



The Sunflower Ticket



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

IN THIS ISSUE

Annual Department Encampment.....	1
Fall Council Meeting and Department Encampment.....	1
National CinC Issues General Orders No. 5.....	2
Department Commander Issues Department Order No. 2.....	2
Department Patriotic Instructor.....	2
Department Chaplain.....	3
Department Historian.....	3
Commander's Corner.....	4
Camp News	
Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1.....	4
Joseph Gaston Camp 3.....	4
Old Abe Camp 16.....	5
Next Issue.....	5
Department Officers.....	5

DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

April 27, 2002
Topeka, Kansas

The 2002 Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be held at the Kansas History Center on Saturday, April 27. This will coincide with the Annual Encampment of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR) for the Department of Kansas.

A public program will begin at 9 AM in the Kansas Museum of History classrooms. Civil War period music will be performed by a band organized by Old Abe Camp's Brother Rick Baker, followed by talks by Brothers Randy Thies and Blair Tarr. A tour of the exhibit, "Keep the Flags to the Front: Battle Flags of Kansas," will be conducted by Brother Tarr for the memberships of the orders.

The annual business meeting for the Department of Kansas will commence at approximately 1:30 PM in the museum classrooms. The LGAR will hold their business meeting at the same time in the Potawatomi Room of the Koch Industries Education Center, located on the museum grounds.

FALL COUNCIL MEETING & DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

The Fall Council Meeting and Department Encampment was held on October 20, 2001, in Larned, Kansas. The meeting attendees included Department Commander Randy Thies, Department Senior Vice Commander Alan Russ, and Department Secretary/Treasurer Dean Speaks. Other guests attending included Karla Picolet and Joyce Russ from the Emma Edmonds Circle of the LGAR.

A brief business meeting was held at the Sts. Mary and Martha of Bethany Episcopal Church, followed by a tour of local sites related to Henry Booth, who was an early settler and long time member of the local GAR Post. Additionally, the group visited the Larned Cemetery and toured Pawnee Rock, located on the Santa Fe Trail. The trip ended with a visit to the Barton County Historical Society museum in Great Bend.

CinC ISSUES GENERAL ORDERS NO. 5

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
General Orders No. 5
Series 2001 - 2002

George L. Powell, Commander-in-Chief

1. On behalf of the National Order may each and every Brother and Sister in all of the Allied Orders and their families have a happy and safe Holiday Season. May the year 2002 be prosperous, productive and fraternal throughout the Organization.

2. The 45th Annual Remembrance Day activities were held at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on 17 November 2001. The parade returned to its old format with all Union troops marching together followed by all of the Confederate troops. The Combined Service at the High Water Mark was followed by the annual SVR ceremony at the Woolson Memorial and both ceremonies were well attended. A special thank you and congratulations are extended to the Remembrance Day Committee for another job well done. Thank you to the Gettysburg merchants for once again covering the cost of the parade permit.

3. The G.A.R. Memorial Scholarship Applications can be obtained by computer from our web site (<http://suvchw.org>). Completed forms are to be sent to this office. All applications received will be forwarded to the Scholarship Committee. Please keep in mind that we award two \$1000 scholarships each year.

4. Brother Don Denison has resigned his position as National Camp and Department Organizer. I want to thank him for his service to our Order.

5. I am pleased to announce the appointment of PDC Gary Gibson as the new National Camp and Department Organizer. Brother Gary has served our Order in many capacities in the past, including as a member of the Council of Administration.

6. Departments desiring the attendance of the Commandery-in-Chief at their encampment or a special event are encouraged to submit invitations as soon as possible. Conflicting dates do occur and invitations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

7. We have a new National Executive Director. He is Brother Lee Walters, P.O. Box 1865, Harrisburg, PA 17105, phone: (717) 766-6341, email: LEESUVPC@msn.com. Brother Walters will be setting up the office at the National Headquarters located in the new National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. As Brother Walters gets the National Headquarters up and running all correspondence and reports are to continue to be directed to the National Secretary, PCinC Ed Krieser. All January quarterly reports are to be sent to the National Secretary.

