

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 10, Issue 1

San José, California

January-March 2009

Annual Department Encampments of the Sons and Auxiliary Take Place in San Luis Obispo

The 123rd Annual Encampment of the Sons' Department of California and Pacific was held at San Luis Obispo, California on March 6-7, 2009. Excellent weather greeted Commander-in-Chief **DAVID V. MEDERT**, who left the cold Ohio temperatures behind. An enjoyable "Campfire" social took place on Friday evening, followed by the business session on Saturday. After two successful years as Department Commander, **JERRY R. SAYRE** of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp No. 21 was elected to the Department Council and Brother **CHARLES W. MABIE** of Gen. Alfred Pleasonton Camp No. 24 took his place as Commander. A short memorial ceremony was held at the local GAR plot in the afternoon, followed by the Commander-in-Chief's Dinner on Saturday evening. Everyone enjoyed a weekend of camaraderie and Commander-in-Chief Medert observed that the "family atmosphere" he experienced



Commander-in-Chief Medert addresses the Encampment

largely contributes to the success of the Department.

Elected Sons Department Officers are Commander **CHARLES W. MABIE PCC**, Senior Vice Commander **GLEN L. ROOSEVELT PCC**, Junior Vice Commander **TIMOTHY P. REESE PCC**, Secretary-Treasurer **PHILLIP L. CAINES PCC**, Council Chairman **TAD D. CAMPBELL PDC**, Councilman **DANIEL M. BUNNELL PDC**, and Councilman **JERRY R. SAYRE PDC**.

Appointed Department Officers from Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 are Patriotic Instructor **PAUL E. LAVRISCHEFF**, Newsletter Editor **DANIEL R. EARL PCC**, and Signals Officer **TAD D. CAMPBELL PDC**.

After a brief period of inactivity, the Auxiliary's Department of California and Pacific is back in action! The Department, which was established in 1910, held its annual Encampment in conjunction with that of the Sons' Encampment. Much of the business session was used to instruct the newer Sisters on the fundamentals of the Auxiliary,



Sons & Auxiliary gather at the GAR plot for a memorial service.

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.

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Ritual, forms used, and job duties of various officers. Sister **RACHELLE M. CAMPBELL PAP**, who was re-elected Department President, also reported on several boxes of historical material recently recovered from the daughter of a Past Department President. The weekend proved very productive and the Sisters enjoyed participating in several joint activities with the Sons.



C-in-C Medert poses with the ladies of the Department

- Left to right:*
 Melinie Caines
 Rowemary Lowe
 Kim Sayre
 Patricia Bures
 Rachele Campbell
 Dave Medert
 Eileen Tisch
 Kathy Mabie
 Julie Atzen
 Cindy Eddy
 Ann Schleeter

Elected Auxiliary Department Officers are President **RACHELLE M. CAMPBELL PAP**, Vice President **MELINIE PROSK-CAINES**, Secretary **PATRICIA G. BURES**, Treasurer **KAREN L. LAVRISCHEFF**, Patriotic Instructor **LAURIE C. ANGEL**, Chaplain **ANN T. SCHLEETER**, Trustees **BEVERLY L. GRAHAM**, **DEBRA L. EARL**, and **KATHLEEN C. MABIE**.

Appointed Department Officers are Chief-of-Staff **ROBERTA L. BURSHEIM**, Press Correspondent **PATRICIA G. BURES**, Historian **MELINIE PROSK-CAINES**, and Counselor & Signals Officer **TAD D. CAMPBELL PDC**.

The Delegates to the Sons' Encampment also endorsed two Brothers of the Department for National Offices.

Brother **D. BRAD SCHALL PDC** will be running for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief during the upcoming National Encampment in Louisville, Kentucky in August. Brad currently serves on the National Council of Administration.

Brother **TAD D. CAMPBELL PDC** will be seeking a spot on the National Council of Administration. Tad currently serves at the Chairman of the National Committee on Fraternal Relations.

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Camp 4 with Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert

L-R: Steve Welch, Dave Schleeter, Dave Medert, Frank Avila, Tad Campbell, Dan Earl, Paul Lavrischeff, Bob Kadlec. Other Camp 4 Brothers in attendance, but not pictured, were Steve Aguirre, Dan Bunnell, Tom Graham, Linn Malaznik, and Joe Marti.

Fort Point Civil War Days

Fort Point National Historic Site in San Francisco, California was once again garrisoned with Union soldiers during the annual "Civil War Days" event on January 31 and February 1, 2009. The Civil War-era fort sits directly below the southern end of the Golden Gate Bridge, guarding the entrance to San Francisco Bay.

