

THE

MISSOURI UNIONIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI - SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Volume 2 Issue 2 Originally Chartered June 2, 1883--Rechartered May 3, 1996 December 2007

FRATERNITY, CHARITY & LOYALTY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- CAMP NEWS - Page 2-7
- DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI EVENTS -Page 8-10
- MEET DEPARTMENT OFFICERS Page 11
- 4th MILITARY DISTRICT - Page 12
- NATIONAL DEPARTMENT NEWS – Page 13
- PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER – Page 14
- JULIA DENT GRANT TENT #16 DUVCW-Page 15
- TIDBITS OF CIVIL WAR HISTORY – Page 16
- SUTLERS STOP – Page 17



CAMP NEWS



PHELPS CAMP NO. 66



Phelps Camp No. 66, Dept. of Missouri participated in the Branson, Missouri Veterans Day parade on Sunday, November 11, 2007. The Camp's "Parade of the American Soldier" marching unit features a camp member in the uniform of the common soldier of the Revolution through the current War on Terrorism with authentic uniforms, weapons and equipment for their time period.

The "Parade of the American Soldier" is always a very popular unit in the parade, and the hundreds of people who lined the streets in Downtown Branson were cheering and shouting their approval.

Phelps Camp is proud to honor the sacrifices of all of our nation's military with this special tribute.

Todd Wilkinson
Camp Commander, Phelps Camp No. 66

Photo Credit: Nancy Clanton

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR UNION SOLDIERS AT THE BATTLE SITE OF LEXINGTON, MO

Phelps Camp #66 has recognized an opportunity to honor those who served the Union at one of the early battles in Missouri. One of their members while visiting the site noticed that there were markers on the battle site to mark many Confederate units but only one small one to pay honor to the Union soldiers who fought there. They have asked us to help them financially to present this monument at the site. The following is the information they are presenting to us. The Phelps Camp is hoping to raise \$5,000 for this monument. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, the information below is for your use.

**To make a donation, please contact:
Todd Wilkinson, Camp Commander
Phelps Camp No. 66, SUVCW
2017 S Link Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804-2542**

Make checks payable to "Phelps Camp No. 66" and write "Lexington Monument" in the memo line.



Note from the editor: On the second photo the text says it was erected by "Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veteran's." (To read text on monument increase size to 200%)

WESTPORT CAMP #64

On Saturday, September 15, 2007 Josh Campbell, Eagle Scout candidate, Independence, MO lead a group of nearly 30 scouts, leaders and parents to Carpenter Cemetery, located on the Johnson/Henry county line near Chilhowee, MO. The Scouts placed the monuments of two Confederate and nine Union Army Veterans upon their graves.

The graves were researched, marked and monuments ordered from the Veterans Administration by Lee Ward, Independence, MO a member the Sons of Union Veterans, Westport Camp #64. Ward is the Pastoral Care Director at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Independence, also home to the Scout troop. Ward formerly lived in Chilhowee, MO where he owned the Ward Funeral Home for many years before moving to Independence in 1991.

Carpenter Cemetery, formerly Walnut Grove Cemetery, has existed since 1845. Ward's great-grandfather Lafayette Ward, a Union veteran of the Civil War, is buried there as is his grandfather Oscar Ward and father Orval Ward; both of whom served on the Board of Carpenter Cemetery for more than 75 combined years. Ward's brother Earl Ward, Windsor, MO now serves as President of the Board.

Confederate veterans buried in Carpenter and now marked are Capt. Felix Lotspeich of Co. E, 3rd Battalion, MO Calvary and Jasper M. Anderson of Co. A, 3rd Tenn. Infantry.

Union veterans include Privates Sidney Wilson Carpenter, Richard B., William A., and Corp'l Mathias Smith Corson, Pvt. Lycurgus Fouch, Corp'l. James H. Vance, Pvt. George Porter and W. H. Porter.

Other Civil War veterans discovered were Ervin Crist, William Gilbaugh Smith, Lafayette Ward, Alexander Marion Butcher, and William Harrison Lively.

A Dedication of all Confederate and Union markers will be held at a later date this year.



