



## CARLIN CAMP 25 DISPATCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GENERAL WILLIAM PASSMORE CARLIN CAMP 25

~ CHARTERED 2003 ~

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

*PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD*

Volume 23, No. 5      Compiled and Edited by David Perdue      30 September 2025

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### NEXT CAMP 25 MEETING

The next Camp 25 meeting will be held at 1300 Hrs. on **Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** at Raley's One Market Place at 18144 Wedge Parkway, Reno NV 89511. The room is on the far right of the store, just past the deli, where you can buy lunch. We will start the meeting at approximately 1330 Hrs., allowing you time to eat. We will try to email a zoom link before the meeting.

#### 2025 Remaining Meetings

December 14th

### ORDERS

#### CAMP ORDERS

Two new Camp Orders were issued since the last issue of the Carlin Camp Dispatch was published.

- Camp Order 2025 No 2. – Appointment of Camp Acting Secretary (See Appendix 3)
- Camp Order 2025 No 3. – Camp Cannon Committee (See Appendix 4)

They can be found in appendix 2 and 3 of this newsletter and for a complete list of orders, see the Camp website: <https://suvpac.org/camp25orders/>

#### DEPARTMENT ORDERS

The Department issued two new orders since the last issue of the Carlin Camp Dispatch was published. For a complete list of orders, see the Department website: <https://suvpac.org/orders/>

- [Department Special Order No. 1](#)– Passing of Past Commander-In-Chief Donald Braden “Brad” Schall
- [Department Order No 3](#). – William b. Keith Camp 12 Camp Charter Revoked

## NATIONAL GENERAL ORDERS

C-in-C Kevin Martin issued two new General Orders. C-in-C Kevin Tucker issued seven new General Orders and one Special Message since the last issue of the Carlin Camp Dispatch. For the full text and a complete list of General Orders see the National list of orders.

### 2025-2026 - Commander in Chief Kevin L. Martin

- [General Order No. 26](#) – Passing of PCinC Donald Braden 'Brad' Schall
- [General Order No. 27](#) – Awards

### 2025-2026 - Commander in Chief Kevin P. Tucker

- [General Order No. 1](#) – Assuming Command
- [General Order No. 2](#) – Strategic Priorities for the Strengthening and Advancement of the Order
- [General Order No. 3](#) – Proper Wearing of the Badges of the Order [Supplement](#): Proper Wearing and Order of Badges
- [Special Message No. 1](#) Fall Forward: Renewing Our Legacy of Service
- [General Order No. 4](#) – Commemoration of POW/MIA Recognition Day - September 19, 2025
- [Special Message No. 2](#) Suggestions for Making Camp Meetings Events That Brothers Won't Want to Miss
- [General Order No. 5](#) – Remembrance Day – Saturday, November 15, 2025
- [General Order No. 6](#) – Revocation of Bay State Camp 61, Department of Massachusetts
- [General Order No. 7](#) – Department ROTC Coordinators

<https://www.suvcw.org/general-orders-of-the-commander-in-chief>

## UPCOMING SUVCW EVENTS

### CAMP EVENTS

#### Smoke Creek Grave Site Restoration

We have coordinated with the property owner where the old Army Cemetery at Smoke Creek is located and have gained permission to cross their property to access the cemetery. On October 11<sup>th</sup> we will restore the site. We will meet at the Burger King in Spanish Springs at 0800 Hrs. to carpool out to the site. All tools, and materials, along with sandwiches and refreshments will be supplied. Just wear boots, and

bring a hat, gloves, and a jacket. Please join in for a fun day of light work to continue the honor of the four soldiers that gave their lives in support of early Nevada.

#### *Grave Site during our Spring 2025 Visit*



*Members of the Lassen Historical Society in 1968*

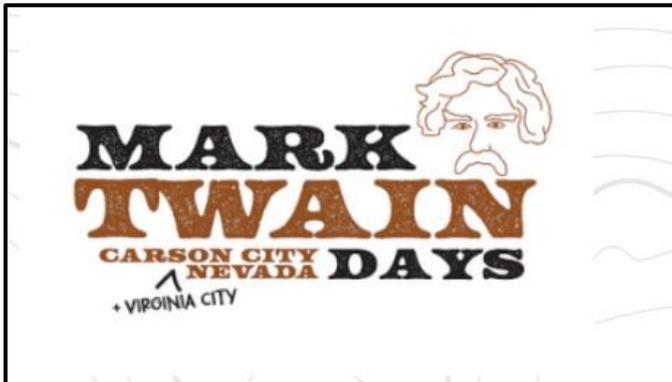
#### Fort Churchill Day

The SUVCW field trip to Fort Churchill Day planned for October 16<sup>th</sup> has been postponed until late spring 2026 in lieu of a trip to the Smoke Creek Cemetery on October 11<sup>th</sup> to restore the grave site. Note that Fort Churchill is reopening their visitor center after its renovation on October 4<sup>th</sup> and several brothers are planning to attend, both from Reno and Carson City. The reopening celebration is from 1300 Hrs. to 1600 Hrs., with a ribbon

cutting, cannon salute, wagon rides, gold panning, and other activities. The Nevada Civil War Volunteers, National Pony Express Association - Nevada Division, and the Fort Churchill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution will also be in attendance. Admission is free, and vehicle entry fees are waived from 1-4 p.m. For carpool information contact Brother Perdue. For park information see: <https://parks.nv.gov/parks/fort-churchill>



### Mark Twain Days



The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mark Twain Days Celebration will be held October 16-19, 2025, to celebrate one of America's most prolific, witty, wise writers, Mark Twain. You can learn more about his work, life, and contributions to the fabric of Nevada, the wild west, and America. Camp 25 will join several other lineage and historical organization with a booth to meet the public. On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> we will set up a table at Brewery Arts Center (BAC) (49 West King Street, Carson City) from 1100 Hrs. to 1800 Hrs. (maybe finishing earlier) to display Civil War arms, artifacts, and greet the public. Please join us in uniform or with whatever uniform items you may have for an hour or two. Let Commander Davis know which part of the afternoon you can work and which part of the day you will

enjoy the festivities. See the entire calendar of events [here](#).

### **DEPARTMENT EVENTS**

No Department events are currently scheduled.

### **NATIONAL EVENTS**

#### Remembrance Day

Saturday, November 15, 2025

The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War will hold the annual Remembrance Day observance in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on November 2025. For information of lodging and events see [General Order No. 5](#).



### **ALLIED EVENTS**

#### Johanna Shine Tent 96

Tent 96 is the Northern Nevada Tent (chapter) of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Meetings are now most recently being held on Zoom. They publish a very nice [newsletter](#) several times a year.

Email - [johanashineducw@gmail.com](mailto:johanashineducw@gmail.com), or visit the website - <https://johanashineducw.wordpress.com/>

### **CAMP 25 NEWS**

#### Cannon Update

There has not been much news in the last since the last newsletter except that the Cannon Committee continues with restoration work. Nearly all of the metal parts have been removed for rust treatment, which is in progress. The next steps will be to repair the end of the wooded trail, tighten up the wheels, and sand and paint all the wood and metal

The last of the tools have been received from the previous owner and they are fantastic. In addition to two sponge/rammers, a field worm, and a sponge bucket (replacement value of \$850) we earlier received, we now have the linstock and trail hand spike (replacement value of \$375. Also received were a pick and a primer pouch with tubes off black powder to prime the cannon)



Fuse pouch w/black powder primer tubes, vent pick, trail hand spike (to adjust windage), and linstock with case.

### Temporary Secretary Appointed

With Brother Lorenz's departure Commander Davis appointed Brother Hess to again fill the role of Secretary. He will do this until next year, when someone will need to step up and take the positions. Elections are held in December, so please consider taking it on.

### Quote from the Day

"I declare that civil war is inevitable and is near at hand... I predict the civil war which is now at hand will be stubborn and of long duration."

