

The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

Fall 2025

Commander's Message

The Camp is wrapping up a successful year. We had good attendance at both the Department and National Encampments in 2025. I fully expect to repeat this experience in 2026! We, Camp 1, will be hosting the Department of Texas Encampment at the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame and Museum (think large gun collection...) in Waco. And I hope that a few of us will make plans to attend the 2026 National Encampment in Gettysburg, PA. We need to continue to work on recruiting as we end the year, we have one more event to bring those recruits to, December's meeting has been designated our "Christmas Party" we will meet briefly to conduct our elections and other such business, then go as a group out to eat and visit. Spouses and new recruits are welcome to attend!

Brian Glass, PDC
James J. Byrne Camp 1, Commander

Camp Meetings

Meetings are bimonthly and held at 401 W 13th Street in Ft Worth. Meetings are hybrid.

Next meeting Dec 14 at 3 pm. Dinner to follow.

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Brothers,
As the Secretary-Treasurer of Camp No.1. I can report that the camp is on sound fiscal and membership grounds.

The Treasury is in good condition with a November ending balance of \$2,045.51 after paying \$660.00 in dues, \$50.00 for an ad in the National Encampment Program Book and selling eight ranger badges at the National Encampment.

The camp, after losing eight members last year, has reinstated one and added six more bringing our current numbers to twenty-three.

Brother Beau Moore has been providing a zoom link for our meetings.

Camp 1 members Glass, Moore, Phillips, Gates, Wilber, and Reves participated in Pioneer Days at Fort Richardson in Jacksboro. Canvas was stretched and some backs were aching but a good time was enjoyed by all. The Fort staff provided an excellent mess for all participants.

Commander Glass has suggested hosting the 2026 Department Encampment at the new Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington. Subsequent investigations proved the venue too pricy. The Department Encampment has been scheduled for May 23, 2025 at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco. It is a great Venue and we last visited it back in 2018.

The camp is making preparations for a Christmas party on December 13, 2025. Plans call for a short meeting at 401 West 13th Street, followed by an adjournment to Razoo in Fort Worth for a party lunch.

The camp has nominated a slate of new officers for 2026. They are:

Commander – Brian Glass
Senior Vice Commander – Beau Moore
Junior Vice Commander – Todd Wilber

Secretary - Treasurer – Don Gates
Council Member – Tim Phillips
Council Member – Paul Kendall
Council Member – Butch Durham

Some of the Brothers in the SVR will be participating in the Battle of Galveston Commemoration in January. The National Commander-in-Chief will be attending as the guest of honor.

All in all the year has been a good one for Byrne Camp. Huzzah!

--Don Gates, Secretary-Treasurer

Thanksgiving Proclamation

On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation designating "the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving." Lincoln's announcement marked the culmination of a multi-decade campaign by Sarah Josepha Hale to make Thanksgiving into a national holiday. Although Lincoln wrote the vast majority of his state papers, the Thanksgiving Proclamation was in fact drafted by Seward.

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

Source

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/abraham-lincolns-proclamation-thanksgiving>

U.S. Grant Cabin

By Todd W

On epic journey to New York and Vermont to see Revolutionary War sites I stopped by Mt McGregor to visit the Ulysses S Grant Cottage State Historic Site. Grant was dying of throat cancer and it was decided to get him out of NYC to the mountains for some fresh cool air. Grant finished his memoirs three days before dying on July 23, 1885. The cottage has been preserved as it was when he passed. It was initially preserved by the GAR and eventually assumed by the state. It was \$12 for a guided tour.

There is a beautiful view of the Hudson Valley from Mt McGregor:

<https://youtu.be/6Rl9AB9fFzU?si=4rSNGGnE6zNdVmuZ>



Camp Patriotic Instruction

Phil Sheridan: Missionary Ridge and Glory

Brother Craig Reves, PCC and PI

As we enter the Autumn month of November, commemoration of Civil War events slow down, given that only a few significant battles occurred in this month. The most notable action was the Battle of Chattanooga, Tennessee which has fought under Major General U.S. Grant's overall command from November 23-25, 1863. The battle was the final Union action to end the Confederate partial encirclement of this important transportation hub city, which began in the aftermath of the Confederate victory at Chickamauga the preceding September.

