

# The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

July 2023

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## Commander's Message

Bros,

I have been officially sworn in as your commander. I would like to thank Matthew Parkinson for stepping up and taking the SVC position. It was a pleasure to see Dept Commander Lance and bro John V-M at the camp meeting.

As commander, I would like to see more members at camp meetings. Either in person or on Zoom. We have twenty-six members in this camp but only a handful take part in meetings. Please join us.

I have stepped down as GRO so the Graves Registration Officer position is now open for anyone interested.

In F, C, & L,

Todd Wilber, Commander

## Secretary's Report

July 20, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Acting Camp 1 Commander Todd Wilber called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Eleven

brothers were in attendance with eight brothers at the VFW hall and three attending by Zoom. SUVCW Texas Department Commander Michael Lance and John Vander Meulen, Commander of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2 of Houston were in attendance at the VFW hall.

Chaplain Gene Willis offered the invocation.

Chaplain Gene Willis led the pledge to the flag of the United States.

Balloting for Camp Commander was completed with the election of Brother Todd W as Camp Commander. DC Michael Lance gave the oath to Brother Todd and installed him in the office.

No old business.

Camp Commander Report: Todd W welcomed the camp and thanked the brothers for gathering.

Secretary Report: Mark Parkison read the June camp meeting minutes and they were approved by the camp.

Treasurer Report: David Appleton presented the treasurer's report which was approved by the camp. Brother David had items for sale which included Texas Ranger type badges

from the Department Encampment at Waco. Challenge Coins were available.

Graves Registration Officer Report: Todd W reported he has identified 41 Union Veterans in Tarrant County and submitted these to the department GRO. Todd has stepped down as GRO since he is Camp Commander and he will continue to write the camp newsletter The Parmley Post. The position is vacant.

Past Department Commander John Schneider from Ellsworth Camp #18 spoke about a planned department fundraiser and help needed from the camps to support a possible 2025 or 2026 National Encampment in Texas. Items suggested included shirts and challenge coins with a standard logo for each of the four camps. Brother Gene Willis will be the Camp 1 contact.

Balloting for Senior Vice Commander was completed with the election of Brother Matthew Parkison as Senior Vice Commander. DC Michael Lance gave the oath to Brother Matthew and installed him in the office.

The camp will hold another recruiting event in the fall at the Texas Civil War Museum and will lower the Colors of the museum on the last day of operation in December. Mark Parkison will schedule the visits with the museum.

The camp would like to present the Colors at a Texas Rangers game. Mark Parkison will determine what is needed to get scheduled.

Mark Parkison will contact Assistant Department Signals Officer Larry "Joe" Reynolds to update the Department website to show Todd W as Camp Commander, Matthew P as Senior Vice Commander and Graves Registration Officer position as vacant.

Camp Commander Todd W asked for a motion to adjourn which was made and approved. Chaplain Gene Willis offered the benediction. The meeting was concluded at 8 PM.

### July Camp Meeting



Left to right: John V-M (Camp 2), Treasurer David Appleton, Dept Commander Mike Lance, Commander Todd Wilber, SVC Matthew Parkinson, Secretary Mark Parkinson, Camp Council Gene Willis, Dept SVC Timothy Phillips (aka Wyatt Earp).

### Upcoming Events

Camp Meeting- August 17

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for July:

Beginning balance: \$1,383.74

Income: Sale of 3 USCVW Marshal badges: \$15.00

Expenses: None since last report

Ending balance: \$1,398.74

In F, C, and L,

David B Appleton

## For Sale

We still have 13 of the SUVCW Texas Marshal badges, and two each of the \$5 challenge coins in black carrying bag and \$15 challenge coins in beribboned case.

Contact Bro David Appleton if interested.

## Camp 1 Ancestor

By Todd Wilber



My 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandpa Engelbert Zeiser served in the Union Army. He emigrated from Germany in the 1850s and settled in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

According to his Civil War Draft Registration from July 1863, Engelbert was from Wurttemberg.

For some reason, he was in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in the summer of 1864. Engelbert enlisted in Knap's Independent Battery E, Pennsylvania Light Artillery on 7 September 1864. He enlisted for the term of one year and a \$100 bonus.

Battery E was part of the 20th Corps that had helped take Atlanta.

