

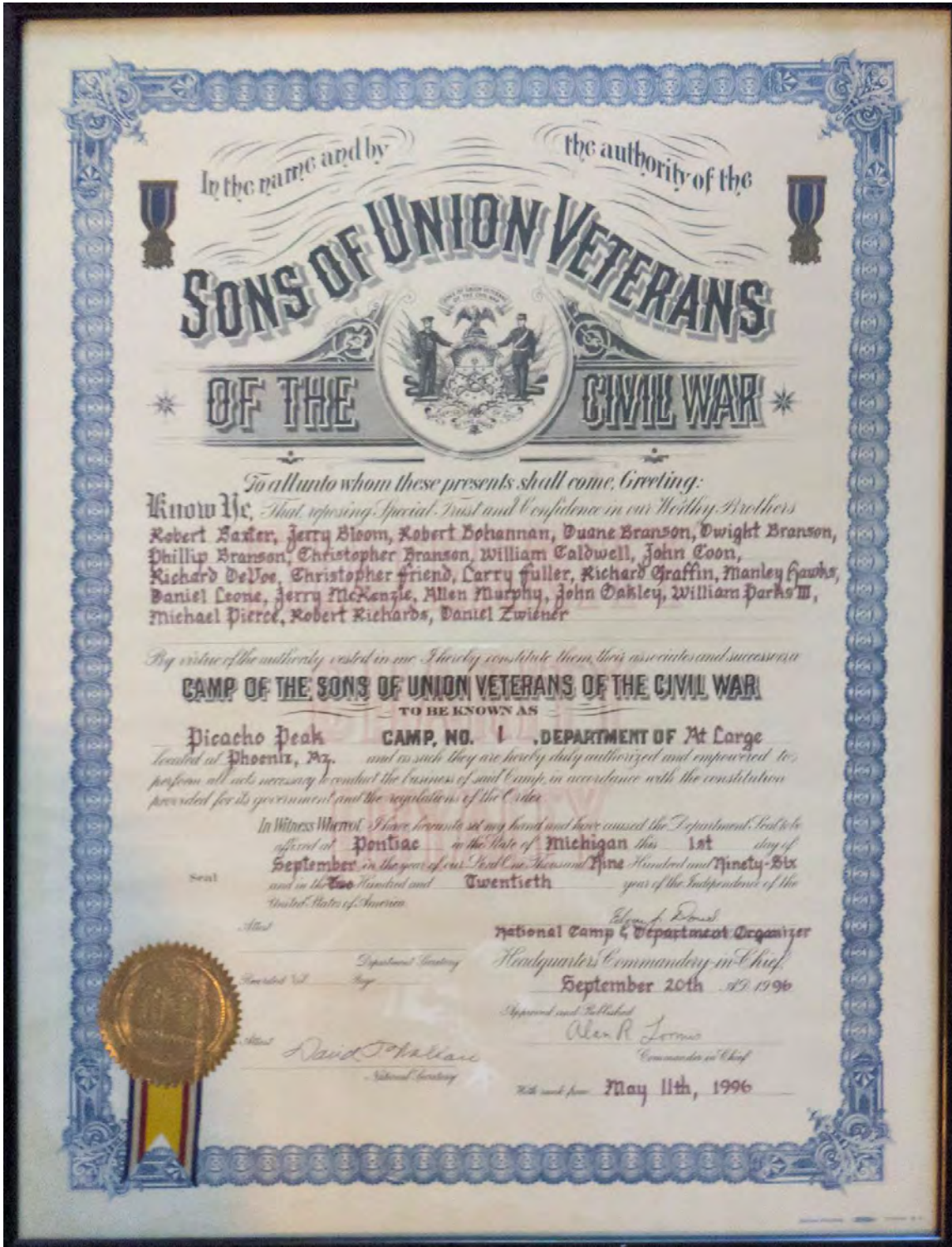


Picacho Peak Camp No. 1  
 Department of the Southwest  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



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 25th Anniversary Camp Newsletter  
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May 11, 2021





## Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 Past Camp Commanders

Larry Fuller 1995-2003 †  
David A. Swanson 2003-2006  
Robert Hannan 2006-2008 †  
John R. Conrad 2008-2010  
David A. Swanson 2010-2013  
John R. Conrad 2013-2015  
Gerald N. Bloom 2015-2016  
James M. Heller 2016-2018  
Jeffrey D. Burgess 2018-2020



## Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 Camp Officers 2020-2021

Camp Commander: Kenneth J. Hooker  
Senior Vice Commander: Todd D. Hoffay  
Junior Vice Commander: James M. Heller PDC, PCC  
Secretary/Treasurer: Gerald N. Bloom, PDC, PCC  
Camp Council: Jeff Burgess PCC; John R. Conrad, DC, PDC, PCC;  
and David A. Swanson, PDC, PCC

### *Appointed officers:*

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Ronald E. Gray  
Patriotic Instructor: John R. Conrad, DC, PDC, PCC  
Chaplain: James M. Heller, PDC, PCC  
Historian: David A. Swanson, PDC, PCC  
Counselor: Jan D. Huber  
Guide: Dan Huskisson  
Color Bearer: David T. Vessels  
Guard: David Kampf



## Current Camp Brothers



Charles S. Albaugh, Robert E. Archibald Jr., James P. Bennett, Gerald (Jerry) N. Bloom PDC, PCC; Jeffrey D. Burgess PCC, Richard S. Burke, Richard N. Case, Clarence (Bud) Collette, Robert J. Conrad, John R. Conrad PDC, PCC; Robert L. Cox, James K. Crossen, Nathan G. Cups, Richard G. Cups, William E. Davidson, Daniel S. Dobler, Charles J. Fox, David B. Gray, Ronald E. Gray, Alfred (Al) C. Harrica, Mark J. Haynes, Brice A. Heller, James M. Heller PDC, PCC; Daniel H. Heller, Todd T. Hoffay, Kenneth J. Hooker CC, Jan D. Huber, Dan Huskisson (Associate), David R. Jackson, Ron Jones, David Kampf (Associate), Athan D. Kind (Junior), John A. Kind, Michael A. Kind, Richard E. Kind, William C. Kind, John W. Kohl, Douglas F. Kydd, Dennis W. Lamb, Dennis J. Lessard, Vernon McDannald, Stephen J. Miller, John P. Munro, John E. Oakley Sr, William C. Orr, David R. Palmateer, Reginald P. Parker, John T. Rogers, John F. Ruggles, Eric A. Schaffer, Kevin P. Schaffer, Barre L. Shepp Jr., Jay Simmons, Donald A. Strachota Jr., Charles (Chuck) W. Stuller, David A. Swanson PDC, PCC; Don A. Thompson, David A. Turner, David T. Vessels, William C. Vessels, Zander Vessels, George W. White, and Jessie R. Woods.





Department of the Southwest  
Sons of Union Veterans of the  
Civil War



Brothers of Picacho Peak Camp #1

Re: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Picacho Peak Camp #1

Brothers,

On behalf of the entire Department of the Southwest, I extend hearty congratulations to the Brothers of Picacho Peak Camp #1 on their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Without the leadership of Larry Fuller, PCC, in organizing the Camp and serving as its Commander in its infancy, we would not be able to celebrate this important milestone. The Camp is fortunate to have Commanders, Officers and Brothers—all committed to the purpose and objects of the SUVCW—which, over the years, have aided to its stability and growth. The success of the Camp led to the ability to spin off General RHG Minty Camp #2 and General US Grant Camp #3 and then form the Department of the Southwest. The Camp has also sponsored the Picacho Peak Auxiliary #1.

The continued quarterly meetings of Picacho Peak Camp #1 with their educational presentations; Eagle Scout, JROTC, GAR history, and GRO programs; and honoring our ancestors and all veterans have served as the model for the other Camps and the entire Department.

You have a lot to be proud of paving the way to where we are today. May your next 25 years enjoy continued growth, participation, and contribution to the Department, the SUVCW, veterans, and the community!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

John R. Conrad, Department Commander



31 March 2021

Brothers of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1

It is with great pleasure that the Sisters of Margaret Warner Wood AZ #1, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, congratulate the Brothers of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 for reaching the milestone anniversary of twenty-five years as a Camp. You have been the leader in establishing the Department of the Southwest in addition to the other Camps in Arizona.

The outstanding dedication of the Brothers who stepped up and became officers to lead this Camp is admirable. Your continued advancements in membership have made the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War a vibrant and active organization.

Because we share the principles of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty which was created by your predecessor, the GAR, we applaud you for your dedication and an example to the other Camps and the Department of the Southwest.

