

Sheridan's Dispatch

*Phil Sheridan Camp 4
Department of California & Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

Volume 3, Issue 2

San José, California

March-April 2002

116th Annual Department Encampment Held

Camp Commander Elected as Department Junior Vice-Commander

The 116th Annual Encampment of the Department of California and Pacific took place at the Grange Hall in San Luis Obispo, California on March 15-16, 2002. This was our most well attended Encampment yet, with nearly sixty people present!

Friday night most Brothers and their guests attended an informal social at the Grange Hall. Dinner and drinks were served buffet style and all enjoyed the camaraderie of the evening. The Encampment started promptly at 9 AM with the posting of the colors by the Color Guard.



MEMBERS OF PHIL SHERIDAN CAMP 4 AT ENCAMPMENT
Clark Seum, Dave Schleeter, Tad Campbell, Dan Bunnell, Dan Earl, Bob Kadlec

We were honored to have our Commander-in-Chief **GEORGE L. POWELL** attending all the way from Philadelphia. He graciously agreed to serve as the Installing Officer for the newly elected Department officers. Other esteemed guests included **JANIECE JELATIS**, Women's Relief Corps National President and **BARRON SMITH**, California Division Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Department Secretary-Treasurer **DANIEL R. EARL** was awarded the Officer of the Year Award for his tireless efforts, and Pleasonton Camp 24 of Castro Valley received the Department Commander's Award for the most

growth. Commander-in-Chief Powell was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his continued support of our Department. Bro. **ROBERT J. KADLEC** received a certificate of appreciation for his excellent work on the Encampment program.

Each Camp had a table displaying G.A.R. and Sons memorabilia and artifacts, Camp scrapbooks, and Camp projects. It was very heartening to see the excellent work being done by our Department on behalf of the Order.

Our speaker this year was **BECKI REDWINE** who is a collateral descendant of Confederate General Stand Waite (1806-1871), a half-blood Cherokee Indian. Ms. Redwine portrayed Mrs. Stand Watie. After lunch, a Department fundraiser was held which gave us a good start toward next year's Encampment.

Commander-in-Chief Powell brought the greetings of the National Organization and reported on some of the issues confronting the National officers, such as the publication of The Banner.

The following Department officers were elected for the 2002-2003 term:

Commander - Brad Schall (Livermore)
Senior Vice-Commander - Linn Hoadley (Los Angeles)
Junior Vice-Commander - Tad D. Campbell (Gilroy)
Secretary-Treasurer - Daniel R. Earl (Gilroy)

Department Council

Rudy Velasco (Cathedral City)
 Dave Allyn (Lakeside)
 James N. Churchyard (Fallbrook)

Patriotic Instructor - Jerry Sayre (Fallbrook)
Chaplain - Rev. Mark D. Woolfington (Tustin)
Historian - Robert L. Nelson (Santa Cruz)
Counselor - Daniel R. Earl (Gilroy)
Guide - Robert J. Kadlec (San José)
Color Bearer - Charles "Corky" Reed (San Francisco)
Guard - David C. Schleeter (Pacifica)
Graves Registration Officer - John Patchin (Los Molinos)
Civil War Memorials Officer - Kirby R. Morgan (Coarsegold)
Signals Officer - Tad D. Campbell (Gilroy)
GAR Highway Officer - Brian Hoadley (Los Angeles)
Eagle Scout Cert. Coordinator - Charles L. Christian (Santa Rosa)
Newsletter Editor - Daniel R. Earl (Gilroy)

After the installation of the new Department officers, the day was concluded with a brief memorial ceremony and wreath laying at the G.A.R. plot and cannon located in the San Luis Obispo Cemetery. Later Saturday evening, many Brothers enjoyed a leisurely dinner with Commander-in-Chief Powell at the 1865 Restaurant.

Plans for the 117th Annual Department Encampment are already in the works and will be spearheaded by Department Senior Vice-

Commander Linn Hoadley. Although an exact date and location has not yet been set, it promises to be every bit as enjoyable as this year's event! All Brothers are strongly encouraged to attend!