Brother Lee Ward (kneeling)



McCORMICK CAMP #215



On November 4, 2007 members of the Department of Missouri SUV, participated in a ceremony at Walnut Grove Church near Potosi, MO. They were there to honor the memory and dedicate the new grave marker of Private Franklin Lefler the great great Grandfather of Brother Leon Lefler of McCormick Camp # 215. Private Lefler was a member of Company C, 32nd Enrolled Missouri Militia. L-R, Chris Warren Commander of the McCormick Camp, Walt Busch Commander of Dept. of Missouri, member of Grant Camp. Marty Aubuchon, member of Grant Camp. Re-

enactor of the artillery unit that fired three round honors. Dave Hagler, member of Sherman Camp, Gary Scheel, member of Grant Camp, and Bob Schmidt, member of McCormick Camp, and not in photo was Leon Lefler member of McCormick Camp. Photo by Mrs. Chris Warren.

Many members of the family were present. The oldest living relative laid a rose at the grave as well as Bob Schmidt member of the McCormick Camp laid a wreath of grape vines at the site of the grave. Private Franklin Lefler is the ancestor of Leon Lefler who is a member of the McCormick Camp. Brother Lefler gave a presentation of the history of his ancestor's service.

Photo by Walt Busch

At their last meeting new officers were chosen by the McCormick Camp #215. They are listed below.

2008 Officers

Camp Commander - Rod Price
Senior-Vice Commander - Doug Roussin
Junior-Vice Commander - Jeff Asberry
Camp Secretary - Chris Warren
Camp Treasurer - Dwain Asberry
Camp Council - Bob Schmidt, Walt Busch, Leon Lefler
Camp Chaplain - Chris Warren



GENERAL ASBOTH CAMP # 5



Photo's by Harold James

The General Asboth Camp #5 would like to thank Mrs. Linda Pape all the hard work and patience she put into this activity. Special thanks also goes to the artillery unit from Cape Girardeau who also participated with the firing of weapons over the marker with their artillery piece and firing their us. We also want to say a special thank you to Brenda D. Schloss who was instrumental in receiving permission to allow this Memorial stone to be placed at this historic cemetery. The VA refused to issue a marker as a memorial and for awhile it was cancelled until she found someone who would place on the VA furnished tombstone "In Memoriam."



like to thank Mrs. Linda Pape all the hard work and patience she put into this activity. Special thanks also goes to the artillery unit from Cape Girardeau who also participated with the firing of weapons over the marker with their artillery piece and firing their us. We also want to say a special thank you to Brenda D. Schloss who was instrumental in receiving permission to allow this Memorial stone to be placed at this historic cemetery. The VA refused to issue a marker as a memorial and for awhile it was cancelled until she found someone who would place on the VA furnished tombstone "In Memoriam."

Also in attendance were four members of the Ladies Auxiliary #1 Dept. MO. Mary J. James {President}, Brenda Taylor, Marty Cummings, Hope Cummings.



Columbia SUVCW Camp

A meeting was held on Saturday morning, October 6, 2007, at the Golden Corral restaurant in Columbia, MO, to explore this idea of forming a new SUVCW Camp.

The following individuals were present:

Bryan Bradford of Columbia
Wayne Sampson of Mexico
Jim Coy of Columbia
Allen Harger of Columbia
Emmett Taylor of Wentzville

Discussion centered around: getting information on SUVCW Camp previously in Columbia advertising in local media, getting information to the History Department at the University, getting a list of local Civil War re-enactors, and getting information on GAR Camp in Columbia

Those present agreed that definite steps should be taken to determine if there were others in the community who would like to join this effort. An open breakfast meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Saturday, November 17, 2007 at the Golden Corral, located off the I-70/HWY 63 exit on the east side of Columbia. The address is 3421 Clark Lane. Jim Coy (a retired Army Colonel and physician at the University Hospital) has agreed to personally fund an advertising campaign in five area newspapers to promote the meeting November 19, 2007.

A meeting was held at the Golden Corral on Saturday morning, Nov. 17th to discuss the possibility of a SUVCW camp in Columbia. The following men attended: Bryan Bradford, James Cunningham, Russell Devenney, Jr., Ed Lambeth, Roger McCoy, Floyd Strader, Paul Summitt, Emmett Taylor and Jim Coy

Others who have expressed an interest but were unable to attend are: Charles Boydston, Jim Chilcutt, Allen Harger, Warren Livingston, and Wayne Sampson.

