



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

PICACHO PEAK CAMP No. 1

ARIZONA CAMP-at-LARGE



CAMP NEWSLETTER



April 2012

Camp Web site: suvchwaz.org

Arizona Territorial Governor Nathan O. Murphy snubs G.A.R. delegation during President McKinley's visit to Phoenix.

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Snarls, "You cannot get on this car."
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See pages 3 & 4 for details.
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Minutes of the February 11, 2012, Camp meeting:

Location:
Hometown Buffet
1312 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, Az

Camp Commander David Swanson called the meeting to order at noon. There were 26 Brothers and guests in attendance.

Officer's reports:

Camp Commander Swanson gave a brief sketch of the upcoming 2012 Department and National Encampment to be held in Los Angeles and since we have delegate positions still available, asked if there was any interest. He will bring up the topic again at the May meeting.

Graves Registration: Brother Jan Huber reported that since August 11, 2011, he has completed six new grave registrations; four at Greenwood Memory Lawn in Phoenix, Arizona; one in Clarence, MO, and one in Los Angeles, CA. Five were Union soldiers and one was a Confederate. The total grave registration activities since his appointment are: 240 (154 new and 86 updates). He is probably reaching the end of what he will find in Greenwood Memory Lawn. He does a lot of walking without finding any new Civil War soldier graves.

Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry Bloom gave a comprehensive report on our Camp's financial condition and his progress in contacting Brothers who have yet to pay their 2012 dues.

Brothers initiated

The following two Brothers were initiated at the February 11, 2012, Camp meeting:

Carlton V. Phillips, of Scottsdale, whose Civil War ancestor is his great-grandfather Lewis Lorenzo Gifford, Co. F, 3rd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery and Neal Jennings, of Scottsdale, whose Civil War ancestor is his great-grandfather Richard Fritz, Co. H, 192nd Penna. Infantry.

Congratulations to both!



Left to right: Brother Carlton V. Phillips, Camp Commander David A. Swanson and Brother Neal Jennings

Guest Speaker

Brother Al Harrica did a marvelous job in telling about the lives of soldiers in the 27th Massachusetts Regiment. He talked about what the soldiers encountered starting from their entrance into the

regiment in 1861 and then followed their various activities through the war until 1865.

Brother Harrica's presentation was detailed and most informative. He answered many questions at the end and the entire presentation was done in uniform and with absolutely no notes of any kind—Al, thanks for an outstanding presentation!



Brother Al Harrica



Brother Al Harrica



New Camp Brother

Dewey Ira Wallace III of Tombstone, AZ. His Civil War ancestor is his great - grandfather Francis Marion Wallace, Co. C., 118th Illinois Infantry.

Congratulations Brother Dewey!



Arizona Centennial—Arizona Best Fest

The weekend of February 11-12, 2012, (along with the 14th) was the official celebration of the Arizona State Centennial and Washington Street from 10th Avenue to the Capitol building at 17th Avenue was closed to showcase a multitude of Arizona entertainers, artisans, and others. The Phoenix Pioneer & Military Memorial Park was part of the “Arizona Best Fest” and this fine old cemetery was open for tours. At the request of its director our Camp had a table at the event where we talked about the SUVCW and the Civil War in Arizona.



Left to right: Camp Commander David Swanson, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom and Brother/Compatriot Jan Huber. Brother Huber is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (as is Swanson) and he had the adjoining table for the SAR.



Guest speaker for the May 12, 2012, Camp meeting

Brother Jan Huber will give a Power Point program review of a book entitled, "ARMY LETTERS 1861-1865", by Oliver Wilcox Norton. Norton was the bugler who, together with Gen. Daniel Butterfield, wrote Taps in 1862. Jan previously gave this presentation to the Sun City Civil War Round Table.

Sons of Veterans, U.S.A. and Tucson, AZ

By David Swanson

A while ago, while digging through some records in the library of the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, I came across a “Descriptive Book” of the General R.H.G. Minty Camp No 11, California Division, Sons of Veterans U.S.A. for 1902. This was most interesting since records of the GAR in Arizona are hard to find much less records of a Sons Camp in Tucson.

