



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



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**CAMP NEWSLETTER**  
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July 2011

Camp Web site: www.suvcwaz.org

Minutes of the May 14, 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 30 Brothers and guests in attendance.

Officer's reports:

Camp Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom gave an over view of our finances and talked about the liability insurance that the Camp recently purchased. He also gave an overview of Camp membership which is now at 64 (which includes two Juniors).

Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber gave the following information: "Since February 5, 2011, I have completed 6 grave registration activities. All 6 were new, initial registrations. One was for a Confederate soldier buried in Greenwood Memory Lawn in Phoenix. Five were for Union soldiers buried in St. Johns Catholic Cemetery in St. Johns, AZ; Apache County. These 5 in St. Johns were accomplished with information and photographs provided by Gilbert Alonzo, a prospective member. He talked to Jerry Bloom at the SUVCW table at the March Picacho Peak reenactment. Jerry referred him to me. His great-great grandfather is one of the soldiers buried at St. Johns. The total registration activities since my appointment are 223. Of the 223, 138 were initial, new registrations, and 85 were to provide updates to registrations already in existence."

Speaker

Will Stoutamire, PHD student in the Public History program at ASU, did a fantastic job. A certain unnamed camp commander failed to bring items needed for his speech and since it was contained on a flash drive, Will had to do a stand up presentation

without notes on an article he had written three years ago. He didn't miss a beat!

Will spoke about the information contained in his article, "FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, OUT WEST Civil War Memory in Arizona" that was published in the autumn 2010 edition of *The Journal of Arizona History*. The article covered the development of Civil War memory in Arizona by various groups such as the SUVCW and the SCV.

The talk was very informative and *very well* received by the Brothers present.



Camp Commander David A. Swanson presenting a booklet on the Engagement at Picacho Pass to Will Stoutamire (who could probably have written it from memory!)



New Camp Brother

Donald E. Whitesell of Green Valley, AZ. His Civil War ancestor is his great-great grandfather Theodore A. Whitesell, Co. K, 11th Michigan Infantry

Congratulations Brother Donald!

New Camp Junior Member

Charles Swanson Albaugh, grandson of Camp Commander David A. Swanson, is our newest Junior member. Six year old Charlie lives in Cedar Park, Texas and his ancestor is his great-great-great-great grandfather Oscar F. Foote, Co. G, 7th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry.

Congratulations Charlie!



Don't miss our August 13th meeting!!!

Bring your Civil War artifacts

This is an “open” meeting; one which will be most informative since all Brothers are requested to bring their Civil War artifacts and informally talk about them. If you don't have any—no problem—come any way, listen and just talk about your ancestor or just talk with your fellow Brothers.

We have not done this in a few years and some have obtained new items and even if you have items that you brought in the past—do so again (we probably don't remember anyway!)

“Informal” is the key word at this meeting.

Location/time: The Home Town Buffet 1314 N. Scottsdale Rd, at high noon. See you there!

Memorial Day, May 30, 2011, at the Phoenix Pioneer & Military Memorial Park

Thanks to the Brothers who attended the Memorial Day ceremonies and thanks to those who participated in it.

Over the last few years our Camp has participated in these ceremonies since there are 125 Civil War veterans buried here along with some of the founders of Phoenix who very active in the GAR.

Thanks to Brothers Jan Huber, Jerry Bloom, Jim Heller and John Wanzel for manning our information booth. Thanks to Brother Dave Kampf, who represents us in his activities with the Arizona Civil War Council and specifically the reenactors of the 1st U.S. Infantry Company D, Brother Al Harrica who does the same with the 1st New Mexico Volunteer Infantry, Co B, Brother Jan Huber who played “Taps” and Brother David Swanson who gave a brief history of Memorial

Day, read the Gettysburg Address and talked about its significance in 2011.



Picacho Peak Camp booth



Left to right, Brothers' CC David Swanson, JVC Jim Heller and Sec/Treasurer Jerry Bloom



Brother David Kampf, second from left, with the 1st U.S. Infantry Co. D.