Department Senior Vice Commander Emmett Taylor gave a presentation about the organization and history of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The group also discussed the possible name of a camp in Columbia. During the Civil War, there was a Missouri Home Guard unit in Columbia nicknamed "The Columbia Tigers". There was no vote on the name, but the consensus seemed to be that this might be a good name for the Columbia camp.

The group will meet again on Saturday, January 5, 2008, at 9:00-10:00AM at the Golden Corral in Columbia. Anyone interested in learning more about the proposed SUVCW Camp in Columbia, Mo can contact Jim McCoy at coyiv@socket.net or Emmett Taylor at eptaylor@mac.com.



DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI EVENTS



September 14, 2007, was the day that Captain Constantin Blandowski was honored by family members and members of the Department of Missouri. A representative of St. Louis City was there as well as Representative Russ Carnahan of the 3rd District. Members of the William T. Sherman/Billy Yank Camp # 65 have been working on this since the early 1990's. The family of Captain Blandowski was in charge of the ceremony and quite a large crowd assembled to pay tribute to the first officer to die during the Civil War. He was severely wounded in the march back from the Camp Jackson surrender and died later of his wounds. A stirring presentation about Captain Blandowski was given by our own Brother Vernon von de Heydt of Sherman Camp. There were many members of the family and members of the Marine Corps Honor Guard were there to render honors over the grave. The members of our department who were present are:

Major Jack Grothe William T. Sherman/Billy Yank Camp #65 (picture below from right to left)

Vernon von der Heydt Sherman/Billy Yank Camp #65

Walter Busch Department Commander and U. S. Grant Camp #68 Commander

Glen Alsop, Francis J. Wilhelmi Camp #17 Commander

Gary L. Scheel (not pictured) U. S. Grant Camp #68



Brother Vernon von de Heydt



All photo's by Walt Busch



Photo courtesy of Walt Busch

L-R: Major Jack Grothe, Commander 4th Military District (Sherman Camp #65), Tom Rung (Sherman Camp #65), Ed Eller (Sherman Camp #65), 2nd Lieutenant Marty Aubuchon (Grant Camp #68), Captain Emmett Taylor, Senior Vice Commander Department of Missouri (Asboth Camp #5), John Avery (Grant Camp #68), Walt Busch, Commander of Department of Missouri (Grant Camp #68), Greg Decker (Asboth Camp #5), and Charles Funck (Sherman Camp #65). Not pictured: Dan Jackson (Grant Camp #68).

On November 11, 2007 members of the Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War were at attendance at the Quinette Cemetery in Kirkwood, Missouri. Laid to rest in this cemetery are five African American veterans of the Civil War. They lie in unmarked graves and the only reminder of their presence in the cemetery is the blue plaques that commemorate their names and service in foreground of the photo shown above. This is one of the older African American cemeteries in Kirkwood and the St. Louis Area. The names of the men who were honored are:

Washington Green (1831-1878) Cook, USCT
 Willis Mitchell (1847- unk), Private USCT
 Henry Whitson (1831-1878) Sgt. 65 USCT, Co F
 George Washington Willis (?-1917), Sgt. USCT



Photo by Walt Busch

L-R: Commander of the Department of Missouri Walt Busch of Grant Camp #68, Tom Rung of Sherman Camp #65, Major Jack Grothe Commander 4th Military District a member of Sherman Camp #65 and Marty Aubuchon a member of Grant Camp #68.

At 3 p.m. on November 10, 2007, the Daughters of American Revolution had a ceremony at Memorial Park in Webster Groves, Missouri. There had been a time capsule placed previously at this memorial placed there by members of the Sons of Union Veterans and they requested that members of SUV be present on this date. The above four members of the Department of Missouri represented us all. A hearty THANK YOU and a job well done is given to you four. To the left is the photo of the memorial.



Photo by Walt Busch



MEET YOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER EMMETT TAYLOR

Emmett lives with his wife Brenda in a 19-century log home near Wentzville, Missouri. They have five grown sons, and six grandchildren.

