



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



CAMP NEWSLETTER



October 2011

Camp Web site: www.suvcwaz.org

Minutes of the August 13, 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 15 Brothers and guests in attendance.

The limited attendance did not limit the camaraderie that all shared and the artifacts brought in included: old books, guns, bullet collections, swords, and pistols.

Officer's reports:

Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber gave the following information: "Since the date of my last report (May 11, 2011), I have accomplished 11 grave registration activities. One was an update of information for a previously registered grave and 10 were new, initial registrations. Of the 10 new registrations, 7 are Union Soldiers and 3 are Confederates. Nine are in Greenwood Memory Lawn in Phoenix and one in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, KY. The total registration activities since my appointment: 234; 148 new and 86 updates.

New Camp Brothers

David O. McKee of Flagstaff, whose ancestor is his great-great-grandfather Capt. John McKee, Co I, 144th O.V.I.

Christopher E. Lehman of Phoenix, whose ancestor is his great-great-grandfather Pvt. Charles Jess, Company G of the 60th Regt, Indiana.

Kent D. Worley of Gilbert, whose ancestor is his great-great-great grandfather Capt. Alexander Hugh Johnson, Co. K., 30th Illinois.



Brother Dave Kampf discussing some firearm elements



Some of the items brought to the August meeting

DO YOU WANT TO ATTEND THE DEPARTMENT-at-LARGE ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT AND THE SUVCW NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT THIS SUMMER IN LOS ANGELES? SEE PAGE 2.

Welcome to our Camp and the SUVCW!

In Memorial

Larry Fuller, 84, passed away on June 11, 2011. Larry was the founder, organizer and Past Camp Commander of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 and a WWII Navy veteran. He was interred at St. Barnabus on the Desert Episcopal Church, 6715 N. Mockingbird Ln, Paradise Valley, AZ

James P. Greaves, 76, passed away on July 25, 2011. He worked for Univac/Sperry as a Computer Software Analyst and Project Manager. Jim was a member of the Wickenburg Gun Club and the National Rifle Association. He was also a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Master Mason, Lodge 573 in Pittsburgh PA. He is survived by his wife, 2 children and 5 grandchildren, 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Graveside services were held at the National Memorial Cemetery of AZ, Phoenix, AZ on Monday, August 1st

Picacho Peak Camp officer elections

Camp officer elections will take place on November 12, 2011.

The following Brothers are running unopposed:

- Commander: David A. Swanson
- Senior Vice Commander: John Conrad PCC
- Junior Vice Commander: Jim Heller
- Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry Bloom

Camp Council (3 positions):

- Mark Haynes
- Bob Young
- Don Strachota

The names of Camp Brothers appointed to fill "appointive officer" positions in the Camp will be presented at the meeting and listed in the January 2011 newsletter.

As a reminder: Officers in our Camp are elected/appointed and installed at each November meeting; therefore, once the ceremony is over (not the meeting), the newly elected/appointed officers take charge of the Camp.

Delegates to the Department-at-Large Annual Encampment and the National Encampment

The Department-at-Large Encampment and the SUVCW National Encampment will be held on August 9-11, 2012, in Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott.

The Department-at-Large (our department) is having an Annual Encampment (I believe this is a

first), just prior to the National Encampment, the purpose of which is to elect delegates and alternates to the National Encampment. The Department-at-Large currently consists of 2 Camps in Oregon, 1 Camp in Washington, and ours.

So here is how this works. Each Camp is authorized to send 1 delegate plus one for each 10 members (in our case 7) in addition to the Camp elected officers and past camp commanders to the Department Encampment. The Department Encampment then elects 1 delegate plus one for every 25 Brothers in good standing to the National Encampment as voting delegates (in the case of our Department 6).

In each case, alternates are also elected in the event of a delegate vacancy.

So what happens if you are elected as a delegate from our Camp and not elected as a delegate at the Department Encampment? Not a problem—you can attend all the functions of the National Encampment, but you will not be a voting member.

Here is an opportunity for you to attend our Department Encampment and the National Encampment. IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND please read this: Delegates will be elected at our November Camp meeting. If you wish to have your name on the election ballot please notify Camp Commander David Swanson before our officer election. You can do this at the meeting but it would be preferable to let me know beforehand (we will handle the election of alternates at the meeting).

