

Sheridan's Dispatch

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

Volume 3, Issue 5

San José, California

September-October 2002

New Camp Meeting Place Camp Elections to be Held at American Legion Hall

Submitted by SVC Robert J. Kadlec

Phil Sheridan Camp Number 4, has concluded an agreement with the American Legion whereas Camp meetings can be held at Mission City Post 564 in Santa Clara. Post 564 will provide a private room for Camp meetings and storage of Camp property. Mission City Post 564 is located at 2120 Walsh Avenue about a block east of San Tomas Expressway (south of Central Expressway). The Post has a cocktail lounge that is open from 10 AM to 10:30 PM Sunday through Friday and 4 PM until 10:30 PM on Saturday (Karaoke on Thursday through Saturday night). For those interested, the Post also sponsors Bingo games beginning at 6:30 PM on Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, and at noon on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

The next meeting of Phil Sheridan Camp 4 will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, November 16th at American Legion Mission City Post 564. Remember that this is our annual election meeting and your attendance is import in the selection and appointment of Camp officers for the next year.



Welcome New Brothers!

Our Camp welcomes the following new and renewing members as they honor their Union ancestors and all those that wore the blue!

BROTHER STEVEN J. WELCH OF DALY CITY, CA

Bro. Steven J. Welch works as a funeral director and embalmer, and came to our Camp through the efforts of the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. His ancestor was Walter K. Covell who enlisted as a Private in Battery H, 3rd New York Light Artillery.

Any letters, articles, etc., published in *Sheridan's Dispatch* do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the SUVCW Inc., the Dept. of CA & Pacific, camp officers, membership, guests, or the editor/publisher.

Published by the Phil Sheridan Camp 4 (SUVCW) at Gilroy, CA; Copyright © 2003 by the Phil Sheridan Camp 4
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

BROTHER JAMES M. WELCH OF DALY CITY, CA

Bro. James M. Welch is the son of Brother Steven Welch, above. At eight years of age, James is among youngest Brothers in the Department! Like his father, he is descended from Walter K. Covell of the 3rd New York Light Artillery. Private Covell was later promoted to Bugler and is buried at North Platte, NE.

BROTHER SCOTT K. YOUNG OF ANDERSON, CA

Bro. Scott Kelso Young (son of current life member Robert Young) is the great-great grandson of James William Fales of Company C, 9th Michigan Infantry.

BROTHER STEVEN R. FRADY OF RENO, NV

Bro. Steven R. Frady is a former member of our Camp who is renewing his membership. Steve originally joined the Camp in 1996 as a representative of his great great grandfather Frederick Padden who served in Co. C, 6th Iowa Cavalry. Private Padden was wounded in battle at White Stone Hill, Dakota Territory when his regiment charged into an Indian encampment. He later received a disability discharge.

General Grant's Fall

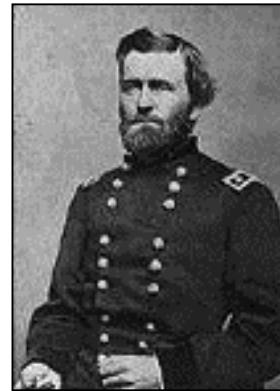
*Submitted by
Commander Tad D. Campbell*

When Bro. **BOB KADLEC** was in Wisconsin a few months back, he stopped in at a museum in a village called Aztalan. The Aztalan Museum contains memorabilia of 19th century settlers in the area. They have some Civil War artifacts and a copy of a letter caught his eye. The letter was written on September 4, 1863 by John B. Scott, a 2nd Lieutenant in the 29th Wisconsin. Scott wrote to his friend Willard in Aztalan from the 13th Army Corps Headquarters at Carrollton, Louisiana. In the letter, Scott states that General Grant had visited them the day before (September 3rd) and that he had an accident while riding his horse past the

railroad depot. It seems his horse was frightened and threw Grant. Grant hit his head on the pavement and his horse rolled over him. Scott stated that Grant was in a precarious condition and that the troops were worried that he might die. They were also worried that Sherman might have to take over if Grant died. They thought that Sherman could not handle the job and that the "River Guerrillas would run over him."

