

MISSOURI UNIONIST

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

DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI 2009-2010 OFFICERS



L-R; Commander Brian Smarker, Sr. Vice Commander Rod Price, Jr. Vice Commander Chris Warren
 Council Members Mark Coplin, Emmett Taylor and Ron Burke.
 Kneeling; Secretary/Treasurer Walter Busch

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- COMMENTS FROM THE COMMANDER - Page 2 & 3
- CAMP NEWS - Pages 4 thru 6
- DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT-Pages 7 & 8
- SUTLER'S STOP-Page 9 & 10

Issues sent out February 1st 2009, May 1st 2009, August 1st 2009, December 1st 2009. All Information is due by the 15th before above dates.



Comments from the Commander



Brothers of the Department of Missouri:

It has been a busy seven weeks since being elected as the Commander for the Department of Missouri. I have already had the opportunity to visit two camps during their regular scheduled meetings. In addition, there are a couple business items I would like to share with you.

On Tuesday, 7 July 2009, I had the pleasure of attending the Phelps Camp #66 meeting at the Visitor's Center for the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield where Camp Commander Greg Wait presided as Chair for the meeting. The main topic of the meeting was in regards to the monument they are having erected at the Battle of Lexington State Historical Site. Phelps Camp members worked hard to raise money for this monument, taking them three years to attain their goal. They are excited to see it coming to fruition.

The granite to be used for the marker is black and is imported from Africa. This stone was chosen for its beauty especially given the contrasting colors of the engraved words against a polished surface. What better way to honor the Union soldiers who fought on this battlefield than with stone native to the country that was also the homeland of slaves who were freed during the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865. It is my hope that the Sons of Union Veterans members are able to attend the dedication ceremony scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, 26 Sep 2009. There will be several distinguished guests speaking at this ceremony including U.S. Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO). It should definitely be a worthwhile event.

Following the Phelps Camp meeting, I had the privilege of attending the Columbia Tigers Camp #432 meeting at the Columbia Public Library on Saturday, 11 July 2009. Camp Commander Bryan Bradford presided as Chair for their meeting. Though they had several agenda items to cover, it seems the prominent items were the formation of their SVR unit and their participation in the Battle of Centralia monument dedication ceremony.

The Battle of Centralia monument is a project of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This Union monument will be dedicated on Sunday, 27 Sep 2009, the 145th anniversary of the actual battle. The dedication ceremony begins at 2:00 p.m. This event is the day following the monument dedication in Lexington. I'm sure the DUV's and Tigers Camp would appreciate any support they could get.

Though not related to the Department of Missouri, I did have a chance to visit my oldest daughter who is attending college in Reading, Pennsylvania. During my visit, we drove nearly two hours one way to Gettysburg. Being a Missourian who doesn't get out much, I had never been to a battlefield as awesome as this one. My original intent was to photograph all the monuments I came across which seemed an easy task until I realized that there were more than what I could see from where I was at. Many more were found on the

auto tour. By the time we made it to the Pennsylvania monument, I was exhausted and decided to quit taking pictures of all of them! From there, it was only a select few, one of which was a monument dedicated to the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic. If you have never been to Gettysburg, it is worth the trip. Take lots of pictures for light reading later – don't try to read the monuments as you visit each of them. You'll be there for many days if you did.

As for business related items, the National Encampment will be soon. It takes place 13-15 Aug in Louisville, Kentucky. There are many activities planned. Delegates have already been determined for each camp. If you are not a delegate (contact Walt Busch if unsure), and you still plan on attending, you can attend as an alternate in case a delegate is unable to make it. Delegates have the right to vote at the meeting.

One important piece of business that relates to our department is the resolution submitted for consideration to include the state of Arkansas as part of the Department of Missouri. If approved, camps may be organized in Arkansas. Those members would be able to participate in Missouri meetings and Department Encampments.

For the October department meeting, proposals for the 2011 and 2012 Department Encampment should be submitted. If your camp would like to host the encampment, a proposal is required to be submitted for review. Those attending the meeting will most likely vote on the best of the submitted proposals at that time. If no adequate proposals are submitted, the Department of Missouri will host the encampment.

