

MINUTES

9th ANNUAL MISSOURI DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

Holiday Inn – St. Louis South

St. Louis, Missouri

19 June 2004

The 9th Annual Missouri Department Encampment was called to order by Commander Don Palmer at 9:20 am, assisted by acting Chaplain Vern von der Heydt. The colors were posted and Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong was escorted into the meeting room. Commander-in-Chief Armstrong offered greetings from the National organization of the SUVCW and expressed his appreciation for the work that the Department of Missouri is doing and his thanks for their hospitality this weekend.

Commander Palmer called the roll of officers:

Commander Don Palmer	Present	Chaplain Mark Coplin	Absent
Senior Vice Commander Charlie Funck	Present	Chief of Staff John Martin	Present
Junior Vice Commander Bud Marks	Present	Graves Officer Gary Scheel	Present
Secretary/Treasurer Bob Petrovic	Present	GAR Records Doug Niemeyer	Present
Council Jack Grothe	Present	Civil War Memorials Paul Leistriz	Present
Council Emmett Taylor	Absent	Historian Vern Stottlemire	Absent
Council Glen Alsop	Absent	Signals Officer Brian Smarker	Absent
Patriotic Instructor John Avery	Present	Guide Ed Eller	Present

Commander Palmer appointed the Encampment Committees as follows:

Credentials:	Bob Petrovic and Gary Scheel
Resolutions:	Bud Marks and Jack Grothe
Officer Reports:	John Martin and John Avery
Fraternal Relations:	Jack Grothe and Charlie Funck

Greetings were presented by Charlene Konersmann, Missouri Department President of the DUVCW. She presented Commander Palmer with a book entitled "St. Louis – Our Civil War Heritage, Vol. 2", a book published by Julia Dent Grant Tent #16 of St. Louis. Greetings were also presented by Doug Niemeyer, Commander-in-Chief of MOLLUS.

Commander Palmer asked for the preliminary report from the Credentials Committee. Gary Scheel presented the report, which showed that 14 members and 4 guests were present.

Commander Palmer then turned the gavel over to Senior Vice Commander Charlie Funck to present the Commander's State of the Department report. Senior Vice Commander Funck returned the gavel to Commander Palmer and the remainder of the officers reports were presented. Reports were received from the Senior Vice Commander Funck, Secretary/Treasurer Bob Petrovic, Patriotic Instructor John Avery, Chaplain Mark Coplin, Graves Registration Officer Gary Scheel, GAR Post Records Officer Doug Niemeyer, Chief of Staff John Martin, and Historian Vern Stottlemire. Reports were also received from Department project focal points Bob Champlin (GAR Highway) and Walt Busch (Records Archiving). No reports were submitted by Junior Vice Commander Bud Marks or Department Counselor Bob Amsler. All reports received are on file with the Department Secretary and are available upon request.

Commander Palmer asked for the report of the Council. Jack Grothe reported that the financial records are in order and commended Bob Petrovic for his service as Secretary/Treasurer. A recommendation was made to revise the accounting process used by the Department as the records were difficult to audit. Senior Vice Commander Funck asked why per capita checks from Camps have not yet been deposited. Secretary/Treasurer Petrovic responded that the Department accounting year closed on 15 May and at that point, all of the per capita checks had not been received.

Communications

- From Commander-in-Chief Armstrong congratulating the new Alexander Asboth Camp #5 on their successful formation.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Senior Vice Commander Funck and seconded by John Avery to approve the minutes of the Department meeting held on 27 March in Jefferson City.