Sam Houston

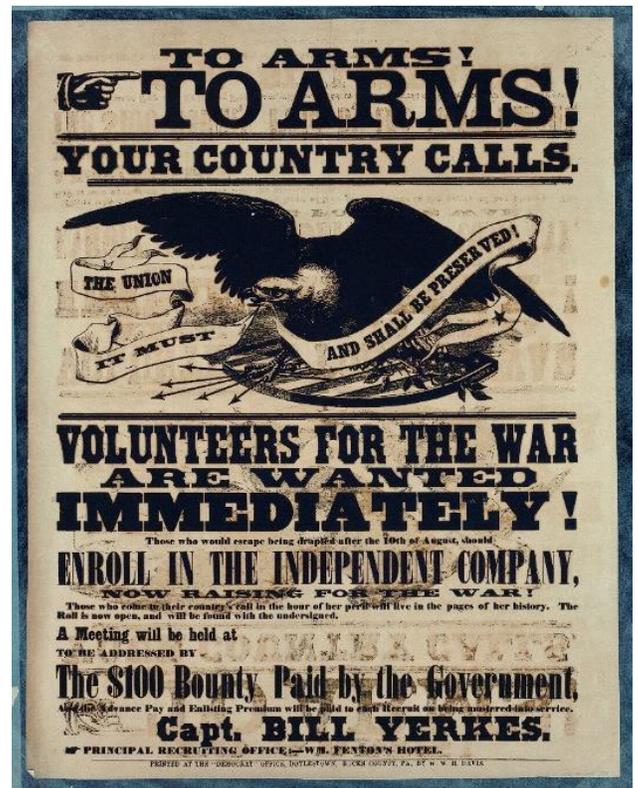
### Political Speech from the Day



A FAMILY QUARREL

"A Family Quarrell"

### Early Recruiting Poster



## CIVIL WAR NEWS & VIEWS

### 164 Years Ago - 1861 in the Civil War

<b>Sept. 3</b> - Confederate troops enter Kentucky, ending the state's neutral status	<b>Sept. 5</b> - Skirmish at Papinsville, Missouri
<b>Sept. 6</b> - Federal forces seize Paducah, Kentucky	<b>Sept. 10</b> - Engagement at Carinfex Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia)
<b>Sept. 12</b> - Siege of Lexington, Missouri begins	<b>Sept. 12 - 15</b> - Battle of Cheat Mountain, Virginia (now West Virginia)
<b>Sept. 20</b> - Union garrison surrenders Lexington, Missouri	<b>Sept. 26</b> - Skirmish near Fort Thorn, New Mexico Territory
	Courtesy of <a href="#">Battlefield Trust</a>

## OUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS

There was no new material, so this month we will take from the September 2004 archives.

Archibald Pierson (the Civil War ancestor of Camp No. 25 member - Jeffrey Vaillant, 2003 to 2005 (Secretary / Treasurer and Memorial Officer) was one of three brothers who responded to President Abraham Lincoln's call- "To Preserve The Union". Archibald enlisted as a private in Company B, 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry Regiment on 29 August 1862 at the age of 37. Shortly after joining this company, the entire regiment (attached to General Grant's Army) was sent to Luka, Mississippi, to reinforce the Federal troops there under General Buell. It was there that Archibald would participate in his first major battle, The Battle of Luka.

With little time to recuperate, Archibald's unit (with the rest of Gen. Grant's Army) moved to Corinth, Mississippi, where it would be involved in its second major battle with the Confederates in less than one month. During this time Archibald had distinguished himself and was subsequently promoted to Corporal on 16 November 1862 (it should be noted, he had been in active service less than six months at the time he received this promotion.) Before the end of hostilities, Archibald would see and participate in some of the fiercest fighting, the bloodiest battles, and longest campaigns of the Civil War.

Pierson's Major Battles: Battle of Luka, Mississippi (Sept 18-19, 1862), Battle of Corinth, Mississippi (October 3-4, 1862), Port Gibson (May 1, 1863), Raymond, Mississippi (May 12, 1863), Battle of Champion's Hill, Mississippi (May 16, 1863), Big Black River Bridge, Mississippi (May 17, 1863), Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi (May 18 - July 4, 1863), Chattanooga, Tennessee (November 23-25, 1863), Siege of Savannah, Georgia (December 10 21, 1864), Salkehatchie Swamps, South Carolina (February 3-5, 1865), Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina (March 20-21, 1865) and Bennett's House, North Carolina (April 26, 1865).

On 28 May 1865, Archibald (along with the personnel from several other Companies of the 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry) was mustered out of service in Washington, DC. The remainder of the regiment was mustered out on 15 August 1865. Archibald Pierson was born in Boone, Kentucky, on 8 September 1824. He was one of seven

children born to Robert and Nancy (Render) Pierson. On 25 September 1845, he married (Mary "Polly" Adkins) in Shelby County, Indiana, and over the years they had 10 children. Sometime prior to 1850 they moved to Iowa. Shortly after the start of the Civil War, Archibald, along with two of his brothers (Ephraim and Granville) enlisted in the Union Army (Archibald and Ephraim in the 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry and Granville in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Infantry) . After the war, Archibald returned home and resumed the life of a family man and carpenter. On 1 December 1888, he applied for and received an Invalid Pension for his Civil War Military service. On 16 January 1873, Archibald's wife of 27 years (Mary) passed away. She was interned at the Carlisle Cemetery in Warren County, Iowa. Archibald remarried several years later (on 7 September 1875) to Sarah Catherine Armstrong and they subsequently moved to Pottawattamie, Iowa. This marriage would last for over 25 years, during which time they would have five children. On 31 March 1906, Archibald Pierson passed away at the age of 81. His second wife, Sarah, survived him (and would collect a widow's pension for 22 more years!). His final resting place is at the Carlisle Cemetery in Warren County, Iowa.

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

### The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive Zoom Programs

Go to the website to see upcoming events and email to reserve a seat: <https://garmuslib.org/future-events>

### Society of Mayflower Descendents in the State of Nevada

The State Societies annual gather (Compact Day) is on November 1<sup>st</sup> and held at the Atlantis Casino. All are invited to this multi course plated luncheon with guest speaker Andrew Lipman, the author of Squanto "a Native Odessey," plus raffles and 50/50 drawing.

### Battle Born Patriots Chapter of, Sons of American Revolution

<https://www.bbp-sar.charity>

#### Bi-Monthly Meeting

Second Tuesday of odd months (January, March, etc.) at 1800 Hrs. in Skipolini's Restaurant at 13971 S. Virginia St. (Summit Center), Reno, NV

Next Meeting - Tuesday, 11 November

### Liberty Award Banquet

The Northern Nevada SAR's annual award dinner honoring young patriots. Here the Chapter gives out \$1000 cash awards to two youths that write the best essay in response to a patriot question or idea. Held Sat. November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1800 Hrs. at the Elks Lodge. All patriots are welcome to a great meal and to be astonished by these young patriot scholars. Also, a raffle for a Henry Rifle. See [Liberty Awards](#)



## **10 Things That Triggered the Civil War** [Courtesy American Battlefield Trust](#)

### **1: 1820 - The Missouri Compromise**

In the growth years following the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, Congress was compelled to establish a policy to guide the expansion of slavery into the new western territory. Missouri's application for statehood as a slave state sparked a bitter national debate. In addition to the deeper moral issue posed by the growth of slavery, the addition of pro-slavery Missouri legislators would give the pro-slavery faction a Congressional majority.

Ultimately, Congress reached a series of agreements that became known as the Missouri Compromise. Missouri was admitted as a slave state and Maine was admitted as a free state, preserving the Congressional balance. A line was also drawn through the unincorporated western territories along the 36°30' parallel, dividing north and south as free and slave. .

