



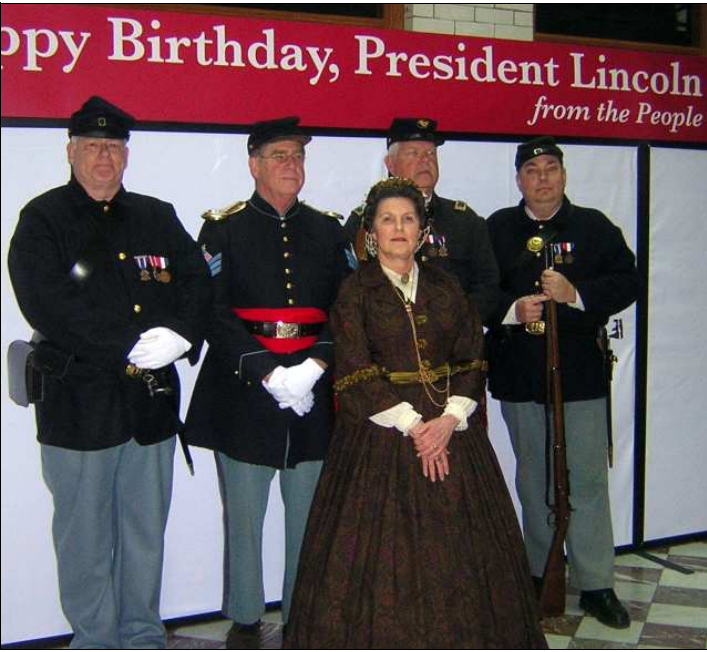
The Union Volunteer



The Newsletter of Colonel Edward D. Baker Camp No. 6
 Vol. 4 No. 3 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War March
 www.suvr.org

Winner of the 2008 Abraham Lincoln Award as Most Outstanding SUVCW Camp

SVR TURNS OUT FOR LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY



SVR members with Mary Todd Lincoln at Bicentennial celebration at Portland City Hall. Left to right Doug Sebranek, Rolla Harding, Steve Betschart, Randy Fletcher. Mrs. Lincoln portrayed by Marge Harding.

Portland – Bugler Steve Betschart trumpeted *To the Colors* as the honor guard from Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry presented the national and Oregon colors at Portland City Hall on February 12th. Keynote speakers at the event included Portland Mayor Sam Adams, Chet Orloff from the Oregon Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln. A children's choir from Martin Luther King Elementary School sang *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. The ceremony concluded with the signing of a giant birthday card which will travel the country before being displayed at the Lincoln Memorial.



Portland Mayor Sam Adams

Lincoln Town Hall Set for Albany Baker Camp Meeting Will Precede Event

Albany – An Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial event will be held the evening of March 21st in Albany. Playwright and Lincoln impressionist Steven Holgate will bring our 16th president to life at 7:00 PM at the Masonic Lodge. The event is hosted by the Monteith Historical Society and the Albany Regional Museum. The Sons of Veterans Reserve will be on hand to provide honor guards, escorts, and color guard for the evening. The Masonic Lodge in Albany is located downtown at 431 1st Avenue W. The Baker Camp will hold a camp meeting prior to this event at 5:00 PM at the Masonic Lodge.



President Abe Lincoln portrayed by Steven Holgate

CAMP MEETING

SATURDAY MARCH 21ST

5:00 PM

ALBANY MASONIC LODGE

431 1ST AVENUE W

ALBANY, OREGON

CAMP MEETING FOLLOWED BY A

TOWN HALL EVENT WITH

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Overflow Crowd Applauds SVR



Gil Morse, Ben Worden, Randy Fletcher, and Steve Betschart at the Lincoln event at the Benton County Museum.

Philomath – A standing room only crowd of more than 120 people packed the auditorium at the Benton County Historical Museum the evening of February 10th. The event featured a town hall meeting and press conference with President Abraham Lincoln who was portrayed by actor Steven Holgate. The President read from his Gettysburg Address and his second inaugural speech. Other speakers talked of Lincoln's connections to Oregon (he turned down a chance to be governor) and his influence on President Obama. Oregon Lincoln Bicentennial Chairman Mike Burton presented Lincoln trivia contest winners with 1909 Lincoln pennies. Doug Tracy played the banjo and sang songs from Lincoln's presidential campaigns. The meeting was opened by members of the 71st Pennsylvania, SVR who presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The SVR received thunderous applause from the capacity crowd. Presenting the colors were Baker Camp brothers Gil Morse, Ben Worden, Steve Betschart, and Randy Fletcher. The event received front page coverage in the *Corvallis Gazette Times*



2009 Meeting and Event Schedule

March 21st: Saturday, 5:00 PM. Camp Meeting at Masonic Lodge in Albany followed by a Lincoln Town Hall at 7:00 PM. See page 1 for details.

