



# THE NATIVE SON

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## CALIFORNIA AND THE CIVIL WAR

*By Douglas Love, Grand Historian*

When most Americans think of the Civil War the great battles between the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia come to mind. Fort Sumter, First Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg are all battles and places which with most Americans are familiar. A serious student may even know of other battles like Pea Ridge, Winchester, Shiloh, Vicksburg or Perryville. There are those who even know of various brigade commanders or may have an interest in various units like Hood's Texas Brigade, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the Stonewall Brigade or the Louisiana Tigers. Some may even know of the naval engagements of the War but few know of California's connection to the Civil War.

The Gold Rush brought people from all over the world to seek fortune in California. While many of the pre-Gold Rush pioneers came from free states, like the Donners and the Reeds, many of the "49ers" and those who followed also came from the southern slave states. With the Compromise of 1850, and the state constitution of 1849, California entered the Union as a free state, undivided by the Missouri Compromise line of 1820.

Yet, there was a divide, many of the settlers who came from the southern states settled in Southern California, while Central and Northern California were settled largely by "free soil" men. There were those from the South who did settle in the Gold Country and the San Francisco Bay Area, but many, after taking the trail from Texas to Los Angeles stayed in the southern portion of the state. This division would play a part in California during the Secession Crisis and the beginning of the War. As late as 1859, the Pico Act called for the division of California into two, the southern counties becoming part of a proposed "Territory of Colorado" and the northern part being the State of California. This act which was padded by the state legislature, signed by the governor and submitted to Congress. This act was passed by the state legislature, signed by the governor and submitted to Congress. With the election of Abraham Lincoln and the Secession Crisis, the act never came to a vote.(1)

More importantly, many of the men who would rise to prominence during the War served in California during the Mexican War and the interwar period. First and foremost

of these was, of course, John C. Fremont, the great "Pathfinder". He joined in the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846(2), formed the "California Battalion"(3), and later served as a Senator from California, the first Republican Presidential candidate and Commander of the Union Department of the West, during the Civil War.

William T. Sherman was another who served in California during the interwar period, acting as an aide to Stephen Kearney(4) and later as secretary to Richard Mason who wrote the letter which was sent to President Polk informing him of the discovery of gold in California.(5) He also helped survey the boundaries of the Benicia Arsenal and Sacramento. After his service in California, Sherman resigned and went into business and served as the superintendent of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy, now known as Louisiana State University. When the Civil War began, Sherman reentered the Union Army and served at the battles of First Manassas, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and of course, Atlanta. He would later become the second General of the Army.

Sherman's friend and Civil War commander, Ulysses S. Grant also served in California. After being commended for bravery during the Mexican War, Grant was stationed in the Pacific. After landing at Benicia, he was assigned to Fort Humboldt. He found the separation from his wife hard to bear and the duty boring, (6) and took to drinking. He eventually resigned from the Army after being promoted to Captain.(7) Later, of course, Grant would be the victor at Vicksburg and Petersburg eventually accepting Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Another future Union leader who lived in California was Joseph Hooker, who settled in Sonoma and stood unsuccessfully for election to the state legislature. He held a commission as a colonel in the state militia from 1859-1861(8). He traveled back East when the war started and eventually commanded the Army of the Potomac at the Battle of Chancellorsville. After Chancellorsville, he was replaced by George Gordon Meade who would meet Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia at Gettysburg.

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*Grand President, Erik Christeson*

## GRAND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, I'm almost exactly four months until the opening of the 141st Grand Parlor. As I advanced through the chairs, I heard a common refrain from many Past Grand Presidents that my term would fly by, but be sure to enjoy it along the way. As I enter the last third of my Grand Presidency,

I find that they were right on both counts.

As I've made my rounds to as many parlors as I am able, I realize that I'm closing the loop of my first year as a Grand Officer. In my first year, then Grand President Dave Allen told me that he assigned my visits so that I'd see that "not every parlor is like Excelsior". It was a good lesson then, and is a better lesson now and I've tried to imitate that philosophy in my own Visiting Officer assignments. No matter the common threads that we share as Native Sons, regional, geographic, historical and social differences mark each and every parlor as unique. Whether those differences began a century ago, or ten years ago, they are both our strength and our weakness.

Strength, in that every locality has that one specific element that attracts and retains members. Whether it is a bingo game after the meeting; running a local museum; managing a parlor owned business; implementing a local plaque and dedication program; Pedro before a meeting; marching in local parades; having a parlor open house tied in with community events; or local charitable endeavors; these are the glue that hold a parlor together and build the fabric of success.

***"No matter the common threads that we share as Native Sons, regional, geographic, historical and social differences mark each and every parlor as unique. Whether those differences began a century ago, or ten years ago, they are both our strength and our weakness.***

***- Grand President, Erik Christeson***

Weakness, in that if we are too insular we miss the greater mission that makes us all Native Sons. Dedication to the preservation of the Spirit of '49, that it should not fade from the memory of man; preservation of the history of our great State, whether it be a dedication of an historic site or restoration of an historic building; support of the two, fine Native Sons charities; or participation in

broader, regional, and Grand Parlor events and activities. Building fraternal bonds throughout the Order, sharing the successful ideas of your parlor with other parlors is the key to our future success.

It is not to say that homogeneity is required among our parlors, but I would suggest that observation of our most important traditions and rituals, adherence to our stated mission, are integral parts of what make Native Sons who we are both as members and as an Order. This means local, PPA or Grand Parlor initiations; performance of our beautiful funeral ritual at the passing of a Brother; observance of our meeting ritual; or becoming involved with preservation of California history. Whether it manifests itself as a dedication or support of preservation and restoration of a historic site it is imperative we not lose sight of our original mission.

This year I asked that each Supervising District Deputy arrange at least two dedications in their district with mixed results. As of today, I have performed eight dedications with seven more in the works, which brings me halfway to my goal. If any Brother has a potential dedication, please bring them to the attention of your SDDGP, or me directly at [grandpresident@nsgw.org](mailto:grandpresident@nsgw.org). This is one item in the budget that I think is the most worthwhile in spreading the fame and mission of the Native Sons, and I hope to bring that line item sliding in, gasping for air with not one red cent left.

