



# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR PICACHO PEAK CAMP No. 1 ARIZONA CAMP-at-LARGE



## CAMP NEWSLETTER



January 2009

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

### \* **HAPPY 2009** \*

#### **Minutes of the November 15, 2008 Camp meeting**

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

Camp Commander Bob Hannan called the August Camp meeting to order at noon. We had 33 Brothers, wives and guests in attendance.

#### *New Brothers:*

The following were initiated during the meeting with the exception of new Brother Mike Ferman: (Camp membership total is now 63.)

**Don Strachota Jr.**, Mesa, AZ: Associate Member.

**John W. Kohl**, Sun City West, AZ: Ancestor: John Christian Kohls, Co. C., 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Vol. Inf., Great Grandfather.

**Michael F. Ferman**, Malad City, ID and Gila Bend, AZ, Ancestor: Michael Ferman, Co. B., 11<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, Great Grandfather.

Welcome Don, John and Michael!

#### *New business*

Past Camp Commander Larry Fuller presented an oral history of his efforts in starting the Camp, which was most interesting. (See page 6 for an excerpt).

Graves Registration officer Jan Huber gave an update of his activities at the Phoenix Pioneer and Military Park in Phoenix.

-He went through the cemetery records of burials that had previously been registered and updated each

-Registered 16 Union and 17 Confederate graves which were previously not registered

-He updated a total of 79 burial records.

Brother Huber is doing an outstanding job as our graves registration officer.

Brother John Kohl gave a most interesting overview of his ancestors' service during the War of the Rebellion. Between his two ancestors, they were involved in 39 battles. Hopefully, John will give a presentation to the Camp at a future meeting.

#### *Officer election and installation:*

Our Camp Installation Officer, Brother John Oakley, installed the following officers for the term ending at our next officer election in November 2009:

Commander: John Conrad

Senior Vice Commander: David Swanson PCC

Junior Vice Commander: Zander Vessels

Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry Bloom

Camp Council: Robert Hannan PCC, Bob Young and Rick Cups.

Chaplain: Mark Haynes

Graves Registration: Jan Huber

Patriotic Instructor: Dave Kampf

Signals Officer: Nathan Cups

Color Bearer: Ron Jones

Guard: Bob Young

Guide: David Vessels

Historian: Robert Hannan PCC

Counselor: Larry Fuller PCC

Civil War Memorials Officer: David Swanson PCC

Eagle Scout Coordinator: John Conrad

#### **2009 DUES**

Annual dues are \$31.00 and should be mailed to our secretary/treasurer—see page 7.

Don't make him hunt you down like a dirty dog—the result would be an awful sight!

#### **Speaker for February**

Our speaker for the February 21, 2009, meeting is Lee Nelson of Chino Valley, AZ. Topic: Her great grandfather rode with this famous 1862 soldier—attend the meeting to find out who he rode with!!

## Schedule of 2009 Camp meetings

Our Camp meetings take place on the third Saturday of the following months: February (21<sup>st</sup>), May (16<sup>th</sup>), August (15<sup>th</sup>), and November (21<sup>st</sup>).

### *Camp meeting location survey*

We have been meeting at Coco's 4514 E. Cactus, Phoenix, for the past six years and generally have a good turnout of Brothers. Some like the restaurant, some don't, some don't care on way or another, and some don't come to the meetings for other reasons.

On page 8 you will find a very important survey regarding this meeting location. Please take the time to complete it and mail it in.

## Pictures from the November 2008 meeting

### Camp officers for 2009



Left to right: Ron Jones, Color Bearer; Bob Hannan PCC, Camp Council; Jan Huber, Graves Registration; Bob Young, Camp Council and Guard; Mark Haynes, Chaplain; Jerry Bloom, Secretary/Treasurer; David Swanson PCC, Senior Vice-Commander and Civil War Memorials Officer; Rick Cups, Camp Council; John Conrad, Camp Commander and Eagle Scout Coordinator; Zander Vessels, Junior Vice-Commander; and Larry Fuller PCC Camp Counselor. (Not pictured: Dave Kampf, Patriotic Instructor; Nathan Cups, Webmaster; and David Vessels, Guide.)

