

# THE MISSOURI UNIONIST



Volume 2015 No. 1

March 31, 2015

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

**No to  
Monument--  
Governor  
Jay Nixon  
says: "I've  
still got  
cracked  
steps in the  
back  
sidewalk..."**

(story on page 4)



**Collector's Corner is back! --- Brother of Missouri G.A.R. Commander finally going to be at rest. --- Department Encampment Registration --- Grant Trail – A Pension Claim & more...**

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## Events on the Horizon

April 7-	Lincoln Camp Organizational Meeting - Branson
April 11-	Lincoln Death Day
April 11-	1:30 PM, Park Cemetery, Carthage MO, Major Rombauer's Burial
April 15 -	<b>TAX DAY.</b>
April 20-	Camp Quarterly Reports due into Dept Commander & Secretary
April 30 -	Camp Secretaries Must have Form 27 to the Department Secretary with Dept & Nat'l Per Capita Dues
May 1-3 -	Lincoln Funeral Procession Re-enactment - Springfield, IL
May 15-	Most Camps Need to have Form 990-N filed by this date
May 25-	Memorial Day - Jefferson Barracks and other places in the state
June 6-	Department Encampment - Jefferson City Capitol Building, Legislative Rooms, start 10 a.m.
June ??-	Phelps Camp: Placement of Last Soldier Marker - Mountain Grove
June 13	Gravesite dedication for Horace B. Locke at Valhalla Cemetery 7600 St Charles Rock Road, St Louis, MO 63133

## Editor's Comments

**We have the department encampment information included in this issue. We encourage all to attend and would like to see all camps have at least one representative there. Without a representative, your camp has no voice.**

**I think this is the best issue so far, why?...Because a lot of people have contributed articles to it. That helps me considerably as it means all I have to do is edit it for grammar and style. Also, at the department business meeting we talked about people sending in stories about their ancestor's military service. We can definitely put in an article or two each issue about that. I made the comment that if a lot of people would regularly contribute, even tidbits, I would have no problem compiling a 140 page issue each quarter. So keep those articles coming in! Write a series and I'll make a space in several issues.**

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# *Brother of a Missouri G.A.R. Commander Finally To Be Rest*

*From the Phelps Camp Newsletter with additions*



Hungarian native Raphael Guido Rombauer had a distinguished career during the Civil War. He served as a sergeant with the 1st Missouri Infantry but was not at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. He rose through the ranks finally becoming a major in the 1st Illinois Light Artillery.

After the war, he moved with his family to Carthage, Mo. Because of his prominence in business affairs, Rombauer St. in Carthage was named after him. Major Rombauer's wife, Emma Thomas, died in 1899 and was buried in Carthage alongside two of their children. Major Rombauer died in Kirksville, Mo, on Sep. 15, 1912, and after a funeral there, his remains were sent to St. Louis to be cremated.

After the cremation, the remains were not claimed. Finally, in Sep 2014, 102 years after his death, his relatives located and claimed his remains. Now his relatives would like to have a formal funeral for him, and lay him to rest

Now, on **Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.**, the men of Phelps Camp and members of the Holmes Brigade will honor this gallant Union officer. The ceremony will take place at Block 7,m Lot 21, Park Cemetery, Carthage, Mo, at the corner of Baker Blvd and Budlong St.

This is obviously a very unique opportunity to conduct an actual funeral for a Civil War soldier.

Brother Robert Julius Rombauer, later a member of the Hassendeubel Post #13 of St. Louis, became Missouri G.A.R. commander in 1868 (prior to reorganization). Robert was also the author of a 1909 book entitled: *The Union Cause in St. Louis in 1861: An Historical Sketch*.



## At One Time, The People of Missouri Cared..

Rudy Keller, Columbia (MO) *Daily Tribune*, on Sunday, Feb. 15, reported on our efforts to obtain state money to refurbish the Missouri monument at Vicksburg. Apparently, honoring veterans is the last thing on the minds of our state government. Snazzy websites that are rarely updated, local reenactments, and little markers on the highway showing Missouri Civil War sites are viewed as more desirable. And yet, a monument in Mississippi honoring Missouri Civil War veterans is just as much supportive of advertising Missouri Civil War tourism. It too can remind people they need to visit Missouri for more on the Civil War.

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the citizens of Missouri spent their \$40,000 of their tax dollars to create the monument pictured on the cover. The sculpture by Victor Holm entitled *The Spirit of the Republic* was dedicated in finally on Oct. 17, 1917. It was built to honor the 27 Union and 15 Confederate units participated in the siege which ended on July 4, 1863, and led to Union control of the Mississippi River. At the time it was the only monument in a national park dedicated to soldiers of both sides.

The efforts of our department began under Commander Larry Dietzel, Columbia Tiger Camp 432, who has continued trying to get action on refurbishing the monument, which according to National Park Service's estimates needs \$370,000 worth of repairs.

The state is preparing to spend \$362 million from a bond issue on state repair projects, including \$75 million for work around the Capitol. When asked about the Vicksburg monument, Governor Jay Nixon said there was no room on the projects list for it. The *Daily Tribune* quotes the Governor as saying: ““Of the capital needs that we have in our state, with all due deference and respect to those that died in the battle between the states, I've still got cracked steps in the back sidewalk, and that's a monument a lot closer to Missouri than Vicksburg is,...In the hierarchy of needs, it's not there.”

The *Daily Tribune* also reports that the repairs needed include “broken bronze work and discolored and cracking stones.” There was a chance to get some federal matching funds for monument repairs, but the deadline to submit the request was March 31, 2015. Hopefully, there will be another chance in the future, but action will need to be committed to by the state and other organizations as well as ours.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, and state Rep. Craig Redmond, R-Canton and chairman of the House Appropriations-Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee, are willing to consider the request. With so many millions being spent on projects, it would be nice for the state to remember its veterans by spending less than half a million. Unfortunately, more voices need to be heard.

Make them hear you! There is a form letter attached that can be sent to your representatives and senators in the Missouri legislature. Contact your local Civil War Roundtables, American Legions and VFW posts. These groups often have powerful men and women in them and their words may carry the weight we need to get this done. Please share any responses you have with the department webmaster at [webmaster@suvchwmo.org](mailto:webmaster@suvchwmo.org) and he will forward it to the commander and post it if appropriate.

Some group will eventually have to be the point for collecting funds for this project and a statewide organization not affiliated with Union or Confederate sons or daughters would most

likely be best. If such a group can commit to the project (even if it will be extremely long term) we can begin the process to protect this monument to the soldiers of both sides of the conflict.

### **SAMPLE LETTER**

(Name of State House Member or State Senator)  
201 W. Capitol Ave.  
Room (Google search the member for his or her room number)  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

(Date letter written), 2015

Dear Honorable (Representative or Senator) <name here> –

My name is <your name here> and I live in the (##) district. I am also a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Our group is dedicated to preserving the memory of those who fought to preserve the Union. We also are interested in maintaining monuments that help educate the public of what happened during the War of the Rebellion. That is why I am asking for your assistance in sponsoring a bill to secure the funds to restore the Missouri Monument at the Vicksburg National Military Park in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The State of Missouri originally paid \$40,000 to have this grand monument constructed and dedicated in October of 1917. One of our camp members attended the rededication ceremony in 2013 for the Iowa Monument. While touring the military park he visited the Missouri Monument. He reported back to the Department of Missouri membership that there are areas of damage and deterioration to the monument. If not addressed in the near future the monument will need more extensive structural repairs that will increase the cost of restoration.

According to the 2013 Historic Preservation Training Center survey the cost to restore the Missouri Civil War Monument at the Vicksburg National Military Park was estimated to be \$367,650. This monument stands for both those who fought for the both the Blue and the Grey. Missouri had 21 Union units and 15 Confederate units that fought during the Battle of Vicksburg. With this being the last year of the Civil War's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary let us preserve this monument for future generations. If you are interested in helping the Sons in our effort to save this State Monument please contact me and I can get more information to you and your staff. Since the original Missouri Monument dedication was done in 1917, it would be great if our generation could rededicate the monument by 2017. I hope you can help and or guide our efforts in the restoration of this beautiful monument.

