



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



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## CAMP NEWSLETTER

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To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union 1861 to 1865

January 2015

Camp Web site: suvchwaz-camp1.org

Two new SUVCW Camps being formed in Arizona See pages 2 & 3

Commander's Message:

Happy holidays to all our Brothers and Sisters! 2014 has been a busy year, with the formation of the Auxiliary, reestablishing the web page, starting the process of forming new camps in Southern and Northern Arizona, participation in Picacho Peak Days and Memorial Day, and starting the process of having a Union Memorial installed at the State Capitol. In addition to those activities, Brother Jan Huber has continued his exemplary work as Graves Registration officer, Brother Dennis Lamb has quietly served the camp as Eagle Scout Coordinator, and Brother David Swanson has continued his incredible work as Newsletter editor and GAR Historian. We are able to recognize Brother Jerry Bloom this year for his 10 years as Secretary-Treasurer of the camp, and welcome Brother Don Strachota as the new assistant to Jerry.

Our membership has slowly increased, despite a few deaths of brothers and a few transfers to other states when a Brother has moved. If you know of a Union descendant who might be interested in joining our order, please help him get in touch With Brother Jim Heller so we can get him signed up! 2015 is the final year of the Civil War Sesquicentennial; what a great time to remember ancestors!

I thank you all for the confidence in electing me as your Camp Commander for one more year (and my last!). In the next year, I hope that we can get the two new camps up and running, get the Auxiliary actively involved in our many activities, and welcome in a new group of leaders to guide our camp in the future. It has been very gratifying in 2014 to see more and more of our Brothers step up to help us in our activities; this is a sign of a great organization! But not everyone is able or has the desire to lead; we are very happy to have

you attend our meetings and participate in the way you are most comfortable. Thank you all!

The best to all of you in 2015!

John R. Conrad, PCC
Camp Commander



Minutes of the November 15, 2014, Camp meeting

Location:
Deer Valley Airport Restaurant
702 W. Deer Valley Rd.
Phoenix, Az.

Our meeting of November 15, 2014, at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant was attended by 28 brothers, Sisters of the Picacho Peak Auxiliary No. 1, and guests.

Camp officer reports:

Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom gave his report and talked about our participation in the Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson gravesite restoration project (further mentioned in the newsletter).

Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber gave his report as follows: Since February 14, 2014, the date of my last report, I have completed 3 graves registration activities. New updated information was submitted for a Union Soldier buried in Marine City, Michigan. New, updated information was submitted for a Union soldier buried in Glendale, Arizona. This was the beginning of a complete survey I will be doing in the Glendale Memorial Park. My total registration activities are 264 (174 new initial grave registrations and 90 updates).

Brother Huber was given a heartfelt round of applause from those present for his continuing outstanding work for our Camp!

Camp officer election & installation

As the last order of business the following Brothers were duly elected and installed as Picacho Peak Camp officers for 2014-2015:

Commander: John R. Conrad PCC
Senior Vice Commander: Gerald N. Bloom PCC
Junior Vice Commander: Jim Heller
Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry Bloom PCC

Camp Council:

Ron Jones
Don Strachota
David Palmateer

The following Brothers were appointed to the following offices:

Chaplain: Mark Haynes
Counselor: Bob Young
Guide: Chris Beisner
Color Bearer: David Palmateer
Guard: Al Harrica
Graves Registration: Jan Huber
Civil War Memorials: David A. Swanson
Patriotic Instructor: Robert Massey
Historian: David A. Swanson
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Dennis Lamb



Officers 2014-2015 (L-R) Al Harrica, Guard; Bob Young, Counselor; Jerry Bloom Senior Vice Cmdr and Sec/Treasurer (behind Young); David Palmateer, Camp Council and Color Bearer (next to Bloom); Camp Commander John R. Conrad (in front of Palmateer); David Swanson, Camp Historian and Civil War Memorial Officer; Chris Beisner, Guide; Jan Huber, Graves Registration (next to Beisner); and Don Strachota, Camp Council and Assist Sec/Treasurer.

