



# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR PICACHO PEAK CAMP #1 ARIZONA CAMP-at-LARGE



## CAMP NEWSLETTER

July 2006

### MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2006, CAMP MEETING

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

Senior Vice Commander Bob Hannan called the Spring Camp meeting to order at noon. In attendance were 28 Brothers, wives and guests.

#### *Camp Brother Initiated*

Brother **Lynn Crawford** of Tucson was initiated into the Order and our Camp. His ancestor is Adam Eby of the 54<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry.

Welcome Lynn!

#### *Speaker*

Brother **Paul Davis** gave an excellent presentation. Paul, in full uniform, assumed the roll of a Union cavalryman and talked about his life in the military. Comments from Brothers attending ranged from excellent to marvelous!

Thanks Paul for a great job!

#### *Website Update*

Brother **Nathan Cups**, our Camp's Signals Officer, gave a presentation regarding our Camp website ([www.suvcwaz.org](http://www.suvcwaz.org)).

Nathan volunteered to set up and run the website and has done a great job.

While the site is "still under construction" it is readily taking shape. On it you can find all the camp's newsletters (in case there was that "special" issue you inadvertently wrapped the fish in). You can also be connected to the National website and a multitude of other items.

Check on the site regularly: it is ours!

#### *Trivia*

Senior Vice Commander **Bob Hannan** kept everyone enlightened and entertained with his civil war questions and a few were smart enough to win a prize or two. Thanks Bob.

#### *Camp meeting calendar*

Our next meeting will occur at Coco's on August 19, 2006, at high noon. Put it on your calendar!

Our November meeting will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup>; so as long as your calendar is out, mark that one as well!

#### *Luncheon speaker for the August meeting*

Brother **John Conrad** (our Camp's Eagle Scout Coordinator) will be the guest speaker. If his presentation even comes close to his other one, we are in for a great time.



Brother Paul Davis describing life in the cavalry



## Private William Foote, Company F, Third Heavy Artillery, 152<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers

By David A. Swanson

On February 26, 1864, William Foote enlisted in the Third Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery and was eventually assigned to Company F. William was the brother-in-law of Bugler Orin Wilson, Company G, 7<sup>th</sup> Penn. Vol Cav; brother of Corporal Oscar Foote, Co G, 7<sup>th</sup> Penn Vol Cav; and great-great uncle of Camp Picacho Peak Brothers (literally) David and Mark Swanson.

The majority of this article and the next is borrowed heavily (no pun intended) from the website, [www.pa-roots.com](http://www.pa-roots.com).

“*Succinct overview of Company F.* Early in the spring of 1863 the Third Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, 152<sup>nd</sup> of the line was formed.

When Longstreet with his corps made an advance into eastern Virginia, spring of 1863, companies A, B, F, and G, were ordered to the defense of Suffolk, and during the siege of that place, rendered most efficient service. The headquarters of the regiment were at Fortress Monroe. Detachments from every company, except light battery H, served during the campaign of 1864-5, in the Naval Brigade, commanded by General Graham, and participated in a number of engagements, more or less importance, on the James, Chickahominy, and Nansemond Rivers and also in the capture of Fort Fisher, North Carolina.

In the fall of 1863, Captain, afterward Major A. Blake, with his own Company F, and a large number of unassigned recruits, was placed in charge of the prison camp, and camp of distribution, at Camp Hamilton, near Fortress Monroe.”

Private William Foote was assigned on detached service at Wilmington, North Carolina. How do I know? “A sergeant and fifteen men from company F, on detached service at Wilmington, North Carolina took passage on the [steamship] General Lyon, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 1865, to return to Fortress Monroe. During the first day out, the steamer was destroyed by fire, and all save two were lost.” Private Foote was not one of the two. He was “lost by burning of Steamer Gen. Lyon, off Cape Hatteras, N.C., March 31, 1865.”

## The Burning of the *General Lyon*,

From *The New York Times*, April 3, 1865

“The steamer *Gen. Sedgwick*, which arrived at this port at noon yesterday, brought as passengers twenty-nine persons saved from the transport steamer *Gen. Lyon*, which took fire off Cape Hatteras on the morning of Friday last, and was totally destroyed. The *Gen. Lyon*, had on board from five hundred and fifty to six hundred souls. The twenty-nine who arrived here yesterday are believed to be all that was saved.

