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THE CALIFORNIA COLUMN



Looking Ahead to the Department Encampment



by Dept.
Commander
Glen Roosevelt

Department SVC Tim Reese has been working tirelessly all year on the planning for our 126th Annual CA and Pacific Department Encampment. Now those plans are nearly all complete, and we look forward to meeting with all our Camps' and Auxiliaries' delegates on March 9-10 at San Luis Obispo. Many Brothers and Auxiliary Sisters have helped Tim along the way, and we thank them all in advance for their efforts to make this another successful Encampment. Brother Bob Kadlec of Camp 4 deserves special recognition for publishing this year's edition of the Encampment Program booklet.

We will be honored once more by a visit from our National C-in-C as Brother Don Palmer from Missouri will fit a trip to California into his busy SUVCW, work, and family schedule. DUVCW Department President Carole Morton will also be an

honored guest at the Encampment.

Friday Evening "Campfire" - Registration

Starting at 4:00 PM on Friday the Camp San Luis Obispo NCO Club will be open, and the registration table will be in operation for you to pick up your registration materials. The Campfire officially opens at that time, and will include a no-host bar and snacks. At 6:00 PM the optional pizza dinner will be served for those who wish to partake. We hope you all will take this "social" time to meet and greet Brothers and Sisters who you may not have seen since last year.

Saturday Business Meeting - Camp, Officer, and Committee Reports Due

The registration table will again be open at 8:00 AM, and coffee and donuts will be available for your early morning refreshment. A Joint Orders Opening Ceremony will begin at 9:00 AM, and our business meetings will start at 10:00 AM. A buffet lunch will be served at noon.

Besides old and new business, financial and budget reporting, and election of officers; one of our most important and

interesting sessions is the reading and submittal of Camp, Officer, and Committee Reports. **All these reports are due at the Encampment.** Please have your reports in written form before the Encampment, and ready to read and submit to the Encampment. One written copy of your report should be handed to the Department Secretary as your official submittal of the report. **If your Camp or Committee will not have a delegate at the Encampment, please mail a copy of your report to the Department Secretary so he will have it prior to the Encampment.** Since we do have 16 Camp reports to present, please make your oral readings as brief as possible.

Special attention will be given to the Committee Report for the 2012 National Encampment; and certificates of appreciation will be presented to Brothers and Sisters, and Camps and Auxiliaries for their contributions and sponsorship of the 2012 National Encampment Fund.

Saturday Afternoon Memorial Service

Directly after the conclusion of the Saturday meeting, we will repair to the GAR Plot in the San Luis Cemetery (formerly IOOF) for our traditional Memorial Service. Make sure to bring a coat or jacket for this outdoor service, since the weather is variable at this time of year, and can get rather chilly. Photo opportunities with the C-in-C will be available after the ceremony.

Saturday Evening C-in-C Dinner

The optional C-in-C Dinner will be held back at the CSLO NCO Club at 7:00 PM, preceded by a Social Hour at 6:00 with a no-host bar. We hope that our Brothers and Sisters will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to meet C-in-C Don Palmer.

Silent Auction Items Needed

Each Camp is requested to donate one or two items (or more) that can be used in our traditional silent auction as a fund-raiser for the Department. All the donated items will be displayed at the Encampment, and delegates can purchase tickets to placed in the “bid bags” for each item. The winning “bids” will be drawn after the Saturday evening dinner.