Program speaker: We were pleased to have Brother Bill Hearter Jr. M.D. give an outstanding presentation about his Civil War ancestor Captain Henry Waltz Smyser. Brother Bill was dressed in uniform and had Captain Smyser's Civil War sword at the meeting. Bill followed Smyser's activities during the war as an enlisted soldier and officer throughout the many battles. He then talked about his post-Civil War life. Here are some of the highlights of his talk about his ancestor:

Born- 1839 near York, PA. On family farm since Revolution; enlisted- 1861, Company E, 107th PA. Infantry; 1862- promoted to Corporal for "bravery" after 2nd Bull run; 1862 Antietam- shot through left forearm when carrying unit flag as Color Guard Sgt.; 1863 Recruitment Sgt in SE Pennsylvania while healing; July 1-3 1863- Gettysburg, at the "stone wall" for Pickett's Charge; 1864- Battle of the Wilderness, Fredericksburg; captain of unit by March 1865; 1865- Appomattox, at surrender, as adjutant to Col. McCoy; late 1865-1866- kept his Conestoga wagon and chests from War; shipped freight from Baltimore roundtrip to Shippensburg, PA. (112 miles) WEEKLY; 1866- elopes with the daughter (Abigail Elmira) of the Hotel Owner, Mary Mateer, at friend Josephine's wedding; 1871- starts work with PRR (PA. Railroad) January, 1914- retires from PRR; dies 4 days later as his wife predicted.

Brother Bill, thank you for another terrific presentation!



Brother Bill Hearter as Captain Henry Waltz Smyser



General R. H. G. Minty Camp No 2,

On December 8, 2014, authorization to form the General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2, at Tucson, Arizona, was received from SUVCW National Secretary Alan Russ. This new Camp will serve those who live in southern Arizona and the Camp Organizer is Brother John Conrad.

Brother Conrad reports as follows:

Jerry Bloom and I visited Tucson on November 8 to explore a Southern Arizona Camp. Brother Brian Estes was able to join us for lunch and a detailed discussion of the new camp and what is involved in forming it. Brother Brian volunteered to serve as the new camp's Secretary-Treasurer!

Based on the interest of Brother Estes, and the conversations I had with several Southern Arizona brothers prior to the lunch, we feel there is enough interest to go forward with the camp! I submitted Form 51 to National, which requests permission to formally organize a camp (which it has). We are now able to meet again, transfer current brothers to the new camp, recruit new brothers, elect officers, and get going.

The two officers we MUST have are the Commander and the Secretary Treasurer. Brother Brian has solved half that challenge! Now, who will volunteer to serve as Camp Commander? The other normal elected positions are Senior Vice Commander (serves in the Commander's absence and typically is in charge of communication), Junior Vice Commander (helps recruit and process new members), and Camp Council (up to 3 brothers who advise the elected officers and audit the financial records once a year). Volunteers for any of these offices are encouraged! We also can have the Camp Commander appoint other officers, such as the Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain, etc.

In preparing the paperwork for Form 51, I had to provide a Camp name. Camp Historian David Swanson, through his thorough historical research, discovered that there was a Sons of Veterans Camp in Tucson around 1902 named the General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 11. So we felt it was only fitting that our new Southern Arizona Camp carry on that historical tradition and name the camp for Minty.

So who was this guy?

Robert Horatio George Minty was born in Ireland December 4, 1831. He was commissioned as Major of the 2nd Michigan Volunteer Cavalry on October 2, 1861, but held that duty for only a month before he was transferred to the 3rd Michigan Volunteer Cavalry and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He was challenged to form another regiment, and so formed the 4th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry in March 1862, and promoted Colonel. The 4th fought in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas, seeing particular action at Chickamauga and Atlanta. Minty was brevetted Brigadier General, US Volunteers and Major General, US Volunteers on March 13, 1865 for "gallant and meritorious services during the war. Men under his command captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis on May 9, 1865.

After the war, Minty became a successful railroad executive, which led him to . . . Arizona! He formed a GAR post in Jerome before moving to Tucson and becoming Commander of the Negley Post No. 1. He must have made an impression in Tucson to have the Sons camp named after him. Minty died in Jerome on August 24, 1906 and is buried in Ogden Utah, where other family members had previously been buried. [See page 6 for more information about the general and Jerome.]



General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3

By David A. Swanson PCC

On December 8, 2014, authorization to form the General U.S. Grant Camp No. 3, in Flagstaff, Arizona, was received from SUVCW National Secretary Alan Russ. This new Camp will serve those who live in northern Arizona and the Camp Organizer is Brother David Swanson.