Brother Al Harrica who is retiring from reenacting



Brother Jan Huber playing "Taps"



Two "new" Arizona GAR Posts added—and one has special twist

By David A. Swanson

Throughout the past few years, I have conducted somewhat of a study (?) of Arizona GAR posts and information about them is sometimes as hard to obtain as the finding of a live GAR compatriot. Once the posts were disbanded their records went to individuals and were eventually lost or ended up in libraries or archives such as those in the Arizona Historical Society, but mostly they were just lost over the years.

A while ago, I noticed that the "Grand Army of the Republic Records Project," which is on the SUVCW.ORG website, had a listing of nine Arizona posts that were part of the Department of Arizona and I

had information regarding two more: Sedgwick Post No. 10 in Williams and the George H. Thomas Post No. 11 in Jerome. I contacted Brother Dean Enderlin, National GAR Records Officer, and after giving him the information the Arizona portion of the site was updated: <http://suvwv.org/garposts/index.htm>.

The George H. Thomas Post No. 11 really holds my interest. It was only in existence for 14 months (June 1899 to August 1900) and just two months before it surrendered its charter it held the Thirteenth Annual Encampment of the Department of Arizona Grand Army of the Republic—but that is not why the interest. The interest is in its post commander R.H.G. Minty. You see then Col. Minty (he retired as a brevet major general) had his own brigade during the Civil War and the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry was part of it. Well, it just so happens that three of my Civil War ancestors served in Company G of the 7th (one was killed during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign).

So what brought General Minty to Jerome, Arizona in the 1890's?—you guessed it—mining! But that is a whole different story. One more tidbit, the "company" house that he lived in, in the "Ghost town" of Jerome, is still standing and occupied.



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Now that the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War is upon us I have noticed article after article about its cause and some writers are finally getting it right—slavery, but others just can't grasp that reality.

The April 2008 edition of the newsletter contained information about this issue and it is reprinted here.

Principle cause of the Civil War

By David A. Swanson

Slavery wasn't the principle cause of our Civil War but rather it was caused by disputes over tariffs, along with cultural, political, geographic and economic differences, and since the Constitution was silent on the issue of secession (or even allowed for it), the totality of these differences boiled down to a states' rights issue on whether to remain in the Union or leave it.

Really? Well why don't we let the Southern leaders of the time address this political issue through their documents and speeches.

The new [Confederate] constitution has put at rest, forever, all the agitating questions relating to our peculiar institution—African slavery as it exists amongst us—the proper status of the negro in our form of civilization. *This was the immediate cause of the late rupture and present revolution.* [Emphasis added.] Jefferson in his forecast had anticipated this, as the "rock upon

which the old Union would split.” He was right. What was conjecture with him, is now a realized fact. But whether he fully comprehended the great truth upon which that rock stood and stands, may be doubted. The prevailing ideas entertained by him and most of the leading statesmen at the time of the formation of the old constitution, were that the enslavement of the African was in violation of the laws of nature; that it was wrong in principle, socially, morally, and politically. It was an evil they knew not well how to deal with, but the general opinion of the men of that day was that, somehow or other in the order of Providence, the institution would be evanescent and pass away. This idea, though not incorporated in the constitution, was the prevailing idea at that time. The constitution, it is true, secured every essential guarantee to the institution while it should last, and hence no argument can be justly urged against the constitutional guarantees thus secured, because of the common sentiment of the day. Those ideas, however, were fundamentally wrong. They rested upon the assumption of the equality of races. This was an error. It was a sandy foundation, and the government built upon it fell when the “storm came and the wind blew.” Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea; its foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery—subordination to the superior race—is his natural and normal condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical, and moral truth . . .

- Alexander H. Stephens,
Vice President, Confederate State of America
Savannah, GA, March 21, 1861

And here is what Georgia has to say:

The people of Georgia having dissolved their political connection with the Government of the United States of America, present to their confederates and the world the causes which have led to the separation. For the last ten years we have had numerous and serious causes of complaint against our non-slave-holding confederate States with reference to the subject of African slavery. They have endeavored to weaken our security, to disturb our domestic peace and tranquility, and persistently refused to comply with their express constitutional obligations to us in reference to that property, and by the use of their power in the Federal Government have striven to deprive us of an equal enjoyment of the common Territories of the Republic. This hostile policy of our confederates has been pursued with every circumstance of aggravation which could arouse the passions and excite the hatred of our people, and has placed the two sections of the

Union for many years past in the condition of virtual civil war . . .

