

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.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You

**Post Information**

Post Name  Post Number   
City/Town  County  State

Brief History of the G.A.R. Post (use separate document if necessary):

The Capt. James L. Garetson Post 558 was mustered on July 17, 1896 by Jno. B. Pachall, A. A. G, according to the Department of MO report of the chief mustering officer dated May 3, 1897. The Camp name was erroneously spelled Garretson as it was named in honor of Capt. James L. Garetson who had served in Company G. of the 62nd Illinois Infantry. The post met above Johnston and Son's store in Poplar Bluff, MO. The Post had 31 members in 1896 and 32 in 1897. It existed at least until 1898 but was not represented at the 1898 Department of Missouri encampment. The May 10, 1900 Assistant Adjutant General report indicated that Post 558 was one which had not sent in reports for several years and recommended that they be suspended. This suspension was reported as having been accomplished at the 1900 encampment per the 1901 Assistant Adjutant General's report of May 10, 1901.

**Meeting Facility**

Structure Still Exist?  Yes  No  Unknown      Type of Building:  Stand-Alone  Shared-Use

Identify Specific Location:

**Description of Records**

Do the Records Exist?  Yes  No  Unknown      The Records are:  Originals  Copies

What are the conditions of the records?

What do the records consist of?

**Location of Records**

Repository Name   
City/Town  County  State  Zip

**Additional Information:**

See attached re Capt. James. L. Garetson, newspaper article regarding the camp, and a picture of the building in which they met. the picture of the building provided by Clinton Salyer of the Poplar Bluff Museum.

**Submitter Information**

Submit Date  Name   
Camp Name  Camp #  City/Town  State  Zip   
Email

Print Form

Submit to Current G.A.R. Post Records Officer Listed @  
<http://www.suvcwmo.org/garposts.php>

Submit by Email

Misc Date  
Entry Field

GAR  
POSTS  
RECORDS

ONLY RECORDS OF MEMBERS  
FOUND IN CANNON'S RECORDS  
OF GAR DEATHS

Atkinson, John / Member post #558 in  
Poplar Bluff, Butler Co. Age at death: 85. See rpt. for 1901, pp. 55-59.

Capt. James L. Garetson

54K

1656.

1898.

HISTORY  
OF THE  
LEMEN FAMILY,  
OF  
Illinois, Virginia and Elsewhere.

With Gallery of Portraits, Biographical Sketches and Genealogical  
Tables.

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**In Two Parts.**

about three years he returned to his home at Odin and engaged in the mercantile business.

In October, 1870, he moved with his family to Butler County, Missouri, and settled near Harvill, where he remained until 1888, when he moved to Poplar Bluff.

Captain Garetson cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Zach. Taylor. He voted for "Honest old Abe" Lincoln twice, and during his life, from his first vote, supported the nominees of the Republican party. He was the first Republican treasurer in Butler County.

150—CAPT. JAMES L. GARETSON.

Capt. James L. Garetson was born on the banks of the Mississippi, twenty-eight miles below St. Louis, Mo., in Monroe County, Illinois, March 19, 1826.

His father, John Garetson, was also born in Monroe County, Illinois, in 1800; and his mother, whose maiden name was Catharine Lemen, was born in St. Clair County, Illinois, 1808. His grand-parents were all born in Virginia, and settled in Illinois in 1784. His father died before he was three years old, and from that time until 1844 he lived with his uncle, Benjamin Scott. October 15, 1844, he married Margaret McFarland, who died November 12, 1845. June 15, 1846, he volunteered to go to the Mexican War, and was mustered into the service of the United States, June 17th, as a member of Company G, 2nd Regiment, Illinois Infantry Volunteers, and was discharged therefrom June 17, 1847. After the war he returned to Monroe County, Illinois, where, in April, 1848, he married Sarah A. Harlow.

In 1858 he moved to Odin, Marion County, Illinois, where he successfully engaged in the hotel business. In 1857, he was appointed postmaster at Odin, by President Buchanan, and held the position continuously until July, 1870, when he resigned, but was not relieved until the next summer. His sons ran the office while he was in the War of the Rebellion. He did not determine to take part in the Civil War until he met and talked with his old Mexican War captain, J. K. Lemen, when his patriotism became thoroughly aroused and he recruited a company of which he became captain. It was attached to the 62d Illinois Infantry as Company G. After serving



150—CAPT. JAMES L. GARETSON. 553—SARAH A. GARETSON.

N. W. FROM COURT HOUSE





**G. A. R. Meetings.**  
The regular meetings of James L. Garetson Post No. 557, G. A. R., will be held on the third Friday of each month, at 1:30 o'clock P. M. The charter will be held open until July 17, and all who desire to enter as charter members must be present at that time for muster.  
**J. T. DAVISON, Post Com.**  
**E. W. LIVINGSTON, Adjutant.**  
**Dr. A. P. Sawyer:**

Poplar Bluff Republican July 16, 1896

**G. A. R. Officers Elected.**  
At a regular meeting of James L. Garetson Post, No. 558, G. A. R., held Saturday, Dec. 18, the following were elected officers for the ensuing year: commander, Theo. Tromly; sr. vice-commander, Levi Morris; jr. vice-commander, Geo. Gnau; chaplain, Rev. Henry Wilson; surgeon, Geo. W. Hill; officer of the day, I. B. Timmons; officer of the guard, H. F. Horton. It was decided to hold the regular meetings every second and fourth Saturday in each month, at 10 o'clock A. M. The next meeting will be held Saturday, January 8, at 10 o'clock A. M., in the hall over Johnston & Son's store. Several matters of importance to the G. A. R. will come before this meeting, and it is earnestly hoped that every member and those who desire to join will be present.

Poplar Bluff Republican Dec. 23, 1897

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### **Attention, G. A. R.**

The regular meeting of Jas. L. Garetson post, G. A. R., will be held Saturday, January 22, at 10 o'clock A. M. in the hall over Johnston & Son's store, in Poplar Bluff. At this meeting officers will be installed, and other business of interest and importance will be transacted.

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NOTICE

Poplar Bluff Republican Jan. 20, 1898

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### **Notice to Old Soldiers.**

The next regular meeting of J. L. Garetson Post, G. A. R., will be held at 10 o'clock A. M. Saturday, May 7, in Poplar Bluff. At this meeting committees will be appointed and other arrangements made for a proper observance of Memorial Day, May 30. All ex-Union soldiers, whether they belong to the post or not, are cordially invited to come to this meeting and participate in its proceedings.

Popular Bluff Republican May 5, 1898