The Sisters share your success and are at your side as your organization moves forward for many years.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Ginger Trokey  
Margaret Warner Wood  
Tent President  
DUVCW, 1861-1865



Picacho Peak Auxiliary No.1

On behalf of members of Picacho Peak Auxiliary No. 1, I wish to congratulate Commander Hooker and the officers and members of Camp Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 on the occasion of the silver anniversary of your camp and the grand record of your work during the twenty-five years of its history.

The brothers of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 were the first to recognize and promote fraternal relations between all of the Allied Orders in Arizona. What began in August 2012 as the first meeting between the only two Union Civil War organizations in Arizona, Camp Picacho Peak No. 1 and Margaret Warner Wood DUCVW Tent No. 1, has grown to be an annual event that includes all 5 Allied Orders. It was your vision and leadership that led to the founding of the very first Auxiliary to the SUVCW in Arizona in 2014. It has been our honor and pleasure to work with you.

We congratulate your leadership in establishing the two camps necessary to form the Department of the Southwest when it would've been easier to follow National's recommendation to join the Department of California. Job well done brothers! May you have a hundred more years of success and growth within the Department of the Southwest.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

Verna Maleski  
President Picacho Peak Auxiliary No.1

### Happy 25th Anniversary

May 11, 1996. I can't remember what I was specifically doing that day, but at that time I was living in my sister's basement in the south Chicago suburbs while working on my college degree. I didn't know that much about Civil War History at the time, but I did know that my family had been intertwined in that history in a significant way, and I since have been excited to hear about other's family histories and experiences related to the Civil War. I didn't know that I would be involved in the history of this specific Camp, Picacho Peak Camp #1, which was launched on that day in 1996. At that point in my life, I had never even been to Arizona! A lot can change over the course of 25 years.

During the years, my Brothers in the Camp have done a fantastic job of keeping the memories of the boys in blue alive. The camp's meetings and activities are well-attended and the Brothers of the Order are engaged and eager to take on the challenges going forward. I appreciate all that has been accomplished before and look forward to the new things to come.

So thanks to all of the Brothers past, present or future of the SUVCW Picacho Peak Camp #1, and enjoy a well-deserved Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Here's hoping for at least 25 more.

Kenneth J Hooker

Camp Commander, Picacho Peak Camp #1



To the Brothers of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1

On behalf of all the members of the Gen. R.H.G. Minty Camp No. 2, I wish to express our heartfelt congratulations to Commander Hooker and all the officers and brothers of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 for reaching the milestone anniversary of 25 years. We thank you for "leading the way" in the establishment of the Department of the Southwest and its other constituent camps. Over this quarter of a century of existence, the succession of outstanding, dedicated officer cadre and membership rolls has established your camp as a vibrant and active organization. Your camp serves as a model of excellence worthy of emulation by our camp or any other camp of the SUVCW.

Your camp exemplifies the principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty which have been the hallmark of the SUVCW and its predecessor organization, the GAR, for 155 years. Doubtless, with the blessings of the Almighty, the Picacho Peak Camp will continue to thrive and remain a most exemplary organization for many years ahead.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Robert B. Irwin

Commander, Gen. R.H.G. Minty Camp No. 2



To the Brothers of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1

From your Camp of Brothers up North, congratulations to you Commander Hooker and the Brothers of the Camp on your 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Your Camp was the starting point for where we are today. You helped in the formation of a Tucson Camp to the South and then in 2015 the formation of our Flagstaff Camp to the North. The Picacho Peak Camp is the "Genesis" for the Southwest. Your Brothers have and continue to help the other Arizona Camps but now are also trying to help in forming a Camp in New Mexico.

We in Camp Grant appreciate all your help and wish nothing but the best for a great 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

Wm Smith, Commander, Gen. US Grant Camp No.3



## Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 Celebrates its 25th Anniversary Chartered May 11, 1996

Picacho Peak Camp No. 1, Camp-at-Large, was officially chartered on May 11, 1996, and remained the only Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp in Arizona until 2015, when two other Camps-at-Large were formed (the General R.H.G. Minty Camp No. 2 in Tucson and the General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 in Flagstaff).

On December 3, 2015, all three Camps lost their “at-large” designation with the chartering of the Department of the Southwest which they now compose.

### Camp History

By David Swanson, PCC, Camp Historian

In 1995 Larry Fuller contacted the SUVCW and began organizing the Camp.

The “Camp Organizers” report stated in part that a Sons of Union Veterans Camp was organized in Arizona on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 1995, at Phoenix, with seven members. The form was dated September 20, 1995, and signed by Larry Fuller, Camp Organizer.

