



CARLIN CAMP 25 DISPATCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GENERAL WILLIAM PASSMORE CARLIN CAMP 25

~ CHARTERED 2003 ~

PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD

Volume 24, No. 2

Compiled and Edited by David A. Davis, PCC

March 2025

Mailing address: Gen. William Passmore Carlin Camp 25, 1801 San Joaquin Drive, Reno, NV 89521

Website: <https://suvpac.org/camp25/>

Camp Email: camp25@suvpac.org

Editor's Email: davis3950@sbcglobal.net

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 12, 2026

Raley's One Market Place at 18144 Wedge Parkway, Reno NV 89511

CAMP 25 COMMANDER MESSAGE

Brothers, it is good to be able to write to you as the new commander of Camp 25. Thank you for your confidence, I have my focus on a good term with more fun activities and more community service. I want to first thank PCC David Davis for leading us for the past four years. We appreciate all the effort he has put into Camp 25 and his untiring dedication to SUVCW purposes. I'm now asking you to join in with me and the camp leadership to strength the camp, to grow our numbers, to conduct one or two meaningful projects each year, to do more for our local charities and veteran organizations, and to have fun while doing it. I believe that being part of any organization should not be a chore to avoid but an opportunity for fellowship, fun, and pride in the organization. After coming back from the department encampment, I have my eyes on the Department Camp of the Year Award.

I want to thank the four individuals - Cody Ehlers, Bernie Hamm, Roger Linscott, and John Mandagaran - who came out for our cannon workday. We got a good start at rust treatment and preparation of the metal and wood for painting. We had a fine time and enjoyed some delicious burgers. My assessment is that except for the wheels, the cannon will be in fine order once we are done in about month or so, and it will look very nice. The wheels are pretty wobbly as the spokes and felloes have dried up and shrunk, especially in the Nevada dryness. We will see how they hold up to a few blank loads each year. If they won't withstand the recoil, we'll have to look at



Cannon cleaning crew 3/21/2026. Note the new trail section. (Photo provided by Commander Perdue)

David Perdue
Camp 25 Commander.

professional repair or replacing them. Replacements are available from several sources. Even if we will have to refrain from firing it in the immediate future, it is still a great symbol for the camp as we participate in public outings and the occasional parade. I plan one more cannon workday in April. In the meantime, we will be developing a training program based on the one conducted by the National Park service, and we need members to be trained and certified in several, if not all positions.

Again, thank you and I hope to see you at the April meeting.

2026 CALIFORNIA AND PACIFIC 140th ENCAMPMENT

Brother Wayne Eder and I from Camp 25 attended the 140th Encampment held in Bakersfield on March 6th and 7th. Two other brothers from the Camp had signed up, but illness and other unscheduled events kept them at home. It was my first encampment, and I found it enjoyable and educational. There was great friendliness and fellowship among all of the members. Friday was registration, and that evening there was a “campfire” (social) at the hotel’s tavern. I found it a very enjoyable meeting with many dedicated SUVCW brothers and discovering the many things and beliefs we have in common. Members from the length of California were there, and we shared experiences and discovered locations across the state we had in common. I expect that we may see some of these Brothers in the local area in the near future; Dept. Jr. Vice Cmdr. Robert Mayer is a reenactor and is at the Virginia City Labor Day gathering often, and PDC Tad Campbell now lives in Auburn and comes over the hill also.

Saturday was the business day, and National Commander-In-Chief Kevin Tucker honored us with his presence at the encampment. After the opening ceremonies, reports were made by all of the Department Officers and Camp Commanders present. I was happy to share many of things that our camp had accomplished over the past year and the things we have planned. The attendees were impressed on the progress we have made at Smoke Creak, the progress that we have made with the Army on interring the Unionville soldier, and the amount of public outreach we have made. C-in-C Tucker congratulated us on our Unionville Soldier efforts. After lunch we resumed the meeting with elections. I was honored to nominate Camp 25 Brother Wayne Eder (dual camp member) as Commander of the Department. Brother Eder along with six other brothers were elected (see list below) and C-in-C Tucker swore in the new officers. I have seen several positive changes in the organization during C-in-C Tucker’s short tenure, including reorganizing the ROTC Program, which we in Camp 25 have recognized as problematic for several years. Saturday evening, we had the banquet dinner, and a large book raffle, but the best part of the evening was a very good presentation by Brother



Dr. Wayne L. Eder, newly elected
Commander of the Dept. of
California and Pacific

Stephen Johnson about the early days of US Navy on the West Coast and through the Civil War time. I plan on attending next year and I encourage all of you to also participate. The location for the 141st encampment has not been determined, so maybe it will be closer to Northern Nevada.

David A. Davis PCC, Reno, NV, remained as Historian and GAR Records Officer. The Dept. newsletter, "California Column", has not been issued in several years, Jimmie L. Bodenhamer PCC, Kingman, AZ, has enthusiastically taken over as Editor. See the website at <https://suvpac.org> for more information concerning the Department.

Other Elected Department Officers:

Senior Vice Commander: Brother Gary Hormel; • Junior Vice Commander: Brother Robert Mayer; • Secretary/Treasurer: Brother Randy Dhindsa; • Councilman: Brothers Dean Smith, • Councilman: Brother Dan Earl, • Councilman: Rick LaRosa. See the Appointed Officers on the Department Website.

