

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



July 2009

Camp Web site: www.suvcwaz.org

Camp meetings now permanently held in Scottsdale—meeting dates for 2009 change slightly

Minutes of the May 23, 2009 Camp meeting:

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

Camp Commander John Conrad called the Camp meeting to order at noon with 24 Brothers present.

Meeting Location: A vote was taken to move our meeting location permanently from Coco's restaurant to the Hometown Buffet. All 24 Brothers in attendance voted for the move. The buffet offers a greater variety of food at a more reasonable cost. Additionally, the meeting room is very nice and there is ample parking.

Meeting dates: Due to a scheduling conflict with other groups at the buffet, our meeting dates had to be changed slightly for 2009. The August meeting date is the 22nd and the November date is the 14th.

New Brother: **John Wantzel** was inducted into the Camp and the SUVCW. John's ancestor is Christian Wantzel Sr., Company A, 1st Rifle Reg't, PA Vol Infantry (also knows as the "Bucktails).

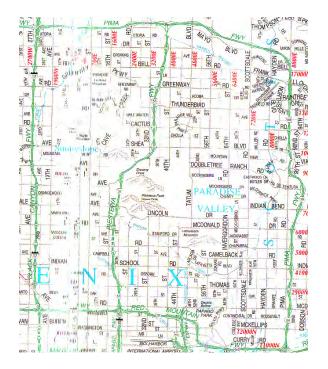
Welcome John!

(Minutes continued on page 2)

Hometown Buffet driving directions & etc

The Hometown Buffet is at 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ. This is about a mile north of the loop 202 (Red Mountain Fwy) on the west side of Scottsdale Rd. It is at Scottsdale Rd and McDowell just south on the west side.

Those coming in from the north or west can take I-17 to I-10; follow it east to the 202 then north on Scottsdale Rd. From the south and east, take the 101 and go west on the 202, then north on Scottsdale Rd.



Now, once you get to the restaurant and pay for your meal (tell the cashier you are with the Camp Picacho Peak group), please proceed directly to the meeting room where we will have the opening ceremony at noon. We will then take a break and allow ample time for you to graze the "all you can eat and drink buffet" and pillage the "all you can eat" dessert" table.

Each Brother is responsible for paying for his own meal at the restaurant. The cost is \$8.50.

So we can get an idea of the number of Brothers who think they may attend, please call Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom at (602) 955-3091 or email: jerrybloom@qwest.net

August Camp meeting

The August Camp meeting will be held on Saturday the 22nd at noon. Brother Dave Kampf will be our speaker and we will also have a presentation by Will Stoudamire, an ASU Public History Graduate Student, regarding his research on Civil War Monuments in Arizona.

Come and check out your new meeting place!

Camp minutes continued

Treasurer report: Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom reported that the Camp is financially strong and membership is steady. Current membership is 63.

JROTC Certificate: Patriotic Instructor Dave Kampf introduced his guests, the Van Ness family, whose son was presented with the certificate.

Reburial of California Civil War Veterans in Sierra Vista: Dave Kampf gave a report of the reburial, which he felt was a very good and moving ceremony.

Camp Counselor's office vacancy: Commander Conrad indicated that the office was (and still is) vacant. Should any Brother wish to volunteer, please contact John directly.

Speaker: Brother Jan Huber gave an outstanding presentation about veterinary medicine in the Civil War. Jan has given other presentations to our Camp and does a great job. Thanks Jan!

Graves Registration report: Brother Jan Huber gave a report of his graves registration activities.

Memorial Day: Brother Jan Huber represented our Camp at the Pioneer Military & Memorial Park during its Memorial Day exercises.

New Camp Brother

Jefferson M. Loveless of Los Lunas, New Mexico is the latest Brother to join our Camp. Brother Loveless' grandfather is George Washington Lowry, Company E, 24th Kentucky Regular Infantry.

Our Camp extends a hearty welcome to Brother Loveless!

Chaplain's Corner

By Mark Haynes, Camp Chaplain

The primary purpose of the Civil War Chaplain was a spiritual one. Often, he was placed in the background, especially during times of battle, and waited to be called on in a time of need. When the battle raged, the chaplain was, by and large, not a fighter. His warfare was spiritual, not earthly.

