

The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

Winter 2025

Commander's Message

Brothers,

I am honored and excited to serve as Commander for the James J. Byrne Camp #1 once again. It is the first and oldest Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War camp in Texas and has a great history. As the first, we have long acted as the "at large camp" for the state. We were one of the three founding camps in the department, and help secure the department by splitting our membership and establishing Camp 18 in Dallas.

We have a great history, but there are many great things to look forward to this year. The Department of Texas and Louisiana is hosting the National Encampment in Houston this summer. As a camp, I want us to grow in membership, have a good Memorial Day service, attend the Department and National Encampments in force! We will meet periodically in person, with an on-line option for people who cannot made the meetings. I look forward to working with each of you this year.

Brian Glass, Commander

Senior Vice Commander

Brothers,

Last year we worked to approve four applications for memberships. These were also approved by the Department Registrar, Dan Pourreau. We finally got them paid for and sent off to the National organization for approval. They are Timothy Provorse of Copperas Cove, Cody Andrews of Waco; Grant Gee of Georgetown and Andrew Austin of Livingston. In the

works are supplemental applications for Andrew Austin and Todd Wilber. Additionally, another potential new member in Temple, Tom Hughes is working on his application.

I have been looking into potential venues to conduct a Bell or McLennan County location for an alternative Memorial Day celebration. I have contacted a few local military service organizations, as well as the local Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps to investigate what they do here locally. One cemetery in Belton, and another cemetery in Waco, stand out as being the sites of several Union Veteran burials, and good candidates for an observance.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Michael Belcher, SVC

2025 Camp Officers

Left to right: Don Gates- Sec/Treas, Timothy Phillips- DC & Chaplain, Brian Glass- CC, & Beau Moore- JVC. Mike Belcher- SVC (not pictured).



Secretary -Treasurer's Report

Brothers,

I am the newly elected and installed Secretary-Treasurer of Camp No.1. I am pleased to report the camp is on sound fiscal and membership grounds.

The kitty finished the year at a healthy \$1,601.05. The accounts have been properly transferred for checking and debit card transactions, although we still have some issues to resolve with the PayPal account. I am asking that we all hold off on making any PayPal deposits until they are completed. The deadline for dues isn't until March 31, 2025 and it should be fixed before then. In any case we can receive checks and money orders now.

The camp successfully completed the annual camp audit and the new officers have been installed.

Commander: Brian Glass

Senior Vice-Commander: Michael Belcher

Junior Vice-Commander: Beau Moore

Secretary & Treasure: Don Gates

Council Member #1: Butch Durham

Council Member #2: Tim Phillips

Council Member #3: Paul L. Kendall

Patriotic Instructor: Craig Reves

Chaplain: Tim Phillips

Graves Registration Officer: Todd Wilber

Historian: Don Gates

Civil War Memorials Officer: Todd Wilber

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Beau Moore

Camp News Letter - Parmley Post: Todd Wilber

Despite the loss of two brothers to the department's newest camp, General E.O.C. Ord camp No.3, we have a current membership of 24 members. We lost brothers, Jan Haines and Scott Peters, to camp No.3, but we added five new members including myself, Cody Andrews of Waco, Andrew Austin of Livingston, Jeff Dodds of Albany and Grant Gee of Georgetown. Let's all welcome our new members. I

am looking forward to a great new year for the Byrne Camp. Huzzah!

Don Gates, Secretary-Treasurer

Camp Patriotic Instruction

by

Brother Craig Reves, PCC and PI

As we experience our Texas winter, it is good for us as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to recall that during the American Civil War our ancestors did experience winter combat during the years 1862 and early 1863. Unlike prior wars, commanders in the American Civil War did not see winter months solely as opportunities to go into winter quarters but to engage and defeat the enemy.

The three campaigns which occurred during winter months are: Fort Henry and Donelson, TN; Stones River, TN; and Fredericksburg, VA. Each was conducted by a different Union Army.

