



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. 6 Compiled and Edited by David Perdue 30 November 2025

Mailing address: General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25, 4303 June wood Court, Reno, NV 89509-7005

Website: <https://suvpac.org/camp25/> Camp Email: camp25@suvpac.org, Editor's Email: camp25signals@suvpac.org

NEXT CAMP 25 MEETING

The next Camp 25 meeting will be held at 1300 Hrs. on **Sunday, December 14th** 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.

ORDERS

CAMP ORDERS

No new Camp Orders were issued since the last Carlin Camp 25 Dispatch was published. See all Camp Orders on the Camp website: <https://suvpac.org/camp25orders/>

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

No new Department orders were issued since the last Carlin Camp 25 Dispatch was published. For a complete list of orders, see the Department website: <https://suvpac.org/orders/>

NATIONAL GENERAL ORDERS

Two new General Orders and four Special Message were issued since the last Carlin Camp 25 Dispatch. For the full text and a complete list of General Orders see the National list of orders.

By CiC Kevin P. Tucker

- [General Order No. 8](#) – Revocation of Charter for Maj. Gen Gibbon/1SG Burke Camp No. 2, Department of North Carolina
- [Special Message No. 3](#) –Camp and Department Website Content (Suggestions)
- [Special Message No. 4](#) –Engaging Brothers in the Work of the Order
- [Special Message No. 5](#) – Answering the Call: Why We Must Stand Together at SUVCW Events
- [General Order No. 9](#) – Awards and Recognitions

- [Special Message No. 6](#) – Grant Writing Guides Now Available on the SUVCW Website

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

UPCOMING SUVCW EVENTS

CAMP EVENTS

Wreaths Across America at GAR Cemetery



Wreaths Across America will happen in Northern Nevada at several locations. SUVCW Nevada Camp 25, along with American Legion Dunkel Post 1, and SAR Battle Born Patriots will be at the GAR Cemetery (1025 Angel Street (10th & Angel) Reno, NV) at 1200 hrs. to honor our Civil War Veterans interred there. Please come out early to support us, as this is a Camp 25 function. Please also invite friend and neighbors to come and share in this very meaningful honoring of those who before us fought and gave to our cause. Also, please wear whatever uniform items you may have. We will also be honoring veterans buried at the neighboring Hillside Cemetery and the Knights of Pythias Cemetery. The honor guard and organizers should arrive at 1100 hrs.

The Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (14 Veterans Way, Fernley, NV 89408) will have an earlier ceremony conducted by the Northern Nevada Veterans Coalition at 0900 hrs. that coincides with other nationwide ceremonies. For those in the Carson area not coming to Reno, the Lone Mountain Cemetery in Carson City will have their Ceremony at 1000 hrs. (1044 Beverly Dr.,

Carson City, NV 89706) They are very short in their goal, so please help them out.

A little further away there are also ceremonies at Eastside Memorial Park in Minden, Garden Cemetery in Gardnerville, Churchill County Cemetery in Fallon, and Big Valley Cemetery in Lovelock.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

No Department events are currently scheduled.

NATIONAL EVENTS

No National events are currently scheduled

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 - johanashineduvcw@gmail.com, or visit the website - <https://johanashineduvcw.wordpress.com/>

CAMP 25 NEWS

Smoke Creek Cemetery Restoration



L to R – Donn Dalton, Sonny Victor, Ray Carter, & Heath (not shown is Cmdr. David A. Davis)

In October 2025 the Camp 25 began restoration efforts at the 1860's burial location of four California Calvary Soldiers on Nevada BLM land in the USGS Smoke Creek Ranch quad. In the 1960's, a hundred years after their burial, the Lassen County Historical Society located the

graves, replaced the cross and clean the area., It stood up surprisingly well for nearly sixty years, but now in 2025 it is long due for a refresh. Camp 25 survey the site in the summer and in October completed the first step, replacing the cross. Camp 25 SUVCW brothers Donn Dalton and David Perdue fashioned and painted a new cross from 4X6 redwood timbers that will last another fifty years, and it was installed on a cool autumn afternoon. The next step, planned for the spring of 2026, is to install a proper metal fence around the grave site to keep the cows out. Lastly a permanent roadside marker to identify the soldier's final resting place is planned when the funds become available. Since getting to the site requires crossing private property and two barbed wire fences this seem the most appropriate way to remember them and to point out the distant cross to history buffs and passersby.

The soldiers buried here are:

- Pvt. John Smith; Co. C, 2nd CA Cav., d. Jan. 18, 1863, shot by Lt. Williams at Deep Hole
- Pvt. Gustavus W. Plass; Co. C, 2nd CA Cav., d. Nov. 9, 1863 of typhoid at Smoke Creek
- Sgt. William McCoy; Co. D, 1st NV Cav., d. Jul. 3, 1864, unknown causes
- Pvt. David O'Connell; Co. B, 2nd CC Cav., d. Nov. 17, 1865, killed by Indians at Pine Forest



Camp 25's New Cross



Smoke Creek Cross after 57 years

Camp 25 Officer Elections

Camp Elections will be held at the meeting on December 14th and we ask that you do your best to attend. Like the early American militias SUVCW Camps elect their officers , so please consider taking it on. We will be electing Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 Councilmen. If you are interested in one of our elected or appointed positions, please let Commander Davis or Sr. Vice Cmdr Perdue know.

