

The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

February 2023

From the Editor

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of the newsletter. Bro Reves writes about battlefield preservation and I write about a LA GAR Post. FYI: Camp is also on Facebook.

In F, C, & L,

Todd Wilber

current debate going on in the nation in 1860. I hope you all take the time to listen to the speech.

Have a blessed month and I look forward to meeting you all!

Fraternally,

Brother Hal Hughes

Commander's Message

Brothers,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for electing me to be your Camp Commander. I would like to set a goal for myself of meeting all of you! You are the life blood of our camp and your participation is the key to our success.

I also wanted to suggest something for your viewing pleasure. Several years ago, Sam Waterston, of Law-and-Order fame, delivered Lincoln's Cooper Union speech at Cooper Union. It lasts about an hour and a half.

The speech is wonderful and highlights the mind and thoughts of candidate Lincoln. It showcases Lincoln's grasp of history and the

Senior Vice Commander's Message

Bros,

Now that we have weathered our annual week of Winter, we can look forward to warmer weather and active operations again.

Please join us on Apr 22nd for the MoH parade in Gainesville. Don't let age and debility inhibit you. There is talk of using a trailer to carry us in the parade.

We are also planning a recruiting event in early May at the Texas Civil War Museum in Fort Worth. Please come help us.

In F, C, & L,

Todd W

Secretary's Report

General James J. Byrne Camp No. 1

February 16, 2023

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 Hal Hughes at 7:00 p.m. with five members and one guest in person. Six members attended via Zoom (including Brother John Vander Meulen, Department Signals Officer and Camp 2 Commander).

Paul Kendall gave the invocation and the pledges were led by Hal Hughes. No old business items were on the agenda or discussed.

Officer reports:

Message from Camp Commander: Hal Hughes greeted the Camp and asked for officer reports.

Sr Vice Commander: Todd Wilber has been posting on the Camp 1 Facebook page.

Jr Vice Commander: Michael Belcher is coordinating new member recruitment but will need help for face-to-face support since he lives 2 hours from Fort Worth. A new candidate member Ky White has contacted the Camp.

Patriotic Instructor: Butch Durham gave a presentation about Civil War Identity Discs or dog tags. He shared a photo of an Identity Disc and explained how they were made and bought by soldiers to help ensure their body would be identified if killed in battle.

Secretary: Mark Parkison read the minutes of the January 19 camp meeting and were

approved by the Camp. Transfer of camp files and training by David Appleton are planned for Sunday, Feb 19. Mark will submit the Form 40 patriotic instructor annual report and Form 27 camp annual report.

Treasurer: David Appleton reported the camp checking account has a balance of \$2,116.86 with \$989.00 going to national for a new balance of \$1,127.86.

Graves Registration Officer: Todd Wilber reported he is complete with Denton County at 92 Union veterans registered. 18 veterans have been registered in Tarrant County with more research in work.

New Business:

Supplemental application for Mark Parkison / John Westhoff was approved by the camp.

Initiation Ceremonies and Membership Medals: Hal Hughes offered to buy 2 membership medals to create a supply for new member initiation ceremonies.

Recruiting Event at Texas Civil War Museum: The camp agreed to Saturday, May 6 as the date. Mark Parkison will contact the museum to register the camp. Location is in west Fort Worth at 760 Jim Wright Fwy. North, Fort Worth, TX 76108.

Three candidates for camp membership: Ira Metcalf, Brad Amberger and Ky White.

Medal of Honor Parade, Gainesville, TX (Saturday, April 22, 2023): The camp will participate and Mark Parkison will register the camp. Todd Wilber will look for parade flag carry belts. A trailer for the camp to ride in the parade was discussed.

Department Encampment, Houston, TX (Saturday, April 29, 2023): John Vander

Meulen reported the encampment will be in downtown Houston at the Heritage Society Tea Room at 1100 Bagby St. Houston, TX 77002. Commander-in-Chief Bruce Frail will be in attendance.

Department Meetings by Office: The camp discussed Department Commander Michael Lance's request to have department meetings by office instead of a larger roundtable group.

Announcements: Hal Hughes brought and discussed a shadowbox that includes his ancestor's discharge certificate from the 151st Indiana Infantry with 3 medals he purchased.

Benediction was led by Paul Kendall and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next camp meeting will be on Thursday, March 16.

