

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



GENERAL JAMES J. BYRNE CAMP 1, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS WITH LOUISIANA

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



CAMP COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

1 October 2022

Brothers!

I am pleased to report that we will hold out first hybrid IN PERSON/ZOOM meeting on 20 October 2022 (and every third Thursday thereafter, excepting holidays) at Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall 5617, located at 580 S. Cherry Ln, White Settlement, 76108, in west Fort Worth (just north of I-30 and slightly east of Loop I-820). Meeting starts at 1900 hours (7:00pm). This will be the formal ceremony, providing we have enough officers present to fill their positions.

The Department Signals Officer, Brother John Vander Muelen, will be assisting us in setting up the Zoom link (the VFW Hall does have Wi-Fi). We will be operating in this hybrid mode for the foreseeable future, in an effort to include as many Brothers from the remote provinces as possible. Join in and enjoy the camaraderie and ceremony!

I am also posting this question again: I know in the past we had two flagpole floor stands – does anyone know where these are? If I cannot locate them, I will have to pick up a pair before the meeting. If you know their last whereabouts, or have them in your possession, please let me know so we can return them to inventory and use them for the meetings.

See you on October 20th!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Paul L. Kendall. Ph.D.

Commander
Camp #1, General James J. Byrne
Department of Texas and Louisiana
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



General James J. Byrne Camp No. 1

July 19, 2022

Meeting Minutes

The Camp's meeting took place on-line, via Zoom.

The meeting was opened by Camp Commander Paul Kendall at 7:14 p.m. with four members and one visitor, Department Signals Officer and our Zoom host Brother John Vander Meulen, in attendance.

Brother Vander Meulen noted that Camp 2 is looking to do a ceremony at Humble Cemetery for some Union veterans buried there. They are looking to hold the ceremony with two living descendants in late October.

The Treasurer reported that there has been a change in the Camp's finances, owing to the application of a new member, Daniel Jernigan. The Camp's bank account now stands at \$1,170.14.

Commander Kendall remarked that we want to try to do a couple of recruiting events later this year. Potential events for that include: Cleburne Pioneer Days on November 15 and 16; our annual General Byrne memorial in Fort Worth in November; and Christmas at Old Fort Concho, San Angelo, December 2-4.

Junior Vice Commander Todd Wilber reported that he had no new Find-A-Grave research this month, as he has been working on other things.

Brother Vander Meulen reported that Camp 2 is making preparations to host a National Encampment in the Houston area. He also promoted Camp 2's monthly meetings, which have been hosting guest speakers via Zoom. They will have new guest speakers beginning in September. Members of other Camps are invited to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:36 p.m.

David B. Appleton

Secretary / Treasurer

General James J. Byrne Camp No. 1

Department of Texas with Louisiana

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



IMPORTANT CIVIL WAR DATE

The Action at Pine Bluff was fought on October 25, 1863, when Brigadier General John Sappington Marmaduke's Confederate cavalry division attacked the small Union garrison under Colonel Powell Clayton that had occupied Pine Bluff, Arkansas following the capture of Little Rock on September 10, 1863.

Marmaduke led a force of some 2,000 Rebels out of Princeton, Arkansas on October 24 to assault the 1,200 to 1,500 Union troopers of the Fifth Kansas Cavalry and the First Indiana Cavalry, which were posted at Pine Bluff with their six artillery pieces. Marmaduke planned for Colonel Robert C. Newton's division to approach Pine Bluff from the southeast while Marmaduke led the remaining Confederate troops in from the west, trapping the Yankees between the converging Confederate forces and the Arkansas River.

