

The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

April 2023

Commander's Message

Brothers,

As Spring approaches, I would like to suggest that we all consider what we can do individually to make the Camp better.

One thing I would like to propose is that you camp members who have not attended a camp meeting plan on attending one soon. You are missing a golden opportunity to meet some wonderful men. Also, observing SUVCW rituals is a wonderful experience!

I hope some you will plan on attending a camp meeting or will be at one of our outside events.

Fraternally,

Brother Hal Hughes

Senior Vice Commander's Message

Bros,

Camp 1 and 18 joined forces to march in the Medal of Honor parade in Gainesville. We were not the prettiest looking bunch, but

we did our best to hold up the honor of the SUVCW.



I hope to see y'all at the May 6th recruiting event at the Texas Civil War Museum. We need to some fresh blood to keep this camp going.

In F, C, & L,
Todd Wilber

Secretary's Report

April 20, 2023

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened by Camp Commander (CC) Hal Hughes at 7:30 p.m. with eight members attending.

Old business items were discussed as follows:

- o Initiation Ceremonies and Membership Badges - CC Hal Hughes is waiting on two membership badges from the National Quartermaster.

- o Candidates for Camp Membership – No applications for camp membership are in work.

- o Medal of Honor Parade, Gainesville, TX (Saturday, April 22, 2023) – Three Camp 1 brothers will attend the parade.

- o Select delegates for the Department Encampment, Houston, TX (Saturday, April 29, 2023) – Camp 1 will be represented with six brothers attending.

- o Recruiting Event at Texas Civil War Museum, Fort Worth, TX (Saturday, May 6) – Brother Timothy Phillips has offered to bring his wall tent to the museum.

- o Officer reports:

Message from Camp Commander: Hal Hughes greeted the Camp and welcomed new member Ky White.

Sr Vice Commander / Graves Registration Officer: Todd Wilber has been finding new Union Veterans in Tarrant County and forwarding on to the Graves Registration Officer.

Secretary: Mark Parkison reported the Form 27 Annual Report has been submitted to the Department Secretary.

New Business:

- o Initiation of new Brother Ky White – Ky White was inducted into Camp 1 and presented with a membership certificate.

- o Cleaning Captain William S Parmley's head stone at Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth, TX – Deferred to May 18 Camp meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next camp meeting will be on Thurs, May 18 at the VFW hall and also via Zoom.

Secretary,

Mark Parkinson

Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance: \$2,213.86

Income: 0

Expenses:

Fees paid with Camp Annual Report: \$874.00

Ending balance: \$1,339.86

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

David B. Appleton

Camp 1 Ancestor

Bro Ky White

Commodore Erwin was born about 1814 in Kentucky. He died on 12 Mar 1892 in South Muddy, Township, Jasper, Illinois at the age of 78 and was buried in the Headyville McQueen Cemetery. In researching his Civil War service from the state of Indiana, I discovered Commodore Erwin/Irwin/Irvin listed three different ways. Two people, Andrew J. (Jackson) Erwin and Commodore Erwin enlisted on 16 Feb 1865 and were assigned to Company H, 53rd Infantry Regiment. Their ages match the sons of Commodore and Anna Erwin who are the parents of Edith Erwin, my ancestress. This makes sense that the two brothers, ages 19 & 17 would enlist together. This makes the Cavalryman below the father of these two boys.

The father of these boys was another Commodore Ervin/Erwin who enlisted in Company L, 10th Indiana Cavalry. He enlisted on 13 Jan 1864 and was mustered out on 31 Aug 1865 at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The 10th Regiment Indiana Cavalry (formerly the 125th Regiment Volunteers) was organized at Columbus, Vincennes, Terre Haute, New Albany and Indianapolis, Ind., December 30, 1863, to April 30, 1864. Left State for Nashville, Tenn., May 3, 1864; thence moved to Pulaski, Tenn., June 1. Attached to District of Northern Alabama, Dept. of the Cumberland, to November 1864. 1st Brigade, 7th Division, Wilson's Cavalry Corps, Military Division Mississippi, to March 1865. 2nd Brigade, Grierson's 1st Cavalry Division, Military Division West Mississippi, to May 1865. 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Military Division West Mississippi, to June 1865. District of

Vicksburg, Miss., Dept. of Mississippi, to August 1865.



