



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



## CAMP NEWSLETTER



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

April 2014

Camp Web site: [suvchwaz-camp1.org](http://suvchwaz-camp1.org)

### Minutes of the February 15, 2014, Camp meeting

Location:  
Deer Valley Airport Restaurant  
702 W. Deer Valley Rd.  
Phoenix, Az.  
623-582-5454

Our regular meeting of February 15, 2014, at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant was attended by 28 brothers and guests. We were honored by the attendance of a number of sisters of the ASUVCW, who attended a brief meeting in advance of the regular meeting to discuss establishing an Auxiliary to Picacho Peak Camp #1 (see related article in this newsletter). Brother Jerry Bloom reported that we are in solid financial condition, and that annual renewals were still coming in. He also called for volunteers for Picacho Peak Days in March. Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber gave an update on his fantastic efforts to recognize Civil War veterans by identifying their gravesites.

Commander John Conrad inducted new brother H. Allen Nash into our order, and then made a presentation entitled, "Voyage Out of Bondage: Robert Smalls," about a remarkable slave who stole a Confederate ship, turned it over to the Union Navy, and went on to be a leading politician and civic figure in South Carolina and throughout the nation.



### Auxiliary Being Formed

The Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW), one of the five Allied Orders, is coming to Arizona! Although there are 10 National Members at Large who live in Arizona, no effort has been made in the past to organize them into an Auxiliary associated with Picacho Peak Camp #1. The mission of the Auxiliary is to support the activities of the Sons, as well as to support veterans efforts and

recognition generally. You can learn more about the Auxiliary at [www.asuvcw.org](http://www.asuvcw.org).

Membership in the Auxiliary is open to all interested women. Those with direct lineage from a Union soldier or sailor and those who are related to a Brother of the SUVCW (including spouse, mother, widow, and adopted daughters – natural daughters are entitled to lineal membership in their own right) are entitled to regular membership, but any woman who is interested in the purposes of the order may join as an associate member. Members must be at least 6 years old.

Commander John Conrad is organizing the Auxiliary, and we are accepting applications (available on the ASUVCW website) through May 10 for those who wish to be listed as Charter Members. Of course, applications will be accepted at any time thereafter. Initial dues are \$20.

We hope to have the formal installation of the Auxiliary at our August 23 joint meeting with the DUVCW 1861-1865, with a National officer of the ASUVCW acting as installing officer.

Please encourage your wife, daughter, mother, or other female relatives to participate in this great adjunct to our order!



### Daughters Celebrate 12 Years

The Margaret Warner Wood Detached Tent #1 of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting on March 29. Brother John Kohl and his wife, Sister Joye Kohl, gave a presentation on "Women in the Civil War," which was well received. Camp Commander John Conrad attended on behalf of the Sons. DUVCW National President Carole Morton was present and acted as installing officer for the new officers, while also providing a discussion of the rituals and emblems of the order. You can find out more about the Daughters at [www.duvcw.org](http://www.duvcw.org) or at the Tent's own website at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~azmwwduv/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~azmwwduv/).

## The Web Site is Back Up!

After some time of being off line (a very long and sordid story), our website is back up, with a new domain name: [www.suvcwaz-camp1.org](http://www.suvcwaz-camp1.org). We have assured the long-term stability of that site, having secured all rights for at least the next ten years, and have loaded up all the original content. We will be working in the next few weeks to update the content and improve its value for the Camp and the general public. Many thanks to Brother Will Vessels and Sister Joye Kohl for their help in tracking down the problems and helping to resolve them.

With that said, we are in dire need of a Webmaster for the site. Perhaps you know of a computer-savvy son or daughter (or grandchild!) who would help us out an hour or two each month to maintain the site. It is on an FTP server in HTML. Please refer volunteers to John Conrad.



## Memorial Day is Coming Up!

We will celebrate Memorial Day on May 26, a very important day to our Order, as the GAR originated the Memorial Day Observance, and it is important to our fundamental purpose to participate in it annually.

For many years, the Camp (through David Swanson, PCC) has participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies at Pioneer Military and Memorial Park, located on Jefferson between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenues, starting at 9:00 a.m. Brother David will once again present his stirring rendition of the Gettysburg Address.

Although there are other, and certainly larger, Memorial Day activities in the State, the Camp focuses on the one at Pioneer Military and Memorial Park because over 100 Civil War veterans are interred there. Please come out and join us!

