



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



CAMP NEWSLETTER



January 2007

Camp Web site: www.suvcwaz.org

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY & PROSPEROUS . . . 2007 NEW YEAR!!!!!!

Minutes of the November 18, 2006, Camp meeting:

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

Camp Commander David A. Swanson called the meeting to order. This was a joint meeting with the Margaret Warner Wood Tent #1, Arizona Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. In attendance were forty-two Daughters, Sons, spouses and guests.

After a short greeting to all by Commander Swanson, Nancy Davis, Registrar of the Margaret Warner Wood Tent #1, gave her introductory remarks.

Officer Elections

The next order of business was the election and installation of Camp Officers.

Installation Officer Rick Cups presented the following slate of officers to be elected to the Camp.

Commander: Bob Hannan
Senior Vice-Commander: Vacant
Junior Vice-Commander: John Conrad
Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry Bloom
Camp Council: Jim Greaves; Bob Young and David Swanson.

The Camp elected the slate of officers after a unanimous vote.

Appointed Camp Officers

Camp Commander Bob Hannan then presented the names of his appointed officers:

Signals Officer: Nathan Cups

Chaplain: Larry Fuller

Eagle Scout Coordinator: John Conrad

Color Bearer: Ron Jones

After a brief installation ceremony the elected and appointed officers were installed effective immediately and will hold office until the next election in November 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

On November 20, 2006, Larry Fuller submitted his resignation as Camp Chaplain. Commander Bob Hannan appointed **Mark Haynes** of Ganado, Arizona, to the position.

CONGRATULATIONS MARK!!!

Brother **Jay Simons** gave an informative talk about his visit to Springfield, Ill., and specifically to the Lincoln Library. Thank you Jay.

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker was Brother **Chuck Sherman** of Tucson who gave a very informative talk about his great grandfather Charles Lester Sherman, of the 1st Connecticut Cavalry. He also had on display Sherman's Remington .44 Cal Model 1858 pistol and a saber that was taken from a captured Confederate officer in the fall of 1864, possibly after the Battle at Cedar Creek in the southern Shenandoah Valley. Pvt Sherman led a small patrol and ran across a Confederate camp, which he surrounded, and the officer in charge thinking he was facing a larger force surrendered his saber, which was the custom of the time. Thank you Chuck, you did a great job!

Greenwood Cemetery's 100th Anniversary Celebration

Many of us remember the celebration our Camp had last year at the cemetery marking the final resting place of Arizona's last Civil War soldier, Parker Louis Gordon. Well, we were invited to attend the cemetery's 100th anniversary celebration on December 2, 2006.

Camp Commander Bob Hannan was the guest speaker and talked about the SUVCW and the Grand Army of the Republic. **Junior Vice-Commander John Conrad** gave a talk about Parker Louis Gordon and **Brother Al Harrica** gave a talk about his ancestors.

They did a good job representing our Camp!

Camp meeting schedule

Our camp meetings for 2007 will be held at Coco's restaurant 4514 E. Cactus, Phoenix, at noon on the following dates (third Saturday of each month):

February 17

May 19

August 18

November 17

Please mark your calendars!!!

If you would like to give a presentation (and it does not have to be grand) let Camp Commander Bob Hannan know. We will schedule you on the date you want. Lets see, after checking the current schedule, all dates are open so don't waste time in locking in your month. Act now!

2007 Dues are due

If you haven't taken the opportunity to send in your 2007 dues, now is the time.

The annual \$31.00 is due on or before our February 17, 2007, Camp meeting and a separate dues notice is not sent. If you miss the deadline, don't be surprised if a bounty hunter shows up, possibly taking your first born as a hostage (the Camp specifically informed the company that we do not condone such practices, but what can one do)?

Please use the form on page 5 even if you can't attend the meeting.

ANNUAL LEE-JACKSON LUNCHEON

The Sons of Confederate Veterans annual Lee-Jackson luncheon will be held at Bill Johnson's Big Apple Restaurant, 16810 N. 19th Ave (just south of Bell Rd.), on Saturday January 20, 2007, and begins at 11:30 AM.

The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please RSVP no later than January 12. Your checks may be made out to Col. Sherod Hunter Camp 1525 and mailed to:

SCV Camp 1525
P.O. Box 5994
Peoria, AZ 85385-5994

There is some great entertainment lined up which includes portrayals of Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson and of course the famous trivia contest. It is not too early to start studying!

Oh, and it goes without saying, Yankee Pot Roast will not be served again this year.

