

# Sheridan's Dispatch

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

Volume 3, Issue 4

San José, California

July-August 2002

## National Encampment Holds Elections: West Advances

*Submitted by Daniel R. Earl*

Last month eleven delegates from the Department of California and Pacific traveled to Springfield, Illinois to represent the Brothers of our Department. A great deal of business was transacted, including the election of new officers. As many of you may know, this is generally pro forma since the sitting Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief are “expected” to move up to the next rank. This indeed was the case, as usual, with the election this summer. Brother **ROBERT GRIM** was elected Commander-in-Chief and Brother **KENT ARMSTRONG** was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

The election that always brings the most controversy is that of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, since it usually involves bringing in “fresh blood” from the organization, and an eventual change in leadership and policy for the Order. This year the short list was narrowed down to two brothers, **JOSEPH LONG, JR.**, PDC of the Department of Pennsylvania and **STEPHEN MICHAELS**, PDC of the Department of Wisconsin.

After some exceptional nomination speeches, and a great deal of debate, Brother **STEVE MICHAELS** was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. As Brother Michaels demonstrated to the membership, he is more than qualified for the position and all have a great deal of faith in his abilities to carry out his duties. The “Western Army” as some are referring to them (including primarily Departments west of the Mississippi River, in addition to some eastern Department alliances) has become an informal coalition of Departments seeking increased representation for Departments in the western United States. Although Wisconsin is not west of the Mississippi, it was clear that those supporting Brother Michaels felt he would faithfully represent western interests in a more steadfast manner than has been done in the past.



Old Illinois State Capitol built in 1837. Lincoln delivered his famous "House Divided" speech here in 1858. After his death, 75,000 people viewed his body here as it lay in state.

The election of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief was not the only contended election. The "Western Army" was also pleased to re-elect (from a one year term to a three year term) Brother Robert Petrovic of Missouri. Brother Petrovic has been very understanding of western concerns and the alliance is convinced he will serve them well.

What about the elections for Secretary and Treasurer? Those positions were filled last year and are held for three-year terms. Brother **ED KRIESER** PC-in-C is serving as National Secretary, and Brother **MAX NEWMAN** is serving as National Treasurer.

## Welcome New Members!

Our Camp continues to grow as more and more men step forward to recognize the services provided and sacrifices endured by those that fought to preserve the Union. We extend a heartfelt welcome to the following new Brothers!

### **BROTHER RICK T. LAROSA OF CAMPBELL, CA**

Bro. Rick LaRosa is a very enthusiastic associate member and was recently appointed Camp Guide. He was recruited at the Civil War Days event at Ardenwood Historic Farm and Bro. Dan Earl is assisting him in the search for his Union ancestors.

### **BROTHER GREGORY S. SWEATT OF FOSTER CITY, CA**

Bro. Gregory Sweatt is another of our new associate members. He has had a life long interest in the Civil War and is a charter member of the Civil War Preservation Trust. He is also active in the reenacting community, having been a member of the NCWA's "California 100" unit since 1986.

### **BROTHER NATHAN R. SWEATT OF FOSTER CITY, CA**

Bro. Nathan R. Sweatt is the son of Bro. Gregory Sweatt, above. Although Nathan's father has not located any Boys in Blue among his ancestry, Nathan's mother does have a Union ancestry in her background, namely Sgt. Joseph E. Williams of Co. G, 141st Pennsylvania Infantry.

### **BROTHER STEPHEN D. SWEATT OF FOSTER CITY, CA**

Bro. Stephen D. Sweatt is another son of Bro. Gregory Sweatt, and descends from Sgt.

Joseph E. Williams of Co. G, 141st Pennsylvania Infantry. All three of members of the Sweatt family were recruited through our Camp's efforts at Ardenwood Historic Farm on Memorial Day weekend.

