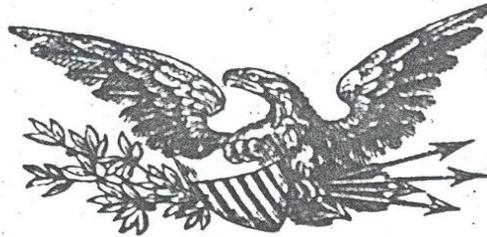


The Western Dispatch



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 6TH MILITARY DISTRICT
SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

VOLUME IX, NO. 3

FALL EDITION 2012



Great news comes to us from our SVR brothers in the Silver State. This month, Battery A, 3rd US Artillery received their first gun, a reproduction Model 1841 12lb. Mountain Howitzer. Soon they will receive their second field piece, a Cohorn Mortar. Over the winter an enclosed trailer and a limber to display with the guns will add to the already impressive complement. The howitzer was dedicated at Fort Churchill, Nevada on October 6th, firing 50 rounds in this inaugural event. Fort Churchill, located in Silver Springs, is an actual Civil War era fort. Built in 1860 to protect the (then) Territory of Nevada, it served as a muster point for Federal troops during the war and protected vital communications routes between East and West. – *photo by Ben Davis*



COMMANDER'S CORNER



Honorable men of the 6th Military District:

Your superb efforts in standing guard as the sentinels of the memory of our Boys in Blue are outstanding with exceptional dedication and execution of operations throughout our 6th Military District. Highlights include duty at the 121st National Encampment in Los Angeles, the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the inception of the Drum Barracks in Wilmington CA, the artillery's presence and demonstration in Nevada, service at Fort Point and Alcatraz in San Francisco, and duty at several reenactments throughout the district area that include memorial services and events of remembrance. With all our busy schedules and hectic lives, you have still been able to carry on effectively and are to be commended.

Congratulations to Captain Joe Marti on the birth of his new daughter, Elizabeth Rose. Joe now has an extended army of his own. The elevation of SVR Brother Tad Campbell to the SUVCW office of National Junior Vice Commander is worthy of congratulations and our extended support.

As we near the end of the year please keep in mind our reporting schedule is due. Electronic rosters, unit strengths, and unit applications are preferable. This allows for expedited listings and reference by our adjutants.

6th Military District Staff

Maj. Will Tisch
COMMANDER

Capt. John May
ADJUTANT

Capt. J.C. Marti
CHIEF OF STAFF
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

2nd Lt. Rev. Dr. Glen Alan Dickey
CHAPLAIN

The staff of the 6th Military District and I appreciate all your efforts this year, especially that of our nation's veterans who are members. Your triple duty is a help to all of us who are guided by your experience and skill. Triple duty includes service in our order, carrying on the purpose of the Boys in Blue since you have followed a similar path, and guiding our men in our units to better understand our duty's and service to our order and nation. Certainly there is no compensation adequate but the reward of a decent and free nation is inspiration to carry on. Bravo Zulu Boys and Huzzah!!!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Major Will Tisch

Major Will Tisch
Commanding Officer
6th Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve



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THE “MINIE” CARRIED ‘ROUND THE WORLD

(The following is the thrilling story of Brother David Lamb, 1st Lieutenant of the 49th Iowa, one of the most highly decorated and respected units in our order (www.iowavalor.com) The following was related to me at the National Encampment in August and I am excited to share this remarkable story. The veteran in question is one of Lt. Lamb’s maternal Great-Grandfathers)

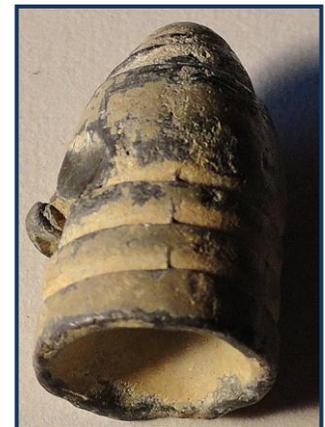
When the news came that General Lee had surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9th, 1865, Private Luther Shattuck Parker had recently rejoined his unit, Company C, 26th Massachusetts Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment. They were encamped at Savannah, Georgia, awaiting their final push north into the Carolinas. Parker had been taken prisoner the previous October

Congratulations are in order for our Commander. At the Sons of Veterans Reserve Breakfast at the National Encampment, Captain Will Tisch was commissioned as Major by command of Major General Robert Grim himself (left). He also recently celebrated the marriage of his daughter. It’s been a momentous few months for him, and we thank him heartily for his effort and support as well as congratulate him on his commission. Huzzah for Major Tisch!

at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, and had recently been paroled from his captivity.

