

# Stoneman Dispatch

## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Email: [camp18@suvpac.org](mailto:camp18@suvpac.org) Web: [www.suvpac.org/camp18.html](http://www.suvpac.org/camp18.html)

Volume 6, No.3, May, 2015

### Camp 18 Memorial Day Service

The date for our annual Memorial Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside is fast approaching, Saturday 23 May. We still have room for participants if you are interested in performing.

The Daughters of Union Veterans from Mary Jane Safford Tent 92 and Sisters of SUVCW Auxiliary No. 2 have been invited along with all of you. Boy Scout Troop No. 120 will retire another American Flag in need.

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a Service in the G.A.R. tradition.

### Memorial Day Flags at our Cemetery

From Brother John Morris

My Brothers:

As a reminder, if you are available and want to join us, we plan to meet at Riverside Evergreen Cemetery on Saturday morning, 23 May, at 0800L to place American flags on the graves of over 1,000 fellow veterans, to include the grave of our one Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Col Cornelius Cole Smith.

Brother John Morris

Brother Morris can be reached by email at [john.morris.6@us.af.mil](mailto:john.morris.6@us.af.mil) or phone (951) 746-0416.

After placing the flags, stay for

*More on page 2, see Memorial....*

### Tentative Camp Calendar

#### Sunday, May 10 – *Happy Mother's Day*

**Saturday, May 23** – Memorial Day Service at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery beginning at noon. *See information flier at end of newsletter.*

**Saturday, June 20** – Camp meeting at noon. American Legion Hall 1024 B S. Main St. Corona 92882

**Saturday, July 4** – Camp Display at Evergreen Cemetery's 4th of July Fireworks Show.

**Saturday, Aug. 15** – possible Camp meeting at the American Legion Hall, Corona.

**August 20 – 23** – National Encampment of the SUVCW in Richmond, Virginia. Visit the National website or contact the Editor for more information.

### Prado Park Reenactment Display

The Federal Army's campaigns of April 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> of this year proved to be a success for the Union as the Rebels were forced from the field of battle at the end of the weekend. Camp 18's display at the reenactment was another success.

Although there seemed to be fewer spectators at this year's reenactment, there was still plenty of interest in our display, many great conversations and almost perfect weather.

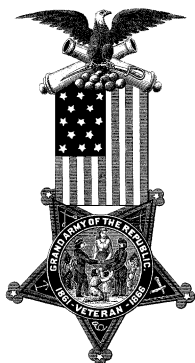
Brothers Richard Burns and Rudy Velasco III spent Saturday night in a new Civil War Tent brought to the Display by Rudy. Perfect camp out weather.

*More on page 2, see Reenactment.....*

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

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*Memorial continued...*

the Camp's Memorial Day Service.

Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery is located at 4414 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Riverside, CA. 92501.

*Reenactment continued...*

Every year at the reenactment the re-enactor camps are judged for the "Most Authentic Camp" award. This year winners were: Confederate impression – **8<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry**, Federal impression – **1<sup>st</sup> Division Field Hospital**, Civilian impression – **Winston Town**. Honorable Mention went to Camp 18 Brother Larry Duncan *aka Dr. Malarkey* for his Field Hospital and *Cemetery* impression, so you might say he was noticed for his mistakes!

The winning ticket for the Musket raffle was picked by a re-enactor again this year. Two years ago, the musket raffle went to a member of the general public.

The Prado Civil War Reenactment and Scout "Camp Out" helps raise money for the local Boy Scout community. Of the many Scouts and Scout Troops that were at the reenactment, Brother Matt Amori and Jr. member Dominic Amori were participating and came by the Camp's display to say hello.

### **Cub Scout Troops 1 & 114 Blue & Gold Banquet Presentation**

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, I had the pleasure of being the guest of honor at the Blue and Gold Banquet with San Bernardino's Cub Scout Troops 114 and 1. Approximately 20 of the cubbies were in Civil War uniforms and performed on stage by pretending to be Civil War soldiers, stating their Civil War name and where he was from. Then they each said, in rotation, a few words from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. After the "firing" of the cannon, various cub scouts received their wolf and bear merit badges, with one of them even receiving his Golden Arrow Award (Boy Scout's equivalency to an Eagle Scout's Award).

