



The Sunflower Picket



www.suvcwks.org

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

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IN MEMORIAM

PDC Kenneth D. Strader

On December 3, 2005, Past Department Commander Kenneth D. Strader answered final muster when he lost his battle with cancer. Brother Strader was the grandson of Civil War veteran Sergeant James Monroe Fulton, Co. F, 28th Illinois Infantry, whom he honored with his membership in the SUVCW.

Brother Strader served as the third Commander for the Department of Kansas from April 2000 to April 2001. He had previously served as Camp Commander of Patrick Coyne Camp 1.

Brother Kenny Strader was a member of Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita, and he was very active in the camp until his illness began to slow him down. He also had been active in reenacting and first person Civil War presentations.

Brother Strader will be remembered for his desire to honor the Union veterans of the Civil War. His friendly and pleasant personality always warmed a room. The Department and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will miss him, but we know he will be with us in spirit whenever “boys in blue” gather.

The following obituary was published in the Wichita Eagle on December 5, 2005:

ARGONIA - Strader, Kenneth "Kenny", 67, retired farmer, died Dec. 3, 2005. Visitation 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon & Tues, at Day Funeral Home, Argonia. Service 11am Wed, Argonia United Methodist Church. Survivors: sister, Anna Hill of Plains; nephews & nieces, Jim Strader & wife Nancy of Wellington, Mike Strader & wife Deeta of Wichita, Russell Strader & wife Pam of Houston, Texas, Rita Figg & husband Scott of Argonia, Robert Strader & wife Denise of Dodge City, Rebecca Marcom & husband Mike of Midland, Texas, Ronald Strader of Houston, Texas, Elaine Johnson & husband David of Leawood, Brenda Sylvester & husband Randall of Ponca City, Okla, Deborah Benjamin & husband Jack of Plains, Kathryn Haynes & husband Curtis of Hugoton, Jeffrey Hill of Nashville, Tenn; numerous great nieces and nephews. Memorials to Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp, 404 North Walnut St., Peabody, Kansas 66866, Salter House Museum, 210 N. Main, Argonia, Kansas 67004.

PAST CAMP COMMANDER

Past Camp Commander is more than a statement of past service. It is one of the Honors of the Order which is awarded to a brother who has satisfactorily served as a camp commander. A brother who has been awarded this honor is permitted to use the designation, “P.C.C.”, and wear the Past Camp Commander badge.

The regulations of the Order state: “Brothers who have served a full term as Camp Commander or who have been elected to fill an unexpired term and who served until the end of that term



are authorized to wear the Past Camp Commander badge and use the suffix P.C.C. in conjunction with their name. This badge shall have the ribbon of the membership badge, without top bar and the drop shall be the iron cross of the Order, with the insignia of the Order affixed in the center of the iron cross.” Both hereditary members and associates may become Camp Commanders, and, as such, both are eligible to become Past Camp Commanders.

The Past Camp Commander badge is classified as a Group B badge. Group B badges have been designated as a “Badge of the Order.” As such, it may be worn with the Membership Badge (Group A badges) or by itself.

Past Camp Commanders in good standing within the Department have “automatic” membership status to Annual Department Encampments. They attend the encampments as voting members, and do not count against the maximum delegate strength for a camp.

The following current brothers of the Department of Kansas hold the honor of Past Camp Commander:

Franklin C. Bergquist	Camp 1	Wichita
Boris N. Bulatkin	Camp 1	Wichita
Jeffrey L. Dunaway	Camp 16	Topeka
Randal L. Durbin	Camp 16	Topeka
James R. Knopke	Camp 16	Topeka
Roy A. Lafferty	Camp 4	Lawrence
Douglas E. McGovern	Camp 1	Wichita
Kim L. Nelson	Camp 3	Beloit
Kyle A. J. Peterson	Camp 3	Beloit
Alan L. Russ	Camp 16	Topeka
James A. Scheidel, Jr.	Camp 1	Wichita
Thomas E. Schmidt	Camp 1	Wichita
Douglas E. Smith	Camp 1	Wichita
Dean K. Speaks	Camp 3	Beloit
Kenneth R. Spurgeon	Camp 1	Wichita
Craig A. Sundell	Camp 4	Lawrence
Randall M. Thies	Camp 16	Topeka

To these Past Camp Commanders we say, “Thank you” for stepping forward when you did to accept the responsibility of being Camp Commander. Each of these brothers has his own stories of personal rewards and satisfaction received, and all have earned the honor of P.C.C.

DUES ARE DUE

This is a reminder to everyone in the Department of Kansas that camp dues are payable to your camp by March 1, 2006. Contact your camp secretary or camp commander for the amount and details about where to send them.

NEW MEMBERS

The following are brothers who have joined the Department between October 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005. We extend a hearty “Welcome” to all!