Thanks for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

<Sign here>

(your name and title if any) – Department of Missouri  
(your email address and phone number)

**(This is just an example of what you could include in a letter to your State Representative or Senator – the more letters we can send out the more our voice can be heard.)**

# Collector's Corner

## By Douglas Roussin

### Grave markers/Flag holders part 1

For some time, a debate has been going on in the collecting world about the many brass and iron markers that were placed on the graves of Civil War veterans. These are commonly called grave markers, but, many people simply refer to them as flag holders, and recently some have been called memorial plaques. Regardless, of what you call them the question is, are they collectible or should they not be collected at all. In communicating with a number of collectors across the country, the consensus is that they are collectible as long as they are never removed from the gravesite of a veteran. The question then becomes one of how come so many are in the collecting market today. The answer is both simple and complex at the same time. During the Grand Army's existence, many posts provided a flag holder for their deceased comrades. Some were generic while others were quite beautiful with many themes and designs. The designs included canteens, drums and stars with the post name and number. Most were made of iron while other, were brass or bronze. The patterns and designs depended on the wealth of the post. When the post went out of existence, many times there were grave markers left over. These were sold or given away along with other Post items. Some of these were recycled into desk ornaments and other display items. Many grave marker/flag holders were stored in basements and barns where they remained for years. Later they were sold at estate sales, auctions and flea markets. They never appeared on the grave of a veteran. Many marker/holders were made of iron and after years in the elements, began to deteriorate with rust. At this time many were properly removed by family members. They too ended up in the basement or barn and were never returned to the gravesite. Another explanation for the large numbers has to do with the cemetery itself. The cemeteries were responsible for the large removal of these markers/holders. Caretakers view these old rusty holders as simply being in the way and removed them. A friend in Indiana told me that many years ago he visited a cemetery where he found a stack of these markers behind a shed. When he asked about them he was told they were headed for the dumpster. He recovered and preserved around 50 markers. In fact many markers today are being found in cemetery flower dumps.

Below are some examples of grave markers that were found at auctions, flea markets and on E-bay.



**Brass Markers:** Here are three examples of brass grave markers/flag holders. No maker's name

appears on these stars. A rod was attached to the back for placement into the ground. A knob on the back with a hole allowed placement of a flag. The first marker has GAR with the 5 branches of service. The trefoils are smooth. The second has the dates 1861-1865 with stars in the trefoils. The final star has a Post 46-GAR. It is unclear which Post this is as each department started their numbering with Post 1. The points of the star have the letters F. C. & L for Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

**THE "STAR" G. A. R. GRAVE MARKER,  
AND BOUQUET HOLDER, COMBINED.**




**PRICES OF THE  
STAR G. A. R. GRAVE MARKER**

**WITH BOUQUET HOLDERS.**  
WITHOUT FLAGS.  
Price each, 65 cents.  
Lots of not less than *twenty-five*, with *one Post number*, price each, 50 cents.  
Lots of not less than *fifty*, with *one Post number*, price each, 45 cents.  
Lots of not less than *one hundred*, with *one Post number*, price each, 40 cents.

**BOUQUET HOLDERS ONLY.**  
Price each, 25 cents.  
Lots of not less than *twenty-five*, price each, 20 cents.  
Lots of not less than *fifty*, price each, 17 1-2 cents.  
Lots of not less than *one hundred*, price each, 15 cents.

By keeping the Bouquet Holder filled with water, the bouquet of flowers is kept fresh a long time. This Bouquet Holder can be readily applied to any Grave Marker we have sold heretofore.

**THE "STAR"  
G. A. R. Grave Marker.**



**PRICES, WITHOUT FLAGS.**  
Price, with Post number, 40 cents each.  
Lots not less than *twenty-five* with *one Post number*, 30 cents each.  
Lots not less than *fifty*, with *one Post number*, 27 1-2 cts. each.  
Lots not less than *one hundred*, with *one Post number*, 25 cents each.  
Above are the lowest *net cash prices*; finished, japanned and bronzed, with white letters and numbers.

By using the "Star" G. A. R. Grave Marker you save time in locating the graves of our dead comrades.  
Also, as the number of your Post is put on each one you order, they show that your Post decorated the grave they are placed upon.  
They have already been adopted by a large number of Grand Army Posts, and no G. A. R. Post should be without them for *decorative* use.

**DIMENSIONS, WITHOUT FLAGS.**  
Height from ground to top of star, 18 inches. Whole height to top of star, 27 inches. Diameter of star, 7 inches. The Post number applied to every one.

**M. D. JONES & CO.,  
76 WASHINGTON ST., BOSTON.**

## M. D. Jones & Co.

This faded card was sent to G.A.R. Posts in every department. It is from the M. D. Jones & Co., 76 Washington St., Boston, advertising the "Star" G.A.R. Grave Marker, and bouquet holder, combination. The company price list is included. An order of 25 including the bouquet holder is 65 cents each and the price drops to 40 cents in lots of 100. The bouquet holders could be purchased separately for 25 cents per 25 and 15 cents in lots of 100. If you wanted to buy the star only, the prices ranged from 25 to 40 cents depending on the amount purchased. Look closely at the second card. The "star" in lots of 50 are 27 1/2 cents.



The card ends with the following statement. "By using the "star" G.A.R. Grave Marker you save time in locating the graves of our dead comrades. Also, as the number of your Post is put on each one you order, they show that your Post decorated the grave they are placed upon.

They have already been adopted a large number of Grand Army Post, and no G.A.R. Post should be without them for cemetery use."

### Post 36 G.A.R.

This grave marker/flag holder was found at a flea market in Florida. The owner informed me that he had purchased it at an estate sale many years ago and only recently decided to put it up for sale. The purchase price was \$20.00. It measures 24 inches tall and is painted green with some rust appearing. The raised letters are painted white. It appears that this marker has been painted several times. In the center of the stem are two holes. This was for the attachment of the bouquet basket. It is quite rare to find these with a basket intact. The baskets were usually the first piece to be discarded.



**WHICH MARKER?** When placing a marker for a Civil War Veteran, please make sure the soldier was also a member of the G.A.R. before giving him a G.A.R. marker. If he wasn't, he is still entitled to the marker on the right.



# The U.S. Grant Trail, Southeast Section

**Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015- Cape Girardeau, MO** -- representatives of Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation (MCWHF), along with local elected officials, representatives of the Cape Girardeau Convention and Visitors Bureau and members of the public unveiled a new historical marker at the foot of the Common Pleas Courthouse in downtown Cape Girardeau. The marker discusses how Grant's time in the region influenced his transition as the Union Army's commanding general and later president of the United States. This marker is part of the US Grant Trail map as developed to promote tourism by MCWHF.

## Grant in Southeast Missouri

# Missouri's CIVIL WAR

**A Fortified City**  
Four cotton forts and allied entrenchments were awaiting completion on October 9, 1861, when General Ulysses Grant visited Cape Girardeau as an inspection tour. Cape Girardeau occupies the first high ground that overlooks the Mississippi River north of its confluence with the Ohio River. As a result, Union authorities deemed it necessary to fortify the city against attack by land or water. In the first months of the Civil War, Cape Girardeau was one of the most fortified cities in the western theater.

Southeast Missouri was where Ulysses S. Grant, the nation's Eighteenth President, began his rise to prominence as a soldier. This story began in mid-August, 1861, at Ironton, Missouri, 70 miles west of Cape Girardeau via Missouri Highway 72. Grant arrived in "the Cape" on August 30, 1861, a newly commissioned brigadier general of volunteers commanding the Union District of Southeast Missouri. It was here that General Grant launched his historic campaign to control the Mississippi River.