### **BROTHER JORDAN L. BRUCE OF SAN JOSÉ, CA**

Bro. Bruce is the great-great-grandson of Cpl. William J. Lackey of Co. H, 102nd Pennsylvania Infantry. Jordan and his brother Julian joined our Order by contacting the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

### **BROTHER JULIAN L. BRUCE OF SAN JOSÉ, CA**

Bro. Julian Bruce is also a descendant of Cpl. William J. Lackey of Co. H, 102nd Pennsylvania Infantry. Cpl. Lackey was a blacksmith upon entering the service and was wounded in the eye at the battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia in 1864.

## **\$\$\$ Camp Finances \$\$\$**

*Submitted by  
Camp Secretary-Treasurer Daniel R. Earl*

Even with our very uncertain economy, our Camp funds are doing well. We have had very few expenses this year, and a fairly stable membership which all contribute to our Camp's financial stability. Our current balances include over \$1,000 in combined savings and checking accounts. Our next significant expense, prior to the end of the year, will be for Camp newsletter expenses. Additionally, there are several acquisitions the Camp will want to consider making at the September meeting, including, among others, station banners and a podium banner.

*(continued on next page)*

Q: What was the maximum range of a 15-inch Columbiad heavy artillery piece?

A: A little over two miles.

Besides making some end of year purchases, I will be presenting our FY 2003 budget to the Council for their review at the September meeting. After the Council approves what I send them and "recommends" it to the Camp, it can be adopted by the full membership. Any Brothers having suggestions or questions about the budget should contact me via email at <danearl64@earthlink.net>.



## Camp Orders

*Orders No. 2-3 were inadvertently omitted from previous newsletters*

### CAMP ORDER No. 2 - Series 2001-2002

#### CAMP DELEGATE APPOINTMENT

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, by the Camp Bylaws, Department of California and Pacific Bylaws, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to § 2 of Article IX of the Camp Bylaws, I appoint Brother William Stewart a Delegate to the 2002 Encampment of the Department of California and Pacific.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 14th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-fifth, in the City of San José, County of Santa Clara, State of California by Tad D. Campbell, Commander of the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

### CAMP ORDER No. 3 - Series 2001-2002

#### GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER APPOINTMENT

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, by the Camp Bylaws, Department of California and Pacific Bylaws, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to § 1 & § 2 of Article X of the Camp Bylaws, I appoint Brother Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC as Camp Graves Registration Officer for the remainder of the 2001-2002 term.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 14th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-fifth, in the City of San José, County of Santa Clara, State of California by Tad D. Campbell, Commander of the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

### CAMP ORDER No. 4 - Series 2001-2002

#### GUIDE APPOINTMENT

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, by the Camp Bylaws, Department of California and Pacific Bylaws, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to Article X of the Camp Bylaws, I appoint Brother Rick T. LaRosa as Camp Guide for the remainder of the 2001-2002 term.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 13th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-sixth, in the City of San José, County of Santa Clara, State of California by Tad D. Campbell, Commander of the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

(CAMP SEAL)

By Order of: /s/ Tad D. Campbell, Camp Commander, Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4

ATTEST: By: /s/ Daniel R. Earl, Camp Secretary-Treasurer

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ARKANSAS TACTICS.—An Arkansas Colonel had the following order for mounting his men:  
First order.—Prepare fer tur git onto yer creeters!

Second order.— GIT!

From *The Civil War in Song and Story*, by Frank Moore, p 264

Q: In the Union army, what did mess gear consist of?

A: By the end of 1863, standard mess gear issued to Union troops consisted of a spoon, a fork, a knife, and a tin plate.

## Camp Nominations & Elections

*Submitted by  
Secretary-Treasurer Daniel R. Earl*

It's that time of year again. Elections are upon us and scheduled to occur at our November meeting. It is important that all that possibly can attend, do so and make your vote count. All positions are open for nomination and election, including: Camp Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Camp Council positions. After the election is held, the new Commander has numerous appointed positions to fill as well, including among others, Camp Newsletter Editor. If you think you might be interested in any one or more of these positions, please contact Camp Secretary **DAN EARL** via email at <danearl64@earthlink.net> or Camp Commander **TAD CAMPBELL** at <tadcamp@earthlink.net>.



