



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



CAMP NEWSLETTER



January 2012

Camp Web site: suvchwaz.org



Arizona Centennial Celebrating 100 years of statehood February 14, 2012



Arizona Centennial—1912-2012

By David A. Swanson, Camp Commander

I realize that this is a little over a month early, but due to the newsletter schedule, it's as close as I can come to sending my congratulations to Arizona and to you—brothers of the great state of Arizona!

As I travel throughout our state, from its Sonoran Desert to the pines of northern Arizona, as I contemplate its history from the Gadsden Purchase—through its territorial days—to statehood, I am more and more proud that I am an Arizonan!

There are many centennial events planned throughout 2012; attend those that you can and get in the centennial spirit. This is your state—help celebrate our 100th anniversary.



Arizona statehood—February 14, 1912—2012

By David A. Swanson

On February 24, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln approved “An Act to provide a temporary government for the Territory of Arizona and for other purposes” and the Arizona Territory was born.

On February 12, 1912, President Taft was to officially declare that the territory of Arizona was now a state—a dual celebration in recognition of Lincoln’s birthday and statehood day, but the day before, Taft notified Arizona Territorial Governor Richard Sloan that the official statehood announcement would be delayed by two days (Taft had a scheduled trip to New York). And so on Valentine’s Day our state was born. Was it coincidental that fifty years earlier on February 14, 1862, Confederate President Jefferson Davis issued

is proclamation declaring Arizona to be a Confederate Territory?—most likely but fun to ponder.

Was there an “Arizona” prior to 1863? There was the New Mexico Territory which basically encompassed what are now the states of Arizona and New Mexico and thus it would remain until February 24, 1863 (at least so far as the U.S. was concerned). There were, however, numerous attempts by the people living in the Gadsden Purchase area (a lightly populated southern portion of the New Mexico Territory commonly called “Arizona”) to create a territory of Arizona. In 1860 they convened a Constitutional Convention at Tucson to set up a provisional constitution and government, but nothing came of it and in March 1861 an “Ordinance of Secession” was approved. The 1860 Convention and the Confederate Territory of Arizona are but footnotes in Arizona history, since they both shared the same problems—both were short lived and no external political or governmental body recognized their legitimacy.

It is amazing to contemplate the changes that took place from 1860 statehood! Arizona grew from a population of 6,500 to over 205,000

Well into the 1880s the fear of hostile Indians was still a major concern. (But quickly back to the Confederate occupation; only three Confederate soldiers are known to have died in Arizona from wounds obtained from fighting there and they were not the result of fighting with Union forces; they occurred during a fight with Apache Indians at Dragoon Springs in southeastern Arizona.) Anyway, after being notified that the Interior Department was going to move the “hostile” Chiricahua Apaches from Florida to the San Carlos reservation, “Memorial No. 2” was written: “To The President of the United States” by the 1889

Fifteenth Legislative Assembly: “ That years prior to the removal of Geronimo and his tribe of hostile Apache fiends, the people of said Territory suffered untold trials and hardships caused by a continued warfare against them by said tribe. . . . That for years [the Indians] were not captured until hundreds of lives were lost and thousands of dollars had been expended resisting their inhuman onslaught. . . . That the location of said Indians . . . in the Territory of Arizona would be a standing menace to the peace and well being of its people and will endanger the lives and property of its citizens, retard immigration and destroy our prosperity. . . .”

And yet, twenty-three years after this “Memorial” was written, the state of Arizona was born as indicated by Will H. Robinson in his book *The Story of Arizona*:

IT was on Valentine’s Day, February 14, 1912, at 10 o’clock A.M., that President Taft, with a bright, new, gold pen, affixed his signature to the proclamation making Arizona a state. Immediately afterwards, the President advised Governor Sloan of his action by telegraph and extended his congratulations to the people of the state thus created.

As soon as Governor Sloan received the message he at once proclaimed the day a holiday, under the title of “Admission Day,” and the state gave itself over to rejoicing.

The inauguration of Gov.-elect G. W. P. Hunt was performed with democratic simplicity. Declining the use of an automobile as being out of the spirit of the new administration, Governor Hunt, followed by a long train of his friends, and personal adherents, walked the mile or more that lay between his hotel and the capital.

As the governor-elect appeared on the front portico of the building, he was enthusiastically cheered by the throng of people who had gathered to do him honor.

In his address he referred to the constitution in terms of warmest commendation and pledged himself and his administration to its progressive principles. Thus statehood had its genesis. . . .”



Minutes of the November 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 32 Brothers and guests in attendance.

Camp officer election & installation

The following Brothers were duly elected and installed as Picacho Peak Camp officers:

Commander: David A. Swanson
Senior Vice Commander: John R. Conrad
Junior Vice Commander: Jim Heller
Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry Bloom
Camp Council: Bob Young, Mark Haynes & Don Strachota Jr.