Here is a copy of the National Regulation that governs our participation:

“ARTICLE IX Department-at-Large Section 7. (a) Each Camp-at-Large must provide to the Department-at-Large Secretary/Treasurer by August 1 of each year the names of the delegates from their Camp who will be attending the Department-at-Large Encampment.

(b) At the site of the National Encampment, on the morning of the first opening day of the National Encampment, the Commander-in-Chief will call to order, prior to 8:00 a.m., an encampment of the Department-at-Large. At this encampment delegates to the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be elected. If the Commander-in-Chief is absent from the Department-at-Large Encampment the next ranking officer will call the encampment to Order and preside over the Department-at-Large Encampment.

(c) If attendance at the Department-at-Large Encampment is less than the allotment of delegates permitted to the National Encampment then all in attendance, with the exception of the Department-at-Large officers, will be declared delegates to the National Encampment. If the number in attendance is greater than the allotment of delegates permitted to the National Encampment then a vote for delegates must occur.”



Other Camp Activities

Picacho Peak Camp **Brother Robert Weinheimer**, who also holds hats as: historian for the Maricopa American Legion Post 133, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12043 and is a member of the Maricopa Historical Society, was the point of contact for organizing the Maricopa Veterans exhibit at the Maricopa County Library which runs from May through September, 2011. Camp **Brother Paul Verhelst** donated his great-grandfather's written account of President Lincoln's assassination to the exhibition. Chief Sailmaker Charles H. Jones was present at the assassination and his account of it and the immediate aftermath are most informational.

Ancestry.com and graves registration

The following information is supplied by our Graves Registration Officer Jan Huber:

I have a recent good example of how valuable Ancestry.com is for the graves registration project. I was searching through a section of the Greenwood Memory Lawn in Phoenix on May 26. I found a private, family tombstone inscribed as follows: Darby, James K., 1837-1926; Julia A. 1856-1941. Being the right age for a Civil War soldier, I searched in Ancestry.com for James K. Darby. I found a James K. Darby from Wabash County, Indiana, who served in the 8th and 69th Indiana Infantry Regiments. (By the way, my great, great grandfather was in the Indiana 69th). But, this does not mean that this is the same person who ended up living and being buried here in Phoenix. The next thing I did was search the Ancestry.com Civil War Pension Index. Bingo: it lists a James K. Darby, served in 8 & 69th IN Infantry, who applied for an Invalid Pension from Indiana on 27 Jan 1888. His widow, Julia A. Darby applied for a Widow's Pension from Arizona in December of 1926, the year James K. died. So, this nails it down for me and results in another soldier having his grave registered, that otherwise would remain unknown. This is fun!



Chaplain's corner

By Camp Chaplain Mark Haynes

The Urgency of the Civil War Chaplain

As a missionary and a pastor, I am concerned for the souls of men. Such was also the case of those who served the soldiers as chaplains during the Civil War. These battlefield preachers were well aware that one who attended services on one day might be gone for eternity on the next day. Thus, there was an urgency to prepare men for the time of departure from this life.

Amos S. Billingsley (1818 – 1897) was a Presbyterian minister who served as the chaplain of the 101st Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was captured by the Confederates and spent some time in Libby Prison. In his excellent book, *From the Flag to the Cross; Scenes and Incidents of Christianity in the Civil War*, Chaplain Billingsley tells the story of a soldier who was dying. As the narrative is read, one can sense the urgency this preacher felt to prepare this dying soldier to meet the Lord. Men often desire to put off things of an eternal nature without taking into account the temporary nature of this life. Here is the story excerpted from his fine book.

“Emmanuel Byers, 188th Ohio, Co D, was severely wounded in the left arm at the last great battle near Petersburg, VA . . . At our first interview, we found him very tender and anxious. He said “I am going to become a Christian when I get home.” What if you should never get home?” I said. I visited him very often; prayed with and occasionally preached to him and his ward, warning them to “flee from the wrath to come.” He read his Bible much, and when I talked to him about his sins, the mercy of God, and the love of Christ, he would weep like a child. He said, “I started once to go to the mourner’s bench (Note: The mourner’s bench, sometimes referred to as an altar, was a place where people would come during a religious meeting to be converted to Christ), burdened with sin and a heart ready to burst; but a friend called me back and I did not go. The feeling wore off and I have never felt the same since.”

