

THE

MISSOURI UNIONIST

2010 Volume 2

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April 2010

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



I WANT YOU!
PRESENT AT THE
DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT
BE THERE!!
JUNE 4TH & 5TH, 2010
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- DEPARTMENT COMMANDER - Page 2
- LINCOLN DAY CEREMONY-Page 2
- CAMP NEWS - Page 3 thru 6
- DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT INFORMATION & FORMS – Pages 7 thru 10



Commander Comments



Brothers of the Department of Missouri:

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the passing of Brother Charles C. Metternich of Canton, Missouri. Charles was the Camp Commander of Col. David Moore Camp #70 Canton. He passed away yesterday, 13 April 2010 in his home at 63 years of age. Arnold's Funeral Home of Canton will be handling the funeral arrangements.

The Department of Missouri will be in mourning for a period of one month effective today. In observance of this, the Department of Missouri flag and charter, when displayed, will be draped or covered in black. The Signals Officer will drape all department and camp websites in black. The Chaplain will send condolences to the family in the name of the department. All members of the department will don their badges with a black ribbon anytime they are worn during this time.

The mourning period will end at midnight on 18 May 2010.

Respectfully ordered this 18th day of April 2010,

Brian V. Smarker, Commander
Department of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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

LINCOLN DEATH DAY REMEMBRANCE



17 April 2010 was a beautiful day to go to Springfield, Illinois and pay respects to honor the memory of the President of the United States during the Civil War. The weather was perfect. As you can see that the Department of Missouri was well represented by the presence of twenty three members of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic from Missouri. (not shown in the photo Bob and Cher Petrovic). Brother Bob Petrovic of the U.S. Grant Camp # 68, was the organizer of Lincoln Day. Great Job.

Photo is courtesy of Cher Petrovic



Camp News

Phelps Camp # 66

Fort Sand Springs Monument Dedication

The Mary Whitney Phelps Tent #22, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, will host a dedication ceremony for their Fort Sand Springs monument on April 24, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. The program will take place at the intersection of State Highway 38 and Timber Ridge Road (County Road 626) in Webster County. Colors will be presented by the 4th Missouri Cavalry (U.S.), a local reenacting unit. The ceremony will feature a history of Fort Sand Springs and a 21-gun salute. Descendants of soldiers who served at the fort will also be recognized.

WELCOME A NEW MEMBER!

Phelps Camp welcomes new member Gary Brimmer of Battlefield, Mo. Gary's ancestor, William Hartman, served in the 35th Iowa Infantry and 2nd Iowa Cavalry. Welcome, Gary!

JAMES B. McPHERSON CAMP #1, ARKANSAS

The Gen'l James B. McPherson Camp # 1 in Little Rock Arkansas has had two meetings already. It has already 10 members with the potential for several more. The meetings have been held at the General MacArthur Museum in Little Rock so far, but the next one is suppose to be held at the Jacksonville Military Museum. The camp elected officers in March and Life Member Samuel Wang was elected commander. Other officers include Larry Puckett, SVC; Tom Ezell, JVC; Walt Busch, Sec-Treas; and Father Greg Pilcher as their Chaplain. The group is excited about getting going and is considering holding a ceremony at the Little Rock National Cemetery near the Minnesota Monument on Memorial Day. They also seem to be interested in starting an SVR unit.

As stated earlier, the next meeting is May 3 about 5 p.m. at the Jacksonville Museum. Walt will be bringing down the video of the battle of Pilot Knob and Battle of Lexington and give them a choice of what to see. The camp hopes to receive notification that they have been chartered this month or early next month.

Francis J. Wilhelmi Camp # 17

The "Kokomo Cannon" -- This Cannon resides in Highland Park in Kokomo, Indiana (Much of this story is from an article written for the local newspapers in 2003.)

There were three cannons in Kokomo at one time, and as late as 1942 there were still three. Two of these cannons were bronze and one was cast iron.

Cannon #1 (the cast iron one) was located at the Defenbaugh Street entrance to Highland Park. We do not know when it came to Kokomo. Nor, do we know who requested it from the government. We think it was a 3" ordinance rifle. We have two pictures of Cannon #1. One is a colored postcard of what was then City Park, Kokomo, Indiana, date unknown. The second picture of the same cannon shows three children, two girls and a boy. We are guessing from the clothing of the children this picture was taken about 1910. According to a Sept. 2, 1942, Kokomo Tribune article, the cannon still existed in the park. The mounting was in an advanced stage of decay. The article did state the cannon was manufactured in 1864. Unknown to us is who brought it here, when was it brought to Kokomo, and where did it go?

