



# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR PICACHO PEAK CAMP No. 1 ARIZONA CAMP-at-LARGE



## CAMP NEWSLETTER

April 2009

Camp Web site: [www.suvcwaz.org](http://www.suvcwaz.org)

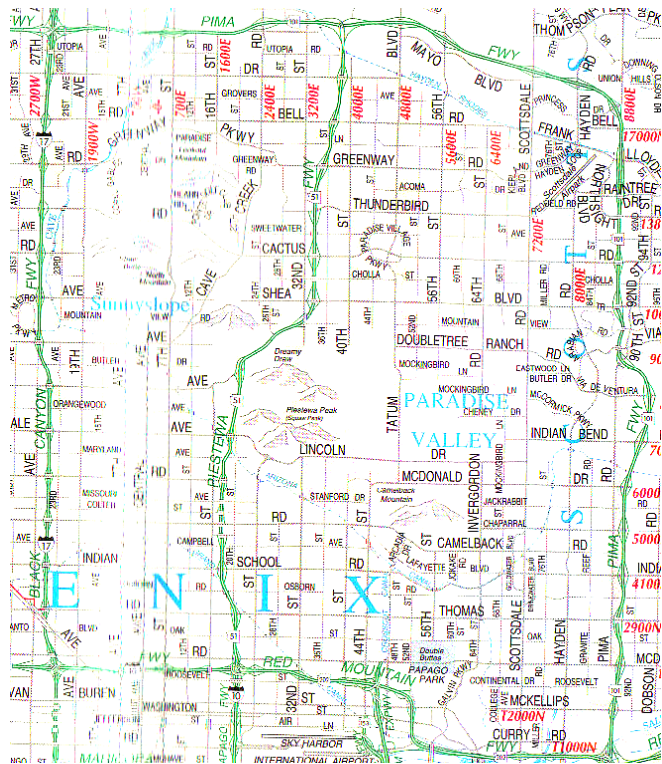
### May Camp meeting date and location change

Our Camp meeting will be held on **May 23, 2009** (not May 16 as previously scheduled), at noon. The date was changed so that Brothers can attend the re-burial of California Civil War soldiers in Sierra Vista, Az. (see the next article).

The location has also been changed from Coco's to the Hometown Buffet, **1312 N. Scottsdale Rd.** This is about a mile north of the loop 202 (Red Mountain Fwy) on the west side of Scottsdale Rd. It is at Scottsdale Rd and McDowell just south on the west side.

Those coming in from the north or west can take I-17 to I-10; follow it east to the 202 then north on Scottsdale Rd. From the south and east, take the 101 and go west on the 202, then north on Scottsdale Rd.

The new (and not necessarily permanent) meeting location was chosen for its variety of menu items and its nice meeting room.



Now, once you get to the restaurant and pay for your meal (**tell the cashier you are with the Camp Picacho Peak group**), please proceed directly to the meeting room where we will have the opening ceremony at noon. We will then take a break and allow ample time for you to graze the “all you can eat and drink buffet” and pillage the “all you can eat” *dessert* table.

Each Brother is responsible for paying for his own meal at the restaurant. The cost is \$8.50.

So we can get an idea of the number of Brothers who think they may attend, please call Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom at (602) 955-3091 or email: [jerrybloom@qwest.net](mailto:jerrybloom@qwest.net)

Please plan on attending this meeting to provide feedback regarding the restaurant food, location and etc.

### Re-burial of 18 California Civil War Soldiers on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Please plan on joining your Camp Brothers as well as Brothers from California, Nevada and Washington D.C. for this *most important event*. More information on Camp attendance can be found at the end of this article.

The following was taken in part from the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs—posted by M. David Hampton 1/09:

“Work has begun on a unique “cemetery within a cemetery” at the Southern Arizona Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista, Arizona. It’s all in preparation for a special military funeral for about 57 soldiers who served in the Arizona Territory from 1862 to 1881.

Originally buried in the military cemetery that served Tucson’s Fort Lowell during the Indian Wars, the remains were uncovered two years ago when work began on a new county courts complex in downtown Tucson. During the excavation, some soldier’s remains — along with a few full skeletons —were discovered.