A couple of days after this visit with Mr. Byers, Chaplain Billingsley related how for a while the soldier seemed to be getting better. As time went on, death seemed certain. He continues his narrative.

“. . . I besought him, by the tender mercies of God and the love of Christ, to make an immediate and entire surrender of himself to the Saviour. Life ebbed away. There lies the brave patriot with his life-blood gradually flowing from his wound. “It is hard to leave you. Oh, my dear fellow, come to Jesus just as you are, and come now. . . Having shed your own blood for the salvation of your country, come and enjoy the cleansing, saving power of the blood of Jesus!” Reading and praying with him again, we bade him farewell and left him. Calling again shortly thereafter, we found him indulging in a bright hope, and he said, “I think God has forgiven my sins, and that I have experienced a ‘change of heart.’” At our next call he . . . said, “I am resting on Christ *sure*.” “Thank God! And are you sure of it?” asked the Chaplain. “Yes, I feel so, chaplain.”

“What a glorious attainment! Dying for your country and yet dying in the Lord!” He lived along for several days, until the tying of his wound gave way: he bled to death May 27th, 1865, with his body all bathed in his

own blood, and his soul, we trust, washed in the blood of Jesus, went home to dwell with God.” (Billingsley, pp. 193-194)

The Civil War chaplain dealt with two distinct arenas; that of the temporal and that of the eternal. He had a duty to comfort and strengthen his charges in the earthly realm of war, sickness and destruction. But with the necessity of providing comfort in the temporal distress, he also was ever mindful of the eternal destiny of the soul of man. The chaplain was therefore put upon by a sense of urgency to prepare these young men for that appointment that all will one day face – death. From the various accounts and sources that provide insight into this trying time, they did their jobs well. May we, in this life, seek to please our Great Commander as these men did. By placing our faith and trust in Him, we can be prepared for that final muster and do so with joy.

Until next time, Lord bless.

Chaplain Mark Haynes



Corporal Oscar F. Foote 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry and his “reassignment” from Company G to Company C.

By David A. Swanson

Eight of my families ancestors served in the Civil War and 3 of them served in Company G of the 7th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry: Corporal Oscar F. Foote, Bugler Orin Wilson, and Private Henry Hart, but this brief article will encompass Oscar’s reassignment to Company C.

Oscar joined the 7th on September 9, 1861, as a sergeant. While in Nashville on the 22nd of July 1862 he “absented himself” (as his court-martial records show) for about 5 months and rejoined his company; so now he is private Foote and remains in Company G until he was discharged on August 23, 1865, as a corporal.

After the war Oscar and family moved to Wood River, Nebraska where was active in the Bradley Post No. 134, Grand Army of the Republic for many years. In 1889 he applied for and received an “Invalid Pension” because of his Civil War service. The application that he completed (and his service records) clearly shows that he was in Company G. It is interesting to note that the reasons for requesting the invalid pension were: “That while a member of the organization aforesaid, in the service and in the line of

his duty, at or near Chattanooga, Tennessee, on or about the year of 1864 [he] contracted rheumatism which was caused by exposure. Also in the spring of 1862, near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, he contracted a disease or “gathering in his head” resulting in deafness of both ears. That he was treated in hospitals as follows: Field Hospital or Regimental Hospital near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, May or June 1862.” (It was within a month or so of this date that he “absented himself” from the unit for 5 months.)

On October 31, 1893, Oscar died of stomach cancer and was buried in the Wood River Cemetery where he was then reassigned to Company “C” of the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

Several years ago my sister visited the Wood River Cemetery and took a great picture of a very nice headstone that plainly says: “Oscar F. Foote Co. C, 7 Pa. Vol. Cav. . . .” (he also has a GAR post grave marker near the headstone). Company “C”? Didn’t anybody at the time notice this? It’s not like you stand there and think—*well I guess it could be a “G”* and it’s not like you would say to a bystander, “Hey Gertrude, does that look like a “G”? It is obviously a “C.”

