



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 2

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Department of the Southwest Charter



 **Department News** 

DEPARTMENT ORDERS
Department of the Southwest
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

GENERAL ORDER 02 (SERIES 2016-2017)

Memorial Day Activities, National Encampment, and Graves Registration Officer

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. I wish to recognize and thank all brothers and (sisters of the auxiliary) who participated in four separate Memorial Day ceremonies on May 30: in Tucson, in Flagstaff, and 2 in Phoenix. It is vitally important that we continue to honor this day, originally established to remember the Civil War fallen.
2. I am pleased to announce that the Department of the Southwest will have 6 brothers attending the National Encampment in Springfield, Illinois August 11-13: Dale Enlow, Tim Prater, Bob McCord, Ed Steinback, David Jackson, and me. It is quite heartening to have such a tremendous turnout at our inaugural presence at the National Encampment.
3. Brother Jan Huber has offered to step down as Department Graves Registration Officer after many years of serving the order and recording several hundred graves of our honored dead. On behalf of all my brothers, I thank Brother Jan and commend him on a job well done! In his stead I appoint Brother David Jackson, who has been assisting Brother Jan and has been serving on a National subcommittee. He has been very active in locating and documenting the graves and service of members of the California Column, among others. Thank you, Brother David! Please contact him at (818)219-6443 or drj1847@gmail.com.

Ordered this 26th day of June, 2016, in the City of Scottsdale, State of Arizona

/s/ John R. Conrad
Commander

ATTEST /s/ Dale E. Enlow
Secretary/Treasurer



No traction for Union Civil War memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza

State Sen. Sylvia Allen has provided an update regarding the status of SB 1036, the legislation she introduced for us in January 2016 to authorize the construction of a monument to Arizona's Union soldiers on the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza at the state capitol.

"There were 9 requests for monuments at the plaza this session," Sen. Allen explained. "The plaza is getting quite full and the Mall Commission needs to meet to discuss what direction to take for the future. I believe it will become more of a process to be able to get a monument, but I will let you know what might happen before next session."

In other words, SB 1036 won't be passed by the legislature this year, and it doesn't look like any bill authorizing a Union monument will be passed until the Mall Commission makes a decision. The Mall Commission is the public advisory committee that manages the capitol mall.

Brothers: Please send a letter to the Mall Commission encouraging them to find a place for the Union monument. Send to:
Kevin DeMenna, Chair
Arizona Legislative Mall Commission
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Your letters should also copy Robin Hillyard, Senate Staff, and Sharon Carpenter, House staff, at the same address, on any correspondence to the Commission.



ROTC presentations

Pictured on the following page are some of the JROTC badge recipients and presenters from the Department.



(L-R) Brother Bob Archibald and Cadet Gabrielle Millard at Independence High School



(L-R) Cadet/PO3 Anyell Mata and Brother Dan Huskisson at Apollo High School

May 11, 1996—Happy 20th Birthday to Picacho Peak Camp No. 1!

Twenty-two Brothers are listed on the Picacho Peak Camp charter (with its date of rank on May 11, 1996), and while we don't know what happened to all of the Charter members, we do have some that are still with the Camp after all these years: Brothers **Robert Baxter, Jerry Bloom** (current Camp Commander), **Jerry McKenzie, and John Oakley.**

*Congratulations Brothers and
Congratulations to all of the Brothers who
have made and are still making Picacho Peak
Camp No.1 such an outstanding Camp!*

~ And this leads us to ~

Brother Jerry Bloom and the Tale of Four Charters

Brother Jerry Bloom has worn many hats during his association with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Arizona which encompasses a 20 year

span from 1996-2016. Jerry was the Secretary of Picacho Peak Camp-at-Large (when it was so) in 2003 and was the Secretary/Treasurer from 2004 until he took over as the Camp Commander in 2016.

In 2015 when the General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2 was formed he became a member. When the General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 came into existence in 2015 he became a member and is its Secretary/Treasurer and when the Department of the Southwest became a reality in the same year he was elected to the Department Council.

