



# The Texas Union Herald



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

Volume I, Issue 11, December 2016

## Rattling Sabres

by  
Glen E. Zook

This December 2016 edition of the Texas Union Herald finishes out Volume I. There was no January 2016 edition and, as such, only 11 editions for 2016. For 2017, it is definitely planned on having a full 12 editions for the year.

December brings forth several things for the Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 including nomination and election of officers for the coming year as well as the more unfortunate thing of dues, for 2017, also coming due.

So far, the following have been nominated for officers for 2017:

Commander .....	John Schneider
Senior Vice Commander .....	Rick Erder
Junior Vice Commander .....	OPEN
Secretary .....	Don Gates
Treasurer .....	Don Gates

Please think of others who would be suitable for serving as officers for 2017 and even volunteering to serve as an officer. We will be voting on the officer corps at the December meeting which is reason enough to make sure and attend.

As for 2017, dues for regular members are \$44.00 with \$33.00 for additional family members. The dues for a Junior member are \$10.00. See the announcement, on the next page of this newsletter, for details.

The Winter Solstice, the "official" start of winter, is on 21 December. However, the temperature has started to drop and, as this is being written, rain is falling. At least the temperature is well above freezing and there is no chance of an ice storm as well as a snow storm.

Growing up, I was "born and bred" in the "snow capital" of Indiana, LaPorte. The city gets, on average, more snow per year than other cities in the state. The city is located 12-miles from Lake Michigan and there is a topographical "ridge" between LaPorte and South Bend. Basically, the "lake effect" snow forms across the lake and then "hits" the ridge resulting in heavy snow fall.

Chicago is about 50-miles west and is across Lake Michigan from LaPorte. If Chicago gets an inch of snow, LaPorte often gets a foot of snow! During the winter, in the "goode olde days", the television weathermen would often say something like "and there is no snow within 150-miles of Chicago". Then, a telephone would ring, the weatherman would answer it, and then say "with the usual exception of

LaPorte, Indiana"! There might be snow falling in Chicago but there definitely would be snow in LaPorte!

I went to college at the Georgia Institute of Technology better known, worldwide, as "Georgia Tech" in Atlanta, Georgia. My freshman year, other students would ask me why I didn't go to Purdue University. My answer was that it gets cold in West Lafayette!

My wife was born in Glendale, California, but raised from age 3 in Atlanta. Before getting married, my junior year in college, I brought my now wife up to LaPorte in early March 1965. As we drove north, she kept asking when we would start seeing snow and I told her when we reached LaPorte County. There were occasional patches of snow on the ground as we drove north of Indianapolis but no real snow coverage. Then, a couple of miles south of the Kankakee River, the southern boundary of the country, the ground was covered with snow. Crossing the river, there was over a foot of snow on the ground and even more as we drove north to the city.

The next morning, my now wife was sitting, at the kitchen table, with my mother. She looked out the window and it was snowing about 3-inches an hour which would be a blizzard in Atlanta. She said, "look, it is snowing". My mother looked up and said "light flurries"! What was a blizzard in Atlanta was "light flurries" in LaPorte!

Do I miss the snow? Of course not! The occasional snow in this area is enough and if there is no snow a particular year, I definitely am happy!

Although most of the Civil War was fought in the south, there are still a lot of areas that get a significant snowfall and very cold weather. I can only imagine the suffering that the common soldier, on both sides, went through during the war. A canvass tent, even though it can offer some relief from the wind, is still not my idea of suitable shelter from the cold. For those who were prisoners of war, cold weather was absolute hell! I have seen sub zero temperatures in Atlanta during the time I was in college.

Unfortunately, the Union prisoner of war camp in Chicago, Camp Douglas, was the equivalent of the Confederate Andersonville prisoner of war camp in Georgia although not as many prisoners died. However, with the Chicago winters, the Confederate prisoners suffered immensely. It was the same with such camps on both sides of the conflict.

Anyway, enough for now. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year to all Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, their families, and to everyone else as well.

# Minutes of November Meeting

Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

November 15, 2016

Commander Ridenour called Camp #18 to order at 7:06 PM. In attendance were Brothers Erder, Gates, Johnson, Peddie, J. Schneider, Thomas and Zook.

Commander Ridenour offered an opening prayer.

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

## Patriotic Minute:

None

## Guest Speaker:

Brother Gates presented a power point slide show entitled "A Mighty Scourge". It was an overview of the late war with an eye to turning 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 presented the revised and enlarged 14" x 18" bronze plaque with wording similar to the DUV plaque at Greenwood Cemetery, but focused on the cleaning by camp 18. All present were in favor of pursuing the acquisition of the plaque as presented.

## New Business:

Brother Gates proposed David Michael Rediger for membership in the camp. Brother Gates indicated that his application had been reviewed and found to meet all requirements for regular membership. Brother Gates called for a vote and it was seconded by brother John Schneider.

The vote was unanimous in favor of accepting brother Rediger.

Commander Ridenour opened the nominations for new camp officers. The following nominations were received:

Commander .....	John Schneider
Senior Vice Commander .....	Rick Erder
Junior Vice Commander .....	OPEN
Secretary .....	Don Gates
Treasurer .....	Don Gates

## SVR/1<sup>st</sup> US Business:

Lt. Thomas invited all any interested camp members to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> US's next reenactment on December 2-4 at the state battlefield park in Prairie Grove Arkansas.

