

THE

MISSOURI UNIONIST

2009 Volume 2

Originally Chartered June 2, 1883--Rechartered May 3, 1996

May 2009

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

President Lincoln
18 April 2009



Death Day Ceremony
Springfield, IL



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



LETTER FROM OUR COMMANDER

Sons Of Union Veterans Of The Civil War

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

EMMETT P. TAYLOR III, PCC

1302 WILMER ROAD WENTZVILLE, MISSOURI 63385

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26 April 2009

Dear Brothers,

Thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your department commander for the 2008-2009 term.

We are soon approaching our Department Encampment scheduled for June 12 & 13, 2009. We will be having at a different location this year than we have had in the past. It will be at the Holiday Inn-St. Louis/Forest Park.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the U.S. Grant Camp # 68 for volunteering to take on this task of planning and setting up this encampment. They have worked many long hours and I am hoping that we as a Department will participate in such a manner as to make it a huge success.

This is our Department meeting. I would like to see participation from every Camp if at all possible. One of our events this year will be to present the charter to our newest camp the Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James Camp # 326 in Ste. Genevieve. Let us all show our support and make them feel welcome.

The location of the hotel is such that we can make it a "Family Event" because it is close to the St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Science Center and the Gateway Arch.

The Holiday Inn-St. Louis/Forest Park is located at 5915 Wilson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110. The rooms are \$99 per night for single/double occupancy. You can make reservations by calling 877-211-3289. Reservation deadline for this rate is May 28, 2009.

To make reservations for the Department Encampment you can go to the following site.

<http://www.suvcwmo.org/images/deptencampforms2009.pdf>

The ladies of the Auxiliaries of the SUVCW will host an outing for the ladies to attend while their husbands are in our meetings.

See you in June.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Emmett P. Taylor

Commander

Department of Missouri SUVCW



Camp News

General Alexander Asboth Camp # 5

On 22 February 2009 the annual observance of the date of death of General William T. Sherman at his grave site in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis. There were several SVR Units present. The photo is of the Posting the Colors at his grave.

The 17th Missouri Infantry Regiment firing Honors during the ceremony at General Sherman's grave site. They have faithfully attended this ceremony every year. The original 17th Missouri Infantry were under the command of General Sherman



1st MO Artillery also fired honors as they are faithfully there every year also.

5th Missouri Cavalry →



throughout most of the war. What a great way for them to pay their respects.

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

We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our past meeting was on April 14th with Camp Commander Paul Cameron giving a presentation on "Civil War Sketch Artists." Commander Cameron re-enacts as a Civil War sketch artist and has been to such re-enactments as the one at Fort Davidson. He portrays artist Alfred Waud. He described for us how the sketches you see in Frank Leslie's Magazine and Harpers Weekly are not the original work of the artist drawings. He told us that the artist would draw the positions and name of the unit at that position and do a rough sketch and then send it in. His sketch would then be divided up into four different blocks of wood and four carvers would carve the battle scene. They would leave about one-half of an inch on the borders of the block of wood and the supervisor would put the four blocks of wood together and fill in the borders. He also shared with us some of his sketches.



OUR FIRST PROJECT

Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James is buried in the Memorial Cemetery. He was buried there on 13 April 1862 five days after he died of his wounds received at the Battle of Shiloh, TN. Our Camp voted to help the Foundation for Restoration on clean up days at the Memorial Cemetery. On Friday 17 April 2009 along with twelve students from Valle High School, three members of the Foundation for Restoration and three members of our camp we cleaned up the cemetery and planted grass seed.

← L-R; Bob Schmidt, Gary Scheel and Tom Farlow.

Our upcoming events for the future. For those of us who cannot make it to the Memorial Day Ceremony at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery we will meet at the grave site of Lt. Col. St. James. The Grand Army of the Republic Post # 326 in Ste. Genevieve was named after him and would meet every year on Decoration Day to decorate his grave. We hope to continue this ceremony to honor both him and the GAR Post that was here.

