

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):

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

Print Form

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

Submit by Email

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1909 published rosters per "A199" at <http://www.mohistory.org/content/LibraryAndResearch/DownloadFiles/CivilWarManuscriptsGuide.pdf>

Location of Records

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Additional Information:

The archives staff cannot do extensive research for patrons; a list of local independent researchers is available upon request. Requests for photocopies of specific items listed in this guide may be directed to the Archives. Contact for copies: archives@mohistory.org or 314-746-4510.

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O. P. MORTON Post No. 14, G. A. R.

The Grand Army of the Republic brought together in a closer bond of comradeship the Union veterans of the Civil war. It inaugurated in Joplin the public observance of Memorial day and by its exercises on flag day and other patriotic demonstrations taught a truer love of country.

O. P. Morton Post No. 14, G. A. R., took a prominent part in the planning and carrying to a successful end the celebration of the 4th of July, 1885. It entertained General Sherman, on the occasion of his visit to Joplin, in 1883, and on the day when the great soldier, U. S. Grant, was laid to rest the post conducted in Joplin a special memorial which was participated in by patriotic and military societies of Joplin and by the great majority of the people.

The following were the charter members of O. P. Morton Post No. 14: Post commander, W. H. Fairbanks; senior vice commander, F. M. Redburn; junior vice commander, Jno. C. Barley; adjutant, J. W. Lupton; quartermaster, S. B. Williams; chaplain, C. J. G. Workizer; officer of the day, C. G. Wheeler; officer of the guard, H. C. Combs, B. F. Joslin, F. E. Eberhart, J. H. Minton, W. E. O. Rush, W. S. Leatt, Ira Creech, Peter Bitner, W. B. Adair, A. F. Cloud, F. P. Hyde, W. W. Pate, William Sergeant, W. G. Williams, Edwin Whipple, J. H. Shout, M. P. Downing, Samuel Lake, F. D. Owen, M. L. Barner, E. W. Beach, G. O. Boucher, J. T. Evert, J. Lurwick, Samuel Ramsey, M. W. Stafford and Ira W. Gilbert.

The following were the Post Commanders during the 'eighties: W. H. Fairbanks, W. W. Pate, Galen Spencer, E. W. Beach, F. M. Redburn, Henry Phelps and J. L. Briggs.

answer came 'He has closeted himself for the night with Gulliver's Meditation and does not desire either to see or be seen.' There is evidently a change passing over the spirit of the dream of the old set, and single blessedness is not being lauded as it used to be."

THE VISIT OF GENERAL SHERMAN

On June 13, 1884, General W. T. Sherman honored Joplin, Webb City, Carterville and Carthage with a visit and his coming to Jasper was the occasion of a demonstration in his honor in each of the four cities. On the arrival of the train bearing the distinguished guest at Joplin, Webb City and Carterville, all of the whistles in the mining district were turned loose at once and the noise was heard for ten miles around. General Sherman's daughter accompanied her father. In Joplin the Grand Army of the Republic post, the Joplin Rifles and other semi-military societies escorted General Sherman from the depot to the hotel. C. J. Lewis, A. B. McCarty and F. M. Redburn were delegated by the city to entertain the great soldier while in the city, and he and his daughter were shown through the mines, the lead works and other points of interest.

UNION VETERANS OF CIVIL WAR

COMPILED BY A. J. P. BARNES.

There were around 2,768,000 enlistments in the Union army and navy during the civil war. Only about 20,000 of those Union civil war veterans were living, August 1, 1933.

The average age, at time of enlistment, was 19½ years. Average age of those now living is about 80 years.

At one time there were about 750 Union civil war veterans living in Jasper county, Missouri. Only sixteen were reported as living in Jasper county, August 1, 1933.

The Grand Army of the Republic, whose membership is composed exclusively of honorably discharged Union civil war veterans, had in 1890-91 close to 500,000 names on the rolls. There are only about 12,000 members in good standing, August 1, 1933.

At one time there were around 400 names on the rolls of O. P. Morton post No. 14, G. A. R. Now there are only seven members on the rolls. There have been reported nine other names of these veterans living in Jasper county, August 1, 1933.

Below is given the name, age at last birthday anniversary, and address of veterans as reported on the rolls of O. P. Morton post No. 14, G. A. R., at Joplin, Mo:

Dr. R. B. Tyler, present department commander, 79 years old, and youngest civil war veteran now living.

W. H. Osborn, present post commander, 90 years old.

A. J. P. Barnes, past department commander, 90 years old.

D. H. Baldrige, past department commander, 88 years old.

P. L. Swartz, past department commander, 92 years old.

A. McCann, past post commander, 87 years old.

P. W. Ruff, past junior vice post commander, 84 years old.

Total, seven members.