Sesquicentennial Special Events

The Encampment marks the end of one business year and the beginning of a new one for the Department. It also marks nearly the end of the first Sesquicentennial year of the Civil War. This year was highlighted by five Sesquicentennial Special Events within the Department to pay special honor and respect to our Union ancestors. It is important to note that as with almost all of the good work within the Department, that these SSEs were sponsored and planned by the local Camps and Auxiliaries. The year was welcomed in by the first SSE hosted by Camp 22 at the Gibson Ranch re-enactment in May. Four other SSEs

followed with Camp 2 observing “The Civil War on the Homefront-September 1861” at the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum in September. Then on October 1st, Camp 24 commemorated the 151st anniversary of the arrival of the 3rd U.S. Artillery on Alcatraz Island. Camp 10 followed one week later at Monterey with the 5th Annual SUVCW Civil War Encampment as part of Monterey’s History Fest 2011. The Camp 10 event that honored the forming of Company K, 5th California Volunteer Infantry in Santa Cruz and Monterey was particularly gratifying, since it brought together representatives of 8 Camps and all 3 Auxiliaries. Camp 24 rounded out the year with another outstanding event on January 28, 2012 at Fort Point, San Francisco. That event brought together Brothers from 5 Camps, 2 SVR units, and Sisters from one Auxiliary. The planning, participation, and support for the SSEs has been highly commendable. The Department Commander was very pleased that he was able to attend and participate in two of the SSEs.

Again, we look forward to meeting all of our Camp and Auxiliary representatives at the Encampment as we conduct ourselves and our business in an atmosphere of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Camp 24 SUVCW
Sesquicentennial Signature
Event



Submitted by Brad Schall, Past National CinC

The General Alfred Pleasonton Camp #24 sponsored Sesquicentennial Signature event was a huge success. Charlie Mabie, PDC and Joe Marti, Sheridan Camp 4 Commander, coordinated the event. Five Camps, 2 SVR companies and 1



Auxiliary participated in the actives at Ft. Point. Twenty three members of the Allied Orders showed up for a successful event at Ft. Point, San Francisco.



Mike Musante, ACWA lead and 20th Maine reenactor said "It was a great event! We had a record public turnout....2562! We had about 75 reenactors including the

great SUVCW turnout. Thanks for coming out! I pushed as many public as possible to the guard room to try and get the kids to participate in your passbook program. I think it worked out well! You had a ton of public around your tables at all times!"

The recruiting certificate impression program that was put on by Joe Marti, David Saylor and Frank Avila was very successful. Our SUVCW Brothers did an outstanding job. We have been invited back by the NPS, 20th Maine and the ACWA for the next event at Ft. Point.



Patriotic
Paragraphs

*by Dean Enderlin,
Dept. Patriotic Instructor*

The Folding of the Flag

It was January 28th, and I was standing and saluting as the colors were being lowered at the end of the day at the Sesquicentennial Signature Event at Fort Point, San Francisco. As I watched the large flag being carefully handled and folded by the squad of Civil War reenactors, I couldn't help but wonder about this tradition and its history. Were the colors at garrisons really retired in this manner? It also reminded me of the recent name change of a

commercial genealogy website to "Fold3," done to honor departed veterans "as signified by the third stage in the flag folding ceremony." I had heard that each of the thirteen folds of the flag is given a symbolic meaning, but what is the history to this tradition? It was the perfect topic to investigate for patriotic instruction!

I expected the answers to my questions to straightforward and easy to find. That was not the case. It turns out that the ceremonial fold isn't quite as old or traditional as one might think. First to be answered was the question of the origin of the triangular "pillow" form for the folded flag. Rumors abound that this tradition originated in the early days of the U.S. Navy, when our warships would keep their "true colors" folded at the peak until "breaking" the fold at the last minute to reveal the national ensign to an enemy prior to opening fire. This rather sneaky tactic gave ships an advantage in the days of close naval warfare, but historians seem to agree that this has little to do with the origin of the triangular fold.

According to U.S. Air Force Deputy Command Historian Rick Sturdevant, the triangular or "cocked hat" fold tradition appears to date back to the Spanish-American War (1890's). He notes that with the expanding U.S. military presence overseas at the time, the increasing use of very large flags at army and navy bases necessitated refinements to

the practice of folding and storing them. The triangular fold evolved out of this, becoming a somewhat standard practice in the early 1900's. Sturdevant points out that the Boy Scouts of America and soldiers returning from World War I added the practice to their hometown ceremonies, spreading the popularity of the triangular fold into civilian circles.

