



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 2015

Camp Web site: suvwaz-camp1.org

Minutes of the February 21, 2015, Camp meeting

Location:
Deer Valley Airport Restaurant
702 W. Deer Valley Rd.
Phoenix, Az.

Our meeting of February 21, 2015, at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant was opened at noon by Senior Vice Commander Jerry Bloom and was attended by 26 brothers, Sisters of the Picacho Peak Auxiliary No. 1, and guests.

Camp officer reports:

Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber gave his report as follows: Since Nov. 15, 2014, the date of my last report, I have completed 5 grave registration activities. One was an initial registration for a Union soldier in the Pioneer and Military Memorial Park in Phoenix, AZ This is one that has been overlooked all this time, until discovered by an ever vigilant member of the Arizona Pioneer Cemetery Association member who is aware of the SUVCW Graves Registration Program and is very conscientious about sending her discoveries to me. There were 4 updates submitted for soldiers already registered in the Russian River Cemetery District in Ukiah, Mendocino County, CA. They were all Union soldiers. This stems from a collaborative project with Brother Bob Archibald. His home county is Mendocino County, CA. He has provided a list of all the burials in this Russian River Cemetery which is where his parents are buried. At an early stage of this project it appears that someone has already registered the Civil War soldier burials. However, it is very disappointing to find that there may be a high rate of errors involved. Out of 4 Civil War soldier registrations in this cemetery that I have reviewed so far, there were 3 significant errors revealed: 1) a soldier served in a Maine Light Artillery Regiment; but, was registered as serving in a California Infantry Regiment; 2) the same soldier was registered as buried

in two different cemeteries in the same Mendocino County; 3) the same soldier is registered twice in the same Russian River Cemetery. The National SUVCW Graves Registration Officer is aware that when the program m first began I believe in 2005, grave registrations that were fraught with errors were dumped into the database without any oversight and review process that is now in place. Even so, one wonders how long these types of errors would remain undiscovered without the awareness and interest of a SUVCW member such as Brother Archibald. I wish there were more such interest and involvement. Surely all SUVCW members know where their soldier ancestors are buried.

How many of you have investigated whether or not their graves are registered? This provides important historic and genealogical information for our future generations.

Brother initiated

Brother Robert L. Cox, whose membership was previously approved, was initiated at our February meeting. Brother Cox's Civil War ancestor is his great-great grandfather Bugler Orville O. Williams, 3rd Battery, Iowa Light Infantry.



(L-R) Brother Robert Cox receiving his membership certificate from Senior Vice Commander Jerry Bloom

Program speaker: We were pleased to have Brother Paul Verhelst give an excellent PowerPoint presentation titled: *Eye witness to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln*. Brother Verhelst's great grandfather, Chief Sailmaker Charles H. Jones, was present at Ford's Theater and witnessed the assassination. Jones was a member of the Quartermaster Corps at the time and wrote a paper about the episode in 1908. For those with internet access, go to our website suvchwaz-camp1.org (and more about that later in the newsletter), click on "Ancestors" and then "Brother Paul Verhelst. You can read the entire account online!



Brother Paul Verhelst

Thank you Brother Verhelst for a most informative program!



Genealogy fair in Gilbert, Arizona

Picacho Peak Camp Commander John Conrad (pictured below) and Senior Vice Commander Jerry Bloom represented our Camp at the annual Genealogy fair in Gilbert, Arizona.



Camp Website is up and running!

Good news on two counts: First we have a Signals Officer (webmaster) and he is none other than Brother **Jeff Burgess**. Brother Jeff has done an outstanding job with the site so if you have not visited it for a while please do so.

All of the ancestor information that has been placed in the newsletter is now on the site under the respective Brother's name. It also contains a history of the Department of Arizona Grand Army of the Republic and a lot of other information.

Camp Web site: suvchwaz-camp1.org

Thank you Brother Jeff for taking on this responsibility!



Memorial to "California Column" at Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza—State Senator Sylvia Allen to introduce bill next year!