Uncle Billy streamlined his artillery train in November 1864 for the March to the Sea. Hence, 75 recruits from Battery E (including Engelbert) were detached to the 147th Pennsylvania Infantry for the March to the Sea and the Carolinas. Because of this, he has two sets of muster rolls. One set from Battery E and Detachment Muster Rolls

showing his temporary assignment to the infantry.

Engelbert mustered out with his battery on 14 June 1865 and returned to Michigan.

Engelbert was a member of GAR Lyon Post 266 in Menominee, Michigan. A transcription of Post 266 records show they paid \$22 for Engelbert's coffin.

According to the 1870 and 1880 US Census', Engelbert's occupation was fisherman.

Engelbert died of heart disease in February 1887. He dictated a brief will on his death bed. He made his mark which indicates he was illiterate.

Engelbert died deep in debt leaving his wife Barbara and six minor children indigent. Barbara filed for a Widow's Pension in 1891. It was finally approved in 1895. She died in 1919.

## In Their Own Words

### Aftermath of the Battle of Fair Oaks

*Rev J.J. Marks was the chaplain of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry. He left a harrowing account of the aftermath of Fair Oaks.*

The first night after a battle is always full of indescribable horrors, men in their struggles throwing themselves into every position, the cries of those alongside of them complaining of the touch of their shattered limbs, others shrieking for water, many praying for death, and some begging a kind hand to lift them up once more.

During the entire night the wounded were brought in, until they covered the grounds around the house of Mr. Savage, and filled all the outhouses, barns, and sheds. Lying

alongside of our wounded were many Confederate soldiers and officers; and to the honor of our men be it said, I heard no words of anger or reproach, but the rebels were uniformly treated as kindly as the Union soldiers.

All night the surgeons were occupied in amputations; and, in the circumstances, they found it impossible to look after those whose condition demanded immediately, to revive them, food and stimulants. "Wounded men suffer greatly from cold, and shiver as in winter, or with an ague. It was therefore essential to lift them from the damp ground, and cover them as far as possible.

In the course of the evening twenty or thirty soldiers from different regiments, who had borne in upon their shoulders their wounded comrades, permitted me to organize them into a corps of nurses. Colonel McKelvy, than whom no man was more active for the relief of our men, furnished twenty bales of hay, a thousand blankets, and permitted me to draw on the Commissary Department for coffee, sugar, and crackers to an indefinite amount. The nurse-soldiers soon spread down this hay, and many a shivering, wounded man, when lifted from the damp earth, and placed upon the soft grass bed, with a blanket spread over him, poured out his gratitude in a thousand blessings. When this was done we followed with hot coffee, and found our way to every suffering man. Everywhere we were compelled to place our feet in streams of blood: one spectacle of anguish and agony only succeeded another. The mind was overwhelmed and benumbed by such scenes of accumulated misery. Where there was so much to be done, and where we could do so little, the temptation was to hurry away from such painful spectacles, and remember them only as the

visions of a frightful dream. Great must be the cause which demands such a sacrifice. Here and there over the grounds were seen through that night a circle of lanterns waving around the tables of amputators. Every few moments there was a shriek of some poor fellow under the knife. And one after another the sufferers were brought forward and laid down before the surgeons on stretchers, each waiting his turn. And then again one with face as white as marble, and every line telling that he had passed through a suffering, the utmost which human nature could endure, was borne away and laid down for some kind-hearted man to pour into his lips a few drops of brandy, to lift up his head, and give him the assurance of life and sympathy. There a brother knelt and wept over a dying brother, and his voice, broken with sobs, begged me to come and pray that his brother might be able to see Jesus and depart in peace. There a father held up in his arms a dying son, and was receiving his last message to mother, sister, and brother; here a group of sympathizing soldiers stood around a dying companion who was loudly bewailing his early death, and that he should never see again his native hills. There four or five were holding in their strong arms one whose brain, having been pierced with a ball and deprived of reason, was strong in the frantic energy of madness; here a beckoning hand urged me to come, and at the sufferer's request sit down by his side, and tell him what he must do to be saved. Then was whispered a story of disobedience, of crime that now stung like a serpent and bit like an adder. Another begged me to come early in the morning, and write a line to father or wife. Others entreated that they should not be compelled to submit to the knife of the operator, but that their limbs might be spared them, for they felt sure that under the surgeon's hand they should die.

