

The Western Dispatch



The Official Newsletter of the 6th Military District Sons of Veterans Reserve

Volume VIII, No. 1

Spring Edition 2011

Continuing the tradition

Welcome to the
newest edition
of The



Western Dispatch! For those of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Joe Marti, and I was recently appointed as the new Public Information Officer (PIO) for the 6th Military District by our District Commander, Lt. Col. Dave Allyn. I am a member of Phil Sheridan Camp 4, San Jose, Calif., where I am currently serving as Senior Vice Commander, as well as Commander of our SVR unit, Co. C of the 8th California Volunteer Infantry. In this new position as PIO I am following in the footsteps of Capt. Will Tisch who has been promoted to the role of both Adjutant and Chief of Staff, also for our District. I hope my efforts here will only add to the great reputation the 6th already has as a result of Capt. Tisch's consistent efforts and of all of you. Please send a bombardment and barrage my way with information and photos of your activities because I want to make sure you all are recognized for the wonderful and valuable service you provide in raising the profile of our organization. Through that service we can continue to honor and shed light on the contributions,

sacrifices, and successes our ancestors fought so hard to accomplish.

Furthermore, since we are the most visible part of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it's important that we use that visibility to further the aims and efforts of all our brothers, and most importantly, the boys in blue. So keep the articles and pictures coming.

Especially since we are entering the 150th anniversary cycle, this is our time to shine our brass, blacken our leathers, and get the word out. Until we speak again, I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

2nd Lt. J.C. Marti

Public Information Officer
6th Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve

6th Military
District Staff

Lt. Col. David
Allyn
Commander

Capt. Will
Tisch
Chief of Staff

2nd Lt. Joe
Marti
Public
Information
Officer



Commander's Corner:



Dear SVR Brothers,

Greetings to the Companies and Men of the 6th from your Staff. We trust this edition of the Western Dispatch finds you in good health, ready for

the season ahead. As I have written to you before, this is my favorite time of the year. Not only is the weather beautiful but soon we will be involved in many of the activities surrounding Memorial Day. As always, we need to make every effort to fulfill the aims of the SUVCW to properly honor our heroes of American military actions, especially our ancestors, The Boys in Blue, who in 1861-1865 fought to preserve The United States of America. The Sons of Veterans Reserve is committed to doing all we can to make others aware of the need to restore Memorial Day to its original date of May 30th. Since Congress moved the holiday to the last Monday of May, it is now little more than just another 3-day weekend. This year, the opening of The Civil War Sesquicentennial, we are blessed that the "observed" National Holiday actually falls on May 30th. If you are able to invite other organizations, such as The American Legion, VFW, or Boys Scouts, it may be possible to obtain media coverage for your local events. The more we put our cause before the people, the more we will gather support. I'd like to take this opportunity to announce a number of changes to our 6th MD Staff: District Adjutant, O'Sgt. **Glen Roosevelt**, USMC, Mare Island Marine Guard Company, has stepped down owing to his increased work-load as Commander, Dept. of Cal. & Pacific. Stepping up to this challenge is Capt. **Will Tisch**, Chief of Staff and Dist. Public Information Officer

(DPIO). In order to relieve Will, Capt. **Joe Marti**, Commander of Co. C, 8th CVI, has accepted the position as DPIO and Editor of the Western Dispatch. In this capacity, Capt. Marti has been given a dual commission as a Staff 2nd Lieutenant in addition to his Infantry Captaincy (this is the appropriate staff rank for the number of brothers in our District). We owe a great debt of thanks to both Glen and Will for their service in the past and thanks go also to Capt. Joe for his willingness to serve as our new DPIO/Editor – after you have read this edition, we're sure you will agree he brings a fresh approach to an already excellent publication. As Capt. Will works with our unit Commanders and Adjutants, collecting annual reports, I'm sure you'll be happy with his attention to detail and perseverance. We would also like to offer thanks and best wishes to our former Chaplain, 1st Sgt. **Carl Taylor**, Co. G, 1st CVI, for his spiritual aid and comfort in the past. As always, The Western Dispatch exists to provide information *to* members of our units, *from* members of our units. Without your photos and articles, we have little to publish. With your help, we hope you will be informed about what the 'modern Boys in Blue' are doing to, keep green the memory of the 'Original Boys in Blue, 1861 to 1865.' Thanks for all you do for the Good of Our Order wherever you may be and enjoy the freedom our ancestors fought to preserve for all of us!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, I remain your servant

Lt. Col. Dave Allen

Commander
6th Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department of California & Pacific Encampment



Former 6th Military District Adjutant Glen Roosevelt makes his first speech as new Department Commander.