CIVIL WAR NEWS & VIEWS

Quote from the Day

"He who does something at the head of one Regiment, will eclipse him who does nothing at the head of a hundred."

Abraham Lincoln, 31 December 1861,
letter to David Hunter.

64 Years Ago - 1861 in the Civil War

Nov. 1 - George McClellan replaces Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott as general-in-chief of the U.S. Army	Nov. 2 - Gen. John C. Fremont removed from command of the Department of the West by President Lincoln
Nov. 7 - Engagement at Belmont, Missouri	Nov. 8 - Confederate emissaries to England and France are removed from the British RMS <i>Trent</i> , initiating the "Trent Affair" and endangering the United States' relationship with Great Britain
Nov. 8/9 - Engagement at Ivy Mountain, Kentucky	Nov. 12 - The blockade runner <i>Fingal</i> , bought by Confederates in England, arrives in Savannah
Nov. 21 - Judah P. Benjamin confirmed as Confederate Secretary of War.	Nov. 22 - The Union begins bombardment of Fort McRee in Pensacola, Florida
Nov. 28 - Missouri admitted to the Confederacy despite never officially seceding from the Union	Courtesy of Battlefield Trust

OUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS

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

Edwin Forest Applegate (a Civil War ancestor of Camp No. 25 member-Paul Washeleski) "heeded the call" from President Lincoln on 4 August 1862 for an additional 300,000 soldiers "To Preserve The Union". Subsequently, Edwin offered his services and was commissioned as the Colonel of the 29th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment on 12 September 1862 (note: he had experience as an officer in the Rhode Island State Militia prior to the start of the Civil War).



Upon successful organization of the regiment at Camp Vredenburg (with 39 officers and 866 men) the 29th New Jersey Infantry Regiment left for Washington DC on 20 September 1862. Upon arrival, it was attached to General John J. Abercrombie's Brigade (of General Silas Casey's Division) AKA-the Defenses of Washington.

On 30 November 1862, the 29th New Jersey Infantry Regiment was re-assigned and attached to General M. R. Patrick's Provost Guards- Army of the Potomac. It was then ordered to proceed to Aquia Creek, Virginia, where it performed provost duty and security for the railroad in that region. During that time, the regiment was involved in several skirmishes with Rebel forces in that area. Later, in December 1862, the 29th New Jersey Infantry Regiment would participate in the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and would earn distinction as the last Union Army unit to withdraw from that city under enemy cannon fire, (major battles or actions: the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia (December 13-15, 1862))

On 16 January 1863, Edwin resigned his commission (due to poor health) and returned home. However, his association with the Grand Army of the Republic did not end there. Edwin was instrumental in the formation of the GAR- Captain James W. Conover Post No. 63 (established: 16 January 1882 in Monmouth County, New Jersey) and was the Post Commander from 1883 until 1885. Additionally, he was instrumental in the formations of the Women's Relief Corps No. 1 of New Jersey (associated with the GAR- Frank Lloyd Post No. 79). Furthermore, he assisted in the formation of the

Political Speech from the Day



THE SITUATION

OFFICER LINCOLN. "I guess I've got you now, Jeff"
JEFF DAVIS. "Guess you have--well now, let's Compromise"
(1861-Granger)

Monmouth Battle Monument Association (an organization dedicated to the erection of monuments, plaques, and other tributes to commemorate the memory of military personnel who served their country from Monmouth County).

Edwin F. Applegate was born in New York City, New York, on 3 June 1831, and he was one of five children born to William and Ann (Martin) Applegate. William Applegate had been a prominent businessman and well know printer in New York City during the mid-1800s.

On 21 April 1849, Edwin married (Mary Lucinda French) in New York and over the years they had 8 children. Sometime prior to 1857 they moved to Rhode Island where he engaged in the newspaper business.

Shortly after the start of the Civil War, Edwin and his family moved to Monmouth County, New Jersey. There he was offered a commission in a newly forming militia unit (29th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment). After his tour of duty, Edwin returned home and resumed the life of a family man, newspaper publisher, and editor. Over the years he became a very successful businessman and important member of the community.

On 23 January 1885, Edwin Applegate passed away at the age of 53. His final resting place is at the Maplewood Cemetery, Freehold, New Jersey.



