

Sheridan's Dispatch

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

Volume 1, Issue 2

March-April 2000

Camp Officers

Commander:

Dan Bunnell
dbunnell@pacbell.net

Sr. Vice Commander:

Tad D. Campbell
tadcamp@inreach.com

Jr. Vice Commander:

Bob Kadlec
bobkvp@aol.com

Chaplain:

Clark Seum

Patriotic Instructor:

Dave Schleeter
mustang@peopleweb.com

Signals Officer & Newsletter Editor:

Tad D. Campbell
tadcamp@inreach.com

Camp Council:

Dan Bunnell
Tad D. Campbell
Don Pray

Camp Web Site Address

<http://home.inreach.com/tadcamp/suvcw.html>

Camp E-Mailing List

Sheridan4@listbot.com

Newsletter correspondence:

8987 Church Street
Gilroy CA 95020-7257

All other camp correspondence:

P.O. Box 1864
Elk Grove, CA 95759

Department Encampment Held in San Luis Obispo



Phil Sheridan Camp with SVCinC Edward J. Krieser

L-R: JVC Bob Kadlec, Dan Earl, Commander Dan Bunnell, Chaplain Clark Seum, Bill Stewart, Patriotic Instructor Dave Schleeter, SVC Tad Campbell, SVCinC Ed Krieser

The annual encampment of the Department of California & Pacific took place at the Elks Lodge in San Luis Obispo, CA on 8 April 2000 and was a big success! The event was attended by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Edward J. Krieser and our camp was well represented by the Brothers pictured above (Don Pray not shown).

There was an informal meeting the night before for those that arrived early enough. This proved to be a good opportunity to get to know those from other parts of the Department.

On Saturday the formal meeting was held, and after the introductions, each camp gave its annual report on their activities. Many camps have been quite busy with GAR and graves registration projects. A new camp was added to the Department, namely the Lincoln Camp #10 of the Monterey Bay area, commanded by Bob Nelson of Santa Cruz.

It was reported that our Department has 308 members, five of them being life members. This does not include the hopefully soon to be added Camp #12.

Department Secretary/Treasurer Chuck Davis advised that there is \$1750.05 in the Department Treasury.

The members present passed a motion that the Department fund the cost of the Past Department Commander Badges for all outgoing Department Commanders, beginning with Gene Armistead.

Also passed was a resolution, sponsored by our camp, that all life members be exempt from the Department per capita tax.

The issue of flying the Confederate battle flag over the statehouse in Columbia, SC came up due to the fact that there will be a motion at the National Encampment to alter or repeal the resolution passed in 1996 in support of the same. Our Department narrowly passed a resolution supporting the current General Order No. 4, the split being only one vote difference.

The following Department elections and appointments were made: Commander Bob Lowe (El Cajon); SVC Brad Schall (Castro Valley); JVC Linn Hoadley (Los Angeles); Council Jim Spencer (Cazadero), Mike Schooling (San Diego), and Jim Churchyard (Fallbrook); Secretary/Treasurer Chuck Davis (Elk Grove); Chaplain Rev. Mark Woolfington (Tustin); Patriotic Instructor Roger Knox (Santa Barbara); Guide Charles "Corky" Reed (San Francisco); Graves Registration Officer Chuck Davis (Elk Grove); Color Bearer Dave Allyn; Civil War Memorials Officer Gene Armistead (Escondido); GAR Highway Officer Michael Moore (Apple Valley); Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator Charles Christian (Santa Rosa); Historian Bob Nelson (Santa Cruz); and Guard Dan Bunnell (San Jose).

Dan Bunnell, Bob Kadlec, Bob Lowe, and Brad Schall were elected as Department Delegates to the 119th Annual National Encampment, to be held at Lansing, MI August 17 through August 20, 2000.

After the business portion of the meeting, a program entitled "Military Records in the National Archives" was presented by Brother Bill Doty, an archivist at the National Archives Branch at Laguna Niguel, CA.

The members, Auxiliary and guests then moved to an adjacent room for a buffet-style lunch. After a speech by SVCinC Krieser, he swore in the newly elected and appointed officers. The Auxiliary also held a raffle for a beautiful needlework blanket to raise money.

