



The Sunflower Picket

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

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander	Thomas E. Schmidt, PCC 404 N. Walnut Street, Peabody KS 66866-1148 teschmidt@trane.com
Sr. Vice Commander	James R. Knopke, PCC 27133 W. 56 th St., Shawnee KS 66218-8407 orionat50@netzero.net
Jr. Vice Commander	Randal L. Durbin P.O. Box 306, Overbrook KS 66524-0306 randalfsb@hotmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Alan L. Russ, PDC P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068 suvcwks16@mindspring.com
Patriotic Instructor	James A. Scheidel, Jr. 1325 Elm St., Andover KS 67002-9025 jlscheidel@cox.net
Chaplain	Jonathan P. Goering 1115 N. Poplar St., Newton KS 67114-1964 jngoering@trane.com

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FALL COUNCIL MEETING Sunday, November 7, at 2 PM

The annual Fall Council Meeting will be held in Lawrence on Sunday, November 7, beginning at 2 PM. The meeting will be held at the Watkins Museum of History at 11th and Massachusetts Streets in Lawrence.

All Department Officers, both elected and appointed, should plan to be in attendance. Additionally, all Past Department Commanders are considered part of the Council without vote. Camps are also encouraged to send representatives, especially Camp officers, to the meeting to report on the activities of your camp.

This meeting is a time when the various officers can discuss what is going on within the Department of Kansas. It also allows the Department to talk about upcoming issues and begin thinking about the 2005 Department Encampment.

All members of the Department are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, please contact one of the above listed Department Officers.

DEPARTMENT RECEIVES U.S. GRANT CUP AT NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT



Department of Kansas Receives U.S. Grant Cup. From left to right: JVC Randy Durbin, Memorials Officer Doug McGovern, Department Commander Tom Schmidt, SVC Jim Knopke, National Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong, PDC Ken Spurgeon, PDC Dean Speaks, and PDC Alan Russ.

Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong awarded the U.S. Grant Cup to the Department of Kansas on August 13, 2004. The presentation was made during the 123rd National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Department Commander Tom Schmidt accepted the award on behalf of the Department of Kansas.

The U.S. Grant Cup is awarded annually to the department with the greatest percentage increase in members during the fiscal year of the National Organization. Dept. Commander Tom Schmidt stated the Department of Kansas needs to make it a set of two in 2005.

A Lincoln Connection

By Lowell Manis, Old Abe Camp 16

One of my fondest memories is something I don't remember at all! The story was told to me many times, that my Great Grandfather Thomas Rutledge held me in his hands after my birth with the same hands that shook the hand of Abraham Lincoln. I have always been warmed by that little bit of knowledge. Thomas Rutledge was in the company of Mr. Lincoln on a few occasions in his youth.

This relationship between the Rutledge's and Abraham Lincoln began with Mr. Lincoln's courtship of Ann Rutledge, the young lady that, history says, was Lincoln's only true love. With her untimely and quite youthful death, many dreams held by the both of them were stricken down, as it were, in a heart beat.

It is said that Mr. Lincoln's grief over her loss was nothing short of devastation. Old Abe, himself, said he would never be the same person without her. A new monument was placed on the grave of Ann Rutledge when her remains were moved from the original Concord gravesite to the Oakland Cemetery in Petersburg, Illinois,

A Lincoln Connection (continued from page 1)

on May 16, 1890. The relationship between Ann Rutledge and Abraham Lincoln was memorialized by the words of Edgar Lee Masters in the epitaph on the grave marker:

BUT OF ME, UNWORTHY AND UNKNOWN
THE VIBRATIONS OF DEATHLESS MUSIC

“WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE, WITH CHARITY FOR ALL”

OUT OF ME, FORGIVENESS OF MILLIONS, TOWARD MILLIONS
AND THE BENEFICENT FACE OF A NATION

SHINING WITH JUSTICE AND TRUTH

I AM ANN RUTLEDGE WHO SLEEPS BENEATH THESE WEEDS

BELOVED OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WEDDED TO HIM NOT THROUGH UNION

BUT THROUGH SEPARATION

BLOOM FOREVER O REPUBLIC

FROM THE DUST OF MY BOSOM!

