

Stoneman Dispatch

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Email: camp18@suvpac.org Web: www.suvpac.org/camp18.html

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Annual Dues

Yes, it is that time of the year again, time to mail in your membership dues for the SUVCW.

Thank you, thank you for all that has been mailed in to date.

We are doing pretty good as the Camp has received payment from about 75% of the membership with January 15, 2015 as final due date.

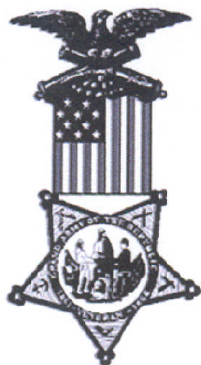
You can help Camp 18 get the annual reports to the Department on schedule if you can mail in your dues by the 15th.

The 2015 Camp18 Membership cards have been mailed to all that were able to send dues in early, so if you haven't received your membership card and have sent payment or have any questions or concerns, please contact Camp Secretary Rudy Velasco (760)770-9237 or rev03@dc.rr.com

Quick Trivia

Q: Which presidents served in the Civil War?

A: Six future presidents served in the Union Army, none for the Confederacy. They were: Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley.



Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, Jan. 17 – Multi Camp Officer installation with Department Commander Tim Reese at **Bob Hope Patriotic Hall**, Los Angeles at noon.

Sunday, Feb. 8 – Camp display at The Lincoln Shrine, Redlands. 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21 – Camp Meeting at the Palm Springs Air Museum, noon.

March 6 - 8 – 129th Sons of Union Veterans, Department of California & Pacific Encampment at the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndam in Sacramento.

Sat & Sun, April 11-12 – Camp display at the 12th annual Prado Park Civil War reenactment.

Saturday, April 18 – Camp Meeting 12:00 p.m. American Legion Hall, Corona.

Further details for some of these activities can be found on page 3.

December Meeting at the Air Museum

Some enjoyed the December meeting at the Palm Springs Air Museum so much, that they asked if we could do it again, so we will on Feb. 21. All of the same fees and benefits apply.

We had a couple of very positive items take place at our December meeting.

More on page 2, see MEETING.....



*Dedicated to Preserving the Memory
of the Grand Army of the Republic
And the soldiers who Fought to Save the Union 1861 - 1865*



Above, left to right: Camp 18 Brothers Jim Crowell and Richard Lutz prepare for Initiation as Sr Vice Cmdr. Elect Steve Doyle looks to help.

MEETING from page 1,

This was the first Camp Meeting that Richard Lutz and Jim Crowell have attended since becoming members of the Camp and so were initiated straight away.

Camp Officers were also elected and the outcome was as expected. Most jobs are the same with a few additions. Camp Commander is still Bill Daley.



On the left, Brother Lutz & Brother Crowell listen to the explanation of their Membership Badges from Camp Commander Bill Daley.

Steve Doyle is now our Sr. Vice Commander and Richard Burns has moved to Jr. Vice Cmdr. Additions to Camp Council are Mike Bullard and Rudolph Velasco IV. The rest shall remain the same for another year and can be seen on page 3, middle right.

After the meeting, some entertained themselves with the other exhibits of the museum.

Civil War lectures at the Rancho Mirage Public Library

Information provided by Camp 18 Brother Chuck Monell

Dr. William Gudelunas has been a popular speaker at the library and next week he will help explore the Civil War through a series of lectures.

Did slavery or secession cause the Civil War? Was it a needless war? How did our torn nation mend its wounds afterward? Dr. Gudelunas can shed some light on these questions and help expand our knowledge about the Civil War by discussing the causes, its inevitability and the reconstruction of America in post-war shambles.

The schedule of lectures:

Monday, January 12, 2-3 pm: "Causes of the Civil War."

Tuesday, January 13, 2-3 pm: "Necessity of the Civil War."

Thursday, January 15, 2-3 pm: "Reconstruction Reconsidered."

Admission is free for these lectures and the general public will be admitted 15 minutes before the event begins, so seating is probably limited.

Rancho Mirage Public Library is located at 71-100 Hwy. 111, Rancho Mirage, CA. 92270. Phone number for more information is (760) 341-7323.

Department Encampment Reservation Deadline

The deadline for all registration paperwork to be turned in is January 15th so if you are planning to attend the Department Encampment in Sacramento this March, you need to hurry.

The registration and meal form can be found at <http://www.suvpac.org/encampment.html> along with hotel reservation information.

On Friday evening, March 6th at the Hawthorn Suites in Sacramento, we are invited to the Friday Night Camp Fire / social hour with a cash bar. Saturday will be the Business session for the Department and the Saturday evening dinner with Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell.

More on page 3, see Encampment...

Encampment continued,

On Sunday morning, March 8, there should be a Memorial Service at the Old City Cemetery.