Edwin Forest Applegate's Grave Marker

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>

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, 13 January

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA & FACTS

9 Key Weapons of the American the Civil War Courtesy of History Hit

1. Models 1860 and 1861 Colt Revolver

Possibly the most iconic handguns of the American Civil War era were the single-action Colt black powder revolvers. While many field grade officers still carried largely obsolete swords, the revolver became the officer's prime battlefield weapon. A 6-shot percussion cap revolver designed by Samuel Colt in the late 1840s, the Colt 1860 Army fired a 44-caliber ball and the 1861 Navy fired a round 36-caliber ball. They are easily identifiable by their smooth sided revolving cylinder, long barrel, and distinctive curved wood grips. Although slow to load, there ruggedness and durability made it a popular weapon even after the Civil War, especially for any man on horseback.

(Note: The Remington revolver was a secondary, supplemental issue firearm for the Union Army until the Colt factory fire of February 1864. After the Colt Factory was destroyed, large numbers of Remington's 1858 New Army revolvers were ordered by the U.S. government.)

(Note: Many officers and men also brought their 36 Caliber 1851 Colt Navy with them to the war.)

2. Model 1861 Springfield rifle

The mainstay of the US Army, produced in Springfield, Massachusetts, and via federal government contract to various manufacturers across the northern states, the Springfield rifle musket was the preeminent firearm of its day. The sturdy percussion cap Springfield weighed in at 9lb (4.9kg) and was the first rifle to be produced at scale by the United States; more than a million were manufactured during the war. The Springfield had an effective range of 200-300 yards but could reliably hit its target at 500 yards. (Later, a very similar 1863 model was adopted.) (Note: At the start of the war there were limited new military rifles in the North so the model 1842 musket was largely put in use, and during the length of the war many units preferred it over the later rifles as it was faster/easier to load and it could shoot “Buck and Ball”, a combination of a single 69 Caliber ball and several rounds of buckshot fired simultaneously. When the Confederates captured the Harpers Ferry Armory, they took those tools and started making their own version of the rifle, but because of limited resources many fewer were made in the south.)

3. Pattern 1853 Enfield Rifle

The second most commonly used rifle musket of the war, the .58 Caliber British-made 1853 Enfield was a high-quality rifle firing the French designed Minie ball (conical bullet with a hollow base) and was used in the hundreds of thousands by both US and Confederate armies. An estimated 900,000 1853 Enfield rifle-muskets were imported for both sides via private contractors and blockade runners. With an effective range out to 800 yards, the long barreled 3-band Enfield also came equipped with an adjustable ladder rear sight for shooting at longer ranges and a fearsome 49cm (19-inch) socket bayonet. The average infantryman was expected to be able to fire three rounds per minute.

4. M1857 12-Pounder Napoleon

Artillery was king of the Civil War battlefield. One of the chief field guns of the war, the 12-pounder Napoleon (other calibers and variations were also manufactured) weighed in at about 544kg (1200 lb.).

The cast bronze gun (brass types were also available), named for Napoleon III of France, was favored by gunners for its reliability, effectiveness, and accuracy, particularly against enemy in the open. It fired round shot, cannister (a tin can packed with layers of lead balls) and case (shrapnel) and could shoot accurately out to 2000 yards.

5. Three-inch (76mm) Ordnance Rifle

The most widely used rifled artillery piece of the war, the 3-inch ordnance rifle was extremely durable (when made

of wrought iron) was light and highly mobile. Exceptionally accurate due to the barrel’s rifling, the ordnance rifle was primarily produced by the Phoenix Iron Company in Pennsylvania.

During the Federal siege of Atlanta in 1864, a Confederate gunner wrote: “The Yankee three-inch rifle was a dead shot at any distance under a mile. They could hit the end of a flour barrel more often than miss.” As the Confederacy was unable to produce this type of artillery, captured examples were highly prized.

6. Spencer carbine

First produced in 1860, the Spencer carbine was the war’s first mass produced breechloading rifle using metal cartridges. Slow to be adopted by the US Army, which feared a blow-out in ammunition wastage and therefore on supply and cost, the Spencer was favored by cavalry for its compact size, rate of fire and ease of use. The lever action fed rounds into the chamber via a 7-shot tubular magazine in the butt. As a single-action carbine, the hammer still had to be cocked manually and a percussion cap fitted under the hammer with every shot taken.

7. Model 1860 light cavalry saber (aka M1862)

Though still a high-status branch of the army (especially in the South), by the time of the civil war, cavalry were no longer the feared stormtroopers they had been in earlier conflicts – reconnaissance, raiding, skirmishing, and screening had become the cavalry’s chief functions.

Weighing in at just over 1kg (2lb 4 oz), the M1860 saber packed an 89cm (35-inch) blade; it was light and agile and was also popular with infantry and staff officers. Later in the war, Confederate troopers increasingly relied on their sabers and sawn-off shotguns as suitable cavalry carbines became increasingly hard to come by.

The long, slender, and slightly curved blade was designed to cause bloody, slashing wounds in enemy troopers or fleeing infantry. More than 300,000 of these sabers had been produced in the North by the war’s end.

8. Confederate Cavalry

The darling of the Confederate army, the cavalry struck fear and loathing into many a Federal heart. Especially early in the war, rebel horse under the command of J.E.B. Stuart, routinely trounced Union horsemen. Stuart became the eyes and ears of Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia and was noticeably absent at the Battle of Gettysburg.

