

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



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

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA

DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER





General James J. Byrne Camp No. 1
November 17, 2022
Meeting Minutes

The Camp's meeting took place as a hybrid meeting, combining in-person at the VFW Hall and on-line via Zoom.

The meeting was opened by Camp Commander Paul Kendall at 7:19 p.m. with five members in person and four members via Zoom (including Brother John Vander Meulen, Department Signals Officer) in attendance.

Commander Kendall asked about the status of Brother Timothy Phillips, and we were informed that Brother Phillips had posted that he was on the way home from the hospital.

The minutes of the October 20 meeting were read and approved.

Brother Todd Wilber recounted his recent activities as Camp Graves Registration Officer. He has found 31 new unregistered graves of Union veterans, and he has been forwarding all of these to the Department GRO.

Our annual General Byrne memorial ceremony was held at Pioneers Rest Cemetery on Sunday, November 13, with four members in attendance.

The Camp participated in the annual Massing of the Colors earlier that afternoon with a good attendance. It was felt that this event is worth our continued participation.

There will be a living history event in Fort Concho in December, with another event in Groesbeck the following weekend, for Camp members who wish to participate.

There will be no Camp meeting in December.

There was an open discussion regarding a slate of officers for 2023. Brother Mark Parkison has volunteered to become Secretary, and Brother Wilber volunteered to be the newsletter editor, Patriotic Instruction, Junior Vice Commander, and remain as Graves Registration Officer. Brother Gene Willis offered to remain as Chaplain and Camp Counselor. Brothers Craig Reves and Hal Hughes volunteered to serve as Camp Counselors. Brother David Appleton offered to

remain as Treasurer. We still need volunteers for Camp Commander and Senior Vice Commander.

Brother Vander Meulen spoke of Camp 2's upcoming Battle of Galveston remembrance on Saturday, January 7, 2023, beginning at about 10:00 a.m. Camp 2 will publish more particulars, but this event is normally in two parts: it begins at the Episcopal Cemetery where the names are read out of the Union soldiers and sailors who were lost in that battle; followed by a ceremony at the grave of Commander Edward Lea. It is planned for Camp 2 to go to the nearby Golden Corral (facing the Gulf) for a meal and 2023 officer installation afterwards.

The Department Encampment will be held on April 29, 2023, in Houston. Commander-in-Chief Bruce Frail will be in attendance.

Commander Kendall has a Major's frock coat, only worn once, size 46, for sale for \$125 if anyone is interested in buying it.

Camp 2 held a ceremony in Humble, Texas at the end of October with 30 descendants of the Union veterans buried there in attendance. Brother Vander Meulen said that it was very moving to have to many there. A video of the ceremony will be available on the National YouTube channel shortly.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:55 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