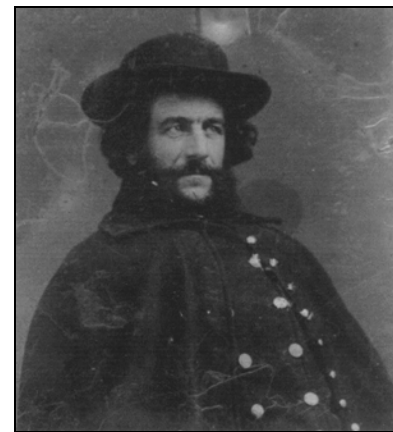
The Encampment was duly closed by Commander Bob Lowe and everyone then proceeded to the GAR plot across the street for a brief memorial service. Wreaths were laid before the large cannon known as "Big Bill" and remarks were made by SVCinC Krieser and Commander Lowe.

The date and location of the next Department Encampment have been left up to the discretion of Dept. SVC Brad Shall.

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My Civil War Ancestor

Submitted by William T. Doyle
Bella Vista, California



Captain William Williams

As a young man, William Williams served as a volunteer in the Mexican-American War.

During the latter part of June 1863, units of the Confederate Army were approaching Pennsylvania, headed towards Gettysburg. Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania issued a proclamation calling for sixty thousand men to be mustered into service for ninety days.

On 3 July 1863, in answer to that call, William Williams volunteered his services to the U.S. Army at Pittsburgh, PA. He was appointed to the rank of Captain, Company A, 1st Battalion,

Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry (Six Month Service). It should be noted that the Battle of Gettysburg was being waged on the day Williams enlisted.

Captain Williams' unit, also known as Dale's Cavalry Battalion, because it was under the command of Lt. Col. Richard Dale, was assigned to guard the Pennsylvania border and was stationed at Camp Howe in Fayette County.

About the first of November 1863, while in command of a squad of scouts in search of deserters, Captain Williams was fording the Yohoghany River at Broad Ford Crossing, south of Uniontown, PA. The horse he was riding stumbled and fell with him, throwing Williams into the river. He returned to camp, a distance of some twelve or thirteen miles, and owing to his wet condition he took a severe cold. Williams received a twenty-day leave of absence to recover.

At Pittsburgh on 29 Dec. 1863, Captain Williams was mustered out with the rest of his unit due to the expiration of their term of service.

At some later date, William Williams again volunteered for service with the Union Army. From extant letters, it is known that on 2 Aug. 1864 he was attached to the Upper Military Division of the Mississippi, A.Q.M. Department, where his title was General Superintendent of Corrals and Transportation. He held the position as late as 11 Aug 1864. Because of his previous service, perhaps he was assigned to the Veteran Reserve Corps, or might have served with the Army in some civilian capacity.

Later in life, Captain Williams became totally blind as a result of his exposure to the cold when he was thrown from his horse.

He was described as being 5' 11¹/₂" tall, weighing 200 pounds, with blue eyes and a dark complexion. He was granted a pension by the U.S. Government for his service and died on 18 Jan. 1884.

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All Brothers are encouraged to submit information about their Civil War ancestor for publication in the *Dispatch*!

CAMP NEWS

The next camp meeting will be Saturday, May 20, 2000 at 10:00 AM at the home of Camp Commander Dan Bunnell. This is the weekend before Memorial Day weekend and we will be coordinating plans for the Memorial Day observance. We will also be reporting on the GAR Plot Clean-up Day.

The date for the clean up and assessment of the GAR Plot at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San Jose, CA has been changed to Sunday, May 7, 2000. Plans are being made for the participation of the National Guard, Boy and Girl Scouts, local politicians, and a Civil War band! The program will begin at 10:00 AM. The cemetery is located at 300 Curtner Avenue at Monterey Road. Members of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) are encouraged to come in uniform. This will be a great opportunity to make the community more aware of our organization and to perpetuate the memory of our Boys in Blue! Please be there!

The 119th National Encampment is to be held at Lansing, MI on Thursday, August 17th through Sunday, August 20th. The will also be the occasion of the 114th Encampment of the Auxiliary to the Sons and the 113th Encampment of the Ladies of the GAR. Our own Camp Commander Dan Bunnell and Junior Vice Commander Bob Kadlec, along with Department Commander Bob Lowe and Department Senior Vice Commander have been elected as delegates to represent our Department at the Encampment. All Brothers are invited to attend! Look for more information in *The Banner*.