8. All Camp and Department Secretaries are reminded that a full and complete roster is required to be submitted with the January reports. This roster is to include the current Name, Address, Phone Number and Email address for each brother and are to be submitted as a typed or computer generated report. Hand written reports that are illegible will be deemed as a non submission. Any camp or Department that fails to submit the required roster will be submitting an incomplete report and will NOT be in good standing. This means that your delegations will NOT be seated at your Department Encampment or the National Encampment until the rosters have been received.

9. Last year the National Organization in an attempt to provide a Remembrance Day event for the brothers who are unable to attend the November event in Gettysburg commissioned the SVR to create an event in the central part of the country. The Seventh Military District Commander Major Frank Harned and his committee designated the burial of the unknown soldier in Chattanooga as this event. Brother Harned is working on this years event which will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2002. Details will be forth coming. Please put this date on your calendars and plan to attend.

10. Brothers are reminded to support the National Patriotic Instructor's Fund, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief's Fund, the National Headquarters Fund and the Permanent Fund. 11. As the events of September 11 are burned into our National psyche let us keep the memory of these victims and the heroes who are today fighting the cowards responsible for the attacks fresh in our hearts and prayers.

11. Deepest sympathies are extended to all Brothers and Sisters who lost a loved one, are ill or are suffering in any manner.

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

Attest:
Edward Krieser, PCinC
National Secretary

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ISSUES DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 2

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department Orders No. 2
Series 2001 - 2002

Randall M. Thies, P.C.C., Department Commander
October 31, 2001

Order of Suspension of Camp Charter

1. The Pawnee Camp No. 8 of Larned has failed to pay per-capita taxes or file Form 27 reports to the Department for the following quarters:
 - 3rd Quarter 2000 (Due 09-30-00)
 - 4th Quarter 2000 (Due 12-31-00)
 - 1st Quarter 2001 (Due 03-31-01)
 - 2nd Quarter 2001 (Due 06-30-01)
 - 3rd Quarter 2001 (Due 09-30-01)
2. During the past several months, the Pawnee Camp commander expressed disinterest in having the camp return to an active status within the SUVCW. This was further noted during the Department Fall Conference, held in Larned on October 20, 2001, at which time other camp members in attendance likewise expressed no interest in being active members of the SUVCW.
3. Chapter I, Article VI, Section 4 of the Regulations of the Order state:

"The Secretary shall perform all duties pertaining to his office, keep all books of record, shall make duplicate quarterly reports to the Department Secretary on the first days of January, April, July and October upon the forms prescribed by the Order, and furnished by the Department Secretary, showing all gains or losses in membership and the total membership, one copy of which shall be forwarded together with the per capita tax, covering the entire membership, due from the Camp, to the Department Headquarters, on or before the tenth (10th) day of the month, the other copy to be placed on file in the Camp. He shall draw all requisitions upon the Treasurer for the expenditure of money, upon the order of the Camp, and submit the same to the Commander for his approval, keeping a book for that purpose."
4. Chapter I, Article I, Section 7 of the Regulations of the Order state:

"A Camp failing to pay per capita tax or neglecting to forward reports within the time specified by law may be suspended by the Department Commander. Suspended Camps may be reinstated by forwarding reports and paying all arrearages of per capita tax."
5. Therefore, by authority vested in me under Chapter I, Article I, Section 7 of the Regulations of the Order, I hereby **Suspend the Charter** of the Pawnee Camp No. 15, Larned, Kansas. This order of suspension shall take effect

immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the aforementioned Camp complies with the stated section of the Regulations.

6. The Camp Commander or the Camp Secretary/Treasurer have been given until January 10, 2002, to contact the Department Commander or Department Secretary/Treasurer in reference to the Camp's intentions in regard to complying with this order. If contact is not made by that date, the Department Commander will request that the Commander-in-Chief revoke the Charter of, and Disband, said Camp under the provisions in Chapter I, Article I, Section 5 of the Regulations of the Order.

