



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!

Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best Camp Newsletter in the Nation!

Volume 12, Issue 3

San José, California

September-October 2011

FORT MERVINE IN MONTEREY



The Firing Detail — right to left: Dean Enderlin (Camp 23), Jerry Sayre (Camp 21), Garrett Hasslinger (ACWA), Tim Reese (Camp 10), Phil Caines (Camp 2), Frank Avila (Camp 4), Paul Lavrischeff (Camp 4). Tad Campbell (Camp 4) can be seen in background.

(see article on page 5)

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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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Camp elections are fast approaching and *YOUR CAMP* needs *YOU!*

All elected offices will be up for election at the November 5th Camp meeting. If you are interested in running for any position, please let me know before the meeting.

Don't be shy! Nominations can be made from the floor and Brothers are welcome to nominate themselves.

Appointed offices will be filled in January by the Camp Commander-elect.

Take an active roll in your Camp! Participate by being a Camp officer and help guide the Camp in the coming years.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Thomas T. Graham

Camp Commander



**I WANT YOU
FOR S.U.V.C.W.**

SUVCW Embroidered Patches

Small 2¹/₄ inch oval for use on any piece of clothing, back packs, athletic bags, etc.

Royal blue twill base with words and banner in white. The center emblem design, with the eagle, is made with a shiny gold thread.

**\$5.00 each plus \$1.00 S&H for first five.
\$2.00 S&H for six or more.**

Send check, or money order, payable to:
Phil Sheridan Camp 4, P.O. Box 24969,
San Jose, CA 95154

E-mail: philsheridan4@aol.com



Veterans Day Parade

The Camp and Auxiliary will once again participate in the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown San José, California on Friday, November 11, 2011.

The Opening Ceremonies will take place at 11:00 am with the Parade beginning at 12 noon. Participants should assemble on Delmas Street near the HP Pavilion. The Parade ends on San Carlos Street.

Remember — The Civil War contingent is the only group in the entire Parade that is allowed to stop and "perform" before the reviewing stand!

1861 Letter to Mother



There are a multitude of reasons why young men enlisted in either army during the Civil War, but it is not often that we hear an individual soldier's feelings about enlisting in his own words. The following is a letter from 23 year old schoolteacher John Burriss Taylor of Port Byron, Illinois to his mother Susannah (Robinson) Taylor in Dubuque County, Iowa:

Dear Mother,

Once again I seat myself to Send you a line, probably the last you will receive from this place - As I have Some thought of Enlisting in the army if my Service will be needed although I am not certain but all the comp's will be filled before I have the chance of handing in my name as one who will be ready to go - to fight my Country's battles.

Tomorrow Evening a meeting will be held in Port Byron to determine what shall be done in the present Crisis by the Citizens of this place - and if the companies are not all filled I for one Shall go but if my Services are not needed at present it is quite likely that ere long another call will be issues - when I will not be so dilatory but will be among the first to enlist.

I am well aware with what feelings you will peruse this - yet I pray you not to think hard - it is a duty devolving upon every man Capable of beating arms to hold himself in readiness, to, at once, attend his Country's call and therefore I enjoin upon you not to take yourself any Trouble on my account as I go with my Eyes open - well knowing the dangers to which I will be Subject and well knowing that the chances are a thousand to one against me, a thousand to one that I will not live through the first battle - yet - I pray you to remember that - Death is the Common lot of all men; and that it matters but little where, how or when a man dies, if he but die honorable, and again if I die young I will not be Subject - to the Trials that otherwise I will have to encounter.

But again dear Mother, let me ask you not to think hard of my going

"Weep not for me"

You have other at home who demand your care and attention - see to them and Suffer me to take care of myself, and console yourself with the thought that I am but doing my duty - Traitors and Disunionists are endeavoring to tear down that

Liberty, that freedom, for which our fore-fathers fought, bled and died. And it is now the duty of every true American to lay down his life in defense of his country; and all both young and old should aid in putting down disunion and succession principles where ever they may be expressed whether in north or south, whether in East or West? And every mother should enjoin her sons to Cultivate a Spirit of Patriotism for in times like these:

Patriotism should reign supreme,
In every matrons bosom rest
And every Child with a love of country, teem
Drawn from its mother's breast.

