



# Sheridan's Dispatch

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

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## FROM THE EDITOR:

Thank you to the following Brothers who returned the informational postcard from the last issue of the *Dispatch*: Crittenden Bell, Duane Benell, Tad Campbell, John Chassels, Glenn Chrisman, Walter Dix, William Doyle, George Flannery, Roland Fletcher, Harold Green, Zane

Jacobs, Robert Kadlec, Roger Knox, Homan Leech, E. Riggs Monfort III, Steve Pelikan, Donald Pray, Paul Pribus, Daniel Renfro, David Schleeter, family of Thomas I. J. Snead, William Stewart, and Daniel Wyatt.

Unfortunately, not everyone received a postcard because several fell out of the newsletter and returned to me blank. With this issue I am sending another postcard to everyone who has not yet responded. Please take the time to complete the card and drop it in the mail. Thanks for your cooperation!

## Brother Snead Passes Away

We have only recently been informed of the death of Camp Brother Thomas I. J. Snead which occurred Jan. 10, 2000 in Santa Maria, California, three days after his 92nd birthday. He was born in San Francisco on Jan. 7, 1908.

Brother Snead's maternal grandfather was John Pier Simons who served in Co. H, 4th Wisconsin Infantry (later mounted as Cavalry), also known as the Oconto River Drivers. Simons enlisted on Aug. 27, 1864 and was mustered out on June 13, 1865.

The Camp wishes to express our sincere, although delayed, condolences to Brother Snead's family.

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## My Civil War Ancestor

*Submitted by E. Riggs Monfort III  
Sunnyvale, California*

Elias Riggs Monfort was born March 2, 1842 at Greensburg, IN, son of Joseph Glass Monfort, D.D., LL.D. and Hannah Conger Riggs. When he was thirteen years old the family moved to Cincinnati, OH. He attended Hanover College in Indiana before his studies were interrupted by the war.

He enlisted June 18, 1861 as a private in Co. A, 6th Ohio Infantry. On October 5, 1861 he was promoted to Second Lieutenant and transferred to Co. F, 75th Ohio Infantry. He was then commissioned First Lieutenant of this company on May 15, 1862 and Captain of the same on January 12, 1863. He participated in twenty engagements, among which were the following: Phillipi, Laurel Hill, Carrick's Ford, Monterey, Shaw's Ridge, McDowell, Franklin, Strausburg, Cross Keys, Cedar Mountain, Freeman's Ford, Waterloo Bridge, Sulphur Springs, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. In the last battle he was dangerously wounded, July 2, 1863, which made it necessary for him to submit to repeated surgical operations, the last in June 1911. He was discharged on account of his wounds in January 1864.

After the war he continued his studies at Hanover College, going about on crutches, and graduated in 1865. Then, having decided upon a legal career, he entered the Cincinnati Law School, from which he graduated and was admitted to the bar. He began practice at Greensburg, IN. He continued for eight years until failing health forced him to retire from the legal profession. He became prosecuting attorney of the Fourth Judicial Circuit District of Indiana (two years), then became district attorney of the Twenty-Second District of Indiana (two years). Returning to Cincinnati to make his home, he later entered the service of *The Herald and Presbyter*, of which he rose to the position of editor in 1875 and continued as such for twenty years.

In 1896 Mr. Monfort was elected clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton Co., OH and served one term. He was selected in 1899 by President McKinley to fill the responsible position of postmaster of the city of Cincinnati. He held this position for sixteen years, resigning January 1, 1915. He was a life member of the National Association of the Postmasters of the First Class and of the Ohio State Historical Society.

Mr. Monfort became half owner of *The Herald and Presbyter* and was president of the Mamolyth Paint Company until 1914. At one time he was a director and trustee of fourteen different organizations. He was a loyal supporter of the Republican party and, fraternally, he was a thirty-second degree Mason, and a Knight Templar.



He was Commander of Jones Post No. 401 GAR in 1890, Commander of the Department of Ohio in 1900, Commander of the Loyal Legion in 1906, and in 1915 he was elected Commander-in-

Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) at the National Encampment at Washington, DC, having refused the position three times on account of obligation to public service. Mr. Monfort attended nearly all of the Ohio State encampment and was twenty-eight times a representative in the National Encampment.

Mr. Monfort was married Sept. 6, 1867 to Emma A. Taylor, who passed away October 24, 1914. They had three children, Joseph T., Hannah Louise, and Margaret M. Monfort. Elias Riggs Monfort died in 1920.

SOURCE: G. Frederick Wright, Representative Citizens of Ohio, The Memorial Publishing Co., Cleveland and New York, 1916.

