

THE MISSOURI UNIONIST



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The Official Newsletter of the Department of Missouri -
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



ABOUT THIS ISSUE: (COVER) Framed Wood Grand Army of the Republic Monogram.

Description: An elaborate and delicate scrollwork of a monogram for the Grand Army of the Republic made by Adam Ofenstein Jr., between 1883-1893, whose father Adam Ofenstein served with the 5th Missouri Cavalry before transferring to the 30th Missouri Infantry and 34th Missouri Infantry. One of the many GAR objects in the Missouri History Museum's collection at collections.mohistory.org

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Events on the Horizon

March 31	Members now delinquent!
April 12	Lincoln Remembrance Day, Springfield, IL – See Form for details
April 15	Tax Day – Secretary/Treasurers don't forget your 990-N to the IRS
April 20	Last Day for Quarterly Report to Department Secretary
April 30	Camp Annual Report to the Department Secretary
May 24-26	Fort D Living History Day – Cape Girardeau
May 26	Memorial Day – Jefferson Barracks
Sep 27-28	Battle of Pilot Knob 150th
Oct 24-26	Battle of Westport 150th

Editor's Comments

Well, someone finally took up the challenge and gave this old editor an actual article! So I hope you enjoy it. Doug Roussin, PCC, Fletcher Camp – DeSoto, wrote about collecting GAR Badges, particularly those of departments. Since Doug is a Civil War hobbyist, collecting, digging artifacts, doing research and writing books on topics like collecting GAR belt buckles, hopefully he will continue to provide us with interesting articles for some time to come.

As to other items, while many camps still aren't turning in any news or photos, we have an issue chock full of events past and events coming up. Pay particular attention to the call for units at the Lincoln Remembrance Day April 15, there is still time to get that in. Also, the form is included for signing up for our department encampment in Rolla for the first weekend of June.

I haven't been receiving death threats and haven't heard negative comments about our newsletter, so if you have something you want to share, like Doug, I guess I will be continuing as editor and the next newsletter will be coming out June 30, 2014.

Sorry this is a day late, but I spent the last several days in the hospital with a ruptured appendix.

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Lessons Your Confederate Brother-in-Law Should Learn!

Lesson #2 The South had a Right to Secede.

While there is no constitutional right to secede, the US Declaration of Independence is our secession from Great Britain and lays out the arguments for any state to secede. During the War of 1812, the New England states attempted at least 3 times to generate enough support to secede and form a pro-British confederation possibly with parts of Canada. The Yankees were upset that the southern states, mainly Virginia, seemed to control the Federal government. Sound familiar in the reverse? It is a very common impulse when you think you are not getting your way to take your ball and go home. Today a 2008 Zogby International poll reports that almost a quarter of Americans believe there is a right to peaceably secede. The key word in the last sentence is peaceably.

The US Constitution creates our union of states through a contract. If in the near future, Puerto Rico wants to become a state they will be agreeing with the US Constitution. Prior to that the majority of the rest of the states will have to agree to accept them. Once agreement is reached, "Viola!" State and star number 51 [the pattern of which has already been designed for the flag – ed.] The constitution is a contract between parties.

After Abraham Lincoln's election, many southerners began beating the drums of secession and 7 states initially did just that. Their act can be equated with you going into your car dealership and tearing up your car loan papers and saying you are no longer liable to make payments. We all know that works...well, may not. Let's try again. It's like going to your wife and tearing up your marriage license and saying, "It's over, we're even-Steven!" We all know that most women will not let you off that easily. Good-bye car, house, pension and a little support and maybe she won't want the judge to ask for your right leg as well. In short, a contract is a contract, until both parties agree to let the contract lapse.

If the southern players who wanted secession played their cards right, they would have asked, pleaded, badgered, hounded, cajoled, and anything they needed to do to get not only their own people behind them but also the northern states. Doing so, they may have succeeded. Not every northerner was against letting them go. Many northern newspapers as early as November 10, 1860, wished them Godspeed as they headed out the door. The general attitude of a good portion of the north is summed up by the Cincinnati Daily Press in a 21 November 1860 editorial: "*We believe that the right of any member of this Confederacy to dissolve its political relations with the others and assume an independent position is absolute -- that, in other words, if South Carolina wants to go out of the Union, she has the right to do so, and no party or power may justly say her nay.*" It is highly possible that given a few months, enough northern congressmen would have backed their southern colleagues and allowed them to leave.

But we all know that hotter heads prevailed. They seceded. Cheered it. Did their happy dance as their significant other got to sit there and watch. To top it off, they decide to take a couple of shots at her *Star of the West* and Fort Sumpter. Now, if a car dealer isn't getting paid for the car sold to you anymore two things will happen. Lawsuit and a tow truck will haul off your car in the middle of the night. If you seek divorce, don't expect to just walk out the door and keep all your toys or sometimes even your right leg. So when the south began leaving the union, the remaining states and government were faced with a 2 options. Enforce the contract or don't enforce it. Most people want their contracts enforced because it is their right. So, we will assume the north would act like most people. Yes, this means that the north had a contractual right to not allow secession!

How could the north enforce such a contract? Well, no international courts existed then, and besides we all know how well they work. The Lincoln led US government acted like any government would. Blockades and war. So, a bunch of southern hot-headed representatives, most of whom forgot their legal training,

treated the north like a discarded lover not expecting it to react like a scorned one. That's just how the Union acted and in the end dragged her spouse back to her until death do they part.