-Georgia, Declaration of Secession
January 29, 1861

And Mississippi:

Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery-- the greatest material interest of the world. Its labor supplies the product which constitutes by far the largest and most important portions of commerce of the earth. These products are peculiar to the climate verging on the tropical regions, and by an imperious law of nature, none but the black race can bear exposure to the tropical sun. These products have become necessities of the world, and a blow at slavery is a blow at commerce and civilization. That blow has been long aimed at the institution, and was at the point of reaching its consummation. There was no choice left us but submission to the mandates of abolition, or a dissolution of the Union, whose principles had been subverted to work out our ruin. . . .

Mississippi, Declaration of Secession
Whereas, the constitutional Union was formed by the several states in their separate sovereign[sic] capacity for the purpose of mutual advantage and protection;

That the several states are distinct sovereignties , whose supremacy is limited so far only as the same has been delegated by voluntary compact to a federal government, and, when it fails to accomplish the ends for which it was established, the parties to the compact have the right to resume, each state for itself, such delegated powers. . . .

That the institution of slavery existed prior to the formation of the federal Constitution, and is recognized by its letter, and all efforts to impair its value or lessen its duration by Congress, or any of the free states, is a violation of the compact of Union and is destructive of the ends for which it was ordained, but in defiance of the principles of the Union thus established, the people of the Northern states have assumed a revolutionary position toward the Southern states . . .

-Mississippi Resolutions

In defense of Mississippi’s declaration:

It is known to Senators who have served with me here that I have for many years advocated, as an essential attribute of State sovereignty, the right of a State to secede from the Union. Therefore, if I had thought that Mississippi was acting without sufficient provocation, or without an existing necessity, I should still, under my theory of the Government, because of my allegiance to the State of which I am a citizen, have been bound by her action. I, however, may be permitted to say that I do think she has justifiable cause, and I approve of her act. I conferred with her people

before that act was taken, counseled them then that, if the state of things which they apprehended should exist when their Convention met, they should take the action which they have now adopted. . . .

-Jefferson Davis' farewell speech to the US Senate, January 21, 1861

And South Carolina:

We affirm that these ends for which this Government was instituted have been defeated, and the Government itself has been made destructive of them by the action of the non-slaveholding States. Those States have assumed the right of deciding upon the propriety of our domestic institutions; and have denied the rights of property established in fifteen of the States and recognized by the Constitution; they have denounced as sinful the institution of slavery; they have permitted open establishment among them of societies, whose avowed object is to disturb the peace and to eloign the property of the citizens of other States. They have encouraged and assisted thousands of our slaves to leave their homes; and those who remain, have been incited by emissaries, books and pictures to servile insurrection.

For twenty-five years this agitation has been steadily increasing, until it has now secured to its aid the power of the common Government. Observing the *forms* [emphasis in the original] of the Constitution, a sectional party has found within that Article establishing the Executive Department, the means of subverting the Constitution itself. A geographical line has been drawn across the Union, and all the States north of that line have united in the election of a man to the high office of President of the United States, whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery. He is to be entrusted with the administration of the common Government, because he has declared that that "Government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free," and that the public mind must rest in the belief that slavery is in the course of ultimate extinction. This sectional combination for the submersion of the Constitution has been aided in some of the States by elevating to citizenship, persons who, by the supreme law of the land, are incapable of becoming citizens; and their votes have been used to inaugurate a new policy, hostile to the South, and destructive of its beliefs and safety. . . .