The event was blessed with the best weather in recent memory, the old fort being notoriously foggy and frigid. Excellent views were afforded across the Golden Gate into Marin County, out to Alcatraz Island, and across the Bay Bridge to Oakland and beyond. The pleasant days brought out a great deal of interested public.

There were more Union and civilian re-enactors than ever before, with at least 125-150 participating. This is perhaps three to four times the normal number. The National Park Service does not allow Confederate impressions since the event is a garrison portrayal and Confederate forces never occupied the installation.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War were also present in force, with over one third of the Camps in the Department of California and Pacific participating. These included the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Gen. U. S. Grant Camp No. 9, Lincoln Camp No.



PDC Tad Campbell with his daughter Emelia



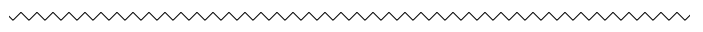
10, Sgt. William Pittenger Camp No. 21, Gen. George Wright Camp No. 22, and Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp No. 23. The SUVCW had several impressive tables with information and artifacts pertaining to the Civil War, Grand Army of the Republic, and the Allied Orders. A special table was dedicated to the

President Abraham Lincoln bicentennial.

Department Commander **JERRY R. SAYRE** and his wife, **KIMBERLY**, came all the way from Fallbrook, in San Diego County, to take part. Also participating were Camp Commanders **FRANK AVILA**, **CHUCK GARDALI**, and **OWENS STILES**; Past Camp Commanders **TIM REESE** and **DON WILT**; Past Department Commanders **BRAD SCHALL** and **TAD CAMPBELL**; and Brothers **JAMIN GJERMAN**, **MACE GJERMAN**, **PAUL LAVRISCHEFF**, **BOB MAERDIAN**, **JOE MARTI**, **STEVE NEUBURGER**, **CHRIS TITTLE**, and **LEE WOLARY**. Department Commander Sayre conducted an installation of officers for those present still needing to be installed. Auxiliary Department President **RACHELLE M. CAMPBELL** and her 9-month old daughter, **EMELIA**, both dressed in period attire to assisted with the event.



PCC Tim Reese assists during the flag raising ceremony



☆ ☆

In Honor of
John Manning Green
Company G, 88th Illinois Infantry

Ancestor of Bro. Harold S. Green of San José, Cal.

☆ ☆

Camps and Auxiliary Install New Officers

The officers of three bodies were installed during a joint banquet involving the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, the Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp No. 23 and the Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52. Members of Gen. Alfred Pleasanton Camp No. 24 also attended. The event took place on Friday, January 30, 2009 at the Biltmore Hotel in Santa Clara, California. Department Commander **JERRY R. SAYRE** performed the installations for the Camps, while Department President Rachele M. Campbell did so for the Auxiliary. After the meal and ceremonies Brother **SEBASTIAN NELSON** gave an interesting and informative talk about California Civil War flags. Brother Nelson is a State Archivist in Sacramento, former member of Camp No. 4, and currently a member of Gen. George Wright Camp No. 22.



ELECTIVE OFFICERS OF CAMP NO. 4 ARE:

Commander – **Frank C. Avila**
 Senior Vice Commander – **Thomas T. Graham**
 Junior Vice Commander – **Joseph C. Marti**
 Secretary-Treasurer – **Robert J. Kadlec, PCC**
 Councilman – **Tad D. Campbell, PDC**
 Councilman – **Rick T. LaRosa**
 Councilman – **Paul E. Lavrischeff**

ELECTIVE OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY NO. 52 ARE:

President – **Karen L. Lavrischeff**
 Vice President – **Kathleen C. Mabie**
 Secretary-Treasurer – **Rachele M. Campbell, PAP**
 Patriotic Instructor – **Cindy Eddy**
 Chaplain – **Beverly Ferman**
 Trustee #1 – **Beverly Graham**
 Trustee #2 – **Debra L. Earl**
 Trustee #3 – **Anna Buran**



Lincoln's Birthday Celebrated!

Members of Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp No. 23, and Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52 gathered at Holder's Country Inn in San José, California on Saturday, February 21, 2009. The occasion was the annual Lincoln Day Dinner, but specifically the observance of President Lincoln's 200th birthday.

LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL

Regular business was suspended in favor of enjoyable conversation and camaraderie. In addition to the traditional sheet-style birthday cake, Sister Rachele M. Campbell, PAP also prepared a cake using an antique recipe, which is said to have been Lincoln's favorite cake.

After the meal Brother Richard Staley, performing a first-person impression of GAR Comrade C. L. Burdick, gave a talk about Lincoln's involvement in the Blackhawk War of 1832.

