



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR PICACHO PEAK CAMP #1 ARIZONA CAMP-at-LARGE



CAMP NEWSLETTER



April 2006

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2006 MEETING

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

The Winter Camp meeting was called to order at noon by Camp Commander David Swanson. In attendance were 24 Brothers, wives and guests.

First on the agenda was a recommended revision to our Camp By-laws regarding the procedures to drop a member for non payment of annual dues. Our current by-laws state that "dues are required and payable by the February Camp meeting and if not paid before the May meeting a late fee of \$5.00 will be assessed. A member who is five months in arrears of payment may be dropped by a vote of the Camp."

Several years ago, the SUVCW went to an annual reporting system and the annual report for the previous year (which also includes the first quarter of the new year) is due before April 30th. Our Camp must pay a per capita tax on all of its current members at \$18.00 per person (excluding Junior members).

What this now means is, we pay the tax on members who are in arrears of their annual dues and hope that they renew; some do, some don't.

The by-law revision now states that members who do not renew their annual dues before March 31 will be automatically dropped from our Camp rolls (which means they are no longer members of our Camp or the SUVCW). Once dropped they can be reinstated upon paying the full years dues and a \$5.00 reinstatement fee.

Notices for annual dues are placed in each October and January newsletter. If dues are not received on

or before the February meeting, those in arrears are contacted before being dropped. Once dropped they are so notified along with information on reinstatement.

The by-law revisions were approved by the Brothers present at the February 2006 meeting.

The second item was notification of a joint Camp meeting in November with the Margaret Warner Tent of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The Daughters were invited to the joint meeting and were enthusiastic in their acceptance.

We are the only SUVCW Camp in the state and they are the only DUVCW Tent in the state. It will be nice to get to know each other and work toward our mutual goals of "commemorating our father's deeds; to render loyal service to our Country and to promote the maintenance of unqualified American citizenship with respect for and honor to the flag."

The meeting will take place at Coco's on our scheduled November 18th meeting.

New Camp Brothers

During the first quarter of 2006, three new Brothers joined our Camp: **Joseph D. Rose** from Tucson: ancestor James D. Haworth, Co H, 33 Iowa Infantry; **Mark F. Swanson** from Phoenix: ancestor Oscar F. Foote, Co G, 7th PA Vol. Cavalry and **Lynn Crawford** from Tucson: ancestor Adam Eby, 54th Indiana Infantry.

Welcome!!!

CAMP MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2006; see page seven for details.

The Second Inaugural Address

By David Swanson

Most of us have read Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. Other than the phrase "with malice toward none; with charity for all," can we even remember what the speech entailed?

Abraham Lincoln considered this address to be his finest speech

As Ronald C. White Jr. states in his book *Lincoln's Greatest Speech, The Second Inaugural*: "Abraham Lincoln considered his Second Inaugural Address to be his greatest speech! With his death [forty-one days later], the words of the Second Inaugural quickly took on new meaning. It now represented the central part of Lincoln's unfinished legacy. As people looked back to that brisk March day, Lincoln's words were understood as his last will and testament to America. The religious cast of the Second Inaugural gave it a power and authority that were singular."

I recommend to all, in the strongest terms, get a copy of White's book and read it; this is must reading for anyone interested in Lincoln or the Civil War.

Also, notice if you will, Lincoln's statements relating to the cause of the war—slavery; and notice that the *cause* is not couched in the politically correct mantra of "states rights."

[Fellow Countrymen:]

March 5, 1865

At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued, seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention, and engrossed the energies [sic] of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself; and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil-war. All dreaded it—all sought to

avert it. While the inaugural [sic] address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to *saving* the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to *destroy* it without war—seeking to dissol[v]e the Union, and divide effects, by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would *make* war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would *accept* war rather than let it perish. And the war came.

One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war, the magnitude, or the duration, which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the *cause* of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope—ferently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether."

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With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

[Endorsement]

The Capture of Orin Wilson, Bugler Co. G, 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry

By David A. Swanson

In the January 2005 issue of our Camp newsletter, I wrote an article regarding the shooting and subsequent death of my great-great uncle, Orin Wilson. This occurred on August 18, 1864, during Sherman's March to Atlanta.

Several years before his death, while with the 7th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry in Middle Tennessee, he was captured while with a scouting party on June 7, 1862.

