



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



CAMP NEWSLETTER



October 2006

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2006, CAMP MEETING:

Location: Coco's Restaurant
4514 E. Cactus, Phx, AZ

Camp Commander David Swanson called our summer meeting to order; in attendance were 21 Brothers, wives and guests.

Camp Brother Initiated: Brother **Allen Fincial**, of Mesa, AZ, was initiated into the Order and our Camp. His ancestor is his great great granduncle: Noah Fincial, Co K., 81st Ohio Infantry.
Welcome Allen!

Speaker: Our Eagle Scout Coordinator, **John Conrad**, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding leaders of the Union and the Confederacy: what they did before and after the Civil War. It was very evident that John put a lot of time and effort into this presentation and it showed.

This was a fine presentation and if we are not careful we will lose him to the Civil War roundtable circuit!

November Elections: Brothers were notified that, in accordance with our by-laws, Camp Officer elections would be held during our November meeting. Many of the upcoming offices will be filled and our Camp will continue to prosper.

The issue of Associate Members holding Camp offices came up and the Camp Commander gave out erroneous information (where have we heard *that* before). So, in an effort to set the record straight he proffers the following regarding Associate Members (those with no proven Union Civil War Ancestors): They can hold Camp offices so long as they are not *elected offices* (commander, senior and junior vice

commander, secretary/treasurer and the camp council). While the national regulations do not prohibit the holding of elected offices our Camp by-laws do and there you have it. (*Newsletter editor's note: The commander was very contrite during my interview with him regarding this issue.*)

Website Update: Brother **Nathan Cups**, our Camp's Signals Officer, gave a presentation regarding our Camp website (www.suvcwaz.org). For those of you who have not visited it lately, you should do so.

He is in the process of adding a section, which will contain each Brother's name and his ancestor information. If you have any ancestor information and/or pictures, send the information to Nathan and he will include it.

Next Camp Meeting: Our next meeting will be on November 18, 2006, at noon. Location is at Coco's restaurant, 4514 E. Cactus. *This will be a joint meeting with the Sisters of the Margaret Warner Wood Tent #1, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.* Like us, they are the only Tent/Camp in the state. Lets all show up to welcome them!

We will also hold our annual Camp officer elections and generally have a great time. Oh, and our speaker will be the ever popular Brother **Dave Kampf**. Topic: The Great Locomotive Chase.

First call for 2007 dues
Please mail your dues for 2007 to the Camp Secretary/Treasurer. (See page 5).

TAPS

Former Camp Brother, Reverend John Crossen, passed away on Sept. 12, 2006, from his battle with cancer at age 46. A funeral Mass was held on Sept. 18, 2006, in Scottsdale.

John transferred his camp membership to Pennsylvania about a year ago. He was a speaker at one of our meetings and talked about his ancestors in the *Pennsylvania Bucktails* (13th Penn. Regt).

OFFICERS NEEDED

By Camp Commander David A. Swanson

Your Camp is in need of Brothers to fill officer positions within the Camp.

Our Camp elections are coming up in November and we have some positions that need to be filled. For those who have even briefly considered taking a position, now is your time and here is what's open!

Elected Officer positions:

**Senior Vice Commander and
One of the three Camp Council positions.**

Appointed Officer positions:

Graves Registration Officer: The purpose of the Graves Registration officer is to locate, record, ascertain the condition of and bring to the attention of proper authorities the need for repair or replacement of the grave markers/memorials of Civil War Veterans buried in the jurisdiction of the Camp.

Note: There are numerous graves located just within the Valley, which need to be registered not to mention the state. This officer could form a working committee to assist in this endeavor.

Patriotic Instructor: The purpose of the office of Patriotic Instructor is to educate and provide Brothers and the general public with information that will help to foster patriotism among the membership and the populace in general.

Descriptions of these and other officer positions can be found in our Camp By-Laws. (If you don't have a copy, contact Camp Sec/Treasurer Jerry Bloom).

Our Camp should get more active in areas that really define what a Camp in the SUVCW is all about and now it your chance to help out.

MORE CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Here is some interesting information. Most know that Missouri was a border state during the Civil War (although the Confederacy added a star to its flag because of Missouri's exiled secessionist government

and of course the Union kept its star on the National flag), but did you know that of the 39 regiments Missouri raised during the war, 17 went to the Confederacy and 22 to the Union?

Can you name the future Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who was wounded three times during the Civil War?

- A. Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.
- B. Melville Fuller
- C. Salmon Chase
- D. William Rehnquist

Yes, it was Melville Fuller. Well, not really; Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. was wounded in the chest at Ball's Bluff, in the back at Antietam and in the heel at Chancellorsville.

Melville Fuller? Yes, all of the individuals mentioned were Chief Justices of the Supreme Court. In fact Fuller filled the office for 22 years (1888-1910).

And finally, did you know that Confederate Private Henry Stanley fought for the Sixth Arkansas, and was captured at Shiloh? Yes, that is true, but did you also realize that after the war he was sent to Africa by the *New York Herald* and after a two year search for the celebrated (and presumed dead) African explorer and missionary, Dr. Livingston, he proclaimed: "Dr. Livingston, I presume?" Yes, it's the same guy and oh, by the way, after this, he was addressed as *Sir* Henry M. Stanley.



ANCESTOR INFORMATION

If you have Civil War ancestor information, which has not previously been published in the newsletter, and you would like to see it published, send it to the editor, see page 4. If you have sent in information and it has not been published, also contact the editor, because as far as his feeble memory serves, all has been published.



Brother Al Harrica and Ludlow, MA

The following is taken in part from an article by Rich Wirth, in the June 21, 2006, edition of *The Register*, a newspaper published in Wilbraham, Massachusetts.