San José During The Civil War

By Corky Reed of Camp 24 & Tad Campbell of Camp 4

San José was, and remains, the home of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines. Cinnabar, the ore from which mercury is taken, is found extensively in the Almaden Hills just south of the city. During the Civil War, these were the only mercury mines in the western United States.

Henry Wager Halleck, who was Major General of the California State Militia at the outbreak of the war, was also director-general of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines from 1850-1861, before being called upon by President Lincoln to serve in Missouri.

Because of mercury's importance in the production of explosives, a refining and manufacturing plant was constructed near the mines. This plant produced percussion caps for military rifles, a valuable commodity during the war. This became one of California's largest contributions to the war effort.

President Lincoln also saw the importance of the quicksilver mines and wanted to make certain that they remained in Union hands. He ordered Federal troops to the area to guard against Confederate activities. The First California Cavalry was assigned the duty and on one occasion they even pursued and captured a party of southern sympathizers who attempted to take over the mines.

Q: What was the assumed name of John Rowlands, a Confederate deserter who joined the Union navy — only to desert from that duty also?
 A: Two-time deserter John Rowlands later adopted the alias "Henry M. Stanley," explored Africa, and reportedly uttered the famous query: "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

Mining continued in the area until 1976 when all operations ceased. Since that time the County of Santa Clara has acquired the land and created Almaden Quicksilver County Park. This 3,977-acre park includes over 33 miles of hiking trails, 25 miles of equestrian trails, and 10 miles of

bicycling trails. There are remains of mining structures throughout the park, many dating from the 1880's. The park can be accessed via Almaden Road, McAbee Road, or Hicks Road and is open year round from 8:00 a.m. until sunset.



Memorial Day Invitation- May 27, 2002

“... gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime...let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the nation's gratitude --the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.”

General John Logan, General Order No. 11, 5 May 1868

The Sons, Daughters, and Children of the American Revolution

**Invite the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, SUVCW, their members & families,
to a Memorial Day Program in the City of Saratoga.**

Revolutionary War, Colonial Era, Civil War, & others will be in military dress.

Morning Venue

9:00 AM Parade (walk or ride) from the downtown Memorial Arch to Madronia Cemetery for a Ceremony

Afternoon Venue

11:30 AM BBQ lunch at Wildwood Park in Saratoga
\$10 Adults \$10, Youth \$7, Children (7 & under) free
Music, volleyball, horseshoes, and children's playground for tots.

3:00 PM Taps

Location: Wildwood Park in Saratoga
(Hwy. 85 to Saratoga Ave., North through town on Big Basin Way, and turn right on Fourth Street)

Tickets available from:

**Bill Clark (SAR) at 408-227-6404, e-mail: bclarklnvlp@earthlink.net
Shaun Welch (DAR) at 408-910-1274, e-mail: shaun.welch@sbcglobal.net**

Please make checks payable to “SVC, SAR” and mail to:
Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), 351 River View Dr., San Jose, CA 95111-2657
(List the names of all attending inclusive of children seven years and under).

For more information contact: SAR Chairman Jack Mallory (408) 252-7447 - mallory58@aol.com

Q: What was unusual about the 1st through the 6th U.S. Volunteer Infantry?

A: These regiments, which fought Indians on the Western frontier in 1864-65, were composed of Confederate prisoners of war who had joined the U.S. Army to escape prison.

Civil War Days in Fremont!

Both the Phil Sheridan Camp 4 and Gen. Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 have again been invited by the National Civil War Association to set up an informational and recruiting booth during the three-day Civil War Days event at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont, May 25-27, 2002. We will need volunteers to assist in manning the booth to inform the public about our Order and the Boys in Blue! Please let any of your Camp officers know if you can help!

Civil War Presidents

Submitted by Bro. Jerome Orton, Dept. of New York, PDC

It is generally accepted that only six Civil War veterans went on to become President. They were Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley. Andrew Johnson held a commission from the state of Tennessee as a Brigadier General so that brings the total to seven.

However, there was one other. His name was Emil Frey (1838-1922). He rose from sergeant to brevet major while serving with the 24th and 82nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiments and was captured at Gettysburg.

The reason Frey's name wasn't on the above list is that he did not become President of the United States, but rather President of Switzerland, on January 1, 1894. He is the only American Civil War veteran known to have risen to the post of chief executive of a foreign nation.