Unfinished Business

- Commander Palmer reviewed the accomplishments towards the 2003-2004 Department goals. The Department exceeded goals relative to graves registration and legislative action relative to the GAR Memorial Highway project. The Department met goals relative to new Camp formation, Eagle Scout certificates presented, visibility within communities, updating the Department web site and recording Civil War monuments in Missouri. The Department fell short of goals in most other areas. Commander Palmer commented that given the number of active members in the Department, the accomplishments were understandable. He mentioned that unless the Department and Camps can interest more members in becoming active, that the level of accomplishment will not grow to a great extent. A synopsis of the 2003-2004 goal accomplishments is on record with the Department Secretary and is available upon request.
- Commander Palmer led discussions about the current Department projects, including the GAR Memorial Highway project and the Records archiving project. Commander Palmer reviewed the status of SB 845 introduced by Sen. Anita Yeckel of St. Louis establishing I-44 between Gray Summit and the Franklin/Crawford county line as the GAR Memorial Highway. After the bill passed through the senate, it was amended to include provisions of a historic monuments bill supported by the Missouri Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The bill failed to make it through the house before the end of the legislative session and will need to be re-introduced during the next session. Walt Busch reiterated the status of the project and the inability to get funds from the Missouri State Archives due to state budget cuts. He also discussed potential repositories for the records, one of which is the Missouri Civil War Museum, since there will be an emphasis on the history of the Civil War veterans organizations and their auxiliaries.
- Commander Palmer initiated a discussion relative to the Missouri Unionist and the inability to find a new editor to replace Mark Trout, who resigned in August 2003. The newsletter was the winner of the Marshall Hope award in 2003 as the most outstanding newsletter. Commander Palmer indicated that, since his duties of Commander are coming to an end, he will take over as editor, citing the importance of the newsletter based on feedback from members around the state. Walt Busch added that incorporating more historical information would add to the quality of the newsletter.
- Commander Palmer reported on the status of the Past Department Commanders Fund. As of 01 June 2004, the fund stood at \$475. This is still short of the \$1000 that the Department decided the fund would need to achieve before it was opened up for proposals. Commander-in-Chief Armstrong added to the fund with a donation of \$25, bringing the total to \$500.

Commander Palmer closed the first business session and the Encampment broke for lunch at 12:05 pm.

Commander Palmer re-convened the Encampment and opened the second business session at 1:30 pm. The Encampment continued with Unfinished Business.

- Commander Palmer asked for the report of the Encampment Committee on Officers Reports. John Avery reported that the committee addressed the following recommendations:

From Commander Don Palmer:

The Department must develop recruiting and member retention plans to be administered across the state in order to accomplish long range membership goals. One member should be appointed at the Department level, preferably and individual with no other responsibilities in the SUVCW.

Committee supports recommendation, no objections, **recommendation approved**

In order to achieve key financial goals, the Department must identify an individual to serve as a "public relations" focal point. Responsibilities would include organizing fund raisers and donation drives to increase revenue without further taxing the Camps. Again, this position should be filled by a member with no other responsibilities in the organization.

Committee supports recommendation, no objections, **recommendation approved**

The Department must engage in a greater range of communication with the Camps. This can be accomplished by increasing the frequency of web site updates with pertinent information and ensuring newsletter publication per schedule. Also, the Department should be more aggressive in soliciting information and feedback from all Camps across the state.

Committee supports recommendation, no objections, **recommendation approved**

From Chief of Staff John Martin:

Recommends that the new Commander and/or Chief of Staff gather a complete list of all required reports, information, projects, etc. This list should show if the Camp Commander or the Camp Secretary is responsible for the submission of these reports and/or projects.

Committee supports recommendation, no objections, **recommendation approved**

From Archivist Walt Busch:

Recommends that the Department and Camps continue to preserve records as they do now and wait for the Missouri Civil War Museum to come on line and submit records to them and work with them to accomplish applying for grants and microfilming.

Committee supports recommendation, no objections, **recommendation approved**

- Commander Palmer reviewed the 2004 Department survey results. The results were, in general, positive. 70% of the membership responded with positive or very positive opinions of the Department. 61% thought that the Department was doing enough to maintain member interest in the organization. Only 45% of the members showed interest in holding a Department level office or committee appointment. However, this was higher than the 30% rating received during the 2002 survey. On specific Department initiatives, 77% had positive or very positive opinions of the Missouri Unionist, 56% had positive or very positive opinions of the new Department web site (up from 30% in 2002), 65% had positive or very positive opinions of the Department Awards program and 57% liked the more formal format for the Department Encampment adopted in 2002 (only 9% responded negatively - 34% responded as having not attended a formal Encampment). The survey found that members are generally happy with their Camps. 95% responded with positive or very positive opinions of their Camps. 73% responded that they believe their Camp is doing enough to maintain member interest and 71% responded with interest in serving in a Camp office or committee. Commander Palmer indicated that, based on the results, the Department has made great strides over the past several years in improving the Department status. However, there are pockets of negative feelings that exist, and the Department should work to address some of the issues raised by these members. Don Bell responded that, based on his experience with multiple organizations, the Department should focus on the positives, i.e., the majority, as you can't make everybody happy.