### **2: 1831 - Nat Turner's Rebellion**

In August of 1831, a slave named [Nat Turner](#) incited an uprising that spread through several plantations in southern Virginia. Turner and approximately seventy cohorts killed around sixty white people. The deployment of militia infantry and artillery suppressed the rebellion after two days of terror.

Fifty-five slaves, including Turner, were tried and executed for their role in the insurrection. Nearly two hundred more were lynched by frenzied mobs. Although small-scale slave uprisings were fairly common in the American South, Nat Turner's rebellion was the bloodiest. Virginia lawmakers reacted to the crisis by rolling back what few civil rights slaves and free black people

possessed at the time. Education was prohibited and the right to assemble was severely limited

### **3: 1846 - 1850 - The Wilmot Proviso**

[The Wilmot Proviso](#) was a piece of legislation proposed by David Wilmot (D-FS-R PA) at the close of the Mexican-American War. If passed, the Proviso would have outlawed slavery in territory acquired by the United States as a result of the war, which included most of the Southwest and extended all the way to California.

Wilmot spent two years fighting for his plan. He offered it as a rider on existing bills, introduced it to Congress on its own, and even tried to attach it to the [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](#). All attempts failed. Nevertheless, the intensity of the debate surrounding the Proviso prompted the first serious discussions of secession.

### **4: The Compromise of 1850**

With national relations soured by the debate over the Wilmot Proviso, senators Henry Clay and Stephen Douglas managed to broker a shaky accord with the [Compromise of 1850](#). The compromise admitted California as a free state and did not regulate slavery in the remainder of the Mexican cession all while strengthening the [Fugitive Slave Act](#), a law which compelled Northerners to seize and return escaped slaves to the South.

While the agreement succeeded in postponing outright hostilities between the North and South, it did little to address, and in some ways even reinforced, the structural disparity that divided the United States. The new Fugitive Slave Act, by forcing non-slaveholders to participate in the institution, also led to increased polarization among centrist citizens.

### **5 1852 - Uncle Tom's Cabin**

Harriet Beecher Stowe's fictional exploration of slave life was a cultural sensation. Northerners felt as if their eyes had been opened to the horrors of slavery, while Southerners protested that Stowe's work was slanderous.

Uncle Tom's Cabin was the second-best-selling book in America in the 19th century, second only to the Bible. Its popularity brought the issue of slavery to life for those few who remained unmoved after decades of legislative conflict and widened the division between North and South.

### **6: 1854 - 1859 - Bleeding Kansas**

The [Kansas-Nebraska Act](#) of 1854 established Kansas and Nebraska as territories and set the stage for "[Bleeding Kansas](#)" by its adoption of popular sovereignty. Under popular sovereignty, it is the residents of the territories who decide by popular referendum if the state is to be a

free or enslaved. Settlers from the North and the South poured into Kansas, hoping to swell the numbers on their side of the debate. Passions were enflamed and violence raged. In the fall of 1855, abolitionist John Brown came to Kansas to fight the forces of slavery. In response to the sacking of Lawrence by border ruffians from Missouri whose sole victim was an abolitionist printing press, Brown and his supporters killed five pro-slavery settlers in the Pottawatomie Creek Massacre in Kansas in May, 1856. Violence existed in the territory as early as 1855 but the Sack of Lawrence and the Pottawatomie Creek Massacre launched a guerilla war between pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces.

#### 7: 1857 - Dred Scott vs. Sanford

Dred Scott was a Virginia slave who tried to sue for his freedom in court. The case eventually rose to the level of the Supreme Court, where the justices found that, as a slave, Dred Scott was a piece of property that had none of the legal rights or recognitions afforded to a human being.

The Dred Scott Decision threatened to entirely recast the political landscape that had thus far managed to prevent civil war. The classification of slaves as mere property made the federal government's authority to regulate the institution much more ambiguous.

Southerners renewed their challenges to the agreed-upon territorial limitations on slavery and polarization intensified.

#### 8: 1858 - Lincoln-Douglas Debates

In 1858, Democratic Senator Stephen Douglas faced a challenge for his seat from a relatively unknown one term former congressman and "prairie lawyer" Abraham Lincoln. In the campaign that followed Lincoln and Douglas engaged in seven public debates across the state of Illinois where they debated the most controversial issue of the antebellum era: slavery. Although Douglas won the senate race, these debates propelled Lincoln to the national spotlight and enabled his nomination for president in 1860. In contrast, these debates further alienated Douglas from the southern wing of the Democratic Party and the arguments Douglas made in these debates come back to haunt him in 1860 destroying his presidential chances.

#### 9: 1859 - John Brown's Raid

Abolitionist John Brown supported violent action against the South to end slavery and played a major role in starting the Civil War. After the Pottawatomie Massacre during Bleeding Kansas, Brown returned to the North and plotted a far more threatening act. In October 1859, he and 19 supporters, armed with "Beecher's Bibles," led a raid on the federal armory and arsenal at Harpers Ferry,

Virginia, in an effort to capture and confiscate the arms located there, distribute them among local slaves and begin armed insurrection. A small force of U.S. Marines, led by Col. Robert E. Lee, put down the uprising. There were casualties on both sides; seven people were killed and at least 10 more were injured before Brown and seven of his remaining men were captured. On October 27, Brown was tried for treason against the state of Virginia, convicted and hanged in Charles Town on December 2.

#### 10: 1860 - Abraham Lincoln's Election

Abraham Lincoln was elected by a considerable margin in 1860 despite not being included on many Southern ballots. As a Republican, his party's anti-slavery outlook struck fear into many Southerners.

On December 20, 1860, a little over a month after the polls closed, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Six more states followed by the spring of 1861.

Learn More: [American Battle Trust](#)



#### SUVCW Links

[Camp 25](#)    [Dept Calif. & Pacific](#)    [National Website](#)

#### Veteran Reserves (SVR), 6<sup>th</sup> Military District Links

[District Website](#)    [District Facebook Page](#)

#### American Battlefield Trust Links

[Home](#)    [Civil War](#)    [American Revolution](#)

#### Sutlery - Uniform Items and Supplies

<https://www.ccsutlery.com/>

#### Civil War Manuals

[Army Regs and Manuals](#)    [Manual of Arms](#)  
[Manual of Arms](#)



General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25  
Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union  
Veterans of The Civil War

**Opening:**

- A. Meeting call to order at 1306 hours.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – Commander Davis
- C. Invocation – Chaplain Donn Dalton
- D. Roll Call:
  - 1. Present in person: D. Perdue, D. Dalton, D. Davis, B. Hamm, K. Dietrich, R. Dalton, D. Hess, W. Newman
  - 2. Guests: Jenny Davis.
  - 3. Online: No one online.

**I. Commander's Report**

- A. Unionville remains
  - 1. Debbie again has a new US Army Congressional Liaison Officer, but she cannot reveal the person's name.
  - 2. I asked about sending a letter as discussed in previous meetings and e-mails, and she said to do so.
- B. Note: Camp has now lost 7 members while only gaining 1 this year. Membership has been discussed periodically. Recap:

- 1. Two resigned due to health and/or financial issues
- 2. One with dual membership resigned but will remain with an AZ camp
- 3. Four members have not renewed with no explanation.

**II. Secretary's Report.**

- A. Minutes are in Carlin Dispatch, July 2025 issue.  
**MOTION: It was MOVED AND SECONDED (PERDUE/HESS) to approve the minutes as presented in the Carlin Dispatch, July 2025 issue. PASSED.**

- B. For health reasons, Randall Lorenz has resigned both as Camp Secretary and as a member of Camp 25. He brought the Camp records to the meeting. Past Secretary David Hess volunteered to serve as Acting Secretary for the balance of Brother Lorenz's term.