Passover: A Reminiscence of the War

By J. A. Joel, "The Jewish Messenger", April 1866

In the commencement of the war of 1861, I enlisted from Cleveland, Ohio, in the Union cause, to sustain intact the Government of the United States, and became attached to the 23rd Regiment, one of the first sent from the "Buckeye State." Our destination was West Virginia— a portion of the wildest and most mountainous region of that State, well adapted for the guerrillas who infested that part, and caused such trouble to our pickets all through the war. After an arduous march of several hundred miles through Clarksburgh, Weston, Sommerville, and several other places of less note, which have become famous during the war, we encountered on the 10th of September, 1861, at Carnifax Ferry, the forces under the rebel Gen. Floyd. After this, we were ordered to take up our position at the foot of Sewell Mountain, and we remained there until we marched to the village of Fayette, to take it, and to establish there our Winter-quarters, having again routed Gen. Floyd and his forces.

While lying there, our camp duties were not of an arduous character, and being apprised of the approaching Feast of Passover, twenty of my comrades and co-religionists belonging to the Regiment, united in a request to our commanding officer for relief from duty, in order that we might keep the holydays, which he readily acceded to. The first point was gained, and, as the Paymaster had lately visited the Regiment, he had left us plenty of greenbacks. Our next business was to find some suitable person to proceed to Cincinnati, Ohio, to buy us מצות [matzos]. Our sutler being a co-religionist and



Matzos

going home to that city, readily undertook to send them. We were anxiously awaiting to receive our *matzos* and about the middle of the morning of פסח ערב [Eve of Passover] a supply train arrived in camp, and to our delight seven barrels of *matzos*. On opening them, we were surprised and pleased to find that our thoughtful sutler had enclosed two *Hagedahs* and prayer-books. We were now able to keep the seder nights, if we could only obtain the other requisites for that occasion. We held a consultation and decided to send parties to forage in the country while a party stayed to build a log hut for the services. About the middle of the afternoon the foragers arrived, having been quite successful. We obtained two kegs of cider, a lamb, several chickens and some eggs. Horseradish or parsley we could not obtain, but in lieu we found a weed, whose bitterness, I apprehend, exceeded anything our forefathers "enjoyed". We were

still in a great quandary; we were like the man who drew the elephant in the lottery. We had the lamb, but did not know what part was to represent it at the table; but Yankee ingenuity prevailed, and it was decided to cook the whole and put it on the table, then we could dine off it, and be sure we had the right part. The necessaries for the *choroutzes* we could not obtain, so we got a brick which, rather hard to digest, reminded us, by looking at it, for what purpose it was intended.

At dark we had all prepared, and were ready to commence the service. There being no חזן [cantor] present, I was selected to read the services, which I commenced by asking the blessing of the Almighty on the food before us, and to preserve our lives from danger. The ceremonies were passing off very nicely, until we arrived at the part where the bitter herb was to be taken. We all had a large portion of the herb ready to eat at the moment I said the blessing; each eat his portion, when horrors! what a scene ensued in our little congregation, it is impossible for my pen to describe. The herb was very bitter and very fiery like Cayenne pepper, and excited our thirst to such a degree, that we forgot the law authorizing us to drink only four cups, and the consequence was we drank up all the cider. Those that drank the more freely became excited, and one thought he was Moses, another Aaron, and one had the audacity to call himself Pharaoh. The consequence was a skirmish, with nobody hurt, only Moses, Aaron and Pharaoh, had to be carried to the camp, and there left in the arms of Morpheus. This slight incident did not take away our appetite, and, after doing justice to our lamb, chickens and eggs, we resumed the second portion of the service without anything occurring worthy of note.

There, in the wild woods of West Virginia, away from home and friends, we consecrated and offered up to the ever-loving G-d of Israel our prayers and sacrifice. I doubt whether the spirits of our forefathers, had they been looking down on us, standing there with our arms by our side ready for an attack, faithful to our G-d and our cause, would have imagined themselves amongst mortals, enacting this commemoration of the scene that transpired in Egypt.

Source: Jews in the Civil War (<http://www.jewish-history.com/civilwar/union.htm>)



Kari Eckholt-Mowrey Dead at Age 44

KARI LYNN ECKHOLT-MOWREY of Valley Ford, California, an active member of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, passed away on March 9, 2009 after complications from surgery. She was a Charter Member of the Ivy Stiers Auxiliary No. 23 of Santa Rosa, California, of which she was the current Vice President. She had also served as a Trustee for the Auxiliary's Department of California and Pacific. Kari was the wife of Brother **KEVIN MOWREY**, Senior Vice Commander of the Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp No. 23. The Camp and Auxiliary extend their condolences to Brother Mowrey and his family.