Finally, I'd like to come full circle with John C. Fremont #293 in Gustine. This was one of the very first parlors I visited as a Grand Officer, and as PGP Dave Allen hoped, it was eye opening for the differences from what I had perceived the Native Sons to be as an organization. However, I think PGP Allen's plan worked better than even he hoped, as I have made a visit to John C. Fremont every year since then (except one!) for their official visit, and I plan to continue to visit them even after I become a has-been. This was where I first learned about Pedro (and the Central Valley rules); this was where I found that not every parlor follows the ritual line by line; this was where I felt very much welcomed and at home because the members were so much like my family who comes from this area; where I received my first perk as a Grand Officer (thanks for the duck hunting invite, Bill); this was where I got my first idea to implement if I ever became Grand President (thanks for broadening the concept of a membership award beyond a belt buckle); and most importantly, this was where I realized that no matter our differences or distance, that the Native Sons are a great bunch of people and I'm lucky to be one, and you are too.

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## RETRO RAMBLINGS

*Douglas Love, Grand Historian*

There is a spot that thousands of Californians drive by every day. It is a State Historic Park that is within sight of Interstate 5, yet very few stop and visit. At one time, this park was a vital outpost, protecting communication between Los Angeles and the rest of California but now it is virtually ignored. This spot is Fort Tejon State Historic Park, near the town of Lebec and it is worth a visit.

Yes, we have all watched Westerns. We all have an image in our minds of a frontier outpost, usually constructed of logs, standing lonely vigil over a sweeping prairie. These forts were, according to popular myth, manned by the dregs of the Army. They were the outcasts, the misfits, consigned to thankless duty at some remote, forgotten outpost to garrison the fort and ride endless patrols until their enlistments were up or they resigned their commissions. Very few of these outposts still exist in their original form. Fort Tejon is one of these.

Situated in the Tejon Pass, Fort Tejon guarded the main route between the Central Valley and Los Angeles. It is constructed of adobe, not logs and was not garrisoned by outcasts, but instead was established in 1854 by the First United States Dragoons. Originally, the fort was established to try to police conflicts between the Emigdiano group of the Chumash and the settlers who flooded into the area after the Gold Rush and other Native Americans in the area, most notably, the Paiute. Between 1854 and 1861, the Fort was garrisoned by the First Dragoons and, briefly, the Third Artillery who patrolled the route between the Central Valley and Los Angeles and performed what would be called “peace keeping” duties today.

In 1856, Fort Tejon became the regimental headquarters for the First Dragoons and in 1857 the Tejon Earthquake struck leaving a surface scar 220 miles long. Amazingly there was very little damage to the fort due to this magnitude 8.0

earthquake. In 1858, the Overland Mail Company opened a station in the sutler’s store at the fort. The remaining camels of the U.S. Camel Corps were transferred to the fort in 1859, then to Los Angeles and eventually to Benicia to be sold at auction.

The First Dragoons abandoned Fort Tejon in June of 1861, first going to Los Angeles and then being transferred to the Army of the Potomac for the duration of the Civil War

although two companies skirmished with Confederate forces in New Mexico and Arizona. In August of 1861, the First Dragoons was renamed the First Cavalry and continues to be an active Army unit. After the First Dragoons left the fort, it was garrisoned by the Second California Volunteer Cavalry in 1863. During this time, the 2nd California Volunteer Cavalry repaired the fort’s buildings, took part in the “pacification” of approximately 1000 Paiute from the Owens Valley, 300 of which were encamped near Fort Tejon and performed routine garrison duties. In 1864, the Army closed Fort Tejon permanently and the fort was acquired by the Tejon Ranch Company.

Life at Fort Tejon was often described as “dismal”.

The Troopers stationed

there spent most of their time performing routine garrison duties and the nearby town, now called Lebec, offered little in the way of entertainment. 1st Sargent Curtis Greenleaf of Company G complained that the local town did not even have a whorehouse. Even today, the fort is situated in a fairly isolated location and temperatures can reach over 100 degrees in the summer and snowfall is not unknown in the winter.



*One of two model 1835 12-pounder bronze mountain howitzers used at Fort Tejon.*

***Continued on page 8***

*California and The Civil War — Continued from page 1*

David Glasgow Farragut who would become the first Rear Admiral, Vice Admiral and Admiral in the United States Navy, was sent in 1854 to found Mare Island Naval Shipyard, the first United States Naval Base on the Pacific coast. He commissioned the shipyard in 1858 and served as its first commander. Later, he would become famous for his command during the Battle of Mobile Bay, “Damn the torpedoes, Full Speed Ahead!”.

Fremont, Hooker, Grant, and Sherman were not the only future Union generals to serve in California. Henry Halleck, who would serve as the Union General in Chief also served in the Golden State. He was appointed military secretary of state under military governor Bennett Riley and in this position helped draft the California Constitution of 1849. He resigned his commission in 1853 and went into the law, becoming a successful lawyer in San Francisco. He also built the Montgomery Block in San Francisco, was a director in the Almaden Quicksilver Company and the owner of Rancho Nicasio as well as a developer in Monterey. In 1861, he held a commission as a major general in the State militia. Copies of his collection of documents relating to the colonization and missions are held in the Bancroft Library.(9)

Last, there was Winfield Scott Hancock, whose II Corps of the Army of the Potomac defended Cemetery Ridge against Pickett’s Charge on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg. After serving and being promoted in the Mexican War, Hancock was stationed in Southern California as an assistant quartermaster general, serving under Albert Sidney Johnson. It was there that he met several southern officers, including Lewis B. Armistead, who became one of his closest friends(10). After serving with distinction in the Civil War, Hancock would become the Democratic candidate for President in the election of 1880.

