

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



GENERAL JAMES J. BYRNE CAMP 1, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS WITH LOUISIANA

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM THE CAMP COMMANDER:

16 March 2022

Brothers!

The March meeting was our second Zoom meeting and was once again a resounding success thanks to the work of Brother John Vander Meulen, Department of Texas Signals Officer.

We discussed the Department Encampment, scheduled for 7 May 2022 in Jefferson, TX. If you are planning to attend either by Zoom or in person, please visit the Department web site for the registration form, information, and accommodation listings (<http://txsuv.org/encampment.html>). You must register in order to attend, so get the registration returned as quickly as possible.

As of this writing, we have submitted our registration for the Medal of Honor Parade in Gainesville, Texas, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. I also extend an offer to other Camps to participate as well, so if you want to come out and support this event, please do so.

Again, to any of the Brothers who live outside the immediate area, I encourage you let us know about possible events in your "neck of the woods." I am willing to travel as far as Santa Fe, NM, for an event if it works out, so events in Louisiana are also a good possibility.

Our next meeting will be via Zoom on 19 April 2022 at 7pm (1900 hours). I look forward to seeing everyone there. Again, if you cannot make the Tuesday meeting, PLEASE let us know if another day/time would work for you. In the absence of a preference, we will continue with the Tuesday evening meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Paul L. Kendall. Ph.D.

Commander  
Camp #1, General James J. Byrne  
Department of Texas and Louisiana  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



## **General James J. Byrne Camp No. 1**

**March 15, 2022**

### **Meeting Minutes**

The Camp's meeting took place on-line via Zoom.

The meeting was opened by Camp Commander Paul Kendall at 7:05 p.m. with six members and two visitors, Department Signals Officer and our Zoom host Brother John Vander Meulen, and Brother Joe Reynolds of Camp 5 in attendance.

A brief overview of the Camp's Annual Report was presented. The Camp's membership stands at 24; last year at this time, there were 22 members. In the past year we have gained two new members, had two lapsed members reinstated, and have lost two members who have not paid their membership dues for 2022.

Brother Reynolds reported on the upcoming Department Encampment, to be held in Jefferson, Texas on May 7. There is a link to Register for the Encampment, as well as links to local Hotels and to Activities for non-attendee spouses and families, on the Department Website at <http://www.txsuv.org/encampment.html>

A Department Encampment planning meeting of Department and Camp officers is scheduled for March 24. Among items to be discussed will be credentialing of attendees, and whether the Encampment will be in-person only or a hybrid of in-person and Zoom.

Brother David Appleton, Treasurer, reported that after mailing the Department and national portion of 2022 dues received with the Annual Report, the Camp will have \$1,152.44 in its checking account.

The Gainesville Medal of Honor parade will be held on Friday, April 22. The deadline for the Camp to register to participate in that parade is April 3. It was decided that the Camp should register to participate, and Commander Kendall said that he would do that.

Brother Mark Parkison noted that he will have the Camp newsletter out later this week. He has been on vacation, and has just returned.

We will be hosting our annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 30, at 10:00 a.m. at the Grand Army of the Republic monument in Oakwood Cemetery, 701 Grand Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76164.

Brother Vander Meulen has received a request for an SUVCW JROTC Award from VFW Post 3377, to be presented on April 1. After much discussion of the logistics of getting the Certificate and medal, Brother Vander Meulen will reply, noting that we may not be able to get it to them by that date, Commander Kendall will begin the order process from the National Quartermaster, and Brother Michael Belcher will get it delivered to them as soon as possible.

Brother Vander Meulen noted that Camp 18 will be getting some really good speakers for their meetings, and will invite members of the other Camps in the Department to hear them. Details to follow.

There being no other business to be conducted, Commander Kendall closed the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

David B. Appleton

Secretary / Treasurer

General James J. Byrne Camp No. 1

Department of Texas with Louisiana

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



### **IMPORTANT CIVIL WAR DATE:**

Capture of Fort Donelson. The morning of February 14, 1862 dawned cold and quiet. Early in the afternoon a furious roar broke the stillness, and the earth began to shake. Andrew H. Foote's Union gunboat fleet, consisting of the ironclads St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Louisville, and Carondelet, and the timberclads Conestoga and Tyler, had arrived from Fort Henry via the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers and were exchanging "iron valentines" with the eleven big guns in the Southern water batteries. During this one and one-half hour duel the Confederates wounded Foote and inflicted such extensive damage upon the gunboats that they were forced to retreat. The hills and hollows echoed with cheers from the southern soldiers.

