encourage membership. As a reminder, please check our department website and Facebook page to stay up to date on what is happening. I am pleased to note that we added 71 new members to the 6th MD SVR in 2025, and I am looking to add 25 this year. For more information, please contact your local unit commander or me.

Until the next edition, I wish each of you a safe and happy 250th Anniversary of the formation of the United States.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Dr. Wayne L. Eder, DC

## Department Commander's Schedule

Date	Event	Camp
<b>April</b>		
4/11	“Every Pittenger Tour” & Camp Meeting, Fallbrook, CA	21
4/18	Camp Meeting, Corona, CA	18
<b>May</b>		
5/23	8 AM Memorial Day Event, Santa Ana Cemetery, CA	17
	10 AM Evergreen Memorial Park, Riverside, CA	18
	1 PM Oceanview Cemetery, Oceanside, CA	21
5/25	11 AM Angelus Rosedale Ceremony, Los Angeles, CA	2
<b>June</b>		
6/13	3 PM Pittenger Medal of Honor Gala, Fallbrook, CA	21
<b>July</b>		
7/4	10 AM Fort Moore Flag Raising (Joint SUVCW/SVR Event)	2/18
7/30-8/2	National Encampment, Gettysburg, PA	SUVCW
<b>September</b>		
9/5	Huntington Beach Civil War Days, Huntington Beach, CA	17/2/21/18
<b>October</b>		
10/3	Poway Rendezvous, Poway, CA	21
<b>November</b>		
11/7	Veteran's Day Evergreen Memorial Park, Riverside, CA	18/21
11/14	SVR Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA	SVR
<b>December</b>		
12/5	1 PM Camp Meeting & Installation, Fallbrook, CA	21
12/12	10 AM Camp Meeting & Installation of Officers, Corona, CA	18

**NOTE:** The Department Commander's calendar fills up fast! Please contact him to schedule events ASAP!  
[commander@suvpac.org](mailto:commander@suvpac.org)

### 179<sup>th</sup> Fort Moore Flag Raising

### Official SUVCW Department of CA & the Pacific and 6<sup>th</sup> MD SVR

### 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event

**July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 10 AM**

Please join your SUVCW and SVR Brothers as we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in Downtown Los Angeles. Fort Moore was an original US Army Post during and after the Mexican-American War. The citizens of California have raised the US Flag over Fort Moore every year since 1847. This year, we have been invited to participate in this historic event. Please email [commander@suvpac.org](mailto:commander@suvpac.org) if you would like to join us! Union uniforms are requested but NOT required! See you there!

Fort Moore Pioneer Memorial – 451 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

## **Saving a 30 lb. Parrott Rifle**

Camp 28, Santa Barbara, CA



William T. Sherman Camp No. 28 of Santa Barbara, CA has been working to save one of two sisters, 30 lb. Parrott Rifles, originally gifted to the GAR in 1900. One rifle is located at the Santa Barbara Cemetery, while one was placed at the National Guard Armory. The armory has since been sold to the local school district and needs to be moved. Both guns are listed in the Department Memorials Project.

After several inquiries, the Camp met with 6<sup>th</sup> MD SVR Commander Wayne Eder in January 2026, who agreed to assist in finding a home to save this artifact. Additional inquiries were made, and it appears that the Parrott Rifle will be saved by the California Military Department and displayed at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, CA on a permanent loan from Camp 28. Details are being worked out between Camp 28 and the California Military Department, with more information to follow.

## **Hawaii in the Civil War**

### **“The Aloha State”**

Written by Tad D. Campbell, PCinC



The State of Hawaii (known in the 1860s as the Sandwich Islands) possesses an often overlooked but intriguing place in the annals of Civil War history.

With the eruption of the Civil War in 1861, King Kamehameha IV declared a neutral stance but Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

This article originally appeared in the 2012 National Encampment program held largely Unionist sympathies – as did the majority of people living in Hawaii. The country had deep ties to the expanding United States and war with the South enabled Hawaii to fill part of the void left by the absence of then blockaded southern exports.

Hawaiian-grown sugar soon replaced much of this southern sugar through the duration of the conflict. By the end of the war, over thirty extremely prosperous plantations were in operation and expanded to new levels previously unheard of before the war’s commencement. A steep United States tariff on foreign imports did not prevent many Hawaiians from becoming incredibly wealthy during this period of increased trade.

Because of this boom in business, the majority of Americans living and working on the islands were devoutly pro-Unionist. In fact, many living in Hawaii had an ardent desire to serve in the armed forces. One Hilo merchant, a man by the name of Thomas Spencer, personally financed and mustered a unit of Federals nicknamed “Spencer’s Invincibles.” However, when reminded that Hawaii was a neutral state, Spencer was

purported to have burst into tears of despair for not having the opportunity to serve. Nevertheless, the nation's neutrality did not prevent many of its citizens from enlisting for the Union. Another Hawaiian from Hilo, Henry Ho'olulu Pitman, hailed from a prominent native family. Enlisted in the Union Army, he later died of disease in Richmond, Virginia's infamous Libby Prison. At the Oahu Cemetery, thirty Union veterans rest in a Grand Army of the Republic section of the burial ground.