Emmett has been a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War since 1994. He was initiated on December 8th of that year, deriving his right to membership from his Great Grandfather, Sgt. Frederick Schwaebe of Co. F, 4th Regt. MO Vol. Cavalry.

He currently is Sr. Vice Commander of the Department of Missouri, SUVCW since his election at the 2007 Department of Missouri Encampment. Previously, he served as Junior Vice Commander.

He served two terms as Commander of the Wm. T. Sherman Billy Yank Camp, #65 in St. Louis.

He was one of the charter members of the U.S. Grant Camp, # 68 in West St. Louis County. He was the organizer of the Major Francis Wilhelmi, Camp #17 in Washington, MO, and of the Gen Alexander S. Asboth, Camp #5 in Wentzville. At the request of the department commander, Emmett is currently working with a group of interested individuals, in forming a new SUVCW Camp in Columbia, MO.

Emmett was recognized by the C-IN-C, SUVCW at the National Encampments in 2002 and in 2004 for his work in recruiting new members and in forming a new camp.

He has served as Provost Marshall at National Encampments in Springfield, MO and in Springfield, IL.

Emmett serves as the Inspector General of the 4th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve. He is the Commander of Co C, 5th Regt. MO Vol. Cavalry, SVR, and wrote the SVR National Regulations that govern cavalry units.

Emmett P. Taylor is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, deriving right to membership from his ancestor, Hugh Whiteford Sr. who served in the 6th BN, York County Pennsylvania Militia, organized in 1776. He serves on the State Color Guard of that organization.

He has been an adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America for the past 20-years. He served twelve years as a reserve police officer in Overland, MO.

Emmett graduated from Missouri State University (SMS) in 1970 with a BS in Sociology. He earned a BS in Nursing from Missouri Baptist University in 1998, and an MA from Covenant Theological Seminary in 1989.

He is about to complete a 20-year career in the U. S. Army Reserve. Emmett is a graduate of the Army's Cavalry Scout School, the Army Medical Department Officer's Basic Course, the Officer's Advanced Course, and the Combined Arms & Staff Service School. He has been awarded the Army Achievement Medal x3, the Army Commendation Medal x2, the War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Expert Field Medical Badge.



4TH MILITARY DISTRICT



Major Jack Grothe, Commander of the 4th Military District, has submitted the following list of all the activities that various units of the Department of Missouri Sons of Veteran Reserve, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have participated in.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY MISSOURI SVR UNITS 2007

- Jan. 13 Remove decorations from graves of the unknown J.B Natl, Cemetery
- Feb. 24 Civil War swap meet at Jefferson Barracks county park
- Feb. 25 Sherman Day-Calvary Cemetery- St. Louis, Mo..
- April 14 Lincoln Tomb and GAR Founders Day-Springfield and Petersburg, IL.
- April 28 Grant's Hardscrabble monument re-dedication ceremony
- May 26 Color Guard-Webster Groves War Monument
- June 9 Color Guard-Missouri Dept. Encampment SUVCW
- June 23-24 Artillery School- Jefferson Barracks county Park
- Aug. 8 Colour Guard- DUVCW 1861-1865 Natl. Encampment
- Aug 9-11 Colour Guard- Provest Duty-Information booth
- Sept. 14 Memorial Grave Stone for Capt. Constantine Blandowski at J.B. Natl. Cemetery
- Sept. 22 Living History and re-enactment-Pilot Knob, Mo.
- Oct. 13 Living History-Thomas Jefferson School- Sunset Hills, Mo.
- Nov. 4 Grave Dedication of Pvt Franklin Lefler, Shirley, Mo.
- Nov. 10 Throckmorton Cemetery, 2 GAR markers placed/dedicated - Wildwood, MO.
- Nov. 10 Veterans Day Parade- St. Louis, Mo.
- Nov. 10 Elm St. Park - DAR Monument Memorial Service - Webster Groves, MO
- Nov. 11 Dedication of Black Civil War Veterans Plaque-Historic Quinette Cemetery Park-Kirkwood, Mo.
- Nov. 17 Remembrance Day-Gettysburg, Pa.
- Nov.30 Militia Banquet-Herman, Mo.
- Dec. 1 Place decorations on graves of the unknown-J.B. Natl. Cemetery

MO. SVR members have taken part in various CW re-enactments. living history and individual presentations at schools and othe sites.