## New Brother Initiation Ceremony



From right to left: Brother John W. Kohl, Brother Don Strachota Jr., Camp Commander Bob Hannan, and Camp Chaplain Mark Haynes.

### Change of command



Left to right: Newly elected and installed Camp Commander John Conrad presenting Past Camp Commander Bob Hannan with his plaque and PCC badge.



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



**Photo of Brother Mike Moore's GAR ancestor**



This photo was taken in 1885 and shows some of the surviving troopers of Company B, 6th Tennessee Cavalry who were members of Col. Fielding Hurst GAR Post #7 in Adamsville, TN. My great-great grandfather, Pvt. George N. Bullman is in the back row, fourth from the left, wearing his GAR badge and holding the flag.

**Sketches of history from the territorial days of Phoenix, Arizona and the John W. Owen Post No. 5**

By David A. Swanson PCC

Quite a while ago I noted in a newsletter that I was going to start publishing newspaper accounts of the Grand Army of the Republic activities in Phoenix, namely those of the John W. Owens Post.

By now you probably know that the John W. Owens Post was formed on September 24, 1885, four years after the incorporation of the city of Phoenix, Arizona Territory.

You will note that initially the Post has the number 83. This was its number while part of the Department of California (Arizona did not have its own Department until 1888).

Each year the Grand Army of the Republic had its National Encampments in various cities through the country. At the end of the encampment journals were published which were many hundreds of pages long detailing encampment activities. I was fortunate to obtain copies of many of these journals and especially that of the 20<sup>th</sup> National Encampment, held in San Francisco, Ca. in 1886. This journal contained the officers and members of all the Posts in Arizona. This is a big deal since GAR records for Arizona are almost not-existent and we know have a list of some Post members. Those of the John W. Owens Post are as follows:

**J. W. OWENS POST, No. 83.**

PHOENIX, A. T.

OFFICERS, 1885.

Meeting, First Tuesday.

NAME.	CO.	SERVICE.	ADDRESS.
Buck Theodore.....	F	2d Ill. Art.....	Phoenix, A. T.
Caldlerwood M. H.....	D	7th Cal. Inf. ....	"
Cartwright R. J.....	K	123d Ill. Inf. ....	"
Coats G. F.....	E	1st Iowa Cav.....	"
Creamar Jos. B.....	H	142d Ill. Inf.....	"
Grable Henry.....	K	12th Ind. Inf.....	"
Hancock W. A.....	K	7th Cal. Inf. and O 1st Oregon Cav.	"
Hegerup Anthony.....		U. S. Navy.....	"
King John.....	H	34th N. Y. Inf. and O 138th N.Y. Inf	"
Kingman Geo. W.....	D	3d N. Y. Inf. and O 22d N. Y. Cav...	"
Knapp Charles H.....	I	11th Ind. Inf.....	"
Lighthizer H. B.....	E	4th Wis. Cav.....	"
McCann Wm.....	K	13th Conn. Inf. and F 1st La. Cav...	"
Mills J. K.....		2d Maine Art.....	Los Angeles, Cal.
Mullin John.....	A	1st Cal. Cav.....	Phoenix
Schwartz Edward.....	H	8th N. Y. Inf. and 9th N. Y. Cav...	"
Silsbee John R.....	A	10th N. Y. Art.....	"
Stearns C. W.....	A	25th Mass. Inf.....	Maricopa
Tiffany L. H.....	C	18th Ind. Inf.....	Phoenix
Vell Charles H.....	G	9th Penn. Res. and C 1st U.S. Cav...	"
Wharton J. E.....	D	2d Iowa Cav. and 1st Col. Militia...	"
Woods W. T.....	B	7th Cal. Inf.....	"

143

*Sketches of history continued*

The following article taken from the *Daily Phoenix Herald* relates information from 1883. This is several years before the John W. Owens Post comes into existence, but it is important because some of the players will become members of the Post and the Grand Army of the Republic was instrumental in starting Memorial Day.