## Closing Announcements:

The next month meeting will be on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.

There being no further business before the camp, Commander Ridenour declared the meeting closed at 8:00 PM.

## Closing Benediction:

Commander Ridenour conducted the Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,  
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Don Gates, PDC  
Secretary/Treasurer

## 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**

# The Texas **Union** Herald

The Texas **Union** Herald is published monthly by the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**. For official business, including editorial and article submission, the mailing address is as follows:

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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.

**Fights on the Weldon Railroad, Va.** - August 18, 1864, the Unionists made an advance upon this road, in order to cut off the enemy's supplies, but were driven back by the Confederates. A sharp fight followed, and the lost ground retaken and fortified. Next day the fight was renewed and the Union lines were broken. This battle cost the Unionists about 3,000 men, a great proportion being taken prisoners. On the 21st the Confederates made another vigorous attempt to dislodge the Unionists from the road, but were repulsed with a severe loss: the Unionists suffered but slightly in comparison.

**Battle of Ream's Station, Va.** - Fought August 25, 1864, between the Union corps under Hancock and a heavy force of Early's Confederate army, the latter being the attacking party. Both sides fought desperately, and Hancock withdrew from Ream's station, having lost 9 cannon and 3,000 men killed, wounded and taken prisoners. The Confederates lost 1,500 killed and wounded. This battle gave the Confederates repossession of the Weldon railroad southward, although the track had previously been destroyed by the Unionists.

**Kilpatrick's Raid in Georgia** - General Kilpatrick of Sherman's Union army, with 5,000 cavalry, August 18, 1864, broke the track of the West Point railroad, near Fairburn, and then struck the Macon road, near Jonesboro. Here he encountered a heavy force of Confederates, under Ross, but maintained possession of the road for several hours. Finding himself likely to be over-whelmed by numbers, he retreated, made a circuit and again struck the road at Lovejoy's station. Here he was once more menaced by the Confederates. Making a charge upon them, capturing 4 cannon and a number of prisoners, he retired to Decatur, without having very seriously broken up the Macon railroad.

**Battle of Jonesboro, Ga.** - Fought August 31, 1864, between a force under Howard, of Sherman's Union army, and a heavy force of Confederates from Hood's army, under Hardee, and Lee's command. The conflict in front of Jonesboro lasted two hours, when the Confederates withdrew to their fortifications. Their loss, as officially reported by Hood, was 1,400 killed and wounded. The Union losses were comparatively light. On the first of September General Davis, with a body of Union cavalry, attacked the Confederate lines at Jonesboro, carrying their fortifications, and the Confederates effected their escape southward. In the meantime, the Unionists were busily engaged in destroying the Macon railroad.

**Raiders in Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky** - The Confederate cavalry under Wheeler, after breaking the Union railroad and destroying property at Adairsville and Calhoun, Ga., August 14, 1864, demanded the surrender of Dalton, then occupied by less than 500 Unionists under Colonel Laibold. This was refused, and Wheeler sharply attacked Laibold's position, but the latter having been reinforced next morning. Wheeler was driven off. Wheeler then passed into Tennessee, and formed a Union with Forrest and other raiders; but the whole were driven from the State by the Union forces under Generals Rousseau, Steadman and Granger. September 4, 1864, the famous Confederate guerrilla, John Morgan, was surprised and killed near Greenville, Tenn., by a Union force under General Gillem, his band being dispersed or captured. September 8, 1864, the Confederate raider, Jessie, and 100 of his men were captured at Ghent, in Kentucky.

**Surrender of Atlanta, Ga.** - The grand object of Sherman's Union expedition to Atlanta was achieved on the night of September 1, 1864, by the Confederate General Hood and his forces evacuating the city and its fortifications. Before leaving, he blew up seven trains of cars and destroyed other property. General Slocum, of the 20th Union Army corps, occupied the city September 2, and it then became the headquarters of the Federal army in Georgia. Hood withdrew to Macon.

**Battle of Winchester, Va.** - Fought September 19, 1864, between a heavy force of Confederates under Early, in position near Winchester, and Union troops under Averill and Sheridan. The fight lasted from noon until five o'clock in the evening, when the Confederates retreated, pursued by Sheridan's troops. Union loss 653 killed, 3,719 wounded, and 618 captured. Confederate loss about 6,000 - 2,000 wounded were found in the hospitals at Winchester, and about 3,000 were taken prisoners.

**Battle of Fisher's Hill, Va.** - Fought September 22, 1864, between Sheridan's Union army and Early's Confederate troops, who were entrenched at that point. A flanking movement and a general charge along the Confederate lines compelled the latter to evacuate their fortifications, the Unionists pursuing them through the night. Early's loss was about 300 killed and wounded, and also 1,100 prisoners, 16 cannon, with his camp equipage, wagons, horses, small arms, and ammunition. Sheridan's loss was about 300 men. By the 29th of September, the Confederates had been driven from the Shenandoah valley.

**Battle of Pilot Knob, Mo.** - The Confederate General Price, with a force estimated at 10,000 men invaded Missouri, from Arkansas, September 23, 1864, raiding the country with apparently but little opposition. On the 26th Price attacked the little town of Pilot Knob, then occupied by a Union brigade under General Ewing, but was repulsed in all his attempts with severe losses. Price then occupying Shepherd's mountain, in that vicinity, Ewing blew up his magazine and retired to Harrison's station, where he entrenched. Price closely pursued him, breaking up the railroad, but Ewing finally escaped to Rolla, with little loss, from the dangers that surrounded him.