Appointed officers:

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

Delegates to the 2012 first annual Encampment of the Department-at-Large:

Mark Haynes
Don Strachota

Congratulations all!



Some of the Camp officers for 2011-2012, left to right: Commander David A. Swanson, Junior Vice-Commander Jim Heller, Council member/Chaplain Mark Haynes, Council member Don Strachota and Secretary/Treasurer, Jerry Bloom.

Junior member initiation: Six-year-old Charles Swanson Albaugh was duly initiated by his grandfather, Camp Commander David A. Swanson. Among Charlie's eight Civil War ancestors was his great⁴ grandfather Corporal Oscar F. Foote, Co. G, 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry.



Charlie's mother Jennifer leading the welcoming of Charles Swanson Albaugh as a Junior member of the SUVCW!

Guest speaker

Brother John Kohl, assisted by his wife Joye, gave his usual *excellent* presentation, this one regarding "Fascinating Facts and Humanitarian Acts of the Civil War."

Thank you Brother Kohl and Joye!



Brother John Kohl

We are Sons of Union Veterans, not because of anything we have done, but because of the sacrifices of our Civil War ancestors in keeping this splendid country together. As members of the Order, we perpetuate their sacrifices by our actions on behalf of the Order and our Camp. Even something as simple as attending meetings helps solidify that camaraderie.

I want to encourage a *renewed vigor* in the attendance of meetings and involvement in Camp activities. If you think you might be interested in helping officers in their various offices, contact the officers and volunteer! Trust me, you won't be turned down.

Also, if you have any ideas regarding recruiting or anything involving the Camp, please feel free to contact me or any of the officers.

Thanks.

--David A. Swanson, Camp Commander



New Camp Brothers

H. G. Smith transferred to our Camp from the Robert Finch Camp No. 14, Dept of Michigan.

Donald Hotchkiss Jr. transferred to our Camp from the William B. Keith Camp No. 12, Las Vegas, Nevada, Department of California/Pacific.

Welcome to Picacho Peak Camp No. 1!



Riordan Mansion Historic Park

By David A. Swanson

The Riordan Mansion Historic Park, located in Flagstaff, Arizona, was literally the home of one of the most prominent pioneer families in the town—the Riordans. Tim and Michael Riordan built two, almost identical houses, connected by a rendezvous room, for their families in 1904. The architect for the project was Charles Whittlesey—who was also the same architect for the El Tovar Hotel at the Grand Canyon.

But now for "the rest of the story," as Paul Harvey used to say. In about 1887 Dennis M. (Matt) Riordan came to Flagstaff because of the lumber potential in the area and purchased the Ayer Lumber Company, changing its name to the Arizona Timber and Lumber Company. He was responsible for coaxing his brothers Tim and Michael to Flagstaff and by the late 1890's sold his interest in the company to them. Not a whole lot is known about Matt's early Flagstaff life, but after some research I was able to present the following new information to the park:

From the Camp Commander

I want to sincerely thank all of our Brothers who volunteered to fill the various Camp officer positions. I also want to thank you, the Brothers of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1, for your support of our Camp over the years.



“I am pleased to present a copy of the *Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Encampment of the Department of Arizona, Grand Army of the Republic* that took place in Flagstaff, Arizona on June 11-12, 1895. The *Proceedings* may be of special interest to the Riordan Mansion State Historic Park since Dennis M. Riordan played a very special part.

“In 1886 the Gen. T.E.G Ransom Post, located in Flagstaff, was one of (at the time) seven Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Posts in the territory of Arizona and all were part of the Department of California. In 1888 these posts were transferred to the newly created Department of Arizona.

“In 1895 the Department of Arizona GAR held its Eighth Annual Encampment in Flagstaff at the Ransom Post No. 4 Hall. (An encampment is an annual meeting of the department which was composed of various post representatives and held in various cities of the territory.) Its Past Post Commander D.M. Riordan delivered the opening address to the Encampment and presented each participant with a ‘cane cut from Gettysburg Battle field by himself on the 4th of July, 1894.’ Additionally, as mentioned in the *Proceedings*,

“On Monday April 22, 1895, a ceremony was conducted for the laying of the corner-stone of the Flagstaff Public School. The corner-stone was laid with beautiful and appropriate services by Ransom Post No. 4 GAR . . .”

“Here is a short history of Dennis M. Riordan’s service during the Civil War. On page 50 of the *Proceedings* he is listed as having served in, “H & E, 134 & 156 Ill. Inf.” The 134th Illinois Infantry Regiment was organized in Chicago on May 31, 1864, for the duration of 100 days, moved to Columbus, Kentucky for “Garrison duty” and the regiment was mustered out (disbanded) on October 5, 1864. The Illinois Civil War Veterans database (<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/dacivil.html>) does not show Dennis M. Riordan as a member of Company H, but it does show Pvt Dennis M. *Rierden*, age 18, who joined in Chicago and mustered in with the company on May 31 and mustered out on October 25, 1864.