May 31, 1883:

---

**Honoring the Memory of Our  
Fallen Brave.**

---

Owing to the lateness of the call for soldiers of the war to participate in the decoration of the graves of their fallen comrades, no organized effort was made today, but a few gentlemen, mindful of the noble men who had stood by them in the rain of death, gathered together and performed the services to the best of their ability. The supply of flowers was somewhat limited, but one lady, Mrs. McDonald, responded to their request for flowers, and to her the gentlemen interested hereby wish to return their sincere thanks for her thoughtful favor. The gentlemen performing the services were: C.A. Knapp, J. M. Cotton, and Capt. W. T. Wools, Capt. J. King and Louis Gazette and the graves decorated were those of: Judge Dunham, Gustav Kauchner, Daniel Dietrich, Capt Owens, E. A. Phelps, King S. Woolsey, Judge Wilkes, Paul Handel and \_\_\_ McNulty. It is hoped that this is but the beginning here of this beautiful and touching custom and that next year will be a more general recognition of the merits of those who in the days gone passed at the front through our nations ordeal of blood and fire.

---

Other than the 1883 article, there is no mention of any GAR related activities in the city of Phoenix until the January 6<sup>th</sup> article.

From this point forward, I will publish articles in chronological order in this and future newsletters.

January 6, 1886:

---

**G. A. R. Installation**

---

On last evening the officers of John W. Owen Post, 83 Grand Army of the Republic, were installed for the ensuing term as follows:

C. A [H]. Knapp, P.C.; R.J. Cartwrite, J. V.; John King, Quartermaster; J. E. Wharton, Surgeon; L. A. Tiffany, Officer of the Day; H. B. Lighthizer, Chaplain; J. B. Creamer, Adjutant; John Mullin, Officer of the Guard; Anthony Hagerups, Sgt. Major.

There was a large attendance and a good time. The boys talk uniform very strongly and think that Memorial Day they will have a membership of at least fifty which is a lively growth for a young post.

Dr. J. M. Hurley a visiting brother from a Missouri post was present and participates in the ceremonies of the evening

---

**SECRET SOCIETIES**

---

**G. A. R.** John W. Owens Post, No 83 meets first and third Tuesday in each month, at Pythian Hall, C.A.[H] Knapp, P.C., J. B. Creamer, Ajt.

May 19, 1886:

---

**G. A. R.**

---

**Memorial Day.**

---

The Committee of Arrangements, consisting of Comrades Wharton, Cramer, Lighthizer, Coats and Ed Schwartz, Chairman of the Committee met at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, and after hearing reports of the sub-Committees, adopted the following:

**PROGRAMME FOR MEMORIAL  
DAY, MAY 31, 1886.**

Order of Parade

- Band
- Veterans of the Mexican War
- J. W. Owen Post No. 83,
- C. H. Knapp, P.C.
- Standard
- Ex-Confederates
- Mexican Society
- Schools and Sunday Schools
- City Officials
- Citizens
- Carriages etc.

Those taking part in the parade will assemble on Washington street opposite the plaza at 3:30 p.m.

The line of march will be down Washington street to the old Cemetery, where the service for the dead will be held under the auspices of J.W.Owen Post No. 83,

Dept. of Cal G.A.R., after which the column will return to the Plaza and be dismissed.

Services on the Plaza will commence at 7:30 when all are invited to attend.

PROGRAMME ON PLAZA

- Prayer.....Rev. Calfee*
- Song—Tenting To-night on the Old Camp Ground*  
*Quartette*
- Address.....Deforest Porter*
- Song.....Ed Schwartz*
- Address.....J. Campbell*
- America.....Quartette*

Carriages will be in attendance at the Plaza to convey the ladies of the Flower and other Committees to the Cemetery.

The Committee of arrangements particularly request the citizens of the valley to assist them in making this first attempt to observe Memorial day and make it a success and request that all places of business in the city of Phoenix close at 12 o'clock until after the services on the Plaza

Decoration Day.

