



# JOURNAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST



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

Vol 1 Issue 1

April 2016

Welcome to the first edition of the Department of the Southwest Journal!



## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Office of the Commander-in-Chief  
70 Curtis Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316



### GENERAL ORDER - 07 Establishment of the Department of the Southwest

On November 17, 2015, I received a request from the following Camps to form a Department.

- Picacho Peake Camp No. 1 of Phoenix, Arizona
- General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2 of Tucson, Arizona
- General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 of Flagstaff, Arizona

In accordance with National Regulations, Chapter II, Article I, Section 7, the petition of said Camps is approved and the Department of the Southwest is hereby established and shall be composed of the states of New Mexico and Arizona. The Department of Texas is commended for its past stewardship of the state of New Mexico. The Date of Rank for the Department of the Southwest is: December 3, 2015.

The Department of the Southwest is hereby authorized to hold a Special Department Encampment to complete the organization of the Department, including the election of Officers, Delegates to the National Encampment, and the adoption of Department By-Laws.

Ordered this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2015, in the Town of East Berlin, Pennsylvania.

ATTEST /s/ Alan L. Russ, PDC  
National Secretary

/s/ Eugene G. Mortorff  
Commander-in-Chief

## Officers of the Department of the Southwest



Front row (L-R) Robert D. McCord, Junior Vice Commander; Dale E. Enlow, Secretary/Treasurer/Historian; John R. Conrad, Commander/Counselor; David A. Swanson, Senior Vice Commander/Civil War Memorials Officer  
Back row (L-R) David Vessels, Color Bearer; Allen Nash, Patriotic Instructor/ Guard; Gerald N. Bloom, Council; Randy D. McNally, Council; James Heller, Guide; David Palmateer, Council; Robert Archibald Jr., ROTC Coordinator; Mark Haynes, Chaplain; and SUVCW Commander-in Chief Eugene Mortorff

### Brothers Present at the First Encampment of the Department of the Southwest



Front row (L-R) Dale Enlow, Eugene Mortorff CinC, John Conrad, David Swanson  
Second row (L-R) David Vessels, Robert McCord, James Heller, Robert Archibald Jr.  
Back row (L-R) Edward O. Steinback III, Gerald N. Bloom, Allen Nash, Randy McNally, David Jackson, Timothy Prater, David Palmateer, Mark Haynes, and William R. Hearer Jr.

## **The First Encampment of the Department of the Southwest Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

The first Encampment of the Department of the Southwest took place at noon on Saturday, March 26, 2016, at the home of Department Commander (and Department Organizer) John R. Conrad in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The Special Encampment was under the command of SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Eugene Mortorff who officially chartered the Department and installed the Department officers. After the Encampment ended the Brothers wives and guests enjoyed a Mexican themed pot luck and social gathering.

The Delegates from the Camps were:

Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 (Phoenix)

Gerald N. Bloom, Camp Commander

John Conrad PCC

William R. Hearter Jr.

Robert E. Archibald Jr.

James M. Heller

Allen Nash

David Vessels

Mark Haynes

General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2 (Tucson)

Robert D. McCord, Camp Commander

Randy McNally

General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 (Flagstaff)

David A. Swanson, Camp Commander

Dale Enlow

Edward O. Steinback III

Timothy Prater

David Palmateer

*The following Department Officers were Elected and Installed:*

Commander: John R. Conrad

Senior Vice Commander: David A. Swanson

Junior Vice Commander: Robert D. McCord

Secretary/Treasurer: Dale E. Enlow

Council: Gerald N. Bloom, David R. Palmateer,  
Randy D. McNally

*Appointed Officers:*

Patriotic Instructor: Allen Nash

Chaplain: Mark Haynes

ROTC Coordinator: Robert E. Archibald Jr

Graves Registration: Jan D. Huber

Historian: Dale E. Enlow

Civil War Memorials Officer: David A. Swanson

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Dennis W. Lamb

Counselor: John R. Conrad

Signals Officer: Jeffrey D. Burgess

Color Bearer: David T. Vessels

Guide: James M. Heller

Guard: Allen Nash

*Delegates to the 2016 Annual National Encampment:*

John R. Conrad, Dale E. Enlow, Robert D. McCord,  
Timothy D. Prater, and Edward O. Steinback III.