To see how the GAR in Arizona celebrated this event in 1890 see page 4.



## What Do We Do?

At the Camp officer's meeting on April 12, we discussed all of the activities that our Camp, and individual members of the Camp, participate in. We thought it would be informative to share the list we came up with, and encourage Brothers and Sisters who are interested in any of these activities (or new ones!) to get involved.

- **Picacho Peak Days** each March, recognizing the Civil War battles in Arizona and New Mexico.

- **Arizona Standown** each winter, supporting homeless veterans. We provide financial and volunteer support.
- **Memorial Day Observation** each May, at Pioneer Military and Memorial Park.
- **GAR Research and Publication** through the efforts of Brother David Swanson, PCC, to uncover and distribute the history of the GAR in Arizona.
- **Civil War Graves Registration** through the efforts of Brother Jan Huber, who has located and registered in the national database hundreds of civil war graves, including that of Buffalo Soldier Ambrose Skinner, who we were able to recognize last year.
- **Eagle Scout Recognition** through the efforts of Brother Dennis Lamb, who sends recognition certificates to new Eagle Scouts on behalf of the Camp.
- **School presentations** by various Brothers to enrich the elementary and middle-school education of our youth on the meaning and importance of the Civil War.
- **Reenactments of battles and skirmishes** by some of our brothers with organized units, preserving our history.
- **Historical presentations related to the Civil War** at each of our meetings.
- **Monuments preservation and establishment** to ensure that the sacrifices of Union Soldiers in Arizona are not forgotten.



## New Camp Brothers

**Charles Stuller** of Anthem, AZ. Brother Stuller's Civil War ancestor is his great-great-great grandfather Nicholas Schleicher, Company K, 5<sup>th</sup> Rgt, MI, Volunteer Infantry. Brother Stuller actually joined our Camp in July 2013;

**William R. Hearter Jr. MD** of Scottsdale, Arizona. Brother Hearter recently transferred from the National-at-Large membership to our Camp. His Civil War ancestor is his great-great grandfather, Captain Henry Wolfe Smyser, Co E. 107<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry;

**Christopher C. Beisner** of Surprise, Arizona. Brother Beisner's Civil War ancestor is his great grandfather John Galer, Co A., 11<sup>th</sup> PA Cavalry;

**Henry Allen Nash** of Sun City, AZ. Brother Nash's Civil War ancestor is his great grandfather, Private Henry Jay Nash, Co. F, 176<sup>th</sup> Reg't NY Infantry.

**(New Camp Brothers—continued)**

Brother Nash was initiated at the February 15<sup>th</sup> Camp meeting.

**Brother Paul Davis** of Sun City, AZ reinstated his membership in the Camp.

**Welcome Brothers!**



**Civil War in the Southwest at Picacho Peak State Park**

“Each year hundreds of spectators descend on Picacho Peak State Park to watch re-enactments of an Arizona Civil War skirmish and the New Mexico battles of Glorieta and Val Verde. Visitors travel from around the country to experience three fascinating historic battle re-enactments complete with lifestyles of the soldiers in the southwest during the 1860s. More than 200 re-enactors come from many states. . .” (<http://azstateparks.com/Parks/PIPE/>)

This year Civil War in the Southwest took place on March 15-16, 2014, and through the efforts of Senior Vice-Commander Jerry Bloom our Camp had an information table at this outstanding event.



Senior Vice-Commander Jerry Bloom manning the Camp’s table at the event



Fife and drummer playing “The girl I left behind me”

**Just what is the Mason-Dixon Line?**

We have all read about this line but what is it all about? History.com explains it:

On October 18, 1767, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon complete their survey of the boundary between the colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland as well as areas that would eventually become the states of Delaware and West Virginia. The Penn and Calvert families had hired Mason and Dixon, English surveyors, to settle their dispute over the boundary between their two proprietary colonies, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

In 1760, tired of border violence between the colonies’ settlers, the British crown demanded that the parties involved hold to an agreement reached in 1732. As part of Maryland and Pennsylvania’s adherence to this royal command, Mason and Dixon were asked to determine the exact whereabouts of the boundary between the two colonies. Though both colonies claimed the area between the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> parallel, what is now referred to as the Mason-Dixon Line finally settled the boundary at the northern latitude of 39 degrees and 43 minutes. The line was marked using stones, with Pennsylvania’s crest on one side and Maryland’s on the other.