Many of the remains are from soldiers who were part of the California Column, a 2,300-man brigade that marched into the territory from California in the spring of 1862. Their mission was to confront and drive out Confederate troops who controlled the southern part of what is now Arizona and New Mexico. Troops from the California Column occupied Tucson on 20 May 1862 and various California units were stationed there until April 1866.

The VA is providing period headstones for the troopers and cemetery officials plan to erect a monument describing

what life was like for soldiers in Arizona during the Indian Wars.”

The following is taken in part from an email from the event organizer, Stephen Siemsen Life Member, SUVCW:

“The ceremony to re-bury 18 Civil War soldiers and 36 Indian War-era soldiers at the Southeastern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista, Arizona, will take place on May 16, 2009, at 10:00 AM, and will have two parts: Part 1 includes the introduction of guest speakers, issuing of proclamations, and will conclude with “taps” and the simultaneous folding of 57 flags. Part 1, hopefully, will take only about an hour. Part 2 consists of moving the coffins from the program dais to the gravesite, and posting a guard until all 57 coffins have been buried. This should take about an hour. Afterwards, you are all invited to attend an afternoon concert in nearby Veterans Memorial Park. The 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Band is expected to begin its program in the park at 1:00 PM.”

**Camp Participation:** Camp Commander John Conrad is coordinating the travel arrangements for those Brothers who live in the Valley or northern Arizona. We’d like to arrange a car pool to Sierra Vista, either Friday night, May 15, or very early in the morning on May 16. So please let him know if you would like to attend the Sierra Vista event, and which day you’d prefer. He will get back with those who express an interest.

John’s phone number is 602-750-0938. Email him at: jrconrad@post.harvard.edu.

If you would just as soon travel alone that is not a problem, just call and advise him.

For those Brothers in the Tucson area who are planning to attend, please call John so that, if possible, we can meet at the event as a group.

The sooner you contact John with your intentions the sooner complete arrangements can be made.

*Please make every effort to attend this event.*



## Minutes of the November 15, 2008 Camp meeting

Location: Coco’s Restaurant  
4514 E. Cactus, Phx, AZ

Camp Commander John Conrad called the February Camp meeting to order at noon. We had 33 Brothers, wives and guests in attendance.

A more formalized ritual was used in opening and closing the Camp meeting, which was very well received by those in attendance.

Brother Conrad gave the Graves Registration Officer Report in the absence of Brother Jan Huber and our Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom gave his report.

Our speaker, Lee Nelson, did a great job with her presentation—Thank you Lee!

## Speaker for May

Our speaker for the May 23rd 2009 meeting will be Jan Huber and his topic will be Veterinary medicine in the Civil War—don’t miss it!

## Camp Activities

Brother Jan Huber’s library display:

Jan reserved the glass display case at the West Valley Genealogical Society Library in Youngtown for the use of the SUVCW for the month of March.

Items contained: Information that explains the SUVCW and our Graves Registration program; information about our Camp and the Picacho Peak reenactment that occurred March 13-14; and SUVCW information brochures.

Replica items on display were: a model 1863 Sharps carbine; a model 1861 Springfield rifled musket; a 58 caliber mini ball; cartridge box; waist belt with cap box, bayonet, and bayonet scabbard; a haversack, canteen, mess plate, drinking cup, fork and spoon; and an identification tag (as made for Civil War soldiers by sutlers).

Wildfire School presentation:

On Wednesday, February 18, 2009, Brother Jan Huber and Brother David Swanson, representing our Camp, gave a presentation on the Civil War to several third and fifth grade classes at the Wildfire Elementary School in northeast Phoenix.

Brother Swanson opened with a short talk about the Civil War in general and specifically the Battle of Picacho Peak.

Brother Huber, dressed in his Union uniform, then gave an outstanding presentation covering each part of the uniform and his Model 1861 Springfield rifle.

Bro. Swanson was invited by his grandson Nathan, a third grade student at the school, to give a presentation about the Civil War and Brother Huber graciously (and thankfully) accompanied him.

