



THE CAMP FIRE

Fraternity - Charity - Loyalty



A Newsletter Publication For The Department of Missouri

Volume 1. No. 2 November 1997

Department Commander: Steven Leicht

Editor: Commander Steven Leicht

Department Charter Returned

September 26th the Sterling Price Camp 145 SCV held their annual Birthday Dinner. SUV members present were Dept. Commander Steven Leicht, Dept. Sec/Tres Bob Petrovic, Grant Camp Commander Bob Amsler, Nat'l Past C-in-C Alan Loomis, and Kansas Dept. Commander Dean Speaks standing in for C-in-C Richard Orr.

SCV C-in-C Peter Orlebeck was present at the dinner and gave a speech about how the history of the civil war had been suppressed and the struggles the SCV are having with preserving their heritage.

Missouri Division Commander Ollie Sappington presented Missouri Department Commander Steven Leicht with the Original Sons of Union Veterans Missouri Department Charter.

The Charter has the title of Sons of Veterans of the United States of America, Division of Missouri. Signed January 1, 1885 by Harry W. Arnold, who was elected at the 3rd National Encampment in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania August 27-30 1884.

The organization was known as the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America from 1881 to about 1910. The name was then changed to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The Departments were also known as Divisions prior to 1910.

Commander Sappington had found the Charter in an antique shop in Illinois. This indeed was a rare find for Commander Sappington and a blessing that he

had acquired this Charter. Most of the Departments that have been reinstated do not have their Original Charters. We are very fortunate that Commander Sappington has been so gracious to return this Charter to the Department of Missouri.

Commander Sappington had commented during the presentation that this Charter should not belong to one individual but to the Organization it represents. Commander Sappington had decided to contact Commander Leicht and return the Charter to the Department of Missouri in the spirit of friendship between the two Organizations.

We the SUV members of the State of Missouri owe Commander Sappington and the SCV our gratitude for returning the Charter to us.

Color copies have been made of the original charter and of the charter presented by the National Organization when we reinstated the Department of Missouri. They will be available at the Department meeting in January.

While getting copies of the charter I found a business sticker of the company that framed the charter. It was K. H. Herkenhoff, books, stationary and picture frames, 1409 Mallinckrodt St., St. Louis, MO. The phone number is listed as Bell Phone Tyler 1942. (89-1942) The phone numbers should have only been 6 digits in 1885.

After being presented with the Charter this is the speech I gave to show my appreciation to Commander Sappington and the SCV for returning the charter to the SUV.

Received
15 Nov 97

STERLING PRICE CAMP #145 DINNER
SEPTEMBER 26, 1997

I would like to thank the Sterling Price Camp for their gracious invitation to the Missouri Camps of the Sons of Union Veterans.

I would especially like to thank Commander Sappington for presenting the Department of Missouri with our original Department Charter.

This Charter means a great deal to me. We have reinstated the Department of Missouri just over 1 year ago. We are striving to get the State of Missouri back to its original format we once followed.

Commander you have given back to us a piece of our heritage that was considered lost. You have also given back to us a piece of our pride and another reason to continue to move forward with the traditions of our ancestors.

May 26th of this year marked the first for a number of things:

The first time the SCV and the SUV marched together in a joint memorial ceremony at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

The first time that this generation of SCV and SUV have worked together to help each other.

Even though both our ancestors fought for different ideals during the war, we share one common interest. To perpetuate the memories of our ancestors. We must not let their memories ever be forgotten, and for what they fought for.

The Civil War ended 132 years ago. It's time that this country sees that we have put this tragic war behind us and can live together.

I truly believe that we cannot change the past, we can make the future, hopefully to benefit both our organizations.

Commander I am grateful for more than just this charter which you have presented to me this

evening. I am also grateful for all the help you have given me since Memorial Day this year. You Sir have supplied me with information that was very helpful in bringing the Department of Missouri back to its original roots. You have given me minutes from our forefathers meetings, and you have shared with me a part of our history we had not experienced yet. Your encouragement, support and advice will not be forgotten.

My prayers are with you and your family during this trying time in your life with your father.

I wanted to give you something that would equal the sentimental value of this charter in which you have given to us. However all I can offer you at this time is one thing, that is my friendship. If there is anything I can do for you, I will do my best to be there for you and help in any way I can.