- IV. **Treasurer's Report** – report e-mailed ahead of the meeting. **MOTION: It was MOVED AND SECONDED (HESS/PERDUE) to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. PASSED.**

**V. Senior Vice Commander's Report—David Perdue.**

- A. Cannon acquisition – see write-up with description and acquisition trip in Carlin Dispatch, July 2025 issue.
- B. Brother Perdue submitted the following discussion and motions for approval.

Background: The Camp has been discussing a cannon for several years and at the June 28<sup>th</sup> Fallon Camp 25 outing Brother Ehlers receive a lead on a cannon in the Bay Area for \$5000. He negotiated it

down to \$3500 for the cannon and the accompany trailer. Brothers D. Dalton and D. Perdue, along with John Mandagaran (of SAR) decided that they would make the cannon purchase happen and split the needed amount equally. Knowing that there were already pledges toward the purchase, they decided to each pledge and contribute \$900 each, with the understanding that they may be paid down from that amount, but if that did not happen, they all stated that they were good with the contributions. A team went to the Bay Area and purchased the cannon, with D. Dalton paying the \$3500. The cannon and trailer are now in D. Perdues garage.

- 1. Additional contributions to cannon Fund:

A cannon fund was set up with the treasurer, and to-date it has received \$2910 in contributions. More funding is needed to pay off the cannon and to later maintain it and the trailer. Hopefully Camp 25 can contribute to the fund from its moneys and members from both Camp 25 and the Battle Born SAR Chapter will contribute more.

**MOTION: that Camp 25 contribute \$500 from its general fund to the cannon fund.”**  
**MOVED/SECONDED (DAVIS/DIETRICH)**  
**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 2. Reimburse D. Dalton for cannon purchase: Since D. Dalton paid the \$3500, he should be reimbursed down to the \$900 he pledged.

**MOTION: It was MOVED/SECONDED (PERDUE/D. DALTON) that D. Dalton be reimbursed down \$2600, such that he has only contributed \$900 to the cannon at this time. PASSED with D. Dalton abstaining.**

- 3. Reimburse additional moneys funding the purchase:

**MOTION: It was MOVED/SECONDED (HAMM/DIETRICH) that any remaining moneys in the cannon fund be distributed to the three benefactors that contribute \$900 each until they are each paid down to the \$500 level. After that any moneys in the fund will be used to operate and maintain the cannon and trailer. PASSED with D. Dalton and D. Perdue abstaining.**

- 4. Establish a cannon committee:

**MOTION: It was MOVED/SECONDED (PERDUE/D. DALTON) that a permanent Cannon Committee be establish, for as long as Camp 25 has a cannon, that would oversee the usage and maintenance of the cannon and trailer, to include accoutrements, supplies, etc., PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. Brother Perdue reminded members of the field trip to Fort Churchill planned to take place on October 11, 2025.

VI. **Junior Vice Commander's Report**—Donn Dalton.

A. Fall field trip e-mail:

Brother D. Dalton reported that he has made contact with the Todd Jaksick, owner of the Smoke Creek property. Mr. Jaksick granted absolute permission to enter his property. Brother Dalton advised Mr. Jaksick that we probably won't be accessing the property until late in the Fall. Mr. Jaksick said he will alert his staff and provide us with the combination number for the lock. (It was decided to postpone the Churchill Trip until late spring 2026 and make a trip to Smoke Creek on Oct 11 instead.)

VII. **Historian, Memorials, and GAR Highway Officer's Report** (see Appendix 1)

VIII. Graves Registration Officer's Report - nothing to report.

IX. **ROTC Report**—Kurt Dietrich.

A. Brother Dietrich reported that he is working on getting nominations from Sparks H.S.

X. Eagle Scout Coordinator's Report—Bernie Hamm.

A. Brother Hamm reported that the Scout Council will not be hosting an Eagle Scout dinner this year.

B. The Camp will not be distributing certificates this year, but will revisit the decision in the future.

XI. **Patriotic Instructor's Report** – Cody Ehlers.

Cody has family in town and will miss the meeting. His comments submitted via email are as follows:

First, my classes have started up and participation will be greatly limited until April. This is my final year of my apprenticeship and I need to finish strong.

Second, I would like to make a motion for the camp to put up \$500 from the general funds to the cannon. It is important for the camp to put up an amount that shows ownership and "esprit de corps" from Camp 25, rather than donations from a few for the enjoyment of many.

Third, civil war days are happening Labor Day weekend in V.C. My wife and I are going to attend the ball held at the opera house. As we have begun to build a relationship with the club in Carson, I would like to see if we can establish a relationship with the V.C. club. The Civil War days has huge foot traffic and I would like to eventually have a booth set up.

As for the monument, I would like to go to local businesses and ask for donations. If we are looking at 3k for the monument, what would be a good cost to have something that would thank donors. After the way the cannon was acquired on our side. I think it is important for us to reach out to the community for resources.

I am thinking a budget of 2k for a thank you monument or section for donors (might be high but worth shooting

high). The cost would be \$5000 so at \$500 donations we are needing 10 donors, \$750= 7 donors, and of course \$1000 for 5 donors. I think this is a reasonable task and if provided with a file containing information of the organization, what we have done, and our discovery, I think I would be able to successfully talk to potential donors. Maybe have one or two others that are willing to talk to local companies.

I am starting to develop concerns that genealogical societies are leaning a little too much on their own dues paying members to fund projects. I see a big problem with SAR doing this and as a result the organization is stuck with unsold raffle tickets. I would like Camp 25 to pave a path into the community and ask for donations so that we can continue to preserve Nevada history and expand education.

All that said, I am willing to spearhead the fundraising for the Genoa Cemetery Monument during my school year. The rest, I would need another person(s). (See XIII, section 3).

I would also like to see us have a small presence here for Wreaths Across America. May it be a small 20-minute ceremony later in the day, not this year, but next.

I know that there is a lot here and I appreciate everything about this organization. I apologize that I must miss this meeting.

XII. **Other Officers' Reports** – no reports.

XIII. **Old Business**

A. Brother Perdue reported that he has made progress on acquiring spiked flag holders. He reported that he has the parts.

B. GAR Cemetery - Fran Tryron was absent. Brother Richard Dalton asked if we plan to publish a list of those Civil War veterans who are buried in the GAR cemetery. There was some discussion. Brother Perdue offered some ideas, but no definitive solution was proposed. This subject was tabled until the next meeting.

C. Genoa Cemetery potential monument – see Cody's comments above.

1. Commander Davis contacted the Genoa Cemetery Association Board. On August 8, Eric Brink of the Board responded by e-mailed:

“The GCA Board has generally identified where the Veteran's Memorial should go, but any project management-related specifics have not started and no projected date is available. It might be more practical for the GCA and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil war to meet and decide on an alternative location depending on schedules? One option might be near the present flagpole where our current Memorial Day ceremonies are held.”

2. Brother Jay will miss the meeting due to family in town, but he said he would be willing to set up another site visit.

D. Upcoming activities

1. 9/1/2025; Labor Day parade in Virginia City

2. 9/8-11/2025; American Revolution Experience by the DAR at TMCC
  3. 10/11/2025; Field trip to Fort Churchill. CHANGED TO SMOKE CREEK.
  4. 10/16-18/2025; Mark Twain Days in Carson City
  5. 11/11/2025, 11 am; Veterans Day parade
  6. Bowers Mansion closing event was cancelled due to staff shortages.
- E. Older Old Business
1. Suggestion was made for a monument to the four guys buried at Smoke Creek. Brother Donn Dalton is taking the lead on this. A field trip out to the site has been scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup>. The results of this field trip will be reported at the October meeting.
  2. Suzanne Malek suggested the Camp hold a meeting or two at the TMCC Genealogical Library, and she would give a tour of what materials are available there. Brother Richard Dalton will investigate facilitating a meeting.
- F. Really old business on back burner – may never be off the back burner, but included here as not forgotten

1. James Reid MOH
2. Kane/Keenan MOH

XIV. **New Business**

- A. Trees for Masonic Cemetery – see History Report.