L-R: Tim Reese, Loren Bures, Joe Marti, Jim Montetan, Jerry Sayre, Owen Stiles, David Schleeter, PDC Charlie Mabie, Dean Enderlin, CinC Brad Schall, Linn Malaznik, Dave Allyn, DC Glen Roosevelt, Will Tisch

Sacramento Museum Day

Each year in February, Sacramento, California hosts a "Museum Day." On this day, the Museums in Sacramento City and County open their doors, free of charge, to any and all visitors. For the past two years, Master Sergeant Dan Sebby, Commander of the California State Military Museum, has invited Company B, 8th California Volunteer Infantry to participate at the museum, located in historic Old Sacramento.

Again this year we set up display, in front of the museum, which was manned by **Private Jon Henry** and **1st Lieutenant Don Wilt**. It was estimated that at least 5000 plus visitors passed by our display. This

event has proven to be a most effective way to introduce the general public to the SUVCW/SVR in the Sacramento Area.



1st Lt. Don Wilt and Gen. George Wright impressionist (unknown)



1st Lt. Don Wilt is a member of George Wright Camp 22 and serves as adjutant of Company B, 8th California Volunteer Infantry

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Southern California SVR Units and Camps Salute Presidents Lincoln & Washington

72nd Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage in Redlands &
29th Annual Washington Massing of Colors in
Los Angeles



A salute to the reviewing staff - Photo courtesy of Dan Henry

SUVCW Brothers from Camps 2, 17, 18, and 21 representing SVR units Company G – 5th California Infantry and the U.S. Marine Corps Guard Company (Mare Island) participated in salutes to our Sixteenth and First Presidents during two long-standing Southern California celebrations.

Saturday, February 5 marked the 72nd Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage in Redlands (San Bernardino County). The event is sponsored by the Inland Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The pilgrimage, which included more than 1,000 youth, traversed Citrus Avenue from Redlands High School to the Redlands Bowl. Scout troops came from as far as the Fontana, Riverside, Barstow and High Desert areas. About 250 members of the Redlands Unified School District Combined Elementary Band performed in the parade and played the National Anthem at the Bowl. The patriotic program at the Bowl included Lincoln re-enactor Don Ancell of Oxnard telling stories of Lincoln's childhood and of Lincoln's son, Tad, before speaking about the U.S. Constitution.



L-R: Hicks, Sayre, Walker, Mary Todd Lincoln (played by Jane De Beaumont of Victorville, a fifth-generation great-niece in the Todd family), President Lincoln (Don Ancell), Bill LeConte, Glen Roosevelt, and Ryan O'Connell with Cub Scouts of Pack 219. Photo courtesy of Kim Sayre

A combined color guard of several of the Scout Troops led the parade. Immediately following was the carriage of President Lincoln, led by an SVR color guard made up of Brothers **Michael Hicks** (Camp 17), **PDC Jerry Sayre** (Camp 21), **Ken Walker** (Camps 2-18), **Bill LeConte** (Camp 2), **DC Glen Roosevelt** (Camp 17), and Camp 2 friend **Ryan O'Connell**. Brother **Larry Duncan** of Camp 18 marched in his Surgeon's uniform as an escort to President Lincoln.

The 29th Annual George Washington Massing of Colors on Sunday, February 20 marked the second event of our Presidents' Days observances. This ceremony is sponsored by the Liberty Chapter of

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the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) at the Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles. The Massing takes place at the foot of the George Washington statue on the terrace below the Hall of Liberty, and just uphill of the replica of the Olde North Church. The event draws color guards from patriotic organizations, military units, and most JROTC units of Los Angeles area high schools.

