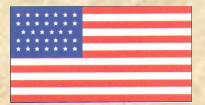




The Union Defender



The Newsletter of Phelps Camp No. 66,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

February 2018

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE DECEMBER MEETING?

Members enjoyed fine food and fellowship at our annual holiday dinner, held at Big Whiskey's on Battlefield Road.

NEXT MEETING

The March meeting **WILL NOT** be held on the first Tuesday (March 6) due to scheduling conflicts at Wilson's Creek, but will be held instead on the **SECOND TUESDAY, MARCH 13, at 7 p.m.** at the Visitor Center at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.



DUES ARE DUE

It's that time again!

2018 Phelps Camp dues are now due. Please send a check or money order, payable to "Phelps Camp No. 66, SUV-CW," to our camp treasurer, Kirk Singleton.

The address is:

Kirk Singleton
13679 Lawrence 1245
Billings, MO 65610-6202

Dues will be \$30, the same as last year, although any additional contribution to the camp coffers will be greatly appreciated. We have much to do as a camp in 2018. Let's get all of our current members to "re-up," and recruit some new members for Phelps Camp!

UNION VETERAN'S GRAVE DISCOVERED IN LAWRENCE COUNTY

A Wilson's Creek volunteer recently went in search of a Union soldier's grave that he remembered visiting as a child.

He found the remains of a government issued headstone, but the upper portion, containing the veteran's name and unit, was missing.

With some careful research, we came up with a likely name for the veteran, a member of the 1st West Virginia Cavalry.

A "field reconnaissance" in December turned up more pieces of the headstone, including most of the soldier's name and his unit. Our research was correct!

Now we are applying to the VA for a new headstone, and we are planning a memorial service and dedication in late spring or early summer.

More details of this soldier's life and military career will be uncovered before the tombstone arrives.

Stay tuned for more updates and information about what promises to be a unique ceremony to recognize a long-forgotten Union veteran who settled in Lawrence County.



Camp members at the Parade of the American Soldier event last November.



HISTORICAL NOTES

LOCAL RESIDENT SHARES STORY OF IMPORTANT CIVIL WAR CROSSING AT OSAGE RIVER (PART I)

Contributed by returning camp member Len Eagleburger (welcome back, Len!)

Edward "Ed" Lynn Bode has enjoyed collecting historical tidbits related to a distant relative who owned a ferry crossing during the Civil War, which resulted in an interesting encounter with a famed Confederate general. His research has not only been enlightening with regard to his relative, but has shed light upon a skirmish that occurred within the larger context of General Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition in the fall of 1864.

"There were two Bode brothers and a nephew who emigrated from Germany and arrived Missouri in the 1850s," Bode said, while flipping through documents chronicling much of his research on the family. "The nephew, Frederick 'William' Bode, operated the Bode Ferry near Taos for many years." William Bode would go on to marry the former Katharina Winkleman on Nov. 27, 1861, and the couple soon established their home on the south side of the Osage River in Osage County, from where they could oversee the ferry operations.

The eruption of the Civil War soon led to divided loyalties as citizens were torn between separate ideologies. In his book "Man of Two Worlds," Ray Grothoff explained "many German immigrants were pro-Union and against secession."

He also wrote that while some objected to slavery on moral grounds, others "had no experience with slavery in their native land and tended to own smaller farms, which they could more easily work with their own families or With Osage County being predominantly German, William Bode aligned with the pro-Union forces and records available from the Missouri State Archives indicate he enrolled with the 28th Enrolled Missouri Militia, composed of men primarily from Osage County. He was ordered into active service on Sept. 12, 1862, and relieved from duty one month later.

The Enrolled Missouri Militia was established in 1862 as a part-time force to augment the Missouri State Militia and were not supposed to serve more than 30 days of active duty at a time, although many soldiers in the E.M.M. would serve longer stints. The E.M.M. often performed garrison assignments that included guarding supply depots, railroad bridges, etc.

Following Bode's brief duty with the E.M.M., he focused his efforts on business ventures such as the oversight and operation of his ferry; however, the war continued despite his lack of involvement and, in the fall of 1864, would result in a fascinating encounter with troops under the command of a famed Confederate general.

"In early days of October 1864, (Confederate) General 'Jo' Shelby moved west toward Jefferson City to meet up with General Sterling Price, who intended on capturing Jefferson City," Ed Bode said. "When they got to the William Bode's ferry across from Taos on the Osage County side of the river, they captured William Bode and tied him up."

An article by Jeremy Amick, Jefferson City News-Tribune, February 12, 2018.