The Confederate generals-John Floyd, Gideon Pillow, Simon Buckner and Bushrod Johnson-also rejoiced; but sober reflection revealed another danger. Grant was receiving reinforcements daily and had extended his right flank almost to Lick Creek to complete the encirclement of the Southerners. If the Confederates did not move quickly, they would be starved into submission. Accordingly, they massed their troops against the Union right, hoping to clear a route to Nashville and safety. Both Confederate and Union soldiers fought furiously on the morning of February 15; the Union Army grudgingly retreated by the afternoon. Just as it seemed the way was clear, the Southern troops were ordered to return to their entrenchments-a result of confusion and indecision among the Confederate commanders. Grant immediately launched a vigorous counterattack, retaking most of the lost ground and gaining new positions as well. The way of escape was closed once more.

Floyd and Pillow turned over command of Fort Donelson to Buckner and slipped away to Nashville with about 2,000 men. Others followed cavalryman Lt. Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest across swollen Lick Creek. That morning, February 16, Buckner asked Grant for terms. Grant's answer was short and direct: "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." Buckner surrendered.

Soon after the surrender, civilians and relief agencies rushed to assist the Union Army. The U.S. Sanitary Commission was one of the first to provide food, medical supplies, and hospital ships to transport the wounded. Many civilians came in search of loved ones or to offer support.

Although not officially recognized as nurses, women such as Mary Bickerdyke and Mary Newcomb, cared for and comforted sick and wounded soldiers.

With the capture of Fort Donelson and its sister fort, Henry, the North had not only won its first great victory, it had also gained a new hero--"Unconditional Surrender" Grant, who was promoted to major general. Subsequent victories at Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga would lead to his appointment as lieutenant general and commander of all Union Armies. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox would send Grant to the White House.

After the fall of Fort Donelson, the South was forced to give up southern Kentucky and much of Middle and West Tennessee. The Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, and railroads in the area, became vital Federal supply lines. Nashville was developed into a huge supply depot for the Union army in the west. The heartland of the Confederacy was opened, and the Federals would press on until the "Union" became a fact once more.



## **FEATURE ARTICLES:**

### **23rd Michigan in the Franklin Campaign**

By

Brother Todd M Wilber

My 3rd great uncle George H Kittson joined Co G, 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan in October 1864. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan was part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 23<sup>rd</sup> Corp. November 1864 saw the regiment stationed at Johnsonville, Tennessee. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November they were ordered to Columbia (following the rest of the brigade). The Michiganders arrived by train the next day. The 23<sup>rd</sup> started building works on their section of the line and five companies were sent on picket duty.

Early on the 26<sup>th</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade fell back two miles to the vicinity of the Duck River. The 23<sup>rd</sup> spent the “day and night in building works on the left of the brigade line.” They were moved to right on the 27<sup>th</sup> and built more works next to the railroad bridge. In the afternoon, the regiment was sent on a recon to a ford six miles to the right to see if the confederates had deployed any troops there. When they returned, the Michiganders withdrew to the north side of the Duck River with the brigade. They were stationed to the right of the rail road bridge.

On the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Michiganders started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division’s strategic redeployment to Franklin. That evening outside of Spring Hill, it was ascertained the enemy was blocking the way. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was deployed with the 23<sup>rd</sup> attached as flank guard on the right of the line (2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was held in reserve). Col Spaulding deployed some flankers which came upon some rebel pickets and captured an adjutant-general of Cheatham’s Corp.

Arriving in Franklin on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup>, the Michiganders threw up works with traverses for each company. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division (Thomas Ruger commanding) was on the right of the Federal line. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade’s line stretched between the Centerville Pike on the right and the “northwest slope of the hill near the Columbia Pike.” The 23<sup>rd</sup> was the center right regiment of the brigade. A detachment of the 183<sup>rd</sup> Ohio was used to plug a gap between the 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan and 129<sup>th</sup> Indiana.

A little after 4 pm the Confederates attacked. Thomas Benton Smith’s Tennessee Brigade came right towards the position of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Smith’s Brigade included the legendary Irish 10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee and native Franklinite Tod Carter’s 20<sup>th</sup> Tennessee. Carter would be mortally wounded within sight of his own home. “After a most stubborn attempt” the enemy was repulsed. The Rebels renewed the assault several times but failed to crack the line of the Michiganders. The 183<sup>rd</sup> Ohio troops on the left of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ran away opening a gap in the line. The regiment fired obliquely into the gap, holding the line (killing two Rebel color bearers in the process) until two companies from the 80<sup>th</sup> Indiana plugged the hole. During a lull in the fighting, a center company was put out over the entrenchments to fire a volley into the Confederates on the outside of the works. The regiment took prisoners including Lt. Lee of Lt Gen S.D. Lee’s staff. The attacks petered out around 9 pm and the slaughter was over.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan’s casualties were light: 2 killed, 13 wounded, and 3 missing.



After midnight on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan left Franklin with their division. They arrived in Nashville about Noon the same day.

