



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



CAMP NEWSLETTER



July 2012

Camp Web site: suvchwaz.org

Camp meeting schedule—change for August Camp meeting only

Due to the scheduling conflict with the 2012 National Encampment in Los Angeles, our Camp meeting will take place on Saturday, August 18 2012, at noon. The location remains the same: Hometown Buffet, 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd., but it will be in the small meeting room.

This is only for the August meeting—our November and future meetings remain the same—the second Saturday of the meeting month in the large meeting room.

Brother H.G. Smith will give a PowerPoint presentation of historic pictures as well as present day pictures of Civil War sites in North Carolina. Don't miss this presentation!

Minutes of the May 14, 2012, Camp meeting:

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

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

Officer's reports:

Camp Commander Swanson gave a brief sketch of the upcoming 2012 Department and National Encampment to be held in Los Angeles and since we have delegate positions still available, asked if there was any interest.

Senior Vice Commander:

Brother John Conrad and Brother Jan Huber discussed the case of Union Civil War and later Buffalo Solder Ambrose Skinner. Brother Huber

related that over a year ago he discovered that there is a black Union Civil War soldier buried in Greenwood Memory Lawn in Phoenix who does not have a headstone. He remained in the army after the Civil War and became a Buffalo Soldier. He sent the information to the local Buffalo Soldier reenactment unit thinking that they would take the ball and run with it as far as getting an appropriate headstone for him. Nothing has been done—possibly money is the issue. One can get a military headstone for free from the VA but Greenwood apparently charges \$700 to put it in place. He later gave a program at the Black Family Genealogy & History Society meeting and found out that this organization knows about the situation with Ambrose Skinner and is beginning to plan on organizing an effort to raise the necessary amount of money. Jan recently contacted the Society but after several attempts has not received any information. Jan suggested that our Camp take over the project and funding.

Senior Vice Commander John Conrad earlier indicated that he would match the Camp funding, dollar for dollar, up to \$350.00.

A motion was approved by the Camp to spend \$350.00 for this project and Brother Conrad agreed to take over this endeavor.

Ambrose Skinner was born in North Carolina into slavery. Joined the US Army Colored Troops in 1863, then the Buffalo Soldiers after the war. He lived most of his life in Maricopa County, where he died, leaving a widow and 4 children.

--Update--

Brother Huber reports that the Greenwood Cemetery agreed to set the headstone for free—more on this topic as things progress.

Graves Registration:

Brother Jan Huber reported that since the last meeting he has registered one grave, however, this one was quite unusual. His Confederate counterpart sent him all of the information regarding a Confederate grave marker in the Mesa City Cemetery. In doing the

research for his graves registration he discovered that the soldier, James M. Selby, was a Yankee! He was in the 1st Regiment Alabama and Tennessee Independent Vidette Cavalry. A Vidette is a mounted sentinel stationed in advance of pickets or outposts of an army. He was born in Alabama and this is where he enlisted. The poor guy is probably still spinning in his grave. He risked his neck by joining a Yankee outfit and gets buried with a Confederate grave marker!

Secretary/Treasurer:

Brother Jerry Bloom gave a comprehensive report on our Camp's financial condition and our current membership level. We currently have 66 Brothers and two Junior members.

Brother initiated

Brother Timothy Iliff of Gilbert, Ariz. was initiated into our Camp and the SUVCW by Camp Commander David Swanson. His Civil War ancestor is his great-great grandfather Valentine Kassebaum, Co. E, 40th New York Vol Reg't.

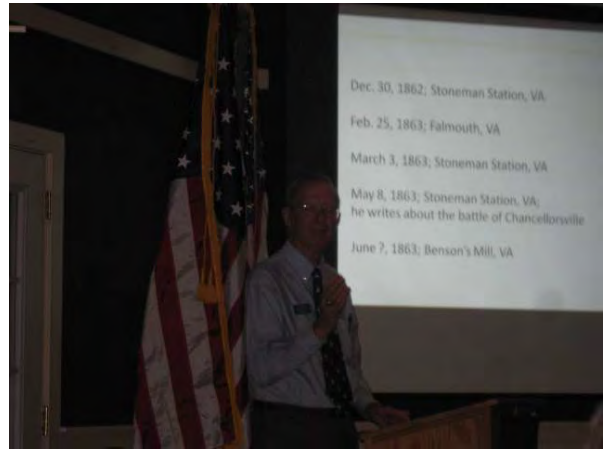


Brother Timothy Iliff (left) receiving his certificate from Camp Commander David Swanson

Congratulations to Brother Iliff!

Guest Speaker

Brother Jan Huber gave a most interesting Power Point program review of the book entitled, "ARMY LETTERS 1861-1865", by Oliver Wilcox Norton. Norton was the bugler who, together with Gen. Daniel Butterfield, wrote Taps in 1862.



Brother Jan Huber

Thanks Jan for a great presentation



Civil War items on display

Brother Jan Huber has the Sun City West library display case engaged from June 30 to August 11. This year the exhibit will be under the auspices of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). The exhibit will feature the 150 Anniversary of the writing of Taps. This most recognizable bugle call was written by a Union General and his Chief Bugler in July of 1862. The display case will also contain various Civil War artifacts.

We will have brochures and applications available at the library for our Camp.



The Studebaker Corporation and the Civil War

I think most in our Camp have heard about the Studebaker (oh, come on—you have too). Anyway a while ago I received some information from History.com about the Studebaker Corporation that was quite interesting.

