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



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Comments from the Commander



Gentlemen,

The next regularly scheduled department meeting is not until March; therefore, I find it necessary to forward the email below along with its attachment to everyone within the department to be read and responded to rather than wait until the meeting. It is disturbing to hear about vandalism to monuments for any reason and this one is due in large part to economic "progress" similar to what other battlefields across America are experiencing.

At your service in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Brian Smarker

Commander, Department of Missouri, SUVCW

23 November, 2009

Brian Smarker
Commander
Department of Missouri

Jack O. Shaw
Commander
Department of Indiana

RE: Monuments of Iowa, Missouri and Indiana at Vicksburg, Mississippi

Dear Commanders Smarker and Shaw,

On behalf of the Department of Iowa I bid you warmest greetings.

I am writing to you to inform you of a situation that involves monuments of our respective states that once resided within the bounds of the Vicksburg National Battlefield Park in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Some years ago the City of Vicksburg acquired sections on land on the extreme south end of the national park in order to build a section of highway across what had once been battlefield where your state's troops, and Iowa soldiers engaged the Confederate forces under Generals John Pemberton, Joseph Johnston and others during the siege of the "Gibraltar of the Confederacy" throughout the Spring of 1863.

The construction of this new stretch of highway completely severed a sizable portion of land where monuments from Iowa, Missouri and Indiana that were erected around the turn of the last century to commemorate those who fought and died there from our states.

Subsequent urban development in the area resulted in further isolation of this stretch of ground to the extent that it was no longer accessible from virtually any direction.

The isolation of this piece of property has resulted in these monuments being vandalized and damaged severely and no one, including the National Park Service and the City of Vicksburg appear to have taken adequate steps to protect these monuments as they were required to do under extant Federal and/or State laws.

At present, the Department of Iowa is investigating what recourse might be available to us to attempt to rectify this intolerable situation, and I would ask the your Department join us in these efforts. We are planning to approach the administration of the National Battlefield Park; and, the officials of the City of Vicksburg in the months to come to attempt to amiably resolve this situation. Failing a satisfactory resolution to this matter, it is our intent to explore what legal alternatives might be available to us.

I have been given to understand that monuments from your states have been stolen and/or vandalized as have our own. We find this situation intolerable and aim to see it rectified by whatever means necessary. We would welcome the support of the great states of Missouri and Indiana.

I would very much welcome any advise and assistance that you might be able to offer to us in this matter

You can reach me at the following e-mail addresses: digger1@q.r.com

Or by telephone at: 1-515-282-5900

I look forward to working with you on this matter of mutual interest to our Departments.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, I am Yours most sincerely,

David M. Lamb, BSc, M.A.

Chief of Staff, Department of Iowa

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

1305 Locust Street # 7 Des Moines, IA 50309

Past Commander-in-Chief presenting to Department of Missouri →
Commander the Marshall Hope Award (see editorial note below)

EDITORIAL NOTE:

On the front of the Missouri Unionist is a certificate. Past Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert has honored the Department of Missouri by bestowing upon us the "Marshall Hope Award" for best Department Newsletter at the National Encampment this past August.

To be honest as the editor, I was somewhat surprised. In conversation with someone who was in the know or gave me that impression, I was told it may have been the special edition for our Departments Real Son, Brother George Williams who answered the Last Roll Call that may have been the deciding factor. If this is true then I cannot think of a better fitting tribute to Brother George Williams.

I debated long on whether to place the monument that the Phelps Camp placed at the Lexington State Historic Site or our certificate. I consider the accomplishment, time, and effort that the Phelps Camp put into this effort was worthy of special recognition.

But I finally placed the certificate on the first page because I felt that Past Commander-in-Chief Medert has honored the whole Department.

I hope that you will excuse my rambling and explanation. I would like again to express to Past Commander-in-Chief my gratitude and Thanks.

Gary L. Scheel
Editor



(Photo furnished by Cher Petrovic)



Camp News

Phelps Camp # 66



LEXINGTON MONUMENT CEREMONY

(From the "Union Defender" newsletter of Phelps Camp #66, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War)

Well, it's all over! Blessed with great weather and a crowd of approximate-ly 60 people, the men of Phelps Camp dedicated our monument in Lexington on September 26. Our thanks to all those who gave donations to the project and/or participated in the ceremony. Congressman Ike Skelton and all the other

speakers gave excellent presentations, our color guard (about a dozen members of Holmes Brigade) performed flawlessly, and David Luff, (descendant of Medal of Honor recipient George Henry Palmer) not only traveled all the way from California , but brought both the medal and a federal flag saved by Palmer at the siege. The staff of Battle of Lexington SHS deserve our thanks as well for their support and enthusiasm. Huzzah for the Union defenders of Lexington , for Phelps Camp, and for all those who strive to honor America 's veterans!