One of the key division commanders present at Chattanooga was a man who would rise in 1864 and 1865 to be a renowned Union hero for his action as a cavalry commander in the Shenandoah Valley. He would end the war, to public acclaim as one of the three principal military architects of Union victory, following his victory at the battle of Five Forks and successful pursuit of Lee's Army to Appomattox Court House. He would be ranked, fairly or unfairly to the exclusion of men like George Meade or George Thomas, behind Grant and Sherman. That man was Philip Henry Sheridan.



Figure 1: Major General Philip H. Sheridan

Sheridan was born in 1831 to Irish immigrant parents. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1853, 34th in a class of 52 cadets. Post graduation, he served as a company grade Infantry officer at Army assignments on the Pacific coast, most notably in the Pacific Northwest.

When the Civil War broke out, Sheridan moved back East, and was assigned to staff positions in the Western Theater. He served as Quartermaster to the Army that fought at Pea Ridge, Arkansas. Sheridan successfully secured a commission, through his contacts, as Colonel of the 2nd Michigan Cavalry in May 1862. His time with the regiment was short lived. Following a successful engagement with the Rebels at Booneville, Mississippi, Major General Henry Halleck promptly had Sheridan promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers that July.

Sheridan received command of a division in the Army of the Ohio under Major General Don Carlos Buell in his new rank. He was instrumental in reinforcing the line at the Battle of Perryville and turning away the rebel forces under Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk in October 1862. The Army of the Ohio was rechristened the Army of the Cumberland after coming under the command of Major General William S. Rosecrans. Sheridan's division went on to play a key role in defending the Army in the cedar brakes during a massive Confederate assault by General Braxton Bragg's forces near Murfreesboro, Tennessee in late December 1862, in what became known as the Battle of Stones River. Sheridan's delaying action, allowed Rosecrans to reform his line further back and defeat the rebels the first week in January. Sheridan was rewarded for his actions at this battle with his second star, becoming a Major General of Volunteers (later confirmed in 1864 as Major General of Regulars), a rank he would hold from 1863 until promotion to Lieutenant General in March 1869.

Sheridan carried on in his role as division commander during the Tullahoma and Chickamauga Campaigns of Spring to Fall 1863. At the battle of Chickamauga, his division was hit by the full impact of Confederate Lieutenant General James Longstreet's break-through assault. Sheridan put up a valiant defense at Lytle Hill, but was driven off the field by the Confederate attack as it rolled up the Union center.

Retreating into Chattanooga, Rosecrans forces endured a semi-siege as Bragg's army seized the high ground on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, thus cutting the Union's supply line until Major General U.S. Grant arrived to take overall command as an Army Group commander in November and opened the "Cracker Line" to bring supplies into the city from Alabama. Major General George Thomas assumed command of the Army of the Cumberland following the relief of Rosecrans by President Lincoln.

Sheridan's division was organized under the IV Corps (Major General Gordon Granger) of that Army.

Sheridan's moment of glory came on the final day of the Battle of Chattanooga. Grant had commenced the battle on November 23 with an attack on Orchard Knob. The attack resulted in Union occupation of the Knob for a forward command post. After the forces of Major General Joseph Hooker took the commanding heights of Lookout Mountain the following day, the Union was now ready to make a decisive attack on Missionary Ridge. Grant initially assigned the task to Major General William T. Sherman's Army of the Tennessee to take the northern end of Missionary Ridge and push south. Grant realized after a passage of time that Sherman's attack had gotten bogged down and so he ordered the Army of the Cumberland to demonstrate against the center of the Ridge to draw Confederate attention away from Sherman's efforts.

The Army of the Cumberland was primed by pent up emotions to avenge their defeat at Chickamauga two months previous. Instead of stopping at the base of the ridge to skirmish with the rifle pits of the rebels as originally ordered, they pushed on taking the pits and ascending the ridge. Sheridan's division was in the lead!