When Mason and Dixon began their endeavor in 1763, colonists were protesting the Proclamation of 1763, which was intended to prevent colonists from settling beyond the Appalachians and angering Native Americans. As the Britons concluded their survey in 1767, the colonies were engaged in a dispute with the Parliament over the Townshend Acts, which were designed to raise revenue for the empire by taxing common imports including tea.

Twenty years later, in [the] late 1700s, the states south of the Mason-Dixon line would begin arguing for the perpetuation of slavery in the new United States while those north of [the] line hoped to phase out the ownership of human chattel. This period, which historians consider the era of “The New Republic,” drew to a close with the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which accepted the states south of the line as slave-holding and those north of the line as free. The compromise, along with those that followed it, eventually failed. . . .



Fire Department  
Equestrian, carriages and etc.,

**Camp meeting—May 17, 2014**

Location: Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix, Az. Time: high noon  
Our speaker will be Camp Commander John Conrad who will give a presentation on “The Civil War in Arizona.”  
Come out, socialize with your fellow Brothers, and listen to a great presentation!  
Please mark your calendars!

**Historical Sketch of the John W. Owens Post No. 5, Phoenix, Ariz**

By David A. Swanson

Here is a continuation of articles regarding the John W. Owens Post No. 5, GAR 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.

This *Daily Phoenix Herald* account of the activities will take us through 1890.

Thursday, March 6, 1890:

**G. A. R.**

By the courtesy of City Recorder Schwartz we have the following list of Grand Army officers for the ensuing year elected at Tombstone:

Geo F. Coats, Department Commander, Phoenix; Mr. Kelso, S.V.C., Tempe; Jos B. Creamer, Adgt. General, Phoenix; J. J. Hill, Q. General, Tucson; Ed Schwartz, Chief of Staff, Phoenix; J. D. Monihan, Delegate National Encampment.

The next Grand Encampment is set for Tempe.

Monday Evening, May 26, 1890:

**G. A. R. Memorial Day Parade**

Advance Guard.

Band.

Department Commander G. F. Coats and staff.  
Company “B” Commanded by Capt. Andre,  
Acting as escort to the J. W. Owens Post.  
John A. Logan Post, Tempe.

Old Soldiers and visiting members of the G. A. R

The column will for on Washington street, right resting opposite the Irvine Building. All who are to take part in the parade are requested to be on the ground at 4 p. m. sharp. The column will move west on Washington street, to the Brick Church where they will take cars to the cemetery. The usual memorial service will then be held and the graves decorated, after which Governor Powers will deliver an address. The column will then return by cars to the church, when the parade will be reformed, march east on Washington street until it reaches the Lemon House, then countermarch to the G. A. R. Hall and be dismissed.

All old soldiers and citizens are urgently and respectfully invited to take part in the services of the day.

Ed Schwartz, Chairman Committee

Friday, May 30, 1890:

**Honor The Flag**

The memorial address of ex Governor Powers today, published elsewhere, while paying tribute to the patriots of ancient and modern times, emphasizes the importance of more earnestly impressing patriotic sentiments upon the youth of our land. Taking up that recent purpose of the Grand Army, and the Patriotic Sons of America, he would have the national flag flying from every school house, and would teach every school boy to salute it, when passing with uncovered head. Congress is agitating a law against desecration of that glorious banner by printing trade advertisements thereon. The flag ought ever be kept not only sacred in thought but unspotted from the world. And today, above all others, while it flaps in rhythmic glory over those veteran sleepers, whose graves are decorated with sweetest flowers, today should veneration for the grand symbol of liberty be urged upon the rising generation who are so soon to administer the county’s affairs in our stead.

**Bringing Flowers**

All parties having flowers to donate on Memorial Day, will please leave them at the G. A. R. hall, or, should that not be convenient, if they will send their names to the chairman of the committee of arrangements, the flowers will be called for.

Saturday Evening, May 31, 1890:

### At the Cemetery

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There was a wagon load of flowers for the soldiers' graves yesterday. Logan Post of Los Angeles sent a contribution from that gorgeously blooming city. Just before the procession moved, ex Governor Powers received a floral enclosure by mail. Consequently, roses and pansies, forget-me-nots, lilies and all types of Flora's bounty, were there to strew not only the nine mounds where soldiers slept, but the graves of other former citizens besides. Many visitors took advantage of the occasion to decorate their own loved ones' last resting place. Thus, when the column of veterans, young soldiers and firemen wheeled into the city of our dead, it seemingly greeted them with smiles and fragrance, as though the spirits of those asleep hovered above the ground and greeted the decorators. Today ex-Governor Powers has been receiving many congratulations for his memorial address. Two soldier graves were added yesterday to the list of decorations made last year.