David Perdue
Camp 25 Commander

GAR EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

On Saturday, March 21st, Senior Vice Commander Donn Dalton was at the GAR O.M. Mitchel Post 69 Cemetery at Hillside overseeing Matthew Telliano of Boy Scout Troop 1 doing his Eagle Scout Project. The project involved cleaning and painting the old wooden benches and installing three new benches along the fence west of the flagpole. The project started at 9 am and was finished by 3 pm. About 15 or so scouts were involved along with a number of parents. They also cleaned out salt grass and up righted some of the markers. The main excitement came when the wind blew the pop-up canopy up against the arch over the gate. Below left: flagpole square with restored benches. Below right: new benches



FRANK WOOD

On March 20, the first day of Spring, Camp Commander David Perdue, Historian David A. Davis PCC, and his wife Jenny Davis visited brother Frank Wood PCC. Frank turned 90 in January and is hard of hearing. Frank gets around okay in his home and can do much of his own food preparation but is otherwise mostly housebound. VA workers check in on him and do some light housework periodically. He has a VA provided hospital bed in his home. His son also checks in on him. Photo by Jenny Davis: L to R: Frank, David A. Davis, and Commander Perdue.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO BYLAWS

At the December meeting, a motion was made and passed to draft a bylaw amendment that would affect the length and consecutively all officers' terms. Camp Counselor: David F. Hess drafted the following amendment.

BYLAWS OF THE GENERAL WILLIAM PASSMORE CARLIN CAMP 25

Approved: March 1, 2003

Amended: August 26, 2007, June 22, 2008, February 10, 2009 and August 26, 2018

[PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONTENTS]

ARTICLE X OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Camp Officers; Types.

Section 2. ~~Elections.~~ **Voting Eligibility, Elections, and Terms of Office.**

Section 3. Offices; Simultaneously.

Section 4. Installation.

Section 5. Vacancies.

Section 6. Absences.

Section 7. Impeachment And Removal From Office.

[PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 2]

ARTICLE X OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

MOTION: Amend Article X (Officers and Elections), Section 2 (Elections) as follows:

[EXISTING]

~~**Section 2. Elections.** The elected Camp Officers shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Camp between the first meeting in October and the first meeting in December, inclusive, the date to be determined by a majority vote of the Camp members present, at no later than the meeting previous to that at which the election is to be held. Advance notice of the nominations and elections meeting shall be provided to all Brothers. On assuming office, the Commander shall appoint all other Camp officers.~~

[PROPOSED]

Section 2. Voting Eligibility, Elections, and Terms of Office.

- a). Eligibility to vote in elections and at meetings is limited exclusively to Brothers in good standing present at a meeting in person or digitally.
- b). Election of Camp Officers shall be held in every odd numbered year at the December meeting unless another date is set by a majority vote of the Camp Brothers in attendance at the meeting where the vote is held, providing that the meeting at which the vote is held occurs no later than the regularly scheduled meeting that immediately precedes the December meeting.
- c). Upon election, the Camp Commander shall fill all Appointed Officer positions.
- d). The term of office for all elected and appointed Camp Officers shall be two (2) years.
- e). All elected officers, with the exception of the Commander, may be elected to additional two (2) year terms without limitation.
- f). Pursuant to paragraph d above, the Commander may be elected for no more than two (2) consecutive terms. The foregoing, however, shall not preclude the Brother from serving as Commander in the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

April 8, May 13, 2026

The Sacramento Civil War Round Table, which meets on the second Wednesday of each month, will hold its next two meetings on the dates noted, at the R Vida Cantina Restaurant, 7040 Sunrise Boulevard,

Citrus Heights, CA 95610. The meetings are open to the public. Dinner and informal discussions start at 6:00 pm, a short business meeting is held starting at 7 pm, and a featured talk begins about 7:20 pm and lasts between 45 minutes and an hour. The presentations are: April – “Battle of Little Round Top” by Bernie Quinn; May – “Lincoln in Film, Poetry, and Literature” by Doug Bonetti. See the website at <http://www.sacramentocwrt.com> for more information.

70th ANNUAL LINCOLN TOMB CEREMONY

April 11, 2026

The 70th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony commemorating the 160th Anniversary of President Lincoln’s death will be held at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL at 10 AM on Saturday, April 11, 2026. The event is sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Headquarters will be the Ramada by Wyndham Springfield North, 3281 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702. For registration and other event information, go to the National website at <https://suvvw.org> or contact Nick Kaup at: nick.kaup@gmail.com or 847-910-0164.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS CEMETERY TALK AND TOUR

April 25, 2026

The Nevada Historical Society has organized a talk and tour of the Knights of Pythias (KP) Cemetery on April 25th at the KP Amity Lodge No. 8 at 980 Nevada Street adjacent to the Hillside Cemetery. The cost is \$20 with the proceeds going to the upkeep of the cemetery. The available spaces are limited to 60. 9:45-10 AM: check-in and signing of a liability waiver; 10-11 AM: talk, Q&A, and break; 11-12 AM: tour. KP Sexton and Past Grand Chancellor Bill Marden will be the speaker and tour guide. Contact Ramit Ali at rali@nevadaculture.org to register.

3rd CENTRAL COAST CONFERENCE

May 1-3, 2026

The 3rd Central Coast Conference, Seldom Heard History of the Civil War, will be held Friday May 1st through Sunday May 3rd at the Stanton Center on Custom House Plaza near Old Fisherman’s Wharf, Monterey, CA. The event is hosted by the Monterey History and Art Association. It is billed as “A Full Weekend of Presentations by Leading Historians of the American Civil War.” See the website at [tps://www.montereyhistory.org/event/3rd-central-coast-conference-seldom-heard-history-of-the-civil-war-era/](https://www.montereyhistory.org/event/3rd-central-coast-conference-seldom-heard-history-of-the-civil-war-era/) for more information.

JOHANA SHINE TENT 96 MEETINGS

May 17, August 17, and November 15, 2026

The Johana Shine Tent 96 of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War holds quarterly meetings via Zoom. The next meetings are at 1:30 PM on Sunday May 17, August 17, and November 15, 2026. For more information contact Suzanne Malek at smalek@tmcc.edu.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

May 25, 2026

Camp 25 will hold its annual Memorial Day Service at 9 am on Monday, May 25, 2026, at the G.A.R. General O.M. Mitchel Post 69 cemetery at the Hillside Cemetery Complex, Angel Street, Reno, NV.

