



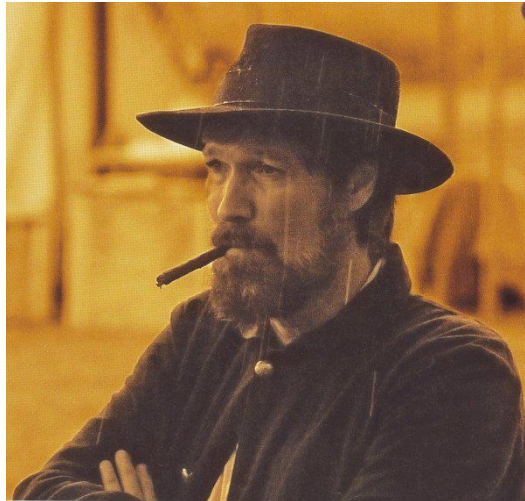
# The Missouri Unionist

2002 - 2012 .....10 Years of Publication

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



**“Rest in Peace – Comrade in Arms”  
Greg Wait, P.C.C.  
(Phelps Camp #66 – Camp Commander)  
October 3, 1954 – September 10, 2012**



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF  
THE CIVIL WAR  
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI  
COMMANDER**



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Department Order No. 2  
17 September, 2012

The Phelps Camp No. 66 sadly announces the passing of Brother Gregory Wait, PCC on September 10, 2012 at the age of 57 years. Greg was the current camp commander of the Phelps Camp. He loved history, baseball, and was very active with the SUVCW. Brother Gregory Wait's obituary and funeral information may be found at [http://www.greenlawfuneralhome.com/fh/facilities/facilities.cfm?page=2&fh\\_id=12076](http://www.greenlawfuneralhome.com/fh/facilities/facilities.cfm?page=2&fh_id=12076)

In remembrance of Past Camp Commander Gregory Wait, the Department of Missouri charter, all camp charters, Department and Camp flags, Department and Camp web sites, and all membership badges will be draped in black from 17 September, 2012 until 17 October, 2012.

Ordered this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 2012.

Attest:

Martin R. Aubuchon, PCC  
Commander  
Department of Missouri  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Randal Burd  
Secretary  
Department of Missouri  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



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The “Missouri Unionist” is the official Newsletter of the  
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Each issue is placed onto the Department of Missouri’s web-site, [www.suvcwmo.org](http://www.suvcwmo.org) for viewing by its members.

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

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## **Letter from the Editor**



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

Our newsletter is a ten year transition that is important to the Department of Missouri – SUVCW. Unfortunately, only about half of the camps are submitting news. Let’s not allow our newsletter’s 10<sup>th</sup> year to be its last. Please submit items by the following dates, so that they may be included in the next issue. 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.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

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<b><u>Issue</u></b>	<b><u>Submissions Deadline</u></b>	<b><u>Tentative Publication Date</u></b>
Winter 2012 – 2013 Issue	Thursday, February 28, 2013	Friday, March 15, 2013
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

HAPPY NEW YEAR! May peace and blessings be bestowed on each one of you. The year of 2012 has now ended and the New Year begins. This is a time when many will reflect on the past year and think about what was accomplished. This is also a time when many will make resolutions for the upcoming year and set new goals. This a time for us to think about new ideas and what we can do to promote the SUVCW. Let's make 2013 a year for each of us to bring a new member into the SUVCW or to contact a fellow camp brother and encourage him to come a meeting. If you have any ideas on how we can improve the organization please express them to your camp commander at the camp level or contact me for anything at the Department level.

As we begin 2013, please be reminded that according to the National Regulations of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and the bylaws of the Department of Missouri SUVCW the camp officers need to be elected and installed at a meeting during the month of January. It is also important that the installing officer complete Form 22 and a copy be sent to the Department Secretary. Quarterly reports are also due and need to be sent to the Department Secretary. These reports are important. They are a form of communication as they inform the Department of Missouri of your activities. This information is important as the National Organization wants to know what the Department of Missouri is doing. Your activities don't go unnoticed.

When you go to the Department's website, you will find some changes. Brother Walter Busch has taken on the role of the acting Signal Officer and with the efforts of a web site professional some changes have occurred to the web site. Thank you Brother Busch. Many agree the existing web site needs a major overhaul and this will in all likelihood continue to be a priority for the Department. Securing the services of a web site designer or administrator continues to be a need for the Department. If any of you have that experience or know of someone with that experience, please come forward.

