DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR G.A.R. POST PROJECT FORM

PLEASE:

- Type or print, using a ballpoint pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
 Do not guess at the information. An answer of "Unknown" is more helpful.

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The biggest military event at Macon since the Civil war was the state encampment of the G. A. R., which occurred in April, 1895. It was the 14th Annual Encampment of the Department of Missouri. The town was full of visitors. F. A. Jones Post, the home organization, under the direction of Commander C. P. Hess, Quartermaster N. S. Richardson and Major S. G. Brock, acted as host to the visitors. Among the notables who attended the Encampment on this occasion were Major William Warner, Colonel Lew Waters, Commander-in-Chief Lawler and staff, Past-Commander Charles G. Burton, Nevada; Colonel J. P. Tracy, Springfield; T. B. Rodgers, Blair Post No. 1; Louis Benecke, Brunswick. Chaplain-in-Chief Haggerty, St. Louis; W. H. Luck, Jefferson City, E. D. Cannan, Clinton; Past-Commander Whitehead, Kansas City; Commander Louis Grund, Post No. 13, St. Louis, and J. L. Briggs of Joplin.

The town was gorgeously decorated in honor of the visiting soldiers.

There were numerous bands and places of refreshment.

Senator John J. Ingalls of Kansas City was one of the speakers. The opera house was crowded when he was introduced. Mr. Ingalls described his first experience with a hostile cannon. He said the only reason he didn't get behind a tree was because every tree in sight was taken by several of his comrades. Referring to Missouri he said:

"I am glad to have this opportunity of appearing today before the people of Missouri, a state which has a magnificent history, a state which is rich in every element that goes to make prosperity, by far richer in every prophecy of future greatness and renown; a state which I believe has the peculiar felicity of having contributed its full quota to both contending armies in the great Civil controversey."

A procession of the veterans was headed by the cadets of the St. James Military Academy, with Colonel Blees in full uniform leading. An auxiliary organization which met with the veterans was the Ex-Prisoners of War Association. The officers of this were John S. Ferguson, Keokuk, president; Samuel S. Kelso, Mussell Fork, Missouri, vice-president; Joseph Meyers, Kidder, Missouri, chaplain; W. E. Montgomery and Cyrus Gurwell, Macon, color-bearers.

Elijah Harp, of Macon, who carried a musket in Company B, 42d Missouri Volunteers, has the distinction of being the youngest soldier of the Civil war. Mr. Harp was born October 23, 1849. Some years ago the matter was decided by a St. Louis firm which offered a prize to the one who would prove his claim to the distinction of having gone to the war at the earliest age, and after a careful consideration of the reports the prize was awarded to Mr. Harp. His closest competitor was C. B. Duncan, of Shelby county, who was born February 6, 1849.