Picacho Peak battle reenactment:

Brothers Bob Hannan and Jerry Bloom staffed a recruiting table at the Picacho Peak Re-Enactment at Pioneer Village on March 14, and spoke with a number of potential new members. Jerry also got a 10’x10’ pop-up canopy that is really terrific for future events. It was the unveiling of our new banner, which is really great.

Brother John Conrad donated a replica Civil war era stars and stripes that he obtained from the CWPT. All good stuff for future exhibits.  
(Camp activities continues on page 3)

Pioneer Cemetery Association "Cemetery Walk."

The Pioneer Cemetery Association sponsored a "Cemetery Walk" at the Pioneer and Military Memorial Park on Sunday, March 29, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Brother Jan Huber was asked to portray, in first person and in uniform, one of the Civil War Veterans buried in the cemetery. He selected James Henry Broomell who was a Corporal in Company C of the 124th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and survived the battles of Antietam and Chancellorsville.

Between the cemetery records and Internet information (Ancestry.com) he wrote a most interesting biography about him.

JAMES HENRY BROOMELL

James Henry Broomell was born August 2, 1837, in Chester County, PA. He became a schoolteacher and was still living with his parents when the Civil War began.

The 124<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was organized to respond to the Confederate invasion of Maryland in 1862. Broomell enlisted on August 6, 1862, at Oxford, PA, and was assigned the rank of Corporal in Company C.

The regiment was ordered to Washington D.C. on August 12 and by September 7, was assigned to Rockville, MD. It was then ordered to march to meet the enemy the afternoon of the 9<sup>th</sup>. It was in the thick of the fight in the infamous Miller's cornfield during the Battle of Antietam. The 124<sup>th</sup> lost 50 men in killed and wounded that day.

By December 10, the 124<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania was camped in the neighborhood of Harper's Ferry. It was ordered forward by a forced march in bad weather to participate in the looming battle at Fredericksburg, VA; however, by the time it arrived, the fighting was over.

The next major assignment of Corp. Broomell's Regiment was the Chancellorsville campaign. It formed a line of battle on the afternoon of April 30, 1863, and the fight with the Confederate army began the next morning. Three days after the battle ended (May 6) the 9-month term of service for this Regiment ended and it was returned to Harrisburg, PA, where Broomell was mustered out on May 17.

One month later, the governor of Pennsylvania was informed that General Lee was again intent on invading the North. Governor Curtin issued a proclamation on June 12 asking for men to volunteer into "emergency" militia regiments. Broomell again answered the call to serve and enrolled June 15, 1863, at Oxford, PA. He was mustered in on June 19 at Harrisburg as a Private in Company A of the 29<sup>th</sup>

Pennsylvania Militia Infantry and immediately promoted to Sergeant. This regiment was put to work building fortifications around Harrisburg. It experienced some combat when a mounted Confederate force raided some nearby Pennsylvania towns and threatened Harrisburg. Private Broomell's regiment did not engage in fighting in the Gettysburg area. The main purpose of these "emergency" militia regiments was to guard railroads, bridges and fords over major rivers and to protect Federal property in Pennsylvania. Some were sent to the Gettysburg Battle area after the conflict was over, to help with the massive recovery effort (This included supervising the removal of the wounded to hospitals). Over 12,000 wounded Union soldiers were sent from field hospitals to hospitals in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and other northern cities. Sergeant Broomell was mustered out of service on August 1, 1863, at Harrisburg, PA. His soldiering days were over.

James next tried cotton farming in Arkansas where in 1864 he met a schoolteacher, Mary Wickersham. They were married on July 11, 1867, in Henry County, Indiana. The wedding was a Quaker ceremony. They had the following children: 1) Mary Etta, born in 1869; 2) Charles Albert, 1870; 3) John Wilfred, 1873; and 4) Emily Alice, 1876.

James, Mary, and Mary Etta were living in Chicago, IL, in 1870, residing with James' older half-brother, George D. Broomell. James was a school principal.