XV. **Good of the Order**

A. An award for Robert for his WAA work was proposed by Commander Davis. Brother Perdue reported that he already has a certificate and a challenge coin ready for presentation. (While it was not mentioned, there needs to be an attempt to get Brother Rob to come to the next meeting).

B. Brother Perdue reported that he has a 10-year pin ready for presentation to Brother Roger Linscott.

C. Next meeting – October 19

XVI. **Closing:** Prayer – Chaplain Donn Dalton

# HISTORY & MEMORIALS

## APPENDIX 1 - BIOGRAPHY

### **BIOGRAPHIES NEVADA VOLUNTEER OFFICERS**

#### **SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF OFFICER OF THE FIRST NEVADA VOLUNTEERS**

By David A. Davis, Carlin Camp 25 Commander, Historian, and Memorials Officer

In the May issue of the *Carlin Dispatch*, a list of officers in the First Nevada Cavalry and Infantry was given. From time to time, short biographies of some of these officers will also be presented. Following is one for Joseph Calder.

#### **JOSEPH WALDRON CALDER**

Company F, 1st Nevada Cavalry

Joseph Waldron Calder was born in 1834, in Equinunk, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, to Alexander and Affa Calder. Alexander Calder was born in 1798 in Schenectady, New York, to Joseph Amos and Mirian (nee Dunn) Calder. Affa was born in 1798 in Surprise, New York, to Joseph and Miriam (nee Blaisdell) Waldron. They were married in 1818. In 1830, they lived in Thompkins, New York, but moved to Equinunk where Joseph was born. They moved back to New York by 1839 but moved again to Bethany, Pennsylvania, by 1840, but then back to Equinunk where Alexander served as postmaster from 1846 to 1849. Bethany and Equinunk are in Wayne County in the Pocono Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania. In 1850, Alexander and family lived in Buckingham Township a little north of Philadelphia. He was a farmer with a real estate value of \$20,000 and three laborers. In 1860, Alexander was working as a lumberman, but his real and personal estate values were not listed. He was involved in a series of lawsuits in the 1850s and 1860s whereby his land in Wayne County was seized. In 1870, Alexander was again a farmer living on a farm owned by his son Joseph. Aside from the occupations noted above, Alexander was also one of the first itinerant Methodist ministers in this section of the country, and it was not uncommon see "Reverend" before his name. Affa died in 1877 and Alexander died at home in 1879. Both are buried in the Equinunk Cemetery.

Alexander and Affa had ten children of which eight lived into adulthood. These were: James 1820-1847; Eliza 1822-1823, Amelia 1824-1893, Levi 1826-1864, Ann 1827-1829, Rachel 1830-1887, Alexander 1832-1856, Joseph 1834-1878, Myra 1837-1901, and Alma 1842-?. James through Rachel and Miriam were all born in New York. The others were born in Pennsylvania.

Sometime between 1850 and 1852, Joseph left the area. He resided briefly in Iowa and Illinois before coming to California in 1858. An unclaimed letter addressed to him was noted in the Sacramento post office in February 1861. He had an apparent bout of "insanity" and was committed by Judge Robert Robinson of Sacramento County on November 2, 1861. He was admitted to the Stockton State Hospital the next day. His stay was short, and he was discharged on November 29th. It was noted that he had no property. Another unclaimed letter addressed to him was noted in the Sacramento post office on May 1, 1862. In 1862, he was in Aurora, Nevada, dealing with hardware. In 1863, he also represented Aurora in the Nevada Territorial Legislature

Interestingly, an unclaimed letter addressed to his brother Levi B. Calder was noted in the Sacramento post office on May 16, 1862. Levi was in Equinunk in January 1861. He died February 4, 1864, on board the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer "Golden City" apparently going from San Francisco to Panama.

The War of the Rebellion started when Confederate forces commenced firing upon Fort Sumpter on April 12, 1861. Through the overland telegraph and Pony Express, the news reached Fort Churchill on the 24th. Fort Churchill was manned by units

of the U.S. 3rd Artillery, 6th Infantry, and 1st Dragoons. In July 1861, California was called upon to begin supplying troops to guard the overland mail routes and later to patrol the West. The US troops were relieved at Fort Churchill by the 2nd California Cavalry in late 1861. On April 2, 1863, Nevada Territory was called upon to supply troops to supplement the California troops, which were being stretched thin.

Calder answered the call and applied for a captain's commission for Co. F, 1st Nevada Volunteer Cavalry. Commissions were only granted when the applicant completed both oral and written exams at Fort Churchill before a board of three officers making sure of their loyalty. Officers also had to bear the financial burden of organizing a company of 100 men and did not get their commission or reimbursement until he completed the task. Calder appeared before the board on October 9, 1863. The board consisted of Captain Charles A. Sumner, Assistant Quartermaster, U.S. Volunteers, President of the Board; Captain Milo George of Co. D, 1st Nevada Volunteer Cavalry; and Jacob Wilson, Assistant Surgeon, U.S.A., Secretary of the Board. Calder passed the exam.

Calder then commenced recruitment for Co. F. He placed a recruiting advertisement in the "Gold Hill Daily News," which ran from December 5, 1863 through January 27, 1864. Recruitment offices were opened at Fort Churchill, Teel and Warnes and Glenn Boys' saloons in Aurora, Apollo Saloon in Virginia City, Blue Wing saloon in Gold Hill, and Carson's saloon in Carson City. Calder was successful and was mustered in for a three-year term on April 4, 1864, at Fort Churchill. His base pay was \$70 per month plus a monthly bonus of \$35 from the Territory, about the same the average miner was making on the Comstock. Over the course of its existence, 120 men would join Co. F with 20 deserting.

Calder and Co. F remained at Fort Churchill through October. He was absent with leave for 22 days starting June 7th. Major Milo George and Cos. C, D, E, and F commanded by Captains John Dalton, Almond Wells, Robert Payne, and Calder respectively were transferred to Camp Douglas, Utah Territory, arriving there on October 25th. In May 1865, Calder was on detached service hunting down deserters. Calder resigned and was discharged at Camp Douglas on October 31, 1865.

Not all of Co. F went to Camp Douglas. In May 1864, a detail was ordered to Virginia City as a provost guard in coordination with Jacob Van Bokkelen who was the provost marshal for the First District of Nevada Territory. The detail consisted of two officers, Lieutenant Justin Edwards commanding, and 30 enlisted men. This detail was stationed there at least through August 1865.

Occasionally Governor James Nye and Van Bokkelen would call for troops when the local peace was threatened. The first time Nevada troops were called out to keep the peace involved a low life gambler named James Linn. Linn stabbed to death one John Doyle proprietor of Doyle's Theater in Dayton in August 1864. Linn ran for the hills, but was caught, arrested, and brought back to the jail in Dayton. About 3 am on August 9, a quickly formed vigilance committee showed up and overpowered and tied up the sheriff. They took Linn out back, hung him from a makeshift scaffold, and returned the body to his cell. One report said the vigilantes threatened to string up a few more, but a number Linn's loser friends threatened violence. Another report said all was quiet after a number of other notorious characters left town at the committee's invitation. Apparently, the former report was telegraphed to Nye who in turn requested troops. Majors Milo George and Purdy, Captain Calder, and 50 men of Co. F covered the 25 miles from Fort Churchill to Dayton in 2 hours and 11 minutes and arrived at the same time as Nye. By then, all was quiet. The troops occupied the courthouse and jail, and Nye read the riot act to a quiet street. The troops left the next day.