The heat of battle can, however, change things in a hurry. The following account was given by former Chaplain William R. Eastman, a Congregational preacher who served with the 72nd New York. Chaplain Eastman gives this anecdote in an address he made in New York on December 11, 1913. He was to live until 1925. The entire address can be found in the excellent book *Faith in the Fight* on pages 121-123.

"But in battle, the chaplain had no orders and went where he could do the most good. He seemed naturally to belong with the doctors. He could render intelligent help in bandaging wounds and at the operating table, and his opportunity of service to individual sufferers was absolutely without limit.

But permit me to take a moment to speak of one who fell at the skirmish line. Arthur Buckminster Fuller, Chaplain of the 16th Massachusetts . . . was a scholar as well as a preacher.

He was older in years than most of us, and the exposures of the field brought on a severe sickness which kept him three months at home in the summer of 1862. Twice he rejoined his regiment only to be sent back as an invalid. President Lincoln promised to appoint him chaplain of a hospital and he resigned his place in the regiment. Having received his discharge on the 10th of December and carrying the paper on his person he went down to the river where the first attempts to cross over in Fredericksburg were in progress. The sharpshooters were making it impossible to lay a bridge and a call was made for volunteers to cross on pontoon boats. It came to him as one last chance to serve his country. True, he was no longer in the service. If taken prisoner, he was not liable for exchange; if he fell, his widow could claim no pension. He was unattached, but he was free. He found a rifle and cartridges and stepped into the boat. He passed the river, joined in the rush up the farther bank, and took his place in the skirmish line on the third street from the river. Captain Dunn of the 19th Massachusetts, who was in command of the line says "He saluted me saving. 'I must do something for my country, what shall I do?' I replied that there was never a better time than the present and assigned him a place on my left. I thought that he could render valuable aid because he was perfectly cool and collected. I have seldom seen a person on the field so calm and mild in his demeanor, evidently not acting from impulse or mortal rage." It was but a few minutes before the bullet found its mark and he fell lifeless. He had borne his testimony. When the line was forced back, his body was left, and when later recovered all his valuables had been stolen. Congress afterward gave a special pension to his widow."

Chaplain Eastman related another account where a chaplain got caught in an unexpected attack while visiting with his men. The besieged preacher thought it was better to get behind a good breastwork rather than retire from the battle. He became so caught up in the action that he got busy loading rifles for the men. It was sad he could be heard singing at the top of his lungs "Rally round the flag, boys!"

The sacrifice of chaplains in the Civil War was no greater or less than that of any other soldier. To quote Warren B. Armstrong (For Courageous Fighting and Confident Dying: Union Chaplains in the Civil War, p. 124); "But these men, ministers of God, apostles of peace and love, left behind the safety, respect, and responsibility of the parish, the comfort of home and the joy of loved ones, and journeyed to the seat of war,

there to serve their God, their country, and their fellow men."

There were times that the sacrifice required the ultimate payment. May we as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War stand at the ready to give of ourselves with such commitment.

Until next time, Lord bless

Ancestor information

George Washington Lowry

By Brother Jeff Loveless

George Washington Lowry [Jeff's great grandfather] was born in Clark County Ky. on 30 Sep 1843 and died in Weatherfard, Texas on Oct 27 1931. He joined the army just after his 18th birthday on 9 Oct 1861 and served until discharged on 31 Jan 1865, according to his discharge papers. He served in Co. E 24th Ky. Inf. starting out as a private and ending as a corporal.

Some of the battles he was involved in were Shiloh, Nashville, Perryville, and Corinth. A shell fragment wounded George but because bed space was scarce he was forced to sleep outside sitting up. According to a letter he wrote my grandmother he said that basically life was boring, just lots of marching and picket duty. The food was bad, coffee, hardtack, and fatback and water and firewood were scarce. He remembered one battle in the fall where there was a full harvest moon that night and the thousands of dead bodies on the ground made an eerie sight.