The “Kokomo Cannon” (continued)

Cannon #2 is the Somers cannon. We know it was a Confederate bronze 12-pound field howitzer made in Memphis, Tenn. by the Quimby & Robinson Foundry. It had to have been made before June of 1862. We do not know the date of manufacture. The General Thomas J. Harrison Post #30 of the GAR brought it to Kokomo. It was one of two brought to Kokomo at the same time by the Harrison Post. Congressional approval for the cannon was given Aug. 8, 1882. Cannon #2 at some point in time along with a limber found a home in Orlando A. Somers’ yard at 909 E. Jefferson Street. Orlando A. Somers was active in the GAR. He held the top office at the local, State, and National levels, becoming the National Commander-in-Chief of the GAR in 1917-1918. This cannon is again referenced in the Kokomo Tribune article of Sept. 2, 1942. There exists a picture of Orlando A. Somers standing at the cannon in his yard with his 2nd wife and two youngest daughters. The story told to us relates the following. “In the early 1950’s three young men from the local National Guard talked to the then owner of Somers House, Mr. Emory Hopkins. The wooden parts of the gun carriage and limber were in a sad state of decay and the wheels were sinking into the ground. Mr. Hopkins gave the cannon to the three gentlemen. They had Hollingsworth Lumber Yard of Russiaville, IN build a new carriage for the gun tube. At times these gentlemen would entertain themselves by firing the cannon in the local fields.” We have a picture of them engaged in this firing activity. Eventually the cannon passed into the hands of a Civil War reenacting unit. Here, we lose track of cannon #2.

This brings us to Cannon #3 and the purpose of writing this story. There were three Civil War Cannons in Kokomo. They were meant as monuments to honor the Civil War Veterans both living and dead from Howard County. We now have only one left, Cannon #3.

This cannon along with cannon #2 was brought to Kokomo at the same time by the local GAR post. Our last cannon is also a Confederate bronze 12-pound field howitzer. It was made by Leeds & Co., New Orleans, LA. by April of 1862. Leeds only made nine of this particular type of cannon. Only three are known to exist. The other two are in the National Park System.

We have three pictures of this last surviving cannon. The earliest photograph, date unknown, has it’s full carriage and limber. The information on the back of the photo states that the picture was taken in the City Park, Kokomo, IN. City Park is now called Highland Park. We have been told this cannon was at the Park Road entrance. Our second picture of the cannon is at the Seashore Swimming Pool. It was on the 17th hole of the miniature golf course. This picture was probably taken in the early 1990’s. Our last picture is of the gun tube in city storage and was taken about 2001.

The citizenry of Kokomo at one time honored their Civil War Veterans by bringing to Kokomo and displaying these cannons for all to see. Cannon #3 needed to be restored and displayed to continue honoring these veterans. It is Kokomo’s last remaining Civil War cannon.

We belong to the Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). We are a civilian, patriotic, educational, service organization located here in Kokomo. We are pledged to honor our Civil War ancestors. The SUVCW was engaged in raising funds to put this last cannon on a new carriage and display it in the Johanning Center. We had the approval and support of our Mayor, James Trobaugh, in 2003. We have a tax-deductible account at the Community Foundation of Howard County Inc., 202 N. Main, Kokomo, IN 46901. The account’s name is “Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Advised Fund”.

We asked the community in 2003 to support us in our endeavor to restore this cannon by sending donations to the above account at the Community Foundation of Howard County Inc. We raised nearly 2/3’s of the required funds and needed their help to attain our goal.

Update(2010): After raising \$9500.00 to restore the cannon and placing it in the Johanning Center in a museum 2003, they kicked it out in 2005. We then had a restored cannon with no home. Everyone wanted it, but under the condition that they gained title to it. We have always considered it as ours and the city considers it as theirs. We do not argue about ownership. The city will not do anything with the cannon without our permission and we do nothing without their permission. This is when Highland Park (a city park) decided they wanted to build a permanent home for the “Kokomo Cannon”. That took until May 2008; when it was presented to the community in it’s new home. Now if you have ever been to Kokomo you know where the “The Sycamore Stump” and “Old Ben” are at. Right beside them now sits the “Kokomo Cannon”. In a place of honor and among the most visited sites in all of Kokomo. The Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 visits the cannon each month to clean it. We maintain a cleaning schedule with the members. We have cleaned it every month since restoring it. This activity just keeps us connected to the cannon, its history, and its importance to our community.