Multi Camp Officer Installation

Camp 18 Brothers are invited if you wish to come; All Camp Officers are encouraged to go.

To save Department Commander Reese several separate trips to southern California to install Officers at the four southern Camps, he suggested that the four Camps get together so he could install all southern California Camp Officers in one trip.

At noon on Saturday, January 17th the Camps will get together at **Bob Hope Patriotic Hall**, 1816 S. Figueroa Street, downtown Los Angeles.

The meeting and Installation should take about 90 minutes to complete. We hope to see you there.

Lincoln Shrine Open House, Redlands

The Open House, featuring the new exhibit "1865" will take place on Sunday, February 8, 2015, from 1-3pm. Civil War Re-enactors, live music, and excitement for the whole family are features of the fun event, which is free to the public.

It's been said that the Lincoln Shrine in Redlands holds the biggest collection of Lincoln memorabilia west of the Mississippi.

Camp 18 will have a small display on the lawn around the Shrine. You are all invited to come visit and enjoy.

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine is located at 125 West Vine Street. Redlands, CA. 92373. More information can be found on the web at <http://www.lincolnshrine.org/>

Who was Robert Todd Lincoln?

The following provided by Camp 18 Brother Burt Hogue

He was the only child of Abe and Mary Lincoln to survive into adulthood - with his three brothers having died from illnesses at young ages. Believe it or not, Robert lived until 1926, dying at the age of 83. But along the way, he lived a remarkable life.

For starters, he begged his father for a commission to serve in the Civil War, with President Lincoln refusing, saying the loss of two sons (to that point) made risking the loss of a third out of the question. But Robert insisted, saying that if his father didn't help him, he would join on his own and fight with the front line troops; a threat that drove Abe to give in.

But you know how clever Abe was. He gave Robert what he wanted, but wired General Grant to assign "Captain Lincoln" to his staff, and to keep him well away from danger.

More on page 4, see LINCOLN...



**General George Stoneman Jr.
Camp 18 Officers**

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Camp Commander, | William Daley |
| Sr. Vice Cmdr, | Steve Doyle |
| Jr. Vice Cmdr, | Richard Burns |
| Sec/Treas, | Rudy Velasco III |
| Camp Council #1 | Michael Emmett |
| Camp Council #2 | Michael Bullard |
| Camp Council #3 | Rudolph Velasco IV |

Appointed

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Camp Chaplain | vacant |
| Camp Historian | Burt Hogue |
| Graves Registration | Michael Emmett |
| Newsletter Editor | Rudy Velasco III |
| Patriotic Instructor | Richard Burns |
| JROTC & Eagle | |
| Scout Coordinator | Richard Burns |

**Good Will Ambassador At Large;
General Roger Rothrock (U.S.Army Retired)**



LINCOLN continued,...

The assignment did, however, result in Robert's being present at Appomattox Court House, during the historic moment of Lee's surrender.



Then, the following week, while Robert was at the White House, he was awakened at midnight to be told of his father's shooting and was present at the Peterson house when his father died.

Following his father's assassination, he moved to Chicago with his mentally ill mother and brother Tad who was 12 at the time.

Robert finished law School and practiced the craft while constantly struggling to keep his mother in check.

As she had done as First Lady, Mary went on shopping binges that far exceeded common sense, driving what was left of the family fortune into bankruptcy, and leading to violent disputes between Robert and she. Robert also had torrid battles with Mary to keep her from destroying Lincoln's private papers, not just for their financial worth, but for their historic value also, with Mary forever trying to tear them apart and burn them in fireplaces.

In fact, her irrational behavior (she was probably schizophrenic) grew so destructive that Robert had to have her put away, with his signature signing her into a psychiatric hospital, where she stayed locked up for three months. Mary never forgave him for it - and they remained estranged from then on - until Mary died at age 63 in 1882.

Worth noting, as a deceased President's wife, Mary had petitioned Congress for a pension, and she got one! She received \$3,000 a year, a sizable sum back then.

Of profound interest, as an adult Robert wrote there was a lot of distance between his father and he - caused mainly by Abe's being absent so much of the time during Robert's formative years. Abe was forever gone on state wide judicial circuits, or campaigning for office - or serving in the state legislature.

Robert writes that his most vivid memories of his father were seeing him pack his saddle bags to be off again. Nonetheless, Robert respected his father - and he wept obsessively the night he was killed.