By 1880, Broomell had moved his family to Aurora, Illinois, and started a cheese making business. This enterprise failed. After a bankruptcy proceeding, the family moved to Phoenix in 1886 with only a few hundred dollars. By this time James was ill with tuberculosis. Mary's older brother, William Wickersham, helped them by buying 80 acres of primitive land in Maricopa County at a cost of \$1,900. The Broomell's built a wooden one-room house with curtains to separate each living area. The boys did most of the work because of their father's poor health. Mary Etta helped the family income by teaching in the local school. She later married James Webster Johnson on September 6, 1888 and the couple moved into town. By 1908 the Johnson's were living in Los Angeles.

Alice was physically handicapped and she stayed at home, helping her mother with housework and feeding the family. They gated and fenced in the property, removed the wild brush and cultivated the land. At first they grew vegetables, alfalfa, grains and honey. James bragged about getting 5 gallons of honey to a hive from his 200 or so bee colonies. Later they expanded into cattle and rented at least 20 more acres for pasture. The ranch slowly became viable and with their hard work they paid off 40 of Wickersham's original 80 acres mortgaged at 7 % interest. They sold this land in 1893 for \$4,400. With the proceeds, James bought another 80 acres of raw land to clear for more



ranching. It was purchased for \$8,000. \$4,000 was mortgaged at 10 % interest. It was used to raise wheat, barley, and alfalfa hay. A few milk cows were kept for family use. They had 4 horses, about 125 colonies of bees, and some chickens. With more industrious hard work the Broomell family paid all debts off by 1897. Also in 1897, Wickersham deeded the other original 40 acres to his sister Mary. Train carloads of hay were shipped to California in 1898. While all this was happening, the young Broomell brothers were getting off to a good start in life. John W. was the valedictorian in his high school graduating class and gave a speech worthy of accolades published in the Phoenix Republican newspaper.

James became a member of the Maricopa county normal school board and later became its president in 1893. He was also president of the beekeepers' association. He was a member of the Illinois Association which promoted Arizona ranch life. He was its president in 1891. He also was a member of the GAR.

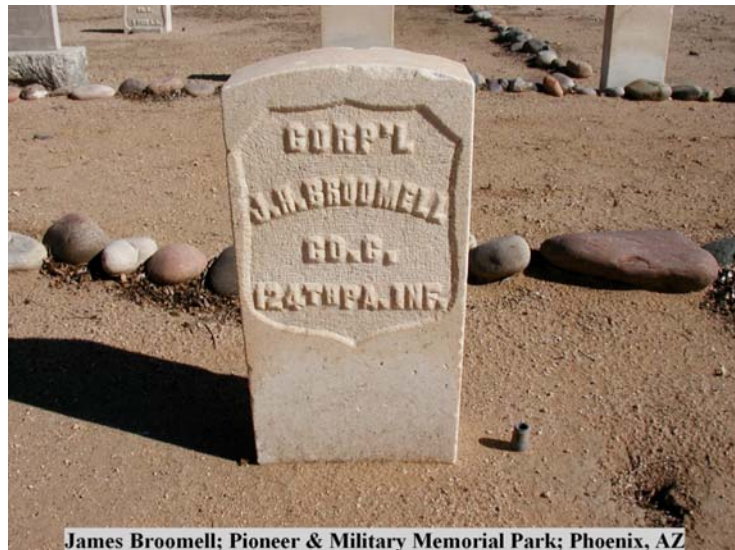
Broomell was granted a Federal Invalid Pension in 1891. He died in Phoenix on September 6, 1896, from complications of tuberculosis (hemorrhage of the lungs). He suffered from this disease for more than 10 years. He was 59 years old. On his deathbed he deeded his land to his wife, Mary. He was buried in the Porter cemetery section of what is now known as the Pioneer and Military Memorial Park in downtown Phoenix. He has both a military headstone and a private family tombstone.