Glen Alsop

General James R. McCormick Camp # 215



The General James R. McCormick Camp 215 - SUVCW and the Louisa Volker Auxiliary 215 - ASUVCW have been very busy the last few weeks. On Saturday, March 6, 2010, the two groups participated in an event called "March Back in Time" at Antique Treasures in Leadington, Missouri. We set up a Civil War educational booth to show the uniforms, accessories, ladies clothing, children's toys, and more. Next, members of both groups were in attendance for the Department of Missouri - SUVCW meeting in Jefferson City, Missouri

on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Then, on Sunday, March 14, 2010, both of our groups participated in a gravestone dedication ceremony for PVT Conrad Simon of the 5th MO INF. in St. Louis, Missouri. We also participated (along with the Lt. Col. Felix St. James Camp 326 and its Auxiliary) in a Medal of Honor Day ceremony on Thursday, March 25, 2010 in Doe Run, Missouri. This event honored CPL Platt Pearsall whom was awarded the Medal of Honor for his participation in the storming company at Vicksburg. Finally, both groups also participated in Civil War activities at Fort Davidson State Historic Site (Friday & Saturday, April 9-10, 2010). McCormick Camp assisted in a school day event on Friday and Spring Drill and PArk Day on Saturday. The Volker Auxiliary (and the St. James Auxiliary) were special guests at a ladies' tea and luncheon. This special event had guest speakers presenting ladies fashions and clothing as well as period food. In conclusion, the business does not stop here, as we prepare to attend the Lincoln Day Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois and the GAR Founder's ceremony in Petersburg, Illinois. Then we have two JROTC awards to present in April and more to come as the weather gets nicer. We have also started two new pages on Facebook. Why not check out the Gen. James R. McCormick Camp 215 - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War page and the Louisa Volker Auxiliary 215 - A.S.U.V.C.W. page

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

STE. GENEVIEVE CIVIL WAR CAMP

We are busy planning for our upcoming Ste. Genevieve Civil War Camp taking place on 10 & 11 July 2010. Brother Tom Farlow has contacted those who graciously donated wood, straw and hay last year and reported that they are willing to do it again this year. The Ste. Genevieve Herald editor, Jean Rissover, has been promoting it in the paper and we have some new re-enactors coming this year. Our Ladies Auxiliary has taken over the Saturday evening meal for the re-enactors.

Brother Tom Greminger is working on the re-enactment of the relieving of the Merchant Bank in Ste. Genevieve. The Merchant Bank in St. Louis requested their money in Ste. Genevieve be saved from the notorious bank robber General Jeff "Swamp Fox" Thompson. General Fremont ordered the money in the Merchant Bank branch in Ste. Genevieve be commandeered by Major John McDonald and his troops of the 8th Missouri Infantry, and to be delivered to St. Louis. This event happened on 15 August 1861.

We went in front of the Landmark Commission Monday night 19 April, for permission to place the plaque commemorating this event on the limestone column instead at the site of the bank instead of on a post as previously approved. Our request was approved. We now have to work on the wording and get their approval of the text we wish to use.

We will soon need to go in front of the city and give them our plan about firing weapons, doing the re-enactment of taking the money out of the bank and asking to shut down city streets

General Alexander S. Asboth, Camp #5

This Sunday, April 25, 2010 in Mexico, MO
Call Commander Wayne Sampson 573-581-4707

FROM SLAVE TO SOLDIER:

BLUE AND GRAY UNITE TO HONOR BLACK SOLDIER

MEXICO, Mo. — In a rare occurrence, descendants and friends of both Confederate and Union soldiers will join to commemorate a soldier's stone for an African-American Union soldier, Cpl. Walker Lillard (1837–1908) of the 68th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment. His remains at Mexico, Mo's. Elmwood Cemetery have been unmarked for 102 years but his final resting place was finally identified thanks to the efforts of some of those same descendants.

Directions:

The directions are fairly simple, by what ever routes you take the jumping off point is Kingdom City on Highway US-54. If you are coming up Highway US-63 when you cross the Missouri Bridge stay on US-54 North to Mexico. At the first exit to Mexico get off, you will be on Business US-54 and there is a big Wal-Mart at that exit. Go north on Bus. US-54 to the first stoplight. There will be an sign pointing to the left for Highways 15 and 22. That will let you know you are at the correct turn. You will be on Boulevard, stay on Boulevard until it dead ends on Elmwood Drive. Turn right and proceed north. The Cemetery will be on the right about ¼ mile from where you turned. The Cemetery is located at the intersection of highway FF and Elmwood which is the first stop sign. You should see our flag display on the right before you get to the stop sign. Please try to be here by about 1:00 pm.