7. Copies of this suspension order shall be mailed to each member of the Camp and certified copies shall be mailed to the Camp Commander and Camp Secretary/Treasurer. A copy of this order shall also be sent to the National Commander-in-Chief, Department Secretary/Treasurer, and Department Counselor.

Issued this 10th Day of December, 2001, in Topeka, Kansas.

Randall M. Thies
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Dean K. Speaks
Department Secretary



PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR *Earl McIntosh*

Terrorists had just attacked when our last newsletter was printed and wow have things changed in just a few short months. Our country has pulled together like no other time in our recent history. We have assembled a full assault against evil and attacked our perpetrators with a vengeance the world has never seen. Even though America is flexing its muscle we have also shown unprecedented compassion not only for the families of the victims of 9/11 but for the hungry people of Afghanistan.

Flags on back order for the next two years, colors flying on almost every house and every neighborhood across America decorated in Red White and Blue are just a few examples of America pulling together. Patriotism is at an all time high. Americans are resolute and are ready to do what ever it takes to defeat terrorism, even if it takes years.

Our government is doing everything possible to bring those terrorists responsible for the hate crime to justice. I believe the terrorist will be smoked out and the world will be made a safer place. Good will always win over evil.

Part of being a free country is also having the responsibly of leadership. Yes we were attacked and yes we are responding in full response but we must also show the world our compassion by helping the victimized people of Afghanistan. Whatever the opinion we must help rebuild Afghanistan so the people can take care of themselves and the hate does not rebuild itself.

I am so proud to be an American. We are the only country with the moral authority to win this struggle and I sleep well every night knowing that there are Americans around the world on duty protecting freedom. I am also proud to belong to the Sons of Union Veterans! As my Great grandfather William McIntosh served in the Kansas infantry protecting freedom during the Civil War, I have dedicated myself to helping preserve freedom in any way needed.

Belonging to the Sons we have a responsibility and are required to form the 3rd battalion when our county needs assistance. I believe our members stand ready, we have made and kept that commitment by making a difference in our every day lives within our communities. Keep the faith, be safe, and have a wonderful holiday season.

We are America's 3rd Battalion!

Semper Fidelis,
Earl McIntosh, USMC

CHAPLAIN

Del Downs

Stories about the importance of GOD and men's faith in HIM abound when studying almost any aspect of the Civil War. The following is from an article written by Gordon Leidner, ©2000 by Great American History.

..."Union General George B. McClellan decreed that the North's "holy cause" justified divine services every Sunday morning that military necessity would allow. Union General Oliver O. Howard, commonly referred to as "the Christian General," would himself preach to the troops when a regular chaplain or minister was not available. In the West, Union General William Rosecrans, a devout Catholic, made it a policy to never fight on Sundays. Even during the battle of Stone's River, after fighting a desperate battle all day on Saturday, he rested his army on Sunday before re-engaging the enemy on Monday. God evidently honored Rosecrans's faithfulness, as the Confederate army retreated.

"U. S. Christian Commission records show that similar events were happening in the North's principle eastern army, the Army of the Potomac, at the same time. Brigade chapels were so full that many men were frequently turned away. One Union general wrote that he had never seen "a better state of feeling in religious matters" in the Army of Potomac.

"In the Fall and Winter of 1863, the Union army in Chattanooga, Tennessee had been besieged by a strong Confederate force, strongly entrenched in the mountains around the city. The Union soldiers were deeply affected by the revival, and many attributed their surprising victory over the Confederates as "a visible interposition of God." Soon after their victory at Chattanooga, the Union troops were pursuing their enemy as they retreated towards Atlanta. The fires of revival continued for the Union troops in Ringgold, Georgia, where hundreds of men were baptized in Chickamauga Creek."

My point is this. As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, can we truly honor these people properly without an understanding of what motivated them, what literally drove them to do the very things that we honor them for? Many, many memorials proclaim "Death Before Dishonor!" It was a common theme among the men who fought and died. Not respecting GOD, however, was something they considered the greatest dishonor of all.

