



The Texas Union Herald



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

Volume I, Issue 6 July 2016

Rattling Sabres

by
Glen E. Zook

By the time this edition of The Texas **Union** Herald reaches you, the yearly Department of Texas encampment will have taken place. I sincerely hope that details on this meeting will be provided so that I can include those details in this edition. As can be seen, I am writing this editorial early in the preparation process of the newsletter.

Last month's editorial, and the comments by Camp #18 Commander Paul Ridenour, about the removal of the Confederate monuments, changing of school names, and so forth, are "stirring the pot" and letters to the editor, well E-Mails to the editor, are starting to come in. So far, the comments received have been very supportive. I will reprint some of those comments in this edition of the newsletter.

By now, everyone is quite aware that I say, rather write, what I believe no matter if my comments are politically correct or whatever! I definitely support the efforts of the SUVCW at all levels from local members all the way to National in regards to monuments, etc.

For a number of years, I wrote a 3-times-a-week newspaper column for Belo's Suburban Newspaper Chain (Belo is the owner of the Dallas Morning News and several local newspapers in this area). I wrote about anything and everything and I tend to do so in my editorials in this newsletter.

Summer time is the time for vacations and I am sure that some Camp #18 member, or members, as well as those other persons who are on the distribution list, are going to visit sites that have a place in the history of the Civil War. Please, take lots of photographs and write up the details of your visit and then send them to me. You definitely do not have to be a Camp #18 member to submit tidbits and articles for publication in this newsletter.

Even if you don't believe that you can write a cohesive sentence, write down the details and forward them to me. I can edit, rewrite, etc. the information and transform the details into an article of which you will be proud! You will have a byline and no one will ever be aware that you had any help, at all, in writing the article! The inclusion of photographs helps to add interest in your experiences.

Of course, I always am in need of articles on anything related to the Civil War. Even about the Mexican War in which many of the high level Civil War leaders got experience or the reconstruction period after the war. Getting photographs of sites, and other things, related to the 1860 through 1865 period, or things and persons who played a part in the war are welcome as well.

Last month, I received a goodly number of photographs including Camp #18 members' participation in

the McKinney Memorial Day celebration. I am going to include some more of those photographs, as well as photographs from previous celebrations, in this edition and, maybe, next month as well.

Brother Larry Johnson has provided several articles a couple of which were in last month's edition and another will be in this edition. However, Brother Johnson's articles are just a start! I need as many articles, photographs, tidbits, whatever, as I can get. The purpose of this publication is to keep Camp #18 members informed and, I hope with the various articles and other things, entertained! I have decided to present Brother Larry Johnson with one of the newsletter medals since he has gone above, and beyond, the call of duty with his submissions!

Since the newsletter is being distributed via E-Mail instead of being printed on paper, there is no reasonable limitation as to how many pages can be included. Therefore, I can keep adding information without any real limitations. Of course, at my discretion, I may hold an article for a month, or 2, to get diversification in the content!

Going from famine to feast! This edition of the Texas **Union** Herald has numerous photographs from the 2016 Memorial Day observance in McKinney, to older Memorial Day celebrations, to the 2016 Department of Texas encampment. Please, please, please, keep photos coming!

For the May meeting, I was asked to move up my presentation on Major Mahlon Loomis. If I say so myself, the presentation was well received. I am going to write an article for the Texas **Union** Herald about Loomis and his experiments with wireless telegraphy and I will also submit it for publication in the national SUVCW Banner. Whether or not it will be published in the national publication I have no idea. But, it will be my contribution to that publication to try to get historical articles published as well as the reports from the Departments. As I have said, in previous editorials, I truly believe that historical articles definitely add to the quality of such publications and I am going to continue to push for such in the national newsletter. Of course, such articles are already appearing in this newsletter.

Since, so far, there have not been enough articles submitted by Camp #18 members, or by anyone else, to get the procedure for awarding the newsletter medals in place, I have decided to award such medals to those persons whom I believe have gone above the call of duty to support this publication. Besides Brother Larry Johnson, I am going to award a medal to Brother Paul Ridenour for all the photos that he has contributed. Of course getting a medal should definitely not stop those persons from continuing to provide material for this newsletter.