After Lt Gen Thomas ‘Stonewall’ Jackson was shot and later died 10 days after the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, Stuart was temporarily given command of Jackson’s corps. Partisan rangers under John Singleton Mosby (43rd Virginia Cavalry Battalion) theatre took their toll on Federal rear areas in the Virginian mountains and valleys, while in the western theatre, the brutal and

effective Nathan Bedford Forrest became known for his cunning, tactical brilliance and savagery in combat.

Only late in the war (1864 onwards) did the North produce cavalry that were every bit of a match on their Confederate counterparts in commanders such as George Custer and Philip Sheridan.

9. Ironclads

Armored ironclad ships were cutting edge but still developing technology in the rapidly industrializing America of the 1860s. Originally improvised and retrofitted from existing ship hulls, the hulking steamers revolutionized river and inland waterway warfare with their cannon encased in an outer shell of riveted iron plates or a revolving turret.

The first ironclad to see action was the CSS Manassas in October 1861 when it joined the Battle of the Head of Passes on the Mississippi delta. The most famous ironclad battle occurred over two days when the CSS Virginia slugged it out with the USS Monitor (the day before the CSS Virginia sank two US Navy ships and ran another aground) in Hampton Roads, Virginia, in March 1862.

The battle ended in a stalemate after the Virginia withdrew; neither ship was badly damaged. US Navy ironclads later played pivotal roles in allowing Union forces to attack and capture Confederate strong points on the broad rivers of the American interior, including the city of Vicksburg, which opened the Mississippi to Union shipping end-to-end in July 1863.

NOTES, TIDBITS & LINKS

SUVCW Links

[Camp 25](#)

[Dept Calif. & Pacific](#)

[National Website](#)

Veteran Reserves (SVR), 6th 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](#)

- SUVCW Junior Membership is available, both hereditary and associate, to young men (6 to 14) for no annual Per Capita membership fee and only a \$10 onetime application fee. If you have sons, grandsons or nephews that you think may be interested please see the Junior Vice Commander for an application form



Commonly use Weapons used in the American Civil War

Courtesy of <https://fity.club>

CAMP MEETING MINUTES

GENERAL WILLIAM PASSMORE CARLIN CAMP 25

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA AND PACIFIC, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Raley's Super Market Community Room
18144 Wedge Pkwy, Reno, Nevada

- I. Opening
 - A. Meeting was called to order by Commander David A. Davis at 1306 hours.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance – ?
 - C. Invocation – Chaplain Donn Dalton
 - D. Roll Call: David A. Davis, Donn Dalton, Bill Newman, Rob Stoecklin, Jay Dickey, David Hess, Bernie Hamm, Richard Dalton, David Perdue
 - E. Introduction of guests—Jenny Davis
- II. Commander's Report—David A. Davis, Commander
 - A. Unionville remains
 1. Debbie again has another new US Army Congressional Liaison Officer, but that person is on furlough due to the shutdown
 2. Debbie is still waiting on the Army's okaying or denying our plan to bury the remains at GAR.
 3. The remains are still owned by the Army and are still housed at the Nevada State Museum.
 4. We have a draft of the letter discussed in previous requesting release of the remains. Debbie is now back tracking a little about it saying the request has already been made and such letter likely will not speed up the process.
 - B. Election of Officers: At the December meeting in two months will be election of officers. To continue as a viable Camp, we will need someone to step up as Secretary, Treasurer, and Commander.
 - C. Mark Twain Days. The Camp set up a tent. Members present included David A. Davis, Jay Dickey, David Perdue, David Hess, and Donn Dalton.
- III. Secretary's Report—David Hess reported that the Minutes were published in the Carlin Dispatch, July 2025 issue. MOTION: It was MOVED/SECONDED

(PERDUE/R, DALTON) to approve the Minutes as submitted. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Rob Stoecklin reported that the financial report was email to members in advance of this meeting. Our outstanding funds total \$2317. There were two questions raised by Jay Dickey. 1) Is the matter of settling up with all the cannon donors been finalized? The answer appears to be yes. 2) Do we have or intend to acquire insurance? The question remains open for future discussion. MOTION: It was MOVED/SECONDED (PERDUE/HESS) to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. Senior Vice Commander's Report – David Perdue

A. Progress is being made on the repairs on the cannon which is currently located at David Perdues home. Cody Ehlers has some of the metal parts which he is having treated for rust. Perdue reported that a group known as the Woodchucks may agree to repair the tail in exchange for an unspecified donation.

B. David Perdue reported on the 10/4/2025 Field trip to Fort Churchill.

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

A. Donn reported on the 10/11/2025 Smoke Creek field trip that included Donn, David A. Davis, a Hillside Cemetery associate of Donn's and two of Donn's nephews. They accomplished the identification of where the burial sites are located. A fence is needed to secure the grave site. There was much discussion on surveying the area to locate historical artifacts. Donn reports that the property owner is completely supportive of our efforts.