**Price Defeated** - During the month of October, 1864, the Confederate General Price committed various depredations in Missouri, although harassed and watched by Union forces under several commanders. October 25, when on the Fort Scott (Kas.) railroad, Price was beaten with serious loss. On the 26th, at Mine Creek, his Generals Marmaduke and Cabell, with a large number of their men,

were captured; and he was defeated also at Des Cygnes, Kas., on the 27th, and on the 28th at Newtonia. This ended the invasion of Missouri. Price lost 10 cannon, a large number of small arms, 1,958 prisoners (besides his killed, wounded and deserters), and nearly all his trains and plunder. His defeat was caused by the exertions of 7,000 Union cavalry, whose total losses in killed, wounded and mission, were less than 350.

**Battle of Allatoona, Ga.** - On the 5th October, 1864, a strong force of Confederates, under General French, unsuccessfully attacked the small Union garrison under General Corse, with a loss of 2,000 men, killed and captured. Union loss 700 men, over one-third of the entire command. General Corse was wounded in the face.

**Battle of Thoms' Brook, Va.** - Fought October 8, 1864, between Union cavalry, under Generals Merritt and Custer, and the Confederate cavalry divisions of Generals Rosser and Lomax. The latter were defeated and driven twenty miles, with the loss of about 330 prisoners and several cannon. The Union loss was less than 100.

**Battle of Cedar Creek, Va.** - Fought October 19, 1864, between Sheridan's Union army (he being temporarily absent, but returning before the fight was over), and Early's Confederate forces in the valley of the Shenandoah. The latter were the attacking party, but their assault was steadily met, after the first panic by the Unionists, who subsequently repulsed and routed their foes. During the first part of the battle it is estimated that the Unionists lost 1,300 prisoners, 20 cannon, considerable camp equipage, ambulances, wagons and medical supplies. Before the close of the contest the Unionists, it is estimated, captured and recaptured the following: 1,254 prisoners, 48 cannon, 398 horses and mules, 65 ambulances, 50 wagons, 15,000 rounds of artillery ammunition, 1,580 small arms, 10 battle-flags, harness, medical stores, etc. The Confederates lost about 3,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners. The Unionists lost 5,990, including 2,000 temporarily missing, and a large number of officers. But the victory, though gained at heavy loss, was considered decisive for the Unionists.

**Bombardment and Capture of Plymouth, N.C.** - Commodore Macomb, with 7 Union gunboats, began bombarding the Confederate stronghold of Plymouth, N.C., October 29, 1864. The attack lasted until the 31st, when a Union shell exploded the Confederate magazine, and soon afterwards the Union commander took possession of the place without further resistance.

**Sherman's March from Atlanta to Savannah, Ga.** - On the 1st of November, 1864, the Confederate force under Hood in Georgia was estimated at 35,000 infantry and 10,000 cavalry. About this time Sherman arranged the details for his expedition from Atlanta to the sea-coast through the Confederate State of Georgia. The Union army for this enterprise comprised 60,000 infantry, 5,500 cavalry, and between 60 and 70 pieces of artillery. On the 14th of November the storehouses, depot buildings and machine shops covering 200 acres in the city of Atlanta, were burned by the Unionists, and but little more than the dwellings and churches of the place survived the flames. On the 15th of November the advance guard of the expedition left Atlanta, followed on the next day by the main army.

**Battle Near Morristown, Tenn.** - Fought November 13 - 14, 1864, between General Breckenridge, with a Confederate force estimated at 3,000 strong, and General Gillem, with 1,500 Unionists and 6 cannon. The

latter were routed losing several hundred prisoners and artillery. Gillem then escaped, with the remainder of his force, to Knoxville.

**Battle of Hollow-Tree Gap, Tenn.** - Four miles from Franklin, Thomas' Union cavalry overtook Hood's retreating Confederate army, November 17, 1864, and attacked it in front and rear, capturing 413 prisoners and three battle-flags.

**Another Battle at Franklin, Tenn.** - Hood's Confederate army then fell back to Franklin, but Johnson's division of Thomas' Union army repulsed them on the Harpeth river bank, and Union cavalry took possession of the town, capturing the Confederate hospitals, containing more than 2,000 wounded men, 200 of whom were Unionists. Hood was still pursued after leaving Franklin, but escaped into the interior of Georgia, with but little additional loss.

**Battle of Griswoldville, Ga.** - Fought November 22, 1864, between a detachment of Kilpatrick's Union cavalry (from Sherman's army) with a brigade of Union infantry, and about 5,000 Confederates, mostly militia, with some of Hardee's corps. The latter were the attacking party. The fight was brief but sanguinary, and resulted in the retreat of the Confederates, who left more than 300 of their dead on the field, and lost more than 2,000 in wounded and prisoners. The Union loss was about 40 killed and wounded.

**Occupation of Milledgeville,** the Capital of Georgia - Sherman's Union army occupied Milledgeville, November 23, 1864. The Confederate legislature, in session there, hastily adjourned, and the citizens were panic-stricken. The Unionists burned the magazines, arsenals, depot-buildings, various factories, store-houses, containing large amounts of Confederate public property, and about 1,700 bales of cotton. Private property was everywhere respected. Railroads were generally torn up and destroyed.