Like many families his father also fought for the North and a brother for the South. George's grandfather Thomas Lowry fought in the American Revolution in the Virginia Continental Line as did his wife's great grandfather. George was a fairly tall man at 5'10" with black hair and blue eyes. He also had a quick temper that was slow to ease.

I am fortunate in that my mother was 14 when he died so she remembered him and his stories, which she passed on to her kids along with the letter he wrote and his discharge papers.

Christian Wanzel

By Brother John Christian Wanzel [Editor note: The following is a copy of the actual Civil War Veteran's Memorial of John's grandfather—what a record of Civil War service!]

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT CHRISTIAN WANZEL

Enlisted from Lancaster County State of Pennsylvania. May 14,1861 and Mustered into the United States Service at Harrisburg, Penna. As a Private on May 21,1861 to Serve Three Years in COMPANY A 1ST RIFLE REGIMENT, PENNA VOL INFANTRY under Captain Hugh McDonald and Colonels Thos. L.Kane. C.J. Biddle, Hugh W. McNeil and Chas. F. Taylor. The Regiment was the 13th Res. Pa. Reserves and known as the 1st BUCKTAIL REGIMENT. It was attached to the Penna. Reserves Div. And the 5th Corps Army of the Potomac. He engaged at Dranesville, Va. Dec. 20,1861, Harrisonburg, Va. June 1,1862, Strasburg June 2, Woodstock June 3rd, Crosskeys June 8, Cutlets Sta. Jun. 18, 62. Regiment moved to the Virginia Peninsula seven days battle before Richmond June 26 to July 1,62. Mechanicsville June 26, Gainsmill June 27, Savage Sta. June 29, Chas. City, Cross Roads June 30, Malvern Hill July 1,62 Gainsville and Grovetown Aug. 28,29, Second Bull Run Aug. 30, So. Mountain MD. Sept. 14,1862; Antietam Sept.17,62 Battle of Fredricksburg Dec. 13, 62, Was Wounded here in Right Thigh treated in Field Hospa., Battle of Gettysburg July 1-3, 63. Bristoe Station Oct. 14, 1863, Raffahannock Sta. Nov.7, Mine Run and Locust Grove Nov. 26-28, 63.

HONORABLY DISCHARGED Dec. 20, 63. REINLISTED AS A VETERAN Dec. 21,1863 for 3 Years on during war. Engaged at the wilderness May 5-7, 64, Laurel Hill May 8,1864; Spotsylvania May 8-18. 64. Alsap Farm May 10.1864. Harris Farm May 19. North Anna River May 23 –27. Potomac Creek May 28 – 31, 64, Bethesda Church May 30 to June 6,64,He was Wounded Here May 30 by explosion of shell and was CAPTURED was confined at Libby Prison and Andersonville thence Florence, SC. And Charleston, SC. Was in prison 6mos 12days. Then was paroled and later rejoined regiment. Regiment May 31 TRANSFERRED TO 190th REG. PA. VOL. INF. CO. G Under Lieut. J. McCoy Col WM. R. Hartshorne engaged at Dabreys Mills, Hatchers Run Feb. 5-7, 65. Gravelly Run Mar. 29, 65. Boydton and White Oak Road Mar. 31,1865, Five Forks Apl 1, 65; Appomattox CH. LEES SURRENDER APL.9, 65, GRAND **REVIEW MAY 23,65**

HONORABLY DISCHARGED

June 8,1865 at Camp near Arlington Heights Va. By reason of close of war.

Char. Memb. Lt. WM. Childs Post GAR NO. 226 Department of Pa. At Marrietta Published Expressly For The Army And Navy Record Co.

Entered According To Act of Congress in the year 1863 by The Pettibone Brothers Mfg. Company in the Office of Librarian of Congress at Washington



Taken about early 1900's

BUCKTAIL HISTORY 1861 to 1865

Submitted by Brother John Christian Wanzel

One of the men who answered the call to defend his country was Thomas Leiper Kane. Kane had immediately set about raising men for a company. He was a small slight man, only 5 foot 4 with long dark, wild hair, a full beard, and one eye that appeared perpetually half closed. He possessed tremendous energy, however, and had the gift of being able to make other men like him. He had no trouble raising more than three hundred men for service within four days of the firing on Fort Sumter.