Once the Department officers were installed Department of the Southwest Commander John Conrad conducted the Encampment. Department By-laws were approved and other business was conducted.



Installation of Department Officers



**The Department of the Southwest expresses its profound thanks to Commander-in-Chief Eugene Mortorff (pictured) for all of his efforts in conducting the Special Encampment!**



Encampment Pictures



Presenting the Department Commander's badge to Paula Vessels, (John's wife and Picacho Peak Camp Auxiliary sister) to pin on his uniform



CinC Eugene Mortorff and new Department Commander John Conrad



Commander Conrad addressing the Brothers present at the Encampment

## DEPARTMENT ORDERS

### Department of the Southwest Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

#### GENERAL ORDER 01 (SERIES 2016-2017)

##### Organization of the Department and Activities

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Department of the Southwest of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, the National policies, and the Department Bylaws, the following is ordered:

1. At Scottsdale, Arizona, on March 26, 2016, the Delegates to the Initial Department Encampment elected me to the highest post in the Department. I am honored to serve my brothers in this capacity, and will do all in my power to establish the Department organization and activities to promote its success.
2. Headquarters of the Commander is hereby established at 33214 N. 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85266-8206. All correspondence for the Commander may be posted to that address. Email can be sent to [jrconrad@post.harvard.edu](mailto:jrconrad@post.harvard.edu). Email is my preferred communications method, for those of our brothers who have email access. My phone number is 602-750-0938.
3. Correspondence concerning Department or Camp activities, finances, reports, and membership should be directed to Department Secretary-Treasurer Dale E. Enlow, 7723 E. Treeline, Hackberry, AZ 86411, 928-715-5109, [dale\\_enlow@hotmail.com](mailto:dale_enlow@hotmail.com).
4. **All Brothers are strongly encouraged to participate in Memorial Day ceremonies on May 30, 2016. We should continue to honor the memory of our forefathers who sacrificed to keep the Union together. Each of the camps is participating actively in a local community remembrance. Our sisters in the DUVCW and the Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 Auxiliary are also participating in Memorial Day ceremonies.**
5. To promote efficiency in the Department, the roles of Graves Registration Officer, Eagle Scout Coordinator, ROTC Coordinator, and Signals Officer/Webmaster are consolidated at the Department level rather than the Camp level and led by, respectively, Brothers Jan D.

(General Order No. 1 Continued)

Huber, Dennis W. Lamb, Robert E. Archibald, and Jeffrey D. Burgess. The respective Camps are encouraged to amend their By-Laws as necessary to effect this change at the local level.

- 6. The current website for Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 shall be converted to a site for the Department as a whole, with each Camp and the Auxiliary having its own page. Signals Officer/Webmaster Jeffrey Burgess will work with the Department and Camp officers to effect this change. Any individual Camp Facebook or similar social media pages will include a link to the Department website.
- 7. The individual Camp Newsletters will be consolidated into a quarterly Department Newsletter prepared by Brother David Swanson, with space devoted to each Camp and Auxiliary. Brothers are strongly encouraged to submit material and photographs to Brother Swanson at: [swanson1854@yahoo.com](mailto:swanson1854@yahoo.com)
- 8. Minty Camp Commander Robert D. McCord will lead and coordinate Picacho Peak Days participation with the Minty and Picacho Peak Camps.
- 9. A vacancy having arisen, I appoint Brother H. Allen Nash to serve as Department Patriotic Instructor and thank him for his willingness to serve.

Ordered this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016, in the City of Scottsdale, State of Arizona.

/s/ John R. Conrad  
Commander

ATTEST /s/ Dale E. Enlow  
Secretary-Treasurer



### Short History of the Department of the Southwest

By David A. Swanson, Senior Vice Commander

Well, we are all part of a truly historic occasion in the life of the SUVCW in Arizona. From 1996 through 2014 Arizona had one Camp-at-Large and that was Picacho Peak Camp No. 1. During this time we fended off offers to join existing Departments but as the years progressed it became obvious that either we create our

own Department or we would have to join an existing one. Picacho Peak Camp Brothers voted at least twice over the years to remain a Camp-at-Large rather than join an existing Department anticipating that someday we would have enough Camps to form our own Department.