The Confederacy had its future leaders who served in California also. First and foremost, there was Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston. After serving in the Texas War of Independence and the Mexican War, in 1860, Johnston took command of the Department of the Pacific in 1860. It was Johnston who refused to surrender Federal properties to a group of Confederate sympathizers, led by Ashbury Harpending. Johnston resigned his commission in 1861 and moved to Los Angeles where he joined the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles(11). Making his way to Texas, he was appointed a full General in the Confederate Army and took command of the Confederate Department of the West. After failing to halt the Union Army at Mill Springs and Forts Henry and Donelson, Johnston was killed at the Battle of Shiloh, the highest ranking officer to be killed in the Civil War.

Leaving California with Johnston was Lewis Armistead. Armistead came from a long line of military officers and one of the oldest families in Virginia. His uncle, George Armistead, defended Fort Mc Henry from the British during the War of 1812. Armistead left the US Military Academy after breaking a plate over fellow cadet Jubal Early’s

head.(12) Armistead was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1839. After serving in the Mexican War and in the Southwest, Armistead, now a Captain in the 6th Infantry, became the Commander of the garrison in San Diego in 1860. It was then he met Winfield Scott Hancock, who became one of his best friends. In 1861, he resigned his commission and went east. He eventually became a Brigadier General and Brigade commander in Pickett’s Division of the Army of Northern Virginia. It was his brigade that nearly broke the Union line during Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg facing his friend Hancock’s II Corps. Lewis Armistead fell, mortally wounded, at the top of Cemetery Ridge, at a spot now known as the “High Water Mark of the Confederacy”.

Finally, there was Richard Brooke Garnett, who served as a Captain in the 6th Infantry, stationed at the Benicia Barracks.(13) He resigned his commission in 1861 and travelled to Virginia where he was commissioned a Major of Artillery. He eventually rose to the rank of Brigadier General and was given command of the famed “Stonewall Brigade”. He was court-martialed for “neglect of duty” after he ordered his brigade to retreat after facing overwhelming enemy numbers at the Battle of Kernstown. The trial was suspended and Garnett was released under orders by General Robert E. Lee. He assumed command of George Pickett’s Brigade and led that brigade during Pickett’s Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was killed while urging his men forward while on his horse, due to an earlier leg injury. His body was never positively identified.

The California connection does not end with a few officers who served here. Many men joined the Union Army, either in volunteer units; regular Army units like the California Battalion (mostly made up of Pennsylvanians) or went to Texas, like the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles and joined the Confederate cause. There were bands of Confederate sympathizers who conducted raids in California and the “Volcano Blues”, a pro-Union Militia unit, fired a cannon in Volcano, California to frighten pro-Confederate residents. As regular Army units were called to the fighting in the East, many of the California volunteer units took over their garrison and patrol duties. One of the most comical attempts to assist the Confederacy was that of Ashbury Harpending, who after being refused by Albert Sidney Johnston, travelled to Virginia and was granted letters of marque and reprisal by Confederate President Jefferson Davis. He returned to San Francisco and tried to outfit a schooner, the J. M. Chapman, as a Confederate privateer. He and his conspirators were captured by officers from the USS Cyane, revenue officials and the San Francisco Police. (14)

*Continued on page 5*

***California and The Civil War* —  
Continued from page 4**

More than men, California provided much of the money needed for a Union victory. The gold mines in California produced much of the gold which backed United States currency during the 1850's and 1860's. Gold production peaked in 1852 but even in 1865, California was producing 59,451 pounds of gold. That would be worth nearly \$1.1 billion dollars today. Needless to say, the gold of California made it possible to finance the Union war effort. While the United States had gold to back its bonds, the Confederacy had to rely on Cotton Bonds, which, given the Union blockade and the British and French developing new sources of cotton in Egypt and India, became nearly worthless by the end of the War. Lincoln remarked that California's gold production was a "marvel to me" and that he appreciated her "firm stand for the Union".(15) Without the gold of California flooding into the treasury, the Union would have had a much more difficult time financing the Civil War.

The gold fields of California also provided impetus for the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. The railroad, of which historian Stephen Ambrose said, that there was "nothing like it in the world" was authorized by the Pacific Railroad Act of 1862. The purpose was to establish a railroad and telegraph lines from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean to secure for the government "use of the same for postal, military, and other purposes".(16) Although a Pacific Railroad had been proposed as early as 1855, it wasn't until the southern states seceded that Congress passed a bill authorizing it. Being able to have quick and reliable communication with California became a priority for the Union, especially since pro Confederate groups were active in California and Confederate commerce raiders were active in the Pacific, especially the CSS Shenandoah which decimated the Pacific whaling fleet in 1865.

California had significant ties to the Civil War. Many of the leaders served here during the Mexican War or the interwar period. Some honed their soldiering skills while performing frontier garrison duty. Some helped form the state itself. Californians fought on both sides of the conflict. Gold from California helped finance the Union war effort and led to the eventual Union victory. Mare Island Naval Shipyard built and repaired ships for the Navy until its closure in 1994. The Pacific Railroad Act which was passed during the war provided for the Transcontinental Railroad which linked California to the rest of the United States. There is further investigation to be done concerning California's role and history during the Civil War, but that is a subject for further articles.

**Notes**

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3. Walker, pg. 139
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8. Eicher, John H., and David J. Eicher. *Civil War high commands*. Stanford University Press, 2001. pg. 304
9. Major General Henry Wager Halleck, [www.militarymuseum.org/halleck.html](http://www.militarymuseum.org/halleck.html). Accessed January 5, 2018
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12. Eicher, pg. 107
13. Eicher, pg. 249
14. *California Naval History: The Pacific Squadron of 1861-1866*, [www.militarymuseum.org/pacsqdn.html](http://www.militarymuseum.org/pacsqdn.html). Accessed January 6, 2018
15. Shutes, Milton Henry. *Lincoln and California*. Stanford Univ. Press, 1943. Pp. 180-181
16. *Pacific Railroad Act of 1862*, 12 Stat 489.

