



The Sunflower Picket



Publication of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

IN THIS ISSUE

Fall Council Meeting and Department Encampment.....	1
120 th National Encampment	1
National CinC Issues General Orders No. 4	2
Camp Election Reminder	2
Patriotic Instructor: Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty - After the Attack.....	2
Chaplain: "...A Very Present Help in Time of Trouble."	2
Historian:.....	3
Commander's Corner.....	4
Camp News	
Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1	4
Joseph Gaston Camp 3	4
Old Abe Camp 16	4
Next Issue.....	5
Department Officers.....	5

FALL COUNCIL MEETING & DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

October 20, 2001, 10 AM

Larned, Kansas

Randy Thies, PCC, Dep't Commander

All Kansas SUVCW members are encouraged to attend the gathering in Larned to be held October 20, 2001. Technically this meeting will not be an encampment—encampments are only held once a year, in Spring—but “encampment” somehow seems to be the best term to describe the event. Some formal business will take place, as part of a meeting of the Department Council; however, the Council’s business concerns are minimal and the meeting is likely to be mercifully short. This should leave plenty of time for the main focus of the gathering, which is to tour the area as guests of the local SUVCW camp and see their accomplishments and other sites of interest.

The meeting will convene at 10 AM at the Saints Mary and Martha of Bethany Episcopal Church at Eighth and Main in Larned. This is a church which was founded by former GAR commander Henry Booth, who served in the 11th Kansas Cavalry, first as a Sergeant in Company G and later as Captain of Company L which was part of a force that saw unique action against Indians in Wyoming in 1864. Several years ago, memorabilia pertaining to Booth’s role as GAR commander was found and given a place of honor at the church, complete with a rededication ceremony at which your current Department Commander was privileged to speak.

The beginning activities will end in an early lunch served by the church ladies, so be prepared for a hearty meal at nominal cost, accompanied by pleasant conversation. After lunch, the Larned SUVCW members will take us on a tour that will begin with sites associated with Henry Booth, who helped establish the town of Larned as well as the church. Included on that portion of the tour will be the recently restored first building of the town, and markers placed in honor of soldiers who died in the area while traveling on the Santa Fe Trail to fight in the 1846-1848 War with Mexico. Long

forgotten, these men were some of the first members of the US military to die in Kansas on active duty, and it is most commendable that their memories have been resurrected by the Larned SUVCW.

Moving out of the town center, the tour will proceed to the Larned cemetery, where the Larned SUVCW has been instrumental in cleaning, resetting, and otherwise marking the graves of Civil War veterans. For those who have the time to do so, the tour will continue with a trip to nearby Pawnee Rock, where other Mexican War soldiers’ deaths have been commemorated, and from there to Great Bend to see the GAR memorabilia from the old GAR hall in that city, now housed at the Barton County Historical Society museum at the south edge of town. In addition, the Great Bend visit will enable a viewing of the recently restored Civil War soldier statue on the courthouse grounds – it is said to be a beautiful restoration, carried out by Wichita conservator Randy Julian.

We hope that all SUVCW members, and any other interested parties (the more the merrier), will be able to join us for this event.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 20, 2001

- 10 AM Fall Council Meeting & Department Encampment, Sts. Mary & Martha of Bethany Episcopal Church, 8th & Main Streets, Larned.
- 11 AM Lunch at the church.
- 12 Noon Tour of Larned sites and the Larned Cemetery. Travel to Pawnee Rock burial commemoration area, travel to Great Bend to visit the Barton County Historical Society and view memorabilia from the GAR Hall. Visit the Civil War monument at the Barton County Court House.
- 5 PM (approx) Homeward bound.

NOTE: If you are planning to attend this event, please notify Department Commander Randy Thies by Monday, October 8, 2001. Randy's email address is RThies@kshs.org

120th NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

Springfield, Missouri

The National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held August 9 through 11, 2001, in Springfield, Missouri. The event was hosted by the Department of Missouri, who deserve many compliments for a job well done.

In addition to the two-day business session, events included a tour of the Wilson Creek Battle Field, followed by Civil War period entertainment, on Thursday afternoon and evening. Friday evening included the traditional "campfire" entertainment and fraternity, while Saturday evening was the night for the Allied Orders Banquet, attended by the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Much of the business of the Encampment included the various officers' and committee reports. A few of the items acted upon included the re-establishment of the Life Membership program (after

it had been suspended for one year), provisions for the establishment of Department Guards, in the same manner as Camps are currently permitted to do, lowering the minimum age for Junior Members to six years of age, and some minor "clean-up" changes to the National Regulations. No constitutional amendments were submitted or acted upon.