Colonel and Brevet General Robert Horatio George Minty had a most distinguished Civil War career as a cavalry commander (see *Minty and the Cavalry* by Joseph G. Vale 1886) and after the Civil War he eventually settled in Jerome, Arizona.

In 1899 he was elected as post commander to his newly established and short-lived General George H. Thomas Post No. 11. In 1900 the Department of Arizona held its Thirteenth Annual Encampment at Jerome and Minty was elected as the Department Commander. Shortly thereafter Minty moved to Tucson, AZ and was elected as the Post Commander of Negley Post No. 1, a position he held from 1901 through 1904. In approximately 1905 he moved back to Jerome and died there in August 1906.

Below is the 1901 *Department of Arizona Encampment Journal* which has some very interesting observations by Department Commander R.H.G. Minty about the George H. Thomas Post, the Negley Post, the Department of Arizona, and the visit of President William McKinley.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA, CONVENED AT WILLIAMS, ARIZONA JUNE 19TH 1901

ADDRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Comrades of the Department of Arizona,
Grand Army of the Republic:

At our last Encampment you honored me by electing me your Department Commander, and now at this, the Fourteenth Encampment, in rendering an account of my stewardship, I regret that I must report that I have fallen far short of what I had hoped to accomplish.

As you are aware, I succeeded in organizing at Jerome a good, live, promising Post, George H. Thomas Post No. 11. In August of last year,

business interests made necessary my removal to Tucson, and about the same time twelve members of the Post found it necessary to leave Jerome to find employment. As this would leave only three Comrades who could attend Post meetings, it was decided that the charter be surrendered, and George H. Thomas Post, after a life of about fourteen months, ceased to exist.

At Tucson, I found Negley Post No. 1 practically dead. There had been no election for two years, and no meeting of the Post for I don't know how long. Comrade Samson was the hold-over Commander, and he, with two or three other earnest Comrades, were doing all in their power to prevent the dissolution of the Post. When I joined it by transfer, they worked faithfully with me in placing it on its feet once more. It now numbers forty-seven members in good standing, and on last Memorial day (sic) there was a good turn-out and a very satisfactory celebration of our beautiful memorial service. The prospects for the future of Negley Post are most flattering.

I had desired and purposed spending a couple of weeks at Safford and Bisbee, at both of which places, I believe there are a sufficient number of Comrades to warrant the organization of Posts, but it has been impossible for me to do so.

Comrades, I regret to have to call to your attention to the fact that the present condition of our association in the Department of Arizona is caused entirely by our own apathy. We apparently fail to appreciate the fact that, as our numbers grow fewer and our ranks grow thinner year by year, it becomes more and more our bounden duty to stand together and to support each other.

There are in this small Department hundreds of men wearing “the little brown button,” who have not affiliated with any Post, and there are scores of others who are nominally members of Posts, who do not attend meetings or take any interest in our noble association. Do these men ever give thought to the sacred obligation taken at the time of their muster-in—an obligation taken “in the presence of Almighty God”?

There are also in every community in this Department old soldiers, members of the Grand Army of the Republic 1861-5, who have not yet joined our ranks. Comrades, is it not our duty to bring these men into our association?

At the close of the war people were bubbling over with gratitude for the great work that we had performed. Nothing was too good for the men who had so freely placed their lives on the altar of patriotism. But how is it today? The fact that we, the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, are the men who placed this country in its present

glorious position, is forgotten; officials and politicians give us the cold shoulder and try to push us aside. As an illustration and instance of this, look at the action of the Governor of Arizona [Nathan Oakes Murphy] on the occasion of the visit of our President [William McKinley] to the city of Phoenix in the early part of the month of May.