May 25th: Monday Memorial Day. Eugene Pioneer Cemetery ceremony in conjunction with the Louis Renninger Camp.

May 30: Saturday, 12:00 Noon. Dedication of the Civil War statue at the G.A.R. Cemetery in Portland. This is our maximum effort event for the year!

July 4th: Saturday. Independence Day Root Beer Social at Civil War reenactment at Willamette Mission State Park north of Salem.

Summer: We would like to do an event on the North Coast. Possibly a headstone dedication in Tillamook.

October 10th: Saturday. Boy Scout Jamboree in Springfield. Living history for 200-300 Scouts. Brother Bryan Burch is coordinating.

Statue Sent to Foundry

The wax model of the Civil War statue created with a grant from the State of Oregon has been sent to Parks Bronze Foundry in Enterprise, Oregon. There the final statue will be cast in bronze and returned to Portland for installation at the GAR Cemetery. The original statue was stolen from the cemetery more than 40 years ago. Parks Bronze is nationally known for their craftsmanship. They cast the life size statue of Gov. Tom McCall located in Salem's Riverfront Park. The model for the statue was created by Portland artist Jason Pope.



Donation Honors Civil War Ancestor

The Baker Camp thanks Barbara Nelson of Des Moines, Washington for her \$25 gift in honor of her Civil War ancestor. Corporal Isaac Robinett served the union in Co. M, 3rd Missouri Cavalry. He is buried in the GAR plot at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery and his grave was restored as part of the Baker Camp's 2007 restoration of that cemetery.

OMSI Event Concludes Busy Week



Camp Commander Tony Pasillas displays Civil War items to curious onlookers at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland.

Portland – Hundreds of people visited the SUVCW table to learn about life in the 1860's. Kids got to explore a soldier's dog tent and bed roll and "enlist" in the Union Army, signing their name with an old fashioned ink dip pen as Baker Camp SVR members wrapped up a busy Lincoln Bicentennial week with a living history display during a President's Day celebration at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. In addition to providing color guard and escort for President Lincoln, the Baker Camp presented a display table with items focusing on Civil War food and the camp life of the Union soldier. Brothers Tony Pasillas, Steve Betschart, and Randy Fletcher participated.

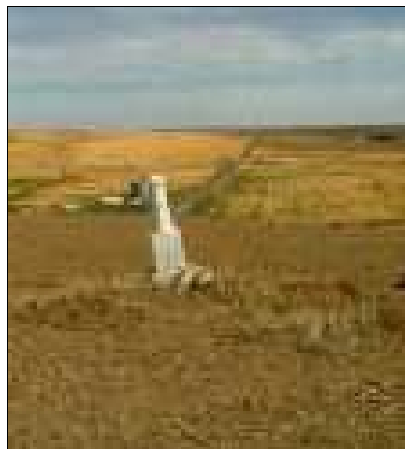


Left: KATU News interviews Steve Betschart. Below: Children pay close attention to the Camp's Civil War display camp and rations.



A SOLDIER'S LAST POST

This photograph comes to us courtesy of Kay Roth whom we met at the Lincoln Town Hall in Philomath.



This lonely monument in a wheat field in Eastern Oregon marks the final resting place of Pvt. Calvin James who served the Union in Co. H, 1st Arkansas Cavalry. Mr. James was a Union man from Shell Knob, Missouri who intended to enlist in the 6th Missouri Cavalry. Extra Missouri recruits were combined with

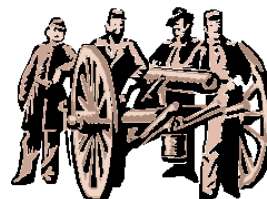
loyalists from Arkansas to form the 1st Arkansas Cavalry, USA. After the war, Mr. James, like 20,000 other Civil War veterans, moved to Oregon. He was a member of Umatilla Post 33 of the Grand Army of the Republic and died in 1888. His grave is located near the community of Vancycle, Oregon outside of Pendleton.

Last Chance for 2009 Dues

There are still a few days to pay your 2009 dues. Treasurer Randy Fletcher must send payment in by March 15th so put your check in the mail today. If you intend to renew but need more time to pay, please let Randy know that. You can e-mail him at cwtrooper1863@comcast.net.

