



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



## CAMP NEWSLETTER



October 2008

Camp Web site: [www.suvcwaz.org](http://www.suvcwaz.org)

### Minutes of the August 16, 2008 Camp meeting

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

Camp Commander **Bob Hannan** called the August Camp meeting to order at noon. We had 22 Brothers, wives and guests in attendance.

*New Brother:* Our Secretary Jerry Bloom related that we have a new member in our camp: **Thomas McMaster** of Lake Havasu, AZ. His Great-great grandfather is James T. McMaster, Co. I, 124<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry

Congratulations Tom!

Camp Graves Registration Officer **Jan Huber** gave us an update on his activities on behalf of our Camp. There are 129 Civil War veterans buried in the Phoenix Pioneer Military Park and 46 have been registered with National. He has submitted updates on these graves and will continue to work on the remainder.

By the way, Jan purchased badge shrouds for the Camp, and they were worn during the meeting because of the death of a SUVCW Real Son. Thanks Jan.

PCC **Larry Fuller** gave an interesting talk about the Fuller coat of arms and the Mayflower Society. Thanks Larry.

Brother **Dan Heller** also gave an interesting talk about a Civil War diary from 1864, which had been in his grandmother's possession. Dan also displayed the diary. Thanks Dan.

#### *Speaker*

Brother **Dave Kampf** gave us a wonderful presentation about the USS Monitor and the CSS Hunley, which included a slide show of the Maritime

Museum in Charleston, Fort Sumter, and slides of the recreated CSS Hunley that was taken on a tour of the U.S. last year.

Dave has provided our Camp with many professional and interesting presentations and this certainly was no exception.

If you missed this one, don't miss future meetings when Dave is our speaker.

Thank you Dave for a job (and jobs) well done!



### Meeting notification

Don't forget that our next Camp meeting will be at Coco's on November 15, 2008, at noon.

This is our annual election/installation of officers for the following year, so be sure to attend and have your voices heard. This is a direct election and the only electors who compose *our* electoral college are you!

### Annual dues notification—first call

Stay active in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and your Camp. Please submit your annual dues (\$31) to our Camp Secretary Jerry Bloom. See page 8 for the form and his address.

### Proposed Picacho Peak Camp officer slate for 2009

The following proposed slate will be voted on during our November Camp meeting:

Camp Commander: John Conrad  
Senior –Vice-Commander: David A. Swanson  
Junior- Vice-Commander: Michael Moore  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry Bloom  
Camp Council (3 positions):  
Bob Hannon  
Bob Young  
Rick Cups

The names of Camp Brothers appointed to fill “appointive officer” positions in the Camp will be presented at the November meeting and listed in the January 09 newsletter.



### SUVCW Camp in southern Arizona

By David A. Swanson PCC

Here is a special invitation for our Camp brothers who live in southern Arizona to actively participate with Picacho Peak Camp Brother (Father) Morris Courtright in his attempt to start a new camp.

This subject has been discussed off and on for years and Father Courtright has stepped up to the plate. So, for those of us who want to see another Camp, now is the chance. (Picacho Peak Camp will assist in any way possible to help make this a reality.)

Fr. Courtright supplied the following:

“In memory of the Battle of Apache Pass east of Tucson it has been suggested that a Camp be established in the Tucson area.

**The FIRST MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION in our Nation's history occurred at Apache Pass, Arizona on February 13, 1861**

Any one interested please contact Fr Morris Courtright [Court57M@aol.com](mailto:Court57M@aol.com) in San Manuel 520-385-9764.”



### Chaplain’s Corner

By Mark Haynes, Camp Chaplain

In our last article, we looked at some of the various responsibilities that faced the typical regimental chaplain during the Civil War. This is a continuation of that article.

Regular church services were often a challenge during this time of war. One of these difficulties was a suitable meeting place. Chaplain Charles A. Humphreys of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry, talked about this challenge and the solution. One site he used was a barn. Of course, the irreverent cattle would often interrupt the proceedings. Other places used included a clearing in a grove and a large tent, when it was not being utilized for court martial hearings. Chaplain

Humphreys also spoke of having three services in the division hospital near the camp.