Camp Patriotic Instructor

Texas – Setting the Stage for an
American Civil War

by

Butch Durham

Your Camp Patriotic Instructor recently participated in several events reenacting the efforts of Republican Mexicans (Tejanos), joined by Anglo settlers (Texians), to gain their independence from the Centralist Mexican regime of the president-turned-dictator Santa Anna. These events largely occurred in the six-month period of October 1835 through April 1836. (It is a busy Spring reenactment season!) Despite later efforts by the Centralist government to regain Texas by force, the battle of San Jacinto on April 21st, 1836 remains the seminal moment in the successful birth of the Republic of Texas as an independent nation. (1)

The Republic would remain a nation for almost ten years, eventually becoming the 28th state of the United States through annexation on December 29, 1845.

The annexation of Texas came only after years of heavy debate. Some of that debate came from Texan nationalists. But the main opposition was found in the US. The issue of slavery was central to their concerns – as it was with so many political issues in the US at the time. There had been little question that if Texas joined the US, it would join as a slave state.



“The enemy approaches” (photo: B. Durham)

Slavery was widespread in the Republic of Texas – estimates placed the population at 125,000 people, some 30,000 of those living as slaves. Abolitionists in the U.S. worried that adding another slave-holding state would upset the political balance in Congress and in the country.

The United States was also concerned that the annexation of Texas would spur trouble with Mexico, something the US sought to avoid. Despite these worries, after James Polk became President in 1844 the United States decided the benefit of adding Texas outweighed the concerns. The country would bring an abundance of land and would help further Polk’s dream of a country that spanned the continent.

With the annexation, Texans formed a new state government with a new state constitution. It was modeled after the constitution of the United States. And, like that document, it restricted suffrage to white males over the age of 21, limiting the power of women and minorities. Like the Republic’s, the state’s constitution prohibited free blacks from living in Texas without special permission, and it denied citizenship rights to the few free blacks who lived in the state.

As some had feared, annexation inflamed tensions with Mexico. In 1846, the Mexican-American War erupted, as the nations battled over the location of their border and over territories far to the west. After a year and a half of fighting, Mexico conceded defeat. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo was signed in 1848, formally ending the war. Mexico agreed to recognize Texas as part of the United States and also formalized the Rio Grande as the southern border of Texas. The treaty also outlined the terms of the Mexican Cession, which allowed the United States to gain a huge amount of land that would later become present-day California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming and Colorado.

The issue of slavery in the newly annexed territories added to the concerns of many Americans. The solution was the Compromise of 1850, which allowed California to be admitted as a free state, gave power to the other western territories to decide the question of slavery, and created the western border of Texas where it is today, which ended a dispute between Texas and present-day New Mexico.

The agreement did not end the controversy over slavery. And that

controversy played out within the state of Texas, as well. While not every Texan was in favor of slavery, the majority of Texas voters believed that the United States government should not interfere with their ability to keep slaves.

Despite the urging of many settlers, and then Governor of Texas and Revolution hero Sam Houston, Texas joined other slave-holding states and seceded from the Union following the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860. By joining the Confederate States of America, *the young state of Texas helped to set the stage for an American civil war.* (2)

Sources:

1) Author's notes.

2) Adapted from: Whitehurst, Katie. "Early [Texas] Statehood 1845-1861." Accessed 4/24/2023 at <https://texasourttexas.texaspbs.org/the-eras-of-texas/early-statehood/>

Featured Article

(From the archives)

4th Wisconsin Cavalry in Texas

By Todd M Wilber

After Lt. General Richard Taylor surrendered his forces in May 1865, the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry was ordered to Vicksburg. They arrived in the Queen City on the fifth of June anticipating their mustering out. Within hours of arriving, the Badgers were informed they were being retained in the service. Grant and Sheridan were worried the Confederates that went to Mexico would be a threat to peace on the border. The 4th Wisconsin, along with five other volunteer cavalry regiments, were being sent to Texas. The cavalry regiments

were to be commanded by Major General Wesley Merritt.

The 4th Wisconsin was ordered to Shreveport, Louisiana. They crossed the Mississippi river on transports. The Badgers then took a train to end of the line at Monroe and marched the last 100 miles to Shreveport. They arrived on July 2nd. The regiment was assigned to the 1st Brigade of the new division.

