



Mark Alan Coplin

**Department Commander 2025-2026
Missouri Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil
War**

Commander Coplin was born in 1963 in Kansas City, KS. He joined U.S. Grant Camp #68 in 1998 after discovering his Civil War ancestors. His journey started after finding a GAR medal in his grandparent's home after his grandfather's death. No one in the family knew what the medal represented. While visiting Jefferson Barracks several years later, Mark met Jack

Grothe who worked at the park and was a Past Camp Commander of William T. Sherman/Billy Jack Camp 65, SUVCW. Jack was able to give an explanation of the medal's significance.

Going through family photos, he found a photo of his great-great grandfather with the GAR medal on his jacket. Albert Hyland his great-great grandfather, served with the 135th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Co. K. After further research Brother Coplin found that five other brothers in the Hyland family from Lorraine, Ohio served the Union. Of the six brothers only two survived the war. At events or ceremonies Brother Coplin wears a Civil War uniform representing members of the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry of which his Great-Great Uncle Thomas Hyland served. The 8th Ohio fought at Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and various other campaigns.

Brother Coplin has served in all of the Missouri's U.S. Grant Camp#68 offices, and currently serves as camp secretary. He has served as Department Secretary, Junior Vice, Senior Vice and now Commander. He has been active with the Programs Committee – helped organize the events in Vicksburg, Shiloh and the “Victory in Missouri 1864”. He received the Blair Award in 2005 and then the Meritorious Service Award in 2016.

Brother Coplin is employed as a Physical Therapist on the Oncology and Orthopedic units at a local hospital. He is a 1989 graduate of the University of Missouri, holds an MBA from Webster University and is a 1982 Graduate of Lindbergh High School.

Brother Coplin is married with three grown sons and one grandson. He enjoys traveling, wood working, photography, geological research and Bible studies. He serves as a Deacon in his church.