



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



CAMP NEWSLETTER



January 2010

Camp Web site: <http://steellions.com>

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! 2010

Minutes of the November 14, 2009, Camp meeting:

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

Camp Commander John Conrad called the meeting to order at noon. There were 25 Brothers and guests in attendance.

Officer's election and installation: The Camp elected the following officers for 2010 (as a reminder, they were also installed so their term of office is effective Nov. 14th).

Camp Commander: John Conrad
Senior Vice-Commander: David A. Swanson
Junior Vice-Commander: Zander Vessels
Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry Bloom
Camp Council: Robert J. Hannon PCC, Rick Cups, and Mark Haynes.

Appointed officers:

Chaplain: Mark Haynes
Graves Registration: Jan Huber
Patriotic Instructor: Dave Kampf
Signals Officer: William C. Vessels
Color Bearer: Ron Jones
Guard: Bob Young
Guide: David Vessels
Historian: Bob Hannon PCC
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Zander Vessels
Civil War Memorials Officer: David A. Swanson PCC
Counselor: John Wanzel



Left to right: John Wanzel, Jan Huber, Mark Haynes, Jerry Bloom, Rick Cups, David Swanson, John Conrad, Ron Jones, Dave Kampf, and Zander Vessels.

Induction of new Junior Member—by phone!

Well, here is a first for our Camp as our newest Junior member is inducted via telephone from his home in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

With Camp Commander John Conrad looking on, Brother Jim Heller inducted his grandson, Brice A. Heller into our Camp.

Brice is only the second Junior member to be inducted in our camp.



Congratulations and Welcome to Brice!!!
And congratulations to the proud grandpa!

Minutes of the Camp meeting continued

Graves Registration officer report: Brother Jan Huber found one new grave at Greenwood Cemetery that he registered. The soldier was Samuel Andrew Dysart who died in 1903 and speculation by the members of the Pioneer Military and Memorial Park is that Dysart road in the west Valley is named after him.

Bro Huber also related that he assisted the 7th graders at the Greenway and Desert Shadows Middle School during their Civil War reenactment (on November 5th) by setting up a display station where he talked to the students in small groups about the history of Taps.

Patriotic Instructor's report: Brother Dave Kampf reported that today was the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry.

Brother Kampf presented a talk regarding guns from the American Revolution through the Civil War at the Sun City, Saguaro Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

He and members of his reenactment group also presented a Civil War weekend to 200 boy scouts at Camp Geronimo in Prescott. Part of the agenda was explaining weapons, dressing scouts in Civil War uniforms and drilling them in company formation. All participated in a reenactment of Pickett's Charge. Bro Kampf also demonstrated how to make lead bullets by making them in a mold over the campfire.

Website update: Commander Conrad, in a live demonstration, got on the updated Camp website to demonstrate some of the new features. Bro Will Conrad is our new Signals Officer and has been diligently working on the site.

Presentation by Brother John Kohl—"The Journey of Private John Christian Kohls": Now if you missed the meeting, you missed one of the more outstanding presentations we have had. Bro. Kohl, in uniform, portrayed his great grandfather John Christian Kohls of Company C, 3rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry from his enlistment through his three years and 21 battles in the Civil War. Brother Kohl did this with the use of power point pictures of the various battle scenes (and markers), while describing specifically what his great grandfather experienced and describing Union army life in general. He also showed a picture of John at the 50th Gettysburg anniversary reunion of the Blue and the Gray.

And if that was not enough, John played the jaw harp and the mouth organ!

Job well done, Brother Kohl!



Brother John Kohl



Camp Picacho Peak Website update

As mentioned in the Camp minutes, our website is in the process of being updated and revamped under the hard work of our new Signals Officer, Will Vessels. More on this as the job progresses but special thanks goes to our past Signals Officer Nathan Cups for all of his hard work in starting and then maintaining our website. Without his initiative, we would still be having monks transcribing and printing our web news.