Wayne Sampson,
Commander

Captain Charles C. Manwaring Ceremony

On May 15-16, 2010, Co C, 5th Regt. MO Vol Cavalry, SVR will host with the Dierberg Foundation, a living history weekend in Hermann, Missouri. The highlight of the weekend will be the dedication, on Saturday (5/15), of a new military stone for Captain Charles C. Manwaring. The captain was killed on January 18, 1862 as he attempted to apprehend a party of mounted Confederates who were entering the Hermann area. The only GAR Post in Hermann, Gasconade County was named for Capt. Manwaring. Capt. Manwaring is buried on high bluff on the east side of Hermann. You may contact Capt. Emmett P. Taylor (eptaylor@mac.com) of the 5th Missouri Cavalry for information about this event. It would be wonderful to see a big SVR unit turnout. The picture shows the



view from the cemetery sight.

2010 Missouri Department Encampment

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Friday and Saturday, June 4-5, 2010 - Kansas City, Missouri



Quality Inn & Suites – Independence

(A on map)

4200 S. Noland Rd.
Independence, MO
816-373-8856

www.qualityindependencekc.com

Room rate is \$72.99 (1 bed) or \$89.99 (2 beds)
after 10% discount, plus tax

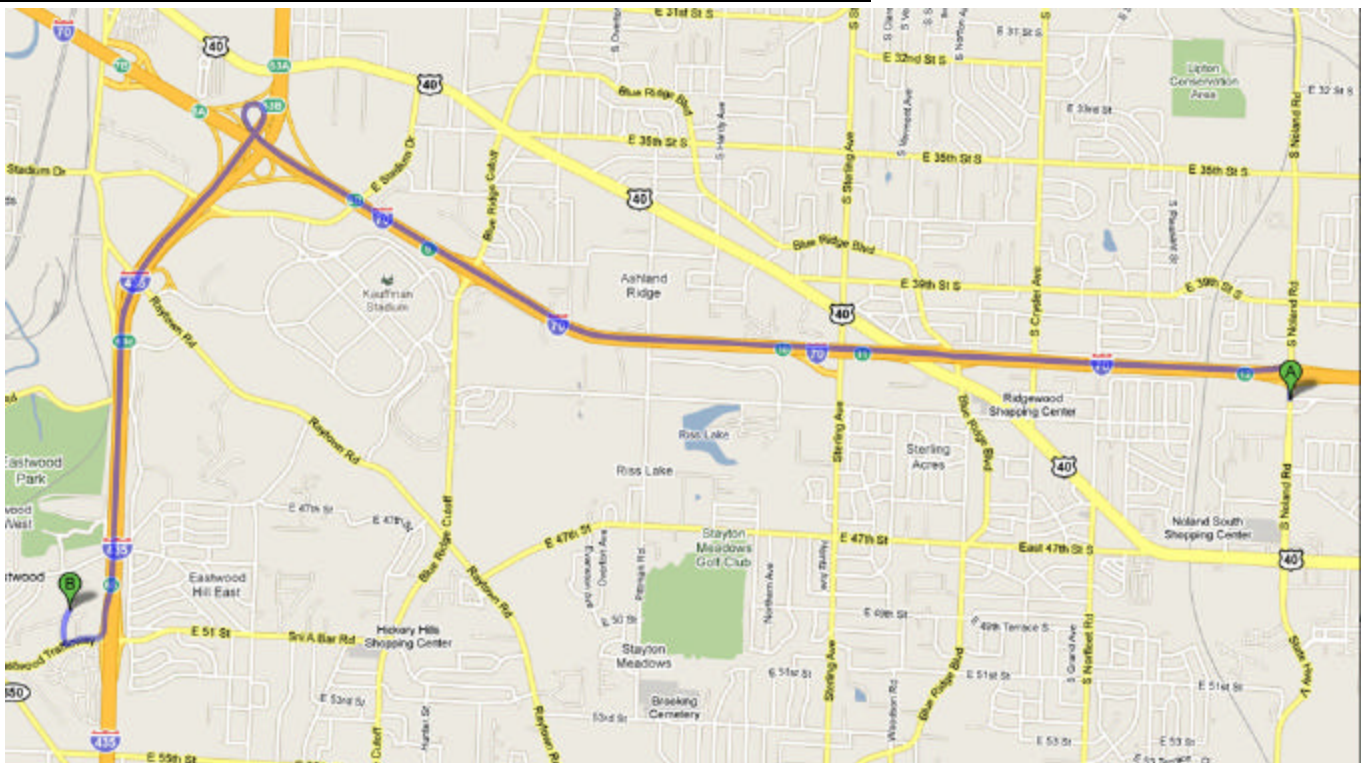


Ararat Shrine Temple

(B on map)