A standard dimension flag requires thirteen folds (two lengthwise and eleven triangular). This raised my second question, as to how a meaning was attached to each fold. It turns out that, as folding increased in its popularity, rituals were added to the ceremonies to give symbolism and meaning to each of these thirteen folding stages. There is no "right" way to symbolize each fold, so several ceremonial scripts have arisen through the years. The following link will take you to a compilation of some of them:

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/more/folds.htm>

All of these rituals are beautiful and add great dignity to a ceremony, but none of them are "official." The U.S. Flag Code is entirely silent on flag folding. It only stipulates that the flag should not be carried flat or horizontally. In other words, you can fold the flag in any manner that you wish. More details about the U.S. Flag Code can be found at the following link:

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagcode.htm>

I have to admit that I'm a bit disappointed that the ceremonial triangular fold of the flag is a tradition that only emerged in the 20th Century. I had really hoped to find much earlier origins. Still, it is a practice that has been popular for nearly a century now, so it has gained a firm place in our solemn ceremonies. This experience was a worthwhile exercise for me, and I hope that my discoveries will be of use to you in delivering Patriotic Instruction to your Camps.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Dean Enderlin, PCC
Patriotic Instructor, Dept. of California & Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Why I Joined . . . What I Found

*by Allen Davis, Ellsworth Camp
23 Sr. Vice-Commander /
Assistant Chaplain*

In January 2010, I began researching my family history for the first time. I had so little to go on, but jumped into the mix and did the best I could. At that time, the only family I really knew much about was my great grandmother Swift and her parents and siblings. Before long, I discovered that her grandfather, Wesley Fletcher Swift, was a

soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War. I was so excited because for the first time I had a real connection to the Civil War.

Having grown up mostly in a small town called Ringgold in northwest Georgia I fell in love with the Civil War because of the local history associated with the War. I spent many hours at the Chickamauga Battlefield where I almost believed that I could see and feel the battle. That battlefield has always been a "sacred" spot for me. Not long after that I began to wonder if there was an organization that I could join to honor my 3rd Great Grandfather Swift and it didn't take me long to find the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. I spent a few months debating whether or not to join (guess I wasn't sure if I'd fit in!) but then I sent in my application. In March 2011 my application was approved and I went to my first event on April 9, 2010 at the Rural Cemetery. Since then I have discovered many, many more ancestors who wore Union Blue and I determined that I would serve the Order to the best of my ability out of respect for each of them. Little did I realize how much I would gain by joining the SUVCW.

Starting with that first event at the Rural Cemetery I found men and women who loved history (especially history of the Civil War), their country and their family's role in that history. Until I met each of you, I had never been around anyone with whom I could share that love. I found

comrades and friends. In a word, I found *fraternity*.

I also found folks who are patient, kind and willing to teach the newcomer what the Order is all about. You have taken the time to explain things to me and to answer what I assume must sound at times like silly questions. You share your wisdom and insight about many topics. When I found those things in you, what I really found is *charity*.

Lastly, I found a group of like-minded people who cherish the memory of the “Boys in Blue” who sacrificed so much for their ideals and principles and for the love of country. Every time we gather together we remember them. Each grave marker cleaned, recorded or replaced is a symbol of the fact that we will never forget. We march in parades and participate in ceremonies to tell their story. When I found this Order, I found *loyalty*.

Fraternity. Charity. Loyalty. These are not merely words we recite in the opening ceremony of our Camp, Department and National meetings. These truly are the principles upon which our Order was founded, and to which we pledge ourselves to uphold and perpetuate.

