



SHERIDAN'S DISPATCH

Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4

Department of California & Pacific

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Abraham Lincoln Award (Best Camp in the Nation) • Marshall Hope Award (Best Camp Newsletter in the Nation)

Volume 14, Issue 6

San José, California

November-December 2013

Observing Remembrance Day in San Jose



Camp No. 4 and Auxiliary No. 52 members gather at the GAR Plot at Oak Hill Memorial Park on November 17th.

L-R: Bob Kadlec, Steve Aguirre, Rachele Campbell, Emelia Campbell, Rick LaRosa, Richard Staley, Tom Graham, Frank Avila, John Stolp, Joe Ferman, Dick Ferman, Dan Bunnell, Tad Campbell, Paul Lavrischeff, and Diane Wetzel.

(Additional images on page 3. Photos courtesy of Bro. Robert J. Kadlec, PCC)

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Election Results

The following officers were elected at the Camp and Auxiliary meetings on November 9, 2013:

CAMP NO. 4

Commander — Stephen P. Aguirre
 Sr. Vice Commander — John E. Stolp
 Jr. Vice Commander — Paul E. Lavrischeff
 Secretary — Thomas T. Graham, PCC
 Treasurer — Thomas T. Graham, PCC
 Councilman — Rick T. LaRosa
 Councilman — Frank C. Avila, PCC
 Councilman — Daniel R. Earl, PCC

AUXILIARY NO. 52

President — Debra L. Earl
 Vice President — Sharon Pope
 Trustee #1 — Diane Wetzel
 Trustee #2 — Beverly Graham, PAP
 Trustee #3 — Sharon Pope
 Secretary — Beverly Graham, PAP
 Treasurer — Rachele M. Campbell, PDP
 Chaplain — Cindi Menzies

These officers will be installed at the Installation Banquet on January 17, 2014 (see below) at which time appointed offices will be filled by the new Commander and President.

Installation Banquet

The officers of Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 and Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52 will be installed during the annual Installation Banquet.



When:

Friday, January 17, 2014

6:30 pm - Cocktails
 7:00 pm - Dinner
 8:00 pm - Installation

Where:

Three Flames Restaurant

1547 Meridian Ave., San José, California

Further details and registration form can be found on the Camp website at:

<http://www.suvpac.org/camp4/schedule.html>



Department Encampment

The Annual Encampment of the Department of California and Pacific will take place on **March 7-8, 2014** at the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham, in Sacramento, California.

Honored guests will include Commander-in-Chief Ken Freshley of Ohio, National President Diane Mellor of New Hampshire, and several other national officers.

For details and registration forms, please visit the Department website at:

<http://www.suvpac.org/encampment.html>

Remembrance Day in San José



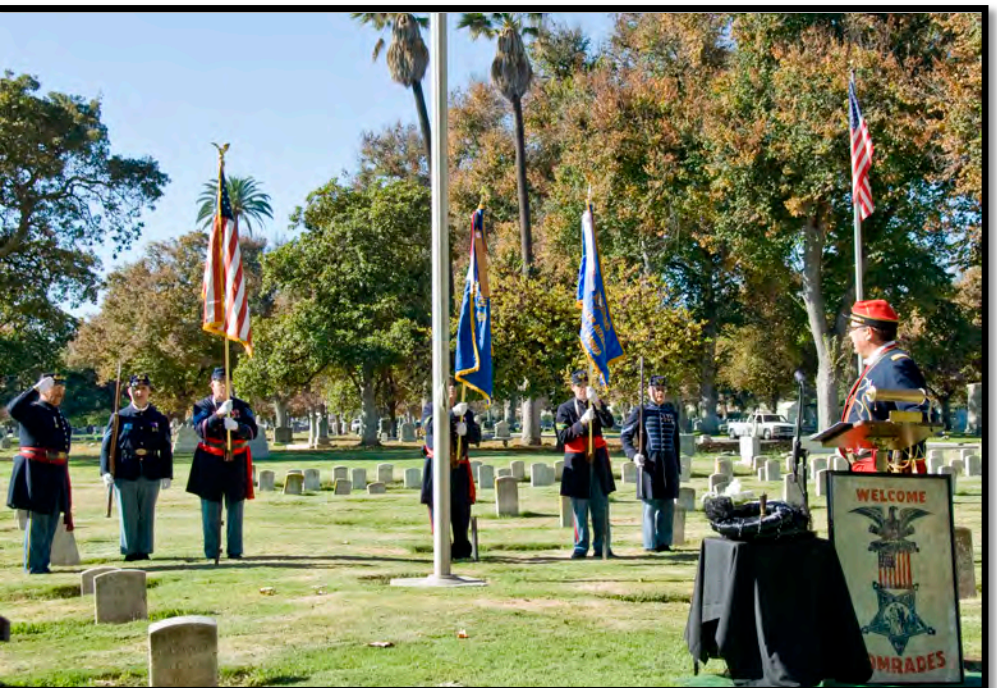
Above: NP Rachele Campbell & SVC-in-C Tad Campbell present wreaths. CC Steve Aguirre & Chaplain Dan Bunnell in background.



