

# CARLIN CAMP DISPATCH

The Official Newsletter of the General William Passmore Carlin Camp No. 25  
*Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

Volume 4 Number 2

March 2006

## Camp No. 25 Represented at 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Department

On March 24-25, 2006, the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* – Department of California and Pacific met for their 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment at the Main Street Station in Las Vegas, Nevada. Business items included: summary of the past year's events and activities, various reports presented, plans formulated for the upcoming year and elections were held.

In attendance were National and Department Officers, officers and delegates from the 14 Camps from within California & Nevada and numerous friends and family members (including C-in-C Donald Darby !!).

Additionally in attendance were representatives from two Allied Orders of the SUVCW (Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Auxiliary to the SUVCW).

The activities began on Friday afternoon with check-in, distribution of delegate packets and display table set-up. Followed by the "Camp Fire" social

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## General William P. Carlin Camp Members to Fill Department Posts

During the recent SUVCW - 2006 Annual Department Encampment held in Las Vegas, Nevada, two members of the General William P. Carlin Camp were selected as department officers. This is the second time two members of Camp No. 25 have been appointed as members of the officers and staff corps of the Department of California and the Pacific.

Current Camp Commander *Paul Washeleski* was appointed as Department Guide for the second year in a row. Current Sr. Vice Camp Commander *Gary Parrott* was selected as Department Jr. Vice Commander, GAR Highway Officer and National Encampment Delegate.

In addition to their current regular Camp posts, each will be required to attend Department meetings, perform the duties of their "new" respective positions and represent the Department at various functions as directed by the Department Commander.

This can be seen as another important milestone for Camp No. 25 and all of the Brothers of the SUVCW in Nevada Camps. Historically, these Department posts have been reserved for members residing within the State of California. Congratulations !!



The General William Passmore Carlin Camp No. 25 had a very visually interesting and educational display table at the recent SUVCW-Department Encampment held in Las Vegas, March 24-25, 2006 (note: this display included many hand-outs – old Camp Newsletters, GAR Highway Booklets, Camp History, etc., that were all gone by the end of the Encampment !!).

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The **CARLIN CAMP DISPATCH** is the official newsletter of the *General William Passmore Carlin Camp No. 25*, SUVCW-Department of California and the Pacific.

It is published six times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November) by the authority of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)* and all material contained herein is the intellectual property of the same.

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Material (photographs, letters to the editor, articles, etc.) for consideration for publication should be sent to Gary Parrott, Publisher and Editor, Post Office Box 1181, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546.

Any material sent for inclusion in the **CARLIN CAMP DISPATCH** may be edited for content by the newsletter staff.

Delivery problems and change of address should be directed to the *General William Passmore Carlin Camp No. 25*.

## Dept. Encampment - cont.



Uniformed and non-uniformed members of the SUVCW and ladies of the Allied Orders of the GAR in period attire gathered at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Las Vegas for a special memorial service at the grave of Private-William B. Keith - USA.

hosted by the William B. Keith Camp No. 12.

Saturday's agenda began at 7:30 AM with registration, table set-up, coffee and donuts. The Opening ceremonies took place at 9:00 AM followed by a full

morning of Department and Camp Reports.

At noon there was a lunch break, during which members of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW (Dr. Mary E. Walker No. 52) conducted the Annual Department Raffle (over \$350 was collected as a result of the raffle !!).

All proceeds will be donated to the Department for use in one or more of the SUVCW programs (scholarships, recruitment, memorial restorations projects, etc.). Good job !!

It should be noted that Camp No. 25 donated several fine gifts to be used during the fund raising event.

At approximately 1:30 PM the business meeting reconvened, during which were: the reading of the remaining reports, new business, old business and the election of officers.

By 3:00 PM the meeting was adjourned and all members proceeded to the Woodlawn Cemetery for the Memorial Service conducted by the Sons of Veterans Reserves - 1<sup>st</sup> Nevada Infantry, 6<sup>th</sup> Military District.

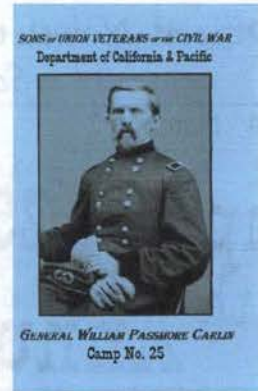
All in attendance during the memorial service reported that they were moved by this somber and fitting remembrance of the "*Boys in Blue*".