The SVR color guard was made up of **PDC Jerry Sayre** (Camp 21), **DC Glen Roosevelt** (Camp 17), **Ken Walker** (Camps 2-18), and **Bill LeConte** (Camp 2). Participating in the SAR Lee's Legion Color Guard were Camp 17 Brothers **James Blauer** and **James Fosdyck**. Brother Blauer opened the ceremony by singing the National Anthem. Camp 2 Chaplain **Rev. Gary Allan Dickey** played "*Amazing Grace*" on the bagpipes to accompany the wreath placement at the base of the Washington statue. Camp 2 Brother **David Hayball** was one of the SAR event coordinators; and Camp 17 Commander (SAR Chapter Past-President) **Dan Henry** acted as our official photographer along with Auxiliary Sister **Kim Sayre**. The following is a somewhat paraphrased quote regarding our experience at the Massing of Colors.



Artillerists on both sides of the lines at Fort Sumter rendered salutes to our first President. The Confederates who were amassed in Charleston Harbor aimed to link their struggle with that of the Revolution by firing a 13-volley salute. As a pointed reply, Major Robert Anderson, commanding officer at Fort Sumter, replied with a volley of his own - 34 of them - one for each state in the Union, including those which attempted to secede. - Source: The New York Times, Feb. 27th, 1861



A teenager was overheard by Camp 17 Commander **Dan Henry** telling a friend that, "It seems somewhat inappropriate to have Union Civil War-period soldiers in a salute to George Washington." Brother Henry politely informed the boy, "Union soldiers took time each February 22nd during the Civil War to fire and render a salute to the Father of Their Nation if they were in a position to do so. After 150 years of the Union veterans and their Sons carrying on that tradition, we sure feel that it is appropriate." The young lad was somewhat sheepishly grateful for the information; and then asked how he might join the Sons to carry on that tradition.

After the color guard rendered its salute to the reviewing staff at the Washington statue, it marched directly (with some labored breathing and gasping) uphill to the Abraham Lincoln statue to present another salute to the Sixteenth President. The color guard proudly formed around the replica of the famous Saint-Gaudens work, the original of which stands in Lincoln Park, Chicago. The opportunity to present our SUVCW colors to both our revered Presidents during one ceremony was indeed a splendid way to celebrate Presidents' Day 2011.



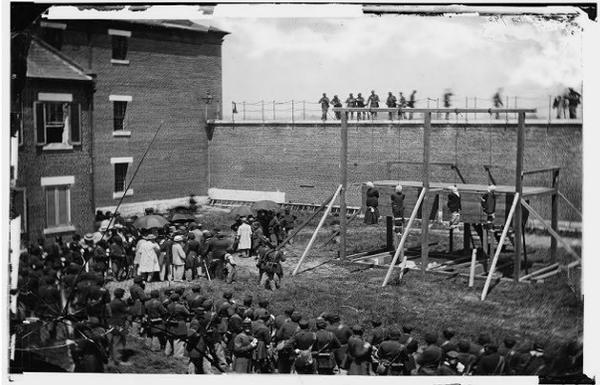
Brother Glen Roosevelt, in addition to serving as Commander of the Department of California & Pacific, also serves as Orderly Sergeant of United States Marine Corps Guard - Mare Island

Film Review: The Conspirator

One recent Sunday I was invited to a private screening of the new Robert Redford movie "The Conspirator", a film most of you have heard of by now and which concerns the trial and hanging of Mary Surratt as a conspirator in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The following is my review, a first of its kind for me. The American Film Company, who produced the film, invited reenactors and Civil War enthusiasts from the Bay Area to see the movie in order to spread the word to others with an interest in the subject matter. They had similar screenings in several cities in the last few months, some of which you may have been a part of.

I'll pare down the review to the basic details you might be interested in as Civil War enthusiasts. First off, it is a very visually satisfying film from the standpoint of authenticity. With a few big exceptions, the movie "looks" correct. Special mention should be made of the facial hair that looks far more realistic than any of the examples seen in *Gettysburg* or *Gods & Generals*. Some details of uniforms and accoutrements were incorrect, but in a way most people would never notice.

The story centers around the military tribunal that tried Mary Surratt, a civilian who operated the boarding house that served as a meeting place for the group of men who plotted to kill Lincoln and members of his administration. Her defense is mounted by a veteran of the war, Captain Frederick Aikin. Despite his initial misgivings about defending a woman seen by him and most others as guilty of complicity in the murder plot, he nevertheless strives against enormous odds to give a fair trial to Surratt. As the movie progresses, Surratt seems increasingly to be made into a convenient scapegoat by the Federal Government in an effort to



assuage the potential violence that might have erupted had justice not been swift in avenging Lincoln's death.

