

Sheridan's Dispatch

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

Volume 3, Issue 3

San José, California

May-June 2002

WRC Home Burial Plot Discovered During Graves Registration at Oak Hill!

On May 18, 2002, the following Brothers assisted with our Camp's second effort toward the registration of Civil War graves at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San José: **DAN BUNNELL PDC**, **TAD CAMPBELL**, **DAN EARL**, **BOB KADLEC**, and **DAVE SCHLEETER**.

Our work that day located many previously unrecorded Union veterans. Several of the headstones found were private stones that made no mention of the veteran's service, but had the G.A.R. badge inscribed somewhere on the marker. These veterans' commands have since been identified using various internet resources.

At least two military headstones were discovered broken off and laying in the wrong plots. Bro. **BOB KADLEC** has since determined where these stones belong and we will be looking into replacing them.



By far, the most exciting discovery that day was when Bro. **DAN EARL** stumbled across the long forgotten burial plot of the Women's Relief Corps (WRC) Home of San José. This was the same facility discussed by Bro. **DAN BUNNELL PDC** in his article which appeared in the Nov-Dec 2001 newsletter (*Sheridan's Dispatch*, Vol. 2, Issue 5, page 3). The WRC Home Plot is located away from the G.A.R. plot and contains the graves of over twenty women who were residents of the Home.

Our next graves registration project has not yet been scheduled, but in the meantime those graves already recorded are being submitted to National and we are working with Oak Hill Memorial Park staff to research their older records.

WANTED! YOU CAN HELP! Are there older cemeteries in your area? Take a walk through them and if you see any Civil War veterans, Union or Confederate, write them down and send them in!

The Invalid Corps

Submitted by
Charles "Corky" Reed of Camp 24
and Tad D. Campbell of Camp 4

A great number of Civil War soldiers were disabled by weapons, disease, and accidents. Initially, the permanently disabled received medical discharges from the army, but later they remained in the service and performed non-combat duties, relieving other soldiers to fight.

In 1862 the Union army allowed chief medical officers to employ "convalescent wounded and feeble men" as nurses, cooks, and hospital attendants and subsequently to organize them into detachments. Unfortunately, these methods were inefficient, and many convalescents did not return to their combat units when well.

Therefore, in April 1863 the U.S. War Department created an Invalid Corps of worthy disabled officers and men who were or had been in the army. Ridicule influenced the corps to exchange its sky blue uniform for one similar to those worn by the other soldiers. The corps formed 2 "battalions," the first for those who could bear arms and perform garrison duty and the second for the severely handicapped fit only for hospital service. Late in the war the Surgeon General took command of the second battalion. Like the combat units, the Invalid Corps organized officers and men into companies and regiments. Eventually a total of 24 regiments and 188 separate companies were raised, freeing many able-bodied soldiers for combat duty.

Since the initials of the Invalid Corps unfortunately coincided with the "Inspected - Condemned" stamped on worn-out government equipment and animals, the name was changed to the "Veteran Reserve Corps" in March 1864. The corps was abolished during summer 1866. Between 1863 and 1866 more than 60,000 individuals served in the organization and performed valuable services, including garrisoning fortifications and quelling an 1863 "Draft Riot" in New York City.

The Confederacy established an Invalid Corps in 1864, in which officers and men disabled in the line of duty had to serve if they wished to

receive pay. Also, if their physical condition improved sufficiently, they had to return to their combat unit. Unlike its Union counterpart, the Confederate Invalid Corps never organized companies and regiments, but a high percentage of its officers and men did perform worthwhile duties based on their disabilities and army requirements.

(Sources: Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War; The Civil War Dictionary)

Memorial Day Activities 2002



The Phil Sheridan Camp was able to participate in two different events over the Memorial Day weekend this year.

As last year, at the invitation of the National Civil War Association (NCWA), our Camp staffed a recruitment booth on Saturday and Sunday at their Civil War Days reenactment at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont. Members of the Gen. Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 of Castro Valley and Gen. George Wright Camp 22 of Elk Grove assisted in this effort and several new members were recruited.

On Saturday evening most Brothers traveled the short distance from Ardenwood Farm to the home of Bro. **CHARLIE MABIE** of Camp 24. Bro. Mabie and his wife were gracious hosts for a delicious barbecue dinner.