July 11 & 12; We are sponsoring the Ste. Genevieve Civil War Camp here in town. As of now we have the 5th Missouri Cavalry Regiment, Charlie Brulle's Mountain Howitzer Battery coming and a Civil War Sutler. Members of Company F, 47th Missouri Infantry Regiment SVR will be present also. We are hoping to gain some members from the Civil War Camp.

In the Future: Camp Member Tom Greminger who has a great interest in 1st Lt. Alexander H. Chadwell, 2nd Missouri Confederate Cavalry is going to set a date for us to clean up his gravesite. His company rode with Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest. His grave has been neglected with a tree growing up in it. Lt. Chadwell is from Ste. Genevieve and is buried at the Valle Springs Cemetery and as far as we know has no family to provide this service for him.

Columbia Tigers Camp #432



During the Columbia Tigers Camp #432 March meeting, Past Commander Jim Coy was presented with a Past Commander's Medal by Columbia Tigers Camp Commander Brian Bradford assisted by Missouri Department Commander Emmett Taylor.

U.S. Grant Camp # 68



25 April 2009 Marty Aubuchon, Walt Busch and Mark Coplin met at the Inks Cemetery in Eureka, MO. Major William Inks who lies on a hill surrounded by houses in the Legends subdivision tombstone was again damaged by either vandals or wild animals. It was broken into three pieces. These three members of the Grant Camp took the two pieces that were completely broken away from the base and laid them in concrete. They did this in hopes of keeping this one-hundred and forty-five year old tombstone from being further busted. This same tombstone was repaired and placed upright in 2004 by the U.S. Grant Camp and concerned citizens. The stone marker at the foot of the original tombstone denotes the service of Major Inks as commander of the Pacific Battalion Home Guards better known as Inks Battalion.

L-R: Mark Coplin and Marty Aubuchon. Not pictured is Walt Busch

Phelps Camp # 66

Camp Commander Wait and Richard Cochran reported that the final corrections have been made to the wording for the Lexington Monument, and we are waiting for the stone's arrival from Africa. Let's hope no pirates attack that ship! The dedication has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2009. By that time, a new wayside exhibit will also be in place next to the monument and the Union graves

ANNOUNCING

The Return of a Rare Civil War Book

In 1863, Lexington, Missouri newspaper editor Henry Davis gathered a series of articles into a book entitled, "The Book of Chronicles of the City of Lexington, and Fragments of the Book of Haddorim and Maazim"

In this unique work, Davis decided not only to tell the story of the Civil War in Lafayette County, Missouri, but to do so in humorous Biblical verse. Here are some examples:

"And it came to pass that the cities of the South that had rebelled, chose one Jefferson to be King of the whole nation. And now when the people of Lexington heard these things, it pleased them well, and they said, We will also have Jefferson to be our King, and him only will we serve."

"Now it came to pass in those days, that Claiborne was Governor over the whole land of the Pukites, and he had dominion over all their cities, and their chief men, their rules and their Kings."

"And he appointed one Sterling, whose surname is Price, to be the chief captain over all his hosts, and his mighty men of valor, who had come up to fight against Abraham."

"Now when it was told that Mulligan had surrendered himself, and all his fighting men, there was great rejoicing amongst those who had joined themselves unto the rebellion, and the people shouted aloud with joy—and they cried, Great is the glory of Sterling for what he hath done for us. He is a god and not a man, and there is none other that is greater than Sterling, the chief captain."

"And the people shouted aloud, and cried out in the Pukite tongue, Hurrah for Price! Bully for that! which, being interpreted, is, All hail unto Sterling! Most excellent!"

Only two copies of the Chronicles are known to exist. Recently, the owner of one of those copies allowed Phelps Camp to produce a facsimile reprint. Now you have a chance to enjoy the humor of Henry Davis. Only 300 copies of this 50-page, softbound book have been printed. To order, send a check or money order for \$11 per book (includes media mail shipping), payable to "Phelps Camp No. 66, SUVCW," to:

Jeff Patrick

122 E. Jewell St.

Republic, MO 65738

Proceeds from the sale of the Chronicles will go to fund the new monument to the Union defenders of Lexington at Battle of Lexington State Historic Site.