For the March meeting, camps should submit three ideas that they plan on arranging and participating in for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Hostilities for the War Between the States began on 12 Apr 1861, although any activities beginning in 2011 should be sufficient. Events that could be planned include monument or grave dedications, re-enactments, Last Soldier ceremonies, and etc.

On a final note, it would really be nice if I could attend at least one meeting for each camp; however, I am currently in on-the-job training as school is about to start again. Regardless, if you have an upcoming camp meeting or an event that you would like me to attend, please let me know and I will see what I can do. I'm sure I won't be able to make all of them, but if given enough notice and if there isn't any school activities taking place on that particular day, I may be able to make it.

I hope your summer has been as eventful as mine. I look forward to seeing an increased attendance with all camps represented at the department meetings in October and March in Jefferson City. Let's work together on building this department making it the best ever.

At your service in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Brian Smarker

Brian Smarker, Commander
Department of Missouri, SUVCW



Camp News

William T. Sherman/Billy Yank Camp # 65

In 1990, the US Congress passed Public Law 101-564 establishing March 25 as Medal of Honor recognition day. March 25 was chosen because March 25, 1863 was the date the first Medal of Honor Medal was actually presented. Jacob Parrott, a member of the group that stole the loco-motive "General" received the first Medal, but before this, over 100 had performed heroic acts that were eventually recognized and honored.

Army Assistant Surgeon Bernard J.D. Irwin rescued 60 soldiers at Apache Pass, AZ on February 13, 1861, thus becoming the first heroic act for which the Medal of Honor would be awarded. Irwin did not receive his Medal until 1894. Francis Edwin Brownell, performed the first action of the Civil War to merit the Medal when he killed the murderer of Co. Ellsworth in the Marshall House, Alexandria, VA.

Almost 42,000,000 have served in our Country's Armed Forces since the beginning of the Civil War. Of these, less than 3500 have had their actions recognized with the Medal of Honor.

On March 25, 2009, the William T. Sherman Camp, Billy Yank #65, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War arranged and conducted a ceremony honoring two (two (2) Medal of Honor Recipients (William Button, USMC, Haiti, and James Merrifield, USA, Civil War) at Vahlalla Cemetery in St. Louis.

The South St. Louis Marine Corps League #193 provided Color Guardsmen as well as a rifle squad. The US Army and US Air Force were also represented, providing both Color Guard and Bugler. In addition, the AG of the Missouri Army National Guard (BG Stephen Banner) with his aide attended and presented the history of the Medal. The Mayor of the City of St. Louis was represented by Mr. Tom Embree. The event was covered on Channel 5 (KSDL [twice]), Channel 4 (KMOV-TV) and Channel 2 (KTVI).



(and Purple Heart) is the Badge of Merit created by General George Washington at the end of the Revolutionary War.

FC&L

Bill Groth, CC
Sherman Camp #65

Participating organizations were: Missouri Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Dept. Commander Capt. Emmett Taylor); Col. Fredrick K. Hecker Camp #443; General Asboth Camp; Victor Vifquian Camp #1, Nebraska Dept.; Co. C, 34th Reg. Illinois Vol. Inf. "Rock Island Rifles", SVR; 4th Military District, SVR; DUVCW; Julia Dent Grand Tent #16, Aux. SUVCW; the Spirit of St. Louis Chapter and the Fernando deLayba Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). The ancestor of the Medal of Honor

Phelps Camp # 66

THE UNION DEFENDER

THE NEWSLETTER OF PHELPS CAMP NO. 66, SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR

Springfield, Missouri, June 2009

Phelps Camp No. 66:
<http://www.geocities.com/suvcamp66>

Department of Missouri:
<http://www.suvcwmo.org>

MEMORIAL DAY

Camp members Todd Wilkinson, Tim Wilkinson, Kip Lindberg and Jeff Patrick braved a steady rain to attend Memorial Day services at the Springfield National Cemetery on May 25. Despite getting thoroughly soaked, the members of Phelps Camp “soldiered on” and proudly represented the SUVCW before a surprisingly large crowd. Thanks to all who participated!

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE JUNE MEETING?