But I will say something of the doings of this place - A few days ago a person was advocating Secession and disunion when some of the Union loving men took them in hands and were about Stringing them up to the nearest tree - and by so doing have silenced him as well as one or two others who advocated the Same doctrine. But having no time to write more at present I close for the present.

Yours Ever
John B. Taylor
Apr 21 1861.

On May 24, 1861, John Burriss Taylor enlisted as a Corporal in Company D, 13th Illinois Infantry, the first three-year regiment from Illinois to be mustered into Federal service. While part of Gen. Sherman's Yazoo River Expedition in Mississippi, Corporal Taylor was killed during a futile charge on the Walnut Hills at Chickasaw Bayou on December 29, 1862. He was 24 years old.

*Taylor's younger brothers, Arthur and William, both died of disease while serving with the 38th Iowa Infantry. The Taylor brothers are great-great-great-granduncles to Brother **TAD D. CAMPBELL, PDC.***

Memorial University

In 1900, the SUVCW established Memorial University, a college located in Mason City, Iowa. Its purpose was not only to educate, but also to instill patriotism in its students, and prepare them for an active role in American society. The University was closed in 1910. Today the Memorial University website continues this noble cause and encourages patriotism, good citizenship and provides a basic knowledge of the American Civil War. Educational courses are offered for Juniors and Junior Associates, as well as Officer Training Courses. The latter course is available to all members, regardless of whether or not they hold an office, and is designed to give one a better understanding of the SUVCW's Ritual and governing documents.

<http://suvchw.org/memuniv/memorialuniv.htm>

Fort Mervine

Staffing the information booth

L-R: Camp 21's Jerry Sayre PDC, with Camp 4's Tad Campbell PDC, Linn Malaznik, and Dan Earl PCC.



This year's annual Fort Mervine Civil War Encampment was a huge success! The event on October 8 & 9 was sponsored by Lincoln Camp No. 10 and was part of the larger History Fest Monterey. A substantial "compound" of Civil War dog tents, "A" tents, wall tents, dining flies and tables were assembled in front of the Presidio Museum on the Lower Presidio of Monterey. Participation included at least seven or eight SUVCW Camps and all three of the Auxiliaries in the Department. All but one of the Department elected officers were also present! Hundreds of members of the public were educated on the SUVCW, ASUVCW, GAR, and Civil War in general.

The Brothers pose for a photo:

L-R: Tim Reese (Camp 10), Glen Roosevelt (Camp 17), Tad Campbell (Camp 4), Garrett Hasslinger (ACWA), Phil Caines (Camp 2), Brad Schall (Camp 22), Paul Lavrischeff (Camp 4), Jerry Sayre (Camp 21), Frank Avila (Camp 4), Don Fuselier (Camp 10), Dan Earl (Camp 4), Loran Bures (Camp 2), and Tom Graham (Camp 4).



CAMP ORDER No. 3 – Series 2011**PASSING OF BROTHER RICHARD "LARRY" COMSTOCK**

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: It is my sad duty to report the passing of Camp Brother Richard L. "Larry" Comstock on October 17, 2011. He was 79 years old.

Section 2: Larry faithfully served the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as an active member of the Camp as the Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator. He received his membership through Private Orlando Hastings of Company F, 25th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Section 3: Brother Comstock served as President of the South Bay Civil War Round Table for two years and also as the Program Director. He had a thirty year interest in the Civil War and was related to Bvt. Brig. Gen. Cyrus B. Comstock, who was Aide-de-Camp to Lt. Gen. U. S. Grant. Larry held a Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford and retired in 1990 from IBM where he managed departments involved in disk drive development. He spent fifteen years teaching in the Department of Materials Science at San José State University and after retirement enjoyed traveling, especially to Civil War battlefields, and sailing in Santa Cruz. He is survived by his wife Marilyn, two children and four grandchildren.

