



JOURNAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST



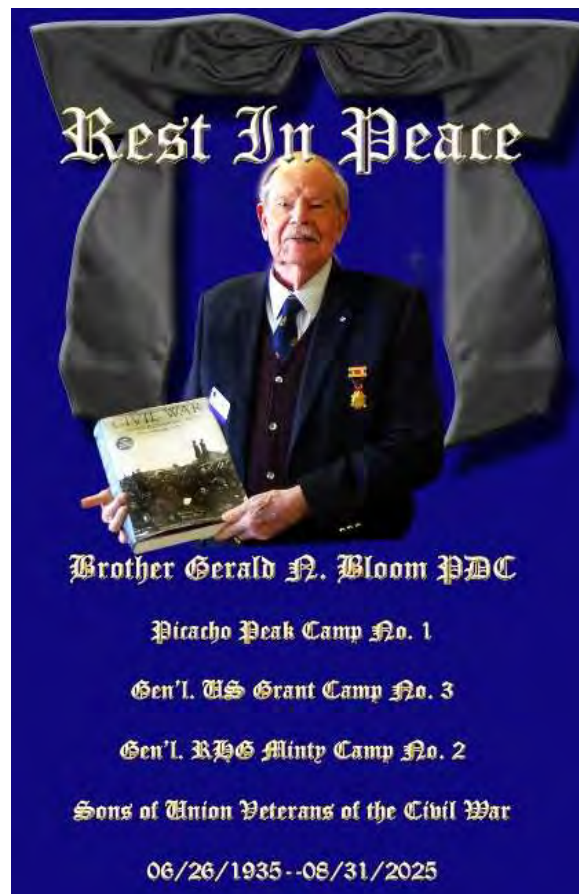
To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union 1861 to 1865

Vol 10 Issue 4— Fall 2025

suvcw-southwest.org

≈ Department News ≈

Gerald N. (Jerry) Bloom
Past Department Commander
1935-2025



20 Brothers of the Department of the Southwest, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), together with a number of Sisters of the Margaret Warner Wood Tent #1, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, gathered on October 4, 2025, to honor and lay to rest Past Department Commander Gerald “Jerry” Bloom. The funeral service was held at a local Lutheran church on Indian School Road, where Jerry’s daughter Susan Burke delivered a heartfelt eulogy that beautifully captured his dedication, warmth, story telling talents, and love for family and country. All Camps of the Department were represented, a fitting tribute to Jerry— who himself was a proud member of every Camp within the Department of the Southwest. His legacy of unity, service, and brotherhood will long be remembered by all who had the privilege to know him.



Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 (Phoenix)

Chartered on May 11, 1996, as the first Camp-at-Large in Arizona, it meets during the months of February, May, August, and November. Contact: **Commander Mike Booth** (515) 689-6546; ppc1.jvc@gmail.com; or **Secretary/Treasurer Scott Martorano** (616)250-670; scottmartorano@gmail.com

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
John R. Conrad 2013-2015
Gerald N. Bloom 2015-2016
James M. Heller 2016-2018
Jeffrey D. Burgess 2018-2020
Kenneth J. Hooker 2020-2022
Todd T. Hoffay 2022-2024

August 16, 2025, Joint Meeting: Picacho Peak Camp 1 & DUVCW Margaret Warner Wood Detached Tent Scottsdale City Library—Mustang room 10101 No. 90th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona

Attendance: PPC1: Michael Booth- CC, Todd Hoffay PCC- Senior Vice Commander (SVC), DC DSW. Robert Cox – (JVC), Scott Martorano- (ST), Dan Huskisson- ROTC/JROTC Coordinator, Kenneth Hooker, PDC, John Rogers, Richard Uplinger, Tristan Hoffay, David Kampf, James Heller- PDC, Chaplain, Gerald Bloom, PDC, Randy Owen. **Margaret Warner Wood Detached Tent No.1:** Carmen Wendt- President, Susan Burke- Sr. Vice President, Evelyn Nightingale-Jr. Vice President, Ginger Trokey- Secretary, Mary Jane Forsythe- Registrar, Ann Curry- Treasurer, Verna Maleski- Historian & PNP, Catherine Rogers, Ginny Smith. **Guests:** Richard Stephens- Commander U.S. Grant Camp 3, DSW JVC, Greg Poehlmann – Brother, U.S. Grant Camp 3, W. Mark Clark- RG Minty Camp 2 & DSW SVC, Richard Kind, Gene Munson, Peggy Munson, Barbara Booth, Cathy Davidson, Wendy Hayes, Avery Frantz- U.S. Grant Camp 3, Department Grave Registration Officer, Tyler Oliver- SSAWV Buckey O'Neill Camp 175