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**LUCKY CALENDERS!**

NSGW Lucky Calendars for 2018 are available from your parlor secretary or from the Grand Secretary’s Office for just \$25. The calendars contain full-color photos of many of the Native Sons monuments as well as descriptions of our activities. Prizes range from \$25 to \$3,000; winning tickets are returned to the drawing—many people have won more than once. Proceeds go to support Native Son activities and reduce the per capita tax.

**GET YOUR NATIVE SON ON-LINE**

We continue to add to our list of Native Sons who receive this newspaper via e-mail.

The e-mail edition is put online as soon as the newsletter is sent to the printer. Mail copies reach our members up to a month later. An added feature of the on-line copies: full-color photos!

Our goal is to eliminate snail mail copies to those who wish to receive their newsletter by e-mail. That will result in a savings to our per capita tax of about \$3 for each person who switches to e-mail. Unfortunately, we are still unable to delete e-mail users from our membership database, which means e-mail recipients will—for the time being—still receive a snail mail copy. We hope that will change soon so we can realize the substantial savings.

For the present, just get on the e-mail list, joining almost one thousand of your brothers who are already on that list. Send your e-mail to Tom Widlund at t.widlund@yahoo.com. Be assured that our e-mail lists will be kept confidential and never used for other purposes.

**PARLOR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

*By Thomas Widlund, Managing Editor of The Native Son*

A few of our parlors expressed their desire that “The Native Son” list Parlor events and activities. To accommodate this “The Native Son” will include a monthly section for the purpose of sharing these activities and events. Regular meetings of Subordinate Parlors are listed in the directory provided to each Parlor as well as being listed at www.nsgw.org and will not be included. To have your event or activity listed please submit the following:

1. Activity/Event Name
2. Parlor #
3. Date/Time
4. Contact Info.

All submissions must come via email to t.widlund@yahoo.com prior to the 15th of March for publication in the April–May issue.

**REMEMBERING “SUTTER” — NSGW GRAND CANINE**

It is with great sadness that we must announce the passing of former NSGW Grand Canine, Sutter.

Sutter passed on January 9, 2018 just 19 days before his 16th birthday.

Sutter was a well known and popular figure at many Native Sons events, including several NSGW and NDGW Grand Parlors.

He was a true friend to all and never turned down a hospitality room snack.

***In remembrance of Sutter we kindly encourage a donation be considered to the NSGW Historical Preservation Foundation***



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# GRAND PRESIDENT'S NATIVE SONS HISTORY CORNER

*By Erik M. Christeson, Grand President*

## SIDE-DEGREES PART 1

“The Grand Parlor has declared, in plain and emphatic language, that no Parlor shall indulge in any picnics, excursions, socials, or other form of amusement on Sunday. It is a wise and moral provision and should be rigidly enforced. Lately there has been developed a disposition to evade this healthy law. All manner of clubs have been organized within the Parlors, some bearing no name allied to that of the Order, and others using parts of it. These subordinate institutions give the prohibited Sunday amusements and, as a rule, turn the money into the Parlor treasuries as donations for social or celebration purposes. These clubs are lies, and reflect upon the Order, for their connection with it is well known. It would be better if no socials or celebrations were ever given, if the money must be raised by violating our laws. The Grand President has the power to prevent these gross infringements by suspending the Parlor charters, and in justice to the fraternity he should do so.” - The Golden West, Official Organ N.S.G.W., August 1889.

Grand President's Decision, 16th Grand Parlor 1893, “In re Baker Parlor, No. 42... Query ‘B’, Can money be appropriated from the General Fund for the purpose of instruction in some side degree? Decision: No: nor can such side degree be conferred by or in a Parlor of the N.S.G.W. See Article II, Section 15, Constitution of the Grand Parlor.”

I know my new password Hyrugeon (that I pronounce high-ROO-jin), honoring the aforementioned Side-degrees, has caused some consternation and confusion, but it just goes to show how fleeting memory is, even within an organization dedicated to the preservation of history.

Over the last few years, I embarked on a journey to re-search the history of Excelsior #31 by reading every Grand Parlor proceeding, from the beginning to the end. As I started, I uncovered more and more interesting and quite frankly, forgotten history of our Order. This led to expanding my reading to include every issue of the “Official Organs” of the Native Sons, including The Golden West, The Fraternal Record, The Grizzly Bear and The Native Son. It's been over 6 years, and I'm still only in the 1920s!

One of my favorite areas of research has become the history of the Side-degrees that existed for nearly 50 years within the Native Sons from the 1880s through the 1930s. Although they are, for the most part, gone today, their impact on the Native Sons was quite amusing, if not profound.

The first of these degrees appears to have been the Hyrugeon Council, formed before 1886, when our Order was just a decade old. From the Annual Report of the

Grand Lecturer in 1886, “In almost every Parlor in the State the work of the Hyrugeon Council has been introduced and made a part of our ceremonies...” The reach of the Hyrugeon's appears to have been predominantly in the greater Bay Area and included chapters in Pacific #10, Western Star (Santa Rosa) #28, General Winn #32, Oakland #50, and Santa Cruz #90, but they did notably flourish at Woodland #30 as well.

Their purpose was, “...that everything was done for the enjoyment of our visitors... and as Shakespeare says, ‘to do a great right do a little wrong’.” - The Golden West of October 1888. Given that their very existence was discouraged from existing as noted above, they had to be somewhat clandestine, and as such published cryptic messages such as, “Next Tuesday evening, being the first meeting night succeeding the full moon, the Hyrugeon will open the coral gate. The animal has been feeding in green pastures beside the still waters, and is prepared to enter the fray with renewed vigor. A full attendance of brother Hyrugeonists is expected.” - The Golden West, June 1888.

