



The Texas Union Herald



Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume I, Issue 10, November 2016

Rattling Sabres

by
Glen E. Zook

I missed the October Camp #18 meeting! I was getting ready to go when the condensation pan, on the furnace / air conditioning system, sprang a leak! Usually, when there is an apparent leak it is really due to the drain line getting clogged. That is a 5-minute fix and everything is good for several months. Unfortunately, this time, several holes have rusted in the galvanized sheet metal from which this large pan (about 4-feet by 2.5 feet in size) is made. I had to get one of my wife's large, but not very tall (only about 2-inches between the bottom of the pan and the attic floor) cooking dishes to catch the water leaking from the condensation pan.

By the time I got everything under control, it was well past 8:00 PM and I knew the meeting would be over. Now, I have to wait for the last of the water, in the condensation pan, to evaporate so that I can clean the crude from the pan and then repair the holes. Fortunately, Wednesday was not that hot because I turned off the air conditioning. The ceiling fans kept things reasonably comfortable. The water should be gone before the weekend and then I can make the repairs.

My father was in the heating and air conditioning business up in northwestern Indiana and, in high school and on summer and Christmas vacations from college (before I got married my junior year), I had to help him. As such, I definitely learned how to work with sheet metal!

Of course, I am starting to write my monthly column immediately after the monthly meeting and will add to my comments over the next couple of weeks.

Also, of course, is my monthly NAG for input for publication in the newsletter. Articles, tidbits, photographs, clip art, and anything else that might be of interest to the members is welcome. You don't have to be a member of Camp #18 to submit items for publication. The newsletter is distributed to Department of Texas officials, officials of other SUVCW Departments, and to all the National officers of which I have E-Mail addresses.

Don't worry if you are not an accomplished author! I can definitely edit your input and when done, you will be surprised as to how well you can write. You can E-Mail me items, send them in the mail, deliver them personally, and so forth. I can handle things written in crayon on Big Chief Tablets. Just get the material to me!

The newsletter "goes to bed", usually, on the 1st of the month of publication. "Goes to bed" is an old

newspaper term meaning that the item is published. When circumstances are just right, I can hold the publication for a day, or two, so that I can get the member provided information included.

Dues for 2017 are now due and there is a large notice elsewhere in this issue about that. Individual membership dues are \$44.00 and for additional family members the dues are \$33.00.

Brother Don Gates has come through, again, with something for the newsletter. He, and a couple of others, do contribute, on a fairly regular basis, but they are the only ones.

I also believe that nominations for officers for the 2017 year are in order. Think about it and even nominate yourself if you are interested in a specific office.

Fall has finally "fallen" and, hopefully, things will cool down. But, one never knows! Of course, this is Texas and if you don't like the weather, just wait a couple of minutes and it will change!

With the cooler weather, those who have reproduction Union uniforms should be more comfortable wearing them to camp meetings. During the Civil War, the wool uniforms were worn every day. However, the material was, generally, thinner than most of the wool material these days.

All three of my Union uniforms are made from thinner material than that which is used in a number of the reproduction uniforms that I have seen. On occasion, during the warmer months, I have loaned my captain's sack coat to individuals and they have been surprised as to how cool that coat actually is especially when compared to their "normal" uniform coat. However, one has to realize that wool is widely used in the Middle East for clothing worn in the desert.

My colonel's "shell jacket" and my major general's frock coat are also made from more "period correct" thinner wool material. But, even though the thinner material is cooler during the summer, it is also warm during the winter!

For those who have various SUVCW medals, including membership, officer, and SVR, I encourage you to wear them to meetings. In the old SUVCW Department of the Southwest, there were department medals as well as camp medals. Also, medals were presented in recognition of special service to either the camp or the department. Over the years, it was possible to obtain a number of medals as I have done.

I wore all of them on my colonel's shell jacket to one Camp #18 meeting. I was told that I looked like a South American dictator!

Anyway, until next month . . .

The Texas Union Herald

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Articles, news items, features, and the like are welcomed for publication in **The Texas Union Herald**. Deadline is normally the 1st of the month of the cover date of publication. Submissions may be handwritten, typewritten, or submitted in any of the popular computer formats (Microsoft Word, Open Office, Word Perfect, and ASCII). Please contact the editor for details.

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Articles Needed!

If the members of the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18** do not want to be inundated with articles that were chosen by the editor (what he wants to see in the newsletter) then they need to start inputting items for inclusion in **The Texas Union Herald**. Tidbits about the Civil War, stories, articles, current news items, photographs, even commentaries are most welcome.

Don't worry if you are not an accomplished author. Get the idea onto paper (computer, etc.) and get it to the editor. He really can edit (rewrite, etc.) and you'll be surprised at just how well you can write!

If you have E-Mail capabilities, you can either include the information in the body of the message or put it in either Word format or ACSII ("txt") format. If, for some reason, you cannot do either, contact the editor to see if your particular word processor format can be handled.

If "hard" copy, make sure the copy is legible (can be read by someone else!). Typewritten, computer printed, even in Crayon on "Big Chief" tablet is acceptable. Just get the information in!

Even small (1 or 2 paragraphs) material, or photographs, can be used. That makes editing and publishing the newsletter easier since "fill" material is available for those little areas that seem to happen whenever an article is included in the publication.

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The following is from a book entitled **Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms** copyright 1886 and published in 1890. Although the title of the book does not suggest any connection what-so-ever with the Civil War, it contains much information about the battles of the Civil War, summarized by the persons who fought during the war. The volume is virtually a 4 year college course in one book, including all sorts of things like Government, proper writing forms, how to make public speeches, correct use of the English language, and many other topics. It covers all major battles of the Civil War and many of the minor skirmishes. All spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. are directly quoted from the original ("sic") and are not those necessarily used today.

Battles in Arkansas - March 26, 1864, a small Union force, from Rosecrans' army, marched from Pine Bluff, Ark., to Mount Elba and Longview, on the Washita river, destroying at the latter place several pontoon bridges, 35 wagons loaded with camp and garrison equipage, ammunition, stores, etc., and capturing 320 prisoners. March 30, 1864, this Union force encountered 1,200 Confederates at Monticello, routing them capturing a large quantity of arms, wagons, and 300 horses and mules, and losing but 15 men during the expedition.

Battle of Natchitoches, La. - Fought March 31, 1864, between a cavalry division, under Lee, of General Banks' Union army, and a Confederate force under Taylor, estimated at 1,000. After a brisk but brief skirmish the Confederates were completely routed, with a loss of 6 or 8 killed and wounded and 25 prisoners. The Unionists lost none.