The Department received a reply from the National Commander in Chief Perley Mellor that he will not be attending the Missouri Department Annual Encampment in June. Consequently, the arrangements of the Department Encampment will be kept simple.

Visits to the various camps continue to be a task of the commander. Several camps were visited last year and will continue this year.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Martin Aubuchon, Commander

## Phelps Camp #66 – Springfield, Missouri



Mail photos by Mike Cullinan  
Above, Tammy Sovrens (at podium) and Daniel Rolufs, great-great-grandchildren of Thomas Keeling speak during a memorial dedication service Saturday in Elkland. Below, representatives of the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans were in period dress during the memorial dedication service in honor of Corporal Thomas Keeling. Bottom, an honor guard fires off a musket salute during Saturday's service at Orten-Tippen Cemetery.

### Keeling Headstone Ceremony

On Saturday, September 22, members of Phelps Camp helped the descendants of Union Corporal Thomas Keeling, 46<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry, dedicate a new headstone in his honor on private property near Elkland. Phelps Camp members made up the color guard, were present in the audience, and made remarks during the ceremony. Approximately 70 people were present for the dedication, and Corporal Keeling's descendants hosted a luncheon following the ceremony at a nearby church. Our special thanks to Bob Clanton and his family, who set Corporal Keeling's headstone and participated in the ceremony.

## At long last

### Memorial dedication service honors Civil War veteran

By Mike Cullinan  
mike@mshahfieldmail.com

Thomas Keeling, a corporal with Company E 4th Missouri Infantry in the Union Army during the Civil War, had his final resting place officially acknowledged with a memorial dedication service Saturday in Orten-Tippen Cemetery in Elkland.

The service involved descendants of Keeling, along with members of a pair of Civil War organizations, as the veteran's headstone was unveiled amidst fanfare including an honor guard, a recitation of a portion of the Gettysburg Address and a performance of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Jeff Patrick, senior vice commander of Phelps Camp No. 66, Sons of Union Veterans, opened the proceedings to honor Keeling, who was honorably discharged two months before the war ended in March 1865. He enlisted in August 1864 as a private and was promoted to corporal within a month of service.

See HONOR, Page 3A



## HONOR: Keeling descendent instrumental in getting headstone

Continued from Page 1A

Patrick was among several with the Sons of Union Veterans at the ceremony, along with a number of representatives of Daughters of Union Veterans, Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22.

The Keeling family bought 160 acres east of the cemetery along Route W in 1906. Keeling passed away in 1909 and is buried in the cemetery, along with his wife, Mary, son Oscar, daughter Nettie and twin grandsons Billie and Joe.

At Saturday's event, Keeling's great-great-granddaughter Tammy Sovrens explained how she made efforts to secure a historically accurate headstone for her descendant.

"The idea of Thomas and part of his family here without headstones troubled me," Sovrens said.

"It has been a whirlwind of activity to plan and organize, but with everyone's help, I think it has all come together great. ... Thomas, you finally have a headstone," she concluded.

## VETERANS DAY PARADES

Phelps Camp participated in two area parades on the weekend of November 10-11. On Saturday, November 10, members of Phelps Camp formed a Civil War colorguard and portrayed General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant for the Springfield parade. The new, 1.3 mile parade route was lined with spectators, many of whom applauded and cheered the "boys in blue," the Stars and Stripes and the Grants. Our thanks to Bob and Jake Clanton, Kip Lindberg, Larry Toll, Jeff Patrick, and Jim and Patty Millikin for participating in the "new" Springfield Veterans Day parade.



On Sunday, November 11, camp members formed the "Parade of the American Soldier" unit for the Branson parade. Despite threatening weather, the stalwart members of Phelps Camp "soldiered on" and were within sight of the end of the parade route when it started to rain. A very large crowd of spectators thoroughly enjoyed our entry, and cheers and applause rang out all along the route.



Huzza to the men of Phelps Camp for paying tribute to those who fought and died for our freedom!

## **Westport Camp #64 – Kansas City, Missouri**

### **Battle of Island Mound Dedication**

Westport Camp #64 and Grant Camp #68 members attended the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony of the Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site on Saturday, October 27, 2012. The dedication coincides with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Civil War battle in Southwest Missouri.