In many ways, Hawaii's rise as a prominent agricultural exporter and eventual state are unquestionably linked to the Civil War, which forced so many aspects of modern society. On Memorial Day 2010, a monument to Hawaii's Civil War veterans was dedicated at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

## **General George Wright**

Written by Clay Hoffman

Patriotic Instructor, California Pacific Department

The Department of California and Pacific can boast of many fine Commanders throughout its history. Known as the Department of the Pacific during the Civil War, it was led by General George Wright from October 1861 to 1864, who oversaw forces in California and the Far West.

Born in Norwich, Vermont on October 22, 1803, Wright was the son of a veteran of the War of 1812 and graduated from West Point in 1822. As a young officer, he served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment in Maine and Wisconsin, before being transferred in 1838 to the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry and seeing duty on the U.S.-Canada border. In 1844, he fought in the Second Seminole War in Florida and was appointed a brevet major for meritorious service.

During the Mexican-American War, Wright served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry at Vera Cruz and at the Battle of Molino Del Rey, where he was wounded and brevetted a colonel. In 1855, he recruited the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and led the 9<sup>th</sup> to the Pacific Northwest and oversaw the transformation of Fort Dalles in the Oregon Territory from a wooden outpost into an improved base, which he commanded. He later led forces in the Yakima War and defeated allied tribes in the Battle of Four Lakes and the Battle of Spokane Plains near Spokane.

At the outset of the Civil War, Wright was commanding officer of the Department of Oregon, and for a few months in 1861, he served in the same position at the Department of Southern California. In October 1861, he was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers and assumed command of the Department of the Pacific, succeeding General Edwin Vose Sumner. While leading the Department of the Pacific, he led up to 6,000 troops at a single time, who protected the frontier, safeguarded the coast, and prevented secessionists from moving eastward, among other duties.

When the regular army reorganized in 1865 and created the Military Division of the Pacific, Wright briefly commanded the District of California before assuming control of the District of Columbia. He was later honored with the name of the Fort George Wright Historic District near Spokane and Wright's Point, a Harney County landmark, in the state of Oregon.



General Wright and his wife, Margaret, lost their lives when the paddle steamer *Brother Jonathan* struck an uncharted rock on July 30, 1865, off the coast of Crescent City, California and sank. Known as the “Titanic of the West Coast”, the ship carried 244 passengers and crew, along with a large shipment of gold. Only 19 people survived, making it the deadliest shipwreck up to that time on the Pacific Coast. Others who lost their lives due to the sinking were William Logan, superintendent of the Dalles Mint of Oregon, and Dr. Anson Henry, Surveyor General of the Washington Territory and close friend and physician of President Lincoln.

General Wright’s body was not recovered until six weeks after the demise of the *Brother Jonathan*. He was buried with his wife at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery.

## **General Stoneman Camp 18 Report of the 140th Department of California and Pacific Encampment, 6-7 March 2026:**

Written by Rudy Valesco, Camp 18, PDC

Camp Commander John Morris would like to thank Camp 18 Brothers Rudy Velasco PDC, Steve Doyle PDC, Senior Vice Cmdr. Steve Matthews and Gene Justin, as well as the following spouses, Josie Morris and Ellen Doyle, for joining him attending the 140th Department of California and Pacific Encampment, which was held at the 4-Points Sheraton Hotel in Bakersfield, CA. We were honored to have Commander-In-Chief Kevin Tucker attend our Department Encampment!

The March 6th - Friday night Campfire was fun catching up with old friends and Brothers and making new acquaintances. Because the hotel’s restaurant/grill was closed for business, Encampment attendees formed several small groups and made dinner reservations at different restaurants around town. The hotel’s Lounge was opened for the encampment but with very limited beverages for sale but Comradery was fun and fantastic.

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, was a busy day starting with the Opening Ceremony and Memorial Service of the Encampment, followed by Camp and Department Officer/Committee reports and remarks from CinC Tucker in the morning. Camp 18 authored & submitted two camp-level award nomination packages, which resulted in certificate awards. After lunch, Department Officer elections were held, with the following personal elected and installed as our new Department of California & Pacific Commander and staff, ...