Organizational meetings will take place in 2015; however, if any Brothers are interested in transferring to this Camp, either as a dual member with Picacho Peak Camp or as a member of the Grant Camp, please contact Brother David Swanson at 480-515-2798 or swanson1854@yahoo.com.

Why the Grant Camp name? Well, the Camp was organized in Flagstaff in January 1889, and as reported in the January 12, 1889 edition of the *Arizona Champion*: "The Sons of veterans organized in Flagstaff this week and elected the following officers: Capt. F. M. Ramsey; 1st Lieutenant, Harry Hoxworth; 2nd Lieutenant George Morgan. They will be installed tonight with the G.A.R. and the Women's Relief Corps."

The name of the Camp did not appear in the paper until March 1, 1890, in a column noting the passing of Grant Camp Brother Elmer C. Hoxworth (see page 5).



Camp & Auxiliary meeting schedule for 2015

Our schedule of meetings in 2015 is:

Saturday, February 21

Saturday, May 16

Saturday, August 15 – Joint meeting with the DUVCW 1861-1865

Saturday, November 14

All meetings start at noon at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix.

Mark your calendars now!

New Camp Brothers

The following new Brothers had their membership in the SUVCW and our Camp approved:

Brother James Wesley Johnson of Apache Junction, Ariz. Brother Johnson's Civil War ancestor is his great-great grandfather Aaron Batton, Co C, 92nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Robert L. Cox of Phoenix, Ariz. Brother Cox's Civil War ancestor is his great grandfather Orville O. Williams, 3rd Battery, Iowa Light Infantry

Brian D. Bostwick of Scottsdale, AZ. Brother Bostwick's Civil War ancestor is his great-great grandfather David B. Bostwick, Co D, 3rd N.Y. Vol Cav.

Welcome Brothers Johnson, Cox & Bostwick!



New Brothers initiated

The following new Brothers had their membership in the SUVCW and our Camp approved and were initiated at the November meeting:

Brother Jeffrey Burgess of Tempe, Ariz. Brother Burgess's Civil War ancestor is his great-great grandfather Richard M Burgess, Co A, 47th Indiana, Inf.

Brother Mark Cassidy of Phoenix, Ariz. Brother Cassidy's Civil War ancestor is his great-great-great grandfather Edward L. Doolittle, Co. G, 37th Wisconsin Inf.

Welcome Brothers Burgess & Cassidy!



L-R Paula Burgess, Jeffrey Burgess, Mark Cassidy, Beverly Cassidy, Camp Cmdr John Conrad



Welcome to the 50th edition of our Camp newsletter!

By David Swanson PCC

This is the 50th newsletter that I have written for our Camp and with any luck I might have a couple more left in me! I am shure that you have noticed a total lack of misspellings or other grammatical errors due in part to my kean grasp of righting skills learnt at an early age.

The first newsletter was written in January 2003 at which time we were meeting at the Best Western Executive Park Hotel in downtown Phoenix. Officers at the time were: Commander Larry Fuller Sr.; Vice Commander Bob Bohannan; Junior-Vice Commander David Swanson; Secretary Jerry McKenzie; Treasurer Jerry Bloom; Council: Dick Graffin, Jim Greaves and Bob Young; Historian Bob Hannan, and Graves Registration Officer Duane Branson.

Twenty-one Brothers have submitted articles (sometimes multiple articles) regarding their Civil War ancestors which were published in the various newsletters and these proved to be very interesting. (If any more Brothers want their ancestor information printed, just send it in and I will have one of my staff jump on it—if I can drag one of them away from the break room.)

A lot has changed over the years but one thing hasn't—the camaraderie of the Brothers of our great Camp!

Oh, one other thing. I know you have the option of reading other competing Picacho Peak Camp newsletters and yet *my* polls show that this one is the most read—so thank you!



Civil War in the Southwest at Picacho Peak State Park—Camp volunteers needed

The annual reenactment of the Civil War skirmish at Picacho Pass and the New Mexico battles of Glorieta and Val Verde will take place at Picacho Peak State Park on Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Senior Vice Commander Jerry Bloom is going to set up a table at the event which will include (among other items) information about our Camp (and our new Camps), the SUVCW, and recruitment information. Jerry needs some assistance.

This is a great way to get information out about our Organization and enjoy some of the sights and sounds of the reenactment.