New web site: <http://steellions.com/>

Brother Nathan Cups—thanks for a job well done!!



Camp meeting dates for 2010

OK, get your calendars out and start marking them with our 2010 meeting schedule.

All meetings will start at noon at the Hometown Buffet, 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, Az on the following dates (the third Saturday of each month)

February 20

May 15

August 21

November 20

The food is great, the price is great and the company is great. Come to our meetings and get (or keep) active in our Camp.

Annual dues notification—second call

Stay active in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and your Camp. Please submit your annual dues (\$31) to our Camp Secretary Jerry Bloom. See page 7 for the form and his address. Don't make him hunt you down—hunting dogs cost your camp big bucks—and besides, those bites are painful!

Did you know? Interesting but little known facts about the Civil War

Robert Todd Lincoln was Lincoln's oldest son and was present with him after he was shot at Ford's Theater and stayed with him until he died. But did you know that Robert Lincoln was standing next to President Garfield when he was shot in 1882 and was also standing next to President William McKinley when he was shot in 1901? Not a good track record!

Memorial University

By David A. Swanson PCC

Are you a Picacho Peak Camp officer? Do you think you would like to be? If so the SUVCW online Memorial University course is just for you! Or what about a course for Junior members? There is a course for them also.

What is it? Here is information from the website:

“In the year 1900, the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War voted to establish Memorial University, a college located in Mason City, Iowa. Its purpose was not only to educate, but also to instill patriotism in its students, and prepare them for an active role in American society. The University was closed in 1910. This web site, Memorial University, is intended to continue this noble cause and to encourage patriotism, good citizenship and provide a basic knowledge of the American Civil War.

“In 2008, an education course for Junior and Junior Associates of the Sons of Union Veterans was developed by the SUVCW National Committee on Americanism and Education and made available through this web site.

“In 2009, the curriculum of Memorial University was expanded with the development of an Officer Training Course for members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This course was a vision of Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert and was achieved through the efforts of a Special National

Committee on Education and Leadership established by the 127th SUVCW National Encampment.”

So if you are interested to go SUVCW.ORG and click on Memorial University.

I took the officer's course and found it challenging and *most* informative—and yes, I passed it (but I wouldn't dare take the Junior's course—I would fail that one hands down!)

And as long as you are on the National website, click on to the National Patriotic Instructor's Instruction page. Don Martin, our National Patriotic Instructor, has lots of very interesting information posted.



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

By David A. Swanson PCC

In the last four newsletters I have published newspaper articles regarding the John W. Owens Post No. 5 Phoenix, Az, which covered the time period from its inception in September 1885 through August 1887. These articles not only give a historical sketch of the Post but also that of the city of Phoenix, both as a territory and a state.

The following is a continuation of the articles that are found in the *Historical Sketch of the John W. Owens Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, Phoenix, Arizona* (which was written by me and contains articles originally printed in the *Daily Phoenix Herald* and its successor newspaper the *Arizona Republican*).

If you remember, we last left our “Grand Army boys” on August 18, 1887, preparing for the GAR National Encampment in St. Louis.

Thursday, August 18, 1887:

A Representative for St. Louis

Contrary to the general expectation and the acknowledged privilege of the Grand Army boys, last evening, they, after careful consideration, concluded not to select a representative of the interests of the valley at St. Louis on their own account, but appointed a committee composed of Messrs. J. B. Cramer, S. C. Symonds, Col. Wm. Christy, Judge H. B. Lighthizer and Major Schwartz to confer with the Immigration Union in the matter and also to consult with the Commissioner of Immigration of the Territory, who had sent in a communication respecting the distribution by the representative, at St. Louis, of printed matter gotten up in his office. The Immigration Union will hold an early meeting to confer with the committee of the G.A.R. Post. [Continued on page 4]

The event to which the representative of the community is to be sent is purely a Grand Army affair, and Grand Army men would have vastly more influence than anybody else we can send; indeed there is nobody else that would care to be sent on such occasion, so that the matter is not going to be hard to settle.