Kane was one of many to write to Governor Curtin to offer troops even before Lincoln had called for volunteers. So impatient had he been to get to Harrisburg and into the war that he had not even waited for Curtin's response before he started with three companies of woodsmen. Before departing, however, the men had already adopted a uniform of sorts and a name to go with it. On the way to Harrisburg, some of the companies had spent a few days in the town of Smethport. Outside a butcher shop hung the hide of a white tailed deer. One of the boys with a flare for outrageous fashion cut a tail off and attached it to the front of his hat. Kane was apparently an early marketing genius and recognized a good gimmick when he saw one. Knowing that most of his men had lived in the wild region of the state all there

lives and were experienced hunters and very proud of their prowess with a rifle, Kane hence forth advertised the regiment as the "Pennsylvania Bucktails," and the all tried to sport a tail or a hank of deer fur on their caps.

The Bucktails proved themselves adept at locating adventure. While on a drunken spree during their stay in Harrisburg one of the men had the misfortune of running into the same constable twice during the same night. The policemen decided to arrest him. No sooner had this happen when five or six other Bucktails arrived on the scene and were angered by the policemen's rough handling of their comrade. They descended upon the captor and wretched their friend free. The officer had no opportunity to call for help and therefore defended himself using his billy club. A Bucktail's head was gashed open and blood flowed freely. Enraged, the stricken man's friends went after the officer, who began crying loudly for help. But rather than receiving help, the constable got more trouble when about forty more Bucktails joined in the fracas. Wild though they were, the Bucktails were of good material, and if they could be kept under control they would become good infantry.

Even though Kane was the founder of the Bucktail regiment, he turned down the nomination of being elected Colonel. Kane recommended Charles J. Biddle, a Mexican War Veteran, to be elected and the men acceding to his strongly expressed wishes elected Biddle as Colonel and Kane a Lieutenant Colonel. Roy Stone was elected Major. These men had a huge task ahead of them, but they were resigned to accept the challenge. With the aid of the company officers, the Bucktails were drilled relentlessly until they became one of the best fighting units assigned to the Army of the Potomac. The country boys were now ready to meet the nation's biggest challenge, the War of the Rebellion. The Bucktails participated in more than 45 engagements during their career. Dranesville was the first battle they saw action. They were still state troops at the time, but, it was the first victory for the Union in the eastern theater.

The next time the Bucktail's engaged the confederates was during the Seven Days Campaign. Only six companies participated in this series of battles, but they proved without a doubt that they were destined to become one of the most famous regiments that fought for the Union. Under the command of Major Roy Stone, the Bucktails were instrumental in guarding the rear of McClellan's Army as it retreated to Whitehouse Landing. These companies sustained over 50% casualties. Colonel Hugh McNeil, who was now in command, but had just rejoined them after recovering from a fever was heard to declare: "My God, Where Are My Bucktails? Would That I Had died with Them."

During this same time, Lt. Colonel Kane had four (Continued on page 5)

companies of Bucktail's with him in the Shenandoah Valley. Their main objective was to develop what Kane had described as his "Instructions for Skirmishers." These tactics were so successful they are still used by the armed forces today. They also instrumental in the campaigns against General Stonewall Jackson and Turner Ashby. It was a Bucktail who had shot and killed the Confederate cavalry commander, General Ashby.

The men were under strict orders not to shoot any officer on horseback, therefore they shot the horse first and as soon as Ashby's feet hit the ground, they shot him.

They fought a Catlett's Station and Second Bull Run. Shortly after Bull Run, the Bucktails were reunited. The Reserves were then sent to Washington for a well needed rest

The second major campaign was the Maryland Campaign. The Bucktails were the driving force behind the Battle of South Mountain. Being expert marksmen, and using the Sharps breech loading rifle, they were able to drive the confederates off the mountain without exposing themselves to enemy fire. The Bucktails also fired the first shots from the union during the Battle of Antietam. It was during this battle that Colonel Hugh McNeil was killed as he led his men on a gallant attack to clear confederate skirmishers from a heavily wooded area. His last words were " Forward Bucktails, forward," before he hit the ground, shot through the heart. His men, seeking revenge, cleared the fence in an instant and gained the edge of the woods pushing the enemy back. The men were compelled to end the struggle though, because of the darkness.