Others begged that some board might bear their names and be placed at the head of their graves.

If I turned from these scenes on the open ground and entered into any of the houses, spots of blood stained the steps and the stairs. In the halls were lying alongside of each other many of the wounded and dead. The rooms were crowded with sufferers, broken and shattered in every conceivable way by the enginery of death. From the mouth of one was running a stream of blood; another was upheld in the arms of a friend and gasping for breath, and the deep and unnaturally bright eye told that all the energies of life were summoned to the struggle. One lying on the floor told by his loud snore of the injury done to the brain, and that he, in all probability, would never open his eyes; and another begged for help, that he might change his position and relieve the suffering of his shattered thigh.

"Night of nights! who can tell thy tales of woe?"

At one place where a wounded soldier was panting his last, I was summoned. He begged me to pray for him, and taking from his finger a gold ring, he asked me to send it to his wife, who had given it him on the day of their marriage, and now he wished it to be restored to her. In a few moments the last battle was fought, and the soldier was asleep. On examining the ring I found underneath the wrappings of a thread the initials "J. S. to C. B." This had been done to preserve the letters, and was the careful act of human love, anxious to preserve a sacred memento. In another group of sufferers I found a little boy apparently not more than twelve years of age; the long hair thrown back from a beautiful forehead, enabled me to see by the lantern

light a very childlike face. His right leg had been amputated above his knee, and he was lying motionless and apparently breathless, and as white as snow. I bent over him, and put my fingers on his wrist, and discovered to my surprise the faint trembling of a pulse. I immediately said to my attendant: "Why, the child is alive!"

"Yes, sir," said he, opening his eyes, "I am alive; will you not send me to my mother?"

"And where is your mother," said I, "my child?"

"In Sumterville, South Carolina," he replied.

"Oh! yes, my son, we will certainly send you to your mother."

"Well, well," said he, "that is kind; I will go to sleep now."

#### Source

Rev J.J. Marks. The Peninsular Campaign in Virginia. Philadelphia, 1864. pp. 189-93

#### Featured Article

(From the Archives)

### 23rd Michigan in the Franklin Campaign

By Todd 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 23rd started building works on their section of the line and five companies were sent on picket duty.

Early on the 26th, 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 29th, 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.



Looking northwest at the position of the 23<sup>rd</sup> MI at Franklin. Corner of W Fowlkes & Natchez.





## Commanders

1886: A.T. Wilson

1887: D. Gerrish

1888: D. Gerrish

1890: J.S. Gentle

1891: J.F. Ragsdale, SVC

1892: A.T. Wilson

1893: W.T. Hall

## Sources

1. National Tribune, 2 Jun 1887
2. The Democrat, 17 Jul 1890, p. 3
3. The Democrat, 27 Aug 1891, p. 3
4. The Democrat, 28 Apr 1892, p. 3
5. The Democrat, 4 Aug 1892, p. 3
6. The Democrat, 28 Apr 1892, p. 3
7. The Democrat, 25 May 1893, p. 3
8. The Democrat, 2 Dec 1886, p. 3
9. Collin Co History Museum was no help.

## Grave's Registration Officer

Up to 41 undocumented bluebellies in Tarrant Co.

In F, C, & L,

Todd W

## National Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

As our work continues into the summer months, I want to take this time to make sure that we are doing the most important thing in our mission and that is taking care of

ourselves. We are all extremely busy this time of year with cemetery clean ups, displays, presentations and any other community work to spread Patriotism that it is easy for us to forget about our own wellbeing. Without us firing on all cylinders, we cannot ensure that we are successful in our missions.

What do I mean by taking care of ourselves? First and foremost, making sure we are not spreading ourselves too thin and taking on too much. If we spread ourselves too thin, not only does the product we put out suffer, in this case our product is educating the public on the sacrifices made by our Ancestors during the war, but our stress levels rise which high stress led to a host of other health issues. So, make sure that you say No every once and a while and take that weekend to yourself or with the family. Even just an evening to yourself can do wonders for your stress levels and moral and coming back refreshed with a better outlook on the mission at hand.

Another way we can take care of ourselves is by listening to our bodies, there is no shame in saying you need to make other arrangements for something on your schedule or asking for it to get rescheduled. If we are in a cemetery and we are not 100%, it could be potentially dangerous to be there, not only for you but for those around you. We cannot do the mission of our order and educate those around us on the importance of Patriotism if we are too sick or injured to do so.