The probabilities are that a few citizens will have to bear the most of the expenses anyway and the general subscribers to such a fund will only want a man who can have influence and have the ear of the Grand Army people.

August 23, 1887:

The Special Committee of the Immigration Union which was appointed last evening to take into consideration the matter of further advertising the resources of the Salt River valley, this morning held a most important session for the interests of the valley and came to a conclusion after a most thorough canvass of the subject, which in our humble opinion is likely to result in immediate benefit to the valley. Considering the fact that the Immigration Union is now having some 40,000 copies of a folder and maps of the valley published together with several thousand copies of a pamphlet, all of which will probably be ready for distribution by the middle of September, the Committee has determined upon appropriating at present \$750 to the matter of working up excursions in Los Angeles and sending them to the Salt River valley; the Committee also decided upon adding another \$500 to the St. Louis fund, making \$1000 in that fund, the last appropriation to be used in St. Louis in working up an excursion to the valley.

This action is likely to bring people here, a very necessary matter if we want to make the most of our valley. Advertising is all very well, but it must be remembered that there are hundreds of other places advertising just as loudly as the Salt River valley can. People may like our advertisement and conclude that they might like the place but they will not be likely to make an active move toward coming here till we give them special inducements. Put fares down to \$15 for the round trip from Los Angeles and ten thousand people would visit this valley within the next three months. In fact it would pay this valley to buy the use of a train of cars and put fares down on it to a mere nominal sum for an excursion or two. A little active work now in bringing people here rather than informing them of what we have here is just what is wanted and this is just what the Committee proposes to do.

August 24, 1887:

At a joint meeting of the committee of the Immigration Union and the committee of the G.A.R. held this afternoon Joseph Cramer was elected President and S.C. Symonds secretary. Messrs. Allen T. Bird and C. W. Johnstone were elected to represent the Salt River valley at the Grand Encampment of the G.A.R. at St. Louis. The joint committee endorsed the resolution of the committee of the Immigration Union, passed yesterday, increasing the St. Louis fund to \$1000.

September 2, 1887:

The G. A. R. excursion train for St. Louis leaves Los Angeles on Tuesday, September 19, 1887 at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday September 23, 1887:

A telegram received by the Commander of the Post instructs him not to fail to bring to the Grand Encampment at St. Louis, a large lot of those fine Havana cigars from T. H. Seeling's Central Cigar Store, so that the delegates may enjoy their after dinner smoke.

October 1, 1887:

INTERESTING FROM ST. LOUIS

People Want to Know About the Salt River Valley and Phoenix

St. Louis, Sept 27, 1887.

Editor Herald: -The storm which set in yesterday morning has very much interfered with the programme of festivities, as the disagreeable weather has kept away many who were coming, has driven home many who came, and has made uncomfortable the stay of many who have stuck to it. The storm is a drizzling, dripping rain, that is not noticed much, but which soon dampens one's clothing through to the skin if out it a while. It caused a postponement this morning of the grand parade. Now it is officially announced that it will march tomorrow, rain or shine, and great is the gambling at the idea of paddling around in the rain and mud.

The exhibit at the Armory Hall is not yet completely arranged owing to the non-arrival of a large portion of the fruit sent from Southern California; but it

[Continued on page 5]

is thought that everything will be all right by tomorrow afternoon. Col. Johnston and myself are both finding and meeting with any interested in and inquiring about the Salt River valley and its productions and possibilities of the region, and the reading matter sent us is going off like hot cakes. But there ought have been five times the amount sent. All we have received has been about 25,000 folders. At least 50,000 folders and as many pamphlets should have been sent, we could use them all if we had them. We have telegraphed Rand & McNally at Chicago to send more if they have not yet shipped to Phoenix.

