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NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI - SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI AT THE 2007 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
BROTHER GEORGE WILLIAMS (Front row third from left)



OUR TRIBUTE TO A REAL SON

GEORGE WILLIAMS
OCTOBER 15, 1911
OCTOBER 25, 2008



**OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
Sons of Union Veterans of the
Civil War
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**Dept. Order #7
October 27, 2008**

The U. S. Grant Camp #68 sadly announces the passing of **Brother George Williams**, a **Real Son**. He died early Saturday morning, October 25, 2008.

The Department of Missouri, which is already in a period of mourning, will honor this fallen brother by extending that period. The Department will be in mourning for a period of one month effective today.

- . The Department of Missouri, flag when displayed, will be draped with a black ribbon.
- . The Department Charter will be covered in black when displayed.
- . All members of the department will wear black on their membership badges anytime they are worn until November 25, 2008.

So ordered this 27th day of October 2008

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
Emmett P. Taylor III
Commander
Dept. of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attested:
Walter E. Busch, PDC
Secretary
Department of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Brother George Williams

Activities as a member of the
Department of Missouri
and

U.S. Grant Camp #68

Brother George Williams was a Real Son. He enjoyed coming to camp meetings and other activities of the camp. His family brought him from where he resided in Granite City, Il to the meeting whenever they could make it. He looked forward to coming to the meetings and was looking forward to coming to the meeting in October and the Christmas Dinner in December. At his funeral it was expressed by different members of the family that the interest shown him and his joy in participating in our activities prolonged his life a couple of years.



The following photo's are provided to us by Cher Petrovic. They were taken at the National Encampment in St. Louis in 2007.

← General David V. Medert, pinning on SVR Medal 1st Corporal George Williams, Company A, 2nd Missouri Infantry. 4th Military District Commander, Major Jack Grothe looking on in the background.

George waving at those → assembled who are applauding as he is introduced as a real son. He was so surprised by the reception given him by everyone. He later told his family, "They liked me, they really liked me." He was also



surprised and proud when someone would come up and ask for his autograph. It was a great day in the life of Brother George Williams and his family. Standing beside him is one of his daughters and one of his sons. You can tell by the big smiles on their faces they are just as proud of him as we were and just as pleased as he was by our reception.

←U.S. Grant Camp # 68 welcomes new member George Williams on 5 March 2007.





← George's 96th Birthday celebration. On October 15, 2007 members of the Grant Camp met at his residence and helped him celebrate. Civil War related presentations were given and a display of artifacts was available for the viewing pleasure of all. Cake and ice cream were enjoyed by all.

Mark Coplin shown with George, → organized the SUV part of the Birthday celebration.



(Taken from the December 2007 Hardscrabble U.S. Grant Camp # 68 Newsletter)

The grave marker of Private Henry Williams, the father of George Williams of our camp, indicated that he had served in a Confederate Unit. Private Henry Williams proudly served in the Union Army at places such as at the Battle's of Franklin, TN and Nashville TN. Brother George has tried to have his tombstone corrected and finally that day arrived. On a cold drizzly day, December 8 2007 his wishes were delivered. Brother George, now 96 years old, and his family were able to make the four hour drive to Jeff, Missouri which is near Thayer, MO on the Arkansas border to attend the ceremony. The corrected grave marker was placed at the grave. It was an amazing day. Along with Brother George, there were also immediate family in attendance which included nieces and nephews.



Standing L-R; John Avery, Gary Scheel, Walt Busch → and Chris Warren. Sitting; George Williams

← Brother George seated with his family behind him.





An Oregon County paper called "The Quill" was interested in George also. Below are excerpts from an article written by Marideth Sisco a staff writer.

"He was born in the tiny Oregon County hamlet of Jeff in 1911. ...The sixth child of a man 64 years his senior. George Williams grew up listening to stories of what the war years were like.... Henry Williams, George's father, fought in the American Civil War, against his own father's wishes and his whole family's belief. George who lives in Chesterfield, recounted the story to The Quill on a recent visit to relatives in Thayer.

'The family was living at Elizabethtown, KY.,' George said of his father... 'When the war came, dad joined up. He was just 13 or 14, and he went for the Union side. His

dad said he was too young, and went and got him home. He went to school another year and then he went back, and that time his dad let him go.' The young Henry Williams left to find adventure, and got more than he bargained for his 93-year-old son told The Quill.

'The war was all over the country and all over Missouri. He fought at Shiloh, Tenn., and I remember him telling us the battle was into its second day when they got there. They came and found where the troops had been pinned down by sniper fire on the first day. He said every time someone looked over the rim of the trench they were fired upon. He said there must have been a 100 dead soldiers in that trench and none of them was shot below the Adam's apple.'

From there, Williams said, Henry's company of Union cavalry traveled from battle to battle all across the South, ill-equipped, barely trained and with never enough to eat.

'They about starved to death. He told how they found a sheep once and shot it and it was so poor its bones were stick out all over.'