The bean counters seemed busy during Calder's term of service. In April 1864, he was held responsible for the company's clothing for \$10 per month. For Jan.-Feb. 1865, he was held responsible for the company's clothing and ordnance for \$10 per month for eight months - \$80. For Mar.-Apr., he was held responsible for the same for two months - \$20. For May-Jun., he was held responsible for the same for four months - \$40, and he was not entitled to commutation for fuel and quarters. For Jul.-Aug. he was just not entitled to commutation for fuel and quarters. However, Sep.-Oct., he was again held responsible the company's clothing and ordnance for \$10 per month for four months - \$40, and he was not entitled to commutation for fuel and quarters.

During Calder's time in the service, Utah and Nevada Territories made up the Military District of Utah which was in the Dept. of the Pacific. The headquarters were at Camp Douglas in Salt Lake City, and the commander was Colonel, later Brigadier General, Patrick Conner. On February 17, 1865, the District of Utah was moved into the Dept. of Missouri.

After leaving the service, Calder remained in Salt Lake City for a few years. He was involved in a delivery of 500 cords of wood to Camp Douglas in April 1866. He was in business with Robert P. McAuliffe, a former private from Co. C, 1st Nevada Cavalry. The business was dissolved by mutual consent on February 11, 1867. Calder may have stayed in Nevada for a time. An unclaimed letter addressed to him was noted in the Virginia City post office in April 1869. Interestingly, he was also noted as passing eastward through Salt Lake City in April 1869

By July 1870, Calder was back in Buckingham Township, PA. He was a farmer with real and personal estates under his name of \$25,000 and \$8,000 respectively. His father and mother and sisters Myra and Alma and another family member, Frank, also lived on the farm. He was also a member of Hancock Lodge No. 552 of the Free and Accepted Masons. Politically he was a Republican.

In 1871, he moved to Dallas, Texas, where being a northerner, a Republican, and a Union veteran in the Reconstruction South might have been frowned upon. On December 2, 1871, the citizens of Dallas, Texas, chartered the Dallas and Wichita Railroad. By 1872, Calder was President and one of the directors. The other officers were: Vice President J.C. McCoy; Secretary F.M. Hammond; Treasurer T.C. Jordan; Chief Engineer W.H. Wentworth; other Directors C. Wegefarth, H.S. Ervay, I.B. Calder, and D. Conoly. The railroad was to connect with the Texas and Pacific near its depot and was to run over 100 miles northwesterly from Dallas to the “mineral and grain lands of the Wichita, upper Red River, and Brazos counties; characterized this as but one of the great links to connect New Orleans with Colorado Territory”. In 1872, the citizens of Dallas voted \$100,000 in bonds to fund the project.

Ground was broken on November 28, 1872, with a large crowd and a number of local dignitaries present. In April 1873, Calder stated that 50 miles of track would be in operation by Fall, but construction was halted shortly thereafter partly by the onset of the Panic of 1873 which lasted until 1879. Calder was a shrewd businessman with an eye to the future. He was elected president through 1875 but was involved with internal disputes and several lawsuits. Calder represented by proxy almost two-thirds of the shares of the company resulting in him being in control. He was elected vice president in 1878, but by then, only 20 miles of track had been laid from Dallas north to Lewisville. A dispute erupted involving a subcontract to complete the railroad to the Dallas County and control of \$50,000 of the bonds. Two factions in the dispute involved the board of directors and Alexander T. Obenchain, Marcellus Pointer, and R.S. Rosser, who were stockholders, creditors, and ex-directors on one side and Calder and his supporters on the other side. Obenchain and Pointer were heavily invested in the railroad. It might also be noted that Obenchain, Pointer, and Rosser were ex-Confederates. During construction, the Kansas Rolling Mill Co. had provided a large amount of iron to the D&WRR. Through an application for receivership, a U.S. District Court allowed the KRM Co. to take control to protect its interest. Ira Harris, General Manager of the KRM Co., was appointed receiver for the D&WRR. After Harris’ appointment, Calder was appointed Superintendent. The appointment of Harris offended the other faction who wanted to take control of the D&WRR for themselves.

The final dispute involving Calder came over a delivery of ties. Obenchain and Pointer had the contract to supply ties and were to be paid with a note that would mature when the railroad was completed to the county line. They were contracted to deliver 750 ties to Harris but only 605 were delivered. Harris was only going to pay for the 605 delivered. Obenchain and Pointer with R.S. Rosser took umbrage with this. A letter written by Obenchain and signed “Poin” was sent to Harris threatening him if he did not pay the full amount.

A few weeks after the “Poin” letter, on September 6, 1878, C.F. Stephens, R.J. McCarthy, Harris, and Calder, were walking along Elm Street near the corner of Market. They were headed to the Pointer’s office and expected to meet him and Obenchain there. However, Obenchain, Rosser, and Pointer came out of a store the others were passing by. Harris bowed to Obenchain and shook Pointer’s hand but did not acknowledge Rosser. Pointer demanded what Harris was going to do about full payment. Harris said he would only pay for the ties received. Pointer called Harris “a damned little thief,” and then Harris, who was unarmed, punched Pointer in the nose. Pointer hit Harris over head with his umbrella, and Rosser hit him with his cane. Calder was a few feet from them and stepped a couple of paces forward drawing his pistol. Rosser told Caldwell not to draw his pistol and then pulled his pistol. Both fired about the same time, though Calder may have fired first. Calder fell to the pavement firing wildly at Rosser and Obenchain. Obenchain pulled his pistol and fired. Calder was hit six times – right temple between the eye and ear, between the second and third rib at the junction of the sternum, below the stomach, above the pelvis, the right groin, and the right leg below the knee. He died. Rosser and Harris exchanged words, and Rosser hit him with his cane again. Harris fell under a lumber wagon. The police arrested Obenchain, Pointer, and Rosser. The men were charged with murder and tried. The council for the defendants claimed self-defense. The jury deliberated for 25 minutes and found them not guilty.

Local undertaker P.W. Linskie took charge of Calder’s body, which was sent back to Pennsylvania. He was never married or had any children, and he apparently never applied for a pension. He is buried in the Equinunk Cemetery. It should be noted that several newspaper articles state he was in Colorado at the start of the Rebellion and served in the 2nd Colorado Volunteers. I have found nothing to support this.

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## APPENDIX 2

### HISTORY AND MEMORIALS REPORT, AUGUST 17, 2025

David A. Davis,  
General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25 Camp Commander  
Historian/Civil War Memorials Officer.

CANNON ACCIDENT – CAMP DOUGLAS, UTAH TERRITORY Camp 25 now has a cannon. However, proper maintenance and firing procedures must always be followed to the letter. The following incident is from “The Daily Union Vedette,” Friday April 21, 1865, vol. III, no. 90, p. 3, col. 1. The “Vedette” was the soldier-run newspaper for Camp Douglas, Utah Territory. On Wednesday last, a most melancholy accident occurred. Private Stein of Co. “B,” 3d Batt. Inf. C. V., acting as gunner, while ramming home a cartridge, by the accidental discharge of the gun, was maimed for life. It seems that he, through neglect, did not properly sponge the gun, and that some sparks remained, previous to the insertion of the cartridge, which at once became ignited; shattering his side and face and blowing his right hand completely off. Stein is a very excellent and worthy man and is highly respected by his comrades throughout the entire command. Too much caution cannot be exercised in the handling of cannon, and where no neglect is practiced, there is no danger of accident of this kind.