RINGING OF THE LIBERTY BELL

July 4, 2026

The Battleborn Patriots Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will do their annual reading of the Declaration of Independence and ringing of the Liberty Bell at the Nevada State Museum, Carson City, NV, at 9:30 am on Independence Day.

GRAEAGLE CIVIL WAR DAYS

July 3-5, 2026

Reenactors of the American Civil War (RACW) will hold their annual Graeagle Civil War Days at Graeagle, CA, from Friday July 3rd through Sunday July 5th. The event is free to the public and will involve

several skirmishes, a fireworks display, and a parade. See the website <https://www.racw.org/calendar-of-events/> for more information.

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

July 30-August 2, 2026

The 145th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Allied Orders will be held Thursday July 30th through Sunday August 2nd in Gettysburg, PA. More information will be posted soon at the National website <https://suvvw.org>.

MEETING – FEBRUARY 22, 2026

SONS of UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

GENERAL WILLIAM PASSMORE

CARLIN CAMP 25

DEPARTMENT of CALIFORNIA AND PACIFIC

Sunday, February 22, 2025

Raley's Super Market Community Room

18144 Wedge Pkwy, Reno, Nevada

I). Opening

- 2). Meeting called to order by Commander David Perdue at 1309 hours
- 3). Pledge of Allegiance
- 4). Invocation – Chaplain Donn Dalton
- 5). Secretary – Roll Call - David Davis, Donn Dalton, Bill Newman, David Hess, Bernie Hamm, David Perdue and by Zoom Dr Wayne Eder
- 6). Introduction of guests – Ginny Davis
- 7). Review the Principles of the Organizations
FRATERNITY- Color Blue of the flag; denoting Fraternity and Faithfulness.
CHARITY- White of the flag; denoting Charity and Purity.
LOYALTY – Red of the flag; denoting Patriotism, Strength and Courage.

II). Commander's Introduction and Report

- 1). Commander's Goals
 - a). keep the meetings down to 1.5 hours
 - b). determine if Sunday is still the best day of the week or would a weeknight be better?
 - c). conduct 2 ongoing projects a year, one in Active progress and one in planning/prep. Smoke Creek and Genoa in planning
- 2). Charity commitment
 - a). Define and support one or more outside charity's that the members would like to support with time or money. Examples: Veterans home, children's shelter, homeless feeding – Bernie Hamm suggests that one could be the Scouting USA program where alumni give to the food bank.
- 3). Continue to outreach to the public
- 4). Improve support to the GAR Cemetery
 - a). The Camp provides one 5x8 flag a year and we swap out the 3x5 flags at Scheels. We should add one work day a year at GAR. (The American Legion swaps out one 5x8 flags once a year.)
 - b). Work with Hillside Cemetery and the Associated contractors on replacing the front chain link fence.
- 5). Cannon Report Status of Cannon repair
 - a). The metal needs to be cleaned and painted, as well as the wooden carriage. We want it to be ready by July 8th 3pm for America 250 reading of the Declaration at the Nevada Veteran Plaza Sparks Marina.
 - b). Held a discussion on cannon safety training with Brother Eder. Training industry standard by National Park Service is needed if attending a reenactment event and pass a test. No training is needed if not attending such an event. Only black powder is to be used and firing a projectile would require an X-ray inspection of the cannon.

- c). 1st motion by Bernie Hamm to reimburse Woodchucks for the cost of the materials (\$80) and plus a gift to their Christmas Toy Fund (\$250) 2nd by David Hess. All approved for \$330 for the Woodchucks for their services.
 - d). Commander Perdue will have a day to prepare the cannon and carriage for paint on 1st convenient 60° Saturday.
- III). Secretary's Report – Brother Newman
- 1). December Minutes are in January Carlin Dispatch. 1st motion to approve made by David Hess. 2nd by Bernie Hamm. All approved.
- IV). Treasurer's Report
- 1). Treasury Report: general \$2,627.06, Cannon Fund \$630.00, Total: \$3,257.06
 - 2). 1st motion to approve by David Hess. 2nd David A. Davis. All approved.
- V). Senior Vice Commander's Report Brother Donn Dalton
- 1). Discussed Wreath Across America funds for the wreaths and what to do with leftover wreaths.
 - 2). Smoke Creek Project - discussion of placement of a metal fence and placing of US headstones on fallen soldiers' graves. Use of drone to find the camp).
- VI) Junior Vice Commander's Report (Brother Ehlers) – Nothing to Report (via email)
- VII). Historian, Memorials, and GAR Highway Officer's Report (Brother Davis)
- VIII). Graves Registration Officer's Report (Brother Huffman) – no report
- IX). ROTC Report (Brother Dietrich) – nothing to report
- X). Eagle Scout Coordinator's Report (Brother Hamm) had Eagle Scout award dinner for award of Eagle Scout projects. Patriotic award for Eagle Scout of GAR Cemetery
- XI). Patriotic Instructor's Report (Brother Ehlers) – Nothing to Report
- XII). Other Officers' Reports
- 1). Discussed Unionville Soldier - Brother Davis – No word received from the Army Cemeteries, but will keep following up.
 - 2). Discussed Riggs Ridge – Brother Davis – No word received from the Feds but will keep following up.
- XIII). Old/Continuing Business:
- 1). Amendment of the by-laws David Hess
 - a). Extend the length of the terms from the present 1 year 2 years
 - b). The Commander to have no more than 2 consecutive terms
 - 2). GAR Cemetery - Fran Tyron / D. Dalton
 - a) they have Eagle Scout helpers
- XIV). Upcoming activities
- 1). 2/28/2026: AHP Event featuring Kim Harris portrayal of Elizabeth Van Lew
 - a). participate in uniform
 - b. Support Brother D. Dalton with display table
 - 2). 5/25/2026: GAR Cemetery Memorial Day service, 9 am
 - 3). 7/8/2026: Ringing of the Liberty Bell – David Hess
- XVII). New Business
- 1). Approve new Associate Junior Member Heath Victor. Attest to good standing Donn Dalton. 1st motion to approve by David Hess. 2nd by David A. Davis. All approved.
- XVI) Good of the Order
- 1). Endorsing Wayne Eder for Department Commander
 - 2). Next meeting – April 12th
- XVII). Closing