NOTE: If you notice that your units activities are not recorded Major Grothe would appreciate to hear from you so he can update his records.



NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF SUVCW



Photo by Cher Petrovic

New officers are elected at the National Encampment at St. Louis, Missouri in August 2007.
Commander-in-Chief Charles E. Kuhn Jr. Department of Pennsylvania. (middle front row)
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert Department of Ohio (right of C-In-C)
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Leo F. Kennedy Department of Rhode Island (left of C-in-C)
National Secretary (2010) Donald D. Palmer Jr. Department of Missouri (far left front row)
National Treasurer (2010) Max L. Newman Department of Michigan
National Council of Administration Member Robert M. Petrovic Department of Missouri
(3rd from Left 2nd Row)

We are fortunate to have two members of our Department to have such confidence placed in them by the members of our organization that they were chosen to hold these offices in our National Department. It speaks well of our Department.

(Editor's Note) The information and photo contained on this page was copied from our National web site.



PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



John D. Avery, MA, CT, CFSP, PFC
Department Commander 2006-2007

John Avery is a native of Wayne, Michigan. He holds a Master's degree in education with extensive post-graduate work in counseling. He is also a Certified Thanatologist in Death, Dying & Bereavement, Certified Funeral Service Professional and a Certified Professional Family Counselor.

John is a licensed funeral director in the State of Missouri and was a staff member of the Schrader Funeral Home staff from 1986 until his retirement 2005. In 1989, he designed



and implemented the aftercare program and became the first Grief Specialist at Schrader Funeral Home. As part of this program John works with families following a death providing short term therapy, resources and referrals. He continues to work on for the Funeral Home on a contract basis. As a resource person to schools, churches and community organizations, John provides seminars and other resources in the area of death and grief issues. During his tenure as Grief Specialist, John helped develop the Crisis Intervention Manual for the Rockwood School District as well as

assisting other schools and organizations in developing intervention programs.

John has thirteen years experience as a public school teacher and holds a Life Teaching Certificate in the State of Michigan. As a diaconal minister in The United Methodist Church, John has fifteen years experience in pastoral counseling, church music, and education administration.

In 1997, John and his wife, Peggie, began Civil War reenacting as members of 8th MO Infantry. Zouaves and Ladies Aux. Respectively. In 1998, John purchased an 1860s hearse, restored it and in 1999, began his impression of a Civil War embalming surgeon. At that time Peggie developed a "lady in mourning" first person impression.

John joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, U.S. Grant Camp #68, in 1999, under his gr. gr. Uncle, Charles Avery. He served as a private in Co. H, 5th. Michigan Cavalry. John also has two other gr. gr. Uncles who serviced in Michigan Infantry Regiments

John and Peggie live in Manchester, Missouri. They have four grown daughters, five grandchildren and one dog. In his spare time, John enjoys reenacting as a Civil War undertaker/embalming surgeon. He is also active in the St. Andrew Scottish Society of Greater St. Louis and Missouri Tartan Day Festival, and is involved as a member Manchester United Methodist Church.



JULIA DENT GRANT TENT # 16



Kathryn Mozelle (Dicken) Wilson MISSOURI REAL DAUGHTER JOINS ST. LOUIS TENT #16

Kathryn Wilson was a very charming and congenial person who loved to share her several scrapbooks which she made pertaining to her Civil War father, Hardy Clemon Dicken. Dicken was a sharp shooter in the Illinois 120th Regiment, Company A. He also was a survivor of the Andersonville Prison. These scrapbooks, not only contained all the Federal and State records, and pension papers, but also photos and news clippings on their family.

Kathryn is the youngest of the 14 children of Hardy Dicken and his 4th wife, Nancy Caroline Louisa Jane Pennington. Kathryn was nine years old when her father died at the age of 89 years, 3 months, and 6 days. Being that she was the youngest, she often stayed at home with her father, while the others went to church. He said that she would just fall asleep there anyway. It was during these times together that he shared his war stories with her.

While at the Andersonville Prison, he ate ground corn meal with corn cobs. Also once a day they were allowed to drink the water at the branch. And if they were caught trying to get a drink at another time, they would be shot. Whenever a prisoner would die, the rest of the prisoners would fight over the possessions of the dead man.