After serving in Ironton, where he received his commission, and briefly serving in Jefferson City, Grant was summoned to Army Headquarters in St. Louis on August 28, 1861. Historians disagree, still, on the circumstances. According to one eyewitness, Grant was ordered to report to St. Louis for reassignment and was "discarded" waiting in the basement during a senior staff meeting. According to this version, it so happened that Union Major General John C. Fremont and staff were discussing candidates to lead an offensive from Southeast Missouri. Perhaps Grant was selected to fill this post because Fremont realized he was the most senior of the new Illinois brigadiers.

After assembling a staff, General Grant boarded a steamer in St. Louis on August 30, 1861 and arrived that evening to take command in Cape Girardeau. He took lodging most likely in the St. Charles Hotel, which stood at the southwest corner of Themis and Main Streets, a half block east of where you are standing. One of Grant's first acts was to order Union regiments stationed in the interior at Ironton to march to meet him in Cape to prepare for offensive operations. In the next days, those regiments (naming them the 17th and 24th Illinois regiments, and the 7th Iowa) marched to meet Grant. The arrival of these troops, on September 2, was the occasion for a dispute between Grant and General Benjamin Prentiss of Illinois (see right side story).

Grant moved his headquarters to Cairo, Illinois, on September 4, 1861. There, on the evening of September 5, Grant engineered a movement upon Paducah, Kentucky, an immediate response to the decision by the Confederate army to enter Kentucky despite the state's declared neutrality in the early months of the Civil War. On the next day, only a week after taking command in Cape Girardeau, Grant with a small force occupied the City of Paducah.

Grant returned to Cape Girardeau on September 7, 1861, to see to the disposition of troops that were still stationed here.

Ulysses Grant's last campaign in southeast Missouri was launched from Cairo on November 7, 1861. After dispatching Union troops to Sikeston (in Scott County) and Bloomfield (in Stoddard County), Grant stacked Belmont, Missouri in Mississippi County on November 7, the first battle of the Civil War in which the future Lieutenant General commanded troops in the field. He would move from Cairo to Fort Donelson, Tennessee, in January, 1862, then on to Shiloh and into the pages of history.

**A Question of Rank**  
Ulysses Grant is well known to most Americans; Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss of Quincy, Illinois, a red-stem in Virginia in 1862, Prentiss moved west as a young man, then settled in Quincy early in the 1840s. A lawyer active as an officer of the Illinois Militia and a veteran of the Mexican War, Prentiss entered politics before the outbreak of the Civil War.

Prentiss and Grant were two of 12 men whose nominations to the rank of brigadier general of volunteers were confirmed by the U. S. Senate on August 7, 1861. Because Ulysses Grant had served as an officer in the regular Army, his seniority was superior - he "ranked" Prentiss.

When Prentiss relieved Grant at Ironton in August, Prentiss asserted that he was the senior brigadier. On September 2, 1861, Prentiss ordered Cape Girardeau, expecting that he would command the forces gathering here. At the same time, Ulysses Grant rounded his horse near the St. Charles Hotel, heading to Jackson where he expected to meet Prentiss' regiments. Grant described the scene in his Memoirs: "As I turned the first corner of a street after starting, I saw a column of cavalry passing the next street in front of me. I turned and rode around the block the other way, so as to meet the head of the column."

It was at or near this location on Spanish Street that Grant reached the head of the southbound cavalry column. General Prentiss rode in this column. An argument over rank ensued, and Grant ordered Prentiss to return to his troops in Jackson. Prentiss placed himself under arrest so he could plead his case in St. Louis. Grant's authority and his orders were upheld. Seven months later, it was Prentiss who fought valiantly in the "Horse's Head" at the Battle of Shiloh, providing vital protection for Grant's defensive line.

The St. Charles Hotel was here considered to be one of Cape Girardeau's greatest landmarks. Located at the southwest corner of Themis and Main Streets, the hotel opened its doors in January 1862, and soon after, presumably housed its most famous guest. The old building was demolished in the 1950s.

Source: The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Volume 2, April-September, 1861 (John Y. Simon, ed., Southern Illinois University Press, 1968); Will, Gregory Prayed and How Alder & Tice Guide to Missouri's Civil War; Long, G.L., "The Paducah After: Standish Action and Award the Civil War in the Whittier's Way," *Signature of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Oct. 1975; Knox, Thomas W., *Army Life of General Grant* (New York: The World Company, 1870), p. 181.

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Several speakers described Grant's 1861 visit to Cape Girardeau, including his refusal to stand down against another general who claimed to command the area. General Benjamin Prentiss was appointed brigadier the same day as Grant and believed he should command the area. Because the army rules in Grant's favor, this dispute can be seen as a significant turning point in the outcome of the war. One historian asserted that the argument occurred on that very spot. According to the *Southeast Missourian*, Dr. Frank Nickell, retired history professor at Southeast Missouri University, stated: "By the summer of 1863, as a result of what began here, Grant had emerged as the distinctive figure in the Union field command."

Some of the dignitaries included: Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., left, Charlie Herbst, Greg Wolk, Paul Koeper, Harry Rediger, Clint Tracy and Dr. Frank Nickell. Funds contributed by the visitors bureau and Cape Girardeau businessman Earl Norman paid for the marker panel. A large Civil War monument subscribed by the Womens Relief Corps and the G.A.R. is on the opposite side of the courthouse.

According to Greg Wolk of MCWHF, another marker will soon be in place at the Iron County Courthouse in Ironton, MO, near the spot where Grant received his brigadier's commission.

## DID HE REALLY SAY THAT?

Nathaniel Lyon at the Planter's House showdown, June 10, 1861:

*"Rather than concede to the state of Missouri for one single instant the right to dictate to my government in any matter however unimportant, I would see you, and you, and you, and you, and you, and every man, woman, and child in the state dead and buried."*

The person reporting these words is Thomas Snead, author of *The Fight for Missouri* and a party to the meeting. He wrote these words in 1886. However, Gov. Claiborne Jackson mentions when issuing an order to raise more state militia to defend against the federal government, that Lyon had said that he would reduce Missouri to "the exact state as Maryland." In other words, occupied by federal forces. No death of every man, woman and child, which would have definitely angered more people than the mention of Maryland.

But there is a text that is similar to Snead's. Major Horace Conant, Blair's aide, reported the statement as follows:

*As Gen. Lyon was about to take his leave, he said: 'Gov. Jackson, no man in the State of Missouri has been more ardently desirous of preserving peace than myself. Heretofore Missouri has only felt the fostering care of the Federal Government, which has raised her from the condition of a feeble French colony to that of an empire State. Now, however, from the failure on the part of the Chief Executive to comply with constitutional requirements, I fear she will be made to feel its power. Better, sir, far better, that the blood of every man, woman and child of the State should flow that that she should successfully defy the Federal Government.'*

So, there is a little difference between the words as recorded by Union and Confederate sources. Regardless, the point was taken, the meeting adjourned. Price and Jackson were forced to return to Jefferson City, burning railroad bridges as they went.



THE FATEFUL MEETING IN THE ST. LOUIS HOTEL.

Pictured: L-R – Standing General Nathaniel Lyon, Frank Blair, Gov. Claiborne Jackson and Missouri State Guard Major-General Sterling Price.

## DISABLED VETERAN

By Walt Larson, Wilhelmi Camp

That little military action took place in Washington, MO, during the Civil War did not mean there was not personal suffering experienced. Many men marched off to never return. Of those that did return, many were broken in health by their service and died at a young age or spent their remaining life as an invalid. Some who never came under fire suffered health problems as a result of their service. The following relates the health results of a military career limited to within 30 miles of the soldier's home.

"I, George Bergner claimant under Certificate No. 490,275 for Original Pension under act June 27<sup>th</sup> 1890, being duly sworn on my oath, make the following statement, to-wit:

In the month of March, 1861, we, the citizens of the town of Washington and Franklin County, Missouri, organized ourselves into a Military organization to protect the government and our homes....