## Dues Increase

*Submitted by  
Secretary-Treasurer Daniel R. Earl*

At this past National Encampment it came as no surprise to Brothers that there would be an attempt to increase the National per capita dues. Unfortunately, the attempt succeeded by almost a 3 to 4 margin. There was a great deal of heated debate over whether or not to increase the dues and how the money would be spent. It was ultimately decided to increase the National dues by \$6 per year. This will be the first increase in many years and should provide increased services to our membership, while allowing us to maintain a fiscally responsible budget at the National level. The increase will become effective in January.

As Treasurer, at the September meeting I will have proposals submitted to the Council and the membership for methods of implementing this increase. Input is needed from ALL brothers on this

very important matter. There are several options that need to be explored before making a final decision at our next meeting.

If you are unable to attend the next meeting and would like to express your position on this increase by National, please email or telephone any of the Camp officers and let us know what you think.



## Website Address Changes

*By Signals Officer Tad D. Campbell*

Due to a new internet service provider, the website address for the Department website and for many of the Camps websites (including that of Phil Sheridan Camp ) have changed. Here are the new URLs:

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA AND PACIFIC  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/deptca.html>

GEN. W. S. ROSECRANS CAMP 2 OF LOS ANGELES  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/rosecrans2.html>

PHIL SHERIDAN CAMP 4 OF SAN JOSE  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/sheridan4.html>

WILLIAM B. KEITH CAMP 12 OF LAS VEGAS  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/keith12.html>

JOHN LOGAN CAMP 10 OF LOS GATOS  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/logan10.html>

GEN. GEORGE WRIGHT CAMP 22 OF ELK GROVE  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/wright22.html>

COL. ELMER ELLSWORTH CAMP 23 OF SANTA ROSA  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/ellsworth23.html>

GEN. ALFRED PLEASANTON CAMP 24 OF CASTRO VALLEY  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/pleasonton24.html>

The new e-mail address for Camp Commander and Signals Officer Tad D. Campbell is <tadcamp@earthlink.net>.

Q: In the Union army, what did mess gear consist of?

A: By the end of 1863, standard mess gear issued to Union troops consisted of a spoon, a fork, a knife, and a tin plate.

## SECOND G.A.R. PLOT DISCOVERED AT OAK HILL

Through the efforts of Bro. **BOB KADLEC**, the Camp was recently allowed to photocopy a heretofore unknown book entitled "Record of Deceased Soldiers." This book, containing detailed burial information on Union veterans throughout Santa Clara County, was compiled by our predecessors, the Phil Sheridan Post No. 7, G.A.R. of San José, and is in the possession of Oak Hill Memorial Park.

Upon closer examination, Bros. **DAN BUNNELL** and **TAD CAMPBELL** noticed that several entries were listed as being buried in the "old" Oak Hill G.A.R. plot. These names did not appear among those interred in the large G.A.R. plot at Oak Hill.

This past weekend Camp Commander **TAD CAMPBELL** with his wife **RACHELLE** (a member of the Auxiliary) were successful in locating the "old" G.A.R. plot in the earlier section of Oak Hill, behind the maintenance building.

This was apparently the first of two plots established by the Phil Sheridan Post and contains at least eighteen burials, most occurring in the 1880s. It is evident that as the Post grew, they needed a larger burial plot, thus the second G.A.R. plot that now contains over 400 interments.

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### Graves Registration - September 14th

Our next Camp meeting will be held at the Bold Knight Restaurant, 1400 Monterey Highway on Saturday, September 14, 2002 at 10 am.

Immediately following the meeting we will proceed to nearby Oak Hill Memorial Park for our third session of graves registration. *Your Camp needs your help in searching out the last resting place of our brave Boys in Blue!*

As most of you are aware, Oak Hill is an enormous cemetery with over 175,000 interments. It is the oldest secular cemetery in California, having been founded some ten years before the Gold Rush.

