



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



## CAMP NEWSLETTER



January 2013

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



### Territory of Arizona Sesquicentennial February 24, 1863—February 24, 2013



#### **In this issue:**

Headstone dedication service for Civil War and Buffalo Soldier Ambrose Skinner on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.—see page 3

Captain Richard Stoddert Ewell—Indian fighter—Arizona territorial hero—see page 4

Counselor: Bob Young  
Guide: David Vessels  
Color Bearer: Ron Jones  
Guard: Al Harrica  
Graves Registration: Jan Huber  
Civil War Memorials: David Swanson  
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Dennis Lamb  
Signals Officer: Will Vessels

#### **Minutes of the November 10, 2012 Camp meeting**

Location:  
J J North's Country Buffet  
1312 N. Scottsdale Rd.,  
Scottsdale, Az

Senior Vice Commander John Conrad called the November meeting to order at 12: 00 p.m.

#### **Camp officer installation**

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

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

The following Brothers were appointed to the following offices:

Chaplain: Mark Haynes  
Patriotic Instructor: David Kampf  
Historian: Mike Moore

#### ***Delegates to the 2013 second annual Encampment of the Department-at-Large:***

Brothers John Conrad, Mike Moore, and Don Strachota

#### **Congratulations all!**

Brother Bob Hannan PCC was welcomed back to the Camp after several years of fighting health issues; it was great to see him.

Chaplain Mark Haynes was trapped in Northern Arizona by bad weather, and Brother Bob Young was appointed chaplain pro tem.

JVC Jim Heller discussed the Arizona StandDown, an outreach for homeless veterans that will take place March 8-10, 2013 at the Veterans' Memorial Coliseum. We can support the effort by volunteering and by purchasing or sponsoring "red shirts," signifying supporters. Upon motion and second, the Camp voted to support the Arizona StandDown through volunteer attendance, with signups to take place at the February meeting. We will try to coordinate our efforts with the DUVCW, Margaret Warner Wood Tent No. 1.

Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom gave our bank balance and related that renewal of memberships is

proceeding quite well, with over 40% already renewed. Brother Jerry also discussed Picacho Peak Days, which is the weekend after the Arizona StandDown, and will seek volunteers for the booth at the February meeting.

SVC John Conrad presented a brief history of significant events in the Civil War 150 years ago, from November-January 1862.

***New Camp Brother***

David Gray was inducted as a new Brother in our Order, with his wife assisting in his initiation. Brother David's Civil War ancestor is his great-great-great grandfather John Thomas Mason, Co. G, 32<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Regiment Vol.

Welcome Brother David!

***Guest Speaker***

Brother John Kohl and his wife, Joye, did their usual outstanding job in his program: *The Civil War Journey Continues with Private/hospital Steward Jacob Cumley*. The journey continues with Sherman through Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina (including some of the lesser known but significant North Carolina (including some of the lesser known but significant battles and skirmishes) and the Grand March in Washington.

Jacob served through the entire war including 33 battles and skirmishes.

Brother John, thank you for another excellent presentation!



**From 2013 Camp Commander David Swanson**

I wish to thank you, the Brothers of Picacho Peak Camp No.1, for your confidence in me for the following year and I will do my best to ensure that our Camp remains at great Camp!

Many of the officers have retained their positions from last year. *We have some new officers—Historian—Mike Moore; Guard—Al Harrica; and Eagle Scout Coordinator Dennis Lamb*. Thanks to each of you for volunteering for your office—it's great to see some new faces!

Thank you all for your support of our Camp!

During this, and hopefully the coming years, we will work more closely with the Daughters of Margaret Warner Wood Tent No.1 DUVCW. We are the only two Union Civil War organizations in the state and a closer relationship, I think, will be a benefit to each.

Now, if there is something that our Camp can do that will bring out more Brothers to our meetings, please let me know. If you want to see our Camp involved in certain activities or programs, once again

let me know. This is your Camp so let's make the most of it!



**Gettysburg Days & Desert Shadows Middle School**

Brothers Jan Huber and John Kohl were at the Desert Shadows Middle School in Scottsdale on November 15<sup>th</sup> to assist with the annual Gettysburg Battle event. John had a teaching station on what a soldier carried with him on battle campaigns and Jan had a teaching station on bugling in the Civil War.

The Camp also donated \$200 for this outstanding event.

Thank you Brothers John Kohl and Jan Huber for representing your Camp!



Brother John Kohl



Brother Jan Huber

## February 9, 2013 Camp meeting— Restaurant name change

Just a reminder, our next Camp meeting will take place on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at noon at J J North's Country Buffet, 1312 N. Scottsdale, Rd., Scottsdale. (This used to be the Home Town Buffet—the name has changed but everything else is the same.

Our Camp meetings take place on the second Saturday at noon on the following months: February, May, August, and November.