From March 1861 I was all the time in the active service. On the tenth day of June 1861, we were mustered into the United States Service, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1861 we were ordered to protect the Missouri Pacific R.R. Bridges and property. The same day we marched to St. Johns, Boeuff and Berger Bridges on the line of the Mo. Pacific Railroad, in the Missouri river bottoms, without any equipments, shelter or rations, except muskets and ammunition... Our rations were received the first month from home, from our families in the town of Washington, later on from the U.S. Government, but very insufficient, poor and irregular. We received no shelter... scarcely the only comfort we had was to rest on the muddy and swampy ground... Our service was very hard and exerting on account of the extreme heat during the daytime, and the misty and chilly nights and inclement weather...

... many of my comrades of Company "A" ... were sick when we were mustered out, some of them died not long after the same... In the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 1861, on account of having no chance to rest for several days and nights, I was broken down and I felt so sick and tired, I could not stand it any longer. I was obliged to lay myself down on the ground to take a rest. I laid there for about 12 or 14 hours, and in the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> of July on awakening, I was so stiff and had such severe pains in my right side and limbs that I could not move myself... My comrades helped me to stand up, this same day my sickness got worse and I got fever, and my lower limbs were swollen stiff and red and pained me very much.

In the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July my comrades ... brought me down on a hand car to Washington, Missouri, for medical treatment ... my sickness was acute rheumatism. After about 2 weeks treatment I improved some, so that I could walk slowly again. ... I went back into the service to the camp and did my duty as well as my disabilities allowed me to do, until we were mustered out, but I always was under medical treatment... At the time we were mustered out, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 1861, I could hardly walk and was not well enough to be present.

On August 25<sup>th</sup> 1862, I was enrolled in the E.M.M. the same time, I was not well yet, and my lower limbs were stiff and affected from rheumatism contracted from exposure in the service during July 1861, but they sent my commission as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and I was enrolled in Co. C, 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment E.M.M. ... I did as much service as my sickness permitted me to do.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 1864, the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment was called into the United States service by General Order numbered 270 ... the Confederate Army under General Price made an invasion into Missouri and into Franklin County... On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 1864, in the evening at ten o'clock I was ordered to start to Companies B, C, and D, under Captains Bolte, Fricke and Clark. They were located about 15 to 20 miles from our headquarters at Washington, Missouri and were at Boueff Township, Port Hudson and Campbellton, Mo., it had rained a whole week, and in the night I was ordered to said places, it was still raining. I started on horseback, and arrived at St. John's Creek at 1 o'clock in the morning, it was very dark and still raining and I was bound to cross the creek to go to the other Camps. On account of the very heavy rains the creek was high and overflowing, but I was obliged to cross and nearly drowned in crossing... at two o'clock in the morning the weather had changed to frost and my clothes were frozen tight to my body. Two men helped me from my horse and assisted me to a fireplace .... By three o'clock I started again, felt very sick, but feeling I must obey orders I arrived at Washington, Missouri, at three o'clock in the afternoon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October.

The Confederate Army of General Price at that same arrived... We crossed the Missouri River and marched to Augusta, and on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, we marched back to Washington again, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> of same month by the Missouri Pacific R.R. to the town of Franklin (now Pacific, Mo.) During all that time I was under medical treatment ... but being needed, I was compelled to serve on and do my duty. From the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 1864, I had patrol night duty, about 12 o'clock that night the weather changed to a rainy, snowy bad weather. I got wet through and through and after the rain and snow it turned cold and I was chilled through and through. ...I also got a fever, and was not able to do any duty ...sent me by Missouri Pacific Railroad to Washington, Mo., for medical treatment .... my sickness was a relapse of acute rheumatism ... we were mustered out on November 15<sup>th</sup> 1864, I was in bed and too sick ... both legs were badly affected with rheumatism.

I suffered several years after being mustered out of service before I was well and healthy enough to attend to my usual occupation, which was gun-smith and mechanic. I never grew back to the strong, stout, healthy man again, that I was in June 1861... disability grew worse from time to time, until I was totally disabled and left me in the condition in which I am at present. My lower limbs are totally useless, pain me very much and are not movable. On account of said disability I am confined to (invalids) rolling chair since 1884 ....

The same sickness has now developed into Chronic Rheumatism and I have been in this helpless condition for the last fourteen years, during which period I have been obliged to use the rolling chair, and I must have assistance in everything I do....

This is the correct statement of the commencement and continuance of my sickness incurred while in the service of the United States in 1861 and 1864."

/s/ George Bergner – January 31, 1902

George Bergner was born in 1830 in Prussia and there learned the trade of gunsmith. He emigrated to the United States in the 1850s and came to Washington, MO. About 1857 he married the widowed Alvina Adams and they raised four daughters. They built a brick shop and home on Lafayette Street and Bergner became the prominent gunsmith in town. He became a citizen in April 1860.

Bergner joined the Home Guards in 1861 and later the Enrolled Missouri Militia (E.M.M.). He applied to the Provost Marshall and was granted a license to sell guns and ammunition during the war.

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## DEPARTMENT TELEGRAPH

*From the desk of the Commander*

As I am writing this on March 17th, Happy St. Patrick's day to all members of the Department of Missouri and Arkansas. Thank you to all the Camps for getting their By-Laws sent into National in a timely manner. I believe this is to assist National in changing our IRS status.

I guess I will start off with the bad news. As you are aware the McPherson camp in Arkansas has closed and the final details are being cleared up. As the Siegel Camp in Rolla has fallen below its required number of members I have suspended the Camp and the process of closing the Camp is underway. My thanks to Sr. Vice - Commander and Siegel Camp Commander Randal Burd for doing all he could to keep the Camp alive.

The good news is that a new camp is being formed in Branson Mo., Abraham Lincoln Camp #2 headed by Ed Kreiser which has 7 seven members so far.

The Vicksburg Monument Committee has sent letters to the State Representatives and the Governor to solicit funds for repairing the Vicksburg Monument. They are also getting the Civil War Roundtables involved.

As the position of ROTC/JROTC Coordinator Department is vacant I am asking for some one who is interested in the position to contact myself or Sr.-Vice Commander Randal Burd who has temporarily taken the position and is writing a job description.

Some upcoming events are the Lincoln Grave Ceremony in April and the Lincoln Burial event in May, both at Springfield, Il.

Again I would like to take the time to thank all Department members for their dedication and hard work to the Department and the memory of our ancestors.

Glennon Alsop, Department Commander

**Patent Numbers:** Want to buy a Civil War artifact and it happens to have a patent number? To help you determine if it is out of the range date and not produced in the Civil War, here is a short guide.

Patents numbers thru 1859 – 22,477	1860 – 26,642	1861 – 31,005	1862 – 34,045
1863 – 37,266	1864 – 41,047	1865 – 45,685	1866 – 51,784



Glennon Alsop PCC Department Commander  
Department Of Missouri  
Department Order # 3  
March 12, 2015

To all members of the Department of Missouri and Arkansas, any nominations for Department awards need to be submitted to Senior Vice- Commander Randal Burd by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. Winners of the awards will be decided by May 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 and awards will be presented at the Department Encampment in June.

Respectfully submitted,      Glennon Alsop PCC  
Department Commander



Glennon Alsop PCC Department Commander  
Department of Missouri  
Department Order #4  
March 12, 2015

Upon request of the Camp Commander, Randal Burd, I hereby suspend the Sigel Camp #614 as it has fallen below the required number of active members.