Above: Bro. Richard Staley, as Comrade C. L. Burdick, recites the Gettysburg Address.



At Left: Aux. Guide Diane Wetzel rings the bell during the ceremony.



Above: The Color Guard presents the colors. L-R: Paul Lavrischeff, Rick LaRosa, Tom Graham, Frank Avila, Joe Ferman, Dick Ferman, and CC Steve Aguirre (at podium).

At Left: Chaplain Dan Bunnell offers a prayer while CC Steve Aguirre stands by.



Arthur MacArthur's Flag

by C. Douglas Sterner

The 72-year old retired Lieutenant General glanced briefly around the room. He shouldn't have been here, had risen from his sickbed just for this occasion. The feeble former general wouldn't have missed it--it was the 50th reunion of what remained of his old military unit--the 24th Wisconsin. Only 90 members were still alive, and they had asked MacArthur to speak to them. On the wall behind the podium from which he would address them hung a flag; old, tattered and bearing the scars of combat. It was the battle flag of the 24th Wisconsin, a flag that stirred the heart of MacArthur. Perhaps as he waited his moment of address his mind wandered back half a century.

The date was November 25, 1863. The place was a small ridge overlooking Chattanooga, Tennessee. From the one thousand foot heights of Missionary Ridge Confederate General Braxton Bragg's soldiers trained their artillery on the city below. Major General Ulysses S. Grant and his men had pitched their tents there, and now the soldiers were at the mercy of those relentless cannon. Trapped and faced with starvation and annihilation, the Union troops had lost so many horses that they couldn't even mount an artillery battery in their defense.

It was a frustrating feeling of helplessness and imminent disaster, compounded by the winter drizzle and ominous skies. Major General William Sherman had mounted an attack to the right and was quickly stalled. Under pressure of the enemy he requested a feint elsewhere to relieve his embattled troops. It wasn't intended to be a major offensive, such was an improbable military operation. The reserve troops were simply to attack the center of the Confederate lines at the base of Missionary Ridge to draw attention away from Sherman.

The battle for the gun pits was furious, soldiers fighting hand-to-hand and engaging each other with bayonet. As the Confederate soldiers were slowly defeated and the young Union soldiers gained control of the gun pits, they found themselves trapped at the base of the ridge by the cannon mounted above them. Their brief victory had turned into a nightmare of death. Watching from a distance General Grant's worst fears materialized as the withering fire threatened to destroy his valiant soldiers. "Pull back," he probably thought to himself, "retreat...get out of there before it is too late."

No thought had been given to attacking Missionary Ridge that day, Grant knew it would be suicidal. The move to the gun pits at the base of the ridge had simply been a token attack, designed to divide the enemy forces and provide some relief for Sherman's embattled soldiers. Yet suddenly, without orders, the 18,000 young men trapped in the gun pits rose to their feet and began to assault the enemy entrenched on the 1,000-foot slope. Angry at the suicidal offensive, Grant asked, "Who ordered those men up the ridge?" A subordinate replied that the attack had commenced without order. Chomping his traditional cigar and fearful of the worst Grant replied, "Well, it will be all right if it turns out all right."

Among the units advancing on the entrenched Confederate soldiers that day was the 24th Wisconsin Infantry. The unit detailed to advance the colors was led by an 18-year old First Lieutenant named Arthur MacArthur. When the soldier assigned to carry the battle flag of the 24th Wisconsin fell to an enemy bayonet, another soldier rushed forward to hoist the flag. The roar of cannon fire filled the ridge and the second color bearer fell, decapitated by a cannon ball. Bloody and wounded, Arthur MacArthur retrieved the colors himself. Raising the already battle-scarred flag high he turned to his troops with the



shout "On Wisconsin!" and proceeded up the ridge. As MacArthur reached the summit he firmly planted the staff of the flag in the ground. Below him the advancing soldiers saw their flag, battered and scarred, waving in the breeze at the top of the precipice. Their hearts filled with inspiration they surged forward, doing the improbable, achieving victory at Missionary Ridge.

More than a half century later Arthur's son Douglas MacArthur related the story of what happened next. According to that account, Brigadier General Philip A. Sheridan reached the summit of Missionary Ridge that evening. Upon hearing the accounts of MacArthur's valiant and inspirational action he could not help embracing the young teenager. His voice choked with emotion, the war hardened general turned to MacArthur's comrades and said, "Take care of him. He has just won the Medal of Honor.