JANUARY 17TH 1813 AUGUST 25TH 1835



From a picture post card of the Ann Rutledge grave site near Petersburg, Illinois. Photo is by Floyd Hivnor.

The author is the son of LaVerna E. Rutledge Manis, grandson of Eben DeWitt Rutledge, great grandson of Thomas Rutledge, and gg-grandson of Leander Rutledge. A gggg-uncle was Edward Rutledge, signer of the Declaration of Independence, from South Carolina.

Graves Registration Officer *Frank Bergquist, PDC*

MARKING CIVIL WAR VETERANS GRAVES

The Department of Veterans Affairs will furnish replacement or new Standard Government Headstones or Markers for installation in a private or state veteran’s cemetery. The correct form to use is available from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. For all deaths occurring before September 11, 2001, the VA may provide a headstone or marker only for graves that are not marked with a private headstone. If the veteran’s grave does not indicate that the individual is a veteran, you may want to consider that it is not properly marked with a private headstone. Or if the private headstone is so worn that the individual can not be recognized, remark it with the proper DVA headstones. If the remains were never recovered from the battlefield, you may still attempt to get a marker, but you will need some official record that the remains were not recovered.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. The style chosen must be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. Check with the cemetery to see what style of markers can be accepted. The reverse side of the VA Form 40-1330 Application for Standard

Government Headstones or Markers shows examples of various markers.

Who is Eligible: Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard). The Air Force did not exist as a separate branch of service until 1947.

(1) Any veteran who died on active duty.

(2) Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. However if a veteran had two periods of service, use the good period to apply for the marker. Members of galvanized units are considered as veterans for markers.

Persons Not Eligible: A person whose only separation was under dishonorable conditions, or a person discharged as a result of a court marshal. If you are in doubt apply for the marker anyway, let the DVA make the determination.

To request military service records, complete Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. Fill in as much information as possible and send it to the correct address listed on the form by U.S. mail. Please note that it may take up to six months for a reply from NPRC after your written request is received.

If you are not sure if this is the actual veteran, try this website. This may be helpful in the case of common names: http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

It takes varying lengths of time to get the markers in depending on who has the government contract. If at all possible have the marker shipped direct to the cemetery. The markers are very heavy. But as soon as it is received inspect it for damage. When the Medal of Honor marker was received for Joseph Wartick at the Leon Cemetery, it was found to be broken and we had to reorder the stone. Also be aware that the spelling of surnames can change at times. If in doubt use the spelling in the service records, unless you know it was in error. Anyone can apply for the marker, but a cemetery official has to sign that they will accept the marker.

Franklin C. Bergquist

Graves Registration Officer

Freehold@swbell.net

Memorials Officer

Doug McGovern

The SUVCW is rebuilding its database of GAR monuments. As the memorials officer for the Department of Kansas, I am tasked with developing an up-to-date listing of those GAR memorials in our fair state and I need your help!

While you go on your travels, please be aware of any such monuments that you find and let me know where they are (inside Kansas, only, please). I want information on ANYTHING that is Civil War, regardless of any labels saying GAR, WRC, DUV, LGAR, etc. If it is related to the Civil War, has a soldier statue, has a cannon, or refers to anything Civil War, I am interested. There are far too many small monuments (like a small paved area with a flagpole and dedication plaque in Hutchinson's East side cemetery) that no one really knows about.

Let's get a good list of these monuments so we can properly honor those who served and those who, in the past, remembered them with memorials.

Doug McGovern, Ph: 620 662-2247, Email: demcgovern@aol.com



From the Senior Vice Cdr *Jim Knopke, PCC*

ROTC Awards

On May 6th, PDC Alan Russ and I attended the ROTC awards ceremony at Leavenworth High School in Leavenworth, Kansas. I was there to present the ROTC Award from Old Abe Camp 16. This was the first time that the award had been given at Leavenworth, and I was honored to do so on behalf of our Camp. Later, we found out

From the Senior Vice Commander (continued from page 2)

that the school paid for the medal because the funds were not available from the ROTC program. I informed Lt. Col. Kennedy, who runs the program for the school, that next year I would sponsor the medal.