Camp Officers for 2007

Commander:

Bob Hannan (480) 380-9153

E-mail: hsuvcw82az@aol.com

Sr. Vice-Commander:

Open

Jr. Vice-Commander:

John Conrad (480) 488-4703

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Secretary/Treasurer:

Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091

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Camp Council:

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David A. Swanson PCC (480) 515-2798

E-mail: DavidJan1854@cs.com

Chaplain:

Mark Haynes (928) 755-3714

E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net

Eagle Scout Coordinator:

John Conrad (480) 488-4703

E-mail: jrconrad@post.harvard.edu

Signals Officer:

Nathan Cups (623) 546-1662

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Color Bearer:

Ron Jones ((480) 834-8036

Newsletter Editor/Publisher

David A. Swanson PCC (see Camp Council)

Ancestor Information

In the last newsletter I mentioned the passing of the Reverend John Crossen, a former Camp Brother, whose Civil War ancestors served in the 13th Pennsylvania Regiment, also known as the *Pennsylvania Bucktails*. One of our Camp Brothers, who is also a Reverend, has an ancestor who served in the 13th infantry regiment, but this was the 13th Wisconsin. **Brother Morris Courtright**, a retired priest, retired Air Force Major and currently Wing Chaplain for the Arizona Civil Air Patrol, sent in the following article regarding his great grandfather and his service.

Private Alexander Courtright, Company F
Thirteenth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment

The Thirteenth Infantry regiment was organized at Janesville, WI, and mustered into the service of the United States on October 17, 1861.

Private Alexander Courtright enlisted in Company F on January 1, 1862. The regiment left the state January 18, 1862, under orders to proceed to Fort Leavenworth Kansas, which it reached early in February. The regiment was at once detailed for active service, and on February 7 it marched to Fort Riley, Kansas, and was on duty in that vicinity until April 28, when it returned to St. Louis and was assigned to guard duty east of the Mississippi River on the lines of the railway between Columbus, KY, and Corinth, MS

On August 25, the Thirteenth was transferred to Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and participated in various expeditions in middle Kentucky and Tennessee during the greater part of the year 1862.

In February and March 1863, the Thirteenth was stationed at Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River; in September at Stevenson, AL, and later in the year and until February 1864 at Nashville, TN, when, more than three-fourths of the men having reenlisted the regiment proceeded to Wisconsin on veteran furlough.

After furlough the regiment returned to the Nashville area, engaged in garrison duty and guarding trains from Louisville to Chattanooga. In April they again moved to Stevenson. From here they protected Sherman's communications, with several severe skirmishes with rebel outposts and guerrillas. In November when Hood crossed the Tennessee, the Thirteenth was involved in efforts to block Hoods retreat.

The general work of the Thirteenth during its long term of service was the protection of lines of communication in middle Tennessee and Kentucky and northern Alabama. This is a service which must be diligently and faithfully performed if the army at the front is to do the work assigned to it.

Private Alexander Courtright was discharged January 19, 1865. In June 1865 the Thirteenth was then sent to New Orleans and in July of that year into Texas near the Rio Grande, where the regiment remained on duty at various posts until November 24, 1865, when orders were received to proceed to Madison, WI, which was reached December 23. The Thirteenth disbanded December 26, 1865.

Just before the battle

Brother Roy Goodale and his wife Pat submitted the following "...illustrating the fear and pathos Union soldiers faced death with on a daily basis."

JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE
Just before the battle, Mother
When I'm thinking most of you
When upon the field we're waiting
With the enemy in view...

Comrades bravely 'round me lying,
Filled with thoughts of home and God
For well they know it on the morrow
Some will sleep beneath the sod.

Farewell, Mother, may you never
Press me to your heart again
But oh! Mother, you'll not forget me Mother
If I'm numbered in the slain....



Editor's note: The preceding really struck home with me. In the January 2005 newsletter, I wrote about my Great-Great Uncle Bugler Orin Wilson of Co G, 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry, who was mortally wounded in the abdomen during Sherman's March to Atlanta in 1864.

"Among those wounded was the bugler of our regiment, a fair curly-haired boy. He was mortally wounded in the abdomen, but he remained in the saddle until the column halted in the open field . . . He requested to be placed in the ambulance [but] the officer in charge refused to receive him, as he could live but a short time . . .

"Three of us carried him to a little white church by the roadside . . . The thought that he must die in the hands of his foes was terrible to him . . .

"He was just such a boy as would be the idol of a fond mother. He longed for his mother. 'Oh! If mother knew *this*, how soon she would come to me.' His last words to us were, 'Please write to my mother, and tell her all about it.'