Long before the Emancipation Proclamation, Captain Ward had organized freed slaves from Missouri and Arkansas into the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers Infantry. In August 1862, the 1st Kansas had not yet been accepted into federal service but was ordered to Bates County, Missouri with the 5th Kansas Cavalry to patrol for Confederate guerilla forces. In an unexpected encounter, 250 Union and 350 Confederate soldiers clashed on October 29, 2012 in a skirmish until the Confederates were forced to withdraw.



Historians agree the battle had little military significance, neither side gained territory or advantage over the other. However, it was an historical moment and first occurrence in the Civil War of African-American soldiers in combat. The Confederate government was outraged at the image of former slaves taking arms against the south, and ordered no quarter given to black soldiers or white officers commanding them. In contrast, the Union Army recognized the military effectiveness of the troops and accepted the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas into federal service. They were reorganized two years later as the 79th United States Colored Troops.

Westport Camp's James Beckner demonstrating Civil War era firearms for visitors.

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## **McPherson Camp #1 – Little Rock, Arkansas**



The James McPherson Camp supported several monument dedications in the central Arkansas area. On September 8, Camp members attended the dedication of a battlefield marker in Searcy, AR, noting the location where Federal troops attempted to cross the White River in the spring of 1862 during MG Samuel Curtis' unsuccessful campaign to take Little Rock, as well as a grave marker dedication later in the day for Confederate General Dandridge McRae.

October 21st saw the camp march to Batesville, AR, to assist with dedicating a grave marker for Sergeant Charles Case, a former slave and member of the 5th Arkansas Colored Troops, and later a prominent Batesville citizen. On October 25th, we provided support and uniformed historians for the MacArthur Military Museum in Little Rock for their Halloween open House. Photo caption: McPherson Camp members at the dedication of the Searcy Landing battlefield marker on September 8, 2012. Left to right, Brothers Tom Ezell, Steve Shore, Ed Williams, and Vernon Dutton.

Camp Secy/Treasurer David Casto gave a talk to the Arkansas Civil War Roundtable in Little Rock on the 8<sup>th</sup> Missouri Volunteer Cavalry on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on the Camp's activities, check our web site at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=lf#!/groups/139052409550092/>.

## Sigel Camp #614 – Rolla, Missouri

Sigel Camp #614 has had a busy schedule this fall. After having been honored this past August with the Joseph S. Rippey Award as the most Outstanding New Camp in the 2011-2012 administrative year, Sigel Camp #614 has done its best to continue to build on this achievement. In accordance with this goal, Sigel Camp joined with Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwich Shop for the camp's first fund-raising activity on August 29, 2012.

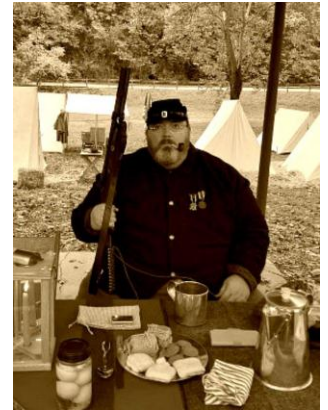


On September 8, 2012, Chaplain C. Scott Brown and Camp Commander Randal A. Burd, Jr. had a table presence at the annual Patriot Day Rally in Lion's Club Park in Rolla, Missouri. Available at the table were many Civil War period items to view as Brown and his wife Jenee were available in period clothing to answer the questions of curious onlookers. Patrons could also take a new recruiting brochure for the camp, and a free copy of the Civil War News, subscriptions to which also serve as a fund-raiser for the camp. Also in attendance at that event were new camp member Milan Paddock, and pending camp member Mike Harris.



On September 29, 2012, Brown and Burd attended the Sesquicentennial Event of the Felix St. James Camp #326 in St. Genevieve, Missouri, with Burd participating in the skit as one of several uniformed federal soldiers of the 78th Enrolled Missouri Militia. Brother Gary Scheel and his camp put together a great event, and we were honored to be included.