Jake E. Brelsford	Member	Camp 5, Olathe
Jason E. Brelsford	Member	Camp 5, Olathe
Tyler J. Brelsford	Junior	Camp 5, Olathe
Bruce M. Bronson	Member	Camp 5, Olathe
James M. Converse	Member	Camp 5, Olathe
Robert J. Enright	Member	Camp 5, Olathe
Philip W. Gibbens, Jr.	Associate	Camp 5, Olathe
George S. Massie	Member	Camp 5, Olathe

(continued on next page)

C. Brandon Mills	Member	Camp 5, Olathe
Chase Mills	Junior	Camp 5, Olathe
Verle L. Olson	Member	Camp 5, Olathe
Tim A. Rues	Member	Camp 1, Wichita
Timothy J. Simon	Member	Camp 1, Wichita
Daniel W. Stillely	Junior	Camp 5, Olathe
William D. Stillely	Member	Camp 5, Olathe
Audie L. Strotkamp	Member	Camp 1, Wichita
Matthew G. Toll	Member	Camp 5, Olathe
R. Michael Weldon	Associate	Camp 5, Olathe
Timothy R. Weldon	Associate	Camp 5, Olathe
LeRoy M. Wiles	Member	Camp 1, Wichita

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Membership as of December 31, 2005:

	Members	Assoc.	Juniors	Total
01-Corp. Coyne	61	1	1	63
03-Joseph Gaston	4	1	0	5
04-Sgt. Churchill	15	1	0	16
05-Franklin	13	3	4	20
06-Mine Creek	23	2	1	26
16-Old Abe	21	0	0	21
Total	137	8	6	151

Dual members are only counted in their primary camp.

THE AMERICAN'S CREED

On a spring day in 1917, as the United States was headed inevitably toward war with Germany, William Tyler Page, then the clerk of the House of Representatives, sat down and penned the only formal prose he is known to have written:

"I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

"I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

Page's patriotic prose was composed as an entry in a national writing contest, held to establish a creed for all Americans. The national creed was to be a brief summary of the American political faith founded upon things fundamental in American history and tradition. Page was not alone in his expression of patriotism; news of the contest generated more than three thousand entries from across the country. Contest judges selected Page's entry as "the best summary of the political faith of America."

James H. Preston, the mayor of Baltimore, presented an award to Page in the House of Representatives Office Building on April 3, 1918. Ten days later, Congress officially adopted Page's writing as "The American's Creed".

In just one hundred words, Page summarized both the American political tradition and the responsibilities of every citizen to his or her government. The American's Creed used passages and phrases from the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and Daniel Webster's reply to Robert Y. Hayne in the Senate in 1830.

William Tyler Page was a descendant of John Page, who had come to America in 1650 and had settled in Williamsburg, Virginia. Another ancestor, Carter Braxton, had signed the Declaration of Independence. Another well-known ancestor was John Tyler, the tenth president of the United States. William Tyler Page had come to Washington at the age of thirteen to serve as a Capitol Page. Later he became an employee of the Capitol and served as Clerk of the House of Representatives until 1931. A new post, Emeritus

Minority Clerk, was then created for him which he occupied until his death on October 20, 1942.

Page said of the Creed: "It is the summary of the fundamental principles of the American political faith as set forth in its greatest documents, its worthiest traditions, and its greatest leaders."

From suvcw.org/creed.htm

GAR "KETTLE" CANNON

Newton GAR Post and Its Cannon

The following article is reprinted from the *Kansas State Historical Society* website < www.kshs.org >. Used with permission. Thanks to Brother Blair Tarr for his assistance with the article. All photographs are courtesy of the *Kansas State Historical Society*.



Recycling is an excellent way to re-use materials, but over a century ago it cost the wife of one veteran a good brass kettle.

After the Civil War, a group of Union army veterans in Kansas wanted a cannon to fire salutes at Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations. Unable to locate one, the veterans instead solicited contributions of scrap brass to cast a new gun. It appears the metal was not always given up willingly. One housewife in Newton, Kansas, discovered that her large preserving kettle had disappeared. She learned much later that her husband, forever loyal to the Union cause, had confiscated the kettle. It is now part of the cannon pictured here.

This cannon belonged to members of the Judson Kilpatrick Post No. 36, Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The GAR was a veterans organization for Union soldiers and sailors. Local posts were established throughout the country, and by 1880 the GAR was a well organized fraternity with over 360,000 members nationwide. It served as a powerful lobby for veteran interests, providing homes and funds for soldiers' widows and orphans, and care for disabled and elderly veterans.



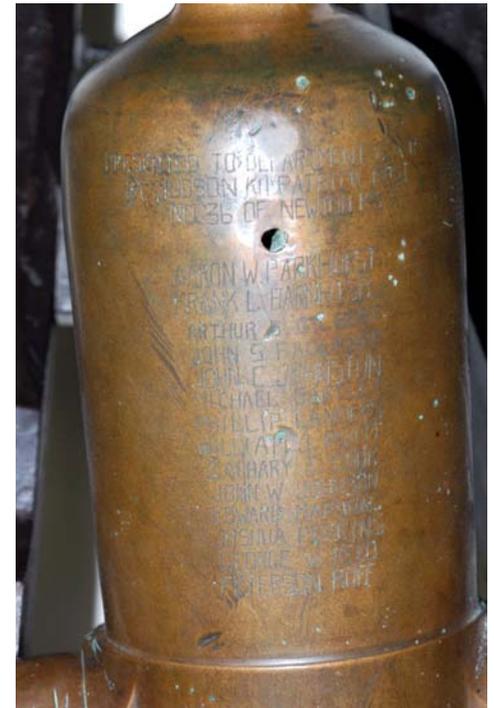
The Kansas Department of the GAR claimed 19,000 members in 478 posts by the end of the 1880s. The organization founded soldiers' homes at Leavenworth and Fort Dodge, as well as an orphanage in Atchison. The GAR also was instrumental in constructing a Memorial Building in downtown Topeka. Upon its completion in 1914, the building became the home of both the GAR and the Kansas State Historical Society.