If you can assist or need information please contact Jerry at (602) 955-3091 or email: jerrybloom@q.com.



National Restoration Project—Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson’s Gravesite [Petersburg, Illinois]

GENERAL ORDER NO. 6
SERIES 2014-2015
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Stephenson Memorial Plaza Project

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: Benjamin F. Stephenson, a medical doctor from Springfield, Illinois who had served as Surgeon in the 14th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War, had the idea that an association of Union veterans should exist in order to provide for the mutual benefit of its members and for their widows and orphans. Along with a small group of friends, he devised the concept of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in the spring of 1866.

Section 2: Although Dr. Stephenson served as the provisional Commander-in-Chief of the GAR when it was founded, he was never officially elected Commander-in-Chief. However, his devotion to the organization never ceased, often at the expense of his own personal life. He died in 1871 at the age of just 47 years.

Section 3: Without Dr. Stephenson’s vision and efforts the GAR would not have come into being. Likewise, without the GAR, the Allied Orders of the GAR could not exist. The Allied Orders owe their very existence to Dr. Stephenson and it is therefore appropriate that his memory should be fittingly honored by these organizations.

Section 4: The SUVCW’s Department of Illinois is spearheading an effort to improve and beautify Dr. Stephenson’s final resting place in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Petersburg, Illinois. The enhanced area will be known as the “Stephenson Memorial Plaza” and will provide an area where people can gather, pay respects, and contemplate Dr. Stephenson and his contributions. The goal is to have this project completed by 2016, in time to celebrate the sesquicentennial of GAR’s formation.

Section 5: All members of the SUVCW and the other Allied Orders of the GAR are encouraged to contribute toward fundraising efforts to help ensure that this worthy project comes to fruition. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Memorial pavers and benches are being offered for sale for larger donations.

The City of Petersburg is completely behind this project and donations are tax deductible.

Section 6: For order forms and other information, please visit the Department of Illinois’ website at www.suvwil.com. Additional questions or comments may be directed to Bro. Terry R. Dyer, PDC at dyledge@aol.com.

The foregoing General Order is proclaimed this 20th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-ninth, in the City of Gilroy, County of Santa Clara, State of California.

/s/ Tad D. Campbell, PDC
Commander-in-Chief

Our Camp has assisted with the purchase of one 8 x 8 brick with the following inscription:

IN MEMORY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
1888-1923

We also purchased one 4 x 8 brick with the following inscription:

PICACHO PEAK CAMP #1
ARIZONA C-A-L SUVCW
REMEMBERING THE
BOYS IN BLUE



Funeral of Elmer C. Hoxworth, Camp Grant No. 1, Sons of Veterans

Arizona Champion (Flagstaff, Arizona), March 1, 1890:

LAID TO REST

The Funeral of Elmer C. Hoxworth
Last Wednesday Moring

Monday morning our people were pained to learn, although all had been expecting it, that Elmer was dead and that his soul had taken its flight and gone before God Almighty to receive its last resting place.

Elmer C. Hoxworth was born September 14th in the year 1871, and was 18 years of age. He had been suffering from the effects of an injured leg, which injuries he received some three or four weeks previous while chopping wood. A piece of steel from a hammer which he used to drive the sledge breaking off and entering his right leg at the thigh. He lost considerable

blood at the time and became very weak. His condition did not better any to speak of and on the 14th his physician, Dr. P. G. Cornish, decided that amputation would be necessary and on the afternoon of that day, assisted by Dr. D. J. Bransen, the operation was performed. He seemed to get better for a time, but on last Friday he reached the turning point, and on Monday morning about 4:30 o'clock, he died.

The funeral took place from the M. E. Church at 11:00 o'clock a.m., Camp Grant No. 1 Sons of Veterans having charge, although it was a very stormy and disagreeable day the remains were followed to the Cemetery by a large number of people who went to pay their last respects to their young friend. Rev. G. H. Gill preached the funeral sermon, and made very fitting remarks for the occasion. The services at the grave were conducted by the Sons of Veterans.

At special meeting of Camp Grant No. 1, S of V, held last Wednesday night, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

It has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst, Elmer Hoxworth a brother of this camp whose death took place on Monday, February 24, 1890. Now as a fitting memory to our deceased brother, be it

RESOLVED, That the officers and members of Grant Camp No. 1, Sons of Veterans, Division of Colorado, attend the funeral in a body,

RESOLVED, That our charter be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days,

RESOLVED, That in the death of our brother, this camp loses one of our best members, and Flagstaff one of its brightest young men,

RESOLVED, That we extend our sympathy to the bereaved parents and relatives of our late brother, and that they be presented with a copy of these resolutions.