The first weekend in October included Franklin County Day on October 6<sup>th</sup> at Meramec Caverns in Stanton, Missouri, where Sigel Camp members attended in force: Camp Commander Randal A. Burd, Jr., Chaplain C. Scott Brown and wife, Jenee, Secretary/Treasurer Steve Allen, Graves Registrar Reth Allen, and prospective junior member Holden Snyder were all present at the event. Brown and his wife dressed in period clothing and answered questions, while providing brave patrons with Civil War period pickled eggs and bologna to taste.



Brown and his wife, along with Steve Allen, also represented Sigel Camp at Old Ironworks Days, October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, at Meramec Springs State Park. Brown repeated his services of the previous event, complete with the Civil War News, pickled eggs, and pickled bologna, while Camp Commander Burd was performing his duties as Department Secretary at the Department of Missouri Business Meeting in Jefferson City, also on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

In October of 2012, Camp Commander Burd published the first issue of an electronic, quarterly newsletter for Sigel Camp #614. "The Sigel Beagle" will come out four times a year to share information about the camp's goals and activities. The camp has recently welcomed two new members with completed applications: Randal A. Burd, Sr. and Milan Paddock. Sigel Camp #614 is actively working with the Boy Scouts to begin awarding Eagle Scout certificates and is also preparing to present ROTC awards, in addition to seeking new fund-raising opportunities for future projects.

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

Our camp has been blessed by the addition of new members in the past several months. In August, Joseph Williams joined our camp. Joseph lives in Perryville and is the manager at the Caseys station in Perryville. In September, Ed Welker joined our camp. Ed lives in Perryville and is employed at the hospital in Perryville. In October, Curtis Lewis joined our camp. Curtis lives in Ste. Genevieve and is currently attending Mineral Area College.



One of our major events was in September. We applied for a Sesquicentennial SUVCW sanctioned event. We were approved for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the 78th Enrolled Missouri Militia. This event corresponded with the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Ste. Genevieve County on 1 October 1812.

← Soldier hauled out of tavern and brought before Provost Marshal Gustavus St. Gem.

Camp members started arriving as early as 7:30 a.m. to set up for the day. Camp Commander Tom Greminger brought in his display of a knapsack and contents, weapons and individual items. Tom Farlow and Gary

Scheel set up their A-frame tents with a display of individual equipment that a soldier would carry laying in the floor of Tom Farlow's tent. Department Commander Martin Aubuchon from the U.S. Grant Camp # 68 set up a table that was used to enlist members of the public into the 78th Enrolled Missouri Militia. 1st Sergeant Jerry Kasten and 1st Sergeant Tom Farlow were in charge of the drilling the new recruits. →

There was some positive response to the names on the list and Ruth Kasten a member of our Ladies Auxiliary, was ready to answer questions and help guide those with questions that she could not answer to those who could. Cherrie Cameron of our Ladies Auxiliary sewed black bands for badges to be worn in memory of the Camp Commander of the Phelps Camp Greg Wait who had passed.

We had a large group crowd of people show up around 2 p.m. The skit followed. We handed out slips of papers for the crowd to cheer or boo, depending on which side they chose to support. Our Ladies Auxiliary acted as cheer leaders and the crowd really got into it.

The following SUVCW Camps were in attendance. U.S. Grant Camp #68 from St. Louis, William T. Sherman #65 from St. Louis, Sigel Camp #614, Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James Camp # 326. The following SVR units were present. 78th Enrolled Missouri Militia, 34th Illinois Infantry, Missouri Tigers, 2nd Missouri Infantry.

On October 1st, Bob Mueller was emcee and gave the history of the founding of Ste. Genevieve County to a crowd gathered in front of the courthouse. This was the final ceremony to commemorate the founding of Ste. Genevieve County.

On October 9, Seth Ward a history teacher from Scott City gave us a presentation on the prelude to the Battle of Wilson's Creek. His presentation was very good and enjoyed by all. Several members of the community were in attendance.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> Gary Scheel gave a presentation at the library in Chester, IL on General John A. Logan.

On November 11, Gary Scheel presented flowers at the memorial at the American Legion.





## McCormick Camp # 215 – Farmington / Park Hills, Missouri

The McCormick Camp has been very busy since our last report. At the end of August, Chris Warren, presented a special program on “The Civil War in St. Francois County, Missouri” to the local Rotary Club in Farmington, MO. This was followed by a whirlwind of activities for September, October, November, and the first part of December.