We the undersigned agree to close our place of business from 12 o'clock m. until 9 P. M., May 31, 1886:

- Schoenfeld & Heyman; Dillon & Kenealy; Irvine & Co.; Tantau & Kellner; McNulty & Schott; I. H. Goldberg; Ruben & Son; N. Rosenthal; Guss Ellis & Co., M. Asher & Bro., M. Jacobs & Co., Goldman & Co., Whepley & St. Clair; S. Marks; Catton Bros.; Trask & Kays; Farley & Grant; Geo. F. Coats; Wheeler & Co.

June 1, 1886:

The Memorial Services

John W. Owens Post No 83 Grand Army of the Republic did well yesterday in so successfully inaugurating here, the touching and beautiful custom of strewing the graves of the dead soldiers of the civil war with flowers.

At noon, as announced, the doors of all business houses were closed and at 3:30 a large number of our citizens and of the Sunday School children had

congregated about the plaza. At 4 o'clock promptly, the members of John W. Owens Post accompanied by Veterans of the Mexican war and Confederate soldiers marched from their hall and took up a position on Washington street opposite the plaza where the procession formed and moved down Washington street to the old cemetery where the dead soldiers lie. The procession was a large one consisting, after the Veterans of the Mexican war, the G.A.R. boys and the Confederate soldiers, of a considerable line of Sunday school children and a line of citizens in carriages that stretched back for several blocks. The ceremony of depositing the garlands of flowers upon the graves over, the Post and guests returned to the city and disbanded till 7:30 o'clock in the evening when they reassembled on the plaza to listen to the orations of the occasions by Judge Deforest Porter and Hon. Jos. Campbell. The evening service opened by an invocation by the Rev. Calfee, then the song "Tenting to-night on the Old Camp Ground" was beautifully rendered by a double quartette of male voices after which Judge Porter proceeded to deliver a short, impressive and most appropriate address in which were many touching and very eloquent passages.

Maj. Ed. Schwartz then favored the audience with the song "Mother Kiss Me in My Dreams," sang in his firm baritone voice with fine effect. The Hon. Jos. Campbell then followed with an address replete with beautiful pictures of thought and touching allusions fully maintaining his reputation for eloquent and forcible oratory.

The assembly was then dismissed with the singing of "America" by the quartette. The entire exercises occupied but little over an hour and the audience dispersed with a general desire for more rather than with a feeling that they had had too much, a little point that the Grand Army boys showed great discretion in making while preparing their programme.

The observance of the day was a credit to the Grand Army boys and our little city. If more such days could be indulged, where party and sectional strife could find no place and where selfishness gives way, for a few moments to the nobler impulses of generosity, the refining, ennobling influence would be felt in the more rugged walks of society.



OK, this ends the first installment of my newspaper articles. For those who read about our GAR marker ceremony, or were present, you will notice the name of Major Ed Schwartz.

Also notice the first major activity of the post was the inauguration of Memorial Day for the city of Phoenix.

You may also notice some misspellings or other grammatical errors; for once they are not mine, but those contained in the original articles.

## **The Early Days of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1**

*Excerpt from a speech that Larry Fuller, Camp founder and first Camp commander, gave on Nov. 15, 2008*

“In the latter days of 1994, while perusing a copy of the American legion magazine, I noticed an advertisement for an organization called the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This piqued my curiosity since my great-grandfather, Major William Plumb, was an officer in the U.S. Army during that war.

There was contact information so I called and talked to a gentleman in Detroit and, after asking some questions about the organization, I joined as a member-at-large on January 18, 1995. During our conversation I asked him if there was a Camp in Arizona and he said, ‘No! Do you want to start one?’ I asked him how many members it would take and he replied 6 to start a Provisional Camp and 15 to have a Chartered Camp. In pursuing the possibility of forming a Camp in Phoenix, I found out from National that there were 15 members at large in our area and I got their names and addresses and wrote to them about becoming a camp. The feedback from the letters was positive so I continued my quest.

I called a meeting and 6 people showed up—we became a Provisional Camp. Allen Murphy, a retired minister, visited me at my home and told me his Great Grandfather was a chaplain in the Civil War—he became our Camp Chaplain.

Within 30 days after more letters, phone calls, and net working, I called another meeting and 17 prospective members attended. We now had enough members for a full-fledged, bona fide, chartered Camp! We named it Picacho Peak Camp—a no brainier since it was the location of the only Civil War battle in Arizona.