When James Broomell died, the 80 acre ranch had a 3-room house, an apiary house, a brush shed, and a tent. The two Broomell brothers carried on with some ranch improvements. They built an 18 X 30 foot adobe barn. In 1902 they also built a two story, seven-room brick house with their own labor. In their spare time they did land surveying for irrigation canals, worked for wages at other ranches and did some dabbling as land agents. About 1903 a brother-in-law convinced them that southern California had much better arable land and they started selling off the Broomell property. In 1904 the improved land was sold for \$11,000. This land was located at what is now between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> street and Roosevelt in Phoenix.

The two sons married, raised children, and continued to prosper at ranching and as land agents in the Phoenix, AZ, and Pasadena, CA, areas. A home was built in Pasadena for the widowed mother and sister Alice. Mary was granted a widow's pension in 1907. Mary and Alice's remaining shares of the Broomell Arizona land proceeds were invested in a walnut orchard near Santa Anna, CA, and managed by Mary's sons. She died on January 7, 1913.

A son or daughter of Helen Alberta Broomell wrote the following: "The Broomell Family in

Phoenix were true western pioneers. They left the easier life style near Chicago to help the father recover his health. With hard work and much sweat they cleared at least 120 acres of land to make it productive. I know from my mother, Helen Alberta, that her father, Charles Albert, had to give up his dream of becoming an engineer to support his family. I'm sure the other Broomell children gave up an easy life to bring civilization to the West. We, the descendents, are shaped by their character and pioneering spirit and are grateful for this legacy".



James Broomell; Pioneer & Military Memorial Park; Phoenix, AZ

Information sources:

1. www.Ancestry.com Database: 1840 United States Federal Census.
2. www.Ancestry.com Database: 1860 United States Federal Census.
3. National Archives Military and Pension records for James Henry Broomell.
4. Bates, Samuel P., History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-65.
5. Battle of Antietam@Everything2.com.
6. National Park Service, Government Archives, Pennsylvania Emergency Troops of 1863.
7. Records at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park in Phoenix, AZ; including the writing of "The Broomell's in Arizona" written by a grandchild of Charles Albert Broomell. Some of the above text was written verbatim from this article.
8. www.Ancestry.com Database: 1870 United States Federal Census.

## William Augustus Hancock

By David A. Swanson

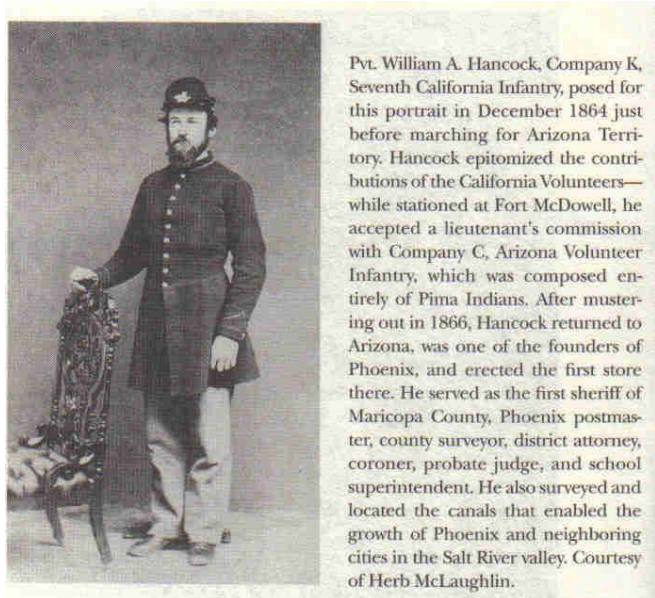
Speaking of the Pioneer Cemetery, I have discovered that one the John W. Owens Post No. 5, GAR comrades and major player on the stage of early Phoenix history is buried there. (Actually the only *discovery* I made was that he was a Post member.)

The following is taken from the Cemetery pamphlet:

"Having been a member of the Seventh California Infantry in 1864, Hancock later mustered into Company C of the First Arizona Volunteers at Fort McDowell and became the superintendent of the government farm at McDowell. Hancock's house, an adobe structure, was the first permanent dwelling erected in Phoenix. Known as the "Father of Phoenix",

Hancock laid out the first Phoenix town site in 1870. Hancock was appointed district attorney in 1871 and chosen as probate judge in 1875. Upon the organization of Maricopa County, he was appointed the first sheriff. As a promoter of an irrigation system for the Salt River Valley, Hancock surveyed the route of the Grand Canal, which is still in use today. He also surveyed the fraternal cemeteries of the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park. His grave is on the walking tour of the A.O.U.W. and Knights of Pythias Cemetery.”