It was reported to me that in making arrangements for the President, the Grand Army of the Republic received no consideration whatever. I there upon wrote to the Governor, remonstrating against the apparent neglect. The Governor wrote that he did not appoint the Reception Committee and was not a member of any committee, but acknowledged that he appointed twenty-five citizens, who in conjunction with a committee of fifteen appointed by the mayor [Emil Ganz], selected a reception and other committees; that when the oversight complained of was discovered, the Commander of the G.A.R. Post at Phoenix was appointed on the Reception committee.

The facts in the case, as I understand them, are: After the appointment of the sub, or active, committees, a member of the Owen Post Committee met with a member of the Executive Committee and said to him that, regardless of what arrangements might be made by the Executive or Reception Committees, the members of the G.A.R. would be at the train and would receive the President. This is what caused the appointment of the Commander of the Owen Post [R. H. Greene] on the General Committee, which then had nothing to do.

I am reliably informed that, on the arrival of the Presidential train, the Grand Army of the Republic, about 100 strong, was in waiting to receive the President; that, when the chairman of our committee attempted to get on the Presidential car, the Governor of Arizona stood on the lower step and said to him, "You cannot get on this car." The chairman insisted and spoke loudly. The President, hearing this, came out on the platform of the car, and then, and not until then, did Governor Murphy step aside, and the chairman, mounting the platform, delivered his reception address, and our Comrades were cordially received by our great President.

Comrades, I have entered into this incident for the reason that I believe it will tend to make us all appreciate the absolute necessity for the old soldiers, the men of 1861-5, the men who so glad and cheerfully gave the best years of their young manhood to their country in its hour of dire need,

now in their old age to stand shoulder to shoulder as they did forty years ago. Remember that every man of us has his vote, and that vote should be cast as were our bullets—straight at the enemy.

My dear old Comrades, every man of us has more or less influence with his fellows, his friends and neighbors, and we ought to use that influence for their good. Will you allow me to impress upon you that it is our duty, and it should be our pleasure, to use every effort to bring into the fold of the Grand Army of the Republic of today every man who was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic during the stormy days that tried men's souls, the days of 1861-5? "United we stand divided we fall."

Comrades, I invite your careful attention to the reports of the Assistant Adjutant General, and the Assistant Quartermaster General, Comrade W.F.R. Schindler, whom I commend to you as a true and enthusiastic Comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic, and I take this opportunity to extend to him my sincere thanks for the unvarying and cordial support which he has given me during my term of office as Department Commander.

All of which is respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

R. H.G. Minty,
Department Commander

Editor's note: William McKinley, Brevet Major of the 23rd Ohio Infantry, was the last Civil War veteran and GAR member elected to the presidency.



Reconstruction of USS Monitor Sailor Faces: Photos

Here is some interesting information from Discovery.com which contains a photo reconstruction of one of the sailors who went down with the USS Monitor when it was sunk. For those brothers with computer access, click on the website link at the end of the article.

March 6, 2012 -- This handsome face could look like someone you might notice on the street today, but this man died 150 years ago on the USS Monitor.

Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Navy and a forensics lab at Louisiana State University have been collaborating to try and recreate the faces of two men whose remains were recovered on the Union army ship that sunk on Dec. 31, 1862.

[T]he younger of the two men [is] estimated to be between 17 and 24 years old. He could be one of three people: William Eagan of Ireland; Jacob Nicklis of Buffalo, N.Y.; or Samuel Auge Lewis of West Chester, Pa. He was about 5 foot, 7 inches tall.

<http://news.discovery.com/history/uss-monitor-faces-reconstruction-photos-120306.html#mkcpgn=emnws1>



Historical Sketch of the John W. Owen Post No. 5, Phoenix, Az

By David A. Swanson

Here is a continuation of articles regarding the John W. Owen Post No. 5 GAR of Phoenix from its inception in September 1885. This “historical sketch” includes a glimpse of the Post, the Department of Arizona GAR, the city of Phoenix and the territory and state of Arizona, taken solely from published Phoenix newspaper accounts.