-South Carolina, Declaration of Secession
December 24, 1860

Speak up, Texas:

Texas abandoned her separate national existence and consented to become one of the Confederated

Union to promote her welfare, insure domestic tranquility and secure more substantially the blessings of peace and liberty to her people. She was received into the confederacy with her own constitution, under the guarantee of the federal constitution and the compact of annexation, that she should enjoy these blessings. She was received as a commonwealth holding, maintaining and protecting the institution known as negro slavery-- the servitude of the African to the white race within her limits-- a relation that had existed from the first settlement of her wilderness by the white race, and which her people intended should exist in all future time. Her institutions and geographical position established the strongest ties between her and other slave-holding States of the confederacy. Those ties have been strengthened . . .

-Texas Declaration of Secession
February 2, 1861

What say you, Alabama?

WHEREAS, anti-slavery agitation persistently continued in the non-slaveholding States of this Union, for more than a third of a century, marked at every stage of its progress by contempt for the obligations of law and the sanctity of compacts, evincing a deadly hostility to the rights and institutions of the Southern people, and a settled purpose to effect their overthrow even by subversion of the Constitution, and at the hazard of violence and bloodshed;

And whereas, a sectional party calling itself Republican, committed alike by its own acts and antecedents, and the public avowals and secret machinations of its leaders to the execution of these atrocious designs, has acquired the ascendancy in nearly every Northern State, and hopes by success in the approaching Presidential election to seize the Government itself; and whereas, to permit such seizure by those whose unmistakable aim is to pervert its whole machinery to the destruction of a portion of its members would be an act of suicidal folly and madness, almost without a parallel in history; and whereas, the General Assembly of Alabama, representing a people loyally devoted to the Union of the Constitution, but scorning the Union which fanaticism would erect upon its ruins, deem it their solemn duty to provide in advance the means by which they may escape such peril and dishonor, and devise new securities for perpetuating the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity; therefore. . . it shall be the duty of the Governor, and he is hereby required, forthwith to issue his Proclamation, calling upon the qualified voters of this State to assemble on Monday not more than forty days after the date of said Proclamation, at the several places of voting in their respective counties, to elect delegates to a

Convention of the State, to consider, determine and do whatever in the opinion of said Convention, the rights, interests, and honor of the State of Alabama requires to be done for their protection. . . .

-Joint Resolution of the
General Assembly of Alabama
Feb. 24, 1860

Now Florida:

That the Union of the States of this Confederacy and the American nation are the offspring of the Constitution of the United States;
That both are dependent on it for their vitality and perpetuity;
That the wilful [sic] violation or disregard of the Constitution involves the destruction of the Union and the dissolution of the American Nation into the original elements from which it sprung;
That every State of this Confederacy is sovereign within the limits of its territorial jurisdiction, except in so far as the people of such State have surrendered a part of their sovereign power under the grants of the Constitution of the United States;
That every State, in the exercise of its reserved sovereign power, has an unquestionable right to establish, maintain and enjoy within its own limits such domestic institutions as it may approve, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States;
That neither the government of the United States nor the government or people of any other State can of right annul, abrogate, control, or in any manner disturb the institutions constitutionally established in any other State;
That any state has a right to establish and maintain within their own limits the institution of African Slavery free from the molestation or disturbance of the people or government of any other State of the Confederacy. . . .

-Report of the Joint Select committee of Federal Relations Fall, 1859

From Tennessee:

1. *Resolved by the general assembly of Tennessee,* That a convention of delegates from all the slaveholding States should assemble at Nashville, Tennessee, or such other place as a majority of the States co-operating may designate, on the 4th day of February, to digest and define bases upon which, if possible, the federal Union and the constitutional rights of the slave States may be preserved and perpetuated. . . .

First. A declaratory amendment that African slaves, as held under the institutions of the slaveholding States, shall be recognized as

property, and entitled to the *status* of other property in the States where slavery exists, in all places within the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress in the slave States, in all the Territories south of 36 degrees 30 minutes, in the District of Columbia temporarily sojourning, in transit, and while with the owner in the non-slaveholding States and Territories north of 36 degrees 30 minutes. . . .

Third. Congress shall have no power to abolish slavery in places under its exclusive jurisdiction, and situate within the limits of States that permit the holding of slaves . . .

