



# The Union Defender



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

## November 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING?

Due to the ongoing renovations at Wilson's Creek and the Covid pandemic, members met at the picnic pavilion at Wilson's Creek and discussed the following:

- 1) Members agreed to order a Last Soldier marker for the grave of William Henry Harrison Osborn, the last surviving Union veteran in Jasper County.
- 2) Members scheduled another Historic Firearms Range Day (postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic).
- 3) Members discussed the Ray Family marker dedication in Republic, and possible events for the remainder of the year.

### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NEWSLETTER?

The newsletter editor apologizes for the lack of newsletters this year. He promises more newsletters in 2021!

### NEXT MEETING

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the December holiday dinner meeting is cancelled. We will plan to meet again in March. Happy Holidays to the members of Phelps Camp!



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA NEEDS RECRUITS/DONATIONS

Rachel Donelson Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is sponsoring Maple Park Cemetery for Wreaths Across America.

On December 19 at 11:00 am, Rachel Donelson Chapter DAR will be helping Maple Park Cemetery to remember and honor our veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

Information is below on how to sponsor a wreath.  
**The deadline to order wreaths is November 30.**

There are 240 veterans buried at Maple Park Cemetery in Springfield, MO. Eight wars and five military branches are represented, including the Civil War.

Wreaths are \$15 each, with **\$5 given back to the DAR**. If you have a veteran family member or friend buried at Maple Park, you may request that your wreath be laid on a specific veteran's grave.

### How to Sponsor Wreaths Through Rachel Donelson Chapter DAR:

**Option 1: Order online through the direct link [www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/MO0128P](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/MO0128P)**

Click Sponsor Wreaths  
Select the # of wreaths to sponsor.  
Add other options (grave specifics, etc) as desired.  
Complete checkout process with credit/debit card or Paypal. **Be sure to verify that your group ID and location ID are indicated on your order prior to submitting.**

### Option 2:

Send a check made payable to Rachel Donelson Chapter DAR (\$15.00 per wreath) to:  
Janis Wrather  
9825 N. State Highway 125  
Fair Grove, MO 65648-7915

**Please let Camp Commander Clanton know if you are interested in helping on December 19, so that he can advise the DAR (text or call 417-268-7244 or email [clanton44@gmail.com](mailto:clanton44@gmail.com).**





Special thanks to:  
Lindsey Chapel  
Cemetery Board,  
Bill Robertson,  
President  
Phelps Camp #66  
Sons of Union  
Veterans  
Nixa Monument



**Ancestor Listing For 1865 Donations**  
William John Adams, Armstrong Wear Baldwin,  
Simeon Mitchel Baldwin, Charles L. Braswell,  
Calvin Breshears, Edward Clanton, Sydney Clifton,  
Phillip R. Davis, Gustavus Adolphus Dey, George Kendrick  
Edmonds, Jasper Stanford Harris, Joshua H. McElfresh,  
Thomas Emery Moore, Josiah Nichols, Dr. John Oakes,  
Michael C. Shaughency, Wesley C. Sidman,  
John Riley Stillely, and Peter Henry Weiser

*Thank you for attending the dedication.*



Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22  
Daughters of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War, 1861-1865

**Marker Dedication**

**John & Roxanna Ray  
Historical Headstone**

Sunday, August 9, 2020  
2:00 p.m.

630 South Lynn  
Republic, Greene Co., Missouri



**John and Roxanna Ray  
Marker/Headstone**

(Located in Lindsey Cemetery, S. Lynn Ave., Republic, MO)



John A. Ray born TN, Oct. 16, 1816, died June 22, 1875  
Roxanna Ray born GA, Dec. 1, 1819, died Mar. 30, 1876

John Ray married widow Roxanna Steele about 1849, both residents of Wilson Creek, MO. They built their home along the Old Wire Road where John, a Unionist, served as Postmaster for 10 years. They had a thriving 420-acre farm with crops, orchards, and livestock. On August 10, 1861, the Ray's cornfield became part of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. While John watched from the porch, Roxanna, Rhoda (the Ray's slave), the children, and hired hand Julius Short took shelter in the cellar. When the battle ended, they emerged to find their home had been converted to a field hospital. While they assisted the wounded and dying, their crops and livestock were confiscated. Afterward, the Rays restored the farm, where they lived until their deaths.

Placed in 2020 by the Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865

Special recognition to the Marker Committee for their efforts:  
Pat Haas, Chair, Carmen Boyd, Fran Black, Sally Bueno, Dee Dosch, Gere Masters, Sally McAlear, and all members of Tent No. 22 who assisted in making this day an historic occasion.

- Welcome.....Patricia Haas  
President, Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22  
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865
- Invocation.....Judy Peace  
Tent Chaplain
- Presentation of Colors.....Color Guard  
Phelps Camp #66, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America  
.....Latesa Holder, Tent Patriotic Instructor
- Introduction of Guests.....Patricia Haas
- Object of DUVCW.....Dee Dosch  
Tent Senior Vice President
- History of the Ray Family.....Connie Langan  
Historian, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
- Marker Dedication Ceremony.....Patricia Haas
- Unveiling of Marker.....Sally McAlear and Carmen Boyd  
Marker Committee
- Reading of Inscription.....Fran Black  
Marker Committee
- Laying of Wreath and Flowers.....Descendants of the Ray family
- Prayer.....Judy Peace
- Presentation of Certificates to Descendants.....Patricia Haas  
"God Bless America".....Led by Sally Napier Bueno  
Marker Committee
- Retiring of the Colors.....Color Guard
- Benediction.....Judy Peace