

DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI  
**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**  
**G.A.R. Post Project Form**

**PLEASE:**

- Type or print, using a ballpoint pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of "Unknown" is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You

**Post Information**

Post Name  Post Number   
City/Town  County  State

Brief History of the G.A.R. Post (use separate document if necessary):

Established August 18, 1883. They started with twenty five members and in a few years it was increased to sixty.  
1st Commander was Dr. A. R. Jaques followed by Colonel Lindsay Murdoch and then Randolph James.  
See attached Sheets

**Meeting Facility**

Structure Still Exist?  Yes  No  Unknown      Type of Building:  Stand-Alone  Shared-Use

Identify Specific Location:

**Description of Records**

Do the Records Exist?  Yes  No  Unknown      The Records are:  Originals  Copies

What are the conditions of the records?

What do the records consist of?

**Location of Records**

Repository Name

City/Town  County  State  Zip

**Additional Information:**

**Submitter Information**

Submit Date  Name

Camp Name  Camp #  City/Town  State  Zip

Email

**Submit to Current G.A.R. Post Records Officer Listed @**  
<http://www.suvcwmo.org/garposts.php>





**CIVIL WAR VETERANS**, members of the Franklin Shanks Post No. 100, on May 30, 1895, at Marble Hill Cemetery for decoration services. Music was by the Marble Hill Choir. George E. Clark was post commander; Andrew J. Bedwell, adjutant.



source says the population was 8,162 in 1870; 11,130 in 1880; 13,121 in 1890; 14,650 in 1900; 13,909 in 1920; 12,269 in 1930; 12,898 in 1940; 11,019 in 1950; 9,167 in 1960 and 8,617 in 1970. NOTE: No figures for 1910. Greatest loss in 1950 figure; greatest gain in 1880 figure; 1970 count shows a gain of 455 over 1870 count.)

### "Old Abe" the Civil War Eagle

(This story was contributed by Thurman Propst, rural letter-carrier out of the Sedgewickville post office, who is also a good "story teller" and much in demand for public speaking. He and his wife, Jo, and their family, live near Marble Hill in a new home which is furnished with some interesting antiques.)

During the Civil War, General Price invaded Missouri. His objective was to seize control of the southern terminal of the Iron Mountain Railroad at Pilot Knob, little more than 50 miles from here. Fort Davidson, located there, had to be over-run before this could be done. That job accomplished, the plans called for the seizure of the St. Louis arsenal.

Near Greenville, General Price divided his forces. One segment was to march toward Pilot Knob by way of Paterson. The remainder of his force moved in that direction by way of Fredericktown.

The Northern leaders anticipated such a move and called for some re-enforcements. A contingent of Wisconsin troops landed at Cape Girardeau in answer to this call. Prior to their arrival there, one of the soldiers had traded some article to an Indian for a pet eagle. This eagle became a real favorite with the outfit and traveled with the troops as they moved on toward Fredericktown.

Mary Ann Burgett Propst lived with her children near the Hartle Ford in Cape Girardeau County. This crossing was on the old Jackson-Fredericktown road on which the troops moved. She told how the soldiers would confiscate feed for the horses and food for themselves from the farmers living in the area. It was there on Little Whitewater Creek that the soldiers camped one night. After the detachment broke camp and moved on, the people gathered from the campsite many baskets of corn that had been trampled by the horses. Many of those people had not been in complete sympathy with the North and after this action, they were driven farther than ever from that point of view.

After breaking camp, these troops moved without delay to Fredericktown where they encountered Price's forces on their way to Pilot Knob. A battle ensued, and during that time the pet eagle was tied to the top of the old courthouse. The cord used to secure the eagle failed to hold him during the excitement of the battle. After freeing himself, he flew over the field of battle squawking and making fierce sounds. The Southern troops were forced to retreat, but it was during the mopping-up campaign that the eagle proved his real worth.

This bird hovered over a clump of trees just south of the town. His frantic cries attracted the attention of the Union Soldiers. A detail was sent to investigate. A few Confederates were found hiding in that clump, but they surrendered without resistance.

"Old Abe," as the eagle was later known, was on his way to fame! From then on, he was useful in spying out enemy troops. Huge sums of money were offered to anyone who could bring down "that bird." The reward was never collected, however, because "Old Abe" seemed to know the range of the rifles. He continued to spot infiltrators and call attention to them by his erratic actions and squawking sounds.