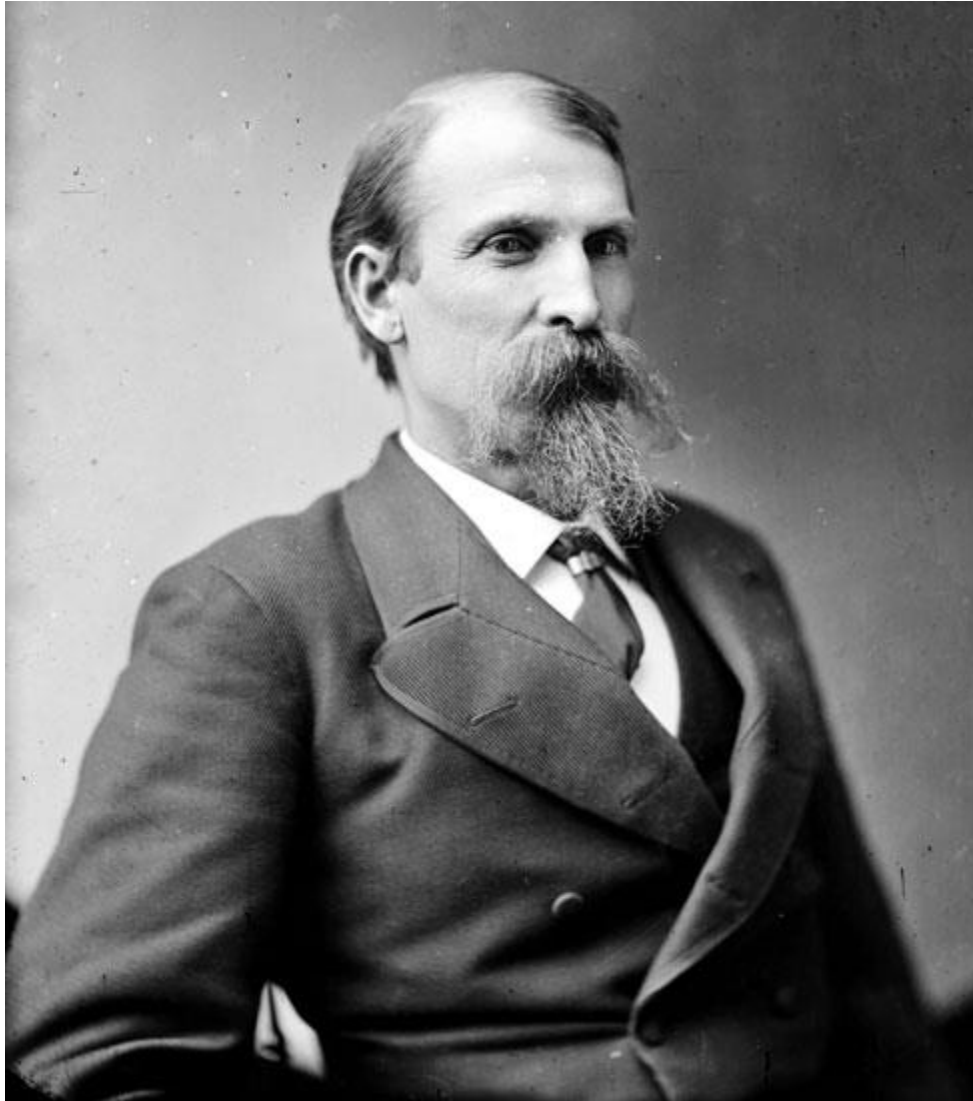
A patrol from the Fifth Kansas encountered Marmaduke's advance on the Princeton Road at about nine o'clock in the morning on October 25 and sent word to Clayton in Pine Bluff. The Union commander ordered most of the horses of his two regiments corralled within the courthouse square and sent for about 300 freed slaves within Pine Bluff's contraband camp (contraband being freedmen or slaves who had been brought within Union lines) to roll cotton bales from the city's warehouses and form breastworks to block the streets leading into the courthouse square.

Outlying Union forces, many of whom had been sniping from houses within Pine Bluff at the approaching Rebels, fell back toward the courthouse area before steady pressure from Marmaduke's troopers. The makeshift cotton-bale fortifications proved a formidable obstacle, and the Confederate attack stalled before the Union rifle and artillery fire that commanded the roads leading into the courthouse square. Clayton made further use of the contraband camp, dispatching some 200 black men to haul enough water from the Arkansas River to enable the Yankee garrison to hold out for forty-eight hours if cut off from their water supply. Fifteen of the former slaves who had guns also engaged in combat against the Rebel attackers.

Shortly after noon, Marmaduke's men set fire to the houses northwest of the square where the Fifth Kansas had been staying. The contrabands provided a bucket brigade to keep the fire from igniting Clayton's cotton-bale defenses, and volunteers entered the burning buildings to save a large number of mules that were trapped inside. By mid-afternoon, after hours of hitting the Yankees with rifle and artillery fire, Marmaduke concluded that his only hope for victory would be a full frontal assault against the Federal barricades and that such an attack would be too costly in Confederate casualties. Seizing or burning as much of the equipment of the Yankee garrison as possible, the Rebels fell back toward Princeton.

Confederate losses totaled about forty dead and wounded in the unsuccessful attack on Pine Bluff, but the Rebels did capture some 300 contraband men, women, and children and seized 250 mules and horses, as well as destroying hundreds of bales of cotton that had been brought into Pine Bluff for sale to the Yankees. However, Marmaduke had failed in his goal of capturing the Federal garrison at Pine Bluff. He assessed the battle in his report by writing, "My troops behaved well. The Federals fought like devils." Union losses were sixteen dead, thirty-nine wounded, and one missing; eighteen of those casualties were from among the contrabands who

had aided the Federal defense. For the rest of the year, the Federals would maintain winter quarters along the line of the Arkansas River while Confederates held their positions in southwest Arkansas. The Action at Pine Bluff was the last sizeable military engagement in Arkansas in 1863.