Thomas F. Dornblaster, assigned to Company E, 7th Penna. Cavalry, noted the capture in his book *Saber Strokes in the War*. He wrote in part: "We have just returned from a two weeks' expedition in Eastern Tenn. Our battalion started from Nashville with two regiments of infantry and two sections of artillery. At Murfreesboro we were joined by two additional regiments of infantry, the First and Fourth Kentucky Cavalry, and a battery of artillery. The entire force was estimated at 4,000. We led the advance from Murfreesboro, toward McMinnville, where the enemy was reported in force and strongly entrenched. Three hundred of Forrest's Cavalry had been at Readsville, twelve miles east of Murfreesboro, a few days before, where they captured 52 prisoners and killed 3 of our men. Twenty-three of the prisoners were members of the Third Battalion of our regiment [this included Orin Wilson.] The captured party had been on a scout, they were on their way back with a number of prisoners. At Readsville, they stopped to breakfast and while thus engaged the enemy surrounded them."

I sometimes wonder what Orin's involvement in this incident was. What actions did he take? Did he actively fight or did he, with a mouth full of McDonalds Egg McMuffin, just give up?

Orin's war records show he was taken prisoner at *Readyville*, Tenn., on June 7, 1862, by Col. Starnes, CSA. About two and a half months later, on August 25, 1862, he was paroled at McMinnville, Tenn.

His war records for the period of June 1862 through February 1863 state that he was absent from the company because he was a "prisoner of war and not yet reported as exchanged." He was sent to Alexandria, VA on November 18, 1862, and reported back to his company on March 10, 1863. Orin was shot at Red Oak Church, Georgia on August 18, 1864, and died the next day.

Union Parolees and Prisoner of War Camps.

Parole. We all know what happened to parolees; they were prohibited from taking up arms until they were exchanged. But where did these guys go until exchanged? Home? Back to their regiment? The French Riviera?

The Union ran prisoner of war camps for Confederate prisoners and the Confederates ran prisoner of war camps for Union prisoners but what happened to Union or Confederate parolees who were released to their own armies? In many cases they went to their own prisoner of war camps (especially Union parolees) such as Camp Parole in Annapolis, Maryland. These camps were prisoner of war camps in the truest sense.

A marker, dedicated on 9/27/03 at Annapolis, Maryland, noting the location of Camp Parole states:

CAMP PAROLE
LOCATED IN THIS VICINITY, ONE OF THREE
CAMPS ESTABLISHED DURING THE CIVIL WAR
TO ACCEPT PAROLED UNION PRISONERS OF WAR
UNTIL THEY WERE EXCHANGED FOR
CONFEDERATE PRISONERS SIMILARLY
CONFINED IN THE SOUTH. OVER THE COURSE OF
THE WAR, THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS WERE
HELD HERE UNTIL THEY WERE RETURNED TO
THEIR REGIMENTS OR SENT HOME. MANY WHO
DID NOT SURVIVE ARE BURIED IN ANNAPOLIS
NATIONAL CEMETERY.

The following, taken from the pa-roots.com website, succinctly outlines "parole" and Camp Parole:

"Parole is a French term meaning *word*. In the days of formal warfare, it was customary to exchange prisoners of war by a complex formula of numbers and relative rank. Often, to avoid being burdened

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with large parties of prisoners, forces in the field would parole them; that is, release them to go home on oath not to perform any military service until exchanged. Early in the Civil War, it was discovered that many paroled men would disappear into the civilian population, not to be found when ready for exchange. So keeping them under military control until exchanged and returned to their units became imperative.

A camp of instruction for 50,000 men was established near Annapolis by War Department General Order No 59, dated June 5, 1862. Before any progress could be made on this project, it was changed by General Order No., 72, dated June 28, 1862, to a camp for paroled prisoners from New England and the Middle States. By the end of July this camp was being referred to in official correspondence as Camp Parole.

At first the camp for paroled Federal prisoners was established on the St. John's College campus. Prisoners were brought up the Chesapeake Bay to Annapolis by the steamer, New York, in groups as large as 6,000. . . The eight wooden barracks which had been erected on the campus, each meant to house 150 men, soon proved to be woefully inadequate. The land appears not to have been carefully chosen, rendering parts of it uninhabitable in bad weather. Hospital facilities and the camp guard were inadequate and remained so, despite desperate pleas to Washington by the commander. Men lived in tents, huts they built for themselves with lumber stolen from public buildings, and a few hastily erected wooden barracks. The camp population varied from 2,000 to more than 15,000 at any one time.

On May 1, 1863, the Federal government signed a lease with Charles S. Welch and Ann Rebecca Welch, his wife, for the use of their 25—acre farm outside of Annapolis, at a rent of \$125.00 per month. By mid-December, 49 of the 83-authorized buildings were occupied, and Surgeon Pittinos claimed that the 168 bed hospital was totally inadequate for the 6570 men then in Camp Parole barracks, and suggested adding two more wards and a wash house.

Camp Parole was gradually transformed into a way station for paroled men and exchanged prisoners moving to their homes or to other camps. Many remained as hospital patients until they died or were able to travel. . .

Camp Parole was vacated by July 18, 1865”

Hospital Conditions at Camp Parole

Medical facilities for Union parolees held at Camp Parole apparently were not the best:



CAMP PAROLE, Annapolis, Md.,
November 6, 1862.

Colonel SANGSTER,
Commanding Paroled Prisoners.

SIR:

Permit me to call your attention to the inhuman practice of sending paroled prisoners to this camp while in a state of extreme debility, wounded, weakened by hard work, confinement in Southern prisons and diseases incidental to the parts they have come from. Some of them arrive in a moribund condition and are as it were carted here to be buried. These men you are aware arrive from all parts, are hurried out of the various hospitals in large numbers (and as the men say themselves "just to get quit of us") to report to this camp. I wish you to have this matter represented to the parties having authority and have it stopped. I am, colonel, yours, respectfully,

JAS. NORVAL.
Surgeon in Charge,
Seventy-ninth New York State Militia

[Endorsement.] Approved. The condition in which these men come to this camp is deplorable. Some come here in such a condition that we have to carry them on stretchers from the steam-boat and cars. All such men should be put in hospitals where there is every comfort and care that their cases need.

GEO. SANGSTER,
Lieut. Col. 47th New York State Militia,
Comdg. Paroled Prisoners

Sharpshooter

The following, taken from *Lincoln's War* by Geoffrey Perret, talks about *Sharpshooters*.

“[In 1861]...Hiram Berdan, a mechanical engineer was widely acclaimed as the best shot in North America. The weapon choice for Berdan was a single-shot [54 caliber paper cartridge] breechloader designed and manufactured shortly before the Civil War by Christian Sharp. It had proved itself in the guerrilla war that wracked Kansas in the late 1850's, during which an abolitionist preacher famously described the gun as having ‘more moral power. . .so far as the slaveholders are concerned than a hundred bibles.’

A Sharps could fire eight rounds a minute, was accurate to over five hundred yards and was sturdy enough for military use.

Berdan wanted to raise a regiment [which he eventually did] of men who, dressed in green and equipped with Sharps rifles, which would be known as the Sharpshooters.”

Can you imagine? In the 1850's there was a rifle that was accurate to over five hundred yards! With weapons like this, no wonder the use of Napoleonic tactics during the war was so devastating to the soldiers of both armies.

* * * * *

Camp Ancestor Information

The following was submitted by Brother Rick Cups:

Private Jacob Sheriff

Company F

5th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment (3 months)

April 20, 1861 – July 25, 1864

Battery E

5th United States Artillery Regiment

August 30, 1864 – June 30, 1865

Great-great granduncle of Rick and Don Cups

Great-great-great granduncle of Nathan Cups

Jacob Sheriff was born August 3, 1836 in Schuylkill or Berks County, Pennsylvania. His parents were Samuel and

Catherine Sheriff. When the war started, he was living in Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania.

When the war started, he quickly enlisted in Company F, 5th Pennsylvania Infantry. Most of the companies in the regiment were from Schuylkill or Alleghany Counties with Company F recruited in the town of Schuylkill Haven. This was a 3 month regiment and did not see any action.

The regiment's service was as follows, organized at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, April 20, 1861. Moved to Philadelphia April 22, then to Perryville and Annapolis, Md., April 23, and to Washington, D.C., April 27. At Alexandria, Va., May 28. Moved to Shutter's Hill June 3. Attached to McDowell's Army of Northeast Virginia. Duty at Alexandria until muster out. Mustered out July 25, 1861.

In the last year of the war he enlisted in the 5th United States Artillery as did a number of Schuylkill County men. This was a light artillery unit and its batteries were attached to different armies and saw service in many different theaters of the war. During the time he was with the unit, it was engaged in the siege of Petersburg and the Appomattox campaign.

The history of Battery E follows; organized May, 1862, and on duty at Fort Hamilton, N.Y. Harbor, until June, 1863. Ordered to Dept. of the Susquehanna, and duty in Pennsylvania until April, 1864. Ordered to Washington, and attached to 3rd Brigade, Artillery Reserve, Army Potomac, to May, 1864. Artillery Brigade, 6th Army Corps, Army Potomac, to July, 1864. Artillery Reserve, Army Potomac, to December, 1864. Artillery Brigade, 6th Army Corps, Army Potomac, to June, 1865.

After the war, he returned to Schuylkill Haven and married Sarah Reed. They had one child who died in 1867, before Sarah's death in 1869. His second wife, Sophia Tirper, died in 1871. He married his third wife, Rebecca Shappell, on November 19, 1871 and they had 5 children. He died on October 18, 1888, from injuries he received on the job as a repairman for the Reading Railroad and was buried in the Soldier's Plot of the Union Cemetery in Schuylkill Haven.

Thanks Rick. If any Brothers have information about their ancestors or the Civil War they would like to see published in a newsletter that will be seen by thousands of Civil War enthusiasts. . . well, maybe by 60 or so enthusiasts, send it to the editor!

Picacho Peak Camp Website Under Construction!

By Camp Commander David A. Swanson

Watch for our Camp's own Website! Brother **Nathan Cups** has generously donated his time and talent and is in the process of creating a website for us which will also be tied into the National SUVCW website. This will give us more web exposure for recruiting and will contain items such as SUVCW information, Camp information (meetings, etc.) and our newsletter. The site is: <http://suvchwaz.org> (just keep in mind, it is still under construction.)

I have appointed Brother Nathan Cups as our Camp's Signals Officer (which is the SUVCW title for our communications advisor and webmaster).



Memorial Day Ceremony at Pioneer & Military Memorial Park, 14th Ave & Jefferson, Phoenix.

Monday May 29, 2006, at 9:00 am

By Camp Commander David A. Swanson

General John A. Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic instituted Memorial Day on the 30th of May by his General Order NO. 11.

“... The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. . . . It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades.”

While the national observance date has changed from the 30th (the SUVCW is trying to change that), Memorial Day has been observed since then; not just for those who died in service to the Union, but for those who have died in the service of our country in any war.

As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is our responsibility to “. . . honor all who have patriotically served our country in any war. . . .” (Purpose and Objects of the SUVCW).

I urge you to fulfill this obligation by attending Memorial Day services with other Brothers of our Camp at the Pioneer & Military Park or attend services in your area of the state.

Camp Officers for 2006

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Newsletter Editor/Publisher

David A. Swanson

MEETING NOTICE

Our next Camp meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 20, 2006, at noon.**

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

All Brothers, wives and guests are invited to the Spring Meeting of our Camp.

Brother Paul Davis will be our guest speaker. . .don't miss his presentation!!

Lunch will be ordered from a menu specially prepared for us. There will be a choice of seven different entrees, so there will be something for everyone. The cost is \$16.09 per person which includes lunch, soft drinks, tea, coffee, and gratuity..

Please complete the form below and mail as indicated. (Remember, if for some reason you can't make the meeting, contact our Secretary/Treasurer and he will *cheerfully* refund your money.)

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS FORM

Name(s) _____

Luncheon Reservations: Number attending _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please complete this form and mail as indicated.

Make checks payable to: Picacho Peak Camp #1 SUVCW

Mail to:

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

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Picacho Peak Camp #1
Arizona Camp-at-Large
4851 E. Fernwood Court
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

First Class E-Mail



PLAN ON ATTENDING THE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
WITH YOUR CAMP BROTHERS AT THE PIONEER &
MILITARY MEMORIAL PARK
14TH Ave & JEFERSON, PHOENIX
MONDAY MAY 29, 2006 AT 9:00 AM