In 1869, the U.S. Supreme Court had to rule on a case involving the Confederate government of Texas selling off US Bonds owned by the state of Texas. Prior to reaching that decision, it had to decide the legality of an act by a government that allegedly seceded. It decided that acts by an illegal government are not valid. Justice Solomon Chase in the majority report ruled in *Texas v. White*, 74 U.S. 700 (1869) that:

When, therefore, Texas became one of the United States, she entered into an indissoluble relation. All the obligations of perpetual union, and all the guaranties of republican government in the Union, attached at once to the State. The act which consummated her admission into the Union was something more than a compact; it was the incorporation of a new member into the political body. And it was final. The union between Texas and the other States was as complete, as perpetual, and as indissoluble as the union between the original States. There was no place for reconsideration or revocation, except through revolution or through consent of the State.

If there ever was a legal right to secede without the consent of the other states, that case put an end to it.

NEXT ISSUE: Lincoln was a dictator! He halted the use of Habeas Corpus! [and with good reason]

McPherson Camp #1 David Casto Has New Book Out

Arkansas Late in the Civil War: The 8th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, April 1864-July 1865 by David E. Casto, The History Press, 2013 ISBN: 978-1-62619-107-5 Price: \$19.99 Kindle: \$9.99

At the request of Union General Ulysses S. Grant, in 1864 Major General Frederick Steele stripped the Department of Arkansas of twelve thousand men--half its strength--to support an expedition in Louisiana. And while the depleted infantry remained largely in garrison, the 8th Missouri Cavalry and its counterparts were ordered to patrol central Arkansas under horrid conditions and protect the state from guerrilla rebels. The regiment spent nine long months battling against Confederate general Jo Shelby's efforts to raid the White River Valley behind Union lines while simultaneously battling to secure Arkansas' borders. Join author David Casto as he explores the 8th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry's perilous excursion into enemy territory.

Did You Know...22 Union regiments and 17 Confederate regiments all from the state of Missouri took part in the siege of Vicksburg, the only state to provide regiments from both sides during that engagement.

Collector's Corner

By
Douglas Roussin, PCC

In the course of its 83 year existence, the Grand Army of the Republic, had thousands of ribbons and badges made for them. Any veteran loved to display his ribbons and badges and wore them whenever possible. This can be seen in veteran photos. They would take every opportunity to have new medals and ribbons made. There were post badges, annual and national encampment badges and special badges made for all kinds of events. There were over 7,000 Post across the country and several foreign countries. With this many Post making ribbons and badges, the number produced are staggering

Many departments or states produced a special badge to represent that department or state. These were sometimes produced if a particular department was hosting the National Encampment. But, many times it was just to distinguish their department from others. Below are some of the Department badges from various states. Note how each badge has a distinct feature related to that state.

Department Badges



Each of the above badges was specifically designed for that Department. Each proudly displays the name of that Department with Kansas stating that this is the “Official Department of Kansas Badge”. The ribbon came in a variety of colors. The drop at the bottom of the badge has the state seal or some item related to that state. These badges are considered by collectors as works of art and are highly desirable.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield –

Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review

We are pleased to announce that an Environmental Assessment (EA) for resource preservation and visitor interpretation of Bloody Hill at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is now available for a 30-day public review and comment period. The National Park Service has evaluated a range of alternatives and strategies and the proposed changes are necessary to provide effective interpretation to visitors while protecting park resources. The EA evaluates three alternatives that include construction of a boardwalk, 50 square foot shade shelter and signage and trail modifications to the Bloody Hill Trail at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. The alternatives considered include a no action alternative and two other alternatives that promote the future health of a population of Missouri Bladderpod (Federally threatened plant species). Two alternatives would also provide ASA [ADA?] accessibility to approximately 3, 300 feet of trail. The NPS preferred alternative is C, which is also the alternative with the least impact to the environment. The document is available for review at the following locations: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield visitor center, Republic Library, the National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (PEPC) at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, and on the battlefield's web site <http://www.nps.gov/wicr>. Please submit your comments on the EA on PEPC or you may mail them directly to:

Superintendent T. John Hillmer
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.
6424 West Farm Road 182
Republic, MO 65738

Comments should be received no later than April 4, 2014. Members of the public that would like a copy of this document mailed to them can contact Connie Langum at (417) 732-2662 ext. 399. Administered by the National Park Service, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield preserves the site of the first major battle of the Civil War in the West, site where the first Union general was killed in the Civil War and evokes the rural character experienced by the combatants. Wilson's Creek is located 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri, at the intersection of Highway ZZ and Farm Road 182. To receive more information call (417) 732-2662, ext 227.

The U.S. Grant Symposium

Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation is teaming with the Missouri Humanities Council and the Ulysses S. Grant unit of the National Park Service, and others, to bring a nationally significant program to St. Louis in 2014. The Symposium, which will occur in St. Louis on the first weekends of April and May, 2014, is intended to highlight and solidify Missouri's position as center point for the study of Grant's military and political life. Grant's Missouri roots are well known to scholars, from his service at Jefferson Barracks, his pre-Civil War years anchored to his wife's family in St. Louis, and ownership of a St. Louis County home and estate during his Presidency. Grant's Missouri legacy has produced one of the most important national heritage sites in Missouri, the NPS Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis County.