VII. Historian, Memorials, and GAR Highway Officer's Report – nothing to report.

VIII. Graves Registration Officer's Report – David A. Davis reporting for Don

A. Don found he lived next to the area covered by the old GAR Fair Oaks Post 120 and added 4 graves involving that post to the SUVCW database. Don lives in Citrus Heights.

IX. ROTC Report – Kurt Dietrich says there is nothing currently to report.

X. Eagle Scout Coordinator's Report – Bernie Hamm says there is nothing currently to report.

XI. Patriotic Instructor's Report – nothing to report.

XII. Other Officers' Reports – nothing to report.

XIII. Old Business

A. GAR Cemetery – Donn Dalton reported on an incident involving the attempted theft of a head stone.

B. The meeting revisited the subject of the grave sites at Smoke Creek for the purpose of exploring the idea if we could get head stones at no cost. MOTION: It was MOVED/SECONDED (HESS/R. DALTON) to

authorize Brother Donn Dalton to look into acquiring head stones for the soldiers buried at Smoke Creek at no cost to the Camp. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Upcoming activities

1. Commander Davis reported on what we have done in the past for the Veterans Day parade but our participation this year will depend on who is available given that many of our Camp brothers will be in the SAR entry.

2. On 11/15/2025, there will be an SAR Liberty Awards Dinner at the Reno Elks Club.

3. On 2/28/2026: Jay's presentation for a Chautauqua performance involving Kim Harris' portrayal of Elizabeth Van Lew. Event co-sponsors will also be given the opportunity to bring raffle items, and the proceeds would be returned to the co-sponsor. After some discussion it was MOVED/SECONDED (R. DALTON/HESS) for the Camp to co-sponsor the event with a donation of \$250. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Jay added that the Camp will be participating in Wreaths Across American. Our event will be held at the GAR cemetery as it has in the past.

D. Camp has lost 7 members while only gaining 1 this year. Membership has been discussed periodically. To 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

E. Older Old Business

1. Suggestion was made for a monument to the four guys buried at Smoke Creek. This matter is reported elsewhere in these Minutes.

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.

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. Hess explained his latest appointment as Nevada Chairman of the America 250 Reading of The Declaration of Independence event to be held on July 8, 2026 at 3p.m. To be determined is the location and what would the event include in addition to the reading of the DOI. Hess asked if our cannon might be available to be fired at the event. Hess also was looking for additional ideas. There was not a lot of confidence that our cannon would be available to fire by then.

XV. Good of the Order

A. Rob Stoecklin was presented with a Certificate of Commendation and medal by SVC David Perdue for his work with the JROTC.

B. Next meeting – December 14 at 1300 hours.

XVI. Closing

A. 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 William Henry Clark.

WILLIAM HENRY CLARK

Company E, 1st Nevada Cavalry

William Henry Clark was born on August 5, 1835, in Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, to William and Sophronia Clark. William Calder was born on August 21, 1808 in Weston, Massachusetts, to Daniel and Susanna (nee Smith) Clark. Sophronia was born on December 27, 1808, in Andover, Massachusetts to Zebadiah and Sarah D. Shattuck. They were married on January 18, 1834, in Boston. William and Sophronia lived in Roxbury and had at least four children. William Henry was the first born followed by Ellen Matilda, born July 20, 1837; Georgiana Miller, born December 14, 1840; and Amanda Frances, born November 14, 1846. Only Ellen ever married.

In the 1850 Federal Census, the elder William Clark was noted as a trader in Boston Ward 4. In 1854, he was a provisions dealer in Roxbury with a house on what was then Hawthorn Street near Cedar Street. Son William H. worked as a clerk in the store from 1855 at least through 1858. On March 4, 1858, Ellen married 37-year-old bookkeeper Timothy Smith, Jr., in Boston. Reverend Thomas D. Anderson, pastor of the First Baptist Church performed the nuptials.

No information was available at the time of this writing on the whereabouts of William H. Clark between 1858 and 1864. By 1860, the elder William Clark was still running his provisions store, but son William H. had apparently moved on. Possibly newspaper articles about the "Rush to Washoe" tempted him to go West. In 1862, a William H. Clark of the right age, though his nativity was given as New York, was employed as a clerk for W.B. Hickok in Silver City, Nevada Territory. W.B. Hickok had a hardware and groceries store on the east side of Main Street near Second Street.

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.