- 1) Members participated in the Graves Registration activity at two Ash Grove cemeteries (Ash Grove city cemetery and Johns Chapel). Despite heat, humidity and a threat of rain, members of Phelps Camp recorded the gravesites of approximately 30 Union veterans.
- 2) Camp Commander Wait informed the membership that many copies of the “Chronicles of Lexington” have been sold, and now we are less than \$100 away from reaching our goal of \$5,000 for the Lexington Monument. Huzzah! If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact Greg Wait or Jeff Patrick, or copies will be available at all our future meetings. The price is \$10, and single copies can be mailed (media mail) for an additional \$1. Or, if you would just like to make a donation to push us over the top, now is the time!

Francis J. Wilhelmi Camp # 17



The Wilhelmi Camp is raffling a replica Remington Army revolver and plan on drawing the winner in January 2010. We intend to use the money raised for a marker for the Last Surviving Soldier from Gasconade Co., Mo. He was Rudolph Baumgartner and served in the 4th Missouri Infantry. He passed away on May 9th, 1934 at the age of 94 years and 8 months.

Any member of the Wilhelmi Camp can be contacted for tickets. F,C and L, Glen Alsop

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



Photo: Members of the camp preparing to fire Fort D Cannon (loaned to us by the Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitor's Bureau)

citizens were that the reenactors were very knowledgeable and were willing to share their knowledge with everyone that came their way.

The only problem encountered was the rain on Sunday which caused a flash flood but thankfully almost everyone was gone by then. Our camp chaplain held the Sunday morning service for the reenactors and it was well attended and there were two ladies who came to it that was camping at a site about twenty miles away.

We handed out some SUVCW membership applications and were able to talk about our camp to those who were interested.

We gratefully acknowledge the local businesses and citizens that helped to provide many of the items and money that was needed to help us put this on.

Other SUVCW camps that were represented by the reenactors were:

Gen. Alexander Asboth Camp #5, Major Francis Wilhelmi Camp # 17, William T. Sherman/Billy Yank Camp # 65 and U.S. Grant Camp # 68 from the Department of Missouri and Hecker Camp from Department of Illinois.

No event like this is successful without advertising and we are grateful to Editor Jean Rissover of the Ste. Genevieve Herald for all of her support for the many articles and advertising that she has done in support of this event.

On July 11 & 12 our camp sponsored the first Ste. Genevieve Civil War Camp. We were a little nervous with this being our first attempt at sponsoring such an event. There were around forty reenactors and a sutler, Knox Adler and family which bought our total to forty-eight participants. On Saturday July 11th there was almost continuous flow of spectators that pleased everyone involved.

Comments the next week by local

A BROTHER ANSWERS ETERNAL ROLL CALL

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the passing of Brother Richard Konersmann. Richard was a member of William T. Sherman, Billy Yank Camp #65 in St. Louis. He passed away on 4 Jul 2009 at the age of 71 years, 2 months, and 27 days.

Brian Smarker, Commander
Department of Missouri, SUVCW



DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

The Department of Missouri Encampment was held at the Holiday Inn on Wilson near Hampton Blvd in St. Louis. We had a good showing of over thirty members from various camps in the Department. The camps that were present were General Alexander S. Asboth Camp #5, Francis J. Wilhelmi Camp # 17, Westport Camp # 64, William T. Sherman Camp # 65, U. S. Grant Camp # 68, General McCormick Camp # 215, Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James Camp # 326 and Columbia Tigers Camp # 432. That meant that we had eight out of the twelve camps having at least one member present for the meetings. This is a very good showing.

Some important information from the minutes.

Arkansas as a part of Missouri.
A proposed petition to the national encampment was read (attached). Walt Busch made motion to accept the petition. Seconded by Jack Grothe. Brian Smarker asked if we need to change our department name and the answer Given was no, referring to Maryland and Wisconsin as examples.
Afterwards general discussion concerning implementation and how to get Arkansas going with their own camps.



Robert Petrovic stated that we need to decide today where the 2011 department encampment will be. This lead to a lot of general discussion regarding the need to plan these things well ahead of schedule 2010 at present will be in Kansas City Area. Commander Taylor suggested that for 2011 we delay setting the date, since No one is ready, until the October meeting. Agreed.
Robert Petrovic then made motion to decide where and who will run department Encampments 2 years ahead of the date. Second by David Busch Passed by voice Vote.
Camps wanting to propose having an encampment have to submit their request by October for 2011. For 2012, at the 2010 department encampment.