On that morning (believed to have been somewhere around the 15th of April) news was just reaching the forces in and around Savannah, as the telegraph lines linking that Southern coastal city with Atlanta and Charleston had been severed by Sherman’s advancing armies and were only then being restored to the occupied city.

Upon hearing the news that the Confederate armies in the East had agreed to terms of surrender, Luther attached a worm device to the ramrod of his 1863 Springfield Rifled Musket and coaxed the loaded .58 caliber Minié ball from its barrel. The ball (shown in the attached photos) he placed into his vest pocket and vowed to carry it every day for the remainder of his life to remind him of the three



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long and bloody years and beloved comrades lost during the fighting.

Upon Luther's death, his only child (Lamb's Grandmother) kept the Minié safe until Lamb's own father joined the 3rd United States Army Expeditionary Forces bound for France in 1917. His father then carried the Minié ball through his tenure in the Signal Corps and Artillery during WWI. When Lamb's eldest brother joined the United States Marine Corps following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, he became the custodian of the artifact which he carried through the South Pacific and then onward with him through his service during the Korean War.

Lamb's turn came with his deployment with Gulf Company, 75th Ranger Regiment, to the Republic of Vietnam in 1966-67.

At present this simple 1.3 ounces of lead has now survived five armed conflicts, and travelled at least twice around the globe.

He now carries the ball in the vest pocket of his own Union Army vest while performing his duties as commander of "The Governor's Own Forty-Ninth Iowa Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment" SVR Honor Guard Regiment to the Department of Iowa, SUVCW.

THE MYSTERIOUS MAN OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

SVR ARTILLERY ON HAND FOR LONG
OVERDUE CREDIT

As the crowd turned towards Harry Reynolds' grave with the US Cavalry standard, the 36-star US Flag, the Camp 25 standard, and the official blue Congressional Medal of Honor flags fluttered in the breeze. The first volley of the rifle squad dislodged a magnificent great owl from trees above, and a flock of crows began to caw in earnest in the tree behind them, creating a great racket. The second volley again got the birds' attention, and several people in the crowd wept silently.



John Raschel/Elko Daily Free Press

Approximately 80 years after his death, Harry Reynolds was honored for his service during the Indian Wars in a ceremony held in Elko, NV City Cemetery on October 13, 2012. Reynolds received the Medal of Honor for his service at the September 9, 1876 Battle of Slim Buttes in the Dakota Territory while assigned to Company M, 3rd United States Cavalry. He died without telling anyone about receiving the Medal of Honor and there's a question as to whether or not Reynolds himself knew. After about two years of research, General William

Passmore Carlin Camp 25 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Reno discovered the truth.

“If it weren’t for this group, we probably would have never known the real story,” said Gil Hernandez, state chief of staff of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2350. “It takes groups like this and individuals to carry on the stories of our history as military men and women.”

The ceremony, held by the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Department of the California and the Pacific, General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25 of Reno, NV provided recognition for this unsung hero. Honors were further rendered by Sons of Veterans Reserve members of Battery A, 1st U.S. Artillery, commanded by Orderly Sergeant **Wayne Eder**. Prior to the ceremony, Camp 25 Commander **John A. Riggs** and Eder (as Camp Chaplain) held an official flag folding ceremony at Civil War-era Fort Churchill, NV on October 6th. Commander Riggs obtained two flags from the Nevada Department of Veterans Affairs for this ceremony to honor Reynolds and

The Sixth Military District is comprised of the following states: Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and submissions from throughout the district, preferably with photos. Please send all submissions to itramej@yahoo.com.



Please also be sure to read, discuss, and contribute on our Facebook page: [6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve](#). Don't forget to hit the LIKE button!

You can also see back issues and current events on our web page at

www.suvpac.org/svr.html

Cavalry Scout Bill Johnson, also buried in the Elko City Cemetery. The flags were folded with respect according to the US Flag Code by the camp members and presented to Grandson Jerry Reynolds in Elko, NV.

“[Reynolds] lived a good and exceptional life,” said Carlin Camp Commander John Riggs. “He served in the Civil War, he served in the Indian Wars, and in the state of Nevada he was famous as a wagon master, stagecoach driver, and rancher.” In addition



to the flags, Commander Riggs presented grandson Jerry Reynolds with two certificates commemorating his grandfather's courage and service. “It was great of you guys to come out here,” he said, motioning to the spectators and high school band members. “I appreciate it very much. ... There used to not be a flag on his grave, but now there is. And there will be (from now on).” The service was also attended by the Department of the Pacific, Federal Battalion; Elko Veterans of Foreign Wars and Elko High School Band as well as local residents. “Harry Reynolds took that one step above and beyond the call of duty,” Commander Riggs said. “It put him in the pantheon of American heroes.”