In 2015 we were able to charter the General R. H. G. Minty Camp No.2 in Tucson (organized by John Conrad) and the General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 in Flagstaff (organized by David Swanson). We needed a minimum of 3 Camps to form a Department so we were on our way. By a previous agreement with the National Organization SUVCW, if we raised the requisite number of camps and filed a petition to form a Department we would also acquire New Mexico (which currently has no Camps and was part of the Department of Texas).

On December 3, 2015, our Department of the Southwest was established and on March 26, 2016, received its Charter! Now the work continues.

Thanks for being part of these historic occasions!



### Department JROTC & ROTC Awards

By Bob Archibald, Department ROTC Coordinator

This year will be our first in providing SUVCW JROTC and ROTC awards to various high schools and Universities throughout Arizona. We will be recognizing 14 JROTC high school and 4 ROTC University units with medals and certificates. In most cases the presentations will be done by our members in concurrence with their awards for other organizations. These presentations will take part from mid-April to mid-May.



### Camp Newsletters Being Discontinued

By David Swanson

Well, as you can see, things are changing and for the better! And, as things change, so must our newsletter system of communication—which will also be for the better.

With this first edition of the Department newsletter, I will discontinue writing the camp newsletters and focus on our Department newsletter which will include information not only from the Department but from the three Camps and the Picacho Peak Auxiliary. I continue to encourage Brothers/Sisters to write biographies about their CW ancestors for this newsletter and I will also throw in miscellaneous articles as I did in the camp newsletters.

The Department newsletter will be sent out at the end of the following months: January, April, July, and October.

I have always looked at newsletters as documents that contain historical information. Each Camp and the Picacho Peak Auxiliary will have its own designated section for information that should include, at a minimum, meeting information such as: meeting minutes, speaker information, activities, pictures, and election results.

I think it would be wonderful if each Camp had its own newsletter and if there are any interested Brothers I can give you some pointers (such as they are).

Now each Camp gets the same information as all the others and I have time to enjoy a beer or two!

We are all Brothers in the Department of the Southwest, so if you are in an area of the state and wish to attend that Camp's meeting—please do you will certainly be welcomed.

So, away we go!



### **Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 (Phoenix)**

Chartered on September 1, 1996, as the first Camp-at-Large in Arizona, it meets during the months of February, May, August, and November at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix. Contact: Commander Jerry Bloom: 602-955-3091; jerrybloom@q.com or Secretary/Treasurer David Swanson PCC: 480-515-2798; swanson1854@yahoo.com.

#### **February 23, 2016, Camp Meeting Information**

The regular quarterly meeting of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 and its Auxiliary was held at noon on February 13, 2016, at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant. Thirty Brothers, Sisters and guests were in attendance. The meeting was led by Camp Commander Jerry Bloom.

#### **Camp officer reports:**

ROTC Coordinator Bob Archibald gave a report regarding the program and the schools which are part of it as follows:

“SUVCW JROTC certificates and medals have been received and will be forwarded to seven area high schools. We will have Chapter members making presentations for other organizations and will also do the honor for us at Deer Valley, Independence, Greenway, Glendale and Red Mountain high schools. In addition, awards are being sent to two small outlying schools at Ray and Globe which do not see as many honors given from National Organizations.

We ask that Chapter members come forward to nominate schools for future awards and to make the presentations. The presentation itself is a short and simple act but you will find that it is a very rewarding experience to be a part of the ceremonies.”

Bob also discussed the various funding options available for the proposed monument to the California Column in the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza in Phoenix.

Secretary/Treasurer David Swanson gave a short report on the camp finances which are in good shape and a report about membership dues.

**Camp Patriotic Instructor** Bob Massey presented some very interesting and obscure information regarding an interview procedure used by the Union for Confederate prisoners of war and that is an actual pre-printed “fill in the blanks” form to be used by the interviewer. Brother Massey had a copy of the printed form that was actually used in an interview with a nineteen year old prisoner named Private Isaac Emmons, Co K, 23<sup>rd</sup> Mississippi Vol. Infantry

Some of the questions are:

I was in arms against the United States and was a [rank] \_\_\_\_\_ in Company \_\_\_\_\_. I was sworn into the Rebel service about the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 186\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

How many times have you been in arms during the rebellion? What commanders have you served under? What battles and skirmishes have you been in? Did you have arms, or were you out on picket, at what part did you take in the action? Was there any rebel camp near you that you did not give notice of to the U.S. troops?