5100 Ararat Drive
Kansas City, MO 64119
816-923-1975

www.araratshrine.com



2010 Missouri Department Encampment

Weekend Agenda at the Ararat Shrine Temple

Friday, 4 June 2010

6:00 – 7:00 pm Registration

7:00 pm – Department Fellowship Event

8:30 pm – Social

Saturday, 5 June 2010

7:30 – 9:00 am Registration

9:00 am – Department Business Session I

12:00 pm – Lunch

1:30 pm – Department Business Session II

4:00 pm – Elections/Officer Installation

5:00 pm – Adjourn

6:00 pm – Social Hour

7:00 pm – Encampment Banquet

Speaker: Lee Ward

“The Death and Embalming of Abraham Lincoln”

For Family Members

The Department of Missouri would like to see Encampment weekend become a *family* event, and therefore, are encouraging members to bring their families.

There are many attractions for family members to enjoy while SUVCW members are attending the business sessions. Some of the more popular attractions include:

Kansas City Royals vs. Detroit Tigers at Kauffman (Fri 7:10 pm, Sat 6:10 pm, Sun 1:10 pm)

Worlds of Fun amusement park

Swope Park Zoo

The Country Club Plaza

Union Station

Crown Center

Power and Light District

Nelson-Atkins Art Gallery and Museum

Negro League Baseball Museum

Steamboat Arabia Museum

Liberty Memorial and WWI Museum

2010 Missouri Department Encampment

Preregistration Form

(Please return completed forms by 22 May 2010)

| |
|---|
| Name _____ |
| Address _____ |
| City/State/Zip _____ |
| Phone _____ |
| Email _____ |
| Department _____ |
| Camp Name Number _____ |
| Current/Highest Past Office/Delegate/Alternate _____ |
| Make checks or money orders payable to: Westport Camp #64, SUVCW |
| Please return this form and payment to: 2010 Missouri Department Encampment c/o Bob Steiert 5212 Pleasant Kansas City, MO 64133 |
| NOTE: Attendees MUST present a signed credentials card at the Encampment in order to complete the registration process and be admitted. Credentials cards should be provided by your Camp Secretary. |

| |
|---|
| Registration Fee _____ \$7 each / \$10 at the door = Reg. Subtotal |
| Will you be attending the Fellowship event on the evening of Friday, June 4? _____ Yes _____ No |
| Lunch – June 5 (\$15.00 each): Sandwich buffet Enter quantity of lunches on line _____ |
| _____ |
| Total Lunches x \$15.00 = Lunch Subtotal |
| Banquet – June 5 (\$26.00 each): Meal Preference – Enter quantity of meals on line next to choice |
| _____ Beef Kabobs _____ Stuffed Chicken Breast _____ Grilled Salmon |
| _____ |
| Qty. of Meals x \$26.00 = Banquet Subtotal |
| Registration Subtotal _____ |
| Lunch Subtotal _____ |
| Banquet Subtotal _____ |
| Total _____ |

| |
|--|
| Questions? Please Contact: Brian Smarker – (816)-517-3768 bsmarker@suvchwmo.org |
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|---|
| Or Contact: Bob Steiert – (816)-358-7615 / bsteiert@suvchwmo.org |
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2010 Missouri Department Encampment Meals & Socials

All of the following meals and socials are scheduled to take place at the Ararat Shrine Temple.

Friday Fellowship Dinner

Those in attendance for the Fellowship Dinner may purchase their own dinners from the Shrine restaurant's menu.

Friday Social

Each person attending the Friday Social after the Fellowship Dinner will receive one drink ticket. Additional drinks may be purchased at the cash bar.

Saturday Lunch

The Saturday lunch catered by the Ararat Shrine Temple will consist of a sandwich bar. Chips and beverage are included.

Saturday Social

Each person registered for the banquet will receive one drink ticket to use during the Social Hour or at the Banquet. Additional drinks may be purchased at the cash bar.

Saturday Banquet

The Saturday Banquet meals catered by the Ararat Shrine Temple have three options available:

Beef kabobs

Stuffed chicken breast

Grilled salmon

All meals include:

Fresh mixed greens with choice of dressing (Ranch, Honey Mustard, French, Thousand Island, Blue Cheese, Italian, Poppy Seed, or Caesar)

Green bean casserole

Twice baked potato

Fresh baked fruit pie

Dinner rolls

Beverage (coffee, iced tea, or water)