First, on September 13<sup>th</sup>, we decided to relax before getting too busy, and a bonfire/potluck was held at Doug & Kathie Roussin’s home in DeSoto, MO. This was soon followed by two back-to-back weekends full of events. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, our camp was asked to assist the Fletcher camp in presenting a living history at the DeSoto, MO Farmer’s Market. The next weekend,



September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, we were also asked to assist the Fletcher camp in presenting a living history in Dittmer, MO at a local pumpkin farm. Here we set up a camp, did skirmishes, had another GAR display, and demonstrated the daily life of the union soldiers from our area of Missouri.



On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we were asked to present Civil War demonstrations of soldiers and ladies at Fort Davidson State Historic Site in Pilot Knob, MO for a field trip of third graders. Then, we once again presented our “Bushwhacked” program for the campers (in the amphitheater) at St. Francois State Park, near Bonne Terre, MO. Earlier that day, we also presented two deserving Eagle Scouts, with the SUVCW Eagle Scout Awards at their Court of Honor. Next, on October 21<sup>st</sup>, we were once again asked to present Civil War drills, demonstrations, and an encampment at the Civil War themed Mountain Music Festival in Ironton, MO (which was Civil War

themed).

November was also a busy month for us, as we participated (along with members of the Fletcher, Grant, & St. James camps) in rededicating the graves of two GAR veterans on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was held in Wildwood, MO, with many of the descendants in attendance. The next weekend saw us marching in the Veterans’ Day parade in DeSoto, MO on the 10<sup>th</sup>.



The next day, we traveled to Perryville, MO to participate in the dedication/grand opening of the Perry County Military History Museum. This event gave us the opportunity of the newspaper reporters and a television crew, as well as the possibility of presenting a living history next year on the museum grounds. We then held a get-together at the Warren household in Park Hills, MO, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, for a time of food and games, before the holiday season keeps us too busy and apart.



Finally, we ended the year with a couple of activities in December. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, we once again were honored to be able to ring the bell for the St. Francois County United Way at Farmington, MO Wal-Mart (which helped them to break their record goal again this year). This is just our way of helping out our local communities in need during the holidays. We began to end the season by holding our annual holiday get-together at the cabin of Keith &



Norma Coplin, near Bonne Terre, MO. Keith is a charter member of the camp, but has been serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan as a Chief Warrant Officer. We were glad to welcome him back home for the holidays.

## Fletcher Camp #47 – De Soto, Missouri

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, our unit privileged to attend a special program on Civil War artist, William Hinchey (portrayed by Corporal Paul Cameron) at the Hinchey House in DeSoto, MO. The home is owned by an advertising corporation, and is usually not open to the public, but they made an exception and allowed us this unique opportunity. Next, on August 14<sup>th</sup>, we were asked to be present, in uniform (along with the Volker Auxiliary in period attire) for the opening of the DeSoto, MO Historical Society museum.



September, October, and November seemed to keep us hopping, and we were involved in several activities. First, on September 13<sup>th</sup>, we decided to host a bonfire/potluck was held at Camp Commander Doug Roussin's home in DeSoto, MO, and invite the McCormick Camp to join us. This was soon followed by two weekends full of Civil War events. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, our camp was asked to present a living history at the DeSoto, MO Farmer's Market for the second year in a row. We set up a camp, did Civil War demonstrations (including the arrest of a rebel deserter), explained what the SVR & SUVCW was all about (including having a special GAR display). The next weekend,

September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, we were also asked to present a living history in Dittmer, MO at a local pumpkin farm. Here we set up a camp, did skirmishes, had another GAR display, and demonstrated the daily life of the union soldiers from our area of Missouri.



Then, on October 21<sup>st</sup>, we were once again asked to present Civil War drills, demonstrations, and an encampment at the Civil War themed Mountain Music Festival in Ironton, MO with the McCormick camp. This was a special privilege as it was held on the courthouse grounds; a location that the actual



47<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry, Co. E fought on and in during the Civil War.

Finally, we wrapped up the month of October by doing Civil War demonstrations at the Thomas C. Fletcher house in DeSoto, MO on the 26<sup>th</sup> during their annual "Ghost Walk" (which was Civil War themed this year). It was Fletcher that recruited the original 47<sup>th</sup> MO INF, and served as its Colonel.