Emil Frey was a Swiss who came to America to take a brief look at the pioneer sodbusters who were opening up the middle west. While he was in Illinois, the war broke out. Frey was young and he came from a people whose thorough preparedness discouraged attacks by larger nations of Europe. The martial spirit infected him and he enlisted at Chicago to follow the colors, not the plow.

The military talents of the youthful German speaking Swiss must have registered at once on his officers. He was mustered in July 8, 1861, as a sergeant of Co. E, 24th Illinois, a three-year regiment. On August 29, young Frey was commissioned second lieutenant and transferred to Company H. He became a first lieutenant on New Year's Day of 1862.

In September of 1862, after resigning that commission, Frey was sworn in as captain of Company H in the 82nd Illinois. He served in that capacity during the rest of the war. Captain Frey led his men in campaigns around Bowling Green, Kentucky, Nashville, Tennessee and Tuscumbia and Huntsville, Alabama and in action at Chancellorsville, Virginia on May 2, 1863. He was taken prisoner in the battle of Gettysburg and was taken to Staunton, Virginia and thence to Richmond. There, in March 1864, he and four other Union officers were designated as hostages for certain Confederate captives and were closely confined for 77 days in the basement of Libby Prison.

Captain Frey was paroled January 14, 1865. Returning to his regiment, he was mustered out of Federal service on June 9th after being brevetted major, United States Volunteers, "for gallant and meritorious services during the war."

By then Frey's health had diminished and he was eager to see he homeland again. He returned to Switzerland and embarked on a career in journalism, editing the daily newspaper *Nachrichten* at Basel. This led

Q: What was odd about William Cain, a drillmaster of new recruits in the 25th North Carolina?

A: He was a 13-year-old cadet drillmaster from Hillsborough Military Academy.

him into politics. He was elected repeatedly to the Swiss House of Representatives and served one term as Speaker.

Frey made one more lengthy United States sojourn. The post of minister (ambassador) to the United States became vacant and the logical Swiss weren't about to fill it with a plumber of local demagogue. This was certainly not the case while they still had a man who had ducked minie balls with the influential Americans.

Frey served from 1882 to 1888 as his country's representative in the United States. He later became Swiss secretary of war, then elected vice president. One year later, in keeping with Swiss custom, the one time Illinois volunteer was elected President of the Swiss Confederation by the Federal Assembly. In 1897 he became head of the International Telegraph Union. He chaired the first international conference on labor protection in 1906.

A phone call to the Swiss Embassy in Washington, D.C. revealed that Emil Frey's portrait hangs in the office of the Swiss political officer. The Swiss American Historical Society Publications sent a book written about him. It is entitled *An American Apprenticeship, The Letters of Emil Frey 1860-1865*. It is a great book and gives a very detailed account of his experiences in the United States. Also, the Civil War museum in St. Augustine, Florida, has a hand written scroll with the names of the prisoners of Libby Prison and Emil Frey's name among them. One needs a magnifying glass to see it though!

Hopefully some of Frey's descendants can be found and will join one of the allied orders and/or have his grave marked with a Civil War marker. Frey came to this country with his cousin Theodor Chatoney, who died at Andersonville Prison.

Source: *The Grand Army Yank*, Vol. 4, No. 1, January-February 1969, by the late Ernest G. Wells PDC, of Cambridge, Mass.

From the Commander's Desk

By Camp Commander Tad D. Campbell

CAMP ACTIVITIES

School Presentation - Friday, April 12, 2002 at 12:40 p.m.

Kennedy Middle School, 2521 Goodwin Avenue in Redwood City, Calif.

Our Camp will be giving a Civil War presentation to approximately 160 eighth graders. **CAMP CMDR. TAD CAMPBELL** will provide some history of the G.A.R. and the S.U.V.C.W. and will allow time for each Brother present to introduce themselves and give a few remarks about their Union ancestor(s). **BRO. CHARLES "CORKY" REED** will speak about "Civil War Firsts" while **BRO. DAVID SCHLEETER** will talk about Gettysburg. After the formal presentations, the students will be able to visit with us and ask questions. The school has invited us to attend a barbecue immediately following the event. If you can help out with this worthy event please let Cmdr. Campbell know, or just show up!