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Civil War Trivia Quiz #2 - Answers (from page 6):

1. Christopher "Kit" Carson, who would become famous as an Indian fighter, was a colonel of U.S. Volunteers in the New Mexico and Arizona campaign of 1861-62, in which he was brevetted brigadier general for his actions in the Battle of Valverde, New Mexico, on February 21, 1862.
2. They were all notorious Washington, D.C. bordellos operating during the war.
3. The nicknames belonged to General George Armstrong Custer.
4. The horsemen of the 6th Pennsylvania, who carried lances early in the war, were best known as Rush's Lancers.
5. Union troops jokingly coined this name to refer to diarrhea — the most common ailment in the Civil War army.

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

SURGEON RAT. —

We have heard and read a great many stories about the rat; but in all our experience, we never before had one brought before us in the character of a surgeon. At one of our large hospitals, an operation was successfully performed upon an invalid soldier, by a common rat; which the surgeon in charge had himself delayed for a time, with the hope of causing less suffering to the patient. This patient was suffering from the effects of a fracture of the frontal bone of the skull, a piece of which projected outwards to some length; and the healing of the fleshy parts depended upon its removal. The bone was so firmly fixed, however, as, in the opinion of the surgeon, would cause unnecessary pain in its forcible removal; and such remedies were applied as would assist nature in eventually ejecting it. A soothing poultice was placed upon the part a night or two ago, a hole being made through the

application for the insertion of the projecting bone. The patient was soon asleep in his bed, but during the night was aroused by the sting of pain, and awoke, to discover a rat making off with the piece of bone in his mouth. He struck at and hit the rat, but did not hurt him. The rat had probably been drawn to the bed of the soldier by the scent of the poultice, which was pleasant to his olfactories; but on reaching it, his keen appetite, no doubt, caused him to relish, in a large degree, the juicy bone so convenient to his teeth. He, therefore, seized, and drew it from its position, and was made to scamper off by the patient, whom he had aroused with pain. It was a skillful operation, quickly performed, and will result beneficially to the invalid. — *Petersburg Express*

SOURCE: *The Civil War in Song and Story*, by Frank Moore, P.F. Collier Publisher, New York, 1889, p 153.

NEW MEMBERS!

With this issue we welcome two new members to our camp, Daniel R. Earl of Gilroy, CA, and Daniel Renfroe of Los Gatos, CA. Welcome Brothers!

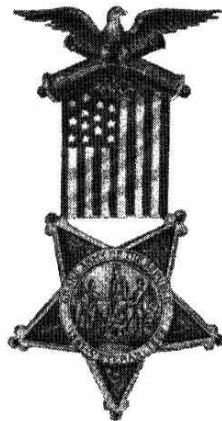
Do you know of a friend or relative that might be interested in joining the SUVCW? Send them an application, or put them in touch with JVC Bob Kadlec. Recruitment is the key to success! With your help our camp will continue to grow!

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Civil War Veteran Burial Plot Conservation Program

Join Us For The
Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Ceremony

- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
- South Bay Civil War Round Table
- Union & Confederate Civil War Reenactors
- California Army National Guard



GAR Membership Badge

Keynote address by Major General Paul
Monroe, Adjutant General of the
California Army National Guard



Noon Sunday
May 7, 2000



GAR Civil War Burial Plot
Oak Hill Memorial Park
300 Curtner Avenue at Monterey Road, San Jose, California
(408) 297-2447

GAR Burial Plot Conservation Begins at 10 AM



Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4
8987 Church Street
Gilroy, CA 95020-7257
(newsletter correspondence only)

Phone: (408) 842-7368
E-mail: tadcamp@inreach.com
E-mail list: sheridan4@listbot.com

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ #2

1. In what battle was the famous frontiersman "Kit" Carson cited for bravery?
2. What were the Ironclad, Fort Sumter, Headquarters U.S.A. and the Blue Goose?
3. What Federal general was nicknamed "Curly," "Fanny," and "Autie"?
4. By what name was the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry best known?
5. What was "Virginia Quickstep"?

(answers on page 4)