On July 4th, Merritt started his column of 4,000 troopers on the 500 mile journey to San Antonio. The regiments left one day apart to save grazeable forage on the trip. The Badgers were the second last regiment to leave Shreveport. Merritt ordered avoiding marches in the heat of the day and recommended night marches. The column worked its way through East Texas, arriving (unwelcomed) in Austin in late July. On August 3rd, the division arrived in San Antonio.

August 20th, the Merritt's Division had its inaugural inspection. The Badgers had an aggregate of 343 officers and men. The inspector found that their accouterments were in bad shape and they only had 54 Burnside carbines on hand. Major Craigue, commander of the 4th, was ordered to consolidate the regiment's twelve companies into eight. Surplus officers and NCOs were mustered out. The regiment was re-armed with Spencer carbines.

Companies A & E, led by Major Craigue, went on an expedition to Fort Clark on August 23rd. After a 90 Mile march, they arrived at the Nueces river. The Major learned of an Indian raiding party in the vicinity. He took 60 men, leaving the rest of his troopers on the Nueces, and spent two and half weeks searching for the Indians but

found nothing. The expedition returned to San Antonio in early October.

The 4th Wisconsin was transferred to the District of West Texas on the 8th of October. Major General Weitzel, headquartered in Brownsville, ordered the regiment deployed along the Rio Grande. The Badgers left San Antonio for the border on October 11th. The companies were strung out over 300 miles along the Rio Grande. Companies A & D at Redmond's Ranch. Company E at Fort McIntosh. Companies G & H at Ringgold Barracks. Companies F & B were initially at Ringgold Barracks but by the end of November F was moved to Las Cuevas and B to Santa Maria. Company C was stationed Brownsville.

The regiment's mission was to protect settlers and ranchers from Indian attacks, guard against Emperor Maximilian's guerrillas, stop any arms smuggling across the river, and reclaim government property from ex-Confederates. In reality, except for a minor Indian scare in December, the 4th spent several long boring months guarding the border.

Starting in March 1866, the various companies migrated to Brownsville. May 28th, the 4th Wisconsin was finally mustered out. The regiment left Brownsville on June 3rd and eventually arrived in Madison, Wisconsin on the 16th. They were paid off on the 19th and disbanded. The 4th Cavalry was the last Wisconsin volunteer regiment to muster out.

Sources

1. Martin, Michael. "A history of the 4th Wisconsin Infantry and Cavalry in the Civil War," 2006.

GAR History

GAR Travis Post 66

By

Todd M Wilber

Travis Post 66 was formed in Abilene, Texas in 1892 (1). Post meetings were on "Friday night on or before the first full moon in each month" (2). From 1893 to 1898, the meetings were held over Bass' drug store (2,4). In February 1899, the meetings were held above the post office (3).

In August 1898, post member George A. Serviss died. He was a veteran of the 11th Iowa Infantry (12). Post 66 passed resolutions of respect for his "manifest integrity and high moral character" and sent their sympathy to his family (5).

Travis Post 66 leadership:

1893: James A. Lowry (48th KY Mtd Inf), Commander (4,13)

1894: Thomas Buck, Commander; G.A. Serviss, SVC; M. Perkins, JVC (6)

1895: G.A. Serviss, Commander; J.H. Kershaw, SVC; Sam Hammer, JVC (7)

1896: John H. Kershaw (18th WI Inf), Commander (11,14)

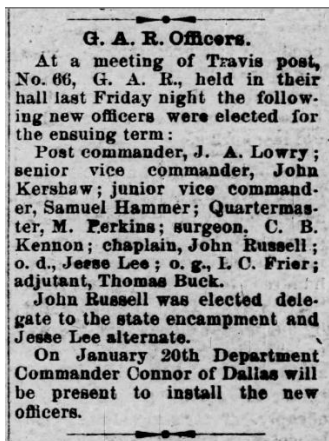
1897: Samuel Hammer (3rd Prov PA Cav), Commander (10,15)

1898: Mark Perkins (10th KS Inf), Commander; D.A. Olds, SVC; Dan McCarty, JVC (8,16)

1899: J.A. Lowry, Commander; John Kershaw, SVC; Samuel Hammer, JVC (9)

Unfortunately, nothing else could be found on Travis Post 66 beyond February 1899. There is a mention of GAR members conducting the funeral services for Thomas

Buck in 1914 (17). It makes one presume the Post lived on into the teens.



