

Do you want to get more involved in Your Camp?

Brother Jerry McKenzie is in the process of forming a **Graves Registration Committee**. The purpose of this committee is to locate, record, ascertain the condition of and bring to the attention of proper authorities the need for repair or replacement of grave markers/memorials of Civil War veterans.

Please call Jerry at 602-234-1672 or E-mail him at eclecticdog@msn.com if you are interested.

Brothers are needed to help form our Camp's **Eagle Scout Committee**. The Eagle Scout Recognition Program has been in effect for many years throughout the SUVCW. Members can either attend special Eagle Scout Meetings, on behalf of our Camp and the SUVCW and present certificates to the scouts or they can be mailed. Our organizational duties such as teaching patriotism and duties of citizenship along with love and honor of the flag fall right in line with those of Eagle Scouts and they should be recognized by our Organization.

Please call Bro. David Swanson at 480-515-2798 or E-mail at DavidJan1854@cs.com.

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Civil War Days...Sierra Vista

Please mark your calendar for February 18, 2004, and take a drive to Sierra Vista, AZ. The Sierra Vista Middle School will be conducting its Civil War Days program from 9:30 AM to about 2:30 PM.

Bro. Ron McCreery will be representing the Union during his presentations to the 7th graders. He needs some back up (since the Confederates always outnumber him). Activities during the day will include a lunch of hard tack, beans, applesauce and milk, and the ROTC drill team.

Directions to the school: Take AZ 90 south from I-10 through Huachuca City to the light at Fort Huachuca's main gate. Turn left onto bypass then right on N. 7th St. (first traffic light). Continue on 7th St., turn left on Busby Drive, then right on Lenzner Ave. The school is a few hundred yards on the right.

Our Camp has "adopted" the school and it would be nice to show our support by attending the event.

If you wish to attend, please contact Ron by phone or E-mail as follows:

(520) 378-1138; ringgold1@mindspring.com

Annual Lee/Jackson luncheon

The Col. Sherod Hunter Camp # 1525 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will be hosting their annual luncheon. The charge is \$13 per person which includes the meal, drinks, dessert, gratuity and sales tax.

The menu selection includes: three meat combo (BBQ beef, pork and chopped pig); sirloin steak sandwich; or breaded Icelandic Cod...all served with steak fries, coleslaw and choice of coffee, tea or soft drinks. Additionally there is a choice of broiled chicken breast or chicken fried steak...served with mashed potatoes, vegetables and dinner roll.

Where? Bill Johnson's Big Apple at 19 Ave and Bell Rd in Phoenix.

When? January 17, 2004, 11:30 AM

RSVP to: Larry Billar, 5639 W. Altadena, Glendale, AZ 85034. Phone: 623-878-4032.

Reservations should be made by January 7, 2004. (E-mail: lbillar@cox.net).

This is a fun event (even if Yankee Pot Roast is not served!)...**All Brothers and wives are encouraged to attend.**

SUVCW BADGES

During the past year or so, Brothers new to our Camp have received SUVCW membership badges as part of their initiation fee.

During the last Camp meeting, several "older" Brothers asked where they could get these badges.

For those with internet access you can go to the SUVCW Website (www.suvcw.org) download the order form and mail you request to National or you can obtain an order form at the next Camp meeting. The cost is \$20 plus \$ 3.00 shipping.

CAMP NAME TAGS

During our next Camp meeting, Bro. Jerry Bloom will have order forms for plastic Camp name tags. The tags have three lines: one for your name, the camp name and a name of one Civil War ancestor.

It will be up to each Brother who does not have a name tag to order one, if he so desires.

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ANCESTOR BIOGRAPHIES RECEIVED FROM BROTHERS

Between the publishing of the last newsletter and our Camp meeting, the following Brothers have submitted articles regarding their Civil War ancestors:

Rollin Rice; Jim Greaves; John Crossen; Bob Young; Bud Collette; Bob Hannan; John Oakley; Lawrence Larson; Keith Pohlman and Clair Barnett (Clair also donated a CD to the Camp entitled *Songs of the Civil War*).