**Capture of Fort McAllister, near Savannah, Ga.** - The fort was manned by about 200 men, Confederate infantry and artillery, and lay in Sherman's way to the objective point of his expedition, the city of Savannah. December 13, 1864, the fort was carried, in a single assault, by nine regiments of Unionists. On the same day Sherman was enabled to communicate with the Union naval squadron at the mouth of the Ogeechee river, under Admiral Dahlgren and General Foster.

**Capture of Savannah, Ga.** - A demand from the Union General Sherman upon the Confederate General Hardee, who then occupied Savannah, for the surrender of the city, November 17, 1864, was refused. Sherman, therefore, prepared to carry the place by a military and naval assault. Hardee, recognizing the exigencies of the times, evacuated the city on the night of November 20, first destroying the Confederate war vessels in the harbor; and thus Sherman's expedition successfully terminated. Hardee's command moved toward Charleston, S.C.

**Results of Sherman's Expedition from Atlanta to Savannah** - Sherman's Union army brought with them to Savannah 15,000 slaves, more than 1,000 prisoners, 150 cannon, 13 locomotives in good order, 190 railroad cars, a very large supply of ammunition and other war material, three steamers and 32,000 bales of cotton, besides achieving national benefits growing out of the success of his expedition.

# Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain And The 20th Maine

(Part Two)

by

Dr. Ralph Widener, Jr.

**Hood in Tennessee and Alabama** - The Confederate General Hood, who had retired before Sherman's Union army to Gaylesville, in North-eastern Alabama, visited Jacksonville, and thence proceeded northwesterly toward the Tennessee river, watched by the Union forces under General Thomas. The Confederate troops began their northward march about November 20, 1864, approaching Pulaski, Tenn. At this point, General Schofield and General A. J. Smith concentrated their Union forces, on learning of Hood's approach. The latter moved directly upon Gaynesboro, thus flanking Schofield, who fell back to Columbia, and being pursued by Hood, retreated to Franklin.

**Battle of Spring Hill, Tenn.** - Hood, with his Confederate army, attacked Schofield's Union cavalry November 29, 1864. A fight ensued in which Schofield lost less than 300 men, and then he retreated to Franklin, 18 miles from Nashville. Here he formed his lines in a strong position and prepared for battle with Hood.

**Battle of Franklin, Tenn.** - Fought November 30, 1864, between Schofield's Union force, consisting of two army divisions, commander by Generals Stanley and Cox, and two corps of Hood's Confederates army, under Generals Lee and Cheatham. The fight was extremely hot, the Confederates making repeated charges upon the Union batteries; but the Confederates were finally repulsed, and Schofield was reinforced by General Smith's corps. The Union loss was 189 killed, 1,033 wounded, and 1,194 missing. Hood's loss was 1,750 killed, 3,800 wounded, and 702 taken prisoners.

**Skirmish at Overall's Creek, Tenn.** - Fought December 4, 1864, at the blockhouse, occupied by a Union force and Bates division of Cheatham's Confederate corps, the latter attacking the former, and using artillery. The Union General Milroy coming up with infantry, cavalry and artillery, attacked the Confederates and drove them off.

**Battle Near Murfreesboro, Tenn.** - Fought December 5, 6, and 7, 1864. General Rousseau and about 8,000 Unionists were occupying Fortress Rosecrans, and were approached by two divisions of Lee and Cheatham's Confederate corps, with 2,500 of Forrest's Confederate cavalry. The Confederates hesitating to attack the fort, General Milroy, with seven regiments of Union Infantry, was sent out to engage them. He found them a short distance off, posted behind rail breastworks. A fight ensued, in which the Confederates were routed, with the loss of 30 killed, 175 wounded, 207 prisoners, and two cannon. On the same day Buford's Confederate cavalry entered Murfreesboro and shelled it, but were speedily driven out by a regiment of Union infantry and a section of artillery.

**A Union Raid in Virginia** - By orders from General Grant, December 6, 1864, a Union force of 20,000 men, with 22 cannon, proceeded down the line of the Weldon railroad, with instructions to destroy the road and penetrate the enemy's country, capturing such points and supplies as should come in their way. The weather was bad, but the expedition, which was absent a week, was mainly successful. Some opposition was encountered, but the entire loss of the Unionists did not exceed 100 men. They destroyed 3 railroad bridges, burned Sussex Court-house, and brought in a few prisoners.

A week later, the Army sent Colonel Adelbert Ames to Portland, Maine, to take command of a new volunteer infantry regiment, the 20th Maine. Ames, a native of the State of Maine, was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. He served with a battery at the First Battle of Bull Run where he took a Minie ball through his thigh. He refused to leave the field, and was lifted on and off a caisson as the battery changed position, continuing to give fire commands until his boot ran full of blood, and he keeled over from exhaustion. For his performance on the battle field, he would later be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

If Ames had been asked to pick a regiment that was earmarked for great deeds, he certainly would not have picked the 20th Maine in that August of 1862. Yet in numbers, at least, Ames could see that he had a regiment that conformed to the Table of Organization prescribed by law. The Civil War volunteer regiment consisted of ten companies, each having from sixty-four to eighty-two privates, thirteen non-commissioned officers, a wagoner, two musicians, a captain and two lieutenants. The regiment was commanded by a colonel, aided by a lieutenant-colonel, a major, and a small regimental staff of commissioned and non-commissioned officers.

