

# The Parmley Post

## Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

November 2023

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### Commander's Message

Bros,

We will have a special Zoom meeting on Thurs Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to discuss the future of the camp and vote on next year's officers. Please join us.

Acting Secretary Butch has sent out an email with a brief questionnaire. Please give him a response.

I wish y'all a happy Thanksgiving.

In F, C, & L,

Todd Wilber, Commander

### Secretary's Report

November 16, 2023

7:00 p.m. - Call to Order was performed by Bro. Todd Wilber, Commander

Opening Ritual, including Invocation was presented by Commander Wilber.

Roll Call of Officers; Bro. Butch Durham (acting) noted the following officer roll call:

Camp Commander Todd Wilber, PRESENT; Sr Vice Commander (vacant); Jr. Vice Commander Michael Belcher PRESENT; Patriotic Instructor Butch Durham PRESENT; Secretary (vacant); Treasurer David Appleton, PCC PRESENT; Chaplain Gene Willis, PCC ABSENT; Graves Registration Officer (vacant); Camp Council: Paul Kendall, PCC, PDC ABSENT; Craig Reves, PCC PRESENT; Gene Willis, PCC ABSENT

### Officer Reports

Commander Wilber stated we have lost some members and we need a Secretary.

Treasurer Appleton reported there are no changes to the bank account, currently \$1,399.50; remaining inventory of one \$5 challenge coin and 11 marshal badges. Report was approved by the members present.

### New Business

The current slate of 2024 Elected Officers were stated as: Commander - Butch Durham; SVC – *Open*; JVC - Mike Belcher; Secretary- *Open*; Treasurer- David Appleton; Camp Council: 1 Gene Willis, PCC; 2 Paul Kendall, PCC, PDC; 3 Todd Wilber, PCC

The current slate of 2024 Appointed Officers was stated as: Patriotic Instructor- Craig Reves, PCC; Chaplain- Gene Willis, PCC; Graves Registration Officer- Todd Wilber, PCC

Meaningful discussion ensued regarding the health and viability of our Camp, and potential ways forward for 2024 if the Camp is going to remain active. Driving distances, meeting contents, health conditions, and member apathy were among the many considerations shared. After discussion, the group agreed to the following actions:

- Elections will be postponed until it is determined that the Camp will remain active for 2024.
- The members present voted to “Affirm” the current slate of 2024 officers – to offer them encouragement and to impart the knowledge that the members stand behind them and appreciate their willingness to serve, if needed.
- The members present voted to enable Bro. Durham to canvass the membership via email or phone, seeking to receive an answer from each member as to their intentions of continuing participation for

2024. This will consist of two basic questions to the member: a) do you intend to remain a Camp 1 member for 2024?; b) do you foresee being able to attend two in-person meetings/events in the greater Fort Worth area during the year, plus participate in bi-monthly Zoom meetings?

- There will be a called Zoom meeting during the second week of December (day and time to be

determined) to review the results of Bro. Durham’s membership canvass, and to decide if the Camp is viable to continue for 2024.

- If that finding of viability is Yes, then the election of officers will take place at the called meeting.
- If that finding of viability is No, then appropriate communication will be made to our Department Commander.

Good of the Order

There being insufficient time remaining in the meeting for his full planned Program on The Galvanized Yankee, Bro. Belcher gave a brief account of his efforts to document and record with the proper authorities his parents’ marriage certificate.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting was closed in regular form by Commander Wilber, with Bro. Durham providing the Benediction.

Recorded by: Bro. Butch Durham, acting Secretary

### **Upcoming Events**

Special Camp Meeting- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 7 pm

### **For Sale**

We still have 11 SUVCW Texas Marshal badges & 1 challenge coin for sale.

Contact Bro David Appleton if interested.