**Our speaker for the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Rich Dahl** who will discuss Confederate currency. He will bring some bills from his collection as well as U.S. fractional currency issued during the Civil War.

This will be a most interesting and informative talk—do not miss it!

## Headstone dedication service for Civil War and Buffalo Soldier Ambrose Skinner

Saturday, February 2, 2013 at 1:00 pm  
Greenwood Memory Lawn Cemetery  
2300 W Van Buren, Phoenix, AZ

**All Brothers of the Camp are requested to attend this very special event** which was spearheaded from start to finish by our outstanding Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber.

We will be using the 1917 GAR Headstone dedication service/ritual. We are fortunate to have as an integral part of this ceremony, representatives from the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Buffalo Soldiers of the Arizona Territory, the Arizona Civil War Council and the Southwest Civil War Association. We also received invaluable assistance from the Pioneers' Cemetery Association, the Black Family Genealogy & History Society and Greenwood Cemetery Memory Lawn which waived fees and placed the military headstone for Ambrose Skinner—the cemetery will also set up everything for the program.

**Directions:** The entrance is the first driveway west of I-17 and W. Van Buren on the north side of the street. Drive past the mausoleum (which will be on your left) and take the first left past it—park anywhere. If you follow the road for a short distance it will T

into another—the grave site is to the right—look for the set up (this particular road will be blocked).

Hopefully, there will be a wide range of media coverage for the event so please make every effort to attend.

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### Who was Ambrose Skinner?

The following information about Ambrose Skinner is taken from a paper written by Z.J. McCollum of the Black Family Genealogy Society:

Ambrose Skinner was born between 1844 and 1847 in Edenton, North Carolina. Presumably he was born a slave, although the population of Edenton at that time did include a small number of free blacks.

The first appearance of his name in the public record occurs on 13 August 1863, when he enlisted in Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, North Carolina Colored Infantry. He was discharged on 8 February 1864. On that same date, he reenlisted as a private in Company E, 36<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry, a unit that had organized *from* the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina Colored Infantry.

Pvt. Skinner was in Greenville, Louisiana, on 11 October 1866, when he reenlisted for a period of 3 years. He was described as having black eyes, black hair and a black complexion. His height was 5' 6". He served in Company F, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry and, later, Company B, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He was discharged 11 October 1869 at Fort Jackson, Louisiana, with the rank of private.

At the end of the Civil War, Congress authorized the creation of four regiments of colored troops to garrison posts in the South during the Reconstruction era; they were the 38<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, and 41<sup>st</sup>. The original four regiments were reduced to two on March 3, 1869; the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup>. Eventually, the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> were consolidated into the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment with the first headquarters established at Jackson Barracks, Louisiana. Members of the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment would later become known as Buffalo Soldiers.

Following his discharge on 11 October 1869, Pvt. Skinner immediately reenlisted for another five-year hitch. . . . He served in Company B of the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Skinner was recorded on the Federal Census of 1870 (taken 27 August 1870) as a 25-year-old Negro male born North Carolina, living in the barracks at Fort Quitman, El Paso County, Texas.

Skinner was discharged 11 October 1874 at the expiration of his service at Fort Quitman, Texas, with the rank of private. He had served in the military continuously for more than eleven years.

Nothing is known about Skinner's whereabouts for the next fifteen years--1874 to 1891. . . . It is possible that Skinner went to Mexico to seek employment after his discharge in 1874, as his military background might have been an asset there.

By 1892, Skinner was married to a young girl of Mexican descent named Angelita. There is some evidence to suggest that she was born in Los Angeles, California, but census-takers in 1910 and 1920 seem to have assumed that she was from Mexico. If Skinner filed his original pension application in Los Angeles, this may have been where he met Angelita. The couple eventually had four children born between 1892 and 1901 in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Federal Census of 1910 records Ambrose Skinner living on Henshaw Street in Phoenix with his wife Angelita, daughters Annie, Estella and Marguerite, and son John. He supported his family by working on a truck farm.

By 1920, Skinner was in his seventies and retired. . . . Ambrose Skinner died 24 April 1922 and was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery Block 39, Lot 1, Space 1. His wife Angelita and son-in-law Lee Brown are buried several yards away. . .



None of this would probably ever have happened except for the outstanding efforts of our Camp's Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber.

**Brother Huber, on behalf of the Camp and me personally, thank you for a job well done!**

--David A. Swanson,  
Camp Commander

## February 24, 2013—150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Territory of Arizona

We will not see the activity that we saw last year with the Arizona State Centennial, but on February 24, 1863, the Territory of Arizona was born. With this in mind, here is some interesting information about Arizona in the late 1850s--1860 that might be of some interest.