Bro. Kadlec was unable to find anything about activity in or around Carrollton, Louisiana, nor was he able to locate anything about Grant having been injured in a horse riding accident in September of 1863. Here's the story:

General Grant's ability as a horseman is well



known. One horse, however, proved too much even for General Grant. In August of 1863, right after the fall of Vicksburg, Grant went to New Orleans to confer with General Banks about movements west of the Mississippi. On September 4th he reviewed General Banks' army at

Carrollton and was given a large and somewhat wild and nervous horse to ride for the occasion. An accident occurred which Grant described in his Memoirs.

"The horse I rode was vicious and but little used, and on my return to New Orleans ran away and, shying at a locomotive in the street, fell, probably on me. I was rendered insensible, and when I regained consciousness I found myself in a hotel near by with several doctors attending me. My leg was swollen from the knee to the thigh, and the swelling, almost to the point of bursting, extended along the body up to the arm-pit. The pain was almost beyond endurance. I lay at the hotel something over a week without being able to turn myself in bed. I had a steamer stop at the nearest point possible, and was carried to it on a litter. I was then taken to Vicksburg, where I remained unable to move for some time afterwards."

Q: Which side suffered higher casualties in the Confederate victory at Chickamauga?

A: The Confederates sustained the worst casualties: 18,454 losses, compared to Federal casualties of 16,170.

Grant was on crutches for two months after this incident. There has been much discussion over the years as to whether Grant was intoxicated or not at the time of his fall. This aspect of the story is likely to remain a mystery since there are no independent accounts that can either confirm or deny the allegation.



Camp Orders

**CAMP ORDER No. 5
- Series 2001-2002
APPOINTMENT
OF BYLAWS
COMMITTEE**

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: Brother Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC and Brother Donald W. Pray are appointed members of the Camp Bylaws Committee. Camp Counselor Daniel R. Earl is appointed as chairman of said Committee.

Section 2: The primary purpose of the Committee will be to review the Camp Bylaws and prepare necessary revisions, in the form of amendments to the Bylaws, with special attention to bring the Bylaws into conformance with the National Constitution and Regulations, as amended at the National Encampment this last August 2002. The Committee shall report back to the Camp Commander and full Camp no later than the Camp meeting on 16 November 2002, at which time it shall present for the Camp's review, any proposed amendments it deems appropriate. Said amendments shall be adopted or rejected at the January 2003 Camp meeting.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 14th day of September 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 Gilroy, 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. 6 - Series 2001-2002
REMEMBRANCE DAY 2003**

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: The following Resolution shall be read by the Camp Secretary immediately following the Camp Commander calling the meeting to order, and prior to the opening prayer by the Camp Chaplain:

Whereas, Remembrance Day commemorates the speech by President Lincoln – the Gettysburg Address – (first delivered on 19 November 1863) and the meaning of those reverent words about the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Battle of Gettysburg; and,

Whereas, the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is celebrating the 46th Annual Observance of Remembrance Day at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on this very day; and,

Whereas, members of the SUVCW, Allied Orders, and other Civil War groups will be honoring the dead with memorial marches, wreath-laying ceremonies, and other appropriate forms of recognition; and,

Whereas, even though all Camps are invited to participate in the parade and attend the Grand Military Ball held in Gettysburg, it is not possible for the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 to send a delegation to Gettysburg; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, The Brothers of the Phil Sheridan Camp #4, SUVCW shall observe Remembrance Day with a moment of silence in conjunction with the opening prayer by the Camp Chaplain; and be it

Further Resolved, the Camp Patriotic Instructor is directed to recite the *Gettysburg Address* during his report at the Camp meeting; and be it

Finally Resolved, that the Camp Charter shall be draped in black during the Camp meeting held this 16th day of November in the year of our Lord thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-sixth.

