

Sheridan's Dispatch

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

Volume 4, Issue 5

San José, California

October 2003

85TH ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE



Join in the
Armistice Day Ceremony for the "War to end all Wars"
Beginning on
the 11th Hour, of the 11th Day, of the 11th Month
Downtown San Jose

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2003

**Memorial Ceremony Begins at 11:00 AM
on Market Street at Plaza de Cesar Chavez**

**Parade Begins at Noon from Delmas along Santa Clara to
Market Street and ending at San Carlos Street**

JOIN US IN HONORING ALL VETERANS

Sponsored by the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County and
Supported by the City of San Jose and the County of Santa Clara



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Commander's Column

MARK YOUR CALENDAR -- November is election time. It is critical for everyone to attend the Camp meeting on the 8th of November and cast your ballot for next year's officers. We will also be making plans at the meeting for our annual Installation Ceremony and Banquet to be held in January. Your input is needed to determine if we should return to Lou's Village on the 3rd. I think everyone had a great time there last year.

This month saw Phil Sheridan Camp 4 dominate the Department of California & Pacific's participation in the annual Civil War reenactment in Fresno. For the second year in a row the Department participated in the largest reenactment on the West Coast. Eight Camps were represented this year and your Camp provided six Brothers and an Auxiliary Sister for this event which might result in the recruitment of over 50 new members for the forming U.S. Grant Camp in the Fresno/Modesto area.

Your Camp is anxiously counting down to this year's annual Veteran's Day Parade, sponsored by the United Veterans Council (UVC) of Santa Clara County. We had an excellent practice at San José's Field Sports Park on the 11th of October and there will be another practice after our Camp meeting on the 8th of November. We expect to have fifteen participants in this year's Color Guard including fifes and drums. By the way, Camp Brother **RICHARD MAYER** will be the Official Parade Photographer for the UVC.

November can be a hectic month. Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving keep us busy as well as the annual Veterans Flag Lowering Ceremony your Camp will conduct with the UVC at Oak Hill Memorial Park on the 30th. We have another event in November this year. The Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial will be set up in Santa Clara's Central Park between the 19th and 25th. There will be a Ceremony on Saturday (November 22nd) in which your Camp will post its Colors along with those of other Veteran organizations, and a Candle Light Vigil will be held on Tuesday (November 25th).

I want to take this opportunity to encourage the Sisters of our forming Auxiliary to complete their organizing work before the end of January. **DANIELLE MICHAELS**, National President of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, has agreed to join SUVCW Commander-in-Chief **KENT ARMSTRONG** at our Department Encampment in March. Danielle will be presenting the new Auxiliary's Charter and personally swear in the Charter Members. All of the Brothers of Phil Sheridan Camp 4 are eager to assist our Sisters in the re-establishment the Auxiliary within the Department of California and Pacific.

Don't forget, our next Camp meeting will be held at American Legion Mission City Post 564 on November 8th at 10:00 AM. Don't be late. Your attendance is important to elect the best officers for the coming year. Again the American Legion will provide coffee and the Camp will provide donuts for the meeting.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Bob Kadlec
Camp Commander

Annual Committee Reports Are Due

November is time for submission of annual Camp Committee Reports. A form is being sent to Committee Chairmen, which should be completed and turned in at the November Camp meeting. Because the Camp meeting will be our annual election meeting, and we will also be conducting a final practice for the Veterans Day Parade, the oral reports at the meeting should be kept short. In accordance with Camp Order No. 2 - Series 2003, listed below are the reports that are due on November 8th:

- A) **Programs and Policy Committee** – David C. Schleeter, Chair; Tad D. Campbell, PCC, Member; Daniel R. Earl, Member; Rick T. LaRosa, Member
- B) **Civil War Memorials Committee** – Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC, Chair; Tad D. Campbell, PCC, Member; Rick T. LaRosa, Member

Q: What were gabions?

A: Large round basket-like objects made of brush, left with open ends, and sometimes topped with sandbags, gabions were used to fortify Civil War earthworks.

- C) **Graves Registration Committee** – Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC, Chair; Tad D. Campbell, PCC, Member
 D) **Legislation Committee** – Daniel R. Earl, Chair; Steve Welch, Member
 E) **Bylaws Committee** – Daniel R. Earl, Chair; Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC, Member; Tad D. Campbell, PCC, Member
 F) **History Committee** – Tad D. Campbell, PCC, Chair; Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC, Member; Daniel R. Earl, Member; David C. Schleeter, Member; Rick T. LaRosa, Member; Greg Sweatt, Member
 G) **Ceremonial Observances Committee** – Daniel Renfroe, Chair; Daniel R. Earl, Member; Steve Welch, Member; James Welch, Junior Member; Joey Lutes, Junior Member
 H) **Military Affairs Committee** – David C. Schleeter, Chair; Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC, Member; Donald Pray, Member; Greg Sweatt, Member; James Welch, Junior Member
 I) **Visitations Committee** – Rev. Clark Seum, Chair; Daniel M. Bunnell, Member

If you are one of the Committee Chairmen, please turn in your reports at the Camp meeting on November 8th. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you are welcome to send your reports beforehand to the Camp Commander via e-mail.



