

# KIRBY R. MORGAN

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Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War

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18 November 2005  
Bakersfield CA

Todd A. Shillington,  
Chair  
National Memorial Committee  
15 Park Place  
Holly NY 14470-1022

Brother Shillington,

We came into Bakersfield after dark last night. It took a longer time to prepare our rig from residence mode back to travel mode than we anticipated.

We stopped in Tulare, Tulare County, CA, to meet with Researcher Richard L. Hough for three hours. Richard is not a member of our organization, but he has been helping us with newspaper research, Memorial research, researching CW veterans at the Tulare Public Cemetery, and anything else we are interested in for that part of Tulare county. From a newspaper article recently found by Hough we now know that the GAR records were given to the VFW Post in Tulare. He has found where they have stored their old records but so far has not been able to gain access. Yesterday he said he may have to join the VFW Post and become an officer to get a key to that room. I offered him my assistance if it is needed as we, in theory, still own those records and also I am a Life Member of the VFW.

Richard L Hough belongs to the Tulare Library volunteers and works in their history room (one of the better CW research libraries in CA) and works also with the genealogical group. I take the help where I can get it and his only condition was that he would not have to join another group.

In 1932 at the GAR Plot in Tulare Public Cemetery, the VFW installed a Limber and Caisson, Model 1902, Production 1907, for a 3" field piece, between the two 4.2" Parrott Rifles. These units disappeared and all that the cemetery staff knew was that they were stored in somebody's barn. After researching for over a year Hough finally found them, in a barn with parts half buried in the straw and duff. We now know that these units are quite rare and he has managed to have one wheel repaired and another group is paying for the second Limber wheel to be replaced. The units are a long way from being usable and presentable for

display. I help him with the research as at one point these later period units were part of the GAR Plot display and it is somewhat pay back for all the other work he is doing for us. The current local VFW Post could care less about these units and anything else that might involve effort or involvement. I guess they are old physically and mentally.

I will not have time to do any research on the ship cannon that sits atop the GAR Post 127 granite block in the GAR Plot of Union Cemetery in Bakersfield. It is of a foreign make and could have been produced quite early, definitely before the CW. It was supposedly displayed somewhere in Bakersfield before it ended up at the GAR Memorial. I managed to have the cannon refurbished through an Eagle Scout program along with a more secure mounting bracket since it had been stolen a couple of times. I have only been able to document the 1971, or latest incident, of theft. The only hang up for the Form #61 report is finding the date of dedication. Finally, on our last trip through, I found where the cannon was in place in 1922.

Time to go out to dinner with the kids.

20 November 2005

Enclosed are a couple of letters FYI.

I did read your email report late last night when Carol went on line using her cell phone connection.

The other newspaper article on the Calaveras County, San Andreas People's cemetery Memorial came out on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the Reporter is supposed to send me a copy. I will forward a copy as soon as I can. I have asked some people for an email copy which may come before the hard copies.

In F. C. and L.,



Kirby Morgan  
Aid National Memorials Committee

CC: D. E. McGovern  
Brad Schall  
Tad D. Campbell