Hello to all Phelps Camp members!

Today, while I was stuck at home, I read the Sunday News-Leader October 25, 2009 edition. And much to my great pleasure on page 1-C was a News-Leader 2008 file photo of Phelps Camp members participating as the Parade of the Wars marching unit at the 2008 Veterans Day Parade. Once again, our Parade of the Wars common soldier entry is the best remembered from each year's Veterans Day Parade. (e-mail from John Rutherford)

More from Phelps Camp



CAVE SPRINGS MONUMENT DEDICATION CEREMONY

Several members of Phelps Camp attended a wonderful monument dedication ceremony at Cave Springs, near Sarcoxie, Missouri, on Saturday, October 3. A large, impressive monument to the members of the 76th Enrolled Missouri Militia and the Union civilians who gave their lives during the Civil War was unveiled before a large crowd. Members of the camp presented a musket firing demonstration and participated in the memorial service at the adjacent cemetery. Camp Commander Wait spoke on behalf of Phelps Camp. It is a little-known fact that many members of the 76th, along with pro-Union civilians in the area, perished while trying to protect their homes and families against guerrilla bands.

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

On September 26, 2009 we set up a small Civil War camp at Lyon's Park in Ste. Genevieve.



Ste. Genevieve had a special weekend called "Our Rural Heritage Day in Ste. Genevieve." We had artifacts, weapons display, display of our Ste. Genevieve County Civil War Veterans project and as you see to the left our recruiting drive for our Civil War Unit. We handed out several membership applications to those who expressed an interest. We will be participating with the American Legion on Veterans Day and we have been asked to participate in the Christmas Parade



on December 5th.

Brother Jerry Kasten explaining manual of arms to our recruits.

On October 10, 2009 Brothers Bob Schmidt and Gary Scheel represented two Civil War Soldiers buried in Memorial Cemetery the oldest cemetery in Missouri. They are standing in front of where it is believed Lt. Col. St. James is buried.

Bob Schmidt (on the left) portrayed Corporal Amos Culver, Co. K, 47th Missouri Infantry Regiment who died on November 4 1866. He died of an illness that he never recovered from during the Civil War.

Gary Scheel is portraying Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James who was mortally wounded on 6 April 1862 at the Battle of Shiloh and died on 8 April 1862 at the hospital in Savannah, TN. He was buried on 16 April 1862.

They tell the story of the person they portray. There were twenty-one spirits in the Spirit Reunion which takes place every second Saturday in October. There is a candle light tour through the cemetery. Yes that is a candle in the socket end of a bayonet.



← On November 11, 2009 nine members of the camp attended the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the American Legion Hall. In the photo to the left are Brothers Clarence Hill (facing the monument in the light blue coat) and Bob Hammack (in the dark blue suit coat with his side toward the camera) placing our wreath at the

Memorial. Brothers Jerry Kasten and Tom Farlow at Fort D → activity on November 14, 2009 in honor of Veterans Day.



Memorial.

Brothers Jerry Kasten and Tom Farlow at Fort D → activity on November 14, 2009 in honor of Veterans Day.



General Alexander S. Asboth, Camp #5 Department of Missouri Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

August 13-15, 2009: Emmett Taylor, PDC with his wife Brenda of the Nancy A. James

ASUVCW, and Harold James, PCC with his wife Jeanette, also of the Nancy A. James ASUVCW; attended the 2009 SUVCW National Encampment in Louisville, Kentucky.

Emmett and Harold, both in uniform, are shown in the picture along with other members of the Department of Missouri and the new National Officers.



October 10, 2009:

Harold W. James, PCC and his wife Jeanette of the Nancy A. James

ASUVCW represented the Gen Alexander S. Asboth Camp at the burial of unknown soldier who died at the Battle of Franklin



←Harold and Jeanette pay honors to the unknown
Harold pours Missouri battlefield soil into →
grave of unknown

November 11, 2009: Emmett Taylor, PDC and Gregory Decker, Camp Secretary attended a Veteran's Day Ceremony at Jefferson Barracks. This annual ceremony honors 71 American soldiers along with 29 soldiers from Britain, the Netherlands, and Australia who were re-interred at Jefferson Barracks National



Cemetery on 28 September 1947. The soldiers died while in captivity between July 1944 and April 1945 in a Japanese prison.