Other Union civil war veterans reported as living in Jasper county, August 1, 1933.

Noah W. Vincent, 1427 Sergeant avenue, Joplin, 93 years old.

James A. Love, 2402 Empire avenue, Joplin, 88 years old.

James C. Moulder*, Asbury, Mo., 99 years old.

W. H. Peiffer, 1404 Grand avenue, Carthage, 90 years old.

John J. Hall, 907 Case street, Carthage, 86 years old.

Samuel A. Kimmel, 1428 Daugherty street, Webb City, 89 years old.

J. A. Lane, present junior vice department commander, Webb City, 88 years old.

Marion Cummins, Webb City, 88 years old.

Eli A. Lightfoot, Carterville, 91 years old.

Making a total of nine in the county not affiliated with O. P. Morton post No. 14, and a grand total of sixteen veterans reported as living in Jasper county, August 1st, 1933.

*Reported died since list was compiled.

Some of these surviving heroes are sorely afflicted with age infirmities. Others are enjoying remarkably good health for persons of such advanced years. All seem to enjoy life and are keeping in touch with the present age of living.

Soon the souls of all this once great and victorious army will have passed to the eternal camping ground above, and their bodies be laid in the bivouac of the dead; but their sacrifices and heroic accomplishments in defense of our country's honor will ever remain a precious heritage in the memory of a grateful nation.

**MISSOURI VOTES
3 TO 1 TO REPEAL**

**OFFICE FOR HOME
LOANS IN COUNTY**

A Very Brief History of the Joplin O.P. Morton Grand Army Republic (GAR) Post

Joplin's O.P. Morton GAR Post was organized on May 17, 1882. It was named for Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton. W.H. Fairbanks was elected commander; F.M. Redburn served as senior vice-commander; John C. Bailey elected junior vice-commander; S.B. Williams selected quartermaster; J.W. Lupton voted adjutant; C.T.G. Workizer elected chaplain; C.C. Wheeler, voted officer of the day; and H.C. Combs elected officer of the guard.

Other members included B.F. Joslin, T.H. Mintner, W.E.O. Rush, Edwin Whipple, F.M. Downing, F.D. Owen, N.L. Barner, E.W. Beach, G.O. Boucher, J.T. Everett, Jacob Lurwick, Samuel Ramsey, M.W. Stafford, Ira W. Gilbert, F.E. Eberhart, Samuel Lake, W.S. Scott, T.H. Short, William Stump, Ira Creech, Peter Bittmer, A.B. Adair, W.F. Cloud, T.P. Hill, W.W. Pate, William Sergeant, and W.C. Williams.

In the twenty-five years that followed, hundreds of other names were added to the post's membership rolls. In 1907, only four of the original charter members were alive: Downing, Whipple, Boucher, and Joslin.

A list of the post's commanders follows:

1882 W.H. Fairbanks and W.H. Pate
1883 E.W. Beach
1885 E.W. Beach
1886 E.W. Beach
1887 F.M. Redburn and Henry Phelps
1888 Henry Phelps
1889 E.W. Beach and J.L. Briggs
1890 J.G. Lurwick
1891 P.L. Schwartz
1892 A.H. Brewer
1893 J.L. Briggs
1894 H.W. Davison
1895 F.M. Redburn
1896 J.R.B. Roe
1897 H. Crandall and John R. York
1898 John R. York
1899 W.H. Crane
1900 J.R. Goheen
1901 G.W. Hight
1902 L.D. Middleton
1903 W. Jones
1904 M.M. Rice
1905 W.H. McCubbin
1906 G.W. Hight
1907 Henry Digby

- 1908 Henry Digby
- 1909 Henry Digby
- 1910 Albert McCann
- 1911 J.N. Theurer
- 1912 D.H. Rhodes
- 1913 J.M. Theurer
- 1914 F.L. Yale
- 1915 F.L. Yale
- 1916 F.L. Yale

Sources: *Joplin News-Herald*; *Roster of O.P. Morton Post No. 14 G.A.R., Department of Missouri, July 1, 1916 Roster*

OP Morton Post Info Part of article by Bill Caldwell found on the web

JOPLIN NEWS HERALD, TUESDAY

G. A. R. Members at Convention

Billy Rose, 3, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Rose, Royal Oak, Mich., is held by his great-great-grandfather, Theodore Penland, 96, as he talks to William H. Osborne, 102, of Joplin, Mo., at the G. A. R. convention in Columbus, O. Penland is the only delegate from Oregon. Osborne may be the new commander-in-chief of the G. A. R.