The following individuals, with their home state in parenthesis, were elected to National leadership positions, serving through the 2002 National Encampment, unless otherwise indicated:

- Commander-in-Chief **George L. Powell (PA)**
- Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief **Robert E. Grim (OH)**
- Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief **Kent L. Armstrong (MI)**
- National Secretary **Edward Krieser, PCinC (IN)**
- National Treasurer **Max L. Newman (MI)**
- National Quartermaster **Elmer Atkinson, PCinC (PA)**
- Council of Administration:
 - One Year Term **Robert M. Petrovic (MO)**
 - Two Year Term **Donald E. Darby (OH)**
 - Three Year Term **Ronald B. Gill (IN)**

The 121st National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be held August 8 through 10, 2002, at Springfield, Illinois. The event will be hosted by the Department of Illinois.

**CinC ISSUES GENERAL ORDERS NO. 4
CONCERNING SEPTEMBER 11th ATTACKS**

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
General Orders No. 4
Series 2001 - 2002

George L. Powell, Commander-in-Chief

On behalf of the National Organization of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War I want to offer the condolences of our membership to the victims and to the families of the victims involved and to express the outrage of all the members of our Order to the attack today on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. At this time we must come together as an Order and a Nation I there by urge all Brothers to:

1. Fly the flag of our Country as a sign of solidarity with the innocent victims.
2. Attend the church of their choice and offer their own prayers for those involved in this terrible tragedy.
3. Those Brothers who are able to please donate blood.

I hereby order that all Camp and Department Charters be draped and all members are to drape their membership badge for the next 30 days in memory of the victims and their families.

By Order of:
George L. Powell
Commander-in-Chief

Attest:
Edward Krieser, PCinC
National Secretary

CAMP ELECTIONS

We are again into the time for all Camps to hold their annual election of officers. The National Regulations of our Order require that offices "shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Camp between the first meeting in October and the first meeting in December, inclusive." Likewise, "The officers of Camps shall be installed at a regular meeting of the Camp to be held between the first meeting in November, and the first meeting in the following January, inclusive, by a person designated by the Department Commander who shall make report thereof upon the prescribed blanks furnished to him." (*Reference Chapter I, Section IV, SUVCV Regulations*)

Camps should notify the Department Commander and Department Secretary as soon as is practical with the scheduled dates of their election and initiation. The Department Commander will insure either he or a designated representative will be on hand to install the new officers.



PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR *Earl McIntosh*

FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY

After the Attack

Not since the Civil War has the continental United States seen such carnage and destruction by an enemy of the State.

It is with a heavy heart that I write this article. There are so many emotions going through my mind; anger, sorrow and even disbelief that such a tragic event has occurred. It is a challenge to make sense of everything. Of one thing I am certain; I am proud to be an American. My resolve for freedom and my country has never been greater.

We as Sons of Union Veterans have a motto we live by every day Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. During this crises we can support our brother and sisters in New York, Washington DC, and the rest of our nation by following our motto.

Fraternity: Preserve, strengthen, and bind together the veterans, and perpetuate the memory and history of the dead.

Charity: Assist former comrades in arms as needed, and protect and extend aid to widows and orphans of men killed in the war.

Loyalty: Maintain true allegiance to the United States, its constitution and laws, and stand guard against treason.

Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty are not hollow words! We are descendants of a proud organization and a long history and legacy of service to our Nation. In these times of tribulation and uncertainty, we need to set the example and be that 3rd Battalion for our country.

It's time to form the 3rd Battalion.

*Semper Fidelis,
Earl McIntosh*



CHAPLAIN

Del Downs

"...A Very Present Help In Time Of Trouble."

Psalm 46:1

In the summer of 1864, Andersonville was a place that was very hot, filthy, full of disease, and unbelievably lethal. 45,000 or so Union soldiers were imprisoned there, and, by fall, approximately 13,000 of them had died. The only source of water there had been as polluted as could possibly be imagined with every kind of garbage, waste, and human excrement. It was often referred to as "Hell On Earth". On one particular day, however, there was an event concerning the water supply that amazed everyone and assured many of the reality of GOD Almighty. What follows, is an eye-witness account in an extract from the Sept. 9, 16, and 23, 1908 editions of "The Metropolis Herald", Metropolis, Illinois. It is entitled:

A VISIT TO ANDERSONVILLE

SCENES OF THE LONG AGO VIEWED THROUGH A SOLDIER'S EYES

(By S.E. Lookingbill)