- 1). Prayer – Chaplain Donn Dalton
- 2). Dismissed at 2:20pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Newman, Secretary
General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25
Department of California and Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

HISTORY AND MEMORIALS REPORT

February 22, 2026

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

UNIONVILLE REMAINS UPDATE

In e-mailed Debbie Balsinger, aid to Congressman Amodei, concerning the status of the Unionville remains. In previous e-mail correspondence, she said the Army approved burial at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley, and that we would be contacted about participating in the service. I have not been contacted. Her response of January 27, 2026, was:

Hi David.

Unfortunately, I cannot make a valuable contribution to your question at this time. I have passed along the information to the U.S. Army for consideration. They have not taken physical possession of the remains yet.

They are finalizing necessary procedures for the transfer. The lead repatriation specialist at headquarters assures us that he will be proceeding in the most expedient manner appropriate.

The meeting scheduled between the U.S. Army, the tribal liaison, NV Archaeologist, BLM and the museum is scheduled in early February. Once they have the logistics confirmed on the transfer, I would expect the U.S. Army to begin making the appropriate plans for the transfer to the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley. Once the remains are moved to Fernley, we can coordinate with the cemetery in addition to the U.S. Army.

I am keeping in touch with Fernley as well to make sure that they are aware of our involvement in this matter.

When I have any additional information, I promise I will let you know as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Debbie

I assured her that her response was a “valuable contribution”, but we were a little concerned that the remains would be buried with us being left out. Her response of January 28, 2026, was:

That will not happen on my shift!!!! Too much work has been done to even think about that happening!
~grins

Sincerely,
Debbie

I have not heard if the early February meeting noted above went as scheduled or the results if it did.
NOTE: Congressman Amodei will not be running for reelection.

RIGGS RIDGE UPDATE

As noted in previous reports, the proposed name of Riggs Ridge for the low ridge east of Carson City was passed by the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names and sent to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for final approval. I e-mailed Christine Johnson who shepherded the name through about the name’s status, but she had not replied as of this writing.

SMOKE CREEK

The Lassen County Historical Society has included a nice article in their newsletter about our recent trip to Smoke Creek to replace the original 1960s cross erected by them. See the attached article.

Lassen County Historical Society

March ~ April 2026



(David A. Davis, Donn Dalton, Sonny Victor, Jay Carter, Heath Victor)

The Smoke Creek Desert mainly lies just east of us, across the California/Nevada border, partially spreading into eastern Lassen County. It was one of the final hurdles that the travelers on the Noble's Emigrant Trail faced as they made their push towards future prosperity in California. It was, and still is today, a harsh, inhospitable place whose natural beauty is sometimes unnoticed.

In about 1857, Smoke Creek Station was established to trade with these hardy emigrants and replenish their supplies. But it was not easy.

A band of Northern Paiutes, led by notorious Smoke Creek Sam, routinely showed their displeasure with these interlopers, who seemed to endlessly arrive on Paiute land. In 1858, a treaty was established to end the fighting. Concessions were made by the Paiutes and a few goods, such as blankets, fabric and buttons, were delivered to them by the emigrant's representatives, including Peter Lassen, J. Williams and Isaac Roop.

But the hostilities between the emigrants and Native Paiutes escalated, and the U.S. Army arrived to end the fighting.

In December 1862, a few soldiers were stationed at Smoke Creek, but in 1863 a much larger force arrived to establish a permanent military post, titled Camp Smoke Creek. This camp was situated about five miles east of the state border. Conditions were harsh, and in December of 1863, four soldiers abandoned their post. In the summer of 1864, half of the remaining soldiers took off. The camp was finally abandoned in August of 1866 (after a name-change to Camp Pollock in 1864).

During the years that the camp existed, several deaths occurred, and these young men are buried in the little cemetery nearby:

Private John Smith, 2nd CA Cav., who, on November 18, 1863 was shot and killed by his commanding officer, Lt. Henry Williams, over a card game.

Private Gustavus W. Plass, Co. C., 2nd CA Cav., who died of typhoid fever on November 9, 1863.

continued next page 

...continued from previous page

Sergeant William McCoy age 28, Co. D, 1st NV Cav., died on July 3, 1864 of an unknown illness.
Private David O'Connell, 2nd CC Cav., who was killed in action near Black Rock on November 17, 1865.

The story might have ended here but for members of the Lassen County Historical Society, who discovered the site in 1964. In June, 1968, they returned and erected a large white cross to mark the cemetery.

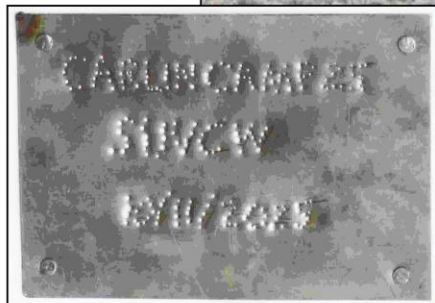
Nearly 60 years later, the cross had decayed as it looked over these fallen men. With its paint peeled away, and timbers broken, it finally fell to the earth, and the wood turned to splinters and dust. But in October of 2025, it was finally relieved of its duty.

Camp 25 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, led by Commander David A. Davis, and Junior Vice Commander Donn Dalton, assembled at the site of Camp Smoke Creek to replace the weathered warrior with a new cross.

Those who worked to honor the graves at the cemetery site also included Jay Carter, Sonny Victor, and Heath Victor.