Enough for now! Until next month

Ridenour Report

The 2016 State Encampment has come and gone and the new State Commander is our very own Chuck Sprague. I look forward to working with Brother Sprague.

I sent out a late notice but we had four camp members clean the Union graves in the Greenwood Cemetery on June 26th. We will need to clean them again in six to eight weeks. I will send out a notice in advance much earlier next time so we can give the opportunity for other camp members to be involved.

We are still planning on having a marker dedication for Jehu E. Webb in Sunnyvale in the Fall and perhaps a ceremony at Greenwood in the Fall when the headstones are cleaned.

See you at the next meeting in July –

Paul Ridenour
Camp Commander



Greenwood Cemetery Cleanup

by
Paul Ridenour

Four camp members, Drake Peddie, Chuck Sprague, Brook Thomas, and myself met at Greenwood Cemetery at 1 PM on Sunday, June 26, 2016. We sprayed 87 Union markers and one large Union monument. We were finished after one hour. We used about half off the 5-gallon container of D/2 Biological Cleaner that the camp purchased. We will need to spray them again in about six to eight weeks.

The first photo is before we sprayed.



July Meeting

The July 2016 meeting of the
Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18
SUCW
Will be held on
Tuesday 19 July 2016
At the
Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

The Texas Union Herald

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Glen E. Zook
The Texas Union Herald
410 Lawndale Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net

Telephone: (972) 231-3987
(972) 231-5011

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.

Mailing Address:

Editor
Texas Union Herald
410 Lawndale Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net

Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 Camp Officers

Commander	Paul Ridenour paulridenour@tx.rr.com
SVC	John Schneider schneider1@sbcglobal.net
JVC	Brother Erder rerder@verizon.net
Secretary	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Treasurer	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Chaplain	Harold Sickler HaroldSickler@sbcglobal.net
Patriotic Instructor	Drake Peddie dmpeddie@aol.com
Graves Registration	Open
Historian	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Civil War Memorials	Open
Eagle Scout Coordinator	John Schneider schneider1@sbcglobal.net
Editor	Glen E. Zook gezook@sbcglobal.net texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net



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.

Continued from May

Battles of the Second Year of the War

Skirmish Near Memphis, Tenn. - Fought August 3, 1862, between a Confederate force, under General Jeff. Thompson, and Union troops, in which Thompson was defeated.

A Naval Fight - Fought August 4, 1862, between 3 Union gunboats, under Commodore Porter, and the monster ram Arkansas, belonging to the Confederates. They met above Baton Rouge, on the Mississippi river, and on being attacked with incendiary shells the Arkansas was set on fire and destroyed.

Battle at Baton Rouge, La. - Fought August 5, 1862, between Confederates, under General Breckinridge, and a small force of Unionists, under General Williams. Confederate and Union gunboats were also engaged. Under a sharp shelling by the Union boats, the Confederates were repulsed. The Unionists lost 56 killed, including General Williams, and 175 wounded and missing.

Battle of Cedar Mountain, Va. - Fought August 9, 1862, between the Confederate army, numbering about 21,000, under Generals Jackson, Ewell and Longstreet, and about 7,000 Unionists, under General Banks. The latter was forced to retire about 1 1/2 miles from his first position. Banks, being reinforced, the Confederates next day fell back two miles, and on the 11th retired across Robertson river. The Union loss was 450 killed, 660 wounded, and 290 prisoners, besides cannon and a large quantity of ammunition. The Confederate loss was nearly as heavy in killed, wounded and missing, including Generals Winder and Trimble.

Fight at Fort Donelson, Tenn. - August 25, 1862, the Confederates made an unsuccessful attack on the Unionists at Fort Donelson.