I had a gift for you to show my appreciation. Unfortunately it was not finished on time for tonight's dinner.

Thank you and Bless you all!

Steven Leicht
MO Dept. Commander
Nat'l Chief of Staff

Note: Commander Sappington's father had passed away the day before the Dinner.

Department October Meeting

The Department meeting was held October 4th at Wilson's Creek. I would like to personally thank the members of the Phelps Camp for making the arrangements and hosting the Department Meeting. The meeting room accommodations were excellent.

The Camps were able to approve the Department Bylaws, approve 2 fund-raisers and discuss the progress of getting the Department of Missouri on the National Web Site. The GAR Altar and the Original Department Charter were brought to the meeting for the members to view.

Department Orders # 4
Series 1997-1998

1. The next Department meeting will be held in mid January in Columbia, MO. The exact date and location will be forwarded to the Camp Commanders as soon as the information is available. There will be an orientation for the Camp Commanders and the Camp Secretaries being installed. Orientation will be prior the meeting. It is important that the Camp Commanders and Secretaries be present at this orientation. Information about operating the camp will be discussed and handed out at this session.

2. I have sent in a request to the National Council of Administration for permission to hold a joint Officer installation for all the Camps at the January Meeting. I would like to know as soon as possible of all the elected officers of the Camps. This is the information that will be put into the Web Page for the Department of Missouri.

3. I have sent a Life membership application and the application for war medals to all the Camp Commanders. If any member would like to become a life member or order a war medal, please contact your Camp Commander.

4. The Camp 2nd quarter per capita taxes are due on or before the 1st day of January. They are to be sent to the Dept. Sec/Tres Bob Petrovic.

5. Camps are to send in a copy of their Camp Bylaws to the Department Sec/Tres when they send in their 2nd quarter per capita tax forms.

6. Camps are to send in an updated membership list to the Dept. Sec/Tres with their 2nd quarter per capita tax forms.

7. Camps need to make a list of the Camp property. Both the preceding and newly elected Camp Commanders are to review the property and the condition of the property and sign the list. It is to be noted the condition of any property that is not in good condition. The list is to be turned into the Department Commander prior to the Camp Officer's installation.

8. According to Chapter 1 Article V Section 1, the Camp Treasurer shall produce a receipt from the Department Headquarters for payment of the per capita tax. If there is any Camp that does not have the receipts, please contact Department Sec/Tres Bob Petrovic.

Section 2. Installing Officer is to examine the books and records of the camp prior to installation. Camp Treasurer and Secretaries need to have their records in order for review before Camp Officers are to be installed.

9. Camps need to appoint a member for a camp Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator and send this information to Bob Petrovic. This member will be in charge of presenting the certificates to the Boy Scout troops in the area of the Camps.

10. I would like to ask the camps to send the original membership application in with their per capita tax forms and not a copy of the application. I do recommend that you make a copy to keep in the camp records.

11. Department Bylaws will be sent to the Camp Commanders as soon as they are returned from the C-in-C Richard Orr.

12. Any Camp wishing to place an article in the Banner needs to get the information to me by December 1, 1997.

By Order of:
Steven Leicht
MO Dept. Commander
Nat'l Chief of Staff

Cape Girardeau

The Richard J. Oglesby-Birds Point, MO Camp 61 convened it's regular 4th quarter meeting at Port Cape Girardeau Restaurant. Officers of Camp 61 present included Camp Commander Mike Bub, Junior Vice Commander Zac Caldwell, and Sec/Tres John Pillers. In addition to 2 other members of the camp and 7 guests, the audience

included Department Commander Steven Leicht and Department Sec/Tres Bob Petrovic.

Posted about the room were: a photograph of Gen. Richard J. Oglesby, the camp's namesake; the camp charter; camp banner and camp relic box. Initiated by Commander Bub, the relic box continues a GAR tradition of having civil war relics and related objects at meetings. At present the relic box contains original mini balls, a U.S. eagle button, a piece of an original C.W.-era blanket and a piece of wood from the Andersonville prison stockade.

Some members of the order arrived early to dine at the restaurant. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. with Commander Bub presiding over the meeting.