Treasurer's Report

Here is the Treasurer's Report for February:

Balance from previous report: \$1,817.90

Income from member 2023 renewals:
\$302.00

Expenses (PayPal fees): (3.04)

Ending Balance: \$2,116.86

Of this amount, we have an obligation to forward Department and National dues in the amount of \$946.00. (My previous statement of this obligation was \$989.00, but that amount mistakenly included the Camp's member who has a Life Membership and does not pay annual dues. I apologize for that oversight.)

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

David B. Appleton

Camp 1 Ancestor

Bro Jan-Henry Haines ancestor was Thomas Haines. He served in Co A, 95th PA Infantry "Gosline's Zouaves." Thomas enlisted on 24 Aug 1861 and was given a disability discharge on 25 Oct 1862.

During Thomas's time in the army, the 95th took part in the Peninsula Campaign, the Seven Days, South Mountain, & Antietam.



Patriotic Instructor's Message

From the National Patriotic Instructor:

February Patriotic Instruction Brothers, Most of my instructions for the past year have been on ways in which we can help in our community thus fortifying the foundation of patriotism. However, the month of February is too important to our order to not pay it special attention. We have all grown up with Presidents Day celebrating the lives of all Presidents of the United States and the leadership that they have provided our great country. However, there is one President that many of us believe stands above the rest, the man that led this country through the Civil War, that's right, the one, the only, Abraham Lincoln. We believe in him so much that his

birthday, 12 February, is a special day for us, known as Union Defenders Day. With all the holidays that we pay tribute to, one might ask themselves why this day is so important. Simply put, it is to ensure that not only do we pay homage to those that served to defend the country during the war, but to also give thanks and praise to Lincoln himself.

This day was first celebrated 1866 by President Johnson and his cabinet, as it was his first birthday after his death. In 1889 then Commander in Chief George B. Abbott of the Sons of Union Veterans issued General Order 17 requesting Camps and Department celebrate and honor Lincoln on what he proposed be called "Sons of Veterans' Day". This went to the Committee on Officers Reports that year and returned with recommending that we add this day to our calendar but call it Union Defenders Day. We continue this tradition today as many Camps and Department have a Lincoln Luncheon or a different form of Defenders Day Celebration.

This day is a great day for us, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to celebrate Lincoln. We need to also take this opportunity to extend our celebrations out to other organizations and remind them of the deeds that occurred in this time. Most look towards his actions in freeing the slaves, as they should. However, we cannot let them forget about what he did to preserve the Union. The actions he took during the Civil War that do not get as much press or publicity. How he made the tough decisions necessary to lead the country through this trying time.

My challenge for you all this month is something that will be an easy way for us all to honor our ancestors and those brave souls

that fought for the Union. This is to send a card or letter to our last living Real Son, Br. William Pool of the Department of Missouri. He is currently in a nursing home and showing the last Real Son that we have not forgotten him shows his father and all his comrades in the afterlife that we have not forgotten about them either.

Please send them to:

Br. William Pool
C/O Parkview Healthcare Facility
119 W. Forest St. Bolivar, MO 65613

Please let us shower Br. Pool with love and let him know he is not forgotten!

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail,

PDC National Patriotic Instructor

Featured Article

Civil War Battlefield Visitation and Preservation

By Brother Craig Reves

Brothers: For the past 43 years, I have incorporated visiting the sites of the great conflict which our Union Ancestors engaged in during the Civil War of 1861-1865. Many of these sites I have visited on multiple occasions and it has been a pleasing experience to see sites which were, when I first visited in the 1970s just small parcels of protected land (an example being Perryville Kentucky site of the largest battle in Kentucky which occurred in October 1862) now fully or almost fully protected from future encroachment or development.

Visiting a battlefield where your ancestor fought with his regiment can be a truly touching and uplifting experience especially if you can actually determine the very spot where the regiment stood in line of battle. My ancestor fought as an officer in the 31st Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment and they were active at Shiloh and Chickamauga in marking their unit's place in battle with both Monument and tablets. At other fields where they campaigned, I have been able to use period maps and some of the excellent maps produced by the American Battlefield Trust to determine battle locations of the regiment at Stones River, Tennessee (December 1862), Resaca, Georgia (May 1864), Kennesaw, Georgia (June 1864) and Franklin, Tennessee (November 1864) and visit these regimental positions where the land is open to public visitation.



Figure 1: Chickamauga (Left) & Shiloh (Right)

Battlefield visitation, along with readings of the battle's history or memoirs, can really help your full understanding of what occurred at the site and the topographical elements which affected commanders' decisions as well as the ebb and flow of battle. I recall visiting the Pickett's Mill battlefield to the west of Atlanta (a state park) and seeing the deep ravine that Union soldiers were trapped in while the Confederates under General Hiram Granbury fired down into the ravine. Seeing it in

person, really added to my understanding of the lethal predicament Union General William Hazen's troops found themselves in as well as the actual depth of the ravine.