CHURCH PLANS HOME-COMING EVENT SUNDAY

Annual home-coming and the sixth annual world communion Sunday will be observed Sunday by members of the First Community church.

Following the morning worship service, a congregational covered-dish dinner will be served in the church parlors at 12:30 o'clock, with Mrs. H. S. Mitchell serving as chairman.

A feature of the morning service will be special recognition of all church school teachers and officers and all members of the church board. Individual and personal invitation to the services is being given each member of the church school with the purpose of having every member of the congregation present or accounted for on home-coming day.

Rev. Howe to Speak.
The Rev. J. Ruskin Howe, minister, will emphasize the world

William H. Osborne, 102, of Joplin, attended the G.A.R. convention in Columbus, Ohio, in October 1945. He had several opportunities to be named commander-in-chief of the G.A.R. but turned them down. He was commander of the Missouri department from 1935 to 1943. Credit | The Joplin News Herald, October 2, 1945, p. 5

Morton post remembers GAR veterans

From 1892 to 1922, the GAR took the lead in Decoration Day observances. Parades and ceremonies at Fairview Cemetery became traditional. After the Fairview service, the post

conducted a "water service" to honor Marines and sailors at the low-water bridge over Shoal Creek. Women of the Woman's Relief Corps tossed sprays of flowers into the stream to "carry the sentiments of the women to the sea."

With the start of the Spanish-American War in 1898, the assembled GAR veterans marched with Army guardsmen of Company G from the courthouse at Seventh and Virginia to 10th and Main streets. Company G marched through two lines of the veterans to the Missouri Pacific train station, where they departed for wartime service in May 1898.

While the Missouri department boasted 36,000 members at its peak, the Joplin post reached its largest enrollment with 450 veterans. Service groups then were exclusive. The GAR did not accept veterans of the Spanish-American War, who, in turn, did not accept veterans of World War I. Nor did any accept women. However, the Woman's Relief Corps was formed as the GAR auxiliary in 1883.

The GAR held state encampments or reunions. In Baxter Springs, Kansas, Camp Logan, named for Gen. John Logan, was a regular destination for O.P. Morton veterans. It attained its maximum attendance through the first decade of the 1900s with 50,000 attendees. Even then, descriptions of GAR activities began to talk about "grey beards" or veterans walking with canes. Photos reflected the aging membership.

By 1917, when the U.S. entered World War I, the veterans of the GAR, Spanish-American War and Veterans of Foreign Wars hosted members of Company G, the regimental supply company and the hospital detachment of the Missouri National Guard in a farewell banquet at the market house at 12th and Main before the troops left from the Missouri Pacific station. Two years later, they were part of the estimated 150,000 people who greeted returning servicemen to Joplin in May 1919.

Those returning veterans formed their own Robert S. Thurman post in the new American Legion in July 1919. For a few years, there were four separate veterans groups existing alongside one another. With the membership of the GAR edging into their 80s, the O.P. Morton post was ready to pass the baton to the energetic young veterans. The News Herald reported in May 1922 that E.L. Schwartz, on behalf of the GAR, said it was time to hand over its "obligation of keeping their public holiday in reverence and respect to the younger organization: the American Legion."

Last commander

As the legion assumed those duties, the O.P. Morton post dwindled. It was down to four members in 1936. Dr. R.B. Tyler, former city physician, at 82, was the youngest in the post and in the GAR. In four years, Tyler, 86, and William H. Osborne, 97, were the last two. Tyler and Osborne both had been department commanders largely because of their longevity. Tyler died in 1941.

Osborne was spry and kept attending events. In 1942, he was invited to inspect Camp Crowder. He toured the camp and spoke on changes in Army procedures. Three years later, at age 102, he attended the 79th annual encampment in Columbus, Ohio.

Of the 162 remaining members nationwide, Osborne was touted as the next national commander. He had been the Missouri department commander since 1940. Interviewed by the UPI, he said he wasn't sure he wanted the job: "The white-haired old man sat in a hotel lobby, his cheeks apple pink and his old slouch hat askew. 'I've been nominated three times before for commander-in-chief. Somebody else can have it. It's too much sugar for a penny. The commander doesn't have much to do with the GAR anymore — the women run it to suit themselves.'"

He continued to attend GAR and WRC conventions. At 104, he was a featured speaker at the joint GAR-WRC convention in Cleveland in 1947. It was his last hurrah. William H. Osborne, the last member of the O.P. Morton Post No. 14 and Missouri department commander, died on Oct. 28, 1948, at age 105.

The O.P. Morton Post No. 14 faithfully memorialized the nation's veterans and passed that baton on to the American Legion and VFW.