In addition to the regular camp business and reports, three new members and one current member were initiated into the Order by Department Commander Steven Leicht. The meeting was turned over to the Department Commander to preside over the election of Camp Officers.

New Camp Officers are as follows:
Camp Commander Zac Caldwell
Sr. Vice Commander John Pillers
Jr. Vice Commander Steve Pledger

Past Commander Mike Bub was recognized for his 2 years of service as Camp Commander and for his efforts in forming the Oglesby Camp.

Many thanks to Brother Leicht and Petrovic for attending the Camp 61 meeting.

Article Submitted by:
John Pillers
Oglesby Camp 61

Internet Information

The following addresses can be contacted for civil war information

American Civil War Home Page
<http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~hoemann/warweb.html>

National Park Service
<http://www.nps.gov>

African-Americans in the Civil War
<http://www.idt.nps.gov/cwss/africanh.html>

Battlefield Update, Newsletter Fulltext
<http://www.nps.gov/crebl/abpp/latest.htm>

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Systems
<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/usct.html>

Links, NPS Civil War Site
<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/usct.html>

U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Database
<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/usct.html>

U.S. Civil War Center
<http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/index.html>

Civil War Sesquicentennial News
<http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/projects/sesqui.htm>

Thanks to the Colonel Hecker Camp #443 for allowing the Dept. of Missouri to reprint this information from their newsletter.

Official Civil War Recorders on CD

The 130 volumes of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies is now available on CD-ROM. The price for the CD is \$69.95 plus shipping and handling. Those who are interested in ordering the Civil War on CD-ROM can contact Guided Press at 435 Gradle Dr. Carmel, IN 46032 or call 1-800-913-9563.

Reenactment Cannon Accident

October 19th at a reenactment at North Collage Hill in Cincinnati, Ohio, a 14 year old boy was critically injured when the cannon he was loading fired. He was thrown several feet from the blast. He has lost the sight in his right eye and has damage to the left eye. He had reconstructive surgery to his right hand and will need more. It appears the crew might have been rapid firing without sponging the barrel between rounds.

A Brett Vicchilli Fund has been established to collect money to help the boy's family pay for medical expenses. I was unable to get an address where to send the money. I will get this information out as soon as it is available.

Brett is in critical condition at Children's Hospital Medical Center. He lives in Greencastle, IN

Brigidar General David V Medert of the SVR stresses the importance for safe operating procedures at reenactments, for all reenactors.

Artillery School

Battery I, 1st Ohio Light Artillery will be holding their 5th annual "School of the Piece" April 17-19, 1998 at the Camp Sherman range in Chillicothe, Ohio. Registration is \$3.00 per person.

P-N-PEugeniaReesePassedAway

Eugenia Reese Past National President of the Ladies of the G. A. R. died Thursday, October 30, at the age of 92.

She had been a member of the Ladies of the GAR for over 60 years. She served as National President and Department President twice. She was active in the McKinley Circle #1 Department of Missouri.

Virginia Kulikowski, Ruth Funck and Viola Selter held a memorial ceremony for Eugenia on behalf of the McKinley Circle #1.

Eugenia Reese was survived by her daughter Gladys Morrison. If any member wishes to send a sympathy card to the family they can address them to 3744 Lan Dr., St. Louis, MO 63125.

Flowers were sent from the National Organization, Department of Missouri and the U. S. Grant Camp. The following members were present at the funeral home Sunday night: Department Commander Steven Leicht representing the C-in-C Richard Orr and the Department of Missouri, Department Sec/Tres Bob Petrovic Grant Camp Commander Bob Amsler and Sherman Camp Secretary Charlie Funck.

Monday, November 3rd, Eugenia was taken to Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery and laid to rest.

November 11, 1997 Commander Leicht and Grant Camp Commander Amsler presented a flag on behalf of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic to the Bethesda-Dilworth Memorial Home. Eugenia Reese's family was present for this presentation. The Grant Camp donated a flag pole and stand to the home.

