

Stoneman Dispatch

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Email: camp18@suvpac.org Web: www.suvpac.org/camp18.html

Volume 12, No. 2, April, 2021

Attention Company!

A message from the Camp Commander

Brothers,

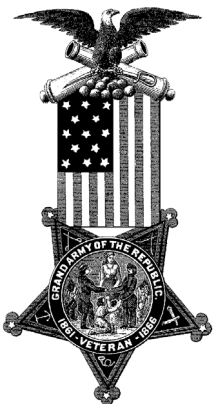
I look forward to being able to meet again in person. Thank you to Brothers Burt Hogue, Glen Roosevelt, PDC and the entire W.H. Jameson Jr. American Legion Post 216 for their Hospitality. We hope to return soon. In the meantime, our Camp Brothers continue planning for limited events on April 9th honoring the end of the Civil War; and Decorations Day now known as Memorial Day on May 31st.

We had a successful Department Encampment on March 20th led by Department Commander Rudy Velasco who is now celebrating his new title of Past Department Commander (PDC). And Past Camp Commander (PCC) Steven Doyle is celebrating (I hope) his election and promotion to Department Senior Vice-Commander (SVC). Thank you to those of you who attended and represented our Camp.

Please plan to join us for our next Zoom Meeting on Saturday April 17th. Thank you for your continuing support of our organization and its mission.

Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Brian Stephens



Tentative Camp Calendar

Friday April – CANCELLED – End of the Civil War Day wreath presentation, Evergreen Cemetery.

Saturday, April 17 – Camp 18 meeting via Zoom beginning at 10:00 a.m. Meeting invitations will be sent out as we get closer to the meeting date.

May 29 – 31 – Memorial Day as may be allowed, no plans yet.

Saturday, June 19 – Camp 18 meeting via Zoom beginning at 10:00 a.m.

August 4 – 9 – 140th National Encampment of the SUVCW in St. Louis, Missouri. Details can be found at: www.suvcw.org

National Medal of Honor Day

Report from Camp Jr. Vice Commander John Morris

On 25 March 2021, National Medal of Honor Day, the Board of Directors of Evergreen Memorial Park and Cemetery in downtown Riverside, CA, conducted a ceremony for Colonel Cornelius Cole Smith, United States Army, who is interred in the cemetery. Col Smith is a Medal of Honor Recipient. John Morris, a member of Camp 18,



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Honor,...*

*Dedicated to Preserving the Memory
of the Grand Army of the Republic
And the soldiers who Fought to Save the Union 1861 - 1865*



Honor, continued....

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, serves on the Board of Directors, and planned the details for the ceremony. Pictured is the wreath that was placed above Col Smith's grave and Brother Morris standing beside the wreath above the grave, pictured below.

**Town Hall Meeting with President Lincoln**

Report by Brother Steve Doyle, PCC

On February 12th, I attended the Zoom, "Town Hall Meeting with Abraham Lincoln", put on by the Department of Columbia (Alaska, Washington, and Oregon). The setting was 1865, the end of the war is at hand, and President Lincoln (played by Steve Hogate), answered questions from the 18 participants. As you can imagine this Town Hall Meeting was somewhat surreal. I mean, how many times to you get to sit down and talk to Abraham Lincoln! I tried to write down as many of the questions and answers as I could and here are the ones I was able to recollect (I would have failed Stenography class. . .!)

The first question that was asked was, "How did you choose to have Andrew Johnson as your Vice President?" President Lincoln answered by saying that the, "Ceded States are no long our Enemy" and that it was only, "rabble-rousers" who had claimed that, "States Rights" was the cause of the conflict!

When asked if he thought that there was anything that could have prevented the Civil War, he reminded us that the Union had offered a cash bounty for every slave that was owned, but that the offer was refused. He added that, "American Slavery is our "Original Sin."

When asked about what reparations should be given to Union Soldiers, he said that the Department of War would take care of our Union Veterans, their widows, and their orphans. When asked further about what aid would be given to Confederate veterans he responded, "the Federal Government has no responsibility to those who tried to overthrow it." He added that the reconstruction of the Southern economies would take time and money. He also hoped that the freed slaves would be able to participate in improving the Southern economies. He also commented that the, "Revenue Act of 1862" would continue to help regarding these issues, "but that will end sometime in the future." (Doing a google search regarding the, "Revenue Act of 1862", I discovered that taxes were collected by the, "Office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue", which later became the IRS. We all know how that turned out . . .)