The cannon was cast by GAR member Robert Denny in his foundry at Newton, Kansas. In addition to the brass kettle, it incorporated metal contributed by the Santa Fe Railroad. It was used by the Kilpatrick Post until 1931. At that year's annual encampment (reunion), the cannon was donated to the state department of the GAR by the post's surviving members. Department Commander E.W. Phillips thanked them for the transfer:

"Since this post was organized . . . it has enrolled nearly 300 comrades. Most of all of them shared in the pride they had in having a real home-made brass cannon. True, it had never killed anyone, but it has belched forth the defiant language of Kansas."

At that time, the fourteen remaining members of the Kilpatrick Post had their names engraved on the barrel, as follows:

Aaron W. Parkhurst, William J. Puit, Frank L. Barnhisel, Zachary T. Cook, Arthur B. Gilbert, John W. Johnson, John S. Faulkner, Edward Marshall, John C. Johnston Joshua Perkins, Michael Bartley, George W. Reed, Phillip Landers, and Peterson Roff.



Thereafter, the cannon was placed in the GAR Museum located in the Memorial Building in Topeka. The GAR eventually passed out of existence along with the last Union army veteran, and the objects from its museum were absorbed into the collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, which now operates the Kansas Museum of History.

BATTLEFIELD DISPATCHES

Compiled and edited by Arnold Schofield

Battlefield Dispatches is a new column featuring original documents from the era of "Bleeding Kansas" (1854-1861) and the Civil War (1861-1865) west of the Mississippi River. It will be submitted periodically and includes commentary by Kansas State Historical Society Historian Arnold W. Schofield who is the Superintendent of the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site near Pleasanton, Kansas. If you have any questions or would like to donate copies of any applicable historic letters, dairies or photographs to Mine Creek Battlefield SHS, please contact Superintendent Schofield by telephone at (913)352-8890 or by email at minecreek@kshs.org. Please note any text enclosed in [BRACKETS] is part of the commentary and was not part of the original document.

**Reminiscences of
Pvt. William F. Nichols
Co. A, 11th Ks. Vol. Cav. Regt.**

[Private William F. Nichols served with Co. A of the 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry Regiment for approximately 18 months from February 13, 1864 – Sept. 25, 1865. During this time, he participated in patrolling the Kansas and Missouri Border, Jayhawking in Missouri, escort duty from Fort Scott, Kansas to Fort Smith, Arkansas, the Battles of Little Blue, Big Blue, Westport and Fort Lincoln. After the pursuit of Price's Army in October and November 1864, the 11th Kansas was transferred to Fort Kearney, Nebraska, Fort Laramie, Upper Platte Bridge and Fort Halleck, Wyoming Territory where it guarded the Overland Stage Route, delivered mail and skirmished with the Cheyenne and Sioux Indians. Throughout his memoir, Pvt Nichols describes both the tragic and humorous aspects of "Army Life" in camp, on the march and in battle. This memoir was written by Pvt Nichols in 1910 when he was living in Colorado Springs Colorado.]

[Joining Up]

"W. F. Nichols Co. A. 11 Kansas Cavalry. Enlisted Feb. 13, 1864 at home on my mothers farm ½ mile east of Millwood, Leavenworth Co. / Kansas. Enrolled by Sergeant John H. Fenton of Co. A. 11 Ks. & was sent with T.M Nichols [W.F.'s Brother], Samuel P. Campbell, W. Scott Provo, Al Dubois, Uriah 'Pete' Ackley, W. A. Wellhouse, David R. Jay, A Powers and 3 Mexicans Antonio Arragon and Antonio & Jose Martinez to join the Co. at Shawnee Mission near Westport, Mo. Remained there a short/ time and was sent back to Fort Leavenworth under the command of Sgt. Fenton and Corporal John Hendrick with Hiram Miller as Mule Skinner [Driver of a Mule Team]. During the time we were in Leavenworth being mustered our Co. was ordered to Aubry, Johnson County Ks. and on being mustered Mar. 16, 1864 we were sent to join the Co. at that point where active service at once began.

[Jayhawking in Missouri]

["Jayhawking" consisted of robbing, stealing and / or murdering civilians during the Civil War and was committed by both "Union" and "Confederate" soldiers. It was especially prevalent in the eastern counties of Kansas and the entire state of Missouri.]

[Active service consisted of], "regular camp duty, an occasional raid into Mo. (3 miles form Camp) to hunt hogs and steal a wagonload of [fence] rails. We were allowed to take the 2 top rails and as to hogs, any that were not too poor to skin. There being no residents in that part of the State (Mo.) at that time as the Rebels had first control and had driven out all Union Sympathizers, then the "Feds" gained possession and drove out all Southern Sympathizers so that it was easy for us to get apples, fresh meat and a few rails for kindling".

[Hard Duty]

[During the summer of 1863, especially after Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Ks. on August 21st, the Union Army established a line of permanent camps from Kansas City to Baxter Springs that were approximately 12 – 20 miles apart to assist in the defense of Kansas. Each camp normally had a garrison of 75 –100 cavalry soldiers who patrolled in small squads from camp to camp.]

"The hardest part of our duty during the summer of "64" was patrol work N.E. [North East] from Audbry to Little Santa Fe to the Camp of Co. K 11 Ks. and south to Cold Water Grove [due east of Paola, Ks.] to the Camp of Co. B, 15th Ks. looking for BUSHWHACKERS AND HOPING WE WOULD NOT FIND THEM."