Respectfully Submitted, Glennon Alsop PCC  
Department Commander

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**MISSOURI SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**  
**Department Encampment**  
**June 6, 2015**

**Agenda**

9:00 am Registration  
9:30 am - Department Business Session I  
12:00 noon – Lunch – probably while business meeting is conducted  
1:00 pm - Department Business Session II  
4:00 pm - Elections/Officer Installation  
5:00 pm – Adjourn

**2015 Missouri Department Encampment**  
**Pre-Registration Form**  
**(Please Return Forms by May 25, 2015)**

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:

**Martin Aubuchon, PDC**  
**10515 Hackamore Ln.**  
**St. Louis, MO. 63128**

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

**TOTAL**     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions? Please contact:**

Walt Busch     (314) 630-8407

[wbusch@suvcmo.org](mailto:wbusch@suvcmo.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.**

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
**Department of Missouri**  
**UNAPPROVED Business Meeting**

March 7<sup>th</sup> 2015

Missouri State Capitol Building , Jefferson City, MO

**Present:** Commander Glen Alsop; SVC Randal Burd Jr; PDC Walt Busch, Acting Secretary; PDC Robert Petrovic; PCC Wayne Sampson; PC-in-C Ed Krieser; PDC Vernon Stottlemire; PCC Ron Burke; PDC Larry Dietzel; PCC James Dixon; PCC Tom Greminger; and showing up about 1045 - PCC Bob Aubuchon;

10:00 Meeting called to order

1. Opening Prayer
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call by Secretary

**Officers' Reports**

**Commanders Report:** Oct 4 – Attended a monument dedication to 5 soldiers from the 3<sup>rd</sup> MSM Cavalry buried in Beaufort, Mo.

January 8<sup>th</sup> – Installed the officers of the Sherman camp

Working on grave registrations of the 17<sup>th</sup> Mo Vol Inf

Future Plans

Attend postponed Sherman Grave Ceremony

Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

Serendipity Day – May 1 at Edgar Murray School in St. Clair

**Secretary's Report and reading of minutes of the last meeting:** Walt Motion to approve minutes and secretary report. Larry Dietzel second. Passes on voice vote. Both attached.

**Treasurers' report and discussion.** Attached. Bob Petrovic motion to approve subject to audit with second by Randal Burd. Approved by voice vote.

**Senior Vice- Commander .** Siegel Camp – all but Randal Burd Jr don't want to re-up. Request close it up. Walt – camp must submit books, records and charter. Charter, two ribbons and books in Steve Allen's possession, Randal will get them and surrender them to the department. Siegel camp commander badge was given by Randal to Tom Greminger to give to Quartermaster Gary Scheel.

By-laws - no changes recommended.

Awards criteria – recommend same criteria as last year. Eads reports by May 15 and awards to individuals due to SVC on May 1 and committee will award May 10. [Copies to SVC and Secretary]

**Junior Vice- Commander** – since last June, he has received 5 applications from national. Two to Phelps camp; 2 to Tiger camp and 1 to Lincoln camp.

**Chief of Staff** - No report

**Patriotic Instructor** – No report

**Chaplain** – Vacant

**Graves Registration** - report

**Eagle Scout Coordinator** – See attached

**ROTC/JROTC Coordinator** – Volunteer to be requested in Unionist



**Department Organizer** – Bob Petrovic – Dept Secretary sent in info on new camp ( Abraham Lincoln Camp #2). Wants the department to pay about \$25 for blank charter to be given to calligrapher no more than \$50. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Walt Busch. Passes on voice vote.

**Historian** – no updates

**Civil War Monuments** – 2 monuments recorded. Database created subject to approval by National for national.

**GAR Post Records** - No reports. Larry Dietzel – Boonville Start of battle sign to be moved. Dedication to be announced. Hayn Post Boonville records at Columbia Historical Society.

**SUV Camps Officer** – No reports

**Last Soldier Project** – No reports

**Archivist of Records** – No actions

**Missouri Unionist Editor** – One Unionist e-mailed out. Next one reports due March 25.

**Marketing Promotions** – James Dixon 229 followers on Facebook

**CMH Chairman** – No report

**Signals Officer** – James Dixon, 40 visits a day, lots of requests about ancestors.

**Committees**

**Vicksburg Monument** – Larry Dietzel – letter to representative sent out. Going to be rough going, a lot of the Confederates aren't interested in it. Letter to Governor has been sent. Get Roundtables involved.

**Awards Committee** covered in SVC report.

### **Unfinished Business**

1. Dept Encampment Location – Jefferson City Capitol and October meeting – Walt reports that the Missouri Military Museum is available. Bob Petrovic motion to have October meeting there. Second by Randal Burd, Jr. Passes on voice vote. Walt will set it up with the director.

2. 501-C-3 National pursuing. IRS having us jump through hoops asking for ridiculous requirements. They look at us as a paramilitary organization.

3. What happened with all the charges (Burd & Crandall): Randal apologized to the department and Westport camp saying that if he did not send in what he was required to national in the appropriate time he apologizes to everyone for not doing his job. Don Palmer was called by Walt and put on speaker phone. He was asked if Dale told him he was ok with either the producing of the documents or an apology. Don advised that in his conversations that is what he understood. Randal repeated his apology so Don could hear it also. The apology was accepted by everyone present.

### **New Business**

1. **Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony** - Bob Petrovic

Form in Banner & Unionist, applications due April 1.

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Lincoln Train Ceremony

2. **Status of the Sigel and McPherson Camps**

Walt – is there a way to save the Siegel camp? Duals? Beyond help. One person would be willing to join to save camp. Dept Commander to issue order to suspend camp.

McPherson Camp – Technically the charter is to be turned over to national and then destroyed. Walt will try again to get it back.

### Open Forum

**Bob Petrovic** – Issue with department website – no links to camps, no e-mails., no timely posting of meetings. Tom Greminger concurs. James Dixon says will work on it.

Dept Secretary needs to get Walt update of e-mail addresses to put on department e-mail.

**Memorial Day** – Jefferson Barracks; **Saturday before memorial days** at Athens (McNeil Camp) drape tombstones at Athens.

**Sherman Day** – Postponed until?

12:15 p.m. Closing prayer & Close of Meeting

An excellent website to do some research is <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list> . While part of Familysearch.org, it has a lot of microfilms on file that you would have to look at individually to find information about your ancestors. But all who deal in genealogy know it's worthwhile to come up with that one document. A listing of their Arkansas and Missouri selections follows:

**\*\*\* Denotes microfilms of original records, non-indexed that can be viewed on line**

Arkansas Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865

Arkansas Civil War Service Records of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865

\*\*\*Arkansas Confederate Pensions, 1901-1929 Browse Images

Arkansas Death Index, 1914-1950

Arkansas Deaths and Burials, 1882-1929; 1945-1963

Arkansas Divorce Index, 1923-1939

\*\*\*Arkansas Ex-Confederate Pension Records, 1891-1939 Browse Images

Arkansas Marriages, 1837-1944 1,

\*\*\* Arkansas Probate Records, 1817-1979 Browse Images

Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957

\*\*\*Arkansas, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1864-1872 Browse Images

\*\*\*Arkansas, Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Records, 1867-2013 Browse Images

Arkansas, Sebastian County Births and Deaths, 1877-1963

\*\*\*Missouri, Andrew and Cole County Probate Records, 1826-1945 Browse Images 19 Sep 2014

Missouri, Births and Christenings, 1827-1935

Missouri, Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865

Missouri, Civil War Service Records of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865

\*\*\*Missouri, Cole County Circuit Court Case Files, 1820-1927 Browse Images

\*\*\*Missouri, Confederate Pension Applications and Soldiers Home Applications Browse Images

Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1802-1969 158,956

Missouri, County Naturalization Records, 1883-1927 Browse Images

Missouri, Deaths and Burials, 1867-1976 39,437

\*\*\*Missouri, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872 Browse Images

\*\*\*Missouri, Jackson County Voter Registration Records, 1928-1956 Browse Images

Missouri, Marriages, 1750-1920

\*\*\*Missouri, Probate Records, 1750-1998 Browse Images

Missouri, State and Territorial Census Records, 1732-1933

## Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James Camp #326

Bob Mueller during his presentation.



Our camp officers are the same as last year with almost all appointed positions remaining the same. Camp Commander is Joseph Williams, Senior Vice Commander is Samer Zougaib, Junior Vice Commander Gary Scheel, Secretary Bob Mueller, Treasurer Tom Farlow, and the Council Members are Jerry Kasten, Clarence Warfield and Tom Greminger.

In our December meeting Brother Bob Mueller gave us a presentation on Christmas during the Civil War. It was a very good program.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> we had five members participate in the annual Holiday Christmas Parade in Ste. Genevieve as well as three ladies of our Auxiliary.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> we were honored to attend and Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Perryville where three young men received their Eagle Scout Award.