Welcome New Brothers!

The Baker Camp extends a hearty welcome to our newest brothers. **Rolla Harding** and **Mark Hagedorn**, both pillars of the Northwest Civil War community, have cast their lots with the Baker Camp. Rolla is a new member while Mark is transferring from the former Sedgewick Camp. Mark has several Civil War ancestors but joins under his great great grandfather Pvt. Robert C. Fletcher of Co. B, 23rd Michigan Infantry. Rolla is the great great grandson of Pvt. Israel Book, Co. K, 174th Ohio Infantry. We are proud to number them in our ranks.



EDWARD D. BAKER'S CALIFORNIA REGIMENT

PART 3 – FREDERICKSBURG TO GETTYSBURG

By 1st Lieutenant Steven G. Betschart, Company B, 71st PVI, SVR

In November 1862 the Second Corps led the Army of the Potomac toward the town of Fredericksburg, Virginia. It was not until the late afternoon of December 11 that the Californians crossed the Rappahannock River on pontoon bridges to enter the city. They were initially placed on the extreme right of the army and so missed the first assault on the Confederate position at the base of Marye's Heights. It was at this time that four companies were separated as the remainder of the regiment joined the brigade and fought their way to within several hundred yards of the sunken lane. Driven to ground, they lay on the field until after nightfall then fell back to the town where they were reunited with the missing companies. As it turned out, the Californians suffered the fewest casualties of the brigade. Both morale and physical health among the rank and file were at their lowest point by January of 1863. Perhaps no more than 250 men were ready for duty with 281 absent. It was a small blessing that the Second Corps was left in camp during the "mud march" and spared that humiliation. Conditions did improve when General Joe Hooker took command of the army. His work to improve both rations and unit pride was not matched with success at Chancellorsville in May of 1863. The regiment was part of a diversion against the remains of rebel forces on Marye's Heights forcing the Confederates to retreat. The effort however went for little as the rest of the army suffered defeat at the hands of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The Union army suffered terribly yet the 71st PA and the entire Philadelphia brigade had no casualties. On Monday June 15, 1863 the men of the 71st PA began the long march that would take them to the Pennsylvania crossroads town of Gettysburg. They marched through intense heat and dust as hundreds in the brigade became stragglers. Rolls indicate that by June 30, the California Regiment had 24 officers and 307 men ready for duty ... they would need each and every one! Their leadership was solid with Robert Penn-Smith as the new colonel of the 71st, Alexander Webb as brigadier, John Gibbon as division chief and Winfield Scott Hancock in charge of the Corps. Early on the morning of July 1st, General Hancock learned that wing commander John Reynolds had been killed at Gettysburg. After a forced march of nearly thirty miles they halted at the base of the Round Tops. About 1:30 AM on July 2nd General Webb sent the Philadelphia



**71st Pennsylvania Monument
at Gettysburg**

Brigade across the Taneytown Road onto ground soon to be known as Cemetery Ridge. They formed behind a short stone wall on the west flank of the ridge and in front of an umbrella shaped group of trees (later called the famous copse by historians) . At about 4:00 PM that afternoon the forces of Confederate General James Longstreet began to roll up the Union 3rd Corps and push toward Cemetery Ridge. The 71st and 106th PA were instrumental in stopping a Georgia brigade from breaking through. In the late evening hours they were ordered to East Cemetery Hill but got lost in the dark and ended up supporting the far right of the Union line on Culp's Hill instead. July 3rd was the true test of the 71st PA and is still debated even today. 240 men and officers of the California Regiment lay behind Lt. Alonzo Cushing's 4th U.S. Artillery. Their right flank lay at a east-west intersection of the stone wall that we call the "Bloody Angle." Cushing was wounded in the massive bombardment and perhaps as many as fifty Californians rushed to help him work his guns until he was finally killed. When the massive infantry attack known as Pickett's Charge struck the Union line, the 71st PA were at the very center of the fight. Some of the 71st did break under the assault but good planning by Colonel Penn-Smith had placed several companies of the 71st in position to provide a flanking fire as rebels breached the stone wall This fire not only checked the Confederate advance but also mortally wounded their commander, Lewis Armistead. This allowed General Webb to organize parts of the 71st, 72nd, 69th and 106th PA plus the 19th and 20th Massachusetts and the 42nd New York and lead a counterattack forcing the rebels back across the stone wall. It was a victory

but at great cost. Forty percent of the 71st PA became casualties including 21 men and officers killed and 58 wounded. Generals Hancock and Webb were both seriously wounded.