Seven signatures were affixed to the report as follows:

Richard Graffin  
Dan Zwiener  
John R. Coon  
Bill Caldwell  
Allen Murphy  
Stephen Lauren  
Larry Fuller

The report lists the following officers:

Commander: Larry Fuller  
Senior Vice-Commander: Robert Bohannon  
Chaplain: Allen Murphy  
Secretary: Dan Zwiener  
Treasurer: John Coon

### The Charter finally arrives

The Camp received its physical charter sometime in September of 1996 “With rank from May 11, 1996.” Then Commander in Chief Alan R. Loomis signed the document on September 20, 1996, so apparently there was quite a bit of lag time involved from the official rank date to actually getting a charter signed and delivered!

The following twenty-two Camp Brothers were listed on the charter:

Robert Baxter  
Jerry Bloom  
Robert Bohannon  
Duane Branson  
Dwight Branson  
Phillip Branson  
Christopher Branson  
William Caldwell  
John Coon  
Richard DeVoe  
Christopher Friend  
Larry Fuller  
Richard Graffin  
Manley Hawks  
Daniel Leone  
Jerry McKenzie  
Allen Murphy  
John Oakley  
William Parks III  
Michael Pierce  
Robert Richards  
Daniel Zwiener

As of this writing two of the original twenty-two Charter Brothers are still members of the Camp (both are SUVCW Life Members):

**Jerry Bloom and John Oakley Sr.**



First Camp Officers 1996-1997

(Left to right) Camp Commander Larry Fuller, Chaplain Allan Murphy, Secretary Don Zwiener, and Treasurer John Coon

## Camp Officers over the years

1996-1997

Camp Commander Larry Fuller, Senior Vice Commander Robert E. Bohannon Jr., Secretary Don Zwiener, Treasurer John Coon, Chaplain Allan Murphy.

1997-1998

Camp Commander Larry Fuller, Senior Vice Commander Robert Bohannon, Treasurer John Coon, Secretary Daniel C. Zwiener, Historian Robert Hannan, Camp Council: Richard Graffin, Jerry McKenzie Michael Pierce, Chaplain Robert Baxter, Newsletter Editor Daniel Gray.

1998-1999

Camp Commander Larry Fuller, Senior Vice Commander Robert Bohannon, Secretary Jerry McKenzie, Treasurer John Coon, Chaplain Robert Baxter, Historian Bob Hannan (No other data available.)

1999-2000

Camp Commander Larry Fuller, Senior Vice Commander Robert Bohannon, Junior Vice Commander none, Secretary Jerry McKenzie, Treasurer John Coon, Camp Council Dick Graffin, Chaplain Robert Baxter, Camp Historian Bob Hannan

2000-2001

Camp Commander Larry Fuller, Senior Vice Commander Robert Bohannon, Secretary Jerry McKenzie, Treasurer John Coon, Chaplain Bob Baxter, Historian Bob Hannan (No other data available.)

2001-2002

Camp Commander Larry Fuller, Senior Vice Commander Robert Bohannon, Junior Vice Commander unknown, Secretary Jerry McKenzie, Treasurer John Coon, Camp Council Jerry Bloom, Dick Graffin, and David Swanson, Chaplain, Bob Baxter, Historian Bob Hannan.

2002-2003

Commander Larry Fuller, Senior Vice Commander Robert Bohannon, Junior Vice Commander David Swanson, Secretary Jerry McKenzie, Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Dick Graffin, Jim Greaves, Bob Young, Chaplain Robert Baxter, Historian Robert Hannan, Graves Registration Duane Branson.

2003-2004

Commander David Swanson, Senior Vice Commander Robert Bohannon, Junior Vice Commander Larry Fuller, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Dick Graffin, Jim Greaves, H. Robert (Bob) Young, Chaplain, Robert Hannan, Patriotic Instructor Duane Branson, Historian, Robert Hannan, Graves Registration Jerry McKenzie.

2004-2005

Commander David Swanson, Senior Vice Commander Bob Hannan, Junior Vice Commander Larry Fuller, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Dick Graffin, Jim Greaves, Bob Young, Chaplain, Bob Hannan, Patriotic Instructor Duane Branson, Historian, Bob Hannan, Graves Registration Jerry McKenzie, Eagle Scout Coordinator: John R. Conrad.

2005-2006

Commander David Swanson, Senior Vice Commander Bob Hannan, Junior Vice Commander Larry Fuller, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Dick Graffin, Jim Greaves, Bob Young, Chaplain, Bob Hannon, Historian, Bob Hannan, Graves Registration Jerry McKenzie, Eagle Scout Coordinator: John R. Conrad.