### Sources

1. Report of Col. Oliver Spaulding, 23<sup>rd</sup> MI, 5 Dec 1864. Report 112. War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol 45, Part 1.
2. Report of Col Orlando Moore, commanding 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 8 Dec 1864. Report 108. War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol 45, Part 1.
3. Battle of Franklin Map. American Battlefield Trust.  
<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/franklin-november-30-1864>
4. Army of Tennessee, Order of Battle, Franklin. [https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Franklin\\_\(1864\)\\_Confederate\\_order\\_of\\_battle](https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Battle_of_Franklin_(1864)_Confederate_order_of_battle)



### Rendering Honors, By Brother Timothy Phillips

Friday, Feb 18, was the occasion for a new experience as I made my first visit to a National Cemetery. I had received an invitation from Taps for Veterans to sound the final call for Vietnam veteran Brian McNamire, USN, at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery. It was different. Those attending a service there are not informed exactly where the service will be held until one or two days beforehand. They are directed to a lane at the front end of the place. At exactly the time quoted, a guide leads the party to a pavilion where the service takes place. Afterwards, the body is returned to the hearse and is transported to the grave site. Taps is sounded at the beginning of the service so that the recording thereof can be taken to other funerals in progress.

### Bugling

I have been playing bugle on the Forts Trail four or five years and, thank God, I have made considerable progress. A lot of the credit goes to a former band director at Wylie High School and a music instructor at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene. Daily practice has brought my performance to the acceptable level.

I joined in with Taps for Veterans a couple of years ago. It is something of a national registry of musicians who volunteer to sound Taps, **live**, for veterans. The outfit is run by retired Air Force bugler Jari Villanueva and exists to provide live, rather than recorded, field music for

veterans' funerals. It seems that for most services, the military sends 2 or 3 enlisted personnel to fold the flag and operate the music player. The leaders of Taps for Veterans believe that vets have earned something more.

## Origin of Taps

Robert Ripley laid a claim to the origin of Taps in his short-lived "Believe it or Not" program. He stated that a Union captain found a wounded Confederate on a Civil War battlefield and, after conveying him to Federal lines, discovered the soldier was his son. The son died shortly thereafter, but had the score for Taps in his pocket. A touching story, but short on fact. The honors go to Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield of the Army of the Potomac. Butterfield loved bugle calls to the point of helping write a few. He took great pride in his brigade and wanted to let his men know about it. The "Lights Out" call at that time was "Tattoo", a squared-away martial sounding composition. The summer of 1862 found Butterfield's brigade at Harrison's Landing, at the end of the Peninsular Campaign where the army had been seriously mauled by the Army of Northern Virginia. Butterfield summoned his bugler, Oliver Norton, and showed him revisions he had made to the last five measures of "Tattoo". The two polished Butterfield's work and Taps debuted that evening. Next morning, every bugler in earshot appeared at Norton's tent to learn the new call. Taps thus spread unofficially throughout the Union forces.

The funerary use of Taps also occurred in the Civil War. It seems that a burial service was held late one day for a Federal cannoner. The final salute would normally have been three cannon shots over the grave, but being near the front line the commanding officer feared Confederate forces would interpret that as a resumption of hostilities. His solution: That new bugle call.

Taps hit the world stage in 1963 at the state funeral of President John Kennedy. The human nature of a solo instrument also made itself known then. The funeral procession was late arriving at Arlington Cemetery, leaving the Army's bugler standing out in the punitive cold too long. He missed the sixth note. It happens.







## **NATIONAL PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION:**

Brothers, It is human nature, as the darkest days of winter have come and gone, that we look forward to the longer and warmer days ahead of us. However, we cannot look to far in the future just yet as we still have some items to get to before we can turn the page. As many of you have noticed I cover a broad aspect of topics in my instructions but all of them focus on how we can promote Patriotism and Patriotism can take many forms. One of the many forms that Patriotism can take is with helping members of our community. There is no coincidence that I bring this up as some regions of our country have been hit with large amounts of snow and weather in the past couple of weeks. My question to all of you is how many helped or checked on a fellow Brother during this time? Or even helped or checked on your next door or across the street neighbor? One step further, have you helped ensure that your walkways and fire hydrants are dug out and accessible? One may think that this is not a big deal and doesn't seem like something that is one's Patriotic duty, but it is. Helping to take care of your neighbors and ensuring that your community is safe is one of the building blocks of Patriotism. By being active in your community and checking in on one another, people will start taking pride in that community and through pride Patriotism grows. By doing something as simple as shoveling the walkway in front of your home you not only show pride in your neighborhood, but you make it safe for those who walk your streets. It might not seem like a big thing, but for those of us who live through snowy winters, we all know that feeling of having to select walking in the snow or on the side of a busy road because someone didn't shovel their walkway. Another way you can take community pride during the winter months is by clearing out fire hydrants that are in your neighborhood. Many may think that this should be the responsibility of the local Fire Departments however in most areas there are local ordinances that explicitly state it is the landowner that the hydrant is on or adjacent to, in those cases where it is on a sidewalk, that is responsible for clearing these. Again, why does it matter? I must sound like a broken record at this point, but it is the fact of taking care of your community. Anyone who has been a firefighter will tell you that in life-or-death emergencies, seconds save lives. If a fire hydrant isn't cleared out and the snow around it, which