←Emmett and Gregory are pictured along with Jack Grothe of the Sherman Camp. Gregory is in the uniform of the Argyle and Sutherland Regt. and Jack is in the uniform of the Scottish American Military Society.



December 12, 2009: This is the date of the Asboth Camp's and the 5th Missouri Cavalry, SVR's annual Regimental Christmas Dinner. This year it will be held in Hermann, MO during the town's Kris Kringle

Mardt. The Dinner will be at the Cottage Restaurant. All members of the Department of Missouri and the 4th Military District, SVR are invited to attend.
Respectfully submitted in Fraternity & Loyalty,
Mark McGehee Camp Commander



***The Gen Alexander S. Asboth, Camp #5
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War***

***Co. C, 5th Regt. MO Vol. Cavalry,
Sons of Veterans Reserve***

Invite you to attend a



***Regimental Holiday Dinner
Saturday, December 12, 2009, 7:00 pm
At The
The Cottage Restaurant
Hermann, Missouri***

We will be ordering off the menu

***Dress will be Federal Uniform or appropriate
civilian attire (modern or period) for gentlemen
and ladies***

***Members of our Nations Armed Forces may wear
Dress or Mess attire***

***Please RSVP by November 30th to
Capt. Emmett P. Taylor
(636) 332-5782
eptaylor@mac.com***

Tiger Camp # 432



Commander Bryan Bradford of the Tiger Camp #432 of Columbia, MO provides a photo of the installation of the new officers for Tiger Camp #432 of Columbia, Mo.

←L to R: Jim Cunningham (Chaplain and Council Member), Alan Bowling (Council Member), Charles Boydston (Council Member), James Dixon (Secretary/Treasurer), Larry Dietzel (Sr. Vice Commander), Bryan P. Bradford (Commander, 2nd Term). Department Commander Brian Smarker not pictured. Russell DeVenney Jr. (Jr. Vice Commander).

A bit of history of the GAR Post of Columbia Tiger Camp #432. I found that the camp was first chartered in June, 1890. John E. Phelps was the Dept. Commander for the Dept. of Missouri for GAR.

Thanks, Bryan Bradford
Tiger Camp #432, Commander

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

The Franz Wilhelmi Camp # 17 has been quite busy lately. On Sept. 26 Doug Niermeyer and Jack Laubinger attended the Federal Monument Dedication at the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site in Lexington MO and on Sept. 27 Doug went to Centralia, MO for the Union Monument Dedication at the Battle of Centralia Historic Site.

The big event for October was the Camp's participation in the Old Iron Works Days at Maramec Spring Park. On the 10th and 11th Jack Laubinger, Mike McCubbins, Pat Burke, and Ron Burke set up a history display complete with tents, uniforms, firearms, and artifacts, a Sons of the Union Veterans informational display was also set up. The James Foundation, which operates the park, estimated 8,000 people attended this years festival which featured food, music and crafts from the 1860's time period.

November 1st was the Franklin County History Fair at East Central College in Union, MO, Jack Laubinger set up a living history display and recruited potential SUV members and finally on November 7th Glen Alsop marched in the Veterans Day Parade in St. Louis.

In F, C and L,
Ron Burke

William T. Sherman Camp # 65

Four (4) members of Wm T. Sherman Camp #65 attended the Remembrance Day Service at Jefferson Barracks on 11 November 2009. Event was conducted by representatives of Canada, New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and the U.S. Army. Program was almost identical as the ones held every year since 1918.

On the 28th of September 1949, 71 soldiers from the United States of America and 29 soldiers from Britain, the Netherlands and Australia were re-interred at JB.

The soldiers died while in captivity between July 1944 and April 1945 in a Japanese prison camps in the Fukuoka Region of the Island of Kyushu.

St. Louis was chosen due to its central location within the US. It is believed to be the largest mass burial site in the United States (at least since WWII).

F.C.&L
Bill Groth, CC
William T. Sherman Camp # 65



DEPARTMENT NEWS



Robert Hammack Department Grave Registrations Officer

Gentlemen:

As a relatively new member of SUVCW and an even newer Graves Registration Officer, I want to reassure you that we are steadily entering large numbers from our Department. With help, we have added several hundred to the National Database since I assumed the Department role in September of this year.

My original interest in the database stems from searching for ancestors in the files. Finding none, I was somewhat taken aback by the lack of data on them. It has become a personal aim to make members and non-members alike aware of the work that has been done and the work that needs to be done on the record. My ancestors all served from around the county or town of my birth in DuQuoin, Illinois

I, too, am a US Army veteran having served on active duty in widely spaced years between 1966 and 1993. The 19th Engineer Battalion was home for 15 months in the Republic of Vietnam and I continue to associate with friends from my time there in 1967-68. I have served as Chaplain of the 19th Combat Engineer Vietnam Association for the past five years remembering 105 fallen brothers. It is a strange quirk that the elevated ground we had occupied from Tam Quan to Du Pho was used for burials.

