

GENERAL CARLIN CAMP NO. 25 PARTICIPATES IN CARSON CITY, NEVADA, CIVIL WAR MONUMENT REDEDICATION, VETERANS DAY, 2004

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On November 11, 2004, members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War assembled at the Lone Mountain Cemetery, Carson City, Nevada, to participate in a very special and historic Veterans' Day memorial service. The main event was the unveiling of the newly refurbished and repaired Grand Army of the Republic Civil War monument. The statue was originally acquired and dedicated on Memorial Day in 1891 by the Grand Army of the Republic Custer Post 5. The original plaque on it reads, "Nevada's Tribute To Union Soldiers and Sailors, March 19, 1891". More on this later.

Present during 2004 rededication, and despite the prediction of a major storm front passing through the region during the day (bringing the possibility of snow or rain), were over 200 spectators, participants, dignitaries, and various media personnel. The Memorial Services included speeches, music, military color guards, Civil War re-enactors and the rededication of the GAR Civil War Monument. The afternoon events included a wide range of activities and participants. Several military, civic and lineage societies were represented during this event. The master of ceremonies was David Stultz (Sexton, Lone Mountain Cemetery District). He and his staff had meticulously prepared the grounds of the cemetery for this auspicious occasion. Flags and beautiful floral bouquets could be seen adorning the graves and headstones of Veterans throughout the historic cemetery.

Participants included members of the Naval Sea Cadet Color Guard, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and members from the Nevada Civil War Volunteers. Guest speakers included Carson City Mayor Ray Masayko, Cindy Southerland (local historian), Brad Schall [Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Department of California and Pacific], David Stultz, Mercene Karkadoulis (owner of the foundry which restored the monument) and Paul Washeleski (SUVCW, General William Passmore Carlin Camp No. 25). Representing the SUVCW as members of the Color Guard were – Camp Commander Paul Washeleski, Senior Vice Commander Gary Parrott, Secretary Brian Worcester, David A. Davis, Frank Wood and Don Guidici (all from Carlin Camp No. 25). Also present were - Brad Schall and Kirby Morgan (all from the Department of California and Pacific). Music during the Veterans Day Memorial Service included a moving rendition of "Amazing Grace" performed by Robert Bledsaw LTJG, USN, on the bagpipes. Also present and providing valuable assistance during this event were - Camp No. 25 Treasurer Jeffrey Vaillant, (manning the Camp's display/recruitment table) and Lori Parrott, Auxiliary to the SUVCW - Dr. Mary E. Walker No. 52 (taking video and photographs of the event).



Monument after its return



Members of the SUVCW color guard pose in front of the monument after the rededication.

For background information, as noted earlier, the statue was originally acquired and dedicated on Memorial Day in 1891 by the Grand Army of the Republic Custer Post 5. The statue is 17 feet tall and includes a 6-foot statue of a Union soldier at “parade rest”. The monument is hollow and made of “white bronze” (zinc), and was manufactured by the Monumental Bronze Co. of Hartford, Connecticut. The company quit making such monuments in 1914. A detailed history involving the statue can be found on the Camp History Page under “Grand Army of the Republic Custer Post No. 5 Cemetery”, by David A. Davis, Camp Historian/Civil War Memorials Officer.

Over the years, the statue cracked and sagged and after a century, was in need of restoration. “Grand Army of the Republic Custer Post No. 5 Cemetery” summarizes the interest and events in the 1990s and early 2000s leading in that direction. In 2003, Carlin Camp 25 was organized, and Camp Commander Paul Washeleski took a personal interest in continuing to push for restoration of the monument. In time, efforts by several local historical, hereditary, and civil groups, including the Carlin Camp 25, persuaded the Carson City supervisors to approve \$82,000 to restore the monument on April 26, 2004, and the Karkadoulis Bronze Art Foundry of Cincinnati, Ohio, owned and operated by Mercene Karkadoulis, was contracted to do the restoration.

Shortly after 10:00 AM on July 19, 2004, contract crews from the Karkadoulis Bronze Art Foundry arrived to assess the condition of the monument and to begin the first phase of its

"approved" restoration project. The monument was confirmed to be a fine piece of period workmanship.

The monument was constructed in six distinct sections, each section features a symbolic tribute to Union Civil War Veterans. The top section (the statue of the Union soldier at "parade rest") was removed without any difficulty. However, once that section had been removed the interior revealed that, at some time in the past, it had been completely filled with concrete. Subsequently, the remaining sections had to be painstakingly "dissected". Mercene Karkadoulis and her daughter Kathy Axiotes, experts in the field of monument restoration, were on site to supervise the disassembling and handling of the 113 years old monument. Also, present were members from Carlin Camp No. 25. Camp Commander Paul Washeleski, Senior Vice Commander Gary Parrott, Secretary Brian Worcester and Treasure Jeffrey Vaillant who monitored and recorded this historic event.

Fortunately, Mercene and her crew of experts came well prepared. This crew included members from the Connolly Crane Service, Industrial Logistics Services and H & H Productions (all of Carson City, Nevada). Also, providing assistance was the Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation. By 2:00 PM, all work had been completed and the GAR Civil War Monument (albeit in sections) was on its way to Cincinnati, Ohio.

At the foundry, the restoration process included a cleaning process, application of a protective chemical coating, a new stainless steel interior to support the weight of the statue and complete repairs to all cracks, chips and other types of deterioration.