### ***Captain Richard Stoddert Ewell—Arizona and . . . Cochise?***

By David A. Swanson

What in the world did Confederate General R.S. Ewell have to do with the Arizona Territory and Cochise? Well, as a Confederate general—nothing—but as a U.S. Army captain, quite a bit. But first let's clear something up. There was no official "Arizona Territory" until February 24, 1863—up to that point it

was simply an area of the New Mexico Territory that tried for years to become its own territory—although it was commonly referred to as "Arizona."

After the end of the War with Mexico (1846- 1848), the primary role of the US Army in the newly acquired New Mexico Territory was to protect its citizens from things like Indian attacks. Twenty-one companies were assigned to this task, which comprised the Department of New Mexico, with headquarters at Santa Fe.

In 1850 United States Army Captain Richard Stoddert Ewell reported for duty and took command of Company G, 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons. Over the coming years he took part in many operations against the Navajo, Utes, Jicarillas and the Mescalero Apaches.

In 1856 the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons was split up and three companies, including Company G, were sent to the newly acquired Gadsden Purchase area commonly called "Arizona." This area, populated by Mexican and American settlers, was purchased from Mexico and in 1854 was officially annexed to the New Mexico Territory. This section of the territory was the roughest part since it was inhabited by "murders, cutthroats, thieves and the warlike Apache Indians." So into this thinly populated almost 30,000 square miles of territory rode three companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons. Company G, commanded by Captain R. S. Ewell was assigned to the newly built Fort Buchanan (named after the sitting president). Fort Buchanan was located 25 miles north of the Mexican border in a rich mining region of Arizona. As a person who was always looking for a good investment and who was an amateur chemist, Captain Ewell along with four others eventually opened up a silver mine in the area and named it the "Patagonia Mine." In 1860 the mine was sold to Sylvester Mowry for \$25,000.

In 1857 after the "Battle of the Gila" Captain Ewell, because of his actions, was recognized as one of the premiere Indian fighters in the Territory of New Mexico and in fledgling Arizona.

In 1859, while still fighting the Pinal and Chiricahua Apaches, Ewell along with a U.S. Indian Agent met with Cochise, the Chiricahua Apache leader. An agreement of sorts was made with Cochise—the U.S. would give him supplies of food and gifts if he would end his attacks north of the Mexican border. Cochise went along with the agreement, for the most part, and it was after Ewell left in 1860 that he really went on the warpath because of his capture (and subsequent escape) by Lt. Bascom in an action called the "Bascom Affair." But there were other Apache bands that continued to wreak havoc with the settlers of southern Arizona and unfortunately Ewell couldn't do a whole lot about it. Fort Buchanan was too great a distance from other forts for reinforcements and he simply did not have the manpower to be really effective—and he wasn't alone.

None of the forts had adequate manpower and it was mainly because of this ineffectiveness that Arizona tried from 1856 to 1863 to become its own territory. The settlers needed protection from Indians and they weren't getting it.

In March of 1860 Captain Richard S. Ewell became an Arizona "rock star" after a band (no pun intended) of Pinal Apaches attacked a lumber camp and carried off Larcena Page, a twenty-three-year old woman and an eleven-year-old girl named Mercedes Sias Quiroz. Capt Ewell realized that if he chased and attacked the two would be killed so he negotiated for them. The Indians said Page was already dead (severely wounded she found her way back to the lumber camp days later) and they released Mercedes to Ewell. This all coincided with the 1860 Arizona Territorial Constitutional Convention taking place at Tucson.

And so on the third day of the Convention, riding down the dusty streets of old Tucson to the town plaza, came the captain with the eleven-year-old captive. The town's population of 900 souls went crazy with excitement and joy; but not just the town—he was invited to attend the Convention where those present named a county (one of four) after him and gave him a formal vote of thanks.

In September 1860, while he was very ill (most likely malaria), he received orders to proceed to Fort Bliss, Texas for court-martial duty—an assignment that lasted until January 31, 1861. Still very ill, he received a 10-month leave of absence and went to his sister's house in Virginia. On April 24, 1861, he resigned his commission in the U.S. Army and his Confederate Army career commenced.

Here are excerpts from *THE 1860 CONSTITUTION AND SCHEDULE OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY OF ARIZONA AND THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION*:

Chairman James A. Lucas . . . addressed the Convention as follows:

We have assembled, gentlemen, on this occasion, to organize a Provisional Government for Arizona. The neglect of the General Government to heed our prayers and petitions—its refusal to grant us a Territorial organization, notwithstanding or application renewed year after year—the slight hopes of any favorable action from the present Congress of the United States, on our behalf, compels us to look to ourselves in our own defense. . . .

Our citizens cry aloud for protection. The varied interests of our Territory are paralyzed through the insecurity to person and property existing at the present time. Crime stalks abroad in our midst, while our country is overrun by tribes of

barbarous savages, who despoil our citizens of their hard-earned avails, murdering and carrying into captivity those who are weak and unprotected. . .

