

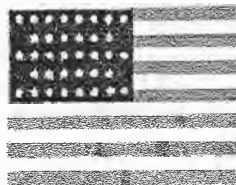
The Camp Gazette

Volume II Number 1

February 1999



1861



1865

*The Official Newsletter of
Camp Picacho Peak*

The Camp Gazette

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BATTLE OF LONE JACK SAVES LEXINGTON

GREENFIELD, May 1, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to an order from you dated Jefferson City, August 12, 1862, I proceeded from Syracuse to Sedalia, to take command of forces about to march to Lexington. Company H, Seventh Missouri State Militia, Captain [Elias] Slocum, from Syracuse, reported at 11 o'clock p. m. on the 12th. The two companies of the Eighth Missouri State Militia, Captains [Henry D.] Moore and Owens, and a section of the Third Indiana Battery, Lieutenant [J. S.] Develin, marching by rail from Jefferson, reported at 4 o'clock a. m. August 13. I marched immediately, and reached Lexington August 14 at 11 a. m., a distance of 60 miles; men and horses very much worn-out, having marched forty-eight hours without food or rest.

I received an order from you at 1 o'clock a. m. August 15 to march at daylight in the direction of Lone Jack, with 800 men.

At daylight I marched with a force consisting of detachments from five companies Seventh Cavalry, Missouri Volunteers, three companies Sixth Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, two companies Eighth Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, three companies Second Battalion Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, and one company Seventh Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, together with a section of the Third Indiana Battery. In consequence of a jealousy in regard to rank no field officers were sent with me, as you directed should be done.

I marched directly for Lone Jack. About noon I reported to Colonel Huston, commanding at Lexington, that the enemy, 1,600 strong, were at Lone Jack, under Coffee, and that I would fight that evening.

We surprised the camp about 9 o'clock that evening and completely routed the enemy. Lieutenant Develin, being drunk, acted very badly, and was arrested, and the artillery placed in charge of Sergeant [James M.] Scott.

The men then slept in line in Lone Jack. About daylight the pickets came in and reported that the enemy were advancing, about 3,000 strong. Several scouts had reported, and no word from Warren, who should have been in supporting distance. Two parties were still out, leaving us about 740 men.

Knowing the instructions you had given Colonel Warren, and believing him to be in hearing of my artillery, I awaited the enemy.

The attack was made about forty

minutes after the pickets came in. The enemy attempted to turn both my right and left, but were unable to do so by reason of a thick hedge, which protected us on each flank and afforded some protection to our front, our rear being protected by a small, deep stream, the crossing of which we held. The enemy's cavalry being thrown into confusion by the hedge and annoyed by sharpshooters placed behind it fled in confusion, rejoining the main body, which then attacked us in front.

After a desperate fight of four hours' duration the enemy began to fall back. At this time Lieutenant Develin came onto the field, and rushing among his men ordered them to fall back, which they did, leaving the guns.

Seeing this, the enemy rallied and made an attempt to capture the artillery, but were repulsed with terrible slaughter. Of 60 men led by me in this charge only 11 reached the guns, and they were all wounded. In the act of dragging the cannon out of the enemy's reach I was shot down.

Captain Brawner was then in command. After a severe hand-to-hand fight, which lasted about a half hour, the enemy gave way and retreated, leaving us the field and the guns.

At this time Coffee came in sight with about 1,500 men, having collected his forces, which were scattered the night before. Captain Brawner fell back, leaving the guns. About an hour after the enemy came up and took possession of the field.

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LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER

DEAR BROTHERS:

Looking forward to a large gathering of the group on February 20th at the beautiful Arizona Club, high above the Valley!

Our speaker will be Wes Schmidt, President of the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. His talk will be about Lincoln and his "gift with words."

We now number 43 brothers, with about 6 applications pending. Not far from 50!

Mark your calendars: our meetings for 1999 will be May 22nd and November 6th. Setting dates in advance, avoids conflicting with other patriotic groups.

