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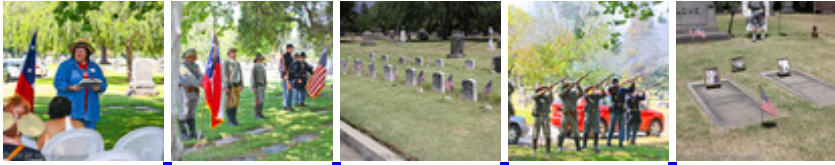
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Remembering the Civil War in Altadena

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Riflemen in Civil War uniforms fire a 21-gun salute to remember the Civil War dead at Mountain View Cemetery on May 26, 2014. Photo by Anne Bannon.



Gallery: Memorial Day 2014 [5 Images] Click any image to expand.

by Anne Louis Bannon

Since shortly after the Civil War, the holiday that became what we know as Memorial Day has been set aside to remember those who fought and died in our nation's various wars and conflicts.

But without diminishing the sacrifice made by those in more recent actions, Monday's ceremony at the Mountain View Cemetery focused on those who survived the Civil War and then moved out to Southern California. Men such as Captain Frederick Woodbury – as in the street dividing Altadena and Pasadena.

The ceremony, conducted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and led by member Nick Smith, featured the posting of the colors by members of re-enactment group 1st North Carolina Cavalry, a tribute to Union Nurse, Mrs. Abigail Brown, who is buried in the cemetery and the presentation of the Military Service Award to Eugene Plunkett by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

But most of all, it was a look at our local history, as told by Smith, from shortly after the war when the Indiana Colony was founded on what would shortly become Pasadena and Altadena. And also by living history presenters Steve and Patrice Demory, who took on the characters of Thaddeus and Theotina Lowe (as in the Mount Lowe Railway) to talk about his work as the captain of the balloon corps for the Union Army.

“Pasadena had the third largest group of Civil War vets west of the Mississippi,” Smith told the small crowd gathered around tombstones of the early movers and shakers in the area. And most of them were Union Civil War veterans.

In fact, as noted by Margaret Alley, of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, there are 725 Union veterans buried in Mountain View and only 17 Confederate graves.

Smith went on to explain that the vast majority of the movers and shakers in the Pasadena/Altadena area were Civil War veterans.

The event is put on annually by the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.

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