



# The Sunflower Picket



www.suvcwks.org

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

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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

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## 9<sup>TH</sup> DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

April 23, 2005, Lawrence

The 9<sup>th</sup> Department of Kansas Annual Encampment will be held in Lawrence on April 23, 2005. For those of you who may not have attended a Department Encampment, it is where the business of the Department, YOUR Department, takes place. It is also an opportunity to meet fellow brothers from the other Department camps.

Although each camp is only allocated a certain number of voting delegates, the Encampment is open to all active members of the Department. Talk with your Camp Commander about attending.

Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 is the host camp. The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic will be meeting at the same time in a separate room.

The schedule of events is as follows:

**11:00 AM to 12:30 PM – Lunch at the Free State Brewing Co.,** 636 Massachusetts St. (in the back room). Lunch is from the menu and "on your own" for cost. If you want to get an

idea of menu selection and cost, you can visit their website at [www.freestatebrewing.com](http://www.freestatebrewing.com)

**NOTE: We are being required to have a single check. A person will be designated to act as "cashier" for the costs of the meal; however, this requires the meal to be paid in cash. Please, no credit or debit cards.**

**After lunch, move to the Watkins Museum of History, 1045 Massachusetts St.**

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM - Guest Speaker: Tom Mach, local historian.** Watkins Museum of History

**1:30 PM - 1:45 PM - Set up for business meetings.** SUVCW will meet in the lower level meeting room. LGAR will meet in the upstairs meeting room (elevator available).

**1:45 PM - 4:45 PM - Business meetings.**

The business meetings should be over prior to 4:45 PM, so that Brothers will have sufficient time to head for home.

Again, if you are able to attend, please do so. Be part of the process of running the Department of Kansas.



## From the Memorials Officer

Douglas E. McGovern, PCC

### Monuments and Memorials

Brothers,

We are currently compiling a list of Kansas Civil War Memorials and Monuments. These may be statues in cemeteries, monuments in the city park, cannons in front of the courthouse, stained glass windows in chapels, flagpoles, benches with memorial plaques, etc. They may be identified as being erected by the GAR, WRC, LGAR, individual contributors, citizens of the city or county, or may have no identification. If in doubt, include it!

You can help in this project by sending in notes on any monuments you know of. It would be ideal to have location, written description, pictures (all four sides and a close up of any engravings), history, date of erection or dedication, "ownership", notes on condition, notes on surroundings, reference to any documents describing the memorial, and any other descriptive material that might be available. Lacking that, ANY INFORMATION IS DESIRED!

So far, we have good documentation for 46 monuments in 30 different Kansas counties. An additional 64 monuments or memorials have some form of documentation or reference but have not been confirmed by a visit and photographs. There are also 45 counties that have no identified monuments.

The goal is to begin a listing of monuments on the SUVCW website by the time of the April encampment. This will, of course, be only a partial listing, which will be updated as more information is gathered.

Note that individual tombstones, while of interest to the Graves Registration Committee, are not considered to be memorials or monuments.

Please send any information you can gather to Brother Doug McGovern, 100 West 20th, Hutchinson, KS 67502 (or [dmcgovern@aol.com](mailto:dmcgovern@aol.com)).



## From the Junior Vice Commander

Randal L. Durbin

### SUVCW Bridge at Mine Creek Battlefield

At the 2003 Department of Kansas Encampment in Wichita, the membership was informed that the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) was to erect a monument to the veterans of the Battle of Mine Creek on the battlefield. We were told the Sons of Confederate Veterans had raised \$2,000 for them to place a monument, and we had only a short period of time to raise over \$2,000 for our share of the project.