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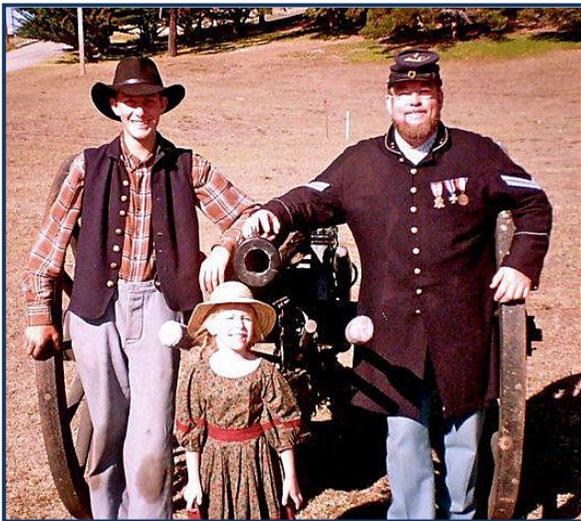
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A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

MONTEREY EVENT CELEBRATES BIGGEST AND BEST YET, SIX YEARS RUNNING

The Annual Fort Mervine Civil War Encampment was held October 13-14 at Lower Presidio Historic Park in Monterey, California to rave reviews. In its sixth year, the event was hosted by Abraham Lincoln Camp 10 and collaborated with five SUVCW Camps and three Auxiliaries. The 46 participants also included the [California Historical Artillery Society \(CHAS\)](#), the [National Civil War Association \(NCWA\)](#) and the [Citizens & Soldiers Society](#). An estimated 1200 visitors attended over the weekend, shattering previous attendance records. Weather conditions were optimal day and night, and the sea lions along the shore serenaded the overnight crowd until two o'clock in the morning.

The event was part of a larger, community-wide celebration. History Fest, now in its twelfth year, is always held on the weekend closest to the date of the 1849 signing of the first California Constitution in Monterey. On Sunday at 2 o'clock, a reenactment of the debate and signing of the Constitution is performed at historic Colton Hall. According to the website, "Monterey History Fest has grown into a festival that offers a variety of programs for both residents and visitors to experience



Pvt. Garrett Hasslinger and Cpl. Tim Reese (Co. C, 8th Cal. Vol. Inf.) flank Miss Emelia Campbell, daughter of National JVC Tad Campbell and ASUVCW National Chaplain Rachelle Campbell



Cpl. Tim Reese, Randall Haukinson (ACWA), Pvt. Dean Enderlin, and Pvt. Garrett Hasslinger (l-r)

Monterey's unique cultural heritage and historic resources."

Brother **Phil Caines** (General William S. Rosecrans Camp 2, Los Angeles) acted as narrator and assembled the crowd during the firing demos, which were provided by 6th Military District, which provided a seven-man musket detail. The highlight of the day was the cannon provided by CHAS and their equestrian team of about 10. During the day rides were given to excited youngsters on the Civil War ambulance. The City Museums Curator Dennis Copeland was impressed by the success of the event. He wrote, "**Timothy Reese** of the SUVCW, [Lincoln Camp 10], once again did a splendid job as the coordinator for the "Fort Mervine" Encampment and its demonstrations, such as cannon and musket firings, as well as the many reenactors who share their knowledge and enthusiasm with Fest visitors. The participants' enthusiasm, attention to detail, and willingness to share knowledge and activities with visitors continues to make this event an important and rich component of History Fest."



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New this year was Civilian Town by the NCWA and the US Medical tent by Chuck Graf and the signal display by Jen Roger of TCSS, which was a noted attribute that added another attention-grabbing element to the event. Participants have already expressed their desire to participate again next year, and that trend will likely grow as more and more people attend each year. Said Reese, "This event honors those men in blue who preserved the great seal of liberty, securing the Union with service and sacrifice, without which we would not have the great nation that we all live in today."