HISTORIAN

Dean Speaks, PDC

Once again the holiday season is upon us and we bring to an end yet another year in the recorded history of man. This is a time for us to contemplate all that has happened throughout the past 12 months of our lives and look toward the future, whether that is a day, a week, a month or even a year in advance as we try to stay in out of the cold.

History is a funny thing. At the same time you are researching the history of something, for example our own Organization, you are also participating in the "creation" of history. Sure makes one think doesn't it!

According to the job descriptions for Department Officers the official "function" of the Department Historian is to record, maintain and catalog all historical, biographical and/or photographic material given to or developed by the Department regarding the Civil War, GAR or SUVCW. This includes all membership records, meeting minutes, financial records, photographs and donated materials.

Well, that's all fine and dandy. I've been doing just that for quite some time. I now have a small mountain (or a large hill) full of stuff. Its amazing how much information one Department, even one as small as ours, can create in a five year period. The only problem is, they don't tell us what we're supposed to do with this stuff once we record, maintain and catalog it. So, I determined that all this stuff would be useless to history if I didn't come up with a way to put it all together for future generations' use. I believe that now I have come up with a solution to the problem. Actually, history gave me the solution.

When one researches the history of the GAR in Kansas, one thing you will notice is that every year they created a Journal of the Department's activities (history) for that year. It included minutes from the Annual Encampment, photos of the Department Officers and even Past Department Officers, lists of Posts and Delegates, Department Orders, Council meeting minutes and a ton of relevant information. This is exactly what I'm going to try and create for our Department.

As some of you know, one of the problems that I am encountering is that the minutes from the Special Encampment (1996) and the First Department Encampment (1997) have been lost due to problems with our original Department Secretary. Fortunately for us, I have been able to re-create most of the information from my notes of the time (sometimes it pays to be a pack rat, or at least that's what I keep telling myself).

The plan is to have the first five years of our Department's history in one volume, divided by year. Starting with this year's Encampment (2002), each year would be in its own Journal, depending upon how much information we have during that year. It's possible that the Journal may cover a couple of years. That will need to be determined when the time comes. For now, the first five years would be bound together in a single volume with a copy being provided to the Department Commander's of those years as well as to each Camp and to the State Historical Society Library. Other copies would be available for purchase by our members for a nominal fee to cover our printing costs. At least that's the plan for now.

Each volume will include minutes of that year's Encampment, photos from the event, a portrait of the Department Commander for that year, Department Orders, Communications, Financials, Listings of Camps and their Rosters of Members, Necrology information, Department Newsletters and anything else that is relevant to the year.

I'm asking that anyone with photos from past Department Encampments and functions please submit them for use in the Journal for the year they apply to. I'm also requesting that all Department Commander's and Officers, both Past and current, send me their photo for inclusion in the appropriate year's Journal. Photos can be submitted electronically either via disk or you can e-mail them to me at dspeaks@nckcn.com. Information can be mailed to me at 600 N. Hersey, Beloit, KS 67420.

Any photos that are mailed to me will be returned to you once I have them scanned. I would appreciate any information you can provide for this project. The plan is to have the first volume completed prior to our Encampment in April so please take a little time and look through your notes and photos for anything that is relevant.

Thanks for your help on this project and I wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season!



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Randy Thies, PCC

The Christmas season is an important event for all of us, but it has an especially significant impact when you are far from home, especially while serving in the military. While trading holidays-in-the-service stories with Senior Vice Commander (former Specialist Five, US Army) Alan Russ, it occurred to me that I had never really pondered how Christmases were for my ancestor, William Snodgrass, who served for three years in the Second Wisconsin Infantry, part of the Army of the Potomac's famed Iron Brigade.