Since Dicken was a sharp shooter, it was important for him to keep his muzzle loading gun in the best condition, so Kathryn always watched him as he took the gun down from the wall above his bed, and cleaned it at least once a month. He tried to teach some of Kathryn's bothers to shoot it, but only one was interested.

One of the hazards of the war was the lack of good shoes and warm socks and this resulted in his frost bit feet. He would always sleep with knee high wool socks--all year long. Kathryn would love to snuggle her feet next to his wool socks for warmth for herself.

Dicken also 'doctored with herbs' which he learned in the Civil War. Mullein leaves made a tea which they drank when they had a cold. Sassafras roots made another tea.

Dicken was a farmer, but by the time Kathryn was born, her older brothers had taken over most of that work. They grew hay, wheat, and oats. Kathryn did enjoy going to the store in the buck wagon with her father. He received a \$10 monthly pension check because he had contracted the 'disease of the lungs' (TB) He would buy coffee, sugar, flour, salt, baking powder and soda...plus there was also a small bag of candy for Kathryn.

Kathryn said that her father made the best corn pone cornbread around. After her father died, her mother could not make it as good as he did.

Kathryn said that they were a very close knit family, and they were raised around the activities of the church. When they all got together they were one big happy family. They all loved each other and had fun.

The family farm was 80 acres; and a half acre was set aside for the family cemetery, which was in front of the family's home. A metal archway in front of the cemetery says, "Dicken's Cemetery--In Memory of Hardy C. Dicken". Here Kathryn's father was placed at rest between his 3rd and 4th wives.

Kathryn was later married to Eugene Wilson, who worked for the Missouri Pacific Rail Road. They had two daughters.

It was a real honor to have met and talked with Kathryn and to have gotten her membership for our tent.

Submitted by: Ruth Marie Funck, PNP
Julia Dent Grant Tent #16
St. Louis, MO
DUVCW



TIDBITS OF CIVIL WAR HISTORY



The following article was recently published in the Nov - Dec, 2007, issue of *THE BORDER STAR*, which is the newsletter of the Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri. It is re-printed here with the permission of the author, Judy Tharp, who, like me, is a member of the roundtable. - John Martin, Westport Camp # 64

A Story From Platte County Missouri "Old Kickapoo"

Old Kickapoo was a smoothbore six pounder cannon brought back from the Mexican War by the famous Colonel Alexander Doniphan, a national hero of that war. He returned to Liberty, Mo., to practice law and somehow, in 1848, the cannon ended up in Weston, Mo. Judy says it was used to fire welcoming salvos to arriving steamboats and to fire salutes on patriotic holidays.

" It was stolen from Weston in 1856 by the Kickapoo Rangers, fiercely Pro -Slavery men. On May 21, 1856 it was used in a raid on Lawrence, a strongly Free State town. The Pro-Slavery mob threw the town's printing presses into the Kaw River and tried to destroy the Eldridge Hotel with cannon balls. However, one shot missed, another lobbed through a window and a third bounced off the wall. They ended up torching the hotel when the cannon failed to do the job. Nevertheless, "Old Kickapoo" is considered to have fired the first (quasi) military shots in the preliminaries of the Civil War. In the dead of night, some Free State Leavenworth men, led by attorney H. Miles Moore, "liberated" the cannon from the Kickapoo Rangers from where they had it stationed in a peach orchard near the settlement of Kickapoo – about four miles north of Leavenworth on the Missouri River.

For safe keeping, the Free Staters buried and reburied the cannon in various fields in Leavenworth and Lawrence, to keep the Kickapoo Rangers from recapturing it. When the border troubles of the mid 1850's had subsided somewhat, the old cannon was disinterred for the last time, and given to the Turnerverein of Leavenworth.

Sometime during that long caper, it got the name "Old Kickapoo." During the Civil War "Old Kickapoo" was enough to persuade the captain of the steamer "Sam Gaty" to lower the Confederate Stars and bars and run up Old Glory. On the Fourth of July, after the Civil War, the Turners and their rifle company would parade with "Old Kickapoo."

But gradually, the old cannon fell into disuse. Nobody cared anymore.