Fights at Manassas and Haymarket, Va. - August 26, 1862, the Confederates, under General Ewell, attacked a portion of the Union army, under Pope, at Manassas, and drove them out. Next day Pope fell back toward Warrenton, and was reinforced by Hooker's command. Over-taking the Confederates at Haymarket, a severe fight ensued between Hooker and Ewell, in which the Confederates were vanquished, Ewell losing his camp with 300 killed and wounded.

Reduction of City Point, Va. - On the 27th of August, 1862, the Union gunboats destroyed the Confederate fortifications at City Point.

Skirmish Near Centerville, Va. - Fought August 28, 1862, between Gibbon's brigade of McDowell's Union corps, and a force of Confederates under Stonewall Jackson. The fight was severe, but ended with the coming on of darkness.

Battle of Gainsville, Va. - Fought August 29, 1862, between Sigel and Reynolds' divisions of McDowell's Union corps, reinforced by Reno and Heintzelman's divisions, and the Confederate army under Stonewall Jackson, with reinforcements arriving. The battle raged furiously for several hours, in which the enemy was driven back, leaving his dead and wounded on the field. Darkness put an end to the contest, and General Pope claimed a victory. His losses were estimated at between 6,000 and 8,000 men, and those of the Confederates much greater.

The Second Battle of Bull Run - Fought August 30, 1862, between Stonewall Jackson's entire of Confederates, reinforced by Longstreet and the advance of Lee's army (about 46,000 in all), and 35,000 Unionists under Pope. The contest was severe, lasting all day; at dark, exhausted, the Unionists retired to Centerville, in good order, leaving the Confederates in possession of the field. The Unionist lost at least 11,000 in killed and wounded, and perhaps, 9,000 prisoners; the Confederates about 8,500 killed and wounded.

Battle at Richmond, Ky. - Fought August 30, 1862, between the Confederates, under Kirby Smith, and the Unionists, under Generals Manson and Nelson. The latter were defeated with a loss of about 200 killed, 700 wounded, and 2,000 prisoners.

Skirmish at Bolivar, Tenn. - Fought August 30, 1862, between Unionists and Confederates, the latter being defeated.

Destruction of Bayou Sara, La. - August 31, 1862, Bayou Sara, a prosperous shipping port of Louisiana, on the Mississippi river, 165 miles from New Orleans, was almost entirely destroyed by the Union fleet of Admiral Porter, in consequence of his being fired upon by Confederate guerrillas.

Battle at Britton's Lane, Tenn. - Fought September 1, 1862, between Unionists and Confederates, the latter retiring and leaving their dead on the field. The Unionists lost 5 killed, 78 wounded and 92 missing.

Battle at Chantilly, Va. - Fought September 1, 1862, between the Unionists under Generals Hooker, Reno, and Kearney, and the Confederate army under Ewell and Hill. General Pope endeavored to transfer his forces from Centerville to Germantown, and while doing so was attacked. The fight lasted for several hours, ending with the darkness. The Unions generals, Kearney and Stevens, were killed. Under an impetuous bayonet charge the Confederates were driven from the field; but the losses of the Unionists were heavy.

Battle at Washington, N.C. - September 6, 1862, the Confederates attacked the Union garrison, but were repulsed. The Unionists lost 8 killed and 36 wounded.

Battle at Middletown, Md. - Fought September 12, 1862, between Unionists and Confederates, the former losing 80 killed and wounded.

Battle of South Mountain, Md. - Fought September 14, 1862, between the Union army under Generals Hooker, Reno, Franklin, Cox and others, and the Confederate forces under Longstreet and Hill. The engagement was general and severe, and resulted in the retreat of the Confederates. The Union general, Reno, was

killed. The Union losses were 312 killed, 1,234 wounded, and 22 missing. The Confederate loss was quite as large, including 1,500 prisoners.

Surrender of Harper's Ferry - A force of 12,000 Unionists, under General Miles, who held Harper's Ferry, W. Va., was attacked September 12, 1862, by a strong Confederate army, under Stonewall Jackson, and after a two-days' contest, the place was surrendered on the 15th to the Confederates. General Miles was killed, and the Unionists sustained a loss of about 11,000 prisoners, 73 cannon, 13,000 small arms, and a considerable amount of stores. Union cavalry, 2,000 strong, cut their way through the rebel lines, and escaped.