Allen T. Bird

Stay tuned for more dispatches from St. Louis in our next newsletter.

Note: John W. Owens Post is still No 83 and not No. 5. That is because at this time it is still part of the Department of California.



The Civil War Draft of 1863

By: Rick Cups

In early 1863, the Union was starting to face some ugly realities about manpower and the war. By this time, the early feelings of patriotism or adventure many men had had about the war were starting to decline. War weariness and the grim reality of army life were discouraging men from enlisting in the army. It seemed that it would be impossible to replace the men lost to disease and combat in the past year. The Union army also faced a serious loss of manpower in the coming year as 38 two-year regiments raised in 1861 and 92 nine-month regiments that had been raised in 1862 were scheduled to finish their enlistments and return home. Most of the men who had wanted to enlist in the army had already done so and the booming economy was providing civilian jobs to almost any man who wanted to work. These events helped set the stage for the first compulsory draft in U. S. history.

On March 3, 1863, The Enrollment Act was passed by congress and signed by President Lincoln. The act required the enrollment of every male citizen and those immigrants who had filed for citizenship between the ages of twenty and

forty-five. The Provost Marshals Bureau in the War Department was authorized by Congress to enforce conscription. Provost marshals were sent to each congressional district to enroll all males who were subject to conscription and then establish a quota of new troops that would be due from each congressional district. Once this was set, it was the responsibility of each state to meet the enrollment quota though the enlistment of volunteers and draftees. For the most part, states worked not to draft soldiers, instead offering volunteers a bonus to enlist. Volunteers received a bounty of \$100 from the federal government, plus state and local bounties which could add up to as much as \$500 in some locations. This system was abused by some men who would enlist for the bounties, then desert and enlist again at some other location to receive another set of bounties. Because of the widespread use of bounties to encourage enlistment, only a small percentage of men actually fought in the war as draftees. Of all the men whose names were drawn for the draft, only about 7% of them were actually drafted into the army.

In July 1863, the call went out for 300,000 new troops and the first draft was set in motion. The following is a brief overview of the draft for the Tenth Congressional District of Pennsylvania which included Schuylkill and Lebanon counties. It is probably typical of the method used in most districts. The draft was held in Pottsville on September 23, 1863. The drafting box was placed on a table, on a platform adjoining the Provost Marshall's office, in full view of all spectators. The Deputy Marshall of Lebanon County turned the box wheel and the names were drawn by a blind man. Each name was passed to the Commissioner of Lebanon County who read the names while a clerk entered them in a book. The drawing took place by the various sub-districts and 3,334 names of Schuylkill County men were drawn for induction into the army.

Of the 3,334 men drawn, 396 of them chose to pay a \$300 commutation fee, which exempted them from this draft but not necessarily the next one. This \$300 commutation fee soon became the most controversial part of the draft and led to the saying that "it was a rich man's war and a poor man's fight". Congress repealed the use of the commutation fee in July 1864 and it was not an available option to men in the last two drafts of the war. There were four drafts during the war. Almost 600 men hired substitutes to take their

place and serve in the army. By hiring a substitute, these men were guaranteed exemption from any future draft. The pool of substitutes was furnished by eighteen and nineteen year olds and immigrants who had not filed for citizenship. Seventy-two of the drafted men entered the service (2.2 % of the men whose names had been drawn). One thing most of the drafted men had in common was that they were poor; too poor to pay a \$300 fee, which was about the equivalent of an unskilled laborer's annual income, or to hire a substitute to serve in their place. The records do not state what happened to the other 2200 men whose names were drawn for the draft. Some simply failed to report, draft resistance was high in the coal mining area of Pennsylvania. Many were exempted for physical or mental disabilities and some were the sole means of support for widows or orphan siblings. Some who did report were told that their sub-district had already reached its enlistment quota.

My great-great grandfather, William L. Reed of Schuylkill Haven, was one of the drafted men who entered the service. He had served in Co. I, 39th Pennsylvania Militia Infantry; one of the emergency militia regiments formed during Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania in July 1863. Reed was 27 years old, married with 2 children, and his wife was pregnant at the time. He was mustered into the army on September 24, 1863 and assigned to the 104th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. The 104th Infantry was a 3 year regiment from Bucks County and was currently involved in the siege of Charleston. William Reed's journey to war as a draftee was very different than that of the early soldiers who had brass bands, parades, and community celebrations when they marched off to war. The following is taken from the book, **History of the 104th Pennsylvania Regiment by W.W.H. Davis (1866)**, and describes his journey to war.

“The remainder of the conscripts and substitutes for the 104th arrived in camp on the 16th instant (Jan. 16, 1864), 289 in number, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Hart. They were immediately assigned to companies and placed under military instruction. As a whole they were a respectable body of men, as much so as could be obtained in this manner. The officers had considerable difficulty with a few of them on the passage down. Sixteen escaped from the cars

between Philadelphia and New York and were not apprehended. One concealed himself on board the steamer and could not be found. Another was shot by an officer on the vessel, through mistake, it is alleged, on the way down, who was left in the hospital at Hilton Head, where he died in March. Before they left Philadelphia the commanding officer at the draft rendezvous placed eight thousand dollars in Colonel Hart's hands belonging to the substitutes, which was paid to them after their arrival on Morris' island. The colonel was sick when he arrived. He had been relieved from duty in Philadelphia in December, by order of the secretary of war, but it was so near the time the recruits would leave that he was detained to come down in command. The remainder of the officers and men detailed for this duty, who had not rejoined the regiment before, came down with the detachment.

In filling up the regiment the strength of the companies was equalized. This raised it to almost the maximum number. After the men were assigned to companies there was a good deal of trading among the Captains who wished to get rid of bad men and receive good ones in their stead. It is told that one company commander took considerable pains with a lout of a fellow whom he wished to trade, to make him appear to good advantage. He was taken out behind the camp and drilled privately, and was provided with a shirt-collar to give him a more youthful appearance. The trade was made about twilight when the defects of the man could not be so readily seen.”

William L. Reed served with the 104th Pennsylvania in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Virginia. He was mustered out with the regiment August 25, 1865 at Portsmouth, Virginia.

The Enrollment Act of 1863 functioned as intended; it did provide manpower for the Union Army. In the end, it was not so much forced conscription, but a clumsy approach that used rewards (bounties) with the threat of being drafted to increase the number of volunteers for the Union Army. As implemented, the system was cumbersome and confusing with numerous opportunities for fraud, error, corruption and injustice. It became one of the most divisive issues of the war and is an example of how *not* to conduct a military draft.

Editor's note: Thank you Brother Cups for yet another outstanding article.

Please plan on attending the next Camp meeting on February 20th at noon. Hometown Buffet, 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ

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.

ANNUAL DUES

Name _____
Dues for calendar year 2010 are \$31.00
Dues enclosed \$ _____
Junior dues for calendar year 2010 are \$10.00
Junior Dues \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Please complete the annual dues form (above) with your check made payable to Picacho Peak Camp No.1 SUVCW and mail it to:
Jerry Bloom, Camp Secretary/Treasurer
4323 N. 28th Way
Phoenix, Arizona 85016



Past Camp Commanders

Larry Fuller 1995-2003
David A. Swanson 2003-2006
Robert Hannon 2006-2008



Camp Officers for 2010

Commander:

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E-mail: jrconrad@post.harvard.edu

Senior Vice-Commander:

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Junior Vice-Commander:

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Secretary/Treasurer:

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Bob Hannan (480) 380-9153
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Chaplain:

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Patriotic Instructor:

Dave Kampf (602) 978-0951

Eagle Scout Coordinator:

Zander Vessels (Junior Vice Commander)

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