Opening:

Commander Booth and President Carmen Wendt jointly opened the meeting of the Picacho Peak Camp No. 1, SUVCW and the Margaret Warner Wood Detached Tent No. 1 at 11:30am and Chaplain James Heller provided the Invocation followed by all reciting the American's Creed and Pledge of Allegiance.

Commander Booth declared the meeting officially open and welcomed all the members and guests.

Officer Reports:

Secretary / Treasurer Martorano (ST):

A total of 15 Brothers were present meeting the quorum requirement of 6. ST Martorano offered a motion to waive the reading of the Minutes from our February meeting as they have been published in the Dept Newsletter. Commander Booth asked for a second and the second was received. Placing the motion to the membership, the motion passed unanimously. ST Martorano informed the Camp of **Membership:** 57 members (54 Regular, 3 Associates), 7 of our members are Life Members.

New Members: two new regular members, one new associate members added.

Supplemental Ancestors:

1 supplemental ancestor approved this period, for Brother Robert L. Cox. 2025

Camp Activities:

- Awarded 11 Elected Officer Certificates
- Awarded 37 Continuous Membership Certificates
- Awarded 3 Military Service Medals
- Awarded 2 War Service Medals
- Awarded 2 Certificates of Commendation
- Awarded 2 Good Citizen Certificates with Pins
- Awarded 10 Supplemental Ancestor Certificates
- Issued 12 SUVCW decals as part of the monthly trivia program, and sent Memorial Day Cards to the entire membership.

Community activity for PPC1:

- Marched in the Parada Del Sol Parade in Scottsdale
- Memorial Day Service at the Pioneer Cemetery
- Presented approximately 22 JROTC awards, two with monetary awards of \$50.00ea

- Participated in new member recruitment activities at the Mesa Flea Market
- Established relationships with both the Scottsdale and Surprise Civil War Roundtable organizations *SUVCW activities*:
- Hosted the Department Encampment and organized the associated tombstone dedication.
- Working to finalize the placement of the Pvt William Green tombstone and secured funding for the effort in the amount of \$1200.00 which included generous donations from but not limited to, private donors, USG3 and the Department of the Southwest.
- Expect 5 new members by the end of the year.

Treasurers Report:

Current balance was reported. Dues notices will be sent out in September.

Senior Vice Commander Hoffay (SVC): SVC Hoffay provided a short Microsoft PowerPoint presentation of Memorial Day ceremonies that took place at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park in Phoenix. The ceremony included the raising of the American Flag, a chaplain's invocation by Brother Dan Huskisson, Brother Robert Cox reading of the Gettysburg Address, Brother Kenneth Bus reading of the poem "The Unknown Dead" and the opening and closing statements. SVC Hoffay and Brother Robert Cox expressed a desire during and after the meeting for the membership to recognize that they developed the idea of placing the GAR markers at a 2026 ceremony after viewing many unmarked graves during the 2025 Memorial Day ceremony Pioneer & Military Memorial Park. which was well received.

Junior Vice Commander Cox (JVC):

Brother Cox provided a brief overview on new membership activities and the 2025 gains.

JROTC Coordinator Huskisson:

Brother Huskisson provided an overview of the 2025 ROTC/JROTC program and the struggles that were encountered with the recent process changes.