Q: Where was the longest pontoon bridge of the war and how long was it?

A: Erected across the James River during the Petersburg Campaign in 1864, the James River Bridge was the war's longest pontoon structure. It was 2,200 feet long, used 101 pontoons, and required 450 Union engineers for its construction.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 23rd day of October 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 Gilroy, 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

A BATTLE WITHIN A BATTLE.—An officer of the Second Connecticut regiment, in a letter to his family, says: "The coolest thing I ever heard of happened at the battle of Fair Oaks. Right in the hottest of the battle, two of the Second's boys got at loggerheads with each other, threw down their muskets, and fell to at fisticuffs — had it out, picked up their arms, and pitched into the rebels again. I have heard of a wheel within a wheel; but a battle within a battle is certainly something new."

From *The Civil War in Song and Story*, by Frank Moore, p 218

FY 2003 Budget Adopted: Camp Dues to Increase

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

I am pleased to announce that at the September 2002 Camp meeting a budget for the 2003 fiscal year (January through December 2003) was unanimously ratified by the members present and voting.

As Camp Treasurer I submitted several budget proposals to the Camp Council, which is responsible for "devising and recommending" to the Camp "measures for preserving and increasing the funds of the Camp." Included with all of these proposals was the mandatory increase of \$6 per year as required by the National Organization (passed at the National Encampment in August). My proposals

included: a) doing nothing and having the Camp absorb the \$6 dues increase – this would leave the Camp with no fiscal resources beyond paying the Department and National per capita dues; it would mean the end of the Camp newsletter; b) increase the dues by only \$6 per year for the National per capita increase – this would maintain the status quo – which at this point allows us to do very little other than pay for postage and publish the Camp Newsletter; and, c) increase dues by an even \$10 (\$4 over what National has required) – this would provide the Camp with funds to participate in Memorial Day/Veterans' Day events and other special activities where registration fees are required or other expenses are incurred. My recommendation to the Council was the third option, which not only provides funds for extra Camp activities, but in the unlikely event National should make another increase, it might be used to absorb that increase in future years.

After considerable debate (and I should note, this meeting was attended by the most members ever in the last four years) the motion to increase dues from \$25 to \$35 annually was agreed to *unanimously*. This is the first dues increase in over four years. I'm the first to admit that no one wants to pay more in membership dues, especially in today's economy. However, a ten-dollar dues increase is relatively insignificant when one views the overall cost of participating in similar organizations.

At the National Encampment in August one Brother brought up a very good point to illustrate just how trivial this increase will be. He suggested that if members felt such a small increase (the first in over four years) was too much, perhaps they could eliminate one or two trips to McDonald's for lunch over the next year. This almost seems humorous, but the Brother made a very good point by referencing a very common practice of most of us – the "fast food lunch." It is important that we remember that the purpose of our organization is to honor our ancestors and to spread patriotism throughout the United States. As much as we would like to think we all do our part in ful-

filling the goals of the Order (honoring all who have patriotically served our country in any war; teaching patriotism and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country and the love and honor of our Flag, etc.) these activities cannot be successfully executed by the organization without incurring some costs. Your dues help pay for these expenses.

You should have already received a dues notice in the mail, along with a membership survey. I urge you all to complete the survey and return it with your dues payment as soon as possible. This will allow **OUR** camp to move forward by improving what is provided to **YOU the member** as well as participate in more activities honoring those who saved the Union!



Camp Members Test Their Metal!