Coupled with visitation is the importance of battlefield land acquisition and preservation. In the last 50 years land that was essentially rural in the years prior and deemed safe from development by that earlier generation, is increasingly under development pressure. Five years ago, I visited the Bristoe Station battlefield in north central Virginia and was surprised to see large single-family houses, like we see throughout the DFW area, built adjacent to the battlefield park which affects the historic viewshed. There is further pressure in many areas of the country as more warehouses and data centers are built in areas previously rural but where Civil War battles were fought.

I would also encourage our members to consider supporting battlefield preservation as a way to honor your Civil War ancestor. The American Battlefield Trust (previously known as the Civil War Trust, but renamed to include the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 battlefields) has through its dedicated membership (of which I have been involved for over 25 years) saved over 55,000 acres of hallowed ground during their existence. These efforts have included key land at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Antietam, Shiloh, and many, many more sites. Some battlefields also have a Friends of the battlefield organization which is also a good way to help with an individual site.

My ability to visit and see the sites where great battles were fought is largely due to the care of the original battlefield "visitors" (the combatants) who after 1865 saw a need to

preserve their fields of former strife. The five original national battlefield parks: Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh, and Chickamauga, and Vicksburg were marked and monumented by the veterans themselves. I hope as your summer plans are being made that you will consider a visit to a battlefield where your ancestor served!

GAR History

(The only LA GAR Post I found info on.)

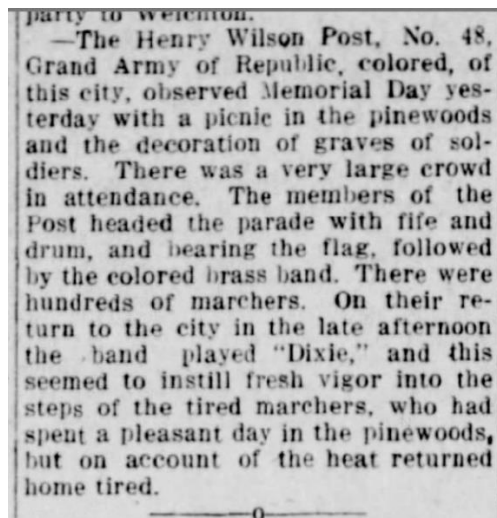
Henry Wilson Post 48

By Todd Wilber

The all USCT Henry Wilson GAR Post 48, Department of Louisiana and Mississippi, was active in Alexandria, LA from about 1900 to 1920. The Post's namesake was Massachusetts abolitionist and politician Henry Wilson (presumably).

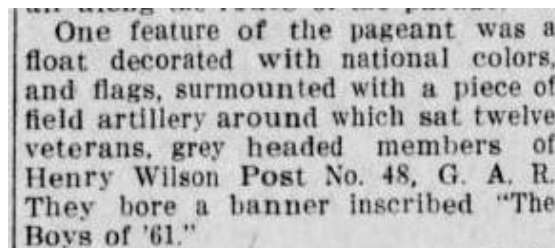
In 1900, Post 48 bought from Charles O'Quano "lot 4, square 51, on Seventh street" for \$200 (1). The post sold the land to William B. Stewart in 1907 for \$400 (2). It does not seem they used this land. The only mention of a Post meeting has them gathering at the Morning Star Baptist Church (3).

Post 48's yearly events included Memorial Day and Emancipation Day. The Memorial Day commemoration started with a program at a local church. With the Post flag flapping in the wind, they marched with fife and drum to the National Cemetery in Pineville. After putting flags on Union soldiers' graves, they had a picnic in the woods. Their counterparts in the Woman's Relief Corp, No. 38 assisted and helped organize the events (6, 7, 8).



Memorial Day 1917

Emancipation Day (i.e. Juneteenth Day) was celebrated by the Wilson Post with a parade. People of African descent flooded in from other parts of the state to attend. The parade included floats of Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, the progress since emancipation, baseball clubs, and various local organizations. Post 48 had a free barbeque in 1911. After the parade, they gathered in Lincoln Park to hear orations and watch baseball games (9, 10, 11).



Emancipation Day 1913

In September 1901, Post 48 took part in a mourning ceremony for the passing of President McKinley. The ceremony took place at the Murray Street A.M.E. Church. Post Commander Rev Phil Green led post members in the GAR funeral ritual for their departed comrade (4).