On Monday our Camp Color Guard, consisting of **DAVE SCHLEETER**, **DAN BUNNELL PDC**, **BOB KADLEC**, **DAN EARL**, and **TAD CAMPBELL**, participated in a parade in downtown Saratoga, followed by a memorial ceremony at the Madrona Cemetery.

After the ceremony, and by special invitation of the Sons of the American Revolution, we also attended their picnic at nearby Wildwood Park.

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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.

Upcoming Activities

JULY 13, 2002 - Camp meeting, at 10 am
Home of Dan Bunnell, 170 N. 15th Street, San José

Be sure to attend this next Camp meeting. We will be discussing the upcoming National Encampment and other fall activities. We will also be welcoming several new members and presenting them with their membership badges.

JULY 20, 2002 - Northern California SUVCW Picnic

El Polin Springs Picnic Area, Presidio, San Francisco

This has become an annual event attended by several Northern California Camps. Wives, family and friends are more than welcome. Historic Fort Point, a Civil War era fort is only a short distance away.

AUG. 8-10, 2002 - 121st Annual National Encampment

Renaissance Springfield Hotel, Springfield, Illinois

If you feel that you might be able to attend this national gathering of SUVCW brothers, please contact Dept. Commander Brad Schall so that he can appoint you as an official Delegate from the Dept. of California and Pacific.

SEPT. 28-29, 2002 - Civil War Revisited

Kearney Park, 7160 West Kearney Blvd., Fresno

This event has become the largest Civil War reenactment on the West Coast and the largest annual event of its kind in the US. The SUVCW will be manning a recruitment booth at this event and we could use all the help we can muster.

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Livermore Rodeo Parade



Three SUVCW Camps (Pleasanton, Sheridan, and Wright) were able to participate in the Livermore Rodeo Parade on June 8th this year. Representing our Camp as Color Guard were **DAVE SCHLEETER**, **DAN BUNNELL PDC**, **BOB KADLEC**, and **DAN EARL**.

The SUVCW garnered first place in its category and won a prize of \$85.00! Because of this, those Sheridan Camp Brothers and their guests attending the Northern California SUVCW Picnic at the Presidio on July 20th will not be charged the normal \$1.00 coverage fee.

My Civil War Ancestor

Wilson Bonner

Battery L, 6th Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery
Great great grandfather of Bro. Daniel R. Earl

Wilson Bonner was born about 1830 in Pennsylvania, one of nine children of David and Hannah Bruce (Wilson) Bonner. On 30 Aug 1864 he enlisted as a Private in Battery L, 6th Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, and was mustered in for a term of one year.

The regiment left for Washington on 17 Sep 1864, where it was assigned to the 2nd Brigade of DeRussy's Division, then garrisoning the defenses of the Capitol. On the 29th it was detached, to perform railroad guard duty on the Orange & Alexandria railroad between Alexandria and Manassas, with headquarters at Fairfax Court House. They were engaged in this service until about the middle of November when they returned to the defenses of Washington. Thus far it had served as infantry, but the men were now drilled as artillery and soon became proficient in this arm of the service. They remained in the forts about Washington until 13 Jun 1865, when they were mustered out at Fort Ethan Allen, Virginia, returned to Camp Reynolds, where the men were finally paid and discharged on the 17th.

Wilson Bonner returned to his home in Bushvalley Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Here he lived out his life and died on 20 Jul 1888.

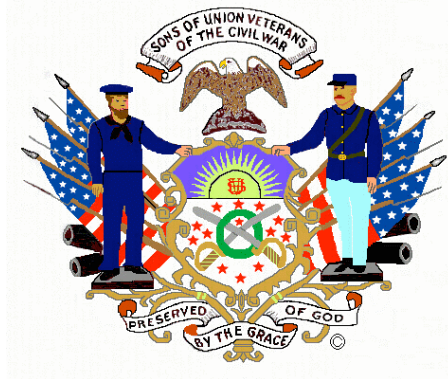
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Camp Officers 2001-2002:

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Next Meeting: Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m.
Home of Dan Bunnell, 170 North 15th Street., 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:

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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.