But here is the kicker: **Brother Bloom is a charter member of all three Camps and the Department of the Southwest!**

Congratulations Commander Bloom!



Report of the Graves Registration Officer, Department of the Southwest

By David Jackson, DGRO

From March 26 to July 10, 2016, the number of entries in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Graves Registration Database for soldiers who entered the service from Arizona has changed from: 16 to: 17, and for soldiers who entered the service from New Mexico the number has remained the same at 307. The number of entries in the database for burials in Arizona has changed from: 568 to: 571, and for burials in New Mexico the number has changed from: 698 to: 700.

Recent entries to the database include: First Lieutenant Aniceto de Jesús Abeytia (1831 NM-1914 NM) of Co. C, 2nd NM Infantry, Private Joseph Alyea (1829 NJ-1900 AZ) of Co. C, 1st CA Infantry and Co. C, 7th CA Infantry, William J Brady (1829-Ireland-1878 NM) who served as First Lieutenant and Adjutant, 2nd NM Infantry and as Captain of Cos. G & A, 1st NM Cavalry, Private Nicolás DeAguero (1844 Mexico-1917 CO) of Cos. A & B, 1st NM Cavalry, Private Frederick G. Hughes (1837 England-1911 AZ) of Co. F, 1st CA Infantry and Co. B, 1st Bn. of Veteran Infantry, and Captain Hiram Storrs Washburn (1820 VT-1889 DC) E & F, 1st AZ Infantry. While entries are being added to the database an ongoing effort is also being made to reduce the number of duplicate entries and to edit entries with missing or inappropriate data.



❧ Camp & Auxiliary News ❧

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 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 480-515-2798; swanson1854@yahoo.com.

May 14, 2016, Camp Meeting Information

The regular quarterly meeting of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 and the Auxiliary was held at noon on May 14, 2016, at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant. Thirty-three Brothers, Sisters and guests were in attendance. The meeting was led by Camp Commander Jerry Bloom.

Camp officer reports:

Camp Commander Bloom advised that Brother Jack Conrad (who has been a member of the Camp since 2004) passed away on May 4, 2016. Commander Bloom attended the visitation and rosary service; Brother Jack will be interred in California. Keep our departed Brother in your thoughts and prayers.

Secretary/Treasurer David Swanson presented our financial picture which is in good shape. He also talked about the cessation of our Camp newsletter (because of the new Department newsletter) saying that he would like to see the Camp newsletter continued and that he would assist anybody in this endeavor. If you are interested please contact him.

Brother Bob Archibald covered the Camp ROTC Medal presentation activity.

Medals were presented by members at six local high schools. Members presenting in concurrence with other presentations were Jan Huber, Dan Huskisson and Bob Archibald. Three other outlying schools were sent medals but we had no presenters. Next year, will try somehow to get more members involved in presentations.

Brother Paul Verhelst talked about Victory Place, 850 E. Jones St. in Phoenix that provides home cooked meals once per month to over 100 homeless veterans. They can always use volunteer help and if you wish to get involved call Barbara Sasate at 480-510-1323 or 602-303-6112.

New Camp Brother:

Preston H. Long of Tempe, Arizona joined the SUVCW and our Camp on March 4, 2016.

Brother Long's Civil War ancestor is his great-great grandfather Private William Marshall. On May 24, 1864, Private Marshall was mustered into Company E, of the 134th Indiana Infantry and mustered out on September 2, 1864 at the expiration of his enlistment.

Brother Long was initiated into our Order and Camp at this meeting by Camp Commander Gerald Bloom.



(L-R) Camp Commander Jerry Bloom and Brother Preston H. Long

Congratulations Brother Preston and welcome!



Program speaker: Brother David Swanson gave a talk about Orin Wilson, his great-great uncle, who was the Regimental Bugler of the 7th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry. He covered Orin's war history from 1861-1864 during his capture, release on parole, exchange, and his death during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign. His talk also included information about Colonel (General) R. H. G. Minty and his Arizona connection.