Actually, as was not uncommon regarding the award of Medals of Honor to heroes of the Civil War, MacArthur's medal was not presented for almost 30 years. He received the award on June 30, 1890. But his comrades never forgot the words of General Sherman. Shortly after the battle at Missionary Ridge they unanimously elected him to the rank of major (it was not an uncommon military process of the day for vacancies in the ranks to be filled by the vote of the soldiers in a unit). Four months and thirteen battles later the nineteen year old soldier was brevetted again, to the rank of Colonel. Often called the "boy colonel" in his home state, he was the youngest Colonel in the Union Army during the Civil War. After the Civil War he chose to remain in the military. It took 30 years for him to regain the rank he had held as a volunteer in the Civil War but achieve it again he did, finally retiring in 1909 as a Lieutenant (3-star) General.



The reminiscence of the patriarch of one of our Nation's greatest military families was interrupted by the reality of the moment. He was back in Milwaukee, the city where he had joined a volunteer army 50 years earlier as a 17-year-old boy. Before him sat the remnant of his comrades in the 24th Wisconsin. It was September 5, 1912 and time for him to once again speak to the soldiers he had so valiantly led decades before.

Despite his illness he summoned from within the same fortitude that had sustained him at Missionary Ridge, to walk to the podium. Perhaps he glanced quickly again at the tattered flag on the wall behind him, a flag that he dearly loved. "Your indomitable regiment...." he began in a weak but steady voice.... and then a hush fell over the room as Arthur MacArthur collapsed to the floor.

Dr. William J. Cronyn had been a surgeon for the 24th Wisconsin and was the first to reach MacArthur's prostrate form. Quickly he examined the man they had all come to love and admire, and then turned to what remained of the heroes at Missionary Ridge and said, "Comrades, the general is dying." Solemnly 90 aged veterans gathered around the frail body on the floor, reciting in unison, the Lord's Prayer. When they had

finished, Arthur MacArthur was dead. Captain Edwin Parsons rose to his feet and, as is recorded in the minutes of that emotional meeting "took from the wall the battle-torn flag he (MacArthur) had so gallantly carried, and wrapped it around MacArthur."

Arthur MacArthur had often said that he wanted to die at the head of his regiment. Who could have dreamed it would happen in so fitting a fashion, standing before the very flag that had catapulted him into history. And who could have dreamed that the very flag he had carried so valiantly at Missionary Ridge during the Civil War, would enwrap his body fifty years later as he was carried from the moment and place of his death...at the head of what remained of the 24th Wisconsin.

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WELCOME NEW BROTHER!

TERRY LEE BRIGGS of San José, California was unanimously elected into membership at the Camp meeting on November 9. Bro. Briggs' ancestor was Pvt. Marcus T. Kimes (1834-1909) of Company D, 4th Kentucky Infantry. Pvt. Kimes was wounded at Mill Springs, Kentucky on January 19, 1862 and subsequently received a disability discharge for his wounds. He later moved to Paola, Kansas where he was a member of McCaslin Post No. 117, GAR.

Veterans Day Parade

The Camp and Auxiliary made another good showing at the annual Veterans Day Parade in San José, California on November 11, 2013. Participation was supplemented by members of Lincoln Camp No. 10 and the reenacting community. Many of the members retired to BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse afterward for an enjoyable lunch and camaraderie.



More Images from Veterans Day 2013



Image courtesy of Pro Photo Photography

Below, L-R: John Stolp, Dan Earl, & Linn Malaznik



Above, L-R: Dan Bunnell & Randy Hawkinson



Dr. Walker's Remedies

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

MARY A. "MOTHER" BICKERDYKE (1817-1901) — Civil War Nurse and Veterans Advocate

Mary Ann Ball was born July 19, 1817, in Knox County, Ohio. She attended Oberlin College and later received training as a nurse in a Cincinnati hospital where she worked for several years. In 1847, she married Robert Bickerdyke and nine years later, with their two small sons, the couple moved to Galesburg, Illinois. Mr. Bickerdyke died shortly afterward.

During the Civil War, Mrs. Bickerdyke volunteered her considerable medical skills to help the hundreds of men who were dying, not from battle, but from typhoid, dysentery and other diseases. She helped establish the hospital in Cairo, Illinois, that was known as one of the cleanest in the country. Throughout the war she continued to perform valuable service for the Union army. Traveling with the Army of Tennessee she was present at 19 battles, including Shiloh and Sherman's March to the Sea. During this time she worked not only as a nurse, but also set up dietary kitchens and established laundry services. All the while she continued her fight to improve Army life for the enlisted men. By the end of the war she had helped to provide 300 hospitals for the wounded and sick. "Mother Bickerdyke", as she was affectionately known, was so loved by the army that the soldiers would cheer her as they would a general when she appeared. At Sherman's request, she rode at the head of the XV Corps in the Grand Review in Washington at the end of the war.