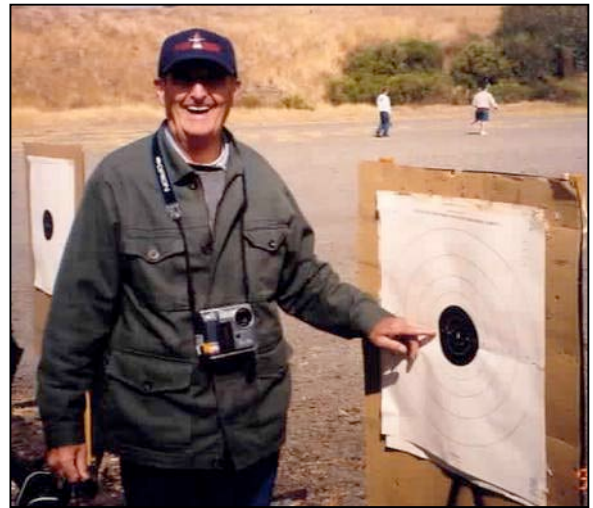
At the Field Sports Park in south San José recently, an unusual amount of smoke and noise was generated on two separate occasions as members of the Camp participated in live musket firing sessions.

Armed with model 1861 Springfield rifles loaded with .58 caliber minié balls, the participants included Brothers **BOB KADLEC**, **DAVE SCHLEETER**, **DAN BUNNELL PDC**, **DON PRAY**, **RICK LAROSA**, **JULIAN BRUCE**, and **JORDAN BRUCE**. **MRS. SHARON BRUCE** also came with a guest.

Those attendees that owned muskets brought theirs and shared with those that didn't have one. Several of the guns were purchased at the Civil War Days event at Ardenwood Historic Farm back in 2001, and had not yet been fired.

DON PRAY and **RICK LAROSA** both hit bulls eyes, and Don enjoyed the experience so much that he went out and purchased his own Springfield!

Everyone that participated seemed to have a good time and we are hoping to schedule more firing sessions in the near future.



Bro. Don Pray demonstrates his skill with a musket.

Veterans Day Parade

The Camp will again be participating in the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown San José on Monday, November 11th. The route down Market Street is approximately one mile long and assembly will be at the corner of Delmas Ave. and Santa Clara St. at 10 am.

Our Camp Color Guard will be in formation and is practicing to fire a gun salute as they pass the reviewing stand. All Camp members are encouraged to participate, regardless of whether or not you own a uniform, but be sure to wear your membership badge if you have one.

Last year we won first place in our category! Let's make it two in a row!

• • •

Largest Attendance at Camp Meeting

Graves Registration Project Continues

Our Camp meeting, held at the Bold Knight on September 14th, was the most well attended meeting in recent memory. Eleven Brothers were present; including all elected Camp Officers! Those in attendance included:

TAD CAMPBELL (Commander)
BOB KADLEC (Senior Vice Commander)
DAVE SCHLEETER (Junior Vice Commander)
DAN EARL (Secretary-Treasurer)
DAN BUNNELL PDC (Councilman)
DON PRAY (Councilman)
DAN RENFROE (Councilman)
CLARK SEUM (Chaplain)
RICK LAROSA (Guide)
RICHARD MAYER
GREGORY SWEATT

Bro. **GREGORY SWEATT** was initiated and received his membership badge and certificate. He also accepted medals and certificates on behalf of his two sons, **NATHAN** and **STEPHEN SWEATT**, neither of whom were able to attend.

The memorial ceremony featuring 106-year-old real Confederate daughter, Alma Grigsby, held in Oakland on October 5th was discussed. Alma's father was Samuel Austin of Co. K, 5th Louisiana Cavalry, CSA. It was decided that the Camp would not be able to send an organized delegation to attend, but individual Brothers were encouraged to participate.

Bros. Dan Earl and Tad Campbell told of their experiences visiting the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois prior to the National Encampment in August. They passed out brochures and explained that the island in the middle of the Mississippi River served as a Confederate P.O.W. camp during the Civil War. There are both Federal and Confederate cemeteries on the Island, as well as an impressive museum. The Arsenal has been reactivated since September 11th and security was quite strict, making for some interesting incidents.

(continued on next page)

Oak Hill Graves Registration -- First GAR Plot (est. 1880)
14 September 2002



Bob Kadlec; Tad Campbell;
Rick LaRosa

Dan Earl; Dan Bunnell; Dave Schleeter;
Don Pray; Bob Kadlec;
Rick LaRosa; Tad Campbell;
Richard Mayer



Dan Earl; Richard Mayer;
Rick LaRosa; Tad Campbell;
Dave Schleeter

Q: What Northern city was truck by Confederate sabatage on Friday, November 25, 1864?