(Taken from the THE UNION DEFENDER THE NEWSLETTER OF PHELPS CAMP NO. 66, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR)

Westport Camp #64

Real Daughter Mary Hayes Carroll

by Brian Smarker, SVC



One of our Brothers at Franklin Camp #5, David Tollefson, participates in Civil War era dances and demonstrations at Missouri Town. One of his dance partners was Norma Bowers. In casual conversation with Norma, David discovered that her living 97-year

young Aunt Mary Carroll was the daughter of a Union soldier, Pvt. Samuel Gibson Hayes, Co. I 49th Missouri Volunteer Infantry, from 1864-1865 during the American Civil War. This caused Brother Tollefson to pursue further research, mainly for verification which, in turn, confirmed what he was told. Following this, the Franklin Camp brothers decided to conduct a ceremony in Mary Carroll's honor.

Mary Hayes Carroll and her father were recognized at a ceremony on Sunday, 22 March 2009 at Duncan Estates Community Building in Lee's Summit, Missouri. The ceremony was hosted by Franklin Camp #5, Olathe, Kansas and led by Camp Commander Lane Smith. Many of Mary's family members and friends were in attendance. Also in attendance were Westport Camp's brothers James Walden and Dave McCann, JVC.

Presenting Mrs. Carroll with certificates and plaques were Lee's Summit Mayor Karen Messerli who proclaimed 22 Mar 2009 as Mary Hayes Carroll Day in Lee's Summit, Brother David Tollefson representing Franklin Camp #5, Dept. of Kansas, Brother Brian Smarker, SVC representing Dept. of Missouri, Sister Donna Lester, Dept. President representing the Dept. of Missouri, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Brother James Knopke, PDC Kansas representing SUVCW National Headquarters, and Sister Barbara Knopke, National President representing the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mary Hayes Carroll has been added to the national list of Real Sons and Daughters following a thorough investigation by our brothers in Franklin Camp. Also, the brothers of Franklin Camp have discovered that the old flagpole in Tina, Missouri where her father resided is in need of restoration. This flagpole was the "pet" project of Mary's father, Samuel G. Hayes. This will most likely be a joint project between Franklin Camp and Westport Camp.



Gen. James R. McCormick Camp #215

For Lincoln Day, the General James R. McCormick Camp 215, the 47th Missouri Infantry, Co. E - SVR, and the Louisa Volker Auxiliary 215, went as a group.



← The Vanguard of the SVR, the 47th Missouri Infantry's first parade ceremony (Front Row L-R are: 2LT Chris Warren, unknown SVR member from Michigan, PVT William Daugherty, PVT Andrew Warren, and 1SGT Bob Schmidt.

The Louisa Volker Auxiliary 215 - ASUVCW →
(L-R: Vice-President Cher Petrovic, Secretary/Treasurer Samantha Daugherty, Tiffany Daugherty (in pink), Tasha Daugherty, and President Twyla Warren.



← 47th Missouri Infantry's group photo (Front Row L-R are: 2LT Chris Warren, 1SGT Bob Schmidt, PVT William Daugherty, PVT Andrew Warren, and PVT Doug Roussin (not pictured is Marty Aubuchon, 2LT 2nd MO Inf, Co. and PVT 47th MO Inf, Co E - SVR).

This was the first large/national ceremony that the group has participated in. Afterwards, to honor Lincoln, the group visited the tomb and then the Presidential museum.



