



# 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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**To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union 1861 to 1865**

July 2014

Camp Web site: [suvwaz-camp1.org](http://suvwaz-camp1.org)

## Minutes of the February 15, 2014, Camp meeting

Location:  
Deer Valley Airport Restaurant  
702 W. Deer Valley Rd.  
Phoenix, Az.  
623-582-5454

Camp Commander John Conrad called the meeting to order at noon. There were 23 Brothers and guests in attendance.

### *Meeting minutes:*

We had a number of ladies in attendance, as we wrap up the recruiting for the Auxiliary. We will be submitting the charter application to the National ASUVCW soon.

Brothers Jerry McKenzie and Rollin Rice were able to attend for the first time in a long time. Brother John Wanzel has moved back to Arizona and we welcomed him back to the Camp.

Brother Ron Jones, our Color Bearer, had a serious accident last month and is recuperating now. Our prayers are with Brother Ron for a complete recovery.

We considered and declined an invitation from the Department of California and the Pacific to join the Department. It is the feeling of the Camp membership that we should pursue establishing Camps in Southern and Northern Arizona and perhaps form our own Department over time.

David Swanson will again be presenting the Gettysburg Address at the Memorial Day services at Pioneer Military and Memorial Park at 9:00 a.m. on May 26; members are encouraged to join him. The Daughters will be following their tradition of presenting a wreath at the National Cemetery Memorial Day Celebration, starting at 8:00 a.m. They, too, welcome the participation of any brothers who wish to attend and possibly join them in the presentation. In the future, we will try to work more closely with the Daughters and the Auxiliary and coordinate our Memorial Day activities.

Dr. William Hearter, a long-time National Member at Large, joined the Camp. We inducted him today, and then were treated to a great presentation on his Civil War ancestors, illustrated by some significant personal items from his ancestors.



Brother William Hearter M.D. and Camp Commander John Conrad

### **Welcome to Picacho Peak Camp No. 1**

We discussed the new website and the many activities that the Camp is involved in.

David Swanson raised the concept of a Memorial on the State Capitol grounds commemorating the Union efforts in Arizona during the Civil War. (There is a Confederate monument already.) After the meeting, Brother Bob Archibald issued a pledge to match the first \$1000 in funds raised for the monument.

(Continued on page 2)



Brother Hearter describing some of the artifacts that belong to his family

**Thanks Dr. Bill for a very nice presentation!**



### JROTC presentation

On May 9, 2014, Brother Bob Archibald presented the SUVCW JROTC award to Cadet Tanner Reese at Deer Valley High School in Phoenix.



(L-R) Cadet Reese and Brother—Commander Bob Archibald



### Delegates to the August National Encampment

Camp Commander John Conrad and David Palmateer (Camp Council) so far are our Camp's only delegates to the Encampment. If you wish to be a delegate it is not too late—contact Commander John Conrad.

August 14-17, 2014 the National Encampment comes to Georgia! Commemorating the 150th

Anniversary of the Siege of Atlanta, the 2014 National Encampment site will be in Marietta, a suburb of Atlanta and the site of Marietta National Cemetery and the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. This will be the first time a National Encampment will be held in Georgia.



### Camp meeting—August 23, 2014; one not to be missed! Installation of our Camp's Auxiliary

The next meeting will be a significant one, at noon on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant. It will be our annual joint meeting with the Margaret Warner Wood Tent #1, DUVCW 1861-1865, and will also feature the installation of our Auxiliary.

Our speaker will be a Buffalo Soldier reenactor, Sergeant Major J. J. Jones, so be sure to get this on your calendar now. We have reserved both of the meeting rooms at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant to handle the large turnout.

**Please make every effort to attend this very special Camp meeting!**

### Memorial Day observance, May 26, 2014, at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park

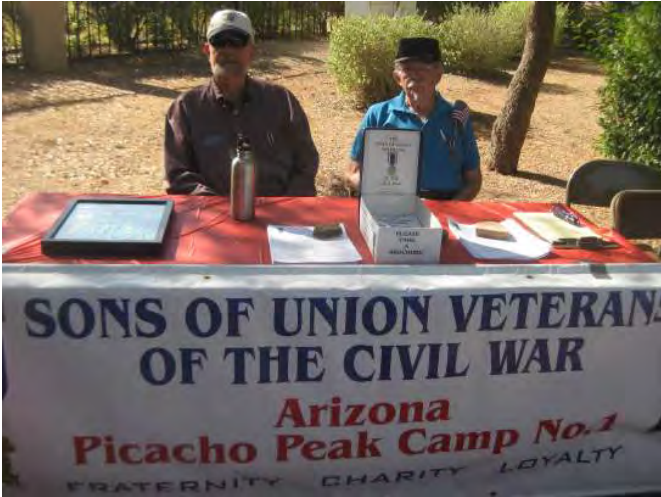
By David A. Swanson

Our Camp is a member of the Pioneer Cemetery Association which operates the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park at 15 Ave and Jefferson in Phoenix. Brothers of our Camp have attended its Memorial Day ceremonies for quite a few years and I have given the Gettysburg Address and a few appropriate remarks for the past 4 years—including the most recent 31<sup>st</sup> annual Memorial Day ceremony. (Apparently, the cemetery will let me continue until I get it right!) Brother Jan Huber has played "Taps" for many years and continues to do an excellent job!

The Pioneer & Military Memorial Park is the oldest cemetery in Phoenix and it contains many graves of Phoenix pioneers along with 125 graves of Civil War soldiers—both Union and Confederate.

Organizations such as the Sons of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, Picacho Peak Camp No. 1, and many other like organizations have tables set up which are visited by the participants after the ceremony has concluded. Brother Jerry Bloom has manned our table for many years and this year was assisted by Brother Al Harrica.

The ceremony made the front page of the *Arizona Republic* which is really nice since there were many ceremonies taking place in the Valley.



(L-R) Brothers Jerry Bloom and Al Harrica



Brother Jan Huber playing "Taps"



(L-R) Patricia "Dusti" Ide, DUVCW and Maura Mackowski ASUVCW



Brother David Swanson giving the Gettysburg Address and a few other appropriate remarks

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

By David A. Swanson PCC

### Captain John Wren Owen, 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment California Volunteer Infantry, Company F

I have been printing articles regarding the activities of the John W. Owen Post No. 5 GAR located in Phoenix, Arizona for quite some time—and they will continue. But who was Captain John W. Owen and why was this Post named after him? While the following certainly is not the definitive biography of him (assuming there really is one), I have pieced together information from various sources.

John Wren Owen was born on December 16, 1822, in Franklin County, Illinois and died on November 4, 1877 in Phoenix, Arizona Territory.



Undated photo of John Wren Owen  
Find A Grave Memorial# 35715296

The *History of New California: Its Resources and People* published in 1905 by Leigh H. Irvine has the following information on page 586:

[He] was the son of Thomas Harvey and Mary Paine Wren Owen. The latter a native of North Carolina and the former from Kentucky. The ancestral history of the family dates back to Revolutionary times. Thomas H. Owen was a soldier in the War of 1812. Between 1849 and 1851 most of the Owen family moved to Suisun, California and in that year John Wren Owen joined the family. John took up swamp land where the town of Suisun is now located. He was associated in this enterprise with Captain John A. Morgan and Captain Josiah Wing, the former a commander of a sloop and the latter of a schooner. They secured about seven or eight acres of high land and divided it into town lots, at which time

John Wren Owen built the first house in the village, James C. Owen [his brother] assisting in its construction. They also established the first grocery store in Suisun, its patrons having to go through the tules to reach it. [In 2010 Suisun City California had a population of 28,111.]

The following informational overview is contained on a paper in the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, History and Archives Division, 1901 W. Madison, Phoenix, Ariz.:

He raised a Company of 85 volunteers in San Francisco and was mustered in to the service of the United States at the presidio on December 15, 1864, to serve 3 years as Captain, Company F, 7<sup>th</sup> California Infantry; remained at the Presidio until June, 1865, when he went with the Company by sea to San Pedro, California; marched to Fort Yuma and stationed there from July to September, 1865; was at Maricopa Wells on October 1 en route to Fort McDowell where the Company remained until March, 1866; returned to California and was honorably discharged with the Company at the Presidio of San Francisco on April 13, 1866.

Elected from Tubac to represent Pima County in the 5<sup>th</sup> Territorial Legislature which was in session at Tucson from November 10 to December 16, 1868; listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Camp Crittenden, Pima County, A.T., age 46, where he was clerk in the Sutler's store operated by William J. Osborn; served as Sergeant at Arms, 67<sup>th</sup> Territorial Council at Tucson, 1871. . .

Appointed Deputy Collector and Inspector, U.S. Customs Service, at Cababi, Pima County, A.T., May 1, 1872, and served in southern Arizona until December 31, 1874; twice elected Treasurer of Maricopa County serving from January 1, 1875 until his death; granted leave of absence from the Territory as County Treasurer for two months at any time that year by Act of the 8<sup>th</sup> Territorial Legislature, approved February 15, 1875; the following obituary written by Martin H. Calderwood was printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner of November 9, 1877:

“Captain Owens [sic] was born in Illinois, came to California in 1852, and settled near Suisun City, Solano County. He came to this Territory in command of Company “F” Seventh Infantry, California Volunteers, and was stationed at Camp McDowell; he returned to California and was mustered out of the service with his regiment in 1866.

Returning here he engaged in farming on the Santa Cruz River, in Pima County; he was elected to the Territorial Legislature in 1868; he was afterwards appointed Deputy Collector of Customs and first stationed at Maricopa Wells, subsequently at Phoenix; he was elected Treasurer of Maricopa County in 1874, and re-elected in 1876, holding that office at the time of his death. A man with few faults and many virtues.”

He was a member of Suisun Lodge No. 55, F. and A.M. at Suisun, Solano County, California; J. W. Owens Post No 83 (3) Grand Army of the Republic, organized at Phoenix on September 24, 1886, was named for him; died at Phoenix, A.T., November 4, 1877, aged 54; buried Old City (Pioneers) Cemetery in Phoenix, War Department headstone. [The John W. Owen Post was renumbered to 5 and not 3.]

The Arizona State Library also has the following re-typed copies of newspaper articles:

SEVENTH CALIFORNIA INFANTRY—  
Company F, of this regiment, Captain J. W. Owen, and Lieutenants R. M. Apgar, and J. W. Pierson, received the following compliment from Lieutenant Colonel Bennett, on their departure from Fort McDowell:

HEADQUARTERS FORT McDOWELL  
March 2, 1866.

Captain John W. Owen, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry, California Volunteers, commanding Company F.

Captain—Tomorrow morning your company takes its departure from this post, and my command, to return to civil life. Companies A. F. and K, of your regiment, have been under my command since August last. This command was the pioneer force in this section of the Territory of Arizona. This command has performed the duties devolving upon it, scouting after Apaches, building Fort McDowell, escorts, etc., with energy and ability. For this exemplary performance of duty, endurance of hardships, and privations, cheerfully and without complaint, the officers and men of this battalion are entitled to great credit.

While under my command their performance of duty has been most satisfactory. They have justly merited the reputation of good and faithful soldiers. It is gratifying to know that their performance of duty has been perfectly satisfactory to Major General

McDowell, the department commander, and Brigadier General Mason, the district commander.

I cordially and heartily wish you and your men, health and success, in their respective pursuits in civil life.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CLARENCE E BENNETT  
Lieut. Col. 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Cal Vols.,  
Commanding

---Arizona Miner, April 25, 1866

Member of House, 5<sup>th</sup> territorial legislature, Pima county

----Weekly Arizona Miner, Nov. 28, 1868

Hon. A. McKey and Dr. Wilbur, who arrived in town on Sunday last with returns from the Gila, left for their homes by Thursday's stage. Capt. John Owen and David Gibson who accompanied them there, are still in town. All these were industrious and live men in the late election.

----Arizona Citizen, Nov 19, 1870

Western mail arrived at 10 a.m. today. The armed party who went to the scene of the attack upon the stage (15 miles this side of Gila Bend) as described elsewhere, returned with two bags of mail. A number of letters were covered with blood and marked—“Picked up by J. W. Owen.” Everything was destroyed but the stage, and the damage to it amounts to from \$150 to \$200. The top, cushions [sic] and boot were badly cut up. After completing the job, the Indians proceeded to Gila Bend and stole three state horses from the coral . . . .

----Arizona Citizen, March 11, 1871

Capt. John Owens has been made Collector of Customs at Maricopa Wells—Tucson Citizen

----Weekly Arizona Miner, June 15, 1872

Peoples Party candidate for treasurer, Maricopa county, 1874.

----Arizona Citizen Sept. 26, 1874

Candidate for treasurer, Maricopa county, 1874

----Arizona Citizen, Oct 3, 1874

Candidate for treasurer, Maricopa county,  
Independent Party,  
----Arizona Citizen, Oct. 10, 1874

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Elected treasurer, Maricopa county, Nov. 3, 1874.  
----Arizona Citizen, Nov 21, 1874

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Officers elected in Maricopa county—Treasurer,  
Capt. J. W. Owen.

----Arizona Sentinel, November 28, 1874

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Since the death of Capt. John W. Owen, Treasurer of Maricopa County, which occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst., his bondsmen have been searching, and endeavoring by all means, to ascertain where he kept the money belonging to the County treasury, but up to the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., no money, either individual or public, had been found, except two dollars which were in his pocket at the time of his death. It is now believed he was robbed during his sickness.

Capt. Owen, although a most excellent man, appears to have performed the duties of his office rather loosely, as he had made no report nor remittance to the Territorial Treasurer, either for the quarter ending June 30<sup>th</sup> or Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, and upon being reminded of this neglect, he wrote the Territorial Treasurer on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September that the amount due Maricopa county from the Territory for school purposes, on warrant No. 173, was needed immediately in that county. The Territorial Treasurer answered at once, authorizing him to pay said School warrant out of moneys in his hands belonging to the General Fund of the Territory, and deduct it from his remittance which he was directed to make at once by registered package by mail, accompanied by his reports for June and September. In answer to this request he wrote and sent the following letter:

Phoenix, October 11, 1877.

T. J. Butler, Esq.—I will send funds the last of the month, am not prepared at this time. I will have the Territorial School money by that time to take out the amount of warrant 173.

Yours truly,  
J. W. Owen, Treas.

From the foregoing facts, it would seem that Capt. Owen did not have the money on hand, and it may be that he had loaned it to some one, who, now that he is dead, is unwilling to acknowledge it. We publish

these facts, in order that his bondsmen may understand, as nearly as possible, just how matters stand, and not adopt the robbery theory, too hastily, until it is quite certain that the money is not in the hands of some of his friends. If he had had the Territorial money on hand when the demands were made, it seems reasonable that he would have sent it, and if he did not have it, where was it?

----Weekly Arizona Miner, November 16, 1877

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Capt. J. W. Owens died very suddenly last week at Phoenix and under circumstances that are considered suspicious. As reported here, he died in a very short time after he was taken sick and was attended by the same man, who was in charge of the jail at the time when Deane escaped. This man's previous character is unfavorably spoken of and it is intimated that he was hired for money to let Deane escape. Capt. Owen was Treasurer of Maricopa county at the time of his death. Since then it is reported that all of his personal effects of value, as well as the negotiable contents of the treasury are not to be found. Mr. F. A. Shaw has been appointed to succeed him as county treasurer.

----Arizona Sentinel, November 17, 1877

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On the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Capt. John W. Owen, Treasurer of Maricopa county, died. Since his death it has been ascertained that the financial affairs of the county are not altogether satisfactory; that is the character of the deceased is beyond reproach, but undoubtedly he did business in a loose way, and in all probability the funds are loaned out, and there being no record of the transactions, the holders will never be known.

----Arizona Weekly Star, Nov. 22, 1877

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There is a report at Yuma that the circumstances of Capt. J. W. Owen's death, at Phoenix, are suspicious, and that he was attended by a suspicious party as nurse.

----The Miner, Nov. 23, 1877

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Paid Up.—The bondsmen of the late J. W. Owens, Treasurer of Maricopa county, have paid the money due the Territory, amounting to \$477.60, which was found to be short at the time of Mr. Owen's death. This is a case in which it is believed a robbery of the dead man was committed, as Capt. Owen was known to have money before his death, but none could be found afterwards. The Territorial Treasurer received

the amount yesterday through Judge Alsap of Phoenix.

----Weekly Arizona Miner, October 4, 1878,



A short history of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry as contained in: *Records of California Men, in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1867*. Revised and compiled by Brig.-Gen. Richard H. Orton 1890.

This regiment of infantry was organized in San Francisco, January 24, 1865, under Colonel Charles W. Lewis, who was mustered as Colonel January 11, 1865. . . .

The headquarters of the regiment was at Presidio, San Francisco, until March, 1865; then at Tubac, A.T., until June, 1865; then at Fort Mason, A.T., until its return to San Francisco to be mustered out, which took place May 22, 1866.

There are no remarks on the muster rolls or monthly returns of headquarters or the companies of this regiment, showing the service they performed.

Company F.

This company was raised in San Francisco by Captain J. W. Owen, and was mustered into the United States service at the Presidio, December 25, 1864 (The date of muster as given on page 10 is wrong [January 10, 1865].) The company remained at the Presidio until June, 1865; it then went to Fort Yuma, Cal., where it remained until September, 1865. It was at Maricopa Wells, A.T., September 30, 1865; and at Camp McDowell, A.T., until ordered back for final muster out, which took place at the Presidio, San Francisco, April 15, 1866.

There are no further records of the service performed by this company.

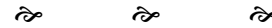
Name: John W. Owen; Rank, Captain; Place of Enrollment, San Francisco; Date of Enlistment: Nov. 30, 1864; Date of Muster, Dec. 15, 1864; Remarks, Discharged at Presidio, S. F., April 13, 1866, with Co.



Captain John W. Owen is buried in the Phoenix Pioneer and Military Memorial Park at 15 Avenue and Jefferson as are other Comrades of the John W. Owen Post No. 5.



Grave of Capt J. W. Owen, at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park in Phoenix



Well, there you have it. He was in the Arizona Territory as Captain of Company F. 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry California Volunteers from Sept 30, 1865, to March 3, 1866; roughly five months (although he was mustered into service on January 15, 1864—being assigned in California). It isn't known exactly when he returned to the Arizona Territory but he was elected from Tubac to represent Pima County in the 5<sup>th</sup> Territorial Legislature which was in session at Tucson from November 10 to December 16, 1868.

He seemed to be quite popular in the Territory, holding various elected offices, and approximately eight years after his death the Phoenix GAR Post was named after him. He was a Civil War veteran because of his service in California from his muster date of December 15, 1864—in less than 4 months Gen. Robert E. Lee would surrender. He saw no service in Arizona until September/October of 1865. Why was the post named after him? I can only conclude that it was because of his dedication to the Territory of Arizona both in and out of the service.



When the J. W. Owen Post No. 83 was formed on September 24, 1885, it and five other Posts in Arizona were part of the Department of California. Major Ed Schwartz organized the Post and by 1891 the Post membership was over 60.

On September 10, 1887, all six Posts were transferred to the Provisional Department of Arizona and the J. W. Owen Post No. 83 became Post No. 5.

On January 17, 1888, the permanent Department of Arizona GAR became official.



**Please make every effort to attend the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as we install our new camp auxiliary! This is a significant historical event for our camp and its presence in the state of Arizona.**

**2014 Camp meeting dates!**

All Camp meetings will take place at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix, Az at noon on the following dates:

August 23<sup>rd</sup>

November 15<sup>th</sup>

Please mark your calendars!

**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.

**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—**

**Past Camp Commanders**



Larry Fuller 1995-2003 †  
David A. Swanson 2003-2006  
Robert Hannon 2006-2008 †  
John R. Conrad 2008-2010  
David A. Swanson 2010-2013



**Camp Officers for 2014**

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