Snodgrass was one of the first to answer the call for volunteers after Fort Sumter, signing up in April of 1861. By July, he had his baptism of fire at First Bull Run. A disaster for the Federal forces, the debacle of the war's first great battle caused the Army of the Potomac to adopt a defensive posture, resulting in a long period of hard labor for the men of the Second Wisconsin as they joined in the construction of forts and defensive earthworks deemed necessary to protect Washington from attack. As cold weather arrived, the army settled into place, and it was there, in one of those winter camps on the Virginia side of the Potomac, that William Snodgrass spent his first Christmas away from home.

Things got more exciting in 1862. In late August, William Snodgrass was badly wounded at the Battle of Brawner's Farm, a somewhat little-known engagement that marked the beginning of Second Bull Run. The battle was devastating for the few Federal regiments that were involved, and they were eventually forced to withdraw, leaving my ancestor and others of the "black hat brigade" behind to be taken prisoner. Paroled a few days later, William Snodgrass was found to have suffered gunshot wounds in his left thigh and right arm. He was taken initially to Ebenezer Hospital in Washington, DC, and then transferred across town to the Odd Fellows General Hospital. It was there that he spent his second Christmas away from home, recuperating from his wounds while also suffering from "tent fever" and diarrhea, common ailments for men confined to hospitals in those days.

William Snodgrass rejoined his comrades in the Second Wisconsin in March or April 1863, and promptly got shot again--in the left hand, losing part of his thumb and little finger--during a hotly contested crossing of the Rappahannock River as the Army began moving towards what became the Battle of Chancellorsville. He was sent to the regimental hospital but was probably regarded as one of the "walking wounded," soon able to rejoin his comrades even though his activities would have been limited by the bandages on his hand.

Only about two months later, the Army of the Potomac fought the epic battle of Gettysburg. The Iron Brigade survived the battle but suffered numerous casualties--sadly, the Second Wisconsin lost 77 percent of its men. Four months later, William Snodgrass received a unique and probably much appreciated respite from the war when he and another soldier were sent home to serve as recruiters for the regiment. Leaving for Wisconsin in November, he thus spent his last Christmas-in-the-service at home, safe and comfortable, and probably more than a little in awe of his good fortune. One can only imagine what this must have been like for him, after more than two years away from home and in the thick of battle.

With all this in mind, it is somewhat remarkable that one of the few people recruited during that visit was William's brother, James Snodgrass. Thankfully, James was destined to survive the war. After later emigrating to Kansas, as William did, James eventually ended up at the Fort Dodge Soldier's Home, where he now occupies a plot in the post cemetery.

William Snodgrass returned to the Second Wisconsin in February 1864. He arrived in time to fight yet again, in the Battle of the Wilderness. In June, however, when his three-year enlistment was up, he declined to reenlist -- William Snodgrass had enough of war.

CAMP NEWS

PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1, WICHITA

Camp Commander..... Kenneth R. Spurgeon
 Senior Vice Commander Tom Schmidt
 Junior Vice Commander Randy Durbin
 Secretary/Treasurer..... Boris N Bulatkin

Patrick Coyne Camp 1 held it's election of officers during the monthly meeting on October 25, 2001. The officers were duly installed at the following camp meeting on November 29, 2001. Department Commander Randy Thies performed the installation of officers.

Camp officers elected to serve during 2002 are, as follows:

Camp Commander Ken Spurgeon
 Senior Vice Camp Commander Tom Schmidt
 Junior Vice Camp Commander Randy Durbin
 Secretary/Treasurer Boris N. Bulatkin
 Camp Council Doug Smith
 Camp Council John Hartford
 Camp Council Ken Strader

Camp Commander Ken Spurgeon also appointed members to the following positions:

Chaplain Ken Bradley
 Camp Counselor & Program Chairman Frank Bergquist

The Camp meets at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 George Washington Blvd. Wichita on the fourth Thursday of the month. Meeting dates for 2002 are as follows:

January 24, 2002
 February 28, 2002
 March 28, 2002
 April 25, 2002
 April 27, 2002 - Department Encampment, Topeka
 May 23, 2002
 June 27, 2002
 July, 2002 - No Meeting
 August, 2002 - No Meeting
 September 26, 2002
 October 24, 2002
 November 21, 2002
 December, 2002 - No Meeting