Next Camp Meeting/Graves Registration - Saturday, May 18, 2002 at 10 a.m.

The next Camp meeting will be held at the Bold Knight Restaurant, 1600 Monterey Highway in San José. Immediately following the meeting, we will hold our second graves registration session at the nearby Oak Hill Memorial Park.

If you have suggestions about how to increase participation in Camp activities, whether it is the date, time, or place, please let me know!

Q: What was odd about William Cain, a drillmaster of new recruits in the 25th North Carolina?

A: He was a 13-year-old cadet drillmaster from Hillsborough Military Academy.

First Ever Camp Graves Registration Project

By Camp Senior Vice-Commander Robert J. Kadlec

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon at Oak Hill Memorial Park on the 24th of February. Five Brothers of Phil Sheridan Camp Number 4 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (S.U.V.C.W.) gathered here for the first semi-organized effort to register Civil War veteran graves at Oak Hill.



Dan Bunnell, Dan Earl, Bob Kadlec, Dan Renfro, and Dave Schleeter record the location of Captain Wesley Swayer of Company H, 23rd Massachusetts Infantry, and William Vinter, Company E, 124 Illinois Infantry

There are over 420 Union Civil War veterans buried in the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Burial Plot at Oak Hill. On the 8th of September 1887 the City of San José deeded the property that was to become the G.A.R. Veterans Burial Plot in San José's Oak Hill Memorial Park to the Phil Sheridan and John A. Dix G.A.R. Post. Upon the death of the last G.A.R. Brother, the deed of the G.A.R. Veterans Burial Plot was passed on to its successor, Phil Sheridan Camp Number 4 of the S.U.V.C.W.

Over the last few years **CAMP CMDR. TAD CAMPBELL** has worked tirelessly to identify the honored veterans buried here and develop historical background information on them. There are, however, a large number of veterans buried in individual family plots throughout Oak Hill. It is the goal of the Phil Sheridan Camp to identify and register these veterans with the National Graves Registration Project of the S.U.V.C.W. This is a long-term project to create a single collection of grave locations of Civil War veterans, both Union and Confederate. This project will provide information for research pertaining to soldiers and regiments; grave restoration, clean up and marking projects; and Memorial Day programs.

The National Graves Registration Project includes research in town halls, libraries, historical societies, archives, and veterans' organizations. Additional research of primary sources, such as newspapers, G.A.R. proceedings, and the 1890 veteran census, will provide lists of known veterans, and possibly death and internment information. Visiting Oak Hill provides us with the opportunity to collect information from both private and military grave markers. The management staff at Oak Hill will assist with information from their internment records to help identify the exact grave location of veterans and information on the interned veterans that has not been recorded on the headstones.

One of the more interesting private family plots discovered at Oak Hill is that of Ira M. Ware who died on December 14, 1889 at the age of 47 years, two months, and one day. The obelisk in the photo on the following page contains the names of all family members interned in this plot. There is an interesting two-foot tall monument installed in the center of the plot. At first glance it appears to be merely a large stone. Closer inspection reveals that it is a rendering of a Civil War haversack with a bedroll, cartridge box, belt with a cap box, and a kepi on top. Inscribed on the back of this monument is the name I. M. Ware along with: "Enlisted Aug 14, 1861, Reenlisted Dec 7, 1863, Honorably Discharged Sept 15, 1865." Listed on the front is "Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge."

Q: Who invented percussion caps?

A: The percussion cap, a small metal cap containing an explosive element, was used to fire rifles and pistols during the war, and was the invention of Alexander Forsyth, a Scottish minister.

The three hours spent at Oak Hill was enlightening and provided insight into the magnitude of this effort. Only two small sections were examined and only Government issued headstones, or headstones that specifically indicated Civil War service, were recorded. Additional research will be needed to identify those individuals whose age may indicate possible Civil War service so they may be included in this project. A total of thirty-seven (37) Union veterans, one (1) Confederate veteran, and one (1) member of the Women's Relief Corps were identified. Many of these headstones have deteriorated over time and will need to be replaced. It will be the job of the Phil Sheridan Camp to order new headstones from the U.S. Government and work with the Oak Hill maintenance staff to replace the old markers.