Battle of Munfordsville, Ky. - Fought between about 5,000 Unionists, under Colonel Dunham, who held the place, and a strong force of Confederates under Price. After three days' fighting, September 14, 15, and 16, 1862, Dunham surrendered about 4,500 men and their artillery, and turned the town over to the Confederates. September 21, General McCook and a force of Unionists recaptured the place.

Battle of Antietam, Md. - Fought September 17, 1862, near Sharpsburg, Md., between 65,000 Confederates, under Lee and Jackson, and 85,000 Unionists, under McClellan, Hooker, Burnside, Sumner, and Mansfield. The contest was severe, and lasted from early morning until evening. During the succeeding night the Confederates retreated, leaving in the hands of their foes, 3,500 prisoners, 39 stand of colors, and 13 cannon. Their total loss was about 9,000 men. The Unionists lost 2,010 killed, 9,416 wounded, and 1,043 missing. The Union General Mansfield lost his life while endeavoring to regain the ground lost by Hooker. It is classed as a drawn battle.

The Evacuation of Maryland and Harper's Ferry - On the 18th of September, 1862, the Confederate army of Lee and Jackson withdrew from Maryland to Virginia, after having invaded the first-named State for a fortnight. Harper's Ferry, W. Va., was also evacuated by the Confederates the same day.

Battle of luka, Miss. - General Price, with about 15,000 Confederates, occupied luka early in September, 1862. On the 19th of September, Generals Rosecrans and Ord advanced with a force of Unionists to capture this point, and for two hours the contest was severe and bloody. During the following night the Confederates evacuated the town. Their losses included more than 300 men buried on the field, and 500 severely wounded, 200 of whom died within a few days. The Union losses were 300 killed and 500 wounded.

Battle of Augusta, Ky. - Fought September 27, 1862, between an attacking force of Confederates and the Union garrison of 120. The latter surrendered with a loss of 9 killed, 15 wounded, and the rest taken prisoners.

Battle of Corinth, Miss. - Fought October 3 and 4, 1862, between 25,000 Unionists, under General Rosecrans, who held the town and its outposts, and more than 35,000 Confederates, under Generals Van Dorn, Price, and Lovell. On the first day, the Unionists outside were driven into the town. The battle was renewed with terrible severity next morning, the Unionists having been reinforced by McPherson, and the Confederates were obliged to retreat, leaving in the hands of their foes 2,248 prisoners, 14 stand of colors, 2 cannon, 3,300 stand of small arms, a large amount of ammunition, etc. The Confederates had 1,423 men and officers killed, and more than 5,000 wounded. The

Unionists lost 315 killed, 1,812 wounded, and 232 prisoners and missing.

Battle at Lavergue, Tenn. - Fought October 6, 1862, between a Confederate force and a brigade of Unionists, under General Palmer; the former were repulsed, with a loss to the latter of 5 killed and 13 wounded and missing. The Confederate loss was about 80 killed and wounded, 175 prisoners, 2 cannon, provisions, camp equipage, etc.

Battle of Perryville, Ky. - Fought October 8, 1862, between 15,000 Unionists, under Colonel Daniel McCook, of Buell's army, and four divisions of the Confederate army, under Generals Bragg, Polk, and Hardee. The battle lasted from three o'clock in the morning until after dark that evening, and resulted in a victory for the Unionists. The loss of the latter, besides the killing of Generals Jackson and Terrell, was 466 killed, 1,463 wounded, and 160 missing. The Confederate loss is estimated at about the same figures.

Raid on Chambersburg, Pa. - On the 10th of October, 1862, the Confederate general, Stuart, with 2,000 cavalry, made a dash on Chambersburg, seized a considerable amount of clothing designed for McClellan's Union army, destroyed property belonging to the government, burned the railroad depot, captured fresh horses, passed clear around McClellan's army, and escaped without loss.