Robert C. Payne was commissioned as captain and commenced recruitment to organize Co. E, First Nevada Cavalry. His recruitment headquarters in February 1864 were at Silver City. Aside from Silver City, he also recruited men in Carson City, Dayton, Gold Hill, and Virginia City. Recruitment for Co. E was completed in April 1864 with an ultimate total of 125 men (37 would eventually desert). Clark received his commission as 1st Lieutenant in Co. E and wrote a letter dated November 30, 1863, to General Ringgold asking for late orders and circulars to help in raising the company. He was expecting to start the next day. Clark was mustered into Co. E by 1st Lieutenant Abram C. Wildrick, Third US Artillery, at Fort Churchill on February 17, 1864. Wildrick was on duty at San Francisco as the Assistant Commissary of Muster and

Mustering Officer. Clark was the company's only 1st Lieutenant. His age was given as 28, but no other description of the man was included in his service record. Clark was filling an "Original vacancy" meaning the position was newly created for Co. E. A lieutenant's monthly pay was \$53.33 with a \$25 monthly bonus from the state and 40c per diem for bringing his own horse. The average Comstock miner earned about \$104 per month.

Clark was stationed at Fort Churchill. He was present through September 1864 and was acting post adjutant from late April through late July. He also was Superintendent of Records for a short time apparently starting June 30th. A letter dated August 15th from Major McDermitt relieved him of that duty and ordered him to turn over the property in his possession to the commanders of the infantry units. Clark was absent with leave in late July and was on detached service to Virginia City starting on September 26th. He was present again at Fort Churchill in October but was transferred with the rest of Co. E on October 23rd to Camp Nye near Kings Canyon west of Carson City. He was present there through to the New Year but was on detached service to attend a court martial at Fort Churchill in January 1865. He was present at Camp Nye from February through mid-March except being absent with leave starting February 9th.

Special Order No. 15 dated March 11th was passed on by Fort Churchill Adjutant 1st Lieutenant Daniel Vanderhoof, Co. C, First Nevada Infantry. It ordered Captain William Wallace, Co. A, First Nevada Infantry with 35 men of his company into the field to arrest two Indians who had murdered two prospectors near Walker Lake. Clark with 50 men of Co. E were to accompany Wallace.

The incident occurred earlier in March. Prospectors Isaac Stewart and Robert Rabe made camp about two miles from the head of Walker Lake. Stewart scouted ahead while Rabe started to cook supper. Rabe was shot in the back and had his head bashed in with a rock. Stewart returned and was confronted by two Indians. Unarmed, Stewart rode his horse into the lake and was never seen again. Word got back to Fort Churchill.

The expedition started 5 am on March 12 with Wallace and 37 of his men, Clark with 50 of his men, and 12 friendly Indians and one white man as guides. A 2-day march brought them to the junction of the East and West Walker Rivers, where they found the settlers in a panic over 300 Indians at the foot of Walker Lake. Wallace considered going over the 11,000-foot Wassak Range to avoid detection, but a message sent by the friendly Chief Josephus said that he had moved his people to the head of the lake. The morning of the 15th, Wallace moved his men to the Indian Camp and quietly flanked it. Wallace and 4 men went into the camp and met with Josephus who pointed out one of the murderers. The man was trussed up and quickly removed before some of the other Indians could get upset. Josephus led 25 cavalymen to the camp of the other murderer who was quickly captured. The soldiers started back with 300 unarmed Indians temporarily in toe. They camped at a spot named Camp Josephus and waited until the brother of one of the murderers retrieved the saddles and pistols that had belonged to Stewart and Rabe. They left on the 17th and were back at Fort Churchill on the 19th. The murderers were put in the guard house and later turned over to Esmeralda County officials. In his report, Wallace mentioned Clark and Lieutenant G.J. Lansing of Co. A. He said they deserved "great credit for the prompt manner in which they fulfilled all orders." Ironically, in May murderers broke out of the jail, killed 2 friendly Indians, and Wallace with 36 men of Company F had to return to Walker Lake to recapture them.

Clark was back at Fort Churchill by April 10th as acting assistant quartermaster. For a time between April 10th and 20th he was absent with leave. Briefly at the end of April or the beginning of May, Clark was in command of the Post. This was at a time Post Commander Lieutenant Colonel McDermitt on detached service to northern Nevada and despite Captain Robert C. Payne being present. He continued as acting assistant quartermaster for both Fort Churchill and Camp Nye at least through May 10th. In mid-May to early June, Clark was on detached service though the location was not mentioned. He was generally present at Fort Churchill from June until he was mustered out. Clark was in command of the Post in late July due to most other officers on detached service to the "Humboldt," which means they were on a major expedition against the Indians. During that time, he arrested Private Kinley for desertion. In mid-August Clark was on detached service to Dayton and Camp Nye. He was present at Fort Churchill from late August until he was mustered out with the rest of Co. E on November 18th. Interestingly, Post Order No. 25 dated October 27th has Clark resigning as commander of Camp Dun Glen. His service record for September-October does not mention it, and the Fort Churchill post returns are missing from mid-August through early December. During his last months at Fort Churchill, he was just not entitled to commutation for fuel and quarters.

During Clark's time in the service, Utah Territory and Nevada Territory (State after October 31, 1864) 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 his stint in the First Nevada Cavalry, Clark moved back to a sedate life Massachusetts. The elder William Clark was still a provisions dealer, but by 1869 his operation was at 825 Washington Street with a house at 2 Forest Street in Roxbury. Georgiana and Amanda were living with their parents and William H. had moved in with them by then. In 1870, he was clerk in distribution. By 1876, the provisions dealership was called William Clark and Co. and located at 1047 Washington Street. In 1880, the three children were still living with their parents with William H. boarding there and working as a bookkeeper. The elder William Clark continued as a provisions dealer.