Ira M. Ware
Family Burial Plot
Oak Hill Memorial Park



Civil War monument in the
Ira M. Ware Family Burial Plot

Obviously much more work remains and all Brothers are encouraged to join in on this important, and satisfying, Graves Registration Project. The next scheduled project will be immediately following our Camp meeting on Saturday, May 18, 2002.

MY CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR

William J. Purvis — Company I, 118th Indiana Infantry

Great great granduncle of Bro. Tad D. Campbell; great-granduncle of Bro. Donald D. Campbell

William J. Purvis was one of thirteen children of Luther and Nancy (Jones) Purvis. He was born about 1842-43, probably in Decatur or Bartholomew County, Indiana.

On June 6, 1863, William J. Purvis enlisted in Co. I, 118th Indiana Infantry (Six Month Regiment) at Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana. He was mustered in at Camp Wabash, Indiana on August 9, 1863.

The 118th Infantry was organized during July and August 1863, principally at Wabash, but moved to Indianapolis on August 31, where its organization was completed. This six-month regiment was mustered in on September 16, 1862. Leaving the state the same day, it went to Nicholasville, Kentucky and thence to East Tennessee.

From Cumberland Gap they proceeded via Morristown to Greenville, and in November they accompanied the command to Clinch River, participating in the battle of Walker's Ford. They were sent to the relief of the 5th Indiana Cavalry, which had been engaged with a heavy force of the enemy two miles south of the river and was in desperate straits because of the exhaustion of its ammunition.

The 118th waded the river, formed in line of battle on both sides of the road, and advanced, thus enabling the cavalry to fall back and cross the river. The regiment fell back slowly under the assaults of a brigade, repelling a charge on its right and recrossing the river.

It was engaged during the winter in the arduous duties of that campaign and suffered greatly. Private Purvis was left sick at Tazewell, Claiborne County, Tennessee in December 1863, and died there due to the effects of starvation on January 12, 1864. The regiment was mustered out at Indianapolis about the middle of February.

William J. Purvis' brother, Luther Franklin Purvis, also served in the same company.

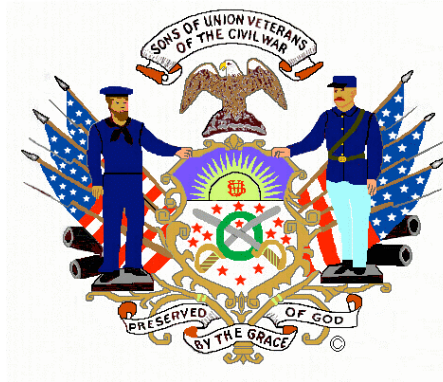
Q: What Civil War document bore these names: George Hogtotter, Jumper Duck, Bone Eater, Spring Water, John Bearmeat, and Big Mush Dirt Eater?

A: All are names listed on the muster roll of the Indian Brigade, a force of Union troops recruited from the tribes of the Indian Territory, in what is now Oklahoma.

Camp Officers 2001-2002:

- *Commander* Tad D. Campbell
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- *Newsletter Editor* Tad D. Campbell
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Next Meeting: Saturday, May 18, 2002, 10 a.m.
Bold Knight Restaurant, 1600 Monterey Hwy., San José, CA



Camp Web Site:

<http://home.inreach.com/tadcamp/sheridan4.html>

Department Web Site:

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

National Web Site:

<http://www.suvcw.org>

Mailing Address:

Phil Sheridan Camp 4
P.O. Box 664
Gilroy, CA 95021-0664

Membership Eligibility:

A male descendant, whether through lineal or collateral line and not less than 14 years of age (6 to 14 years for Juniors), who: (1) is a blood relative of a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service, who was regularly mustered and served honorably in, was honorably discharged from or died in the service of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America or in such state regiments called to active service and was subject to orders of United States general officers, between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865; (2) has never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime and (3) has, or whose ancestor through whom membership is claimed has, never voluntarily borne arms against the government of the United States. Associate memberships are available for those supporters who are not of lineal descent.

Q: What image was stamped on the shiny brass breastplates which adorned Union cartridge-box straps?

A: An eagle.