SUV-RVers



The SUV-RVers comprised of members from any Missouri camp had their first rally in March in western Missouri. There they assisted the National Park Service in a archaeological survey of a battlefield. The Buschs, Roussins and Prices (pictured left to right) were all in attendance. In early May some of the group will be RVing out to Ohio to attend the GAR Memorabilia Show in Mansfield. Any members are invited to join. The RVers plan to have meets twice to three times a year. For more information, contact Walt Busch webusch@hotmail.com





CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICES



NOMINEE FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

BRIAN SMARKER

Brian Smarker was born in North Kansas City, Missouri and is a great-great-grandson of Pvt. James I. Moss, Co. D 15th Iowa Inf. Other collateral ancestors include James' older brother (Smarker's ggg-uncle), George W. Moss, Co. D 15th Iowa Inf. and Co. K 119th Ill. Inf., and George G. Earley (ggg-uncle), Co. I 3rd Ohio Vol. Inf. and 187th Ohio Inf.

Brian is married to Scarlet Stoll of Odessa, Missouri and has resided in Excelsior Springs, Missouri for about 14 years. They have two daughters, Caitlyn (Albright College in Reading, PA) and Jourdyn Smarker (Excelsior Springs High School). The Smarker's are members of the First United Methodist Church – Excelsior Springs.



Presently, and hopefully until retirement, Brian is a high school teacher at the Excelsior Springs Area Career Center. His teaching career began in 2004. He teaches juniors and seniors on the fine art of computer maintenance technology and networking. Prior to teaching, Brian worked as an electronics technician (17 years), software engineer (3 years), and as a technical support representative (1 year). In addition he operated his own computer service and support business (5 years) on the side. He has closed the business to focus on educating students.

In addition to the SUVCW, Brian is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution having proven his direct descendancy from Corp. George Gordon who served in Capt. William Rippey's company, Col. William Irvine's regiment. Two other direct ancestors served in the American Revolution but have not been proven to date. One is Selah Cook. Selah Cook had two younger brothers, Trueworthy and Lemuel, who served also. Lemuel Cook was credited with being the oldest and last living soldier who fought in the American Revolution having died in 20 May 1866 at the age of 106 in Clarendon, New York. Photographs can be found circulating the Internet of this ancestor.

In June 2003, Brian was presented with the Francis P. Blair, Jr. award for various activities and contributions to the Department of Missouri. In June 2007, he received a Meritorious Service award for his continued work on the Department of Missouri web site.

An accomplishment that means a lot to Brian is when he located the names of the six unknown soldiers buried in a mass grave in Pisgah Cemetery in present day Wood Heights, Missouri. The cemetery is within five miles of his home. He located relatives of several of the soldiers who traveled from as far away as California and Amsterdam, Netherlands in 2005 to see the grave or attend the dedication ceremony. While researching the soldiers, Brian discovered he was a distant cousin of Sgt. Truman Greenslit, Co. C 2nd Colo. Cav. They shared common ancestors making them 5th cousins 5 times removed.

Within the SUVCW, Brian holds the Senior Vice Commander office for the Department of Missouri. He is also the Commander of Westport Camp #64 in Kansas City. In addition, Brian serves as the Historian for the Harry S. Truman Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in Missouri.

NOMINEE FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

CHRISTOPHER WARREN



I would like to be considered a candidate for the office of Department Junior-Vice Commander. Most of you know me; however, I would like to elucidate as to why I am seeking this office.

Since my induction into the SUVCW in 2004, I have remained very active (having served as Junior-Vice Commander for the U.S. Grant Camp #68 and as a Private and Sergeant in the 2nd Missouri Infantry, Company A. – SVR). In 2006, I came up with the idea of forming what would become the General James R. McCormick Camp 215. Working with Bob Petrovic and Walt Busch we began to work towards creating this camp, which was chartered in May 2007. I have since served as its first Camp Commander , Camp Secretary , Camp Chaplain , and again as its current Camp Commander . Then, in March 2008, I recruited and formed the 47th Missouri Infantry, Company E – SVR, and served as the unit's first commander / First Sergeant. This unit has grown and I received my 2nd Lieutenant's commission on April 5, 2009 .