FORT DONELSON CAMPAIGN

The campaign of Forts Henry and Donelson was under the leadership of a rising Union commander Brigadier General U.S. Grant. Under his direction, the Federal Army of the Tennessee, in concert with the Union Naval Forces of seven ships under Flag Officer Andrew Foote, captured the Confederate Fort Henry on the Tennessee River on February 6, 1862. Grant then marched his Army overland to Fort Donelson which faced eastward on the Cumberland River. Grant's land forces surrounded Donelson on the western side, while Foote's fleet kept Confederate attention on the river side. After four days of repulsing Federal attacks, the Confederate forces which had weakened following a successful breakout of forces, agreed to Grant's demand for "Unconditional Surrender" on February 16, 1862. In recognition for the victory, Lincoln promoted Grant to Major General and he was hailed as a hero by the Northern press which made the immediate connection between his surrender terms and his initials dubbing him Unconditional Surrender Grant.



Figure 1: River Battery at Ft Donelson

FREDERICKSBURG CAMPAIGN

The second campaign fought during the winter months, was Fredericksburg, VA in December 1862. That campaign was conducted by the Army of the Potomac under the command of Major General Ambrose Burnside. His initial strategy had been to race to the Rappahannock River to secure a quick river crossing to get behind Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia for a dash on Richmond. Unfortunately, due to not having sufficient pontoon bridging to win his race, Burnside found that Lee was able to position troops in the city of Fredericksburg to confront the Union attempts to cross the river. Burnside elected to conduct frontal assaults on the Confederate defenses once he secured a bridgehead. The main assaults occurred on December 13, 1862 with disastrous results for the Army of the Potomac with losses in excess of 12,000 soldiers in killed, wounded, and missing. Unlike Grant who was rewarded for his victory, Burnside was removed from command of the Army on January 26, 1863 following a second ill-advised campaign along the Rappahannock River dubbed by the soldiers the "Mud March".



Figure 2: Meade's Attack area at the Slaughter's Field and the stonewall on Marye's Heights - Fredericksburg, VA

STONES RIVER CAMPAIGN

The last campaign of winter was again in middle Tennessee near Murfreesboro. The battle has received the name of Stones River. It was conducted under the generalship of Major General William S. Rosecrans by the Army of the Cumberland (previously known as the Army of the Ohio) during late December 1862 and early January 1863. Rosecrans, under pressure from the Lincoln administration, moved out of Nashville to confront the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Both armies met with commanders equally determined to strike the first blow. Unfortunately for Rosecrans, Confederate commander Braxton Bragg struck the first blow rolling up the Union right flank and forcing the Union forces into new positions to continue to control the vital Nashville pike. Rosecrans displayed energetic activity in rallying his forces and on the third day January 2, 1863 defeated the last Confederate assault near the river, leading to Bragg withdrawing from Murfreesboro to new position south on the Duck River. Stones River was a hard-fought battle that won praise from President Lincoln for giving the Union a morale boost after Fredericksburg while also giving substance to the release of the Emancipation Proclamation which took effect on January 1, 1863. Lincoln wrote Rosecrans: "You gave us a hard-earned victory, which had there been a defeat instead, the nation could scarcely have lived over."



Figure 3: Views from Stones River Battlefield

So, as we dream of warmer days, while we sip our warm drinks inside our heated homes in the 21st Century, let us recall the boys in blue of 1862-3 who endured harsh winters, inadequate heat sources, regrets after throwing away warm clothing while on the march because they thought they didn't need it, mortal combat, and the fear of being left wounded between the lines on a freezing night. May they rest in eternal peace.

The Grand Tour

(Or Todd Finally Gets to Gettysburg)

by
Todd Wilber

On Saturday, September 7th, 2024, I set out on a five-day 3225-mile journey.

I drove 1200 miles (17 ½ hrs) the first day and made it to Lexington, VA. I realized where I was and added some stops not on my original agenda.

Sunday the 8th, I visited Stonewall Jackson's grave and house. Plus, Lee Chapel on Washington and Lee University Campus. Unfortunately, the house and chapel were closed on Sunday. At least I got to see the outside. I then visited VMI. I saw the famous cannons (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John) and toured the museum.



I headed up to Harper's Ferry and spent a couple hours rambling over the sites. I can see why it was a poor place to defend.



