



# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

## PICACHO PEAK CAMP No. 1

### ARIZONA CAMP-at-LARGE



## CAMP NEWSLETTER



April 2011

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

### Minutes of the February 12, 2011, Camp meeting:

Location:  
Hometown Buffet  
1312 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, Az

Camp Commander David Swanson called the meeting to order at noon. There were 22 Brothers and guests in attendance.

Our meeting took place in the large meeting room which was a major improvement over the small one. This was the reason that we changed our meeting dates and it was well worth it.

*Brothers initiated:* Brothers **Bryan Zube, Robert E. Archibald Jr.,** and **Don Strachota** were initiated. Don has been an Associate member and was able to locate information regarding his Civil War ancestor.

#### Welcome Brothers!

*Camp By-law revisions:* Brothers present voted unanimously to revise three sections of our current Camp by-laws.

Article VIII Section 1 was revised to reflect the proration of Camp dues for new members which follows the National model. This prorated the annual dues for new members depending on which quarter they joined the Camp. As an example, under our old by-laws if somebody joined our Camp in December he was charged with the full Camp dues for that year and in January he was charged the full year again). The language regarding Camp and National dues for Brothers was also changed. Our Camp dues are \$13.00 per year (not changed) but rather than specifying a specific amount for national dues (per capita tax) it is added as a reference (we don't have to change our by-laws if that tax is increased or decreased.)

Article VIII Section 5, was revised to reflect a reinstatement fee of \$10 rather than \$5.00 as mandated by National.

Section VIII Section 6 was revised to eliminate the mandatory purchase of a member badge by new members. It also cleaned up language regarding initiation and application fees. This was necessary since the cost of items such as badges keeps rising and thus the cost to the new member.

*Meeting speaker:* Brother **John Conrad PCC** gave an outstanding presentation entitled: "The Blue and the Gray: the story of Jack Swilling." John has a gift when it comes to giving presentations and this one was no exception! Thank you John!

Brother **Jerry Bloom** summarized the speech as follows:

#### "THE BLUE AND THE GRAY" The Story of John W. "Jack" Swilling

"At our February meeting Past Commander John Conrad gave a very interesting and fascinating presentation on the life and times of John W. "Jack" Swilling - fabled founder of Phoenix, Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde, raucous rebel, respectable raconteur – you take your pick!

Jack was born on April Fool's Day 1830 in South Carolina. When he was 14, the family moved to Georgia and 3 years later Jack and his brother enlisted as mounted volunteers for service in the Mexican-American War.

After the war, the brothers returned home to Georgia and Jack dropped out of sight until Christmas 1849. In 1852, Jack married and a year later the couple had a daughter, Elizabeth. In 1854, in a bar fight, Jack suffered a serious head injury and a bullet lodged in his back. These injuries plagued him the rest of his life and he took morphine and alcohol on a regular basis to dull the pain. In 1856, on his birthday, Jack deserted his family and headed West. He became a teamster

and drove oxen wagon trains to Mesilla in the New Mexico territory.

In the following years, Jack was a teamster, prospector, miner, and mill owner and a saloon and dance hall owner. He also was a visionary, canal builder, farmer, rancher, politician, and public servant. Jack was a minuteman in the Confederate Army and after the Confederates left the Arizona territory, Jck seized the opportunity and became an aid to the Union Army.

In the midst of all his life's activities, Jack married a young Mexican woman and in 14 years had 7 natural children and adopted two Apache orphans, a boy and a girl.

Swilling was totally consumed with the development of a canal system based on the ancient ones location of the original canals and turned the Salt River Valley in an oasis – growing trees, grains and forage. Jack built a large home and showplace south of Van Buren Street between 32<sup>nd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Street.

Swilling became disenchanted with his location and migrated back to central Arizona near Black Canyon City where he mined, farmed, and ranched.

Tragically, as Jack grew older, his health was failing and he relied more on alcohol and morphine to get him through the day. During these periods of intoxication, Jack had a penchant for boasting about wondrous deeds, and actions and at one point bragged openly about robbing a stagecoach at Wickenburg. The sad part was that Swilling and his companions weren't even near Wickenburg but the law took Jack to prison in Yuma for hearing. While in Yuma, poor Jack died in the county jail and before his family could be notified, he was buried in a Yuma cemetery with no grave marker. To this day the precise location of his grave is unknown.

In the 48 short years Jack Swilling lived, he was fortunate to cram in several lifetimes. A true son of the Old West!"



### **Change in Camp meeting dates for 2011**

The meeting dates for the year 2011 are as follows:

February 12, May 14, August 13, and November 12.

All meetings will still take place at the Home Town Buffet 1314 N. Scottsdale Rd, at noon.