As best I can piece together, the leader of the Hyrugeon Council was called the Grand Chieftain and their annual gathering was called “High-Jinks”. Of their ritual, little is known, but these snippets provide insight into the irreverent proceedings. “What occurred from that time till adjournment ‘deponent sayeth not,’ but the fun must have been fast and furious. The music was earsplitting, and the peals of laughter and noisy pandemonium that floated out through the open windows into the circumambient air was simply indescribable.” - Woodland Daily Democrat, February 26, 1900. Also of note, “A stranger who occupied a room in the Julian Hotel Wednesday was awakened by an unusual noise which he supposed was the report of a pistol. Hearing the noise repeated he put on his clothes, went down stairs hunted up the officers and informed them that he believed somebody had committed or attempted to commit a crime. An investigation disclosed the fact that the noise came from the lodge room of the Parlor of Native Sons, on the opposite side of the street, where the ceremony of conferring the Hyrugeon degree was going on.” - Woodland Daily Democrat, March 29, 1924.

The next side-degree recorded is that of the Fresno Bloax, which appear in The Golden West, May 1888. Their sub-organizations were called tribes, the leader called the “Big Injun”, their gatherings called Convocations and their degrees conferred called 1Q, 2Q and 3Q. Of them, little else is recorded beyond 1888.

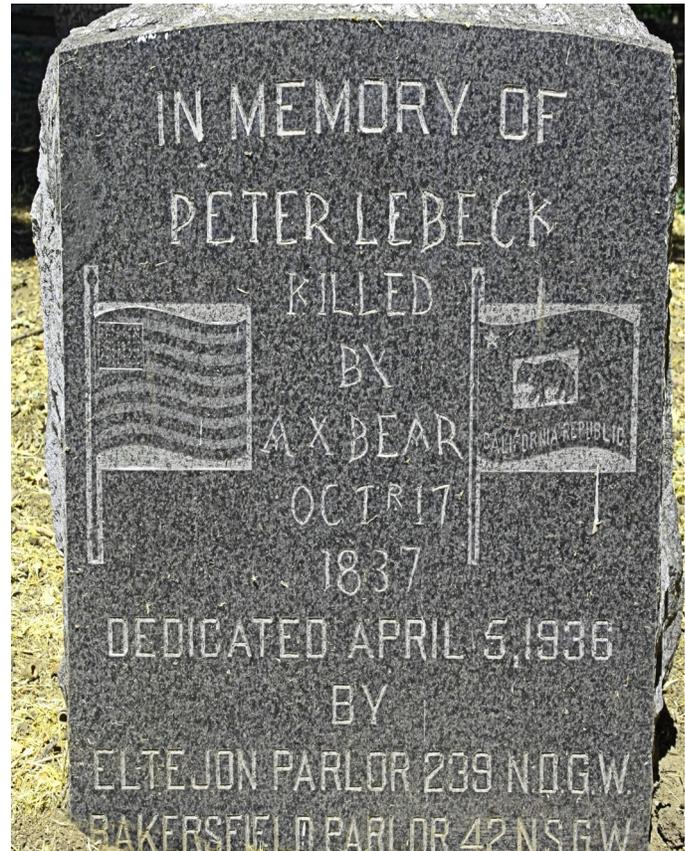
*Continued on page 12*

*Fort Tejon — Continued from page 3*

In 1940, the Tejon Ranch Company donated five acres to the state to establish the Fort Tejon State Historic Park and in 1947 restoration began on the fort's buildings and continues to this day. There is a restored officer's quarters, blacksmith's shop, quartermaster's building, kitchen and barracks. There is also a small visitor's center. The fort has an active living history program for school children and hosts Civil War reenactments.

Of special interest is the grave of Peter Lebeck, an early pioneer who was "killed by a bear" on October 17, 1837 and was buried under an oak tree on what would become Fort Tejon. There is a granite marker on the grave placed by Eltejon Parlor #239, NDGW and Bakersfield Parlor #42, NSGW on April 5, 1936. Not much more is known about Peter Lebeck except that the town of Lebec may take its name after him and that one of the early suggested names for Fort Tejon was Fort Lebeck. If you are travelling Interstate 5 to or from Los Angeles, Fort Tejon gives an interesting insight into what frontier garrison duty was really like.

Getting there: From 414 Mason Street, take Interstate 80 East to Interstate 580 East and then onto Interstate 5 South. Stay on Interstate 5 South and then take Exit 210 onto Fort Tejon Road. Follow signs to Fort Tejon State Historic Park. From Los Angeles, take Interstate 5 North to Lebec Road. Take the Lebec Road exit and turn left on Lebec Road. Turn right on Fort Tejon Road.



*Granite marker on the grave of Peter Lebeck, an early pioneer, who was "killed by a bear". The marker was placed by Eltejon Parlor #239, NDGW and Bakersfield Parlor #42, NSGW on April 5, 1936*

## CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AND GRAND PRESIDENT DELIVER CHECKS TO UCSF AND SUTTER

Charitable Directors Joe Ursino PGP, Tom Perazzo PGP, Paul Lapachet JPGP, Garry Baker and Robert Santos presented a \$85,000 check to UCSF on November 13, 2017.

The UCSF Craniofacial Center is all under one roof at their new modern facilities at Mission Bay. Their new space is light-filled and modern, and allows the patients to enjoy all of the advantages and comforts of one of the world's premier medical facilities. With Native Sons sustained support, thousands of children and young adults have received transformative care that otherwise would have been denied.

Grand President Erik Christeson and Charitable Officers Harly Harty PGP, Tom Perazzo PGP and Robert Santos presented a \$85,000 check to Sutter Memorial Cleft Palate Clinic on December 14, 2017.



*Native Sons present \$85,000 check to UCSF*

*Continued on Page 10*

## FAIRFAX NATIVES HONOR TWO WWII HEROES

On Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, members of Fairfax Parlor honored two heroes of World War II, though neither served in the armed forces.