Afterwards, I was off to South Mountain. I went up Fox's Gap and found Reno's and Garland's memorials. I headed over to the Washington Monument (not DC) and climbed up it. I can see why the Federals used it as an observation post during the campaign. I still had daylight so I went over to the Antietam battlefield. I saw the famous Corn Field the Iron Brigade fought through and walked in the Sunken Lane. It was a humbling experience. I stayed over in Hagerstown.



Monday the 9th, I headed up to Gettysburg. I spent six hours touring the battle field. I found the 2nd, 6th, & 7th Wisconsin (Iron Brigade) markers. I saw the Herbst Woods and the Rail Road cut. Both connected to the Iron Brigade. At the John Burn's monument, I ran into Garry Adelman (licensed battlefield guide and internet personality). I was able to get a picture with him at the Burns' statue wearing my Burns' shirt. I took a tour of the Lutheran Seminary and was allowed up into the cupola. The view from Little Round Top was spectacular. Unfortunately, the parking spots were all taken and I had to park on the bottom and walk all the way up. It is amazing anyone survived the Pickett-Pettigrew Charge. A glorious field of fire for defenders. I then went up to Harrisburg to visit the National Civil War Museum. I made my way to New Market, VA where I stayed the night.



Tuesday the 10th, I was running ahead of schedule so I decided to add the New Market battlefield to my itinerary. I spent the morning visiting the two museums about the battle and the field itself.



I then took a scenic detour to Nickell's Mill, Monroe Co, WV to find my 7th great grandpa Thomas Nickell's homestead on Second Creek. It gave new meaning to "off the beat track." Miles on a single land winding dirt road. I found it. I then started back and made it to Crossville, TN for the night.



Wednesday the 11th, I realized I was only 47 miles South of Pall Mall, TN. I decided to visit the Sgt Alvin C York grave and homestead before heading back. A beautiful little town in the Tennessee hills. York's paternal grandfather Uriah York was killed by infamous guerilla Champ Ferguson.



Afterwards, I hammered back and made 850 miles in 10 ½ hours.

In Their Own Words

Brig. Gen. George Thomas' after-action report for the Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky.

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO
Somerset, Ky., January 31, 1862

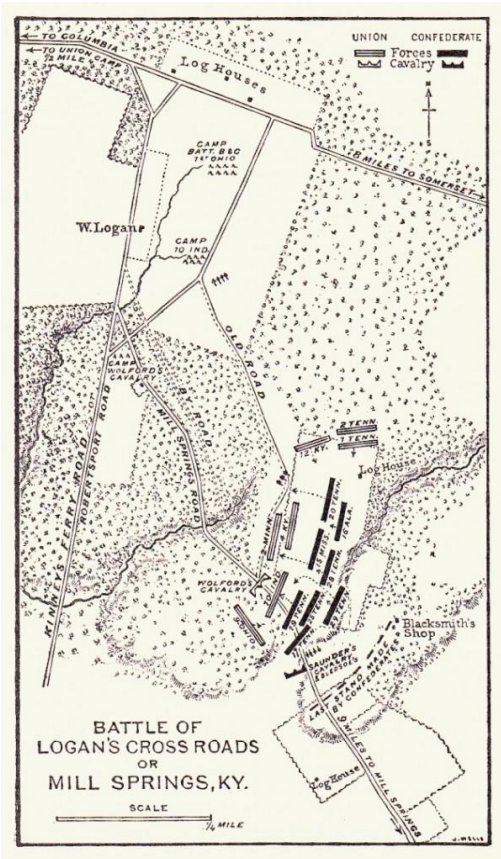
I have the honor to report that in carrying out the instructions of the general commanding the department, contained in his communication of the 29th of December, I reached Logan's Cross-Roads, about 10 miles north of the entrenched camp of the enemy on the Cumberland River, on the 17th instant, with a portion of the Second and Third Brigades, Kenny's battery of artillery, and a battalion of Wolford's cavalry. The Fourth and Tenth Kentucky, Fourteenth Ohio, and the Eighteenth U.S. Infantry being still in rear, detained by the almost impassable condition of the roads, I determined to halt at this point, to await their arrival and to communicate with General Schoepf.

