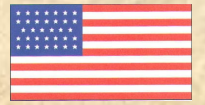




The Union Defender



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

May 2020

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARCH MEETING?

Due to the ongoing renovations at Wilson's Creek, members met at the Springfield-Greene County Library Center and discussed the following:

- 1) Members discussed ordering a Last Soldier marker for the grave of William Henry Harrison Osborn, the last surviving Union veteran in Jasper County.
- 2) Members were invited by the Mary Whitney Phelps Tent DUV to a Dred Scott program in April (cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic).
- 3) Members scheduled a camp picnic on May 9 (cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic).
- 4) Members were invited by the Antebellum Families of Missouri to a Chautauqua at the Danforth Farm on April 4 (cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic).
- 5) Members discussed another Historic Firearms Range Day (postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic).

- 6) The camp officially inducted two new members! Welcome aboard, John Kinsley and Jovani Krieser!
- 7) Members discussed Michael Price's upcoming talk on the history of Wilson's Creek Battlefield (cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic).

NEXT MEETING

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the June meeting is cancelled. We will plan to meet again in September.



CAMP PURCHASES CIVIL WAR LETTER FOR DONATION TO WILSON'S CREEK

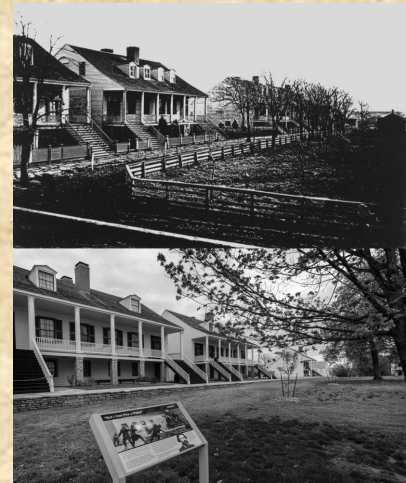
Camp members voted to purchase an original Civil War letter with a unique story.

The museum collection at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield contains a number of artifacts associated with Benjamin Fullagar, a member of Companies A and K, 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry. Fullagar was born in London, England in 1835 and died in Penn Yan, New York in 1919. The Fullagar Collection includes a number of documents, his campaign desk, and other artifacts.

The 3rd Wisconsin saw extensive service in the Trans-Mississippi Theater during the Civil War. The regiment left Wisconsin in March 1862 and moved to St. Louis. From there, the Badgers traveled to Fort Leavenworth, where they were mounted. The regiment's Second Battalion arrived at Fort Scott that June. The 3rd took part in the battles of Cane Hill and Prairie Grove, Arkansas in 1862, and Honey Springs, Indian Territory and the Baxter Springs (KS) Massacre in 1863. The regiment is probably best known for its actions against Confederate guerrillas in Missouri, as it fought a vicious hit-and-run war against those wily opponents.

When a well-known Civil War collectibles dealer announced that he had a letter written by Fullagar for sale, camp members quickly voted to purchase it and donate it to Wilson's Creek to help add yet another piece to this special collection.

A formal presentation of the letter to the NPS will take place this fall after the Visitor Center renovations are completed and the museum collection returns from storage in Kansas City.



COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT

Join us on Tuesday, May 26th at 11:30 a.m

As requested by Club management, the Military History Club's May 26 meeting will be virtual. We are excited to welcome Alex Kershaw who will speak to us about D-Day. Mr. Kershaw is truly an expert on the topic being the author of *The First Wave: The D-Day Warriors Who Led The Way To Victory In World War II* and *The Bedford Boys: One American Town's Ultimate D-Day Sacrifice* along with seven other books about World War II. He has led tours of Normandy Beaches, appeared numerous times on C-Span and has spoken on historical topics from coast to coast. Join us for this unique opportunity to hear and speak with this noted historian.

Anyone can join the call. We ask that you register to ensure that you receive connection details (GoToMeeting) closer to the meeting date.

Register before 12 noon on May 25th:

Contact Katie Maurer at kmaurer@mac-stl.org

Our Department Encampment and Memorial Day message includes memorializing brothers who passed this past year. Your camp annual reports and recent notices reported five brothers:

Donald Alwine, Grant Camp
James Cunningham, Tiger Camp
Robert Hammack, St. James Camp
Alan Heidbreder, Tiger Camp
Carl Wattenburg, Jr., Grant Camp

General Order #25 Series 2019-2020 18 May 2020

1. It is my sad duty to report the death of Past National President Ora R. Moitoso, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, on May 14, 2020 in East Providence, Rhode Island at the age of 89.

2. Sister Moitoso was a member of the Conklin-Sellew Auxiliary #20, Department of Rhode Island. She held many offices in her local Auxiliary, the Department of Rhode Island, and served as National President for the years 1990-1991. Her funeral service will be private.

3. The SUVCW's National Web Site, Social Media platforms, and the Charters of all Departments and Camps will be draped in black. All Brothers will attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badges in remembrance of Sister Moitoso.

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 7 Series 2019-2020 17 May 2020

Passing of Brother James Sylvester Cunningham

With sorrow, the Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War reports the passing of Brother James Sylvester Cunningham on 14 May 2020.

Brother James was a member of the Tiger Camp #432 where he faithfully served as Camp Chaplain and held the highest honor of Past Camp Commander. Chief Petty Officer James

Cunningham served in the U.S. Navy during World War II aboard the U.S.S. Uvalde where he received the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and two Battle Stars. He returned to naval service during the Korean War serving with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 6 (Seabees).

He was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. In memory of Brother James Cunningham, the Department's Charter and website shall be draped, all Camp Charters and websites shall be draped, and all brothers shall attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badge.

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 8 Series 2019-2020 19 May 2020

Passing of Brother Alan Wayne Heidbreder

With sorrow, the Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War reports the passing of Brother Alan Wayne Heidbreder on 16 May 2020.

Brother Alan was a member of the Tiger Camp #432 where he faithfully served on the Camp Council and held the highest honor of Past Camp Commander. He also served as the Department's ROTC Selection Committee Chair and previously on the Department Council. Alan Heidbreder served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from September 1969 to August 1971.

He was a member of the American Legion. Alan graduated from Lincoln University and worked as an accountant for MFA, Columbia Office Supply, Woodhaven, and OATS. He was a faithful member of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. In memory of Brother Alan Heidbreder, the Department's Charter and website shall be draped, all Camp Charters and websites shall be draped, and all brothers shall attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badge.