As for the enlisted men, as Colonel Ames walked up and down the ranks of his first parade, he could begin to see certain possibilities. There were men - obviously passed by patriotically blind examining physicians - who had no business being in the army. But, there were others who looked very rugged indeed. These were flat-bellied, hard muscled fellows from the farms, forests, and coast towns of Maine. There were among them many who eked out a living on the farms in summer, and in the woods in winter, and it was a muscular life in both places. On the farm, power was provided by the man, the ox, and the horse, and the work - lifting rocks, pitching hay, manhandling the crude farm tools - was a personal struggle against the laws of inertia and gravity. In the woods it was all axe work. Men who worked in the lumber camps of that day in Maine got up before dawn, walked through deep snow four or five miles to their work, started chopping as soon as there was light enough to see, ate a frozen lunch, and worked until the light faded. To many of Ames' soldiers, hardship was not a stranger; it was the ordinary and accustomed way of life.

In addition, most of the Maine soldiers were already familiar with firearms, having used them since they were very young.

The regimental staff did not include an officer to tell the men what they were fighting for. None was needed. Most of the men of the 20th Maine seemed to have been well informed, surprisingly well educated, and fully cognizant of the main issue. If the South won, there would be no reason to expect a continuance of the United States of America. And, they might soon have no country.

This was an intolerable thought to the men of the 20th Maine. Just how intolerable it was we can probably

never understand, unless some day we unhappily find ourselves in the same position. But, judging by the letters these men wrote, the efforts they put forth, and the hardships that failed to deter them, we can understand that they were very much in earnest in their devotion to the Union.

In the few days Colonel Ames had before the regiment was to move to the theater of war, everything seemed to happen all at once. Commissions for the officers arrived from Augusta (Maine's capital). A Regular Army officer appeared and mustered the regiment into the Federal service. And, uniforms came and were issued. The usual uniform in the Civil War was dark blue coat and light blue trousers. But, initially the 20th Maine wore all dark blue - coat and trousers alike.

The regiment would be equipped partly by the state, partly by the United States government. In addition to his uniform, each man would get from the state a woolen blanket, a rubber blanket, a haversack, knapsack, canteen, a tin plate, tin dipper, knife, fork, and spoon. If he were lucky, he would get a towel. From Portland peddlers, the men were buying patented drinking tubes, pencils, stencil plates and ink, stationery, combs and brushes, revolvers, murderous-looking knives, money belts, patent medicines, and everything else that could possibly be imagined as helpful in crushing the rebellion. Colonel Ames knew that most of the stuff, and much of the government-issue material, would probably be scattered along some Virginia roadway on the first hard march. Shades of World War II!

As for arms, the 20th Maine was scheduled to draw muskets and ammunition in Washington.

With no time for training now; with 965 officers and men who were completely raw militarily, and with scanty equipment that would be needed later, Colonel Ames was supposed to represent himself as the commander of an infantry regiment and report, forthwith, to the Commanding General, Army of the Potomac.

The 20th Maine departed from Camp Mason at Portland, Maine, on September 3rd, taking a train southward for Boston where it boarded the steamer, Merrimac, for Alexandria, Virginia, arriving there on Sunday, September 7th. They marched into Washington, and bivouacked near the Arsenal grounds where they drew their muskets and ammunition, and practiced firing a bit.

The next day, the regiment headed for Fort Craig on Arlington Heights. The next matter of interest was the organizational assignment of the regiment. The military structure into which the 20th Maine was to fit was one that had not changed very radically since the days of Napoleon. The Army of the Potomac was divided into corps. Each corps was, in effect, a little army.

The corps was composed of two, or more, divisions, usually three.

The division was normally made up of three brigades.

The brigade, as originally organized in the Army of the Potomac, had four regiments.

The regiment was the basic building block of the army and the fighting unit. The regiments were mostly volunteers, taking their names from their parent states, having their own flags, and, in a sense, their own souls and personalities.

Normally, a regiment would leave its home state with around a thousand officers and men. If all the regiments in a corps were at full strength, the corps might

be composed of 36,000 men - a force capable of decisive effect on any battlefield. However, the "if" was a big one. Hard marching, exposure, and disease might reduce the regiment to 700 men, or less, within a few weeks; continued sickness, desertions, straggling, and the first battle might take several hundred more. A few months more of combat and the regiment was likely to be down to a third of its authorized strength.

Most of the states had no system of automatic replacements for existing regiments. Instead, new regiments were made up and sent into the field. About the only way an old regiment could get more soldiers was to detach a recruiting party and send it home to enlist new men. But, this procedure did not work well; so the regiment never did get back to anywhere near its authorized strength.

Therefore, because it was built on regiments, the ideal Union army organization had to be modified. In order to have a brigade that amounted to anything in size, it was often necessary to increase the number of regiments. The brigade to which the 20th Maine Regiment was assigned had six regiments at this time. The 20th Maine was a part of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Fifth Corps.

(To Be Continued)

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## "SEVERE AND INSTANTANEOUS MEASURES"

by

Harry Dolbier

The First Louisiana Cavalry stood at dress parade on the evening of August 29, 1863, in the Union Army's Camp Hubbard near Thibodeaux, Louisiana. After taking the final salute of the daily ceremony, the regimental commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Harai Robinson, turned and led his mounted staff towards a line of blue-clad troopers drawn up on the other side of the parade ground.