More information is at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-US-Grant-Symposium/482542395188900> or <http://symposium.mocivilwar.org/>

DEPARTMENT TELEGRAPH

Unapproved Department Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2014, 10 AM, House Hearing Room #7, Capitol Building, Jefferson City, Missouri

Brothers in Attendance: DEPTCOM Larry Dietzel, PCC; DEPTSVS Glenn Alsop, PCC; DEPTJVC Bryan Bradford, PCC; DEPTSEC Randal A. Burd, Jr., PCC; DEPT TREAS Marty Aubuchon, PDC; Dale Crandell, CC; NATCOA Walt Busch, PDC; Bob Petrovic, PDC .

Walt Busch appointed acting DEPTCHAP. Walt Busch gives opening invocation. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Minutes from 12 OCT 2013 Department Business Meeting were reviewed by those present. Motion to "approve minutes as written" by Walt Busch, Dale Crandell 2nd, motion carried.

Motion to "approve Treasurer's report subject to audit" by Walt Busch, Bob Petrovic 2nd, motion carried.

Motion to "recommend brothers contact their political representatives to address the issue of military veterans with no next of kin not being provided a military tombstone by the VA" by Randal A. Burd, Jr., Dale Crandell 2nd, motion carried.

Motion that "Dale Crandell contact schools in Arkansas to see if they want ROTC medals" by Bob Petrovic, Walt Busch 2nd, motion carried.

Motion that "Department of Missouri reimburses Dale Crandell of Westport Camp \$22.00 for 4 ROTC medals" by Bob Petrovic, Martin Aubuchon 2nd, motion carried.

Motion that "Department to reimburse James Dixon for purchase of a physical hard drive storage device not to exceed 2TB" by Bob Petrovic, Martin Aubuchon 2nd, motion withdrawn.

[Parliamentary Point of Order: Once a motion is opened up for debate, it is owned by the group and not by the mover. Therefore it is technically incorrect to return to the mover for permission to withdraw the motion at this point, as the mover no longer owns the motion. I looked this up as I was retying the minutes. In this case; however, the group was in agreement that the motion should be withdrawn.]

Motion that "James Dixon present on the following issue at the Department Encampment: What are the advantages of Weebly hosting the Department Website? Is it necessary to purchase the Pro Version and why?" by Martin Aubuchon, Bryan Bradford 2nd, motion carried.

Motion that "2014 Department of Missouri, SUVSW Encampment will be held in Rolla at Comfort Suites. The Department will authorize \$100 for room rental and an additional \$100 for expenses. Pre-Registration will be \$7.00 per person or \$10.00 at the door. The Department will request a room block on two rooms." by Dale Crandell, Glenn Alsop 2nd, motion carried.

Motion that "2015 Department of Missouri, SUVSW Encampment will be held at Jefferson City in House Hearing Room #7 of the State Capitol Building." by Randal A. Burd, Jr., Bob Petrovic 2nd, motion carried.

Motion that "Department Secretary to submit, no later than 1 Apr 2014, the "Resolution to Establish Supplemental Membership" that was adopted at the 2013 Missouri Department Encampment to our National Officers for consideration at the 2014 National Encampment; For the Department Commander to include this resolution in his Department Report to the 2014 National Encampment; and For Westport Camp, as the originator of this resolution, to forward this resolution on behalf of the Department to all other Departments in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" by Dale Crandell, Walt Busch 2nd, motion carried.

Motion that “the Department of Missouri no longer consider using Price’s Raid as a group of nationally-sanctioned Sesquicentennial Events. The Department will adopt Price’s Raid events as a Department project.” by Dale Crandell, Martin Aubuchon 2nd, motion carried.

Motion that “the Department Commander to appoint a special committee to explore establishing a Department medal, patch, coin, or other memento for presentation with the SUVCW Commendation Certificate to BSA Eagle Scouts.” By Dale Crandell, Martin Aubuchon 2nd, motion withdrawn.

[See Parliamentary Point of Order above.]

Motion that “the Department Commander to appoint a special committee to establish a design for a Department coin for presentation with the SUVCW Commendation Certificate to BSA Eagle Scouts, and that this design be due at the 2014 Department Encampment.” by Dale Crandell, Bob Petrovic 2nd, motion carried.

Motion to “adjourn” by Dale Crandell, Bryan Bradford 2nd, motion carried.

Benediction by Walt Busch.

Adjourned

COMING SOON! --- Mock-Ups of the proposed challenge coin the Department of Missouri SUVCW plans to give Eagle Scouts when they receive their awards.



Camps may present them or if certificates are mailed, the Scout can receive one for the cost of postage.

Wilhelmi Camp has put his hat in the ring to run for Department Commander. Bryan Bradford (see below) of Tiger Camp wants to be Senior Vice Commander and Randal Burd Jr. of Sigel Camp wants to be Junior Vice

June Department Elections

The officers of the department want all members to know that they strongly encourage competition and people running for department officers. We can’t have a vibrant organization without membership support. It is also difficult to come up with new ideas when the same people are the only ones showing up at meetings. There are only 3 scheduled meetings each year and a need to commit some other time for the various job tasks. The commander, secretary and treasurer probably have to spend the most time performing their tasks. Isn’t caring for the memory of our Civil War veterans worth it?

The following people have expressed an interest in running for various offices this June. Glen Alsop of

Commander. Dale Crandell of Westport Camp appears to have agreed to take the challenge of Secretary Treasurer on (or was it just Secretary, not quite sure of my memory). All candidates were offered the chance to tell a little about themselves and why they want to have the position. The only response received follows.