[Battle of Lexington: October 19, 1864]

"Early in the fall of 64 we were ordered under marching orders to Warrensburg, Mo. where we met Price's Advance (Oct. 16, 64), and were then hurried by

way of Hickman's Mills to Lexington (Oct. 18, 64), where Co. A was detailed for picket duty, 3 miles east of Lexington on the road Price was expected to come in on, but instead of coming our way his main force passed south of us and entered the city (Oct. 19, 64) cutting us off from the regiment. Late P.M. a courier got to us with orders to make our way to the west as best we could. When we reached the southern part of town a regiment of Price's troops passed North only a block in front of our Co. (and the City as far north as we could see was full of them) when we reached the street they were on an Officer (Rebel) rode back and toward us and asked what troops we were and before our Captain could answer, Private Geo. Edwards turned out of ranks and with his Carbine shot the officer off his horse; then we had to go some until we overtook the regiment and in fact we kept moving west until we reached Little Blue [Creek] where we burned the bridge & went into Camp."

[Battle of Little Blue: October 21, 1864]

"Next morning made a killing of a band of sheep and were roasting meat when Pap Price finished his ford and began pushing his men across the Blue (Oct 21, 64), which broke into our cooking and being in ill humor we gave them about as hard a fight as they had struck for sometime, but as they out numbered us about 6 or 7 to 1 we had to get for the West, where we were continually meeting re-enforcements."

[Battle of Big Blue: October 22, 1864]

"On reaching Big Blue we made another stand and forced the enemy to make a crossing (Oct. 22, 64) of the Creek to the south and to scatter their forces so that we were able to hold them in check until the following day (Oct. 23, 64)".

[Battle of Westport: October 23, 1864]

"General Pleasanton overtook them and with Carbines strapped to their saddles came on them in a Saber Charge, which spoiled all plans. The next day (Sunday, Oct. 23, 64) was the hardest day for both sides, but being greatly re-enforced we beat them and turned them South."

[The Battle of Westport was a decisive Union victory which caused Confederate Commanding General Sterling Price to abandon his plans to attack Kansas City & Fort Leavenworth, and to advance southwest into the enemy state of Kansas to create as much havoc & destruction as possible.

One of the most direct ways for officers to deliver both verbal & written orders during a Civil War battle was to use a messenger mounted on horseback Very often, the couriers or dispatch bearers were killed or became lost in the confusion of the battle which is what happened to Pvt. Nichols after the Battle of Westport.]

[Battlefield Courier]

"On Monday morning (Oct. 24, 64) I had my first experience as a dispatch bearer. While we were skirmishing on the west of Brush Creek, we from an elevation, saw Price's forage train reaching several miles to the South in full retreat. Lieut. Thornton detailed me to report to Blunts field headquarters which he pointed out to me as best he could about 2 miles away and to the N.E. [Northeast] and I to make good time, took as straight a course as I could, When about half way and passing a grove of black oak saplings on the side of a steep hill, (I being at the foot of the hill) a volley from some 2 or 3 hundred Rebels was fired at me from the top of the hill about 100 yards away. One or 2 bullets struck low enough, one struck my bridle rein and the other struck my Poncho which was strapped to the back of my saddle and passing through the roll endwise. The tops of the trees and down hill shooting fooled them. I returned the favor [shooting] as best I could & soon run into our own troops and was not reaching headquarters."

[Skirmish at Fort Lincoln: October 25, 1864]

"On my return I was more fortunate as Co. A was held to the extreme right as a Scouting Party until we reached Fort Scott. At Fort Lincoln [located approximately 3 miles west of present Fulton, Kansas on the north bank of the Little Osage River] while on skirmish duty the Rebel skirmishers were behind a rail fence about 300 yards away and all seemed to be firing at the flag. Our Ensign Sgt. Slane told me to dismount and drive them out of the fence corner; my 2nd shot started them, one of their number being supported by 2 comrades."

[AMATEUR ARTILLERYMAN
at Fort Scott: October 26, 1864]

"The following morning found us in Fort Scott. The prisoners (among whom was Generals Marmaduke & Cabell) and guns and equipage captured at Mine Creek or Trading Post were coming in; among other things was a 6 gun Battery of 18 Pound Brass field Guns, They [were] driven in two and the harness cut from the horses leaving the guns standing in the street. A young fellow who had evidently saw a Cannon undertook to explain how the guns were handled and finding the Lanyard and a Primer, he inserted the Primer, hooked the Lanyard in the ring of the primer and pulled. (He didn't know it was loaded), this particular gun had been taken "Charged"; fortunately there was no person directly in front of it and it being standing almost Parallel with the street there was no damage done until the shot was well out of town when it struck the corner of a brick house, knocking out a cart load or more of bricks & mortar. "The Amateur/ Gunner took a walk."

[Pursuit to the Arkansas River]

"We were ordered to follow Price's trail and overtook him at Newtonia, Mo. and went into Camp within ½ mile of Price's Camp; during; the night we received orders to fall back 6 miles and rest our horses for 2 days when we again took up the Chase; we overtook them again at Webber Ford on the Arkansas River near Fort Gibson, I. T. [Indian Territory; now Oklahoma] and after firing a few shells at their rear guard we went into Camp in a very heavy rain, my bed was composed of 2 fence rails and I was taking a fever. I put in a bad night, we had neither blankets or tents."