JOSEPH GASTON CAMP 3, BELOIT

Camp Commander..... Kim Nelson
 Secretary/Treasurer..... Dean 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..... Jeff Dunaway
 Senior Vice Commander Blair Tarr
 Junior Vice Commander..... Earl McIntosh
 Secretary/Treasurer Alan Russ



The September work crew. Front row (l. to r.) Lillian Edwardson, Karla Picolet, and Randy Thies. Back row (l. to r.) Dennis Gamble, Blair Tarr, Jim Knopke, Jeff Dunaway, and Rick Baker. Not pictured is Alan Russ.

Old Abe Camp continued working in the Topeka Cemetery during the fall, with a work day on September 29, 2001. Two members of the LGAR also participated. The goal of this work project was to reset six Civil War grave markers, which had been removed from their respective grave locations many years prior. All six of the markers have been laying flat on their backs in the ground for well over fifty years. All had been completely covered with dirt and grass. After the markers had been reset, they were cleaned to remove the accumulation of grime. Four of the markers were set at their respective graves, with a final salute to each of the brave men. Two of the reset markers are badly worn, almost to the point of being illegible. The other two markers had broken many years before and were not able to be set. Replacement markers are being ordered through the Veterans Administration for the illegible and broken markers.



October Outing - Twice the fun. As the marker on the right is being reset to its new height, the one on the left is being dug out in preparation to being raised. From left to right are Jim Knopke, Blair Tarr, Alan Russ, Rick Baker, and Dennis Gamble.

October 27 found the members of Old Abe Camp and the Ladies of the GAR again out at Topeka Cemetery. The Camp's target area for

the morning was Section 50. During that time, the members reset ten Civil War veterans' grave markers. All had sunken to the point where the "regiment" line was at or below the surface of the soil.

Due to the unusually mild weather, the camp was able to schedule work days also on December 1 and 15. Again, we reset markers in the Topeka Cemetery, raising a combined total of nineteen markers for the two days. Two of the markers were "lost" markers. One had sunken vertically until only the very top of the marker was visible. The other marker was one which had been broken, with the top portion laid flat. The stone had sunken below the surface, with sod and grass clippings almost totally hiding it from view.

Old Abe Camp 16 held its annual election of officers on December 10, 2001. The officers were duly installed by Department Commander Randy Thies. The following members were elected to serve as officers during 2002:

Camp Commander	Jeff Dunaway
Senior Vice Commander	Blair Tarr
Junior Vice Commander	Earl McIntosh
Secretary/Treasurer	Alan Russ
Camp Council	Rick Baker
Camp Council	Dennis Gamble
Camp Council	Jim Knopke

Commander Dunaway then announced the appointments of the following positions:

Camp Chaplain	Delbert Downs
Camp Historian	Alan Russ

Also at this meeting, outgoing commander Alan Russ presented the "Leland J. Webb Certificate of Merit" to Brother Dennis Gamble for his dedication and effort to the Old Abe Camp and the Order, along with his efforts in maintaining the GAR section in the Topeka Cemetery.

Old Abe Camp 16 meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. The Camp meets in the meeting room at Tevis' Restaurant, 821 SW Sixth Street, Topeka.

NEXT ISSUE

The Spring issue will be mailed by April 1, 2002. Camp SVC's need to submit information and articles to the Newsletter Editor by March 15, 2002, 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, PCC 501 SW Oakley, Topeka KS 66606-1916 RThies@kshs.org
Sr. Vice Commander	Alan Russ, PCC P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068 suvcwks16@mindspring.com
Jr. Vice Commander	Douglas G. Smith, PCC 786 E. 35 th S, Wellington KS 67152-8403
Secretary/Treasurer	Dean Speaks, PDC 601 N. Hersey Ave, Beloit KS 67420-2321 dspeaks@nckcn.com