



# The Union Defender



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

## July 2021

### WHAT HAPPENED AT THE JUNE MEETING?

Phelps Camp came to life again on June 26 after a long hiatus due to Covid-19. Here's what was discussed:

- 1) Upcoming events in August and October: See more on these events later in this issue.
- 2) The Last Soldier marker in Joplin: Plans are still underway to mark the grave of Robert B. Tyler, the last Union soldier in Jasper County.
- 3) Future camp meetings: It was decided to go back to monthly meetings, but on Saturday afternoons.
- 4) Historic Range Day: Kirk will coordinate with John Sutton about a time in October or November.

### NEXT CAMP MEETING

Phelps Camp meetings will now be held on the second Saturday of the month at 2 p.m., still in the Visitor Center of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 14.

We hope to see you there!



## **PHELPS CAMP MEMBERS ASSIST WITH DEDICATING A MARKER FOR RHODA RAY JONES**

Rhoda Ray Jones, one the enslaved people of John and Roxanna Ray, helped care for the wounded following the Battle of Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861.

After emancipation, Rhoda moved to Springfield, married John Jones, and raised a family.

She died in 1897 and was buried in Hazelwood Cemetery in Springfield, but unfortunately did not have a grave marker—until now.

On May 23, members of the Mary Whitney Phelps Tent of the Daughters of Union Veterans dedicated a new marker for Rhoda in an impressive ceremony. Members of Phelps Camp provided the color guard and made up a portion of the audience.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 10**—In celebration of Missouri's bicentennial, a special ice cream social will be held at the historic Greene County Courthouse in downtown Springfield from 1-4 p.m.

Phelps Camp has been invited to attend and staff a recruiting/information table. If you are available, feel free to join other camp members at this important event.

**October 9**—The Ozark Mountain Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will conduct a ceremony to honor Thomas Nathan Clifton, a veteran of the American Revolution who died in 1864 at the age of 105. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. Phelps Camp has been invited to attend, as two of Clifton's sons served in the Union Army (one died during the war). Members are welcome to attend either in period or modern clothing (with SUVCW member medals, of course.)

The ceremony is located at Clifton Cemetery, County Road 404 (Bell Springs Road): 37.262631, -92.931568 1-½ miles east of KK Highway, south of Marshfield, Missouri.