News from Around the Department

The 2012 National Encampment will be held in Los Angeles, California on August 9-11, 2012 at the Los Angeles Airport Marriot. A web page has been set up to help keep the masses informed: <http://www.suvpac.org/2012.html>

Brother Campbell Announces Candidacy



Past Camp and Department Commander Tad D. Campbell has officially announced his candidacy for the office of SUVCW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

The election will take place during the 131st Annual National Encampment in Los Angeles, California in August 2012. Anyone wishing to read Brother Campbell’s letter of intent or review his qualifications may do

so online at the following address:

<http://www.nhgenes.com/Campbell%20Candidacy.pdf>

Department 2012 Host Committee Requests Your Support

Department Brothers & Sisters,



The Department respectfully requests your support to help meet

our financial obligations to host the 2012 National Encampment on August 9-11, 2012.

Please distribute the contribution form, attached to the end of this newsletter, to all your Camp and Auxiliary members to help us with our fund-raising. Several Brothers and Sisters have already generously contributed to the fund-raising during the past two Department Encampments, and through other fund-raising activities. Please help us reach all our Department Brothers and Sisters to ask for their support.

With thanks in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

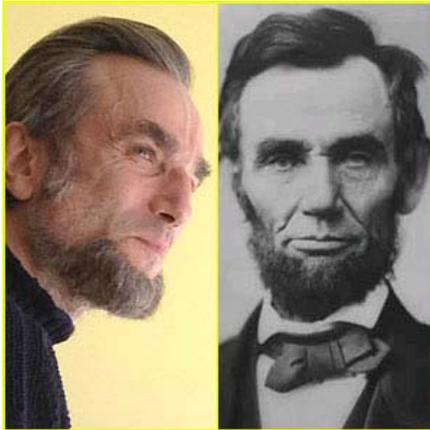
Glen L. Roosevelt
Dept. Commander
2012 National Encampment Host
Committee Chairman



A Tale of Two Lincolns

By *Charlie Mabie, Editor*

This summer we will be treated to not one but TWO movies about our 16th president. They could not be more different in content, yet I cannot wait to see them both.



Day-Lewis as Lincoln

Stephen Spielberg's Lincoln, starring Daniel Day-Lewis as Abraham Lincoln and Sally Field as Mary Todd Lincoln, is based on Doris Kearns Goodwin's biography of Lincoln, Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln. The film will focus on the last few months of Lincoln's life, the ending of slavery and the Union victory in the Civil War, including:

- The fight in the House of Representatives over proposing the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery forever, which succeeded on January 31, 1865

- The unsuccessful Hampton Roads Conference which took place on February 3, 1865, at which Lincoln and Secretary of State William H. Seward met with three Peace Commissioners from the Confederate States of America
- Lincoln's second inaugural address, delivered March 4, 1865
- Lincoln's 18 day trip to visit General Ulysses S. Grant at his headquarters at City Point, Virginia, starting March 23, 1865. He was accompanied for parts of his trip by his wife Mary Todd Lincoln and both of his living sons. Lincoln also met with General William Tecumseh Sherman on April 1, and later that day Petersburg, Virginia fell to the Union Army. Lincoln visited Petersburg the following day. The Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia, fell on April 3 and Lincoln visited there on April 4. Seward was seriously injured in a carriage accident in Washington on April 5, and Lincoln returned to the White House on April 9, 1865, and immediately visited Seward.
- On the evening of April 9, Lincoln received a telegram informing him that General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia had surrendered at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. For all practical purposes, the war was now over.
- Lincoln's final cabinet meeting on April 14, 1865, where he discussed his plans for Reconstruction
- Lincoln's visit to Ford's Theater that night, where he was fatally shot by John Wilkes Booth at the same time that William Seward was seriously wounded in a separate but coordinated attack by Lewis Powell

The budget for the film is reportedly \$100 million, and was filmed in both Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia.