When I was introduced, I spoke briefly about the importance of the Battle of Gettysburg, and how the SUVCW is a fraternal organization of men who honor their relatives who fought, and sometimes died in, the Civil War. I also mentioned that I had enjoyed talking with the cubbies last February, when I discussed with them what a Civil War soldier might have in his haversack. I commended them for their enthusiasm for and participation in the subject matter, that went

well beyond my planned 15 minute presentation.

The pot luck dinner was a Civil War theme that included fried chicken (from the Colonel, of course), baked beans, corn bread, apple cobbler, and even hard tack! I was even able to soften it a little in the baked beans . . . I came in my union uniform and musket and so, after the banquet dinner, several of the parents requested photo shoots with me with their proud cub scout.

Before leaving, I was approached by two of the Troop Leaders, inquiring about joining SUVCW, and I gave them applications, that I just happened to have with me . . . "Be prepared!" Right?

Submitted by Steve Doyle,  
SVC, Camp 18.

### **ROTC Award Ceremonies**

ROTC and JROTC Award season is here and well under way and Camp 18 is participating in the award requests. To date, the Camp has presented nine certificate & medal awards to Cadets of seven Inland Empire High Schools and Claremont McKenna College. We still have a few Ceremonies scheduled for the end of May and June with more award requests anticipated.

The Camp likes to have a representative at the schools to present the awards where an award has been requested and so far has not missed a date.

Special Thanks to Brothers Ken Walker, Richard Burns, Roger Rothrock and Rudy Velasco III for making these presentations possible as the Cadets and Unit Instructors appreciate the effort.

***Below: the AFJROTC Color Guard, Unit CA-20016 of San Jacinto High School at their Awards Ceremony on 7 May 2015.***



## Help Fund Grand Army of the Republic Highway Signs

From Department G.A.R. Highway Officer  
Thomas Chumley PCC

The GAR Highway, in its' historic configuration was the longest transcontinental route in the United States, running from Provincetown, MA. to Long Beach, CA. The numbered route designator is Highway 6. It is well marked in most of the states it passes through, except in California. Some years ago the U.S. Government realigned and re-designated the interstate highways with the result that the western terminus of Highway 6 now ends in Bishop CA. As a result most local governments and the State of California removed nearly all references to the Historic GAR Highway south of Bishop.

The National GAR Highway Officer informs us that the James A. Garfield Camp #142 (Ohio) has a source of DOT approved signs that reflect the historic markers for the Highway. At the last Department Encampment in Sacramento, March 2015, I proposed a fund raising drive to purchase some of these signs so they can be used by local governments to replace missing signs at a few key locations. The motion was adopted by the Encampment. The signs aren't cheap; they run about \$125 - \$150 each, plus shipping. The Department Treasurer is establishing a dedicated account to receive donations from both Camps and individuals. Camps are not asked to donate enough money to fund one sign per Camp, but rather I am suggesting each Camp consider a donation of \$25 to \$50 so that a few signs may be funded. At this time the Department Treasurer has received personal donations of \$150.00 and there are pledges for an additional \$300.00 or so. Should your Camp or any individual Brother elect to make a donation, please send it to the Department Treasurer and annotate the memo section "GAR Highway Fund."

Thank you for your consideration regarding this project.

For questions, you can phone Brother Tom Chumley (562) 429-7196 or cell (562)618-7460.

You can contact the Department Treasurer Brother Owen Stiles at [secretary@suvpac.org](mailto:secretary@suvpac.org) or phone (530) 846-3251. Donations can be mailed to Dept. Treasurer Owen Stiles 284 Hazel St. Gridley, CA. 95948.

## Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) entering Parade

The Mare Island Marine Guard Company of the SVR will be participating in the Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. Although this SVR unit is made up of Sailors and Marines, we will have a few Infantry soldiers marching with us. If you have a Civil War uniform and are in marching condition and would like to participate, contact Rudy Velasco III (760) 770-9237 or email [rev03@dc.rr.com](mailto:rev03@dc.rr.com)



### 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)*

*If* you have something of interest that you would like to add to this newsletter, something that our **Brothers** might enjoy like an article, a photo or a Civil War event, contact the Editor, Rudy Velasco for placement. [rev03@dc.rr.com](mailto:rev03@dc.rr.com)



**FRATERNITY**

**CHARITY**

**LOYALTY**

## Henry C. Veatch Camp No. 30

The Department of California and Pacific of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War welcomes the new Henry C. Veatch Camp No. 30 that was activated April 21, 2015 by Commander-in-Chief Tad. D. Campbell.

Camp Organizer, Brother Owen R. Stiles is the initial Camp Commander.

The new Camp 30 has 14 Brothers and is headquartered in Gridley, CA.

HUZZAH for Henry C. Veatch Camp.

## Meranda Grandy: A Civil War Mother's Grief

by SVC Steve Doyle

*The following is a fictitious account, albeit based on factual events, of the life of my 3x great grandmother, Meranda Grandy. She was born in Warren County, New York, near the Vermont border, but would later move to Charleston, New York, where she would spend the rest of her life. Based on the historical events that took place during the 1800's, and her own personal experiences, I have tried to express the thoughts and feelings she might have had during her lifetime.*

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Meranda Crandell was getting married today. It was 1836, and at the age of 22, she wanted to make sure that the label, "spinster" wasn't going to be branded on her. Her soon-to-be husband was Lyman Grandy, 10 years her senior, but he attended her church, and her family approved of their union. A year later, their first child was born. They named him "George", honoring the Founding Father and first President of the United States. Both Crandell and Grandy ancestors had fought in the Revolutionary War and were proud of their patriotic heritages.

As the years passed, four more children would be born: Richard (1840); Charles (1841); John (1843); and finally, a daughter, Mary (1847). All five children knew the chores that they had to do on the Grandy farm: cows had to be milked, animals fed, crops planted and harvested, meals prepared, clothes to clean. And don't forget about church on Sunday. There were no idle hands in the Grandy household.

Then one day in 1859, Lyman got a letter from one of his uncles, who had gone to Minnesota to homestead farmland there. The previous year Minnesota had become

the 32nd state of the Union, furthering President Polk's vision of our nation's "Manifest Destiny" westward. And at \$1.25 an acre, many young men were going there to seek their fortunes. That night, at the Grandy dinner table, the only topic of discussion was about the possibilities that awaited one at this new frontier. Once George broached the idea of going there, younger brother, Charles, chimed in. As much as Meranda disliked it, she knew the die had been cast. It was time for two of her sons to leave the safety of their home in New York, and to seek their own destinies. Besides, with all the recent years of the escalation of the "slavery issue" and increasing hostilities with the South, maybe her boys would be safer living further west from the East Coast politics. Reluctantly, she gave her blessing, and prayed that God would keep them in His safe keeping.

Then, in April, 1861, it happened. Southern troops attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina, and a call to arms was sent out for men to enlist in the Union Army, "to put down the insurrection." And then the letter came from George, that he had volunteered in the Minnesota 1st Regiment. Her heart sank that he had gotten caught up in the patriotic fervor of the day, but she was also proud that he was willing to fight against the scourge of slavery and the secessionist South. Shortly after his initial 3 month enlistment, George re-enlisted for 3 more years, and was soon promoted to Corporal.

George's letters home were sporadic, but always welcomed. Receiving a letter from him meant that he was still alive. One such letter, dated July 9, 1862, even reported that George had met President Lincoln at Harrison's Landing, Virginia. She prayed that this meant the war would soon be over.