It only got worse as the war drew on even though his side was winning.

'He was at Andersonville when the Union troops took it and opened up the prison. It was awful.'

But Henry, George said, when he arrived at Andersonville, although as a free man wasn't in much better shape than the prisoners.

'He was in Macon, Ga., when the war ended and he was discharged. They loaded them all onto a freight train and they came home covered with lice and most of them had dysentery.'

That wasn't the worst of it, George said. Henry had elected to take the Union side he was the only family member who did. He was not able to continue living in Kentucky. He married and moved to Missouri, had some children and then his wife died. Eventually he married again to George's mother.

'He'd go home to visit once in awhile and they'd always fight. He'd come home with knots on his head.'

For his patriotism, George said, the government eventually rewarded Henry with 40 acres—of the poorest land on earth.

By the time George was born his father was an old man and life on their little Oregon County farm never got easier.

But as he grew older, the only way his father could help provide for the family was by leaving, George said.

'He was shorter than me and he was always thin. He would go up to the old soldiers' home at St. James and stay there and while he was there he would cut the other old soldiers' hair and send the money he made home to mama. I remember we went up to visit him once, I think it was in 1923.' George was 12 at the time of the visit. Just four years later, two days short of George's 16th birthday, Henry died. He was 80.

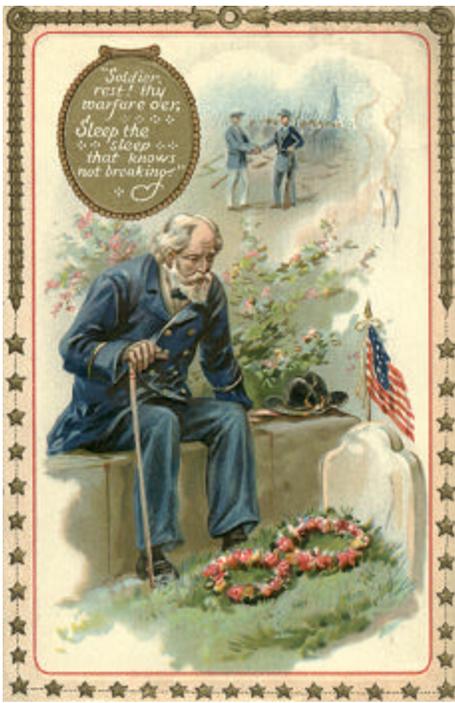
George said his mother taught him many things and his father just one. But it has taken the lessons from both to get him through his long and successful life.

The value of hard work and determination he learned from his mother, he said. Sticking to what you know is right, whatever the cost, that was his father's gift to him.

'One swat on the pants was all I got from him. He was harder on the older ones. But I was always afraid of him even though he was shorter than me. He was stern, but he taught us to be honest.

(Editors note: This article has been shortened because of space limitations. I put in the information from the article that dealt specifically about what George said of his father. This article and the photo was given to the editor by John Avery, Chaplain of U.S. Grant Camp # 68)

WE SAY GOODBYE TO OUR BROTHER



When I became Camp Commander of U.S. Grant Camp #68 one of the greatest thrills as commander was to have an association with a Real Son. When Brother George fell and received the injuries that he would not recover from it was my greatest desire that he would survive. It was my hope and prayer that I would not be in command of the camp at the time of his death.

When we received word of his passing and at his wake and funeral it became the proudest moment of my time as commander. Many of the members of U.S. Grant Camp # 68 came and paid their respects to George and his family.



Grant Camp Chaplain John Avery conducted the ceremonies at the funeral home and at the grave site. He at Bethlehem Road in North
Commander both at the
We cannot a way that
Commander-

was buried on October 27th Cemetery on Bellefontaine St. Louis. Department Emmett Taylor was present wake and at the funeral. express our appreciation in would do him justice. in-Chief Dave V. Medert called and expressed his sympathy to the family. Besides our Commander Taylor there were five members of the Grant Camp there.



Company A, 2nd Missouri Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve fire honors for one of their own, 1st Corporal George Williams.

(L-R) Captain Emmett Taylor, 5th Missouri Cavalry SVR Commander and 4th Military District Representative commanded the honors detail, 2nd Lieutenant Mary Aubuchon, Private Christopher Warfel and Private Gary Scheel, all members of 2nd Missouri Infantry SVR.

(Just for the curious. The National Colors are not on the ground in the photo above)

Photo's taken by Ajutant Robert Petrovic, 2nd MO Inf. SVR

Sympathy card furnished by Cher Petrovic.

Editorial Note: I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Department Commander Emmett Taylor for granting me permission to do this special edition of the Missouri Unionist. As he so aptly put it, Real Son George Williams belonged to the Department of Missouri. He wanted the whole Department to share in his brief but happy time in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Thank You for allowing me to share this special tribute with you. In F, C & L, Gary L. Scheel, Editor, U.S. Grant Camp #68, Commander