

The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

Summer 2025

Commander's Message

Having just returned from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's "National Encampment" I feel pretty good about the Order and our Department. As you all know, this year's National Encampment was hosted by Department of Texas in Houston. It was the first time a National was held in Texas. In the last two years, members of our Department have been planning and working hard to pull things together. In the last few months, activity reached a fevered pitch with on-line meetings, hotel negotiations, ordering of materials and supplies, coordinating with our beloved Allied Orders and respected national officers. Early last week, Brothers Don Gates, John Schneider, and others checked into the hotel and started room set up and other preparations. This work continued until Sunday afternoon. The results was a fantastic National Encampment. The Department of Texas received great compliments from the national officers, participants, and perhaps most dearly from past national chaplain, Jerry Kowalski, who has encouraged all these years. We were praised for being well organized, prepared, cooperative, having a can-do attitude, and for being welcoming and friendly.

I want to say special thanks to all the members of Camp 1 who attended and supported the event. Don Gates contributed a tremendous amount of time and effort, since day one of this project. Tim Phillips did his share of preparation and sounded the bugle at the opening ceremony. Todd Wilber and Beau Moore participated in the impressive uniformed Color Guard. Butch Durham served the entire time as "chief of security," keeping an eye out for a potential problem. The Department officers thanked Camp 1

for stepping up and working hard to help make the encampment a success.

At the final Allied Order's Banquet, it was announced that the 2026 SUVCW National Encampment would be at Gettysburg and the 2027 encampment would be in Franklin, Tennessee. As I drove home, I thought now is the time to start planning these trips. I would love for us (Department of Texas) to take a big group to these events! And I thought how nice it will be to attend and not be responsible for anything!

Commander Brian Glass, PDC

Camp Meetings

Meetings are bimonthly and held at 401 W 13th Street in Ft Worth at 2 pm. Meetings are hybrid.

Meeting dates: Sept 14th; Nov 16th

Christmas Luncheon on Dec 13th location TBD

Memorial Day

On Memorial Day we had a great turnout at Oakwood Cemetery. We were ably assisted by Venture Crew 1872. We were also blessed to have the Dept Commander grace us with his presence. We had a little rain but we did not let that deter us.

After the ceremony at the GAR monument, we made a pilgrimage to Gen JJ Byrne's grave. Then we had some fellowship at a local restaurant.



National Encampment

Camp 1 had six members at the National Encampment. The Dept of TX had a delegation of twenty. That was almost 1/7th of the vote total of the encampment. Except for the turkey bacon served Saturday morn, I heard nothing but praise for the encampment. The Dept of TX did itself proud in hosting its first national.

Camp Patriotic Instruction

The Dog Days of Summer during the Civil War

by

Brother Craig Reves, PCC and PI

As we all pass through the hottest month, typically, of the Texas year and enjoy the blessing of air conditioning in our homes, cars, and places of public gathering, it is a good thing to remember our Civil War ancestors experience during this month as well. The summer months were defined as “prime campaigning season” and heat, which could affect performance, did not stop generals from planning and executing operations that ultimately tested the endurance of soldiers. In the eastern theater, August saw major battles in 1862 at Cedar Mountain, Virginia and at Second Manassas, Virginia. Both battles were fought

in extreme conditions. Historian Kenneth Noe, in his excellent specialist history *The Howling Storm: Weather, Climate, and the American Civil War* (published by LSU Press in 2020) cites temperatures reaching 98 degrees F by mid-day at the battle of Cedar Mountain. Temperatures at Second Manassas were only slightly better in the low 90s.



Figure 1: Cedar Mountain Battlefield



Figure 2: Stone House - Second Manassas

By August 1864, General Grant was engaged in active siege operations against Petersburg. The fields had mostly been denuded of trees for clear fields of fire and use of the wood to reinforce the earthworks infantry were positioned behind. Again, soldiers were exposed to the direct rays of the sun in these trenches without the

benefit of shade in most cases. Some trenches did include “bomb proofs” dugouts which could serve as a temporary escape from the heat of the direct sunlight.