CAMP OF INSTRUCTION

GLOVES

In a discussion of ways and means of faithfully representing our ancestors as we participate in ceremonies, parades, and memorials in the Sons of Veterans Reserve, we sometimes punt on the obligation to try to get things right. We hear Brothers, when presented with facts about how soldiers in the 1860s did this or that, remark "Well, you know we're not reenactors." This is applied to everything from drill to uniform details. In some corners of the SVR, members are themselves active reenactors and so therefore can and do draw from the well of that experience to inform the choices they make in their portrayals.

In times past when the SVR had its own distinct uniform, this issue was likely non-existent. At the point, however, when we decidedly began to mimic the dress, arms, and methods of our forebears it became our duty to faithfully represent them lest our honest and earnest efforts to honor them be perceived as indifferent or perhaps a distortion. Nevertheless, the use of white gloves is one area where we as non-reenactors might part ways with our campaigning reenactor friends for the sake of propriety and, perhaps, even historical record.

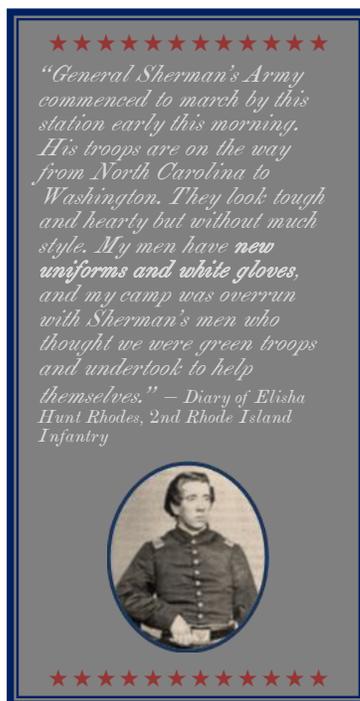
Ask a veteran reenactor where their white gloves are, and you'll likely come up empty handed. Even if you bring up that it was

common and even required in some cases for each soldier to possess white gloves, this will probably be answered by correctly pointing out that there were many cases of regulations being ignored (leather neck stocks are one example). As one soldier near Washington, DC. wrote in 1863, "The Colonel came around and told the Captains of all the companies to see that every man had a new pair of pants and two pairs of white gloves and a stock and

he told the men if they did not have them by next Sunday, he would put every man in the guardhouse."

If your portrayal of an authentic Civil War veteran is lacking these regulation items, you're probably in the clear. However, we in the SVR are most likely in uniform at events where spit and polish, not dirt and grime, are the appropriate dress of the day. To that end, there are numerous examples of Civil War-era soldiers, perhaps almost all of them garrisoned, wearing white gloves in formation. What to do? While it is certainly within the realm of reason to forgo gloves, their use is certainly supported by custom and evidence of regulation, although they are not specifically pointed out in the Revised 1861 Regulations. However, as we are most likely to be found on parade, their inclusion could be seen as appropriate or even preferred.

These days, quality white cotton gloves are easy to stash and can be had for under ten dollars per pair, so it might be considered as a good investment for units to purchase them in bulk and have them at the ready next time you march. Even if most people have their own, there are usually a few people who don't, and for the sake of uniformity it pays to jam a few in your frock coat's tail pockets for just such a contingency.



Of course, if you do choose to wear gloves en masse, make sure your drill is up to speed. As one reenactor remarked, "The well-drilled units at the Remembrance Day parade in Gettysburg recently did show up very well in white gloves. The badly drilled ones merely drew attention to their lack of skill with white-gloved hands pointing out the many awkwardnesses [sic]. One more thing to think about: they invite attention and compel the gaze.

Attention!

Please join us for the annual

San Jose Veterans Day Parade

Held November 11th

Contact Capt. J.C. Marti for details at itramcj@yahoo.com

26th New York Infantry (note gloves)



6TH MILITARY DISTRICT SERVES AT NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

Due to the fact that color guards present and carry the symbols of their unit and country, being assigned to one is a considerable honor. Members of the 6th Military District had such an honor bestowed upon them recently when asked by Major General **Robert Grim** to form and maintain the official color guard for the August National Encampment of the SUVCW.

It is only in relatively recent years that the significance of flags has been taken from the functional realm and solely relegated to



*Pvt. Ron Cannon, 1st Sgt. Dave Schleeter, Cpl. Don Gates,
Pvt. Paul Lavrischeff, Maj. Will Tisch (l-r)*

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symbolic. However, in our own nation's history there is the story (albeit one thought to be wholly apocryphal now) of Betsy Ross and her very important contribution to this then-fledgling nation. The first flag borne by soldiers on January 2nd, 1776 is stylistically the same flag we know and love today. As historians, we know well the vital role color bearers played in the clamor, fog, and confusion of 19th century battle, and how heroic a responsibility it was due the lack of defense, the high visibility to the enemy, and the significance of eliminating it on morale and function of a large body of soldiers.