2006-2007

Commander Robert Hannan, Senior Vice Commander None, Junior Vice Commander John R. Conrad, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Jim Greaves, Bob Young, David Swanson, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Eagle Scout Coordinator: John R. Conrad, Signals Officer Nathan Cups, Color Bearer Ron Jones.

2007-2008

Commander Robert Hannan, Senior Vice Commander John Conrad, Junior Vice Commander Michael Moore, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Bob Young, David Swanson, Rick Cups, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Eagle Scout Coordinator: John R. Conrad, Signals Officer Nathan Cups, Graves Registration Jan Huber, Color Bearer Ron Jones.

2008-2009

Commander John R. Conrad, Senior Vice Commander David A. Swanson, Junior Vice Commander Zander Vessels, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Bob Young, Bob Hannon, Rick Cups, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Patriotic Instructor Dave Kampf, Eagle Scout Coordinator: John R. Conrad, Signals Officer Nathan Cups, Counselor Larry Fuller, Civil War Memorials Officer David Swanson, Historian Bob Hannan, Graves Registration Jan Huber, Color Bearer Ron Jones, Guard Bob Young, Guide David Vessels.

2009-2010

Commander John R. Conrad, Senior Vice Commander David A. Swanson, Junior Vice Commander Zander Vessels, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Bob Young, Bob Hannan, Rick Cups, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Patriotic Instructor Dave Kampf, Eagle Scout Coordinator: John R. Conrad, Signals Officer Nathan Cups, Counselor Larry Fuller, Civil War Memorials Officer David Swanson, Historian Bob Hannan, Graves Registration Jan Huber, Color Bearer Ron Jones, Guard Bob Young, Guide David Vessels



2010-2011

Commander John R. Conrad, Senior Vice Commander David A. Swanson, Junior Vice Commander Zander Vessels, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Mark Haynes, Bob Hannan, Rick Cups, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Patriotic Instructor Dave Kampf, Eagle Scout Coordinator: Zander Vessels, Signals Officer Nathan Cups, Counselor John Wanzel, Civil War Memorials Officer David Swanson, Historian Bob Hannon, Graves Registration Jan Huber, Color Bearer Ron Jones, Guard Bob Young, Guide David Vessels.

2011-2012

Commander David A. Swanson. Senior Vice Commander John R. Conrad, Junior Vice Commander James M. Heller, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Mark Haynes, Don Strachota Jr., Bob Young, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Patriotic Instructor Dave Kampf, Eagle Scout Coordinator: John Wanzel, Signals Officer Will Vessels, Counselor John Wanzel, Civil War Memorials Officer David Swanson, Historian Bob Hannon, Graves Registration Jan Huber, Color Bearer Ron Jones, Guard Bob Young, Guide David Vessels.

2012-2013

Commander David A. Swanson. Senior Vice Commander John R. Conrad, Junior Vice Commander James M. Heller, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Mark Haynes, Don Strachota, Bob Young, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Patriotic Instructor Dave Kampf, Eagle Scout Coordinator Dennis Lamb, Signals Officer Will Vessels, Counselor Bob Young, Civil War Memorials Officer David Swanson, Historian Michael Moore, Graves Registration Jan Huber, Color Bearer Ron Jones, Guard Bob Young, Guide David Vessels.

2013-2014

Commander David A. Swanson. Senior Vice Commander John R. Conrad, Junior Vice Commander James M. Heller, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Mark Haynes, Don Strachota Jr., Bob Young, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Patriotic Instructor Dave Kampf, Eagle Scout Coordinator Dennis Lamb, Signals Officer Will Vessels, Counselor Bob Young, Civil War Memorials Officer David Swanson, Historian Michael Moore, Graves Registration Jan Huber, Color Bearer Ron Jones, Guard Bob Young, Guide David Vessels.

2014-2015

Commander John R. Conrad, Senior Vice Commander Jerry Bloom, Junior Vice Commander James M. Heller, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council Ron Jones, Don Strachota, David Palmateer, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Donald Strachota, Chaplain, Mark

Haynes, Patriotic Instructor Robert Massey, Eagle Scout Coordinator Dennis Lamb, Counselor Bob Young, Civil War Memorials Officer David Swanson, Graves Registration Jan Huber, Color Bearer Ron Jones, Guard Al Harrica, Guide Christopher Beisner.