In January we had our Installation of Officers with Department of Missouri Junior Vice Commander Tom Greminger serving as our Installing Officer.

In February we welcomed a new member to our camp. Michael Polete joined us. Brother Michael is the nephew of Brother Tom Farlow who recruited him. Brother Michael is a veteran who served in the United States Army. He had been deployed three times and was a member of the Green Berets.



Brother Michael receiving his membership badge from Camp Commander Joseph Williams. →



Camp Commander Joseph Williams

In February Commander Joseph Williams gave a very good presentation on the 13<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry. Our Camp is named after Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James who was the executive office of the 13<sup>th</sup> Mo. Infantry. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of Shiloh and died two days later. In his presentation Joe explained that the 13<sup>th</sup> Mo. Inf. as well as the 14<sup>th</sup> Mo. Inf. were issued a Hawkins type rifle. They were using these weapons at Shiloh. Shortly after Shiloh the 13<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry became the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Infantry.

In March we had our normal business meeting with the discussion of the National Organization's push to get a 501-3c. We also discussed the disbanding of our SVR company in February, we may instead just operate as a Camp Guard. Our program for March was the Civil War in March 1865. Brother Gary Scheel read his ancestor's diary for the whole month of March 1865. His ancestor, Private Fielding Jenkins Smith served in the 31<sup>st</sup> Mo. Inf., 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Army of the Mississippi. At the time he was wading through the swamps of North and South Carolina. Most of his diary included lines like this, "Fri Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> 1865 Crossed a creek before day light marched 21 miles and camped for the night." The life of a private in Sherman's army.



U.S. Grant Camp  
#68 holds  
Sherman Day,  
March 1, 2015

Grant Camp  
Commander Bob  
Aubuchon shows up for  
the planned ceremony to  
honor General William  
T. Sherman at Calvary  
Cemetery in north St.  
Louis. Since no one  
told Bob that the event  
was delayed due to  
snow, he held one in its  
place.

Bob, who is not use to  
public speaking and can  
often not be heard due  
to moustache  
interference, made an  
excellent speech: “One  
set of tracks in the  
snow. All it takes is one  
person to remember so  
those in the past are not  
forgotten.”

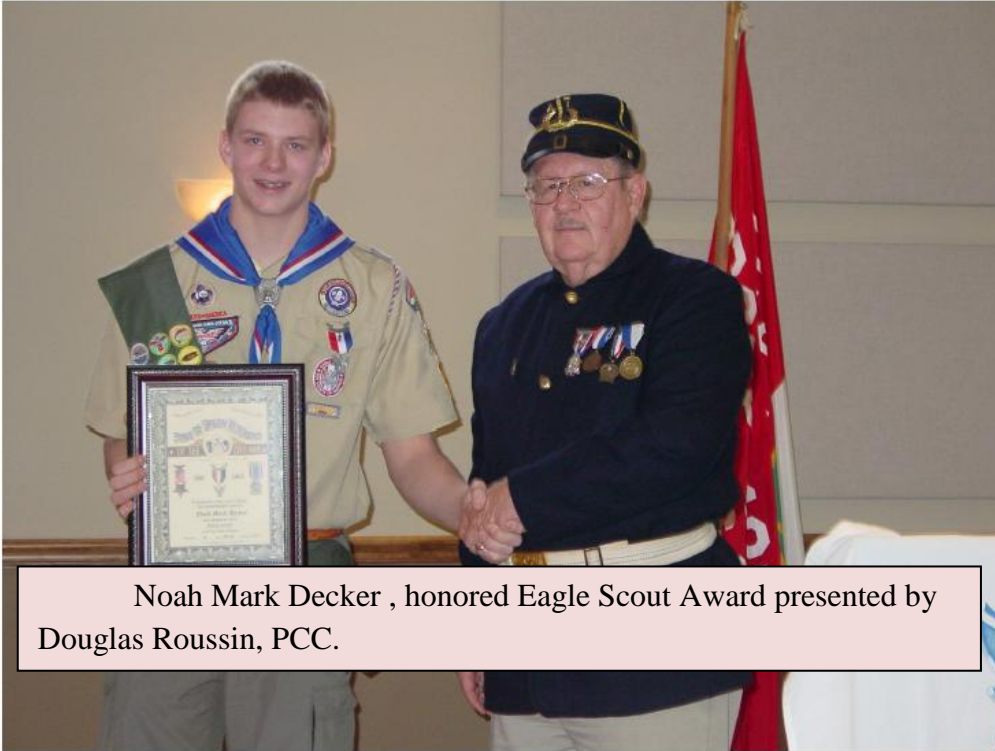
*The Unionist* doesn't have a report highlighting the rescheduled official event by Sherman Camp.

### William T. Sherman/Billy Yank Camp #65

The camp had the drawing for their recent fundraising raffle on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Raffle was for a reproduction 1851 Navy brass .36 caliber revolver. The revolver was won by Jim Molitor, ticket number 872340. Jim purchased his ticket at one of the St. Louis Civil War Roundtable meetings.

## Abe Lincoln Camp #2

The proposed camp being organized by Past Commander-in-Chief Ed Krieser will hold an organizational meeting in the Branson area on April 7.



Noah Mark Decker , honored Eagle Scout Award presented by Douglas Roussin, PCC.

## General Thomas C. Fletcher Camp 47

Like most of the camps in Missouri, the General C. Fletcher Camp #47 has suffered through a terrible winter with all the inclement weather. A number of brother have also been sick with a variety of ailments. The result is that we have not accomplished much.

Last year we lost our meeting place as the historic Arlington Hotel

closed. So our meetings were held at temporary locations. I am happy to say that we have found a new home at the Educational Building of Grace Lutheran Church in DeSoto. The Educational Building is on Second and Kelly St. in DeSoto. Our meeting will remain the third Thursday, at 7:00. We are looking forward to having our meeting at this location.

One of our goals this year is to recruit at least five new members. We had several inquiries after last year's Mooney's Bridge Dedication. We are following up these leads and believe they will be successful.

Now that the weather has broken and it appears to be warming up, we are preparing to work on a schedule for the coming year. We have already been invited to participate in several events. These include events at the Fletcher Home in Hillsboro and the Valle Mines Festival.

We were able to participate in an Eagle Scout presentation on March 8, in Festus. The award was presented to Noah Mark Decker for his accomplishments in becoming an Eagle Scout. This was the first time the Fletcher Camp was able to present this award. We look forward to doing this again in the future.

## Capt. G.N. Spradling Camp No. 72

### *Plans for the Coming Year...*

We have a list of over 50 graves of union soldiers located in S.W. Missouri and N.W. Arkansas that we need to get pictures of and get registered. We are also working on a camp brochure that we can place at the Prairie Grove Battlefield, Fort Smith and at the Headquarters house in Fayetteville.

We will be doing Cannon Demo's at Prairie Grove Battlefield two or three times during the Summer. We also plan on have a booth at Prairie Grove on Labor Day. Finally, we are continuing to raise funds for the marker at The Devil's Backbone Battlefield.

## US Grant Camp #68

By Mark Coplin, PCC

On March 29<sup>th</sup> three Eagles flew high over St. Louis. The Eagles were not the feathery kind but Boys Scouts of Troop 580 – Crestwood, MO. The Eagle Scout Court of Honor was conducted for Joshua Compton, Dustin Rolfe and Jack Ruprecht. Joshua's Eagle Scout project was the replacement of an all-weather type fence around a HVAC unit at his church and parish school – it replaced a rotting wooden one. Dustin who is also a member of the Lindbergh March Band worked on an 80' earthquake proof trophy display case for all the band trophies that they have earned since 1995. Jack with the help of the children's pastor at his church designed and built a GaGa Ball Pit for the younger members of the church to enjoy. The biggest honor of the day fell to Mark Coplin, PCC. He was Dustin Rolfe's Cub Master and Webelos Leader when Dustin started out in Scouts. Each Eagle Scout received a SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate and a Department of Missouri Challenge Coin. They also each received a copy of the presentation that was given at the court of honor.