In addition to this, I have participated in many Civil War presentations, gravestone dedication

ceremonies, recruiting drives, ROTC award ceremonies, and more. I also served as Department GAR Highway officer, Department Secretary/Treasurer (until personal matters with my wife's immigration & other personal issues forced my resignation, however, all is resolved now), Department Council, and Department ROTC Award officer.

My passion has been the American Civil War since I was age nine. Having grown up in Ironton , MO and around Fort Davidson in Pilot Knob, and my great-great-great grandfather fighting with General Sherman, this made the Civil War even more important to me. Also, I am currently pursuing a Master of Art's degree in Military History (Civil War concentration) and have personally recorded over 300 Civil War soldiers' graves. I hope this conveys my sincerity in seeking this position. I want to do everything in my power to increase the Department's membership. If anyone has anything they would like to ask me, please feel free to e-mail or call me.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Christopher Warren, P.C.C.

General James R. McCormick Camp 215 – SUVCW, Dept. of Missouri

the_civilwar_guy@yahoo.com

(573) 431-1860 (Home # with voicemail after about 12 rings)

2009 Missouri Department Encampment Pre-Registration Form

(Please Return Forms by May 28, 2009)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

DEPARTMENT _____

CAMP NAME _____

NUMBER _____

CURRENT/HIGHEST PAST OFFICE/DELEGATE/ALTERNATE _____

_____ Please indicate yes or no if your spouse would
be interested in organized tours/activities on Saturday

Registration Sub Total _____

Lunch Sub Total _____

Banquet Sub Total _____

Total _____

Will you be attending the Fellowship event
on Friday evening?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Registration Fee
(\$7 each / \$10 at the door)

_____ = Sub Total

Lunch - June 13 (\$13.00 each):

Meal Preference - (enter meal number from next page
into the boxes multiply # of boxes by \$13 for total)

☐☐

X \$13.00

_____ = Lunch Sub Total

Banquet - June 13 (\$26 each)

Meal

Preference - (enter meal number from next page
into the boxes multiply # of boxes by \$26 for total)

☐☐

X \$26.00

_____ = Banquet Sub Total

Make checks or money orders payable to:
US Grant Camp 68, SUVCW

Please return this form and payment to:

2009 Department Encampment Committee
c/o Walt Busch, PDC
PO Box 381
Arcadia, MO 63621

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.

Questions? Please contact:

Walt Busch - (314) 630-8407/wbusch@suvchwmo.org

LUNCH (PICK ONE BY #)

1. Turkey/ Cheese Deli Sandwich w/ fries
2. Ham / Cheese Deli Sandwich w/ fries
3. Chicken Tender – breaded, fried chicken tender strips served with ranch or honey mustard w/fries
4. Patty Melt – Beef patty with melted Swiss, grilled onions served on rye toast w/fries

BANQUET (PICK ONE BY #)

1. Chicken Parmesan – 7 oz breast fried and topped with fresh Parmesan cheese and marinara on a bed of spaghetti. Salad & Garlic Texas toast
2. St. Louis Ribs – 1.5 lbs of ribs marinated in BBQ sauce and flame grilled. House salad, vegetable of day, baked potato
3. Sirloin Tips – 8 oz. Sautéed in red wine mushroom sauce. House salad, vegetable of day, baked potato
4. Fettuccini Alfredo – in Alfredo Parmesan sauce. Salad & Garlic Texas toast

2009 Missouri Department Encampment Weekend Agenda

Friday, 12 June 2009

- 6:00 - 7:00 pm Registration
- 7:00 pm - Department Fellowship Event Private Room in Restaurant (Hotel)
- 8:30 pm Social in Adjacent Lounge

Saturday, 13 June 2009

- 7:30 - 9:00 am Registration
- 9:00 am - Department Business Session I
- 12:00 noon - Lunch in Restaurant
- 1:30 pm - Department Business Session II
- 4:00 pm - Elections/Officer Installation
- 5:00 pm - Adjourn
- 6:00 pm - Social Hour in Lounge
- 7:00 pm - Encampment Banquet
Speaker: Dr Randy McGuire
"The Missing Guns of the St Louis Arsenal"

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:

- * Tours of local historic sites, such as U.S. Grant National Historic Site, Jefferson Barracks County Park, Jefferson National Museum of Westward Expansion and the Daniel Boone home (Defiance, MO).
- o The main attraction is nearby Forest Park, the site of the 1904 World's Fair with the zoo, art museum, history museum and more.
- * Famous St. Louis landmarks, such as the Gateway Arch, St. Louis Union Station, Anheuser Busch Brewery, St. Louis Zoo and Forest Park.