2015-2016

Commander Gerald N. Bloom, Senior Vice Commander James Heller, Junior Vice Commander David R. Palmateer, Secretary/Treasurer David Swanson, Camp Council John Conrad, Don Strachota, William Hearer Jr., Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Donald Strachota, Signals Officer Jeffrey D. Burgess, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Patriotic Instructor Robert Massey, Eagle Scout Coordinator Dennis Lamb, Counselor Bob Young, Civil War Memorials Officer David Swanson, Graves Registration Jan Huber, Color Bearer David Vessels, Guard Al Harrica, Guide Christopher Beisner.

2016-2017

Commander James M. Heller, Senior Vice Commander David R. Palmateer, Junior Vice Commander William R. Hearer Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council John Conrad, Don Strachota, Christopher Beisner, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Donald Strachota, Chaplain, Mark Haynes, Patriotic Instructor Allen Nash, Historian David Swanson, Counselor Jan Huber, Color Bearer David Vessels, Guard Al Harrica, Guide Christopher Beisner.

2017-2018

Commander James M. Heller, Senior Vice Commander Jeffrey Burgess, Junior Vice Commander George White, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council John Conrad, Don Strachota, Christopher Beisner, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Donald Strachota, Chaplain, Barre Shepp, Patriotic Instructor Allen Nash, Historian David Swanson, Counselor Jan Huber, Color Bearer David Vessels, Guard Al Harrica, Guide Christopher Beisner.

2018-2019

Commander Jeffrey D. Burgess, Senior Vice Commander George White, Junior Vice Commander Christopher Beisner, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council John Conrad, David Swanson, Kenneth Hooker, Patriotic Instructor Allen Nash, Chaplain Jim Heller, Historian David Swanson, Counselor Jan Huber, Guard Al Harrica, Guide Dan Huskisson.

2019-2020

Commander Jeffrey D. Burgess, Senior Vice Commander George White, Junior Vice Commander Todd Hoffay, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council John Conrad, David Swanson, Kenneth Hooker, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Ronald Gray Patriotic Instructor John Conrad, Chaplain Jim Heller, Historian David Swanson, Counselor Jan Huber, Guard David Kampf, Guide Dan Huskisson.

2020-2021

Commander Kenneth Hooker, Senior Vice Commander Todd Hoffay, Junior Vice Commander Jim Heller, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Camp Council John Conrad, David Swanson, Jeffrey Burgess, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Ronald Gray, Patriotic Instructor John Conrad, Chaplain Jim Heller, Historian David Swanson, Counselor Jan Huber, Guard David Kampf, Color Bearer David Vessels, Guide Dan Huskisson.

Note: Brother David Swanson wrote the Camp newsletters from 2003-2015 and the May 2021 edition.

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### Notable Events

The following is a just a sample of the events that have taken place in the life of Picacho Peak Camp. Far much more information is contained in the newsletters that are available from the Historian or on the Department of the Southwest website: <https://suvchw-southwest.org>

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**August 14, 2002—First summer Camp meeting.** From its inception the Camp met during the months of February, May, and November since it was felt that there wouldn't be enough interest in a summer meeting but the August meeting at Coco's Restaurant in Phoenix put that notion to rest with attendance of 28 Brothers, wives and guests.

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### November 19, 2005—Last Union Civil War Soldier buried in Arizona ceremony

Parker Louis Gordon, great-great grandfather of Camp Brother Richard McNeil was designated by our Camp as the last Union Civil War soldier to be buried in Arizona. "Brothers voted to pay \$575.00 from our treasury to have engraving done on his crypt. This will consist of an engraving of "Arizona's Last Union Civil War Soldier."

The ceremony for Pvt. Parker Louis Gordon, Arizona's Last Union Civil War Soldier was held on November 19, 2005, at the Greenwood Cemetery, Phoenix, AZ.



From left to right in front of crypt: Janice Swanson, Camp Commander David Swanson, Brother Richard McNeil, his wife Jamie and his sister Susan Cheyney. Honor Guards Al Harrica and Dave Kampf also pictured

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### March 30, 2008—GAR Marker Ceremony

On March 30, 2008, three soldiers buried in the Phoenix Pioneer Military & Military Park, 1100 W. Jefferson, Phoenix were marked with GAR grave markers by the Camp. Captain John W. Owen (for whom the John W. Owen GAR Post No. 5 in Phoenix was named), Private Charles H. Knapp, first Post Commander, and Major Edward Schwartz who was very instrumental in the Department of Arizona and the Post.