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One of the most interesting and touching episodes of the decoration exercise yesterday was the reading of Bryan W. King's poem, "The Nation's Dead," by Mrs. Irvine, daughter of Judge D. H. Wallace, a tried and true soldier at a time that tested the stuff men were made of. The Grand Army ritual had been read and the graves of "the nation's dead" strewn with flowers, when on the reassembling of the old comrades in arms beneath some shady trees in the cemetery, at an earnest request and short notice, Mrs. Irvine rendered the noble lines of the poet in a manner worthy of their stirring sentiments. All who heard this unassuming lady's effort were profoundly moved by its force, its tender expression, its pathos, and as she rendered the closing lines many an old soldier heard the sweet song of a grateful people with moistening eye and a tremulous voice.

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### *Knights of Pythias*

By David Swanson

Several years ago, during my research into the John W. Owen Post, I noticed that some of the members were also members of the Knights of Pythias. In fact, if I recall correctly, there is a special area in the old cemetery at the Phoenix Pioneer and Military Park reserved for the Knights. I really never thought any more about the organization and I guess I just assumed

that it was no longer in existence, until I read an article in the Department of California and Pacific, General George Stoneman Jr. Camp No. 18 newsletter regarding the Knights and discovered that not only is it still actively in existence (celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> year) the Knights have quite the history. It was founded by Justus H. Rathbone on 19 February 1864 at Washington D.C. and was this nation's first fraternal organization to receive a charter by an act of Congress (approved on May 5, 1870). But what does this have to do with the Civil War?

Here is some information as contained in the Knights of Pythias website <http://www.pythias.org/>:

"The Order began, of course, during the Civil War, and its founder believed that it might do much to heal the wounds and allay the hatred of the civil conflict. President Abraham Lincoln, being advised of the contents of the ritual and its teaching, said: 'The purposes of your organization are most wonderful. If we could but bring its spirit to all our citizenry what a wonderful thing it would be. It breaths the spirit of Friendship, Charity and Benevolence. It is one of the best agencies conceived for upholding of government, honoring the flag, for the reuniting of our brethren of the North and of the South, for teaching the people to love one another, and portraying the sanctity of the home and loved ones. I would suggest that these great principles be perpetuated and that you go to the Congress of the United States and ask for a charter, and so organize on a great scale throughout this nation, and disseminate this wonderful work that you have so nobly started. I will do all in my power to assist you in this application and with your work.'

"The suggestion made by the President was adopted. An application was made to Congress for a charter, and the Order of Knights of Pythias was the first American Order ever chartered by an Act of the Congress of the United States."

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**2014 Camp meeting dates!**

All Camp meetings will take place at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix, Az at noon on the following dates:

May 17<sup>th</sup>

August 23<sup>rd</sup>

November 15<sup>th</sup>

Please mark your calendars!

**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



**Camp Officers for 2014**

**Commander:**

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

**Senior Vice-Commander:**

Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091  
E-mail: jerrybloom@q.com

**Junior Vice-Commander:**

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

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091  
E-mail: jerrybloom@q.com

**Camp Council:**

Mark Haynes (928)755-3714  
E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net  
David R. Palmateer (928)-978-0066  
E-mail: Palmateer@npgcable.com  
Don Strachota Jr. (480-588-6589  
E-mail: antondon@cox.net

**Chaplain:**

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

**Patriotic Instructor:**

David R. Palmateer (928)-978-0066  
E-mail: Palmateer@npgcable.com

**Eagle Scout Coordinator:**

Dennis Lamb (480) 595-6356  
E-mail: dennislamb@msn.com

**Graves Registration**

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

**Civil War Memorials Officer:**

David Swanson PCC (480) 515-2798  
E-mail: swanson1854@yahoo.com

**Counselor:**

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

**Color Bearer:**

Ron Jones ((480) 834-8036

**Guard:**

Al Harrica (623 322-5939  
E-mail: dharrica@cox.net

**Guide:**

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

**Newsletter Editor/Publisher**

David A. Swanson