Kari is at the center in the picture to the left, between her husband Kevin and Auxiliary President Ann Schleeter. The image was taken at the chartering ceremony for the Ivy Stiers Auxiliary No. 23 in Santa Rosa on November 15, 2008.



Dr. Walker's Remedies

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

I'd like to thank all of the Sisters for their continued support with the Auxiliary's efforts. We have regained the important place beside the Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This is not only the case locally, but as well throughout the Department of California and Pacific. Two new Auxiliaries have been formed in the past year, and in March we had enough Sisters present in San Luis Obispo to constitute a quorum for the Department Encampment! This has not happened in several years. Many thanks are due to Department President Rachelle Campbell for her continuous efforts in the promotion of the Auxiliary.

The Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52 continues to grow and we hope to have a busy schedule for the next year. Our flagpole fund for the Women's Relief Corps plot at Oak Hill Memorial Park is coming along well and we may be able to complete this worthy project later this year. A new parade has been added to our schedule. This will be in Union City, California on Armed Forces Day (Saturday, May 16th). Be sure to mark this date on your calendar and come out to participate or just watch and cheer us on!

Remember always the Boys in Blue and all United States veterans.

In F, C, & L,
Karen L. Lavrischeff, President
 E-mail: karenl911@hotmail.com

Event Schedule

January 30, 2009

Installation Banquet
Biltmore Hotel, Santa Clara, California

January 31, 2009

Fort Point Open House
San Francisco, California

February 21, 2009

Lincoln Day Dinner
Holder's Country Inn, Cupertino, California

March 6-7, 2009

123rd Annual Department Encampment
San Luis Obispo, California

April 4, 2009

Camp Meeting
Santa Clara, California

May 16, 2009

Union City 50th Anniversary Parade
Union City, California

May 23-25, 2009

Civil War Reenactment, Roaring Camp
Felton, California

May 25, 2009

Memorial Day Observance, Oak Hill Memorial Park
San José, California

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

www.suvpac.org/camp4/schedule.html

Did You Know?



A **HAVELOCK** was a white linen covering with a short cape or apron designed to be worn over a soldier's cap so as to protect the wearer's neck from the sun. The headgear was named after Sir Henry Havelock, who popularized its usage during India's Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. Havelocks were quite fashionable at the time of the Civil War, and many recruits proudly marched off to war with two of them. Artist Winslow Homer produced a painting showing patriotic Northern women busily making havelocks for volunteers from their community (*see below*).

Scornfully called "head bags" by some to whom they were given, havelocks proved to be encumbrances instead of assets in the eastern theater of the war. Thousands were discarded after having been worn a short time. Many soldiers salvaged the cloth for gun patches or coffee strainers.



PHIL SHERIDAN CAMP 4 OFFICERS FOR 2009:

<i>Commander</i>	Frank C. Avila equipquake@aol.com	<i>Historian</i>	John E. Stolp jake_sierra@hotmail.com
<i>Sr. Vice Commander</i>	Thomas T. Graham n6wlf@yahoo.com	<i>Graves Reg. & Memorials Ofcr.</i>	Tad D. Campbell, PDC tadcamp@earthlink.net
<i>Jr. Vice Commander</i>	Joseph C. Marti itramcj@yahoo.com	<i>Counselor & Legislative Officer</i>	Daniel R. Earl, PCC danearl64@earthlink.net
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Robert J. Kadlec, PCC philsheridan4@aol.com	<i>Guard</i>	Joseph R. Ferman jferman@sbcglobal.net
<i>Camp Council</i>	Tad D. Campbell, PDC ricklarosa@sbcglobal.net Rick T. LaRosa ricklarosa@sbcglobal.net Paul E. Lavrischeff levihensel@hotmail.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@scbglobal.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., April 4, 2009, 10:00 am
American Legion Hall, Mission City Post 564
2120 Walsh Avenue, Santa Clara, California

PHIL SHERIDAN CAMP 4 WEB SITE
<http://www.suvmac.org/camp4.html>

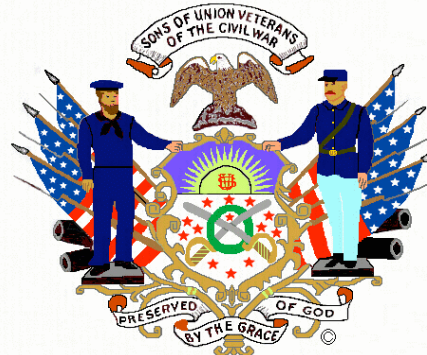
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA & PACIFIC WEB SITE
<http://www.suvmac.org>

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

DR. MARY E. WALKER AUXILIARY NO. 52 WEB SITE
<http://www.suvmac.org/aux/aux52.html>

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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.