I served a commander, Dan Zwiener from Tucson was the secretary and John Coon was the treasurer. My job was to secure a meeting place, schedule programs and preside at meetings, among other duties that may arise.

We had an all-volunteer Camp with group inspiration and enthusiasm second to none that thrust us into the Camp we are today!

After the Camp was established, we had repeated requests from National for the submittal of certain forms and we tried without success to ascertain what forms they wanted and who was to receive them. This ping pong game was getting frustrating, so I took the bull by the horns, called National and found out what forms were required and their due date.

I served as Commander for 8 years by acclimation. One major item that I was instrumental in changing was the procedure for verifying background information to support membership. This meant the verifications could be done on a local level instead of submitting reams of paper with each application sent to National.”

In closing, I would like to suggest that our Camp Council institute a procedure to make phone calls to all members 2 weeks before a meeting to increase attendance and camaraderie.

Thank you for your time and attention”

## **Camp Officers for 2009**

### **Commander:**

John Conrad (480) 488-4703

E-mail: jrconrad@post.harvard.edu

### **Sr. Vice-Commander:**

David A. Swanson PCC (480) 515-2798

E-mail: Swanson1854@Yahoo.com

### **Jr. Vice-Commander:**

Zander Vessels (480) 488-4703

E-mail: steelpan87@cox.net

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091

E-mail: jerrybloom@qwest.net

### **Camp Council:**

Bob Young (602) 841-7037

E-mail: Bob.Young1@cox.net

Rick Cups (602) 942-0935

E-mail: rcups@psualum.com

Bob Hannan (480) 380-9153

E-mail: hsuvcw82az@earthlink.net

### **Chaplain:**

Mark Haynes (928) 755-3714

E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net

### **Patriotic Instructor:**

Dave Kampf (602) 978-0951

### **Eagle Scout Coordinator:**

John Conrad (480) 488-4703 Camp Commander

### **Signals Officer:**

Nathan Cups (623) 546-1662

E-mail: nathan@tekassistance.com

### **Graves Registration**

Jan Huber: (623) 975-4805

E-mail: janhuber1933@yahoo.com

### **Counselor:**

Larry Fuller PCC (480) 247-9747

### **Civil War Memorials Officer:**

David Swanson PCC, Senior Vice-Commander

### **Historian:**

Bob Hannan PCC (480) 380-9153 Camp Council

### **Color Bearer:**

Ron Jones ((480) 834-8036

### **Guard:**

Bob Young (602) 841-7037 Camp Council

### **Guide:**

David Vessels (480) 488-4703

### **Newsletter Editor/Publisher**

David A. Swanson PCC, Senior Vice-Commander





CAMP MEETING LOCATION SURVEY

For at least the last six years we have been meeting at Coco’s restaurant, 4514 E. Cactus Rd, Phx. The price of our meal is \$16.09, which includes five different meal choices, tax, tip, unlimited beverages, and the use of the room. Several years ago Coco’s started charging \$100.00 to groups just for the room rental, however, this does not apply to us since we were “grandfathered.”

That being said, we want to ensure that those who attend our meetings are satisfied with the present location; and for those Brothers who do not attend we would also like to know why.

***This survey is very important to our Camp. Please take the time to complete and mail it.***

**For those who have attended meetings at Coco’s please complete the survey. (Circle all that apply)**

Food choices	no opinion	unsatisfactory	satisfactory	excellent
Food Quality	no opinion	unsatisfactory	satisfactory	excellent
Waitress service	no opinion	unsatisfactory	satisfactory	excellent
Cost of lunch	no opinion	unsatisfactory	satisfactory	excellent
Geographic Location	no opinion	unsatisfactory	satisfactory	excellent

Overall are you satisfied with our present location (circle one)      Yes      No

Do you have a suggestion that would enhance our meetings at Coco’s? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a suggestion for a better location?      Yes      No

If yes, what is the location, meal cost and room rental charge? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Now, for those who do not attend meetings please let us know why (circle all that apply)**

Distance from my house      Cost of luncheons      Present meeting location

Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this survey to Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom (see page 7 for address)