### *A History of the GAR & Scouting Speech as presented by author...*

You may be wondering what a Union soldier is doing here at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor? Here is a brief history of the relationship between the Boys Scouts and the Grand Army of the Republic. When the smoke cleared from the battle fields of the Civil War and the Union was preserved – the veterans returned home. Feeling the need to share with other like-minded veterans their experiences of the war - Benjamin Stephenson of Decatur, Illinois – founded the Grand Army of the Republic in April of 1866. In time, GAR posts were being formed all over the country. Each town or farm community in the northern states had a post. As veterans moved out west more GAR Posts sprang up. At its peak the Grand Army of the Republic had over 400,000 members.



L-R: Mark Coplin PCC U.S. Grant Camp #68 - St. Louis, Jack Ruprecht, Dustin Rolfe and Joshua Compton.

Many of those men fathered sons who in turn became members of the Boys Scouts of America which began in 1910. Many of the GAR events also coincided with local scouting activities. If you look at old photographs of town parades - you will often see members of the local GAR Post marching in a parade lead by the local scout troop. The most famous meeting of these two originations occurred in 1938. It was also the last time the Boys in Blue and those in Grey would

meet for their final Gettysburg Reunion. The scouts held a jamboree there at the same time. Film images captured of the event show young men and boys in their tan uniforms alongside the aging men who had fought there in 1863 on those fields in their youth. Soldiers from both sides told the scouts of their stories and what had happened to them there on that battlefield so many years ago. The scouts were able to hear the final Rebel yell as older men tried to storm the ridge as they had failed to do so in the original Picket's Charge. Instead of the bayonet or canister shot the Boys in

Blue extended a hand to help them to the wall with greetings of friendship and brotherhood.

The GAR held its final Encampment in Indianapolis in 1949. The members in attendance all in their late 90s and no longer able to continue on. It was at that time the torch was passed on to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. And that is why I stand here today to honor you Eagle Scouts. Because it is a tradition handed down from those that came before me...The Boys in Blue.



**Civil War Telegraph Field Station -  
American Memories Collection  
4a39679r**

# Westport Camp #64 Report

## Medal of Honor Commemoration

For the fifth year, Westport Camp #64 participated in a joint commemoration for National Medal of Honor Day. Civil War veteran Wilbur Fiske Moore (1840-1924) was honored with a gravesite service on March 22, 2015 at Forest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. Private Moore was one of 15 men awarded the Medal of Honor and the only recipient from the 117<sup>th</sup> Illinois for the charge up Shy's Hill at the Battle of Nashville on December 15 - 16, 1864. Moore was personally awarded the Medal of Honor in Washington, D.C. by the Secretary of War,



Wilbur Fiske Moore

Edwin Stanton, on February 22, 1865.

An estimated 50 people attended the commemoration for Wilbur Moore including Kansas Department Commander Kent Melcher, and members from Franklin Camp #5. Kansas City Mayor Sly James supported the commemoration by issuing a city proclamation for Private Wilbur Moore and National Medal of Honor Day. The joint-service was organized by the local Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, Society of the War of 1812, United States Daughters of 1812, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Bugles Across America.

## National Medal of Honor Day

Often called the Congressional Medal of Honor, the United States Congress designated March 25th of each year as National Medal of Honor Day, a day dedicated to honoring the over 3,400 men and women whose service and sacrifices were recognized with the nation's highest medal for valor, the Medal of Honor. Westport Camp #64 dressed each of the five Civil War Medal of Honor recipients buried in the Kansas City area for National Medal of Honor Day.

Private Nathaniel McLean Gwynne (1849-1883) for action at the Battle of Crater while serving with Company H, 13th Ohio Cavalry.



Major M.R. William Grebe (1838-1916) for action at the Battle of Jonesboro and Atlanta Campaign, while serving with Company F, 4<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry.



Sergeant Thomas Toohey (1835-1918) for action at the Battle of Franklin, while serving with Company F, 24th Wisconsin Infantry.

Private John Henry Ricksecker (1843-1929) for action at the Battle of Franklin, while serving with Company D, 104<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Private Wilbur Moore (1840-1924) for action at the Battle of Nashville, while serving with Company C, 117<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry.

## Eagle Scout Commendation

Brother Brian Smarker, representing Westport Camp #64, honored Eagle Scout Andrew Lee Fine with presentation of the SUVCW Commendation Certificate at his Boy Scout Court of Honor on March 22, 2015 at the Lawson United Methodist Church. Andrew is from Troop 408, Heart of American Council.

## Camp Awards

Westport Camp #64 presented its annual awards as part of the Christmas dinner.

The Camp's Distinguished Service Award was presented to Brother David McCann.

Brother Dave has faithfully served Westport Camp since joining in 2007. He has tirelessly served as the camp's genealogist and recruiter, responsible for enrolling over half the camp's membership. He has served numerous terms as the camp's Junior Vice Commander.

Brother Dave's lasting legacy is project managing the Hollingsworth Cemetery restoration. Dave organized countless workdays over the seven year project, including workdays where David was the only worker. He worked with local suppliers to secure free and reduced cost materials; he recruited volunteer workers; and he secured \$275 in donations from local hereditary organizations. The project would have died if not for Dave's dedication.



James Beckner

The Camp's Outstanding Member of the Year was presented to Brother James Beckner. This past year, Brother Jim was the point person for organizing the Battle of Westport Commemoration for the sesquicentennial. Jim utilized his extensive network of Civil War historians and enthusiasts to recruit participation from the DUVCW, SCV, and UDC—a first ever joint program by these four peer organizations. When the camp needed a member to lead this once-in-a-lifetime event, Jim was the camp's obvious person.