DUVCW MWWT#1 Tent President Wendt:

Sister Carmen Wendt provided an overview of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) convention in Virginia and gave an update on the Tent's memorial/tombstone activities. Items discussed were, suggested dates, invitations, the program design and printing, ceremony writing and refreshments. Cancellation of the October meeting was discussed, and it was announced that the next Tent meeting will be on September 27th at the Red Devil Restaurant.

Old Business: none

New Business:

ST Martorano- gave an overview of the proposed "Honoring the Defenders of the Union" program intended to provide GAR star markers for unmarked Union soldier graves throughout Arizona. ST He said that the program will place the Military & Pioneer memorial Park as the initial priority with the goal of marking the 60-70 graves located in that cemetery during the Memorial Day ceremony in May of 2026. The details of the program are attached to this newsletter. ST Martorano presented a motion to establish the program as an official Camp activity; the motion received a second and was unanimously accepted.

SVC Hoffay also stated that he, Brother Robert Cox and Commander Booth, would be establishing a GoFundMe page for Picacho Peak Camp 1 and possibly other fund-raising methods. He encourages all the membership to help promote the fund-raising activities.

Brother Dan Huskisson was presented with a Certificate of Commendation and a Good Citizen Award with Pin for his dedicated and outstanding work on the ROTC/JROTC program.

Brother Robert Cox was presented with an approved Supplemental ancestor certificate.

PDC Gerald Bloom was presented with a Certificate of Commendation and a Good Citizen Award with PIN for his dedication and commitment to Picacho Peak Camp 1 since its Charter. PDC Bloom gave a few words on what being a part of the organization meant to him over 30 years to great applause.

New Member Induction: DC Hoffay inducted Tristan Hoffay (son of the Commander) into the SUVCW, Department of the Southwest, Picacho Peak Camp 1. Welcome Brother Tristan!



Presentations:

Brother Poehlmann from USG3 was kind enough to attend our meeting a provide an overview of his extensive experience with The Scouts of America Eagle Scout program, it's operation and activities in the State of Arizona. Brother Poehlmann provided PPC1 with the Eagle Scout contact list for the greater Phoenix area and encouraged the Camp to become more involved with the program.

USG3 CC Richard Stephens provided an overview of the National Encampment. CC Stephens was proud to say the brothers from the Department of the Southwest had a strong showing. He added that the ROTC / JROTC program was discussed and leadership hopes to improve this program going forward. Next year's National Encampment will be held at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Closing of the Camp Meeting:

Commander Booth announced the closing of the meeting and Chaplain Heller provided the closing prayer.

Next Camp Meeting:

16 November 2025 11:30am to 2:00pm. The Location will be the Mustang Library 10101 N. 90th Street Scottsdale, AZ 85258.



USG3 CC Stephens

PPC1 Next Meeting

Next meeting: November 15, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at the Mustang Library (Reading room), 10101 N. 90th Street, Scottsdale, AZ. Food will not be provided; however, Brothers are certainly welcome to bring their own food and refreshments. We will have officer elections/installation for 2025-2026, so please plan on attending!



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 Golden Corral 4380 22nd Street Tucson AZ. Contact: **Commander Robert McCord** phone (520) 982-5057; email: rdmcii@aol.com or **Secretary/Treasurer** John Lyons; (520) 341-3914; email: lyonsj5267@yahoo.com

Past Camp Commanders:

Robert McCord 2015-2017
Randy McNally 2017-2018
Robert Haley 2018-2020
Robert Irwin 2020-2022
W. Mark Clark 2022-2023
David M. Swanson 2023-2024



October 11 2025, Camp Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Golden Corral Restaurant N Thornydale Rd Tucson AZ Time: 09:00-11:00

Attendees:

Robert McCord CC, PDC
Scott Bouchard SVC
William Sisco JVC
John Lyons S/T
W. Mark Clark PCC, Chaplain
Bill Sims Camp Council
Bill Blissett ROTC

Guests:

Shaunna Bouchard
Chantal Blissett
Joe Wienand Future Member
No zoom this meeting

Opening:
(Chaplain's Blessing, American's Creed, Pledge of Allegiance)

Secretary/Treasurer:
Minutes for 12 July 2025 meeting. The Minutes were emailed to all Brothers on 10 Oct 2025. Motion to approve and seconded with unanimous vote to approve.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was emailed to all Brothers on 10 Oct 2025. Motion to accept was made and seconded and passed

A synopsis of the C in C General Orders, Department Orders and Messages was sent out on 10 October 2025

Report of sick Brothers; John Agner is recovering from a fall. In memoriam for Gerald Bloom PCC, PDC, Charter member of three Camps.

