

CARLIN CAMP 25 REPORT

Camp Activities for March 2010 to March 2011
By John Riggs Camp Commander

STATISTICS

MEMBERSHIP

We presently have 11 members, and meeting attendance has ranged between 4 and 7. Over the past year, we had one member drop out.

EAGLE SCOUTS

Because of a lack of manpower and especially funds, we do not have an active Eagle Scout program. However, we will send out certificates if contacted. Also, Al Peterson of Keith Camp 12 in Las Vegas has been sending certificates to Eagle Scouts in all parts of Nevada.

VETERANS DOCUMENTED

In 2010, we sent in the forms to the Veterans Administration to get replacements for the two damaged grave markers. One is at the GAR Custer Post 5 plot at the Lone Mountain Cemetery in Carson City, and the other is in main part of Lone Mountain.

Our Graves Registration Officer Don Huffman spent approximately 150 hrs doing research for verification and entry of information. He updated 5 grave sites on the Graves Registration Database, which included the removal of three individuals who had been entered erroneously or more than once and the addition of information to two other listings. Don completed and listed three individuals that were previously unknown. He tries to go over the list of veterans within the Camp 25 boundaries at least once per year. He has a list of 50+ veterans who cannot be verified for service for one reason or another, but he continues researching them. Don has also notified three other Camps of veterans in their jurisdiction. One of the more interesting additions, though the veteran was not in the Camp 25 boundaries, was Dr. John Stith Pemberton. He was a Confederate Lieutenant, who became a pharmacist. He was wounded during the Civil War and developed an addiction to morphine. He experimented with various concoctions to fight the addiction resulting in the development of the formula for Coca-Cola.

PUBLICITY

MEDIA

Since it is free through the internet, we have been advertising our meetings through several area newspapers. We have also been advertising our functions through the area newspapers and television websites.

CARSON CITY RENDEZVOUS

June 11, 12, and 13, Carson City held its annual Rendezvous at Mills Park. This included living history, 1840s mountain men, Civil War reenactors, gunfighters, sutlers, stage coach rides, and assorted vendors. The Comstock Civil War Reenactors agreed to our participation. Historian/Memorials Officer David A. Davis, PCC, assembled a tent similar in design to those

during the Civil War from a tent fly, 2x2's, painter's canvas for the Camp displays. Commander Frank Wood, Senior Vice Commander John Riggs, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester, and Past Camp Commander and Historian/Memorials Officer David A. Davis, PCC, and member Tyrone Davis manned the tent together and in shifts.

WILD WEST

August 25 through 29, Carlin Camp 25 had a booth as an exhibitor at the Nevada Territory Wild West Fair, a. k. a. State Fair in the past, at the Reno Livestock Center. The Fair ran Wednesday, August 25 through Sunday, August 29. Our booth was inside the Livestock Events Center next to the one for the Nevada Volunteer Cavalry, which is a living history group. We had a considerably larger number of people come by than at the Carson City Rendezvous, and we handed out probably over 100 flyers and at least a half dozen membership forms. However, we have yet to hear from anyone following through with the information passed out. Several people were from California, so we may have actually helped their membership there.

Camp Historian David A. Davis, PCC, helped the Comstock Civil War Reenactors during the Wild West Fair by doing Union artillery duty. They have a nice replica of a breech-loading Whitworth 3-pounder fashioned from a World War I ship's gun. Member Tyrone W. Davis also helped by filling out the Union infantry ranks.

NEVADA DAY

Senior Vice Commander John Riggs, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester, and Historian/Memorials Officer David A. Davis, PCC, represented Camp 25 in the Nevada Day parade in Carson City on October 30. We used Brian's SUV and flew a 36-star U. S., Nevada State, and Camp flags from a the Camp Hitch-Haul-cum-flag holder from the back.. We were well received by the crowd.

MEMORIAL AND VETERANS DAYS ACTIVITIES

MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day, Commander Frank Wood, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester, and Historian/Memorials Officer David A. Davis, PCC, and member Tyrone Davis attended the 9:00 am service hosted by the VFW and American Legion at the O. M. Mitchel Post 69 Cemetery at Hillside. David read a brief history of that cemetery.