## Camp Patriotic Instruction

### President Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation

Washington DC, October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of  
America.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in

the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and

of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward, Secretary of State

### **In Their Own Words**

*The regimental memoirs of the 36<sup>th</sup> IL Infantry has an account of the Battle of Franklin. The 36<sup>th</sup> was part of Opdyke's Brigade who blunted the confederate breakthrough and saved the day at Franklin.*

During much of the afternoon, Hood's entire army was in sight, blackening the summits of the hills, and apparently forming for an attack. At four o'clock, a living wall of men and glistening steel was seen marching rapidly down the hillsides — filling the valley and sweeping across the fields. Close behind the first were other lines of troops; the whole pouring tumultuously onward, like the swift current of a river — bearing its burthen of seething waters resistless to the sea. At first the confused murmur of voices and martial music, like sighing breezes, filled the air, and as the tide flowed onward the swelling cadences gathered strength and volume. At the near approach of the crowding host, the earth grew tremulous beneath the tread of many feet, and sounded like the low, hollow rumble of distant thunder. Fascinated by the sight, the men gazed in silence upon the advancing columns, now rapidly approaching the entrenchments behind which stood a thin, firm line of Federal soldiers, seemingly unconscious of danger.

The brigades of Lane and Conrad, occupying the shallow rifle pits in the advance, for a

moment stood their ground, and at short range poured destructive volleys into the crowded ranks of the enemy. Before their fire the first line faltered, but only for a moment, when closing up, they rallied, and with a shout, cleared every obstacle, charging over the temporary barricades. Then for another moment there was a line of flashing fire, the sound of interlacing bayonets, and the gallant Second and Third Brigades went down before the swelling tide and were swept away. Conrad's Brigade was the first to break. The older and more experienced soldiers fled to the main line, but a regiment or two of raw troops, composed largely of conscripts, seeing the entrenchments in their rear wreathed with smoke and flame, imagined themselves caught between two fires, and becoming bewildered, threw down their arms and surrendered.

Lane's men soon followed, and breathless with excitement went flying to the rear in tumultuous confusion, incited thereto by sharp thrusts from Rebel bayonets in the rear, skillfully wielded by a legion of Hood's most experienced veterans, forcing them back, to and over the entrenchments, where numbers halted, and turning upon their pursuers, poured a volley into their ranks which no more served to break the momentum of the charge than so many pattering rain drops. Onward they surged, and swarming over the works scores were spitted on Federal bayonets as they leaped the entrenchments. Federals and Confederates were commingled in a close hand-to-hand encounter.

Numbers finally triumphed over valor, and all who were left of that portion of the 23rd Corps stationed in the works for a distance of three hundred yards to the right of the pike, embracing two or three batteries, broke and fled with the fugitives from the two brigades.

Artillerists galloped away with the caissons, leaving their guns, and dashed recklessly through the panic-stricken throng that went flying towards the bridges, leaving the green sward behind them fitfully strewn with dead and wounded. The ground was literally swept with sheets of fire and lead, and the air was full of shrieking missiles.

The charge and rout was but the work of a few minutes. The grand panorama of battle with all its sickening details could be traced with terrible distinctness by the men of the First Brigade, who were in position to see it all. Another such a charge and the whole line of works would be swept of defenders, and with the bridges in the hands of the enemy, not a man could escape. Events of such thrilling interest for an instant struck the beholders dumb. Only for an instant, however, for noble Opdyke sprang to the front, and waving his sword, shouted, "Up and at them, men!" Just at that moment Gen. Stanley dashed up to the left of the line, and with soul-stirring enthusiasm urging the men forward to the rescue. The efforts of these officers were bravely seconded by the regimental commanders, and Col. Olson's orders rang out clear as the blast of a bugle, "Fall in, 36th! Forward to the trenches!" The men throwing away their bread and coffee, sprang to their arms, and grasping their muskets, charged down upon the foe on the run.

We can imagine no more thrilling episode, than when these devoted veterans, with heads bent to the storm and with bayonets lowered dashed through the spray of balls, and with cold steel charged home upon the multitudinous hosts swarming over and within the ramparts. They had scarcely eaten anything for twelve hours; they had marched and fought all the previous day, and far into

the night; on the retreat, as rear guard, they had ran and fought incessantly, until from hunger and fatigue they were haggard and weak. Yet, when the hurried order came and the color-bearer stepped to the front and held aloft the old, tattered banner, the noble fellows shouted their stirring war notes, and on the double-quick cheered and charged upon that line of fire — right into the very jaws of death; and as the enemy, stung to madness at the terrible onset, hurled line upon line of fresh troops upon them, they still fought, yielding not an inch until they had repelled the foe.