A final question is: “Do you sincerely desire to have the Southern people put down in this war and the authority of the U.S. Government over them restored?” To which Isaac truthfully answered: “I do not.”



Brother Bob Massey



**Program speaker:** We were privileged to have Brother John Kohl give one of his usual masterful presentations to our Camp and this one was about “Blacks in the Civil War.” It was obvious that a lot of time, effort, and research went into this presentation because it showed.

Brother Kohl talked about the Black contribution to the Union Army and their treatment in it. He also talked about slavery in general covering such items as the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman.

This brief recap certainly does not do justice to Brother Kohl's presentation. But suffice to say if you missed it you missed a great one!



Brother John Kohl

Upcoming Events

**Camp Meeting:** May 14, 2016, at noon. Location: Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix.

Our speaker for the meeting will be Brother David Swanson who will speak about the experiences of Regimental Bugler Orin Wilson during the Civil War. Wilson is one of Swanson's Union Civil War ancestors.

**Memorial Day:** Camp Brothers are encouraged to attend Memorial Day ceremonies at the Pioneer Military and Memorial Park, located on Jefferson between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> avenues, starting at 9:00 a.m. Department Commander John Conrad will be delivering the Gettysburg Address. Although there are other, and certainly larger, Memorial Day activities in the State, the Camp focuses on the one at Pioneer Military and Memorial Park because over 100 Civil War veterans are interred there. Our Camp is also a member of the Pioneer Cemetery Association. Come out and join us!

**2016 Camp Meeting Dates**

Picacho Peak Camp meeting dates for 2016 are as follows—all meetings start at 12:00 noon. Location: Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona. May 14, August 13, and November 12.



**General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2 (Tucson)**

Chartered on July 15, 2015, as the second Camp-at-Large in Arizona, it meets during the months of January, April, July, and October at the Kettle Restaurant, 748 W. Starr Pass Blvd, Tucson. Contact: Commander Robert McCord: 520-982-5057; rdmcii@aol.com or Secretary/Treasurer Brian Estes: 520-307-8096; brian.v.estes@gmail.com.

**April 23, 2016, Camp Meeting Information**

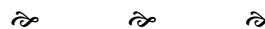
A detailed planning session and discussion of the annual "Civil War in the Southwest" held at the Picacho Peak State Park took place. The event has thousands of spectators who come out to watch reenactments of the Arizona Civil War skirmish and the Battles of Glorieta and Val Verde in New Mexico. Our Camp will set up an information booth at the next event.

A very informative round table discussion took place among the Brothers and Sisters present regarding their Civil War ancestors.

Upcoming Events

**Camp Meeting:** July 23, 2016, at 1: 00 P.M. at the Kettle Restaurant, 748 W. Starr Pass Blvd, Tucson.

**Memorial Day:** Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>: The 43rd Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, Tucson Estates, 1.5 miles north of Ajo Way at Kinney Road, (turn NE on Western Way). Staging starts at 7:00 a.m., the parade begins at 8:00 A.M., and the Memorial Ceremony begins at 9:00 A.M. Contact Brother Randy D. McNally at 520-578-6366, [randydmcnally@aol.com](mailto:randydmcnally@aol.com).



**General U. S. Grant Camp No 3. (Flagstaff)**

Chartered on September 11, 2015, as the third (and final) Camp-at-Large in Arizona, it meets during the months of January, April, July, and October at the Sizzler Restaurant, 3540 E. Historic Route 66, Flagstaff. Contact Commander David Swanson: 480-515-2798; swanson1854@yahoo.com or Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom: 602-955-3091; jerrybloom@q.com.

**April 23, 2016, Camp Meeting Information**

Our January Camp meeting was opened at 1:00 p.m. by Camp Commander David Swanson with 10 Brothers and guests in attendance.

Camp Officer reports were made.

After a discussion and vote the next Camp meeting date was changed to July 9<sup>th</sup> to accommodate our speaker's schedule.

Brother Rich Rice brought up the topic of the annual 4th of July parade in Flagstaff which he has taken an active part in for many years. This could be something the Camp may participate in next year.

Brother John Ruggles indicated that our Camp has a standing invitation to have an information table at the Riordan Mansion in Flagstaff during Riordan Mansion Days on June. This year it will be on June 18<sup>th</sup>. We will make every effort to set it up.

Brother Jack R. Van Deusen was presented with his well earned SUVCW War Service medal and Brother David McCormack received his SUVCW member badge.