Gustava Wilson was a true “Rosie the Riveter” who came from Louisiana in 1942 to work at Marinship (near Sausalito) building Liberty Ships and tankers for the war effort. She still lives in Marin City, a town created in just over two months in 1942 to house shipyard workers, and was proud of the small garden at her home. At age 95, she could no longer take care of it. That’s where Fairfax Parlor members, led by Brother Russ Knudsen, stepped in to renovate the garden and present it to her. In dedicating the garden, Brother Russ told an audience of about one hundred Native Sons and local residents “The Native Sons celebrate California’s history. The Riveters are part of our state’s history, of U. S. History, of world history.” Gustava, known locally as “Mother Wilson,” was too ill to attend the dedication and was represented by her daughter Lela Wilson.

Also honored at the dedication was Fairfax Parlor member 99-year-old Walter Potter. Brother Walt was a civilian crane operator at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and helped bore through the hull of the capsized USS Oklaho-ma to save 32 sailors trapped inside. When Japanese bombers began the sneak attack, Potter was at his home near Waikiki Beach, 11 miles from Pearl Harbor.

He remembers taking a bus to Pearl. Later, Brother Walt became a flight steward on Pan American Airways between Honolulu and San Francisco and spent time on Navy sea-planes hauling supplies and wounded soldiers.



*Gustava Wilson, with Fairfax Parlor Brothers Russ Knudsen, Tom Teixeira, Tony Starelli and Ray Potter (no relation to Brother Walt Potter).*



*CBS TV interviewing Brother Walt Potter. Ladies flanking Potter are also “Rosie the Riveter” veterans.*

### 2017 Lucky Calendar Grand Prize Winner

Congratulations!  
To all of our 2017 Lucky  
Calendar winners,  
but especially to:

**Roger Kucich**  
of Chico, California  
who was the  
2017 Lucky Calendar  
Grand Prize Winner.

## HISTORICAL PRESERVATION FOUNDATION REPORT

*By PGP David Allen, Chairman*

Let's start this with an update on the Pioneer Monument in Truckee. Save the date: June 9, 2018 at 11:00 AM for the commemoration of the monument for its 100 year anniversary. This project has been changing in focus constantly, but is finally approaching a goal. The plans are to build an outdoor education pavilion, landscape the area around the monument, and do serious maintenance on the monument which includes the statue and the pedestal. This is a kick-off fundraising event for the Sierra State Parks Foundation for this project. This is not exactly breaking news. You can bet that the HPF of the Native Sons will have their fingerprints on this and future events. Suffice it to say the Native Sons will shine that day.

After writing HPF Reports for 6 years I have a large stable of material to update and re-inform you about past projects and ideas and this next topic is perfect for this. I have always said pay attention to your area and projects will just appear. There are small but significant vignettes of California history everywhere. Fairfax Parlor #307 just completed an excellent example of this with their recognition of Marin County's "Rosie the Riveter" Gustava Wilson, who came to Marin City in 1942 from Louisiana to work in the Marin Shipyards in Sausalito and never left. The event was held on December 7 and is documented in the Marin Independent Journal

### **Charitable Foundation—Continued from Page 8**

All 3 hospitals this year received checks of \$85,000 each for a total of \$255,000 and a total of over 6 million since 1953. This is a unbelievable accomplishment for the Native Sons.

The staff at Sutter shared one story with us on what our donation can do. A young family came to the hospital with a child born with a cleft lip and palate. The child was not able to suck to receive any food or nutrition. Because of our donations they had enough in their account to preform the necessary operations to save the child. Sutter serves over 600 children a year and does the team concept that helps the child through their growing years in adulthood.

All 3 hospitals UCSF, St. John's, Sutter Memorial are rated in the top 100 hospitals in the country and their care is world class. Birth defects occur in one out of every 30 live births and are the leading cause of infant mortality in the United States. Craniofacial malformations are involved in 75 percent of all congenital birth defects in humans, cleft lip and /or palate, occurs with and incidence of approximately one per 600 births. In California alone, thousands of babies each year are affected with a craniofacial birth defect.

We deeply appreciate to all the people and parlors that donated to this most worthy cause. Without your donations we could not help these children face the world.

This wasn't a major expense or major time constraint, but it is a major piece of California history and kudos should go to Fairfax Parlor #307 and Russ Knudsen for recognizing it and acting upon it.

Our next meeting which is Monterey during the Discovery of Gold weekend will be completed after press time so results will be available in the next issue. As of today there are 5 requests for funding that will be reviewed at our meeting. These new requests reflect the broad geographic scope of the HPF, which has been one of the goals which is to make an impact throughout the state of California

The fundraising for the HPF is continuing and this is turning into the best year in the 18 years of the existence of the foundation. Grant awards are correspondingly up as well. To 2017-2018 is shaping up to be a banner year. Thank you to all who have contributed to the cause and believe in the mission.

Until next time, see you on the California Trail.



*Grand President, Erik Christeson presenting an \$85,000 check to the Sutter Memorial Cleft Palate Clinic*



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## MINE MODEL BUILDING

*By Ed Arata*

The Mine Model Building at the Amador County Museum in Jackson was originally a small barn on the museum property related to the Brown House of 1859 which houses most of the museum's collection. In the 1970s, the County of Amador purchased three large models, 1 – The original Kennedy Mine East Shaft wooden head frame, 2 – The Kennedy Mine Tailing Wheel #4 and 3 – The North Star Mine stamp mill, built by Robert (Bob) Post of Sutter Creek. The barn on the museum property was rebuilt and designated the Mine Model Building to house and display these Amador County mining models. Over time other mining related graphics and artifacts were added to the building, as well as a light show with audio narrated by Cedric Clute that tells the story of the Kennedy Mine.

When the Amador County Historical Society (ACHS) took over the County Museum operation in 2012, the Mine Model Building had fallen into disrepair and the displays had become disorganized and fragmented. Since the Museum has limited space for storage, the Mine Model Building had become a store room for random artifact donations. Under the leadership of then ACHS President, Phillip Guirlani and with donations and manpower from the Jackson Rotary Club the south wall of the Mine Model Building was repaired in 2015 and the building painted. This repair work further scrambled the displays on the interior walls.