See everyone February 20th- bring your wife, girl-friend, nest door neighbor- guest are welcome.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Larry Fuller, Commander
Camp Picacho Peak #1

Battle of Lone Jack State of Missouri August 16, 1862

On May 14, 1998, I had the honor of standing on the battlefield at Lone Jack, MO, about 60 miles southeast of Kansas City. A small village of about 450 people in 1862 and about the same size in 1998.

My great-grandfather, Capt. William Plumb, was in this battle. He was a member of the 6th Regiment of cavalry, Missouri State Militia.

"August 16, detachment of Companies A, B, and E under Capt. Wm. Plumb, took part in the desperate little battle of Lone Jack, in Jackson County, where 800 Union Troops, led by Major Emory S. Foster, of the 7th Missouri State Militia, engaged 3,000 Confederates, under Cols. Cockerell, Hayes, Thompson, and the guerrilla chieftain, W.C. Quantrell.

About 75 men were killed on each side, and the fight was a draw."

"At Lone Jack, Captain Plumb's company went into the fight with 56 men, and lost 5 killed and 17 wounded. Capt. Plumb himself was severely wounded in the shoulder."

"Capt. Plumb was promoted to Major Sept. 25, 1863."

Interesting trivia of this battle, was that both sides were cavalry units. However, all the fighting took place on foot. Also, the Union forces lost two cannons to the Confederates, towards the end of the battle. I personally believe the Confederates won the day.

Missouri was very divided state. The southern half was definitely southern territory with many slave holding farmers. At the time of 1864, there were approximately 120,000 Union troops and about 40,000 Confederate troops.

Also, the largest share of southern troops were guerrilla fighters led by Quantrell, of Lawrence, KS. Including, Frank and Jesse James (14 yr.), the Youngers, and the Daultons who after the war kept on marauding, right into the history books.

CAMP NEWS & BUSINESS

THE BRIEFING BOARD

Upcoming Events

CAMP MEETING TO BE HELD:

A camp meeting of the Picacho Peak Camp #1 will be held on **Saturday, February 20, 1998** at **1200 noon** at the **Arizona Club**, 37th Floor, Bank One Building, 201 North Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ. Please RSVP no Later than Thursday, February 18, 1998. Make your checks to the

Camp Picacho Peak, SUVCW

Send to **John Coon**

**14515 Granite Valley Dr.
#D543**

**Sun City West, AZ
85375-6052**

We hope you can attend.

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE, AGAIN Yes, it's that time of year again when we must pony up and pay our dues. Please bring your payment of \$25.00 current and \$35.00 for new members to the February 21st meeting and you won't have to worry about it the rest of the year! Make your checks payable to the **Camp Picacho Peak, SUVCW**. This supports our great Camp and all its efforts to remember those who have sacrificed so much for us.

FEATURED SPEAKER at the upcoming Camp meeting

Wes Schmidt

President, Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

(Participation is always encouraged)

TOPIC

LINCOLN: HIS GIFT WITH WORDS

PICACHO PASS BATTLE REENACTMENT MARCH 13 & 14

On March 13 & 14 there will be a reenactment at Picacho Peak State Park. You are welcome to enjoy the Picacho Pass Battle Reenactment, authentic camps and a weekend full of "living" history. Let's get together for a wonderful weekend and pay honor to those who fought and served in Arizona. This is our battlefield and let's support this ceremony and celebration.

The park encompasses the sheer-sided peak that rises abruptly 1,500 feet from the desert floor, has camping, picnicking, and hiking.

Picacho Pass is south of Phoenix on Interstate-10 about 40 miles north of Tucson.



THE MEMBER'S CORNER

Excerpted from *Civil War Journal*
Submitted by Robert Hannan

The Sultana -Freedom Ride to Death

The most awful boiler explosion known to history was undoubtedly the one which destroyed the Mississippi river steamboat Sultana, in 1865, the number of persons killed in that one accident being no less than 1,238.

The Sultana and the Luminary left New Orleans together, on April 21, 1865, and raced up the river for Vicksburg, where many Union soldiers, just released from southern prisons, were awaiting transportation to the north. The Luminary reached Vicksburg first, but she did not get the contract to carry the soldiers, and she shortly proceeded northward on her trip.