(L-R) Brother Jack Van Deusen receiving his War Service Medal from Camp Commander David Swanson



(L-R) Brother David McCormack receiving his SUVCW member badge from Camp Commander David Swanson

**Speaker—Brother Jerry Bloom** gave a very informative presentation about a “Tale of Two Rifles.”

The first was a Kentucky Style rifle carried by his Great Grandfather Adam Mowen of the 143rd Pennsylvania Infantry and the second was an 1860

Lorenz Austrian rifled musket taken from the Antietam Battlefield the day after the battle by his other Great Grandfather Josiah Bloom (who was not in service during the war) but lived nearby. Jerry had both rifles at the meeting. Jerry, a native of Hagerstown, Maryland talked about both grandfather's activities during and after the war and also had Mower's Camp Reno GAR badge and a collection of bullets taken from the Picacho Peak battlefield—well before it became a state park.

Thank you Brother Bloom!



Brother Jerry Bloom holding Adam Mowen's rifle

### **New Camp Brother**

On April 1, 2016, Brother Paul L. Halverson of Idaho Falls, Idaho was approved for membership in our Camp. Brother Halverson's Civil War ancestor is his great-great uncle Private Hans Halverson Co D, 15<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Regiment.

Welcome Brother Halverson!

### Upcoming Events

**Camp Meeting:** July 9, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. Location: Sizzler Restaurant, 3540 E. Historic Route 66, Flagstaff. Our speaker will be Rich Dahl who will give a presentation on Confederate Currency. Rich is very knowledgeable about this subject and has a large collection of currency that he will bring.

**Memorial Day:** Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 A.M. at the Citizens Cemetery 1300 S. San Francisco St., Flagstaff. Camp Commander David Swanson will talk briefly about the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GAR, give the Gettysburg Address, and talk about its relevance today. Camp Brothers will also have a recruiting/display table at the cemetery.





## Picacho Peak Auxiliary No. 1 (Phoenix)

Chartered on August 23, 2014, is the first (and only) Auxiliary chartered in Arizona, it meets during the months of February, May, August, and November at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix Meetings are at the Deer Valley Restaurant Contact: President Barbara Metzger: blrmetzger@gmail.com or Secretary/Treasurer Paula Vessels: pjvessels@cox.net

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### Upcoming Events

**Tent Meeting:** May 14, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix. After the meeting the sisters will join the Picacho Peak Camp meeting.

**Memorial Day:** Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>: Sisters will be participating in two Memorial Day wreath laying events:

One at the Pioneer Military & Memorial Park, 1317 W. Jefferson, Phoenix. The Memorial Day ceremonies start at 9:00 a.m.

The second is at the National Cemetery, 23029 N. Cave Creek Road, Phoenix. Memorial Day ceremonies start at 8 A.M. (If you wish to get a seat under the tent area arrive before 7:30 A.M. as seats fill up fast.)



## Civil War in the Southwest—Picacho Peak State Park

By Robert McCord, Camp Commander R.H.G. Minty Camp No. 2

On March 19<sup>th</sup> members of R.H.G. Minty Camp No.2 participated in the Civil War commemoration at Picacho Peak State Park. Owing to discovering at a late date that Picacho Camp was not participating, Minty Camp was unable to register, but was allowed to set up in the federal civilians area, due to the kindness of those re-enactors. This required members participating to have an approximately period appearance in clothes and display. Camp Commander Robert McCord and his wife Laura manned the booth, with Senior Vice Commander Randy McNally and his wife Sally helping out when they could. The McNallys were pretty busy with being an officer with the first New Mexico reenactor group, and the federal civilians respectively. The “period” requirements likely kept some members from participating, but we did have the opportunity to talk to a lot of people and share information about the Picacho Peak, Minty, and Grant Camps. We also met the Park superintendent and learned a lot about what they consider to be historical

appearance. All this promises to enable us to do a better job next year!



R.H.G. Minty Camp Commander Robert McCord



## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic

April 6, 2016, was the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic. This nationwide organization was composed of Union veterans of the Civil War who, because of their sacrifices, saved the United States of America.