This gallant bird died of an apparent heart attack brought on by the excitement of a fire in the house where he was kept some years after the Civil War. "Old Abe's" picture appears in the Cyclorama in Atlanta where the siege of Atlanta is depicted.

This story about Old Abe appeared in TRUE MAGAZINE several years ago. The reference to the troop movement along the old Jackson-Fredericktown road was related to Thurman Propst by Elizabeth Propst, his grandmother. Her mother, the Mary Ann Burgett Propst referred to above, was the great-grandmother of Thurman Propst and Mrs. Medford L. (Pete) Taylor, Circuit Clerk of Bollinger County.

### G.A.R. Post in Marble Hill & Lutesville

From the minutes of the Franklin D. Shanks Post 100 of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic), kept by Adjutants W. E. Caruthers and A. J. Becwell, over a period of six years, we have derived a lot of pleasure, reading about the efforts of those Civil War veterans to keep their memory alive.



One project in which they showed persistent interest was locating unmarked graves of old soldiers in cemeteries of the county and trying to get the government to furnish ~~heads, names, which they erected.~~ Their meetings were held at various places, with rent of a hall for about \$2 a month, and were usually held in the day time. There was an admission fee for membership, \$1.75 payable with the application, and this entitled the comrade to the badge of the G.A.R. Minutes of each meeting ended with the phrase: "Closed in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty."

An annual event was the observance of Decoration Day, or Memorial Day, on or near the 30th of May each year. Often these observances would be joint affairs with the Erich Pape Post 184 G.A.R. at Zalma, then known as Bollinger's Mill. For these annual services, special music, both vocal and instrumental, was provided; flowers were made or collected, when available, to be "strewn" on the graves of their "fallen comrades." Ministers or other speakers were invited to address the public on these events when "members were to meet and march in procession to the grounds, there to decorate the graves and perform such other acts of respect as may seem appropriate." On one of these "Special Days" they were to meet at the Cooper School House and march to the grave of Franklin D. Shanks, for whom the Post was named. (It has not been verified just where this was, or exactly who this Franklin D. Shanks might have been, but without a doubt, he is an ancestor of many of our present and former citizens who were relatives of the Shanks family.) At other times, mention was made of Decoration Day services being held in the Shell, Slaybaugh, Williams, Bollinger's Mill, Ray, Hawn, and Marble Hill cemeteries "for the purpose of executing acts of respect to 'our dead comrades'."

On Sept. 24, 1887 a vote of thanks by the Post members was extended to some ladies of the town for labor in ornamenting and preparing the Post Banner to be taken by those attending a National Encampment in St. Louis. The ladies were Mrs. A. J. Bedwell, Mrs. R. W. Fischer, and Miss Mollie Fischer. Col. L. C. Murdock was chairman of the committee to have the banner made. A special night train passed through Lutesville at midnight so that those attending might have transportation to the city where the meeting was to convene.

Perhaps the biggest undertaking of the post of Civil War



FRANKLIN D. SHANKS POST 100, G. A. R., LUTESVILLE



veterans was a reunion and campfire held at the pavilion near Crooked Creek in Lutesville, on July 3, 4 and 5, 1886. Practically all sessions before that time, including some special sessions, were filled with the business of preparing for that coming event. As early as March, 1886, plans got underway, and "invitations were sent to all accessible G.A.R. Posts and Bands of Music, inviting them to attend and participate in the exercises of the day; that able speakers and ministers of the gospel be invited; committees were appointed to solicit contributions for the expense and to secure contract from the pavilion owner and another to contact the railroad company in regard to transportation rates to Lutesville on July 3rd."

As the plans developed, the committee reported that the railroad Superintendent promised half fare rates to members coming to and from Lutesville to attend the Reunion and Campfire on July 3, 4 and 5. Replies to invitations had been received from St. Louis, Cape Girardeau, and Poplar Bluff and more invitations were extended to well-known speakers and dignitaries throughout Southeast Missouri, including Ex-Governor Fletcher and Governor Marmaduke.

The proposition of the Marble Hill Cornet Band agreeing to perform at the reunion during the three days for the sum of \$75 was considered to be too high, or at least higher than could be paid, so the committee on music was instructed to propose to members of the Cornet Band that they be treated to a Grand Ball for them and their ladies on the evening of July 5, as a means of remuneration.