#### Third Day's Proceedings

##### Afternoon session

Mr. Cozzens [delegate from Mesilla] stated that Capt. R S Ewell, U.S.A., was present and moved that he be invited to a seat within the bar of the House. Carried. . . .

On motion of Capt. J. Dean Alden, the section entitled "Counties" was first considered.

The Secretary having read the section.

Capt Alden moved to amend by inserting the name of "Ewell" to the county comprising the territory between the Chirrichua (sic) Mountains and the longitudinal line proposed as the western boundary of the county, in place of "Santa Rita," as called in the report.

The amendment was adopted by a unanimous vote.

#### Fourth Day's Proceedings

##### Morning session

Judge McGowan submitted the following proposals which were adopted:

*Resolved*, That in Capt. R.S. Ewell of Ft. Buchanan, the people of Arizona have found a devoted friend, and the Government, a distinguished officer—one who is ever ready to pursue and bring to justice the savage robber and destroyer of life, or to rescue the helpless captive. He has the heartfelt thanks of the people of Arizona, and we trust that Government will not be tardy in bestowing upon a meritorious soldier some evidence of its approbation, commensurate with his efficient services.

*Resolved*, That the Commanding and other officers, stationed at the several Military Posts in Arizona, have faithfully discharged their duties, and have performed all that the limited means within their power would permit, for the suppression of the Indian forays, so frequent and destructive to the lives and interests of the settlers of this Territory. . . .

*Be it resolved*, By the delegates of the people of Arizona, in Convention assembled, that we earnestly and particularly protest against the removal of any of the United States troops now stationed in Arizona, or the breaking up of any United States military post now established in said Territory; and particularly do we protest against the removal of Fort Fillmore upon the Rio Grande, and Fort Buchanan on the head of the Sonoita, as the citizens of these portions of the Territory are entirely without protection, and

exposed to the depredations of hostile tribes of Indians who infest that section of the country.

After the end of the Civil War Ewell spent his remaining years on his wife’s farm in Spring Hill, Tennessee and died on January 25, 1872; he never returned to the Southwest.

Postscript: When President Lincoln signed the Organic Act on February 24, 1863 splitting the New Mexico Territory in half and thus making the Territory of Arizona, Ewell County was nowhere to be seen and in fact the territorial boundaries were totally different from those outlined in the 1860 Constitutional Convention.

Sources:

*Richard S. Ewell: A Soldier’s Life*, by Donald Pfanz; *Old Bald Head (General R. S. Ewell): The Portrait of a Soldier*; by Percy G. Hamlin; *Wikipedia*:

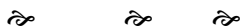
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page); *The Constitution and Schedule of the provisional Government of the Territory of Arizona and the Proceedings of the Convention*; Published by Order of the Constitutional Convention— assembled at Tucson, Arizona Territory, April 2, 1860.



### The U.S. Army in the Southwest—1860

In 1860, on the eve of the Civil War over one-third of the U.S. Army (17,500 officers and men) were assigned to the Department of New Mexico (which included the region known as “Arizona”) and the Department of Texas. The composition of those assigned is quite interesting as described by Jerry Thompson in his book *TEXAS & NEW MEXICO ON THE EVE OF THE CIVIL WAR-The Mansfield & Johnston Inspections, 1859-1861*.

Two-thirds of the men were immigrants, particularly desperate Irish youth who had fled the Emerald Isle and the calamitous potato famine for a better life in America. The second largest foreign contingent was German, of which many could not speak enough English to be understood by their officers. In addition, a sprinkling of disillusioned English, Scottish, and Scandinavian youth had enlisted. A few recruits were deserters from the British army in Canada. Some of the Americans were society’s riffraff, including paupers, drunkards, reprobates, the chronically unemployed and shiftless, and even the mentally retarded or incompetent. At least one-fourth were illiterate. . . .



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

By David A. Swanson

This column will be continued in the next newsletter.



### Second & last call for 2013 dues

Brother Dan Huskinsson holds this years’ record as the first to submit his 2013 dues.

Now, for those who have yet to submit theirs, please do so **now, before you forget**. The dues form is contained on page 7.

Bring them to the Feb meeting or mail them-- Don’t make our Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom hunt you down—it won’t be pretty!

**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**

### 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.

### February 9, 2013 Camp meeting—Restaurant name change

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### 2013 ANNUAL DUES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dues for calendar year 2013 are \$36.00

Dues enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Junior dues for calendar year 2013 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

### Camp Officers for 2013

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**Newsletter Editor/Publisher**

David A. Swanson (Camp Commander)

### Past Camp Commanders



Larry Fuller 1995-2003

David A. Swanson 2003-2006

Robert Hannon 2006-2008

John R. Conrad 2008-2010

David A. Swanson 2010-2011-2012