- Commander Palmer initiated a discussion on processes relative to Department Members-at-Large. The feeling of the Commander was that this block of members, because they are not affiliated with a Camp, are largely ignored. The recommendations relative to establishing Member-at-Large processes, adopted at the 2003 Department Encampment, are still not in place. John Boucher of the Asboth Camp, formerly a Member-at-Large, expressed his opinion that he was happy with the level of interaction with the Department.
- Commander Palmer stressed the need to pursue a combined SUVCW/DUVCW program to document Civil War monuments in Missouri. Based on discussions held between Commander Palmer and then Department President Bernice Wulff in May of 2003, both organizations brought this proposal up at their respective Department meetings and the feedback was positive. Department Civil War Memorials Officer Paul Leistriz will get with the Missouri DUVCW to formalize a process. Brother Leistriz was unaware that the monument documentation forms are currently available on the SUVCW web site.
- Commander Palmer initiated a discussion relative to a need to develop marketing strategies to increase membership and revenue. He mentioned that even though the Department has reduced its dependency on per capita from nearly 100% in 2001 to 82% in 2004, it is still far short of the 65% goal established. Much of the non-per capita revenue must come from donations or funds received from fund raising activities. One of Commander Palmer's recommendations approved earlier addresses this need. Brother Boucher offered to consult on this subject as he has experience with marketing. Brother Bell offered that the job appears to combine "ways and means" and "marketing" which individually are full time jobs. Commander Palmer left it with Brother Boucher to work with the incoming administration to establish a job description or descriptions, if it is decided that more than one position is necessary.
- Commander Palmer deferred a discussion on Department merchandise to the next Department meeting since the focal point for this activity, Department Council member Glen Alsop, was not in attendance.
- Commander Palmer deferred presentation of the Department Awards to the banquet; however, are listed here for the purposes of completing the minutes:

James B. Eads Award (Outstanding Camp)-	Phelps Camp #66, Springfield, MO
Francis P. Blair, Jr. Award (Outstanding Member) -	Gary Scheel, Grant Camp #68
Show-Me Spirit Award (Outstanding Non-Member) -	Carolyn Roth, St. Charles County Historical Society
Meritorious Service Award-	Jack Grothe, Sherman Camp #65
Certificate of Appreciation -	Robert Clanton, Phelps Camp #66

- Commander Palmer asked 2007 National Encampment Committee Chairman Bob Petrovic to provide the Encampment with a status on activities. Brother Petrovic informed the Encampment that he has made some committee appointments, but it is not yet complete. Brother Funck added that the DUVCW has an interest in hosting their 2007 National Convention in Missouri.
- Commander Palmer asked for the report from the Resolutions Committee. Jack Grothe reported that there were no outstanding resolutions presented to the Encampment; however, the following recommendations are made:

A thank you letter be prepared and sent to the Commander-in-Chief for attending our Department Encampment and include photos taken during the meeting and the banquet.

No objections, recommendation approved

A thank you letter and certificate be sent to the hotel for their excellent service.