These biographies will be published in this and future newsletters. Any Brothers who wish to have their ancestors information published in the newsletter need only submit the information to the newsletter publisher/copyboy by mail, E-mail or at the next Camp meeting.

Carlton Rice

Company A, 139th Regiment
Pennsylvania Volunteers

Mustered into the U.S. Service, August 20, 1862, By Capt. E.H. Ludington, U.S.A. at Pittsburgh, PA.

“The 139th Regt. Pa. Vols. is composed of men from Western Pa., seven companies from Allegheny, two from Armstrong, and one from Mercer counties, with a sprinkling from Beaver and Butler. The organization was effected at Camp Howe, Pittsburgh, September 1, 1862, and that day started for the seat of war. It was the first three year Reg’t. filled in the state under the President’s second call. Four companies were called “The Semple Infantry Battalion,” in honor of Wm. Semple, Esq., of Allegheny City, who rendered patriotic aid to Major Moody and the officers engaged with him in recruiting them. The first task performed by the 139th was a very melancholy and historic one—the burial of our dead on the 2d Bull Run battle-field, which had lain exposed to the torrid rays of the sun for ten days. The enemy held the field, and the Reg’t proceeded thither under a flag of truce, by permission of the rebel authorities. Seventeen hundred and ninety-nine bodies were buried. On Sept. 10, the Reg’t joined Maj. Gen. Howe’s Brigade, and was in reserve at Antietam. Took a fatiguing part in the effort to

intercept Stuart on his raid as far as Chambersburg, Pa. Crossed the Potomac at Berlin, Md., and marched to the Rappahannock. Crossed the river at Bernard’s House, and supported a battery in the battle of Fredericksburg, Dec, 13 and 14. Took part in Burnside’s January attempt to cross the Rappahannock, famous as the “Mud March.” Wintered at White Oak Church. Participated in the storming of Marye’s Heights, and the battle of Salem Heights, May 3, 1863, as well as in the third crossing of the Rappahannock at Bernard’s House, June 8. Made the celebrated march of 33 miles in 16 hours, from Manchester, Md., to Gettysburg, Pa., and was thrown immediately into the second day’s battle at Gettysburg, our brigade (now Gen. Frank Wheaton’s) being the only one in the 6th Corps actually engaged with the enemy that evening. Took part in the battle of the 3d, and also in skirmishes with the retreating foe near Funkstown and Williamsport. Participated in the battle of Rappahannock Station, and in Mead’s campaign of 7 days in the wilderness, across the Rapidan. Have been successively under the commands of McClellan, Burnside, Hooker, and Meade. The 139th is attached to the 3d Brigade, (Gen. Wheaton,) 3d Division, (Gen. Terry,) 6th Corps (Gen. Sedgwick).”

This information is copied from an original table of organization of Company A, 139th Pennsylvania Volunteers, obviously sometime in late 1863. This lists all officers and enlisted men at that time and also lists all of the original officers.

Carlton Rice enlisted as a private and was promoted to corporal on December 24, 1863 and he also was promoted to sergeant on July 1, 1864 at which time he was in the hospital from a gun shot wound to the arm and shoulder. He was wounded on May 12 at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. It was May 20 before he was admitted to a hospital. He spent the following eight months in two different hospitals, one in Philadelphia and the other in Washington, D.C., from which he was discharged on Jan. 20 1865. He returned to his unit and was in several engagements until April 9, 1865, when he was at the signing of the peace at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. (continued on page 4)



CARLON RICE (continued)

On May 23, 1865, the regiment was ordered to Washington, D.C. to take part in the VI Corps Review held there on June 8, 1865. The unit was finally mustered out of Federal service in Washington on June 21, 1865. According to Carlon's obituary he reached Washington to late for the grand review.

During its career the One Hundred and Thirty-Ninth Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment sustained the loss of ten officers and one hundred and thirty-five enlisted men killed or mortally wounded. An additional five officers and eighty-six enlisted men died from disease or other non-battlefield cause.

