



The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1



Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

September 2024



COMMANDING OFFICER

My Brothers,

Summer has been a period of inactivity for our Camp, and for me that has been a good thing. Amid job changes, wife having a health issue for a few weeks, our second grandbaby being born (!), mother-in-law falling and breaking a hip, etc., there has been very little extra bandwidth around our household. What a few months it has been, but Life is Good. I saw a

church sign with the message, “Today is a great day to be alive.” Amen.

Let’s have a Zoom-only remote meeting on Thursday evening, September 26th at 7PM. We have a Civil War related program lined up. However, if you also would like to submit your name for an upcoming presentation, please do!

As we head into Fall, I would like to lay out a brief plan for the rest of the calendar year. We may or may not have a meeting or activity in October, depending on the participation and feedback of the membership. However, skipping on to the next month I would very much like for us to plan to observe Veteran’s Day in person at Oakwood Cemetery on Monday, November 11th. That day may be the last in-person event for my term of office, and I will be contacting officers and members to encourage their participation. We can bring folding chairs and have a brief meeting under the shade trees near the GAR monument. [...and a trip to the restaurant.]

In November and December, we will nominate and vote on a slate of officers for the 2025 Camp year. **We need hands at the helm of this organization -- We need You!** I am acutely aware that our struggle to fill leadership vacancies is not a new thing for this Camp. We are just a few decision points away from having to turn in our charter for want of leaders. You took me up on my offer of leadership for this year, and I am grateful. Now we will need someone else to step up who can commit adequate time and focus to this endeavor to keep it going. Past Camp Commanders, you have the experience to know what it takes to keep a Camp alive and strong -- consider your ability to come back into an active role.

Please contact me if I may be of service.

I remain, your obedient servant in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Butch Durham, Commander



From the Senior Vice Commander

Brothers,

I have approved four applications for new memberships. These have been also approved by the Department Registrar, Dan Pourreau. We are in the process of getting them paid for and sent off to the National organization for approval. As soon as these come back from the National SUVCW, our new members will be Timothy Provorse of Copperas Cove, Cody Andrews of Waco; Grant Gee of Georgetown and Andrew Austin of Livingston.

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



From the Camp Secretary/Treasurer

[Commander's Note: I received the following from Brother Ky on 19 July and a follow-up on 07 August. Let's keep him in our prayers.]

“Brethren, I hate to say this, but I must relinquish my positions within the camp.

“Returning from vacation I went to the ER location. I was admitted and spent two nights getting injections and scans. Two different types of CT scans. In between those I had an MRI. The good news is that I did NOT have a brain bleed or a stroke.

“The bad news is that I must restrict my activities. The desire was to serve, I no longer have wherewithal to continue.

“Again, I apologize for the inconvenience this causes you good men. I still wish to continue my membership, but can no longer serve in the capacities I currently hold.

“I have all Bro. Appleton’s Treasurer’s documents. Bro. Glass is on the signature. I am not. Both of them and the new treasurer must be at the credit union together.

“[It has been] touch and go. I have had three CT scans and several MRI’s, two different stays in the hospital. Mama always said that growing old wasn’t for sissies. She was right.”

Lest we Forget
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Ky W. White, Secretary/Treasurer



From the Camp Graves Registration Officer

Camp 1 GRO Report

I am up to 81 undocumented bluebellies in Tarrant Co.
Oakwood Cemetery- Ft Worth

- 72. William H Chamberlain- Co I, 16 th IN Inf; Co A, 7 th IN Inf;
Co G, 20 th IN inf
- 73. William R Williamson- Co G & I, 83rd OVI
- 74. John Guertler- Musician, 6 th MO Inf
- 75. Burrell J Blanton- Co A, 22 nd IL Inf; Co K, 49 th IL Inf
- 76. Moses Wright- Co C, 168 th OVI
- 77. Samuel S Patterson- 1 st Lt. Co D, 18 th KY Inf
- 78. Cyrus Moore Dunham- US Navy. Acting Assistant Paymaster. USS Forest Rose.
- 79. Edward M Walker- Co I, 5 th MA Inf
- 80. Emil Marthell- Cpt in Commissary Dept
- 81. William W Stinnett- 2 nd Lt. Co G, 10 th IL Cav

All duly entered into the graves database.

In F, C, & L,
Todd Wilber
Camp 1 GRO

Notes on the 143rd National Encampment
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
And Allied Orders of
The Grand Army of the Republic
Lexington, KY

Submitted by Brother Timothy Phillips, Camp 1 Chaplain (and Department Commander)

The SUVCW and the Women's Relief Corps held their annual meetings August 2-4, 2024. Nearly 200 brothers were in attendance. Needless to say, there were many lengthy and pithy discussions on refinements to a variety of rules. Brother Don Gates of Camp 18 in our department rose to ask about a study on membership requirements that was done and reported since the previous encampment but which no one knew anything about. It was decided to form another committee, this time under Bro. Gates leadership, and give it another go.