November was also busy, as we participated (along with members of Grant, McCormick, and St. James camps) in rededicating the graves of two GAR veterans on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was held in Wildwood, MO, with many of the descendants in attendance. The next weekend saw us marching in the Veterans' Day



parade in DeSoto, MO on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The next day, we traveled to Perryville, MO to participate in the dedication/grand opening of the Perry County Military History Museum. Then, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual election/installation of officers.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, members also rang the bell at the DeSoto, MO Wal-Mart for the local Salvation Army.

## **Grant Camp #68 – St. Louis, Missouri**

Since the last newsletter, the Grant Camp was represented at several events. A list of the activities and the camp members attending are listed as follows: On Saturday, September 22, 2012, Camp Member Martin Aubuchon attended the Headstone Dedication Ceremony for Private Rudolf Baumgartner held at the Hermann Cemetery in Hermann, MO. Private Baumgartner is identified as the last surviving Civil War soldier of Gasconade Country. The event was organized by Glen Alsop of the Francis J. Wilhelmi Camp #17.

The Felix St. James Camp #326 had a Sesquicentennial event on Saturday, September 29, 2012 in Ste. Genevieve, Mo on the forming of the 78<sup>th</sup> Enrolled Militia. Martin Aubuchon took a table and copies of Civil War muster forms and set up a recruiting station to enlist members of the public. Kids and even some adults are fascinated to see writing done by a pen with a nib and ink. Kids were given payment with a copy of a period dollar. He also served as Captain of the 78<sup>th</sup> Enrolled Militia and participated in various skits that were organized by the Felix St. James Camp.

A meeting of the Central Region Association of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in Springfield, Illinois on Friday, October 5 and Saturday October 6, 2012. The meeting was organized by Camp Member Robert Petrovic. Camp Members Don Palmer, Walter Busch, Robert Petrovic, and Martin Aubuchon were in attendance. The attendees had the opportunity to tour the Lincoln Museum. Camp Member Robert Amsler presented a program on using Social Networking programs, for example Facebook, as a Marketing or Advertising tool for organizations.



Camp Member John Avery organized a headstone dedication ceremony for three Civil War soldiers located in two cemeteries in Wildwood, MO on Saturday, November 3, 2012. Several descendants were in attendance along with many members of the Wildwood Historical Society. The Wildwood Historical Society served lunch for all of the participants. Camp Member Martin Aubuchon along with members from the McCormick Camp, St James, and Fletcher camps were in attendance. Also, on November 10, 2012 an annual Veteran's day parade is held in downtown St. Louis, MO. Camp members Martin Aubuchon and Robert Aubuchon marched in the parade along with members of the 17<sup>th</sup> MO Infantry which is a reenacting unit. During the parade, there would be periodic stops and a musket volley would be made. This is always a crowd pleaser as evidenced by the applause.

## Grant Camp #68 (continued)



In Perryville, MO on Sunday November 11, 2012 the Perry County Historical Society dedicated their Military History Museum with a Grand Opening. The museum has a display or timeline of exhibits and artifacts from each military conflict of the United States. This includes items from the Civil War and the GAR Difani Post No. 273 located in Perryville, MO. Martin Aubuchon was in attendance along with Leonard Wright and Chris Warren of the McCormick Camp. Twyla Warren from the Louisa Volker Auxiliary also attended.

On Tuesday, December 11, 2012 the Camp held a meeting at the Greenbriar Country Club in St Louis, MO. Newly elected officers were installed. This was also a social meeting where wives attended. The event was organized by Kim Palmer, wife of Camp Member and past National Commander in Chief Don Palmer. The dinner included welcome gifts of chocolate from Kim Palmer. The evening also featured a speaker and program on General Custer.

At the Jefferson Barracks National cemetery located in St. Louis, MO a ceremony for the Wreaths Across America was conducted on Saturday, December 15, 2012. Martin Aubuchon attended along with Jack Grothe and Noel Stasiak from the Sherman Camp and Gary Scheel from the Felix St. James Camp. Wreaths were placed on monuments and at selected graves in the Civil War section of the cemetery.

Walter Busch has announced his intentions to run as a Council member of the National Council Administration and to be placed on the Nominations list at the National Encampment to be held in Wisconsin in August of this year. Robert Petrovic currently serves on the Council, but his term expires this year and will choose not to seek reelection.