[All nine resolutions related only to slavery]

Resolutions of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee, relative to the present condition of national affairs and suggesting certain amendments to the Constitution
January 28, 1861

From the state of Virginia:

Resolved by the General Assembly of Virginia, That if all efforts to reconcile the unhappy differences existing between the two sections of the country shall prove to be abortive, then, in the opinion of the General Assembly, every consideration of honor and interest demands that Virginia shall unite her destiny with the slaveholding States of the South.

-Joint Resolution concerning the position of Virginia in the event of the dissolution of the Union. Adopted January 21, 1861.

The True Issue

The issue to be decided by the people of Virginia is clearly stated in the following resolution, adopted by public meeting in the county of Dinwiddie. . . . "Resolved, 1st. The old Union being irreparably dissolved, there is no option left us, (the people of Virginia,) save to unite our destinies with our sister Southern States—or, to remain a useless appendage to the Northern Confederacy—the latter alternative being utterly repugnant to ALL TRUE SOUTHERN MEN."

The ultimatum of the seceded States is left in no uncertainty; it is to be found in the solemn action of the Montgomery Constitution and may be analyzed as follows:

1. That African slavery in the Territories shall be recognized and protected by Congress and the Territorial Legislatures.
2. That the right to slaveholders of transit and sojourn in any State of the Confederacy, with their slaves and other property, shall be recognized and respected.

(Continued on page 7)

3. That the provision in regard to fugitive slaves shall extend to any slave lawfully carried from one State into another, and there escaping or taken away from his master.
4. That no bill or ex post facto law (by Congress or any State,) and no law impairing or denying the right of property in negro slaves, shall be passed.
5. That the African slave trade shall be prohibited by such laws of Congress as shall effectually prevent the same. ...

-Richmond Enquirer
March 23, 1861



So, here we separate historical fact from pure historical myth. The fact of the matter is that “states’ rights” was the issue only insofar as it applied to the Southern states’ right to expand slavery and slavery was *the* principle cause of the war. Oh, and it appears that Lincoln also had it correct, as demonstrated in this excerpt from his Second Inaugural Address:

One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it . . . Neither anticipated that the *cause* of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease . . .



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.

Don't miss our August 13th meeting!!! Bring your Civil War artifacts

This is an “open” meeting; one which will be most informative since all Brothers are requested to bring their Civil War artifacts and informally talk about them. If you don't have any—no problem—come any way, listen and just talk about your ancestor or just talk with your fellow Brothers.

Past Camp Commanders



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



Camp Officers for 2011

Commander:

David A. Swanson (480) 515-2798
E-mail: Swanson1854@Yahoo.com

Senior Vice-Commander:

John Conrad (602) 750-0938
E-mail: jrconrad@post.harvard.edu

Junior Vice-Commander:

Jim Heller (623-975-4300
E-mail: jmh7116@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091
E-mail: jerrybloom@qwest.net

Camp Council:

Mark Haynes (928)755-3714
E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net
Bob Young (642)-801-7037
E-mail: bob.young1@cox.net
Bob Hannan (480) 380-9153
E-mail: bobpeg1@hotmail.com

Chaplain:

Mark Haynes (928) 755-3714
E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net

Patriotic Instructor:

Dave Kampf (602) 978-0951
E-mail: myfight@q.com

Eagle Scout Coordinator:

John Wanzel (4800) 306-7738

Signals Officer:

Will Vessels (480)488-4703
E-mail: wcvessels@cox.net

Graves Registration

Jan Huber: (623) 975-4805
E-mail: janhuber1933@yahoo.com

Civil War Memorials Officer:

David Swanson (Camp Commander)

Counselor:

John Wanzel: (480) 306-7738

Historian:

Bob Hannan PCC (480) 380-9153 Camp Council

Color Bearer:

Ron Jones ((480) 834-8036

Guard:

Bob Young (602) 841-7037
E-mail: bob.young1@cox.net

Guide:

David Vessels (480) 488-4703
E-mail: dtkv@cox.net

Newsletter Editor/Publisher

David A. Swanson (Camp Commander)

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Picacho Peak Camp No.1
Arizona Camp-at-Large
4851 E. Fernwood Court
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

First Class Mail



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