We were next informed the KSHS was not going to allow private groups to erect their respective monuments, and the Department was left with the dilemma of what to do with the money we had raised. The membership has always been interested in assisting the site in its efforts to interpret the battle and enhance the trails to give visitors a more convenient means of walking over the battlefield and seeing some of the more important points on the field that were difficult to reach. With the cancellation of the monument, a committee was formed, and it was decided to use the funds toward this end by working with the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation (MCBF). In conferring with Dr. John Spencer, President of the MCBF Board, it was determined that the greatest obstacle for visitors at the site was the trail from the museum to the main ford used during the battle. A ravine cuts across the path and a temporary plank with steep steps were the only means to cross this area. A small arch bridge spanning the ravine would allow foot traffic, small equipment, and handicap access to the main ford. Dr. Spencer located a company that makes custom bridge kits. After giving this company the MCBF specifications, a bridge was ordered. It should be arriving shortly.

A workday has been scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2005. We hope to have the footings poured and by ready for construction that day. All members of the Department of Kansas are invited and encouraged to assist in this project. We plan to begin at 8 AM that morning and work all day or until the project is completed. A plaque commemorating the SUVCW contribution to this project will be attached to the structure. This project will go a long way toward enhancing the visitors' experiences at Mine Creek Battlefield.

The photo on the right is a sample of the type of bridge which is to be erected. Horse and woman not included.



## From the Senior Vice Commander

James R. Knopke, PCC

### Reflections of Allegiance and Freedoms

I saw this article in the National Defender, which is published by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. I found it interesting and enlightening and thought you might too.

"Can You Name... The world famous gun-control event that occurred in Massachusetts in 1775?

"Early on the morning of April 19th, 1775, our government sent nearly 1,800 of its own soldiers out of Boston Harbor into the Massachusetts countryside as far as Lexington and Concord. The

army of our (then) government went into the countryside and through the towns and villages to seize guns and ammunition that its own citizens had hidden in and around Concord.

"The result was the beginning of the Revolution of the American Colonists. A unique American Revolution and "The Shot Heard 'Round the World". The shot that signaled our fight for freedom. That also motivated a world to fight for its freedom. We did win our freedom and we have been able to hold on to our freedom since that time. For 229 years.

"Americans paid a great price for victory and lost many of its citizen – soldiers, civilians and freedom fighters in the Revolutionary war.

"Every generation of Americans is charged to guard our freedom. Freedom does not come without a price."



## The Commander's Corner

Thomas E. Schmidt, PCC

As I write this article, we are just a few weeks away from our Department's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment to be held April 23, 2005, in Lawrence. This will mark the end of my term as Commander of the Department. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our organization in this capacity.

As I reflect on the past year, a number of things come to mind. The National Encampment in Cedar Rapids last August was a great experience. I was able to make it to both the Topeka and Lawrence camp meetings in December for installation of their new officers for 2005 after having done the same for the Wichita camp in November. Our Mine Creek committee composed of Ken Spurgeon, Randy Durbin, Doug McGovern, and myself have defined our project with the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation after meeting with them in February. A 23' walking bridge across one of the feeder tributaries on Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation property will allow for a walking trail circle to become a reality. Besides helping pay for the bridge, we will be involved in its construction. Jon Goering is doing a great job with our Department website. Doug McGovern is on a timetable to have a number of civil war monuments in Kansas on our website by the time of our encampment.

At the encampment our new Department of Kansas flag will be unveiled for the first time, and, thanks to the generosity of Alan Russ, we will also have a new National Color, as well. The Lawrence, Wichita, and Topeka camps are very active and growing. Camps are the foundation of our organization. With a little luck, we may be in the running again this year at the National Encampment for the Grant Trophy for the highest percentage of growth. I think we have a good chance to start at least one, and maybe two, new camps in the very near future. I hope you agree with me, this is a great time to be part of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War organization.

Sr. Vice Commander Jim Knopke will soon take his new position as Department Commander and will continue on with many of the initiatives that have been started, along with some of his own. He will need our help and support on the department level as well as the camp level.

Again, thank you for your help and involvement during my term. May we, as members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, continue to advance its aims and goals.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty

Thomas E. Schmidt, PCC  
Department Commander

**CAMP NEWS**

**CORP. PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1, Wichita**

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



Camp 1 Officers, pictured from left to right: SVC Norman Kimrey; Secretary/Treasurer Thomas E. Schmidt, PCC; Camp Commander James A. Scheidel, Jr.; and JVC Dale L. Rouse. Picture was not available for last issue.

Camp meetings are held at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 George Washington Blvd., in Wichita. The meetings are at 7 PM, on the fourth Thursday of the month. The Camp does not meet in July or August, and the November meeting is on the third Thursday, due to Thanksgiving.

**JOSEPH GASTON CAMP 3, Beloit**

Camp Commander.....Kim J. Nelson  
 Senior Vice Commander .....  
 Junior Vice Commander.....  
 Secretary/Treasurer.....Dean K. Speaks, PDC

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.....Roy A. Lafferty  
 Senior Vice Commander .....Alan L. Van Loenen  
 Junior Vice Commander.....Michael W. Anderson  
 Secretary/Treasurer .....Robert L. Wandel

Camp meetings are held at the Watkins Museum of History, 11<sup>th</sup> 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 .....D. Darrel Gilliland  
 Junior Vice Commander.....Randall M. Thies, PDC  
 Secretary/Treasurer .....Blair D. Tarr

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

Severe weather cancelled the January meeting. At the February meeting we welcomed Mr. James McHenry as a guest. He has submitted his application, and we look forward to his initiation at an upcoming meeting.

We plan to begin our monthly cemetery projects on March 26 at 9 AM in the Topeka Cemetery. Our equipment is now repaired and stored in an unused mausoleum on the grounds. We look forward to good weather and the restarting of this endeavor.

At the February and March meetings, we viewed a DVD on John Brown. In April and May, we plan to view a DVD on Fort Sumter. Respectfully submitted by:

Randal L. Durbin, Camp Commander

**SOME REMINDERS**

**From the Department Secretary**

Camp annual reports should have been completed as of March 31, 2005. These will need to arrive at the Department Secretary before the Department Encampment. If you have any questions on filling out a report, please let me know.

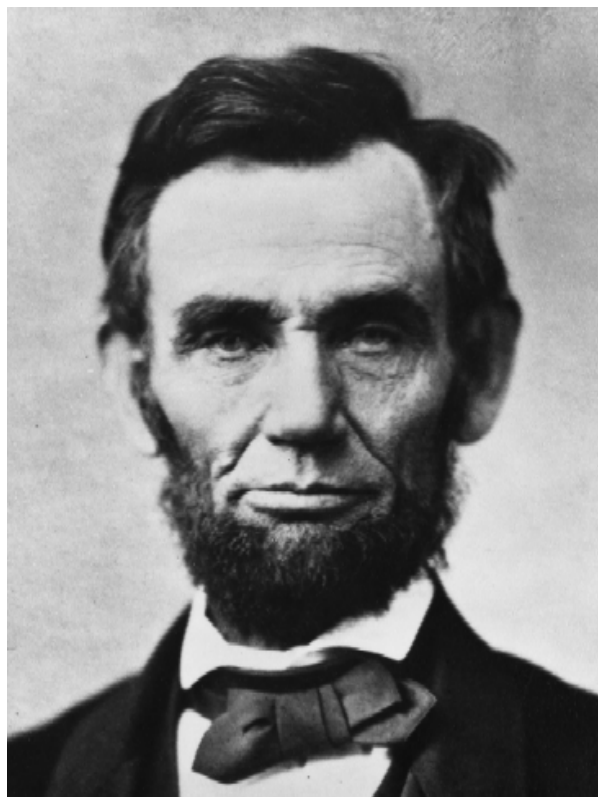
The 2005 National Encampment will be held August 3 through 5, 2005, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire. Now is a good time to start thinking about attending. Again, if you have any questions, talk with your camp or department officers.

**NEXT ISSUE**

The Summer issue will be mailed by July 1, 2005. If you don't see enough in the Sunflower Picket about your Camp and what it has been doing, then you need to send an article to the Newsletter Editor. This normally falls under the duties of Camp Senior Vice Commanders.

Camp Commanders, Camp Senior Vice Commanders, and Department officers need to submit information and articles to the Newsletter Editor by **June 15, 2005**, preferably in electronic format. Send submissions to:

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



**Abraham Lincoln**

February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865