

Sheridan's Dispatch

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

Volume 5, Issue 2

San José, California

April-May 2004

CAMP MEETING SUMMARY

The most recent Camp meeting was held on Saturday, April 24, 2004 at the American Legion Hall in Santa Clara. It was held in conjunction with the first official meeting of the Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52. Those in attendance included: **FRANK AVILA, VINCENT BARTNING, CRITTENDEN BELL, DANIEL BUNNELL PDC, TAD CAMPBELL PCC, DANIEL EARL, FRANK GUIRADO, ROBERT KADLEC, RICK LAROSA, PAUL LAVRISCHEFF, JOEY LUTES, DAVID SCHLEETER, REV. CLARK SEUM, ROBERT SORIA, JAMES WELCH, and STEVEN WELCH.** Attending members of the Auxiliary were **LAUREL ANDERSON, RACHELLE CAMPBELL, KAREN LAVRISCHEFF, and ANN SCHLEETER.** This made for a total attendance of twenty!

After the initial joint opening ceremonies and the Camp Commander's report, the Auxiliary members were excused to conduct their meeting in an adjoining room.

Camp Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator, Bro. **CRITTENDEN BELL**, reported that fifty Eagle Scout Certificates have been issued by the Camp in the first quarter of 2004. This is an impressive gain over the past and it is likely that more Eagle Scout Certificates have been issued in the past quarter, than in the Camp's entire history combined. Great work Bro. Bell! If you are an Eagle Scout, or know of an Eagle Scout, who has not received a certificate from the SUVCW, please e-mail Bro. Bell at critbell@aol.com



Additionally, Bro. Bell took an opportunity to familiarize the Camp with the American Civil War Preservation Trust, and explained the work done by the organization to prevent Civil War sites from being lost to development. He also passed around a petition in support of the allocation of additional government funds for battlefield preservation. Further information on the American Civil War Preservation Trust can be found online at www.civilwar.org

Bro. **PAUL LAVRISCHEFF** reported on his attendance at the American Civil War Association's Knights Ferry reenactment, which took place in March. Paul was especially impressed with a first person portrayal of Robert Todd Lincoln. Lincoln gave a speech expressing the importance of the Union forces along the West Coast, and specifically mentioned the 8th California Infantry and their service at Fort Point, at the entrance to San Francisco Bay.

Plans for the Camp's activities over the upcoming Memorial Day weekend were discussed. Spearheading the effort is Bro. **STEVEN WELCH**, Chairman of the Camp's Ceremonial Observances Committee. The Camp will be participating in at least three separate events over the Memorial Day weekend (May 28-31). On Friday, May 28th, Camp members will meet at 3:30 PM at Roaring Camp in Felton to set up the Camp's information booth, which will be staffed at that location for the following two days. On Saturday, May 29th, the City of San José will be participating in a live telecast of the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington DC. This will take place at 10:00 AM at the San José Convention Center. Phil Sheridan Camp 4 members are encouraged to attend. As previously stated, the Camp's information booth at Roaring Camp will be staffed during the Civil War reenactments taking place on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday evening, the booth will be taken down, as all Camp personnel will be needed at Monday's Memorial Day services. The United Veterans Council's 86th Annual Memorial Day Service, honoring veterans of all wars, will take place on Monday, May 31, at 11:00 AM at Oak Hill Memorial Park. Camp Commander **ROBERT KADLEC** and Auxiliary President **RACHELLE CAMPBELL** will lay a wreath in memory of Civil War veterans.

After the meeting, most of those in attendance retired to the Cattleman's Restaurant for food and camaraderie. The date of the next Camp meeting has yet to be determined.

Commander's Column

Your Camp, and its full complement of delegates, survived the 118th Annual Encampment of the Department of California & Pacific in San Luis Obispo on March 19th-20th. This was probably the largest represented Encampment in recent years with over 65 delegates. Several important proposals that were offered by your Camp were referred to committee. It is not clear just why the Encampment Delegates were reluctant to consider all the proposals that were intended to correct errors and omissions in the Department Bylaws and to simplify the Department Standing Rules. Two of the three Bylaws proposals were accepted, however, before the third could be presented, there was an impassioned discussion regarding the necessity for "additional rules." The remaining Bylaw amendment and the Regulation proposal (intended to repeal the original eighteen Standing Rules and replace them with four simplified regulations) were questioned as to their necessity which resulted in them being referred to a Department committee for review. It is curious that

proposals intended to reduce and simplify Department rules and procedures were contested on the grounds that the Department shouldn't need so many rules. Department Commander Linn Hoadley is forming the Bylaws/Regulation committee, which will review the proposals and submit recommendations to the 120th Encampment in 2005. Camp JVC Dan Bunnell (PDC), and co-author of the 1995 Department Bylaws, will be a member of the Department Bylaws/Regulation committee.