Color Guard members Pvt. Cannon, 1st Sgt. Schleeter, Cpl. Reese, Pvt. Lavrischeff, Capt. Marti (l-r) –photo by Sister Cher Petrovic

Because of this history, and the importance and visibility of the task, it is an honor to be a member of the Color guard. The color guard present at the National Encampment spent hours working to acquit themselves worthily, and the result was a fine showing of what our 6th Military District members are capable



Color guard of the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry with the national colors of their regiment, ca. 1863-1865.

of and proof that no matter our distance from the hallowed ground of the East our fitness to serve in this important role was not diminished. The guard was made up of brothers of Co. C, 8th California (with noted exceptions). They were: Privates **Ron Cannon**, **Jamin Gjerman**, and **Paul Lavrischeff**, Corporals **Don Gates** (Co. K, 1st U.S. Infantry) and **Tim Reese** PCC, and Color 1st Sergeant **Dave Schleeter** PCC, and was commanded by 6th Military District Chief of Staff Captain **Joe Marti**. Co. C Privates **Garrett Hasslinger** and **Chris Avila** performed superbly on fife and drum. Captain **Jerry Sayre** (Co. G, 5th California) was enormously helpful in sharing his wisdom in an advisory capacity.



USMC Guard Co. – Mare Island, commanded by Orderly Sergeant Rudy Velasco (center) is assisted by Department Commander and Brevet Sergeant Glen Roosevelt on September 23rd at the 150th Commemoration of the [Drum Barracks Civil War Museum](#) in Wilmington, Ca. The event was further supported Captain Jerry Sayre and his 5th California Volunteer Infantry. Special thanks to Brother Loren Bures of the 5th California for putting this SVR Event together.

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GENERAL ORDERS

GENERAL ORDER 2012-10

Sons of Veterans Reserve

11 August 2012

Effective this date the following promotions and commissions are in effect:

Captain **William E. Tisch**, Commander 6th Military District, is promoted to the rank of **Major** and to serve as such until 16 November 2013 or until properly relieved.

GENERAL ORDER 2012-11

Sons of Veterans Reserve

5 September 2012

1. Effective this date, at the request of **Major William Tisch**, Commander 6th Military District, the Commanding General of the Sons of Veterans Reserve commissions **John A. May** to the rank of Captain to serve in the position of Adjutant, 6th Military District. This commission remains in effect until 16 November 2013 or until properly relieved.

2. Contact information for Captain May is: Captain John A. May, 2001 Lee Court, Carlsbad, CA 92008-2763. Phone (760) 994-5959. Email jmmay@sdoe.k12.ca.us

Major General Robert E. Grim
Commanding Officer

Attest:
Colonel Donald E. Darly



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Veteran's Day is dedicated to honor all those who have served in the nation's armed forces. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I, which took place at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. Congress changed the name to Veteran's Day in 1954.

Veterans Day arouses three emotions in most Americans: solemnity, because it celebrates the veterans who have defended

our great country; sadness, because so many have lost their lives in the process; and pride, because they fought so valiantly. The supreme value that our veterans have fought and died for from the American Revolution to the Civil War to two World Wars is freedom. America is a country of freedom without which, life is empty. Say a prayer this Veteran's Day for those who serve and give a prayer of remembrance to those who, having served, now rest in peace.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

The Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey
Chaplain

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ABOUT THE SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE



The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). The National Military Department of the SVR consists of the General Staff and seven geographical Military Districts across the nation. SVR Units participate in Civil War related ceremonies, parades, living history programs, and reenactments.

Membership in the Sons of Veterans Reserve is open to any Member (Hereditary), Junior (Hereditary), or Associate (Non-hereditary) of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. To be in the SVR you must be a Member or Associate in the SUVCW. Units and individuals must file an application for membership. Minimal annual dues are charged all SVR members.

Individuals interested in joining the SVR may contact either:

Major Gen. Robert E. Grim - *Commanding Officer*
5367 SR 72 South, Sabina, OH 45169-9425 (937-584-4622)
Email: robertgrim@dragonbbs.com

OR

Col. Donald E. Darby - *Adjutant General*
1382 Western Ave., Chillicothe, OH 45601 (740-772-6081)
Email: darby@horizonview.net



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FROM ALL OF US TO YOU AND YOURS



Thanksgiving in the Army - After Dinner, The Wishbone - by Winslow Homer

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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