Figure 2: Approximate location on Missionary Ridge where Sheridan's Division broke through

Sheridan writes in his Memoirs:

“After a short pause to get breath the ascent of the ridge began...they were being led by many stands of regimental colors. There seemed to be a rivalry as to which color should be farthest to the front...the color-bearers vying with one another as to who should be foremost, until finally every standard was planted on the intermediate works....Wildly cheering, the men advanced along the ridge towards Bragg’s headquarters, and soon drove the Confederates from this last position, capturing a number of prisoners...My whole division had now reached the summit. The enemy was rapidly retiring.” *The Personal Memoirs of P.H. Sheridan* by Sheridan, pages 168-170 (republished 1992)

Sheridan’s division continued the pursuit of the rebels off the ridge. However, post-war, he stated that his pursuit could have been more successful had other commands more fully supported him. Nevertheless, Grant was impressed with the day’s work by Sheridan and commended him in his report of the battle.

This moment was a career decider for Sheridan. Five months after Chattanooga, the newly promoted General-in-Chief of all Union Forces, Lieutenant General Grant, summoned Sheridan to come east and join him as Cavalry Commander of the Army of the Potomac. Sheridan would go on to defeat Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart at Yellow Tavern (1864-where Stuart was mortally wounded); beat Confederate General Jubal Early at Third Winchester and again at Cedar Creek (1864); defeat Confederate General George Pickett at Five Forks in 1865; and successful run Lee’s Army to ground in vigorous pursuit following the retreat to Appomattox.



Figure 3: Grave of Phil Sheridan located in the front lawn of Arlington House (formerly Robert E. Lee’s pre-war home)

Sheridan would go on to have a contentious post-war career dealing with reconstruction issues in Louisiana and commanding the western Army during the Indian Wars. In 1883 he became the Commanding General of the Army of the United States until his death by heart attack in 1888 at the age of 57.

Fort Richardson

Camp 1 had their November meeting at Fort Richardson in Jacksboro.

Five members attended in person and one online.



It was living history weekend at Ft Richardson. CC Glass and JVC Moore were leading Venture Crew 1872 to their demise.



GRO Report

I am at 89 undocumented bluebellies in Tarrant Co.

89. James Morrison Co G, 41st PA (12th Res); Co B, 46th Militia; Co C & L, 19th PA Cav.

In F, C, & L,

Todd W

**Eyewitness to the Apocalypse:
The Battle of Franklin, Nov 30, 1864**
by Wiley Sword

<https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/eyewitness-to-the-apocalypse-the-battle-of-franklin-november-30-1864.html>

The Battle of Prairie Grove
by Walter Coffey

<https://civilwarmonths.com/2022/12/07/the-battle-of-prairie-grove/>

**The Battle of Fredericksburg;
Dec. 11th-15th, 1862**

Accounts of the Battle of Fredericksburg by soldiers of the 13th Massachusetts Infantry.

https://13thmass.org/1862/battle_fredericksburg.html

https://13thmass.org/1862/battle_fred_2.html

**Christmas 1861 –
Robert Gould Shaw's Holiday Letter
from Frederick, Maryland**
by Jake Wynn

<https://wynninghistory.com/2016/12/21/robert-g-shaw-christmas/>

Christmas on the Rappahannock
by Rev. John R. Paxton, D.D.

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/christmas-rappahannock>

TX GAR History

Fort Worth Morning Record- Mon 10 Dec 1917- Pg 3

**PARMLY POST G. A. R.
ELECTS NEW OFFICERS**

Officers for the coming year were elected by the Parmly Post, Grand Army Republic, at a meeting in the basement of the courthouse Sunday afternoon. The newly elected officers are John Casey, post commander; J. N. Mitchell, senior vice commander; M. B. Young, junior vice commander; J. N. Rouse, chaplain; E. P. Brown, adjutant; Fred Bound, quartermaster; John Gold, officer of the day; Charles Baggett, officer of the guard; Dr. S. Helbling, surgeon; J. M. Robbins, delegate; Manly Cox, alternate; A. D. Palmer, delegate; Fred Bound, alternate.

After the election of officers the veterans passed resolutions indorsing the stand of President Wilson and the war work of congress. They pledged their undivided support to the government.

Department Commander M. B. Young of Weatherford was a visitor at the meeting.

Merry Christmas!!!



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/>