The Tenth Indiana, Wolford's cavalry, and Kenny's battery took position on the road leading to the enemy's camp. The Ninth Ohio and Second Minnesota (part of Colonel McCook's brigade) encamped three-fourths of a mile to the right, on the Robertsport road. Strong pickets were thrown out in the direction of the enemy beyond where the Somerset and Mill Springs road comes into the main road from my camp to Mill Springs, and a picket of cavalry some distance in advance of the infantry General Schoepf visited me on the day of my arrival, and, after consultation, I directed him to send to my camp Standart's battery, the Twelfth Kentucky, and the First and Second Tennessee Regiments, to remain until the arrival of the regiments in rear.

Having received information on the evening of the 17th that a large train of wagons with its escort were encamped on the Robertsport and Danville road, about 6 miles from Colonel Steedman's camp, I sent an order to him to send his wagons forward under a strong guard, and to march with his regiment (the Fourteenth Ohio) and the Tenth Kentucky (Colonel Harlan), with one day's rations in their haversacks, to the point where the enemy were said to be encamped, and either capture or disperse them.

Nothing of importance occurred from the time of our arrival until the morning of the 19th, except a picket skirmish on the night of the 17th. The Fourth Kentucky, the battalion of Michigan Engineers, and Wetmore's battery joined on the 18th.

About 6.30 o'clock on the morning of the 19th the pickets from Wolford's cavalry encountered the enemy advancing on our camp, retired slowly, and reported their advance to Col. M.D. Manson, commanding the Second Brigade. He immediately formed his regiment (the Tenth Indiana) and took a position on the road to await the attack, ordering the Fourth Kentucky (Col. S.S. Fry) to support him, and then informed me in person that the enemy were advancing in force and what disposition he had made to resist them. I directed him to join his brigade immediately and hold the enemy in check until I could order up the other troops, which were ordered to form immediately and were marching to the field in ten minutes afterwards. The battalion of Michigan Engineers and Company A, Thirty-eighth Ohio (Captain Greenwood), were ordered to remain as guard to the camp.



Upon my arrival on the field soon afterwards I found the Tenth Indiana formed in front of their encampment, apparently awaiting orders, and ordered them forward to the support of the Fourth Kentucky, which was the only entire regiment then engaged. I then rode forward myself to see the enemy's position, so that I could determine what disposition to make of my troops as they arrived. On reaching the position held by the Fourth Kentucky, Tenth Indiana, and Wofford's cavalry, at a point where the roads fork leading to Somerset, I found the enemy advancing through a corn field and evidently endeavoring to gain the left of the Fourth Kentucky Regiment, which was maintaining its position in a most determined manner. I directed one of my aides to ride back and order up a section of artillery and the Tennessee brigade to advance on the enemy's right, and sent orders for Colonel McCook to advance with his two regiments (the Ninth Ohio and Second Minnesota) to the support of the Fourth Kentucky and Tenth Indiana.

A section of Captain Kenny's battery took a position on the edge of the field to the left of the Fourth Kentucky and opened an efficient fire on a regiment of

Alabamians, which were advancing on the Fourth Kentucky. Soon afterwards the Second Minnesota (Col. H. P. Van Cleve) arrived, the colonel reporting to me for instructions. I directed him to take the position of the Fourth Kentucky and Tenth Indiana, which regiments were nearly out of ammunition. The Ninth Ohio, under the immediate command of Major Kammerling, came into position on the right of the road at the same time.

Immediately after these regiments had gained their position the enemy opened a most determined and galling fire, which was returned by our troops in the same spirit, and for nearly half an hour the contest was maintained on both sides in the most obstinate manner. At this time the Twelfth Kentucky (Col. W. A. Hoskins) and the Tennessee brigade reached the field to the left of the Minnesota regiment, and opened fire on the right flank of the enemy, who then began to fall back. The Second Minnesota kept up a most galling fire in front, and the Ninth Ohio charged the enemy on the right with bayonets fixed, turned their flank, and drove them from the field, the whole line giving way and retreating in the utmost disorder and confusion.