"We leave Atlanta and arrive at Macon, Ga.; this is a fine city with broad streets and beautiful parks. It is Sunday and we will rest; tomorrow morning Monday, August 24, we leave at 8:15 for Andersonville, Ga., our destination--at which place we arrive about noon. This a small hamlet perhaps about 75 or 100 inhabitants. We now "Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching" over to prison where I was confined for over eight months in 1864. The prison ground is

fenced in completely with a wire fence; there is but one gate-way and the road that leads from the depot leads to this gate; on the north side of the prison pen, passing through this gate about 200 yards, we see Providence Spring to the right we set our grips down and went to the spring. Oh, what beautiful water. I brought a bottle of this water home with me. There is a fine stone house erected in 1901, at Providence Spring and this Inscription is on the wall: "The Prisoners' cry of thirst rang up to Heaven; God heard, and with His thunder cleft the earth and poured his sweet water came rushing here."

"On another side of this house is the inscription: "God smote the hillside and gave them drink, August 16, 1864". There has been a great deal written about Providence Spring and what caused the water to come out of the earth at this place. I will state that I was there at the time God gave this spring to us, and this spring came through prayer for water. The water furnished the stockade by the branch became so unfit from the filth on the outside and from the cook house and stables that there was a general cry for water from all over the camp and God heard the cries of his people and gave them Providence Spring. The Confederates at the time, and even to this day, call this Providence Spring, and say that God answered the soldiers' prayer for water."



HISTORIAN

Dean Speaks, PDC

ARE YOU, TOO, A PATRIOT?

Recent events in New York and Washington have renewed patriotism throughout this country to a level unseen since World War II. Witnessing this renewal has caused me to wonder whether it is indeed genuine? Or is it a "false" patriotism instead. I certainly hope, for our Country's sake, that it is the former instead of the latter.

Do all these people who are now flying American flags on their houses, at their desks, in their windows, on car antennas, at the ballpark and everywhere else really understand what patriotism is? What does that flag mean to them? Do they have that burning desire, deep down inside them, to "protect and defend" the American flag from being lowered in defeat? Would they place themselves in harms way to defend their homeland against aggressors? I hope so.

I have heard many times in recent days people saying things such as: "Since these were foreigners who did this, lets shut our borders and keep all foreigners out"; or, (I actually heard this one proposed on a news talk show last night) "Lets just round up all Arab-Americans and detain them so we can sort this out". I couldn't believe what I was hearing. How soon we forget the lessons of history!

How many "foreigners" have died so that we can live in a free and undivided country? In case you didn't know, the number is well over a million! Think about it...unless you are purely of American Indian descent, YOU are also a "foreigner"...we ALL are! Our forefathers have been coming to this country since the days of the Pilgrims for one reason or another. Most came here to escape oppression in their birth land for various reasons including freedom of religion or speech. They braved many hardships, faced untold horrors including injury, starvation and death just to come here for a chance at a better life. They continued to face those hardships on a daily basis throughout their lives and they and their descendants have built this country to where we are today...the "Beacon of Freedom", the shining "City upon a hill" that John Winthrop spoke of in 1630 and President Reagan reiterated during his farewell to the American people in 1989. In this speech, President Reagan also said "If we forget what we were, we won't know who we are."

As I thought about all of this I found myself wondering several things, such as: "What did the American flag mean to the men and women who came before us? Why did they fight to the death to save the flag from being lowered in defeat? What motivated them to do this in their times? And, was the patriotism that they had then the same as what I see today?"

I found myself referring to a speech given in 1906 in Salina, Kansas by James Tanner, who at the time was the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, for my answer to these questions. Mr. Tanner gave this speech to the children gathered at the High School during a presentation of a flag to the school. I believe what he said truly sums up what the American flag meant to the "foreigners" who came to America for a better life and to the men of the Union Army. I also believe what he said still stands true today.

"I doubt if it would be possible for any people, no matter what their love of the flag may be, to come anywhere near a full conception of what the flag may mean until they have followed it in the sheet and flame of battle, where death runs riot and where men die joyously to keep the flag from touching the ground. And when you come to add to that distinction between flags, and you come to consider what the stars and stripes mean to the people all over the earth, above any other flag that floats, then the appreciation of it must rise higher and higher. This flag of ours never waved in any spot on the earth but that it stood for liberty, civilization and Christianity. To the band of whom I am one the flag embraces memories that are the riches of our lives. And with my thoughts dwelling upon this matter there comes floating across my mental vision a hospital scene of 1862.