Battle of Crump's Hill, La. - Fought April 2, 1864, between 3 brigades of Union troops under Lee, and a body of Confederates. The former made a charge which caused the Confederates to retreat, and the Unionists pursued them seven miles, killing and wounding a number. The Confederates made a stand, however, and a severe fight of an hour's duration ensued. Then, the Confederates again retreated. A number of prisoners fell into the hands of the Unionists.

Fight Near Pleasant Hill, La. - Fought April 7, 1864, between the cavalry of Bank's and Smith's Union armies and about 3,000 Confederate cavalry under Green. At first it was a running fight, but the Confederates being reinforced, Colonel Haral Robinson, of Lee's Union cavalry brigade, dashed upon them with so much vigor that Green's force was whipped and driven from the field. This engagement lasted two and a half hours, and the losses on each side were estimated at 40 killed and wounded. Robinson pursued the retreating enemy until the latter reached a superior reinforcement. He then retired.

Battle Near Sabine Cross Roads, La. - Fought April 8, 1864, between the advance of General Bank's Union army, under General Stone, and from 18,000 to 22,000 Confederates under Kirby Smith, Dick Taylor, Green, Price and Mouton. The Unionists were repulsed on that day, but on the next, after a severe conflict, the Confederates were defeated. 2,000 of them throwing away their arms during their flight. The losses in killed and wounded were very heavy, being estimated at 2,000 on each side. The Confederate General Mouton was slain, and 700 Confederate prisoners were captured.

Battle of Fort Pillow, Tenn. - The Unionists occupied the garrison with 19 officers, 276 white infantry and 262 colored infantry, a section of light artillery (colored),

and 1 battalion of white cavalry, the whole being commanded by Major Booth. On April 12, 1864, the Confederates under Forrest attacked the fort, but by the aid of a gunboat they were kept at bay by the garrison. Major Booth was killed, and Major Bradford took command of the beleaguered fort. A demand to surrender from Forrest was refused by Bradford. New and commanding positions having gained by the Confederates, their attack was resumed, and they soon carried the fort. No quarter was shown to its inmates, either black or white, male or female, and even children were slain by the invaders. Thus the Unionists were destroyed.

Gunboat Battles in North Carolina - April 17 and 18, 1864, at Plymouth, N.C., the Confederate iron-clad ram Albermarle, with the aid of a battery, destroyed 2 Union gunboats. On May 5, 1864, an effort was made by Union gunboats to destroy the Albermarle, but the attempt failed. October 27, 1864, Lieutenant Cushing, of the Union navy, succeeded with a torpedo in blowing this formidable craft to pieces, narrowly escaping his own destruction.

Battles of the Wilderness, Va. - May 4, 1864, General Grant, commanding the Union army of the Potomac, about 130,000 strong, crossed the Rapidan river into the "wilderness" of Virginia, to dislodge the Confederate General Lee and his 60,000 troops from their position between the Unionists and the Confederate capital. As Grant advanced, Lee prepared for a stubborn contest. From May 5 to May 31 there was fought a terrible series of battles, unprecedented in American annals for their sanguinary results. During those 27 bloody days various fortunes of war were experienced by both armies, and closed, leaving Lee on the south side of the North Anna river, and the Union force on the shores of the Pamunky river. The Union losses during these battles were 5,584 killed, 28,364 wounded, and 7,450 missing - a total of 41,398 - which does not include the losses in Burnside's corps. No trustworthy statement of the Confederate losses was made, but they are estimated at about 20,000.

Butler's Operations on the James River, Va. - On May 5, 1864, General Butler and a Union force started from fortress Monroe, for a cruise up the James river in transports toward Richmond, destroying the railroads, bridges, etc. Occasional skirmishes were had with Confederates, and on the 16th of May occurred

The Battle of Fort Darling, Va. - Fought between Butler's Union army and a force of Confederates under Beauregard. Butler's troops were forced to retire, with the loss of about 5,000 men, mostly prisoners, and several cannon. The fight was resumed on the 19th, and after a short conflict the Confederates were repulsed. Next day the Confederates drove the Unionists out of their entrenchment's. Another fight ensued, and the Unionists recovered their rifle-pits.

Second Battle of Fort Darling - Fought May 21, 1864, between the Unionists under Gilmore, of Butler's army, occupying the entrenchment's, and a large force of Confederates of Beauregard's army, who advanced upon the fort. Gilmore's batteries opened upon them at short range, and the several fierce charges of the Confederates were repulsed, with heavy loss. The Union gunboats also assisted in shelling the Confederates during this battle.

Battle of the Kulp House, Va. - Fought May 22, 1864, between a force of Confederates, under Hood and Hooker, and Schofield's divisions of Sherman's Union army. Hood made the attack, but was repulsed and driven off,

leaving his dead and wounded on the field, and losing many prisoners.

Battle of Wilson's Wharf, Va. - Fought May 24, 1864, between a brigade of Confederate cavalry, under Fitzhugh Lee, and two regiments of negro Union troops, under General Wild, who occupied a strong position on the north bank of the James river. Lee demanded the surrender of the post, which was refused. A severe conflict followed for several hours, but the Confederate attempts to capture the position proved fruitless, and they finally abandoned the assault.

Battle of New Hope Church, Ga. - Sherman's Union army, in pursuit of Johnston's Confederate forces in Georgia, after several unimportant skirmishes, found themselves confronted with the Confederates about three miles from Dallas, Ga., May 25, 1864. After a general action the Confederates were driven three miles and into their inner intrenchments.

Battle of Powder Springs, Ga. - Fought in May, 1864, between McPherson's division of Sherman's Union army and a considerable force of Confederates of Johnston's army. After a sharp engagement the latter were driven toward Marietta, with a loss of 2,500 killed and wounded (left on the field), and about 300 prisoners. The Union losses did not, it is officially stated, exceed 300.

Sherman's Expedition from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Atlanta, Ga. - In the spring of 1864, General Sherman, with a force of 100,000 Unionists and 254 cannon, aided by Generals Thomas, McPherson and Schofield, commanding divisions, started to march from Chattanooga, through the Confederates' country, to Atlanta. Opposing this expedition was the Confederate General J. E. Johnston, aided by Hardee, Hood, and Polk, with Wheeler's cavalry, their entire force numbering about 60,000 men, including 10,000 cavalry and artillery. The Union expedition began its operations May 7, 1864, and closed them successfully at Atlanta, Ga., September 2, of the same year, occupying Dalton, May 8.