*Please honor your ancestor by submitting a  
biography for the newsletter!*

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## CAMP NEWS

**LAST CAMP MEETING**, which was scheduled for July 29th, was postponed and held on August 5th. The following Brothers were in attendance: Commander Dan Bunnell, SVC Tad Campbell, JVC Bob Kadlec, Treasurer Dan Earl, and Patriotic Instructor Dave Schleeter.

- In addition to serving as Camp Treasurer and Counselor, Br. Dan Earl was elected to serve as Camp Secretary for the remainder of the unfilled term. With this, our Dept. Secretary-Treasurer Charles Davis is relieved of the burden. Thank you Br. Earl for taking on this added work and responsibility!
- Commander Bunnell appointed Br. Tad Campbell as Camp Historian, also an unfilled position.
- The Commander also appointed an ad hoc Committee on By-laws (Dan Earl chairman, Tad Campbell and Don Pray members) and an ad hoc Committee on Budget (Dan Earl chairman, Tad Campbell and Don Pray members).
- The Camp discussed purchasing a Camp flag. Br. Dan Earl is awaiting a response from the Dept. of Ohio regarding this issue.
- Br. Dan Earl passed out copies of selected pages from an 1861 Military Handbook and also discussed progress on the Camp's memorial highway legislation project. A vote on the latter was tabled until the next meeting.
- Br. Tad Campbell discussed the ongoing project of obtaining information on the Oak Hill GAR vets. A descendant, Mary Helen Chrisman of Moss Landing, has given a generous donation of data and pictures for the project. Commander Bunnell signed a letter to be sent to Ms. Chrisman to acknowledge her gift.
- An alternate meeting place was discussed. It is highly recommended by National that meetings not be held at a private residence. Brothers Tad Campbell, Bob Kadlec and Dan Earl did some investigation before and after the meeting and determined that the Coco's Restaurant on Kiely Blvd. in San José would be a good choice. There is a room that can be closed off for privacy and it is easily accessible from Interstate 280.
- **NEXT CAMP MEETING** is scheduled for September 23, 2000 at 10:30 AM at the home of Camp Commander Dan Bunnell, 170 North 15th Street in San José.
- **ELECTION MEETING:** Nominations and elections for Camp Officers will take place at the November meeting, which will at our new meeting locale, Coco's Restaurant, 370 S. Kiely Blvd. (cross street Saratoga Ave.) on November 18, 2000 (time to be announced). If you are interested in running for camp office or being assigned to one of the appointed positions, please let Commander Bunnell or SVC Campbell know before the November meeting. ***This is your chance to take an active part in the camp!***



### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ #4 (answers on page 4)

1. How long did it normally take for the U.S. government to forward the pay of slain soldiers to their next-of-kin?
2. Who was the last surviving Union general, and when did he die?
3. What bloody Virginia battle, fought on June 3, 1864, was named for a nearby tavern which did not serve hot meals?
4. How many U.S. servicemen received the Medal of Honor for acts of bravery in the Civil War?
5. What famous Old West lawman served as a Union scout at the Battle of Pea Ridge?

(answers on page ∞)



## NEW CAMP FORMING!

A new camp is forming within the Department of California & Pacific! The Camp Organizer is Br. Alan Peterson of Las Vegas, Nevada. This camp will be the only camp within the state of Nevada. Brother Peterson is well qualified, having been Commander of the Department of Rhode Island and National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Anyone interested in joining this new camp is encouraged to contact Dept. Commander Bob Lowe or Br. Peterson.

### Civil War Trivia Quiz #4 - Answers (from page 3):

1. Sixteen months.
2. The last surviving Federal general was General Adelbert Ames of Maine, who died in Ormand, Florida, on April 13, 1933, at age 98.
3. Cold Harbor.
4. Approximately 1,200.
5. "Wild Bill" Hickock.

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

### WEB NEWS:

**Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21** of Escondito, CA has followed our lead & has a new web site. Please pay them a visit: <http://www.hometown.aol.com/pittengercamp21>

And while you're on-line, don't forget to visit our own **Phil Sheridan Camp 4** web site at: <http://home.inreach.com/tadcamp/suvcw.html>

✓ **Do you want to be more active in the Camp,  
But feel that you live too far from the camp to take part?**

You can help by participating the National Graves Registration Project!

Nearly every community has a cemetery and within many of them are interred Civil War vets. The goal of this project is to record the final resting place of every last Union veteran. This is indeed a mighty lofty goal and only through the help of Brothers from every corner of the country can we come closer to reaching that goal. Won't you please help with this worthy project? Go to your local cemetery and record information from those veterans' graves and send it in!

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