*Missouri Commandary
of the
Military Order of the Loyal Legion
of the
United States.*



L-R; Joseph L. Difani, Sr., Joseph L. Difani, Jr., Jack Grothe, Gary Scheel, Ruth Funck (member of Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States), Doug Niermeyer (Past National Commander of MOLLUS), Vernon Von der Heydt and Charles Funck, Commander of MOMOLLUS.

We assembled at the General William T. Sherman Memorial Service at his gravesite on February 22, 2009. Most of our members are also members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. General Sherman was a member of the MOLLUS. After the ceremony we met at the restaurant and had a meeting voting Charles Ed Funck III our new Commander.

We have two new members that were in attendance. They are Joseph L. Difani, Sr. and Joseph L. Difani Jr. They are descendents of 1st Lieutenant Bernard Difani of Company D, 78th Enrolled Missouri Militia from Saint Mary's, Ste. Genevieve County Missouri.

We have two levels of membership. To be a Companion you must either be a direct descendent of an officer or you can become an Associate Companion.



Julia Dent Grant Tent #16, St. Louis, Missouri
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865

Real Daughter Passes--

Kathryn M. (Dicken) Wilson--

Born Dec. 19, 1918 & Died Feb. 18, 2009



Kathryn Wilson, 90, of Poplar Bluff died at Cedargate Care Center. Kathryn was the youngest of the 14 children of Hardy and his 4th wife, Nancy (Pennington) Dicken. Kathryn's father fought in the Civil War in the Illinois 120th Regiment, Company A. The experiences of Kathryn and her father are recorded in "The Missouri Unionist" Volume 2, Issue 2, page 15.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Poplar Bluff. Mrs. Wilson was also a member of the Valley Lodge 321; Auxiliary to the U.T.U.; Eastern Star Chapter 344; and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, St. Louis Tent #16. She worked as a Nutritionist with the University of Missouri Extension Service for 10 years, and was a homemaker.

On Dec. 22, 1934 she was married to Eugene Wilson, in Poplar Bluff. He preceded her in death on June 7, 1977. On Aug. 3, 1979 she married Elmus Mullane. He preceded her in death in Dec. of 1995.

Survivors include her daughters: Patricia (Wilson) Davis, of Pearland, TX; and Peggy (Wilson) Wicks and husband Gene, of Bonita Springs, FL; 3 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Visitation was from 9-11 AM Saturday at Cotrell Funeral Chapel in Poplar Bluff. A graveside service and burial followed at 11:30 AM Saturday at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Poplar Bluff with Dr. William Vail officiating. Memorials are requested to one's favorite charity.*

*Part of this article was taken from the obituary of Kathryn M. Wilson as gotten from the website of Cotrell Funeral Chapel. Submitted by Ruth Marie Funck, PNP.

In Lincoln's Watch, A Mystery Etched?

By [Neely Tucker](#) Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, March 11, 2009; Page C01

For nearly 150 years, Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch has been rumored to carry a secret message, allegedly written by an Irish immigrant and watchmaker named Jonathan Dillon. It sounds like a plot premise for "National Treasure 3," but it was real, or at least a real legend, and it went like this: Dillon told family members that he was working in M.W. Galt and Co.'s jewelry shop on Pennsylvania Avenue in 1861. By incredible happenstance, he said he was repairing Lincoln's watch when the shop owner burst in with news that Fort Sumter in South Carolina had been attacked. It was the opening salvo of the Civil War.