No objections, recommendation approved

New Business:

- Commander Palmer called Commander-in-Chief Armstrong to the podium to present the charter to Gen. Alexander Asboth Camp #5 in Wentzville, MO. Commander-in-Chief Armstrong, in turn, asked MOLLUS Commander-in-Chief to join him in the presentation. John Boucher received the charter for the Asboth Camp. Commander-in-Chief Armstrong presented a certificate of appreciation to Emmett Taylor in absentia for his efforts in organizing the Asboth Camp.
- Commander Palmer mentioned that before the budget can be discussed, the Department per capita must be approved. The proposal is to keep the Department per capita at \$6 per member per year, which has not increase since 1999. John Avery made a motion to accept and was seconded by Jack Grothe. **Motion passed.**
- Commander Palmer opened the discussion on the proposed 2004-2005 budget. Bob Champlin posed a question about how the expenses for the GAR Highway signage would be reflected. Commander Palmer responded that they would come out of the reserve. Motion was made by Gary Scheel to approve the budget and was seconded by John Avery. **Motion passed.**
- Commander Palmer emphasized the need to come up with ideas for new Department-wide projects now that the two approved at the 2002 Department Encampment are approaching maturity. This was supported by feedback from the 2004 survey. He tasked the Department with identifying potential projects by the next Department meeting to be held in the Fall.
- Commander Palmer mentioned that feedback from the 2004 survey indicated that the Department Encampment needs to be moved out of St. Louis. In September 2001, when the Department decided to move to a more formal format for the Department Encampment, a motion was approved to have the Encampment at the location of the sitting Commander. A motion was made by Steve Leicht to open host responsibilities up to all Camps, and if no Camp is willing to host, then the location is left to the Department Commander. The motion was seconded by Walt Busch. **Motion passed.**
- Commander Palmer continued the discussion on future Department Encampments with the question relative to affixing a permanent time for the Encampment. At the 2003 Department Encampment, a motion was passed to affix the third weekend in June as the permanent time for the Encampment. Senior Vice Commander Funck expressed concerns that, keeping on this date conflicts with reenactments, resulting in limited attendance at the Encampment. Another concern was that, like this year, it may fall on Father's Day weekend, which is traditional for the Department of Ohio. Commander Palmer indicated that regardless of what is done, there will be conflicts. For example, if the fourth week is suggested, then it conflicts with Pennsylvania. A motion was made by Walt Busch and seconded by Paul Leistriz to keep our Encampment fixed on the third weekend in June. **Motion passed.**
- Commander Palmer brought up the need to discuss the Department presence at the 2004 National Encampment. Commander-in-Chief acknowledged the work of Brother Petrovic in assisting the Department of Iowa with planning the 2004 Encampment to be held in Cedar Rapids. A motion was made by Senior Vice Commander Funck to place a full page greeting in the Encampment program book at a cost of \$40. Motion was seconded by Brother Leistriz. Motion passed. Commander Palmer asked the Encampment if the Department wants to have a display table at the National Encampment. A motion was made by Brother Grothe to have a table and to set a limit on the cost at \$25. The motion was seconded by John Avery. **Motion passed.**
- Secretary/Treasurer Bob Petrovic, who also helped establish the SUVVCW Charitable Foundation, inquired about Department interest in financially supporting this endeavor. A motion was made by Walt Busch to donate \$150 immediately and revisit at each Department meeting to determine if more can be donated. Motion was seconded by Bud Marks. **Motion passed.**

- Wilhelmi Camp Commander Doug Niemeyer invited all members to attend a grave dedication at Mantels Cemetery in Krakow, MO on 03 July.

Nomination/Election of Officers

Commander Palmer asked for the final report from the Credentials Committee. Bob Petrovic reported 17 delegates present who are entitled to vote (Asboth Camp #5 – 1 vote, Wilhelmi Camp #17 – 1 vote, Westport Camp #64 – 2 votes, Sherman Camp #65 – 7 votes, Grant Camp #68 – 6 votes)

- Commander – Wilhelmi Camp #17 nominated Charlie Funck.
- Senior Vice Commander – Westport Camp #64 nominated Bud Marks.
- Junior Vice Commander – Grant Camp #68 nominated Bob Petrovic (nomination refused); Sherman Camp #65 nominated John Avery.
- Secretary/Treasurer – Grant Camp #68 nominated Mark Coplin (accepted in absentia)
- Council (2 seats open) – Westport Camp #64 nominated John Martin; Sherman Camp #65 nominated Don Palmer.

Motion was made by Don Bell and seconded by Steve Leicht to close nominations. **Motion passed.**

Motion was made by Senior Vice Commander Charlie Funck that since only one nominee exists for each office that the Department Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for this slate of nominees. Motion was seconded by Paul Leistriz and the **motion passed.** The officers nominated were elected.

