

SHERIDAN'S DISPATCH

Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4

Department of California & Pacific

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Recipient of the Abraham Lincoln Award for Best Camp in the Nation!

Volume 9, Issue 1

San José, California

January-February 2008

SAN FRANCISCO'S FORT POINT MANNED BY NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMPS

**ALLIED ORDERS MAKE
EXCELLENT SHOWING DESPITE
THREATENING WEATHER.**

The annual Open House at Fort Point National Historic Site in San Francisco, California took place on Saturday, January 26, 2008. The event, which is a cooperative effort between the National Parks Service and the National Civil War Association, brings the Civil War era fort to life with marching, drilling, and a military band.

The SUVCW is always invited and this year provided four tables with displays about the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Allied Orders.

At least five SUVCW Camps were represented at the Fort, as well as members of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Fort Point, located directly below the southern end of the Golden Gate Bridge, is known for its frigid temperatures and high winds, even during the summer. Although severe winter storms threatened to cancel the event, the rain ceased and the wind quieted, revealing a pleasant day by Fort Point standards.

A special highlight was the attendance of Department Commander Jerry R. Sayre and his wife Kim, who traveled nearly 500 miles from their home in San Diego County to attend the event. DC Sayre conducted installations for several Camps during a moving ceremony in the old fort.



Front Row, L-R: Mace Gjerman (Camp 23), Joe Marti (Camp 4), Steve Welch (Camp 4), Tad Campbell PDC (Camp 4), Tim Reese (Camp 10). **Back Row, L-R:** Jamin Gjerman (Camp 23), Frank Avila (Camp 4), DC Jerry Sayre (Camp 21), Thomas Brown (Camp 10), Don Fusilier (Camp 10), Jim Spencer (Camp 16), Kevin Mowrey (Camp 23).

MORE IMAGES OF FORT POINT



Sgt. Tad Campbell PDC, Bro. Linn Malaznik, CC Thomas Brown (as Gen. Thomas) and Auxiliary President Rachelle Campbell during a lull in the action at Fort Point.



Dept. Cmdr. Jerry Sayre with outgoing Camp 4 Cmdr. Steve Welch



PDC Tad Campbell and DC Jerry Sayre posing with the Department Banner.



Auxiliary President Rachelle Campbell answers questions from the public.

New Camp Officers Elected and Installed

The following Camp Officers were elected at the Camp meeting on November 17, 2007 and duly installed by Department Commander **JERRY R. SAYRE** at the Annual Installation Banquet on January 26, 2008, held at Malloy's Tavern in Colma, California:

Commander — FRANK C. AVILA	Councilman
Senior Vice Commander	RICK T. LaROSA
TAD D. CAMPBELL PDC	Councilman
Junior Vice Commander	WILLIAM H. POPE
THOMAS T. GRAHAM	Councilman
Secretary-Treasurer	JOSEPH C. MARTI
ROBERT J. KADLEC PCC	

Commander Sayre performed a joint installation of the officers for the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 and the Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp No. 23.

Also installed by Commander Sayre were the officers of the Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52 and the Auxiliary's Department of California and Pacific.



Commanders-Elect Frank C. Avila (Camp 4) and David C. Schleeter (Camp 23) receiving instructions from DC Sayre during the joint installation.



Auxiliary President Rachelle Campbell and Camp Commander Frank Avila present DC Jerry Sayre with a certificate of appreciation for a job well done.



Officers of Camps 4 and 23 take their oath.

The following Auxiliary Officers were elected and installed:

Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52
PRESIDENT - KAREN L. LAVRISCHEFF
VICE PRESIDENT - SHARON POPE
SECRETARY-TREASURER - RACHELLE M. CAMPBELL
TRUSTEES
LORI PARROTT, MARCY BUNNELL, ANNA BUREN

*Department of California & Pacific**
PRESIDENT - RACHELLE M. CAMPBELL
VICE PRESIDENT - CHARLENE PETERSON
SECRETARY-TREASURER - KAREN L. LAVRISCHEFF
*TEMPORARY OFFICERS UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT.

THE SAGA OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS



Alexander D. Goode



George L. Fox

It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche.

Hans J. Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier the Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen

knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the alarming information. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea-lanes, and several ships had already been blasted and sunk.

The Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the Dorchester.

The U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes. A fan of three was fired. The one that hit was decisive--and deadly--striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line.

Danielsen, alerted that the Dorchester was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC Comanche, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and then rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued

on, escorting the remaining two ships.

Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them.

Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety.

"Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves.

"Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave



Clark V. Poling



John P. Washington

them to four frightened young men.

"It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act.

Ladd's response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains--arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

"Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes."

That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA.