Bryan P Bradford- "I am running for SVC position... My past offices that I have held in Tiger Camp #432 are: Camp Organizer, SVC, Secretary, PCC, and Council Member. Now I serve as the JVC for Tiger Camp #432 in Columbia, Mo.. At the Department level, I served as Council Member and I am currently serving as the JVC. I also belong to two other organizations: Sons of the American Revolution, and Sons of the American Legion, both in Columbia, MO.

Col. Randal A. Burd, Jr., P.C.C. has served as the Secretary for the Department of Missouri, SUVCW from 2012-2014. He is the organizer and current Commander of Sigel Camp #614, SUVCWMO, in Rolla. He also holds the rank of Corporal for the 1st Missouri Tigers Militia, Sons of Veterans Reserve, in Columbia, MO.

Randal is an experienced genealogist and lecturer, and has worked with several clients as a genealogist for hire. Randal currently teaches English and Special Education at a juvenile residential facility, but has taught English for every grade level from 7th grade through college. Randal served as the 2011-2012 President of the Ozark Patriots Chapter, Missouri Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is a member of the General Society of the War of 1812, and is a lifetime member of the Pulaski County (Missouri) Historical Society. Randal was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel in April 2013.

Randal received his BA in English cum laude with minors in Art, Psychology, and Writing from the Missouri University of Science and Technology and his Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Missouri. While enrolled at Missouri S&T, he was twice elected Editor-in-Chief of The Missouri Miner, the campus newspaper, and served for four years as Editor-in-Chief of Southwinds Magazine, "Missouri S&T's Only Literary Magazine," in addition to holding leadership roles in other honor societies and campus organizations.

Randal's four direct ancestors who fought for the Union were part of the Osage County Home Guards, who were actually recruited from several counties and were recognized by the Hawkins Taylor Commission as having performed regular Federal Service and were thus eligible for Federal honorable discharges and pensions. They are as follows:

1st Lieutenant James H. McMillian, Co E, Osage County Home Guards

Private Lorenzo Dow Wall, Co E, Osage County Home Guards

Private Shepherd Shelton, Co E, Osage County Home Guards

Private Evan Leland Short, Co H, Osage County Home Guards and Company K, 47th MO Infantry

Randal has many more collateral ancestors who also fought for the Union.

GOOD JOB! --The Department ROTC Coordinator Dale Crandell reports that the US Grant Camp #68 has agreed to take charge of awards for the Air Force ROTC Program at St. Louis University. This leaves Arkansas State University, 3 University of Arkansas Campuses, the University of Central Arkansas and Truman University in Kirksville, MO the 6 remaining programs in our department not assigned to camps.

Camp Reports



The William T. Sherman / "Billy Yank" Camp #65 held their annual birthday anniversary ceremony for their namesake, General W.T. Sherman at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis on 23 February, 2014. The procession was led by the color guard of the U.S. Navy Sea Cadets, seen here with Camp Commander Noel Stasiak, USNR Ret., who portrays a sailor from the Ironclad, USS Carondelet. The keynote speaker was retired army colonel and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, John Nischwitz. Colonel Nischwitz is also a member of the St. Louis Civil War Round Table and a member of our camp. Other participants included members from



the Turner Brigade and SVR members of the 4th Military District. After the ceremony, some of the participants attended a fellowship dinner where all toasted the memory and honor of General Sherman.



Camp Commander Noel Stasiak with Col John Nitschwitz



The Sherman Camp presided over a Medal of Honor Ceremony on 23 March 2014 at St Peter and Paul's Cemetery in St Louis. The honoree was James Anderson Smyth of the 6th Us Cavalry. The medal was earned in confrontations with Native Americans during the 1870s Indian Wars. Brothers Groth, Champlin, and Grothe were in attendance supporting the Sons, the Scottish American Military Society, and The Sons of the American Revolution.

Sherman Camp has made arrangement to have the Missouri Civil War Museum, at Jefferson Barracks, host some of our monthly meetings.

The camp has also made arrangement with Washington University in St Louis, to present a Sons ROTC Medal to a deserving Cadet on 24 April.

LT. COL. J. FELIX ST. JAMES CAMP #326



On 14 January we met at the Orris Theater and installed our officers.

Installation Officer was PCC Gary Scheel. Our new officers are; Camp Commander Joseph Williams;

Senior Vice Commander Samer Zoughaib; Junior Vice Commander Gary Scheel; Secretary Robert Mueller; Treasurer Thomas Farlow; Council of Administration members Ed Millinger, Jerry Kasten and Thomas Greminger.

On 20 January, Senior Vice Commander Samer Zoughaib, Chaplain William Zoughaib and Junior Vice Commander Gary Scheel traveled to Popular Bluff to see one of the remaining Real Sons. His name is Hilbert Gramelspacher, a member of the US Grant Camp. He lives in the assisted living at a nursing home there. He and his wife of six years were a joy to visit with and they would appreciate a visit should you feel like going to visit.

On 26 January an Eagle Court of Honor was held for William Lorey. It was an interesting ceremony and we had the following members present. Department Eagle Scout Coordinator Bob Hammack, Tom Greminger, Bob Schmidt, Ed Millinger, Tom Farlow, Gary Scheel, Samer Zoughaib, and William Zoughaib. We are fortunate to have three Eagle Scouts in our Camp. They are Rob Hammack, Tom Greminger and William Zoughaib.