The new cross was constructed by Dalton and Senior Vice Commander David Perdue and securely cemented into the ground. Commander Davis also made a temporary metal marker which was nailed to the cross. Now, a new sentry watches over the memory of these soldiers.

(All photos courtesy of David A. Davis)



RECENT CAMP ORDERS

No new Camp orders have recently been issued. For a complete list, see the Camp website: <https://suvpac.org/camp25orders/>.

RECENT DEPARTMENT ORDERS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

One Dept. Communique and one new Dept. Order have recently been issued. In Dept. Communique No. 1 issued March 8, 2026, Dept. Commander Eder thanks everyone for being voted in as Commander, outlines his visions for the revived newsletter, and briefly summarizes his activities in 2025. Dept. Order No. 1 issued March 16th lists the elected and appointed officers and establishes the Dept. HQ at the Commanders home address: 855 Topaz Ave. Hemet, CA, 92543. For details and a complete list of Dept. Orders back to 2001, see the Department website: <https://suvpac.org/orders/>.

RECENT GENERAL ORDERS

No new General Orders have recently been issued. For a complete list of General Orders back to 1994, please see the National website: <https://suvcw.org/general-orders-of-the-commander-in-chief>.

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF OFFICERS OF THE FIRST NEVADA VOLUNTEERS

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

In the May 2025 issue of the Carlin Camp 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. However, a deviation is made for this issue. The following is a short biography of one of the enlisted men, Charles Leonard Hardy, aka “Wild Cat Charley”.

CHARLES LEONARD HARDY (AKA “WILD CAT CHARLEY”)

Company B, 1st Nevada Infantry

While doing some research on members of the Reno G.A.R. General O.M. Mitchel Post 69, the author came across the 1918 article “Had an Adventurous Career in Old West – Charles Leonard Hardy, Now of Wadsworth, Was California Gold Hunter” in the “Nevada State Journal”. He served in Co. B, First Nevada Mounted Infantry. What stood out was at that time, he was called “Wild Cat Charley” by the “Winnemucca and Shawsheeny Indians”, who were friendly towards him. So, who was he.

Charles Leonard Hardy was born April 14, 1833, in Salem, MA, home of the 1692 witchcraft trials. Aside from a brother William, there is little that is definite about his early life. His parents were probably Abraham Temple Hardy, b. 1792 in Hollis, NH, d. 1870 in MA and Sally nee Chapel, b. 1791 in MA, d 1863 in MA. Temple and Sally were married May 8, 1814, in Salem and were the only Hardys of the right age living in Salem in 1830 and 1840. Temple was a baker, merchant, and ship owner and outfitter. They did have a son, William, born about 1817. Charles was probably the youngest of an estimated eight boys and two girls. Charles was educated in the local schools, but at age 16, he heard of the California Gold Rush and got the “gold fever”.

In 1849, about 60 men, also with the “gold fever”, including Charles and William formed the Salem Mechanics Trading and Mining Association. In the Fall, they bought the 250-ton sailing ship the “Crescent” and cargo for speculation. The “Crescent” was built in Portsmouth, NH, in 1832, and had been used in the salt trade to Liverpool and later as a whaler. The cargo included 130,000 feet of lumber already framed for the construction of houses and a boiler and steam engine. The ship was captained by John H. Madison and provisioned to last 100 men for nine months.

On December 8, 1849, 56 men including Charles and William, all owners of the ship and cargo, set sail for San Francisco. The ship sailed around the Horn and made a four-day layover at the Island of Juan Fernandez about 420 miles east of Valparaiso, Chile. The ship reached San Francisco on May 26, 1850. The ship and cargo were sold with the lumber fetching \$800 a thousand feet. As soon as possible, Hardy and the other passengers scattered for the mines.

William apparently went back East. By September 1852, Hardy was a miner in Yuba County, CA. At one point he drove the first pony express wagon for Wells Fargo and Co. (founded 1852), and he joined a local vigilance committee. On one occasion, the committee captured a horse thief. On one of his trips, the

committee stopped Hardy. They placed the prisoner on top of the express wagon, put a rope around his neck that was tied to a tree, and ordered Hardy to proceed. This left the thief dangling in the air.

By July 1860, Hardy was a miner in the Parks Bar Precinct, Yuba County, about 45 miles north of Sacramento. He was living in the same dwelling with two other miners, Lewis Provean, age 24, and Henry S. Honard, age 26, both from Lower Canada. Parks Bar contained rich placer deposits, and the town that sprang up thrived from about 1849 to 1854 with a population reaching about 800. In 1852, it contained six stores, three hotels, two blacksmiths, a barber shop, a post office, and numerous saloons. The town went into decline after 1855.

Hardy does not appear in 1862 Nevada Territorial Census. However, he went to Virginia City in 1863. A requisition for troops from Nevada Territory had been made by Brigadier General George Wright, Commander of the Department of the Pacific. On December 4th, Governor James Nye issued a proclamation calling for the organization of a regiment of infantry and two cavalry companies. A few days later, either through patriotism, the promise of adventure, being flat broke, or unable to find more gainful employment, Hardy showed up at a recruiting office. Comstock miners were generally paid \$4 per day. An army private received \$13 per month with a \$5 per month stipend from the Territory, later State, of Nevada. He also received 40 cents per diem if he brought his own horse.

On December 8, 1863, Hardy enlisted for three years as a private into Co. B, First Nevada Infantry in Virginia City. Lieutenant (later Captain) George A. Thurston was the recruiter. His description was: gray eyes, auburn hair, fair complexion, and 5 feet 9 ½ inches in height. He was due a \$100 bounty and was mustered in at Fort Churchill on Christmas Eve. Lieutenant E.B. Waite of the U.S. Ninth Infantry was the mustering officer.