Headstone of Civil War soldier replaced in Center Cemetery

LUDLOW- One hundred forty-four years after disease claimed the life of Civil War soldier Robert Parsons, he now crumbling headstone erected in his memory has been replaced in Center Cemetery.

On Saturday, June 17, members of the L.A. Tift Camp #15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War hosted a headstone rededication ceremony for the young Ludlow soldier, who was a member of the 37th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Company D.

Director of Veterans Services Michael Lombard, American Legion Post 52 . . . [and others] attended the brief, but solemn ceremony in Center Cemetery . . .

Former Ludlow resident Al Harrica, currently of Phoenix, AZ., a member of the 25th Massachusetts Regiment, was instrumental in getting Parson's headstone replaced. While conducting research in local cemeteries for his book "They Saved a Nation, 1861-1865. A Soldier's Story: How They Lived, How They Died," Harrica saw that Parson's headstone had fallen over.

In respect to replacing Parson's headstone, Harrica contacted Stephen J. Twining, commander of L.A. Tift Camp #15 . . . Twining contacted the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which furnishes, at no charge to the applicant, a headstone or marker for the grave of an eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. Any deceased veteran discharged from the U.S. armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable is eligible to receive a government headstone or marker.

Saturday's rededication ceremony was adapted from the 1917 service for the use of the Grand Army of the Republic, which was originally used to dedicate the headstone of a Civil War veteran.

"The march of this soldier is over. Let us remember Robert Parsons here at rest under the blue skies of Heaven, guarded by the silent stars that in life watched over him when he bivouacked on the battlefields or lay down wary and footsore of the sold of the Southland. May we, as we stand here by this grave, remember that it is our duty, as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to honor the memory of the men who stood shoulder-to-shoulder on the bloody fields of battle."

In addition to a gun salute and the playing of "Taps," Chaplain Gage Hotaling . . . gave a moving invocation . . . A retired Navy chaplain, Hotaling is, at 90 years old, the only living chaplain who served in World War II, he said.

(Editor's note: For those who have not read Al's book, I'm sure we can have him bring some copies for one of our meetings. I don't remember the price but his book is well worth it.)



SECESSION DECLARATION

By David A. Swanson

I thought you might be interested reading some of the actual secession declarations from various states, so here is the one from Mississippi. [Copied by Justin Sanders from J.A. May & J.R. Faunt, *South Carolina Secedes* (U. of S. Car. Pr, 1960), pp. 76-81.]

A Declaration of the Immediate Causes which Induce and Justify the Secession of the State of Mississippi from the Federal Union.

In the momentous step which our State has taken of dissolving its connection with the government of which we so long formed a part, it is but just that we should declare the prominent reasons which have induced our course.

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.

That we do not overstate the dangers to our institution, a reference to a few facts will sufficiently prove.

The hostility to this institution commenced before the adoption of the Constitution, and was manifested in the well-known Ordinance of 1787, in regard to the Northwestern Territory.

The feeling increased, until, in 1819-20, it deprived the South of more than half the vast territory acquired from France.

The same hostility dismembered Texas and seized upon all the territory acquired from Mexico.

It has grown until it denies the right of property in slaves, and refuses protection to that right on the high seas, in the Territories, and wherever the government of the United States had jurisdiction.

It refuses the admission of new slave States into the Union, and seeks to extinguish it by confining it within its present limits, denying the power of expansion.

It tramples the original equality of the South under foot.

It has nullified the Fugitive Slave Law in almost every free State in the Union, and has utterly broken the compact which our fathers pledged their faith to maintain.

(Continued on page 4)

(South Carolina secedes continued)

It advocates negro equality, socially and politically, and promotes insurrection and incendiary in our midst.

It has enlisted its press, its pulpit and its schools against us, until the whole popular mind of the North is excited and inflamed with prejudice.

It has made combinations and formed associations to carry out its schemes of emancipation in the States and wherever else slavery exists.

It seeks not to elevate or to support the slave, but to destroy his present condition without providing a better.

It has invaded a State, and invested with the honors of martyrdom the wretch whose purpose was to apply flames to our dwellings, and the weapons of destruction to our lives.

It has broken every compact into which it has entered for our security.

It has given indubitable evidence of its design to ruin our agriculture, to prostrate our industrial pursuits and to destroy our social system.

It knows no relenting or hesitation in its purposes; it stops not in its march of aggression, and leaves us no room to hope for cessation or for pause.

It has recently obtained control of the Government, by the prosecution of its unhallowed schemes, and destroyed the last expectation of living together in friendship and brotherhood.

Utter subjugation awaits us in the Union, if we should consent longer to remain in it. It is not a matter of choice, but of necessity. We must either submit to degradation, and to the loss of property worth four billions of money, or we must secede from the Union framed by our fathers, to secure this as well as every other species of property. For far less cause than this, our fathers separated from the Crown of England.

Our decision is made. We follow their footsteps. We embrace the alternative of separation; and for the reasons here stated, we resolve to maintain our rights with the full consciousness of the justice of our course, and the undoubting belief of our ability to maintain it.

Editor's note: "These products have become necessities of the world, and a blow at slavery is a blow at commerce and civilization." I guess that is what's meant by the term "states rights."

***SUPPORT YOUR CAMP WITH YOUR
TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION***

Donations to Picacho Peak Camp #1, as part of the SUVCW, and by its own tax number, are tax deductible for 2006.

Please help yourself and your Camp with this tax deduction option!

Mail your contribution to our Secretary/Treasurer, Jerry Bloom: 4323 N. 28th Way, Phx, AZ 85016, or send it in with your reservation for the fall meeting (separate check required). Your receipt will be mailed to you.

Camp Officers for 2006

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