30 Dec 1898

Sources

1. The Taylor County News, 5 Aug 1892, p. 5
2. TTCN, 5 Aug 1898, p. 3
3. TTCN, 24 Feb 1899, p. 1
4. TTCN, 1 Sep 1893, p. 6
5. The Abilene Reporter, 2 Sep 1898, p. 2
6. TTCN, 12 Jan 1894, p. 3
7. TTCN, 14 Dec 1894, p. 4
8. TTCN, 17 Dec 1897, p. 4
9. TTCN, 30 Dec 1898, p. 3
10. TTCN, 1 Oct 1897, p. 1
11. TTCN, 14 Feb 1896, p. 4
12. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58127100/george-a-serviss>
13. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62527632/james-a-lowery>
14. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21704257/john-h-kershaw>
15. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21594307/samuel-hammer>
16. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32555562/mark-perkins>
17. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34519621/thomas-buck> (Thomas Buck's service a mystery. No Pension Card. Not on 1890 Vets Schedule. Possibly 105th IN Inf.)

(News articles via Newspapers.com or Portal to TX History).

National Patriotic Instructor

Brothers,

The time has now come, and I don't mean first pitch at Fenway Park or puck drop on the Stanley Cup Playoffs, I mean it is the time where the weather has turned, and we can finally get outside and do some of our most meaningful work. Where we can get outside in our communities and hold educational programs or clean ups and ensure that those who fought to preserve the Union are not forgotten. I have already seen Camp and Department social media pages flooded with these efforts and I could not be prouder. I am seeing Camps and Departments teaming up with local groups and towns to work together in these endeavors and genuinely feel that you all have been hearing the message I have been preaching for the last few months. For that I want to personally thank each and every Brother. With that being said, there is always more that we can do it help further our mission. This Patriotic Instruction I want to focus on Recruiting, a goal that each Camp and Department should always be focusing on.

At every event that we host, or assist with, we come across people who are of like mind and want to ensure that the memories of our ancestors are not forgotten. In today's day and age, we must leverage the technology at our fingertips, literally, and get the information about our Order, and the Sisters

of the Allied Orders, into their hands. Most people have smartphones these days where we can quickly email them the National Website (www.suvcw.org) or share with them the National Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Reddit, or YouTube pages with them. We also have free pamphlets through the National Quartermaster Store (SUVCW Pamphlet (suvcw-qm.org)) that you can order, and bring with you to events and hand out, I would suggest ensuring you have your Camp or Departments contact information ready to hand out with the pamphlet as well. Once they see the great work we do across the United States and abroad, or the great work we are doing right in front of them, it is an easy segway to ask if someone wants to join our ranks, or the ranks of the Allied Orders. By growing our ranks, we ensure that our mission continues, and by continuing our mission we are being Patriotic.

A little known fact in the Order is that there are a few recruiting awards and individual Brother and Department can earn:

- The David R. Medert Award – Presented to the Individual Brother that recruits the greatest number of new members during the period from 1 April through 31 March
- The Augustus P. Davis – Conrad Linder Award – Presented to the Department with the greatest number of members during the period 1 April through 31 March
- The U.S. Grant Cup – Presented to the Department with the greatest percentage increase in membership during the period of 1 April – 31 March
- The Under Forty Award – Presented to the Department with the greatest number of new members under age forty (40) during the period of 1 April – 31 March

- The National Aide Award – Presented to a Brother who has recruited five (5) or more new members during a Commander-in-Chiefs term in office.

My challenge to you all this month is to recruit! By growing our ranks, we ensure our Order will long exist and we will carry out our mission by preserving their memory!

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail,

PDC National Patriotic Instructor

April in the Civil War

1861

- **April 11** - The Confederates demand the surrender of Fort Sumter
- **April 12** - The Confederates in Charleston bombard Fort Sumter
- **April 13** - Fort Sumter surrenders to Confederate forces
- **April 17** - Virginia adopts an Ordinance of Secession and schedules a referendum for May 23
- **April 18/19** - Federal troops burn the U.S. Arsenal at Harpers Ferry to prevent it from falling into the hands of secessionists. The Confederates are nonetheless able to seize valuable military supplies when they occupy Harpers Ferry
- **April 19** - Pratt Street Riot in Baltimore, Maryland
- **April 19** - President Lincoln declares a blockade of Southern ports
- **April 20/21** - Federal forces attempt to destroy the Gosport Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia by setting it ablaze. Secessionists put out the fires and salvage a large portion of the facility
- **April 21** - The slave ship *Nightingale* is captured by the USS *Saratoga*
- **April 22** - Robert E. Lee accepts command of Virginia forces