Sheridan's Raid in Virginia - May 13, 1864, General Sheridan, with his Union cavalry force, reached the rear of Lee's army, near Hanover junction, breaking 2 railroads, capturing several locomotives, and destroying Lee's depot for supplies at Beaver Dam, containing more than 1,000,000 rations.

Battle of Resaca, Ga. - Fought May 15, 1864, between General Sherman's Union troops and Johnston's Confederate army. The battle lasted two days, and resulted in the evacuation of Resaca by the Confederates and their pursuit by the Unionists. The losses were estimated at 3,600 killed and wounded, including among them the latter Generals Hooker, Willich, Kilpatrick, and Manson. The Confederates lost, it is estimated 2,000 killed and wounded, including 3 general officers reported among the former, several hundred prisoners, and 7 cannon.

Second Battle of Cold Harbor, Va. - Fought June 3, 1864, between the Union army, under Grand and Meade, and the Confederate forces, under Lee and Longstreet. Grant had about 150,000, and Lee about 50,000 men. The fight was brief but desperate, lasting less than half an hour, and resulted in the repulse of the Union army at every point. Grant's loss in killed, wounded and missing, including 3 brigadier-generals killed, was about 7,000 men; Lee's loss, including one general officer, was less than half that number.

Battle of Pine Mountain, Ga. - Fought June 14, 1864, between a body of Confederates, who held the place, and a force of Union artillery under Sherman. During this fight the Confederate General Leonidas Polk was killed, and on the next day the stronghold was found to have been abandoned, the Confederates having entrenched themselves along the lines of hills connecting Kenesaw and Lost mountains, this line was abandoned, however, on the 17th. Being pressed by the Unionists under McPherson, the Confederates took to Kenesaw mountain and there were strongly entrenched.

Sheridan's Raid in Virginia - June 7, 1864, General Sheridan and a Union cavalry force set out to destroy the Confederate railroads leading from Gordonsville. On the 11th, at Buck Childs', he encountered a force of Confederate cavalry, which was driven back and outflanked. The result was a complete rout of the Confederates, who left their dead and nearly all their wounded on the field, besides the capture of 20 officers, 500 men and 300 horses by the Unionists. About five miles from Gordonsville the Confederates had constructed rifle-pits, and on the 12th there was a cavalry engagement of considerable importance. The Confederates lost heavily, including several general officers. Sheridan lost about 85 killed and 490 wounded. The raid was successful.

Morgan's Second Guerrilla Raid - The Confederate guerrilla General Morgan again invaded Kentucky, June 7, 1864. After plundering Lexington and taking Cynthiana, he was attacked and had nearly all his force captured or dispersed by the Union General Burbridge. By the 17th of June, Morgan was discomfited and his raid ended. Morgan's operations were finally ended September 5, 1864, at Greenville, Tenn., where he was killed.

Averill's Raid in the Shenandoah Valley, Va. - June 16, 1864, General Averill, with a body of Unionists proceeded to destroy the Virginia and East Tennessee railroad, in order to cut off Lee's communications with Richmond. He succeeded in destroying 15 miles of track, and burned five bridges, depots, cars, large quantities of Confederate stores, and captured 200 prisoners and 150 horses. His loss was 6 men drowned, 5 wounded, and 14 missing, during his rugged expedition of 355 miles.

First Battle at Petersburg, Va. - Fought June 15 and 16, 1864, between the Confederate army under Lee (about 70,000 strong), which occupied the town, and Grant's army, about 100,000. A series of engagements resulted first in the repulse of the Unionists under W. F. Smith, and subsequently other repulses, which cost the Union army a loss of 1,198 killed, 6,853 wounded, and 2,217 missing. June 21, 1864, an attempt was made by the Unionists to seize the Weldon railroad, which cost them 3,000 men. Afterwards this and other roads were seized by them, which prevented supplies reaching Lee's army at Petersburg. July 30, 1864, a mine containing 8,000 pounds of powder was exploded under a Confederate fort at Petersburg by the Unionists. The effect was not so beneficial as was expected by the Unionists, the earth being blown into an inaccessible position, so that entrance to the city was extremely difficult by that route. The Confederates poured in shell upon the attacking party, and after four hours' ineffectual assault the Union forces withdrew, having lost 4,003 men killed, wounded and missing, while the Confederate loss is set down at less than 1,000. August 5, the Confederates exploded a mine in front of a Union corps,

without inflicting serious injury, and considerable fighting ensued, without important results or serious losses on either side.

Battle of Rood's Hill, Va. - Fought in June, 1864, between 6 regiments of Unionists under General Sigel and about 7,000 Confederate infantry, with cavalry and artillery, of Breckenridge's army. Sigel was defeated with the loss of about 600 killed, wounded and missing, and 5 cannon.

A Naval Victory - June 19, 1864, in the French port of Cherbourg, the famous Confederate ocean-cruiser Alabama, commanded by Raphael Semmes, was defeated and sunk by the United States war-ship Kearsarge, commanded by Commodore Winslow. Semmes escaped.

Battles of Kenesaw Mountain, Ga. - Finding the Confederates strongly entrenched upon Kenesaw mountain, June 27, 1864, General Sherman ordered his Union troops to attempt to dislodge them. This assault was participated in by McPherson, Thomas, Blair, Dodge, Logan and other division commanders of the Union army. The assault was well made, but the Confederate intrenchments could not be carried. A flank movement was at once made, with such effect that early on the morning of July 3, 1864, the Union skirmishers appeared on the mountain above the Confederate intrenchments, which had been abandoned on the previous night. In the attack of June 27, the Unionists lost from 2,000 to 3,000 men.

Battle of Monocacy River, Md. - On the 9th of July, 1864, an action occurred between 15,000 Confederates, under Early, and Rickett's division of the sixth Union army corps, under General Wallace. The latter were outflanked and forced to fall back with the loss of about 1,200, including about 600 prisoners.

Battle Near Washington, D.C. - Fought July 11, 1864, about 5 miles from the city between Union troops, under General Augur - a brigade of veteran infantry - and Confederate skirmishers. The former were the attacking party. The Confederates were completely routed, leaving about 100 of their dead and wounded on the field. The Union loss was about 200.

Battle of Peach-Tree Creek, Ga. - Fought July 20, 1864, between Sherman's Union army and the Confederate forces under Johnston. Hooker's Union corps suffered in the severe conflict, but the Confederates were driven to their intrenchments, leaving more than 500 of their numbers killed and over 1,000 wounded on the field, 7 stand of colors and many prisoners. Their entire loss was estimated at 5,000. Sherman lost 1,500 killed, wounded and missing.

