



The Missouri Unionist



Volume 4 Originally Chartered June 2, 1883 – ReChartered May 3, 1996 Winter 2012-2013

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Missouri - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The Commander in Chief and National Auxiliary President Are Coming!



*Photo By Cher Petrovic

The upcoming 18th Department of Missouri's Encampment will host two very special guests this year: SUVCW Commander-in-Chief, Perley Mellor and National Auxiliary President Jane Graham. This will be a rare occasion to have two of the GAR's Allied Orders National leaders at our encampment. For more information, registration forms, and etc., please see pages 12 – 15. Also, members need to wear their badges (Dept. Officers are required), and you will need a signed credentials card. We hop to see you all there!



Charter draped in accordance to General Orders #18, passing of Real Daughter, Emily Jane Dinsmoor Stevens.



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The “Missouri Unionist” is the official Newsletter of the
Department of Missouri – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Issues are published, electronically, quarterly, with submissions coming from camps and members within the
Department’s boarders.

Each issue is placed onto the Department of Missouri’s web-site, www.suvcwmo.org for viewing by its members.

The editor assumes no responsibility for incorrect information, mis-quotes, or omissions of articles.

For more information or to send materials for publication, please contact:

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(573) 431-1860



Letter from the Editor



Members of the Department of Missouri – S.U.V.C.W.:

My thanks goes out to all of the camps who have faithfully sent articles in for the “Missouri Unionist.” Also, here is the upcoming date for the next issue. Please submit items by the following date, so that they may be included. Remember, this our newsletter, and it is our way of letting each other, the organization, and the public, know just what we do to honor the memory of our boys in blue and the G.A.R. If you have any questions about submissions/articles, please feel free to contact me.

In closing, with taking another term as Camp Commander of the McCormick Camp, serving as Unit Commander of one SVR unit and adjutant of another, Camp Council of the Fletcher Camp, my Department of Missouri offices (ROTC Award Coordinator and Department Council), and serving as Councillor of the Volker Auxiliary, my plate is very full at the present. So, after the next article, I will no longer be publishing the “Missouri Unionist.” I wish the next Department Commander well, and will allow him to find a suitable replacement. Also, I encourage the Department of Missouri to set some guidelines/job description for the new editor, as to assist him in his duties. I do appreciate the honor of having served these last two years as the editor, and will be available to assist the new person, should they need some help.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submissions Deadline</u>	<u>Tentative Publication Date</u>
Spring 2013 Issue	Saturday, May 11, 2013	Friday, May 24, 2013

**Articles should be in Microsoft Word or PDF format.
Any photos should be sent as jpeg image(s).*

***Also, if anyone has any upcoming events, deaths of camp members, or historic articles for the “History Corner” (pertaining to Missouri’s Civil War, they should also be submitted for publication.*

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMANDER

In approximately two months the Missouri Department will have their encampment on Saturday June 1, 2013 in St. Louis, MO. A big thank you is in order for the Encampment Site Committee consisting of Brothers Robert Petrovic and Walter Busch. They have worked hard to secure a suitable location and to make final arrangements. We had hoped to have the meeting in Rolla, MO but due to the lack of available facilities, a different location was chosen. As arrangements were being finalized, the Department learned that we would be visited by Commander in Chief Perley Mellor. This is in addition to a visit by the Auxiliary Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War President Jane Graham. Consequently different arrangements were made. A visit by two National Officers is a first for Missouri. This is an opportunity for you to meet and network with two National Officers. Missouri is known as the Show Me State. Let's support the National Officers with your attendance. I challenge the Brothers of the Department to attend this encampment.

By the time of this newsletter release every Camp should have completed their Annual Membership renewal forms and have or will have forwarded this information to the Department Secretary and Treasurer. Quarterly reports are also due and need to be sent to the Department Secretary. As stated many times before, these reports are important. They are a form of communication between the Camps and the Department and between the Department and the National Organization. We currently have fifteen camps located in Missouri and Arkansas.

Two major items of business at the Department Encampment is the presentation of Awards and the election of officers. Application forms for the Eads and Blair Awards are available at the Missouri Department website: suvcmo.org. Senior Vice Commander Larry Dietzel is the Awards Chairperson. The elected officers are Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer and one Council member. The Secretary and two Council Members have another year in their term of office.

