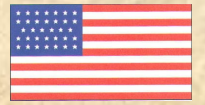


The Union Defender



The Newsletter of Phelps Camp No. 66,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

February 2023

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE JANUARY MEETING?

- 1) Members discussed the status of the Mountain Grove Soldier Monument (see later in this issue).
- 2) Members discussed the proposed monument to Colonel Franz Sigel's Union brigade at Carthage. The membership agreed to send a message regarding the proposal to Walt Busch of the Missouri Department.
- 3) Members agreed to hold the "Last Soldier" marker dedication for William Osborn in Joplin on Sunday, May 7 (Osborn's birthday). More details will be forthcoming.
- 4) Camp elections were held. The 2022 officers were unanimously re-elected.
- 5) Members discussed attending the Missouri Department Encampment in Springfield on June 2-3.

NEXT CAMP MEETING

The February meeting will be take place at the Visitor Center at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield on Saturday, February 18 at 2 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Wilson's Creek Seasonal Park Ranger Tommy Smith, who will discuss the career of General Gordon Granger, Wilson's Creek veteran, hero of the Battle of Chickamauga, and the originator of "Juneteenth."



DUES ARE DUE

There's still time to "re-up" in Phelps Camp!

For many years we kept yearly camp dues at \$30, but with the recent dues increase by the SUVCW national organization (\$10), we must reluctantly raise camp dues as well. The membership recently voted to raise camp dues to \$50 per year in order to pay our national per capita tax AND keep money in the camp treasury for local projects.

Please send a check or money order to:

Kirk Singleton
13679 Lawrence 1245
Billings, MO 65610

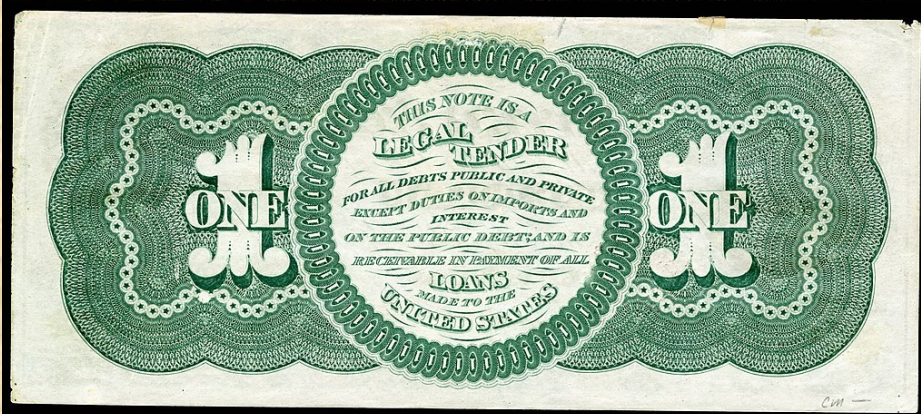
Members can also pay by cash, check or money order in person at the February meeting. Thanks for supporting your camp!

MOUNTAIN GROVE MONUMENT UPDATE

Member Dale Crandall reports that we are now only \$203 short of our fundraising goal to restore the Mountain Grove Soldiers Monument. Huzza!

Dale still has one more organization to contact, but even if they decline, Phelps Camp members voted to make up the difference so that the monument can be shipped off to the conservator ASAP and hopefully returned for a re-dedication ceremony on Memorial Day (May 29).

We extend our sincere thanks to Dale Crandall for all his hard work—in less than 1 year he has raised the thousands of dollars necessary to restore this important tribute to those who fought and died to defend American democracy.



HISTORICAL NOTES

Of all the reminiscences of Chickamauga's iron hail-storm, Jim Brotherton's experiences was the hardest strain on credulity.

Jim was fighting the "best he knew how." He was in the thickest of the assault on Snodgrass Hill. As he charged across the road and over the field to the Dyer farm, Jim caught a glimpse of the house he was born in. But valor did not make Jim forget discretion. He took advantage of all the pine trees he could when going into and coming out of the fight. On his back was strapped his knapsack and over his knapsack was rolled his blanket. The two made a hump which projected beyond the trees behind which Jim took temporary shelter.

When Jim unloaded his knapsack and blanket the night after the battle, he found that thirty-seven bullets had penetrated it. "Yes, sir," said Jim, looking the listener straight in the eyes, "thirty-seven bullets had gone into my blanket and knapsack—thirty-seven bullets and two buckshot. If I had that blanket and knapsack now I wouldn't take \$1,000 for them. After the battle I gave them to mother and told her to keep them for me until I came back from the war. But you know how it is when folks are moving around. Things get lost. I don't know what became of the blanket or knapsack."

There was only one veteran who told a story which approached that of Jim Brotherton in picturesque-ness. He was Private Sinnatt. . .

[He] was particularly anxious to meet and renew acquaintances with some of the Twelfth Georgians. A big man of the Twelfth Georgia saved his life, Private Sinnatt said. He explained how. When he got into what seemed to him the hottest place he had ever found, Private Sinnatt lay down behind a tree which wasn't more than eight inches through and made himself as small as possible. While he lay there wondering how long it would be before he would be hit, a strapping fellow from the Twelfth Georgia grabbed him by the leg, lifted him from behind the tree, and lay down where he had. Sinnatt says the Georgian was about twice as big as he was. He couldn't lick him, so he made the best of a bad situation, crawled up behind the Georgian, and kept quiet. It wasn't but a few minutes till a bullet struck the big Georgian and killed him. Sinnatt lay still behind the body, which stopped fifteen bullets before the wave of battle passed on. That is why Private Sinnatt says he will always cherish a kindly feeling for the Twelfth Georgia.

Angola (IN) Herald, April 11, 1894