In this edition we read about the GAR’s 20th celebration of Memorial Day, the Owen Post preparations and **Confederate General Joseph Johnson’s election as a contributing member to a Pennsylvania GAR Post!**

Daily Phoenix Herald
Monday, May 21, 1888

**HEADQUARTERS, G. A. R.
Minneapolis, Minn., April 16, 1888.**

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 7

May 30th, 1888, will mark the twentieth annual recurrence of Memorial Day; a day set apart by the people of a renewed and perpetuated Union in remembrance of those who, in life, offered all in defense of the national integrity and honor. Although originally instituted by the Grand Army of the Republic, as a means of strengthening and preserving the fraternal ties incident to our union of purpose and effort in a noble cause, the beautiful ceremonial born of our comradeship has been so widely adopted by the loyal hearts of the land that Memorial Day has become a great national festival in which tender memories and patriotic purposes rule the hour.

The spirit and customs of our order impose upon all comrades the duty of participating in the public recognition of the day. So far as practicable the usual avocations will be suspended and the occasion marked by some appropriate observance.

Though legally a holiday in many Departments it is to be jealously guarded from all appearance of merry making, and from all forms of frivolous or undignified behavior. Let it not be forgotten that our comrades were earnest, manly men, who voluntarily faced death for a cause worthy of sacrifice.

Wherever practicable, Posts are directed to attend divine worship in bodies, on the Sabbath preceding Memorial Day. The clergy are invited to facilitate such attendance and to so order the services of the day as to promote general public interest in the coming anniversary. Let all known graves of the men who fought for the Union, on land or sea, be marked by the pure blossoms of spring which in all tongues speak the language of gratitude and love. Let the people be assembled for special memorial services where eloquence and song shall unite to teach and exemplify the duties and rewards of patriotism; and so may “the better angels of our nature” touching “the tender chords of memory which stretch from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth-stone all over his broad land,” so swell the chorus of the Union that no discord shall ever again mar its glorious harmonies.

By Command of
John P. Rea,
Commander-in-Chief.
Daniel Fish, Adjutant-General.

May 21, 1888, continued:

Headquarters Dep’t of Ariz’ GAR,
Ass’t Adj’t Gen’ls Office
Tombstone, Ariz., April 15, 1888

CIRCULAR NO. 1

The Department Commander calls the attention of every post in this Department and to each comrade, to the near approach of Memorial Day—a day held sacred by every member of our grand Association. To us, this day has a meaning that cannot be appreciated by any not enrolled with us.

Therefore, it remains with us to properly observe the day, and to strew with flowers each grave, in sweet remembrance of those who have gone before us. Post Commanders are therefore requested to appoint proper committees, and to see that the day is observed in a befitting manner.

All ex-Union soldiers are cordially invited to join with us, and Post Commanders are requested to assign all such a position in line, while on parade, and it is hoped that every inducement will be offered to public in general to take part in such parade, and the decoration of graves, with a view, that in the future when the Grand Army of the Republic has passed away, this day may be a National one, for all time to come.

By Command of
A. L. Grow,
Department Commander.

A. T. Atchison,
Ass't Adj't Gen'l.

Daily Phoenix Herald
Wednesday, May 23, 1888:

G. A. R.

Orders for Memorial Day

General Order No. 1

In accordance with the orders emanating from National and Department headquarters that have been heretofore published, John W. Owens Post No. 5, Department of Arizona, will observe Memorial Day, Wednesday, May 30th, 1888, by a public ceremony at the City Hall Plaza, at 4 o'clock p.m.

An invitation is cordially extended to all fraternal organizations and the public generally to attend. Members of the John W. Owen Post are requested to suspend their usual avocations for that date, and devote the day to the proper observance of the memory of their departed comrades in arms.

General Order No. 2

On Sunday, May 27th, at 7:30 p.m., at the Opera House, a Memorial sermon will be delivered by Rev. Dr. R. W. Pearson, before J. W. Owens Post, No 5, Department of Arizona, G.A.R. The public generally are cordially invited to attend.