ELIZABETH STEWART MCBAIN

Reprinted from the
Santa Cruz Sentinel, Santa Cruz, CA
October 2, 2003

Elizabeth Stewart McBain, or "Libby" as she was fondly known, passed away Saturday

September 27, 2003 in Santa Cruz, CA. She was born March 11, 1911 at San José's old O'Connor Hospital to John Beggs Stewart and Jeanette Pauline Thomson.

A true Santa Cruz Mountain native, Libby's father arrived there in 1891. He left Pennsylvania after the death of his father, Samuel Stewart, who had been a Union soldier during the Civil War. Libby's maternal grandfather, John Thomson, came to the mountains from Canada in about 1865.

Libby attended Lakeside School, graduated from Los Gatos High School in 1928, and graduated from San José Santa Clara County Hospital School

of Nursing in January of 1934. In August of 1934, she married John C. McBain. She worked as a nurse throughout her life. After her marriage, Libby and John lived in Campbell for many years and then retired in Soquel, where she kept beautiful gardens. Her husband passed away in 1978. Libby later moved to Dominican Oaks in Santa Cruz where she met many new friends, ran into old friends and enjoyed her the last few years of her life.

Libby will always be remembered by her family as the kindest, sweetest, most gentle lady who was loved by all who met her. She is preceded in death by her husband John McBain, her son John Bruce McBain, her parents John & Jennie Stewart, her sisters Alice Harlan, Laura Morse and Mary Frank and brother Jack T. Stewart. She is survived by her daughter, Janet McBain Hutchins and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held Saturday, October 4th at 10:00 am at Dominican Oaks Chapel in Santa Cruz.

Libby McBain was the grandaunt of Camp Brother **JOSEPH "JOEY" LUTES** and aunt of Auxiliary member **LAUREL ANDERSON**, both of Dos Palos, California. She was also the last surviving grandchild of **PVT. SAMUEL F. STEWART** of Co. A, 139th Pennsylvania Infantry.

Q: What was the difference between an artillery shot and an artillery shell?

A: A shot was a slid projectile, while a shell was hollow and was loaded with black powder, which was ignited by a fuse to cause the shell to explode in deadly fragments.

Orders, Orders, and More Orders!

By Tad D. Campbell, Dept. JVC

Recently, there has been some confusion regarding the types of Orders that are issued by Commanders at the various levels of our organization. This has resulted in such humorous occurrences as both Camp and Department Commanders attempting to issue their own "General Orders", a right normally reserved only for the Commander-in-Chief.

A quick check of the Constitution and Regulations of the Order easily clarifies the issue. In Chapter V, Article I, Section 1, it states that "the Commander-in-Chief shall issue "GENERAL ORDERS", Department Commanders "DEPARTMENT ORDERS", and Camp Commanders may issue "CAMP ORDERS", and all may issue Official Circulars, all attested by the respective Secretaries."

Likewise, the type of Orders issued by the Department Commander are spelled out in our own Department Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1, wherein it states "the Department Commander shall issue DEPARTMENT ORDERS as necessary." Section 2 further states that the "Department Commander may issue SPECIAL DEPARTMENT ORDERS upon the death of any Department Brother and for any other reason he determines to be appropriate."

The bottom line is:

CAMP COMMANDER issues CAMP ORDERS
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER issues DEPARTMENT ORDERS
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF issues GENERAL ORDERS

Hopefully this will clear up the "Mystery of the Many Orders."



VETERANS DAY PARADE

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month will mark the 85th anniversary of the Annual Veterans Day Parade in San José. During November 1918 the first Armistice Day Ceremony and Parade, to recognize the "War to end all Wars," was conducted along Second Street in downtown San José. The parade was jointly sponsored by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the newly formed American Legion. The next year these organizations would join together to establish the United Veterans Council (UVC) of Santa Clara County to coordinate future Veteran activities.

During February of this year, Phil Sheridan Camp Number 4, the oldest active Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp in the Department of California & Pacific, and heir to the GAR in San José, became an official member of the UVC of Santa Clara County. Delegates to the UVC from your Camp have been deeply involved in the planning for this year's parade. There will be over 150 units in six divisions marching this year. During the Opening Ceremony at 11:00 AM, World War I reenactors from the "Welcome Home Doughboys" organization will be presenting the Colors. Additionally, they will be displaying vintage vehicles that were used by the Allied Expeditionary Forces during the War in a program preceding the Pass in Review of the parade units.