The next battle was Fredericksburg. The Bucktails, along with the rest of the rest of the Pennsylvania Reserves, were the only ones to breech the confederate lines. They could not hold this position because ammunition was in short supply and no relief in sight.

The Bucktails also fought at Gettysburg. Although the 13th Reserves did not arrive until the second day, they played a crucial part in defending their home state. The Charge of the Pennsylvania Reserves is well documented during the battle of the Peach Orchards and the Wheat Field. The Bucktails were also called upon to clear the rebel sharpshooter from Devil's Den. It was during this battle that Colonel Charles Taylor, the youngest colonel in the Army of the Potomac at the time, was killed by a confederate sharpshooter when Corporal Brookin's, of Company G, rifle misfired in the defense of Colonel Taylor.

The last campaign the 13th Pennsylvania Reserves was active in was the Wilderness Campaign of 1864. It was here that the Bucktails were able to use the new weapon issued to them, the Spencer Rifle, the first

successful repeating rifle. With this weapon they were able to gain valuable ground that may otherwise have been unattainable as they helped Grant's army push Lee's towards Spottsylvania Court House. With the continued push towards Richmond the Bucktails fought at Spottsylvania Court House, North Anna, and finally at Bethesda Church. There time of enlistment had expired; however, many did not return home. Instead, they reenlisted in the 190th Veteran's Reserve Corp, which was placed under the command of Colonel W. Ross Hartshorne of the 13th P.R.V.C.. These valiant men stayed in the service of the union until the war finally ended.

The men of the 13th P.R.V.C., 1st Pennsylvania Rifles, 42nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry had earned the right to be welcome home as heroes no matter when they arrived. They had defended their country without question or concern for their own safety. Each man was proud to have been a part of the Bucktail Regiment.

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

By David A. Swanson PCC

In the last two newsletters I have published newspaper articles of the John W. Owens Post No. 5 Phoenix, Az, covering the time period from its inception in September 1885 through June 1, 1886. 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 originally printed the *Daily Phoenix Herald*.

May 27, 1887:

G.A.R.

Memorial Services Conducted by J. W. Owens Post No. 83 May 30th.

Afternoon Services

Parade
Advance Guard
Band
Grand Marshall and Aids
Mexican Veterans

J. W. Owens Post No 83 Visiting Comrades

Ex-Union Soldiers Ex-Confederate Soldiers

Schools and Sunday Schools
Floral Committee
Mayor and City Council

Phoenix Engine Co. No. 1
Pioneer Hose Co. No. 1
Yucatu Hose Co. No. 2
Aztec Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1
Carriages and Equestrians

Column to form on Washington St. opposite the plaza right resting on Montezuma St. Line of march from plaza to old cemetery where the cemetery service will he held.

All companies, organizations and schools are requested to on the ground at 3:30 sharp.

Ed. Schwartz, Marshall

EVENING SERVICES On Plaza at 7:30 p.m.

National Airs...... Phoenix Orchestra
Prayer........Rev McMullen
Overture......Phoenix Orchestra
Address......Judge Webster Street
Tenting to-night....Phoenix Orchestra
Address......Judge J. Campbell
Marching Through Georgia....Orchestra
Benediction

May 31, 1887:

IN MEMORIUM

Phoenix at the Grave of Her Noble Dead

The Boys in Blue and the Boys in Gray Remember
Their Fallen Comrades

A Splendid Procession

As each year goes by Phoenix improves in the beauty and strength of her public demonstrations and yesterday she outdid all former efforts in that line on the occasion of her observance of Memorial Day. Five years ago a single double seated wagon bore to the cemetery, the Boys in Blue and the Boys in Gray who sought to honor their fallen comrades of the battlefield by decking their graves with sweet scented flowers and the laurel crown. Yesterday an unexcelled procession half a mile long wound its way to the final resting place of our dead heroes. During the forenoon there was a quiet augmentation of the members on our streets from the surrounding valley. At noon all places of business closed in deference to the day. The sunrise salute of minute guns was fired on the Plaza and during the remainder of the day the members of the Grand Army busied themselves with preparations for the parade and further ceremonies, as did the Fire Department and other organizations intending to take part.

