

FORMATION OF THE SONS OF VETERANS IN MISSOURI

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Sons of Veterans.—The military order of Sons of Veterans owes its origin to Major A. P. Davis, who instituted the first camp in Philadelphia in 1878. A national organization was effected at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1881, and in 1897 there were in the United States 680 camps, with an aggregate membership of 33,000. Like the Society of the Cincinnati, established immediately after the Revolutionary War, it was designed to perpetuate the memory of the achievements of American patriots who had served their country on the field of battle, through the banding together in fraternal relationship of their male descendants. Those admitted to membership are the sons of officers and soldiers who served in the Union Army during the Civil War who have reached the age of eighteen years, and are of good moral character, and provision has since been made for the perpetuation of the order through successive generations.

During the earlier years of its existence the membership of the order was confined mainly to the Eastern States, but in time was extended throughout all the Northern States. The first camp organized in Missouri was instituted at St. Joseph in 1883. In the same year General George H. Thomas Camp was organized in St. Louis with fifteen charter members. • At the end of an existence of four years this camp surrendered its charter. In the fall of 1885 the ten camps then in existence in the State, through duly chosen representatives, formed the Missouri Division of the Sons of Veterans, electing Charles S. Crysler colonel in command of the division.

The next camp organized in St. Louis was General F. Schaefer Camp, No. 28, which came into existence October 28, 1886. Since then the following camps have been instituted in the city: General John C. Fremont Camp, No. 35, February 3, 1887; Admiral Porter Camp, No. 47, May n, 1887; General John W. Noble Camp, No. 51, June 3, 1887; Colonel D. P. Slattery Camp, No. 85, September 7, 1888; Major Leo Rassieur Camp, No. 4, July 21, 1893, and Elijah P. Lovejoy Camp, No. 100, composed of colored men, March 19, 1889. The official title of the division commander is colonel, and that of the commander of a camp, captain.

The number of camps in the State in 1900 was nineteen, with 435 members. There were six camps in St. Louis and one each at St. Joseph, Melrose, Isadora, Cape Girardeau, Grant City, Webb City, Sticklerville, Memphis, Sedalia, Sheridan, Arnsberg, Bethel and Pierce City.