Our new Dr. Mary Walker Auxiliary was officially established during this year's Department Encampment. The National President of the Auxiliary of the SUVCW, Danielle Michaels, traveled to California and presented the Charter and installed the founding officers. The first official regular meeting of the Dr. Walker Auxiliary was held in conjunction with your Camp's 24 April meeting. American Legion Post 564 was kind enough to provide the use of a second room in the Post Headquarters for the Auxiliary to hold a private meeting following the joint opening with the Phil Sheridan Camp meeting.

An important final note to this year's Encampment was the recognition of Camp "patriarch," and 50-year SUVCW member, the Rev. Clark Seum, on the occasion of his 77th Birthday. The Camp Delegates to the Encampment held a birthday celebration for Clark at the Apple Farm Restaurant in San Luis Obispo on Saturday night after the adjournment of the Encampment.

I don't think that everyone needs to be reminded of the busy Memorial Day weekend coming up. Your Camp will again operate an information booth, along with Santa Cruz's Lincoln Camp 10, at the American Civil War Association's event at Roaring Camp in Felton on Saturday and Sunday (May 29-30). On Monday (May 31), your Camp, along with the Dr. Mary Auxiliary, and Company C of the 8th California Infantry (SVR) will post colors and participate in the United Veterans Council (UVC) Wreath Laying Ceremony at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San José beginning at 11:00 AM.

Early Saturday morning, Brother Crit Bell will assist the UVC in supervising local Boy Scouts as they place approximately 3,600 American flags at the headstones of veterans of all wars in six burial plots at Oak Hill. In addition to the Veterans Plot, the Field of Honor, and the Spanish American War Plot, flags will be placed at the two Camp owned GAR plots and the Women's Relief Corps Burial Plot. I am sure that Crit would welcome any help he can get with this task that begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning. Lunch will be provided by Oak Hill for those who will participate in this effort. Also, after the UVC Ceremony on Monday, Brother Crit, and the Boy Scouts, will remove all the flags from the veteran plots (beginning around 2:30 PM after the Vietnam Veterans Ceremony at the Field of Honor).

For those of you who will not be able to join us at Roaring Camp on Saturday (May 29), or help Crit at Oak Hill, you might want to attend the World War II Memorial Dedication Ceremony activities at the San José Convention Center. San José is one of only three cities in the United States

that will participate in a simulcast of the Memorial Dedication Ceremony in Washington, DC. The event begins at 10:00 AM and will be first come first serve. You may want to arrive early. The ceremony is scheduled for broadcast from Washington on the History Channel for those of you who have cable or satellite TV and might want to make a tape for your Camp Commander who has neither.

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



Sons of Veterans Reserve

DAVID SCHLEETER, Commander of Company C, 8th California Infantry, SVR recently reported that membership in the unit has grown enough to allow for promotions. There will now be one 1st Lieutenant, one 2nd Lieutenant, one 1st Sergeant, one 2nd Sergeant, and four Corporals. The commissioned officers were elected at a recent meeting, being 1st Lt. David Schleeter and 2nd Lt. **DANIEL EARL**. Non-commissioned officers will be appointed by Lt. Schleeter and Lt. Earl at a later date.

Bro. **STEVEN WELCH** announced the pending formation of a second SVR company associated with the Phil Sheridan Camp. The name selected for the unit was Battery A, 3rd United States Artillery. Battery A, originally posted at San Francisco, was equipped as light artillery and joined Colonel Carlton's California Column, which marched in 1862 from California across the deserts to Tucson, Arizona, to secure that Territory

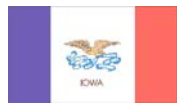
from usurping rebel authority. This task having been successfully accomplished, it marched with other Union troops into New Mexico where it served as a light battery until 1865 when it was transported to Boston Harbor. While in New Mexico the unit saw exceedingly hard service. It was marching much of the time, when not as artillery, against the Indians as cavalry. No company of the regiment saw harder service during the war than Battery A.

Department Encampment

The 118th Annual Encampment of the Department of California and Pacific was held at the Elks Lodge in San Luis Obispo on March 19-20. The following Department officers were elected for the 2004-2005 term:

Commander	LINN P. HOADLEY , Camp 2
Senior Vice Commander	TAD D. CAMPBELL , Camp 4
Junior Vice Commander	JERRY SAYRE , Camp 21
Secretary-Treasurer	DANIEL R. EARL , Camp 4
Council	D. BRAD SCHALL , PDC, Camp 24
	RUDY VELASCO , Camp 2
	ALAN E. PETERSON , PDC, Camp 12

National Encampment



Reminder: The 123rd Annual National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has been scheduled for August 13-14, 2004 at the Collins Plaza Hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Please make your plans to attend early!