## History Corner



From the *Alton Telegraph* Nov 15, 1883  
Gen. Sherman's Reception

St. Louis, Nov. 13. – Gen. W.T. Sherman arrived here yesterday morning and proceeded immediately to his residence, 912 Garrison avenue. There was not any band playing “See, the Conquering Hero Comes”; no ostentation whatever, and the old soldier passed the day in the house, which was being put into shape for housekeeping purposes. He was practically undisturbed, only a few old friends calling upon and shaking hands with him.

At 7 o'clock in the evening the members of the various posts of the Grand Army of the Republic assembled at West St. Louis Turner hall [27<sup>th</sup> and Morgan Sts.]. There were present Frank Blair post, under Maj. Eugene F. Weigel; Gen. Lyon post, under Gov. Thos. C. Fletcher; Hassendeubel post, under Capt. Niederweiser; Harding post, under Capt. H.B. Keone; a detachment of veterans under Col. David Murphy, and Fletcher post from DeSoto, Mo. The entire body was under command of Col. Nelson Cole, and his adjutant, S.O. Fish. The assemblage of veterans numbered something like two or three hundred. Forming into line, and headed by the Arsenal band, the soldiers marched to the residence of Gen. Sherman, where, notwithstanding the cold weather, quite a crowd of people not of the Grand Army had gathered. Arrived at the residence the soldiers were drawn up in line facing the house, and the band, surrounded by torchbearers, rendered some excellent music. At the conclusion of the music the door of the general's residence opened and “Old Tecumseh,” accompanied by Gens. Harney, Smith and Noble, Maj. Pope and Mr. Fitch and a few others, stepped out on the porch. The commanding officers of the various posts had ranged themselves at the gate, and ex-Gov. Fletcher, stepping forward, delivered the

### ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

He said the soldiers of St. Louis and vicinity who had served in the national forces, organized now in fraternity, had authorized him to welcome him home, not only upon their part, but upon the part of the people of this commercial and manufacturing centre, the very heart of the republic. They came to welcome him back to his home to rest upon the laurels he had so faithfully won. They desired to express to him their esteem and their confidence and the hope that he might be granted a long life of strength and prosperity. They came to voice their affection and the pride the entire country had in the great soldier, the commander of the army of the Republic. They came to report to him and to assure him that they would be encamped about him until the campaign of life should end.

### GEN. SHERMAN'S REPLY,

Gen. Sherman then, standing on the porch bare-headed, replied to the address very calmly. Calling them comrades and neighbors, he said he was glad to know that they welcome him back again to St. Louis. It was not the first time that he had made St. Louis his home. Before many of those present were born he had come here to buy pork and flour, taking the place of the venerable Gen. A.J. Smith who sat by his side. In 1861, when the growlings of civil war was heard all over the land, he came here again. They used to meet at the Planters' mutually suspicious of each other. Then he was summoned to the field by the president to fulfill the oath he had recorded in heaven to protect the country against all enemies from abroad or at home. “How I fulfilled that oath,” he said, “I think you boys all know.” He hoped they would live long and prosper and build on a sure foundation. The time was when the country was an arch from Massachusetts to Georgia then the arch grew and Pennsylvania became the Keystone state. The arch was no longer a single arch, but a grand arch reaching to far-off Alaska, California, Maine, and Florida, and this was the keystone. He came back to reside among them full of pleasant memories of the past and bright hopes for the future and would as cordially welcome one of his old friends from Louisiana as one from Massachusetts, as all was now a common Union. He wished them all a long life and while he could not hope to live as long as many among those present he would continue to watch the progress of the city and the country and the people. Many of his old friends had passed away but others of their race remained and many old friends are still alive. In conclusion he thanked the boys again and assured them of his continued interest in their welfare [sic], in their increase [sic] in virtue, in their hospitality in the future. He said that his house and his home would always be open to them.

At the conclusion of the general's speech, the members of the Grand Army came forward, and he, standing on the steps, shook hands with them heartily, while the band in the street struck up “Way Down Upon the Suwanee River,” which reminded some of the old vets and the general himself standing in the m\_\_\_\_\_, of the days “When We Were Marching Through Georgia.”

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