- **Department Commander: [Brother Wayne Eder.](#)**
- **Department Senior Vice Commander: [Brother Gary Hormel.](#)**
- **Department Junior Vice Commander: [Brother Robert Mayer.](#)**
- **Department Secretary/Treasurer: [Brother Randy Dhindsa.](#)**
- **Council Members: [Brothers Dean Smith, Dan Earl and Rick LaRosa.](#)**



New Department Commander Dr Wayne Eder  
Receiving gavel from Commander-in-Chief Kevin  
Tucker



Camp 18 members with New Department  
Commander  
L to R: Camp Commander John Morris; Department  
Commander Dr Wayne Eder;  
Junior-Vice Commander Gene Justin; and PDC Rudy  
Velasco with Camp 18 Flag

Camp 18 received the Department of California and Pacific best Camp Newsletter of the Year Award for 2025; and as the author and editor of the camp 18 newsletters, Brother Rudy Velasco PDC, accepted the award on behalf of the camp! Well, done Rudy.

Camp 18 Commander John Morris nominated Mr. Tim Roche, Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery Board of Directors in Riverside, CA. for the Department of California and Pacific Kirby R, Morgan Award, which basically recognizes non-SUVCW members for their contributions in protecting and maintaining the graves of Union Civil War soldiers. Tim Roche provided outstanding support to camp 18 during their community service project to clean all 92 Civil War and Spanish-American War headstones, as well as the GAR/SAW monument, at Evergreen Memorial Park in March 2025. He donated all of the cleaning supplies and materials for free to the camp, then joined in with them to scrub, wash and final clean all 92 headstones and the GAR/SAW monument. Tim Roche is one of the best supporters of Stoneman Camp 18 and is most deserving of this distinctive honor.

**Also, ...** During the encampment meeting, Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker addressed the attendees with some comments about California and America 250 - the Promise of 1776. He mentioned California's roll in preserving the Union, contributing troops during the Civil War and then America 250, how 1776 gave us Liberty and 1865 gave America "Union."

After dinner there was a raffle and an auction, but the real entertainment was a slide presentation by Camp 24 Brother Stephen Johnson about the U.S. Navy and the West Coast just before and during the Civil War.

## **HISTORY AND MEMORIALS REPORT**

Written by David A. Davis, General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25 Camp  
Commander/Historian/Civil War Memorials Officer.

## CIVIL WAR NATIONAL FLAGS

Recently, there seemed to be a little confusion about the number of stars on the nation's flag during the Rebellion. The following is from Wikipedia and other sources. Stars are added to the flag on July 4th following statehood.

Oregon became the 33rd State on Valentine's Day 1859, and its star was added five months later. This flag flew over Fort Sumter when the Confederates rudely opened fire on April 12, 1861.

Kansas became the 34th state on January 29, 1861. Kansas earned the moniker "Bleeding Kansas" over its own fight between pro- and anti-slavery factions between 1854 and 1859. Despite becoming a free state almost six weeks after South Carolina had succeeded and just two and half months prior to the firing upon Fort Sumter, its star wasn't added until almost three months later. Hence the reason for a 33-stars over Fort Sumter.

West Virginia became the 35th state on June 20, 1863, and its star was added two weeks later. The Virginia legislature passed its Ordinance of Secession on April 17, 1861. Due to sectional and other differences, the western mountainous counties said "NO!" and formed their own state.

Nevada became the 36th on All Hallows' Eve 1864, hence being called the "Battle Born State". Despite being a firmly Union territory and being 20,000 shy of the requisite 60,000 in population, statehood was rushed through. President Lincoln was in a tight three-way race for reelection and Nevada's statehood provided three more electoral votes if he needed them. He didn't. Nevada's star was not added until over eight months after statehood and three months after Lee surrendered to Grant. However, Nevada became a state during the Rebellion and mustered six cavalry companies and three infantry companies as the 1st Nevada Volunteers. Aside from Nevada, these troops were also ordered to California, Utah Territory, and Dakota Territory (now Wyoming) with the last mustering out in 1866.



33 Stars: Oregon statehood February 14, 1859; July 4, 1859-July 3, 1861



34 Stars: Kansas statehood January 29, 1861; July 4, 1861-July 3, 1863



35 Stars: West Virginia statehood June 20, 1863; July 4, 1863-July 3, 1865



36 Stars: Nevada statehood October 31,  
1864; July 4, 1865-July 3, 1867

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## **SUVCW Memorial University**

Have you completed a course at Memorial University?  
Why not? Please share with new recruits and all Camp Brothers!

### **Recommended Courses:**

For new members – *Introduction to the SUVCW*  
For Camp Officers – *Charter, Constitution & Regulations Course*

### **Enroll Today!**

Questions? Contact [patrioticinstructor@suvcw.org](mailto:patrioticinstructor@suvcw.org)

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Editor

**Jimmie L. Bodenhamer**

Department Newsletter Editor

[editor@suvpac.org](mailto:editor@suvpac.org)