Nomination of Officers for 2026. Scott Bouchard CC, Bill Sisco SVC, Bill Sims JVC, John Lyons S/ T Camp Council Robert McCord, W. Mark Clark and Bill Blissett. The nominees were voted into the Officer roll for 2026.

Secretary report:
ST Lyons reported camp membership is at 21 members.

Old Business:
Report of National Encampment by Brothers Bouchard and Clark. Brother Clark reported on the details of the Encampment and was very supportive of going to the National Encampment. Brother Clark spoke on the SVR for the Department of the SW. We need six members to start a unit. He also spoke about the structure of the SVR. Bill Blissett spoke on JROTC. He finally got the certificates and medals to be distributed from 2025. He is trying to connect with the local JROTC units and with a goal of 10 units.

Presentation:
Brother W. Mark Clark, PCC gave a talk on his Civil War relative. Elisha Guthrie. Interesting fact: his unit was called the tallest in the Brigade as over 60 members were six feet or taller. His relative was killed at Gettysburg, and his grave has never been found. The talk was very informative and was appreciated by all.

Next meeting:
10 January 2026 at 10:00am at Golden Corral on Thornydale RD, Marana.

RHGM2 Next Meeting

January 10, 2026, 10:00am at Golden Corral on Thornydale RD, Marana. New officers will be installed, so don't miss it!

Closing:
Chaplain's Benediction, Closing Charge adjournment.

(Note: These minutes are not official until approved at the next camp meeting.)



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 various northern Arizona locations. Contact **Commander Richard Stephens** (928) 772-1320; r@almsysinc.com or **Secretary/Treasurer dale enlow** (928) 715-5109; dale_enlow@hotmail.com

Past Camp Commanders:

David A. Swanson 2015-2017
Mark J. Haynes 2017-2019
Dale E. Enlow 2019-2021
William C. Smith 2021-2022
Timothy D. Prater 2022-2023



October 25, 2025, meeting minutes

Opening:

Call to Order by Commander Richard Stephens:
A meeting of General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held at Taverna Moderna Restaurant, Flagstaff, AZ. in person AND virtually via Zoom. This meeting was rescheduled for original date of 10/04/2025 to allow Brothers to attend the Memorial Service for Brother Gerald Bloom in Phoenix. Secretary / Treasurer / Historian, dale enlow called the roll of Camp Officers with eleven Officers reporting present. The CC and Brothers present stated the principles of our Order and Camp Chaplain David McKee invoked the Devine Blessing. The assembled Brothers and guests offered the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with recitation of the Americans Creed.

Attendance:

Fourteen (14) total Brothers (5 via Zoom) were present, fulfilling a quorum. Brothers In attendance: Council Member Robert Archibald (zoom), Robert Cox (zoom), S/T & Historian Dale Enlow PCC, Memorials Officer Avery Frantz, Patriotic Instructor Jim Heller PDC (Zoom), Council Member John Horton (zoom), Chaplain David McKee, Guard David Moore, Past Department Commander Tim Prater, JVC Lynn Scott (zoom), Commander Richard Stephens, Past Department Commander David Swanson, and Guide David Moore. Guests: Verna Maleski, Past National President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) and Brother Mark Stoler, a member of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 and President of the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable.

In Memorium:

Commander Stephens advised that on August 31, 2025, Charter Brother of General U. S. Grant Camp, Gerald (Jerry) Bloom passed away. He was our first Camp Secretary / Treasurer and served as Department of the Southwest Commander 2019-20. He was 90 years old and will be dearly missed. Several SUVCW Brothers attended his Memorial Service in Phoenix on October 4th.