These men made up the Second Rhode Island Cavalry, or what was left of it. Since the regiment's formation ten months earlier, death, disease, and desertion had reduced its numbers to fewer than two hundred, not enough to maintain a regimental identity.

"Adjutant," ordered Robinson. "Read the order."

Lieutenant Edward B. Hall stepped his horse forward. "Special Orders number 209, Department of the Gulf, paragraph VIII," he read in a loud, clear voice. "The enlisted men of the Second Rhode Island Cavalry are transferred to the First Louisiana Cavalry, and will be assigned to companies by the commanding officer of the latter regiment. The officers of the Second Rhode Island Cavalry are hereby mustered out of the service."

Hall folded the orders and eased his mount back into line. As he did so, a cry arose from the assembled men. Shouts of "No, no!" and "Rhode Island forever!" filled the air.

Colonel Robinson quickly took personal command of the Rhode Island troopers and ordered them to present sabers. Gradually they quieted down and obeyed the command. Robinson had them dismount, then ordered a detachment from the First Louisiana Cavalry to lead away the horses. The roll was called and the Rhode Island men sent to various companies of the Louisiana regiment. When all had been assigned, Robinson dismissed the parade. Finally he told each of his officers, "Make sure these men

don't leave their new company camps tonight."

The next morning regimental commissary Lieutenant Thomas Maher reported to Colonel Robinson that he was unable to proceed with receiving the property of the Second Rhode Island Cavalry. No sooner would he tally the horses, he complained, than some of the Rhode Island men would turn them loose. "And I saw them make off with other property," Maher continued.

Robinson clamped his hat on his head, mounted, and went to investigate. Arriving at the former Rhode Island camp, he found, seated on the ground, what looked like all the men he had ordered to stay with their new companies. Suppressing his anger, in calm tones, Robinson ordered them to pick up their packs and report to their units. There was no response.

After a pause two of the men stood up. "Colonel," said one, "we have made up our minds that as we enlisted in the Second Rhode Island Cavalry we will, by God, serve in no other."

"We will not go," announced the second trooper. "Do as you like, but by God we won't serve." At this the group muttered assent, and no one moved.

In response to this insubordination, Robinson ordered out the First Louisiana Cavalry, one company mounted and three on foot. He ordered them to surround the Rhode Island men, whom he now considered mutineers.

Robinson faced the mutineers and once more ordered them to report to their new companies. He repeated the order in Spanish, then in French. He then had an interpreter repeat it in German. Still no one moved. Robinson addressed the men again. "If you do not rise up and form line," he told them, "I shall order you to be fired upon."

In the face of this threat the men seated on the ground reluctantly rose, but Colonel Robinson was not convinced he had yet established sufficient control of the situation. He knew of the Rhode Islanders' reputation for lawlessness and want of discipline. Several of them had deserted that morning. They had no fear of imprisonment, Robinson knew. On the contrary, he had been told, they courted a move to send them en masse to a prison camp. The colonel had no confidence that the First Louisiana Cavalry, three companies of which were recruits with less than a month of service, would be able to contain the mutinous band. He feared the Rhode Island men would desert and become a gang of marauders, an event bad enough in itself, but one which would "completely demoralize the First Louisiana Cavalry, cause the orders of the department to fall to the ground, and make military law and discipline a farce." In light of these considerations, he later testified, "I chose severe and instantaneous measures."

Eventually all but three men rose and formed a line. Robinson gave the order to fall in one more time, and one of the remaining men complied. Robinson then took out pencil and paper and wrote the following order in the saddle: "First Lieutenant Hall, adjutant of the First Louisiana Cavalry, is hereby appointed provost-marshal of the day, and is charged as such with the execution of Privates Richard Murphy Boston, alias Richard Smith, and Frederick Freeman, alias William Davis, mutineers -- a military necessity."

Hall at once organized the execution. Smith and Davis were placed at the base of a square formation with two unmounted companies of the First Louisiana Cavalry

forming the sides. Facing the condemned men was Company F, divided into two platoons. The prisoners were moved to within ten yards of the firing parties, where Hall had them bound and blindfolded, took their names, and offered them time for prayer. He then gave the signal to shoot. Davis fell dead, but the platoon firing at Smith managed only to shoot him in the legs. Lieutenant Hall and Sergeant Sidney Irving then stepped forward and dispatched the wounded man with their revolvers.

Following the execution, the Rhode Island men reported to their places in the First Louisiana Cavalry and thereafter, according to Colonel Robinson, obeyed all orders and acted as good soldiers, "vying with their new associates in the faithful performance of their duty and neatness of personal appearance."

On September 5, a military commission convened at Thibodeaux to investigate the events of August 29 and 30. The commission heard six witnesses that day, all officers and enlisted men of the First Louisiana Cavalry. It found that "The suppression of the mutiny was in the prompt and efficient manner in which the ringleaders were executed...."

Major General Nathaniel P. Banks commanded the Department of the Gulf. On October 23, Banks, who had previously declared that the enlisted men of the Second Rhode Island Cavalry were "wholly worthless as soldiers," indorsed the commission's conclusions. "The commanding general regrets the necessity for the execution," he noted, "but is unable, with his knowledge of the facts, to say that it was not justifiable in consideration of all the circumstances of the case."

Rhode Island Governor James Y. Smith complained bitterly about both the consolidation order and the executions in vehement protests to the War Department.