At times the movie can be very heavy-handed in drawing parallels between the events of the trial and the events of our time, and it took me out of the events of the day and felt like I was being taught a lesson instead of simply watching history unfold. Also, it seemed to lack that 'big ending' that satisfies so much in other courtroom dramas. It concludes very rapidly and abruptly, as if they ran out of time to finish it at leisure.

Overall, as people interested generally in this era, I doubt any of you reading this will fail to see this movie, and you should. Movies that target us don't come along too often, and despite my personal opinions about the execution of the story, The American Film Company (which boldly claims to be founded to make films on American history with exacting accuracy) deserves just praise for making a film of this nature. Nevertheless, my fear is that if you take away those of us with an innate interest in the time period, the movie might not resonate with the public at large. I hate to admit that, because if it were a smash hit, it might stimulate the creation of more movies of this era for us to lap up.

As a final point, do see it, do enjoy it, but I doubt it will end up on most people's top 3 Civil War film list.

- 2nd Lt. J.C. Marti

Ceremony recalls soldier

Texas Brothers help correct a 'typo' set in stone

By Kerry Yancey

Monitor Staff



Monitor Photo/Kerry Yancey

Regimental Orderly Sgt. Blair Rudy hangs a canteen and haversack on a musket with fixed bayonet, with a knapsack below, all leaning on the tombstone of Civil War veteran Milton B. Carroll in the Payne Springs Cemetery.

(Everheart) and I are both in the Sons of the American Revolution, and I'm in the Sons of Union Veterans (Everheart is in the matching group, Sons of Confederate Veterans)," Peddie said. "I told him, you get the stone, and we'll take care of it." **Peddie, Harold Stickler, Don Sielert, Charles Sprague, Brook Thomas and Blair Rudy** are all members of the Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp No. 18 of the Sons of Union Veterans, headquartered in McKinney.

The six men, dressed in authentic Union uniforms and carrying reproductions of Union arms and accoutrements, drove from McKinney to hold Saturday's noon ceremony at the Payne Springs Cemetery. The men carried reproductions of the 1853 Enfield rifled musket and the 1861 Springfield rifled musket. Both were .58-caliber percussion-cap muzzle-loaders, and would have been carried by soldiers in both the Union and Confederate armies.

PAYNE SPRINGS—A ceremony of remembrance Saturday recalled the life of an old soldier who died more than 100 years ago, but lived through America's bloodiest conflict — the Civil War. April 12 marks the 150th anniversary of the start of that conflict, which literally pitted brother against brother and father against son. So many men died in the four-year war — an estimated 620,000, although some estimates range as high as 700,000 — that 30 percent of all Southern men aged 18 to 40 were casualties and about 10 percent of all Northern men aged 20 to 45 were casualties. Of these, more than two-thirds (an estimated 414,000-plus) died of disease, not in battle.

Resting in the Payne Springs Cemetery is Pvt. Milton B. Carroll, who served in Company K, 97th Illinois Regiment of Infantry.

A Tyler-area man, Michael Everheart, provides tombstones for Confederate soldiers, and obtained Carroll's headstone more than a decade ago. Carroll (April 15, 1840-Dec. 16, 1903) was a descendent of Everheart's wife's family, **Drake Peddie** explained. "He



Monitor Photo/Kerry Yancey

Harold Stickler checks the position of a Union soldier's brass belt buckle on the tombstone of Civil War veteran Milton B. Carroll. Stickler added the buckle and a plaque noting Carroll's service in the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) as a member of the K Company, 97th Illinois Regiment of Infantry.

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Rudy pointed out the flags they carried were exact copies – hand-painted silk.

Stickler, who led the ceremony, said he and the others do similar ceremonies at Union veterans' gravesites whenever possible.

"If we see a Confederate monument that's deteriorating, we contact the Sons of Confederate Veterans and let them know," Stickler said. When Everheart was placing Carroll's stone, he realized it read "CSA," or Confederate States of America, not "GAR," or Grand Army of the Republic. [*Editor's note: Federal Civil War-era headstones do not read 'GAR'*]

"He said he realized there weren't many Illinois units in the Confederate army," Peddie said. Holding up a brass belt buckle, Stickler said the buckle would have been part of Carroll's Union uniform. He cemented the buckle on the stone, covering up the CSA engraving.