Illness:

Acting Chaplain Moore reported that Chaplain Greg Bowers was ill and Brother Richard Rice has been moved to an assisted living facility

Birthdays: Chaplain McKee then announced the birthdays (Oct-Nov-Dec) Bob Archibald 11/15, Greg Bowers 11/12, Dennis DeAtley 12/31, Leonard Enlow 11/29, Avery Frantz 12/31, Mark Haynes 11/26, Robert Jones 10/18, David Minton 11/17, David Palmateer 10/2, Tim Prater 12/13, Jackson Steadman 11/17 ***Happy Birthday, Brothers!***

Commander Stephens advised that the minutes of the July Camp meeting had been distributed to all Brothers and no additions or corrections had been received. A motion to approve as distributed was seconded and passed.

Secretary and Treasurer's Report:

ST Enlow reported 2025 3rd Quarter report has been completed and approved by the Camp Council and Commander Stephens. Current checking account balance and the JROTC Scholarship / General Fund balances were reported. Camp membership now stands at 45 total members/ 41 Primary. S/T Enlow advised there were 8 National General Orders, 5 Special Messages, and 4 Department Orders, and 2 Camp Orders issued since last meeting. All orders/messages have been forwarded to the membership.

New members: none

General US Grant Camp No. 3 10th Anniversary!! We celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Camp. Our official "date of rank" is September 11, 2015. Brother David Swanson our Camp Organizer and first Camp Commander gave a brief history. The first organizational meeting was held at the Flagstaff east end Sizzler Restaurant on 8/22/2015 and we elected the following officers: Commander David Swanson, SVC Mark Haynes, JVC David Palmateer, Sec / Treas Jerry Bloom, Camp council members... Dale Enlow-Ed Steinback-Tim Prater, Chaplin Mark Haynes, Graves Registration Bob Archibald. We adjourned to enjoy a delicious anniversary cake, graciously supplied by Brother Moore.



August 22, 2015



Old Business: Last Union Veteran marker Mohave County, AZ has been installed on the headstone of Pvt. Henry Leffler, Co G, 12th WI Inf. We expect to have the ceremony in spring of 2026 in Kingman, AZ combined with a headstone dedication for Corp. Francis Farley, Co E, 19th IA. Inf. Corp Farley was buried in an unmarked grave after his death in 1919 and we have obtained and installed a VA headstone. Still working on the Last Union Soldier buried in Apache County.



(Left, L-R) PDC Jim Heller, CC Stephens, and PNP Verna Maleski at the Pvt William Green grave dedication ceremony in Phoenix AZ. October 18th, 2025



Private Henry Leffler



Corporal Francis Farley

Commander Stephens reported on his and Brother Moore's attendance at the August National SUVCW Encampment in Houston, TX. Commander Stephens gave an update on the ongoing Eagle Scout recognition program. S/T, historian enlow advised he was still working on creating a "throwback" GAR style Camp portrait collage and still was collecting head and shoulders photos of Brothers wearing their SUVCW medals and period headgear. PDC Swanson provided a bronze GAR flag holder to be installed at Citizens Cemetery in Prescott.

Commander Stephens, PDC Prater, and S/T enlow participated in the Williams Patriot Day Parade. The 50/50 raffle collected \$75 this quarter. PDC Tim Prater won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund.

Thank You!

New Business:

Brother Frantz gave an update on the Taos, NM attempt to rename "Kit Carson Park" Commander Stephens and Brother Poehlmann attended the Picacho Peak Camp meeting to introduce them to our Eagle Scout program. Sister Verna Maleski PNP DUVCW introduced their fundraiser by selling pins (\$27) commemorating the 250th birthday of the United States of America Sister Verna then surprised Brother Tim Prater with the Joshua L. Chamberlain award!



PDC Tim Prater was given the Joshua Chamberlain award from DUVCW PNP Verna Maleski. Congrats Brother!

Commander Stephens then advised that Brother Mark Clark Department SVC was attempting to form a Department Sons of Veterans Reserve unit to act as the Department's Honor Guard. S/T enlow advised that 2026 renewals were now being collected and must be received prior to 12/31/2025. He also encouraged Brothers to consider "Rounding-Up" donations to our Scholarship / Memorial Fund.