In Memoriam

Picacho Peak Camp Brother John Francis "Jack" Conrad 83, died on May 4, 2016. Jack is the father of Department Commander John Conrad and has been a Brother of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 since 2004.

Visitation and rosary was held at Messinger Mortuary, 8555 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale, AZ on May 13, 2016. Brother Conrad was interred at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Gustine, CA, Monday, May 16 at 2:00 PM.



Brother Jack Conrad

Activities

Picacho Peak Camp Brothers attended the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park in Phoenix.

Department of the Southwest Commander John Conrad recited the Gettysburg Address and Brother Jan Huber played “Taps” on the bugle for the event.



Department of SW Commander John Conrad

Upcoming Events

Camp Meeting: August 13, 2016, at noon. Location: Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix. This is also our annual meeting with the Sisters of the Margaret Warner Wood Tent No. 1 DUVCW.

Our speaker for the meeting will be Brother David Kampf who will talk about newspapers in the Civil War.

2016 Camp Meeting Dates

Camp meeting dates for 2016 are as follows—all meetings start at 12:00 noon. Location: Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley August 13 and November 12. We will elect and install officers for 2017 at the November meeting.

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.

July 23, 2016, Camp Meeting Information—

(Unfortunately, because of a scheduling conflict by the newsletter editor, the July 23rd Camp meeting information will not be available for print until the October newsletter issue. My apologies to the Minty Camp.)

Activities

Memorial Day

Gen. Minty Camp members Robert McCord, Randy McNally, and Robert Haley attended the 43rd Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony at Tucson Estates on Monday, May 30th. They joined with members of the first New Mexico reenactment group to form a color guard, with the 1st New Mexico Regiment and SUVCW colors.

Below photos: Color Guard from 1st New Mexico reenactment group and Gen R. H. G. Minty Camp



SUVCW Members: officers- Randy McNally, SUVCW flag bearer - Robert McCord, Navy Whites: Robert Haley



Upcoming Events

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

2016 Camp Meeting Dates

Camp meetings for 2016 are as follows: July 23, and October 2016—meeting date to be announced. We will have 2017 officer elections at the October 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 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.

January 9, 2016, Camp Meeting Information

Our January 9th Camp meeting was opened at 1:00 p.m. by Camp Commander David Swanson with 21 Brothers and guests in attendance.

Camp officer reports:

Camp Commander Swanson talked about the upcoming national encampment and the fact that it is not too early to think about Camp officers for 2017 since they will be elected at the October 22nd meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom presented our financial picture which showed that we are in good shape.

ROTC Coordinator Bob Archibald covered the Camp JROTC/ROTC Medal presentation activity.

SUVCW Medals and certificates were provided to the following high schools and colleges' JROTC and ROTC units:

High schools: Bullhead City, Chinle, Pinon, Hopi, Tuba City, Coconino, and Prescott.

Universities: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical (2 ROTC Units) and Northern Arizona (2 ROTC Units)

Brothers involved: Bob Archibald, Ed Steinback, and Dale Enlow.

Delegates to the National Encampment and Memorial Day: Brothers Dale Enlow and Ed Steinback are Department Delegates to the National Encampment and one of the items to be voted on is whether or not the SUVCW should continue its attempts to restore the traditional May 30th Memorial Day observation or recognize the date approved by Congress in 1968 which moved it to the last Monday in May thus creating a three day weekend. The Camp unanimously voted that we should abandoned the attempt and recognize the date approved by Congress but that the SUVCW should continue to also recognize the May 30th date within the Order.

Donation by Brother Tim Prater: Brother Tim Prater donated a Thompson Center 50 caliber black powder rifle to the Camp to be raffled off for our financial benefit. The Camp voted to raffle the gun Department-wide and donate 50% of the proceeds to the Department treasury. Brother Rich Rice will inspect the gun and make any minor repairs (if needed). Thank you Brother Prater!!