CAMP ORDERS

Camp Order No. 4, Series 2004 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT DELEGATES

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 resignation of Brother William J. Stewart as a Delegate to the 2004 Department Encampment has been received by the Camp Commander, recorded, and is effective immediately.

Section 2: Pursuant to § 2 of Article IX of the Camp Bylaws, Brother J. Frank Guirado is appointed a full Delegate to the 2004 Encampment of the Department of California and Pacific.

The foregoing Camp Order amends Section 3 and Section 4 of Camp Order No. 3 Series 2004 and is proclaimed this 14th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-eighth, in the City of San José, County of Santa Clara, State of California by Robert J. Kadlec, Commander of the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Camp Order No. 5, Series 2004 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT DELEGATES

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, Brother William Pope is appointed an Alternate Delegate to the 2004 Encampment of the Department of California and Pacific.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 20th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-eighth, in the City of San José, County of Santa Clara, State of California by Robert J. Kadlec, 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/ Robert J. Kadlec
Camp Commander
Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4

ATTEST:

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

My Civil War Ancestor

LEVI HENSEL, CO. G, 13TH KANSAS CAVALRY
Great-great-grandfather of Paul E. Lavrischeff

Levi Hensel was born February 29, 1832 in New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He was the fourth of twelve children born to John and Rachel (Barton) Hensel. Both of Levi's grandfathers served in the military, his paternal grandfather, Frederick Hensel, having been killed during the War of 1812, and his maternal grandfather, Eli Barton, having served during the American Revolution.

By August 9, 1850, when he was just eighteen years old, Levi was evidently making his own way in the world, as he was not enumerated with his parents in the census of that year. His whereabouts at that time are uncertain, but he was known to be working at least part of the time as a correspondent for a New York newspaper, either the *Times* or the *Tribune*.

The year 1857 found Levi Hensel as far west as Clark County, Iowa, where he married Mary Jane Morrow on November 5th. She was the daughter of Thomas Adam and Esther U. (Scott) Morrow and was also a native of Tuscarawas County, Ohio. It is not known whether the two families had been acquainted back in the Buckeye State, or whether their similar origins were purely coincidental.

Very shortly after their 1857 marriage, the Hensels migrated to Kansas Territory, where they settled in the town of Seneca, in Nemaha County. Here Levi established a blacksmith shop. William G. Cutler's [History of the State of Kansas](#) has the following to say:

In 1857, a blacksmith's shop was put up, consisting merely of four poles covered with brush, with a few boards over the forge. Its owner was Levi Hensel, who was able to utilize his powers either as a son of Vulcan, or as correspondent of the New York Tribune, for which paper he made one of the most valuable contributions descriptive of this immediate section of the country. The first birth in Seneca was Esther Hensel, daughter of Levi Hensel, born in 1859. Upon her birth, a town lot was conveyed to her by the town company in honor of the event. She died less than three years later.

When the famous Pony Express was organized in 1860, and during its 18-month existence, Levi Hensel worked as a stationmaster and blacksmith. According the

Chapter 3 of [The Pony Express Historic Resource Guide](#),

The backbone of the Pony Express was the station keepers. Though they did not receive as much notoriety as Pony Express riders in the historical literature on the Pony Express, they nevertheless were very important to the organization of the operation. While a good majority of the Pony Express riders are known by name, the identities of two-thirds or more of the station keepers are still unknown. At the Seneca station in Kansas, the station keeper, Levi Hensel, and his wife lived in a two-story house where they "set a splendid table" and held many dances.

The years of 1854-1861 were a turbulent time in the Kansas Territory, better known as "Bleeding Kansas" because of the violent clashes between pro-slavers, free-staters and abolitionists. The anti-slavery forces finally prevailed when Kansas entered the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861. By April 12th, the American Civil War had been initiated.

When President Abraham Lincoln called for 300,000 more volunteers on July 2, 1862, the State of Kansas answered the call. Levi Hensel was among those that could not resist his President's request for aid, and he enlisted in the Union cause on September 20th. He was quickly commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant in Company G, 13th Kansas Cavalry.

This regiment was recruited during the months of August and September from the counties of Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Marshall, and Nemaha. They rendezvoused at Camp Stanton, where they were mustered into the U.S. service.