“The 156th Illinois Infantry was organized on February 16, 1865, and moved to Nashville, Tennessee where the regiment was engaged in guarding railroads and “post” duty—it was mustered out on September 20, 1865. The Illinois Civil War Veterans database shows that on February 28, 1865, Dennis M. Riordan joined Company E, 156th Illinois US Infantry in Chicago and held the rank of musician. He was listed as being 18 years old and his occupation was ‘carpenter.’ His current residence was in Cook

County, IL. He mustered out of the service as a musician on September 20, 1865, in Memphis, Tennessee.

“The attached *Proceedings* is fairly lengthy but it contains interesting information regarding D.M. Riordan, the city of Flagstaff and the territory of Arizona. (While the printing is somewhat askew, this was the best that the Library of Congress could send to me.)

“As a member of the Arizona Historical Society and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I certainly hope that this information is of some benefit to the staff and volunteers at the Riordan Mansion State Historic Park.”



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

By David A. Swanson

Here is a continuation of articles regarding the John W. Owens Post No. 5 GAR of Phoenix from its inception in September 1885. This “historical sketch” includes a glimpse of the Post, the Department of Arizona GAR, the city of Phoenix and the territory and state of Arizona, taken solely from published Phoenix newspaper accounts.

In this edition we read about an **extremely lucky burglar who was shot at in 1888** not only by Comrade George F. Coats (past city of Phoenix mayor) but also by his daughter—and of course a true Arizona story must have a lame somebody or other—in this case it’s “Lame Billy” the night watchman.

This edition also covers the territory of Arizona’s mineral exhibit and preparations for a grand Memorial Day celebration.

Daily Phoenix Herald

Thursday February 2, 1888:

Bold Burglar Caught

Last night sometime in the night the family of Mr. Geo. F. Coats were awakened by someone crawling over the fence between their residence and the rear of Ashler’s store and heard what seemed the opening of the rear door of the store. Having awakened Mr. Coats, that gentlemen dressed and having satisfied himself that burglars were in the store hastily procured Mr. Lewis, the baker at the Phoenix Bakery nearby, and “Lame Billy” the night watchman at the engine house. Mr. Lewis and Billy raised an alarm at the front

doors of the store while Mr. Coats watched for the game to appear at the rear door which it did in the person of two young men, one of which they caught but the other fellow though ordered to stop at the point of a pistol ran like a deer and though the pistol was snapped on him unfortunately it failed to go off and he escaped, though in doing so he passed Miss Laura Coats who was in the act of taking her own pistol to her father, but seeing the man escaping she drew the weapon on him and also attempted to fire but the weapon snapped. Both the pistol Mr. Coats had and the one in the hands of Miss Laura, had been loaded some four years hence the poor results in attempting to fire them. The fellow caught is a bum about town who signs himself John Berry. They did not succeed in getting away with anything though they would doubtless have made considerable of a haul had they not been discovered. Mr. Coats marched his man over to the court house where he was locked up till this afternoon, and is at this writing, having his preliminary trial in Justice Wood's court. [George F. Coats was city of Phoenix mayor in 1884-85 & 1889-90 as well as Department Commander of the Department of Arizona GAR 1890.]

February 11, 1888:

John W. Owens Post No. 5 will hold a "Camp Fire" on next Wednesday evening on which occasion a general good time is anticipated among their Comrades and their lady friends.

Secret Societies

G.A.R., John W. Owens Post No 82, MEETS, first and third Wednesdays on each month at the Masonic Hall.

J. B. Creamer PC;
A. T. Bird Ajt.

Tuesday May 15, 1888:

OUR MINERAL EXHIBIT.

The Present Status of the Territorial Mineral Collection.

This collection, which had previously been on exhibition at Denver and Chicago was, at the close of the New Orleans exposition in 1886, left in private storage in New Orleans, in the absence

of any appropriations for its return to this Territory until at the Grand Army reunion at St. Louis in 1887, the storage was paid and it was removed to that city and placed in the exhibition hall of the St. Louis Annual Exposition, by Barrett Post, Prescott, of the G.A.R., at their own expense. There it still remains, subject to the terms of the subjoined contract between N. O. Murphy, one of the G.A.R. commissioners from this Territory to attend its exhibition during the above-mentioned reunion, and J. H. Johnson, secretary of the St. Louis Exposition Association.

St. Louis, Sept. 29, 1887.