[Sharpshooter Delirious with Fever]

"Next morning we started to Fort Smith for supplies, but as to how I got there, I never knew as the fever had the best of me; the first I knew, I was in Camp on the north side of the river near Fort Smith laying on a saddle blanket with a cavalry saddle for a pillow and hearing pistol shots and someone to say if "Nix was able to Pull a gun he could hit it." I turned my head and saw they were shooting at a goose's head as it walked by about 40 yards away. I drew my favorite revolver (a Colt 36 caliber octagon barrel Navy) and at the first shot cut the goose's head off and remembered nothing more for several days."

[Unpopular Surgeon]

"During that time Regimental Surgeon Underwood heard of me and sent word by Lieut. Joe L. Thornton for me to report next morning at Headquarters. When sick call was blown. I told the Lieut. to tell him to go to the place the Bible says is never very cold and that if he came near me with his blue pills I would shoot him so full of lead that some prospector would be likely to locate a Lead Claim on him. Lieut. Told him I was crazy with fever and would do just what I said and that I was the best revolver shot in the Regiment. I heard no more from Dr. Underwood."

[Hitching a Ride & Jayhawking Rations]

"After leaving Camp what seemed an age to me, we were ordered back to Kansas. I had barely got strong enough to stand alone when we started north. We were furnished a few old worn out mules & wagons to haul our rations. One of Co. A. (Uriah Ackley) was detailed to drive [the] team and into his wagon I crept for a ride and could have rode to Fort Scott only my propensity

(continued on next page)

for foraging. On the 2nd day out from Fort Smith some of the boys asked what was in the wagon. I told them Hard Tack and Bacon. I was Brevetted Commissary Sergeant by them and they began handing in their Haversacks and I filling and handing them out. It was several days before the wagonmaster found us out, but when he did, it was not long until I found myself out "With very emphatic Orders to Stay Out." After that I walked (when the Boss was about)!"

[A fate worse than Death]

"I remember I walked the day we reached Cabin Creek and that I saw the skeletons of our two lead scouts who were a day ahead of the Command and had been killed by Bushwhackers and EATEN by WOLVES. A detail was sent back to bury their Bones."

[Rations on the Wing]

"We had been in Camp, but a short time when a Prairie Chicken dropped down within 30 yards of our Camp. It had hardly struck the ground until I had my Revolver leveled. I shot its head off and in a few minutes an Orderly rode up and he said Colonel Moonlight would be pleased to see the soldier who fired the shot at Headquarters. I told him I was on sick report and was not able to walk that distance. In a few minutes the Col. made me a short call. I told him I had heard the order read that evening that there should be no shooting, but when the chicken dropped so close and that my mess was out of rations, I forgot orders. He let me off after giving me to understand it was because I was sick and out of grub."

[Home Cooked Rations]

"When we arrived at Fort Scott, Ks., we were entirely out of rations. We went into camp a short distance south of town and of course we nearly all went to town to try for a square meal. The citizens done their best for us and we went to Camp with our belts let out from one to 4 holes."

[Pig Stealing]

"While on my way to camp I saw a trick played on a farmer who had brought a dressed hog to town for sale. It was after dark and the man was standing holding his team in front of a store waiting for the dealer to come and see the pork when two soldiers came up and asked his price. One of them took hold of the hogs head as if to see how it was dressed and before the man realized what was going on they jerked the Pig weighing about 100 lbs. out of his wagon and was gone with it. The night was rather dark at the time, but in a very few minutes it turned a deep indigo Blue for at least 2 blocks around, but as he could not leave his team all he could do was to stand there and Curse the soldiers."

[Sleeping in Snow & Stealing Apples]

At Mound City we met the worst Blizzard I ever was out in and although we Camped out in the open having no tents and very few blankets no one froze. At Paola Ks., the night we camped there, an Illinois Regt. stole about 100 bushels of Apples out of a storeroom without going inside. They cut a hole in the floor and carried them out in haversacks. There was an old unused cellar under the store and of course "a soldier to find it."

[Westward Bound]

"At Olathe, we found our Capt. (H.E. Palmer) and the remainder of our Co. having formed a stragglers camp with Orders to march to Fort Riley. All who had been on the Price Raid were given a furlough to go by way of home; others to go via of Lawrence direct to Fort Riley. At Riley we established Camp west of the Fort near the Crossing of the Republican River on the road leading to Junction City. Late in February 1865 we had refitted and resumed our March west or rather to the N. W. [North West] up the Republican crossing over to Fort Kearney [Nebraska] on the Platte River, up the Platte to Julesburg where we forded the River and went into Camp near where the U.P.R.R. now crosses Pole Creek."

[Fatal River Crossing & Bucking Bronc]

"Our forage train Crossing after us lost a 6 Mule team and loaded wagon. The mules balked and sunk in

the quicksand in 30 minutes from the time they stopped, wagon & mules were entirely out of sight. We crossed the river, using the North Platte Valley, below Chimney Rock, our route then lay up the river by way of Scott's Bluff to Fort Laramie where we drew 3 months rations and pushed on for what was known as the upper Platte Bridge. On the way (at Chaparral Creek) I had the ill luck to do what no one else ever did, that is, to shoot myself; I was, as usual, riding a bucking horse and as we were about going into Camp he began Pitching and caused the hammer of my revolver to strike on my Carbine, the bullet passed through several coils of a lariat I carried tied on my saddle and glanced angling across the Calf of my leg and lodging in my boot; this let me off duty 2 or 3 weeks."