On 8 Feb, Gary Scheel gave a presentation to the Perryville Historical Society at their Military Museum in Perryville, MO. His presentation was on the Grand Army of the Republic focusing on the Difani Post # 273 that was located in Perryville. About eighty people showed up to listen including Camp Commander Joseph Williams and Clarence Warfield. The museum is a very good museum with a large collection of the Difani Post records and GAR memorabilia that once was proudly worn by the members of the Difani Post. If you are ever in the area it is a museum that is worth your visit.



Jerry (SUVCW) and Ruth (A-SUVCW) Kasten participated in "Family Days At The Museum: Civil War Times" held at Cape Girardeau's Crisp Museum. The public learned about the life and time of soldiers and their families during the Civil War. Exhibits featured period clothing, music, games, talk on the woman's role, soldiers dress and weapons and other activities. The event was held

on Saturday, 15 Feb.

On 18 Feb, the Grant Camp sponsored the 130th Anniversary of the founding of the Kriekamp GAR Post in Dutch Hollow. The meeting occurred at the Wildwood Historical Society building. Present from our Camp was Jonah Robinson, sitting next to the U.S. Flag and Gary Scheel. It was an enjoyable experience of how the GAR conducted their meetings. In the foreground is their GAR altar, built in 1924, and now owned by the Department of Missouri SUVCW. This was its first ceremony after some repairs had been made.



On 23 Feb, Gary Scheel, Jerry Kasten and Ruth Kasten, Ladies Auxiliary participated in the Annual Ceremony at General William T. Sherman grave site. It was a very cold windy day.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE CAMP

- 12 April Dedication of the new Military Memorial in Perryville, MO.
- 3 May We will sponsor and conduct a Civil War educational program for the Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort Davidson in Pilot Knob. Boy Scout Troop 150, Ste. Genevieve is organizing the Jamboree.

Gen. James R. McCormick Camp 215

This winter has taken its toll on our unit's activities. The weather has been quite unusual for this area of Missouri, and many of the events we usually participate in were cancelled.

January and the first part of February saw the unit trying to recuperate from the nasty winter that hit Missouri with several hard snows and ice storms. However, as February was ending, members of our unit joined other camps and SVR units for the annual Gen. William T. Sherman Day celebration in St. Louis, MO.

March and April look to becoming very busy with at least four events upcoming throughout eastern /southeastern Missouri. More to come in the next issue!

US Grant Camp #68

On February 18, 2014, participants from several SUVCW camps participated in a ceremony for the 130th Anniversary of the Krienkamp GAR post for the Wildwood Historical Society located in Wildwood, Mo.

The ceremony recreated a GAR meeting from the 1890's. The location of the historical society is on the grounds of the original meeting hall of D.N. Keeler Post 152.

The ceremony was developed by US Grant Camp member John Avery from the order of business that was used in GAR meetings. The room was set up in a traditional

arrangement and the meeting that night was held in the same manner as a GAR post meeting. An antique GAR altar, donated by the Ladies of the GAR and owned by the Department of Missouri, was used for the Ceremony.

Participants wore traditional Civil War clothing along with GAR insignias. The goal was to recreate a meeting to give the members of the Historical Society a feeling of what GAR members would do at their meeting. The event was appreciated by the Society as well as giving the Sons members an experience that was lived by their ancestors.



Ceremony at Wildwood.

Photo by Cher Petrovic

On Sunday, February 23, 2014 Ulysses Grant Camp No 68 members Robert Aubuchon, Camp Commander; John Avery, PDC; Martin Aubuchon; PDC; and Miceal Hannon attended the Sherman ceremony at his gravesite in Calvary Cemetery. The event was organized by the William T Sherman Camp No 65.

Other SUVCW members from Francis J Wilhelmi. Camp No 17, General Alexander S. Asboth Camp No 5, General McCormick Camp No 215, Lt Colonel J. Felix St James Camp No 326, William T. Sherman Camp No 65, and Col. Friedrich Hecker Camp No 443 located in Illinois were in attendance.

Grant Death Day remembrance ceremony will be held on July 26 at 6:00 p.m at US Grant National Historic Site (White Haven, Affton, MO). We will do a 45 minute wreath ceremony including welcome, pledge of allegiance, short Grant address and two living history speakers. This will be followed by the author lecture and book signing.

General Thomas C. Fletcher Camp #47

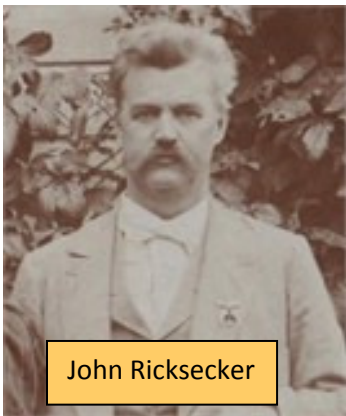
The General Thomas C. Fletcher Camp # 47 has had a slow start this year. Due to the weather being so bad, outdoor activities have been out of the question. Several of the members did attend the General William T. Sherman Ceremony on 23 Feb at Calvary Cemetery in Florissant. Following the ceremony, members went to the near-by cemetery of Belle Fontaine to visit the gravesite of our namesake, General Thomas C. Fletcher. The ladies auxiliary also visited the gravesite of Louisa Volker.

The Fletcher Camp is looking forward to several activities this spring. We are going to take part in the General Fletcher house celebration on 26 April in Hillsboro, Mo. Members are also going to the Jackson, Missouri, Historical festival on April.