Stickler also cemented a Grand Army of the Republic medallion, noting Union service, onto Carroll's headstone.

Carroll mustered into K Company Sept. 8, 1862, at age 28. He was 5-10, had red hair and blue eyes, and was a married farmer born in Ohio. The Illinois 97th [sic] marched to Covington, Ky., where it joined the army that marched south to relieve a Federal column at Cumberland Gap.

The 97th became a part of the Union forces involved in the battle of Vicksburg (Miss.), and saw its full share of battle at Port Gibson.

"At the fierce battle of Champion's Hill, the regiment had the not very pleasant duty of being the target for the Confederate artillery for at least two hours, at a distance of not



Monitor Photos/Kerry Yancey

On command, members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, E.E. Ellsworth Camp No. 18, fire their muskets in salute to honor Civil War veteran Milton B. Carroll during a noon ceremony in the Payne Springs Cemetery Saturday. INSET: Milton B. Carroll's marker now notes his Civil War service as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

over 800 yards," Sprague read from Carroll's biography.

"In short, from May 19 to July 4, the 97th accomplished its full share of the great work, and for 45 consecutive days remained by day and by night exposed to the most destructive fire," Sprague read.

Later the 97th moved farther down the Mississippi River and took part in the siege of Fort Blakely. The 97th led the charge that took the fort, but in the process lost 80 killed or wounded. The regiment later traveled to Galveston, where it was mustered out July 29, 1865. Members of the regiment made their way home up the Mississippi through New Orleans and up to East St. Louis.

"As we remember Milton B. Carroll, let us cherish his example as a patriot and defender of those principles that he believed to be right," Stickler read during the ceremony.

Sprague, Sielert, Thomas and Rudy placed a wreath of red, white and blue flowers on the grave, along with a single red rose, a laurel leaf and an American flag. A musket with fixed bayonet, with a canteen and haversack hanging from it, along with a knapsack, was placed against the monument.

Peddie, Sielert, Thomas and Rudy fired three volleys in salute to end the ceremony.

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General Orders



SVR Commanding Officer
Major General Robert E.
Grim, PCinC

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 itramcj@yahoo.com.

GENERAL ORDER 2011-2
Sons of Veterans Reserve
27 February 2011

1. Effective this date **Captain William E. Tisch** has been appointed Adjutant and Chief of Staff of the 6th Military District. Captain Tisch will rank as such until 15 November 2013 or until properly relieved. Contact information: 8505 Ellsworth Lane, Santee, CA, 92071 Telephone: 619-448-4818. Email: Tis346@cox.net

2. Effective this date **Joseph C. Marti** of Company C, 8th California Volunteer Infantry has been commissioned to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and appointed as the Public Information Officer of the 6th Military District. 2nd Lt. Marti will rank as such until 15 November 2013 or until properly relieved. Contact information: 2088 South Dr. Unit 6 Auburn, CA 95603 Telephone: 415-317-4160 Email: itramcj@yahoo.com

3. **Marine Orderly Sergeant Glen Roosevelt**, due to increased duties within his Department, has stepped down as Adjutant of the 6th Military District to attend to the Department duties. The Commanding General, SVR, wishes to thank Marine Orderly Sergeant Roosevelt for his service to the SVR at the District level. Orderly Sergeant Roosevelt will continue as Commanding Officer, U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, Mare Island, CA.

4. Due to a clerical error, the General Order promoting **Captain Joseph C. Marti** to his current rank and position as Commanding Officer of Company C, 8th California Volunteer Infantry was not completed. Captain Marti was elected to the position of Commander of that aforementioned unit and promoted to the rank of Captain, SVR, effective 11 October 2010 to rank as such until 11 October 2013 or until properly relieved.

GENERAL ORDER 2011-3
Sons of Veterans Reserve
13 March 2011

1. Effective this date Captain **Jerry R. Sayre** has been re-commissioned a Captain in the Sons of Veterans Reserve. Captain Sayre was re-elected Commander, Company G, 5th California Volunteer Infantry. His commission will remain in effect until 13 March 2014 or until properly relieved.

Major General Robert E. Grim
Commanding Officer

Attest:
Colonel Donald E. Darby

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