Section 4: Brother Comstock's loss will be deeply felt throughout the Camp. Therefore, the Camp Charter shall be draped in black and all Camp Brothers are respectfully directed to attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badge (pursuant to C&R, Article III, Sec. 9) for a period of thirty (30) days.

Section 5: Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 extends its sincere condolences to the Comstock family, as well as all of his many friends.

Section 6: Individuals wishing to make a tribute in Larry's name (Richard L. Comstock) may make a donation to the "Tram Fund" at the Santa Cruz Yacht Club, 244 Fourth Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Larry was an active member of the club and raced his own boat with them.

Section 7: Sympathy cards may be sent to Marilyn Comstock, 6574 Crystal Springs Drive, San José, CA 95120-4613.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 18th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-sixth, in the City of San José, County of Santa Clara, State of California by Thomas T. Graham, 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/ Thomas T. Graham

Camp Commander
Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4

ATTEST:

By: /s/ Richard J. Ferman
Camp Secretary-Treasurer



Brother Comstock

Daughters of the Grand Army of the Republic

- **Incorporated:** July 21, 1907.
- **Motto:** "Lest We Forget the Boys in Blue."
- **Aims & Objects:** To perpetuate the memory of the men who saved the Union, to perpetuate the name of GAR for them. To care for needy comrades of the GAR, to stimulate patriotism and loyalty among members of the Order, to teach the rising generation a broader patriotism and knowledge of the principles for which our fathers fought. With this aim in view, a Junior Department of the Order was formed in 1915, known as "The Children of the Grand Army of the Republic." The watchwords of the Order were those of the GAR: Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.
- **Membership:** The active membership of this Order consisted of the lineal female descendants, who attained the age of 16 years, of all honorably discharged Union Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the War of 1861-1865, and of all those who died in service. Honorary membership in the Order consisted of all honorably discharged Union soldiers, sailors, marines and Army nurses of the War of 1861-1865, and all wives, widows and sisters of honorably discharged Union soldiers, sailors and marines of the War of 1861-1865, and all lineal male descendants of the aforesaid heroes of 1861-1865, who shall have attained the age of 16 years.
- **Work:** The organization was patterned after the Grand Army of the Republic in its patriotic work and its principles were the same. The "Boys in Blue" made the history of the GAR and its work of their daughters perpetuated this history. Daughters, Grand-daughters and Great grand-daughters of Union soldiers, sailors and marines were urged to unite with the members in preserving the true history of the Civil War, marking historical places, building monuments and making better citizens, being ever loyal to our Country and to our Flag. The work of the Order was appropriate, impressive and beautiful and appealed to all patriotic persons.
- **Badge:** The little bronze button or replica thereof in a circle of gold with the words "Daughters of the GAR," enameled in blue thereon.



The Daughters of the Grand Army of the Republic disbanded in the late 1970s.



Dr. Walker's Remedies

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

Dear Sisters:

Thank you for those that came out to support the combined Sons and Auxiliary information booths at Fort Mervine in Monterey on October 8-9. The event was highly organized and very well received by the public. We had representation from all three Auxiliaries in the Department! Way to go Sisters!

Remember that our elections will be held at the Auxiliary meeting on Saturday, November 5, 2011. All officers will be up for election, so be sure to let someone know if you are interested. Appointed offices will be filled by the President-elect at the Installation Banquet in January 2012.



Above, Rachelle Campbell and daughter Emelia sit down for afternoon tea.

In Fraternity, Charity
& Loyalty,

Bev Graham

President, Auxiliary No. 52



At Monterey's Fort Mervine

At right, Auxiliary Sisters pose with "the boys"

L-R: Bev Graham, Melinie Caines, Brad Schall, Tricia Bures, Jerry Sayre, Frank Avila, Susan Sweet, and Don Fusilier (partially visible).