The eleven brothers from Texas/Louisiana in attendance carefully observed the Encampment venue and proceedings in order to fine tune things for next year's adventure in Houston. They held a Zoom conference August 17 and their observations were extensive enough to cause a two hour meeting. I think it is safe to say that the planning committee has enough information to ensure a very successful Encampment next year.

I must single out Brother John Vander Meulen and his team from Camp 2 for a fine job of electronic ballet in getting John's audio visual recording equipment and the hotel's sound system to function together.

We now have two members of our department on the national scene: John Vander Meulen remains involved with Proceedings, and is now joined by Michael Lance, also of Camp 2. Between them and my efforts, the SUVCW will have no trouble remembering they are not going just anywhere next August. Remember the Alamo!

On a personal note, one of the best things about the 143rd was three heavy thundershowers that occurred during the proceedings. It was glorious.

2024-2025 Commander-in-Chief Biography

From the National SUVCW Website



Commander-in-Chief Kevin L. Martin first joined the SUVCW in 1998 and became a life member in 2011. He was elected Commander-in-Chief at the 143rd Annual National Encampment at Lexington, KY on August 3, 2024.

At the camp level with Antietam Camp No. 3 in Frederick, Maryland, Commander-in-Chief Martin held the elective offices of Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and two separate terms as Commander. He has also fulfilled the role of Counselor of the Antietam

Auxiliary since 2015.

With the Department of the Chesapeake, he was elected Secretary/Treasurer for 3 years, Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Department Commander, and three times to the Department Council. Commander-in-Chief Martin was an integral member of the 2011 and 2015 National Encampment Host Committees, including co-design and production of the Encampment polo shirts. He also served as the 2015 Chief-of-Staff to Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell.

At the national level, Commander-in-Chief Martin attended every National Encampment since 2008 (17 years), and served on numerous Encampment and Visitation Committees. He served three years as chair of the Standing Committee on Fraternal Relations, one year as chair of the Lincoln Memorial Centennial Committee, and as a chair of Program & Policy and Civil War Memorial Grant Fund committees. He served three years on the National Council of Administration, one year as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and then as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Commander-in-Chief Martin is also a graduate of the SUVCW's Memorial University.

Commander-in-Chief Martin earned a B.A. degree in Information and Computer Science from Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. In 2024, Commander-in-Chief Martin retired as an IT professional for over 44 years with more than 27 years as a contractor for the Department of Defense (DoD) Defense Health Agency (DHA). He was born and raised in the town of Frederick, where he lives with his wife of over 36 years, Rosemary. Of special note, Rosemary currently serves as the National President, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW). They have a son, Tyler, who is also a member of the SUVCW.

Commander-in-Chief Martin honors his direct ancestor, Capt. Adam Benjamin Martin of the 6th Maryland Volunteer Infantry, Company H, who served under the Union banner and paid the ultimate price. Capt. Martin's brother, Sgt. Stephen G. Martin, served under his command and survived the war.

Commander-in-Chief Martin also belongs to the following organizations:

- The Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) since 1998

- Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) Life Member
- Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) – Lt. Col., 2nd Military District Commander (retired)
- Member, Descendants of the Mexican War Veterans (DMWV) since 2008

Camp 1 as Reported in the August “*The Unionist*”

Gen. James J. Byrne Camp #1 – Fort Worth

Saturday, 10 Aug 2024 – Comfort, Texas

Department Camp Organizer Blair Rudy of *Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp 18* of Dallas, was informed of the Commemoration Ceremony scheduled to take place at the *Treue der Union Monument* in Comfort, Texas. He requested permission to represent the *SUVCW* at the event, and to make some appropriate remarks. He, in turn, put out the word to the Department. But since most of the more active members were just returning from the National Encampment in Kentucky, I was the only one available to attend the event in Comfort with Brother Rudy.

About forty non-*SUVCW* people did attend, with a wide variety of ages represented. A descendant of one of those buried under the monument conducted the ceremony and read the names of those killed in the incident (*see following two stories*).

Right L-R: Timothy M. Phillips, bugler Jay Baker, and Blair Rudy in front of the Treue der Union Monument

I was gratified to see so many people from such a small town in attendance. This was an important event during the Civil War, yet I do not recall it ever being mentioned at any level in my schooling. It is fascinating to see that the war was not fought exclusively around the real or philosophical *Mason-Dixon Line*, but sometimes between neighbors far from active battle fronts.