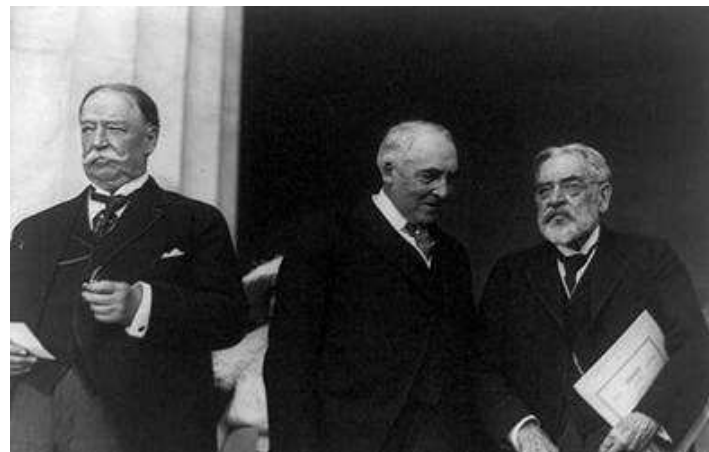
In 1868 Robert married a senator's daughter and

they had three children - two girls and a boy, Abraham Lincoln's only grandchildren. Their son, whom they named Abraham Lincoln II (but whom they called "Jack") would die in 1890 from an infection arising from having a boil pierced under his arm. He was 15 at the time. The two daughters, however, lived fairly long lives, one living until 1938 to die at age 69, and the other until 1948, dying at age 72.

The last direct descendent of Abraham Lincoln would be the child of one of Robert's daughters - Abe Lincoln's great grandson - a guy named Bud Beckwith, who died married but childless, in 1985.

In his own right, Robert made quite a life for himself. He got into politics and was highly regarded in those circles. In fact - he served as Secretary of War under President Garfield - and, incredibly, was with him when Garfield was shot at the Washington train station! And then - some years later, Robert would also be present when President McKinley was gunned down in Buffalo ! If you were President, you'd probably be leery about having him around, wouldn't you?

In later years, Robert would grow a beard. He would serve in other political appointments and ambassadorships, and later became president of the Pullman train car company, a booming enterprise back then, and a position he would hold for the rest of his life.



In the photo above is Robert (far right) appearing in his late 70's at the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in 1922.

Worth noting, Robert was an avid amateur astronomer and even had an observatory built into his Vermont home which is better described as a
More on page 5, see ROBERT...

ROBERT continued,

mansion. The telescope was so well built and powerful that it is still used today by a local astronomy club.

A footnote; Abe Lincoln once said he doubted Robert would do very well in life. Beyond the fact that Robert was able to live in a mansion, he was several times offered the chance to run as President or Vice-President, with his every time refusing the offer. So, Old Abe's assessment of his son was way off the mark, wasn't it? Of course, who knows how much being Abe's son influenced Robert's success in life?

Now for the most incredible thing there is to know about Robert Lincoln's story.

In his 20's, Robert was standing on a train platform in Jersey City, buried among a crowd of passengers attempting to buy sleeping births from a haggard conductor, when the train suddenly moved. Robert was standing so close to the train that it spun him around and sent him dropping into the space between the train and the platform -- a perilously tight place to be -- against a moving train threatening to crush him!

Suddenly - a hand grabbed Robert by the neck of his coat and pulled him up onto the platform, a quick action by a solidly strong man who saved Robert's life. And do you know who that man was?

It was Edwin Booth - the brother of John Wilkes Booth who had murdered Robert's father.

**Camp 18 Graves Registration 2014**

The following report from Brother Mike Emmett is not only well done; it is also interesting and pertaining to Civil War Soldiers final resting spots.

The official report will be as follows:

378 grave reports compiled for submission.
31 reports were duplicates.
33 reports were upgrades or corrections to existing submissions in data base.
1 report was disapproved.

313 registration reports were approved for 2014.

Addenda:

***151** registrations in California (Evergreen Cemetery 2, Pioneer Memorial 64, Mountain View 52, San Jacinto 27, 6 other)

***55** registrations in Montana (19 KIAs from Custer's Last Stand; 18 in a mass grave, 1 along Powder River) (2 other KIAs removed to family plots outside of Montana)

***107** registrations through the country

Errata:

* **3** Medal of Honor recipients
 Otto Voit, Little Big Horn
 Thomas Murray, Little Big Horn
 George Geiger, Little Big Horn

* **2** United States Colored Troops

* **6** general officers

BG Henry Jackson (1904)
 BG Marcus Reno (Civil War brevet)
 BG John Tourtellotte (Civil War brevet)
 BG Michael Sheridan (1898) brother of General Philip Sheridan
 MG Samuel Sturgis (Civil War brevet)
 BG Lewis Merrill (Civil War brevet)

* **4** miscellaneous but noteworthy individuals

Miles Keogh, Captain KIA Custer's Last Stand.
 "Lonesome Charlie" Reynolds, Scout, KIA Custer's Last Stand.

William J. Fetterman, Captain, KIA Fetterman's Massacre 1866.

James Earp, older brother of Wyatt Earp.

Huzzah, Huzzah, Huzzah for a job well done!



*General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18
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