Figure 3: Trenches at Petersburg

As I reflect upon my ancestor, Major Silas Grimes of the 31st Indiana Volunteer Infantry, who served out the entire conflict from 1861 until discharge in late 1865, I think of those long hot summer marches in middle Tennessee with Rosecrans during the Tullahoma-Chickamauga campaign; across northern Georgia with Sherman in the Atlanta Campaign; back into Tennessee with Thomas again in pursuit of Hood. All that time he was wearing the heavy woolen uniform which most Civil War soldiers of both sides had to wear. He lived a long life well into his 80s which was remarkable for a man of his time. However, I remember my great-grandfather, his son, telling me in my teens that despite his dad’s long life he suffered from rheumatism post war that he attributed to those hard campaigns in the elements of 1861-1865.

I think we can all admire the grit, the determination with putting up with hard living, and the zeal for that these young soldiers of the Union went through, tolerating the extremes of all seasons, “to see the thing through to the end.” We are all the better for their selfless service.

Old Kentucky Home

By Todd W

In May I took a sentimental journey to see the Civil War sites in Kentucky. On the way up I stopped at Parker’s Crossroads.



It had been 30 years since my last visits so I stopped by the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green.



The next day I visited Mill Springs. It was early on Sunday morning so I toured the battlefield first before the visitor's center was open. Standing on the banks of the Cumberland River where armies had crossed during that campaign was a reflective moment.



I then drove up the two plus miles of narrow winding mountain road to visit Camp Wildcat outside of East Bernstadt. Quite the ride. There is a reproduction cannon and various trails to key positions of the battlefield. I had an uncle in the 7th KY Inf US who was there. So, I am glad I visited.



Camp Wildcat

To round out the day, I took a scenic detour to Hazel Green in Wolfe Co where my great grandma was born. A sleepy little town of a few hundred. I drove about ten miles north to see Grassy Creek in Morgan Co where my 4th great grandparents lived.



Hazel Green

On Monday, I visited a bonus site I bumbled upon. It is a Civil War fort in Boonesborough. It was built in a bend of the Kentucky River to protect from Confederate raiders. I made the climb to the top (whew). You can see why the fort was place where it was.



Atop the Ft at Boonesborough

I then toured the Richmond battlefield. Unfortunately, the visitors center was closed but a battle map was available. I then went and found the sign for Camp Dick Robinson. There is nothing extant of the camp. Afterwards, I proceeded north a bit and visited Camp Nelson. The visitor's center is close on Mondays but I was able to walk fields and visit the rebuilt fortifications. Quite impressive.



Richmond Battle Damage



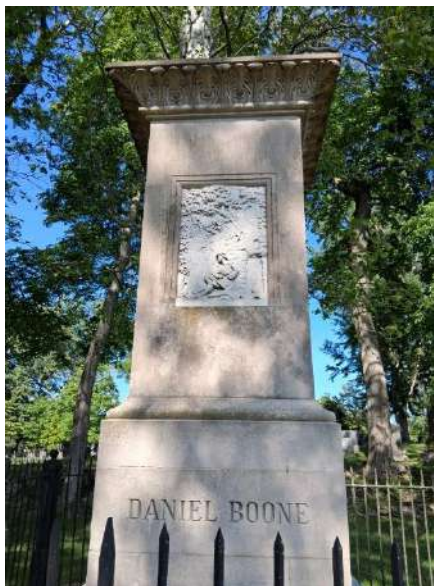
Reconstructed Forts at Camp Nelson

I then made a pilgrimage to Perryville where the biggest battle in Kentucky happened. I had taken part in the 140th and 150th reenactments at Perryville but had never done a detailed tour of the battlefield. I finally saw Starkweather's hill where Starkweather's brigade including the 1st and 21st WI held their ground against repeated confederate assaults.