Hardy apparently was an original enlistee to Co. B. Thurston had just passed his exam for 2nd Lieutenant on December 3, 1863, and commenced recruiting for Co. B in Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City. Thurston was appointed 1st Lieutenant on March 4, 1864. He completed recruitment for Co. B and was officially mustered in on April 10, 1864. On June 28, Thurston was promoted to captain, and William G. Seamands was mustered in as 1st Lieutenant and John H. Tolles as 2nd Lieutenant.

Hardy's service record is sparse but clean. In summary, he was usually marked "present" with Co. B. On October 28, 1864, he was on detached service to Fort Ruby. In the November to December period, the bean counters charged him two cents for losing an infantry hat eagle. Special Order No. 13 dated April 17th put him on detached service from Fort Ruby. He was mustered out at Fort Ruby on December 15, 1865. During July or August 1864, he received \$25 of his bounty but was still owed \$75 when he was mustered out. However, he owed the Government \$6 for "arms, equipments, &c."

Co. B was stationed at Fort Churchill through September. Pacific Department General Order dated July 28th ordered Co. B to Fort Ruby. Co. B arrived September 28th with Thurston relieving Lieutenant Colonel J.B. Moore as commander. Co. B had 70 men and was relieving a total of 130 men in Cos. B and E, Third California Infantry, that is, two California companies were being swapped for one Nevada company. The California companies moved out in October.

The Fort Ruby post returns rarely have anything under the "Record of Events" column. On April 17th, 2nd Lt. John U. Tolles led a scouting party that was apparently back by the end of the month. This was likely the detached service noted in Hardy's service record. No report of this scouting party was found. Despite his service record being otherwise silent, in a 1911 interview, Hardy noted Co. B being divided into several detachments. He mentioned an incident while out under the command of Lt. Seamands and being in the field when Lt. Col. Charles McDermit, commander of Fort Churchill, was killed in an ambush. While not mentioning Hardy specifically, the following concerning the activities of Co. B can be pieced together from several sources.

On May 20, 1865, a column of Co. B, Nevada Infantry, under the command of Lt. Seamands marched 135 miles from Fort Ruby to Austin by following the Overland Mail Route. The purpose was to investigate what was later to be unfounded rumors that 1,000 Indians were massed to attack that town. The column consisted of Tolles, 40 non-commissioned officers and privates; 10 friendly Indians under Captain Buck, chief of all the Shoshones; and two 6-mule teams carrying 40-days' rations and other supplies and equipment. Being that Hardy said he was with Seamands and in the field when McDermit was ambushed, he would have been part of this column. The men were armed with Springfield muskets and 100 rounds each, and a 6-

pounder howitzer with a full supply of cartridges, shell, round shot, grape, and canister. The column had only 4 horses, and 16 more were bought later in Austin.

Seamands reached Austin on the 24th and the column arrived the next day. The column camped out at Silver Creek in Upper Austin until June 6th to await the arrival of Governor Henry Blasdel and McDermitt who were to meet with the local Indians. Blasdel and McDermitt arrived the 2nd and met with the Indians the next day.

McDermitt had also been criticized for not taking a more personally active role in commanding the troops against the Indians and particularly against Zelaauwick. Zelaauwick and his warriors had been menacing northern and eastern Nevada for some time. During a skirmish in May, Zelaauwick with 500 warriors dug in at Godfrey's Mountain warded off an attack of 40 troops under Captain Almond Wells. Wells lost two men, and his command was nearly surrounded before it succeeded in retreating.

After the parlay, McDermitt took to the field and headed north with 13 men of the Nevada Cavalry. Seamands divided his command. His portion included 20 men, now mounted, scouts, and the howitzer. Hardy would have been part of his command. Tolles was placed in command of the 20 other men and a mule team. They were on foot. Both commands headed north down the Reese River with Tolles veering eastward along the old emigrant trail.

Seamands and his command met up with McDermitt at Boone's Ranch, and they reached the Humboldt River near present day Golconda on June 8th. The river was in flood stage, so the column had to move 18 miles downstream to the bridge at French Ford – now Winnemucca. There they met up with Captain William Wallace and 73 men of Co. A, Nevada Infantry. The column crossed the Humboldt on June 10 and went 8 miles up the Little Humboldt using a small boat Wallace had procured at Dun Glen. The column reached Paradise Valley and rendezvoused with Captain Wells with 82 men of Co. D and Captain Payne with 50 men Co. E, both Nevada Cavalry. McDermitt now had 237 Nevada cavalry and infantry with two howitzers under his personal command. A company of 2nd California Cavalry was also stationed at Camp Dun Glenn, and six more companies of the 2nd California and two of the 6th California Infantry were being sent to the area.

McDermitt led several expeditions to the north and east and then planned a double thrust of his entire command towards the Utah border. He with 100 men of the Nevada Cavalry and 50 men of the Nevada Infantry headed for the headwaters of the Humboldt at Thousand Springs Valley where Zelaauwick was active. At the same time, Seamands with his 20 mounted men of Co. B and a detachment of troops from the Second California cavalry headed for Gravelly Ford. McDermitt's column surprised and attacked Zelaauwick and more than 200 Indians at Hot Springs, capturing 70 of them. Zelaauwick escaped with Wells and 25 men of Co. D in hot pursuit. Wells captured Zelaauwick's supplies including his rabbit nets, food supply, and gun.

In the meantime, Seamands went south to Fort Ruby to resupply and on July 25th, headed north again with 15 men mounted on the last of the fresh horses, Hank Butterfield of the Overland Express, and Indian guides supplied by Butterfield. At dawn on July 31st, Seamands and his command caught Zelaauwick and about 100 Indians in Cottonwood Canyon north of Humboldt Wells. Zelaauwick's men were disorganized and disheartened by the chase and supply loses, and he and 11 Indians were killed. Butterfield shot Zelaauwick eight or nine times and took his scalp as a trophy. Ten horses, mostly "American stock", were captured. Also found was the sword from one of the soldiers killed at Godfrey's Mountain. The only Co. B casualty was Sergeant Edward D. Sherrill. He was hit by a spiked arrow under the chin that pierced the lower palate. While a serious wound, the arrow was extracted, and the wound "soon" healed. Hardy mentioned "the first sergeant" being wounded.