As soon as the regiments could be formed and refill their cartridge-boxes I ordered the whole force to advance. A few miles in rear of the battle-field a small force of cavalry was drawn up near the road, but a few shots from our artillery (a section of Standart's battery) dispersed them, and none of the enemy were seen again until we arrived in front of their intrenchments. As we approached their intrenchments the division was deployed in line of battle and steadily advanced to the summit of the hill at Moulden's. From this point I directed their intrenchments to be cannonaded, which was done until dark by Standart's and Wetmore's batteries. Kenny's battery was placed in position on the extreme left at Russell's house, from which point he was directed to fire on their ferry, to deter them from attempting to cross. On the following morning Captain Wetmore's battery was ordered to Russell's house, and assisted with his Parrott guns in firing upon the ferry. Colonel Manson's brigade took position on the left near Kenny's battery, and every preparation was made to assault their intrenchments on the following morning. The Fourteenth Ohio (Colonel Steedman) and the Tenth Kentucky (Colonel Harlan) having joined from detached service soon after the repulse of the enemy, continued with their brigade in the pursuit, although they could not get up in time to join in the fight. These two regiments were placed in

front in my advance on the intrenchments the next morning and entered first. General Schoepf also joined me the evening of the 19th with the Seventeenth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-eighth Ohio. His entire brigade entered with the other troops.

On reaching the intrenchments we found the enemy had abandoned everything and retired during the night. Twelve pieces of artillery, with their caissons packed with ammunition; one battery wagon and two forges; a large amount of ammunition; a large number of small-arms, mostly the old flint-lock muskets; 150 or 160 wagons, and upwards of 1,000 horses and mules; a large amount of commissary stores, intrenching tools, and camp and garrison equipage, fell into our hands. A correct list of all the captured property will be forwarded as soon as it can be made up and the property secured.

The steam and ferry boats having been burned by the enemy in their retreat, it was found impossible to cross the river and pursue them; besides, their command was completely demoralized, and retreated with great haste and in all directions, making their capture in any numbers quite doubtful if pursued. There is no doubt but what the moral effect produced by their complete dispersion will have a more decided effect in re-establishing Union sentiments than though they had been captured.

It affords me much pleasure to be able to testify to the uniform steadiness and good conduct of both officers and men during the battle, and I respectfully refer to the accompanying reports of the different commanders for the names of those officers and men whose good conduct was particularly noticed by them....

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Geo. H. Thomas,
Brigadier General, U.S. Volunteers, Commanding

From Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Volume 7.

GRO Report

I am up to 86 undocumented bluebellies in Tarrant Co.

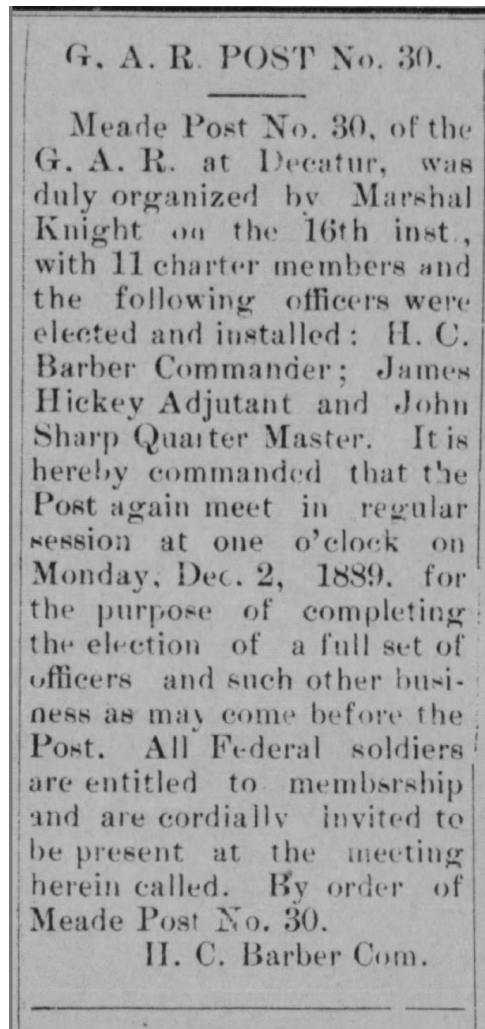
In F, C, & L,

Todd W

TX GAR History

Meade Post 35 formation. Started as Post 30.

Wise County Messenger (Decatur, Texas) · 30 Nov 1889, Sat · Page 5





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/>