There are likely thousands of Union veterans interred outside the two known G.A.R. burial plots.

Please help us keep green the memory of these Union veterans by seeing that their graves are properly located, marked and recorded. Armed with such information we can see that they are never forgotten!



### Redwood City School Presentation

*Editor's note: Article inadvertently omitted from previous newsletter issues.*

On Friday, April 12, 2002 the Camp gave a successful presentation to approximately 150 students at Kennedy Middle School in Redwood City. The students were studying the Civil War era and several attended in period attire.



L-R: Bob Kadlec, Dave Schleeter, Tad Campbell, Dan Earl

Those Brothers assisting in the effort were Cmdr. **TAD CAMPBELL**, SVC **ROBERT KADLEC**, JVC **DAVID SCHLEETER**, Secy.-Treas. **DANIEL EARL**, and Bro. **RICHARD MAYER** who served as photographer.

Bros. Kadlec and Earl spoke about their ancestors' participation in the War, and Bro. Campbell gave a brief history of the G.A.R. and SUVCW.

Bro. Schleeter contributed an informative talk about the battle of Gettysburg and even conscripted two students to assist in his presentation.

☆	<b>In Honor of</b>	☆
	<b>James William Fales, Co. F, 9th Michigan Infantry</b>	
	Ancestor of Bro. Robert A. Young of Anderson, Cal.	
☆		☆

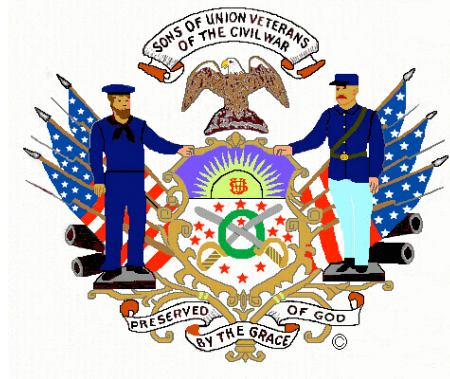
Q: What were battle streamers, used by Federal regiments?

A: In 1862, the U.S. War Department ordered all units to attach battle streamers bearing the names of battles in which the unites had fought to the staffs of all the colors carried by the units.

## Camp Officers 2001-2002:

- *Commander* Tad D. Campbell  
tadcamp@earthlink.net
- *Sr. Vice Commander* Robert J. Kadlec  
bobkvp@aol.com
- *Jr. Vice Commander* David C. Schleeter  
KnifeGuy@aol.com
- *Secretary-Treasurer* Daniel R. Earl  
danearl64@earthlink.net
- *Camp Council* Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC  
dbunnell@pacbell.net  
Donald W. Pray  
prayd@pacbell.net  
Daniel F. Renfroe  
renforce@attbi.com
- *Patriotic Instructor* David C. Schleeter  
KnifeGuy@aol.com
- *Chaplain* Rev. Clark D. Seum  
iaic@minister.com
- *Historian & Graves Reg. Ofcr.* Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC  
dbunnell@pacbell.net
- *Counselor* Daniel R. Earl  
danearl64@earthlink.net
- *Guard* Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC  
dbunnell@pacbell.net
- *Guide* Rick T. LaRosa
- *Eagle Scout Cert. Coordinator* David C. Schleeter  
KnifeGuy@aol.com
- *Signals Officer* Tad D. Campbell  
tadcamp@earthlink.net
- *Newsletter Editor* Tad D. Campbell  
tadcamp@earthlink.net

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, Sept. 14, 2002, 10 a.m.  
Bold Knight Restaurant, 1400 Monterey Hwy., San José, CA



### Camp Web Site:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvcw/sheridan4.html>

### Department Web Site:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvcw/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: Who invented the paper cartridge commonly used in small arms by both sides in the war?

A: King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden.