



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

www.suvcwmo.org

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Commander

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Mid Term Summary Report 2025-2026

March 7, 2026

Greeting Brothers:

Since my last communication on the Department of Missouri's activity this has been going on in the Show Me State. Department of Missouri has been very active in promoting the history of the Civil War in Missouri. We do have a camp in the Kansas City area (Westport Camp #64) that is having some troubles and this will be mentioned later in my report.

The following are the reports I received from each camp:

Fletcher Camp #47 August 23 – Assisted St. James Camp #326 with Civil War Living History & Courthouse Occupation Reenactment in Sainte Genevieve, Missouri. August 30 – September 1 – Members of Fletcher Camp & Volker Auxiliary participated in a Civil War Living History at Fort D Historic Site in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. September 13-14 - Civil War Living History & Historical Demonstrations at the Kirkwood, Missouri Folk Life Festival. September 27-28 - Civil War Reenactment in Hermann, Missouri. September 27 - A few members of Fletcher Camp assisted the Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site with an auto retreat route tour (in Civil War uniform with firing demonstrations) – this tour followed the Union retreat from Pilot Knob – Leasburg, Missouri (approximately 66 miles) stopping at significant locations along the route. October 3-4 - Liberty Days History Event at the National Stars & Stripes Museum, Bloomfield, Missouri. October 5 - Participated in a history movie filming at the Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site, Pilot Knob, Missouri. October 10 - Civil War Living History Event (Ghost Walk) at the Gov. Thomas C. Fletcher House, Hillsboro, Missouri. October 1 - Fletcher Camp & Volker Auxiliary Bonfire business meeting & planning session at Roussin's House, DeSoto, Missouri. We have inducted 2 new Fletcher Camp Members & 2 new Volker Auxiliary members, plus we held nominations for the year 2026. October 18 – First-person history event “Voices of the Past: Farmington Cemetery Tour”. October 19 - Hosted a very special monument dedication ceremony to honor Louisa Volker Macklind (our auxiliary's namesake) in Potosi, Missouri's Heritage Park. This monument took 4 1/2 years of planning, fundraising, etc. to make happen. We had National & State Officers from the SUVCW, ASUVCW, WRC, & DUVCW in attendance. November 1 – Annual Veterans Parade, Farmington, Missouri. November 8 – Annual Veteran's Day Parade, DeSoto, Missouri. November 15 - Special ceremony dedicating the “Merrill's Horse Flag Installation” inside the Missouri State Capitol, Jefferson City, Missouri. December 6 - Assisted the St. James Camp #326 with an annual Christmas Parade, Sainte Genevieve, Missouri of the morning. Then, members attended the Annual Christmas Parade, DeSoto, Missouri that evening. December 7 – Members participated in their annual Bell Ringing Campaign for the DeSoto Food Pantry (4 hours of bell ringing), DeSoto, Missouri. December 11 - Annual Christmas Banquet & Installation of officers in DeSoto, Missouri. December 12 – Hunter Dawson State Historic Site's “Christmas Victorian Candlelight Tours” in New Madrid, Missouri. February 6 - Civil War School Day program, North St. Francois

County Intermediate School, Desloge, Missouri. February 9 - Special first-person program "The Life & Times of Brig. Gen. James R. McCormick." February 12 - Civil War Library program for the Desloge Public Library titled "Civil War Fashions: A Civil War Show-and-Tell" in Desloge, Missouri. February 21 - Civil War Library program for the Ozark Regional Library titled "Missouri's Forgotten Civil War Couple: Capt. Thomas H. Macklind & Louisa Volker Macklind" in Fredericktown, Missouri. Submitted: Chris Warren CC/ PDC

Lillie Camp #6 - November 15 – Hosted the Special ceremony dedicating the "Merrill's Horse Flag Installation" inside the Missouri State Capitol, Jefferson City, Missouri. Camp Commander Pete Oetting was instrumental in seeing about getting this flag back to Missouri. Information found in the Unionist Newsletter – no report filed.

Phelps Camp #66 – August 10th - Camp member Michael Price delivered the keynote address at the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield battle anniversary ceremony. Michael has done an amazing amount of research on the 20th century history of the battlefield. He will discussed the early efforts to save the site and the improvements made by the National Park Service. November 15 – Members of the camp attended and were asked to be the Color Guard for the ceremony at the Capitol in Jefferson City - dedicating the "Merrill's Horse Flag Installation" Found information on the camp's activities on their Facebook page. No report filed.

St. James Camp #326 August 14th Gary Scheel -PDC presented a SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate and Eagle Scout Patch to Caden Owen Price of Pacific, Missouri. August 23rd the camp along with the Fletcher Camp #47 and Louisa Volker Auxiliary #215 held a Civil War reenactment and living history camp in the courthouse square in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. A local band played Civil War era music and members of both camps had impressive displays for the public to view. The reenactment pertained to Union troops taking over the town and declaring martial law. September 9th Dan Martin presented "U.S. Grant and political cartoons" at our monthly meeting. Dan Martin has had a long career with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as a political cartoonist. September 27 - Gary Scheel was a tour guide for the Battle of Pilot Knob to Leasburg driving tour. This follows the Federal defenders harrowing flight to safety after the abandonment of Fort Davidson at Pilot Knob. October 20th the St. James Camp #326 held a living history event at the Marion Cliff Manor home in St. Mary, Mo. We had a camp scene, an engineering display, drum and fife music, and a cannon display. Eighty-five percent of the residents are veterans, and the camp has adopted them as part of our outreach to veterans. November 7th Four members of the camp attended the Grant Symposium in Cape Girardeau, MO. Also, on this date Three members of camp participated in the unveiling of the Civil War Regimental Flag of Merrill's House (2nd Missouri Cavalry Regiment) in Jefferson City, Missouri held at the State Capitol. December 6th was a bright and sunny day. Members of the Thomas C. Fletcher Camp #47 and the Louisa Volker Auxiliary #215 joined members of our camp in Ste. Genevieve for the Christmas parade. Submitted: Ed Millinger CC

Tiger Camp – No report filed and no updates on their Facebook page.

U.S. Grant Camp #68 – We welcomed new brothers Real Son William Pool, Jerry Rinaldi, Ron Hack, James Knappenberger, Joe Powers, and Justin Kloecke. Many brothers traveled to Starkville, Mississippi, in March to visit the U.S. Grant Presidential Library and present a Sherman graveside flag to Civil War historian, John Marszalek. Afterwards we toured Brice's Crossroads Battle site. Due to this side-trip, we proposed that our department plans to place granite markers where the two Missouri regiments were positioned. We will work with the Brice's Crossroads Foundation and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 on this. Mark Raney continues to stay in contact with the Sherman family about graveside enhancements. • He has also been working with the family of the last USCT soldier (George Lockhart) of St. Charles County in order to put a marker where he once lived. • Mark Coplin restored the bell box, which houses a GAR memorial bell. The bell is used now in our department's memorial ceremonies. The refurbishment effort took 60 hours. Bob Amsler was elected to the national Council of Administration. Walt Busch and I also hold appointed offices. • Walt Busch was our Camp liaison regarding the Col. Friedrich Hecker events in September, when citizens of

Hecker's German hometown traveled to America to celebrate their hometown hero. Brothers were present at the graveside ceremony in Summerfield, Illinois, and at the rededication of the Hecker Monument in Benton Park, where well over 100 people attended. • Brother Greg Wolk has published a new book, John Frémont's 100 Days. It is under the imprint of the Missouri Historical Society. • In October, many brothers went to Fort Wayne for the Central Regions Association. We made up the bulk of attendees. • I have submitted 93 monument Form 61s (across eight states) so far this year and Walt Busch has data on at least than many monuments /markers/ plaques/ cannons on his travels as well as maintaining National's monuments database. • We had a fine end of year banquet and election thanks to the planning of the Palmers. I appreciate Frank Mathews and Jerry Rinaldi for stepping up and becoming members of the Camp Council. • Throughout the year, we have supported Fletcher, St. James, and Lillie Camp activities. Please keep your brothers, their families, and our Allied Order in your prayers. Submitted: Sumner Hunnewell PDC- PCC

Westport Camp #65 – No report filed and no updates on their Facebook page. 3/27 – Camp Commander Kevin Miller resigned on 2/28. Camp Secretary – Treasurer and JVC Dawson Ballard resigned on 3/1. Camp Council has been notified to fill those open positions. Brother Miller did hold his last meeting via Zoom on 3/4 with one member in attendance.

Wilhelmi Camp #17 – September 27-28 -Past Department Commander Glenn Alsop PDC and CC - Civil War Reenactment in Hermann, Missouri. November 23 – Franklin County History Fair at the KC Hall in Union. We were able to recruit one new member who will be putting in his paperwork in the next year. Information found in the Unionist Newsletter – no report filed.

Department Commander - At the end of August my wife Norma and I, along with our youngest son Keith, traveled to London, England on holiday. Prior to going over, I contacted the Camp Secretary of Ensign Davis Camp No. 10. My family was able to meet up with Brother Michael Hammerson, JVC of Ensign Davis Camp. Met at the Anchor Pub. The camp in England has over 20 members spread across the country, only a few that reside in or near London. Brother Hammerson gave me a file with information on the history and activities of the Ensign Davis camp. I in turn gave him several ribbons and badges from the last National Encampment held in St. Louis. During our meeting he also requested assistance from National regarding the placement of a plaque at the site of Lincoln's Statue in Parliament Square. I passed this request on to CinC Tucker. October 18th: Department Meeting – Jefferson City, Missouri – Missouri River Regional Library. Installed as Department Commander along with JVC – Dawson Ballard. October 19th - Attended the Lousia Volker Maclind Monument Dedication in Potosi, Missouri at Heritage Park. November 15th – Merrill's Horse Flag Ceremony at the State Capitol. Presented the two remaining Show Me Spirit Awards to Tiffany Patterson – Museum Director and Kathern Owens Museum Archivist, Lillie Camp #6 hosted the event. November 19th – Department Order Number 8 the passing of Brother Robert S. Drake of Phelps Camp #66. November 20th - Department Order Number 9 the passing of Brother Mark S. Schreiber of Lillie Camp # 6. December 4th – Attended Wilhelmi Camp Officer Initiation in Union, MO. December 9th - Attended U.S. Grant Camp Christmas Dinner and Officer Initiation at Greenbriar CC Kirkwood, MO January 10th - Gave a presentation –to the National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865 – DeWitt Clinton Jones Chapter held at The Grant Historic Site topic was 'Civil War Prison Camps: A Personal and Historical Account'. December 13th - Attended the Felix St. James Camp #326 Meeting and Officer Installation in Ste. Genevieve, MO February 10th – Attended U.S. Grant Camp meeting at Frailey's Southtown Grill. February 26th – Contacted members of Westport Camp #64 to determine the roster change. February 27th - Department Order Number 11 the passing or Brother Richard Coder of Tiger Camp #432 February 28th - Department Order Number 12 – The Resignation of Brother Kevin Miller as Department Senior Vice Commander March 1st - Department Order Number 13 – The Resignation of Brother Dawson Ballard as Department Junior Vice Commander also on March 1st - Department Order Number 14 – Senior and Junior Vice Commander Positions Filled by Walter Busch, PDC to be SVC and Bob Bach of St. James Camp to be JVC March 4th - Emailed the Certification Statement For EIN Reporting Form (Form 11) to the National Treasurer.

I have been working to resolve the issues with Westport Camp #64 in the Kansas City area. They have not had an in-person camp meeting since the pandemic. Mainly have their meeting via Zoom. From what I have learned, only 3 people attended most of those meetings. Have received their roster of members that are to be dropped and am in the process of contacting each man personally. With the original roster at 24 and the potential loss of 10 members. So far 3 have reported they want to stay on and the fourth is a Life Member, but I am not sure if they require camp dues to be paid. I need to wait to see who is put in charge of the camp to clarify these issues. Brother Kevin Miller resigned as Camp Commander on Feb 28th and Brother Dawson Ballard resigned as the JVC, Secretary and Treasurer on March 1st. Have been in touch with the Camp Council to try to put in place their replacements ASAP. Also hoping they can restart in person meetings. I also need to contact 8 more men on the drop list to find out why they have not wanted to rejoin Westport Camp. Have my work ahead of me with this situation.

Department Meeting to be held March 14th in Jefferson City, Missouri. Missouri River Regional Library at 10 AM.

The Department Encampment is to be held on June 6th in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, an hour or so South of St. Louis.

Over the past few months, we have lost the following Brothers. **Robert S. Drake** of Phelps Camp #66 on November 19th **Mark S. Schreiber** of Lillie Camp # 6 on November 20th **Richard B. Coder** of Tiger Camp #432 on 21 January 2026

Recommendations - None

The Departments of Missouri will continue to promote the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War so that our ancestors who Preserved the Union will not be forgotten.

Several of our members will be heading to Gettysburg and are looking forward to a productive and meaningful encampment in July.

Here by submitted with Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty on this 7th day of March 2026.

Mark Alan Coplin, PCC - Commander Department of Missouri