The second movie, which I am sure will raise a few eyebrows out there, is Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter (I already hear the deep sighs and jeers from some of you). It too is a big-budget film, produced by Tim Burton. Before I justify this movie, here is a brief plot summary:

- When Lincoln is eleven years old, he learns from his father Thomas Lincoln that vampires are in fact real. Thomas explains to his son that a vampire killed Abraham's grandfather (also named Abraham Lincoln) in 1786. Young Abraham is also shocked to learn that his beloved mother Nancy Hanks Lincoln succumbed not to milk sickness but rather to being given a "fool's dose" of vampire blood, the result of Thomas's failure to repay a debt. Lincoln vows in his diary to kill as many vampires as he can.
- As a young adult Lincoln and a friend travel down the Mississippi River to New Orleans on a flatboat to sell a number of goods. Here Lincoln's life is changed forever after he witnesses a slave auction. Lincoln follows a slave buyer and his new slaves back to their plantation and discovers to his horror that the buyer is a vampire - the slaves are to be used not for labor but for food. Lincoln writes in his diary his belief that vampires will continue to exist in America as long as they can easily buy

their victims in this manner - to end slavery is to end the scourge of vampires. At this point, Lincoln becomes an abolitionist.



- The story includes many twists and turns (Lincoln meets with Edgar Allen Poe; William Seward is also an avowed vampire hunter) that explain his rise to the presidency, as well as shaping him into the iconic character he is today.
- After the outbreak of the Civil War, early battles, such as the First Battle of Bull Run, go poorly for the Union troops after they are attacked by Confederate vampires. Lincoln decides that the best way to defeat the vampires is to eliminate

their food source and starve them out — to that end, he announces the Emancipation Proclamation and encourages the slaves to fight back against slave owners and vampires alike. This begins to turn the tide of the war.

Yes, I know that the premise is utterly ridiculous...entertaining, but still ridiculous. But we need to remember that this Nation is full of people that have recently come from other countries that do not share in our common knowledge of our country's past, and children that have not been provided any historical perspective on the matter. For many people, Lincoln is just the face on the \$5 bill, "the person who freed the slaves," or some sort of cartoon character on an ad touting discount appliances for sale during a three-day weekend. This is where we can step up and into the fray. The release of both movies provides us an opportunity to discuss the real role of our 16th president, the actual events surrounding the Civil War, the sacrifices made by the brave soldiers on both sides, and, ultimately, our continued efforts to keep them fresh in our Nation's memory. This, coupled with our continued efforts with providing Sesquicentennial Signature Events for the public will help us to carry forth our mission to "keep forever green the memory of the Boys in Blue."



Department Encampment Update

Tim Reese, DVC

I like to announce to all members in our Department and the ASUVCW, that the 2012 Department Encampment of the Department of California and Pacific will be held on March 9th and 10th at Camp San Luis Obispo, as in the previous year. I decided (in concurrence with the other elected officers) that the Encampment should remain here, as the costs are extremely reasonable, and with the 2012 National Encampment that will follow, this is the best course to take. *Registration forms and details about menu, fees, accommodations, and ad prices can be found at the Department website:*

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

Other Sesquicentennial Events

The national Webpage has a listing of Sesquicentennial events from around the nation. Check back frequently as many events are still in the planning stages. The listing can be found at:

<http://www.suvcw.org/CWSesquicentennial/CWSesquicentennial/CWSEQ.htm>

150th Anniversary of the Civil War



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Other sites for Sesquicentennial Information:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/04/110407-civil-war-sesquicentennial/>

<http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/04/12/presidential-proclamation-civil-war-sesquicentennial>

<http://www.facebook.com/civilwar150network>

<http://www.nps.gov/fosu/planyourvisit/civil-war-sesquicentennial.htm>

http://www.history.army.mil/html/bookshelves/resmat/civil_war/cw_additional_resources.html

<http://www.gadling.com/2011/02/17/nation-gears-up-for-civil-war-sesquicentennial-reenactments-ex/>

<http://www.civilwartraveler.com/150/index.html>

<http://www.johnbrownraid.org/>

<http://rosenbach.org/civilwar/>

<http://civilwar150.longwood.edu/>

<http://www.7score10years.com/>

DO YOU HAVE YOUR 150TH PASSPORT YET?