- **April 23** - United State Army Officers in San Antonio, Texas are seized as prisoners of war
- **April 30** - New York Yacht Club offers its vessels to the Federal government

1862

- **April 4** - Federal ironclad gunboat runs the batteries at Island No. 10 on the Mississippi River
- **April 5** - Siege of Yorktown, Virginia begins
- **April 6/7** - Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing), Tennessee begins
- **April 8** - Battle of Fallen Timbers
- **April 8** - Island No. 10 falls to Union forces under Major General John Pope
- **April 10** - Congress passes Lincoln's suggested resolution offering financial aid to those states willing to begin the gradual abolition of slavery
- **April 10** - Battle of Fort Pulaski begins
- **April 11** - Surrender of Fort Pulaski, Georgia
- **April 16** - Slavery abolished in the District of Columbia
- **April 18** - Bombardment begins at Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip, 70 miles below New Orleans, Louisiana
- **April 24** - Federal fleet passes forts below New Orleans, Louisiana
- **April 25/26** - Bombardment and surrender of Fort Macon, North Carolina
- **April 29** - Union "army group" advances on Corinth, Mississippi

1863

- **April 7** - Naval attack on Charleston, South Carolina
- **April 11** - Siege of Suffolk, Virginia by Confederates begins
- **April 17** - Union Colonel Benjamin Grierson's Raid from La Grange, Tennessee to Baton Rouge, Louisiana begins
- **April 21** - Generals Jones and Imboden begin Confederate raid on the B&O Railroad, Virginia (now West Virginia)

- **April 24** - Confederate government passes a tax in-kind on one-tenth of all produce
- **April 30** - Battle of Chancellorsville begins near Fredericksburg, Virginia

1864

- **April 8** - Battle of Mansfield (Sabine Crossroads), Louisiana (Red River Expedition)
- **April 9** - Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana (Red River Expedition)
- **April 12** - Capture of Fort Pillow, Tennessee by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest
- **April 20** - Plymouth, North Carolina captured
- **April 22** - The motto "In God We Trust" first stamped on U.S. coins
- **April 23** - Engagement of Cane River Crossing, Louisiana (Red River Expedition)
- **April 25** - Action at Mark's Mills, Arkansas on Steele's Camden Expedition
- **April 26** - Union fleet trapped by low water on the Red River near Alexandria, Louisiana
- **April 28** - Skirmishes at Princeton, Arkansas on Steele's Camden Expedition
- **April 30** - Engagement at Jenkins' Ferry, Arkansas on Steele's Camden Expedition

1865

- **April 1** - Battle of Five Forks, Virginia
- **April 2** - Confederate Government evacuates Richmond, Virginia
- **April 2** - Selma, Alabama assailed and captured
- **April 2** - Confederate lines at Petersburg breached and Fort Gregg stormed
- **April 3** - Richmond and Petersburg occupied by Federals
- **April 4** - Lincoln visits Richmond, Virginia
- **April 6** - Battle of Saylor's Creek (Sailor's Creek), Virginia
- **April 7** - Engagement at High Bridge, Virginia
- **April 7** - Engagement at Cumberland Church, Virginia

- **April 8** - Siege of Spanish Fort, Alabama concludes
- **April 8** - Battle of Appomattox Station
- **April 9** - Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House
- **April 12** - Mobile, Alabama surrenders
- **April 13** - Skirmish at Raleigh, North Carolina
- **April 14** - United States flag raised over Fort Sumter, South Carolina
- **April 14** - Abraham Lincoln is shot at Ford's Theatre
- **April 15** - Abraham Lincoln dies. Andrew Johnson sworn in as President of the United States
- **April 16** - Capture of Columbus and West Point, Georgia
- **April 18** - Sherman and J. Johnston sign armistice at Durham Station, North Carolina
- **April 26** - General Joseph Johnston surrenders to General William T. Sherman at Durham Station, North Carolina
- **April 26** - John Wilkes Booth captured and killed in the Garrett Barn, Port Royal, Virginia
- **April 27** - Explosion of the riverboat *Sultana*

--From the American Battlefield Trust

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/day-civil-war>



The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War. Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, SUVCW is the legal heir and successor to the Grand Army of the Republic. <https://suvchw.org/>