The business of war also caused difficulties. The Chaplain of the 11<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, William Lyle, spoke of holding a regular Sunday service for the regiment while the Army of the Potomac was marching through Maryland to face the Army of Northern Virginian at Sharpsburg. The service had barely started when it was interrupted by marching orders. In what may have been one of the shortest sermons on record, Chaplain Lyle said, “Now, comrades, we have got orders to march, and I must stop. God bless you, and make you faithful soldiers for God and your country.” Flexibility being the rule, a good chaplain had to know how to get the most out of his message in limited time available.

Winter also made regular services more problematic. Chaplain Lyle described how that during the winter of 1862-63, a dismantled church was repaired and made quite comfortable for meetings. Regular services were held most every night for several weeks which, the Chaplain believed, made a deep and lasting impression on the men who attended.

In some cases, regimental churches were actually established. Chaplain Harned of the 24<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry tells of such a church formed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where the regiment was stationed. It was nondenominational in nature and was reported to have an excellent attendance. Chaplain James Marks started a regimental church with a charter membership of 170, 60 of which were new converts. The Chaplain stated that the church was not intended to take the place of former church affiliations, but was used to promote religious unity. The results were beneficial as seen by the steady growth of the congregation. The services were held in a tent which had been purchased for the church with funds donated by friends in the Pittsburgh area where the regiment had been recruited.

Another responsibility of the typical regimental chaplain was to serve as a librarian and distributor of Bibles, tracts, and other religious literature. Chaplain Fuller mentioned how this duty occupied much of his time while the regiment was in camp. The American Bible Society was commended by Chaplain Fuller for supplying him with “excellent materials” that he would subsequently pass on to the troops. One chaplain found that the distribution of these materials improved the overall moral tone of the regiment. It was found that this ministry was even more effective when the materials were provided to men recovering from diseases and wounds. These men had more time to devote serious consideration to the materials they were given. Chaplain Trumbull would often use humor when distributing religious literature. When approaching a group of men about to play poker, he (Continued on page 3)

gave each man a tract and said, "Tracts are trumps and it's my deal." The men laughed and received the literature they may have otherwise rejected.

Perhaps the most solemn duty performed by a chaplain was conducting funerals for the men who died of sickness, wounds, or in the heat of battle. Chaplain Arthur Fuller stated that often there were several funerals held in one day and it was rare to have a day without at least one. Many times funerals would be held for groups of men buried in a common grave when time and circumstances would not allow for single services for individual fallen soldiers. In conjunction with this responsibility came that of sharing the heartbreaking news of a soldier's passing to his family. This was usually done by letter. It had to have been difficult at times to write these letters. In the book *Courageous Fighting and Confident Dying*, one such letter is included. It is said to be typical of many of that day. It was written by Chaplain Andrew Hartsock to the family of a soldier of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry who had been wounded at Fredericksburg. It is as follows:

"Dear Friend: I truly sympathize with you in your bereavement. I can cheerfully testify to the upright conduct of your son. When I found him, after the battle of Saturday, he was praying, and as fully resigned as any man ever was when about to retire to rest for the night. There were no signs of fear, but he was perfectly calm. He lived until Sabbath about midnight, and during that time was perfectly resigned, and gave every evidence of a preparation for death. You may rest assured that his soul now rests with God."

May we each have the same said of us when we reach that appointment that all mankind must face.



## Court-Martial of Thomas W. Sullivan, 4<sup>th</sup> U. S. Cavalry

By Brother Rick Cups (Camp Council)

Many of us love to romanticize the Civil War, and have the expectation all military service was honorable; highlighted by displays of courage under fire. The reality was that army life was hard and there were many events that did take place that were not as courageous or honorable as we would like to believe. Theft, murder, rape, cowardice under fire, desertion, and insubordination were not uncommon and were addressed by general courts-martial. A general court-martial is the highest military tribunal convened to try violations of military law.

The vast majority of court-martial cases, as one could imagine, were very serious affairs with the accused

facing long prison terms or even possible execution. The following court-martial from May 1, 1864, is different and has a rather humorous tone to it. It is copied here from the book, "Minty and the Cavalry" (1886) by Joseph G. Vale. The book is the history of the First Brigade, Second Division Cavalry, Army of the Cumberland commanded by Col. Robert Minty. The brigade which included the 4<sup>th</sup> United States, 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan, and 7<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry regiments was known as "Minty's Boys".

"... the brigade headquarters was located in Nashville. Here, on the 5th of April, the cavalry was re-organized; General Gerrard retaining, however, the command of the Second division, and the brigade designated as the First brigade of that division, consisting of the Fourth United States, Fourth Michigan, and Seventh Pennsylvania cavalry, commanded, as heretofore, by Colonel Minty. On the 19th of April, Minty moved to Columbia,, Tennessee, reporting at that place to General Gerrard, and on the 30th the entire division, except Long's, or the Second brigade, left Columbia for the front.

On the march that day, General Gerrard caused Lieutenant Sullivan, Adjutant of the Fourth United States, to be arrested on the charge of drunkenness. A court-martial was organized that night, and the lieutenant brought to trial the next day. Major Robbins, of the Fourth Michigan, was president, and Captain Vale, of the Seventh Pennsylvania, the judge advocate of the court. The testimony adduced showed the whole matter to have been a mistake. The lieutenant's saddle having become loosened during the march, he had dismounted alongside the passing column to adjust it and fasten the girths; his horse was very mettlesome, and becoming restless had forced the lieutenant into the road ; and in the effort to control the horse and fasten the girths his hat had been knocked off into the mud, and stooping down, still holding his horse, the passing troopers had splashed him, completely covering his clothes with mud, not giving him a presentable, still less an inviting, appearance. In fact, his face and hair, as well as clothing, were well plastered.

Now, the lieutenant was very proud of his appearance, and had on his dress-suit, and withall was rather inclined to let "his angry passions rise" on slight provocations; hence he got mad, and the longer he got splashed the madder he got. The men of the Fourth Michigan, who were passing at the time, rather liked to torment an officer, particularly of the regulars, when they could do so with impunity; so, instead of riding

out of the way, or assisting him to control his horse, they rode as close to him as they could, splashing and laughing at him the while. Of course he swore like a "regular," always did, and finally got so insanely angry that he stood in the middle of the road, up to his knees in thin mortar-like mud, shaking his fists and swearing at every one who passed. Hundreds who saw him were convinced, and many testified, that he "was drunk." The general and his staff came along just in the rear of the Fourth Michigan, and the lieutenant "let out" on them in the same fashion. Of course the general put him under arrest, and the trial followed.

The facts above stated being, however, clearly proven, and the lieutenant stating that he had not even been drinking that day, the judge advocate, in behalf of the accused, asked that "all testimony expressing the mere *opinions* or conclusions of the witnesses be stricken from the record," which being done, the lieutenant was promptly acquitted by the unanimous vote of the court. In the order approving the finding, dissolving the court, and restoring the lieutenant to duty, however, the general significantly said: "Appearances are sometimes wonderfully deceptive, but Lieutenant Sullivan is admonished `not to do it again.'" The lieutenant and officers of the Fourth United States considered themselves under some obligations to the judge advocate, and presented him with a series of resolutions, expressive of their appreciation of his fairness, &c. Courts-martial do not always convict, and no other one was held in the brigade during the campaign.

The funny thing about a court-martial is that the judge advocate is not only prosecuting attorney for the Government, but is also, when the accused appears without counsel, attorney for the prisoner. This anomalous position was shown in a very ludicrous way on this trial. The judge advocate, for example, would, as prosecuting officer, call a witness, who, having been sworn, would answer the question: "What was Lieutenant Sullivan's condition and appearance on that occasion?" thus: "I saw Lieutenant Sullivan; *he was drunk*; so drunk he could not stand still; had his hat off; clothes all muddy, where he had fallen in the road; he was in the middle of the road swearing at every one who came by," &c. Then, as attorney for the accused, the judge advocate would move the court to strike out of the record all that portion of the testimony in which the witness gave his *opinion*, or drew conclusions from the facts he saw, on the ground that it was the sole prerogative of the court to draw conclusions and

formulate opinions; and none of the witnesses being willing to testify as experts in drunkenness, the record had to be so amended, which being done, left nothing but the naked facts that the lieutenant was standing in the road, muddy, swearing, &c., which facts the judge advocate, as counsel for the accused, proceeded to explain, and ample testimony on that head being at hand and produced, the farce resulting in the triumphant acquittal of the lieutenant, as stated."

At the time of his court-martial, Thomas W. Sullivan was a first lieutenant and adjutant of the 4th U. S. Cavalry. He was later promoted to Captain and was severely wounded on August 21, 1864 near Lovejoy Station, Georgia. He did not rejoin the regiment.

*Editor's note: Shortly before the end of the Rebellion Robert Minty was promoted to general. In about 1896 the general moved to Jerome, AZ (later moving to Tucson and then back to Jerome) and in 1900 was the department commander of the Department of Arizona, Grand Army of the Republic. In 1902 he was the post commander of Negley Post No.1 in Tucson.*

*His house in Jerome is still standing.*



## **Ancestor information**

Submitted by Brother Rick Cups (Camp Council)

Private Moses J. Sims  
Company A 40th Illinois Infantry Regiment  
July 25, 1861 – January 22, 1865  
Company D  
6th Illinois Cavalry Regiment  
March 16, 1865 – November 5, 1865

Great-great-great granduncle of Nathan G. Cups

Moses J. Sims was born in 1832 in Hamilton County, Illinois. His parents were Martin Sims and Polly Shirley. On July 25, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, 40th Illinois Infantry for 3 years at Macedonia, Illinois. His residence was listed as McLeansboro, Hamilton County, Illinois. Moses Sims was 5 feet 11 inches tall, with fair complexion, blue eyes, red hair, and was a plasterer.

The 40th Infantry was enlisted from the counties of Franklin, Hamilton, Wayne, White, Wabash, Marion, Clay and Fayette. The regiment, with ten companies, reported at Springfield, Ill., and on the 10th of August 1861, was mustered into the service for three years. The 40th Illinois Infantry spent most of the war (March 1862 to July 1865) attached to the Army of the Tennessee. Under the command of William T. Sherman, it was involved in a number of major

battles/campaigns against the enemy. These included Shiloh, Siege of Corinth, Siege of Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Ezra Church, Jonesborough, the March to the Sea, and the Campaign through the Carolinas.

Moses Sims was present with his regiment until the action at Ezra Church. By that time, he had been wounded in action seven times. His service record contains five separate Casualty Sheet Reports, three of them for severe gunshot wounds. On April 6th, 1862, he was shot twice at the Battle of Shiloh. The first ball passed through his upper left arm in the bicep area and the second ball passed through his left side leaving a 3 inch long hole in his side. Neither ball struck bone. He was listed as absent from his regiment, wounded, until June, 1862. He was wounded on July 12, 1863 and again on July 14, 1863 in action at Jackson, Mississippi. The July 14th wound was to his left foot when he was hit by shrapnel from an exploding artillery shell. On July 28th 1864, the 40th Illinois was heavily engaged at Ezra Church, North Georgia. He was shot at close range in the left thigh; the ball hit bone and left a scar 3 inches wide and 8 inches long. His pension physical also lists 3 other wounds. He had a scar across the top of his head caused by a bullet grazing him and he also had a bruise scar on his left breast where he was struck with a spent ball. He had a bayonet wound under his chin. The gunshot wound he received on July 28th would put him in the hospital until January 1865 and would leave him unable to walk without pain. On January 22, 1865, he received a disability discharge at Mound City, Illinois.

In March 1865, Moses Sims enlisted along with his younger brother, Martin Sims, in the 6th Illinois Cavalry. The war was coming to a close and the 6th Illinois Cavalry saw no further action until it was mustered out in Selma, Alabama on November 5, 1865.

After the war, Moses Sims returned to Hamilton County and worked as a mason and farmer. In 1866, he was awarded a pension of \$4 a month for wounds received during the war. This was gradually increased over time until his pension reached \$12 per month at the time of his death in 1899. He was married at least two times. In October 1876, he married Elizabeth Halferty in Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa. The couple lived there until the spring of 1885 when they moved to Wheeler, Nebraska. Elizabeth died January 26th, 1892 and on July 10th, 1894, he married again to Mary E. Todd at Grand Island, Nebraska. He had no children. Moses Sims had difficulty working his entire life because of his wounds and was finally confined to the Nebraska Soldiers and Sailors Home in Grand Island. He died there from cancer of the face and neck on March 25th, 1899.



## Excerpts from "The Journal of Pvt Greenleaf A. Goodale, Co "E" 6<sup>th</sup> Main Vols."

Submitted by Brother Roy Goodale (grandson of Pvt Goodale)

### The Music of Hell

" . . . Our camp was in direct range of the shells from the enemy which passed over our heads at the front all day. I wish I could describe the noise made by these missiles. Each projectile has a sound going through the air peculiar to itself and the minnie (sic) musket balls, the elongated lead bullet nearly always makes a noise like . . . a bee. The fragment of a shell makes a queer sort of noise as it goes tumbling through space. The most peculiar perhaps of all is made by the ring of a stand of grape shot. The shot themselves are of different sizes according to the caliber of the gun . . . the smallest . . . from 3/4 to 1 inch in diameter and nine 3 in a tier and three tiers high constituted a stand. At the bottom and top is a piece of wood circular in shape and an inch thick connected by an iron cord or bolt at the center. To hold the shot in place are three iron rings. Soon after leaving the gun the pieces of wood are blown into toothpics (sic) which lets loose the three rungs and 9 1 inch balls. The rings go revolving all ways forward with a noise I can't describe and the combination of iron shot, bolt, and rings makes such music as nothing else in the world can. Cannister (sic) shot are much smaller than grape . . . each one as large as a small filbert. A quart of two of these are confined in a tin can. The can exploding as it leaves the cannon scatter forward and is at a range of not over 100 or 200 yards very effective, being used only when the enemy are getting that close to the guns . . ."

### Aftermath of Gettysburg

. . . We got up on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> (July) to find. . . (Lee's Army) gone and pursuit was instantly ordered. My Corps (6<sup>th</sup>) leading. We passed over the ground where on the preceeding days such desparate (sic) charges had been made, and I never saw the dead so thick anywhere. A little further back in the Peach Orchard were many artillery horses, dead and swelling up in the heat. Sometimes a whole team of six horses would be lying just as an exploding shell had killed them all. Then the poor soldiers some of whom had been dead for three days lying in the dirt and blood swelled up nearly twice their natural size, their faces turned up black to the sun and some part of their person perhaps torn to pieces by a shell. Oh, it's a horrid picture but a true one, though poorly made of every battlefield . . .

--The Journal of Pvt Greenleaf A. Goodale

### A Diet of Worms

“ . . . The bread was never good. It frequently would not soak up soft in cold water which is a good test (but is) alive with maggots . . . in daylight or while in camp at night it was easy if one was patient as well as fastidious to free the bread of vermin. But sometimes while marching at night it was necessary to resort to the haversack for lunch; then everything has to go, and knowing what we were eating we had to be pretty hungry before we were brought to it. Beside the little evening campfire, how often have I seen . . . (and been one of them) each with his cake of hard bread close down before the fire, shaking out the little white worms when pretty well broken up. The bread was put in a cup of water and that would perhaps bring from their holes a few more worms which floated on the surface could be skimmed off . . . ”

--The Journal of Pvt Greenleaf A. Goodale

### Burnside’s Mud March

“ . . . In the “Mud March” my corps (6<sup>th</sup>) had the farthest to march for we were near the left of our line on the Rappahannock and had the whole length of our line (up past the center at Falmouth) to march. We got to near where we were to have crossed the river by pontoon bridge when the terrible rain came on and we marched back about 15 miles through the worst mud I ever saw. Teams would mire down every few minutes and the guard would have to stack arms, and life them out . . . ”

--The Journal of Pvt Greenleaf A. Goodale

### Drill Tactics

“ . . . Our drill (on enlistment 7 May 1861) in the old Scott’s Tactics was only for a short time at Bucksport (Maine). At Bangor we took the “Hardee’s Tactics” which were copied from the French and when Genl Hardee . . . transferred his allegiance to the South . . . these tactics were abandoned and those of Genl Casey adopted . . . I believe the general government should have the power . . . to compel an enrollment of all able bodied men in each state and a certain amount of militia duty from those men. War can best be averted by preparing for it . . . and it would not do for us, like the foolish ostrich to hide our heads in the sand and think ourselves safe because we see no danger. . . ”

--The Journal of Pvt Greenleaf A. Goodale

### Excerpts from the Journal of Captain Greenleaf A. Goodale, Co “G” 77<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry (colored)

Submitted by Brother Roy Goodale (grandson of Captain Goodale)

### “ON THE UNGRATEFULNESS OF REPUBLICS”

“ . . . I was glad to obtain an appointment (in the regular Army) by any honorable means, yet it is somewhat humiliating to think after all that it was not chiefly for faithful service through a long terrible war . . . that secured me my appointment (in the 23rd U.S. Infantry) but because I happened to have a “friend at court.” Some may perhaps say this is a commentary on the proverbial ungratefulness of republics . . . ”

--The Journal of Capt Greenleaf A. Goodale, Co “G” 77<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry (colored)

### HANDLING INSUBORDINATION

“ . . . One of them, an ignorant mulish fellow, on reporting to me demanded his discharge. He had got it into his head that his having been a prisoner of war entitled him to one. I told him “No” it did not and to report to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant for equipment and duty. He was disobedient and even insolent and refused obedience. I sprang into my tent . . . for my pistol. But Private Thompson did not wait . . . for when I reappeared, he was far away on his way to the tent of the 1<sup>st</sup> sergeant and I had no further trouble with him. I was much relieved, for had he remained, I must have shot him a little, or receded from my position—either of which would have been awkward . . . ”



Special thanks are given to Brothers **Rick Cups** and **Roy Goodale** for really making this newsletter enjoyable.

If you have information regarding the War of the Rebellion and you want to see it in print, send it to the editor.



**SUPPORT YOUR CAMP WITH  
YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
DONATION**

Donations to Picacho Peak Camp No. 1, as part of the SUVCW, and by its own tax number, are tax deductible for 2008.

Please help yourself and your Camp with this tax deduction option!

Mail your contribution to our Secretary/Treasurer, Jerry Bloom: 4323 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Way, Phx, AZ 85016, or send it in with your reservation for the fall meeting (a separate check required). Your receipt will be mailed to you.

**2009 Dues**

It's not too early to mail them so please use the form on page 8 even if you do not plan on attending the next meeting.

Our Secretary/Treasurer will personally express his thanks by buying you a cup of coffee at our next meeting or any meeting of your choice! (In case he does not know what you are talking about, just refer him to this newsletter.)

Postal Service Delivery

If you are receiving the newsletter by USPS, you can get the full color version by email.

Email the newsletter editor and I will get you set up. If for some reason I can't deliver it to you, I will it send out by USPS.

The email version saves your Camp postage and copying fees (the elves who hand print each USPS copy are going to strike for higher wages, so head them off at the pass).

Thanks

**Address Change**

Brothers, if you change your address, e-mail address, or phone number, please advise our Camp Secretary Jerry Bloom at your earliest convenience. This will ensure that you get the National publication *The Banner*, our Camp newsletter, and additionally this will enable us to contact you.

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