



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

[www.suvcwmo.org](http://www.suvcwmo.org)

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**SPECIAL COMMUNIQUÉ NO. 1**  
**Series 2025-2026**  
**22 June 2025**

**The Formation of the Department of Arkansas**

**Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin**  
**Department Commander Joe Rainey**  
**Department of Missouri Members**

It is with great honor I announce today the formation of the newest Department to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Not since the formation of the Department of The Columbia in 2015 has a new department been formed. Yesterday in Van Buren, Arkansas at the Drennen-Scott Historic Site an organizational meeting was held to form the Department of Arkansas. The meeting was attended by twenty-one members of the newly formed Department of Arkansas. It was also attended by Past Commander-in-Chief Ed Krieser and Dale Crandell, PDC and member of the Council-of- Administration.

The opening of the organizational meeting started with the firing of a cannon in front of the historic home. The meeting was started at 11:00 by Department Commander Mark Coplin. A check for \$500.00 was presented to the Department of Arkansas along with the Arkansas State flag and flag stand that was used by the Department of Missouri at our meetings and encampments over the past four years. The bylaws that the new department are going to use have been taken from the Department of Missouri. The organizational meeting elected or appointed all posts of the department.

## **Department Officers -**

Commander: Joseph Rainey (McPherson Camp #1)

Senior Vice Commander: Tom Wing (Talkington Camp #3)

Junior Vice Commander: Bob Underdown (McPherson Camp #1)

Secretary-Treasurer: John Terry (McPherson Camp #1)

Council 1: Greg Crawford (Talkington Camp #3)

Council 2: Kent Baker (McPherson Camp #1)

Council 3: Paul Dolle (McPherson Camp #1)

The elected officers and appointed officer were installed by Brother Crandell. It is our hope and the hope of the newly formed Department of Arkansas that it can be issued its charter at the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment to be held in Houston, Texas this August. Three members of the new department were selected to be delegates. Department Commander Joe Rainey lead the closing of the meeting at 12:00. After the closing the same cannon crew fired a volley. So, the meeting started and ended with a bang.

Issued this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of June 2025,

Attest:

Mark Coplin, PCC  
Commander  
Department of Missouri

Gary Scheel, PDC  
Secretary  
Department of Missouri

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