On March 4, 2015, Brother David Palmateer, Brother David Swanson, and Jan Swanson met with Arizona State Senator Sylvia Allen in her office at the Arizona State Capitol. Thanks to the groundwork previously laid out by Brother Palmateer, Senator Allen was well aware of the reason of our visit which was to have a sponsor to introduce a bill for the approval of a monument to the "California Column" in the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza.

Senator Allen was very pleased to sponsor the bill for the 2016 legislative session (to late for 2015) and foresees no problem getting it passed. She will also contact the Capitol Mall Commission to ensure that space is available.

We still have lots to do after legislative authorization is obtained (and then we have two years to do it in) so it's not a done deal yet, but getting closer!



SUVCW National Commander-in-Chief Tad D. Campbell, and his wife ASUVCW National President, Rachelle Campbell, to be present at our Camp meeting on May 15, 2015

Brothers and Sisters, be sure to attend this Camp meeting! This is only the second time in our camp's existence that we have had the pleasure of a visit from our national commander-in-chief. As many may recall Perley Mellor, PCinC and his wife then National ASUVCW Vice President Diane Mellor visited us in August 2012.

ASUVCW National President Rachelle Campbell was here in August 2014 and presided over the installation of Picacho Peak Auxiliary Camp No. 1. and we look forward to seeing her again!

Civil War ancestor biographies

It has been a while since any Camp Brothers have submitted biographies of their Civil War ancestors and it was a pleasure to receive and print the following from Brother Jeffrey D. Burgess:

Richard Monroe Burgess was born on September 20, 1839, in Hocking County, Ohio, to Gabriel and Charity (Straight) Burgess. He had an identical twin brother named John.

Richard was named after his grandfather Richard Burgess (1789-1872), who was an Ohio pioneer and a veteran of the War of 1812. Richard's grandfather served on the northern Ohio warfront in Colonel John DeLong's 1st Regiment of the Ohio Militia, Capt. Thomas Williams' Company, and achieved the rank of corporal.

Richard's father Gabriel Burgess was an Indiana pioneer and moved his family to Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, to start a farm after purchasing 80 acres from the U.S. land office in Ft. Wayne in November 1840.

When the Civil War broke out in April, 1861, Richard volunteered to fight for the Union, as did his twin brother John, along with their older brother James. All three of them enlisted on September 25, 1861, in Anderson, Indiana, and were mustered in on November 2 in Indianapolis. They served together in Company A of the 47th Indiana Volunteer Regiment. The 47th Indiana was part of various western Union armies during the war.

On March 5, 1862, Richard was assigned to detached duty at the headquarters of General John Pope, commander of the Union Army of the Mississippi, in New Madrid, MO. On April 21, 1862, he rejoined his unit from detached duty. This was after his regiment had participated in the capture of Island No. 10 on the Mississippi River.

In May and June of 1862 he was stationed in Corinth, MS. But on September 29, 1862, he was sent to a military hospital in St. Louis because he was sick. On October 8, 1862, he transferred to another military hospital in Keokuk, Iowa. Richard must have had a serious illness that required a long recovery because he was still in the hospital in Keokuk in December of 1862.

On January 4, 1863, he was back home in Indiana and married Sarah Richardson. He had returned to his unit by the end of the month, however, because he was listed as "present" on his company's muster rolls from January to December 1863.

During the summer of 1863 the 47th Indiana participated in the Battle of Port Gibson, Battle of Champion Hill, Siege of Vicksburg, and the Siege of Jackson, MS. In November they participated in the

Battle of Bayou Bourbeux in St. Landry Parish, LA. According to his service record, Richard was present at all of these battles.

Richard re-enlisted in Algiers (New Orleans), LA, on January 28, 1864. Most of his regiment re-enlisted too, and they were granted furlough to go home to Indiana from February 9th to March 30th. His first child, John A. Burgess, was born about nine months later in December of 1864. (Sarah's sister Susan married Richard's brother James in Indiana on March 11.)