General James J. Byrne Ceremony at Pioneer's Rest Cemetery



Left to Right: Brothers Hal Hughes, Todd Wilber, Paul Kendall, Mark Parkison

Pioneer's Rest Cemetery - Union Veteran William Hardy



Massing of the Colors



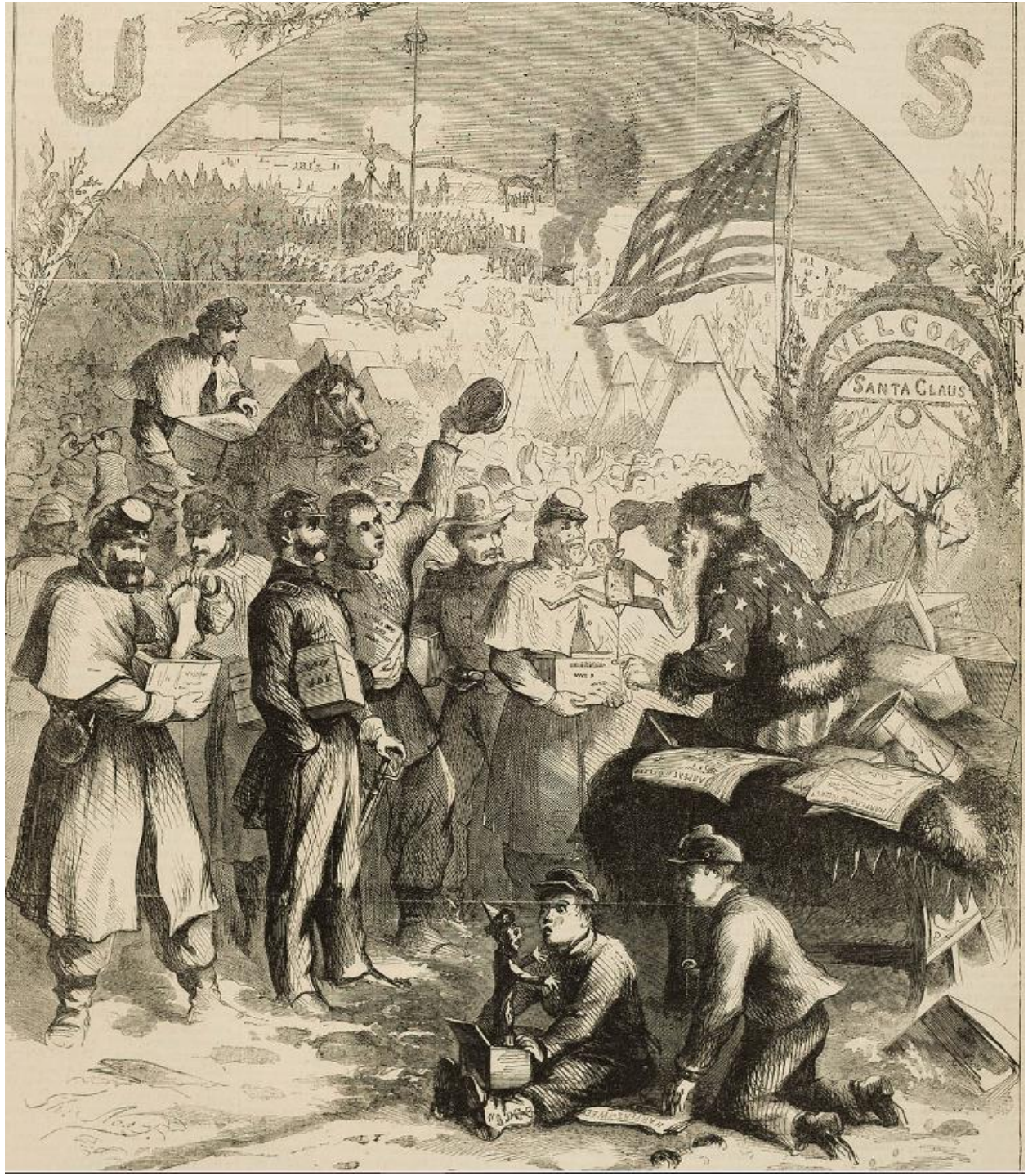
Left to Right: Brothers Paul Kendall, Mark Parkison, Matthew Parkison, Todd Wilber

November Camp Meeting



Left to Right Standing: Brothers Paul Kendall, Mark Parkison, David Appleton.
Seated Left to Right: Brothers Gene Willis, Hal Hughes

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR





CHRISTMAS EVE, 1862.—[From Page 14.]



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

Brothers, I know that you all are in mid swing of your holiday season, and I hope that you all had a great Thanksgiving. I want to keep with the tradition and ideology that I have been speaking of in the past few Patriotic Instructions and that is giving back to our community in ways that might not seem normal to us in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Traditionally, December calls for us to celebrate in our Camps or Departments the successful year by having an end of the year gathering of some sort. Some Camps will participate in the Wreaths Across America initiative, which if you are unfamiliar with it is an organization that teams up with Veterans Organizations and Fraternal Organizations to lay wreaths on the graves of Veterans during the holiday season. These traditions are great ones and want to urge you all to keep going with them. For those Camps and Departments that do not have these traditions or want to do a little bit more this holiday season, there are other ways you can give back to your community. One of these "outside the box" ways if you will is the Adopt a Family Programs. Many local churches, Elks Lodges, VFW, and American Legion chapters offer these programs, and if they don't the magical Google machine can help you find a local program. If you are unfamiliar with the Adopt a Family Program, this is when a local group adopts a family in need for the holidays. Some programs provide a whole list of presents for the family; some provide a singular gift. Others will provide the family with the holiday meal and presents; it really depends on how involved you want your Camp or Department to be. Having participated in these events in the past through both my work and when my father was a firefighter, I can tell you firsthand how much these programs mean to those families in need and the joy it brings to those lending a helping hand. I know that I have beaten this idea into you all by now, but it is something I truly 100% believe and that making a Patriotic Individual starts at the community level. If we want to spread Patriotic values to our neighbors, we need to be there for them in their time of need and lead by example. Show our towns and states that we are doing this for our community because we take pride in our Country. That Patriotism isn't just being willing to lay down one's life to protect freedom, yes that is a massive part of Patriotism, but it is also showing that you are willing to do the little things to help take care of your fellow American. Whether it is volunteering your time to clean up a Cemetery or teach in a school, or if it is donating money and food to help those in need during the holidays. Patriotism starts in our communities, and it grows from there. So, for this holiday season, show those who are less fortunate in your community that you have their back. That the SUVCW is an organization that not only cares about those who came before us, but also cares about those who are around us as well. From my family to yours I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyful Kwanza and any other holiday your family may celebrate this season.

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

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