"I was lying in the hospital; I was done with war, except its pain, and lying there in that hospital, the third bed from me on my right lay an Irishman who had been the joy of that section of the long ward, desperately wounded, yet making light of his wounds. He was more desperately wounded than he thought, and one day, it was up to the good priest who called to see him to break to him the news that God was calling him for the immediate future. I shall never forget, for I happened to be lying on my right side and looking that way, I shall never forget the look that came over his face. The mental struggle that was on him no one could imagine. He collected himself and when he spoke it was in a low, steady tone.

"He said, "Father, would ye be so kind as to take hold of the foot of me bed and whirl it around to the window?" When he whirled him around we saw and learned in an instant why. He wanted his head where he could look out and get a glimpse of the old flag staff with "Old Glory" floating up there, it was one of the mightiest orations my ears have drank in during the sixty odd years of my life; but as he got a glimpse of the old flag he says: "There ye are darlin', and ye are at the top; yes, bless God, and there ye will stay at the top till ye float unchallenged from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico. Sore is me heart," says he, "that I can't stay to witness it, but they tell me I have got to go. I dreamed of ye, darlin' on the old sod before I ever saw ye floating in authority. I am glad I did a little something for ye. I am only sorry I can't stay and do more." Then he turned to the priest with a look that said: "Its good-bye to the flag." "You have her address, father; break it gently to her, as gently as you can. Sore will be her heart when she learns that Pat comes back no more. Now to my soul's salvation." Pat died that night."

As our country prepares to fight what appears will be a protracted war against the people who caused this tragedy I can only hope that the current wave of patriotism being shown around the country shall not wane. We must always keep in mind the deeds of our forefathers

and we must always remember their sacrifices as we face sacrifices of our own. We must all do whatever we can to help keep alive the dream that IS America.

I believe a portion of President Reagan's farewell speech sums it up best. In this speech he's talking about what John Winthrop imagined when he gave his sermon. President Reagan said: "The past few days I've thought a bit of the shining "City Upon a Hill". The phrase comes from John Winthrop, who wrote it to describe the America he imagined. What he imagined was important, because he was an early Pilgrim - an early "Freedom Man". I've spoken of the shining city all my political life, but I don't know if I ever quite communicated what I saw when I said it. But in my mind, it was a tall proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, wind swept, God blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace - a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity, and if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors, and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get there."

"And she's still a beacon, still a magnet for all who must have freedom, for all the Pilgrims from all the lost places who are hurtling through the darkness, toward home."

Since I read those speeches several months ago I have noticed that every time I see the American flag I find myself thinking about John Winthrop, Pat and all the other "foreigners" who sacrificed so much to create this Country. They defended our Country and that flag with their lives so we can have the freedoms that we all enjoy today. I realized that they truly were "Patriots" and that they sacrificed so much so that we can all live in the one Country that is the "Beacon of Freedom" to the World.

I can't help but get a little choked up or a tear in my eye when I think of their deeds and in my thoughts I silently say to them "Thank you".

So now ask yourself "Am I, too, a Patriot?"



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Randy Thies, PCC

My heartiest greetings to all of our SUVCW members. Summer is now over, and we can emerge from the heat and humidity of Kansas dog days to enjoy the beauty and cool comfort of Fall weather. For the members of my Camp here in Topeka, that means that we can finally have a work day--cleaning or resetting Civil War veterans' gravestones--without sweating nearly to death.

There have been but few SUVCW events worth mentioning this summer, but premier among them is the attendance of a few of us at the National SUVCW Encampment during the second weekend of August in Springfield, Missouri. Four of us attended--Alan Russ and myself from Topeka, Dean Speaks and Kim Nelson from Beloit--and found the proceedings to be both educational and entertaining. There was surprisingly little time paid to ritual and ceremony, with most of the effort and attention being given to consideration of various business matters. However, at this point I cannot recall any particular business decision or policy change that bears mention here. The meeting ended with a banquet enhanced by a talk given by Dr.



William G. Piston, describing the unique nature of Missouri's role in the Civil War.

The day after the meeting, I was able--finally, after waiting now for several years--to visit the Wilson Creek battlefield and take a close look at the locations that were so important in that epic event. In addition, I was gratified to see the flag of the Second Kansas Infantry, wonderfully restored and on loan from the Kansas State Historical Society, in the visitors' center. Afterward, we visited the nearby Sweeney Museum, where my friend Karla Picolet, a proud member of the Ladies of the GAR, was astounded to see a CDV of her Civil War ancestor on exhibit.