The officers of the 23rd Corps and the broken fragments of the brigades of Lane and Conrad, seeing that the 1st Brigade was holding the enemy at bay, flung themselves across the track of the retreating fugitives, and alternately threatened and entreated their men to rally and turn back to the support of Opdyke. Some were heard to say, "For shame, men! Can't you follow where the 36th can lead?" Hastily reforming, they rushed down to where the 1st Brigade was engaged, firing as they ran, and co-operated with Opdyke in beating the exultant enemy back and recovering the lost position and guns. Thank God the enemy was repulsed! was badly beaten and forced back over the entrenchments with fearful slaughter, and with the loss of four hundred taken prisoners.

The battle did not cease with the re-occupation of the works. Wave after wave of their reserves coming up, poured terrific volleys into our lines, and a continuous shower of lead and iron whistled fiercely over the parapet. If but a head, an arm or a finger protruded above the works, that head, arm or finger was pretty sure to be perforated with shot. Regular volleys could not be discerned. It was an incessant crash of guns that was

never silent for a moment. Mingling with the sharper tones of musketry was the louder explosions of artillery in a continuous roar. The Federals were sheltered behind solid embankments, while the enemy stood exposed in the open fields, and if their fire was terrific, ours was equally so. The effect of shot and shell was absolutely awful. Every discharge of grape and canister marked its course through their ranks by a lane of fallen men. The distance was not more than from ten to one hundred yards, and at every discharge men went down.....

After Col. Olson was carried back in a dying condition, word was passed along the line to cease firing. None appeared to understand from whence the order came. Some paid no attention to it, but continued to load and fire as rapidly as possible, while others hesitated, wondering the while at the purpose of such orders, while the enemy's shot poured in unceasingly.....

The charge of the 1st Brigade was not entirely successful in regaining the whole line at the first onset. Their numbers were too small to occupy and successfully defend a position which a large portion of the 23rd Corps had been obliged to abandon. A small salient to the right of the Columbia pike for a short time was held by the enemy, who determined to use it as an entering wedge through which to break the Federal line and recover the works. To that point their commanders directed their most powerful efforts, and the head of a Rebel column was actually again breaking over the parapets and widening the breach, when enfilading volleys from either side was directed against them, and it became manifest that the crowding of men into the position under a cross fire so deadly, was but rushing them to certain death. But they fought gallantly, and for twenty minutes maintained

the unequal contest before being expelled and the continuity of the line established.

A prominent feature of the charge and final expulsion of the enemy from the works, was the conspicuous position occupied by the regimental flag and the heroic devotion of the color-bearers.....

#### Source

Bennet, LG & Haigh, Wm. History of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteers, during the War of the Rebellion. pp. 650-6  
<https://archive.org/details/historyofthirtys00benn/page/280/mode/2up>

### Civil War Punishment

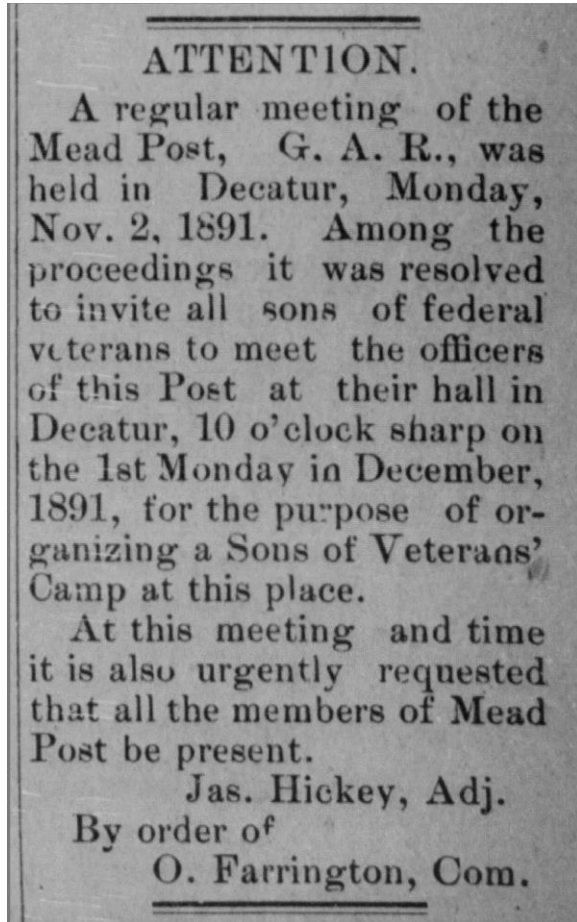
Riding the wooden horse. The subject would straddle the triangular frame. Sometimes weights were added to the legs to increase the pain. Its origin dates to the Inquisition. Used in colonial American as a civil punishment.