Colonel Powell Foulk Clayton, United States Volunteers

Powell Foulk Clayton (August 7, 1833 – August 25, 1914) was an American politician, diplomat, and businessman who served as the 9th governor of Arkansas from 1868 to 1871, as a Republican member of the U.S. Senate for Arkansas from 1871 to 1877 and as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico from 1897 to 1905.

During the American Civil War, he served as a senior officer of United States Volunteers and commanded cavalry in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. After the war, he married a woman from Arkansas, purchased a plantation and settled in Jefferson County. He was active in the Arkansas Republican party and became governor after military rule was lifted and the Arkansas state

constitution was ratified by Congress. He was viewed as a carpetbagger and implemented martial law in Arkansas for four months due to the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and violence against African-Americans and Republicans. The Arkansas Republican party splintered during Clayton's governorship. Clayton and his followers were known as Minstrels and a more conservative faction led by Joseph Brooks were known as Brindletails. The power struggle between the groups resulted in the impeachment of Clayton in 1871 and the Brooks-Baxter War.

Clayton was elected to the U.S. Senate for Arkansas in March 1871. A U.S. Senate Joint Select Committee investigated him for claims made by his political rivals that he issued fraudulent election credentials during his time as governor. He was acquitted of these charges. In 1877, the legislature came under the control of Democrats after Reconstruction, who voted to replace Clayton. He returned to Arkansas from Washington, DC, where he remained active in the Republican National Committee. He helped William McKinley receive the Republican nomination for president in 1896. After McKinley's victory, Clayton was rewarded for his support of McKinley with an appointment as Ambassador to Mexico.

In 1882, Clayton established a home in the developing resort town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. He was president of the Eureka Springs Improvement Company and worked to develop commercial and residential properties. In 1883, he became president of the Eureka Springs Railroad, which provided rail service to the developing community. He died in Washington, D.C. in 1914 and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.



Confederate general John Sappington Marmaduke



FEATURE ARTICLES:

Major General Isaac Stevens

By Todd Wilber

Isaac Stevens was born March 25, 1818 in Andover, Massachusetts. He went to West Point and graduated at the top of the Class of 1839. Isaac was commissioned in the Corp of Engineers. He spent the next few years working on forts in the New England.

During the War with Mexico, Stevens served as adjutant for the Corp of Engineers. He took part in Scott's Mexico City campaign. Isaac received brevet promotions to captain and major for his service. He was wounded in the Battle of Mexico City.

Isaac was rewarded for supporting Franklin Pierce's presidential campaign with the governorship of the new Washington territory. He resigned his commission in the army and headed West. On the way to Washington, he led a survey crew mapping a railroad route from St Paul to Puget Sound. Stevens was governor from 1853 to 1857 and then served as territorial delegate from 1857 to 1861.

After the debacle of 1st Bull Run, Stevens was commissioned as Colonel of the 79th New York "Cameron Highlanders." On the 28th of September 1861, he received his brigadier star. Isaac led a brigade at the Battle of Port Royal and commanded a division at the Battle of Secessionville.

The IX Corps was transferred to Northern Virginia and put under the command of Major General John Pope. Stevens commanded his division at 2nd Bull Run and was killed at Chantilly

on September 1, 1862. Isaac saw his old regiment, the 79th New York, faltering under intense musketry and grabbed the battle flag shouting "Highlanders, my Highlanders, follow your general!" He led a charge breaking the confederate lines. As he went over the rebel ramparts, Isaac was killed instantly by a musket ball to the head. His body wrapped itself in the flag as it collapsed. Stevens' life blood stained the flag. I cannot conceive of a more Victorian way to die.

On the request of President Lincoln, Isaac Stevens was posthumously promoted to Major General. He was buried in Newport, Rhode Island.



Major General Isaac Stevens



Battle of Baxter Springs Kansas Monument and Museum

Brothers Matthew and Mark Parkison traveled to southeast Kansas and visited the Baxter Springs Massacre Monument in the Baxter Springs National Plot and the Baxter Springs Heritage Center and Museum. The conflict occurred on October 6, 1863 when General James G. Blunt was moving the District of the Frontier headquarters from Fort Scott, Kansas to Fort Smith, Arkansas when they were attacked by Col. William Quantrill and 300 confederate guerillas.

The military escort consisted of about 125 men from Company I, Third Wisconsin Cavalry, and Company A, Fourteenth Kansas Cavalry. They proceeded by way of the Military Road, intending to visit Ft. Blair on the way. Advancing south toward Baxter Springs and Ft. Blair, they crossed the ford at Willow Creek where they stopped to prepare to proceed to the fort. They were easily seen by Quantrill's men who were regrouping northeast of Ft. Blair after staging an unsuccessful attack on the fort.