They also celebrated the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On January 1st, 1909, Post 48 gathered at the Rose of Sharon Baptist Church. The program was to include Scripture, singing, orations, the Emancipation Proclamation, and a sermon (5).

There are numerous funeral notices of Wilson Post members in the local papers. The veterans were buried at Pineville National Cemetery. Post 48 would take part in the funeral by marching behind Old Glory with fife and drum (12).

I did not see any mentions of Post 48 beyond 1919.

Sources

1. Weekly Town Talk, 3 Feb 1900, p. 3
2. WTT, 16 Mar 1907, p. 11
3. WTT, 11 Aug 1906, p. 8
4. WTT, 28 Sept 1901, p. 8
5. The Town Talk, 30 Dec 1908, p. 2
6. TTT, 27 May 1904, p. 6
7. TTT, 28 May 1906, p. 4
8. WTT, 2 Jun 1917, p. 6
9. TTT, 19 Jun 1907, p. 5
10. TTT, 15 Jun 1911, p. 4
11. WTT, 21 Jun 1913, p. 3
12. TTT 20 Oct 1906, p. 5

All the above via Newspapers.com

GRO's Report

I completed my search for undocumented bluebellies in Denton County. The final

count was 92. Four do not have headstones. Something the camp might be able to rectify.

I have started on Tarrant Co (at a more leisurely pace). 20 so far.

In F, C, & L,

Todd W

February in the Civil War

1861

February 1 - Texas adopts an Ordinance of Secession and schedules a referendum for February 23

February 4 - Delegates from the seceded states meet to establish the Confederate government

February 8 - The convention of seceded states adopts a provisional constitution

February 9 - Jefferson Davis elected provisional Confederate President

February 15 - The Provisional Confederate Congress establishes a Peace Commission to prevent war with the United States

February 16 - Texas state troops seize the U.S. Arsenal at San Antonio

February 18 - Jefferson Davis inaugurated as provisional president of the Confederacy

February 19 - Louisiana state troops seize the U.S. paymaster's office in New Orleans

February 23 - President-elect Lincoln arrives in Washington, D.C.

February 23 - Voters in Texas approve referendum to secede

1862

February 3 - President Lincoln declines an offer of war elephants from the King of Siam

February 6 - Surrender of Fort Henry, Tennessee

February 7/8 - Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina

February 10 - Union forces destroy the Confederate "Mosquito" fleet at Elizabeth City, North Carolina

February 14 - Union ironclad gunboats attack Fort Donelson, Tennessee

February 15 - All-out Confederate counter-attack at Fort Donelson

February 16 - Fort Donelson surrenders unconditionally to Ulysses S. Grant

February 20/21 - Battle of Val Verde, New Mexico Territory

February 22 - Jefferson Davis inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America. He had been serving as the Confederacy's provisional president since February 1862

February 23 - Federal troops occupy Fayetteville, Arkansas

February 25 - Federal troops occupy Nashville, Tennessee

1863

February 5 and 7 - Skirmish at Olive Branch Church, Virginia

February 13 - Skirmish near Washington, North Carolina

February 15 - Skirmish at Arkadelphia, Arkansas

February 18 to 21 - The Cherokee National Council meets at Cowskin Prairie to disavow Stand Watie's pro-Confederate faction and abolish slavery

February 26 - Confederate guerrillas attack freight train near Woodburn, Tennessee

1864

February 2 - Southern navy captures U.S. gunboat Underwriter but is forced to burn and flee

February 3 - Union General William T. Sherman begins the Meridian Campaign in Mississippi

February 11 - Skirmish at Lake City, Florida

February 14 - Federal troops capture Meridian, Mississippi

February 17 - Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley sinks the USS Housatonic

February 20 - Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond), Florida

February 22 - Engagement at Okolona, Mississippi

February 28 - Kilpatrick's Raid on Richmond begins

February 29 - George Custer's cavalry fights skirmishes during a raid on Albermarle County, Virginia

1865

February 1 - Sherman's march through the Carolinas in "full swing"

February 3 - Union and Confederate officials meet to discuss peace

February 5 - Battle of Hatcher's Run (Armstrong's Mill), Virginia begins

February 6 - John C. Breckinridge named Confederate Secretary of War

February 17 - Columbia South Carolina burned

February 17 - Evacuation of Charleston, South Carolina

February 22 - Wilmington, North Carolina captured

--From the American Battlefield Trust

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



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/>