Dept. Sec/Tres E-Mail Address

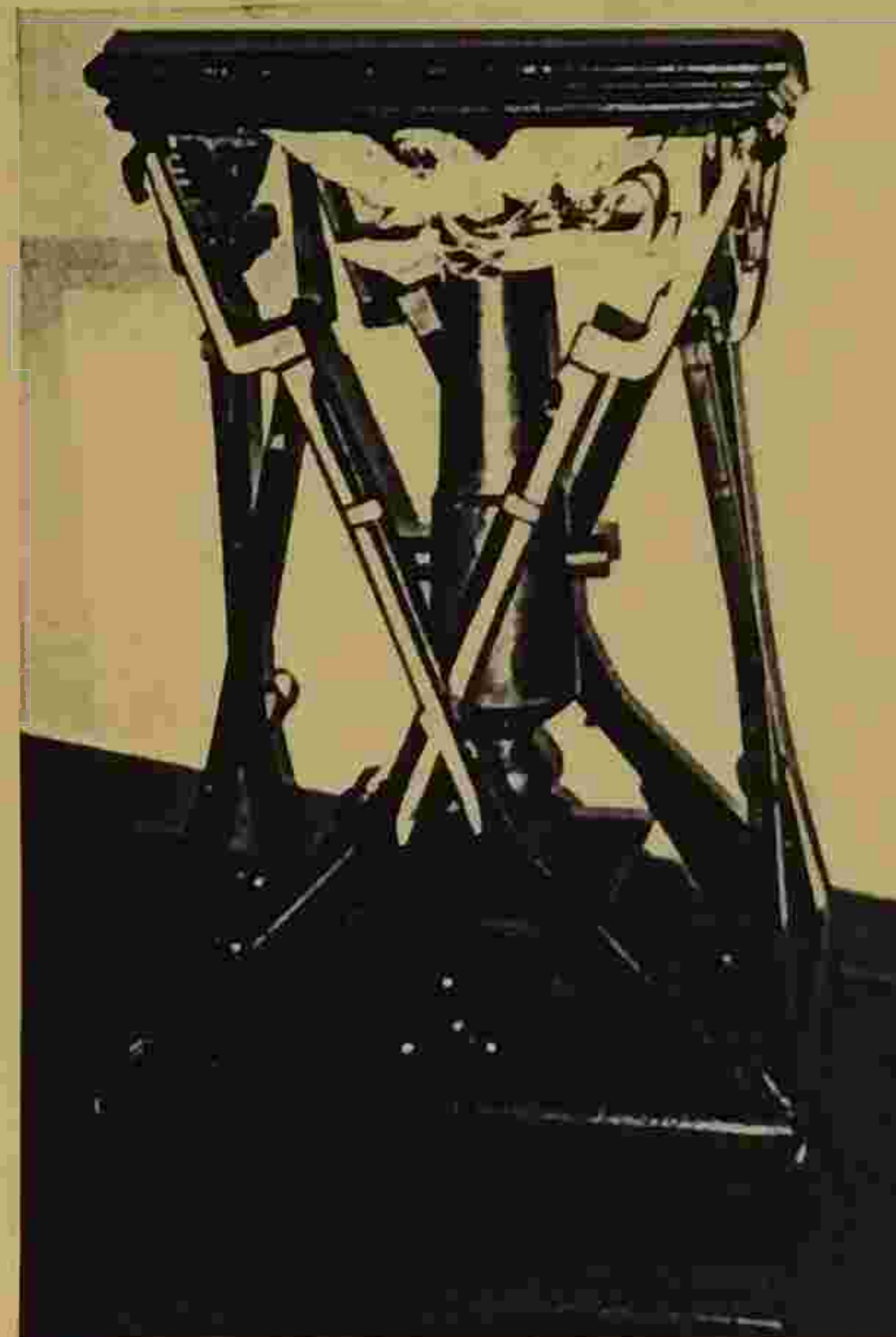
Bob Petrovic is now on line and with his very own e-mail address. Anyone needing to contact Bob can now send his e-mail directly to him.

The address is: RPETRO7776@aol.com.

G. A. R. Altar

The G. A. R. Altar was brought to the Department meeting in Springfield. It was given to Department Commander Steven Leicht by the Women's Relief Corps.

The Altar belonged to the Deveau Post# 329 G A R Morris, IL. They meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 2 PM. In 1925 the Commander was C. J. I. Murry, and in 1930 they still had 5 members. A member of the Post built the Altar in the late 1890's.





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