"A score of years have passed since this event occurred, but the scene at the little church comes back to my memory as a picture of indescribable sadness and pity." (*Sabre Strokes of the Pennsylvania Dragoons in the war of 1861-1865*; Thomas Dornblaser)

Newsletter articles

Once again, if you have any information you would like to see published in this august organ, don't be shy; send it to the editor. (If you thought that "august organ" was a month and a musical instrument . . . well maybe someone else should write it for you . . . just kidding, write away!)

While this newsletter certainly isn't "august" it is an organ.



Pea Ridge: The battle that saved Missouri for the Union

By David A. Swanson PCC

Several years ago, my wife Jan and I had the opportunity to visit Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas.

As usual, the National Park Service has official maps and guides that succinctly outline the happenings at various places. Here is one for Pea Ridge:

“Control of Missouri was a prime objective of both Union and Confederate forces during the first year of the Civil War. It was the reason the Battle of Wilson’s Creek was fought near Springfield, Mo., in August 1861, and it was one of the reasons for the clash at Pea Ridge in March 1862.

The Battle of Pea Ridge marked the end of a campaign that began on Christmas Day, 1861, with the appointment of Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis to head the Federal Southwestern District of Missouri. Acting with more zeal than his predecessors, Curtis began pushing Confederate and pro-Confederate forces out of the state. By mid-February 1862, he and his troops had chased their main opponents, Maj. Gen. Sterling Price and the Missouri State Guard, into Arkansas.

In the Boston Mountains south of Fayetteville, Price joined forces with Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch’s Confederates. There Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn took command of this combined 16,000-man force and on March 4 headed it northward, intending to strike into Missouri and capture St. Louis. But dug in across his path on the bluffs overlooking Little Sugar Creek, not far from Elkhorn Tavern and nearby Elkhorn Mountain were Curtis’s 10,500 Federals.

Van Dorn knew that a frontal assault against Curtis’s troops would be suicidal, so he swung north to come in behind them. He planned to strike at dawn on March 7, but his troops, hungry, cold, and weary from a difficult three-day march, arrived hours behind schedule. McCulloch’s troops fell so far behind that Van Dorn decided to temporarily divide his army. McCulloch was ordered to retrace his steps around the west end of Elkhorn Mountain, then turn east to rejoin Van Dorn near Elkhorn Tavern. These delays gave Curtis time to face about and prepare to receive the assault.

McCulloch’s troops, including two regiments Cherokee Indians under Brig. Gen. Albert Pike, marched west of Elkhorn Mountain and the Round

Top. They ran into an intensive fire that resulted in the deaths of McCulloch and Gen. James McIntosh and the capture of the ranking colonel. With their command structure practically destroyed, McCulloch’s men scattered from the field. [McCulloch disliked uniforms and was wearing a black velvet civilian suit with Wellington boots when he was shot out of the saddle by one Peter Pelican, a sharpshooter of the 36th Illinois Infantry.]

The other prong of the attack fared considerably better. Attacking east of Elkhorn Mountain, Price’s Missourians slowly but steadily pushed the Federals back until, at nightfall, they held Elkhorn Tavern and the crucial Telegraph and Huntsville roads. During the night the survivors of McCulloch’s Leetown fight joined them.

On the morning of March 8, Curtis counterattacked in the tavern area. His massed artillery severely damaged the Confederate line and his concerted infantry and cavalry attacks began to crumple their defenses. Still, the Confederates held. By mid-morning, however, Van Dorn realized that his ammunition was running short and ordered his troops to withdraw. The battle of Pea Ridge was over. Missouri was in Union hands, and most of the Union and Confederate troops moved east of the Mississippi to fight in other campaigns.”

Trivia

One of the principle players in this battle was Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch. Born in 1811 in Tenn., his family moved quite a bit finally settling down in Dyersburg, Tenn. One of his closest neighbors and one who had a great influence on Ben was David Crockett. In fact, when Crockett went to Texas in 1836 McCulloch followed him but ended up being bedridden with the measles. He pressed on to San Antonio but the Alamo had already fallen.

During his lifetime, McCulloch wore many different hats: he was very active as a soldier in the Texas Revolution, a Texas Ranger, U.S. Marshall, Texas state legislator, Maj. General of the Texas Militia, and during the War with Mexico was Chief of Scouts with the rank of major under General Zachary Taylor. He soon had national fame for his exploits in the war.

In 1852, President Franklin Pierce promised him command of the U.S. Second Cavalry, but the U.S. Secretary of War gave the command to Albert Sidney Johnston. The Secretary of War was none other than the future President of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis. ∞