On December 5, 1863, General-in-Chief Henry W. Halleck closed the book on the Second Rhode Island Cavalry when he ordered its former enlisted men transferred to the Third Rhode Island Cavalry, then on its way to Louisiana.

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Relieved From Duty  
by  
Harry Dolbier

Field Order Cavalry Headquarters

No. \_\_\_\_.

April 1, 1865

Major-General Warren, commanding Fifth Army Corps, is relieved from duty, and will report at once for orders to Lieutenant-General Grant, commanding Armies of the United States.

By command of Major-General Sheridan:

Jas. W. Forsyth

Brevet Brigadier-General and Chief of Staff

Gouverneur Warren stared in disbelief at the order that had just been handed to him. It was seven o'clock on the evening of April 1, 1865, and the 35-year-old general's Fifth Corps had just won a victory at Five Forks, Virginia, under the direction of General Sheridan.

The battle of Five Forks netted 6,000 prisoners, six guns, and 13 battle flags, and destroyed General Robert E. Lee's last hope of holding the Petersburg defenses.

Soon after his relief, Warren asked for a full investigation, but his request was refused. As soon as hostilities ceased, he resigned his commission as major general of volunteers, but stayed in the army at his permanent rank - major of topographical engineers. Thereafter, he repeatedly renewed his desire for an inquiry into the matter with no success until, at last in 1879, President Hayes appointed a three-man court of inquiry to look into Sheridan's relief of Warren.

The incidents the court was called upon to review began late in March 1865: With the Army of Northern Virginia besieged in Petersburg, General Grant sent Sheridan and his cavalry to the west to turn Lee's right flank while Grant kept up the frontal pressure on Petersburg. Despite heavy rains that hampered movement, Sheridan reached Dinwiddie Court House, some ten miles west of the left end of the Union trenches, and seized the village from a small force of Confederates. Recognizing a serious threat, Lee sent Major General George Pickett with two divisions of infantry along with his entire cavalry force under Major General Fitzhugh Lee to deal with it. The rebels attacked Sheridan at Dinwiddie Court House and were repulsed. Sheridan called on Grant for infantry support so he could hit the enemy in front and on the left flank before they could retreat into their fortifications at Five Forks, a few miles to the north. Sheridan wanted Major General Horatio Wright's Sixth Corps, but it was on the far right of the Union lines, too far away. Grant sent Warren's Fifth Corps, the nearest to Sheridan.

Grant held doubts about Warren. "He was a man of fine intelligence, great earnestness, quick perception, and could make his dispositions as quickly as any officer," Grant wrote in his memoirs. But the lieutenant general had discovered a defect: "He could see every danger at a glance before he had encountered it. He would not only make preparations to meet the danger which might occur, but he would inform his commanding officer what others should do while he was executing his move."

Grant ordered Warren to march the six or seven miles to Sheridan at around 7:00 p.m. on March 31, informing Sheridan to expect the reinforcements by midnight. The second division moved out at once, but difficult conditions caused by the heavy rainfall prevented rapid progress and it did not reach Sheridan's vicinity until daybreak. Warren moved his other two divisions by a different route at 5:00 a.m. and reached Sheridan two hours later. By then the rebels had got wind of the infantry reinforcements and had withdrawn to Five Forks. "Had General Warren moved according to the expectations of the lieutenant-general," Sheridan said later, "there would appear to have been but little chance for the escape of the enemy's infantry in front of Dinwiddie Court-House."

Once the Fifth Corps joined him, Sheridan welcomed Warren cordially and explained his plans for an attack at Five Forks. Meanwhile, Grant had reflected further on Warren's qualities. At noon, an officer from headquarters presented himself to Sheridan. "General

Grant directs me to say to you, that if in your judgment the Fifth Corps would do better under one of the division commanders, you are authorized to relieve General Warren."

During the afternoon, Sheridan, always eager to move quickly against the enemy, fretted and fumed at the delays in getting the Fifth Corps into attack position. "General Warren did not exert himself to get up his corps as rapidly as he might have done," he complained, "and his manner gave me the impression that he wished the sun to go down before dispositions for the attack could be completed."

The Fifth Corps was in position for the assault by 4:00 p.m. "Against General Sheridan's most ungenerous statement," Warren said in his report of the battle, "I simply place my denial, and trust that my whole conduct in life, and especially in this was, sustains me in it." He then pointed out that, in fact, the sun did not set until two-and-a-half hours after the formation was completed.

The attack was launched at four o'clock with Warren's three divisions assaulting the rebels' left flank while the cavalry attacked their front. Unable to find Warren, the fiery Sheridan personally rallied the second division in the assault on the left flank. "During the attack I again became dissatisfied with General Warren," he wrote. "During the engagement portions of his line gave way when not exposed to a heavy fire, and simply from want of confidence on the part of the troops, which General Warren did not exert himself to inspire."

While Sheridan was rallying the second division, Warren was organizing the movement of his first and third division, which had gone slightly astray. "I did not think it proper to leave my place on the open field .. where my staff officers, sent to different parts of the command, could immediately find me." The time had not come, he thought, for "going to some special point myself and neglect all others."

It was late in 1881 before the court of inquiry finished taking testimony, reviewing evidence, and deliberating its conclusions. The three members of the court agreed that Warren deserved no censure for his actions at Five Forks and determined that his relief from command was not justified by the facts. President Chester Arthur ordered the opinion published. No other action was taken.