After three years of meeting at the Historical Arlington Hotel in DeSoto, the members have found a new home at the DeSoto Historical Society Museum. This is because the Arlington Hotel is being sold. We look forward to our new home.

Westport Camp #64

Medal of Honor Commemoration



John Ricksecker

For the fourth year, Westport Camp #64 participated in a joint commemoration for National Medal of Honor Day. This year's event honored John Henry Ricksecker (1843-1929) with a gravesite service on 23 Mar 2014 at Forest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. Private Ricksecker received one of the six

Medal of Honors that members of his unit would receive at the Battle of Franklin, TN, on 30 Nov 1864. He served in Company D, 104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment for the duration of the war. The 104th Ohio served in the defense of Cincinnati and Kentucky, and in 1864, was re-assigned to XXIII Corps where it participated in the Carolina Campaign, Battle of Franklin, and Atlanta Campaign.

An estimated 50 people attended the commemoration for John Ricksecker including Missouri Department Commander Larry Dietzel, and members from the SUVCW Department of Kansas. Kansas City Mayor Sly James supported the commemoration by issuing a city proclamation for Private John Ricksecker and National Medal of Honor Day.

The joint-service was organized by the local Sons of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, Society of the War of 1812, United States Daughters of 1812, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Bugles Across America.



Department Commander Larry Dietzel placing wreath at John Ricksecker's headstone.

National Medal of Honor Day



Often called the Congressional Medal of Honor, the United States Congress designated March 25th of each year as National Medal of Honor Day, a day dedicated to honoring the 3,471 men and women whose service and sacrifices were recognized with the nation's highest medal for valor, the Medal of Honor. Westport Camp dressed each of the five Civil War Medal of Honor recipients, listed below, buried in the Greater Kansas City Metro Area for National Medal of Honor Day.

Private Nathaniel McLean Gwynne

(1849-1883) for action at the Battle of Crater while serving with Company H, 13th Ohio Cavalry.

Major M.R. William Grebe (1838-1916) for action at the Battle of Jonesboro and Atlanta Campaign, while serving with Company F, 4th Missouri Cavalry.

Sergeant Thomas Toohey (1835-1918) for action at the Battle of Franklin, while serving with Company F, 24th Wisconsin Infantry.

Private John Henry Ricksecker (1843-1929) for action at the Battle of Franklin, while serving with Company D, 104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Private Wilbur Moore (1840-1924) for action at the Battle of Nashville, while serving with Company C, 117th Illinois Infantry.

Eagle Scout Commendations

Westport Camp honored five local Eagle Scouts with SUVCW Commendation Certificates at their recent Boy Scout Court of Honor.

Tristan Andrews' Court of Honor was held at the Baptist Ridge Campground in Warsaw, MO, on 1 Mar 2014, attended by SUVCW members Michael Lundeen and Dale Crandell. Tristan's project was building a foot bridge and clearing a walking trail at the Shawnee Bend Community Golf Course.

Troop 408 held a joint Court of Honor for its four new Eagle Scouts at the Lawson United Christian Presbyterian Church in Lawson, MO, on 9 Mar 2014, attended by SUVCW members Brian Smarker and Dale Crandell. Briar Bassmer's project was installing a road sign along Highway D for the



Tristan Andrews receives his medal from Westport Camp member Michael Lundeen.

Lawson Cemetery. Landon Lampkin's project was developing a Korean-Vietnam memorial room at the Ray County Museum. Steven Pilcher's project was raising funds and placement of a fire warning safety sign at the Lawson Volunteer Fire Station.

Sigel Camp #614

Brothers Further the Cause

Sigel Camp #614 installed new officers for 2014 this quarter at the Rolla Public Library, where they are meeting for the foreseeable future. Camp Organizer and Secretary for the Department of Missouri, Randal A. Burd, Jr., resumes command of the camp after the 2013 term of Department Chaplain C. Scott Brown, who takes on the role of Senior Vice Commander and remains Chaplain for the camp as well. Brother Steven P. Allen remains the camp's Secretary / Treasurer, and new member John Petersen was installed on the Camp Council.

Sigel Camp is excited that the Department of Missouri has decided to hold the 2014 Department Encampment in Rolla, Missouri. Rolla has a rich Civil War history which our camp members endeavor to share in our various activities. Speaking of activities, our newest camp member, John Petersen, gave a



John Petersen appearing before Rolla Civic Group



C Scott Brown at Fort Davidson Spring Drill

presentation at the Rolla Public Relations Club luncheon on 26 March 2014 on the important role played by Rolla during the Civil War. Rolla was the end of the rail line at the time and was captured by Union forces led by General Franz Sigel on June 14, 1861 and held until the end of the war. Rolla was a staging point for Union forces and a processing point for Confederate soldiers and sympathizers who were arrested or captured and taken to prisons in St. Louis and Illinois.

CAMP SECRETARIES & TREASURERS –
APRIL is 990-N Month, be sure to file with the IRS. Also it is get your Camp Form 27 (with money) to the Department Secretary Month.

