



# The Union Defender



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

## May 2023

### WHAT HAPPENED AT THE APRIL 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 troops at Carthage. Walt Busch of the Missouri Department is now working directly with the monument committee to coordinate the department's support of this effort.
- 3) Members discussed rescheduling the "Last Soldier" marker dedication for William Osborn in Joplin to Saturday, May 6 (postponed).
- 4) Members learned that Bob Clanton has applied for a headstone to mark the grave of Lt. R.E. Johnson, who was murdered by Confederate guerrillas and is buried in the Lebanon City Cemetery. Bob is planning a memorial program and asked for the camp's help (scheduled for May 13).
- 5) Members were encouraged to sign up to attend the June 3 Missouri Department encampment in Springfield.

### NEXT CAMP MEETING

The May meeting will take place at the Lieutenant Johnson ceremony in Lebanon on Saturday, May 13 at 2 p.m., and NOT at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

### MEMORIAL DAY

The members of Phelps Camp have been invited to join the Sons of the American Revolution and other veteran, patriotic and descendant groups at the Springfield National Cemetery for Memorial Day. Plan to be at the cemetery on Monday, May 29 at 10:30 a.m. in order to be ready for the 11:00 program. We will march with the other groups through the cemetery, then stay for the program. Members can attend in modern clothes (with member badge, if possible) or in period clothing. A color guard will be needed to escort the camp flag.

## ONE MORE TIME!

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 an upcoming meeting. Thanks for supporting your camp!

## MOUNTAIN GROVE MONUMENT UPDATE

Member Dale Crandall reports that preparations are underway to remove the Mountain Grove Soldiers statue and send it off to the conservation studio in Kansas City, but it is highly unlikely that the statue can be conserved, returned and installed by Memorial Day. Stay turned for more updates and plans for a rededication ceremony!



## HISTORICAL NOTES

(continued from last issue)

“We were fighting then as if skirmishing, not trying to keep in line. I saw him shooting so straight, but did not know then who it was, so went over to find out. I said to myself, ‘Shucks, I can do that way myself!’ and after that I never made a shot without taking good aim. Soon we got back to camp. I did not think we would go back any more so ran into my tent at the risk of my life and got my little red testament that I had been carrying, and put it in my pocket. It was a good thing I got it then for I never saw the place again. I came out and went to shooting as fast as I could.

George Miller, my tent mate, was too sick to go out to fight that morning, and when I came out I made him hold my ramrod while I loaded and shot as fast as I could. Then they came on a charge, and I made George go on while I stayed alone, the last man to leave the old camping ground. I fired three more shots into the ranks of a regiment that made as good a charge as I ever saw. They were the Mississippi Tigers, as fine a lot of good fighters as there was in the war. Then I saw the fellow aim at me, and if he had raised his gun a little higher your Uncle Pete would not have been here to tell the story. Now I say that Johnson and Beauregard whipped us all day long that Sunday, April 6, 1862. Let

me tell you, Grant’s army was surprised and completely whipped, for we were driven back all day long. Our brave old General Prentiss held them back until they got to his rear and had to surrender. Our lieutenant, Frank Whitmore, of Company F, 21st Missouri, a boy of eighteen, tied his dirty handkerchief on a ramrod and hoisted it as the signal of surrender, he told me so himself afterwards. He never recovered from the cruel treatment he received in the rebel prison camp.”

Oliver P. Martin, Co. F,  
21st Missouri Infantry  
*The Laclede County (MO)*  
*Republican*, July 17, 1931