At this point the Mine Model Building displays needed a redo and face lift. NSGW member, Ed Arata, and his wife, Mimi, approached the ACHS Board with a proposal to clean up the Mine Model Building and rework the displays to better tell the story of gold mining in Amador County and the Mother Lode area of California. The original budget request was for \$500 with an estimated maximum of \$2,000..... After seven months and about \$8,000 total expenditures the project was completed in June 2017.

As part of the overall plan to rework the displays, Arata wanted to incorporate some watercolor paintings that the County of Amador had acquired many years before, but that had not recently been displayed. These watercolors of Mother Lode mines had been done in the late 1960s by Marjolaine O'Neill for the history book *Gold Mines of California* by Jack R. Wagner published in 1970 and appear at the beginning of each chapter of the book. Five of the twelve major gold mines of the Mother Lode featured were in Amador County. When transferring these water colors to the Museum, the County also sent along a large map of the gold mines of Amador County that had been done by local artist, Robert Richards, of Sutter Creek. The transfer of the water-

colors and the map were facilitated by then County Supervisor, Louis Boitano (NSGW/Amador #17).

Most of the watercolors are now displayed in one area of the Mine Model Building with a poster telling of Gold Mines of California, the author, Jack Wagner and, the artist, Marjolaine O'Neill. The five watercolors that are related to the major mines of Amador County are then distributed around the rest of the room to high light the Argonaut, the Kennedy, the Central Eureka, the Keystone and the Plymouth mines. Each of these water colors is surrounded with photos, graphs, maps and documents to tell the story of each operation.

The mine map by Robert Richards is now displayed and surrounded by sketches that he did of many of the better known mine sites Amador County and a poster with a photo and brief bio of Robert. Also in this new display area is a recently donated 1903 mine map of Amador County that was produced by the California Office of Mines and Minerals covering all of the known mines with a booklet outlining each site.

In addition to the watercolors and maps, other areas were improved and expanded, including: 1 - The mineral collection was consolidated and displayed in an old Wells Fargo pigeon-hole cabinet previously used in downtown Jackson.

*Continued on Page 14*

SUTTER CREEK, CALIF.

EST.  2014

# LEONI

## FARMS

**Jon Campbell, SDDGP District #11, Proprietor**

Tasting Room: 67 Main Street, Sutter Creek, CA 95685  
 Directly across the street from the NSGW hall. 20%  
 discount to all NSGW and NDGW members

### **Grand President's Native Son's History Corner — Continued from page 7**

Not to be outdone, the Gold Country appears to have established their own side-degree in January 1889, dubbed the Curly (or Curley) Bears. Of them, much is recorded. They appear to have been established by Hydraulic #56, and adopted by Argonaut #8, San Francisco #49, Quartz #58, Yuba #75, Friendship #78, Downieville #92, Golden Nugget #94, Mountain #126, and Observatory #177.

“The 'Curly Bear' degree is one of the most attractive, if not the best, side-degree ever conferred in a secret organization... Hydraulic Parlor has been using it for the past seven months...” – The Golden West, August 1889. They were organized into Caves, governed by “The Most Supreme Prospector” and “Grand High Prospector”, called themselves “Brutes”, and gathered at annual Grand Growl. Their ritual, being the most hilarious (and well documented), is what set me down the path of this research, and next issue I will confer upon the rest of the uninitiated, some (but not all) the secret workings of this riotous side-degree.

I also uncovered references to three other side-degrees; The Ancient Order of Argonauts (1898), Crematories (1899), and the Imps (1904), but of them little is known, other than they existed and often held joint events with the Curly Bears. As an aside, there existed in the late 1890's, an organization named the Anti-Native Sons, but that's a tale for another day.

These orders within the Order flourished through Prohibition, but faded from view by the late 1930s when the Native Sons began to allow alcohol and entertainment to be part of the Order. I like to think that without these unconventional, impertinent, trailblazers, the Native Sons we know today would not exist. It also goes to show, that the common refrain we hear from today's naysayers and grumblers that “we've never done it that way before”, or “we've always done it this way”, demonstrates how little they really know.

If anyone has any information, documents, photographs, regalia or anything else about these side-degrees, knows of a side-degree I missed, or has material on the Anti-Native Sons, I am very interested in speaking with you! Please contact me at [grandpresident@nsgw.org](mailto:grandpresident@nsgw.org).



## **49ER WEEKEND — MARCH 9-11 — VOLCANO, CA**

### **Host Hotel; St. George Hotel**

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You must CALL to Reserve (209) 296-4458

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **Friday March 9, 2018**

- 5 pm Reception at Excelsior #31, Jackson

#### **Saturday March 10, 2018**

- Re-Dedication of Knight Foundry, Sutter Creek and
- Dedication of Teresa's Place, Jackson
- 6 pm Banquet at the Volcano Armory Hall (\$30/Person) Banquet Reservations: [NSGW31@gmail.com](mailto:NSGW31@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 31 Jackson, CA 95642

#### **Sunday March 11, 2018**

- 8 am Breakfast & Gin Fizzes at Amador #17, Sutter Creek

Contact:  
[nsgw31@gmail.com](mailto:nsgw31@gmail.com)

## CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Here is a list of recent donations to our Charitable Foundation in honor or memory of. Such donations are a fine way to honor deceased members, friends or relatives. The Charitable Foundation is a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) organization and all contributions are tax deductible. You can find the 2017 Cleft Palate March, Total Donations and our Donation Form on our website, [nsgw.org](http://nsgw.org). Click “ Community Involvement.