Installation of Officers:

The Encampment was handed over to Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong to serve as installing officer. C-in-C Armstrong presented Commander Palmer with the badge of a Past Department Commander. He then called Commander-elect Charlie Funck to come to the altar, made the necessary inquiries, received a list of appointed officers to be installed, called those present to the altar and proceeded with the installation in ritualistic form. The following officers for the 2004-2005 administrative year were installed:

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|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Commander - | Charlie Funck |
| Senior Vice Commander - | Bud Marks |
| Junior Vice Commander - | John Avery |
| Secretary/Treasurer - | Mark Coplin |
| Council - | Glen Alsop |
| Council - | Don Palmer |
| Council - | John Martin |
| Chief of Staff - | John Martin |
| Chaplain - | Bill Casseau |
| Counselor - | Don Bell |
| Patriotic Instructor - | TBD |
| Historian - | Vern Stottlemire |
| Graves Registration Officer - | Gary Scheel |
| GAR Records Officer - | Doug Niemeyer |
| Civil War Monuments Officer - | Paul Leistriz |
| Signals Officer - | Brian Smarker |

Commander Palmer closed the 9th Annual Missouri Department Encampment at 5:10 pm.

9th ANNUAL MISSOURI DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

List of Delegates

<u>Name</u>	<u>Highest Current/Past Office</u>	<u>Camp Affiliation</u>
John Avery	Past Camp Commander	Grant Camp #68
Don Bell	Delegate	Sherman Camp #65
John Boucher	Delegate	Asboth Camp #5
Walt Busch	Delegate	Grant Camp #68
Bob Champlin	Past Camp Commander	Sherman Camp #65
Ed Eller	Delegate	Sherman Camp #65
Charlie Funck	Past Camp Commander	Sherman Camp #65
Jack Grothe	Past Camp Commander	Sherman Camp #65
Steve Leicht	Past Department Commander	Grant Camp #68
Paul Leistritz	Past Camp Commander	Sherman Camp #65
Bud Marks	Camp Commander	Westport Camp #64
John Martin	Past Camp Commander	Westport Camp #64
Doug Niermeyer	Camp Commander	Wilhelmi Camp #17
Don Palmer	Department Commander	Grant Camp #68
Bob Petrovic	Past Department Commander	Grant Camp #68
Gary Scheel	Delegate	Grant Camp #68
Vern von der Heydt	Camp Commander	Sherman Camp #65

Gentlemen of the Department of Missouri lend me your ear

If you were not at the national convention of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War this year in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, do I have a story for you. At the convention Patricia Mullenix (National Junior Vice President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865) asked if McNeil Camp #62 could once again become a color guard for a ceremony the Daughters of Union Veterans were having next spring in Memphis, Missouri (May 28th 2004).

When I found out why the color guard was needed, I said YES. We will be there. Gentlemen, I need the help of every one in the Department of Missouri to pull this off. This event will be in the national spotlight, it will give us a great opportunity to showcase our Department on a national level. Those who help in this event will have a front row seat in a final chapter of Civil War history.

Here's the story as I have heard it.

On January 6, 1920 John Peyton Byrne passed away in the state of California. John like so many of his generation was a veteran of America's Civil War. Most of whom at that time were swiftly passing from this earth.