Sigel Camp #614 was well-represented at the 29 March 2014 Spring Drill held by the reenactment group Turner Brigade at Fort Davidson in Pilot Knob, Missouri. Sigel Camp Senior Vice Commander C. Scott Brown with grandson, Holden Snyder, and Sigel Camp Secretary / Treasurer Steve Allen with sons, Reth and J.T., all dressed out for the occasion and took part in the event. Camp Commander Randal A. Burd, Jr. came out on Saturday to take photographs and saw a lot of familiar faces from the Department of Missouri, including past

Brother Steven Allen at March 29 Spring Drill
Pilot Knob, MO



Department Commander D. Christopher Warren and family, Senior Vice Commander Glennon Alsop, and other members of various camps.

As the school year draws to a close in the next two months, Sigel Camp will present the SUVCW ROTC Award to a cadet from the Army JROTC program at Waynesville High School and to cadets in the Stonehenge Battalion and Detachment 442 of Army and Air Force ROTC at Missouri S&T. Sigel Camp Commander and Signals Officer Randal A. Burd, Jr. will soon enjoy a much-needed break from shuffling the Department of Missouri's paperwork; his two-year term as Secretary for the Department of Missouri will end at the 2014 Department Encampment in Rolla. Burd will be running for the position of Junior Vice Commander of the Department of Missouri at that time.

Sigel Camp #614, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, looks forward to another busy Spring and Summer and is always looking for ways to further the mission of the order. If you would like join Sigel Camp #614 or have questions about the Sons of Union Veterans in the Phelps / Pulaski County area, you can contact the camp's Commander, Randal A. Burd, Jr., at raburdjr@gmail.com.

PHELPS CAMP # 66

While Phelps Camp didn't submit a report, I was down at Wilson's Creek NB on March 25 and spoke with Jeff Patrick of that camp. We talked for a while about the Last Soldier projects, fund raising for them and also his camps plans. They plan to work on the marker in Laclede County (Lebanon area) as they have some community support for the project already and then plan to go to work on the last soldier of Jasper County (Joplin, Carthage, Webb City area).



WILLIAM H. OSBORN
NATIONAL PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

William Osborn – Our Last Department of Missouri GAR Commander 1942 – 1948.

Note: Picture says National Patriotic Instructor – that was for 1947.

Jasper county's project should take a VERY special place in our hearts. The honoree is William Osborn. Osborn, who served in the 117th Indiana Infantry, was the Department of Missouri's longest serving Department Commander! He served from 1942 to his death in October 1948. He was also serving as the national Junior Vice Commander at the time of his death.

This is a project that, as Phelps Camp develops it, should receive some of our department's highest support.

Did you know??----

April Fool's Day was a day celebrated in the north and the south during the Civil War with the typical jokes, pranks and good humored sport. April Fool's Day originated during the middle ages. But a day of fools goes back into Roman times.

Remember as Connie Francis would sing "Everybody's Somebody's Fool!"

ALLIED ORDERS

Our Auxiliaries: None have filed a report.

Central Region Association of the Allied Orders:

Next meeting is in Ohio, Oct 4, 2014. More information to follow in upcoming newsletters.

Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

All are invited to participate in the 53th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, sponsored by the SUVCW and MOLLUS, commemorating the 149th Anniversary of President Lincoln's death. It will be held at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL at 10 AM on Saturday, April 12, 2014.

Headquarters Hotel: President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701. The room rate is \$92.99 for single/quad. A 10% dining discount at Lindsay's Restaurant is included. Call 1-866-788-1860 for reservations and mention **"Sons of Union Veterans"**. **Reserve your room by March 21, 2014.** After this, the remaining blocked rooms will be released. **Shuttle service** will provide transportation between the tomb and the hotel.

Wreaths may be ordered from local Springfield florists. Instruct the florist to have the wreath delivered c/o the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, by 9 AM on Saturday, April 12th.

Luncheon will be held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel at 12:30PM. The luncheon program will feature a talk by Dr. Trevor Steinbach on "Childhood Diseases & the Lincoln Children". Luncheon cost is \$29 per person. For event info, go to the SUVCW web site (suvow.org) or contact Robert Petrovic at rpetro7776@aol.com or 636-274-4567.

OBSERVANCE WREATH PRESENTATION

(please print clearly)

Organization name in full: _____
Name & title of wreath bearer: _____
e-mail address: _____
if no e-mail, home address: _____
City, State, & Zip code: _____

To insure listing in program, this notice MUST be received no later than April 1st at the address shown below.

I would like to reserve _____ seats on the shuttle bus from headquarters hotel to Tomb Ceremony and return to hotel.
Maximum of 60 seats on bus. First come, First served basis.

OBSERVANCE LUNCHEON

Please accept _____ luncheon reservation(s). Please list name, e-mail address, home address & phone number of person responsible for picking up tickets at the door.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City, State & Zip Code: _____

Herb-Roasted Pork _____ Stuffed Chicken Medallions _____ Vegetarian _____

Include remittance of \$29.00 per person for each lunch reservation payable to **National Organization SUVCW**.
Reservations must be made by April 1st and cancellations by the same date in order to receive refund. There will be no extra tickets sold at the door. Make a copy of this form for your records and send original with remittance to:

MILITARY PARADE INFORMATION

Name of unit: _____
No. of people attending: _____
Contact person name: _____
E-mail: _____

This will insure each unit receives a streamer for their flag and all participants receive ribbons.

SEND TO:

ROBERT M. PETROVIC, 6519 CHEROKEE LANE, CEDAR HILL, MO 63016

2014 Missouri Department Encampment

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Saturday, June 7, 2014 – Rolla, Missouri



Comfort Suites

1650 Old Wire Outer Rd., Rolla, MO, 65401

Phone: (573) 368-4300 Fax: (573) 368-4310

GPS: 37.94178 -91.79919

Directions to Our Hotel:

I-44 Exit 184, turn north on Old Wire Outer Rd. approximately 1/4 mile. I-44 Exit 184. Traveling eastbound take exit 184 and go left. Traveling westbound exit 184 go right.