Then in 1881, it occurred to someone that the cannon might be useful in opening the mine shaft of the old Leavenworth Coal Co., which was clogged with debris. It was taken down the air shaft, loaded with solid shot, and fired upward into the debris. The debris didn't budge, but the gun burst tearing a huge chunk from the underside.

Happily, someone had the foresight to salvage the torn off fragment. Nobody paid attention to the mutilated old cannon until in 1884, when it was spotted in an alley in downtown Leavenworth by H. Miles Moore, head of the original "liberation party." He discovered that it was about to be sent to Chicago to be melted down as old brass.

With the help of the Kansas Historical Society, the old veteran cannon was saved from the foundry. The blown off fragment was made into little "charms" that were exact replicas of "Old Kickapoo" and sold for \$1 each along with a souvenir historical pamphlet. One of my brothers inherited my mother's charm bracelet, and one of these perfect little cannons hangs from it. The rest of "Old Kickapoo" is on display at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka." – Judy Tharp

Drawing of "Old Kickapoo"





SUTLER'S STOP

Ward Reflects On Career As Embalmer And Author

By SUE STERLING
Star-Journal Staff Writer

Lee Ward knew from the age of 8 that he wanted to be an undertaker and embalmer.

A native of Blairstown, Ward says he was inspired by the experience of seeing his grandmother, Alice Albin Ward, who was killed in a car accident on Oct. 16, 1954, restored to a lifelike state by Chilhowee morticians J.W. and Sammy Cook, who owned the former Cook Funeral Home in Chilhowee.

Ward never wavered from that early interest, and he went on to a 45-year career in the funeral industry, eventually buying the Cook Funeral Home in Chilhowee and operating it, and another in Ulrich, as the Ward Funeral Home from 1969 to 1991. He also served as the minister of the Chilhowee Methodist Church for 17 years. He then worked at Speaks Funeral Home in Independence for 10 years until he retired.

He is now director of Pastoral Care at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Independence, a position he has held for six years, where he does grief counseling, which he sees as an extension of his role as funeral director.

Ward's passion for undertaking, which he sees as "more a ministry than a job," combined with his fascination for Civil War history, stemming from a great-grandfather who fought in the Civil War, has resulted in the publication of his second book, "Coffins, Kits, and More: Stories of Civil War Embalmers."

Ward's first book, "The Civil War Diaries of Sgt. Harrison Whittemore," also focused on Civil War history.

Ward said his interest in embalming also was piqued by the story his grandfather told about the undertaker coming to their farmhouse to embalm the great-grandfather, who had died at age 36 from complications from an illness he suffered during his war service. The experience made an impression on his grandfather, then only 3 years old, he said.

Ward will hold a book signing, sponsored by the Johnson County Historical Society, at the Old Courthouse on North Main



Lee Ward

Street, Warrensburg, from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29.

And while thousands of books have been written on the Civil War, Ward says his book is a "pioneer book," since none has ever been written on Civil War embalming, which is where modern embalming started.

Ward spent five years researching the book, stating he "started gleaning" small items and "doing a lot of traveling" to compile the history detailed in his book.

Embalming as we know it "did not exist before the Civil War," Ward said. Although a few medical schools taught it, the procedure was dangerous as it used arsenic, which often proved fatal to the embalmer.

But a method of preserving the bodies of soldiers to bring them home to their families prompted experimentation with various chemicals until Dr. Thomas Holmes developed a "recipe" that he began "selling by the barrelful," Ward said.

Zinc was known to be a natural preservative, he said, and people who could afford it had been using zinc-lined coffins, which would allow them to dig up the bodies of their deceased loved ones, a common practice of the bereaved in those times. So the early embalming fluids contained zinc.

"A lot of knowledge came out of France," Ward said, where a doctor had also developed a technique for embalming. But most of the early-day embalmers, who

were also medical doctors, were involved in "a lot of experimenting on their own."

And the techniques they developed are not so different from techniques used in modern funeral homes, Ward said, although the equipment and fluid used has changed. And embalming is no longer done on the dining room table in the family home, he added.

The undertaker and embalmer had separate duties until about 1885-1900, when the professions merged "as soon as embalming schools opened," Ward said.