*Riding a rail, sketched by A. W. Warren, published by Harper's Weekly, Nov 1864*



## GAR History

Wise County Messenger (Decatur)  
21 Nov 1891  
Meade Post 35



### November in the Civil War

1860

- **November 6** - Abraham Lincoln elected 16th President of the United States
- **November 10** - South Carolina Senator James Chestnut Jr. resigns his seat in the U.S. Senate
- **November 11** - South Carolina Senator James Henry Hammond resigns his seat in the U.S. Senate
- **November 18** - Georgia legislature appropriates \$1,000,000 to arm the state

1861

- **November 1** - George McClellan replaces Lieutenant General Winfield Scott as general-in-chief of the U.S. Army
- **November 2** - General John C. Fremont removed from command of the Department of the West by President Lincoln
- **November 7** - Engagement at Belmont, Missouri
- **November 8** - The Confederate emissaries to England and France are removed from the British vessel RMS *Trent*, initiating the "Trent Affair" and endangering the United States' relationship with Great Britain
- **November 8/9** - Engagement at Ivy Mountain, Kentucky
- **November 12** - The blockade runner *Fingal*, bought by Confederates in England, arrives in Savannah
- **November 21** - Judah P. Benjamin confirmed as Confederate Secretary of War. Benjamin had been serving as Jefferson Davis's Acting Secretary of War since September 17
- **November 22** - Union begins bombardment of Fort McRee in Pensacola, Florida
- **November 28** - Missouri admitted to the Confederacy despite never officially seceding from the Union

1862

- **November 5** - Lincoln orders that Major General George McClellan be replaced with Ambrose Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac
- **November 21** - James A. Seddon replaces George W. Randolph as Confederate Secretary of War
- **November 28** - Engagement at Cane Hill, Arkansas

1863

- **November 3** - Engagement at Grand Coteau (Bayou Bourdeau), Louisiana
- **November 4** - Knoxville Campaign begins
- **November 7** - Battle of Rappahannock Station, Virginia
- **November 16** - Battle of Campbell's Station, Tennessee

- **November 17** - Longstreet lays siege to Knoxville, Tennessee
- **November 19** - President Lincoln delivers the "Gettysburg Address"
- **November 20** - Edward Everett sends complimentary letter to Lincoln on his address at Gettysburg
- **November 23** - Battle of Orchard Knob begins near Chattanooga, Tennessee
- **November 24** - Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee
- **November 25** - Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tennessee
- **November 26** - Mine Run Campaign begins in Virginia
- **November 27** - Engagement at Payne's Farm, Virginia
- **November 29** - Assault on Fort Sanders, Tennessee
- **November 30** - General Braxton Bragg resigns from command of the Army of Tennessee

1864

- **November 2** - Affair at Hazen's Farm near Devalls Bluff, Arkansas
- **November 4** - Engagement at Johnsonville, Tennessee

- **November 8** - Abraham Lincoln is re-elected President of the United States
- **November 11** - Battle of Bull's Gap, Tennessee
- **November 15** - William T. Sherman departs Atlanta on the March to the Sea, leaving Atlanta in ruins
- **November 24** - Skirmish at Columbia, Tennessee
- **November 25** - Confederates fail at attempt to set fire to New York City hotels and Barnum's Museum
- **November 28** - Rosser's Raid on New Creek near Keyser, West Virginia
- **November 29** - Colonel J.M. Chivington leads Sand Creek Massacre in the Colorado Territory
- **November 29** - Battle of Spring Hill, Tennessee
- **November 30** - Battle of Franklin, Tennessee
- **November 30** - Engagement at Honey Hill, South Carolina

1865

- **November 10** - War criminal Henry Wirz hanged

--From the American Battlefield Trust

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



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://suvcw.org/>

