

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 27, 2013

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

Commander John A. Riggs, Senior Vice Commander and Historian David A. Davis, PCC, Junior Vice Commander Frank Wood, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester, and Bugler Ray Ahrenholz participated in the 9 am service at the G.A.R. General O.M. Mitchel Post 69 cemetery at Hillside, which was very well attended. The service is held annually under the auspices of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion and their affiliated organizations with help from the Boy Scouts. The present-day service has its roots in the Memorial Day parade and service held at this cemetery by the Mitchel Post 69 until the death of its last member George Warren in 1936 and the restart of Memorial Day services at this cemetery by the DUVCW Johanna Shine Tent 82 and SUVCW Isaac Crist Camp 28 in the 1960s.

At 2 pm, Commander John A. Riggs, Senior Vice Commander and Historian David A. Davis, PCC, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester, Chaplain Wayne Eder, and Bugler Ray Ahrenholz representing Camp 25 and Battery A, Third U.S. Artillery, S.V.R. held a service at the Silver Terrace Cemetery in Virginia City. Few people showed up due to the weather being very windy and cloudy with intermittent showers. Reporters from Channels 2 and 4 and the Reno Gazette-Journal came for the service and interviewed us after the service. Although Virginia City had the G.A.R. Phil Kearney Posts 8, 10, and 23, the graves of the 70+ Union veterans are scattered throughout the various Comstock cemeteries indicating the Phil Kearney Posts had no G.A.R. specific plots. A wreath was laid at the grave of Capt. Frederick Lord in the Masonic section of Silver Terrace, and "Taps" was played. Capt. Lord was chosen as a proxy for all the Union veterans and for the veterans in general largely because of his nice, centrally located tombstone and impressive obituary.

During the Civil War, Capt. Frederick C. Lord served in Co. D, 1st Connecticut Inf., (for which he later received the Connecticut state medal for honorable service), Cos. D and E, 2nd New York Cav., Co. L, 13th New York Cav., and Co. I, 3rd New York Provisional Cav. He enlisted as a private, moved up through the ranks, and was eventually commissioned as a captain. He was shot in the right hand and had a bout with "debilitis". He came to Virginia City in 1866 and served as Colonel of the militia regiment, was commander of Battery A of the Nevada National Guard in Virginia City for five years, and was on the rifle team. He was a member and officer of the G. A.R. Phil Kearney Post No. 23 and the Loyal Legion. During the Spanish-American War, he helped organize and served as captain of a cavalry company in the 1st Nevada and then served as captain of a new infantry company. Afterwards, he served as paymaster of the U.S. Volunteers and then the U.S. Army in 1898 and 1899. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1910.

The event was covered by Ashley Cullins of Channel 4 News and by a reporter for the Reno Gazette-Journal.



Service at the cemetery gate. L-R: Ray Ahrenholz, Wayne Eder, John Riggs, Brian Worcester, David A. Davis.



Flags.



Graveside service.



Tombstone of Capt. F. C. Lord

[Above pictures (c) John Riggs]