Battle of the Howard House, Ga. - Fought July 22, 1864, between the Confederate army under Hood (who had superseded Johnston) and Sherman's Union army, the former attacking the latter. The conflict was general and stubborn until the Confederates gave way, repulsed. Sherman's loss, including the death of General McPherson, was 3,722 killed, wounded and prisoners. The Confederates, it is estimated, lost 3,240 killed, or 8,000 in all.

Another Fight In Front of Atlanta, Ga. - Fought July 24, 1864, between the Confederate army, under Hood, and a portion of Sherman's Union army, under Howard and Logan, the former coming out of their Atlanta intrenchments to attack the latter. This bloody conflict resulted in the complete repulse of the attacking party, with a loss of about 650 killed, and probably not less than 4,300 wounded. Sherman lost less than 600 in killed, wounded, and missing.

Battle Near Winchester, Va. - General Crook, with a small Union force, was defeated on the 24th of July, 1864, by the Confederates under General Early.

Union Raids In Georgia - In the latter part of July, 1864, General Sherman organized two cavalry expeditions to destroy the Macon railroad, which was a source of Confederate supplies. They consisted of General Stoneman, with 5,000 Union cavalry, and General McCook with 4,000 cavalry. Another object was to release the Union prisoners at Andersonville, Stoneman encountered a superior force of Confederates, who defeated him and took him and 700 of his men prisoners. McCook proceeded to the Macon railroad, but Stoneman failing to meet him there, he withdrew to Newman, Ga., where he fell in with a considerable force of Confederate infantry. Surrounding McCook's command they forced him into a battle, compelling him to fight his way out, which he did with the loss of 500 of his men. He then returned to the main army at Marietta. Substantially the raid was a serious failure.

Chambersburg, Pa., Plundered and Burned - July 30, 1864, a cavalry force under the Confederate General McCausland, entered Chambersburg, plundered the citizens, and burned about 250 buildings, at an estimated loss of \$1,000,000.

Battle of Moorefield, W. Va. - Fought August 7, 1864, between Union cavalry under Averill and a body of Confederate cavalry, the latter being defeated with the loss of all their artillery, 50 prisoners, many wagons and small arms. The remainder were driven to the mountains.

Farragut's Fleet at Mobile, Ala. - August 5, 1864, the Union fleet commanded by Rear-Admiral Farragut, commenced the attack in Mobile bay by blowing up and causing the evacuation of the Confederate Fort Powell, permitting the passage of 17 Union vessels into the bay. One had been sunk by the fort batteries; the Confederate was-vessel Tennessee surrendered after a sharp engagement, and her commander, Buchanan, was killed; another Confederate vessel was captured, and another was beached. On August 7, Farragut opened fire on the Confederate Fort Gaines, which contained 600 men. On the 8th this fort was surrendered by its officer. A co-operating Federal force, under General Granger, assisted in the reduction of another Confederate fort on August 23, leaving Farragut in control of the entrance of the bay.

Sheridan In the Shenandoah Valley, Va. - From August 9 to the 15th, 1864, General Sheridan's Union cavalry had several encounters of more or less severity with the Confederates under Early. Skirmishes occurred within ten miles of Winchester; Sulphur Springs bridge, where Custer's Union cavalry was repulsed; near White Post, the Confederates retiring after a 3 hours' contest; at Newtown, which Early succeeded in holding' near Strasburg, Early retiring, and the Unionists occupying the town; at Berryville, where Mosby's force captured Sheridan's supply train, destroying a large number of wagons and driving off several hundred horses, mules, and beef cattle. Sheridan's force, August 15, 1864, retired to Charlestown.

Battle at Deep Bottom, Va. - Fought August 16, 1864, between the Federal forces and a superior number of Confederates, the former being obliged to retire, though without heavy losses.

Meeting Minutes of Meeting Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

October 18, 2016

Commander Ridenour called Camp #18 to order at 7:04 PM. In attendance were Brothers Erder, Gates, Johnson, H. Sickler and Sprague.

Brother Sickler offered an opening prayer.

Brother Sprague then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and The American Creed.

Introduction of Guests and New Members:

There were no guests or new members.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Brother Gates reported that the minutes from the September meeting had accompanied the meeting invite for all to see or comment. Brother Gates noted that no comments or corrections were received. Brother Gates moved that the minutes be accepted as printed. The motion was seconded by Brother Sickler and it was carried unanimously.

Brother Gates read the Treasurer's report for September. There were no comments or corrections. Brother Gates moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read. The motion was seconded by Brother Sickler and it was carried unanimously.

Patriotic Minute:

None

Guest Speaker:

Commander Ridenour gave an informative presentation on Headstone and Monument Cleaning. He showed the correct method for cleaning using D-2 as is used in national cemeteries. He also showed before and after pictures to illustrate his points.

Old Business:

Commander Ridenour is continuing to work on rescheduling the dedication of the Jehu E. Webb grave in Long Creek Cemetery in Sunnyvale.

Commander Ridenour discussed the project to clean headstones at Greenwood Cemetery. Brother Gates reviewed quotes for a 12" x 10" bronze plaque with wording similar to the DUV plaque at Greenwood Cemetery. It was decided to change the wording to reflect the camp's efforts in cleaning the headstones and monuments. Brother Gates was charged to come up with new wording and get the approval of the commander and then get new quotes on a larger plaque with the SUVCW emblem. He was also charged to obtain guidance from national regarding the use of the SUVCW emblem. Once a design proof is approved and available Commander Ridenour will coordinate with the local DUVCW Tent.

New Business:

Brother Sprague talked to the camp about his plan as Department Commander to begin a program of monument registration.

Commander Ridenour noted that next month was the time for nomination of new camp officers.

SVR/1st US Business:

No Report.

Closing Announcements:

The next month meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2016.

There being no further business before the camp, Commander Ridenour declared the meeting closed at 8:16 PM.