Battle Near Gallatin, Tenn. - October 19, 1862, the Confederates, under General Forrest, were defeated by a force of Unionists.

Operations in Florida - During the latter part of October, 1862, an expedition of Unionists, under Colonel Beard, of New York, destroyed 9 large salt works on Florida rivers, and brought back 150 good colored recruits for the Northern army.

Battle of Pocotaligo, S.C. - Fought October 22, 1862, between about 5,000 Union soldiers, with three batteries and an engineer corps, under General Brannon, and a force of Confederates. In the struggle of nearly six hours to gain possession of the Charleston and Savannah railroad, the Unionists were repulsed, with the loss of 30 killed and 180 wounded.

To be continued

The Study of 1860's Music Neglected

by
Larry Johnson

At any Civil War re-enactment, participants can readily be found who are knowledgeable of weapons, uniforms, and equipment of the period. Most infantry re-enactors can discuss the difference between Enfield and Springfield rifles, and those who cavalry impressions can competently compare Sharps and Spencer carbines. There are even artillerists who have sorted out the various throw-weight, diameter, and caliber nomenclatures of guns well enough to make sense of the subject. Medical impressions are also generally well done because they are often presented by actual physicians who are professionally trained and know their subject. Civilian portrayals, on the other hand, sometimes go astray. An 1870's Western gunfighter, for

example, is an anomaly on an Easter theater Civil War field. So, is a California gold miner, yet such things are seen.

However, the most problematic presentations at most re-enactments are musical performances. These are often given by amateurs and hobbyists who are not schooled in music and lack adequate knowledge of the styles, repertory, literature, and performance practices of the period. Almost anything can be heard at re-enactments, little of which is truly authentic. (To wit: "Ashokan Farewell", composed in 1986, is quite popular but definitely not authentic.) For the next few paragraphs, we shall discuss what would have been heard on a Civil War Field, as well as what was not there.

In the 1860s, there was either live music or none. There were no boom boxes, iPods, cell phones, or any mechanical reproduction devices. Neither was there any such thing as electronic amplification. The only music available was provided by the military bands or it was made by the soldiers themselves. And here is where so many sins are committed at re-enactments.

Camp music, which was made by soldiers when in camp, consisted primarily of group singing without accompaniment. Usually, one soldier with a strong voice led and the others joined. What few instruments that were present in the encampments were small, light, and portable enough that the soldiers could carry them while on the march. The most common instrument by far was the fiddle, which was present in large numbers in both armies. Second to the fiddle in popularity, and a distant second at that was the wooden or folk flute. Other instruments included the concertina (squeeze box), harmonica, jaw's harp, ocarina, and the banjo. Various percussion instruments, especially bones, were improvised.

Contrary to its popularity at modern re-enactments, the guitar was not present in period camps. For one thing, it was too large and bulky to be carried. For another, the guitar was not a popular instrument at that time and not very many people played it. Period photos do not reveal guitars present at fixed installations such as heavy artillery forts and supply depots where the soldiers were stationary rather than actively campaigning. Guitars were also found one here and one there aboard ships. When seen, guitars appear in the photos as isolated, single instruments – never in multiples. But there is scant if any evidence that guitars were ever found in a period infantry encampment.

Whenever a re-enactment is being planned, an individual or committee is charged with selecting music for the event. This person may be a seasoned re-enactor, but in nearly every case, he had no knowledge of period music. In such circumstances, the results are always the same: the person in charge of music will select music he personally likes. Since Country and Western music is popular among re-enactors, the band most likely to be engaged to perform at dances, is one that sounds like a Country and Western band. While this style of music may be popular, it is anything but authentic.

Country and Western music originated in the 1930s and with it came the idea of guitar bands. Prior to that time, guitars were used almost exclusively as single instruments to accompany singers. Civil War Era string bands, which were small, consisted of fiddles often supplemented by a flute. A cornet might also have been included. The tenor banjo, which was deeper sounding than the modern version, made frequent appearances as well. But, guitars did not. Guitar bands, so common today, did not exist in the 1860s.