In a 1911 interview, Hardy describes an incident involving him and 15 men of Co. B that was covered up. Since Zelaauwick was not noted in the interview, it may refer to a separate event. Hardy said,

"At times the company was divided into several detachments. On one occasion, while under Lieutenant Seaman (sic), our detachment of 15 men encountered a party of Paiute warriors that greatly outnumbered us. We carried along several Shoshone spies and after obtaining the strength of the enemy decided to attack. We surprised the Indians and after a charge found that we had killed fourteen of the redskins. We scalped every one.

Had the government troops found out that we had scalped the Indians, trouble would have been caused for our commander, but the information was carefully kept from the government officers and nothing resulted from the action.”

Seamands and his command returned to Fort Ruby on August 6th. Between August 8th and September 15th, Tolles was in the field commanding a scouting party. The fort returns note 45 men on detached service at that time. McDermit was ambushed and killed on August 8th, and Hardy said he was in the field at that time. No report of this scouting party was found. Captain H.B. Fleming and Co. I, 9th US Infantry relieved Thurston, and Co. B was mustered out at Fort Ruby on December 15, 1865. Co. B chipped in \$200 and presented Seamands with a gold watch inscribed “Presented to Lieut. W.G. Seamands by the enlisted men of Co. B, 1st Nev. Vol. Infantry, this 25th day of Dec. 1865.”

After leaving the military, Hardy returned to mining. In 1875, he was a miner living with C.A. Bateman in Washoe County. Bateman was a 42-year-old New York native employed as an Indian Agent. On August 1, 1879, he registered as a voter living in Emigrant Gap, Placer County, CA. However, by June 1880, he was a miner living in Wadsworth. He was living in a dwelling, probably a boarding house, with 13 other men – a couple of machinists and the rest railroad workers.

In the early 1890s, Hardy was in Esmeralda County. In 1890, he was a delegate from the Soda and Rhodes precinct to the County Republican Convention. In 1892, he was a poll inspector at Luning, and in 1893, he located the Hardy Mine. Later in the 1890s, he was associated with a former Indian Agent and fellow miner from Esmeralda County, James O. Gregory the same age as Hardy, single, and from North Carolina.

By 1899, Hardy was working in the Olinghouse (aka White Horse) Mining District. The district was mainly a placer mining district in the Pah Rah Range about 7 miles northwest of Wadsworth. It contained a town Olinghouse which was included in the Wadsworth Precinct of the censuses returns. Hardy was apparently living in Olinghouse much of the time between 1900 and 1910. 1900 was reported to be a good year at Olinghouse with “Every miner in the camp is prosperous”. The district’s prosperity was brief with about 20,700 ounces of gold and about 13,500 ounces of silver valued at \$428,502 being produced between 1898 and 1904. Reserves were inadequate for continued large scale mining and production declined after 1905. Lessees and prospectors such as Hardy continued to work the deposits afterwards.

In June 1900, Hardy was living with William Nicholls in the Wadsworth Precinct. At the time, both men were placer miners. Nicholls was a 67-year-old widower from England. Hardy filed for a pension as an invalid on April 10, 1901, as application no. 1266.049 and received certificate no. 1034.170. He mustered into the G.A.R. General O.M. Mitchel Post 69 on November 5, 1908, and remained a member until his death. Some of the claims being worked by Hardy in the early 1900s were the Elsie Brandt, Gulch, Lucky Gus, Renegade No. 2 (located by Hardy), and Renegade Extension.

In April 1910, Hardy was living with James O. Gregory in the Wadsworth Precinct. At the time, both men were gold mining partners. Gregory owned the house they lived in. Despite his earlier indicated prosperity, Hardy was unemployed for 50 weeks in 1909 and not working on April 15. Gregory left Nevada for Missouri in 1913. In January 1920, Hardy was renting a house alone in the Wadsworth Precinct. At 86, he was no longer working and likely retired. In September 1923, he was noted in the newspaper as a resident of Wadsworth and one of a “large number of elderly pioneers of Nevada”, many past 90, living in Washoe County.

In October 1924, he was still registered as a Washoe County voter living in Wadsworth. The 1925 city directory also has him living in Wadsworth. A few months later, he went to the Soldiers’ Home in Los Angeles. He died there on September 19, 1925, of chronic interstitial nephritis and chronic myocarditis. He was never married and had no children. His pension index wrongly has his death in Wadsworth. He is buried in the Los Angeles National Cemetery. He has an upright marble Government marker reading Chas. L. Hardy Co. B. 1 Nev. Inf. A cenotaph acquired in 1967 is in the General O.M. Mitchel Post 69 cemetery next to the Hillside Cemetery in Reno, NV. It consists of an upright marble Government marker reading Charles Hardy US Soldier Sept 19 1925. It was acquired and placed by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans of World War I, and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