About ten hours before reaching Vicksburg,, a leak developed along a joint at the front end of one of the Sultana's boilers, forcing her to lay over at that place, 33 hours for repairs, the repairing was done, apparently, by a competent boiler maker, and it consisted in putting on a soft patch," of quarter-inch iron plate.

Previous to the arrival of the Sultana, the Henry Ames had carried 1,300 of the soldiers north, and the Olive Branch had taken 700 more. It was at first reported that no men would be sent by the Sultana, as the rolls had been made out for only 700 of those that remained. Before the Sultana was reported to depart, however, it was decided to send all of the remaining men by her, counting and checking them as they went aboard, and preparing the rolls afterwards. She therefore took on 1,866 soldiers, included 33 paroled

officers; and she carried, also, 70 cabin passengers, and a crew of 85.

No inspection was made of the boat at the time, to determine her carrying capacity or condition. The cooking facilities were grossly inadequate, and the men, who did not even have room to lie down, felt that they were treated with unnecessary harshness, in being thus crowded together in great discomfort, when at least two other northward-bound boats had been at the landing during the day, and one very good one (the Pauline Carroll) was actually lying alongside at the time of embarkation.

Proceeding up the river the Sultana passed Helena, Ark., on April 26, at 10 o'clock a.m. It was there that the photograph was taken from which the accompanying engraving was prepared, and for which we are indebted to Mr. Paris C. Brown of Cincinnati, Ohio. At about 3 o'clock a.m. on April 27, 1865, and only seventeen hours after this photograph was taken, the repaired boiler exploded with tremendous violence, a few miles above Memphis, Tenn. Many persons were killed outright, and many more were thrown into the river and

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Lone Jack...cont.

The fact that 740 men fought five hours against such odds and whipped them is sufficient evidence of the stuff of which they were made. They need no praise from me. Where all fought so well it is impossible to designate those most worthy of mention. Braver men never fought.

Had your orders been obeyed the whole force of the enemy would have been captured or terribly routed and destroyed.

Colonel Warren came up the next morning after the fight and was in sight of the enemy all day. I was told by officers on the ground that General Blunt came up during the day, but no engagement took place. The enemy retreated south as soon as night came. I was told by Cockrell, who

commanded the rebels in the fight, that very were completely out of ammunition, which fact I stated to Colonel Warren. I can give no list of casualties, as the company commanders have not reported to me.

I am, general, your obedient servant,

EMORY S. FOSTER,
Major Seventh Cavalry, Missouri State Militia.

Report of Major Emory S. Foster of the Action at Lone Jack, Missouri, Jackson County.

Series I, Volume 13, Official Report of the War of the Rebellion.

*...from the Historian***NEVER WERE MEN SO BRAVE.***submitted by, Robert Hannan*

The 69th New York in History More than 170,000 Irish-born Americans fought under the flag of the United States between 1861 and 1865. Society in the United States had, up to that time, displayed a marked anti-Catholic sentiment, and most newly immigrated Irish occupied close to the lowest rung of the economic ladder, but this did not dissuade many from rallying to the colors at the beginning of the war. When President Lincoln made his first call for volunteers following the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the 69th NYSM (New York State Militia) was the second unit to leave New York City.

The 69th served at 1st Bull Run under the command of then-brigade commander William T. Sherman; it then returned home and mustered out of Federal service. At this point, the decision was made to raise an "99 Irish Brigade" for government service. Many members of the 6th NYSM joined the new 6th New York State Volunteers (NYSV), the first regiment of the new Irish Brigade. The 69th NYSM would eventually suffer the greatest number of casualties of all New York regiments and would serve from its inception to the surrender at Appomatox with the Army of the Potomac.

Selected as commander of the Irish Brigade was Thomas Francis Meagher, a man of outspoken anti-English sentiments who had been exiled to Tasmania by the Crown for his activities in Ireland.

Together with the 63rd and 88th New York regiments, the 6th NYSV joined the Army of the

Potomac to pursue the war against the Confederacy.

Beginning with the ill-fated Peninsular Campaign against Richmond, the Irish Brigade in general and the 69th in particular began building a reputation for hard fighting and courage, as well as lavish hospitality. Part of the renowned II Corps, the Irish often figured prominently in any advance and rearguard actions. More than one general was known to ask "Where are my green flags?"; the reference to the green regimentals of the Irish units is significant.

The Irish Brigade went through perhaps its most valorous period between the Battle of Antietam (17 September, 1862) and the Battle of Gettysburg (1-3 July, 1863). This series of events, from its frontal assault on the Sunken Road at Antietam through the engagement with Kershaw's Confederates at the

Wheatfield at Gettysburg, saw the Brigade reduced to a bare skeleton of its former strength. The 69th by the time of Gettysburg numbered under 200 and was comprised of a mere two companies; General Meagher had already resigned his commission in protest when refused permission to return the Brigade home to for recruiting. The Brigade also figured prominently in Burnside's disastrous attacks at Fredericksburg (13 December, 1862), during which the 6th lost some 75% of its strength. It was during the fighting at Fredericksburg that Private Timothy Donohue crawled between the opposing lines to carry a wounded officer to safety, an act for which he was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor.

The Irish remained with the Army of the Potomac through the hard fighting under Grant, and took part in the surrender ceremony at Appomatox Courthouse in April of 1865. By the war's end various regiments from various states had passed through the Brigade at one point or another, but the same original three New York regiments had always served with the formation. Fresh infusions of manpower had increased their depleted numbers, but many of the best and bravest who had originally marched off to war from New York never returned.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS
CAMP PICACHO PEAK
CAMP OFFICERS, 1997-1998

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HISTORIAN	Robert Hannan 8445 E. Depew Ave. Mesa, AZ 85208 380-9153	CAMP GAZETTE EDITOR	Daniel Gray 6850 W. Sierra St. Peoria, AZ 85345 646-0525

CAMP MEETINGS: The Camp meetings for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Camp Picacho Peak meet three times per year in the months of February, May, and November. Times and dates and camp meeting sites are announced in this newsletter.

CAMP DUES: Total dues for full members are \$25.00 per year, which includes National Dues and Camp Dues. New members first dues are \$35.00.

Sultana...cont.

drowned; and the wrecked vessel took fire, and was entirely destroyed. Of the soldiers, 1,101 (including 19 officer) were killed, and the passengers and crew 137 were killed; the total number of lives lost being 1,238, as we have already stated.

So far as we are aware, the cause of the explosion was never definitely ascertained. The boiler was a return tubular, - a type which had not been previously tried in the river service. We are told that the shell was 48 inches in diameter and 0.354 inch thick. A new iron shell of this character, with a double-riveted joint having an efficiency of 70 per cent., could carry a pressure of about 90 lbs., with a factor of safety of five. It is likely that the actual pressure carried was 150 lbs. or even more;

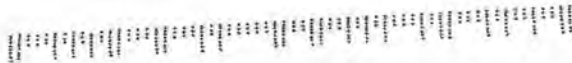
but in justice to the officers of the Sultana it should be remembered that it was customary, at that time, to operate the boilers on river steamboats under a factor of safety which would not now meet with the approval of any engineer.

We do not know whether the initial line of rupture in the boiler ran through the original sheet, or through the patch, which was only 0.25 in. thick; nor do we know the diameter or pitch of the rivets in the shell, nor of the bolts that were used in putting on the patch. It is quite possible that a knowledge of the points would shed light upon the cause of the explosion.

The boilers of the Sultana had been examined by a government inspector, at St. Louis, about a

fortnight before the explosion, and were then pronounced to be safe and in good condition. The chief engineer, and the second engineer (who was fatally scalded), testified that the boilers were carefully watched after the repairs at Vicksburg, that they contained plenty of water at all times, and that they were apparently all right, up to the very moment of the explosion.

The Sultana was undeniably overdoaded, and many ugly charges and counter charges of bribery were current among the Union officers who had to do with the transportation of the soldiers, in view of the fact that there were other serviceable boats at hand, anxious to get a share of the business



55375/6021

John Coon
14515 Granite Valley Dr #D-543
Sun City West, AZ, 85375

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUIRED**
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