[Killed by Indians]

"At the bridge we had an easy time until the / Sioux began to work south when we were sent / on a ten days Scout on the Powder River under Major Bridger as chief of Scouts coming back by Independence Rock and Devils Gate on the Sweetwater and although we found no Indians we found plenty of game; Elk, Deer, Antelope, Bear and Buffalo. We had been back at the bridge but a short time when a detail from Co. A. was sent on a scouting trip to the lower Bridge about 30 miles down the river; they found a small band of Cheyenne and in the fight we lost our first man killed by Indians. George Glidden of Easton, Kansas. He had always happened to be on sick Report or detached service at the time of a fight and had never been in an engagement of any kind and was not detailed to go on the trip, but traded places with one of the detail and was killed by the first shot fired.

[Fatal Fishing Trip]

"Shortly after we were ordered over south on the Bridger's Pass Stage road going back down the North Platte by way of Fort Laramie and / west up the Laramie River to Fort Halleck. Before reaching Laramie (at Deer Creek) we lost our / second man. Silas Henshaw of Jackson Co., Mo. had gone about 200 yards from Camp fishing when 3 Indians crept up and shot him with arrows and although mortally wounded he made a brave fight. He drew his 44 [Caliber] revolver and the first shot killed one of their horses, the next wounded an Indian when they made their getaway. Before help got to him, he died in about 24 hours.

[Stagecoach Mail Delivery]

Co. A was scattered. 8 men at a station from Medicine Bow 8 miles east of [Fort] Halleck to Sulphur Springs 8 miles west of Bridger's Pass. I was stationed at Pine Grove, 8 miles East of Bridger's Pass. Co. M of the 11th Kas. was stationed from the first station west of Vyes Road Ranch (Sulphur Spring) to Green River. Our duty was to not only guard the stage from one end to the other of our line, but to haul it, as all the stage horses had been run off by the Indians before we got there. 4 of us must put our Cavalry horses on the stage and ride on the stage, the other 4 on horseback no passengers taken, only letter mail.

[Last Fatality & Galvanized Yankees]

"We lost but one man after we reached Fort Halleck. Sergeant H. C. Gale in command at Medicine Bow Station was shot from ambush when he was within 100 feet of the station door by a French Renegade, on July 5, 1865. Late in the fall of 1865 we were relieved by troops [prisoners] who had been recruited from Military Prisons [Galvanized Yankees: former Confederate soldiers] with the understanding they were not fight the rebels, but would be sent to the mountains. Our last shot at an Indian was at Virginia Dale about 35 miles N.W. [Northwest] of Camp Collins. It was long range shooting [&] no damage was done that we know of."

[Homeward Bound]

"We were then on our way to Fort Kearney, Neb. by way of [Fort] Laramie, Plains, Virginia Dale, La Porte, Greeley, Fremont's Orchard, Julesburg and down the Platte River to [Fort] Kearney where we turned in our Horses, Arms, and Equipments and made our way on

foot via / Marysville, Onaga and Holton, Kansas to Fort Leavenworth where we were mustered out within 1/2 mile of where the Regiment mustered in 3 years before.

W. F. Nichols,
Colorado Springs, Col.
18 East 2nd Street, Ivywild.
Apr. 4, 1910

In 1910, William F. Nichols was living in Colorado Springs, Colorado and was a Member of the George H. Thomas Post No. 7, Department of Colorado & Wyoming of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was formerly a member of the Sumter Post No. 168 of Winchester, Kansas and was also a charter member of Jim Laird Post No. 77 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

During the Civil War, William F. Nichols and his brother Thomas Nichols served as Privates in Company A, of the 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. Another brother, Benjamin L. Nichols served in Company E of the 16th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. On December 10, 1872; William F. Nichols married Mrs. Indiana Gale in Leavenworth county, Kansas. Mrs. Gale was the widow of Sgt. Henry C. Gale who served in company A of the 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry who was killed in action at Medicine Bow, Wyoming Territory on July 5, 1865.

"Lincoln Remembered" 2005

Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1

The Wichita camp's annual fundraiser, "Lincoln Remembered" was held on Saturday, Nov 12 at the DAV Clubhouse in Wichita. Almost 80 people were in attendance at the event. The hall was decorated in red, white and blue for the occasion. There were plenty of great food dishes supplied by the camp members for the meal.

For the program after the meal, Tim Rues, a member of the Leocompton re-enactors group, who portrays James Lane, gave a rousing first person speech as Lane. His talk concerned his unique relationship with Mr. Lincoln, the state of affairs in Kansas, and, of course, Mr. Lane. The program was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After James Lane, Abraham Lincoln re-enactor, Loren Ratzloff, delivered a wonderful rendition of "The Gettysburg Address". The color guard then retired the colors and another successful "Lincoln Remembered" came to a close.

At the event, the camp raffled off a framed Mine Creek print, with the money that was raised to go the Mine Creek bridge project expenses. A total of \$225 in raffle tickets were sold and the money turned over to the Department of Kansas. The camp had a raffle of their own, as well, and tickets for the event were \$5 per person. The camp uses the funds from this event for a variety camp projects over the course of year.

Planning is already taking place for the next one, which will take place in November 2006.