The 13th Kansas Cavalry was initially sent to the Indian Territory and was henceforth part of the Army of the Frontier. It then moved to Arkansas where it participated in the battle of Cane Hill and was warmly engaged at the battle of Prairie Grove. On December 27, 1862, it moved with the army by forced march to Van Buren, Arkansas. This march was made in extremely cold weather and the command was forced to ford a rapid mountain stream several times, resulting in numerous deaths from exposure.

In January 1863, it made another forced march, this time to Springfield, Missouri, in order to resist a threatened attack. There it remained through the spring, performing garrison duty. On May 19th, the regiment moved to Fort Scott and thence to Dry Wood, where they performed garrison duty for another two months. In August 1863, the regiment again took to the field, participating in General Blunt's campaign against the

irregular forces of Cooper, Cabell, Steele, and Stand Watie, which resulted in driving the enemy to the Red River and the capture of Fort Smith.

The regiment marched over 400 miles in August, 200 of which were during the last ten days of the month. They subsequently returned to Indian Territory, performing outpost and scout duty until October 6, 1863, when they were ordered to Van Buren, Arkansas and went into winter quarters.

In March 1864, Levi Hensel's Company G was among those ordered to Fort Smith, Arkansas where they remained for the rest of the year, performing garrison and scout duty. While at Fort Smith, on March 25th, Lt. Hensel was appointed Assistant Regimental Postmaster.



Levi Hensel

The 13th Kansas Cavalry was ordered to Little Rock on March 3, 1865, where it performed guard and provost duty. On March 27, 1865, Lt. Hensel was awarded another appointment, that of Assistant Regimental Quartermaster. Levi was mustered out with his regiment on June 26, 1865. The men were subsequently discharged at Fort Leavenworth on July 13th.

Lt. Nathaniel Slosson, a fellow comrade of Company G, had this to say of Levi Hensel's time in the service:

He participated in the battles of Cane Hill, Prairie Grove, and the raid on Van Buren. The regiment lived hard and was very much exposed to cold weather on this raid. And a forced march was made to Springfield immediately after the taking of Van Buren, which broke down a great many men of the regiment. Lt. Hensel was always regarded as one of the best officers of the regiment and never sought to avoid any duty when he was able to perform it.

After returning home from the war, Levi and his wife settled back into their family life. They produced three more children: Robert S., born about 1867; John Levi, born April 27, 1869; and Ellen M. "Nellie", born October 3, 1872. He continued to be a prominent part of the community and was an Assistant Marshall and census enumerator for Nemaha County in 1870.

However, by 1875, Levi had moved his family to the Colorado Territory, settling at Silver Cliff in

Pueblo County. Here Levi continued his career as a journalist, which must have proved interesting the following year when Colorado achieved statehood.

The Hensels evidently had problems with their marriage, the details of which are not clear, as Levi filed for and was granted a divorce from Mary Jane by the Arapahoe County Court on April 27, 1887.

Levi moved to New Mexico Territory shortly after his divorce, and on September 10, 1887 at Santa Fe he took as his second wife, Mrs. Lavinia Ada (Hull) Caffall, a widow. They moved to the town of Espanola, where they lived for a number of years before returning to Pueblo County, Colorado.

During his later years, Levi continued his journalistic work as a reporter for a local newspaper. He died on March 13, 1911 from gangrene of the lower extremities, and was buried at Roselawn Cemetery in Pueblo, Colorado.

Auxiliary News

The Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52 is now official, having been duly instituted by National President Danielle Michaels at the Sons' Department Encampment in San Luis Obispo in March 20th.

Our first meeting was held in conjunction with the April 24th meeting of the Phil Sheridan Camp 4. Several key items were discussed, including fundraising efforts and Memorial Day participation. Our Auxiliary Bylaws were also approved unanimously.

The next meeting of the Auxiliary has yet to be determined, but will likely be at the same time and place as that of the Phil Sheridan Camp 4. The Auxiliary's Charter is currently being framed for presentation, and will be proudly displayed at our next meeting.

Over Memorial Day weekend we will be participating with Phil Sheridan Camp 4 and Lincoln Camp 10 at the Civil War events at Roaring Camp in Felton, the World War II Memorial Dedication Ceremony in San José, and the United Veterans Council Memorial Day Services at Oak Hill Memorial Park, also in San José. If any member of our Auxiliary is able to



participate in other events over the weekend, please let me know as soon as possible so that our Patriotic Instructor can properly record the event.