Q: What was the occupation of Edward Maynard, who invented the Maynard carbine issued to many Union troops?

A: He was a dentist in Washington, D.C.

Your Camp plans to have over fifteen participants in its Color Guard. There will be two National Colors (50-Star and 34-Star), Camp Colors, and a new Sons of Veterans Reserve flag for the 8th California Volunteer Infantry Regiment. We hope to have at least six Brothers firing their muskets in a salute at the reviewing stand. **CAMP MUSICIAN JAMES WELCH** will play his drum as we march in review. He will be joined by another drummer and two fife players from the American Civil War Association (prospective Camp members) as they entertain the spectators along the parade route. We also hope to have a couple Sisters from our forming Auxiliary join us in the Parade this year.



Members of the GAR marching in the first Veterans Day Parade in downtown San José – 1918

It looks like our participation this year will significantly exceed the members of the Phil Sheridan and John A. Dix GAR Post 7 participants seen in the 1918 parade photograph, shown at left. Those who will be marching in the parade this year must be sure to attend our Camp Meeting on the 8th of November. After the meeting we will be conducting our final practice in the American Legion parking lot. Be sure to be there. Your Camp has taken home First Place trophies in the last two Parades. Let's see if we can make it a "three-pete" this year!

California Camp Brings Home Top Award!

The **SGT. WILLIAM PITTENGER CAMP 21** of Escondido, California returned from the 122nd Annual National Encampment in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky with the highest award possible. On August 9, 2003 the Camp was presented with the Abraham Lincoln Award for best Camp in the nation.

Camp 21, which serves all of "Old San Diego County," was singled out by **COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ROBERT GRIM** to receive this prestigious honor. Commander Grim cited the many good works of the Pittenger Camp throughout the past year, not the least of which was the organization of the SUVCW's participation in the SuperBowl pre-game ceremonies.

Brother **JERRY SAYRE** (at right), Commander of Camp 21, was honored to receive the trophy on behalf of his Camp brethren. Congratulations are extended to the entire membership of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21.



Q: How many men were in a Civil War regimental color guard?

A: Each regiment had a color guard of four carefully selected soldiers—two who carried the colors and two who guarded them.

THE CIVIL WAR,

REVISITED

On October 4th and 5th, 2003 members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War from all over the Department of California and Pacific gathered in Fresno, California. The occasion was the annual Fresno City and County Historical Society sponsored Civil War reenactment, entitled "The Civil War Revisited." This year's event commemorated the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The reenactment is the largest one west of the Mississippi, featured some 1,500-2,000 reenactors from across the nation, and drew thousands of spectators.

For two days, members staffed a recruitment and information booth adjacent to the Daughters of Union Veterans (DUV) and the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). Both Department Civil War Memorials Officer **KIRBY MORGAN** and Department G.A.R. Highway Officer **GARY PARROTT** prepared special displays for the public, explaining the work done by their respective offices. **KIM SAYRE**, wife of Camp 21 Commander **JERRY SAYRE**, assisted Camp 12 Brothers **AL PETERSON** and **LEONARD BECKER** in soliciting hundreds of signatures on a petition to restore Memorial Day to May 30th.



L-R: Bob Kadlec (Camp 4), Dan Earl (Camp 4), Jerry Sayre (Camp 21) Gary Parrott (Camp 25), Tad Campbell (Camp 4), Charlie Mabie (Camp 24) Al Peterson (Camp 12), Brad Schall (Camps 22 & 24), Corky Reed (Camp 24) Lynn Owens (Camp 24), Carl Taylor (Camp 24)

In addition to doing the good work of the Order, Department members enjoyed the camaraderie of friends and family. It was decided to make this reenactment an annual Department event.



A notable event took place on Saturday afternoon when fifteen Department Brothers gathered with ten members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for a historic photograph. The ferrotype photograph, reproduced here, was taken a short distance from the roar of the battlefield by the famed William Duniway & Company photographers from Mount Hermon, California.

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.