### **New Junior Member**

Seamus Rowan-MacNicol Lehman of Phoenix, Az is our Camp's newest member. Seamus's ancestor is his great-great-great grandfather, Charles Hess of Company G, 60<sup>th</sup> Indiana Rg't  
Welcome Seamus!

### **Don't miss our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting!!!**

Our speaker will be William Stoutamire who has spoken to our Camp in the past and recently had an article published in the autumn 2010 edition of *The Journal of Arizona History* entitled: "From North to South, out West: Civil War Memory in Arizona." Mr. Stoutamire will speak on this topic.

Additionally, an invitation has been sent to the members of the Margaret Warner Tent #1, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and hopefully some of the Sisters will be able to attend.

See you there!

### **Memorial Day, May 30, 2011**

Please join your Camp Brothers at the Phoenix Pioneer & Military Memorial Park 14<sup>th</sup> Ave & Jefferson on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for Memorial Day ceremonies. Camp Commander David Swanson will give a presentation regarding Memorial Day and will read the Gettysburg Address.

Since there is always a good turnout by the public at this event, we will also have a table set up which will be manned by Camp Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, Junior Vice Commander Jim Heller, and Graves Registration Officer, Jan Huber.

There are 125 Civil War veterans buried in this cemetery, so come out and show your respect to them and to veterans from all of our nation's wars and conflicts.



### **Camp Activities**

On February 18, 2011 **Brother Bob Hannan** PCC went to the Superstition Mountain Museum where he met with 140-150 students from Patterson Elementary School in Mesa, Az. Bob talked about the Civil War in Arizona, specifically the Picacho Peak Skirmish and gave a presentation regarding the different uniforms worn by soldiers in the Civil War.

This was a wonderful experience for the students who asked many questions. The event was well organized.

Here is the website for this outstanding museum:  
<http://www.superstitionmountainmuseum.org/>

On March 3, 2011 **Brother Ron McCreery** shared family experiences with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at Palominas Elementary School in Hereford, Az while wearing the replica uniform of his great grandfather, Philoras Black Cumpston.

Ron has done and continues to do a great deal for our Camp in southern Arizona!

On March 12, 2011, Brother **Jerry Bloom** manned our Camp recruitment table at the annual Civil War re-enactment of the Battle of Picacho Pass in Picacho, Az.

Jerry had 25-30 spectators stop by and some were very interested in joining our Camp.

--Thanks to **Brothers Bob Hannan and Ron McCreery and Jerry Bloom** for all of their work!



## **The Search for Ebenezer**

By Camp Chaplain Mark Haynes

The phone rang and I recognized the voice on the other end immediately. It was my cousin, Olive Richardson, the unofficial keeper of the family genealogy. She lived near Somerset, Kentucky, in a little area called Cabin Hollow. She and her sweet husband lived down an old gravel road which led to their modest little cottage.

"Mark?"

"Yes, Olive?" I replied.

"Whatever happened to Ebenezer? Do you think you can find him?"

I told her I would try. Olive was talking about an ancestor of ours, Ebenezer Thompson Haynes. Ebenezer was the son of Hezekiah Haynes, an old wild man who was a War of 1812 veteran. Hezekiah had married Margaret "Peggy" Edwards on December 1, 1831, when he was 46 years old and she was barely 16! Ebenezer was the sixth of eleven children. Ebenezer's baby brother, Jesse, was my great grandfather.

Hezekiah died drunk in the Pulaski County, Kentucky jail on October 2, 1852. Life was very hard for the Haynes family as they were simple farming folks. With Hezekiah gone, Peggy and her children lived the best they could off the land of Pumpkin Hollow.

Ebenezer Thompson Haynes was born on November 20, 1841. He and a bother just older

than him, Francis Marion, served during the Civil War on the Union side. Ebenezer enlisted on September 11, 1861. He was a member of the Kentucky 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, Company L. The 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky were known as the "Wild Riders." They were feared and respected by the enemy.

Olive told me that she knew Mary "Peggy" Haynes as a child. Peggy lived until June 22, 1911, and is believed to have been the last surviving widow on pension as a War of 1812 widow. Ebenezer disappeared during the Civil War and the years had clouded the memory of what had happened to him. It bothered Olive and apparently Ebenezer's mother did not know the full story. One family legend said that he died in the Belle Isle Prison. I set out to find Ebenezer for my little Cousin Olive.

The National Archives provided me with Ebenezer's military record. It showed the date of his mustering in to Camp Dick Robinson. The Kentucky 1<sup>st</sup> was a very active unit. Among the battles they were involved in were Mill Springs and Perryville. As I looked at Ebenezer's record, things looked pretty routine until I came across this phrase – AWOL. THAT didn't look good! I sure had no desire to tell Olive that our uncle had turned tail and ran from his duties! As I continued to look at his record, I saw that a few months later he was back with his regiment and was not disciplined for his unauthorized departure. It seems that he owned his own horse and was welcomed back with open arms. From what I was able to determine, Ebenezer probably returned home to help his widowed mother with planting. It seems there were a large number of the boys who had done the same thing.