And here is his picture:



*THE CIVIL WAR IN ARIZONA*  
*The Story of the California Volunteers,*  
 1861-1865 Andrew E. Masich



**Sketches of History from the territorial days of Phoenix, Arizona and the John W. Owens Post No. 5**

*By David A. Swanson PCC*

In the last newsletter I published newspaper articles of the Post through June 1, 1886. The following is a continuation of the articles originally printed the *Daily Phoenix Herald* and specifically addresses the National Encampment held in San Francisco, Ca.

July 3, 1886:

Several of our G.A.R. boys talk of making the trip to San Francisco during the Grand Encampment in August. G.A.R. tickets will be sold at \$40.00 for the

round trip to San Francisco after August 1<sup>st</sup>, good for thirty days from Maricopa. Members of the G.A.R. must be certified by the Post to have advantage of the rates.

July 26, 1886:

Our esteemed California Contemporary, the St. Helen Star, has got out an elegant edition for the special benefit of eastern G.A.R. folks, setting forth the resources of its valley. The edition is a credit to the Star.

July 31, 1886:

Maj. Ed Schwartz is the recipient of an elegant G.A.R. badge of admittance to the Grand Encampment. The groundwork is old-gold colored California silk, lettered in blue and red, with the badge of the Grand Army and a grizzly bear woven in, as is the lettering. The badge is certainly a very elegant souvenir of the occasion.

August 5, 1886:

San Francisco, August 2- The Society of the Army of the Potomac have elected Martin T. McMahon, of New York, as president and selected Saratoga as the next place of meeting.

Delegates are coming in fast. A body of men from Connecticut wearing a wooden nutmeg attached to a G.A.R. badge were among the arrivals today.

August 7, 1886:

**G.A.R.**

San Francisco, Aug 5. – The attendance was so great that alternates were requested to withdraw until the regular delegates had been assigned their places. The location of the various commanderies was designated by banners bearing the name of their state. The hall was handsomely decorated with flags and the stage with flowers. After prayer by Chaplain Stewart of Ohio, Commander Burdette read his annual address. The reading occupied one hour and forty minutes and was listened to with marked attention and frequently applauded. The address was an eloquent tribute to the sentiment which called the encampment from the shores where the May Flower landed to the Golden Gate. His reference to General Grant, McClellan and Hancock were heartily cheered.

The report showed that three thousand and twenty comrades had died during the past year and twenty-five thousand six hundred and forty-three joined. The cash balance on hand was \$300,000. When the reading of

the report was finished three cheers were given for the commander in chief.

At the close of the reading of the report General Sherman was invited to take a seat on the platform, but he asked permission to remain with the Missouri delegation.

After the regular committees had been appointed Corporal Tanner read a letter from Col. Fred Grant for membership to the G.A.R. Referred to the committee on rules and regulations.

After recess, at 3 o' clock, Department Commander Sayles, of New York, presented the Department of California as elegant banner and album. The latter contains photographs of the present and past post commanders of New York. A handsome gavel was presented in return by California to New York. Owing to some trouble, which had arisen respecting alternates, the committee on resolutions reported that no council of administration had a right to fill vacancies in any delegation. This particularly affected the New York delegation whose vacancies had as alleged been filled by the council of administration with men who were neither delegates nor alternates. The resolution was warmly debated and finally amended to read "no council of administration shall elect any comrade not an alternate to fill a vacancy until the alternate list is exhausted." The amendment was adopted by a large majority and the encampment adjourned until to-morrow.