Closing Benediction:

Brother Sickler conducted the Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Don Gates, PDC
Secretary/Treasurer

Field Cooking

by
Donald Gates

Recently McFuddy treated the company to a true culinary delight, an early Christmas dinner at old city park. This year's effort was by all accounts vastly improved over the questionable quail or was it a dubious duck he tried to foist on the men last year. The source of his success this year may well have been the gentle but firm assistance of Mrs. Thomas, the company's laundress and frequent gastronomic savior. It also may have been that this year McFuddy confined himself to a creature with which he is more familiar. Not that he is known to have a pair of hip boots but he has been known to drone on endlessly about some juvenile sheep and some school girl named Mary. What ever the reason the feast was fantastic. We dined on roast leg of lamb with roasted potatoes and carrots and a side order of very tasty stew. Dinner was followed by coffee and pie, apple and pumpkin. Perhaps the most unusual feature of the entire feast was the hors-d'oeuvres. The men were presented with an assortment of bite size treats never before seen in the field at the same time. Everything from apples, mushrooms and mushroom dumplings to stuffed celery along with pickles and olives and more cheese than even George could eat. It was truly a great way to celebrate the holidays. All of which reminded your humble scribe of some tasty holiday recipes

The utensils required to prepare these recipes include a small and medium nesting pot and a large (12" minimum) cast iron skillet, a large tin bread pan, a spit for roasting, three covered stoneware crocks, clean jars for bottling, a cloth sieve or jelly bag, and a basting drip pan if

you don't want to use the skillet for double duty. As always a large wood spoon is a handy utensil for these recipes. Also needed are a basting brush and a potato masher. The recipes are "Roast Turkey", "Mushroom Dodsup" and a variation of "Kentucky White Gravy". All three are taken from our favorite "A Taste for War", Stackpole Books, 2003, author William C. Davis.

ROAST TURKEY

First prepare a stuffing of skillet fried pork sausage, adding the meat and its fat to one beaten egg and mixing in the bread pan with one diced onion and enough dried bread crumbs to form stuffing balls. Pluck and clean the turkey, and then loosely pack the stuffing into the breast and body cavities. Stitch them closed, tie the wings to the body, and dust the bird with flour. Push the spit lengthwise through the bird, and then set it next to a blazing fire with the (cleaned) skillet or basting pan under it. Turn and baste the bird with melted butter for 15 minutes per pound. When about half done, dust¹ it with flour once more, and continue to baste with butter and roast until golden brown. Serve garnished with whatever is at hand, including sausage, dumplings, and boiled or roasted vegetables, and with gravy (see below)

KENTUCKY WHITE GRAVY

Add chicken stock or water (if there are not a lot of basting juices) to the drippings in the basting pan to make a one quart mix. Pour the mixture into the small nesting pot and bring to a simmer. Add two tablespoons of butter and after it has melted, gradually stir in three tablespoons of flour until smooth. Continue to simmer and add cream slowly to bring the gravy to the desired thickness. Then flavor with a little Dogsup (Worcestershire sauce or vinegar may be substituted).

MUSHROOM DOGSUP

Line the bottom of a stoneware crock with mushroom caps, and sprinkle salt over them. Place another layer of mushrooms, salt over them and repeat until there are at least half a dozen layers. Let stand for 2-3 hours; then mash the mushrooms into a pulp in the crock. Cover, and let stand for two days, stirring and mashing again at least once or twice a day. After two days pour into the other stoneware crock, and add a half ounce of allspice and one and a half ounces of whole black peppercorns. Cover tightly and set in the medium nesting pot half full of boiling water for at least two hours. Pour and sieve the mixture into the other crock, using the sieve cloth or jelly bags. Do not press on or squeeze the mushroom pulp. Simmer the clarified solution in the crock until the liquid is reduced by half and has become very thick. Skim off any scum and pour the clear liquid into jars. Cover and let them stand overnight. Strain again with sieve cloth or jelly bags until the liquid is completely clear. Add one tablespoon of brandy for every pint of Dogsup. Again, let stand covered over night and strain in the morning. Bottle and store in a cool dry place.

YMOS
Cooky

Take care when dusting flour near an open flame. Flour, in the form of a dust cloud has been known to explode.

2017 Dues

The dues, next year, for a current member are **\$44.00**. Additional family members are \$33.00 each and a junior member is \$10.00. Please pay by check and make them payable to: "SUVCW Camp 18". You can give your check to Don Gates at an upcoming meeting or mail them to:

Don Gates
1205 Balboa Circle
Plano, TX 75075

November Birthdays



A. A. Humphreys
2 November 1810



Benjamin Butler
5 November 1818



William Averell
5 November 1832



Oliver O. Howard
8 November 1830

Death In Disguise

by
Harry Dolbier



Edward R. S. Canby
9 November 1817



Alfred H. Terry
10 November 1827



Joseph Hooker
13 November 1814



James B. McPherson
14 November 1828



Franz Sigel
18 November 1824



Nathan Kimball
22 November 1822



Steven A. Hurlbut
29 November 1815

The blue-clad cavalymen plodded warily through the thick Virginia mud towards the fortifications of Yorktown, freshly abandoned by the Confederate army. It looked safe -- no signs of life, no rebels in sight. Suddenly the ground erupted under the horses' hooves, hurling wounded men and screaming animals in all directions. The Confederates were gone all right, but they had left behind the first primitive ancestors of a fearsome twentieth-century weapon, the land-mine.

On May 4, 1862, General Joseph E. Johnston pulled his rebel troops out of Yorktown, just as Major-General George B. McClellan prepared to bombard the fortifications. McClellan had spent a month getting his Army of the Potomac ready to besiege Yorktown, the first obstacle in his Peninsular campaign against Richmond. Now, as the Yankees approached the town in the wake of Johnston's withdrawal, they encountered the deadly surprise.

Brigadier-General William P. Barry, the Army of the Potomac's chief of artillery, investigated the explosions at Yorktown. "Before reaching the glacis of the main work, and at the distance of more than 100 yards from it," he reported, "several of our men were injured by the explosion of what was ascertained to be loaded shells buried in the ground. These shells were the ordinary 8 or 10 inch mortar or columbiad shells, filled with powder, buried a few inches below the surface of the ground, and so arranged with some fulminate, or with the ordinary artillery friction primer, that they exploded by being trod upon or otherwise disturbed."

As they cautiously entered Yorktown, Northern soldiers found more lethal souvenirs left behind by the rebels. "Many of these shells," declared Major-General Fitz John Porter, who commanded the occupation force, "were concealed in the streets and houses of the town, and arranged to explode by treading on the caps or pulling a wire attached to the doors." Also, reported General Barry, "Articles of common use, and which would be most likely to be picked up, such as engineers' wheelbarrows, or pickaxes, or shovels, were laid upon the spot with apparent carelessness. Concealed strings or wires leading from the friction primer of the shell to the superincumbent articles were so arranged that the slightest disturbance would occasion the explosion. These shells were not thus placed on the glacis at the bottom of the ditch, &c., which, in view of an anticipated assault, might possibly be considered a legitimate use of them, but they were basely planted by an enemy who was secretly abandoning his post on common roads, at springs of water, in the shade of trees, at the foot of telegraph poles, and, lastly, quite within the defenses of the place--in the very streets of the town."

Fred T. Locke, Porter's assistant adjutant-general, recalled after the war the horrible fate of a telegraph operator who stepped on a buried shell in Yorktown and had his legs "terribly mangled." The young man "died soon after in great agony."