A: On this date Confederate conspirators set coordinated fires in a dozen New York City buildings but did no serious damage.

A short Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) meeting was conducted immediately following the Camp meeting and Dave Schleeter was unanimously reelected to served as Commander of Company C, 8th California Infantry, SVR.

After the conclusion of the meetings, eight of the Brothers proceeded to nearby Oak Hill Memorial Park to participate in the Camp's ongoing graves registration project. The group first paid a visit to and recorded the newly rediscovered "old" G.A.R. plot, which was established in 1880. This plot, containing about eighteen interments, is much smaller that the other known G.A.R. plot at Oak Hill, which has in excess of four hundred.

The Brothers then walked the adjoining sections of the cemetery and recorded any other Civil War burials that could be located. Bro. **RICK LAROSA** found one of the more interesting veterans. Montgomery Maze (1836-1875) was a native of New York, and served as a Lieutenant in Company A, 2nd California Infantry. After the war he worked as an attorney in San José. His most colorful period however came before the war. While living in New York City he was a fireman with the Empire Fire Station No. 40 "Redbird" and, after he moved west, he became a rider for the famed Pony Express with the likes of Buffalo Bill Cody and others.

Another grave s registration session has yet to be scheduled. In the meantime, Brothers are encouraged to record Civil War burials in their local cemeteries and forward those to the Camp. Individual participation will enable the Camp to cover much more ground.

SUVCW REPRESENTED AT DRAGOO FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

Fri., Sept. 5 – Brothers **DAN EARL** and **TAD CAMPBELL** gave a presentation to the Dragoo Family Association Reunion, held at the Renaissance Hotel in Sacramento. This is the sixth biennial reunion of Dragoo/Draggoo descendants, which is held in a different location each time. Tad is the great great grandson of Amelia (Draggoo) Grundy. Her uncle was James B. Draggoo of Company A, 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery.

Wearing full Civil War uniform, Dan and Tad spoke about California's role in the Civil War, including the California Column and the Cal-100,

the GAR and SUVCW. Tad also discussed the role of the Dragoo/Draggoo family during the Civil War.

They were pleasantly surprised to meet Bill McAfee at the reunion. Not only is he a Dragoo descendant, but he's the Chaplain of the Dept. of Michigan and Past Camp Commander and charter member of the Carpenter-Welch Camp No. 180 of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Michigan. His Camp was founded in 1999 and serves Washtenaw County. Bro. McAfee hopes to attend the 2003 National Encampment at Fort Mitchell, KY next year.

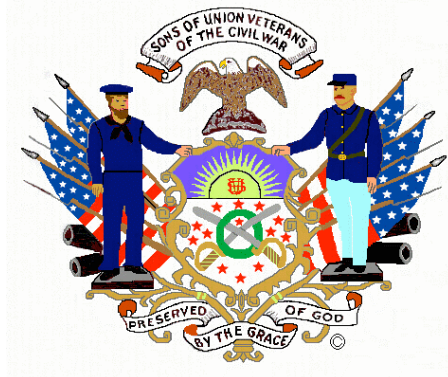
•••

☆	In Honor of	☆
	George W. Roper, Co. M, 21st Penn. Cavalry	
	Ancestor of Bro. George S. Knight of Inglewood, Cal.	
☆		☆

Camp Officers 2001-2002:

- *Commander* Tad D. Campbell
tadcamp@earthlink.net
- *Sr. Vice Commander* Robert J. Kadlec
philsheridan4@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, Nov. 16, 2002, 10 a.m.
American Legion Hall, 2120 Walsh Ave., Santa Clara, 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: How old was John Wilkes Booth when he assassinated Abraham Lincoln?

A: Twenty-six.