Final arrangements for the big reunion included mention of replies to invitations from the Posts at Victoria, Perryville and Bonne Terre. The grounds were reported to be "laid off" and tables arranged. Comrades agreed to donate team work in hauling lumber, rock etc. to the grounds in preparing for the meeting. Contributions on June 23, preceding the meeting date, amounted to \$125. so the committee was instructed to solicit "eatables" from the farmers in the vicinity, with the quartermaster given orders to issue meal tickets to members, at the rate of one ticket for each 25 cents worth of prepared provisions he collected.

"On July 3, 4, and 5, 1886, the Reunion and Campfire sponsored by the Franklin D. Shanks Post 100 of Bollinger County, was held at the Lutes Pavilion grounds between Lutesville and Marble Hill, Mo. It was a success in every

sense of the word; weather was remarkably pleasant during the entire time; fully 3,000 (Three Thousand) people were in attendance. Each day the best of order prevailed during the entire time. No drunkenness or other unbecoming conduct on or about the grounds. The Erich Pape Post 184 G.A.R. of Bollinger's Mill, Mo., and the Hiram Gavitt Post 174 G.A.R., Fredericktown, Mo., were in attendance in delegation with a large number of friends and guests. Also, the cornet band of Fredericktown was there, as well as comrades and officers from many other G.A.R. Posts, including quite a number from the State of Illinois. Program of Saturday the 3rd of July included: Reception of delegations, guests, Federal and Confederate Soldiers, public speakers, ministers of the gospel, all marching. Dinner was served at 1 p.m., after which the Hon. H. N. Phillips of Malden, Mo., known as the 'silver-tongued' orator of Southeast Missouri, addressed the people in a masterly and most eloquent manner. Sunday was duly observed at 10 a.m. when Dr. J. J. Marks, of St. Louis delivered a most able and appropriate sermon, as did also Rev. B. L. Bowman of Marble Hill, Mo."

Quite interesting too, was the fact that the Reunion, successful as it must have been, left the Post holding quite an indebtedness. Mention was made in the minutes almost every meeting after that of trying to determine a solution to the problem of paying the debt. To begin with, the Fredericktown post reportedly left owing for meals furnished some of their members, but upon notification a "favorable reply" was received and evidently their part was later paid. Committees solicited additional subscription money from the merchants of Lutesville and Marble Hill, but for many weeks, no solution could be found. Finally, almost six months later, at a special meeting on November 24, 1886, the decision was made for each comrade in good standing in the Franklin D. Shanks Post to be levied an assessment of \$1.00 each, payable one-half in the month of January, 1887 and the other half in the following month, February, 1887, to be collected in the same manner as dues were accepted.

Minutes contained in this book covered the period from the organization of the Post, August 4, 1883, until those approved on August 14, 1889. It is not known how much longer the Post might have been active, but the Sons of Veterans soon began to assume the responsibilities once taken care of by the G.A.R.



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### G.A.R. Franklin D. Shanks Post No. 100, Lutesville,

About this book

Mo. By Mo Franklin D. Shanks Post No. 100 (Lutesville, Grand Army of the Republic

"Includes names of comrades listed in record book of the Franklin D. Shanks Post #100, Grand Army of the Republic, August 1883 to 1889".

**More details**

G.A.R. Franklin D. Shanks Post No. 100, Lutesville, Mo.:  
\* Grand Army of the Republic.  
By Mo Franklin D. Shanks Post No. 100 (Lutesville, Grand Army of the Republic  
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100	Franklin Shanks	Lutesville (Marble Hill)	Bollinger County	Records on Microfilm at UMR Western Manuscripts	Very brief history of post in Goodspeed's "History of Southeast Missouri" page 454 ; Book on post published by Bollinger Co Hist Soc	Pre-2003
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1883, Lutesville Legion No. 55, Select Knights, was organized with George E. Statler as S. C. Both branches of the order are well supported and have a good membership.

Franklin Shanks Post No. 100, G. A. R., was established on August 18, 1883, with Dr. A. R. Jaques as Post Commander. He served in that capacity two years, and was succeeded by Col. Lindsay Murdoch. The present Commander is Randolph James. The prosperity of the post is proven by the fact that the original membership of twenty-five has been increased to sixty. There is also a post known as Erich Pape Post at Bollinger's Mill.

*Arcadia.*—When Iron County was organized there were two villages within its borders, Arcadia and Middlebrook. Arcadia was laid out in 1849, and owes its existence to what was the Arcadia High School. That institution was founded by Dr. J. C.