Starkweather's Hill in the distance

I decided to stay over in Frankfort. There was still daylight left so I toured the Frankfort where many notable Kentuckians are buried. Daniel Boone was reinterred there in 1845.



On Tuesday, I visited the State Capital. I then visited the KY Historical Society Museum. The Old State Capital is still extant. It was in use during the Civil War. I was able to take a tour of it. Lots of cool old buildings in Frankfort.



Old Capital

I then proceeded the Lincoln Birthplace and Lincoln Homestead South of Hodgenville. There is also a nice private museum in town.



Log Cabin Representative of Lincoln Home



New Capital

On Wednesday, I stopped the Columbus-Belmont State Park on the Mississippi. An anchor and a part of the chain that the Confederates strung across the Mississippi is on display. A large cannon is also on display. The view on top of the bluff is epic. You can see for miles up and down the river. Across the river you can see where the Battle of Belmont took place.



KHS Museum



Anchor used to hold CS Chain



The Mighty Mississippi

I journeyed into TN where I finally got to visit Dixie Gun Works in Union City. The DGW building has seen better days. It is like stepping back into the 70s. There is an excellent car collection in the building.



I then stopped by Fort Pillow State Park. There is a nice little museum. I decided to take the trail to see the reconstructed fort. Beware. The trail is long and the hills and gullies are steep. Whew...almost did not make it. The reconstructed fort was nice though.



Ft Pillow

I then hammered back to Texas.

In Their Own Words

Letters from the 19th Indiana at Brawner's Farm. 28 Aug 1862. Where the Iron Brigade began to earn their reputation.

<https://dan-masters-civil-war.blogspot.com/2022/08/a-baptism-at-groveton-fight-at-brawners.html>

Report of Brig Gen Mahlon Manson for Battle of Richmond, KY. 29-30 Aug 1862.

<https://civilwartalk.com/threads/battle-of-richmond-kentucky-august-29-30-1862-battle-reports.88759/>

GRO Report

I am at 88 undocumented bluebellies in Tarrant Co.

87. Charles Schanewerk- Co E, 183rd OVI

88. George Jackson- Co B, 1st NJ Inf (3 months)

In F, C, & L,

Todd W

TX GAR History

Fort Worth Daily Gazette- Mon 15 Sep 1890- Page 2

SEDGWICK POST NO. 39, G. A. R.
was organized through the influence and energy of L. R. Goodell and was mustered February 28, 1890, with the following gentlemen as charter members, viz: L. R. Godell, James Morrison, Walter J. Hardin, Spencer B. Getts, Charles B. Grabe, P. Woodard, William F. Remington, Roland Lewis, Melton E. Wallen, George H. Clark, John Noble and A. J. Van Sandt. It numbers at the present time about forty members, composed of such men as S. B. Getts, agent of the Texas express company; Charles B. Grabe, manager for W. F. Krull, merchant tailor; T. W. and W. Z. Manchester, real estate agents; E. S. Townsend of Townsend & Lusher, contractors; William F. Remington and A. J. Van Sandt of Remington & Van Jandt, contractors; George S. Burchill, assistant postmaster; James W. Benbrook of Benbrook, L. P. Goodell of Sorley & Goodell, real estate and insurance agents; James

Morrison, merchant tailor, and many others equally strong.

This post has the reputation of being one of the best in the state and, as will be seen, numbers among its members some of the best men of this city, men who would be an honor to any position, and whose influence would be given to the upbuilding of any order with which they might be connected. The officers of the post are: Post commander, L. P. Goodell; senior vice-commander, Charles B. Grabe; junior vice-commander, Spencer B. Getts; surgeon, vacant; officer of the day, George H. Kimball; officer of the guard, William F. Remington, adjutant, Thomas W. Manchester; quartermaster, John Nobles; sergeant major, George H. Clark; quartermaster sergeant, Milton E. Wallen.



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/>