I recently learned that many of the German immigrants lying under the stone had come to the Texas hinterland to escape political upheaval in the old country - upheaval due in no small part to a new philosophy promoted by a certain Karl Marx. The pro-Union militias in the Hill Country of Texas were not uniformly quiet political cliques gathering in the local bier keller - some were armed and engaged in occasional harassment of Confederate authorities. The apparent need to totally exterminate the Texas Unionists also seems to point out a strong component of hatred during the American Civil War.

Anyway, those are a few thoughts that rattled around in my head after the event. Those and the fact that I feel strongly that we need a stronger presence at this annual event in the future. Doing so clearly falls under our charge to tell the true story of the Civil War.



... submitted by Timothy M. Phillips, DC/PCC - Gen. James J. Byrne Camp 1 - Fort Worth, Texas.

Camp 1 Member Submission – “Wilber Invades Mobile!”

by Todd W

Memorial week I visited Mobile for a couple days. I went to see the Civil War sites but since I was there, I toured Battleship Alabama (BB60) in the harbor. Hard to miss it. 😊



The History Museum of Mobile has artifacts from the CSS Alabama including a cannon. There are also some battle flags and weapons. The Semmes statue they took down from downtown Mobile is also in the museum.



I visited Blakeley State Park which has some of the best-preserved trenches and works from the Civil War. While Lee was surrendering, the biggest battle in AL was taking place. Capturing Ft Blakeley caused the Confederates to abandon Mobile. I also visited the old town site of Blakeley and saw the hanging tree.



Fort Morgan was the next on the agenda. Quite impressive and well preserved. I wandered all over the works. I ran into my old Pastor from WI outside of Morgan. It was a nice reunion.



I took the ferry across to Fort Gaines. Even better preserved than Morgan. There is a nice cannon ball dent in the inner wall of Gaines from a US Navy ship.



News from Around the Department

From John C. Vander Meulen, Commander, Camp #2

Greetings All.

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, the Lieutenant Commander Edward Lea Camp will be conducting a graveside memorial ceremony to honor Captain Isaac Conroe, the founder of Conroe TX. It will take place at 11:00 a.m. at the Conroe family plot in the Glenwood cemetery in Houston. You, and the members of your respective Camps, are welcome to join us.

Background

Thanks to the research being conducted by Sue Berry, Daniel Pourreau, and others, we've discovered that Isaac Conroe served as a Sergeant in Captain Barker's Company, McClellan's Dragoons, Illinois Cavalry, protecting Gen McClellan from April to August 1861. He then mustered with Co. B 12th IL Cavalry Regiment, was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant of Company H in November 1862, then to First Lieutenant of Company A in March 1864, and then to Captain in March 1865. During the Civil War, Captain Conroe gallantly led his men at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, three of the bloodiest and most decisive battles of the War. He was injured at Gettysburg with bullet to neck/ mouth, losing a few teeth. He mustered out in Houston, TX, in May 1866 making his service in the War one of the longest and most distinguished of anyone who served. Isaac was also a founding member of McClellan Post 9 of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Attendees

Noteworthy attendees include living descendants of Isaac Conroe and the Mayor *Pro Tem* of Conroe, Texas. Approval of a Mayoral Proclamation is pending. Invitations have also been sent to both the Montgomery County and Harris County Historical Societies as well as print and TV news outlets.

Other member organizations of the Allied Orders expected to attend include the (a) the Auxiliary to the Edward Lea Camp, (b) the Sarah Emme Edmonds Detached Tent #1, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW), and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS).

This ceremony will follow the G.A.R. ritual protocols. It event is going to be a big deal!

If you intend to come, or if you have questions, please reply [vandermjohn@gmail.com] to let me know.

Upcoming Camp Events (updated details/reminders to follow)

September 26th 7:00PM meeting, Zoom-only, program in development

October meeting TBD based on member interest?

November 11th 10:00AM Veteran's Day Observance, Oakwood Cemetery, including a brief on-site Camp Meeting

November-December – nominations and election of 2025 Officers, dates/methods TBD

Camp 1 Officers for 2024

Commander	Butch Durham
Senior Vice Commander	Mike Belcher
Junior Vice Commander	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary/Treasurer	<i>vacant</i>
Camp Council	Paul Kendall, PCC, PDC Craig Reves, PCC Gene Willis, PCC
Patriotic Instructor	<i>vacant</i>
Chaplain	Timothy Phillips, PCC
Graves Registration	Todd Wilber



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/>

The Department of Texas and Louisiana, SUVCW website may be found here: <http://txsuv.org/>

