



Sheridan's Dispatch

General Philip H. Sheridan Camp No. 4
Department of California & Pacific, SUVCW

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Dan Bunnell
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From the Editor:

Welcome to the resurrected *Sheridan's Dispatch*!

At the January 29th camp meeting, I was elected Senior Vice Commander, succeeding Brother Don Pray who resigned the position. After reviewing the job description on the National SUVCW web site, I learned that one of my responsibilities is the publication of the camp newsletter. I accept this honor and shall strive to make our newsletter a vital and informative part of our camp. But I can only do this with your help! To make this publication a living part of our organization, I need input from each and every one of you! At the very least, I would like every Brother reading this to send me some information on your Civil War ancestor(s). This information will be published herein and will be a great way to honor our "Boys in Blue". Of course, any other articles, trivia, updates, etc. will be greatly appreciated and will make my job a lot easier.

The name *Sheridan's Dispatch* was originally suggested by our late Brother Don Cheney, and it is in his honor that this name was selected.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Brother Chuck Davis of Gen. George Wright Camp No. 22, Elk Grove, CA. Even with all of his duties as our Department Secretary-Treasurer and Camp Commander of Camp No. 22, Brother Davis continued to publish our interim newsletter, the *Reveille*. Brother Davis did a fantastic job keeping the members of this camp informed and motivating members to "step up" to the task at hand. He has truly demonstrated our core principles of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty! A big "thank you" is extended to Brother Davis!

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Biography of General Sheridan, our camp's namesake

Philip Henry Sheridan was born on 6 March 1831 at Albany, NY, the son of John and Mary (Meenagh) Sheridan. His parents were Irish immigrants and, during his boyhood, were among the Catholic pioneers who moved to Somerset, OH. There his father worked at turnpike construction while young Sheridan received a basic education in the local schools.

Sheridan entered the U.S. Military Academy in 1848 and graduated in 1853, thirty-fourth of fifty-two cadets. He received the rank of brevet second lieutenant of infantry. He was sent to Texas in 1854 and to Oregon in 1855, serving with much credit in both areas settling difficulties with the Indians.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he was made Chief Quartermaster under General Halleck, and in May 1862, was commissioned colonel of the Second Michigan Volunteer Cavalry. Rapid promotion followed, that of Brigadier General in July, and the command of a division of the Army of the Ohio in September.

During operations in the Southwest over the following two years, he greatly distinguished

himself. Appointed commander of all the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac in April 1864, he was thereafter a chief reliance of General Grant in his operations in Virginia against Lee.

During a brief absence of Sheridan in Washington, General Early attacked the Union Army near Cedar Creek, 19 October 1864, and was at first victorious. Sheridan rode at full speed from Winchester and arrived during the retreat. He rallied his men and converted the disaster into a complete victory. General Grant, writing of this feat, said: "Turning what bid fair to be a disaster into a glorious victory, stamps Sheridan what I have always thought him, one of the ablest of generals".

In November 1864, his commission of Major General in the regular army was awarded him. His raids during the early part of 1865, to destroy the railroads and the other avenues of supply to Lee's army, contributed much to the final surrender of the Confederate Army at Appomattox in April.

After the war, Sheridan was at first appointed to command the Fifth Military District (Texas and Louisiana), then the Military District of the Missouri, and finally, in 1869, he was promoted to Lieutenant General in command of the Military Division of the Missouri.

In 1870-1, during the Franco-Prussian War,



Sheridan visited Europe, where he was received with distinguished consideration at the headquarters of the German army, and was present at several important battles of the campaign.

On 3 June 1875 he married Irene Rucker, daughter of General Daniel H. Rucker.

Sheridan succeeded General Sherman as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in 1883, and on 1 June 1888, shortly before his death, he was confirmed as General of the Army. General Sheridan died at Nonquitt, MA, 5 August 1888, aged fifty-seven years.

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Civil War Trivia Quiz #1 - Answers (from page 4):

1. General Ambrose E. Burnside was noted for his style of muttonchop whiskers, which became known as "sideburns" in his honor.
2. 5' 8 1/2"
3. Winchester, Virginia, held this distinction by changing hands 52 times during the war.
4. Under an act of Congress the motto "In God We Trust" was first stamped on U.S. coins.
5. Two 11-inch smoothbore Dahlgrens.

SOURCE: Civil War Quiz and Fact Book, by Rod Gragg, Harper & Row Publishers, NY, 1985.

NEW MEMBER!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest and probably youngest member, William C. Coye. Brother William is seventeen years old and lives in San Jose, CA. He shares the same name as his great-great-great-grandfather, William Coye, who served in Battery A, Massachusetts Light Artillery. Please feel free to drop Brother William e-mail at: raven485@hotmail.com.

CAMP NEWS

Elections for Camp Officers were held at the January 29th meeting:

Dan Bunnell, re-elected Camp Commander
Tad Campbell, elected Senior Vice Commander; re-appointed Signals Officer
Bob Kadlec, elected Junior Vice Commander
Dave Schleeter, re-elected Patriotic Instructor
Don Pray and Tad Campbell elected to Camp Council

The next camp meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2000. This will be just before the GAR Cemetery Plot Project and the Department Encampment.

The clean up and assessment of the GAR Plot at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San Jose, CA will be on Sunday, April 2, 2000. This is in conjunction with the National Guard. There is a planned meeting between the National Guard and Camp Commander Bunnell in a few weeks, after which more details will be available. The cemetery is located at 300 Curtner Avenue with a cross street of Monterey Road. There are about 417 graves in the GAR section. What a great way to honor the boys of the Grand Old Army by making sure that their final resting places are looked after!

The Department of California and Pacific's 114th Annual Encampment will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2000 in San Luis Obispo, CA. It's a great opportunity to meet others from the Department and represent our camp! Please plan to attend!

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Reminder: Our camp now has a web site and an e-mail list!

Our web site address is: <http://home.inreach.com/tadcamp/sucvw.html>

To be added to the e-mail list, simply visit our camp's web site and go to the bottom of the page where you will find a place to type in your e-mail address. To send e-mail to everyone on the list, just address your e-mail to [**sheridan4@listbot.com**](mailto:sheridan4@listbot.com)

It's that simple!

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ #1

1. What Union general left his name to posterity as the label for a certain style of whiskers?
2. What was the average height of a Union soldier in the Civil War?
3. What American town was occupied by Union and Confederate more than any other locale during the war?
4. What American tradition was established by the U.S. government on Friday, April 22, 1864?
5. What kind of guns were mounted on the Union ironclad *Monitor*?

(answers on page 3)