Event Schedule

September 17, 2011

Camp Meeting
Santa Clara, California

September 25, 2011

UVC Veterans Flag Lowering Ceremony
San José, California

October 8-9, 2011

Fort Mervine Civil War Encampment
Monterey, California

November 5, 2011

Camp Meeting & Elections
Santa Clara, California

November 11, 2011

Veterans Day Parade
Downtown San José, California

November 19, 2011

Remembrance Day Ceremony
Oak Hill Memorial Park, San José, California

January, 2011

Installation Banquet
Place and date to be announced

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

www.suvpac.org/camp4/schedule.html

Did You Know?

The Invalid Corps

The corps was organized April 28, 1863 and was created to make suitable use in a military or semi-military capacity of soldiers who had been rendered unfit for active field service on account of wounds or disease contracted in line of duty, but who were still fit for garrison or other light duty, and were, in the opinion of their commanding officers, meritorious and deserving.

Those serving in the Invalid Corps were divided into two classes:

- Class 1, partially disabled soldiers whose periods of service had not yet expired, and who were transferred directly to the Corps, there to complete their terms of enlistment;
- Class 2, soldiers who had been discharged from the service on account of wounds, disease, or other disabilities, but who were yet able to perform light military duty and desired to do so.

The title "Veteran Reserve Corps" was substituted for that of "Invalid Corps" on March 18, 1864. The men serving in the Veteran Reserve Corps were organized into two battalions; the First Battalion including those whose disabilities were comparatively slight and who were still able to handle a musket and do some marching, also to perform guard or provost duty. The Second Battalion was made up of men whose disabilities were more serious, who had perhaps lost limbs or suffered some other grave injury. These later were commonly employed as cooks, orderlies, nurses, or guards in public buildings.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, November 5, 2011 - 10 am
LOCATION: American Legion Hall, Post 564, 2120 Walsh Avenue, Santa Clara, California

Officers for 2011-2012

Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 Camp Officers

Commander Thomas T. Graham, PCC
 Senior Vice Commander Joseph C. Marti
 Junior Vice Commander Stephen P. Aguirre
 Secretary-Treasurer Richard J. Ferman
 Council Frank C. Avila, PCC
 Council Daniel R. Earl, PCC
 Council Rick T. LaRosa

Patriotic Instructor Paul E. Lavrischeff
 Chaplain Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC
 Assistant Chaplain James D. Reese
 Historian John E. Stolp
 Counselor Daniel R. Earl, PCC
 Guide Matthew C. Reynolds
 Guard Joseph R. Ferman
 Color Bearer Frank C. Avila, PCC
 Graves Registration Officer John E. Stolp
 Civil War Memorials Officer John E. Stolp
 Eagle Scout Certificate Coord. Larry Comstock
 Legislative Officer Daniel R. Earl, PCC
 Newsletter Editor Tad D. Campbell, PDC
 Signals Officer Tad D. Campbell, PDC
 Musician Christopher C. Avila
 Musician Richard J. Ferman
 Musician James M. Welch

Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52 Auxiliary Officers

President Beverly L. Graham, PAP
 Vice President Sharon Pope
 Trustee #1 Debra L. Earl
 Trustee #2 Beverly A. Ferman
 Trustee #3 Cynthia L. Eddy
 Secretary Taija Aguirre
 Treasurer Rachelle M. Campbell, PDP
 Patriotic Instructor Yvonne Reynolds
 Chaplain Cynthia L. Eddy
 Guide Kelsey Reynolds

Counselor Thomas T. Graham, PCC
 Signals Officer Tad D. Campbell, PDC

SUVCW 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



Websites



Phil Sheridan Camp 4
<http://www.suvcw.org/camp4.html>

SUVCW Department of Calif. & Pacific
<http://www.suvcw.org>

Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52
<http://www.suvcw.org/aux/aux52.html>

SUVCW National Organization
<http://www.suvcw.org>

Contact the Camp

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