The roots of the Studebaker Corporation date back to 1852, when siblings Henry and Clement Studebaker opened a blacksmith shop in South Bend, Indiana. Studebaker eventually became a leading manufacturer of horse-drawn wagons and supplied the U.S. Army with wagons during the Civil War. Around the turn of the century, Studebaker joined America's burgeoning auto industry, launching an electric car in 1902 and a gas-powered vehicle two years later that was marketed under the name Studebaker-Garford. After partnering with other automakers, Studebaker began selling gas-powered cars under its own name in 1913, while continuing to make wagons until 1920.



Memorial Day observance, May 28, 2012, at the Phoenix Pioneer & Military Memorial Park

By David A. Swanson

Once again I was honored to represent our Camp at the Memorial Day observance at the Phoenix Pioneer & Military Memorial Park in Phoenix. The Park had several great speakers for the ceremony, one of which portrayed Governor Hunt (our first state governor--1912). I gave a brief history of the GAR in Phoenix and read the Gettysburg Address.

Our Camp had an information table manned by Brother's Jerry Bloom and John Wanzel and Brother Jan Huber played "Taps."

Brother Bob Young and his wife Shirley attended the ceremony and **Department of New York Junior Vice Commander George J. Weinmann PCC** and his wife, who were visiting from New York, were also present.

Unfortunately, my camera battery went dead or we would have had some great pictures of the event. (Not dead enough to keep *your* picture out of the newsletter you say—this picture was thanks to Bob Young.)



Camp Commander David Swanson giving his speech about the GAR and reading the Gettysburg Address



History of the Grand Army of the Republic in Arizona and the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records

By David A. Swanson

Recently, while doing some research at the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records I inquired about the Grand Army of the Republic Department of Arizona and as I suspected not much information was available. Over the years I have compiled a history of the GAR in Arizona (sketchy as it is) with help from the Library of Congress and the Arizona Historical Society.

You will soon be seeing information from this endeavor in the various newsletters; however, the Arizona State Library is now one step ahead of everybody as the following letter from Ellen Greene, Arizona Collection Librarian shows:

"Dear David,
I received your CD of the Department of Arizona Grand Army of the Republic. I have printed it out in hard copy [all 586 pages] and will be adding it to the catalog so that our patrons will have access to the materials in it.

Thank you so much for thinking of us and for providing us with a copy of this publication. I know that it will be a valuable resource for our patrons."



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 account (from the *Daily Phoenix Herald*) we read about Memorial Day preparations in Phoenix, Ariz., in 1888:

“Monday, May 29, 1888

G. A. R. Programme for Memorial Day

The following is the order of arrangements for the observance of Memorial Day, Wednesday, May 30th, 1888:

The parade, under the direction of Allen T. Bird, Marshall, assisted by Frank D. Wells, and L. Neustatter, Aids, will form on Washington street, with the right resting on Montezuma street, at 4 o’clock p.m. sharp, in the following order:

1. Advance Guard, Marshall Wm. Blankenship, and assistants Frank Cox and Frank Baxter, mounted.
2. Band
3. Mexican Veterans
4. Junior Vice Department Commander, Edward Schwartz, and Department Staff, mounted.
5. John A. Logan Post No 7, G.A.R., F. S. Earl, Post Commander.
6. John W. Owens Post No. 5, G.A.R. Joseph B. Creamer, Commander.
7. Old soldiers.
8. Patriotic Order Sons of America, Tempe.
9. Orator of the Day, Col. James A. Zabriskie.
10. Mayor and Common Council in carriages.
11. Women’s Relief Corps—Flower committee in carriages.
12. Independent Order of Odd Fellows Canton Arizona, No. 1, Patriarchs Militant, N. A. Morford, Commandant.
- Floral Encampment No. 2
- Phoenix Lodge No 2, Robert Kern, N. G.

13. Knights of Pythias, Phoenix Lodge No. 2 Webster Street, Chancellor Commander,
14. Independent Order of Good Templars,
15. Fire Department, J. B. Long, assistant chief engineer.
16. Public School and Sunday school children.
17. Citizens in carriages.
18. Rear Guard.

The procession will move promptly at 4:30 o’clock p.m., and will march west along Washington street to Mojave, thence to Monroe, east on Monroe street to Pima, thence to Washington, and on Washington street to the City Hall Plaza, where the Memorial Ceremony will be conducted, and the people dismissed.

In the evening there will be given a public ceremonial at the Opera House, and an oration by Col. Jas. A. Zabriskie, of Tucson.

J. B. Creamer
Chairman, Committee of Arrangements

Tuesday, May 29, 1888:

Local Lines:

The G. A. R. boys will have a great day tomorrow. Businesses generally will close up and all societies of the city will turn out. The parade will not extend to the city cemetery this year owing to the distance and warm weather. The display promises to be the grandest the city has ever seen.

Col. J. A. Zabriskie, the orator of the day for tomorrow with his wife and family arrived at the Lemon hotel this morning. The Colonel will deliver his oration in the Opera House tomorrow evening, and we do not need to say to Arizonans who have heard him that he is equal to the occasion.”

[To be continued in the October newsletter]



If you are receiving this newsletter in black & white via the United 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.

Don't forget that the August meeting date has been moved to the 18th. Join your fellow Brothers for a great time and listen to Brother H.G. Smith's presentation.

In addition, most if not all of the delegates to the Department-at-Large Encampment and National Encampment will be present to give you a rundown of the activities.



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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Graves Registration

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Bob Hannan PCC (480) 380-9153 Camp Council

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