The documentation for the composition of the period string bands comes from a collection of instrumental music written by none other than Stephen Foster and published by Firth, Pond, and Company in 1854. This work, which was titled *The Social Orchestra*, was a compilation of pieces written for the ensemble which was in use at that time to play for social events (dances). Its instrumentation was a flute, two violins, and a bass instrument, preferably a cello. Foster wrote and arranged numerous pieces for this four part period dance band, then added others for three instruments. He went on to include duets for two players and finally solos for one instrument, which were obviously intended for single fiddle. All of these pieces could be used for dancing, even the solos, and indeed, Mary Boykin Chestnut mentions balls accompanied by a single fiddler.

Corroboration of the widespread use of the fiddle-flute combination lies in a notebook of sketches drawn by Confederate John Omenhauser while a P.O.W. at Point Lookout. One panel depicts prisoners staging a variety show accompanied by their ad hoc orchestra of flute, two fiddles, and a banjo. Attached was an improvised period percussion section of a tambourine, triangle, and the ubiquitous bones. The drum set, which was developed concurrently with silent movies, was unknown in the 19th Century and should be neither seen nor heard at a re-enactment.

Thus far, we have shown that Civil War instrumental music relied on the fiddle as the primary instrument and that guitars were little used. Now, we shall take up the case of vocal music.

In the 19th Century, singers had to sing. Amplification was not available in those days and thin, breathy voices never made it to the concert stage. Successful singers were those who had studied with a voice teacher and had learned to project the voice. They could fill a concert hall with sound and be heard without microphones and speakers. When Jenny Lind toured the United States in 1850, she was booked into the largest venues available – auditoriums, concert halls, churches – and drew capacity crowds wherever she performed. In some instances, windows were opened so people who couldn't get tickets could stand outside and hear her, and they could!

Patrick Gilmore staged his monster National Peace Jubilee concerts in 1869 for which a special pavilion was constructed that housed 11,000 performers and an audience of nearly 40,000. He engaged a renowned European soprano named Madame Parepa-Rosa to sing at the event and contemporary accounts attest that her voice was equal to the challenge. Only Gilmore could upstage Gilmore and, in 1872, he produced his even larger World Peace Jubilee. This time, the coliseum housed nearly 100,000 performers and listeners. Several vocal soloists, including American Clara Louise Kellogg, were featured. They were heard, though faintly, in even the farthest seats. And all of this was several decades before the development of amplification technology.

Granted, there was far less noise pollution in those days and audiences were much better mannered than they are today. But singers still had to project their voices and only those who had been trained could succeed in any venue larger than that domain of amateurs, in the parlor. Yet, re-enactments persist in featuring amateur vocalists singing "old" songs into a microphone and not just to the audience.

“Old songs” – therein lies another problem. A quick glance at a song’s publication date will cut to the core of this issue in a hurry. Far too often, amateur singers who have done no research plug in their microphones, twang their guitars, and sing, what to them, are old songs, some of which date back as far as the 1920s. Other performers draw material from movies, television, and recordings. The folly of that approach should be obvious, but apparently it isn’t.

One hears music from the fold revival of the 1960s, old hits by the Sons of the Pioneers, and songs recorded by Bobby Horton, et al, being passed off as period. Some of these tunes actually are authentic, but care should be taken with the texts. Numerous songs became obsolete when the war ended and their words were altered or replaced entirely with the passage of time. (Aura Lee / Love Me Tender). Thus, before a singer performs what he thinks is period music, he should first research both the publication dates and the original texts.

And now, a special word of caution pertaining to hymns. As a general rule, the hymn writer composes only a poem; the tune comes from a variety of sources. One of these is preexisting melodies to which the poem was written to fit or with which it was eventually matched. But one must be discreet when selecting old hymns with tunes whose sources are not documented because some of these tunes have unholy pasts. To be candid, many were originally bawdy songs.