REFERENCES

- Bonham, Harold F., and Papke, Keith G., 1969, *Geology and Mineral Deposits of Washoe and Storey Counties, Nevada, With a Section on Industrial Rock and Mineral Deposits*, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 70, 152 p.
- California Death Index, 1905-1939
- California State Census, September 1, 1852
- Charles L. Hardy, 1 Batt'n, Nev., service record
- Charles L. Hardy, Death Certificate, California State Board of Health, 4170
- Daily Territorial Enterprise, Thursday August 9, 1866, vol. XIII, no. 3, p. 3, col. 1
- Deaths Registered in the Town of Malden for the Year Eighteen Hundred and Eighty One
- Department of the Army, Office of the Quartermaster General, Memorial Division, John N. McCarthy, Coordinator, Civil War Restoration Committee, Charles Hardy, tombstone application, March 1, 1967
- Findagrave, Abraham (Temple) Hardy, memorial no. 128149753
- Findagrave, Charles Hardy, memorial no. 9913819
- Findagrave, Charles Leonard Hardy, memorial no. 3714807
- Fort Ruby post returns
- George A. Thurston, 1 Batt'n, Nev., service record
- Gold Hill Daily News, Tuesday December 8, 1863, vol. I, no. 49, p. 2, col. 5
- Grand Army of the Republic General O.M. Mitchel Post 69 records
- Great Register of Placer County - 1882
- Hardy, H. Claude, and Hardy, Edwin Noah, 1935, *Hardy and Hardie Past and Present*, The Syracuse Typesetting Co., Syracuse, NY, 1330 p.
- May 25 – June 15, 1865, -- Expedition from Fort Ruby to the Humboldt Valley, Nev., with skirmish (May 29) near Austin, Nev. Report of Lieut. John U. Tolles, First Nevada Infantry, Fort Ruby, Nev., June 22, 1865, in Lamont, Daniel S., (director), 1897, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Volume L, Part 1 – Reports, Correspondence, Etc., 55th Congress, 1st Session, House of Representatives Document No. 59, Part 1, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, p. 412-414.
- Nevada State Census, 1875
- Nevada Territorial Census, 1862
- Nevada State Journal, Wednesday January 4, 1905, vol. LXIII, no. 76, p. 7, col. 3
- Nevada State Journal, Monday July 3, 1911, vol. LVI, no. 2, p. 6, col. 1
- Nevada State Journal, Wednesday May 8, 1918, vol. LXXIII, no. 41, p. 8, col. 2
- Polk, R.L. and Co., 1925, *Polk's Reno City, Washoe County and Carson City Directory 1925-26*, R.L. Polk and Co., Compilers and Publishers, Oakland, Calif., 294 p.
- Reese River Reveille, Wednesday June 28, 1865, vol. IV, no. 33, p. 2, col. 2
- Reese River Reveille, Saturday August 14, 1865, vol. IV, no. 72, p. 2, col. 2
- Reese River Reveille, Tuesday December 26, 1865, vol. V, no. 31, p. 2, col. 2
- Reno Evening Gazette, Wednesday October 5, 1904, vol. LXVIII, no. 145, p. 4, col. 1

Reno Evening Gazette, Thursday January 5, 1905, vol. LXIX, no. 55, p. 7, col. 1

Reno Evening Gazette, Monday September 24, 1923, 47th Year, no. 228, p. 2, col. 2

Reno Evening Gazette, Thursday October 23, 1924, 48th Year, no. 225, p. 15, col. 3

Report, Headquarters Sub-District Nevada, Camp No. 16, July 1, 1865, C. McDermit, Lieutenant-Colonel Second California Cavalry, Commanding, to Lieut. E.D. Waite, Acting Assistant-General, Sacramento, Cal.; in Lamont, Daniel S., (director), 1897, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Volume L, Part 2 –Correspondence, Orders, and Returns Relating to Operations on the Pacific Coast From July 1, 1862 , to June 30, 1865, 55th Congress, 1st Session, House of Representatives Document No. 59, Part 2, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, p. 1274-1275..*

Smith, Philip, D., Jr., 1959, *Nevada Volunteers in the Civil War*, Master of Arts Thesis, University of Nevada, Reno, NV, 130 p.

Smith, Philip, D., Jr., 1962, *Sagebrush Soldiers*, Nevada Historical Society Quarterly, Volume 5, Numbers 3-4, Fall and Winter, July-December, 1962, 87 p.

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph (Salt Lake City, UT), Wednesday April 8, 1925, vol. I, no. 90, p. 3, cols. 1-2

The Unionville Republican (Unionville, MI), Thursday August 17, 1865, vol. 59, no. 37, p. 7, col. 2

Thompson and West, 1879, *History of Yuba County, California, With Illustrations Descriptive of its Scenery, Residences, Public Buildings, Fins Blocks and Manufactories*, Thompson and West, Oakland, Cal., 334 p.

Tingley, Joseph V., 1998, *Mining Districts of Nevada, 2nd Edition*, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Report 47, 128 p.

U.S. Census 1830, Salem, MA

U.S. Census 1840, Salem, MA

U.S. Census 1850, Salem, MA, August 7, 1850

U.S. Census 1860, Parks Bar Precinct, July 7, 1860

U.S. Census 1860, Malden, MA, July 11, 1860

U.S. Census 1880, Wadsworth, NV, June, 4, 1880

U.S. Census 1900, Wadsworth Precinct, NV, June, 5-6, 1900

U.S. Census 1910, Wadsworth Precinct, NV, April 19, 1910

U.S. Census 1920, Wadsworth Precinct, NV, January 31, 1920

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs, *Indian Agencies*, September 1875

Wadsworth Dispatch, Saturday January 28, 1899, vol. 13, no. 37, p. 4, col. 3

Wadsworth Dispatch, Friday December 9, 1904, vol. XXIV, no. 56, p. 4, col. 1

Wadsworth Semi-Weekly Dispatch, Friday July 25, 1900, vol. 16, no. 21, p. 4, col. 2

Wadsworth Semi-Weekly Dispatch, Wednesday July 4, 1900, vol. 16, no. 32, p. 1, col. 6

Wadsworth Semi-Weekly Dispatch, Tuesday November 18, 1902, vol. 21, no. 14, p. 4, col. 4

Walker River Bulletin (Hawthorne, NV), Wednesday August 27, 1890, vol. VIII, no. 32, p. 3, col. 3

Walker River Bulletin (Hawthorne, NV), Wednesday September 14, 1892, vol. X, no. 37, p. 4, col. 6

Walker River Bulletin (Hawthorne, NV), Wednesday March 29, 1893, vol. XI, no. 13, p. 3, col. 2