Members of the Post and visiting comrades will assemble at the Post room at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of attending in a body.

By order

Joseph B. Creamer,
Post Commander,
Allen T. Bird, Adj't.

Phoenix Weekly Herald
May 24, 1888

THE PENNSYLVANIA G. A. R.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 18—Co. Magie, the Commander of the Department of the Pennsylvania G. A. R. has issued an order taking to task E. F. Borker Post No. 8, for its action in electing Joe Johnstone, [sic] a confederate commander, a contributing member.

Daily Phoenix Herald
Saturday May 26, 1888:

Local Lines

G. A. R. flags for sale at W. T. Woods stationery and book store.

Daily Phoenix Herald
Monday, May 28, 1888:

At the G. A. R. Ceremonies on Memorial Day, in Phoenix, Col. J. A. Zabriskie will deliver the address. Hon. E. W. Sanford will be the orator at Prescott; Hon. L.C. Hughes, at Tombstone, and Col. L. F. Eggers at Tombstone



Memorial Day observance, May 28, 2012, at the Phoenix Pioneer & Military Memorial Park

Join your Picacho Peak Camp Brothers at the Phoenix Pioneer & Military Memorial Park on Monday, May 28th at 9:00 a.m. for its annual Memorial Day observance.

We don't have a complete program for the observance yet, but Camp Commander David Swanson will represent our Camp, read the Gettysburg Address, and make a few appropriate remarks as he has done for the past few years.



Don't miss our May 12, 2012, meeting!!!

Brother Jan Huber will give a Power Point program review of a book entitled, "ARMY LETTERS 1861-1865", by Oliver Wilcox Norton. Norton was the bugler who, together with Gen. Daniel Butterfield, wrote Taps in 1862. Jan previously gave this presentation to the Sun City Civil War Round Table.

Location/time: The Home Town Buffet 1314 N. Scottsdale Rd, at high noon. Be sure to tell the cashier that you are with the Civil War group.

See you there!

Your Civil War ancestor information is wanted

Over the years quite a bit of our Camp Civil War ancestor information has been printed in this newsletter. If you have information that has not been printed your fellow Camp brothers want to read it! The process is quite simple: write it, proof it, (it is obvious that sometimes I skip this part) rewrite it, and submit it to the newsletter editor who will make you and your ancestor famous!

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—this saves your camp money and lessens the load on the poor, poor editor

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.

Past Camp Commanders



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



Camp Officers for 2012

Commander:

David A. Swanson (480) 515-2798
E-mail: Swanson1854@Yahoo.com

Senior Vice-Commander:

John Conrad (602) 750-0938
E-mail: jrconrad@post.harvard.edu

Junior Vice-Commander:

Jim Heller (623-975-4300
E-mail: jmh7116@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091
E-mail: jerrybloom@qwest.net

Camp Council:

Mark Haynes (928)755-3714
E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net
Bob Young (642)-801-7037
E-mail: bob.young1@cox.net
Don Strachota Jr. (480-588-6589
E-mail: antondon@cox.net

Chaplain:

Mark Haynes (928) 755-3714
E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net

Patriotic Instructor:

Dave Kampf (602) 978-0951
E-mail: myfight@q.com

Eagle Scout Coordinator:

John Wanzel (4800 306-7738

Signals Officer:

Will Vessels (480)488-4703
E-mail: wcvessels@cox.net

Graves Registration

Jan Huber: (623) 975-4805
E-mail: janhuber1933@yahoo.com

Civil War Memorials Officer:

David Swanson (Camp Commander)

Counselor:

John Wanzel: (480) 306-7738

Historian:

Bob Hannan PCC (480) 380-9153

Color Bearer:

Ron Jones ((480) 834-8036

Guard:

Bob Young (602) 841-7037
E-mail: bob.young1@cox.net

Guide:

David Vessels (480) 488-4703
E-mail: dtkv@cox.net

Newsletter Editor/Publisher

David A. Swanson (Camp Commander)