Songs in the category flourished during Colonial times, thanks to the British, and their melodies were well known, especially in the taverns. One of them, Anacreon in Heaven, became our National anthem. Many other wound up as hymn tunes and are still in use. Therefore, one should be wary of performing hymns whose tunes have vague origins because the words sung to those tunes in the 1860s may have been, shall we say, “inappropriate for polite company.”

In recent years, there has been a proliferation of bagpipes at re-enactments. When questioned, the pipers invariably reply they “just know” that there were pipers among the Scottish and Irish troops. That statement is true. There were, in fact, soldiers who could play the bagpipes within various regiments of both armies. But they did not have their instruments with them.

Bagpipes were not part of the American military traditions and American soldiers had no appreciation for them.

Besides that, pipes were valuable. Some of them had been presentation pieces and / or family heirlooms and the silver fittings which came with the more expensive sets of pipes made them a tempting target for thieves. In an environment that left bagpipers no role to play within a soldiery that had no regard for pipes, pipers chose to leave their instruments at home rather than risk them being damaged or stolen.

The author of this article has been reading Civil War history (with an eye towards references to music) since the 1950s and in more than fifty years, he has seen bagpipes mentioned exactly once. That one case involved the 79th New York.

This was an early war short-term regiment formed from Scottish immigrants who wore bonnets, doublets, and kilts imported from Scotland. The 79th had pipes and frequently paraded with them. They fought one battle, First Manassas, (wearing ordinary blue uniforms at the time), and

in it their colonel, Jame Cameron, was killed. Soon afterwards, their enlistment ran out and they all went home, taking their pipes with them.

While there is no historical mention of pipers on American Civil War fields except in the case mentioned above, it is certainly possible that lone, isolated pipers made unrecorded appearances at widely separated times and places. But these were rare cases, if they happened at all.

By and large, the presence of bagpipes at a re-enactment is in the main an attempt to re-create something that was never actually there.

The most authentic musical groups that appear at re-enactments are the brass bands. They are composed of musicians with many years of training and a fair percentage of them hold degrees in music. They are not amateur hobbyists, but instead, are skilled performers whose musical knowledge is sufficient enough to avoid transposing the 21st Century on top of the 19th. They know the historical roles of the brass bands and re-create them well.

In their time, which was before electronic amplification, the brass bands had filled a definite need. Their predecessors, known as oboe bands, had served 18th Century armies in the same capacity as many bands today, but they were inadequate for the duties required of them. Military activities, for which the bands provided music, took place outdoors and be heard, that made them particularly suitable for military purposes. They were also adept at providing music for balls because their volume of sound could fill even the largest halls.

True period dance orchestras, which relied on fiddles, could not project enough sound to be heard in the larger venues. Meanwhile, re-enactments continue to stage balls in large rooms which feature music provided by amplified guitars. These groups may be popular, but only brass bands are authentic in such settings.

And finally, a word about bluegrass bands. This type of ensemble is a variant of County and Western bands which inserts and / or substitutes banjos and mandolins for some of the guitars. Bluegrass music was developed by Bill Monroe (1911 – 1996) who began his career in the 1930s. This music has a quaint, happy, “old-timey” sound about it that makes it popular in some circles and also helps pass itself off as folk music. Unfortunately, Bluegrass is neither folk nor old. Such bands are heard – normally amplified – at re-enactments solely because the person or committee in charge of selecting music likes Bluegrass. It is not even close to being authentic.

This article was written in order to provide some guidelines as to what is and is not authentic in attempts to re-create music from the 1860s. It is hoped that even organizers will pay more attention to the considerable differences between popular and period music. Even better would be music planners doing research into the ear rather than basing their decisions on personal tastes. After all, re-enactments are supposed to be first and foremost historically accurate.

[First published in the Civil War Courier July 2011. Supplied, and permission to reproduce this article given, by the author.](#)

Blasts From the Past



Gen. Twiggs' 150th Anniversary of his Surrender at the Alamo, February 12, 2011



Memorial Day 2012



Memorial Day 2014

More Memorial Day 2016



Letters to the Editor

Bro. Zook,

Another amazing newsletter! Thank you for putting it together and sending me a copy. A great read!