in many cases is the discharge from a snowplow which makes it heavier and more susceptible to freezing over again after it has been cleared, has frozen over, those firefighters are now delayed in getting additional water into their hoses which could cost lives. I don't know about you, but I know that if my neighbors were killed because of this, I would hold myself responsible. It is something that takes all of 5 to 10 additional minutes to do but by doing so you are looking out for your neighbors. The last thing, as this one is probably the easiest thing a Brother can do, and anyone of us can do this even if you live in sunny California and have never seen snow in your life, and that is pick up the phone and call a Brother or friend that lives in an affected area and check in on them, see if they need anything. We have all been through some type of natural disaster whether it is hurricane, earthquake, or blizzard, and we all know that sometimes a friendly voice on the other end of the phone is a massive morale booster and can mean the world of difference for some. Looking out for one another, and having each other's back, may seem like a simple concept that has nothing to do with Patriotism, but it again instills that community pride which is the foundation of being a Patriot. I challenge you all to keep this in mind the next time your area or another region is affected by some type of issue, natural or not. In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty, Br. Ben Frail, PDC National Patriotic Instructor



### **CAMP PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION:**

The lady circled in the photo was Lucy Higgs Nichols. She was born into slavery in Tennessee, but during the Civil War she managed to escape and found her way to 23rd Indiana Infantry Regiment which was encamped nearby. She stayed with the regiment and worked as a nurse throughout the war. After the war, she moved north with the regiment and settled in Indiana, where she found work with some of the veterans of the 23rd. She applied for a pension after Congress passed the Army Nurses Pension Act of 1892 which allowed Civil War nurses to draw pensions for their service. The War Department had no record of her, so her pension was denied.

Fifty-five surviving veterans of the 23rd petitioned Congress for the pension they felt she had rightfully earned, and it was granted. The photograph shows Nichols and other veterans of the Indiana regiment at a reunion in 1898. Beloved by the troops who referred to her as “Aunt Lucy,” Nichols was the only woman to receive an honorary induction into the Grand Army of the Republic.



Abraham Lincoln to Don Carlos Buell, January 13, 1862  
Executive Mansion, Washington,

Jan. 13, 1862.

Brig. Genl. Buell.

My dear Sir:

Your despatch of yesterday is received, in which you say "I have received your letter and Gen. McClellan's; and will, at once devote all my efforts to your views, and his." In the midst of my many cares, I have not seen, or asked to see, Gen. McClellan's letter to you. For my own views, I have not offered, and do not now offer them as orders; and while I am glad to have them respectfully considered, I would blame you to follow them contrary to your own clear judgment--unless I should put them in the form of orders. As to Gen. McClellan's views, you understand your duty in regard to them better than I do. With this preliminary, I state my general idea of this war to be that we have the greater numbers, and the enemy has the greater facility of concentrating forces upon points of collision; that we must fail, unless we can find some way of making our advantage an over-match for his; and that this can only be done by menacing him with superior forces at different points, at the same time; so that we can safely attack, one, or both, if he makes no change; and if he weakens one to strengthen the other, forbear to attack the strengthened one, but seize, and hold the weakened one, gaining so much. To illustrate, suppose last summer, when Winchester ran away to re-inforce Mannassas, we had forborne to attack Mannassas, but had seized and held Winchester. I mention this to illustrate, and not to criticise. I did not lose confidence in McDowell, and I think less harshly of Patterson than some others seem to. In application of the general rule I am suggesting, every particular case will have its modifying circumstances, among which the most constantly present, and most difficult to meet, will be the want of perfect knowledge of the enemies' movements. This had it's part in the Bull-Run case; but worse, in that case, was the expiration of the terms of the three months men. Applying the principle to your case, my idea is that Halleck shall menace Columbus, and "down river" generally; while you menace Bowling-Green, and East Tennessee. If the enemy shall concentrate at Bowling-Green, do not retire from his front; yet do not fight him there, either, but seize Columbus and East Tennessee, one or both, left exposed by the concentration at Bowling Green. It is matter of no small anxiety to me and one which I am sure you will not over-look, that the East Tennessee line, is so long, and over so bad a road.

Yours very truly

A. LINCOLN.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and  
Loyalty. Brother Mark Parkison,  
Patriotic Instructor