Well, to make a convoluted story short, in June 2011 I was able to contact a grave monument company, got the “C” changed to a “G” and after almost 118 years Oscar is finally breathing a sigh of relief!

Oh, and as a side note, the general who court-martialed Oscar, John B. Turchin, was also court-martialled. Turchin, born Ivan Vasilyevich Turchaninoff in Tsarist Russia in 1822, served as a colonel in the Russian army before immigrating to Illinois in the 1850’s (and changing his name). Turchin eventually joined the U.S. Army and in May 1862 several regiments of Colonel Turchin’s brigade took over Athens, Alabama which in some circles was called the “Sack of Athens.” This resulted in his court-martial and discharge from the army by Brigadier General (and future president) James A. Garfield. President Lincoln disagreed with the findings and soon thereafter not only reinstated him, but promoted him to brigadier general!



Speaking of President James A Garfield—

The September 6, 2011, edition of *The Arizona Republic* had a very interesting quote from Civil War Major General, James A. Garfield. Garfield also served nine terms in the U.S House of Representatives and was our 20th president, before his assassination (at that time Lincoln was the only other president in our history to have been assassinated). I can only assume that he drew on his Civil War service when he said:

“The lesson of history is rarely learned by the actors themselves.”



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 edition I will continue with an article, partly published in the January 2011 newsletter, regarding the Department of Arizona's first encampment.

Daily Phoenix Herald Thursday, January 26, 1888:

THE GRAND ARMY BANQUET.

The Boys in Blue and their Friends Fare Sumptuously.

"Fought their Battles O'er."

The Department Encampment having finished its labors yesterday afternoon with the election and installation of its officers for the ensuing year as announced in the **Herald** of last evening, there remained only the social and banquet to complete the business and social pleasures of an occasion that will become a portion of the history of Phoenix, and of the Territory, namely the First Department Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in Arizona an occasion that will be referred to in Grand Army circles far on down the flying years when the last veteran shall have responded to the taps of life, and their sons and sons' sons shall be aged o'er by the withering hand of time.

At 8:30 in the evening the comrades with their ladies and invited guests began assembling in the hall where a general social chat and renewal of old and acquisition of new friendships were continued for an hour when it was announced that an adjournment would be had to the Lemon Hotel dining rooms, where comrade E. M. Mills, proprietor of the Lemon, had prepared an elegant banquet. The dining room had been elegantly draped with national flags and red, white and blue streamers in festoons, in pairs, in single, from the walls from the ceiling from the chandeliers, where over a flag or streamer could be caught up till the room was profusely and eloquently resplendent with the national colors. Near the foot of the tables hung two large lithographs of Generals Grant and

Logan, the latter the father of the organization now known as the Grand Army of the Republic, the former he who had carried them who compose it to victory and immortality as the nation's defenders.

The supper concluded everything procurable in the markets and was a sample of the elegant fare for which the Lemon is so well known under the careful management of Mr. And Mrs. Mills. After some little time spent in the dissipation of the tempting viands Comrade J. B. Creamer, Post Commander of John W. Owens, Post No. 5, of this city, as toast-master, called the assemblage to order and announced that a short programme for remarks had been prepared and called up Comrades A. L. Grow, the newly elected Department Commander, who responded by a short summary of his serviced in the navy which included the blockade of the southern ports and the bombardment of Pensacola; with a few general remarks the Commander closed by the recital of a stanzas of that eloquent poem "Pulling Hard Against the Stream" and took his seat amid much applause.

The next Comrade called upon was the Hon. DeForest Porter, Mayor of the city, who responded in sentiments of touching eloquence as he referred to the patriotic regard of the people today for the "Boys in Blue."

Comrade Manning, of St Louis, a visitor of our city and valley, was then called upon but excused himself by expressing his delight with what he finds in Arizona in soil, climate and Grand Army companionship.

Comrade Hampton Ellis being called upon, gracefully excused himself from making a set speech at that time.

Comrade Hancock being called gave a short account of his history in the service and his service in the army in this Territory, where his regiment was called upon to drive the Apaches from this portion of the Territory.