One other thing stood out when I looked at the record of Ebenezer Thompson Haynes. I came across the word "Captured." Apparently, during action at or near Philadelphia, Tennessee, on October 18, 1863, he was captured by Confederate forces. This, I thought, could perhaps confirm that he was taken to Belle Isle. Further research caused me to find another dreaded word – ANDERSONVILLE. The very word conjures up images of emaciated prisoners and profound suffering. I wondered if that had been Ebenezer's fate.

My family and I were on the road raising financial support for our mission work on the Navajo

Nation. We had a meeting in a church in Georgia. I told the family we were going to Andersonville. The night before we were to go, there was a movie on television simply entitled *Andersonville*. It was with great interest that we all watched the Hollywood version of what happened there. I have no doubt that it was not entirely accurate, but my heart was still moved by what I saw.

We stopped at the National Park Headquarters at Andersonville. A very nice lady began to look for some records for me. "Here it is," she said. "Would you like to know where it is?" I told her that I did. We were given a map that lead to Grave #4970. On August 7, 1864, like so many others, he had died of scorbutus (scurvy) from a lack of proper nutrition.

We stopped at the grave and I got out of the car. I walked over to the grave and knelt there. "Mom, what's wrong with Dad?" my little children asked. They wanted to know why Daddy was crying at the stone. It was not contrived. The tears flowed freely. I thought of a young Kentucky farm boy. He said goodbye to his mother and family after helping with the planting. When mother said goodbye to her son, she had no way of knowing that it would be the last time. Like so many other brave lads, many in a conflict that they did not completely understand nor realize the scope thereof, Ebenezer Thompson Haynes gave the last full measure. I was not sorry to be weeping for him. Someone needed to. It had been too many years since someone had.

The phone rang at the little cottage in Cabin Hollow. Olive Richardson picked up the receiver.

"Hello? Mark, is that you?"

"Yes, Olive, it's me. I wanted to let you know something. I found Ebenezer."

Dedicated to the memory of Ebenezer Thompson Haynes and all the young men on both sides of the Great Conflict that never got to come home.



## Ancestor information

Brother **Jim Greaves** sent a most interesting article and picture for Valentine's Day but with the newsletter schedule I was not able to publish it until now.

Jim wrote: "My great-grandmother (Sarah J. Thomas) had 2 boyfriends serving with the Union Army; Reese Evans (62nd Penna. Infantry Regiment Co. B, 7/22/1861-2/23/1865, survivor of Andersonville Prison) and John Greaves (7th Pennsylvania Cavalry Co. H, 12/21/1861-8/23/1865).

My great-grandmother married John Greaves shortly after his discharge.

The attached hand-drawn love-note was sent to Sarah by Reese on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1862 from Yorktown, Va."

*Editor's note:* Because the hand-drawn love-note Jim sent is very unique, I didn't want to reduce its size to a column width; therefore, it is published on page 5 in its entirety.

Brothers Mark and Jim, thank you for submitting some most interesting information!