Bill Caldwell is the retired librarian at The Joplin Globe. If you have a question you'd like him to research, send an email to wcaldwell@joplinglobe.com or leave a message at 417-627-7261.



**Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Missouri, O. P.
Morton Post No. 14 Records
(C0141)**

Collection Number: C0141

Collection Title: Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Missouri, O.P. Morton Post No. 14 Records

Dates: 1882-1943

Creator: Grand Army of the Republic

Abstract: Correspondence, accounts, financial and membership records, and minutes of meetings of a post organized in Joplin, Missouri, in 1882.

Collection Size: 1.5 cubic feet

(8 folders, 20 volumes)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Missouri, O.P. Morton Post No. 14 Records (C0141)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by W. H. Osborn on August 24, 1945 (Accession No. 266).

Processed by: Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia Staff, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Laura Jolley on May 29, 2020.

Historical Note:

The O. P. Morton Post No. 14 was established in Joplin, Missouri, on May 17, 1882, and was named for Indiana's governor during the Civil War. The purpose of the Grand Army of the Republic is to honor and remember the Union veterans of the American Civil War. At its peak, the O. P. Morton Post had 450 veterans as members. The last member of the post was William H. Osborne. He died at the age of 105 on October 28, 1948. Prior to his death in 1945, he donated the O. P. Morton Post No. 14 records to the University of Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Papers
Volumes

Scope and Content Note:

Papers

This series contains correspondence, 1932-1943, accounts and receipts, reports and miscellaneous ephemera.

Volumes

The volumes series includes account books, 1892-1933, Minute books, 1882-1933, and Membership books, 1882-1916.

Container List:

Papers Series

- f. 1 Correspondence, 1932-1943. Several letters concerned with official business and patriotic day plans of the Joplin, Missouri, post of the G.A.R. The last letters are to William H. Osborn, who was the Commander of the Missouri Department, 1936-1943.
- f. 2 Accounts and Receipts, 1909-1943. For rent, supplies, and expenses necessary to maintaining the G.A.R. post at Joplin, Missouri. There is a check book with receipted stubs.
- f. 3 Bank book and Statements, 1941-1943. Account of the Joplin, Missouri post of the G.A.R. with the Joplin National Bank and Trust Company.
- f. 4 Financial and Membership Report, 1943. Prepared by the assistant adjutant and the assistant quartermaster of the Missouri Department of the G.A.R.
- f. 5 Reports, 1915-1927. Roll of members mustered in the Joplin, Missouri, post of the G.A.R. Notice of the election of representatives and alternates to the state encampments. Also blank forms of physicians and chaplain.

- f. 6 Obituaries, 1902-1931. Resolutions of sympathy to the families of deceased members of the G.A.R. post at Joplin, Missouri.
- f. 7 Printed Items, 1900-1943. General orders from headquarters, 1900-1937; speech of Hon. John J. Fitzgerald, N.Y., member of the U.S. House of Representatives, on the "Naval Appropriations Bill," 1900; broadside against big business by the *National Tribune*, Washington D.C., 1932; report and roll of the 77th National Encampment of the G.A.R., 1943; miscellaneous items.
- f. 8 Miscellaneous papers associated with the Joplin, Missouri, post of the G.A.R.

Volumes Series

- v. 1-8 Account Books. Records of dues and fees, receipts and disbursements, and special funds of the Joplin, Missouri, G.A.R. post.
 - v. 1 1892-1898
 - v. 2 1898-1902
 - v. 3 1902-1907
 - v. 4 1908-1910
 - v. 5 1909-1911
 - v. 6 1911
 - v. 7 1911-1933
 - v. 8 1917-1933
- v. 9-17 Minute Books. Records of the minutes of the meetings of the Joplin, Missouri G.A.R. post. Also inserted are accounts, general orders correspondence, obituaries and clippings.
 - v. 9 1882-1889
 - v. 10 1889-1893
 - v. 11 1893-1899
 - v. 12 1899-1905
 - v. 13 1905-1909
 - v. 14 1909-1912
 - v. 15 1912-1918
 - v. 16 1919-1926
 - v. 17 1926-1933
- v. 18 Membership book, 1882-1916; contains list of members during those years, also a printed booklet of G.A.R. rules and regulations and printed bylaws, 1910-1911.
- v. 19 Military service record, no date: contains Civil War record of the members.
- v. 20 Roll of Kansas Volunteers, 1902: contains a list of officers and men of the 3rd, 4th, 18th and 19th Kansas Volunteers, 1861.

Index:

Index Term	Folders	Other
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Index Term	Folders	Other
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Veterans	1-8	v. 1-20