

TRUCKEE TOMBSTONE DEDICATION, JUNE 23, 2012

By David A. Davis, PCC, Camp Senior Vice Commander, Historian and Civil War Memorials Officer, Department of California and Pacific Historian

On June 23, 2012, new Government issued tombstones for six previously unmarked Civil War Union veterans' graves were dedicated at the Sierra Mountain Cemetery in Truckee, California. Local historian and archivist for the Truckee Cemetery District, Chaun Mortier and others of the Truckee Donner Historical Society did the research and decided on a dedication. General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25 was asked if their members would put on a dedication ceremony for the Cemetery District, and Commander John A. Riggs suggested using a program adapted from the 1917 Service for the use of the Grand Army of the Republic for a Union Civil War veteran. They agreed that it would be appropriate. Commander Riggs then arranged for the Civil War reenactors to arrange for members to be in full Union Civil War Uniforms to include civilian mourners, Pinkertons, and 21 Gun/Cannon salutes for the dedication. Colonel Harry Ehrman of the Battleborn Civil War Reenactors and Carlin Camp 25 and Carlin Camp 25 Chaplain and Commander of the Sons of Veterans Reserve 3rd U. S. Artillery Wayne Eder did outstanding jobs arranging the event and bringing in other outside groups.

The dedication involved a series of short speeches and some patriotic tunes. Civil War Reenactors marched slowly in bringing a riderless horse, Whisky. Commander Riggs and Chaplain Eder conducted the dedication, which included the laying of a wreath, flowers, and a folded flag. Ray Ahrenholz of the First Nevada Cavalry played "Taps" on his bugle. It should be noted that "Taps" was celebrated that very day on its 150th Anniversary. Reenactors fired canon and musket salutes, and the Fort Point Garrison Civil War Band from San Francisco, California, provided most of the music. Women wearing black Victorian-era mourning garb stood near the dedicated markers and were escorted to nearby seats.

Aside from General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25, the Battleborn Civil War Reenactors, the Sons of Veterans Reserve 3rd U. S. Artillery, the First Nevada Cavalry, and others mentioned above, in alphabetical order, the other participants included the Bryan Devoe and Greg Van Loon; California Congressman Tom McClintock; Easy Sound, Truckee; Mountain Belles; Patriot Guard Riders; Railroad Regulators 601, Truckee; Truckee Civil Air Patrol; Truckee Donner Historical Society; and others. Other than Commander John, Chaplain Wayne, and Harry, other Carlin Camp 25 members present were: Past Camp Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Historian David A. Davis; Graves Registration Officer Don Huffman; and Vincent Vitale.

The following pictures are from dedication album and more can be seen on the Camp Facebook page. The pictures were taken by Truckee Donner Historical Society President Chelsea Walterscheid, Carlin Camp 25 Graves Registration Officer Don Huffman, Suzette Jones Vitale-Eder, and others. Many more pictures are also available on the Carlin Camp 25 Facebook page.



Sierra Mountain Cemetery, Truckee, California



Left to right: Don Huffman, John Riggs, David A. Davis, Wayne Eder, Harry Ehrman, and Ken Auld



Commander John Riggs.



Chaplain Wayne Eder.



Colonel Harry Ehrman.



Mountain Belles



Graveside mourner.



Ray Ahrenholz blowing the bugle.



Whisky the riderless horse.



Commander Riggs placing the folded flag.



Fort Point Garrison Civil War Band



Marching in of the troops.



Cannon salute.

Truckee Cemetery District

P.O. Box 2803

Truckee, California 96160

(530) 587-6553

July 10, 2012

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
John Riggs, Commander Camp 25
1140 Monitor Dr.
Reno, NV 89512-3100

Dear Sir:

The Board of Trustees of the Truckee Cemetery Board would like to express our deepest thanks for your participation in the Civil War Grave Dedication Ceremony at the Sierra Mountains Cemetery on June 23, 2012.

We were very grateful and proud to be able to create such a meaningful and touching tribute to our Civil War Veterans in our beautiful Cemetery, and your time, support, dedication, and hard work were an intergral part of that day.

With Heartfelt Thanks,



Anne DeVoe, Chairman
Truckee Cemetery Board of Trustees