Funeral homes did not come into common use until the early 1900s, said Ward, who has amassed a collection of embalming artifacts dating from the Civil War to the 1960s. He now operates a museum at his Independence home, where he gives tours to groups and individuals.

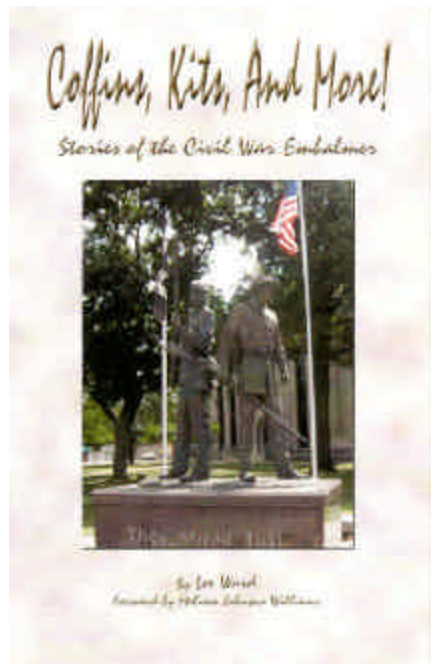
Although some may consider the topic of embalming to be a bit morbid, Ward said, "If (his book) has any dark side, it's the chapter on Gettysburg," adding, "That was a bloody, dark battle."

Ward said the book "shows what embalmers had to step into" in the daunting task of trying to recover and preserve the bodies of the thousands of soldiers who had been killed or died later from their injuries.

While readers may question why they want to read a book on Civil War embalming, Ward said a man who had been doubtful about the book told him at a recent book-signing in Clinton that he "couldn't put (the book) down once he started" reading it. And he said the reader's wife also found she couldn't put it down. "She said, 'It captures you,'" Ward said.

In addition to chronicling the lives of six of the early embalmers, the book also describes funeral practices of the times. A lengthy section also provides detailed historical accounts of the deaths and embalming and funerals of President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate States President Jefferson Davis, which thrust embalming "further in the public eye."

Brother Lee Ward of Westport Camp # 64 has written a book about Civil War embalming. His ancestor, Lafayette Ward, served in the 135th Regiment, Indiana Vol. Infantry. Lee is his great-great Grandson.



Brother Lee Ward of the Westport Camp # 62 has written a book entitled "Coffins, Kits and More!" The article on the previous page was carried in the Warrensburg, MO, Star-Journal, a local newspaper near his home. The price of the book and where it can be purchased is below. So show this to your wife and put it on your Christmas list and maybe Santa will put this in your stocking.

To order his book you can contact him by e-mail at ilward64050@yahoo.com

His book sales for \$17.95 and shipping is \$2.50

BOOKS FOR SALE FROM: Julia Dent Grant, Tent #16 DUVCW

Our new book IV titled "**Women – Our Civil War Heritage and Other Notable Women**" has been released. It is a great book with lots of Civil War history. The book is 244 pages plus an index and photos. Thanks to Sister Rebecca Konersmann for initiating this project when she was President of our tent and to the book committee who worked so hard to get it completed. For your copy send your check for \$ 15.00 plus \$3.00 if mailed to:

Mrs. Pat Volkmann, Treasurer
2842 Cherry Point Lane
Maryland Heights, MO 63043-1708

We also have Book II titled "**St. Louis – Our Civil War Heritage**" available for \$10.00 each plus \$3.00 postage if mailed. These books will make great Christmas Gifts or great donations to local libraries. Order your copy today while supplies last

CIVIL WAR BOOKS BY BOB SCHMIDT OF McCORMICK CAMP #215

History of the Grand Army of the Republic Post 215- Paper \$22 (includes shipping)

Send check or Money Order to: Bob Schmidt 573-358-7946

5984 Hwy Y
French Village, MO 63036

2007 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT ITEMS FOR SALE

Polo shirts with encampment arch logo on them. \$30.00
Logan Medals limited supply and they are numbered \$15.00
Encampment medals with arch logo on them \$7.50
Arch logo gold GAR badge on them \$7.50
Goodie bags \$10.00

Special offer

Logan Medal, Encampment arch medal and Arch button \$20.00

If you are interested in purchasing the above items contact Robert Petrovic at

RPetro7776@aol.com