If you are interested in one of the elected positions, please declare your intention for candidacy to the Department Camps prior to the encampment. It is important to develop a slate of officers. Candidate(s) for Commander should also prepare a list of appointed officers for submission to the Department Secretary after election.

The Department is seeking a volunteer for the Signals Officer to maintain the Department's website and will need a volunteer for the Missouri Unionist Editor after June. Please contact a Department Officer if you have an interest in one of these positions.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Martin Aubuchon, Commander

Phelps Camp #66 – Springfield, Missouri

The "Battle of Springfield" photo--On January 8, 2013, members of Phelps Camp assisted the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation at a ceremony marking the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Springfield. The ceremony, which took place on the historic Springfield square, consisted of the presentation of the colors, remarks by Dr. Bill Piston and Foundation officers, and the unveiling of a prototype of the new Battle of Springfield driving tour markers.



The Branson Parade photo--On November 11, 2013, members of Phelps Camp marched in the Branson, Missouri, Veterans Day Parade. The camp's "Parade of the American Soldier" unit portrays the American infantryman from the American Revolution to the present.



St. James Camp # 326 – Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

On 17 November 2012 Camp Commander Tom Greminger gave a presentation to a Boy Scout group in Bloomsdale, MO. There were seventeen Boy Scout and leaders that listened to Commander Greminger presentation and looked at his display of weapons and knapsack display.

On 1 December 2012 eight members of our camp and one member of our Ladies Auxiliary participated in the annual Holiday Christmas Festival Parade. We had five members representing the Civil War and three members representing the French Colonial Militia.



15 December Tom Farlow and Gary Scheel participated in Wreaths Across America ceremony at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis. Gary laid a wreath at the marker of Private Benedict Steele who was from Ste. Genevieve and was a member of Company K, 47th Missouri Infantry Regiment.

On 8 January we installed our Camp officers. Camp Co. is Tom Greminger, Sr. Vice Paul Cameron, Jr. Vice Samer Zoughaib, Secretary Bob Mueller and Treasurer Tom Farlow.



On 12 February we welcomed a new member to our Camp. Ed Millinger joined our camp and is shown with Camp Commander Tom Greminger presenting his Membership badge. Brother William Zoughaib was also presented his Associate Membership badge. William has been a member of our camp since he was eleven years old.

16 February Tom Farlow participated in an activity at the Perryville Veterans Museum.

24 February Gary Scheel participated in the ceremonies during General Sherman Ceremony at Calvary Cemetery. The new flag pole placed at his grave site was greatly appreciated and does honor his memory.

28 February Gary Scheel gave a presentation to an honors class at Ste. Genevieve High School.

Our Camp and Ladies Auxiliary will give a Civil War presentation outside at St. Agnes Catholic Elementary in Bloomsdale, MO.

May 3, 4 & 5. STE. GENEVIEVE CIVIL WAR CAMP

We will sponsor the Ste. Genevieve Civil War Camp again this year. Friday May 3rd will be a school day in which we have invited 5th graders from local schools to participate.

Saturday May 4th the activities will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. There will be a re-enactment at 1 p.m. on the corners of Main and Merchant Streets.

Sunday May 5th the activities will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m.

Grant Camp #68 – St. Louis, Missouri

2013 has been a busy year so far for our camp. We have had great attendance at each of our meetings. And we are trying to have some type of discussion at each meeting to keep them from being so bloody boring. We have gained 4 new members with the possibility of a few more in the wings. This sequential stuff is helping our numbers. Our newest member is David Marshall and he is 14. He is getting ready for his Eagle Scout court of honor on April 7th. His Eagle Scout project was named the best Eagle Scout project in the United States. I have not yet met David but I am looking forward to meeting him. Maybe he can bring in some new ideas to our camp and the department.

A few of our members attended Sherman Remembrance Day – it was a beautiful day and Billy Yank Camp did a great job putting it together. Our camp member and past camp commander Dan Jackson was to play taps, but was under the weather and sends his apologies to Sherman Camp for not attending. Our SVR unit the 2nd MO is planning on making the trip to Springfield to honor our fallen President and the founder of the GAR in Petersburg later in the day.



Memorial Day is around the corner and we are going to have some of our members attend the Scouting Good Turn on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day. Our plans are to be in uniform without any weapons and walk around the Civil War section to help guide the scouts and answer any of their questions. This not just a Grant Camp event – we welcome anyone to help us promote our ancestors. One of our members who attends the Naval Academy will be giving the key note address to the Scouts before they place the flags on the graves.

And finally the camp is working on the details of our Grant Remembrance Ceremony to be held at White Haven on July 20th. We are hoping to have a living history along with a presentation.

Sigel Camp #614 – Rolla, Missouri

Sigel Camp #614, Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, has not been idle as the mild winter begins to thaw into an early spring. New camp officers were installed on 13 January 2013 at the Columbia College campus in Rolla, Missouri, by Sigel Camp member and Department Secretary Randal A. Burd, Jr. Camp Chaplain C. Scott Brown is the new Commander for Sigel Camp #614, while Steve Allen remains the camp's Secretary / Treasurer.

Sigel Camp Secretary / Treasurer Steve Allen participated in the Sherman Day Ceremony on 13 February 2013 at the grave of General William Tecumseh Sherman at Calvary Cemetery in north St. Louis, Missouri. This annual remembrance ceremony is hosted by William T. Sherman/Billy Yank Camp #65, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The ceremony included an SVR color guard as well as an honor guard and cannon volley by the Turner Brigade, a mostly Missouri-based reenactor group. Allen is currently the President of the Turner Brigade Association, which is an umbrella group including both military and civilian groups of reenactors.



Sigel Camp #614 was well-represented at the 9 March 2013 reenactment Turner Brigade held at Fort Davidson in Pilot Knob, Missouri. Sigel Camp Commander C. Scott Brown with grandson, Holden Snyder, and Sigel Camp Secretary / Treasurer Steve Allen with sons, Reth and J.T., all dressed out for the occasion and took part in the event. This was the third year for this particular reenactment, and the Sigel Camp boys saw a lot of familiar faces from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the event.



Sigel Camp Senior Vice Commander and Signals Officer Randal A. Burd, Jr. enjoyed a break from shuffling the Department of Missouri's paperwork to promote Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on the radio. Burd, who also serves as the Secretary for the Department of Missouri, was on LBNN AM 740 in Lebanon, Missouri, on 14 March 2013. Interviewed by Patty Burns on the program, "Community Ties," Burd answered questions about several aspects of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on the Camp, Department, and National level.

Sigel Camp #614, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, looks forward to the coming "busy season" and is always looking for ways to further the mission of the order. If you would like join Sigel Camp #614 or have questions about the Sons of Union Veterans in the Phelps / Pulaski County area, you can contact the camp's Senior Vice Commander, Randal A. Burd, Jr., at raburdjr@gmail.com.

McCormick Camp # 215 – Farmington / Park Hills, Missouri



The Gen. James R. McCormick Camp 215 took a few to rest and spend with our families after our holiday dinner in December 2012; however, by February 2013, we were back at it again.

On February 3rd, Camp Commander – Chris Warren, gave a special program titled “Civil War Flags of Missouri & Arkansas” to the South Central Missouri Civil War Round Table in Rolla, MO. He was asked by the Mayor of Herculaneum, MO to do this program for their Historical Society on April 4th at 7:00 p.m. (at the city’s fire house) as well.

Then, on February 16th, the camp, along with the Fletcher Camp, Volker Auxiliary, and Tom Farlow of St. James Camp, presented a Civil War history day for the Perry County Military History Museum. This was to assist with their opening of the Missouri Traveling Civil War exhibit. The news crew from KFVS 12 in Cape Girardeau once again came and took some photos and interviewed members. In addition, the Perryville Republic newspaper also got photos and interviewed members for an article.



Then, on February 23rd, the camp presented an SUVCW Eagle Scout Award to a deserving young man at his court of honor, in Farmington, MO. This makes about the tenth one the camp has presented in the last year and a half.

The next day on February 24th, members of the camp and Volker Auxiliary participated in the annual Sherman Day festivities in St. Louis. They also stopped by Capt. Thomas H. Macklind & Louisa Volker Macklind’s graves in Bellefontaine Cemetery, and placed flags and flowers on them.

Finally, March 9th saw members of the camp & auxiliary participating in Turner Brigade’s Spring Drill at Fort Davidson State Historic Site in Pilot Knob, MO. Chris Warren was asked to lead a staff ride of the battlefield for the 1st Missouri Engineers, and the group discussed the errors, possibilities of what could have been done differently, commanders, and tactics of the battle.



April, May, & June promises to be busy for this group as well. We have a Living History (with the Fletcher Camp) upcoming at the Thomas C. Fletcher House in Hillsboro, MO on April 20-21; then, a Civil War encampment on April 27th in Leadington, MO; the St. James Camp’s Civil War Camp on May 4th; Pioneer Day – 4th Grade Civil War Day in Farmington, MO on May 9th; Artillery School on May 18th; a Living History at Fort D on May 25th; and the Department Encampment on June 1st. This will also be coupled with at least two JROTC Awards to be presented.

One last item, the Gen. James R. McCormick Camp 215 – SUVCW has a new web-site! This will be in addition to our Facebook page, and we encourage people to check it out at the following:

www.genjamesrmccormickcamp215-suvcw.weebly.com

Fletcher Camp #47 – De Soto, Missouri

The Fletcher Camp has also been very busy this year! We had our installation of officers at our January meeting, and have had a couple of new members join our camp.



February saw us participating in a Civil War history day for the Perry County Military History Museum. This was for their opening of the Missouri Traveling Civil War exhibit. KFVS 12's news guys from Cape Girardeau came and took some photos and interviewed members. Also, the Perryville Republic came and got photos and interviewed members for an article.

Also that month, several of our members attended the annual Swap Meet at Jefferson Barracks Park in St. Louis. Camp Commander, Doug Roussin had his tables with original Civil War artifacts, and some of our members got some good deals on uniforms/equipment for our SVR and Living History portrayals.

Next, March saw us back at it, as members of our camp, along with several other SUVCW and ASUVCW members, participated in the Spring Drill held by Turner Brigade in Pilot Knob, MO.

In closing, we have several activities which are forthcoming:

April:

Living History at the Thomas C. Fletcher House in Hillsboro, MO on April 20-21

March Back in Time Civil War encampment on April 27th in Leadington, MO

St. James Camp's Civil War Camp on May 4th

May:

Pioneer Day – 4th Grade Civil War Day in Farmington, MO on May 9th

Artillery School on May 18th

Living History at Fort D on May 25th

June:

Department Encampment on June 1st.



Wilhelmi Camp #17 – De Soto, Missouri

FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERANS HALL OF HONOR

The Veterans Hall of Honor was created eight years ago. The Franklin County Commission, following an inspection of the existing historic courthouse during planned renovations, decided to create a dedicated space for veterans. For many years a listing of World War II veteran's names was displayed in the hallway of the building. During the 1970's veterans who perished during the Vietnam era were added. While these attempts at honoring veterans were commendable, the Hall of Honor program was created to honor all Franklin County veterans who served in the United States military during both war and peace times, throughout our country's history.

The Hall of Honor committee established the following criteria to qualify veterans in the program:

- Born or raised in Franklin County; or
- Lived in Franklin County for 10 years or longer; or
- Lived in Franklin County at time of entry into service; or
- Buried in Franklin County or lived in Franklin County at time of death; and,
- Veteran must possess an honorable discharge.

The fully renovated Historic Court House and Veterans Hall of Honor Museum was dedicated in 2010. The museum had a rather meager start from a financial standpoint. But since its opening and under the guidance of the board of directors, over \$33,000 has been raised. The funding was used to expand exhibits and displays which enhance the museum's public appeal. Additional fundraising is planned during the next year with a \$16,000 goal to add more exhibits of military interest or historical significance.

Research and identification of veteran's names, and verification of their service, has been a primary goal of the Veteran's Hall of Honor since the very beginning. At the present time well over 15,000 names are recorded, and the research continues to expand this number.

During the last several years the Hall of Honor Board joined forces with the County Tourism Committee and the Heritage Tourism Committee to promote Civil War tourism in Franklin County. This collaboration provides an opportunity to promote understanding of the Civil War, and the contribution of veterans. The next printing of a Franklin County tourism map will feature local Civil War historical sites. This effort will promote both tourism and honoring our history. Additionally, a Civil War round table was established in 2012 as an educational forum to discuss Civil War topics, open to all who have an interest in this historical period as it celebrates the 150th Anniversary .

The Franklin County Veterans Hall of Honor is grateful to the members of the Sons of the Union Veterans who have provided assistance with research and contributed to the success of our growing organization.

Gen. William T. Sherman Flagpole Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis, MO



In 2012 the flag pole at General Sherman's grave site fell over and could not be repaired. The ceremony at his grave in February 2012 a temporary flag pole was erected. In just one short year with the help of different organizations the funds were raised in order to have present at the February 2013 ceremony a new flag pole. The flag pole in the photo is it.

Many thanks to The Civil War Roundtable of St. Louis and the Ladies Union Aid Society (LUAS) were the major contributors. Members of the 1st Missouri Engineers helped to set the flag pole and their work on this project is greatly appreciated.

There are plans for a dedication but the date has not been officially set yet. We hope to enhance this site and make it more of a tribute to General Sherman.

We are looking for members of the SUVCW whose ancestors served under General Sherman's command during the Civil War. If you are interested in honoring your ancestor and contribute to the enhancement of the grave site of General Sherman please contact Jack Grothe at 727 Zeiss Ave. St. Louis MO. 63125-1421 or 314-631-7492 or JackGrothe@att.net

Submitted by Gary Scheel

Department of Missouri's 18th Annual Encampment

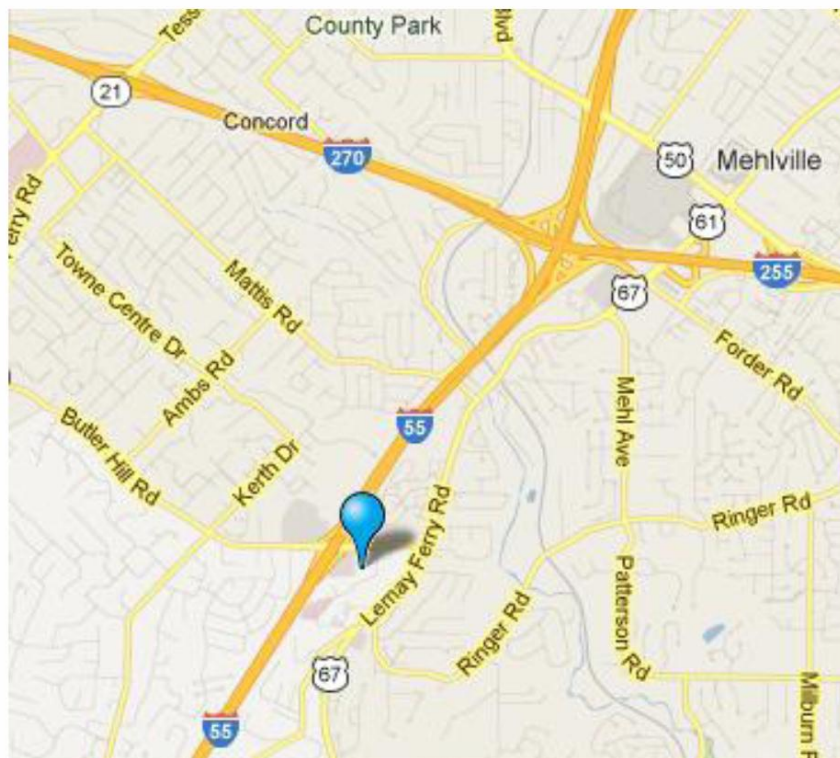
2013 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2013 – MEHLVILLE, MISSOURI



Holiday Inn - South

4234 Butler Hill Rd.
St. Louis MO 63129
(800) 785-2328

N38.484351,W90.35525



After several years away from the Holiday Inn – South St. Louis we are returning, because this year we are being honored by having both the National Commander-in-Chief SUVCW Perley Mellor and the President of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW Jane Graham at our Encampment.

Friday, 31 May 2013

6:00 PM – Social Hour

7:00 PM – Dinner with Commander and President

Saturday, 1 June 2013

Agenda

7:30 - 9:00 am Registration

9:00 am - Department Business Session I

12:00 noon – Lunch

1:00 pm - Department Business Session II

4:00 pm - Elections/Officer Installation

5:00 pm – Adjourn

6:00 pm - Dinner with Commander and President

TO ALL CAMPS:

Camps wishing to have a brag board must create their own. Also camps wishing to sell camp items may bring them for display..

Currently the following will most likely have items for sale.

1. Department of Missouri
2. SUVCW Foundation – Assorted items.
3. US Grant Camp –Grant Challenge Coins & Battle of PK 2014 Medallion Set

**2013 Missouri Department Encampment
Pre-Registration Form
(Please Return Forms by May 25, 2013)**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

DEPARTMENT _____

CAMP NAME NUMBER _____

CURRENT/HIGHEST PAST OFFICE/DELEGATE/ALTERNATE _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Please return this form and check payment made out to **Dept of Missouri SUVCW** to:

**Walter Busch, PDC
1240 Konert Valley Dr.
Fenton, MO 63026**

Registration Fee (\$7 each / \$10 at the door) = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Notes :

1. The department will provide soft drinks, water and coffee.

Questions? Please contact:

Walt Busch (314) 630-8407 wbusch@suvchwmo.org

NOTE: Attendees MUST present a signed credentials card & membership card at the Encampment in order to complete the registration process and be admitted. Credentials cards should be provided by your Camp Secretary.

Members should wear membership badges, Department officers are required to wear them.

Miscellaneous

There will be no pre-registering for meals. You can decide at the last minute if you wish to attend them or not and can order off the hotel restaurant's menu. However, the restaurant is closed in the afternoon on Saturday, so in the morning a list of meals will be sent around that each person can check off if they desire. These meals will be then provided at lunch. Cost for these meals will be around \$11. If this is not agreeable, Hardees, Waffle House, Burger King, Frailey's Pub, and 2 Chinese restaurants are within 2/10th mile on Butler Hill Rd.

If you desire a hotel room, the price we have for people is \$94 at the Holiday Inn. This price is only valid until 30 April. Have them refer to "Sons of Union Veterans" for the price when making reservations. There are other hotels in the area including a Hampton Inn directly behind the Holiday Inn.

The Department of Missouri would like to encourage members to bring their families. The hotel has an indoor pool area and there are many attractions for family members to enjoy while SUVCW members are attending the business sessions.

Some of the more popular attractions include:

US Grant National Historic Site (White Haven)
Jefferson Barracks County Park and Cemetery
Gateway Arch
Grant's Farm
Mastodon State Park

http://www.grantcamp.org/public_html/SUV2007_Places_of_Interest.pdf
has a listing of many local St. Louis attractions.

History Corner

“Missouri’s Unknown Civil War Couple” by D. Christopher Warren, M.A.

Have you ever heard of the first female United States Military Telegrapher? What about her husband, who helped design the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad and was a member of the G.A.R. (and later had Macklind Avenue in St. Louis named in his honor)? Well, these two were very prominent people in the mid-to-late nineteenth century here in Missouri, but history has somewhat overlooked them.

Thomas Hanlon Macklind was born to Irish parents in 1826. He was raised in Philadelphia, PA, and to round out his education, attended the Franklin Institute, graduating with a degree in Engineering. In 1856, as a Civil Engineer, he received a job on the new St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad, which was being constructed from St. Louis to Pilot Knob, Missouri. He soon made Potosi, MO his home. After the railway’s completion in 1859, he began to study law, and by 1860 was admitted to the Missouri Bar, and quickly set up shop in his new hometown. It was probably as a well-respected lawyer of this community, when he met his future love, Louisa E. Volker.

Louisa Volker was a young woman, born in Missouri in 1837, to German immigrants. In the 1850s, her father, Manuel (Emmanuel) was a grocer in St. Louis, but had a desire to make a better life for his family, and soon purchased land in the vicinity of Mineral Point, MO (a stop on the St. Louis & Iron Mtn. R. R.). He soon moved his family to that area and became a tavern keeper. Oddly enough, he and his wife and daughters soon began purchasing tracts of land in the Washington County area, and probably utilized the legal assistance of one, Thomas Macklind. However, as the decade of the 1860s approached, times became very difficult, and Civil War erupted.