During the morning of November 10, 2004, members of Carlin Camp 25 eagerly awaited the arrival of the truck transporting the 113 year old Grand Army of the Republic Civil War monument, back to Carson City, Nevada. After a four month long refurbishing and restoration procedure the monument was ready to return to "sentry duty" at the Civil War Veteran's section of the Lone Mountain Cemetery. A score of spectators were present (cemetery personnel, media, etc) which included Commander Paul Washeleski, Senior Vice Commander Gary Parrott, Secretary Brian Worcester, and Treasurer Jeffrey Vaillant.

Shortly after 11:00 AM, the first of the crew and equipment, to reassemble the monument, began to arrive at the cemetery. At approximately 12:30 PM the truck carrying the sections of the 17 foot tall monument arrived. Mercene Karkadoulis and Kathy Axiotes, also made the trip to personally oversee the re-assembly of the monument and to be present during the re-dedication ceremony on Veteran's Day. Two "time capsules" were placed inside the monument, one from Carlin Camp 25 and one from Carson City. The Carlin Camp 25 "time capsule" contained a current membership roster of the Camp, newspaper articles about the restoration process, photographs, various 2004 coins, and other items of interest. The reassembly process went without a hitch and all was completed by 3:30 PM. The monument was then covered with a large blue tarp (to be removed during the re-dedication ceremonies scheduled for Veterans Day).



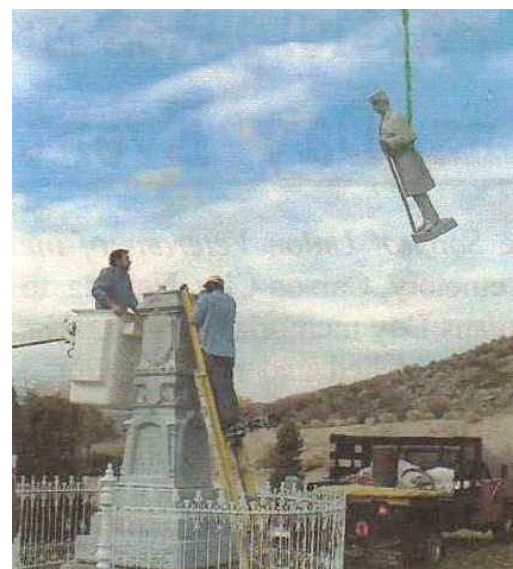
Disassembly beginning on July 19, 2004.



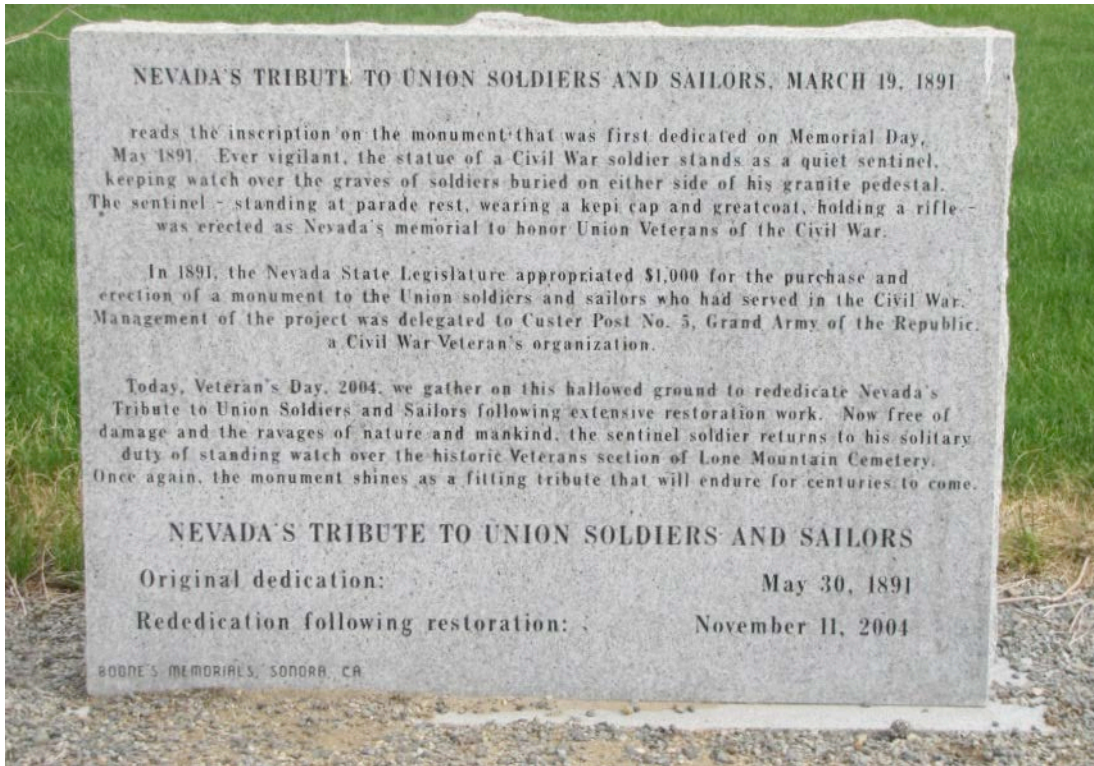
Preparations to ship the monument to Ohio.



Return of the monument on November 10, 2004



Reassembly.



Rededication marker.



Custer Post 5 cemetery plot in the Lone Mountain Cemetery Complex, Carson City, Nevada. View is looking south from the slope of Lone Mountain. The driveway at one time was the northern end of Roop Street. The statue, which faces south, is in the center of the plot.



Nevada's Tribute To Union Soldiers and Sailors, March 19, 1891