Current officers and contact information can be found on the Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary website at <http://home.earthlink.net/~asuvcw/walker52.html>

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rachelle M. Campbell, President
Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52

Aviation Pioneer

Prof. Thaddeus Lowe (1832-1913)

Impressed with the intelligence-gathering unpredictable nature of balloon flights, were possibilities of manned balloons, Abraham Lincoln appointed Thaddeus Lowe chief of army aeronautics in 1861; by the time he resigned his post in 1863, Lowe and his crew had made more than 3,000 flights over enemy territory.

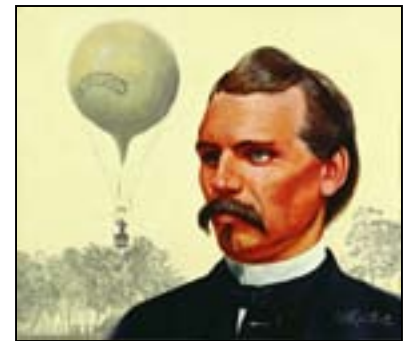
A few months before he received his appointment, Lowe, a renowned aeronautic scientist, made a 9-hour, 900-mile flight from Cincinnati, Ohio to Unionville, South Carolina. Unfortunately, his trip followed the fall of Fort Sumter by just a week; when he arrived in South Carolina, the Confederate army summarily arrested him on charges of spying for the Union. Lowe managed to convince them of his innocence and took a week of touring through the Confederate states under a letter of free passage to Cincinnati where he was to recover his balloons. While in Cincinnati he received word to see the Secretary of the Treasury and the War Department. After which he was referred to the President and then eventually General Scott.

Working under the auspices of the War Department, Lowe received the pay of a colonel, plus materials and labor. His first mission involved gathering information on Confederate troop deployment shortly after First Bull Run in mid-July 1861. During George B. McClellan's Peninsula

Campaign in the summer and fall of the same year, Lowe conducted almost daily flights over the Virginia landscape, producing reports and photographs of the Confederate position.

Thanks to additional army appropriations, Lowe was able to expand and improve his fleet. He built five airships of various sizes and had with them newly designed generators that could produce hydrogen gas on the battlefield. The largest of his ships, the Intrepid, was 32,000 cubic feet in size and required 1,200 yards of silk ' He used it to conduct surveillance during and after Fredericksburg.

Although the Confederate Army lacked the resources to launch its own full-scale aeronautics program, Captain E. Porter Alexander oversaw several



ascensions by Confederate aeronauts in 1861 and 1862, who reported on Union troop deployment during the Peninsula and Seven Days campaigns. Balloons were often shot down behind enemy lines or, due to the unpredictable nature of balloon flights, were unable to return to camp in time to provide crucial information to the command. The last use of balloons by the Confederate army took place in 1863, after its largest balloon was swept away by a strong, high wind.

The Union soon abandoned the often risky use of surveillance balloons as well. Lowe ended his career with the Union army when the newly appointed commander, Joseph Hooker sharply reduced the role of aeronautics in the Army of the Potomac in late 1863. Shortly after the war ended, Lowe moved to California, where he continued experimenting with aeronautics and other new technologies. The Lowe Observatory in Pasadena, California, was built as a testament to his scientific accomplishments.

URL: <http://www.civilwarhome.com/lowebio.htm>

Phil Sheridan Camp Officers 2004:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| • <i>Commander</i> | Robert J. Kadlec
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| • <i>Sr. Vice Commander</i> | David C. Schleeter
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| • <i>Chaplain</i> | Rev. Clark D. Seum | • <i>Signals Officer & Newsletter Editor</i> | Tad D. Campbell, PCC
tadcamp@earthlink.net |
| • <i>Assistant Chaplain</i> | Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC
philsheridan4@msn.com | • <i>Musician</i> | James Welch |

Next Meeting: (To Be Announced)

Phil Sheridan Camp 4 Web Site
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvcw/sheridan4.html>

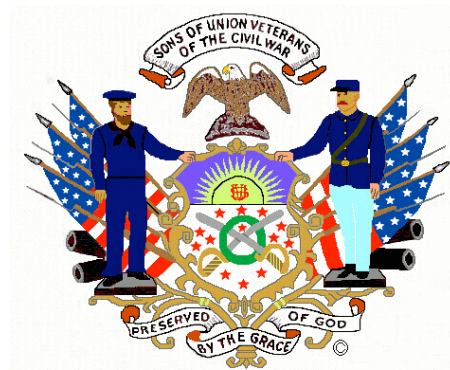
Department of California & Pacific Web Site
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvcw/deptca.html>

National SUVCW Web Site
<http://www.suvcw.org>

Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary, No. 52 Web Site
<http://home.earthlink.net/~asuvcw/walker52.html>

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P.O. Box 664
Gilroy, CA 95021-0664

Telephone Number: 408-267-3249



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.