To J. H. Johnson, Secretary St. Louis Exposition Association:

Sir-The undersigned, Commissioners from the Territory of Arizona, beg leave to submit to you the following proposition. We have here for exhibition our Territorial collection of minerals, formerly exhibited at the World's Fair at New Orleans, La., together with valuable additions. It is our wish to place them on permanent exhibition with your association, providing proper arrangements can be made. This exhibit was brought here particularly for exhibition at Armory Hall, of your city, during the Grand Army Encampment, but recognizing the advantages of your Exposition, we have deemed

it advisable to propose exhibition with you subject upon the following terms, viz:

- 1st. That you furnish sufficient and conspicuous space in which to expose the exhibit.
- 2nd. That you furnish men to unpack and expose the same, clean and repair cases, etc.
- 3d. That all expenses of making this exhibit other than the personal expenses of Arizona's representatives shall be borne by you.
- 4th. That two Commissioners of Arizona shall have access to the building and exhibit during the progress of the present and future Expositions, and shall have the privilege of superintending and adding to the collection.
- 5th. That you shall exercise care and caution in preserving the exhibition from spoliation and loss.

6th. In consideration of the fulfillment of the above conditions, the exhibit shall remain on permanent show at this Exposition during the continuance thereof, and shall not be removed at any future time without the consent of the Exposition management and the repayment to the Association of whatever moneys they have expended in fitting up and placing the same; and should the officials of the Territory of Arizona ever demand said exhibit to be shown elsewhere they shall first reimburse the Exposition

Association of St. Louis for whatever expense they shall have incurred in fitting up and exhibiting the collection, before it shall be incumbent upon said Association to surrender it.

7th. That due diligence shall be observed in putting this collection upon permanent and conspicuous exhibition.

W. F. R. Schindler,
N. O. Murphy,
Commissioners

Accepted on behalf of the Expositions
management. (Signed)
J. H. Johnson, Sec'y.

Mr. N. O. Murphy has published as open letter to miners of Arizona, which we have not space to produce, urging them to take an interest in the improvement of this collection, so important to their own interests, and calling their attention to the above contract as follows: "According to the foregoing arrangement, the entire mineral collection of Arizona, now at St. Louis, will be given conspicuous space at the exhibition, be unpacked and displayed to the best advantage, free of cost to the Territory, and the privilege is accorded to territorial representatives to add to and improve the collection, and to represent the same in person if they so desire. When it is considered that the collection comprises nearly ten tons of minerals, exhibition cases and appurtenances, which will be displayed conspicuously and permanently, without cost to the Territory, with privilege of improving and adding to the exhibit, it will be seen that at least a fair contract was entered into." It is regarding this same collection, that the **Herald** has been from time calling the attention of its readers, and urging miners and those interested in mining property in this county, to aid in the compilation of a collection of our own which is to take its place in the Territorial collection, and while advertising the mining resources of Arizona in general, call attention at the same time to the mineral wealth of Maricopa county in particular. Such a collection is already in existence, and is at present in the charge of Major G. W. Ingalls, of the Arizona Mining Exchange. The only part of the work required of the miners is to furnish specimens.



Don't miss our February 11, 2012 meeting!!!

Our featured speaker will be **Brother Al Harrica** who will do a first person impersonation of a private in Co I of the 27th Massachusetts Regiment and follow him from September 1861 to 1865.

Location/time: The Home Town Buffet 1314 N. Scottsdale Rd, at high noon. Be sure to tell the cashier that you are with the Civil War group.

See you there!

Your Civil War ancestor information is wanted

Over the years quite a bit of our Camp Civil War ancestor information has been printed in this newsletter. If you have information that has not been printed your fellow Camp brothers want to read it! The process is quite simple: write it, proof it, (it is obvious that sometimes I skip this part) rewrite it, and submit it to the newsletter editor who will make you and your ancestor famous!

Second Call for 2012 dues

Dues for 2012 are now being gratefully accepted by our secretary/treasurer.

Dues are \$36 for members and \$10 for junior members.

Please do not wait until the last minute because you may forget and then we have to hire bounty hunters *and then things can get ugly.*

Please mail them to Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom—see page 7.

If you are receiving this newsletter in black & white via the Unites States Postal Service and an e-mail color version would work just as well for you, e-mail the newsletter editor—this saves your camp money and lessens the load on the poor, poor editor

2012 ANNUAL DUES

Name _____

Dues for calendar year 2012 are \$36.00

Dues enclosed \$ _____

Junior dues for calendar year 2012 are \$10.00

Junior Dues \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make your check out to Picacho Peak Camp No.1
SUVCW

Please mail to:

Jerry Bloom, Secretary/Treasurer
4323 N. 28th Way
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Address Change

Brothers, if you change your address, *e-mail address* or phone number please advise our Camp Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom at your earliest convenience.

This will ensure that you get *The Banner*, our Camp newsletter, and additionally this will enable us to contact you.

Past Camp Commanders



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



Camp Officers for 2012

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John Wanzel (4800 306-7738

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Color Bearer:

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