Friday, 6 June 2014

No Events -- Keep the sacrifices of D-Day alive in your memory!

Saturday, 7 June 2014

Agenda

7:30 - 9:00 am Registration
9:00 am - Department Business Session I
12:00 noon – Lunch – On Your Own
1:00 pm - Department Business Session II
4:00 pm - Elections/Officer Installation
5:00 pm – Adjourn

NOTES:

1. Camps wishing to have a brag board must create their own. Also camps wishing to sell camp items may bring them for display. There may not be a lot of room, so we may have to rotate displays.
2. The Department of Missouri would like to encourage members to bring their families. The hotel has an indoor pool and a fitness center. Room prices range from around \$94 to \$164. Registration is on your own getting your best rate possible. There are many attractions for family members to enjoy while SUVCW members are attending the business sessions.

Some of the more popular attractions include:

Meramec Park, St. James, MO.
Splash Zone Water Park
Lane Spring Recreation Area
Audubon Trails Nature Center
Assorted Venues for Fishing, Kayaking, Canoeing and Float Trips
St. James Winery

**2014 Missouri Department Encampment
Pre-Registration Form
(Please Return Forms by May 25, 2014)**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

DEPARTMENT _____

CAMP NAME NUMBER _____

CURRENT/HIGHEST PAST OFFICE/DELEGATE/ALTERNATE _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Please return this form and check payment made out to **Dept of Missouri SUVCW** to:

**Randal Burd, Jr., PCC
328 Buckey Ct.
Ironton, MO 63650**

Registration Fee (\$7 each / \$10 at the door) = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Notes :

1. The department will provide soft drinks, water and coffee.

Questions? Please contact:

Randal Burd Jr (573) 356-8481

raburdjr@gmail.com

Walt Busch (314) 630-8407

wbusch@suvchwmo.org

Dale Crandell (816) 995-4218

dcrandell@swbell.net

NOTE: Attendees MUST present a signed credentials card & membership card at the Encampment in order to complete the registration process and be admitted. Credentials cards should be provided by your Camp Secretary.

**Members should wear membership badges, Department officers are
required to wear them.**

ADS / SWAP SECTION

All camps are entitled to up to one page of advertising per issue. No Raffles!

FROM THE DEPT. OF MISSOURI



Only 32 Logan Medals left from the 2007 National Encampment. \$7.50 each / shipping \$5 ea. Up to 10 ordered at one time? Shipping only \$10! WE WILL NOT SELL THIS BELOW THIS PRICE EVER!



Encampment Pin -- Potential Recruiting Gift?

-- 136 left. Lots of 25 for only \$1.00 plus shipping of \$6.00

Shirts - 1 Medium, 16 Large and 1 Extra Large.

WOW! Only \$1.00 each and \$10.00 shipping/handling each

Rules about the ad/swap section: There are not many. If your camp wants to have a page, you make a mock-up of the page and send it via e-mail to the editor.

If the editor has a question regarding the items for sale, he will contact the camp. The reason it says "No Raffles!" above is because they are technically illegal in the state of Missouri.



FROM U.S. GRANT CAMP

SUV or GAR Address Labels - 90 Count \$4.00 shipping \$1.00



Official SUV Name Badge - 2"x3" Plastic –
Laser Engraved (Red -Dept, Blue-Camp, Gold-National)
\$9.00 (shipping up to 3 badges \$2.00)
(Picture not actual size)



US Grant Sesquicentennial Challenge Coins (set of 5/numbered)

Only 200 Numbered Sets Made
\$75.00 shipping included
Set Covers Grant for Each Year 1861-1865

Through special arrangement with Friends of Fort Davidson we are selling the 150th Commemorative Set of their medal and medallions. No more than 200 numbered sets will be made. Friends has only 30 sets more to sell. Buy it now! This is the same price Friends would charge you, but with shipping and handling!

Battle of Pilot Knob Reenactment Medal Set
----- \$35.00 plus \$5.00 (S&H)



[NONE OF THE ITEMS ARE ACTUAL SIZE ON THIS PAGE]

ORDERS: Mark Coplin macnac4856@gmail.com 4856 Hursley Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128

The Time is Now



Stephenson Memorial Plaza Grand Army of the Republic
Rose Hill Cemetery Petersburg, Illinois

Brothers and Sisters

The Sesquicentennial of Doctor Benjamin Franklin Stephenson's creation of the Grand Army of the Republic on April 6, 1868, will soon be upon us.



In 1894, a beautiful monument was created at the doctor's gravesite in Petersburg, Illinois Rose Hill Cemetery. However, the grounds have become overgrown and are in need of improvement. We have received permission to create a memorial plaza there, consistent with GAR designs from 1880 to the 1920s.

Signature bricks can be purchased in three sizes, 4 x 8, 8 x 8, and 12 x 12.

Black Granite Benches can also be purchased.

Our goal is to have the Memorial Plaza completed by 2018.

Through your efforts, we can create a memorial fitting to honor the creator of the organization to which we owe our existence.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
The Doctor Benjamin F. Stephenson Site Committee
Visit www.suvewil.com for Ordering Information