Brother Tim Prater and the rifle



Gift by Brother Jack Van Deusen: Brother Van Deusen (who is an outstanding wood worker) made and donated a plate to the Picacho Peak Camp with the Camp's name engraved it. Picacho Peak Commander Jerry Bloom is now in possession of it.

Thank you Brother Van Deusen!



Activities

Program speaker: We were very fortunate to have Rich Dahl as our speaker. Rich gave an outstanding presentation regarding Confederate currency and displayed his extensive collection of bills. Rich went into very interesting detail regarding the printing of the various Confederate concurrencies and it was obvious to those attending our meeting that his knowledge of the topic was broad and his presentation top notch. Rich also gave out spent bullets found on various battlefields in Virginia. Rich has spoken to the Picacho Peak Camp on previous occasions and **we thank him for his presentation to the General U. S. Grant Camp!**

Brothers of the Grant Camp attended ceremonies in Flagstaff and Prescott, Arizona.

Camp Commander David Swanson recited the Gettysburg Address and talked about its relevance today during ceremonies at the Citizens Cemetery in Flagstaff. Brothers Dale Enlow, Jerry Bloom, and Rich Rice set up an information booth at the cemetery.

Brother Tim Prater attended ceremonies at the Prescott Pioneer Cemetery.



(L-R) Rich Dahl receiving a Certificate of Commendation from Camp Commander David Swanson



Camp Commander David Swanson



Display of Confederate currency and bonds



(L-R) Brothers Dale Enlow, Jerry Bloom, David Swanson, and Rich Rice

New General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 Brother

John E. Spence of Great Falls, Montana was approved for membership in the SUVCW and the Grant Camp.

Brother Spence's Civil War ancestor is his great-great uncle Cyrenius B. Faires who was mustered into service on September 15, 1861, in Company B of the 2nd West Virginia Cavalry.

Congratulations Brother Spence and welcome!



Brother Tim Prater

Upcoming Events

Camp Meeting: Saturday, October 22, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. Location: Sizzler Restaurant, 3540 E. Historic Route 66, Flagstaff. We will have officer elections for 2017 and our speaker will be Brother Rich Rice who will talk about the Zouaves.



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

Activities

Sister Maura Mackowski from the Picacho Peak Auxiliary attended Memorial Day ceremonies at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park and Sisters Barbara Metzger and Verna Maleski attended ceremonies at the National Cemetery. Both cemeteries are in Phoenix.

Sister Patricia “Dusti” Ide, Senior Vice President of the Margaret Warner Wood Detached Tent No. 1 DUVCW , along with Picacho Peak Brothers Al Harrica and John Conrad presented a wreath during the ceremony at the Memorial Park on behalf of the Auxiliary.



(L-R) Maura Mackowski, President of the Margaret Warner Wood Detached Tent No. 1, DUVCW AZ and Patricia “Dusti” Ide, Senior Vice President of the Margaret Warner Wood Tent

Upcoming Events

Tent Meeting: August 13, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix. We have several important items on the agenda—please attend. After the meeting the sisters will join the Picacho Peak Camp meeting.

2016 Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for 2016 are as follows—all meetings start at 12:00 noon. Location: Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley August 13 and November 12.

General News and Information

GAR Badge Trivia

By David Swanson

Did you know that from 1884 Grand Army of the Republic Badges were manufactured from “captured cannons”? You bet. Some information regarding badges in Beath’s *History of the Grand Army of the Republic* follows:

“For several years prior to 1884, the metal used in the manufacture of these badges was obtained from guns purchased of various societies to whom they had been donated by Congress for monumental purposes; since then captured cannon have been used, which were purchased direct from the government, and selected from guns stored at Governor’s Island.

These guns were made by Noble Brothers, Rome, Georgia; Quimby & Robinson, Memphis; John Clark,

New Orleans and A. B. R. Brothers, Vicksburg. Three are presumably of English make, being better finished and free from iron or lead.”

Even earlier than this a reference to captured cannon and GAR badges was noted.