Michael Lance
Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp #2, SUVCW

Thanks Glen,

Interesting cover article. It calls to mind a few conversations I've had with the SCV in GA & SC and with the SCV CinC a couple of years ago, basically that if the SCV is the logical steward of Confederate symbols, and if they're serious about 'Heritage not Hate', they should sue those hate groups that use the Confederate flag to promote racism. The reply I received was that it was interesting idea, but they didn't think they would win such a lawsuit. To which my response was, "Who cares if you win? You'll send a strong message, and the optics will look great."

SUVCW does have a stated national policy, as I'm sure you're aware. See PCinC Campbell's relevant GO from last year. That said, most efforts to remove flags and monuments are at the local and state level, so that's where any effort should take place, and carefully so.

Personally, I'm a proponent of "erecting more monuments" vs tearing down existing ones. In fact, I think plaques or monuments for opposing views can make powerful statements and be very educational in nature, especially when coupled with existing monuments or symbols. For example, in Plymouth, MA, the local Wampanoag tribe erected near the statue of the pilgrims a small monument decrying Thanksgiving and pushing a revisionist view of the settlement of New England. I found it irritating, but support their right to have their say in a public forum. Besides, what would they have gained if they had smashed Plymouth Rock?

In FC&L,

Brian Pierson
BP, PDC, GA&SC

Glen, I will try to submit an article next month. Can't thank you enough for taking on the newsletter task. The mark of any organization is communication and what a wonderful device you have implemented. Take care.

George Hansen



Texas Department of the SUVCW Makes Plans and Elects New Officers for 2016-17

by Karl Falken, Media Officer

Houston, Texas – May 4, 2016, Members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Texas, gathered at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research for their 22nd annual Department Encampment. The main topics were expanding on the means of recognition for outstanding cadets in auxiliaries of the uniformed services and a proposed future national convention of the SUVCW in Texas. After discussing Department business, the delegates elected their officers for the coming year:

Elected Positions:

Charles W. Sprague, Commander
Beau B. Moore, Senior Vice Commander
Thomas F. Coughlin, Junior Vice Commander
Donald L. Gates, PDC, Secretary/Treasurer

The Incoming Department Commander made the following appointments:

Lewis Eugene Willis Sr., PDC, Council Member - 1
Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, PDC, Council Member - 2
Georg F. Hansen, PDC., Council Member - 18
Donald Brannon, Patriotic Instructor
Harold L. Sickler, PDC, Chaplain
Hal C. Hughes, Graves Registration Officer
Michael L. Lance, Historian
Hal C. Hughes, Civil War Memorials Officer
John E. Schneider, Eagle Scout Coordinator
John E. Schneider, Counselor
Brian R. Glass, PDC, Organizer

A total of twenty two delegates from Camps 1, 2 & 18 attended the Encampment. Representing the National Headquarters of the SUVCW was National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski who travelled from Elmhurst, Illinois. Morning refreshments and lunch were served by the ladies of the Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary which supports the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp. After the meeting was concluded, attendees toured the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research, which generously provided facilities for the meeting.



Photographs From The 2016 Department of Texas Encampment







Photographs provided by Brother Paul Ridenour

July Birthdays



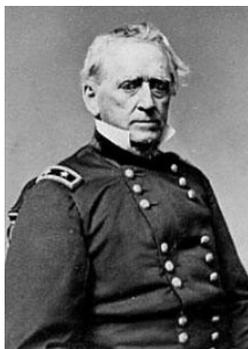
George Thomas
31 July 1816



Alfred T. A. Torbent
1 July 1833



David Farragatt
5 July 1801



John Adams Dix
24 July 1798



James Gilpatrick Blunt
21 July 1826



Christain Fleetwood
21 July 1840



Nathanal Lyon
14 July 1818



Richard James Oglesby
25 July 1824



Alfred Pleasonton
7 July 1824