A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

On Saturday, February 2, 2008 Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 had the honor of participating in the American Legion's 28th Annual Four Chaplains Inter-Faith Memorial Service in San José, California. Posting the Camp colors were **FRANK AVILA, TAD CAMPBELL, PAUL LAVRISCHEFF, and ROBERT SORIA**. Also participating in the ceremony were Brothers **ROBERT KADLEC and VINCENT BARTNING**.

MY CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR

WILLIAM SMITH TAYLOR

Co. B, 38th Iowa Infantry

3 x great granduncle of Tad D. Campbell, PDC

2 x great granduncle of Donald D. Campbell

2 x great granduncle of Howard D. Campbell

William Smith Taylor was the third of ten children of Robert A. and Susanna M. (Robinson) Taylor. He was born in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania on April 25, 1842.

With his parents he left Westmoreland County about 1854-56 and settled in Dubuque County, Iowa. They lived her some five or six years when they removed to Bremer County, Iowa.

On July 25, 1862 William S. Taylor enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Private. He was mustered into Company B, 38th Iowa Infantry on September 11, 1862.

The regiment was organized at Dubuque and mustered in on December 4, 1862. They moved to Benton Barracks near St. Louis, Missouri on December 15. From there they boarded the steamer Platte Valley and proceeded down the Mississippi to Columbus, Kentucky where they arrived on December 30th. They were attached to the District of Columbus, Kentucky, 16th Army Corps, Department of Tennessee.

The regiment participated in an expedition to Union City, Tennessee, December 31, 1862 through January 1, 1863. They were then ordered back to Columbus and thence down the river to New Madrid, Missouri, where they were stationed guarding Fort Thompson until June 1863.

In June the regiment went by the steamer Daniel Taylor to Young's Point, Louisiana, and by June 15th they had crossed the Mississippi and were under the guns of Vicksburg, Mississippi forming a part of General Grant's extreme left line during the siege.

The location where this particular regiment was stationed was extremely unhealthy, being at the edge of a dismal cypress swamp. Many of the men contracted malaria.

While at Vicksburg, Private Taylor was one of many that succumbed to disease, passing away on July 26, 1863. He was only 21 years, 3 months, and 1 day old.

The story of this regiment is short and melancholy. As an organization it never saw a battle, and yet no other Iowa regiment lost so many soldiers in such a short time. Out of a full strength of 910, not less than 311 were dead of disease within a year and a half, and another 110 had been discharged as being too "broken down" to serve. It is doubtful if any command in all the Union suffered as this regiment did.

By August 1864 so many of the men were down

with the fever that the morning report showed only eight officers and twenty men fit for duty. Shortly thereafter, those that remained were merged into the 34th Iowa Infantry.

William S. Taylor's younger brother, Arthur S.

Taylor, served in the same company and succumbed to disease as well. Their only other brother, John B. Taylor, served with the 13th Illinois and was killed in a charge at Chickasaw Bayou.

RECORD TURNOUT FOR SAN JOSÉ'S VETERANS DAY PARADE



As evidenced by the photograph to the left, the SUVCW and Auxiliary had a record turnout for November's Veterans Day Parade. Much appreciated support was also garnered from the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and re-enactors from the American Civil War Association. Although no prizes were taken home, the group did a fantastic job of honoring the "Boys in Blue"!

COMMANDER'S CORNER

I would first like to thank all of you for electing me to serve as your Commander. We had a great year in 2007 and I am looking forward to an even better year in 2008!

Among the things I would like to accomplish during the coming year is to step up our graves registration work and to see that missing or damaged headstones are replaced at Oak Hill Memorial Park and other cemeteries in our area. Also, I believe that our Order can benefit greatly from more public exposure, especially in the area of recruitment. One way to gain additional publicity would be to provide color guards for some of our Bay Area sporting events. We should also try to do more school events, which is a great way to educate our youth about the Civil War and the SUVCW.

We had a great event recently at Fort Point in San Francisco, and it didn't even rain as predicted! I would also like to thank Past Camp Commander Steve Welch for a job well done in organizing our Installation Banquet at Malloy's Tavern. I believe everyone had a good time!

I look forward to seeing all of you on February 9th at the Lincoln Day Dinner in Newark, hosted this year by the Gen. Alfred Pleasonton Camp No. 24.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Frank C. Avila
Camp Commander

Event Schedule

January 26, 2008

Fort Point Open House
San Francisco, California

January 26, 2008

Installation Banquet at Malloy's Tavern
Colma, California

February 2, 2008

Four Chaplains Memorial Service
St. Francis Cabrini Church, San José, California

February 9, 2008

Lincoln Day Dinner at Cattlemen's Restaurant
Newark, California

March 14-15, 2008

122nd Annual Department Encampment
San Luis Obispo, California

**Be sure to check the Camp website
for additional events and updates.**

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

Did You Know?

The Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is the largest Civil War battlefield park in the National Park system. There is a visitor's center, three period cabins (two reconstructions and one original structure), and Wilder Tower, which affords a breathtaking view of the battlefield. Near the summit of Lookout Mountain is a spectacular overlook and the Adolph S. Ochs Museum. A bit farther down is the restored Cravens House, scene of the climactic action of the battle of Lookout Mountain.

Gen. Philip H. Sheridan later recalled, "On the 19th of October [1863], after turning the command over to Thomas, General Rosecrans quietly slipped away from the army. He submitted uncomplainingly to his removal, and modestly left us without fuss or demonstration—ever maintaining, though, that the Battle of Chickamauga was in effect a victory, as it had ensured us . . . the retention of Chattanooga . . ."



Dr. Walker's Remedies

News from Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52

Now that my husband, the resident genealogist in the family, has finally been able to identify my Civil War ancestry, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize "my" Boys in Blue:

Anders Davidson, 4th Independent Battery, Wisconsin Light Artillery

Ole Davidson, Company K, 27th Iowa Infantry

Elling H. Ellickson, Company F, 15th Wisconsin Infantry

Niels H. Ellickson, Company D, 6th Iowa Cavalry

Given that my ancestry is entirely Norwegian and Swedish, I am particularly proud of Elling Ellickson's service in the 15th Wisconsin, which was also known as the "Scandinavian Regiment", the only such regiment in the Union or Confederate armies.

In F, C, & L,
Rachelle M. Campbell, P.A.P., Sec.-Treas.
E-mail: brach41650@aol.com
Phone: 408-842-7368

PHIL SHERIDAN CAMP 4 OFFICERS FOR 2008:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| • <i>Commander</i> | Frank C. Avila
equipquake@aol.com | • <i>Historian</i> | Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC
danielbunnell@gmail.com |
| • <i>Sr. Vice Commander</i> | Tad D. Campbell, PDC
tadcamp@earthlink.net | • <i>Graves Reg. & Memorials Ofcr.</i> | Daniel R. Earl, PCC
danearl64@earthlink.net |
| • <i>Jr. Vice Commander</i> | Thomas T. Graham
ttgraham@earthlink.net | • <i>Counselor</i> | Daniel R. Earl, PCC
danearl64@earthlink.net |
| • <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> | Robert J. Kadlec, PCC
Philsheridan4@aol.com | • <i>Guard</i> | Donald W. Pray
coralsea3@yahoo.com |
| • <i>Camp Council</i> | Rick T. LaRosa
ricklarosa@sbcglobal.net
William H. Pope
sharbill_2@yahoo.com
Joseph C. Marti
itramcj@yahoo.com | • <i>Color Bearer</i> | Richard J. Ferman
ferman@sbcglobal.net |
| • <i>Patriotic Instructor</i> | Paul E. Lavrischeff
levihensel@hotmail.com | • <i>Guide</i> | William H. Pope
sharbill_2@yahoo.com |
| • <i>Chaplain</i> | Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC
danielbunnell@gmail.com | • <i>Eagle Scout Cert. Coordinator</i> | Crittenden Bell
critbell@earthlink.net |
| • <i>Assistant Chaplain</i> | Richard A. Staley
dblbb1@pacbell.net | • <i>Signals Officer & Newsletter Editor</i> | Tad D. Campbell, PDC
tadcamp@earthlink.net |
| | | • <i>Musicians</i> | Christopher Avila
Richard J. Ferman
James M. Welch |

NEXT MEETING: Sat., February 9, 2008 - 7 PM
Lincoln Day Dinner, Cattlemen's Restaurant
35000 Newark Boulevard, Newark, California

PHIL SHERIDAN CAMP 4 WEB SITE
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvcw/sheridan4.html>

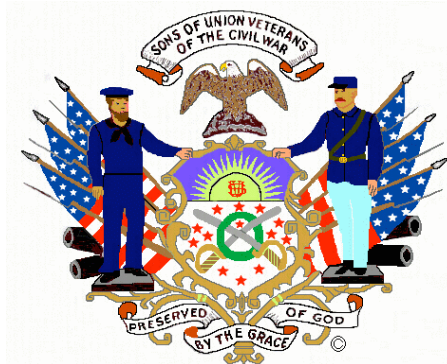
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA & PACIFIC WEB SITE
<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvcw/deptca.html>

NATIONAL SUVCW WEB SITE
<http://www.suvcw.org>

DR. MARY E. WALKER AUXILIARY NO. 52 WEB SITE
<http://home.earthlink.net/~asuvcw/walker52.html>

MAILING ADDRESS: Phil Sheridan Camp 4
P.O. Box 24969
San José, CA 95154-4969

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 408-315-5879



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.