At 6:00 PM all gathered back at the convention site for a social hour followed by the Commander-in-Chief's Dinner. C-in-C Don Darby and his wife traveled from Ohio to attend this year's encampment.

It should be noted that this year's event was the first time in 93 years that a Nevada Camp had hosted the Department Encampment (the last time was 1913 held in Reno !!).

It was reported that over 85 members and guests attended this year's event. Also, all were impressed with the facilities, food, activities and entertainment during the two day convention.

# Camp History Under Development



During the February meeting of Camp No. 25, a "concept booklet" was passed around for review and comment. This was in response to General Order No. 4 (Series 2005-2006) issued September 6, 2005, by Commander-in-Chief Donald Darby, requiring each Camp to begin writing its own history. This project is to be completed by the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment (August 10, 2006) or a report is required to document the status of the project.

After much input from the Camp membership, the suggestions were implemented and a revised version of the "concept booklet" has now been assembled and printed. A copy will be available for Brothers to view and review during the April meeting.

The history of Camp No. 25 includes: a chronology of Camp major events; list of Camp officers; list of Camp members and their Civil War ancestors; brief biography of General W. P. Carlin; photographs of various Camp events; and, much more.

The Camp History Booklet is to be approximately 20 pages in length and includes a brief history of the GAR and SUVCW in Nevada.

All Camp members are encouraged to obtain a copy of the booklet for future reference.

# The Latest *SUVCW* National News

## Message From the Editor

*Dear Brothers,*

I had the opportunity to attend the 120<sup>th</sup> Department Encampment at the Main Street Station Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 24-25, 2006. It was a wonderful experience.

This was my fourth time as a delegate to the Department Encampment, during which I was able to meet with numerous Brothers from many of the Camps within California and Nevada (and I was able to get out of the "cold" for a few days !!).

I was very pleased with the whole experience. The accommodations, food, facilities, the organization and the people were all outstanding !!

And it should be noted that this was the first time in 93 years that the Department Encampment was hosted by a Nevada Camp (the last time was in 1913 in Reno !!). We may be in line to host an Encampment in the near future.

Much valuable information was exchanged during the two day event (recruitment, members retention, Camp activities, etc.).

I must report that Camp No. 25 was well represented (refer to the articles on Page 1) and made a good showing, in and among, the "older" Camps in the Department.

Additionally, the state of the Department is very good – Camps are thriving, membership is on the rise and a "new" Camp is anticipated to be formed in Santa Barbara County later this year (the General William T. Sherman Camp No. 28).

As an organization we are performing a very worthwhile service and have many, many dedicated individuals contributing to the cause.

As always, I encourage any and all Camp members, if possible, to attend a Departmental Encampment. It is during such an event that you can see what the organization is doing and how it operates.

*F, C & L,*

**Gary E. Parrott**  
*Publisher and Editor*

The following is the latest information, announcements, Press Releases and General Orders from the National Organization of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*:

## GENERAL ORDERS SERIES 2005 - 2006

### General Orders No. 7

Donald E. Darby  
Commander-in-Chief

Brothers, it is with deepest sympathy and a heavy heart that I report the deaths of two Real Sons of Union veterans of the Civil War.

On 24 December 2005, Brother Julius Cogswell Ward, age 84 answered his final muster. He was the son of Reverend Julius Augustus Ward of the 46<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment-USA.

On 26 January 2006, Brother Claremont Deem, age 95, answered his final muster. He was an active member of the General Benjamin Fearing Camp No. 2, Department of Ohio.

All charters, the National Web site, and membership badges will be draped in black for thirty (30) days from the date of this General Order.

Ordered this 3rd Day of February 2006

By Order of:  
Donald E. Darby  
Commander-in-Chief

Attest:  
Michael S. Bennett, PDC  
National Secretary

### General Orders No. 8

Donald E. Darby  
Commander-in-Chief

The Department of Southwest has voted to approve the change of their Department name to the Department of Texas during their Department Encampment June 2005. The Department, being unable to locate their original charter, also voted at that time to request a new charter. Following the vote of the Encampment they requested that the Commander-in-Chief grant the name change and new charter.

I, as Commander-in-Chief, find this request to be well taken and approve the name change of the Department of Southwest to the Department of Texas.

In regard to the issuing of a new charter, I approve that request as well with the following provision:

- a. To retain the Department original date of rank, the replacement for the lost charter will include all the names of the original charter members of the Department of Southwest.
- b. If these names can not be located, the space will be left blank. This General Order will be affixed to the back of the replacement charter.

Ordered this 7th day of August 2005

By Order of:  
Donald E. Darby  
Commander-in-Chief

Attest:  
Michael S. Bennett, PDC  
National Secretary

**The S. U. V. C. W.**

The *Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War* (SUVCW) was formed in 1881 as the potential successor to the *Grand Army of the Republic* (GAR). Its purpose was to ensure the continuance of the mission and goals started by the GAR. It was originally called: *The Order of the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America*. The name was changed in 1925 to further identify its heritage.

Prior to the disbanding of the GAR (when the last surviving members died), the SUVCW was officially designated the legal heir to the GAR on August 20, 1954.

Currently, the SUVCW is composed of 26 Departments (each contain Camps located within one of more states in a geographical region), 5 Camp-at-Large organizations (for the states of AZ, GA, NC, OR and WA) and a National Membership-at-Large organization (for those states which do not have Camp or Department status). Total membership is approximately 6,000 Brothers in good standing.

In addition, the SUVCW is associated with several Allied Orders. These include: *Sons of Veterans Reserve*, the *Auxiliary of the SUVCW*, *Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War*, *Woman's Relief Corps* and the *Ladies of the GAR*.

For additional information go to:

[www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)

**Highlights of  
February Meeting**

On Sunday February 12, 2006, the General W. P. Carlin Camp held its first meeting of the new year. The gathering was held at Camp No. 25 Headquarters (the home of Brother Paul Washeleski) in Gardnerville, Nevada.

Many items of interest were discussed during the course of the afternoon.

In addition to the normal business items (the commander's report, the secretary-treasurer's report, various committee reports, the Graves Registration Project status report, etc.), the major portion of the meeting was devoted

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Donald Darby  
Commander-in-Chief

By a majority vote of the Council of Administration, a Press Release was approved for issue to the news media, and State and local government entities. Camps and Departments are directed to give the widest possible dissemination of this press release.

The press release is as follows:

*"The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War wishes to take this opportunity to alert the public to an unfortunate trend in recent years to desecrate Civil War Memorials erected in honor of the men who fought in the Civil War. The biggest problem centers on Civil War Memorials that include Civil War Cannons. In an all too typical scenario, individuals claiming to represent a Civil War Museum approach local officials they perceive to be responsible for the Civil War Memorial. In point of fact, these individuals are private collectors or persons acting on behalf of private collectors. They make the local officials aware of how valuable the cannon is and suggest it may be in danger of being stolen or damaged. They offer to buy the cannon and place it on display at a museum where it will be safe for everyone to enjoy. They agree to substitute a reproduction so the local community will still have a cannon, and it will require little or no maintenance. The price offered to the local officials is always far less than the real value of the cannon memorial. However, it is always in the thousands of dollars and the local officials, often being pressured for operating funds, see nothing wrong with the arrangement since they will still have a cannon reproduction for display purposes. In most cases the local officials, be they government, civic or veterans groups, are unaware that they probably do not hold legal title to the cannon they propose to sell. Most of these Memorial cannons were placed in cemeteries, public squares or community parks by local Civil War Veteran's organizations (GAR) or their descendants such as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).*

*The SUVCW is a Congressionally chartered organization and the legal heir to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Many of these cannons were either given to the GAR or loaned to the GAR or SUVCW by the United States Government. Those on loan from the United States Government must be returned to the government if they cease to be a Civil War Memorial.*

*Regardless of ownership, these Civil War memorials should not be desecrated. They are priceless relics placed by our ancestors to remind us of the sacrifices they have made not only for themselves, but also for future generations.*

*The placement of these Civil War Memorials generally involved impressive dedications ceremonies attended by the entire community, including widows and children of fallen soldiers. The understanding everyone had at the time of placement of these Memorials was they would remain as a permanent memorial - not until the community felt an economic need to sell them. The public would be outraged if a modern memorial to military veterans were to be sold just because it had a monetary value.*

*When the SUVCW discovers the desecration of a Civil War Memorial, it takes an active role in trying to preserve the memorial and recover the cannon. In several cases not only have local officials been embarrassed regarding their actions relating to Civil War Memorials but also in recovering the cannons it proved costly. Those who buy these cannon from local officials are always willing to sell them back; but at a much higher price.*

*Every community should be vigilant and avoid involvement in trying to enhance their General Funds at the expense of our Civil War veterans."*

Ordered this 3rd Day of February 2006

By Order of:  
Donald E. Darby  
Commander-in-Chief

Attest:  
Michael S. Bennett, PDC  
National Secretary

**Upcoming Camp Events**

- The next meeting of the General William Passmore Carlin Camp will be Sunday, April 2, 2006, at 1:00 PM in the meeting room of *Round Table Pizza* on South Virginia Street in Reno (across the street from the Atlantis Casino) in the Old Town Mall.

**(\*\* Note: meeting location change !!)**

- Plans are being made for a Memorial Day service at the Lone Mountain Cemetery, Carson City, Nevada, May 30, 2006.

- Plans are being made to conduct an Eagle Scout Award presentation during the Memorial Day service at the Lone Mountain Cemetery on May 30, 2006.

\*For further information go to Web Page at: [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)

**Camp Meeting - cont.**

to a special "Lincoln Birthday Celebration" (a cake, cookies and coffee were served in honor of the occasion).

Also, time was devoted to the preparation of various Camp reports that would be presented during the upcoming Annual Department Encampment. Brother Gary Parrott will be attending the convention and representing Camp No. 25.

Additionally, discussed were plans for this year's upcoming activities (i.e. - Memorial Day Services at the Lone Mountain Cemetery, possible new meeting sites, recruitment ideas and the "concept design" for the Camp history booklet).

Presiding over the meeting was Camp Commander Paul Washeleski, with assistance from Sr. Vice Commander Gary Parrott.

With all business completed the meeting was adjourned after the setting of the date and time for the next Camp meeting.

The following is the latest information from the SUVCW – Department of California and the Pacific:

**Department Officers 2006 - 2007**

**Commander**

- *Tad D. Campbell, PCC* (Gilroy, CA)

**Junior Vice-Commander**

- *Gary Parrott, PCC* (Mammoth Lakes, CA)

**Department Council**

- *D. Brad Schall, PDC* (Lincoln, CA)

Chairman (term expires 2007)

- *Glen L. Roosevelt* (Anaheim Hills, CA)

Member (term expires 2007)

**Patriotic Instructor**

- *William Tisch* (Santee, CA)

**Historian**

- *Sebastian Nelson* (San Jose, CA)

**Guide**

- *Paul Washeleski, PCC* (Gardnerville, NV)

**Color Bearer**

- *Charles Reed* (San Francisco, CA)

**Civil War Memorials Officer**

- *Kirby R. Morgan* (Coarsegold, CA)

**Grand Army of the Republic Highway Officer**

- *Gary Parrott, PCC* (Mammoth Lakes, CA)

**Department Newsletter (*The California Column*) Editor**

- *Daniel R. Earl* (San Jose, CA)

**Senior Vice-Commander**

- *Jerry R. Sayre, PCC* (Fallbrook, CA)

**Secretary-Treasurer** (term expires 2007)

- *J. Thomas Smith* (Elk Grove, CA)

*Alan E. Peterson, PDC* (Las Vegas, NV)

Member (term expires 2008)

**Chaplin**

- *Thomas Helmantoler* (Julian, CA)

**Counselor**

- *James C. Brazelton* (Gilroy, CA)

**Guard**

- *Phillip Caines* (El Segundo, CA)

**Graves Registration Officer**

- *Donald Hotchkiss, Jr.* (Las Vegas, NV)

**Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator**

- *Al Peterson, PDC* (Las Vegas, NV)

**Signals Officer**

- *Tad Campbell, PCC* (Gilroy, CA)

**125<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic**

The *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* are pleased to announce its 125<sup>th</sup> Annual National Encampment to be held at the Hilton Harrisburg Towers in historic Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, August 10-13, 2006.

The planned activities for this year's event include: a Campfire Gathering on Friday evening; business meetings on Friday and Saturday morning; Memorial Service at the Gettysburg Battlefield (located nearby); a Commander-in-Chief's Dinner (Saturday night at the convention center); and several Gettysburg Battlefield tours.

This year's event is being hosted by the Department of Pennsylvania and will be in conjunction with the encampments of several Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic (the Woman's Relief Corps, the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic).

It should be noted this is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the re-dedication of the GAR Memorial on the Gettysburg Battlefield. So come and participate in this historic gathering.

For further details and cost of this event refer to the current issue of *The Banner* newsletter or go to the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* Website ([www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)).

All members and associates are encouraged to attend this gala and special event. See you there.

# Another Civil War Moment

## General William P. Carlin Camp No. 25 Northern Nevada

Organized in December 2002 and officially chartered by the SUVCW - Department of California and the Pacific on August 23, 2003.

The SUVCW is a tax exempt organization pursuant to the provisions of Section 501c (4), Internal Revenue Code and all donations are fully tax deductible as permitted by the US Internal Revenue Service (Section 170, Internal Revenue Code).

The current officers & staff of Camp No. 25:

- Camp Commander - Paul Washeleski, PCC
- Sr. Vice Commander - Gary Parrott, PCC
- Jr. Vice Commander - Frank Wood, Jr.
- Secretary- Brian Worcester
- Treasurer - Brian Worcester
- Camp Council: Michael Curtis  
David Davis  
Donald Guidici
- Patriotic Instructor - Brian Worcester
- Chaplain - Donald Guidici
- Guide - Curtis A. Thomas
- Guard - Curtis A. Thomas
- Historian - David A. Davis
- Counselor - Gary Parrott
- Graves Registration Officer - Gary Parrott
- Civil War Memorials Officer - David Davis

**Rufus E. Hutchings** (a native of the Town of Virgil, Cortland County, New York) enlisted as a private in Company A, 76<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment (at the age of 26) on November 11, 1861. He was one of several brothers who enlisted near the start of the War.

The below is a transcription of a letter that *Private R. E. Hutchings* wrote and sent back home to a friend (John Frink Hill):

Fredericksburg June 22<sup>nd</sup> 62

Dear Friend Frink,

I rec'd your letter Friday and you can bet your letter was receivable. And to think that I have a few more friends left at old Virgil yet. They may get up all kinds of stories about me that they choose but I am not dead yet and I can't help, but think, but I shall again visit old Virgil and again cradle for your Father. Well, I just saw your cousin Wesley Norwood. He is well. His tent is close to mine. We frequently visit one another. He is a nice young man.

Osmer Hill I will not say nothing about. He speaks to me once in the while but not as often as Wesley does. But he is sick now at the hospital. Guess he is not dangerous but my tent mate is somewhat sick he has got bilious fever but he is some better today.

I began once to think that I would be destitute of a brother in the 76<sup>th</sup> Regiment but I feel a little more encouraged about him now. I let him see the letter you sent to me. He thought it was a good letter and said it seemed natural to correspond.

Whiskey and old Army folks together. He thought he might better let Whiskey alone.

How does Elijah and Brazo and Rob get along? I have got 6 letters to write today and I have got to write short letters to get through before dress parade.

We often times see some of the sescesh prisoners going toward Washington but they always have a guard around them.

I should like to see you firstrate and all the rest of your folks. Give my best respects to George Hill and his people and Simons C. Seamon's people. But as for Gilbert let him go to grass and Amsy Lane too.

Does Lize take, now and then, a little of the old man's Whiskey? Write me all of the particulars that you can. Tell the people that Rufe is not quite dead yet. He may trip over a Rebel yet and a Rebel may trip me over too but I will run the chances. So no more from your friend, and well wishes,

R. E. Hutchings  
To: J. F. Hill

The above letter contains several Civil War references, that include the following:

- the 76<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps of General John Pope's Army of Virginia from June to September 1862;
- records indicate that the 76<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment was stationed in or near Fredericksburg, Virginia, from May to August 1862;
- "bilious fever" was the name for several illnesses that was common during the Civil War (typhoid, malaria, hepatitis or any liver ailment);

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## Civil War Letters



*[Handwritten transcription of the letter from Rufus E. Hutchings to John Frink Hill, dated June 22nd, 1862, from Fredericksburg, Virginia.]*

The above is a copy of an original Civil War Letter written in 1862 (from the private collection of the editor)

# Our Civil War Ancestors

## Department of Calif. & Pacific

The *Department of California and the Pacific - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* (SUVCW) was organized in February 1886. Its territory includes the states of California, Nevada and Hawaii.

To date, the Department is composed of 14 Camps. The oldest of which is the General Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 (San Jose, California). It was formed on December 4, 1897.

The Department held its Annual Encampments concurrently with the GAR - *Department of California and Nevada* between 1886 and 1949 (while there were still Union Veterans living in California).

From 1950 to the present, the Department has held its Annual Encampment with one or more of the Allied Orders of the GAR.

\*For additional information go to  
Web Page at: [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)

## Civil War Moment - cont.

- one of his younger brothers (Charles W. Hutchings) was also a member of Company A (he recovered from his illness, survived the War and passed away in 1915 - at the age of 75);

- *Osmer Hill* (a corporal in Company F) did not fully recover from his illness and received a disability discharge on August 11, 1862;

- *Wesley Norwood* (a private in Company F) enlisted on October 4, 1861 (at the age of 19) although he survived several fierce battles, he succumbed to illness on May 19, 1864; and,

- *John Frink Hill* was so inspired and motivated by the letters he received from his friends on the "front lines" (including Private Hutchings) that he lied about his age and enlisted in Company G, 24<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry Regiment on February 10, 1865 (he was actually 15 years old at the time of enlistment !!), he survived the War and received a pension for his (underage !!) military service until 1921 when he passed away at 73 !!

*Edwin G. Atkins* (Civil War ancestor of Camp No. 25 member - Dave Davis) heeded the announcement made by President Lincoln on August 4, 1862, for 300,000 volunteers (for a period of 9 months).

Soon, thereafter, on August 25, 1862, *Edwin* traveled to Brattleboro, Vermont and enlisted as a private in Company B, 13<sup>th</sup> Vermont Infantry Regiment, at the age of 19.

On October 11, 1862, upon successful organization and training, *Private Atkins* and the rest of his regiment, relocated to Washington, D.C., where the 13<sup>th</sup> became part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vermont Brigade. There it performed provost marshal duty until December.

On December 12, 1862, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vermont Brigade was ordered to Fairfax Court House, Virginia, where it would perform "rotating" guard and picket duty for the next several weeks. It was during that time *Private Atkins* saw his first "action". On December 29 the brigade repulsed a surprise attack by CSA-General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry forces.

After their successful defense of Fairfax Court House, the brigade was sent to Wolf Creek Shoals, Virginia (12 miles south of Fairfax C. H.) where it performed picket duty (from January 20 - April 2, 1863). Soon, thereafter it was reassigned to Occoquan Creek, Virginia, until June 1863.

On June 25, 1863, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vermont Brigade received orders to proceed to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in anticipation of a major assault there by Confederate forces led by General Robert E. Lee.

Shortly before sundown on July 1, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vermont Brigade arrived in Gettysburg, where it took position to the left of General John Buford's cavalry division. The next day *Private Atkins* would experience some of the fiercest fighting during one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.

A little over 2 weeks later, on July 21, 1863, *Private Atkins* and the rest of the 13<sup>th</sup> Vermont Infantry Regiment were mustered out at the end of their term of enlistment (after almost a full year of dedicated and loyal military service).

Major battles or engagements: the *Defense of Fairfax Court House*, Virginia (December 28, 1862), *Battle of Gettysburg*, Pennsylvania (July 1-3, 1863) and the *Pursuit of General Lee's Army* (July 4-8, 1863)

*Edwin G. Atkins* was born January 1843 in Washington County, Vermont, one of 6 children of Charles and Melissa Atkins. He grew up in and around the small town of Duxbury.

Soon after the start of the Civil War, his older brother (Franklin M. Atkins) enlisted in the Union Army and left the state. Less than a year later, *Edwin* would join his brother in the US Army.

Upon completion of his tour of duty, *Edwin*, returned home and resumed the life of a civilian. By 1865 he was married and had started a family. Over the years he and his wife (Laura) would have five children.

Prior to 1900 (after all the children had grown up and had families of their own) *Edwin* and Laura moved to Moretown, Vermont. There he would work in a local sawmill for the next several years.

Sometime before 1910, Laura (his wife of over 40 years !!) passed away and *Edwin* moved into the household of his oldest son (Frank). And then sometime before 1920 his oldest son and family moved to Bennington, Vermont, requiring him to move, again, this time into the household of his youngest son (Sidney).

On May 10, 1926, *Edwin G. Atkins* passed away at the age of 83. His final resting place is at the South Duxbury Cemetery in the Town of South Duxbury, Vermont.

## Membership Information

Membership in the national society of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* is open to all male descendants (direct or collateral), 14 years and older who:

- are a relative of a soldier, sailor, marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service;
- who was regularly mustered and honorably served in, was honorably discharged from, or died in the service of the United States of America or in a State regiment called to active service between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865.

\* For further membership information go to the SUVCW Web Page at:

[www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)



**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
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