Good of the order: An announcement was made of an upcoming Sons of American Revolution (SAR) ball to be held in November, Brother Frantz advised of his efforts to obtain and install a VA headstone for a Union Veteran buried in a private cemetery in Pinetop, AZ.

Presentation: Brother Mark Stoler gave a very interesting presentation on the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable association (scottsdalecwrt.org) of which he is the President. He advised they currently have over 300 members and are actively involved in educational presentations by renowned speakers, battlefield preservation efforts, and outreach/promotions to preserve the memory of the American Civil War.



(L) Brother Mark Stoler presented on the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table.

Election of 2026 Camp Officers:

Richard Stephens, Commander nominee

Joe Hogan, SVC nominee

Lynn Scott, JVC nominee

dale Enlow (PCC), Secretary/Treasurer nominee

Council nominees: Steve Bigelow, Avery Frantz, and Tim Prater

There were no additional nominations and the slate was approved as listed. Officers will be installed at the January meeting in Prescott.

Closing:

Our next meeting will be on January 10, 2026 at Augie's Restaurant, 3460 Gateway Blvd., Prescott, 11:00 am for lunch, 12:00 for meeting. ZOOM will start at 11:45.

USG3 Next Meeting

January 10, 2025 at Augie's Restaurant, 3460 Gateway Blvd., Prescott, 11:00 am for lunch, 12:00 for meeting. ZOOM will start at 11:45.



Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. Camps in Arizona & New Mexico

1886

Grant Camp No. 1 (Flagstaff)

1891

Phil Sheridan Camp No. 2 (Phoenix)

1901

R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 11 (Tucson)

1909

Kit Carson Camp No. 1 (Albuquerque)



SONS OF VETERANS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



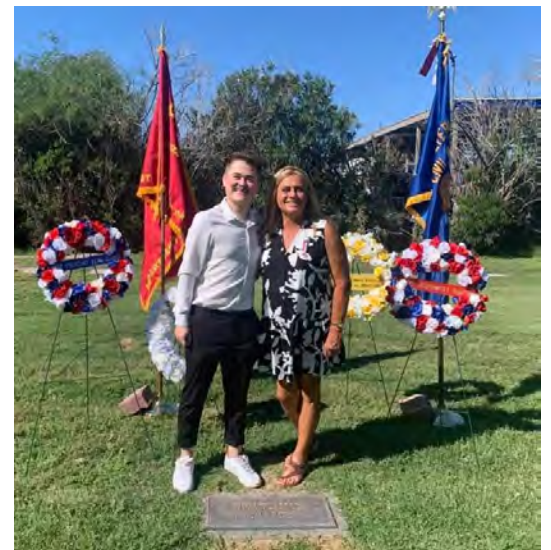
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

☞ Around the Department of the Southwest ☞

More from PDC Jerry Bloom's memorial service. Note that Jerry's personal effects included his plaques for serving as Department and Camp Commander. RIP Brother Jerry



Members of the Department of the Southwest and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War attending the Private William Green Grave Dedication in Phoenix, AZ



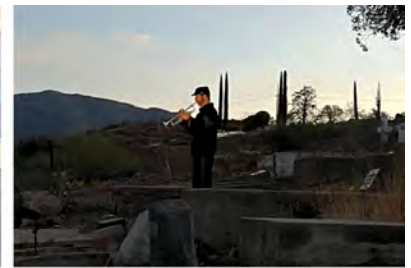


Brother Avery Frantz, Department Graves Registration Officer, attended the Historic Globe Cemetery tour on September 6, 2025, located in Globe, Arizona. Brother Frantz lent his Union uniform which was used during the tour (see bugler) to remember the Grand Army of the Republic and those of other wars. The uniform originally was that of Brother John Conrad who donated it to Frantz in 2021. Seen additionally is Avery Frantz with LeeAnn Powers head of the Arts division for Globe who accepted the Uniform which "saved the day". There are over 30 Civil War veterans buried within Globe Cemetery including a Historic Grand Army of the Republic Section and a Contemporary Confederate Veterans Section within the cemetery. (photo below)