“The Semi-Weekly Telegraph” of Salt Lake City, Monday April 24, 1865, vol. 1, no. 57, p. 2, col. 6. Reported:

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. – On Wednesday, while the minute guns were fired at Camp Douglas, during the funeral ceremonies of the Late Chief Magistrate, one of the artillerymen, named Stein, had his right hand blown off and his arm splintered. Drs. Wolcott and Robinson had to amputate the arm about three inches below the elbow. The young man is well spoken of by his comrades. (Commander’s note: “Chief Magistrate,” of course, being President Lincoln). Who was this Private Stein? John Stein was born in Coblenz, Prussia, about 1832. He enlisted as a private into Co. D, 3rd California Infantry by Lt. Staples in Sacramento on October 28, 1862, for a 3-year term. He was described as 5’ 9” with blue eyes, light hair, and light complexion with an occupation of laborer. He used the alias John Stone in a “previous enlistment.” Interestingly, he was not mustered in prior to 1864. From January through April 1863, he was sick in the hospital. He deserted in May but turned himself in under the President’s Proclamation on May 31. Co. D was stationed at Camp Union near Sacramento during this time. He was transferred with Co. D to Camp Douglas on August 31, 1863, and was mustered in January 20, 1864. On November 1, 1864, he was transferred to Co. B, which had just been reorganized at Camp Union and sent to Camp Douglas. J.H. Nevett was the Camp sutler and Stein always owed the guy most reporting periods – 1863: Sep/Oct \$1.00, Nov/Dec \$5.75; 1864: Jan/Feb \$1.50, Mar/Apr \$4.32, May/June \$3.88, Jul/Aug \$7.88, Sep/Oct \$1.50; 1865: Jan/Feb \$5.32, Mar/Apr \$3.00. After the accident, he was mostly in the Camp hospital, though he was briefly assigned to Co. C. His injury was given as “Right arm shot off while in discharge of duty.” He was mustered out at Camp Douglas on November 21, 1865, when his 3-year enlistment expired. He was entitled to a pension for his disability, and a pension application was made. What became of his pension or his postmilitary life was not known at the time of this writing.

CANNON ACCIDENT – FORT HOMESTEAD, NEVADA The following article is from the “Gold Hill Daily News,” Thursday September 20, 1866, vol. 6, no. 909, p. 3, col. 1. The article is almost a tongue-in-cheek eulogy but really reports on what could have been a deadly tragedy. The barrel was locally made and probably of cast iron which is brittle. The takeaways are: 1. Do not let untrained people even touch a cannon; 2). Beware of the integrity of cannons not made to military specs; and 3). God may very well at times look after babies, fools, and drunks. A history of Fort Homestead can be found at <https://www.suvpac.org/camp25docs/Fort%20Homestead.pdf>

CANNON BURSTED. -- The six-pounder cannon at Fort Homestead bursted last evening, and flew all to pieces. This cannon was casted about three years ago at one of our Gold Hill foundries, and mounted on a very heavy carriage. It has been in use on Fort Homestead ever since, whenever news of a glorious Union victory over rebellion has been received; whenever occasion has arrived for a public demonstration of a patriotic or a Union political purpose. Its voice has made more noise and music than any other similar implement, within the time of usefulness, used for a similar purpose in all the land of Washoe. Its name was “The Kearsarge,” christened in honor of a glorious naval event record in the history of our late rebellion. But the “Kearsarge” is no more! May her fragments be gathered up and preserved as mementoes sacred to the history of Gold Hill during a period that appealed to the loyalty, the patriotism, and the generous liberality of the people

of our mountain town. A sight of its shattered fragments will vividly bring to the minds of many of us years hence, the dark and bright days of our country's history. We say, then, preserve the good and glorious relics of our local gunpowder monitor, the "KEARSARGE" – which, like the earthly remains of a true and tried friend, having become inanimate and powerless, but whose good deeds live green in the memory of the living. The accident which happened last evening at Fort Homestead is certainly one of the most singular we have ever read or heard of. The First Ward Union Club had an appointment for a meeting at their Hall; and, as has been customary for some time past, a few guns were expected to be fired at Fort Homestead. Mr. Louis Wagner, and old man-of-war's man, who has had charge of the cannon – and who, if there was anything on earth, he seemed to set his affections upon, or to take a particular pride in, it was bestowing his attentions to keeping the "Kearsarge" always in good trim and good voice. But on this occasion he was absent, and the firing devolved upon others, who instead of the usual "charge" of about a pound of powder, doubled the quantity, and owing to a want of proper experience, it is supposed, failed to drive the wadding home, so that there must have been a good deal of air between it and the powder; and when fired, it being done by a slow fuse, the cannon went all to pieces, hurling fragments of solid iron in every direction into the air and deep into the earth underneath. Solid masses of iron, almost as heavy as a hundred-pound shell, flew all over the town in several directions.

One piece, weighing ninety-four pounds, actually went hurling through the air a distance of a quarter of a mile and struck through the plank sidewalk in front of the office of the Yellow Jacket Mining Company, on Main Street. This fragment, nearly two feet long, is now on exhibit in the barroom of the Vesey House. It struck on the porch just half a minute after two men had passed the spot, and as another man was approaching it, and not more than ten feet off. (These gentlemen, just about that time, "might have been seen" making tracks with considerable haste in different directions, with the idea of nitroglycerine in their eye.) Another piece, weighing about forty pounds, struck the roof of Henry Eckert's blacksmith shop, not far off from where the piece struck. It evidently broke through the roof as easy as a sledge hammer would smash a dinner plate. Passing the shingles and board sheeting, it struck a rafter, two by six inches, and broke it as easy as a person might snap of a clay pipe stem. It struck and buried itself in the dry and hard clay ground floor a distance of 3 inches, where it was afterward found. Not less than ten men were sitting in and adjoining saloon, within fifteen feet of where the fragment struck the ground, and stopped its voyage of destruction. (There was a big consternation among the beer drinkers just about this time; and the examination of the blacksmith shop revealed to the consternation struck imbibers that old Vulcan never hurled such a weapon of iron the same distance, nor of such uncomely shape as that presented to their gaze). This piece of the cannon, weighing about forty pounds, can be seen on the counter of the Gold Hill Brewery, opposite Odd Fellows Hall. Another large piece of the demolished "Kearsarge," weighing about ninety-two pounds, can be seen on exhibition at the Gold Hill Exchange, Harry Clawson having industriously "lugged" it down from Fort Homestead. The cannon carriage was also entirely demolished, the heavy oak timbers, axle and wheels being wrenched and broken into many pieces. This terrible explosion occurred without striking and injuring any person whatever, although there were eight to ten persons standing within forty feet of it.

CANNON ACCIDENT – DOWNIEVILLE, CALIFORNIA Cannon accidents seemed to be a little too common, and several more were reported on in the 1860s. The following is from Sacramento's "The Daily Bee," Friday, June 5, 1863, vol. XIII, no. 1968, p. 2, col. 2.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT. – The Sierra Democrat gave the following particulars of the accident which resulted in the death of two men and the wounding of others, at Downieville on the 27th ultimo: "While a portion of the citizens of Downieville were engaged in firing a salute on account of the supposed capture of Vicksburg, 1st Lieut. M. M. Knox and 2d Lieut. Wm. A. Donaldson of Company K, 6th regiment California Volunteers, were mangled in the most horrible manner by a premature discharge of the cannon used on the occasion. The cannon was old, had been two years exposed to the weather without any proper care, had become very rusty, rough, and powder-burned inside, had been spiked, and in removing the spike the vent had been bruised, rendering it a difficult undertaking to prevent air from passing through while loading. Several rounds had been fired, when the vent became stopped. This occurred several times, which proves that the cannon was foul. Immediately before the last cartridge was put into the cannon the person tending the vent cautioned the parties, telling them there was fire in the chamber, and not to load until they had cleaned out the cannon; but his suggestions were unheeded by them, and they, both having hold of the rammer, and in the act of pushing home the cartridge, were blown to pieces in the most shocking manner by the premature discharge. Lieut. Knox lost both his eyes, his face was burnt to a crisp, the left hand torn entirely above the wrist, the right arm badly shattered, pieces of the rammer were forced deeply into the lungs and other parts of the body, which as thrown over a steep declivity and nearly into the river, some 200 feet below. He died about five hours after the accident. Lieut. Donaldson was injured in a similar manner, his face being terribly burned, Fort Homestead [https://fortwiki.com/Fort\\_Homestead](https://fortwiki.com/Fort_Homestead) both eyes destroyed, both hands blown off above the wrists, and his left side severely injured. He died at 4 o'clock the following morning. S. W. Forbes was seriously burned in the face by the powder escaping

from the vent. His thumb was badly sprained, and his eyes seriously, though not permanently injured.” Lieutenant Moses M. Knox was born in 1837 in Butler County, Ohio. In 1860, he was a miner living in Downieville. He enlisted into Co. K, 6th California Infantry on March 21, 1863, in San Francisco, eight weeks after the company was organized. He died just two months after his enlistment. I found nothing on a Lieutenant William A. Donaldson at the time of this writing other than he was 28 when he died and may have been a Scotsman named William Donaldson who in 1860 was a miner living at Poker Flat about 10 miles north of Downieville.