Yorktown was soon cleared of "infernal machines" by captured rebels, who were ordered by General McClellan to search for and destroy the buried shells.

General Barry placed the blame for the outrage on Confederate Brigadier-General Gabriel Rains, who commanded the post at Yorktown. "The belief of the complicity of General Gabriel Rains in this dastardly business is confirmed by the knowledge possessed by many officers of our Army of a similar mode of warfare inaugurated by him while disgracing the uniform of the American Army during the Seminole war in Florida."

Gabriel Rains of North Carolina graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1827 and served with distinction, reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1860. Always interested in mechanics and chemistry, perhaps more of a scientist than a soldier, Rains did a great deal of experimenting with explosives. He applied his knowledge at Yorktown. "At a salient angle," Rains explained, "an accessible point of our works, as part of the defenses thereof, I had the land mined with the weapons alluded to, to destroy assailants and prevent escalation. Subsequently, with a similar view, they were placed at spots I never saw...some 6 or 7 miles this side of Williamsburg." Reporting to Major-General D. H. Hill, his division commander, Rains wrote, "some 4 small shells, found abandoned by our artillery, were hastily prepared by my efforts, and put in the road near a tree felled across, mainly to have a moral effect in checking the advance of the enemy (for they were too small to do more)."

When Jefferson Davis quoted Rains on this same incident in **The Rise And Fall Of The Confederate Government**, the story ended differently: "A body of the enemy's cavalry came upon these sub-terra shells, and they exploded with terrific effect."

Confederate Major-General James Longstreet, commanding the right wing of Johnston's retreating army, disapproved of Rains' tactics. "It is the desire of the major-general commanding," he wrote to Rains in the third person, "that you put no shells or torpedoes behind you, as he does not recognize it as a proper or effective method of war."

Rains, however, remained enthusiastic about the devices: "No soldier will march over mined land," he proclaimed, "and a corps of sappers, each having two ten-inch shells, two primers, and a mule to carry them, could stop an army." Rains had the matter forwarded up the chain of command until it came to the desk of Confederate Secretary of War George W. Randolph.

After considering the ethical and practical aspects of the question, Secretary Randolph issued the rebel government's official policy: "It is not admissible in civilized warfare to take life with no other object than the destruction of life....It is admissible to plant shells in a parapet to repel an assault, or in a wood to check pursuit, because the object is to save the work in one case and the army in the other. Civilized warfare does not allow one", Randolph added, "to plant shells merely to destroy life and without other design than that of depriving the enemy of a few men."

During the rest of the war the Confederates made considerable use of "subterranean shells" and "infernal devices," as land-mines were then called. Presumably employed in accordance with Randolph's policy, most of the weapons came from the workshops of the Confederate Torpedo Bureau, headed by Gabriel Rains.

Rains estimated that by 1864 there were 1,300 shells planted in the defenses of Richmond, most of them rigged to explode by pulling a string. The rebels also planted extensive mine fields to protect their works at Fort

Fisher, Fort McAllister, and Battery Wagner, all of which fell to Union forces despite their defenses.

Unlike its modern counterpart, the Civil War land-mine presented no danger to innocent civilians long after hostilities had ceased. The technology of those days produced devices that could remain in the ground only a short time before being rendered harmless by seepage.

The nature of land-mines makes them useful only for defending fortifications, hindering a pursuit, or spreading terror. In the Civil War, the Union army seldom found itself in a defensive position or in retreat, and the Federal government refrained from terrorist acts. Consequently, the development and use of these weapons remained almost exclusively with the Confederacy.

America's Devil's Island

by
Harry Dolbier

Picture seven small islands, little more than sand keys, flat, featureless, rising just a few feet above tropical waters. These are the Dry Tortugas in the Florida Straits, seventy miles west of Key West, one hundred and ten miles north-northwest of Havana. At first glance the sun-baked islets appear barren, but close up you see that they teem with marine life, birds, thick swarms of mosquitoes. You'll find the climate is humid and enervating with temperatures that stay between fifty and ninety degrees year round. In the fall, fierce tropical storms roar through from the open sea into the Gulf of Mexico.

When Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon discovered the islands in 1513, he named them for the plentiful tortugas - sea turtles - with which he provisioned his ships. Later cartographers added "Dry" to the name as a warning to mariners that there was no fresh water on the islands.

The United States acquired the Dry Tortugas from Spain in 1821 along with the rest of Florida, and in 1825 the government established a light station with a 65-foot tall tower on Garden Key, the largest of the Tortugas, lying in the center of the circular archipelago.

The War of 1812, and in particular Admiral Sir George Cockburn's burning of Washington, D.C., served to concentrate the mind of Congress on coastal defense. Shortly after the war ended, the American government contracted the services of General Simon Bernard, a leading expert on defense systems and aide-de-camp to the Emperor Napoleon, to head a commission charged with designing a system of sea coast fortifications stretching from New England to the Gulf of Mexico.

Bernard's plans embraced a string of masonry forts designed to withstand assault by the most powerful artillery known at the time -- smooth-bore cannon firing solid shot, the heavy guns of the Napoleonic Wars. Twenty-six forts were eventually built, including Fort Monroe near Hampton Roads, Virginia, Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, Fort Pulaski, guarding the approaches to Savannah, Georgia, and Fort Jefferson, intended to control the Straits of Florida. Moving at a glacial pace, the War Department got around to beginning the construction of Fort Jefferson in 1846. Its site was Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas.

Work progressed slowly in the debilitating climate. Slaves which the government contracted from their masters

for \$20 a month labored alongside Irish stone masons from New York who earned \$1.12 a day plus subsistence. The workers' 60-hour work weeks and forty-two million bricks eventually produced the largest fort in America -- a hexagonal structure with 50-foot walls eight feet thick whose outside perimeter measured a half-mile. Its three levels held emplacements for 420 guns and accommodation for a garrison of 1500 men.

In 1860 Captain Montgomery C. Meigs, supervising engineer in charge of constructing the Washington Aqueduct and the U. S. Capitol expansion, ran afoul of Secretary of War John B. Floyd. By way of exile, Meigs was ordered to take over supervision of the work at Fort Jefferson, still incomplete after fourteen years.

Meigs arrived at Garden Key on October 8, 1860. After Abraham Lincoln's election the following month, Southern threats of secession and seizure of Federal property became more serious. Lieutenant-General Winfield Scott, commanding officer of the 16,000-man United States Army, complained to the new Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, that there was "not a soldier in Fort Jefferson to resist a handful of filibusters or a rowboat of pirates." Scott shipped a hundred muskets with a hundred rounds of ammunition for each to Meigs for possible use by the 70 - 80 workmen on the site. "All that is possible for you to do without troops," Scott wrote to Meigs, "we know will be performed."

By January, 1861, Captain Meigs had closed up some 200 construction openings in the fort's walls, taken up several bridges across the moat, and erected a drawbridge and sallyport. At the same time, Lieutenant-General Scott ordered brevet Major Lewis G. Arnold of the 2nd U. S. Artillery to garrison Fort Jefferson. Sailing from Boston, Lewis' command of sixty-two enlisted men, five officers, and two field pieces disembarked at Garden Key on January 18. Within the week, Major Lewis dispatched Captain Meigs to Fort Taylor in Key West, where the engineer obtained six 8-inch Columbiads and four field pieces. Fort Jefferson was at last manned and armed.

More ordnance arrived from the North, and by the time the secessionists fired on Fort Sumter in April, Fort Jefferson guarded the Florida Straits with forty-three 8-inch Columbiads and twenty-four 24-pounder howitzers.

Even before hostilities began, Fort Jefferson and Bernard's other forts had been rendered obsolete by the development of rifled artillery and explosive shells. Fort Pulaski was captured by the Confederates at the beginning of the war. On April 10 - 11, 1862, Union General Quincy Gillmore reduced Pulaski to rubble with modern artillery firing at a range of one to two miles. Fort Sumter suffered a similar fate. Construction work at Garden Key ceased, and Fort Jefferson remained uncompleted.

After it became evident that there would never be a serious Confederate threat to Fort Jefferson, the government converted the installation to a military prison housing not prisoners of war but Union soldiers convicted of desertion and other crimes. The location, the climate, and the accommodations earned Fort Jefferson the sobriquets "Most cruel of government prisons" and "America's Devil's Island."

The military prison on the Dry Tortugas held some 550 inmates in 1865 when its most famous prisoners arrived. Dr. Samuel Mudd, a Maryland physician, had treated John Wilkes Booth's broken leg as the assassin fled the scene of his crime. On scant evidence, a military

commission convicted Mudd of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth, Jefferson Davis, and others to murder President Abraham Lincoln. The doctor was dispatched in secret to Fort Jefferson along with three other convicted conspirators, there to serve his life sentence.

Mudd attempted escape once, stowing away on a supply ship. But the prisoners were counted before the ship left the wharf, and the doctor's absence was discovered. Guards searched the ship and soon discovered Mudd concealed beneath the deck planking.

In 1868 an epidemic of yellow fever struck the prison. Thirty-eight men died, including most of the medical staff. Samuel Mudd volunteered his services as a physician and heroically cared for fever victims until the epidemic ran its course. In recognition of his gallant service (and possibly in recognition of the flimsy nature of his conviction) President Andrew Johnson commuted his sentence, and Dr. Mudd returned home to Maryland.

In 1874 yellow fever struck the Tortugas once again, followed by a devastating hurricane. These disasters prompted the government to close the prison and abandon Fort Jefferson.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared Fort Jefferson and its environs a national monument in 1935, and in 1992 the 100-square-mile Dry Tortugas National Park was created. Today visitors can come to Garden Key by seaplane or boat. No food, water, supplies, fuel, or accommodations are available, though camping is allowed on the island. And the visitors do come -- to enjoy the abundant marine and bird life and to admire the majestic pile of red brick that was once the largest fort in America.

The Last Survivor

From the Internet

Contrary to popular belief, the last survivor of the Civil War was indeed a Union veteran! Albert Woolson of Minnesota was the last authenticated survivor of the Civil War. He was a Union drummer boy and died in 1956.

The last authenticated Confederate survivor was Pleasant Crump of the 10th Alabama, who died 31 December 1951. Claims made in behalf of Walter Washington Williams of Texas (who died on 19 December 1959) and John Stalling of Virginia (who died on 19 March 1959) have been discredited due to the 1860 census. Mr. Williams was only 5 years old as of the census, and Mr. Stalling was just 2 years old!

The last Union General to survive the Civil War was Brigadier General Adelbert Ames, who died at age 97 in 1933. The last confirmed Confederate General to die was Brigadier General John McCausland, who died on 22 January 1927 at age 91. Felix H. Robertson, who was appointed a Brigadier General in 1864, and who served as such, but who's appointment was rejected by the Confederate Senate in 1865, died on 20 April 1928 at age 89.

Presidents' Civil War Service Records

Seven of the eight United States Presidents who served immediately after Abraham Lincoln were active participants in the Civil War. Only Grover Cleveland, who was drafted but purchased a substitute for \$150 (reportedly a Polish immigrant named George Brinske or Benniskey) was not a veteran.

Andrew Johnson was appointed military governor of Tennessee in March 1862, with the rank of Brigadier General.

Ulysses S. Grant, Lieutenant General, who needs no further introduction.

Rutherford B. Hayes, served with the 23rd Ohio Infantry starting as a major, and rising to colonel, commanding that unit. Was promoted in October, 1864, to brigadier of volunteers, and was breveted to major general on 13 March 1865.

James Garfield was commissioned at lieutenant colonel in November, 1861. He commanded the 18th brigade and was promoted to brigadier general in January 1862. He was elected to Congress in September 1863.

Chester A. Arthur served in the New York State militia from February 1858 until December 1862. He was appointed engineer-in-chief with the rank of brigadier general in January 1861, rising through several ranks until July 1862, when he was appointed Quarter-Master General.

Grover Cleveland was considered to be a "draft dodger" by most members of the Grand Army of the Republic because he "purchased" a substitute for \$150.

Benjamin Harrison started his career as a 2nd lieutenant on 9 July 1862, rising to colonel of the 70th Indiana on 7 August 1862. He was breveted brigadier general on 23 January 1865.

William McKinley enlisted in the 23rd Ohio Infantry as a private in June 1861. He rose to commissary sergeant and was promoted to 2nd lieutenant for valor at Antietam in April 1862. In February 1863 he was promoted 1st lieutenant and July 1864 promoted captain. In March 1865 was breveted major.

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain And The 20th Maine (Part One)

by
Dr. Ralph Widener, Jr.

The slim, erect officer in Union blue, peered down the rocky slopes of Little Round Top. Clouds of smoke and dust obscured his view, but what he saw focused his face into lines of decision. His vivid blue eyes narrowed, and the lips, almost covered by a sweeping brown mustache, drew into a thin line as he calculated the effects of a move which he could scarcely hope to carry off, but which he had to make to save his command from defeat or capture and prevent the entire left flank of the Union line at Gettysburg from being rolled up. If the Confederate Army seized little Round Top, the battle might well be lost for the Union, and Lee's invasion of the North a likely political threat.

Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain of the 20th

Maine Infantry, former Bowdoin College professor, and Bangor Theological seminarian, literally had his back to the wall, at least to the rocky hillside of Little Round Top. Before him, pushing in grim silence up the hill in what was certain to be the final charge that would crash through the thin blue ranks of the 20th and take the hard-pressed defenders of the west side of the hill in the rear, were large elements of regiments from Alabama. Chamberlain's own regiment was riddled with casualties, outnumbered nearly three-to-one, and over-extended to the left to keep from being flanked. Worse still, it had all but run out of ammunition. To try to stave off the onrushing Southerners with musket butts and stones would be hopeless and tragic. But, without hesitation, Chamberlain yelled out "Bayonet!" to his embattled men.

The men set up a shout, more loudly than the loudest Rebel yell, as two hundred bayonets were drawn from leather sheaths, followed by the grating clash of steel as their loops slid over their rifle barrels. Whipping out his sabre, Chamberlain strode forward, and the entire regiment plunged down the hill in a great wheeling movement to the right of their line.

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain - he was called "Lawrence" by his parents - was born on September 8, 1828, in Brewer, Maine. His father, also a Joshua, gave his sons middle names after great men he admired. One of his boyhood heroes was Captain James Lawrence, the American Naval captain of the frigate, Chesapeake, who fought a losing battle with H.M.S. Shannon in 1813 and, on being mortally wounded, cried out, "Don't give up the ship." Hence the name Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain.

One of Lawrence's brothers bore the name of John Calhoun after the Southern statesman because Lawrence's father admired his position on the rights of the states

Because there was a history of military service in the Chamberlain family, Lawrence's father sent him to a military school in Ellsworth, Maine, where he did well in military drill, Latin, and the required modern language, French.

At home, his father taught him, and his brothers, how to effectively use a heavy broadsword. At Little Round Top in July of 1863, Lawrence would us its distant cousin, the bayonet, to help preserve the Union.

Once his schooling was over, Lawrence wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life. His father hoped he would go to West Point and secure a military career. His mother felt he should become a minister. His mother prevailed, to a point. In the mid 1840s, Lawrence had become a member of the Congregational Church in Brewer, Maine, and religion in its social, as well as its spiritual significance, began to possess him greatly. He agreed to become a minister of the gospel, but not the conventional type. He would be a missionary to some country where he could "keep school" and teach the social as well as the spiritual message of Christianity.

To carry out his goal, he had to acquire a college education, and the college in Maine which produced many aspirants to the Congregational ministry was Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. But to be admitted to it, a knowledge of Greek was required. For the better part of 6 months, he studied the language, pausing only to split wood, or hoe the round on his family's one-hundred-acre farm, or to fence with his father and brothers with broadswords. His study of Greek paid off, he was admitted to Bowdoin College in 1848.

Lawrence achieved a splendid record at Bowdoin: First rank in Greek and First Honors in French. In higher mathematics, and in astronomy, subjects which had intimidated him initially, he was honored by being permitted to submit original problems for the junior and senior examinations. He was a first assistant in Chemistry, and an assistant librarian of the college. In every course he excelled, and his election to Phi Beta Kappa set the seal on a fine beginning as a scholar. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1852.

But he didn't study all the time while at Bowdoin. He also fell in love with the daughter of the pastor of the First Parish Church of the Congregational Church in Brunswick, Frances Caroline Adams, better known as "Fanny" to everyone. To his great joy, she accepted him, but their marriage would not take place until he graduated from Bangor Theological Seminary. This occurred 3 years later, and they were married on December 7, 1855, following which Chamberlain accepted an invitation to become an instructor in Logic and Natural Theology at Bowdoin College for the academic year 1855 - 1856. Chamberlain stayed at Bowdoin the mid-summer of 1862. After his first year, he became a professor of Modern Languages, a position he held, on the records at least, from 1861 until 1865.

On October 16, 1856, a daughter was born whom the Chamberlains named Grace Dupee. A boy was born in late 1857, but died about a year later. A second son, Harold Wyllys, was born on October 10, 1858.

The bombardment of Fort Sumter, and President Lincoln's call for volunteers, sent a number of Bowdoin seniors rushing to the colors. As the national crisis deepened with the initial Union defeats, Chamberlain grew uneasy. He strongly disapproved of slavery on moral and religious grounds, but, if anything, he was more critical of secession as the abrogation of a government which the Southern states had originally pledged themselves to sustain. Although he came to greatly admire the Southern officer and soldier, he denounced, as long as he lived, the South's withdrawal from the Union.

Bowdoin College tried to keep him from considering service in the Union Army, even offering him a two-year leave of absence beginning on August 1, 1862, to travel and study in Europe.

Chamberlain was greatly tempted to accept the college's offer. But, his conscience proving too strong, he went to Augusta, Maine's capital, to see Governor Israel Washburn. The Governor, and his very competent Adjutant-General, John L. Hodson, were faced with pressure to raise troops as rapidly as possible. Where to find capable commanders was a serious problem. But, here was a professor of Modern Languages at Bowdoin College offering his services. Would Professor Chamberlain be interested in a colonelcy and the command of a regiment? Lawrence modestly disclaimed such an ambition at the moment in view of his inadequacies as a military man. But, he would consider a Lieutenant-Colonelcy, a position in which he could master the art of command in war. On August 8, 1862, Governor Washburn tended him a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel of the new 20th Regiment of Infantry, Maine Volunteers. Chamberlain promptly accepted, said his "good-byes" and soon left for Camp Mason at Portland, Maine.

To Be Continued

November Meeting

The November 2016 meeting of the
Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18
SUVCW

Will be held on
Tuesday 15 November 2016
At the
Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

The Battle Cry of Freedom by George F. Root

Yes, we'll rally round the flag, boys,
We'll rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom,
We will rally from the hillside,
We'll gather from the plain,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom.

Chorus:

The Union forever,
Hurrah! boys, hurrah!
Down with the traitors,
Up with the stars;
While we rally round the flag, boys,
Rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom

We are springing to the call
Of our brothers gone before,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom;
And we'll fill our vacant ranks with
A million free men more,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom.

Chorus

We will welcome to our numbers
The loyal, true and brave,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom;
And although they may be poor,
Not a man shall be a slave,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom

Chorus

So we're springing to the call
From the East and from the West,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom;
And we'll hurl the rebel crew
From the land that we love best,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom.

Chorus