J/ROTC Officer Dan Huskisson presents award to Cadet Armando Bojoquez of Alahambra HS



LeeAnn Powers and Brother Avery Frantz



Bugler, Globe Cemetery

Members of the DSW, DUVCW, and the Legacy Buffalo Soldiers of the AZ Territory attended a grave dedication ceremony for Dr Alexander McPherson - 50th US Colored Infantry, 10th Calvary Buffalo Soldiers

John Sapp - Arizona Pioneer and Union Veteran of the Civil War
Mesa Memorial Cemetery
October 26, 2025 (photos below)



John Sapp



Alexander McPherson



Sylvester and Fred Marabel



DUVCW PNP
Verna Maleski



Hiram Tally: From Union Cavalryman to a Tragic Figure in Petaluma

By: Avery Frantz, Department Graves Registration Officer

In the autumn of 1915, the quiet town of Petaluma, California was shaken by a violent act committed by a man who had once worn the Union blue with distinction. Hiram (“Hi”) Tally, a 75-year-old Civil War veteran, shot and killed Andrew J. McPhail, the respected owner of the McPhail Express. The case stunned residents who had known Tally for decades as a quiet, even harmless, old soldier living off a small pension.

A Life of Service: Born in Pennsylvania, Tally enlisted at the outset of the Civil War, joining Company E, 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry. He rose to the rank of Corporal, serving in campaigns that helped shape the Union victory. Like many veterans, he carried physical and mental scars from the war. He later claimed his profound deafness was caused by the firing of artillery during his service. After the war he settled in California, working as a cook on local ranches and later operating a wagon and carriage painting shop in Petaluma.

A member of Antietam Post, Grand Army of the Republic, Tally embodied the image of the aging Union veteran living out his final years in quiet obscurity. He lived alone in a small room on Keokuk Street, existing largely on a government pension of one dollar a day.

The Shooting of Andrew J. McPhail: On the morning of October 20, 1915, Tally walked up and down Main Street in Petaluma, visibly agitated and carrying a pistol. Witnesses later recalled seeing him loitering in front of the McPhail Express office for hours. McPhail himself was well known in the community. Born in Petaluma in 1857, he had run the express business for years and was an active member of the Elks, Odd Fellows, Redmen, and the local Grange. Always described as cheerful and helpful, McPhail had just done a favor for a friend that morning, driving him across town before returning to his office.

At about 11:15 a.m., as McPhail sat on a box outside his express office, Tally approached. According to witnesses, McPhail stood to make way for a customer bringing in eggs when Tally muttered something. “What?” McPhail reportedly asked—his last word. Tally then raised his pistol and fired at point-blank range. The bullet struck McPhail in the mouth and exited behind his right ear. He staggered into the office and fell, dying instantly as blood pooled on the floor and sidewalk.

Tally smiled, walked calmly up the street, and began to put the pistol back into his pocket. D.W. Ravenscroft, a bystander across the street, ran after him and grabbed his arms from behind. Others—including Ed Sims, Henry Nauert, Herman Peters, D.J. Healey, and B. Studdert—helped wrestle the gun away as Tally struggled, grinning all the while, his face described as “livid” with a “dreadful look” in his eyes. He was loaded into the Peters & Peters auto and taken to the county jail.

On the way, Tally remarked chillingly: “I caught him lying, and I got him.” To others he said, “I got him and I’m satisfied.” Later, he told District Attorney Lea, “Tell Captain Dickson to get his muskets ready and shoot away. Let them place me along the wall and shoot away.”

(continued on next page)

Evidence of a Disturbed Mind: Testimony at the inquest and later hearings revealed a man whose grip on reality had long been slipping. Tally said an “old veteran” had given him the pistol years earlier. Just the day before the shooting, he told authorities, he decided to kill someone and chose McPhail, waiting for him all morning. At other times he retracted his statements, saying he had no intention of killing the man.