**AUGUSTINE FLETCHER MEMORIAL TREE** The last three members of the GAR General O.M. Mitchel Post 69 were: 1). Augustine G. Fletcher: died 8/27/1935, age 89; Corporal, Co. B, 29th Maine Infantry; Reno banker; Post 69 Quartermaster from its inception; buried in Masonic Memorial Gardens (Photo: Findagrave Memorial ID 21176760). 2). Abner Erastus Lasher: died 9/26/1935, age 90; Corporal, Co. C, 184th New York Infantry; University of Nevada professor and metallurgist; Post 69 Commander from 1922 to his death; buried in Mountain View Cemetery (Photo: David A. Davis, 2025). 3). George Warren: died 3/10/1936, age 93; Private, Co. F, 17th Maine Infantry; wounded at Gettysburg; lumber contractor; buried in Mitchel Post 69 cemetery at Hillside (Photo: David A. Davis, 2025). After Lasher’s death, the WRC General O.M. Mitchel Corps 27 decided to plant trees on Arbor Day as a tribute to Fletcher and Lasher. When Warren died, it was decided to honor him at a later date. Corps 27 raised funds for the trees at a card party held in the Veteran’s Hall at the county library on March 19, 1936. Apparently, only one tree was acquired. Arbor Day in 1936 was on May 22, but the dedication was held the next day. A blue spruce was dedicated to Fletcher. Corps 27 patriotic instructor Miss Lucy V. Parker conducted the program. Baptist minister Rev. Brewster Adams spoke briefly. Nina Crowe sang several solos and Henry McNamara read an original poem. Corps 27 president Mrs. James German concluded the services with the WRC ritual. The actual placement of the tree is not given though it was probably near Fletcher’s grave. I visited his gravesite several weeks ago but could not find it even with a map from the cemetery sexton David Tener. David went out a few days later and found that the flat tombstone was under about six inches of dirt. No 90-year-old blue spruce trees were nearby. Aerial photographs from 1. 2. 3. 1946, 1956, and 1966, show what appears to be a tree near the grave, but it is gone now. These photos are high altitude and very fuzzy when magnified, though trees, roads, and buildings can be made out. David said that over the five years he has been there, they have lost a bunch of old trees due to storms. He talked to the Masons about getting new trees, but they have not been forth coming. I suggested the Camp could buy a tree to place near Fletcher’s grave with a small plaque saying it was a replacement, and we could do a dedication. It would be free to the Masons, and all he had to do was plant it. He was in favor of that. He was also in favor of us acquiring tombstones for any unmarked Civil War veterans’ graves. I said I would bring it up at our next meeting maybe as a future project. Several weeks ago, I also visited the grave of Abner Lasher. His tombstone was partially overgrown with grass, and the grave was slightly sunken in. I went to the cemetery office, and they said they would take care of it. The 1946 and 1956 aerial photographs show what appears to be a tree near his grave, but it appears to be gone by 1966.

**COLLAPSED GRAVES AT GAR POST 69 CEMETERY** WRC member Fran Tryon and JVC Donn Dalton both also of the Hillside Cemetery Foundation sent me pictures of several graves at the GAR Post 69 Cemetery at Hillside that caved in from recent rains. As a member of the Women’s Relief Corps, one of the five auxiliaries to the GAR, Fran has notified me she will take over maintenance of the GAR cemetery. Donn and Foundation member Jay filled in the graves. Fran plans on removing the sticker bushes at the south end of the GAR cemetery. Collapsed graves. Sticker bushes.

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **GENERAL WILLIAM PASSMORE CARLIN CAMP NO. 25 DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA AND PACIFIC SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

#### **CAMP ORDER No. 2 Series 2025**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF CAMP ACTING SECRETARY**

By the authority vested in me as Commander of General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25, Department of California and Pacific, by the Camp Bylaws, the Department Bylaws, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby announced:

- 1). Brother Randall C. Lorenz has resigned as Camp Secretary due to on-going health issues.
- 2). At the August 17, 2025, Camp meeting, former Secretary Brother David F. Hess agreed to serve as Acting Secretary until new elections are held in December.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 11th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, in Lemmon Valley, County of Washoe, State of Nevada by David A. Davis, Camp Commander of General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25, the Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

By Order of: /s/ David A. Davis  
Camp Commander  
Gen. William Passmore Carlin Camp No. 25

ATTEST: By: /s/ David F. Hess  
Camp Acting Secretary

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **GENERAL WILLIAM PASSMORE CARLIN CAMP NO. 25 DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA AND PACIFIC SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

#### **CAMP ORDER No. 3**

**Series 2025**

#### **CARLIN CAMP 25 CANNON COMMITTEE**

By the authority vested in me as Commander of General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25, Department of California and Pacific, by the Camp Bylaws, the Department Bylaws, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, the formation of a Cannon Committee is ordered as follows:

- 1). On July 19, 2025, the Camp acquired a working 3/4 replica of a cannon previously used in Civil War reenactments and capable of live firing.
- 2). At the August 17, 2025, Camp meeting, as per Section V, Part B, item 4 in the minutes, a motioned was made, seconded, and passed that “a permanent Cannon Committee be establish, for as long as Camp 25 has a cannon, that would oversee the usage and maintenance of the cannon and trailer, to include accoutrements, supplies, etc.”
- 3). The Carlin Camp 25 Cannon Committee (referred to below as “The Committee”) is created with following stipulations:
  - a). The Committee members at the time of this Camp Order will be Commander/Historian David A. Davis, Senior Vice Commander David Perdue, Junior Vice Commander Donn Dalton, Patriotic Instructor Cody Ehlers, and Sons of the American Revolution Member John Mandagaran.
  - b). The Committee is open to others who may wish to serve on it in the future.
  - c). Dr. Wayne L. Eder, will be the technical assistant. Wayne is a member of Camps 21, 25, and 31; Commander of Battery B, 3rd US Artillery SVR; and Major Commander of the 6th Military District SVR
  - d). Before firing the cannon, all committee members will be trained and certified according to the rules of the National Civil War Association or a similar approved agency.
  - e). The responsibility of the Cannon Committee will be to create set of rules and regulations that include but are not limited to:
    - 1). Who will use it and when and where it will be used
    - 2). All who intend to fire the cannon are properly trained and certified
    - 3). Care, maintenance, and housing
    - 4). Insurance
    - 5). Supplies and accoutrements
    - 6). Trailer (came with the cannon)
    - 7). Future acquisition of a limber and/or caisson
    - 8). Clarity on ownership
    - 9). Keeping a written and electronic log recording:
      - a). All of the above

b). Incidents or concerns involving any of the above

f). The Committee will exist as long as the Camp owns a cannon or otherwise at the pleasure of the Camp.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 23rd day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, in Lemmon Valley, County of Washoe, State of Nevada by David A. Davis, Camp Commander of General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25, the Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

By Order of: /s/ David A. Davis  
Camp Commander  
Gen. William Passmore Carlin Camp No. 25

ATTEST: By: /s/ David F. Hess  
Camp Acting Secretary