



**GENERAL J. J. BYRNE
CAMP NO. 1
SONS OF UNION
VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR**

“We who are their great and great-great grandchildren can never know them. We can never see them, or hear them, or touch them. We can know them only through the ancient photographs of faded brown and white, where they stand mute, unmoving, mysterious to our gaze.”

“But perhaps, we come closest to them, when we simply value the legacy they left behind, for WE ARE the future they fought for!”

On November 12, 1881, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, or Sons of Veterans, as it was called at the time, was organized by the Grand Army of the Republic in Philadelphia. Its intent was to serve as a para-military reserve, made up of the sons of Civil War Veterans.

General James J Byrne (1842 to 1880)

General James J. Byrne was born in Ireland and moved to New York City as a youth. On July 24th, 1862, he was commissioned a first lieutenant and adjutant of the 163rd New York Volunteer Infantry. On December 11th, 1864, he was appointed colonel of the 18th New York Cavalry.

While serving in General Nathaniel Bank's Army of the Gulf, he saw extensive action in Louisiana during the Red River Campaign of 1864.

Byrne was breveted to brigadier general for gallantry at the battle of Pleasant Hill and then breveted to major general for gallantry at the battle of Moore's Plantation (May 5th and 6th, 1864 and Yellow Bayou (May 18th, 1864). Both brevets were awarded on March 13th, 1865.

According to a report in the Fort Worth Democrat (Fort Worth Star-Telegram), he was the youngest general in the United States Army. He was 23 at the time of his promotion. He was mustered out of Federal service on May 3rd, 1866.

He was killed in an attack led by the Apache leader Victorio and buried near Fort Quitman, his body was later moved to Fort Worth, Texas in 1880.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The camp has ordered New Member Certificates. All Camp members who were initiated

at the August Camp Meeting need to provide the Senior Vice-Commander the city and state of their birth the certificate can be presented at the August 2009 Camp Meeting.

CAMP MEETING MINUTES

The hour of the meeting having arrived and a quorum being present, The Camp Commander called the meeting to order.

Brothers attending:

**Beau Moore - Camp Commander
Hal Hughes- Senior Vice Commander
Brian Watkins - Junior Vice Commander
Brian Glass - Past Department Commander
Gene Willis - Patriotic Instructor
Don Green - Brother**

The camp has contacted Colonial Monuments of Denton, Texas to inspect and provide a bid on the restoration of the GAR Monument in Denton, Texas. This bid will be faxed to Commander Moore and it will be brought before the Camp at the February Camp

Meeting.

It is obligatory upon every Camp to participate in Memorial Day ceremonies. Each camp member has a special obligation on Memorial Day. The Camp Member shall use his influence in every way possible to honor this special day of remembrance, which was instituted by the Grand Army of the Republic.

Memorial day is Monday, May 25th. The Camp will observe Memorial Day at Oakwood Cemetary in Fort Worth at 11:00 AM. There will be cannon salutes and a Honor Guard provided by the Camp. All camp members and their families are encouraged to attend.

The camp flag will be purchased early next year. The Camp selected a 4 X 6 Camp Flag. We are currently accepting donations for the purchase of the flag. The cost of the Camp Flag is \$450.00. Brother Glass will be contacting Brother Gross to order the Camp Flag. We will collecting money for the Camp Flag fund throughout the year. All pledged funds should be forwarded to the Camp Treasurer. The plan is have the Camp Flag before Memorial Day 2009.

We are planning a trip to the Texas Civil War Museum. The Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp that we partner with will be going with us. We fill finalize the dates for

the trip at the February Camp Meeting. The dates will be announced in the in the next newsletter.

DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT - Camp 1 is hosting this years Department Encampment. It is on Saturday, June 6th and will be held in Fort Worth. We are in the early planning stages and will have an announcement as we finalize the event.

All Brothers who were inducted into the Camp last August need to provide the following information to the Senior Vice Commander. This information will be placed on the new member Certificates that will be awarded to you next August. Your full name and your city and state of birth.

NEXT CAMP MEETING

The next Camp Meeting will be held at Cat Fish and Company. The dates for the next camp meetings are; February 26th; March 26th; April 30th; May 28th; and June 25th. We will have our annual August Camp Meeting at Camp Shuman for the induction of new members and the awarding of New Member Certificates. Please email your reservation to Senior Vice-Commander Hal Hughes (Chu5389749@aol.com).

April is Civil War Hero Month. All camp members are encouraged to attend the April 30th Camp Meeting in uniform.

The SUVCW cooperates in doing honor to all who patriotically served our country in any war. The order participates with other patriotic organizations in the proper observance of our national holidays; especially Memorial Day, which was established by the GAR in 1868. We seek out and the mark the graves of Civil War Veterans and observe and care for Civil War Memorials. If you know of a historical event in your community and you would like the Camp to be present, we will place that event on our schedule.