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR 150TH MEDAL?



PASSPORT
150th Anniversary of the Civil War



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Signature Events

Keep track of all of the 150th events you attend through the Sesquicentennial Signature Event Passport. The individual and/or bulk cost is \$5.00 per book. The official Sesquicentennial Event Medal cost \$12.50 for individual purchase, or \$5.00 each when purchased in bulk. Information is available at:

http://suvcw.org/SUVMerchandise/SUVOS_SesqItems.htm

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE PASSPORTS NOW AND DID NOT HAVE THEM STAMPED AT THE EVENT YOU ATTENDED, THE STAMPS WILL BE AT THE DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT. NOT GOING TO THE ENCAMPMENT? HAVE THE EVENT ORGANIZER STAMP AN ADHESIVE LABEL AND SEND IT TO YOU TO AFFIX TO YOUR PASSPORT!

ELECTION, APPOINTED OFFICERS, & DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, Department CA and PACIFIC

- Commander - Bro. Glen L. Roosevelt, PCC
- Sr. Vice-Commander - Bro. Timothy P. Reese, PCC
- Jr. Vice-Commander - Bro. Thomas T. Graham, PCC
- Secretary - Phillip L. Caines, PCC
- Treasurer - Phillip L. Caines, PCC
- Council - Bro. Tad D. Campbell, PDC
- Council - Bro. Jerry R. Sayre, PDC
- Council - Bro. Owen R. Stiles (Chair)

- Chaplain - Bro. Thomas E. Helmantoler, PCC
- Patriotic Instructor - Bro. Dean A. Enderlin, CC
- Counselor - Bro. Tad D. Campbell, PDC
- Historian - Bro. David A. Davis, PCC
- Guide - Bro. Rudy E. Velasco III, PCC
- Guard - Bro. Daniel J. Henry, CC
- Signals Officer - Bro. Tad D. Campbell, PDC
- Color Bearer - Bro. Jerry R. Sayre, PDC
- Graves Registration Officer - Bro. Joseph C. Marti
- Civil War Memorials Officer - Bro. Kirby R. Morgan
- GAR Highway Officer - Bro. Thomas P. Chumley, PCC
- Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator - Bro. Alan E. Peterson, PDC
- California Column Newsletter Editor - Bro. Charles W. Mabie, PDC
- Special Aide to the Civil War Memorials Officer – Bro. Dean A. Enderlin, CC
- Special Aide to the G.A.R. Highway Officer – Bro. Andrew Brown, Camp 2.

EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CAN BE FOUND AT:

<http://suvpac.org/officers.html>

The CA and Pacific Website can be found at:

<http://suvpac.org/index.html>

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was a creation of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of Union Civil War veterans, which was formed in 1866. Wanting to pass on its heritage, the GAR in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania created a Corps of Cadets in 1878 which later became the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV). This latter organization was formed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 12, 1881.

The SV units functioned much as National Guard units and actually served along with state militia during the Spanish American War. In 1904, the SV elected to become a patriotic education society and in 1925 changed its name to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

However, to keep the military aspect alive, the SUVCW created within the organization the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) which was carried on the Army rolls as a Reserve contingent. Some SVR units served with the Army during World War I. After World War I, the SVR was listed as a training company of the U.S. Army. In more recent years, the SVR's mission has become historic, ceremonial, and commemorative.

Prior to disbanding and before the death of its last member, the GAR officially designated the SUVCW as its successor and heir to its remaining property. On August 20, 1954, the SUVCW was officially incorporated by an Act of Congress by the passing of Public Law 605 of the second session of the 83rd Congress. The Department of California and Pacific was established in February 1886 and currently consists of sixteen local Camps.