The family had moved to 14 Alexander Street by 1880. Sophronia died there on March 4, 1883, of an abscess and pyemia. After 1880, the elder William Clark was only working as a clerk from that address. He apparently retired shortly before his death. He died at the same address on September 20, 1896, of old age. Both he and his wife were interred in the Forest Hills Cemetery.

Following Clark after 1880 is a bit uncertain due to him having a common name with a common profession. Civil War veteran William H. Clark lived in Cambridge in 1890, but his unit was not known. The following is of the only William H. Clark listed as a bookkeeper in the Boston area: 1898, Cambridge, home 3 Wallace, West Somerville; 1901, home 6 Elm Court, West Somerville; 1902, home 15 Appleton, West Somerville; 1904-1906, 33 Hawthorne, Somerville; 1907, rooms 113 Elm, Somerville.

On September 20, 1904, Clark applied for a pension as an invalid. By 1906, Clark had joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. His sister Ellen died on May 7, 1907, of heart disease at 9 Pond Street in Boston. It does not appear that Clark ever joined any of the Grand Army of the Republic posts active during his lifetime though Roxbury had the Thomas G. Stevenson Post 26 and Dorchester had the Benjamin Stone, Jr., Post 68.

By 1909, Clark had moved to 52 Humphreys Street in Dorchester and may have retired. His sisters Amanda and Georgiana were living there with him in 1910. He remained there for the rest of his life. Amanda was still there at the time of his death. William Henry Clark passed away on January 7, 1914, at his home on 52 Humphreys Street. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage which caused right side hemiplegia. Arterio-sclerosis contributed to his death. S.S. Carruth signed off on the cause of death. The undertaker was J.S. Waterman and Sons, and Clark was interred in the Forest Hills Cemetery. Georgiana and Amanda were still at 52 Humphreys Street in 1920, and Amanda remained there until 1925.

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APPENDIX 2

HISTORY AND MEMORIALS REPORT, OCTOBER 11, 2025

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

SMOKE CREEK CROSS

For background, the following is modified from my report of August 13, 2023:

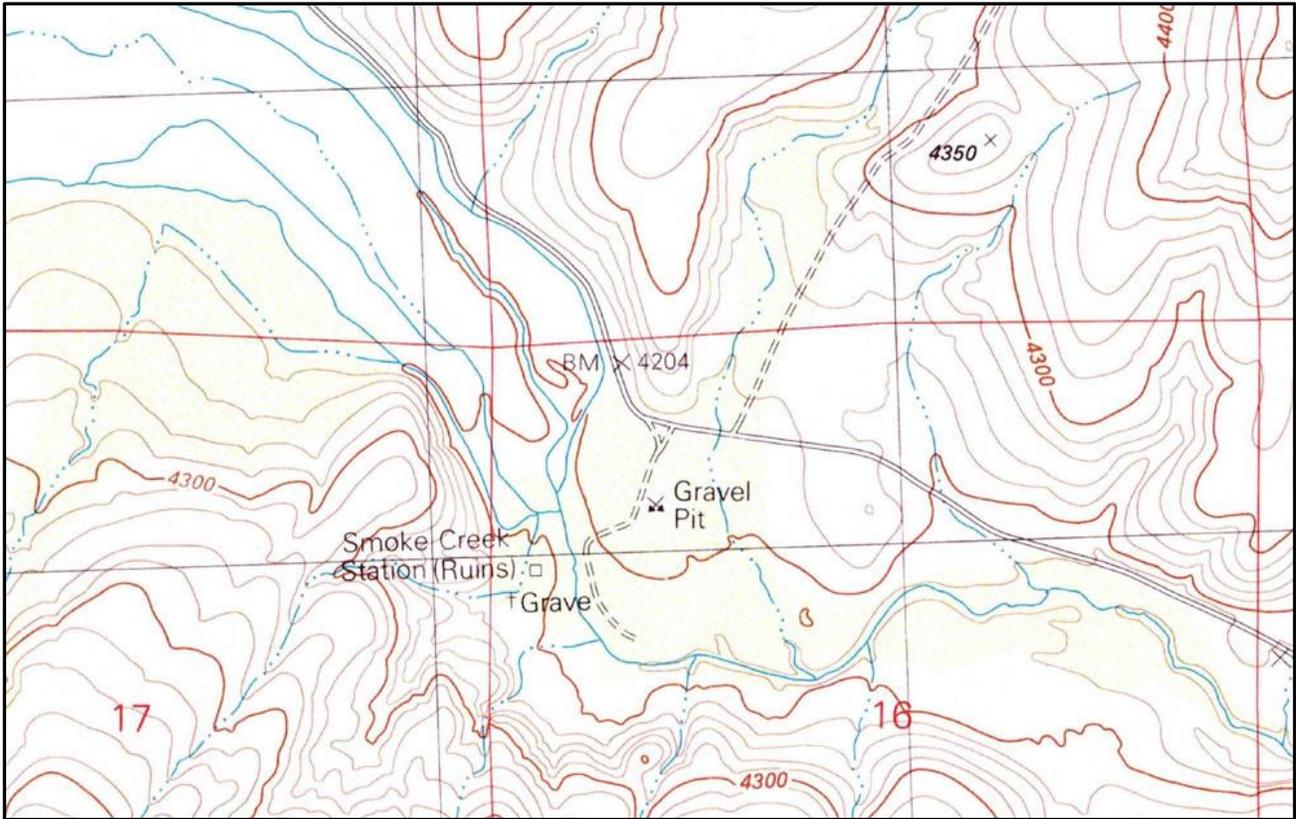
Camp Smoke Creek was located at the old Smoke Creek Station near the Nobles Emigrant Trail. It contains a burial plot that contains the grave of four soldiers:

- Pvt. John Smith; Co. C, 2nd CA Cav., d. Jan. 18, 1863, shot by Lt. Williams at Deep Hole
- Pvt. Gustavus W. Plass; Co. C, 2nd CA Cav., d. Nov. 9, 1863, typhoid at Smoke Creek
- Serg. William McCoy; Co. D, 1st NV Cav., d. Jul. 3, 1864, unknown causes
- Pvt. David O'Connell; Co. B, 2nd CC Cav., d. Nov. 17, 1865, Killed by Indians at Pine Forest

Following the history would take some doing. Co. C, 1st Nevada Cavalry was stationed there in late 1863; Co. A, 1st Nevada Infantry was stationed there July through October 1864; and Co. D, 2nd California Cavalry was stationed there July 1865 through April 1866. Co. B, 2nd California Cavalry was mainly stationed at Dun Gen June 1865 through April 1866. They made an incursion into the Black Rock Mountains in the Pine Forest District in November 1865 where O'Connell was killed. It does not say where he was buried. Detachments of other Nevada and California units were probably stationed there or passed through. Deep Hole was a station located about 20 miles east-northeast of Smoke Creek and a Nevada Cavalry detachment was stationed there in April 1865. 2nd Lt. Henry W. Williams of Co. C, stationed at Smoke Creek, shot Smith at Deep Hole and then deserted his command because of it. He was dishonorably discharged Jan. 27, 9 days after the shooting.

The Smoke Creek Ranch 7.5' quad has the ruins and a grave marked. The public land survey location is T31N, R18E, Sec. 16, SW/4 of the NW/4. The Lassen County Historical Society located the graves in 1964 and placed a large wooden cross there in June 1868. The site is on property owned by Jackrabbit Properties.

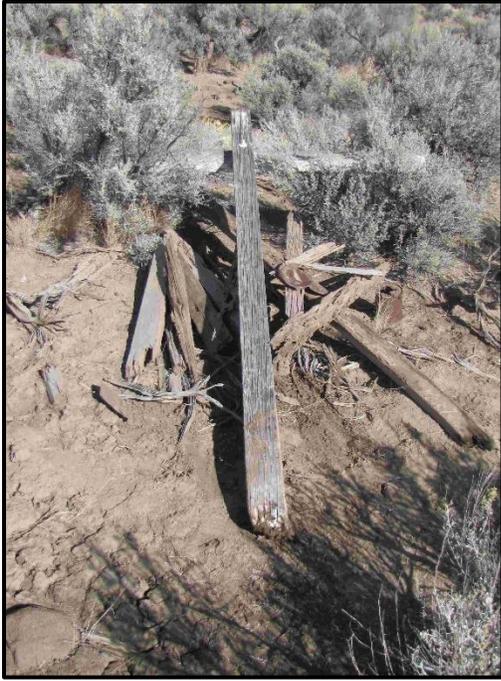
In the intervening years, this cross rotted off and fell over. On October 11, Commander David A. Davis, JVC Donn Dalton, Don's nephews Sonny and Heath Victor, and Jay Carter who helps with restoration work at the Hillside Cemetery made a trip to the site and erected a new cross. The cross was made by Donn and SVC David Perdue from 4" by 6" redwood boards taken from a demolished deck and painted white. The boards were bolted together on site, and the cross was cemented into the ground with rocks piled around the base. Commander Davis made a temporary metal marker with the Camp name and dated punched into it that was nailed to the cross.



1870 map showing location of Smoke Creek Station.
 (Public Survey Township No. 31 North Range No. 18 East)



1980 map showing location of Smoke Creek Station
 (Smoke Creek Ranch, Nev.-Calif. 1980 7.5' USGS topographic map)



Remains of the 1968 Cross



Newly erected cross



L to R: David A. Davis, Sonny Victor,
Jay Carter, and Heath Victor



L to R: Donn Dalton, Sonny Victor,
Jay Carter, and Heath Victor