It was during this time that Thomas H. Macklind enlisted in the Potosi Home Guard. He served faithfully for his 90 day enlistment and was so popular, that he was appointed second lieutenant; however, as the unit disbanded in September 1861, he quickly enlisted as a first sergeant in Castlemen’s Washington County Battalion of Missouri State Militia Infantry. It was during his next four months of service, that he would see a small skirmish with southerners as they attempted to take the town of Potosi and the stores of weapons (known as the Arsenal) at the end of Missouri Street. As his enlistment ended in January of 1862, he took a couple of weeks off from military service before signing up with the 12th Missouri State Militia Cavalry as a first lieutenant (which later consolidated into the 3rd MSM Cav). He would see action in southeastern Missouri and eventually be stationed at the newly constructed Fort Davidson in Pilot Knob. He would serve as Assistant Provost Marshall for that area and as an adjutant for a short time. When the units consolidated, Macklind was promoted to Captain of company M. As the Price Raid entered Missouri, preparations were underway for defenses on all fronts. Capt. Macklind was sent from Fort Davidson to take command of the post and defenses of Hermann, MO. It is here that he would spend his last remaining months in the army.

On the other hand, Louisa Volker was in the middle of Price’s Raid. In 1862 she had begun to learn telegraphy from C. T. Barrett, who was the telegraph operator at the Mineral Point Station. He was soon replaced by Louisa, and a few months later, the military took command of these telegraph lines. The odd thing is, they left Louisa at her post as a U.S. Military Telegraph Corps operator. It was at this post that she would face grave danger in 1864. As Confederate forces made the decision to attack Fort Davidson, Gen. J. O. Shelby was sent around towards Farmington and then towards Potosi, to burn bridges, destroy telegraph lines, and block any attempt to assist the small fort from the north. Shelby’s men soon made their way into Mineral Point. Louisa Volker stood by her telegraph key day and night for two days until the Irondale operator relieved her. She made her way to her father’s home where she found her sister. They began to watch as Confederates poured into town, burning the depot, tank and engine houses, as well as two nearby bridges.

She quickly armed herself with a pistol, as the ragged ruffians pushed their way into the Volker house. She stood bravely in the corner with her sister behind, awaiting whatever fate might bring. The rebels ripped apart everything, stole food, clothing, and tore carpets up for blankets. Luckily, no harm came to these two young ladies, and Shelby's men soon vanished. Most of the town looked as though it was ablaze, and the ladies began to assume the daily lives as best they could.

After the Price Raid, Missouri was quieted from rebel and guerilla bands, for the most part, and life began to resume. In the spring of 1865, with the war drawing to a close, Capt. Macklind took a two week leave of absence from his post. It is assumed that he went to Louisa then, and they were soon married on May 17, 1865. After Macklind's enlistment was up in July, the young couple soon purchased a home in St. Louis.

Thomas Macklind soon went to work for the street department, and made many, many improvements on the streets, sidewalks, and roads of the growing St. Louis community. He and Louisa would soon have a son, William R. in 1869, and Louisa would go about doing a mother's duty. However, she soon realized that the war had made many young ladies unable to provide for themselves, and she became a teacher of a new skill, stenography. These lessons were free, and provided the young ladies with the training they needed for the vocations they desired.

As the years went by, Thomas became quite a prominent citizen, and "St. Louis Avenue" was soon renamed "Macklind Avenue" in his honor. He was a member of the G.A.R. (Blair Post #1) and the M.O.L.L.U.S. as an original companion. Life seemed pretty predictable for this couple, but another son, Thomas V. came along in 1880.

As the nineteenth century drew to a close, Louisa decided to attend the St. Louis Women's Medical College, and graduated in 1895 (with a Medical License #6720). The college would soon be closed, but Louisa took her work to heart. She practiced medicine on many charity cases throughout St. Louis for several more years. In 1897, the United States Congress granted her a "Certificate of Honorable Service" for her wartime duties (one of only two ladies to receive this honor).

Thomas would pass away on March 12, 1904 and was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis. Louisa would outlive him by a year, dying on May 21, 1905. She was buried next to him in their family plot.

So, why are they unknown? Why has even the cemetery overlooked them on their "famous people" auto tours? Who's to say. Maybe that is part of our heritage as members of the SUVCW and the GAR's Allied Orders; to bring to light, those persons who gave so much, but have fallen through the cracks of history into obscurity.

©D. Christopher Warren – 2013

Photos L-R: Capt. Thomas Macklind (Civil War); Thomas H. Macklind; Louisa Volker Macklind; and Chris & Twyla Warren (portraying Thomas Macklind & Louisa Volker). They are available for programs by contacting them at (573) 431-1860 or the_civilwar_guy@yahoo.com



Department of Missouri – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



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www.suvcwmo.org

Have You Visited the Department of Missouri's Web-Site Lately? Why not take a look at some of the updates?