Schedule of Upcoming Events:

NOVEMBER 8, 2003: Camp meeting, American Legion Hall, Post 564, 2120 Walsh Ave., Santa Clara; 10:00 AM

NOVEMBER 11, 2003: Veterans Day Parade, Downtown San José; 9:00 AM

NOVEMBER 22, 2003: Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall Ceremony, Central Park, 969 Kiely Blvd., Santa Clara; 11:00 AM

NOVEMBER 30, 2003: Flag Lowering Ceremony, Oak Hill Memorial Park, 300 Curtner Ave., San José

MARCH 19-20, 2004: 118th Annual Department Encampment, Elks Lodge, San Luis Obispo

Sarah Edmonds

Grand Army of the Republic's Only Female Member

Born in December 1841 in New Brunswick, Sarah Edmonson, or Edmondson, received scant education as a child, and sometime in the 1850s she ran away from home. For a time she was an itinerant seller of Bibles, dressing as a man and using the name Frank Thompson. She gradually made her way west and by 1861 had established residence in Flint, Michigan. Shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, she enlisted—as Frank Thompson—in a volunteer infantry company in Flint that became Company F, 2nd Michigan Infantry. Her disguise was a complete success for nearly a year. She took part in the Battle of Blackburn's Ford, the First Battle of Bull Run, and the Peninsular campaign of May-July 1862.



At Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, she was an aide to Colonel Orlando M. Poe. At least twice she undertook intelligence missions behind Confederate lines "disguised" as a woman. She accompanied the 2nd Michigan to Kentucky early in 1863 and in April, for reasons that are now unclear, deserted. Taking the name Sarah Edmonds, she worked as a nurse for the United States Christian Commission. In 1865 she published a lurid and very popular fictional account of her experiences as Nurse and Spy in the Union Army. She married in 1867 and thereafter moved often—to Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Louisiana, and Kansas.

In 1882, living then in Fort Scott, Kansas, she began securing affidavits from old army comrades in order to apply for a veteran's pension, and in July 1884 the pension was granted by Congress to "Sarah E.E. Seelye [her married name], alias Frank Thompson." She later moved to La Porte, Texas, where she died on September 5, 1898. A short time before, she had in Houston become the only woman to be mustered into the Grand Army of the Republic as a regular member.

SOURCE: <http://thecivilwar.net/firms.com/women/w11-edmonds.htm>



AUXILIARY NEWS

It has been a number of years since the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW) has been a viable presence within the Department of California and Pacific. There are currently no local Auxiliaries within the Department, but that is about to

change. Plans are underway to reinstate the Auxiliary within the Department. Names are currently being gathered to appear as CHARTER MEMBERS of the soon-to-be-formed Auxiliary. This new Auxiliary will function Department-wide and will include ladies from across California, Nevada and Hawaii.

Please join your Sisters in this exciting time! Your new Auxiliary is in need of officers and regular members. Please contact **RACHELLE CAMPBELL** to express your interest and support!

Phone: 408-842-7368

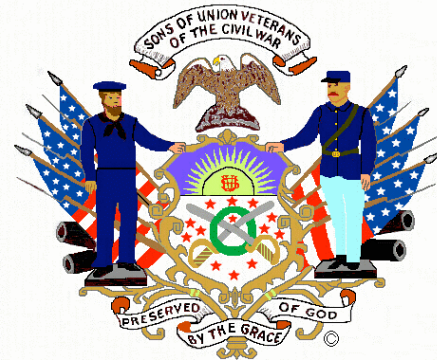
E-mail: brach41650@aol.com

Fact: An estimated 3,200 women served as nurses in the Union army during the Civil War, while a somewhat smaller, undetermined number of women served as nurses for the Confederate forces.

Camp Officers 2003:

- *Commander* Robert J. Kadlec
philsheridan4@aol.com
- *Sr. Vice Commander* David C. Schleeter
KnifeGuy@aol.com
- *Jr. Vice Commander* Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC
dbunnell@pacbell.net
- *Secretary-Treasurer* Daniel R. Earl
danearl64@earthlink.net
- *Camp Council* Tad D. Campbell, PCC
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Donald W. Pray
prayd@pacbell.net
Rick T. LaRosa
- *Historian & Patriotic Instructor* Tad D. Campbell, PCC
tadcamp@earthlink.net
- *Chaplain* Rev. Clark D. Seum
- *Graves Reg. & Memorials Ofcr.* Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC
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- *Counselor* Daniel R. Earl
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- *Guard* Rick T. LaRosa
- *Color Bearer* David C. Schleeter
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- *Guide* Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC
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- *Eagle Scout Cert. Coordinator* Robert J. Kadlec
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- *Signals Officer & Newsletter Editor* Tad D. Campbell, PCC
tadcamp@earthlink.net
- *Musician* James Welch

Next Meeting: Saturday, Nov 8, 2003, 10 AM
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 (direct ancestor) or collateral line (uncle) and not less than 14 years of age (6 to 14 years for Juniors), who: (1) is a blood relative (descendant or nephew) 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.

Q: What was a soldier's "housewife"?

A: A "housewife" was a small sewing kit commonly carried by soldiers of both sides during the war.