Richard must have overstayed his visit with his wife in Indiana because he was listed among some "stragglers" of the 47th Indiana that were rounded up in Indianapolis on April 14, 1864, and sent back to their units. He was charged \$6.64 for transportation expenses.

The 47th Indiana joined the Red River Campaign at the end of April, but by this time the Union forces were retreating back down the river. Richard was assigned to an "ordnance task" in Algiers, LA, in July 1864.

In 1865 Richard was present during his regiment's participation in the capture of Spanish Fort on April 8 and Fort Blakely on April 9 near Mobile, AL. These were some of the last battles of the Civil War, as Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia on April 9.

Richard served as a guard at a military prison in Shreveport, LA, June through August 1865. In September 1865 he was serving as a guard at a private residence there.

All the Burgess brothers were finally mustered out in Baton Rouge, LA, on October 23, 1865. Richard and his older brother James had never risen above the rank of private, although Richard's twin brother John had become a corporal.

Richard returned to Indiana and he and Sarah raised a family of six boys and two girls. Sarah died on July 26, 1909. Richard died at the home of his youngest child, Lela (Burgess) Deeren, in Hartford City, Indiana, on July 2, 1915.

(This biography was researched and written by Richard's great, great grandson, Jeffrey D. Burgess.)

Editor's note: If you would like to have your Civil War ancestor's biography printed in the newsletter, please submit it to the newsletter editor.



Civil War in the Southwest—Picacho Peak

Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 was again represented at the annual Civil War in the Southwest at Picacho Peak State Park on March 21 and 22, 2015.



L-R Jerry Bloom, David Palmateer, Verna Maleski, Bob McCord, and John Wanzel



Brother David Kampf



L-R Sisters of Picacho Peak Auxiliary No. 1 Mora Mackowski and Verna Maleski (Photo by Mike Mackowski)

Picacho Peak Camp No. 1—only Camp-at-Large left in the SUVCW

Special General Order No 6, issued by Commander-in-Chief Tad D. Campbell, PDC, issued April 14, 2015, establishes the Department of the Columbia composed of the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This leaves our Camp as the only camp-at-large in the Order (at least as of this date).

Two other Arizona Camps, General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2 in Tucson, and General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 in Flagstaff are currently being organized as at-large camps. The Minty Camp (being organized by Brother John Conrad) serves southern Arizona and the Grant Camp (being organized by Brother David Swanson) serves northern Arizona.

If you are interested in joining either camp by transfer, or as a dual member with Picacho Peak Camp please contact either camp organizer.

Camp & Auxiliary meeting schedule for 2015

Our schedule of meetings in 2015 is:

Saturday, May 16

Saturday, August 15 – Joint meeting with the DUVCW 1861-1865

Saturday, November 14

All meetings start at noon at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix.

Mark your calendars now!

Camp meeting May 15, 2015

As previously noted in the newsletter, SUVCW National Commander-in-Chief Tad D. Campbell, and his wife ASUVCW National President, Rachele Campbell, will be present at our Camp meeting; however, our **program speaker will be Brother Robert Massey who will give a presentation on “The War in the Southwest. Brother Massey is a very accomplished speaker and historian and this program will be outstanding. Don’t miss it!**



Memorial Day observance—Monday, May 25, 2015

Please join your Camp Brothers at the Pioneer Military and Memorial Park, 14th Ave and Jefferson at 9:00 a.m. for our annual Memorial Day observance. We have been a part of this annual observance at the memorial park for quite a few years and it is very nice that it continues.

Also, remember your Civil War ancestors and all veterans on May 30th, the original Memorial Day proclaimed by Past Commander in Chief, General John A. Logan on May 5, 1868.



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—

Ancestor Biographies wanted

If you have a biography of your Civil War ancestor that you would like to see published in the Camp newsletter please send it to the editor. Try to keep it to a maximum length of one double sided page. Your Civil War ancestor biography will also be posted on our excellent Camp website!

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
- John R. Conrad 2013-2014



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