When questioned by District Attorney Lea—who had to write his questions because of Tally’s deafness—Tally contradicted himself frequently. He referred to long-dead acquaintances as if they were alive, spoke of “chicken thieves” and imagined slights, and confused the identities of people he knew. Witnesses described him as demented, a man whose mind was “undoubtedly deranged.”

The Trial and Verdict: In April 1916, Tally stood trial before Judge Seawell. Throughout the proceedings, he behaved more like a spectator than a defendant, speaking only once to explain that the dagger found in his coat after the murder had been used “for sewing sacks.” On April 15, 1916, the jury returned its verdict: Hiram Tally was insane. He was ordered committed to the Napa State Hospital for the Insane. Should he ever recover, he was to face trial for the murder of Andrew J. McPhail.

Final Years and Legacy: Hiram Tally never regained his sanity. His story ended not with a public execution or a long prison term, but in confinement. When he died, he was buried among his fellow veterans in the Grand Army of the Republic plot at Tulocay Cemetery in Napa, California—a resting place that honors the soldiers of the Union, even one who ended his life under a shadow of violence.

Today, looking back with modern medical understanding, it is likely that Hiram Tally suffered from dementia or Alzheimer’s disease, conditions then poorly understood and without effective treatment. Rather than receiving compassionate care, he was placed in an insane asylum where he eventually died, his decline unrecognized as a medical illness rather than mere “insanity.” His story reflects not only the struggles of Civil War veterans but also the limitations of early 20th-century society in caring for the aged and mentally ill.

The tragedy of Hiram Tally is more than a true-crime curiosity. It is a window into the unspoken burdens of Civil War veterans, men who carried their war scars into old age and often faced their twilight years misunderstood and forgotten.

Sources:

Petaluma Daily Morning Courier (Petaluma, California), October 21, 1915, p. 4.

Petaluma Daily Morning Courier (Petaluma, California), April 26, 1916, p. 1.

DEAD				
NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Talley Hiram</i>				
SERVICE: <i>Late rank, Co. E, 3 Regt Pa. Cav.</i>				
TERM OF SERVICE: <i>Enlisted Aug 15, 1861 Discharged Jan 27, 1864</i>				
DATE OF FILING: <i>1915 Nov 30</i>	CLASS: <i>Invalid</i>	APPLICATION NO. <i>263 517 84</i>	LAW:	CERTIFICATE NO. <i>525072</i>
Widow, ☐				
Minor, ☐				
ADDITIONAL SERVICES: <i>D. 3 + L. 5 Pa. Cav.</i>				
REMARKS: <i>Sept 12, 1916, Petaluma, Cal.</i>				



Photo of Headstone Courtesy of : Scott DuJardin, 2017

Department of the Southwest— Officers 2025-2026

Past Department Commanders

John R. Conrad 2016-2017
David A. Swanson 2017-2018
Robert D. McCord 2018-2019
Gerald N. Bloom 2019-2020
James M. Heller, 2020-2021
John R. Conrad 2021-2022
Robert D. McCord 2022-2023
Kenneth J. Hooker 2023-2024
Timothy D Prater 2024-2025



Commander:

Todd T. Hoffay
toddthoffay@gmail.com



Senior Vice-Commander:

W. Mark Clark PCC
w.markclark@gmail.com

Junior Vice Commander:

Richard A. Stephens PCC
r@almsysinc.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Scott T Martorano
scottmartorano@gmail.com

Department Council

John Conrad PDC, John Horton, Robert Cox

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Dale E Enlow, PCC
dale_enlow@hotmail.com

Chaplain

Mark J. Haynes, PCC
haynes9@frontiernet.net

Patriotic Instructor

David Moore
eltigreblanco7751@gmail.com

Graves Registration Officer

Ronald Hyer
hyerforhire48@gmail.com

Historian:

Scott T Martorano
scottmartorano@gmail.com

GAR Records Officer

David A. Swanson, PDC
swanson1854@yahoo.com

Civil War Memorials Officer

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j.b.horton@hotmail.com

Eagle Scout Coordinator:

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