At 1:00 pm, Carson City held its service at the veterans' section of Lone Mountain Cemetery. It lasted a little less than an hour. Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester spoke about General Order 11 establishing Memorial Day, and Historian/Memorials Officer David A. Davis, PCC, read the Gettysburg Address. After the main service, we laid a wreath at the statue at the Custer Post 5 Cemetery plot.

VETERANS DAY

At 11 am, Senior Vice Commander John Riggs, Historian/Memorials Officer David A. Davis, PCC, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester, and member Tyrone Davis represented Camp 25 in the Veterans Day parade in Reno. We put the magnetic Camp signs on the sides of Brian's SUV and displayed the 36-star U. S., Nevada, and Camp flags from the back. Six members of the Comstock Civil War Reenactors provided us with a color guard. Also, another of their members provided us with period bunting for the SUV and walked along in period costume.

Commander Frank Wood assembled with us, but then rode with the VFW as past commander of their Post 9211.

In the afternoon, Vice Commander John Riggs, Historian/Memorials Officer David A. Davis, PCC, and member Tyrone Davis laid a wreath at the Custer Post 5 plot and Civil War monument.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

NORTHERN NEVADA MENTAL SERVICES CEMETERY MONUMENT DEDICATION

On Friday, January 21, 2011, the Northern Nevada Mental Health Services held the dedication of a monument to the 700+ people buried in the main cemetery on the institution's grounds along 21st Street in Sparks, Nevada. The cemetery had been in use from 1882 to 1947, and a smaller cemetery on another part of the grounds was used from 1947 to 1949. While the cemetery was maintained through the early years, it fell into neglect and vandalized after the turn of the 20th century. By the 21st century, it had been all but forgotten, and was in danger of being built over. Through the efforts of the Friends of the Northern Nevada Mental Health Services Cemetery, the cemetery has been fenced, remains removed from the small cemetery to the large one, a city park removed from the northern third of the large cemetery, and a monument containing the names of those interred was dedicated. At least four men buried there were veterans of the Civil War and Spanish-American War. Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester was one of the speakers and spoke on the origin of "Taps".

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT IN ELKO CEMETERY

The Medal of Honor Society contacted Senior Vice Commander John Riggs about a man named Harry Reynolds reportedly buried in the Elko City Cemetery who received the Medal of Honor but died in 1930 without knowing it. The scant information they sent said he was in the Civil War and Indian Wars, but he turned 18 a few months after the Civil War was over. The Nona Parkin collection (a collection of Nevada cemetery censuses and vital statistics) at the Reno Family History Center had him on Elko Cemetery list and we found his obituary. We sent copies of this research to the Medal of Honor Society, which is working towards getting Reynolds a Medal of Honor marker.

The Medal of Honor Society also indexed the records we sent them on Reynolds and on James C. Reid (mentioned in last year's report for receiving the Medal of Honor for action in Nevada) and burned them to a CD for us.

PARADISE VALLEY TRIP

As noted in last year's report, Private James C. Reid/Reed received the Medal of Honor when his scout group consisting of a 2nd Lieutenant, a sergeant, 4 privates, and a civilian was ambushed by Chief Howluck and 17 warriors in Deep Canyon of the Santa Rosa Range about 50 miles north of Winnemucca. Three in the scout group were killed, and Private Reid held off the Indians after the ambush during a running battle while getting the wounded to a cave. We tentatively identified the canyon where the skirmish occurred. On June 6, Senior Vice Commander John Riggs, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Worcester and a friend, Historian/Memorials Officer David A. Davis, and member Tyrone Davis attempted to find the site, but the road was blocked by a stream that was running high and fast from the Spring run-off.

Our group visited the cemetery there and met with the local historian Lynn Melody, who is descended from Private Thomas F. Melody of Co. D, 146th Illinois Infantry buried there. Lynn told us of the location of the ranch that had been old Fort Winfield Scott, the fort where Private Reid was stationed. We went there and met with the owner and his wife, David and Katie Kern. They talked to us about the ranch and fort and let us take pictures. They use one of the old officer's quarters for their house. The buildings were made of adobe bricks and are in various states of decay. They gave us some cartridges that wash up from the soil and let us have an adobe brick. They showed us a horse bit with brass U. S. plates on the side. We were also shown a picture of a round "bomb" found on the ranch by use of a metal detector. It may be either some type of explosive cannon ball or a grenade.

Submitted March 12, 2011:

John Riggs
Camp Commander
General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War