## Ancestor articles wanted

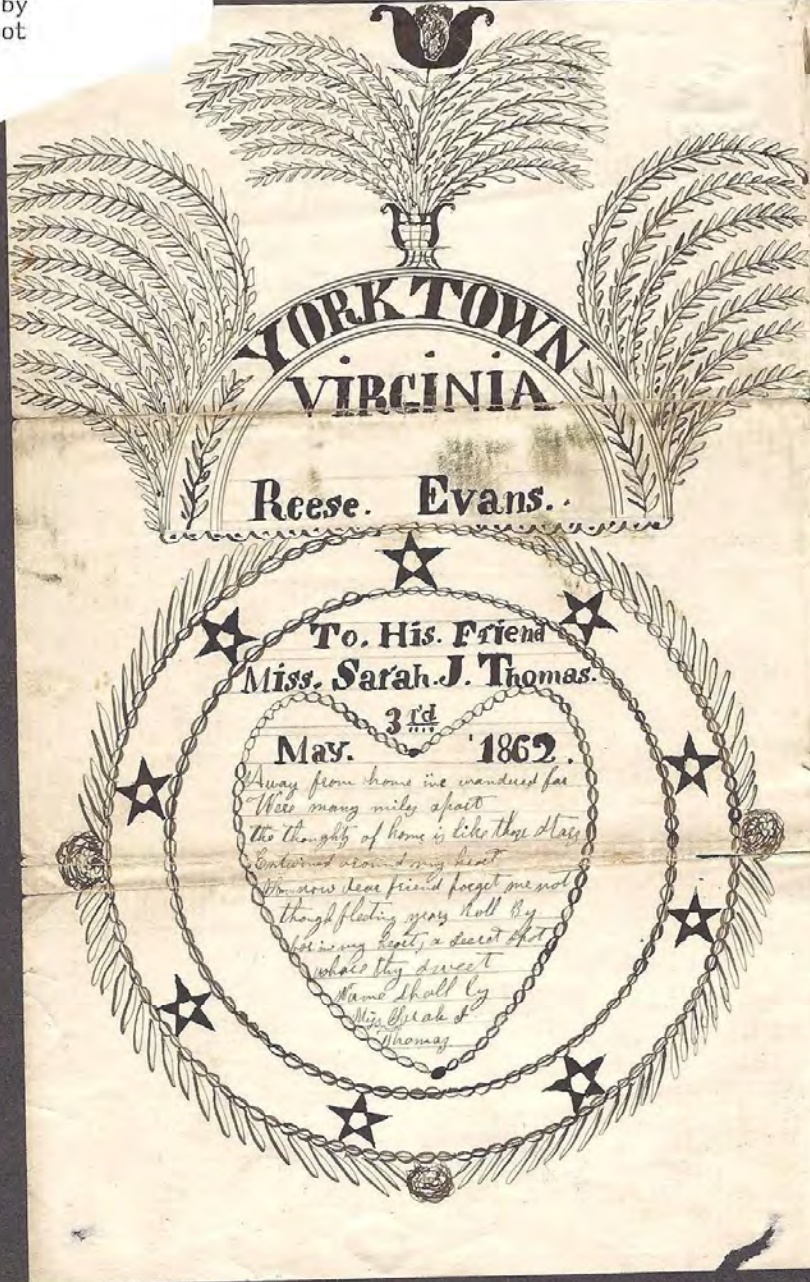
Brothers, if you have information regarding your ancestor that you would like to see published, please sent it to the newsletter editor. Because of Mark's and Jim's articles, the editor was able to save the job of one of his many scribes—don't let the others down!

Yorktown  
Virginia  
Reese Evans  
To His Friend  
Miss Sarah J. Thomas  
May 3rd 1862

Away from home we wandered far  
We're many miles apart  
The thoughts of home is like those stars  
Entwined around my heart  
So now dear friend forget me not  
Though fleeting years roll by  
For in my heart a secret spot  
Where they sweet  
name shall ly  
Miss Sarah J.  
Thomas

Reese W. Evans, Pvt  
62<sup>nd</sup> Penna Infantry Regiment Co B  
Recruited in Pittsburgh, PA  
7/22/1861 - 2/23/1865

Fought at Gettysburg  
Captured Battle of the Wilderness  
P.O.W. 5/12/64 - 12/16/64  
Andersonville survivor



## Historical Sketch of the John W. Owens Post No. 5, Phoenix, Az

By David A. Swanson

The historical sketch of the John W. Owens Post will continue in the July edition of the newsletter.

### 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.

Don't miss our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and plan on attending the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Phoenix Pioneer & Military Memorial Park on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

---

### Past Camp Commanders



Larry Fuller 1995-2003  
David A. Swanson 2003-2006  
Robert Hannon 2006-2008  
John R. Conrad 2008-2010



### Camp Officers for 2011

#### Commander:

David A. Swanson (480) 515-2798  
E-mail: Swanson1854@Yahoo.com

#### Senior Vice-Commander:

John Conrad (602) 750-0938  
E-mail: jrconrad@post.harvard.edu

#### Junior Vice-Commander:

Jim Heller (623-975-4300  
E-mail: jmh7116@aol.com

#### Secretary/Treasurer:

Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091  
E-mail: jerrybloom@qwest.net

#### Camp Council:

Mark Haynes (928)755-3714  
E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net  
Bob Young (642)-801-7037  
E-mail: bob.young1@cox.net  
Bob Hannan (480) 380-9153  
E-mail: bobpeg1@hotmail.com

#### Chaplain:

Mark Haynes (928) 755-3714  
E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net

#### Patriotic Instructor:

Dave Kampf (602) 978-0951  
E-mail: myfight@q.com

#### Eagle Scout Coordinator:

John Wanzel (4800 306-7738

#### Signals Officer:

Will Vessels (480)488-4703  
E-mail: wvessels@cox.net

#### Graves Registration

Jan Huber: (623) 975-4805  
E-mail: janhuber1933@yahoo.com

#### Civil War Memorials Officer:

David Swanson (Camp Commander)

#### Counselor:

John Wanzel: (480) 306-7738

#### Historian:

Bob Hannan PCC (480) 380-9153 Camp Council

#### Color Bearer:

Ron Jones ((480) 834-8036

#### Guard:

Bob Young (602) 841-7037  
E-mail: bob.young1@cox.net

#### Guide:

David Vessels (480) 488-4703  
E-mail: dtkv@cox.net

#### Newsletter Editor/Publisher

David A. Swanson (Camp Commander)