Seemingly unaware of the potential danger, General Blunt ordered his scout, William Tough to ride out to meet, or identify, the advancing troops. Tough immediately recognized the approaching riders as being Quantrill's rebels and rushed to report to Gen. Blunt. With little time to mount a defense, the attack began on Gen. Blunt's train. The Fourteenth Kansas Cavalry immediately bolted and fled. The 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry, much better disciplined, manned a feeble but brave defense. Quickly, the entire train was overrun by the guerrillas. The entire massacre site covered several square miles. It was not a pitched battle. Bodies were scattered over a wide area of the prairie north and west of Baxter Springs.

Gen. Blunt's brigade band was also from the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry. Most of the band members were of German descent and were mustered out of Baraboo, Wisconsin. In the mad dash to outrun the enemy, the teamsters fled the Military Road and drove to the prairie hoping to outrun the pursuing riders. Running into a slight rut, the wagon lost a wheel, throwing the wagon on its side. The pursuing guerillas caught the band members' wagon. The bandsmen plead for their lives. All were assassinated on the spot. It was reported all were unarmed. Their bodies were removed from the wagon, placed in a heap and then burned. Quantrill and his band then pushed on south and made their way to Sherman, Texas, their intended destination.

Miraculously, General Blunt survived. A huge burial site was dug north of the fort itself. The bodies were placed in a common grave. The number is not exact. In almost every report there were inconsistent numbers. But somewhere near 100, it is presumed, were killed either at Ft. Blair or on the prairie north of Baxter Springs.

In 1869, the city of Baxter Springs deeded to the government about an acre of land in the center of the new city cemetery to be known as the National Plot. The soldiers who died in the Battle were exhumed and interred in the Baxter Springs National Plot that year.

In 1885, a monument was placed in the center of the plot. The marker is inscribed with the names of those known to have died on October 6, 1863. The dedication was attended by the few survivors of the massacre.



Baxter Springs Massacre Monument



Baxter Springs Massacre Monument



Baxter Springs Massacre Mural at the Baxter Springs Heritage Center and Museum



CAMP PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION:

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Nov. 21, 1864.

Dear Madam,

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle.

I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save.

I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours, very sincerely and respectfully,

A. Lincoln



August Patriotic Instruction from Br. Ben Frail, PDC National Patriotic Instructor

Hello Brothers, I want to take a moment to congratulate Br. Mike Paquette, PCinC on a successful year leading our organization. It is not an easy task and your guidance and wisdom were much appreciated during the past year. I also want to wish luck to our new Commander in Chief Br. Bruce Frail I hope that under your stewardship the order will continue to flourish and grow. Now that the niceties are out of the way, on with our regularly scheduled Patriotic Instruction. Over the past few months, I have taken the time to highlight a few programs that

we offer as an organization to help promote Patriotism both inside and outside of the Order. This month will be no different as I want to shine the spotlight on our Flag Certificate Program. This program is designed for us, as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to recognize those in the community that have shown “exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America”. Camps, Departments and National can issue this certificate out and they are available through the National Quartermaster. Any Brother in the order can nominate a company, individual or agency that proudly, conspicuously, and properly flies or displays the flag. The Camp, Department, or National Patriotic Instructor would then review the nomination and make the final call on if that organization rates the award. That being said, those who are doing the nominating and the Brother that is deciding to award the certificate, must be well versed in how one can show said exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag. That begs the question, how do we become knowledgeable about this? Well, we don’t need to look far as on the Governance page of our website you can find a few pieces of literature that can help educate us on what these definitions are. The first brochure we have is a flag facts page. It gives the history of the flag and how we got from our first official flag, that was authorized on 14 June 1777, to our current flag, which is the 27th official variant. It also give important flag code facts, how to properly raise and lower the flag, how to position the flag and things of that nature. The other document is how to properly conduct a flag disposal ceremony. Now an outside organization might not do the ceremony to a T, it should be used as a guideline to ensure that these groups are treating our flag with the proper respect and dignity it deserves while disposing it. This information is vital for a Brother to see if an outside group is showing exemplary Patriotism, but also good information to have for being a Brother of the Order in general. These two items are just some of the countless items you can find online through the google machine that will help you with understanding the US Flag code and proper flag etiquette, I have listed below a few that I have found. My challenge this month is for all of you to lead by example by properly flying your flag, as well as educate those outside the order on proper flag etiquette and search for those in your community that are deserving of the Flag Certificate Program.

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty, Br. Ben Frail, PDC National Patriotic Instructor

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and
Loyalty. Brother Mark Parkison,
Patriotic Instructor