Dillon told his family (and, four decades later, a reporter for the New York Times) that he opened the watch's inner workings, etched his name, the date and a message for the ages: "The first gun is fired. Slavery is dead. Thank God we have a President who at least will try."

He then closed it up and sent it back to the White House. Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. Dillon died in 1907. Dillon's descendants told the tale to their children, but it wasn't much more than a shaggy dog story about a colorful ancestor.

The watch, meanwhile, endured. A gold-cased beauty, it was stamped as coming from the George Chatterton jewelers in Springfield, Ill., where Lincoln was known to shop. Lincoln's son Robert mentioned having his father's watches as late as 1910, and passed at least two along to his children. One watch was given to a museum in Kentucky. The other was donated by Lincoln's great-great-grandson, along with other Lincoln belongings, to the Smithsonian Institution in 1958. It was put on exhibit every so often, but was mostly kept in storage, a minor artifact.

Then, last year, Doug Stiles, Dillon's great-great-grandson, received a letter from a relative in Ireland. It said that the family had found a letter Dillon had written about the purported message in the watch. Stiles, a 57-year-old real estate lawyer and history buff in Waukegan, Ill., did a quick search on the Internet -- and found a New York Times article from 1906, where Dillon told the story at the age of 84. Stiles alerted Smithsonian officials at the National Museum of American History last month.

"We'd never heard of this story or even a rumor of this story," said Harry R. Rubenstein, chairman of the museum's Division of Politics and Reform.

Was it truth? Lore?

Yesterday, in a small conference room on the first floor of the museum, officials decided to find out. In front of an audience of 40 or so reporters and museum employees, expert watchmaker George Thomas used a series of delicate instruments -- tweezers, tiny pliers -- to pull apart Lincoln's timepiece. He put on a visor with a magnifying lens and talked as he worked. Some of the pins were nearly stuck, he explained. The hands of the watch were original. The case was made in America and the workings in Liverpool, England. The Rail-Splitter had either splurged or been given a dandy: The watch, Thomas said, would be the equivalent to a timepiece "you'd pay \$5,000 for" today.

He pried off the watch's face, pulled off the hands, and turned it over to see the brass underside of the movement. The audience, watching on a monitor, gasped.

Split into three different sections to get around the tiny gears was this razor-thin etching: "Jonathan Dillon April 13-1861. Fort Sumpter [sic] was attacked by the rebels on the above date thank God we have a government." He added "Washington" and his name again.

The old man's memory had not been exact. He had not forecast the end of slavery, or Lincoln's critical role in its demise. And the fort had actually been attacked on April 12. (The name "Jeff. Davis," the president of the Confederacy, is also etched on a different part of the brass plate, in different handwriting. It remains unexplained. And someone added the name "LE Grofs" and "1864.")

But it was there, a little bit of history that had been hidden at Lincoln's side during those tumultuous days of war and rebellion, the Emancipation Proclamation and Gettysburg Address, and then resting, unseen, for nearly a century and a half.

"A real moment of discovery," Rubenstein said. Stiles, comparing the Fort Sumter attack to a cultural moment akin to "Pearl Harbor or 9/11," was delighted.

"That's Lincoln's watch," he said, after putting it down, "and my ancestor put graffiti on it!"



SUTLER'S STOP



Raspberries



Antiques - Uniques - Collectibles

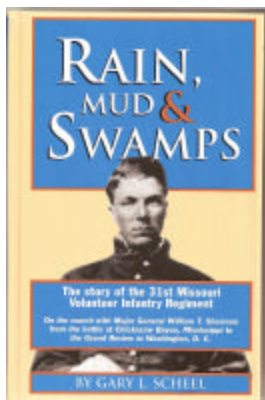
220 North College, Arcadia, MO 63621

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**

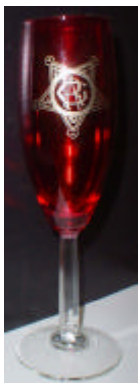


Encampment Button
logo's on them **\$1.00 + shipping**



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