Walt Busch then made a motion that each camp is to present ideas (preferably three or more) concerning sesquicentennial celebrations by the March 2010 meeting for the next encampment to consider supporting. Second by Robert Petrovic. Passed by voice vote.

Don Palmer reported that we have a department seal but we do not have an Embosser and that would run \$100 to \$125. It would be used for documents, Sealing charters (there is a space on them for a department seal), etc. Agreed To and ordered that price not to exceed \$150.

Election:

Nominations:

Commander Brian Smarker Nominated by Chris Warren Seconded by Robert Petrovic. There were no other nominees. Passed Unanimously.

Senior Vice Commander Rod Price nominated by Robert Petrovic and Seconded by David Busch. There were no other nominees. Passed Unanimously.

Junior Vice Commander Chris Warren. Nominated by Rod Price and seconded by Doug Roussin. There were no other nominees. Passed Unanimously.

Council (2 year term) Emmett Taylor, PDC nominated by Walt Busch and Seconded by David Busch. There were no other nominees. Passed Unanimously.

Council (1 year for Chris Warren's vacated term). Ron Burke nominated by Walt Busch and seconded by Glen Alsop. There were no other nominees. Passed Unanimously.[NOTE: The other council member still serving is Mark Coplin].

AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE BANQUET



← Brother Bob Schmidt receiving the Francis P. Blair Award for Outstanding Member of the Department of Missouri for his many tireless activities for the furtherance of our order. Award being presented by Past Department Commander Emmett Taylor.

Brother Dave Busch, Commander of the U.S. Grant Camp → #68 receiving the Eades Award for Outstanding Camp in the Department of Missouri. The award was given because of the hard work that the Grant Camp has done throughout the year to further the cause of our Order. Award presented by Past Department Commander Emmett Taylor



← Brother Chris Warren receiving the Meritorious Service Award for Outstanding Service to the Order for at least a five year period. Past Department Commander Emmett Taylor is shown presenting the award.



SUTLER'S STOP



Raspberries

Antiques - Uniques - Collectibles

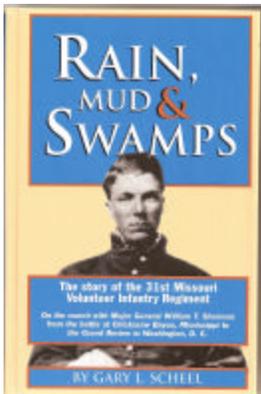
220 North College, Arcadia, MO 63621

573-546-1222 314-420-2013

Sandy Walther, Proprietor

"Something for the wife to do while you do that Civil War stuff at Fort Davidson Historic Site and Pilot Knob MO."

Take Hwy 21 south of Ironton and go under Hwy 72 overpass. Next road on right is Walnut St. Make a right. Go one block, then make right onto College. Next cross street is Cedar St. and our driveway, Make a right. Go to the bottom of the hill.



Rain, Mud & Swamps

Civil War book written by Gary L. Scheel member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. 704 pages, hardback, 20 photo's, 20 maps and roster of the regiment.

Complete history of the 31st Missouri Infantry Regiment as they marched through eleven States in secession. They were under the command of General William T. Sherman from December 1862 through the end of the war. If you would like to order a copy send \$22.50 to Gary at:

Gary L. Scheel, P.O. Box 87, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

2007 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT ITEMS FOR SALE



Encampment medals with arch logo on with arch and GAR medal them **\$7.50 + shipping**



Encampment Button logo's on them **\$1.00 + shipping**



Logan Medals limited supply and they are numbered **\$15.00 + shipping**

SPECIAL OFFER: LOGAN MEDAL, ENCAMPMENT ARCH MEDAL & ARCH BUTTON \$20.00 + shipping



Champagne Glass
\$7.50 + shipping



Encampment Book w/historical info.
\$5.00 + shipping

Also available but not pictured

Polo shirts with encampment arch logo on them. (mostly smaller sizes but some large sizes) **\$30.00 + shipping**

Goodie bags \$10.00+shipping

SHIPPING on any/all items is just **\$3.00**

If you are interested in purchasing the above items contact Robert Petrovic at RPetro7776@aol.com or 6519 Cherokee Lane, Cedar Hill, MO 63016

EDITORIAL NOTE: A special thank you to Cher Petrovic for updating the map of the camps as displayed on pages 2 & 4 of this newsletter. I really appreciate it.