### To Cleft Palate Fund

Your Cause LLC Applied Materials  
George & Camille Gianni  
United Way  
Kathy Sprinkle  
Your Cause LLC Applied Materials  
Your Cause LLC Applied Materials  
Your Cause LLC Applied Materials  
Carol Williamson

### In Memory of Norman Gonsalves

Joe Neitzel

### In Memory of Diane Lozano

Joe Neitzel

### In Memory of Frank Borges

Walt & Nancy Hyde

### In Memory of J.T. Inocencie

Ron & Rita Holliday

### In Memory of Jerry Sullivan

Jan Fauss

### In Memory of Allan Jefferson

Rebecca Cline

### In Memory of Jerry A Colivas

Joe Neitzel

### In Memory of Kenneth Dean Sanders

Joe Neitzel

### In Memory of Victor Rollerl

Stockton Parlor #7

**How to Give**—Giving to Cleft Palate can be done either directly or through a gift model that can provide tax benefits. Also through your employer matching funds. Check with your tax consultant on different programs

## 141ST GRAND PARLOR

**141st Grand Parlor Convention**  
**Sunday, May 20th, 2018-**  
**Thursday, May 24th, 2018**  
**Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel (Formerly Em-**  
**bassy Suites)**

More information will be available on  
[www.nsgw.org](http://www.nsgw.org) and in the April—May 2018  
issue of “The Native Son

***Mine Model Building—Continued from Page 11***

2 - A model of a California Dredger used in Amador County is featured with more posters and graphics. 3 - Previously displayed dioramas of Camp Opera and a Cornish Tin Mine are now lighted for better viewing. 4 - Several tool chests are now open and secured displaying the tools used by carpenters and mechanics at the mines. 5 - The existing artifacts and display related to assaying was expanded with more artifacts and posters with the assistance of Mr. Herb Dick of Sacramento.

Finally, Arata and his wife were interested in the people behind all of the mining activity, so they told some of those stories. Primo Ferdani of the Central Eureka mine in Sutter Creek is highlighted with his office deck and artifacts. Bob Post, the creator of the Mine Models, and his father, Elbridge Post, who built the originals are featured with posters and displays. Other mining engineers, mechanics and foundry men are featured in a case dedicated to the trades people who built and maintained the mines and the industries of Amador County.

Major contributors for developing these new displays were Larry Angier – Image West Photography and Graphics, Add Art – Jackson, Ca., Herb Dick, the Post/Bass Family and the Ferdani/Guidi Family. Funding supplied by Ed & Mimi Arata and the Amador County Historical Society (ACHS).

E. Edward Arata, Amador Parlor #17 is currently the Chairman of the NSGW History Committee appointed by Grand President, Erik Christeson. He is involved in a number of history projects in Amador County and he is currently the Vice Pres. of the Amador County Historical Society.



***Mineral and small artifact display in an old Wells Fargo mail cabinet used in downtown Jackson.***



***Model of Kennedy Tailing Wheel #4 - the model is built at a scale of 1 inch equals 1 foot.***



***Model of the North Star Mine Stamp Mill - the model is built at a scale of 1 inch equals 1 foot.***



***Wooden tool box with a display of woodworking and carpenters tools.***

# DEATHS

May the Lord grant eternal rest in the Grand Parlor on High to these brothers.

## HONORED DEAD

**Gladys Keema**, Santa Lucia #97: Attended thirteen sessions of Grand Parlor as a delegate.

**Jerome J. Colivas**, Humboldt #14: Attended twenty-two sessions of Grand Parlor as a delegate, elected Grand Inside Sentinel at the 84th session; served as Grand Trustee at the 93rd session; attended the 91st and the 123rd through 128th sessions as the Supervising District Deputy Grand President, and the 136th session as Chairman of the California History Board.

**Phillip Bryant Buckley**, Amador #17: Attended eight sessions of Grand Parlor as a delegate.

## DECEASED BROTHERS

**Placerville #9**  
William E. Flynn

**Mt. Tamalpais #64**  
Henry Puccinelli

**Gabilan #132**  
Hugo Tottino

**John C. Bidwell #21**  
Gary Lee Fowler, Sr.

**Solano #39**  
Kenneth Dean Sanders

**St. Helena #53**  
Robert Allen Knox

**Ferndale #93**  
Douglas H. Edgmon

**Arrowhead #110**  
Graciano Gomez

**National #118**  
Fred Moraga

**Los Banos #206**  
Bernard Paradiso

**Guadalupe #231**  
Dino J. Ruggeri

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members joining in November and December!

We hope you will be active in your own parlor and that you will visit neighboring parlors.

**Halcyon-Alameda #47**  
Francis Paul Garcia

**Hydraulic #56**  
John Thomas Brown

**Quartz #58**  
Craig Hamilton Barker  
David Paul Glubetich  
George Theodore Riley  
Lawrence George Riley

John Gage McKinney  
Robert Leonard Gius  
Thomas Leroy Nelson

**Ramona #109**  
Kathy Erika Aguilar

**National #118**  
Rando Salvatore  
Robert Stephen Lupori

**Gabilan #132**  
Nicholas Paul Faro

**Los Banos #206**  
David Alves  
Drew Guintini  
Pat Ferreira

**Argonaut #8**  
Russell Ronald Williams

**Amador #17**  
Jason Smith

**San Jose #22**  
Linda Clausen  
Mary Esteban  
Edward Moskalik  
Denise Moskalik

**Woodland #30**  
Jennifer Fuoco  
Linda Moderow  
Tim Moderow  
Kim O'Bryan  
Anna Del Castillo Vernon  
Stan Vernon  
Zach Wirth

**Redwood #66**  
James Nolan  
Benjamin Ryan Lingard  
James Joseph Laharty

**Chispa #139**  
Craig Howard Whitty

**Pebble Beach #230**  
Raymond Anthony Agundes

**Columbia #258**  
Steven William Johnson  
Lissa Michelle Britt

**Sutter #261**  
Benjamin Matthew Rosellini  
George Raymond Rowell

**Fairfax #307**  
Colin Pilling

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**49er DAYS**

March 9-11

**141st Grand Parlor**

May 20-24

**THE NATIVE SON**

Tom Widlund, Managing Editor

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Send address changes to Grand Parlor, 414 Mason Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94102, or e-mail to [nsgwgp@pacbell.net](mailto:nsgwgp@pacbell.net).