Comrade Atchison, of Tombstone, on being called to his feet as the "handsome man of the Department" after expressing the appreciation of himself and other visiting comrades to this city of our beautiful section of country and also of the elegant supper and entertainment, referred eloquent terms to the Grand Army and its once grand leader John Al. Logan. Mr. Atchison proved an eloquent and interesting speaker. Comrade Allen T. Bird, late junior vice Commander of the Department of California, was then called upon and delivered an eloquent tribute to his comrades of the Grand Army of which the **Herald** is so fortunate as to get a copy.

He said: . . . 'In the details of our great organization we of Arizona have heretofore been part and parcel of the Department of California, but the time has now come in which Arizona stands alone and for herself, and today she steps forth in her own

individuality as a Department of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Department of Arizona turns her face to the morning and starts upon her way with the high hope of the entire Grand Army and the good wishes of the people of Arizona that the new Department will be a credit to our noble order and a source of pride and gratification to the great and growing commonwealth whose name it bears; Arizona, the seat of an ancient and magnificent empire, that has banished without a tradition on which is now rising the golden orb of a new and greater empire, speaks not only of the dim and mysterious past, and in the coming and glorious future admonishes us to make our new venture for our noble order worthy of the great name that is her inheritance and must be our glory. Our departed comrades, who have passed across the mysterious flood of death, look down from their radiant ranks above and our comrades yet living look to us from all over the land they fought to save with the expectancy that we do our full and undivided duty. And here, my comrades, let us pledge ourselves anew to our great and all-powerful fraternity, and go forth from this occasion, each and every one determined to do all in his power to make the Department of Arizona, while the last and least on the list of Departments, one which shall reflect credit on the Grand Army, and in which all citizens of Arizona will feel a sense of exultant and pardonable pride.'

This closed the set programme of the evening, and then began a general call upon Comrades around the table among others Comrades Geo. F. Coats, John Y. T. Smith, M. H. Calderwood were called upon and spoke briefly, and Dr. Wharton who spoke for the ladies and referred in touching language to those noble nurses in Sherman's army, and in Central Tennessee and Georgia, "Mother Bickerdyke" and "Annie Wittermyer" in most touching terms. Comrade Allen of Globe among other good things gave a tontonic rendition of "Barbarie Fretchie" that brought down the house

Comrade Edward Schwartz was then called upon for a song and rendered in his superb style "Mother Kissed Me in My Dreams."

Post Commander Creamer with a few appropriate remarks then finally dismissed the Comrades and guests, and a most pleasant and memorable occasion in the history of the Grand Army of the Republic in Arizona came to a happy termination. Most of the Comrades will leave today for their respective homes bearing with them memories of one more bright spot in the march of life.



Don't miss our November 12th meeting!!!

Besides our officer election/installation, and induction of new Brothers, **our speaker will be Brother John Kohl** who will give a presentation on "Fascinating Facts and Humanitarian Acts of the Civil War."

Brother Kohl has spoken at previous meetings and every one of his presentations has been met with much acclaim.

If you miss this meeting you will be missing one of our best!

Location/time: The Home Town Buffet 1314 N. Scottsdale Rd, at high noon. Be sure to tell the cashier that you are with the Civil War group...

See you there!

Your Civil War ancestor information is wanted

Over the years quite a bit of our Camp Civil War ancestor information has been printed in this newsletter. If you have information that has not been printed your fellow Camp brothers want to read it! The process is quite simple: write it, proof it, rewrite it, and submit it to the newsletter editor who will make you and your ancestor famous!

First Call for 2012 dues

Dues for 2012 are now being gratefully accepted by our secretary/treasurer.

Dues are \$36 for members and \$10 for junior members.

Please do not wait until the last minute because you may forget and then we have to hire bounty hunters and then things can get ugly.

Please mail them to Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom, (see page 7) or pay them at our Nov 12th meeting.

Past Camp Commanders

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

**2012 ANNUAL DUES**

Name _____

Dues for calendar year 2012 are \$36.00

Dues enclosed \$ _____

Junior dues for calendar year 2012 are \$10.00

Junior Dues \$ _____

Tax deductible contribution (please *submit a separate check*)

\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make your check out to Picacho Peak Camp No.1
SUVCW

Please mail to:

Jerry Bloom, Secretary/Treasurer
 4323 N. 28th Way
 Phoenix, AZ 85016

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.

And finally, 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—this saves your camp money and lessens the load on the poor, poor editor.

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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