Meranda would read whatever newspapers she could get to keep updated on any current battles, but would not find out until later from one of George's letters whether or not the Minnesota 1st had engaged the enemy in any of them. She knew that he would minimize the dangers of combat so she would not worry, but this worried her even more. There was always a disconnect between what he wrote and what the newspapers reported. His letters only complained about the incessant rain and not having any tents, marching sometimes 10-15 miles a day, the terrible food, the long hours of boredom, and the many false alarms

*Continued on page 5, see GRANDY...*

**GRANDY continued,**

at night. Meanwhile, the newspapers would report that The Minnesota 1st: “sustained heavy casualties” at the Battle of Bull Run; “had 15 killed, 79 wounded, and 21 missing” at the Battle of Antietam; “came under artillery fire” at the Battle of Fredericksburg; “was attacked by J.E.B. Stuart’s cavalry” near the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Her heart sank in despair when George wrote the family in April, 1862, of his regiment’s pending engagements: *“we soon must face the cannon and some must fall on the Field either dead or wounded, I may be among the lot.”* She knew then that her son had had a premonition of his death, and that her first born child would not be coming home.

Then, in July, 1863, Union and Confederate forces met in the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Several weeks later the Grandys received the long dreaded letter from George’s company commander:

*“It is with my deepest sympathy that I must report to you the passing of your beloved son, Corporal George Grandy during the Battle of Gettysburg. George was a fine soldier and I was proud to have him in my Regiment. You may take comfort in knowing that he was instrumental in repelling the Rebel Charge on Cemetery Ridge on July 2nd, until General Hancock could provide reinforcements to secure our Union Line. I assure you; George died facing the enemy, did not waiver in his duty as a soldier, and did not die in vain. He was a true hero for our cause to preserve our Union, and you should be proud of him.*

*Again, my condolences for your loss.*

*You will be contacted further regarding the disposal of his remains.*

*May God have Mercy on his soul.”*

*Signed: Captain H.C. Coates,  
Minnesota 1st Regiment*

Meranda would later decide to have George buried with his fellow soldier brethren at the Gettysburg Cemetery, as she was sure that’s what he would have wanted. She and Mary would wear their black mourning dresses for the next 12 months. Little did Meranda know that she would be wearing her mourning dress much longer than that.

Meranda’s youngest son, John, was almost 20 years old when George died at Gettysburg. The Draft

Act of 1863 had just become law, requiring all males aged 20-45 to register to be drafted for military service. By the summer of 1864, John had decided he wasn’t going to wait to be drafted, and on September 1, 1864, he enlisted in the 153rd New York Regiment. Six weeks later, on October 19th, he would be wounded at the Battle of Cedar River in Virginia. Two months later, on December 16th, he would die of his wounds. Meranda and her daughter would put on their mourning dresses once again. This time, Meranda chose to have her son brought back to Charleston, to be buried close to home, in the nearby Christian Church Cemetery.

Then, mercifully, April, 1865 came. Meranda was relieved when she heard that General Lee had surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox. Finally, no more bloodshed. Sacrificing two sons was enough. Even though she wept for George and Johnny, she also wept for the more than 600,000 soldiers, on both sides, whose families suffered and mourned the losses of *their* loved ones. She was glad that the nation decided to have a day of remembrance on May 30th of every year, to lay flowers on the graves of those who had died in the Civil War. “Decoration Day” would later be changed to the more appropriately named “Memorial Day.”

Meranda’s two remaining sons survived the war. Charles returned from Minnesota and helped Lyman with the farm. Because New York state had sufficient volunteers for its enlistment quota, he was not drafted. In 1867, he would marry Margaret Ann Bunn, but they would never have children. They would live on the Grandy farm with Lyman and Meranda for most of their lives.

Richard, along with his younger brother John, had enlisted in the 153rd New York Regiment in 1864. He didn’t have to, because he was married, and The Draft Act was drafting single men first. However, he decided to enlist, partly to avenge his older brother’s death at Gettysburg, partly for the just cause of the conflict, but mostly, to protect his younger brother. No matter how much Meranda consoled him, he would feel guilty the rest of his life because he had not been able to protect Johnny from a rebel’s bullet.