It appears from the statements of these men that the *Gen Lyon*, screw steamer which had formerly been used as a blockade-runner, sailed from Wilmington for Fortress Monroe, on the morning of Wednesday last, with nearly six hundred persons on board, including the crew.

Her passengers consisted of discharged and paroled soldiers, escaped prisoners and refugees, among whom were about thirty women and twenty-five small children. Two Negroes were also among the refugees. The weather was fair on leaving Wilmington, but the steamer put into the port of Smithfield for the night and resumed her voyage on the following morning. Soon after leaving Smithfield the wind, which was blowing from the southwest, increased in violence, and the vessel, which was a very slow one, made but little progress. At ten o'clock on Friday morning she was off Cape Hatteras, the wind having increased to a hurricane and the sea running very high. It is believed that the vessel was about sixty miles from land when an alarm of fire was given, and in a few minutes afterward the flames broke out at the rear of the pilothouse and nearly in the centre of the vessel. Several of the crew was in the rigging, and there were very few persons on deck at the time, many of the passengers being confined to their berths by sickness. The first mate, James Gibbs, and the other officers of the vessel immediately got the fire pumps to work, with which, and the requisite quantity of hose, the vessel was well provided. But the flames steadily gained headway, and although the pumps were working with unflinching perseverance, the fire soon spread over the centre portion of the deck, driving the crew and those who were assisting them to the stern and bow of the vessel. The hatches had been closed in consequence of the decks being so constantly under water, but those below, alarmed by

(continued on page 3)

the smoke which was spreading through the cabins, rushed on deck only to be driven back by the flames. The frightful shrieks of the women and children, and their piteous supplications for help were drowned by the roaring of the storm. Several of the paroled soldiers were sick and confined to their berths. Some of them managed to crawl on deck, and clung there until washed overboard by the waves. In about half an hour after the fire broke out, the engines partially stopped, and the vessel immediately swung round with her broadside to the wind, the flames then spreading across her decks.

It had now become quite evident that the ship could not be saved. The first officer acted with great courage, and only abandoned the vessel when all hopes of saving her were gone. The fire pumps were still kept at work, and the flames were fought back with great determination. Many of those below were doubtless already suffocated. The shrieks and moans of the dying came up to those on deck, but they could do nothing to help them. Just as this time a steamer, which proved to be the United States transport *Gen. Sedgwick*, Capt. Starkey, and a small schooner hove in sight. But neither of them could render any assistance, owing to the violence of the storm, and the fact that the burning steamer had drifted in toward the breakers. The flames were now spreading with fearful rapidity. The boats were launched, although there appeared to be little hope of their living in such a sea. Into the first boat ten men lowered themselves, including the Captain of the *General Lyon*. It is affirmed by several of those who escaped that the Captain had lost all control of himself, and was evidently crazed with fear. Hardly had this boat been loosed from the vessel's side than she drifted under her stern, was struck by the screw, and almost instantly went down. Irah (sic) Lewis, a private in the Eighty-ninth New-York Regiment, who was in the boat at the time, states that he saw the Captain sink. Lewis and two others alone escaped. A second boat was launched, and in this twenty-seven persons, including the First Mate, John Haydon, lowered themselves and succeeded in reaching the *General Sedgwick*, which was about a mile and a half distant. As the boat touched the steamer's side a wave dashed her violently against it, and she filled and went down. Of the twenty-seven persons in the boat, seven only were saved. . . In the meantime a number of the men had thrown themselves overboard, trusting to a spar for support. One man, Isiah, C. Colby, of the Fifth Ohio Cavalry,

after working at the fire pumps until he was almost exhausted, seized one of the doors of the galley and sprang overboard. He was in the water three hours before he was picked up. Others were also in the water for several hours, and many, doubtless, sank before assistance could be rendered. It is supposed that the schooner did not succeed in rescuing any of them. [A list of survivors follows].

When the *General Sedgwick* left, being unable to render further assistance, the ill-fated steamer was drifting in toward the frightful breakers off Cape Hatteras. She was then burned down to the water's edge, and every soul on board had doubtless perished.