When asked how the Mormons in the West would be treated after the war, he quoted James Madison, who said that we are a country of Religious Freedom, "from Hindu

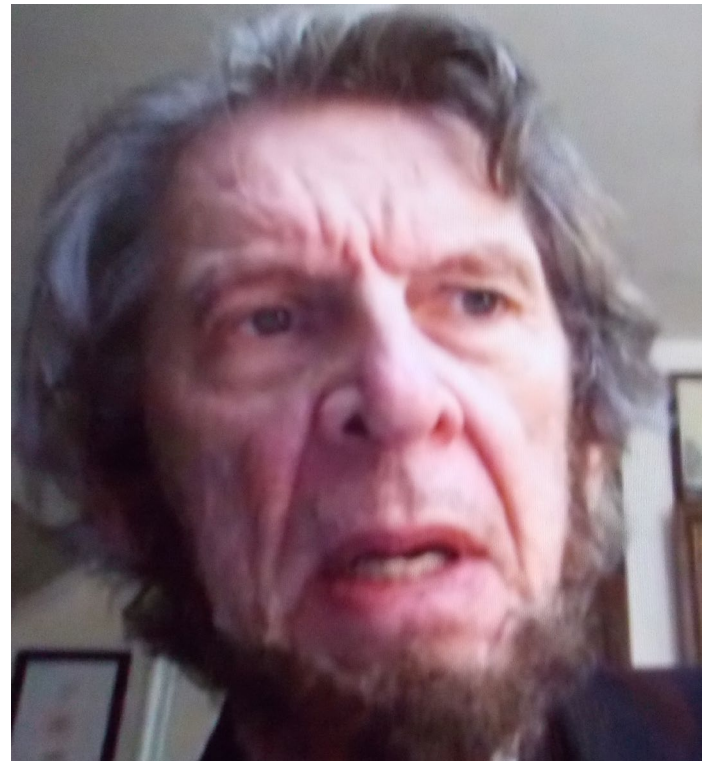


Photo above: President Abraham Lincoln as portrayed by Mr. Steve Hogate on a Zoom Town Hall meeting

to Mohammedan." Likewise regarding Native Americans who had fought for the Confederacy, he was hopeful that they would just go back to their reservations.

Continued on page 3, see Lincoln,...

Lincoln, continued....

When asked about what Mr. Lincoln's thoughts were about what efforts should be made regarding reconstructing the South, he said that he was hoping for a "True Peace" and that Louisiana had already taken an Oath of Allegiance to the Union and had been allowed to send representatives to Congress. He also reiterated that there should be, "Malice towards None and Charity to All." His concern was also that, if there is a "Harsh Peace", then Southerners might be harsher towards freed slaves.

When asked about "revenge" towards the leaders of the Insurrection and especially what we should do with Jefferson Davis, Mr. Lincoln related a story about the Irishman who came to a bar and ordered just a coffee. He asked the barkeep what he would do if he slipped a little rum into his coffee. The barkeep answered that the act would, "just slip away unbeknownst to me". Mr. Lincoln said that he would hope that Mr. Davis would do the same: "Just slip away unbeknownst to me." He went on to say that Grant refused to take prisoners and told the Confederate soldiers to, "Just go on home."

Mr. Lincoln was also queried on what types of punishments should be meted out towards some of the atrocities committed during the war by the Confederacy. He specifically addressed the issue of the Anderson Prison Camp, and said that, "Trials should be considered regarding those who were in charge of the camp." He also touched on the fact that, "Those who had executed Black Union prisoners of war should also be held accountable for their actions."

On a similar topic, Mr. Lincoln addressed a question regarding post-war Missouri and Kansas raiders and outlaws using the, "rebel flag of convenience" to conduct their illegal activities. He reminded us that, "we still have an Army, and they will be helping U.S. Marshals and Sheriffs" to deal with these criminals.

When I asked Mr. Lincoln what he felt what was the greatest mistake he made during his presidency, he quipped, "Running for President." I also asked him what he felt was his greatest accomplishment. He responded in typical political fashion: "Even with perfect knowledge we make errors; like the flow of the Mississippi River, I have not been in control of Events. They have controlled me!"

I was fortunate to ask him another question: "What are your plans after your second term, Mr. President?" His answer was not only poignant, but prophetic: "Mary and I want to take a train ride to California to see this great country of ours. We would also like to visit the Holy Land. And then take the Last Train Ride Home." As we all know, he was assassinated and are sure he visited the, "Holy Land" in Heaven. His "Last Train Ride" was when the Presidential Mourning Train brought him home to Springfield.