To wrap this up I urge you all to take a day or two for yourselves and make sure you are recharging your own batteries. We are all extremely busy within the Order and within our daily lives, so it is important to relax. I hope it is obvious why this is important to our



Patriotic values but just in case it is not, plane and simple, when we are firing on all cylinders, we perform better. Better performance leads to getting the message about Patriotism out more proficiently, which leads to better communities, towns, cities, states and a better country as a whole. It is, albeit a large one, a domino effect so my challenge to you all is to take care of yourselves!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail,

PDC National Patriotic Instructor

## July in the Civil War

1861

- **July 5** - Engagement at Carthage, Missouri
- **July 7** - Skirmish at Laurel Hill, Virginia (now West Virginia)
- **July 11** - Engagement at Rich Mountain, Virginia (now West Virginia)
- **July 18** - Engagement at Blackburn's Ford, Virginia
- **July 21** - War's first major battle erupts at Manassas (Bull Run), Virginia
- **July 26** - Federal forces evacuate Fort Fillmore, New Mexico Territory
- **July 27** - Union Major Isaac Lynde surrenders his command at San Augustine Springs, New Mexico Territory
- **July 27** - Major General George McClellan put in command of the Federal Division of the Potomac
- **July 31** - Ulysses S. Grant promoted to brigadier general

1862

- **July 1** - Battle of Malvern Hill, Virginia
- **July 2** - Morrill Land Grant Act approved by President Lincoln

- **July 12** - John Hunt Morgan's Confederate raiders capture Lebanon, Kentucky on their first raid
- **July 13** - Garrison at Murfreesboro, Tennessee captured by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest
- **July 14** - West Virginia Statehood Bill passes the Senate
- **July 15** - CSS *Arkansas* sorties from Yazoo River and passes the combined Union fleets
- **July 16** - Confederate representative meets with Napoleon III of France to discuss foreign aid
- **July 22** - President Lincoln presents the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet
- **July 29** - Belle Boyd, Confederate spy, captured

1863

- **July 1** - Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania begins
- **July 2** - Second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, heavy fighting in The Wheatfield
- **July 3** - Morgan's raiders cross the Cumberland River near Burkesville, Kentucky
- **July 3** - Battle of Gettysburg concludes
- **July 4** - Confederates surrender Vicksburg, Mississippi
- **July 4** - Lee's forces begin to retreat from Gettysburg
- **July 5** - Engagement at Birdson Ferry, Mississippi
- **July 6** - Skirmish at Williamsport and Hagerstown, Maryland
- **July 8** - Surrender of Port Hudson, Louisiana
- **July 8** - General John Hunt Morgan crosses the Ohio River into Indiana at Brandenburg, Kentucky
- **July 10** - Action at Falling Waters, Maryland
- **July 10** - Siege of Fort Wagner, Charleston Harbor, South Carolina begins
- **July 11** - First assault on Fort Wagner
- **July 13** - Draft riots in New York City

- **July 17** - Engagement at Honey Springs, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma)
- **July 18** - Assault on Battery Wagner, led by the 54th Massachusetts
- **July 19** - Engagement at Buffington Island on the Ohio River
- **July 23** - Skirmish at Manassas Gap, Virginia
- **July 26** - John Hunt Morgan captured at Salineville, Ohio
- **July 29** - Queen Victoria reconfirms British policy of neutrality

1864

- **July 9** - Battle of Monocacy, Maryland
- **July 12** - Early's raid of Fort Stevens, DC
- **July 14** - Battle of Tupelo (Harrisburg), Mississippi
- **July 17** - Confederate General J.B. Hood replaces J. Johnston as commander of the Army of Tennessee

- **July 18** - Battle of Cool Spring, Virginia
- **July 20** - Engagement at Rutherford's Farm, Virginia
- **July 20** - Battle of Peachtree Creek, Georgia
- **July 22** - Battle of Atlanta, Georgia
- **July 24** - Second Battle of Kernstown, Virginia
- **July 28** - Battle of Ezra Church, Georgia
- **July 30** - Capture and burning of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
- **July 30** - Battle of The Crater at Petersburg, Virginia

1865

- **July 7** - Conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln are executed

--From the American Battlefield Trust

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



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/>