August 8, 1886:

### **Gen. Sherman's Wisdom**

San Francisco, August 7—General Sherman responded to the toast "The Army of the United States." He said: "If you should pause in your festivities to-night and pay a tribute to that body of men who comprise the present army of the United States, you would only be doing justice. I refer to those more particularly who are living on our frontiers, living, as we often did, on hard tack and some of whom are chasing Apaches in Arizona (cheers) and all those who are just as true to their trusts and entitled to as much honor as you. Should the time of need attain come, we would find them and their officers extremely valuable, just as we found well schooled and disciplined soldiers who graduated from West Point to be the leaven for the mass of the undisciplined army of which you all formed a part."

Speaking of the military school at West Point, he said that it was his opinion, it was not excelled by any similar school in Europe in thoroughness of discipline, and he gave credit to its teachings

for the patriotism which urged him on in his successful career. He then returned to the subject of the men who are engaged in fighting Indians, and said: "These men, far off on our borders, will learn that we remembered them here in the midst of our joyous reunion to-night, and will be grateful for it and encouraged to renewed efforts for the attention they have received. Among them may be some of our future heroes, for there are certainly men living who, if occasion required, could take the places of Grant, Sheridan and Sherman. (Cries of no, no.) Yes, yes, there are as good fish in the sea as ever were caught. (Loud laughter.) When you find a man who gives his whole heart, hand and head to his work, you will find the eminently successful and honored man."

### **The G. A. R.**

San Francisco, August 7—St. Louis was selected to-day as the place for the next national encampment, by a vote of 212 to 171 for Nashville. The encampment then proceeded to the election of a commander-in-chief. Tanner of New York, was proposed by Hatch, of Massachusetts, after which Lucius Fairchild of Wisconsin, John Burst, of Illinois, John P. Rea, of Minnesota, and John A. Reynolds, of New York, were placed in nomination, with the following result: Whole [unreadable] for a choice, 221. Tanner, 112; Fairchild, 158; Burst, 71; Reynolds, 37; Rea, 62.

Reynolds withdrew in favor of Fairchild, when the balloting was proceeded with. When 337 votes had been cast on the second ballot, it was found that Fairchild had received 228 votes, or seven more than was necessary to elect. A motion was then made to make his election unanimous. Carried. General S. Backus, of San Francisco, was unanimously chosen senior vice commander-in-chief.

September 3, 1886:

"Jack" Sweeney, who took in San Francisco and visited the "old folks" during the G.A.R. elaboration, is boiling over with the good time he had. Jack has stuck close to business for six years and the vacation did him lots of good.

December 14, 1886:

### **G. A. R.**

John W. Owens Post No. 167, G.A.R., of this city elected officers for the ensuing year on Tuesday evening last as follows; (continued on page 7)

Geo. F Coats, Post Commander; L H Tiffany, S V C J E Wharton, Surgeon; J Gray, J V C; W F McNulty, Officer of the Day; J B Cramer, Quartermaster; W E Eviston, Officer of the Guard.

The installation will take place on the first Tuesday in January and toward the latter part of January it is the intention of the Post to hold a "camp fire."



### Camp name tags

If you would like to purchase a Camp name tag please complete the following form and bring it to the next Camp meeting or mail it to:

Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom  
4323 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Way  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Please send your check for \$7.00 (made out to Picacho Peak Camp No.1). If you have any questions please call Jerry.

The lines must be filled out as follows:

- (1) Your name
- (3) Ancestor's name, rank, regiment, unit (not to exceed 26 spaces and letters). Example: Cpl. Oscar Foote, 7<sup>th</sup> PA Cavalry

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_SUVCW—CAMP PICACHO PEAK

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

### Address Change

Brothers, if you change your address, *e-mail address*, or phone number, please advise our Camp Secretary Jerry Bloom at your earliest convenience. This will ensure that you get the National publication *The Banner*, our Camp newsletter, and additionally this will enable us to contact you.

### Camp Officers for 2009

**Commander:**

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**Eagle Scout Coordinator:**

John Conrad (480) 488-4703 Camp Commander

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**Historian:**

Bob Hannan PCC (480) 380-9153 Camp Council

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Ron Jones ((480) 834-8036

**Guard:**

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Arizona Camp-at-Large  
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Cave Creek, AZ 85331**

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**First Class Mail**



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OF THE CIVIL WAR**