I am excited about doing this for a couple of reasons. First, it gets our name out in front of several hundreds of people. Second, I wanted to try Alan's idea. His thought was that those Brothers who would be interested in sponsoring an award (it does not have to be ROTC) could provide, along with the certificate and medal, a biography sheet on his relative who served in the Civil War. It would personalize the award for the Brother and allow the recipient to know something about the man in whose memory you are giving this award.

Five years ago, I did not know that my great grandfather fought in the Civil War. Heck, I didn't even know his name or anything about him. Today I know a lot about Conrad Bockmier and joined the Sons as a way of paying respect to him for the sacrifices he made to keep the Union. Here is another way to honor him and keep his spirit alive. Give it some thought and maybe you too will see the value in it. I would be willing to help anyone that is interested.

On Attending the National Encampment

My wife and I attended the National Encampment this past August, in Cedar Rapid, Iowa, a small town of about 120,000 residents. It was our first encampment, and we had a great time. Larry Roach, Department Commander of Iowa, and his staff put on a great Encampment and they should be commended for their efforts. They did a superb job.

I felt that the accommodations were priced very well and the food at the restaurant and banquet were excellent. The different halls that the events were held in were accommodating. The meetings followed protocol and were run smoothly. All and all, I think it was a very good experience, and we enjoyed ourselves. We are looking forward to next year's Encampment.

On Saturday, the Kansas delegates had lunch together and the question was put forth if we could host an Encampment. We were thinking if we did, we should try to have it before the end of this decade, marking the 150th year anniversary of Bleeding Kansas. It is along time off, but it would give us time to think about it and decide if we want to do it. This is food for thought and will be discussed further.

Some say Bleeding Kansas was the birth place of the Civil War. I say let them come, and we will show them Bleeding Kansas.



The Commander's Corner Tom Schmidt, PCC

123rd National Encampment

Seven members of the Department of Kansas attended the 123rd National Encampment in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 12-14. Representing the Department were, Dept Commander, Tom Schmidt, Sr. Vice, Jim Knopke, Jr. Vice, Randy Durbin, Secretary-Treasurer Alan Russ, Memorials Officer Doug McGovern, and past Dept Commanders Dean Speaks and Ken Spurgeon. I believe this was the largest delegation ever from Kansas to the national encampment. Approximately 183 SUVCW members from across the country were in attendance as well as the women of the allied orders, Auxiliary of the SUVCW and Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The usual reports were gone through and approved. Various elections were held and committees filled. The programs were very good, especially the music. Recognition was given to individuals and camps for their outstanding achievements for good of the order.

In that regard, the Department of Kansas was presented with the U.S Grant trophy for the highest percentage of growth for the past year. What a great accomplishment! This can be directly attributed to those individuals in our camps who are working to build our department by recruiting whenever they can. I will be bringing the trophy to share with the camps as I visit them this fall and winter. Outgoing National Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong was presented with a framed "Battle of Mine Creek" print by our delegation. He indicated he already had a spot on the wall for it and really appreciated the gift since he had been a speaker at Mine Creek monument dedication last October. PDC Stephan A Michaels from Wisconsin was elected National Commander-in-Chief.

One of the things that the National organization is working on is to change Memorial Day back to May 30 as was originally decreed by Grand Army of the Republic. I believe you will hear more about this as we go through the next year.

Three members of the Kansas Department are on national committees: Alan Russ – Program & Policy, Doug McGovern – Civil War Monuments, and Ken Spurgeon – National Encampment Credentials.

The event not only afforded an opportunity to become familiar with the workings of the national organization while representing Kansas, but it also gave us a chance to network with other members and gain some new ideas for our camps and department. The next SUVCW national encampment is scheduled for August 3-7, 2005, in Nashua, NH. If you don't hold an automatic delegate position in the Department of Kansas and would like to go as an appointed delegate, get in touch with Alan Russ or myself before our Spring Encampment in April 2005.