Richard had married Ida Hart in 1860, and their first child, George, was born in August, 1862. He would be Meranda’s first grandchild. “Little George” would stay with Lyman and Meranda until adulthood. It was a comfort for Meranda to have “George” back in their household. Richard and Ida would later give Meranda five more grandchildren.

Meranda’s “baby girl”, Mary Louise, became a school teacher and married Marvin Dingman in 1871.

She and Marvin gave Meranda three more grandchildren: Frank, Florence, and William. Like their father, Frank and William would become dairy farmers. But Meranda knew that Florence was not destined for a life on the farm. She was smart, fiercely independent, and tough as anyone with Grandy blood in their veins. Although she wouldn't be alive to see it, she was right. Florence would go on to medical school in Pennsylvania to become a dentist. She would never marry. However, by being a woman with a professional career, she was well ahead of her time. Her legacy would also be that she prepared a genealogical tree that allowed her to join the Daughters of the American Revolution: a legacy that lives on to this day.

Lyman had been Meranda's faithful husband since they had married in 1836. He had been a hard-working farmer his whole life and a good provider. Over the years, their love for each other had grown stronger with each hardship and heartache that they had shared together. But after more than 40 years together, Lyman's health began to deteriorate. Then, one day in August, 1877, Meranda went to wake him after an unusually long afternoon nap. He did not respond. After so many years together, she was now alone. Lyman would be buried in the same graveyard as their youngest son, Johnny. Once again, Meranda would open her Bible to the poem she had read so many times

before, titled: *It is Well with my Soul*

When peace like a river  
Attendeth my way,  
When Sorrows like Sea Billows Roll,  
Thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well, it is well with my Soul."

Meranda was now so very tired. She was ready. She had had little happiness and much sorrow in her 76 years, but had accepted her hardships and sorrows with dignity and grace. She had persevered. But now she was ready for the candle of life to flicker out. With her family at her bedside, on a cool Spring day in April, 1890, Meranda Crandell/Grandy took her last breath and uttered her last words: "I'm comin, Lyman . . . Tell George and Johnny that mama's comin soon . . ."

#### Epilogue

Meranda Crandell/Grandy is buried between her husband, Lyman, and her youngest son, John, in Christian Church Cemetery, in the small village of Charleston, Four Corners, New York. May she rest in peace.



Caption for the drawing at left:

#### **The Naughty Boy Gotham, Who Would Not Take the Draft**

In July 1862, Congress passed a law authorizing a military draft in Northern states that did not meet their quota of troops voluntarily. This met with violent resistance in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin. To quell the disturbances and enforce the draft, the War Department sent troops to arrest and imprison hundreds of men, mostly Democrats. In 1863, New York City, with its large Irish population and powerful Democratic machine, also erupted in violence lasting four days and killing at least 105 people. Again troops were sent in to quell the violence.

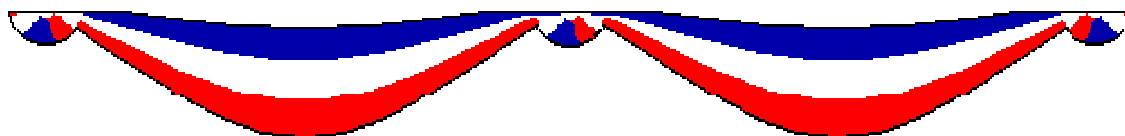
**Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper**  
**August 29, 1863**  
(Artist unknown)



Join **General George Stoneman Jr, Camp 18**  
*Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and*  
**Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery**  
4414 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Riverside, Calif. 92501  
for a

# ***Memorial Day Service***

***Saturday, 23 May 2015 at noon***  
***At the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) circle.***



***You are invited to witness a service in the Civil War  
Veteran & Grand Army of the Republic Tradition, with  
ALL American Veterans in mind***

***JOIN US NOW***

***Help to Preserve the Memory & History of your  
UNION Civil War Ancestor***

For more information email: [camp18@suvpac.org](mailto:camp18@suvpac.org)



*General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18  
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