After being honorably discharged from the service of his country, Carlon Rice engaged in various occupations in Pennsylvania, Illinois, California and Oregon. Before entering service Carlon's occupation was farming and after service he worked in his uncle's sash and door factory in New Castle, Pennsylvania. From the spring of 1876 he made his home in Stark County, Illinois and worked as a farm hand until December 1891 when he bought the farm that I resided on for 74 years.

Carlon married Miss Lilieon Potter in March of 1878 and raised three sons who all pursued the occupation of farming. Three generations have made their living from this same farm for one hundred and twelve years.

The preceding article was written by Brother Rollin H. Rice. It is of special interest to note that Rollin is the grandson of his Civil War ancestor Carlon Rice.

The Department of California and Pacific.

By Commander David Swanson

Last winter, as many Brothers remember, the Department of California & Pacific, SUVCW, invited our Camp to join it. The time is nearing when our Camp should take a vote as to remain a Camp-at-Large or join the Department.

How is the SUVCW organized? It is basically divided into three bodies. The first level is the Camp, the second is the Department and the third is the National Organization, which includes national officers and the Council of Administration which serves as the Board of Directors.

A Department is considered "middle management" in the Order and consists of three or more Camps in its state or geographical boundary.

All Camps belong to a Department. In states where there is no local Department, Camps-at-Large exist and belong to the National Department-at-Large, simply for administrative purposes. Currently there are five Camps-at-Large in the country and 26 Departments.

The Department of California & Pacific's territory covers California, Nevada and Hawaii. Currently it is composed of 400 Brothers from nine California Camps and one Nevada Camp.

Some reasons to join, not in any particular order: A more personal feeling of belonging to the SUVCW organization with the ability to more easily interact with other SUVCW Brothers and the many programs in California including the annual encampment; giving the Western states more clout in National proceedings (more members mean more delegates) and by joining, all Brothers receive its quarterly Department Newsletter. Additionally, there would be no cost increase to our Camp.

Some reasons not to join: Once a member we cannot secede thus negating any possibility of the creation of an Arizona Department; personal (or Camp) costs to attend the Annual Encampment; distance to activities in California; and we are doing just fine as a Camp-at-Large.

These are some of the pros and cons. The decision is entirely up to *you*...lets plan on making it during the February meeting.

E-mail Updates

As long as I have your attention, I am attempting to update the Camp computer base with the E-mail addresses of all Brothers who have this capability.

This information will not be shared with any other organization...with one exception...our roster is sent to SUVCW National Headquarters annually as part of our annual report. If you do not want your E-mail address sent, tell me and it won't be.

The only E-mail you will get is Camp related.

Please send your E-mail address to me at the address below...also please feel free to E-mail me at any time regarding any issue...well almost any... Additionally, my phone number is always listed in our newsletters. Thanks...

DavidJan1854@cs.com

**THOMAS HARTER OAKLEY
1814-1890**

Thomas was already 46 years old when he enlisted and was appointed Chaplain with a rank of Captain First Regiment of Artillery on 15 October 1861 by William Dennison, governor and commander-in-chief of the state of Ohio. His service was very brief. March 16, 1862, he was issued a Military Pass by order of General Buell allowing him to pass through the lines until further notice. By March 31, Colonel James Barnett wrote General Buell a letter "Mr. Oakley is constrained by a sad family affliction to tender to you his resignation of the office of Chaplain in my Regiment. You are aware of the position in which this regiment is placed and can judge of the propriety of accepting Mr. Oakley's resignation. Should it be accepted, it will under the circumstances, be satisfactory to me." That very same day, March 31, by special order, Major General Buell accepted the resignation from Chaplain Oakley.

Nellie Louise died March 26, 1862. She lacked a few days of reaching her first birthday. Richard Harter died about a year later April 6, 1863, at age 5 and Alfred Wheeler died May 6, 1864, at age 13. We don't know the causes of death or if the deaths were related to a common source, but three children died in a two year period.