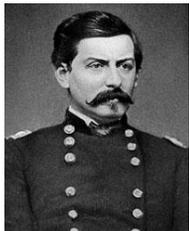
Through the years, Gouverneur Warren had been seeking vindication in the eyes of the public. His exoneration came too late. Before the court's findings were published, Warren died at age 52. According to his wishes, he was buried in civilian clothes and there were no military decorations at his funeral.

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December Meeting  
The December 2016 meeting of the  
Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18  
SUCW  
Will be held on  
Tuesday 20 December 2016  
At the  
Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

## December Birthdays

Contributed by  
Donald Gates



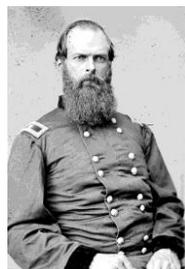
George B. McClellan  
3 December 1826



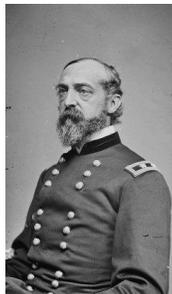
George Armstrong Custer  
5 December 1839



Joseph K. F. Mansfield  
22 December 1803



John White Geary  
30 December 1819



George Meade  
31 December 1815

In his culinary tour de force "A Taste for War", Stackpole Books, 2003, author William C. Davis presents numerous recipes he asserts are taken from the Civil War era. It would seem so with names like "The 5<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Hell-Fired Stew" and "Phoebe Pember's Chimborazo Planked Rat". With recipe authors hailing from the ranks, Pvt. Lockwood of the 23<sup>rd</sup> New York, Pvt. Flint of the 15<sup>th</sup> New Jersey and Sgt. Dan Chisholm of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, to commanders such as Generals Duke, Pickett and of course Silas Casey whose circulars were the basis for Federal commissary practice. Also included are recipes from those who to paraphrase Sherman's inimical words "rank the commanders", the ladies. The book is full of recipes from Mrs. Cornelius, Mrs. Putnam, Mrs. Haskell, and of course Mother Bickerdyke to whom Sherman referred and deferred.

The author, William C. Davis, is, with few exceptions, very good at attributing the source of his recipes. One exception is his recipe for "Deep Water Plum Duff". It seems he acquired this favorite from a book entitled "Civil War Cookbook", which ironically he also wrote. This one should make for a popular desert around the Christmastide campfire.

To prepare this recipe you need a medium to large nesting pot, a large (24" x 24" minimum) piece of muslin cloth along with a short length of twine. Two wood, metal or ceramic mixing bowls one large and one small also required. A large wood spoon and or metal whisk are handy utensils for mixing this concoction. Finally you will need a cleaver or sharp knife with at least a 6" blade, and a chopping board. So let's get started with this favorite recipe:

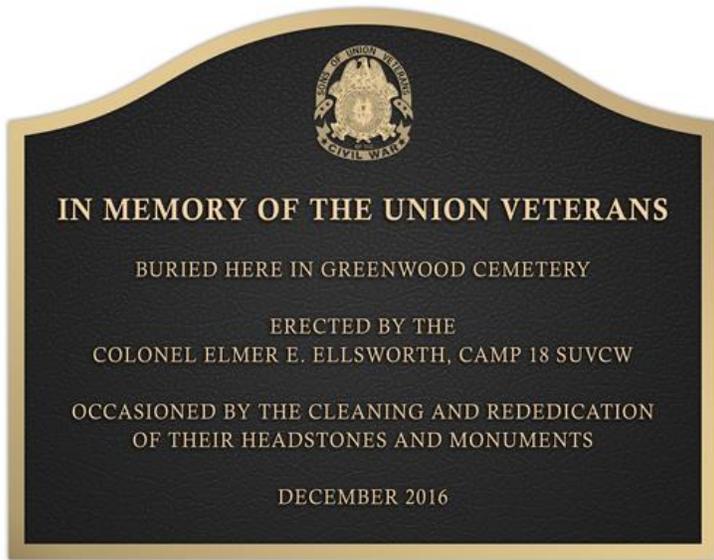
### DEEP WATER PLUM DUFF

#### Ingredients:

½ oz. Fresh Yeast  
3 tbsp. Brown Sugar  
2 cups Flour  
1 cup Chopped plums  
1 tsp. Nutmeg  
1 cup Milk (as needed)  
1 cup Warm Water (as needed)

Place ½ oz. of fresh yeast and 1 ½ tbsp. of brown sugar into the small bowl. Add a few teaspoons of warm water and stir; then set aside until frothy. Place 2 cups of flour in a large mixing bowl. Make a whole in the center of the flour and pour in the frothy yeast mixture. Stir until the dough is stiff. Add additional flour if needed to make the dough stiff. Cover and set in a warm place to rise for 2 hours. Then punch down the dough and add the chopped plums, 1 ½ tbsp. of brown sugar and the nutmeg. Add enough milk to soften the dough. Warp the dough in the muslin cloth and tie it loosely with the twine. Place the wrapped dough in a pot of boiling water and cook for 90 minutes. Remove the dough, untie and unwrap it and serve it to the wonderment of all.

## Proposed Marker To Be Placed In Greenwood Cemetery



Here is the proposed marker to be placed in Greenwood Cemetery. The cost will be \$834.99 including shipping and the size is 18-inches wide by 14-inches tall. Delivery will take 4-weeks to 6-weeks.

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