**General George Stoneman Jr.
Camp 18 Officers**

Camp Commander,	Brian Stephens
Sr. Vice Cmdr,	Matt Crowder
Jr. Vice Cmdr,	John Morris
Sec/Treas,	Rudy Velasco III
Camp Council #1	Michael Emmett
Camp Council #2	Rudolph Velasco IV
Camp Council #3	Benny White

Appointed

Camp Chaplain	Bill Daley PCC
Camp Historian	Burt Hogue
Camp Guide	Bodie Crowder
Camp Guard	Steve Doyle PCC
Graves Registration	Michael Emmett
Newsletter Editor	Rudy Velasco III
Patriotic Instructor	Steve Doyle PCC
Eagle Scout & JROTC Coordinator	Rudy Velasco III

If you have something of interest that you would like to add to this newsletter, something that our **Brothers** might enjoy like an article, a photo or a Civil War event, contact the Editor, Rudy Velasco for placement. rev03@dc.rr.com



Did You Know?

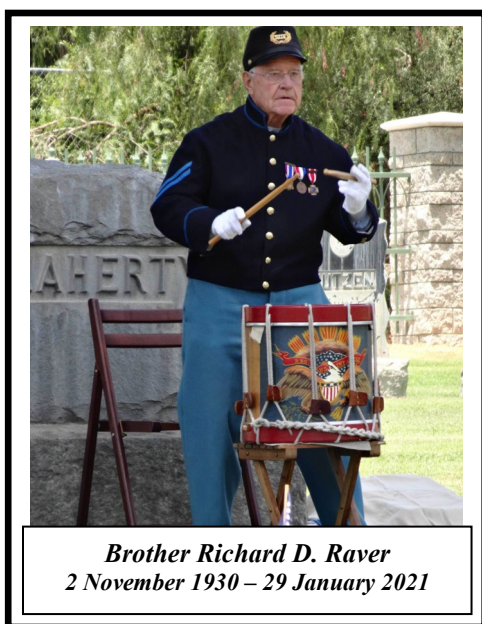
April 2, 1865 – Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia because of advancing Union forces.

Eagle Scout Commendation

Early in March, Stoneman Camp 18 issued our first Eagle Scout Commendation of 2021 to Eagle Scout Gary Gaitan of Fontana. There was no formal Court of Honor for Gary because of the virus restrictions but we were able to honor his achievement of Eagle Scout with a certificate delivered through the mail.

In Memoriam

Stoneman Camp 18 lost a charter member of the Camp with the passing of Brother Richard Raver in January.



Brother Richard D. Raver
2 November 1930 – 29 January 2021

As a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Brother Raver honored the Civil War service of his ancestor Private John A. Greiner, Company E, 12th Michigan Volunteer Infantry.

Passing of Union Soldier Widow Helen Jackson

After many years of being a resident of a Nursing Home in Mansfield, Missouri, Helen Viola Jackson, the last documented widow of a Civil War soldier passed away on 16 December 2020 at the age of 101 years.

Helen Jackson married Private James Bolin, Company F,

14th Missouri Cavalry on 4 September 1936. He was 93 years old; she was 17. Her father had volunteered her to stop by Bolin's house each day and assist him with chores as she headed home from school. Bolin did not believe in accepting charity and, after a period of time, asked Helen for her hand in marriage in order to provide for her future by leaving her his Union pension. She accepted and Bolin recorded the wedding in his personal Bible. Bolin died in June 1939 and Helen never remarried; she never applied for the pension.

Graves Registration Report 2020

by Camp 18 Graves Registration Officer Michael Emmett

The following is submitted to Stoneman Camp 18 for their approval and inclusion in the Department report for 2020. Due to the recent COVID 19 debacle, I did the opposite as suggested by health officials and government employees (elected and unelected) and visited 26 states plus Washington DC this past year. Although much was closed up, I did have less restricted access to many sites, including cemeteries. I also visited national cemeteries in Gettysburg PA; Shiloh, TN. and Vicksburg MS. Surprisingly, these cemeteries are under reported. I have chosen to select Gettysburg as my focus until completed, hopefully, sometime in 2021. I register Confederates as well as Union soldiers, particularly as we have entered times of uncertainty towards our historic past. American soldiers, regardless of the side on which they chose to fight, is a moot point. They were American soldiers and their "last full measure of devotion" deserves recognition.

736 soldiers registered on the SUVVCW web site;

643 Union soldiers;
93 Confederate,
6 US Navy,
7 US Colored Troops,
1 Galvanized Yankee.

Pennsylvania graves: 258

California graves: 215

Iowa graves: 91

Miscellaneous states: 172 graves

Continued on page 5, see Graves,...