Still later, we stopped in Carthage to see the Kendrick House, an antebellum mansion currently serving dual roles as a quasi-museum and community center used for weddings and other such events. We knew, when we stopped, that this was the family home of Jacque Stroud, a Topekan who with her husband Herschel provides wonderful public presentations dealing with Civil War medicine and other related topics. We toured the house and were pleasantly impressed with the place, but were even more impressed to learn later from Jacque that she had been born in one of the upstairs bedrooms! For any of you traveling through the Joplin-Carthage area, we heartily recommend that you stop and take a look at the Kendrick House, and at the many lovely Victorian-era homes built after the Civil War, replacing the homes that were burned during the war.

Returning to reality after such a fine trip, I look forward to the Fall Encampment in Larned, and hope to see many of you there.

CAMP NEWS

PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1, WICHITA

Camp Commander.....Boris N Bulatkin
 Senior Vice Commander.....Kenneth R. Spurgeon
 Junior Vice Commander.....Tom Schmidt
 Secretary/TreasurerBill Nestelroad

The Patrick Coyne Camp reports the Camp does not schedule activities during the summer months. The Camp begins its activities, again, on September 27, 2001. Patrick Coyne Camp 1 as added two new members and reinstated two members to bring its current roster up to twenty-eight members.

Camp meetings are held at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 George Washington Blvd., at 7 PM. Scheduled meetings for the next three months are October 25 and November 29. There will not be a December meeting due to Holidays.

JOSEPH GASTON CAMP 3, BELOIT

Camp Commander.....Kim Nelson
 Secretary/TreasurerDean Speaks

Camp meetings are held at the Port Library, 311 W. Main in Beloit, at 7 PM on the last Thursday of each month.

OLD ABE CAMP 16, TOPEKA

Camp Commander..... Alan Russ
 Senior Vice Commander..... Blair Tarr
 Junior Vice Commander.....Earl McIntosh
 Secretary/TreasurerJeff Dunaway



Burlingame Cemetery crew, (l. side, front to back) Randy Thies (kneeling), Dennis Gamble, and Rick Baker, (r. side, front to back) Karla Picolet, Virginia Wulfkuhle, and Blair Tarr. Not pictured, Jeff Dunaway, photographer.

Old Abe Camp continued with its cemetery projects over the summer months. In spite of the normal conflicts of vacations, family obligations, and weather conditions, the camp was able to keep to its schedule of using the last Saturday of each month as a work day.

In June, the camp, along with members of Emma Edmonds Circle, LGAR, traveled to Burlingame, Kansas, and cleaned over fifty veterans' grave markers. In July, a small crew cleaned markers at the Maple Grove Cemetery, North Lawrence, Kansas. Heat and



Dennis Gamble, of Old Abe Camp, works on cleaning the family-style marker of a Civil War veteran, who is buried at Burlingame Cemetery.

humidity restricted the project to morning hours. The camp visited the Shawnee Center Cemetery in southern Shawnee County for its August work day, again cleaning over a dozen markers in this small, rural cemetery. For September, the Camp will be helping the Topeka Cemetery reset six Civil War grave markers, which had been removed from their grave locations some fifty years ago. Once again, the markers will stand proudly over the graves of the veterans.

Old Abe Camp gained two new members and reinstated one member during this last quarter. This brings its strength to a total of nineteen members.

Old Abe Camp meets at 6:30 PM on the second Monday of each month at Tevis' Restaurant, 823 W. Sixth Street, in Topeka. Meeting dates for the next three months are October 8, November 12, and December 10.

NEXT ISSUE

The Winter issue will be mailed by January 1, 2002. Camp SVC's need to submit information and articles to the Department by December 15, 2001, preferably in electronic format, to:

SVC Alan L. Russ, Newsletter Editor
 P.O. Box 68
 Auburn KS 66402-0068
 Email: suvcwks16@mindspring.com

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander	Randy Thies 501 SW Oakley, Topeka KS 66606-1916 RThies@kshs.org
Sr. Vice Commander	Alan Russ P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068 suvcwks16@mindspring.com
Jr. Vice Commander	Douglas G. Smith 786 E. 35 th S, Wellington KS 67152-8403
Secretary/Treasurer	Dean Speaks 601 N. Hersey Ave, Beloit KS 67420-2321 dspeaks@nckcn.com

ATTENTION, G. A. R.!

Tomorrow—Wednesday—we will sell



120 Good-Black
 Felt G. A. R.
 Hats, with em-
 blem and cord,
 worth \$1.25—

48c

FINEST BLUE FLANNEL SUITS—

made of Middlesex and Slater Fine Pure
 Indigo Flannels—2 sets buttons—

Very durably made—
 Excellently trimmed—
 Advertised as cheap by
 others at \$10 and \$9—
 Wednesday our price:

\$8.50

The Palace

709 Kansas Avenue.

Auerbach & Guettel.