CAMP DUES ARE NOW DUE

Camp dues will become due in January of 2009. Annual dues are \$30.00. They can be paid at the January Camp Meeting or mailed to:

**Brother Don Gross
1626 South Adams
Fort Worth, Texas 76106**

JAMES MC PHERSON COMING TO DALLAS

James Mc Person one of Americas leading authors on the Civil War will be speaking at the Rosewood Crest Hotel in Dallas at Noon on February 12th. Call the World Affairs Council's reservation hotline to reserve your seat -214-965-8412.

IMPORTANT CIVIL WAR DATES FOR FEBRUARY

February 1st, 1861; Texas secedes from the Union; February 8th, 1862; The Battle of Roanoke Island; February 13th, 1862; The Battle of Fort Donelson; February 17th, 1865; Columbia, South Carolina surrenders to General Sherman

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION

The following is incident in the career of Phillip Riter. Riter was a soldier in the the Company G, 2nd Virginia Cavalry (U. S.). Patriotis Instructor Willis got this article from the national SUVCW web site. The section is called "Partiotic Recollections".

"I belonged to Company G, 2nd Virginia Cavalry. It was August of 1863, we were stationed at Martinsburg We had been on picket duty and were gathered here on that day, when we received word that the regiment was leaving their position on the

opposite side of town."

"We were not relieved at the proper time but stayed till about 12 o'clock when the sergeant ordered us into line and we moved off the knoll where we were, down a slope to some level ground at a short distance from the spring. Here we all got ready for a rest."

"The boys suspected nothing wrong and we all got ready for a jolly time. Horses were unsaddled and fed, lunch was washed down with the cool spring water we had in our canteens and all scattered themselves over the ground, laughing, shatting and some sleeping."

"I could not rest easy as something had been troubling me all morning. I knew everything was not allright and as soon as my horse was done eating, I started to saddle him. My saber, I had not taken off as the other men had. Seeing what I was doing, Coon Waits said, "Jake, what are you doing that for; are you afraid the rebs will take you?"

"At this, I did not pu the bit in the horse's mouth, but slipped the bridle over his head. A little while after this, I saw a big dust up by the spring and heard the tramping of horses. I yelled, "Look out boys, the rebs are coming!" I wish you might have seen them bouncing and yelling around getting saddles and bridles on. Some left their blankets, arms and everything by horse and bridle."

"August Warneke, and I were the best of friends and as luck would have it, he could not get the "nose bag" off his horse's head (A nosebag was a canvas sack with a

leather bottom and straps to buckle over the horse's nose. The grain was put into the bag which was strapped over the horse's head. When he wanted to eat, he touched the sack on ground, which brought the grain within the horse's reach, on raising its head, the bag would drop far enough to give room for the horse to chew its grain. - reporter). While August was trembling, and pulling and jerking away at the nose bag, while I was holding his horse. The Johnnies opened fire and the bullets began buzzing all around us."

"I said, "Hurry up; get on without any bridle, I can't stand this any longer!"

August said, "For God's sake, don't leave me!" I told him again to get on without a bridle; that I would rather have my neck broke than be shot or captured by a reb. He put his foot in the stirrup and clinging to the saddle with both hands, I turned around and opened fire to check the rebs until Gus got started."

"They stopped for a little while and then they came on like devils. How the bullets whistled past my head. I was scared, but when I looked a head and saw Warneke going down the road with that nose bag swinging for side to side on his horse's head and he was trying to hond on with a bridle; his cap gone, his hair standing on end and his coat tail sailing in the breeze, I forgot all about the hereafter and had a hearty laugh."

"Away on down the left we could see our boys going as if the whole rebel army was after them. As we rounded the corner by the hospital, I turned and fired a couple shots at the leader of the rebels, a powerful man on a very swift horse."

"Just then some Union officers at the hospital yelled, "Run Yanks, they are going to cut you off at the ford!" Sure enough, there, coming down a road that struck

Main Street in such a way as to cut us completely off, were about twenty rebels."

"I wheeled my horse and dashed down through the town with Gus not far ahead of me, clinging to the horse's mane with both hands. We dashed across the ford

and up the hill to the upper side, When the Johnny's saw the rest of our boys, they gave

up on the chase."

"I have had many a good laugh over this when I think back on it. I would have enjoyed it much better than if the rebels had done less shooting."

Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War

Office of the Commander-in-Chief

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GENERAL ORDER #6

SERIES 2008– 2009

1 February 2009

1. This month we are celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. As we are all aware, President Lincoln led the country through its greatest internal crisis, preserving the Union and ending slavery. The spirit that guided him to preserve the Union was noted in his second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial: “With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds...”

2. President Lincoln defined the creation of a more perfect Union in terms of liberty and economic equality that rallied the citizenry behind him. Because he understood that victory depended upon purposeful and visionary presidential leadership as well as the exercise of politically acceptable means, he left as his legacy, a United States that was both whole and free.

3. In celebration of his birth, I am asking our Camp Patriotic Instructors to include an educational program on President Lincoln during a Camp meeting prior to the National Encampment in August 2009. If it is not possible to have a program, convene a “roundtable” discussion during a meeting and discuss the many contributions this great man made to the United States.

Ordered this 1st Day of February, 2009.

**David V. Medert
Commander-In-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Attest:

**Donald Palmer
Secretary, National Order,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**