After the war she worked for the Salvation Army in San Francisco. She became an attorney dedicated to helping Civil War veterans with legal issues. In 1867 Mrs. Bickerdyke moved to Kansas, settling in Salina and running a hotel. It is said that she influenced 300 soldiers and their families to settle in the state. For many years she continued to be involved in benevolent activities. She helped Kansas veterans, the victims of Indian raids, farmers ruined by the grasshopper invasion of 1874, and many others.

The Kansas Historical Society honored Mrs. Bickerdyke in 1895 for her contributions to preserving the state's past. In 1897, in recognition of her many years of humanitarian service, the Woman's Relief Corp named its Ellsworth, Kansas facility for wives and daughters of Civil War veterans the "Mother Bickerdyke Home and Hospital". After suffering a stroke, she died at the home of her son in Bunker Hill, Kansas on November 8, 1901 at the age of 84. She was buried by her husband's side in Galesburg, Illinois.



Source: Kansapedia: Kansas Historical Society
<http://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/mary-a-mother-bickerdyke/15633>

Event Schedule

November 9, 2013

Camp & Auxiliary Meeting
Santa Clara, California

November 11, 2013

Veterans Day Parade
San José, California

November 17, 2013

Remembrance Day Ceremony
Oak Hill Memorial Park
San José, California

December 4, 2013

Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4
Founded in 1897
No Activities Planned

January 17, 2014

Installation Banquet
Three Flames Restaurant
San José, California

January 25, 2014

Fort Point Living History Day
San Francisco, California

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

www.suvpac.org/camp4/schedule.html

Did You Know?

150 Years Ago — 1863

November 17 – Gen. Burnside's Union forces make it to Knoxville, Tennessee before the Confederates led by Gen. Longstreet. This begins the "siege" of Knoxville.

November 19 – Pres. Lincoln delivers the *Gettysburg Address* during the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

November 24 – The conflicts on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, both overlooking the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee, became known as the "Battle Above the Clouds." The heavy cloud cover made the action invisible to the anxious spectators below.

November 25 – At Missionary Ridge the Federal forces, now commanded by Gen. Grant, continue their success of the day before, chasing the Confederates from their position and ending the siege of Chattanooga. Bragg's army retreats to Dalton, Georgia.

December 4 – Gen. Longstreet's Confederate forces abandon the siege of Knoxville, Tennessee leaving the city to be occupied by the Union 2 days later.

December 8 – Pres. Lincoln issues a proclamation offering full pardon to all rebels who will voluntarily take a prescribed oath.

December 15-16 – Gen. George Thomas wins a "resounding victory" over John Bell Hood's Confederates at Nashville, Tennessee.

NEXT MEETING: Installation Banquet, Friday, January 17, 2014 - 6:30 pm
LOCATION: Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave., San José, Calif.

Officers for 2013-2014

Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 Camp Officers

Commander Stephen P. Aguirre
 Senior Vice Commander John E. Stolp
 Junior Vice Commander Paul E. Lavrischeff
 Secretary Richard J. Ferman
 Treasurer Thomas T. Graham, PCC
 Council Rick T. LaRosa
 Council Frank C. Avila, PCC
 Council Daniel R. Earl, PCC

Patriotic Instructor *Vacant*
 Chaplain Daniel M. Bunnell, PDC
 Historian John E. Stolp
 Counselor Daniel R. Earl, PCC
 Guide Joseph R. Ferman
 Guard Frank C. Avila, PCC
 Color Bearer Frank C. Avila, PCC
 Graves Registration Officer John E. Stolp
 Civil War Memorials Officer John E. Stolp
 Eagle Scout Certificate Coord. *Vacant*
 Legislative Officer Daniel R. Earl, PCC
 Newsletter Editor Tad D. Campbell, PDC
 Signals Officer Tad D. Campbell, PDC
 Musician Christopher C. Avila
 Musician James M. Welch

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

President Sharon Pope
 Vice President Beverly A. Ferman
 Trustee #1 Beverly Graham, PAP
 Trustee #2 Debra R. Earl
 Trustee #3 *Vacant*
 Secretary Beverly Graham, PAP
 Treasurer Rachelle M. Campbell, PDP
 Patriotic Instructor *Vacant*
 Chaplain Debra L. Earl
 Press Correspondent Rachelle M. Campbell, PDC
 Guide Diane Wetzel

Counselor William H. Pope
 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



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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