On June 8, 1880, GAR Commander-in-Chief William Earnshaw, in his address to the Fourteenth Annual Session said in part: “ I succeeded in getting a bill introduced in Congress, to appropriate six captured cannon from which to make badges. Said bill was referred to the Military Committee, but as yet has not been reported upon. The necessity of the case was such that we were forced to proceed in some other way, and I am pleased to say that, by the generosity of the president, a cannon was secured from which has been made over twelve thousand badges, and they are now worn by comrades of the order in all parts of the land.”

Hans Halvorson

Brother Paul Halvorson, of the Gen. U. S. Grant Camp No. 3, provided the following information (from the book, *The history of descendants from Telmark Norway* by Frederick Halvorson) regarding his great-great uncle Hans Halvorson.

“The Civil War

“Hans Halvorson enlisted in Madison, Wisconsin on November 5, 1861, at the age of 23, and served under the command of Hans Christian Heg with the Wisconsin 15th Regiment. He was captured in the battle of Stones River and served nine months in Andersonville prison. One of the Kjeldalen women had sewn a gold coin in his coat which he used to buy potatoes when he was in prison. Andersonville was the worst of all. The open air camp had been built for 10,000 prisoners, but held at times up to 33,000. The brook, Sweetwater Creek flowed through the camp. It did not live up to its name, but was both sewer and drinking water, a stinking stream of sewage, dead fish and worms. There was a shortage of food as well; a man’s daily ration was a teaspoon of salt, three tablespoons of beans and 200 grams of unsifted cornmeal. The prisoners in Andersonville had to provide their own shelter. Some of them made tents which they affixed to the posts holding up the ‘death line.’ Prisoners who crossed the line were shot.

“The conditions were so deplorable that 13,000 of the 45,000 Union soldiers that came to Andersonville died of malnutrition, disease and wounds. At its worst, one man died every eleven minutes, and mass graves had to be dug to get rid of the bodies. A soldier from Telemark said that ‘the sickle of death has reaped the flower of our youth.’ A fine southern lady was once escorted to the top of one of the guard towers and was horrified by the sight. ‘My heart bleeds for these poor wretches. God help us if the Yankees come to Andersonville and see the graves!’ Temporal punishment was meted out to the camp’s commandant, Henry Wirz. After the war he was tried for heinous crimes of war, and ended his life on the gallows.”



Brother Paul Halvorson

Thanks Brother Halvorson for this interesting account!



Comrades and the VFW

Did you know that in 1919 all GAR members were proclaimed as honorary members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars? Here is part of an interesting article from the 2011 VFW magazine;

“VFW’s link to Union veterans’ prime organization, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), is direct. In 1919, VFW’s National Council of Administration unanimously adopted the following resolution: ‘All members of the Grand Army of the Republic are hereby admitted as honorary members to the VFW. Presentation of their Grand Army identification card or button will entitle them to any meeting of any Post of the VFW and to a seat.’

“Then-Commander-in-Chief F. Warner Karling said, ‘In honoring the Grand Army of the Republic, we honor ourselves.’

“In subsequent years, VFW and GAR Posts would conduct Memorial Day ceremonies together and hold joint conventions in some states. In 1925, for example, VFW Post 728 in Danville, Ill., incorporated the entire GAR post from Kenesaw.

“Ironically, it was the refusal of the GAR to admit Spanish- American War vets that gave birth to VFW. Though VFW adopted many of the GAR’s rituals and organizational structures, it was committed to remaining ‘evergreen.’”



Decoding the Civil War

Brother David Jackson sent the following link which is a project by the Huntington Library for transcribing and deciphering messages and codes from the United States Military Telegraph:
<http://huntingtonblogs.org/2016/06/decoding-the-civil-war/>



Happy 56th Anniversary wishes from the Department of the Southwest to Brother Jim Heller and his wife Anne!!!

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 Camp 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 your respective JVC or the Department Junior Vice Commander for more details and assistance.

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