On April 6, 1866, the Grand Army of the Republic (also called the G.A.R.) was formed. This veterans organization of Union Civil War soldiers, sailors, marines, and members of the Revenue Cutter Service became the largest and most influential veterans organization of its time and as such was a social and political force that would control the destiny of this nation for six decades. In the 1890s it had over 490,000 members. All U.S. presidents including Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley were members. In fact from 1869 to 1901 only one president was not and that was Grover Cleveland.

The Grand Army of the Republic was organized just as the American Legion, VFW, and similar veterans organizations are today with national, state, and local departments and posts; the big difference is that after the last Compatriot died in 1956 the G.A.R. ceased to exist.

On May 5, 1868, G. A. R. Commander-in-Chief General John A. Logan issued General Order 11 which instituted Memorial Day as a nationwide observance.

We, as members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), the congressionally chartered successor organization to the G.A.R., are proud of our Civil War ancestors' sacrifices which, collectively, saved this Union of states!

## SUVCW GAR Records Website

Thanks to the wonderful work of National GAR Records Officer Dean Enderlin the GAR Records Project now has its own web site which can be found one of two ways: first from the National SUVCW website [suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org) go to “Projects and Preservation” and scroll to the bottom of the page to “Grand Army of the Republic Records Project.” Or simply go to: <http://www.garrerecords.org/>

Take some time and explore the information contained on the site—after all we are all part of its successor organization.



## The Burnside Post Grand Army of the Republic and Memorial Day

By David A. Swanson,

Our organization, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, is the Congressionally Chartered successor to the Grand Army of the Republic. I have written and compiled quite a bit of information about the early Department of Arizona GAR but a picture is worth a thousand words.

In February my wife Jan and I drove to Tombstone, Arizona to view the Burnside Post GAR memorial marker that is located there (it had been so many years since I had seen it I forgot which cemetery it was in).

Notice in the pictures that the dedication date is May 30, 1887, Memorial Day! The GAR was instrumental in making this a national day of observance and each of the Posts nationwide took this obligation very seriously. Wouldn't it be interesting to see who from the Post and the town were present? I'm sure that Burnside Post Commander B. A. (Benjamin) Fickas, the mayor, and other dignitaries would have given their patriotic speeches along with remembrances of the war (it only ended 22 years prior). I wouldn't doubt that this was all a culmination of a parade down the main street of Tombstone led by the Post Comrades in their GAR uniforms. The marker is in the GAR section of the cemetery so you know all of those graves were decorated with flowers as well.

Burnside Post Commander B. A. Fickas (as far as I can determine) was a private in Company A of the 143 Regiment, Indiana Infantry during the Civil War.

Burnside Post No. 36 was named for Major General Ambrose Everett Burnside. The Post was mustered in with a membership of 13 in 1882, as part of the Department of California Grand Army of the Republic, in Tombstone, Arizona Territory. It was still part of the California Department on Memorial Day 1887.

Arizona didn't have its own Department until September 1887 when the six California Posts located

throughout the territory were transferred to the Provisional Department of Arizona and in January 1888 the permanent Department of Arizona Grand Army of the Republic was official. With the transfer, the Burnside Post number was changed from 36 to 2 and its membership had increased to 47 Comrades. The Post surrendered its charter in 1901.

Oh, in case you are wondering, the marker is located in the Tombstone Cemetery, not the Boot Hill Cemetery and the shoot out at the O.K. Corral happened just a few years earlier on October 26, 1881. So Wyatt Earp was long gone from Tombstone but the GAR was alive and well!



“DEDICATED MAY 30, 1887  
IN MEMORY OF THE COMRADES OF THE BURNSIDE  
POST G.A.R.”



**Address Change**

Brothers, if you change your address, *e-mail address* or phone number please advise your Camp Secretary/Treasurer at your earliest convenience.

This will ensure that you get *The Banner*, our Department newsletter and, additionally, this will enable us to contact you.

**A Standing Invitation to Join the SUVCW**

Brothers, please help spread the word about the SUVCW and our Department! Male descendants, (son, grandson, great grandson, nephew, grand nephew, great grand nephew, etc.) aged 14 years or older, of a Union Civil War soldier, sailor, marine, or member of the Revenue Cutter Service who honorably served in the Civil War between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865, are eligible for membership. A Junior membership for those aged 6-14 (meeting the above requirements) and an Associate membership are also available.

Please contact the Department Junior Vice Commander for more details and assistance.

**Department of the Southwest— Officers  
2016**

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