Gravesite of Captain John W. Owen



Gravesite of Private Charles H. Knapp



Gravesite of Major Ed Schwarz



(L-R) Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber, Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom and Camp Commander Bob Hannan conducting the ceremony

adapted version of the GAR 1917 headstone dedication service, for Private Ambrose Skinner at the Greenwood Memory Lawn Cemetery in Phoenix, Arizona. Members of the Arizona Civil War Council and the Southwest Civil War Association also participated.

Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett, Diana McClinnon (Skinner's Great-great granddaughter) and the general public attended the event which made headline news in the Valley & State section of the *Arizona Republic* newspaper and was broadcast by a local TV news program.

Ambrose Skinner enlisted in Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, North Carolina Colored Infantry in August 1863, later serving in Company B of the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment (later known as the Buffalo Soldiers) and was discharged in 1874. He lay in an unmarked grave in the cemetery and Picacho Peak Camp Graves Registration Officer Jan D. Huber did an outstanding job obtaining information regarding Pvt Skinner, ordering the military headstone, and coordinating the event with numerous organizations.



Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett and Diane McClinnon



Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber

**February 12, 2013, Civil War and Buffalo Soldier Ambrose Skinner headstone dedication ceremony**

On Saturday, February 2, 2013, Picacho Peak Camp No. 1, Arizona Camp-at-Large, along with the Buffalo Soldiers of the Territory of Arizona and Daughters from the Margaret Warner Wood Tent No. 1 DUVCW, conducted a headstone dedication ceremony, using the

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Headstone and grave of Private Ambrose Skinner



Camp Brothers in attendance



Camp Commander Swanson addressing the audience



Brother Jan Huber bugling "Taps"



Verna Maleski, President of the Margaret Warner Wood Tent No. 1 addressing the audience



Ceremonial guards L-R Brother David Kampf and Buffalo Soldier Commander Fred Marable



**First joint Meeting of the Camp and the Margaret Warner Wood Tent No. 1—August 24, 2013**

Camp Commander David Swanson and Tent President Verna Maleski called the first joint meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. with 34 Brothers, Sisters and guests in attendance.

Senior Vice Commander John Conrad, as the Department-at-Large Delegate to the 132nd Annual Encampment, gave a very comprehensive overview of the activities.

First joint meeting—continued



Camp Commander David Swanson and Tent President Verna Maleski



Senior Vice Commander John Conrad



Nice turnout!

### State of Arizona World War II Memorial Dedication Service and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 7, 2013

Camp Picacho Brothers Al Harrica, David Kampf, and David Swanson along with Sisters Verna Maleski, Maura Mackowski, Barbra Metzger, and Michelle Geris from the Margaret Warner Wood Tent No. 1 DUVCW Attended the WWII Memorial Dedication service and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremonies held at the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza on a cold December 7, 2013.

Under the direction of Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett the only remaining 14-inch gun barrel of the USS Arizona and one of only seven remaining gun barrels of the USS Missouri are serving as bookends to the war and a beautiful monument to our World War II Veterans.

In order to finance this three year undertaking the sale of bricks was undertaken and our Camp purchased one—now under the USS Missouri barrel.



Braving the cold Phoenix morning are L-R Barbara Metzger, Al Harrica, Maura MacKowski, and Verna Maleski

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Brother Al Harrica

**Picacho Peak Auxiliary No. 1 receives its charter—officers installed—August 23, 2014**

During the second annual meeting of the Camp and the Margaret Warner Wood Tent No. 1, a very special event took place and that was the installation of Charter Officers for the newly formed Picacho Peak Auxiliary No. 1. Camp Commander John Conrad introduced Sisters Rachelle Campbell, ASUVCW National President, Tricia Bures, ASUVCW National Secretary, and her husband Brother Loren Bures, SUVCW National Camp-at-Large and Department Organizer. There were 60 people in attendance.



Sisters present at ceremony:

Front row (L-R) Barbara Metzger, Beverly Brooks, Paua Vessels. Back row (L-R) Maura MacKowski, Susan Burke, Dr. Geri Morgan, Verna Maleski, Rachelle Campbell, and Tricia Bures

Charter officers installed: Barbara Metzger, President; Verna Maleski, Vice President; Susan Burke, Trustee; Maura MacKowski, Patriotic Instructor; Beverly Brooks, Guide; and Paula Vessels, Secretary/Treasurer

For much more information of this historic event see the October 24, 2014, edition of the Picacho Peak newsletter.