CAMP NEWS

PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1, Wichita

Camp Commander.....Douglas E. McGovern
Senior Vice Commander James A. Scheidel, Jr.
Junior Vice Commander.....Norman R. Kimrey
Secretary/Treasurer.....PCC Thomas E. Schmidt

Camp Meetings are held at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 George Washington Blvd., in Wichita. The meetings are at 7 PM, normally on the fourth Thursday of the month. Remaining meeting dates for 2004 are October 28, and November 18.

JOSEPH GASTON CAMP 3, Beloit

Camp Commander.....Kim L. Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer..... PDC Dean K. Speaks

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

SGT. SAMUEL J. CHURCHILL CAMP 4, Lawrence

Camp Commander.....Craig A. Sundell
Senior Vice Commander Kent R. Johnson
Junior Vice Commander..... Alan L. Van Loenen
Secretary/Treasurer..... PDC Alan L. Russ

Camp meetings are held at the Watkins Museum of History, 11th and Massachusetts Streets, at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month.

OLD ABE CAMP 16, Topeka

Camp Commander.....Randal L. Durbin
Senior Vice Commander PDC Randall M. Thies
Junior Vice Commander..... D. Darrel Gilliland
Secretary/Treasurer..... PDC Alan L. Russ

Camp meetings are held at Perkins Restaurant, 1720 SW Wanamaker Dr., in Topeka, at 6:30 PM on the first Tuesday of each month.

The following article was submitted by Brother Phillip Fazzini [fazzinpa@muohio.edu], a member of the Dept. of Ohio, SUVCW, in honor of his ggg-uncle. Brother Fazzini states that W. J. Swander never had an obituary published when he died, and so Brother Fazzini offered to share one with us. W. J. Swander is buried in the GAR Section at McPherson City Cemetery. Thank you, Brother Fazzini.

William Jefferson Swander

By Philip Fazzina

B. July 11, 1844 Shelby County, Ohio son of David and Lydia (Kirschner) Swander the eighth of eleven children. Mr. Swander served as a Private in Company K, 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment from October 1, 1862 to July 1, 1863 and was stationed at Lake Providence, Louisiana.

Two of his brothers; three of his brothers-in-law and a cousin served in the Union Army—five with Co H 99th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and one with Ohio "Squirrel Hunter's Militia. Both of his brothers died in 1864 – one as a P.O.W., having been captured at Chickamauga, Georgia, and later dying as a P.O.W. in Virginia; the other was killed in action at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia.

Mr. Swander was married to Sarah I. "Belle" Wilt on December 14, 1871, in Macon County, Illinois. An elder brother having settled in Kansas, Mr. Swander followed his brother and settled in Lone Tree Township, McPherson County, Kansas and was a member of J. B. McPherson G.A.R. Post 87.



On September 13, 1887 Mr. Swander died of injuries after having been kicked in the stomach by a horse. He is buried in Lot 1, Block 2, Space 10 (GAR Section), McPherson City Cemetery.

W. J. Swander and his wife had seven children – Abigail (Swander) Bangston, (Feb. 20, 1878-July 23, 1965), John Swander (Aug 26, 1875-May 31, 1946), Ira A. Swander (Jan 28, 1882-Sep 27, 1975), Alice Sarah (Swander) Hodge (Nov 10, 1873-Oct 30 1941), David Oscar Swander (Sep 18, 1880-Nov 11, 1881), and Wilbur J. Swander (Dec 20, 1886-Feb 24, 1888).

In the War with Spain in 1898, his nephew James E. Swander, served in the 21st Kansas Infantry and died in July 1898 in Chickamauga, Georgia, to typhoid fever. Ironically this was the same disease that had killed his paternal grandfather David Swander and it was in Georgia that James E. Swander's paternal Swander uncles had meet the circumstances that led to their deaths.

NEXT ISSUE

The Winter issue will be mailed by January 15, 2005. Camp Commanders, Camp Senior Vice Commanders and Department officers need to submit information and articles to the Newsletter Editor by **January 1, 2005**, preferably in electronic format. We hope to have ALL department officers represented in the next issue. Send submissions to:

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

Newsletter Editor
Alan L. Russ, PDC
P.O. Box 68
Auburn KS 66402-0068