Thomas was born 16 December 1814 in Eastchester (now Mt. Vernon), Westchester County, New York. We are not sure of his parents' names. He was the youngest of many children. He finished the scientific coursework at Wesleyan University in Connecticut when he was 22 and was duly licensed and authorized to preach as a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church Middletown Station, New Haven District, Connecticut. That same year, 1836, he married Hannah Nye, the sister of one of his classmates. After 13 years of marriage, Hannah died, leaving 4 children, a 5th having died in infancy.

Nine months later on February 14, 1850, Thomas married Jane Wheeler who bore him a son on January 3, 1851. Jane died August 22, 1851.

On February 15, 1852, Thomas married Betsy Ann Wheeler, Jane's sister. She died April 8, 1853.

September 15, 1853, Thomas married his fourth wife, Abigail Waters. They had three children born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, then moved to Cleveland, Ohio and had 3 more. One child died before they

and two of these during the Civil War along with the little boy whose mother was Jane Wheeler. This left 3 children from this marriage plus 4 from his first marriage.

Thomas Harter Oakley's Wesleyan University Alumni of 1883 shows that he served as a local preacher from 1833-1881. He engaged in mercantile pursuits 25 years and was a manufacturer for 6 years. In 1843 he was inspector of public schools in New York City. The next year he was assistant editor of *The Native American*, a daily paper in New York City. 1844-45 he became city tax collector for New York City and also served as a legislator for the state of New York, representing New York City.

1846 Thomas moved to Connecticut and in 1853 he served in the Connecticut Legislature as a representative from Bridgeport. At that time he was able to secure an appropriation of \$10,000 from the legislature for Wesleyan University. Wesleyan honored him with an honorary A.M. degree. He also served as Justice of the Peace and obtained an appointment for Dr. Augustus W. Smith to the Naval Academy at Annapolis. On April 26, 1856, P.T. Barnum wrote a letter "My dear Oakley, I am sincerely obliged for your kind & excellent speech. All I can give you is my thanks & these you have most sincerely. That Bridgeport meeting has done me worlds of good not only in my own feelings but also by the moral effect which it has upon the community at large."

Sometime between 1858 and 1861 the Oakley family moved to Cleveland, Ohio. After his brief service in the war, Thomas was in charge of the money-order office in the post office from 1863-1868.

His youngest child, Harter, was born 7 April 1870. Thomas was now 55 years old. Thomas died 16 April 1890 when his youngest child was 20 years old. Harter had only one son, Almar Harter, born 10 March 1900 in St. Louis, Missouri. Almar Harter had five children, the middle one being John Edward Oakley, Sr.

This article was written by John Edward Oakley, Sr., who is a charter member of Picacho Peak Camp #1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

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MEETING NOTICE & CALL FOR 2004 DUES

Our next Camp meeting will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2004, at noon.

Location: Coco’s Restaurant
4514 E. Cactus Rd. (602) 996-9851

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

Our speaker will be Brother Gregory B. Smith of our Camp who will speak about his ancestor, Dr. Amos Kendall Smith, Surgeon of the 1st Michigan Volunteer Cavalry.

The buffet lunch menu consists of: Ham steaks with pineapple glaze; fried chicken strips; mashed potatoes with gravy; Caesar salad; zucchini and onions; fresh baked dinner roll; and coconut cream pie. Also included is unlimited coffee, tea and soft drinks. The cost is \$14.00 per person. Please complete the form below and mail as indicated.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS & ANNUAL DUES FORM

Name(s) _____

Luncheon Reservations: Number attending _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Dues for calendar year 2004 are \$31.00 **Dues enclosed \$** _____
(Juniors dues are \$10.00)

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please complete this form and mail to the Camp Treasurer. *If you cannot attend and have not paid your 2004 dues, please do so by completing and mailing this form.*

Make checks payable to: Picacho Peak Camp #1 SUVCW

Mail to:

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