**Memorial Day**

Since its inception our Brothers of our Camp have followed the command contained in the SUVCW Installation ceremony: “[T]o always observe the day set aside by the Grand Army of the Republic as Memorial Day, sacred to the memory of the Union Soldiers Sailors and Marines of 1861 to 1865. . .” Sometimes these were done individually or by formal Camp attendance.

Our first formal attendance began on (as far as records show) in 2003 when “Brother Al Harrica, provided information about the Memorial Day celebration which will be held at the Pioneer Cemetery on Monday the 26th. He, along with Bro. Larry Fuller and Bro. Jerry McKenzie will represent our Camp. This is an issue that will more fully involve our Camp in the next and succeeding years.” Camp Brothers attended Memorial Day services at Pioneer Cemetery and Military Park, 1313 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, on every Memorial Day since. Below are some of the activities:

2007—The 24th Annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony held at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park was a very fitting ceremony to our fallen veterans. Camp Brothers present at the cemetery were: Commander Bob Hannan (in uniform), Bob Baxter, Al Harrica (in uniform with the 1st New Mexico Civil War Assoc.) and Dave Kampf (in uniform with the Arizona Civil War Council), Past Camp Commander David Swanson.



Brother Dave Kampf (AZ Republic may 2007)

2008—The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Memorial Day ceremony held at the Phoenix Pioneer & Memorial Military Park and Cemetery, on May 26. Camp Commander Bob Hannan gave a presentation regarding the Sons of Union Veterans and our Camp Graves Registrations Officer, Jan Huber, played taps. Both were in uniform.

2011—Camp information booth set up—thanks to Brothers Jan Huber, Jerry Bloom, Jim Heller and John Wanzel for manning our information booth. Brother Jan Huber who played “Taps” and Brother David Swanson, who gave a brief history of Memorial Day, read the Gettysburg Address and talked about its significance in 2011.



(L-R) CC David Swanson, JVC Jim Heller, and Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom

2013—Once again, Camp Commander David Swanson was invited to speak on behalf of our Camp and the SUVCW about the significance of President Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address to the county during the Civil War and how it relates to our current military service men and women. As in the past our Camp set up an information table which was manned by Brother Ron Jones. Brother Jan Huber bugled “Taps” which was very fitting for the ceremony.



Brother Ron Jones manning the booth



Brother Jan Huber

2016—Picacho Peak Camp Brothers attended the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park in Phoenix. Department of the Southwest Commander (and Picacho Peak Brother) John Conrad recited the Gettysburg Address and Brother Jan Huber played “Taps” on the bugle for the event.



Department Commander John Conrad

2017— Brothers attending: Department Commander David Swanson, Camp Commander Jim Heller and Brothers Jerry Bloom, George White, Dan Huskisson Mark Doolittle, Jan Huber, and David Kampf. Brothers Bloom and Heller manned the information table along with Sisters from the Picacho Peak Auxiliary and the Margaret Warner Wood Tent DUVCW.

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Department Commander David Swanson



Camp Commander Jim Heller



(L-R) Brothers Dan Huskisson, Jerry Bloom, CC Jim Heller, Picacho Peak Auxiliary S/T Rachel Peak, President Verna Maleski, Maura Mackowski, Margaret Warner Wood Tent DUVCW

2018—This year marked the first time that all 5 Allied Orders participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at the National Cemetery in Phoenix. Picacho Peak Camp Junior Vice Commander George White joined the Auxiliary, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women's Relief Corps and Margaret Warner Wood DUVCW so that all 5 Orders would be present.

2019—Department Commander Jerry Bloom gave the annual Gettysburg Address at the Pioneer & Military park to those present at the Memorial Day celebration. Other Brothers present were Jim Heller, Jan Huber, David Kampf and Dan Huskisson.



Department Commander Jerry Bloom

Allied Orders also in attendance



(L-R) Sisters Maura Mackowski, Picacho Peak Auxiliary; Sunny McMahan, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic; Bunny Reynolds, Suzie Taylor King No. 4 Woman's Relief Corps, an Ginger Trokey, Margaret Warner Wood Tent No. 1 DUVCW

2020—No Memorial Day ceremonies statewide due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is just a sample of the many activities that the Picacho Peak Camp was involved in—Happy 25th Anniversary and here is to another 25 years and many more!

—David A. Swanson, PCC, Camp Historian