Graves, continued...

Notable entries;

- Rear Admiral Bartlett Cromwell,
- James Beecher and Thomas Beecher; (brothers to Harriet Beecher Stowe)
- George Sharp; 1st Idaho governor,
- Brigadier General David Vickers,
- Hugh Weir; Chief Justice Idaho Supreme Court,
- James W. Bodley; Superintendent Gettysburg National Cemetery 1918-1930,
- George Shaw; helped carry President Lincoln’s body from Ford’s Theater.

Doing this research, I learned that every man has a story and every story needs to be remembered as best as possible. I mourn the loss of each man I register and they become personal to me. “Lest we forget”

135th Annual Encampment Virtual meeting

The Department of California & Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held its 135th annual Encampment meeting on Saturday, 20 March 2021 through Zoom virtual communications. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with a Memorial service for our Brothers who have answered the final muster call, followed by the actual business meeting that concluded at 12:15 p.m.

There was as many as 49 Brothers attending the 3 hour and 15 minute meeting. Stoneman Camp 18 had 7 delegates present at the meeting, which was the camp with the second most attendants following only Sheridan Camp 4 which had 9 delegates attending. 11 of the 14 Camps in the Department were represented.

The Department meeting was also attended by Commander-in-Chief (CinC) Brian Pierson, Past Commander-in-Chief Mark Day, PCinC Tad Campbell and Council of Administration Member Kevin Martin.

Generally, the Department is in great shape. Mostly staying within the guidelines of the pandemic, Brothers and Camps are staying as active as they can.

CinC Pierson commented on the dedication displayed by Brothers in the Department and how active the Camps remain in these difficult times. He mentioned the good use of electronic means for communicating and virtual meetings. He urged the Sons of Union Veterans to remain Patriotic and to not get caught up in partisan discussion that would lead to criticism of the SUVCW. Final comments from the CinC covered the tax exempt status of the Camps and Departments and policy on monument preservation.

Elected Department Officer results are as follows;
 Commander – Frank Avila, PCC – Camp 4,
 Sr. Vice Cmdr. – Steve Doyle, PCC – Camp 18,
 Jr. Vice Cmdr. – Wayne Eder, CC – Camp 31,
 Secretary/Treasurer – Owen Stiles, PCC – Camp 30,
 Department Council – Dan Earl, PCC – Camp 4,
 Department Council – Kurt Dunphy, CC – Camp 12,
 Department Council – Robert Mayer, CC – Camp 24.
 All Officers, elected and appointed were installed by Commander-in-Chief Pierson.

A list of Appointed Officers is posted on the Department web site; www.suvm.org/officers.html

Department Awards and the election of National Encampment Delegates followed before Department Commander Frank Avila closed the meeting.

In the free time before the meeting was called to Order and after closing, the Brothers enjoyed the virtual camaraderie. Veterans exchanged stories of their time overseas. I believe a good time was had by all attending.

If you have not attended a Department Encampment, virtually or in person you may be missing a really enjoyable time. Engaging with old friends and Brothers or meeting new friends is always fun. Camaraderie at its finest.

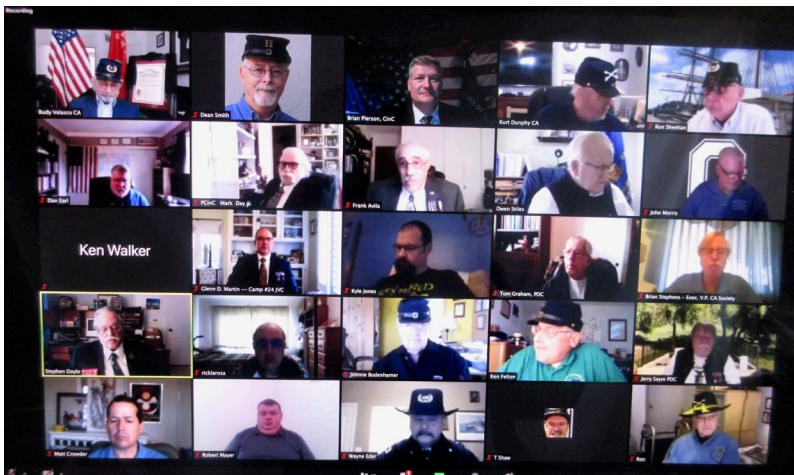


Photo above, Department Brothers attend the virtual encampment meeting of 20 March 2021 on Zoom. Dean Smith photo





*General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Newsletter
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