JNO. G. TINKER

GEO A. WOODS

FRANK L. ARMSTRONG

COMMITTEE.



General R. H. G. Minty and the Jerome, Arizona George H. Thomas Post No. 11, GAR

THE ARIZONA REPUBLICAN

Monday, May 29 1899.

“The preliminary steps looking to organization of a Grand Army post are progressing favorably and installation will probably take place within as couple of weeks. A large number of old soldiers live in Jerome and vicinity, many of them already members of the

Grand Army of the Republic. The following will be the charter members of Jerome’s new post, which will be officially styled the George H. Thomas post No. 11. Department of Arizona, Grand Army of the Republic, viz: General R. H. G. Minty, J. T. Whedon, John Kirwaggen, W. James Barton, N. S. Hitchcock, J. W. Selsor, L. P. Nash, S. W. Landon, C. S. Smith, James Burke, George Thompson, Charles O’Neill, L. Holinwager, J. Shoppertrout, George Bagnall, N. K. Burkes, W. Tietge, F. Fisher, and H. L. Stevens—ten members are required in an organization under departmental rules the indications of a large, flourishing post at Jerome in the near future are very flattering indeed. There at present nine G.A.R. posts in Arizona. There was formally ten, but one at Bisbee formally disbanded. Department Commander G. Broughton of Prescott will install the Jerome post when all is in Readiness The formation of this post is due almost entirely to the efforts of General R. H. G. Minty, auditor and freight and passenger agent of the United Verde & Pacific railway. General Minty issued a call which resulted in drawing together a number of old soldiers on the 20th of last month. But for the fire everything now would be in running order. General volunteer of the civil war, and his record is part of the history of that great conflict. He entered the Union army from the state of Michigan early in the fight as a major of the Second Michigan cavalry (afterwards Phil Sheridan’s regiment): was promoted to be lieutenant colonel of the Third: then to be colonel of the Forth: then brigadier-general and finally brevet major and as such was mustered out at the close of the war. The general is now well advanced in years, but hale and hearty, with a naturally keen interest in all military affairs, and a great affection for the Grand Army of the Republic. He lives at Jerome in a handsome residence, surrounded by his large, cultured family, including four generations, and is the center of a refined and accomplished social circle. Prior to his advent in Jerome General Minty was for many years a resident of Ogden, Utah, where he owns a beautiful home, and was prominently mentioned as a likely candidate for United States marshall. But, like that other honored warrior, albeit of the sea, George Dewey, politics is not in the general’s line, while railroads are to him an old story. There is much local interest in the new G. its prime mover in its formation is the recipient of congratulations from all quarters.”

Editor’s note: General Minty’s house in Jerome is still standing and occupied. The fire mentioned in the article burned down multiple saloons and restaurants and was one of four devastating fires in the town’s history. And finally, the post, in spite of the “indications of a large, flourishing post at Jerome in he near future” was only in existence for fourteen months.

Second Call for 2015 dues

Dues for 2015 are now being gratefully accepted by our secretary/treasurer.

Dues are \$36 for members and \$10 for junior members.

Please do not wait until the last minute because you may forget and then we have to hire bounty hunters *and then things can get ugly*.

Please mail them to Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom PCC, or pay them at our February 21st meeting.

Address Change

Brothers, if you change your address, *e-mail address* or phone number please advise our Camp Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom at your earliest convenience.

This will ensure that you get *The Banner*, our Camp newsletter, and additionally this will enable us to contact you.

If you are receiving this newsletter in black & white via the Unites States Postal Service and an e-mail color version would work just as well for you, e-mail the newsletter editor—

Past Camp Commanders



Larry Fuller 1995-2003 †
David A. Swanson 2003-2006
Robert Hannon 2006-2008 †
John R. Conrad 2008-2010
David A. Swanson 2010-2013
John R. Conrad 2013-2014



Camp Officers for 2015

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Jim Heller (623-975-4300

E-mail: jmh7116@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

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Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Don Strachota Jr. (See Camp Council)

Camp Council:

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