John was one of four brothers born to Samuel Byrne and his wife near Memphis, Missouri who served their country during the Civil War. The Byrne family were quite prominent in Memphis community matters. At the start of the war John and his brother Harrison enlisted in the Missouri home guard (US). It is my understanding the two brothers served at the battle of Athens. Harrison who was wounded at the battle of Athens could not follow his brother John into the 21st Missouri, company I (US), but after recovering from his wounds he joined Moore's Cavalry company B (US). Another of John's brothers, Charles was living in Virginia, he had moved there in 1859. When the Civil War started Charles joined the confederate army. Of interest is the fact that while living in Virginia Charles became friends of a neighbor named Robert E. Lee. Charles Byrne it is told fell in love with the neighbor's daughter (Anne Carter Lee) and they were about to be married when she fell sick of typhoid and died. Charles joined the 27th Virginia (CS) where he served the Confederacy with valor and later became renowned as a Confederate spy he achieved the rank of Captain. Charles was in many of the important battles in the Shenandoah Valley as a part of the Stonewall Brigade, he served at Manassas and Gettysburg to name but two battles he took part in. From what I have seen a book could be written about his life before the war his service to the south and his life after the war. There was a younger brother Lucien who later in the war joined the 51st Missouri infantry with his Father's signature. After the war, the three brothers who fought for the Union returned to Memphis. Those brothers were Harrison, Lucien and John. John later moved west settling in California. Charles, who never came back to North Missouri moved to Texas and later settled in Arkansas, he never married. It is interesting to note that after the war the brothers all laid aside past differences and remained in contact throughout their lives.

Now here is where the story takes a different turn. Harrison's Great, Great, Great Granddaughter was working on her family tree. She was able to find the last resting place of her GGG Grandfather and her uncle Lucien. They were buried in the Memphis, Mo. Cemetery. She was even able to find that the Confederate brother Charles died in Garland County, Arkansas. But nowhere could she find Uncle John or where he had

passed away. After much searching she was able to find the last resting place of Uncle John's wife, Mary Jane (Whorton) Byrne. She is buried in northern California in a plot with eight spaces, she is the only one there, there was no trace of Uncle John.. After three years of calling cemeteries in California John's niece was able to track down his cremains. They were in what is called a dead Zone, a place where unclaimed remains are stored. Of note, the remains were about two years away from being dumped and lost forever.

John Byrne's niece has went to great extremes to secure his remains. She has acquired a government stone for his final resting place, and has most graciously agreed to allow us to help in the laying to rest of what most likely will be the last burial of an unburied Union veteran. John Byrne was from McNeil camp's own home area and served side by side in the 21st Missouri with our own brother David Wilson's G Grandfather. To be a part of this is indeed an honor.

Here is what McNeil camp was asked to do. **To be the 21st Missouri.** To be in charge of the men who will guard the coffin laying in state in the funeral home. To be in charge of the guard posted at the front and back door of the Funeral Home in Memphis ,MO. (6 men plus the Corporal of the guard changed every 15-30 minuets depending on how much help we receive from those outside of McNeil Camp). We will have a camp set up on the court house lawn just across from the funeral home. We will open the grave and post a guard at grave site and cemetery gate until 24 hours after the burial (My guess is a squad of about 6 men to camp at the cemetery on a rotating basis) This will be for a 48 hour period. We were asked to have a GAR presence at the service. I have asked Brother Dennis Daniels to do this as the Daughters thought he could do this with style(I agree) we will have 4 other parts for GAR men during the ceremony. We were asked to make a period coffin, I agreed to do this and have one put together. I offered our services to be the pall bearers, they will need ten Union men for this and two Confederate. Pat is trying to find someone from Virginia to be the other two dressed as Confederate soldiers in honor of Brother Charles. The pall bearers may be reserved as a place of honor for someone else of the family's choosing, I am not sure. According to military etiquette the highest ranking man in the color guard will be no more than a corporal as that was the rank of John Byrne. If we (McNeil Camp) try to do this by ourselves we will not have enough men to cover all that is needed. Therefore, we will need to share the honor with other Missouri men and Civil War reenactors from across the country who may want to take part.

The Daughters of Union Veterans have asked that all flowers and wreaths offered for the service and burial be made up of REAL flowers.

If you would like to take part in the services and burial of what may be the last unburied Union veteran this may be your chance. To be a part of this watch the Daughters of Union Veterans Web site at duvcw.org. While there look under John P. Byrne. McNeil camp #62 will post an e-mail address at; johnbyrneburial@hotmail.com for any one who would like to help with the honor guard and burial detail ect. If you want to get in touch you can by writing me at; V. Stottlemire PDC, 27476 highway V, Milan, MO 63556, or by calling me at; 1-660-265-3636.

In F,C&L

Vern Stottlemire, PDC Dept of MO