Internal Revenue Service: Feb. 27, 2002 Letter from the National Counselor The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Internal Revenue Service

Several Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Brothers have called over the past few weeks with questions about charitable contributions to the Order. I have done some research into the Internal Revenue Code and the various publications of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The dues each Brother pays to his Camp are not tax deductible (see page 163 of the 2001 edition of IRS Publication 17). You cannot take any type of deduction for your time in participating in activities of the Order, but you can deduct your out of pocket expenses (be sure

to keep receipts to prove these expenses). The rules for out of pocket expenses include that these expenses must be un-reimbursed, incurred because of direct connection with participating in an SUVWC activity, expenses you incurred only because of participating in an SUVWC activity, and not part of your personal living or family expenses. Purchasing and maintaining special clothing is deductible if the clothing is necessary so you can participate in an activity, it is not suitable for every day use, and you must actually wear the clothing to participate in the activity (Sons of Veterans Reserve activities qualify here, as does Camp and/or Department guards).

You can also deduct 14 cents per mile for your travel to and from activities of the Order. Be sure to keep a specific log, that includes the date, beginning mileage, ending mileage, number of miles, and a description of the activity you participate in. I encourage each Brother to obtain a copy of Publication 17, as it is of great assistance in helping you prepare your tax return. It is full of useful information and surprisingly easy to read.

Any donation to a Camp, Department, or any fund of the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, is fully tax deductible. IRS Publication 78 lists all of the organizations that are designated by the IRS, who can receive tax deductible donations. Upon checking the 2001 edition of this publication in writing this article, the SUVWC is still so listed as such an organization.

You can also obtain a scanned copy of the IRS letter to the National Organization by accessing the [IRS Letter of Determination](#) on the Orders Web Site. This letter confirms that any donations to the Order are tax deductible. This document is available in a graphic (jpg) format and can be printed off your computer.

James B. Pahl

National Counselor, SUVWC
February 27, 2002

Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address Saturday, March 4, 1865

Fellow-Countrymen:

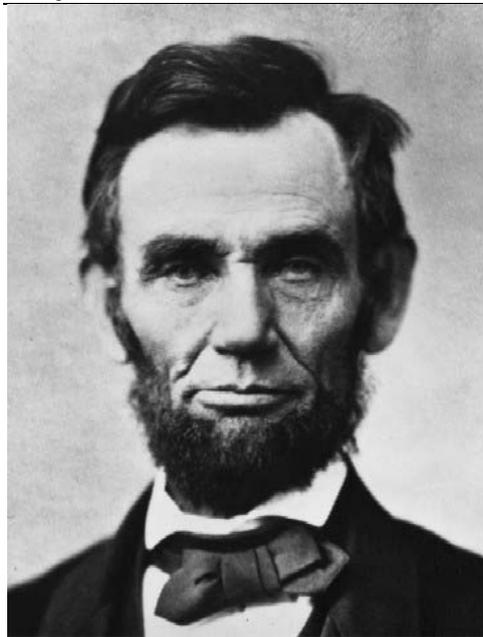
At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement somewhat in detail of a course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, urgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war--seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it.

Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.



Abraham Lincoln

February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865
16th President of the United States of America



Memorials Officer

Douglas E. McGovern, PCC

Kansas Civil War

Memorial/Monument Catalog

The current listing (24 July, 2005) has generated numerous positive comments and questions and has

resulted in many new inputs. Additionally, pictures from the Kansas State Historical Society and the Smithsonian Save Outdoor Sculpture have added more. There are now on the order of 200 separate listings that are in process of being cataloged. A new update of the website is scheduled (hopefully) for late December.

Now is the time to submit any of those photos that are still laying around!

Doug McGovern

Civil War Memorials Officer



Graves Registration

Franklin C. Bergquist, PCC

Looking for Civil War Soldiers?

Looking for your Civil War soldier? Try the VA on line. The burial locations of more than 5 million veterans for whom the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has provided grave markers are now available on the Internet, as well as the information inscribed on the markers.

On line since April 2004, the nationwide gravesite locator < <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov> > helps veterans' families, former comrades-in-arms, and others find the graves of veterans.

VA recently added 1.9 million records for veterans buried primarily in private cemeteries to its database. The gravesite locator previously carried records on 3 million veterans buried in VA national cemeteries since the Civil War, and in state veterans cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery since 1999.

"The expansion of this innovative program continues VA's commitment to using Internet technology to fulfill the important mission of memorializing our nation's veterans," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "By adding records to our online database, VA also helps families research their genealogy and ensures that future generations of Americans will be able to honor these veterans for their service."

The new records date from January 1997, the earliest time for which electronic records exist. The information comes from applications made for these veterans' headstones or markers. Beyond the 5 million records now available, VA continues to add approximately 1,000 new records to the database each day.

Last year, VA furnished nearly 369,000 inscribed headstones and markers for veterans' graves worldwide.

Internet users only need to provide the last name of the deceased veteran or dependent. Typically, the information available includes name, birth and death dates, rank, branch of service and the address and phone number of the cemetery.

Veterans whose discharges are other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children may be buried in a national cemetery, regardless of where they live. No advance reservations are made. VA provides perpetual care, as well as a headstone or marker, a burial flag and a memorial certificate to survivors.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from a VA Web site at www.cem.va.gov <<http://www.cem.va.gov>> by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

Franklin C. Bergquist

Graves Registration Officer



Patriotic Instructor

Craig A. Sundell, PCC

February will soon be upon us again. With it comes the birthdays of two of our greatest American Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The following is a quote from Lincoln to the small crowd gathered on Feb. 11, 1861, as he boarded the train in Springfield, Illinois, which took him to our nation's capitol to become President:

(continued on next page)

"I go to assume a task more difficult than that which devolved upon Washington. Unless the great God who assisted him, shall be with and aid me, I must fail. But if the same omniscient mind and Almighty arm that directed and protected him, shall guide and support me, I shall not fail, I shall succeed. Let us all pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now."