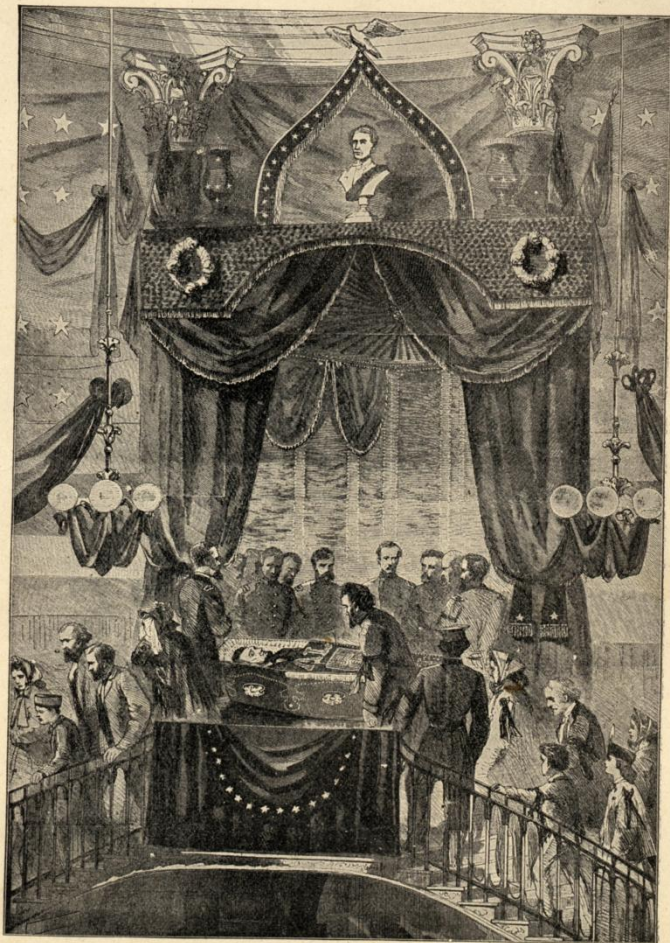
David McCann

## **McCormick Camp #215**

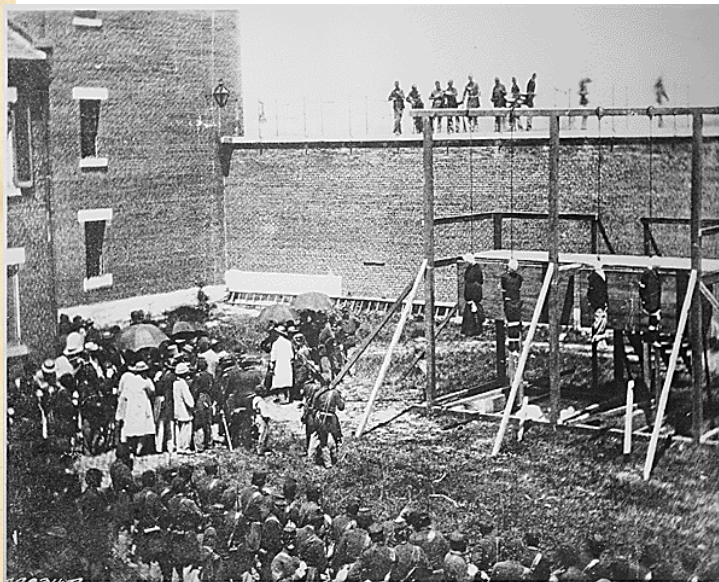
On 12 Mar 2015, the sole remaining member of Rolla's Sigel Camp #614 officially transferred membership to McCormick Camp #215. As the newest member of McCormick Camp #215, I am not prepared to fully report on our activities for this past quarter, which included participation in the St. Louis Swap Meet on 28 February 2015 among other tasks. The camp has participated in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Noah Mark Decker on 8 March 2015, and will participate in one for Jacob Bannister on 18 April 2015.

Upcoming events for this camp are numerous: the SUVCW ROTC award will be presented to Clayton D. Hendrix at Farmington High School on April 8, 2015, and other presentations are planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015. Members of McCormick Camp will be participating in Turner Brigade's Spring Drill at the Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site on April 10-12, 2015, and the camp has a healthy list of upcoming activities at which we can further the mission of the Order. We are working on updating the camp's Facebook group page and newsletter, where a more detailed account of events will be available.

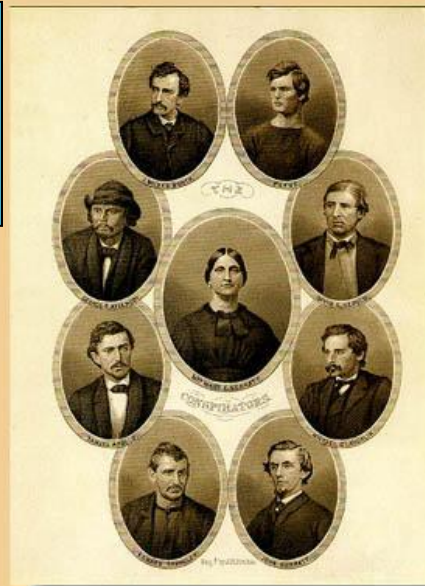
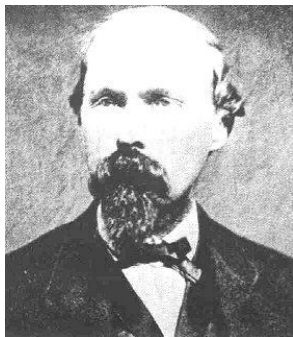
If you are in the neighborhood and would like to drop in, you can attend our next meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 7 pm in the Public Safety Building of Mineral Area College in Part Hills, Missouri.



VIEWING LINCOLN'S REMAINS.  
City Hall, New York City.



**THE 150<sup>th</sup> REMEMBRANCE OF THE  
ASSASSINATION OF OUR BELOVED  
PRESIDENT, ABRAHAM LINCOLN**



Clockwise: Viewing in New York City; the Hunter Commission (trial court); the hanging of the conspirators; the conspirators without Dr. Samuel Mudd; The next President, Andrew Johnson; and Dr. Samuel Mudd

All are invited to participate in the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, sponsored by the SUVCW and MOLLUS, commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of President Lincoln's death. It will be held at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL at 10 AM on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

**Headquarters Hotel:** President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701. The room rate is \$94.99 for single/quad. A 10% dining discount at Lindsay's Restaurant is included. Call 1-866-788-1860 for reservations and mention "**Sons of Union Veterans**". **Reserve your room by March 20, 2015.** After this, the remaining blocked rooms will be released.

**Wreaths** may be ordered from local Springfield florists. Instruct the florist to have the wreath delivered c/o the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, by 9 AM on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Luncheon** will be held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel at 12:30PM. The luncheon program will feature a talk by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant on "Spring 1865, A New Birth of Freedom. Luncheon cost is \$29 per person. For event info, go to the SUVCW web site (suvchw.org) or contact Robert Petrovic at: [rpetro7776@aol.com](mailto:rpetro7776@aol.com) or 636-274-4567.

**OBSERVANCE WREATH PRESENTATION**  
(please print clearly)

Organization name in full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name & title of wreath bearer: \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
if no e-mail, home address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, & Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

**To insure being recognized in the program, this notice MUST be received no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> at the address shown below.**

**OBSERVANCE LUNCHEON**

Please accept \_\_\_\_ luncheon reservation(s). Please list name, e-mail address, home address & phone number of person responsible for picking up tickets at the door.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

London Broil w/Red Wine Demi Glace \_\_\_\_\_ Tuscan Garlic Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Include remittance of \$29.00 per person for each lunch reservation payable to **National Organization SUVCW**.

**Reservations must be made by April 1<sup>st</sup> and cancellations by the same date in order to receive refund.** There will be no extra tickets sold at the door. Make a copy of this form for your records and send original with remittance.

**MILITARY PARADE INFORMATION**

Name of unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This will insure each unit receives a streamer for their flag and all participants receive ribbons.

SEND TO:

**ROBERT M. PETROVIC PDC**  
**6519 CHEROKEE LANE**  
**CEDAR HILL, MO 63016-2527**  
**P# 636-274-4567**

# ADS / SWAP SECTION

All camps are entitled to up to one page of advertising per issue. No Raffles!

**FROM THE DEPT. OF MISSOURI**

If interested e-mail [wbusch@suvchwmo.org](mailto:wbusch@suvchwmo.org) and he will forward to the Quartermaster.



Only 29 Logan Medals left from the 2007 National Encampment. \$7.50 each / shipping \$5 ea. Up to 10 ordered at one time? Shipping only \$10!  
**WE WILL NOT SELL THIS BELOW THIS PRICE EVER!**

Shirts - 1 Medium, 16 Large and 1 Extra Large.

WOW! Only \$1.00 each and \$10.00 shipping/handling each. Wear around house! Gardening! Or Golfing!

**Rules about the ad/swap section:** There are not many. If your camp wants to have a page, you make a mock-up of the page and send it via e-mail to the editor.

If the editor has a question regarding the items for sale, he will contact the camp. The reason it says "No Raffles!" above is because they are technically illegal in the state of Missouri.



**Encampment Pin -- Potential Recruiting Gift?**

-- 136 left. Lots of 25 for only \$1.00 plus shipping of \$6.00



# FROM U.S. GRANT CAMP

**SUV or GAR Address Labels** - 90 Count \$4.00 shipping \$1.00



**Official SUV Name Badge** - 2"x3" Plastic –  
Laser Engraved (Red -Dept, Blue-Camp, Gold-National)  
\$9.00 (shipping up to 3 badges \$2.00)  
(Picture not actual size)

## Grant Sesquicentennial Challenge Coin Series



## US Grant Sesquicentennial Challenge Coins (set of 5/numbered)

Only 200 Numbered Sets Made  
\$75.00 shipping included  
Set Covers Grant for Each Year 1861-1865

NONE OF THE ITEMS ARE ACTUAL SIZE ON THIS PAGE]

ORDERS: Mark Coplin [macnac4856@gmail.com](mailto:macnac4856@gmail.com) 4856 Hursley Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128