My children, a son and daughter, have served with me on Boy Scout camp staffs over the years. Twenty-seven of my 54 summers in Scouting have been occupied as a staff member in Missouri and Alaska. Probably my next Scouting experiences will be with my three granddaughters.

Having been involuntarily retired in 2007 due to service-connected ailments, I have plunged into voluntary organizations. By accident, I chanced across an encampment in Ste. Genevieve and eventually joined the newly formed Camp there. (It was the glow of a fire and the odor of wood smoke that attracted me to the camp that evening.) I had graduated from Valle High School and worked in Ste. Genevieve many years before. The GI Bill helped me pay for completion of a degree at St. Benedict's College (Atchison, Kansas) and Southeast Missouri State University for graduate school.

Currently, I live in north St. Louis County and work with the Living History Re-enactors in support of their activities around the area. That group helps to maintain a cemetery with veterans back to the Revolutionary War and another in southern Missouri with a large number of Civil War graves. My tour of duty as secretary to LHR ends in January so I will have more time free for SUVCW.

Please feel free to contact me with concerns about database entries or other matters regarding graves registrations. I am learning and ask your patience and indulgence in our mutual efforts.

Yours in F, C & L

Robert D. (Bob) Hammack

CENTRALIA MONUMENT DEDICATION



Pictures from DUV Monument Dedication Sep 27 2009 at Centralia Battlefield. Members of Grant Camp, Sherman Camp, Westport Camp, Wilhelmi Camp and Tiger Camp were present. Photos by Walt Busch

Back of Monument→



← Living History at Branson

Douglas Roussin, Senior Vice Commander, of the General James R. McCormick Camp 215, and his wife, Kathie, participated in a month long living history of the Civil War at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo . The October event included a number of re-enactors and Civil War collectors. Doug displayed a collection of Civil War artillery shells and talked to the guest on the many types that were used during the war. The people were allowed to handle the shells and ask questions. While the weather in October was rainy and very cold at times, Doug and Kathie had a wonderful time interacting with the guest and the other re-enactors. The soldiers marched around the town square several times each day and recruited boys and girls to participate by march with them. The people shared many interesting stories about their families during the Civil War and brought and showed a number of artifacts that had been handed down. Jim Flint Smith of 5th Missouri Cavalry SVR and Asboth Camp # 5 was organizer of this event.

NATIONAL EVENTS



54th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony



Sponsored by the SUVCW and MOLLUS



Join us at Oak Ridge Cemetery on April 17, 2010 at 10:00AM for the annual ceremony honoring the memory of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. There will be a military parade, commemorations by SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Leo Kennedy and MOLLUS Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison, and wreath presentations by members of the Allied Orders of the GAR.

A luncheon will follow at the State House Inn, 101 E. Adams St., with Mr. & Mrs. Max Daniels, Abraham & Mary Todd Lincoln portrayers. Advance reservations are required. For more information, contact: Robert M. Petrovic, PDC - committee chairman, at 636-274-4567 or by e-mail at rpetro7776@aol.com

Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

All are invited to participate in the 54th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, commemorating the 145th Anniversary of President Lincoln's death. It will be held at the Lincoln tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL at 10 AM on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

Headquarters Hotel: State House Inn, 101 East Adams St. Room rate is \$97.99 for double or single, suite is \$107.99. A full breakfast buffet is included. Call 1-217-528-5100 for reservations and mention **"Sons of Union Veterans"**. **Reserve your room by March 16, 2010.** After this, the remaining blocked rooms will be released. Ground level parking near the lobby and across 1st Street is free. **Shuttle service** will provide transportation between the tomb and the hotel.

Wreaths may be ordered from local Springfield florists. Instruct the florist to have the wreath delivered c/o the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, by 9 AM on Saturday, April 17th.

Luncheon will be held at the State House Inn (Headquarters Hotel) at 12 noon. The luncheon program will feature Mr. & Mrs. Max Daniels, Abraham & Mary Todd Lincoln portrayals. Luncheon cost is \$25 per person. Send registration form below to:

Robert M. Petrovic, PDC

6519 Cherokee Lane

Cedar Hill, MO 63016-2527

Make check payable to **"National Organization, SUVCW"**. Cancellation of lunch reservations must be made by no later than April 1st.

The **Dr. Benjamin Stephenson Memorial Service**, hosted by the Dept. of Illinois, will take place at his grave in Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, IL, at 3 PM. The cemetery is located on IL Hwy. 123 on the east side of town. Traveling to Petersburg from Springfield, use Hwys. 29 and 123 or 97. Additional information will be available at the hotel and luncheon.

For event info, go to the SUVCW web site (suvchw.org) or contact Robert Petrovic at: rpetro7776@aol.com or 636-274-4567.

OBSERVANCE WREATH PRESENTATION
(please print clearly)

Organization name in full: _____

Name & title of wreath bearer: _____

e-mail address: _____

if no e-mail, home address: _____

City, State, & Zip code: _____

To insure listing in program, this notice MUST be received no later than April 1st at the address shown above.

I would like to reserve ____ seats on the shuttle bus from headquarters hotel to Tomb Ceremony and return to hotel.

Please circle YES or NO if you will ride the bus to the Dr. Benjamin Stephenson ceremony near Petersburg after the lunch.

OBSERVANCE LUNCHEON

Please accept ____ luncheon reservation(s). Please list name, e-mail address, home address & phone number of person responsible for picking up tickets at the door.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Include remittance of \$25.00 per person for each lunch reservation payable to **National Organization SUVCW**.

Reservations must be made by April 1st and cancellations by the same date in order to receive refund.

There will be no extra tickets sold at the door. Make a copy of this form for your records and send original with remittance.

NATIONAL PROMOTIONS OF TWO DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

It has been rumored that the long awaited event has finally taken place. Yes, Bob Petrovic, of the U.S. Grant Camp # 68 now wears a uniform. At the Sons of Veteran Reserves annual breakfast at the National Encampment this past August was appointed as Chief of Staff to the National SVR Staff. He now is a Lieutenant Colonel.

4th Military District Commander Major Jack Grothe, of William T. Sherman Camp # 65 was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel at the Sons of Veteran Reserves annual breakfast at the National Encampment this past August. In order for a Military Districts commander to achieve the rank of Lieutenant Colonel it must have two-hundred and fifty members. the 4th Military now has over three hundred members.

AUXILIARIES



Louisa Volker Auxiliary #215

Department of Missouri Junior Vice Commander Chris Warren presenting the charter to the Louisa Volker Aux.#215 at the BBQ of General McCormick Camp and Louisa Volker Auxiliary on September 27 at Fort Davidson State Historic Site.

← (left to right-Chris Warren, Bob Schmidt, Bob Petrovic, Twyla Warren (aux. pres.), Cher Petrovic (vice-pres), Tiffany Daugherty, Colleen Warren (chaplain), Norma Coplin, Tasha Daugherty, and Samantha Daugherty(sec./treas.).

CENTRAL REGION ASSOCIATION OF THE ALLIED ORDERS OF THE G.A.R.

Ever wonder what the Central Region Association is all about? Thanks to the U.S. Grant Camp # 68 your answers are just three clicks away. How to find out more follow these directions:

Type in your search engine www.grantcamp.com

On the left side of the web page click on the words: Important News

In middle of the page click on the words: **New** Central Region Association of the Allied Orders
Then go crazy. Information furnished by Walt Busch.



SUTLER'S STOP



Raspberries

Antiques - Uniques - Collectibles

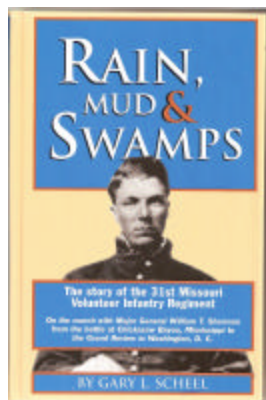
220 North College, Arcadia, MO 63621

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

DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI ITEMS FOR SALE
MOST ITEMS DISCOUNTED 50%

ITEMS FOR RESALE	Discounted Price
Encampment Button	50 cents
Encampment Souvenir Medal	\$4.00
Logan Medal	\$10.00
Encampment Polo Shirts - Medium	\$15.00 2 left
Encampment Polo Shirts - Large	\$15.00 17 left
Encampment Polo Shirts - XL	\$15.00 3 left
Encampment Red Flute Glass	\$5.00
Encampment Bag	\$2.50
Encampment Program	\$1.50
Patriotic Wreaths from 2006 Encampment	\$8.00
Lincoln Medallion	\$9.00

All may be purchased from Dept Secretary Walt Busch, PO Box 381,
 Arcadia, MO 63621

Checks should be made payable to the "Missouri SUVCW" if shipping is desired please include \$5.00 s&h (for US Post Office Flat Rate Box). Depending on quantity, additional s&h may be required.