In regard to the origin of the fire, it was stated by the First Mate, while on board the *General Sedgwick*, that there were several barrels of Kerosene oil in the engine-room, and these being shaken down by the rolling of the vessel fell on the boiler, and of course were quickly ignited. A barrel of oil was also kept in the same room, and this served to feed the flames.

[ A list of passengers saved follows.]

Of the soldiers saved eight or ten are at the New York State Soldier's Depot, nos, 50 and 52 Howard street, of which Col Vincent Colyer is Superintendent. They had of course lost their all, and were supplied with the necessary clothing by the Superintendent. Several are sick and confined to their beds. They will remain at the depot, where every comfort is afforded them free of all cost until forwarded to their respective destinations."

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## John Brown and Harper's Ferry

By David A. Swanson

On October 16, 1858, the abolitionist John Brown and eighteen followers seized the U.S. armory complex at Harpers Ferry, Virginia after they overpowered the *single watchman* whose job it was to defend it. He did this in an effort to arm the slaves he thought would flock to his standard.

They, along with some prisoners, ended up being trapped in the armory and on the night of October 17, 1858, the U.S. Marines arrived to capture him and his followers.

Can you name the two cavalry officers who commanded the U. S. Marine detachment? Yup, you guessed it, Colonel Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant J.E.B Stewart.

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## CAMP MEETING

**DON'T FORGET TO MAKE  
RESERVATIONS FOR, AND  
ATTEND OUR SUMMER CAMP  
MEETING ON:**

**AUGUST 19, 2006, at 12:00 p.m.**

### Did You Know?

- During the Battle of Antietam, 12,401 Union men were killed, missing or wounded; double the casualties of D-Day, 82 years later. With a total of 23,000 casualties on both sides, it was the bloodiest single day of the Civil War.
- During the Battle of Antietam, Clara Barton tended the wounded so close to the fighting that a bullet went through her sleeve and killed a man she was treating.

### Camp Officers for 2006

*Commander:*

David A. Swanson (480) 515-2798  
E-mail: DavidJan1854@cs.com

*Sr. Vice-Commander:*

Bob Hannan (480) 380-9153  
E-mail: hsuvcw82az@aol.com

*Jr. Vice-Commander:*

Larry Fuller (480) 945-9816

*Secretary/Treasurer:*

Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091

*Camp Council:*

Dick Graffin: (602) 870-1728  
Jim Greaves (623) 544-8977  
E-mail: jimgreaves@mindspring.com  
Bob Young (602) 841-7037  
E-mail: Bob.Young1@cox.net

*Chaplain:*

Bob Hannan(480) 380-9153

*Camp Historian:*

Bob Hannan (480) 380-9153

*Eagle Scout Coordinator:*

John Conrad (480) 488-4703  
E-mail: jrconrad@post.harvard.edu

*Signals Officer*

Nathan Cups (623) 546-1662  
E-mail: Ncups@cox.net

*Newsletter Editor/Publisher*

David A. Swanson

**Remember the “Boys in Blue”.**  
*These are our ancestors. Keep  
their memory alive by supporting  
the SUVCW and your Camp.*

**MEETING NOTICE**

Our next Camp meeting will be held on **Saturday, August 19, 2006 at noon.**

Location: Coco's Restaurant  
4514 E. Cactus Rd. (602)953-9155

All Brothers, wives and guests are invited to the summer meeting of our Camp.

*Brother John Conrad will be our guest speaker. . .don't miss his presentation!*

Lunch will be ordered from a menu specially prepared for us. There will be a choice of seven different entrees, so there will be something for everyone. The cost is \$16.09 per person, which includes lunch, soft drinks, tea, coffee, and gratuity..

Please complete the form below and mail as indicated.

**CAMP MEETING/LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ---August 19, 2006**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon Reservations:            Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and mail to the Camp Treasurer.

Make checks payable to: Picacho Peak Camp #1 SUVCW

Mail to:

Jerry Bloom, Camp Secretary/Treasurer  
4323 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Way  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016  
Phone (602) 955-3091

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Picacho Peak Camp #1  
Arizona Camp-at-Large  
4851 E. Fernwood Court  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS  
OF THE CIVIL WAR**