At 4 o'clock promptly the column moved down Washington street from the rendezvous at the Plaza under the command of Mayor Edward Schwartz, Marshall of the day in the following order: [The order was the same as listed above with the exception of the mention of Sons of Veterans, who marched after the Ex-Union soldiers and before the Ex-Confederate soldiers.]

John W. Owens Post No. 83 was neatly uniformed in the dark blue of the G.A.R. and marched with that steady swinging steps that characterizes the veteran and which he has learned on toilsome tramp from Fredericksburg to Getteysburg or from Atlanta to the sea.

Engine Co., No. 1 of the Fire Department turned out in fine style as did the entire department. The engine was decorated by streamers and wreathes of flowers and banners innumerable. It was drawn by a fine span of white horses neatly decorated by American flags and the national colors. Pioneer Hose Co., No. 1. had their cart handsomely decorated in the national colors and buried in wreaths of flowers and evergreens. It was drawn by eighteen members of the company.

Yucatu Host Co. No 2, followed with their cart even more elaborately decorated than No. 1, even the wheels of the cart bore their great wreathes entwined among the spokes and colors and streamers were everywhere.

Aztec Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 had their graceful wagon and apparatus simply yet beautifully draped by streamers for which there was a chance for elegant effect on the long gearing and ladders, and the wagon also bore its quota of wreaths of beautiful flowers.

The various companies of the Fire Department were each uniformed in white shirts and black pants with white gloves and were ably lead by Mr. Frank Czaronski, Chief of the Department, seconded by Mr. Frank D. Wells Assistant chief. For short time the Department has been in existence it is in admirable discipline which speaks volumes for its officers. The

Chief and his Assistant and the various foremen of the companies carried elegant nickel plated speaking trumpets and they marched and looked like veterans in the business.

The Floral carriage under the artistic and delicate hands of the Floral Committee composed of Mrs. J. L. Ward, Mrs., Ed. Schwartz, Miss Laura Coats, Mrs. W.F. McNulty, Mrs. M. T. Spears and Miss Ada Wharton who occupied it in the parade, was elegance itself and won expressions of admiration from all sides. This beautiful place of display immediately preceded the carriage conveying the city dignitaries and others. The procession marched to the old cemetery in the south-west corner of town, where the honored dead all lie and once there a large square was formed with the G. A. R. boys on one side the fire Department and other portions of the parade occupying the others. The Chaplain of the Post Hon. J. B. Lighthizer then delivered an impressive prayer and the Commander of the Post, Hon. Geo. F. Coats read a touching address. When ranks were broken and the various graves visited and decorated by tender hands and often gazed upon with moistened eyes as memories of a quarter of a century ago were recalled.

At the call of the bugle ranks were reformed and the procession marched back to town where at the corner of Center and Washington streets the ranks of the Grand Army boys were opened and as the city government and Fire Department passed through they saluted. Ranks were then broken and the parade was at an end, to await the evening services of the Plaza.

ON THE PLAZA

At eight o'clock in the evening promptly Post Commander Geo. G. Coats with the Marshall of the day Maj. Ed. Schwartz stepped upon the neatly decorated and well lighted stand and the band played an appropriate air in time

when the Commander introduced Rev. McMullen who opened the services by a short and eloquent prayer. The Hon. Webster Street was then introduced and delivered an address at once intellectual, cogent full of meat for thought, abounding in beautiful historic allusions and literary gems. We are pleased to give it in full in these columns elsewhere.

The Hon. Jos. Campbell was then introduced and delivered an address in his well known style that was at once touching, beautiful, eloquent and we only have no place to reproduce it elsewhere.

The benediction was then pronounced and Memorial Day services had come to an end and we trust that the last sleep of our fallen braves is sweeter that Phoenix has contributed its humble mite to their remembrance.

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.

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PROUD TO BE. . . SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR