## SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR PICACHO PEAK CAMP #1 ARIZONA CAMP-at-LARGE

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Volume I Issue IV

### FROM THE EDITOR

Hopefully everyone had a great summer...it has been a while since we last met so lets get the following housekeeping information out of the way and then start the newsletter.

#### **MEETING NOTICE**

Our next Camp meeting will take place at **noon on November 15, 2003.** The location will be Coco's Restaurant at 4514 E. Cactus Rd. Phoenix.

Our guest speaker is Dr. Bill Phillips, ASU Dept. of History, Emeritus, who currently sits on the board of the Arizona Historical Foundation. He will speak about Abraham Lincoln and he will definitely keep your interest.

During this meeting Camp Officers for 2004 will also be elected.

#### **DUES NOTICE FOR 2004**

Please take note that with the luncheon reservation form there is also a space for 2004 dues. There has been some confusion in the past...some Brothers assumed that when they sent in money for the luncheon it also covered their dues...unfortunately this is not so. The annual dues are \$31.00 and the luncheon is \$14.00, for a total hit of \$45.00.

If you can't attend the November meeting/luncheon, we still need you to complete the form and send in your dues...it is a few months early, but it sure helps the record keeping!

### **RAFFLE INFORMATION**

Our Camp Historian **Bob Hannan** has offered the VHS tape version of the movie *Gods and Generals* to be raffled off at the next meeting...\$1.00 a ticket or \$5.00 for six...\$10.00 for twelve, etc, etc, etc (starting to read

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like a loan shark report)...proceeds used to purchase GAR cemetery markers.

### THE CITY OF PHOENIX...OR THE CITY OF STONEWALL...A SHORT HISTORY OF ITS FOUNDING.....by David Swanson

The City of Phoenix website contains a page entitled "Out of the Ashes" which is a very short history of its founding. The following information is contained regarding its "modern history":

"Phoenix's modern history begins in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1867, Jack Swilling of Wickenburg stopped to rest his horse at the foot of the north slopes of the White Tank Mountains. He looked down and across the expansive Salt River Valley and his eyes caught the rich gleam of the brown, dry soil turned up by the horse's hooves. He saw farmland, predominately free from rocks, and in a place beyond the reach of heavy frost or snow. All it needed was water.

Returning to Wickenburg, he organized the Swilling Irrigation Canal Company, and moved into the Valley. The same year, the company began digging a canal to divert some of the water of the Salt River onto the lands of the Valley. By March 1868, water flowed through the canal, and a few members of the company raised meager crops that summer.

By 1868, a small colony had formed approximately four miles east of the present city. Swilling's Mill became the new name of the area. It was changed to Helling Mill, after which it became Mill City, and years later, East Phoenix. Swilling, having been a confederate soldier, wanted to name the new settlement Stonewall after Stonewall Jackson. (see Stonewall, Arizona on page 2) Page 2

### STONEWALL, ARIZONA (continued)

Others suggested the name Salina, but neither name suited the inhabitants. It was Darrell Duppa who suggested the name Phoenix, inasmuch as the new town would spring from the ruins of a former civilization. This is the accepted derivation of our name.

Phoenix officially was recognized on May 4, 1868, when Yavapai County Board of supervisors, the county of which we were then a part, formed an election precinct here.

A post office was established in Phoenix on June 15, 1868 with Jack Swilling as postmaster..."

So there you have it.... if Lieutenant Jack Swilling, CSA, had his way, you would be having SUVCW Camp meetings in Stonewall, Arizona!

A paper entitled "Jack Swilling, the Founder of Phoenix" by Thos. E. Farish, Arizona State Historian (1914-1919) states: "During the Rebellion Mr. Swilling was a lieutenant in Captain Hunter's company of volunteers in Baylor's regiment and occupied himself, with thirty of his men, in protecting settlers and others from the Indians along the Rio Grand in Southern New Mexico and along the road to Tucson. When the confederates were driven out of New Mexico, Mr. Swilling remained in Arizona...In 1867, Swilling organized a company and built the first canal from the Salt River...and a quiet settlement was made in what is now the city of Phoenix."

It should be noted that a detachment from Captain Hunter's company found the time (when they were not protecting the settlers from the Indians) to engage in a skirmish called the Battle of Picacho Pass.

Lieutenant Jack Swilling was quite involved with the Confederate effort in early 1862, to keep the Confederate Territory of Arizona in tact...although this was a short lived effort on his part ...followed up by a stint as a civilian scout, or messenger, depending on the source, for the "California Column." (The "California Column" consisted of about 2,300 Union troops from California with the express purpose of expelling Confederates from the territory.)

Jack Swilling was one of the most colorful figures in the Arizona Territory. If you are interested, the Arizona Library and Archives at 1700 W. Washington should be visited.

Trivia: Was northern Arizona part of the Confederate Territory of AZ? Was there even a federal Arizona Territory for the Confederates to "invade"? Get these answers and more in our next newsletter!

#### **GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA**

In the July issue of our newsletter an overview of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Arizona was printed.

The *Arizona Sentinel*, January 28, 1888 issue, contains the following information regarding the first department encampment and is printed here exactly as published. The paper was published in Tucson.

"The first encampment of the G. A. R. ever held in Arizona closed its doors in Phoenix yesterday. Several Members of the Negley Post, whose headquarters are in this city were elected to offices in the department body. B. C. Parker was elected delegate to the National Convention; G. W. Sanders Department Chaplain and G. W. Brown member of the council of administration. A. L. Grow was elected department commander. Mr. A. B. Sampson who returned home last night was enthusiastic over their good treatment by the citizens of Phoenix who left nothing undone to make their visit a pleasant one. A banquet for them by the citizens was a source of preparations when Mr. Sampson came away. Carriages were placed at the disposal of the guests and the great Salt River valley with its locations and advantages was shown them. This kindness and attention was duly appreciated by the grand army visitors. The next department encampment will be held in Tucson. All Tucson members are expected home tonight."

It is interesting to note that in this article just the letters G.A.R. were used...the correspondent apparently felt that the initials were sufficient and the readers would know what they stood for.

The Tombstone Prospector, January 18 1889 issue contains the following regarding the second encampment and again is printed exactly as published:

### G. A. R.

"The second annual encampment of the Department of Arizona, Grand Army of the Republic completed the business before it to-day at 1 o'clock, says the Tucson Citizen. Everything was harmonious and the best of feeling prevailed throughout the entire session.

Despite the muddy streets they were out early this morning. The contest between Geo. L. Coats, of Phenix (sic), and A. B. Sampson, of Tucson, was being energetically carried on in a spirit of friendship by the friends of each. Neither of these gentlemen were making any effort to secure the position, leaving the matter entirely with their friends. The contest was very close and resulted in the election of Mr. Sampson by one vote. (continued on page 3..Dept. of Arizona The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: A. B. Sampson of Tucson Department Commander; J. C. Creamer, of Phenix (sic), senior vice-commander; J. L. Guthrie, chaplain; J. W. Wharton, medical director; J. II, Campbell, A. B. Lighthizer, Mr. Gregory, Geo. Haxworth, and A. E. Love, commission of administration; John M. Ward alternate.

**DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA**...continued

Tombstone was selected as the place for the next annual encampment of the department on the first Monday in March, 1890." (Note: The writer of this article is obviously a graduate from the David Swanson School of Journalism!)

Information regarding the Department of Arizona is apparently quite difficult to obtain...If any Brothers have more information please contact the editor...it would be nice to have a continuing series in the newsletter.

### THE STARS AND STRIPES

Many of the Brothers of our Camp have served in our nation's military; most likely in the army, navy, marines, coast guard or air force. And gathering from our ages we served from WWII through Viet Nam...maybe even Desert Storm.

Whether we were stationed in the U.S., on a ship or in a foreign country, many of us kept informed through the Armed Forces Radio Network or from a newspaper that has a very large circulation. I'm sure most of you can name that newspaper, but if not read the following:

"On November 9, 1861, soldiers of the Illinois 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Regiments, after forcing the Confederates south, set up camp in Bloomfield, Missouri. Upon finding the newspaper office empty, they decided to print a newspaper for their expedition relating the troops activities. They called it the *Stars and Stripes*. This was the beginning of the 'soldiers newspaper 140 years ago." And as Paul Harvey says, "now you know...the rest of the story." (the information about the paper was obtained from the Stars and Stripes Museum/Library Association. Its website is: www.starsandstripesmuseumlibrary.org.)

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR WEB PAGE

There is an amazing amount of information about the SUVCW and its history, among many, many other items on the SUVCW web page.

Many of our Camp Brothers do not have a computer or if they do there is no internet connection.

Some of the information that would be of interest to our Brothers will be published in this and future newsletters, so what better way to start than by presenting the following:

### "BRIEF HISTORY SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was a creation of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) which was formed in 1866. Wanting to pass on its heritage, the GAR in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania created a Corps of Cadets in 1878 which later became the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV). This latter organization was formed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 12 1881. The SV units functioned much as National Guard units and actually served along with state militia during the Spanish American War. In 1904, the SV elected to become a patriotic education society and in 1925 changed its name to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). However, to keep the military aspect alive, the SUVCW created within the organization the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) which was carried on the Army rolls as a Reserve contingent. Some SVR units served with the Army during World War I. After World War I, the SVR was listed as a training company of the U.S. Army. In more recent years, the SVR's mission has become historic, ceremonial, and commemorative. Prior to disbanding and before the death of its last member, the GAR officially designated the SUVCW as its successor and heir to its remaining property. On August 20, 1954, the SUVCW was officially incorporated by an Act of Congress by the passing of Public Law 605 of the second session of the 83rd Congress."

For those with a computer the web address of the SUVCW is www.suvcw.org.

A. Lincoln බංගන්න කරන්න කරන්න කරන්න කරන්න කරන්න කරන්න

**"It would be a fine city if they drained it."** Comment said to have been made by President Grant about Venice during his post presidency world tour.

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### MEMO TO ALL BROTHERS:

Please bring a written biography of your Civil War ancestor to our next Camp meeting. This can be three sentences long, written on scrap paper or a typed paper or anything in between.

The object of this is to have information about your ancestor published in our newsletter.

For our literary giants, please limit your paper to two fully typed 8" x 11" sheets (single sided).

We would all enjoy reading about him even if all you have is his name, rank and company...anything would be interesting. (as an alternative, please forward your information electronically to the editor at

DavidJan1854@cs.com....or phone me and I will give you my mailing address)

PS. If you wish to give a brief talk or an extended one at a Camp meeting, please let the editor or any officer know...we would really like to hear from you. This talk could be on your ancestor or any aspect of the Civil War.

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The following was forwarded by Brother John F. Crossen:

During the course of the War both sides produced parodies of popular songs favored by either the United States or the Confederate States. Here is a Union version of *Dixie*, by John Savage:

Oh, the Starry Flag is the flag for me; The flag of life, the flag of the free, Then hurrah, then hurrah, for the flag of the Union.

Oh, the Starry Flag is the flag for me; The flag of life, the flag of the free, We'll raise the starry banner, boys, Where no pow'r or wrath can fact it.

O'er town and filed— The people's shield; No reason can erase it; O'er all the land,

That flag must stand, Where the people's might shall place it. 

## Scottsdale Civil War Round Table

Just a reminder: This outstanding organization meets during the months of Sept. through May on the third Tuesday of the month at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3819 N. Drinkwater Blvd. Hours: 7 PM to 10PM. Ed Bearss will be a guest speaker soon...when?...show up and find out!

### **Camp Officers for 2003**

*Commander:* Larry Fuller (480) 945-9816 Sr. Vice-Commander: Bob Bohannan (480) 480-471-2222 (evening only) Jr. Vice-Commander: David Swanson (480) 515-2798 e-mail: DavidJan1854@cs.com Secretary: Jerry McKenzie (602) 234-1672 e-mail: eclecticdog@msn.com Treasurer: Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091 Camp Council: Dick Graffin: (602) 870-1728 Jim Greaves (623) 544-8977 e-mail: jimgreaves@mindspring.com Bob Young (602) 841-7037 Chaplain: Bob Baxter (602) 276-3892 Camp Historian: Bob Hannan (480) 380-9153 e-mail: suvcw82@aol.com Graves Registration: Duane Branson (928) 286-1756 Newsletter Editor/Publisher/Copyboy David Swanson

### REMINDER: PLEASE FILL OUT THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM AND DON'T FORGET TO INCUDE YOUR 2004 DUES...

## MEETING NOTICE & CALL FOR 2004 DUES

Our next Camp meeting will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2003 at noon. <u>This will be a</u> joint meeting with the Founders and Patriots of America.

Location: Coco's Restaurant 4514 E. Cactus Rd. (602) 996-9851

All Brothers, wives and guests are invited to the fall meeting of our Camp.

The speaker will be Dr. Bill Phillips, ASU Dept. of History, Emeritus.

The buffet lunch menu consists of: Cheese stuffed rigatoni; garlic bread; pot roast with mashed potatoes; carrot, cauliflower and broccoli mix; salad bar, and for desert, peach cobbler. Also included is unlimited coffee, tea and soft drinks. The cost is \$14.00 per person. Please complete the form below and mail as indicated.

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### LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS & ANNUAL DUES FORM

Please complete this form and mail to the Camp Treasurer. *If you cannot attend and have not paid your 2004 dues, please do so by completing and mailing this form.* 

Make checks payable to: Picacho Peak Camp #1 SUVCW

Mail to:

Jerry Bloom, Camp Treasurer 4323 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Way Phoenix, Arizona 85016 Phone (602) 955-3091