These simple sentiments ring true to this day and notice how aptly Lincoln prays that WE not be forsaken. He would strive to protect Americans and the Republic in general, regardless of his personal reputation and safety.



Chaplain

Robert L. Wandel

Chaplains as

Medal of Honor Recipients

The last issue of the Sunflower Picket told the story of Chaplain John M. Whitehead, who was one of three chaplains to receive the Medal of Honor for heroic action during the Civil War. This article is about the other two.

Francis B. Hall

Francis B. Hall was born on November 16, 1827, in New York City, N.Y. LTC Franklin Palmer, commander of the 16th New York Infantry Regiment, became instrumental in 1862 in bringing from his hometown of Plattsburgh the Presbyterian Chaplain, Francis B. Hall. Chaplain Hall mustered in on October 17, 1862. At the Battle of Chancellorsville, May 1-3, 1863, at Salem Heights, Virginia, Chaplain Hall earned the Medal of Honor for voluntarily exposing himself to heavy fire during the thickest of the fight, and carrying wounded men to the rear for treatment and attendance. Hall mustered out on May 22, 1863. He returned home from the war to make Plattsburg, N.Y., his home. This is where he died on October 4, 1903. Chaplain Hall is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Plattsburg N.Y. The medal is in the collection of the house museum, the Kent DeLord Home in Plattsburgh.

Milton L. Haney

Milton L. Haney was born on January 23, 1825, in Savannah, Ohio. On October 31, 1861, he was commissioned as a captain with Co. F, 55th Illinois Infantry Regiment. Haney was later promoted to chaplain of the 55th Illinois Infantry. At Atlanta, Georgia on July 22, 1864 he was awarded the Medal of Honor for voluntarily carrying a musket in the ranks of his regiment and rendering heroic service in retaking the Federal works which had been captured by the enemy. Although he was born in Ohio he mustered in at Bushnell, Illinois, on December 2, 1864. Chaplain Haney died on January 20, 1922, in Pasadena, California. He is buried in the Mountain View Cemetery at Altadena, California.

Interesting facts about Chaplains of the Civil War.

There were approximately 3,000 chaplains in the Union forces. The largest number of chaplains serving at one time in the war was 930 regimental chaplains, 117 hospital chaplains and 32 post chaplains.

Sixty-six chaplains died in the service of their country during this conflict, including Chaplain U.P. Gardner of the 13th Kansas Infantry, who, after identifying himself as a chaplain, was shot down by a member of Quantrill's guerilla raiders on Nov. 22, 1864 in Cherokee County.

The first authorized Jewish chaplain in the U.S. Army, Rabbi Jacob Frankel of Philadelphia's Roden Shalom congregation, was commissioned by President Abraham Lincoln in September 1862. He served until July 1865.

Reverend Henry McNeal Turner is considered to be the first black chaplain in the U.S. Army. In 1863, Turner became the chaplain of the First Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops. He served until 1865.

Chaplains' duties in the Civil War encompassed many areas. Most important were the worship services they conducted in tents, outdoors, or around campfires. The themes of their sermons were either patriotism to the cause or admonitions against "evil" behavior, such as swearing, gambling, and drunkenness. Chaplains also performed counseling and comforted the sick and wounded. Among other chores assigned to chaplains were those of postmaster, writer of letters for wounded and dying soldiers, writer of letters telling of a soldier's death, banker, ambulance driver, defense counselor, and army recruiter.

Mrs. Ella E. Gibson Hobart, a member of the Religio-Philosophical Society of Saint Charles, Illinois served as the chaplain of the 1st Wisconsin Regiment of Heavy Artillery. Chaplain Hobart served in this position for a number of months in 1864, until Secretary of War Stanton refused to recognize her status because of her sex and the War Department's desire not to establish a precedents.

For more information, visit the usachcs.army.mil/history/brief history of USA Chaplain Corps.



Senior Vice Commander

Randal L. Durbin, PCC

In October, I attended the Central Region Association Conference in Lawrence and the organizational meeting of the Franklin Camp in Olathe and its Veterans Day ceremony on November 12.

During the quarter, I had the privilege to serve as Camp Organizer for the Mine Creek Camp No. 6. It is a great group and a camp with a lot of potential. The camp elected officers to serve through 2006 and will meet at the Mine Creek Visitors Center the third Sunday of each month (except December, July, and August). The meeting times will be at 1:00 PM.

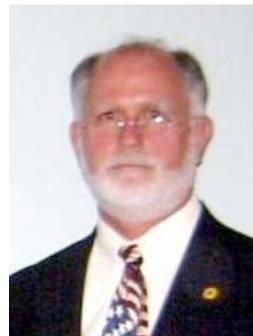
Respectfully submitted,
Randal L. Durbin, SVC, Dept of Ks



Commander's Corner

James R. Knopke, PCC

Happy New Year to all and where did 2005 go? As this past year wound down I was busy visiting all the camps and performing the installation of the new officers and staff members for each Camp. I started with Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1 in Wichita on the 17th of November. Next was Mine Creek Camp 6 at the Mine Creek Battlefield Site on the 20th of November. From there it was to Topeka for the installation of Old Abe Camp 16 on the 6th of December. Franklin Camp 5 was next on the 12th of December and Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 of Lawrence on the 15th of December leaving Joseph Gaston Camp 3 of Beloit to be done on the 29th of January 2006.



As I visited each Camp I was pleased to see that all Camps are now using the Opening and Closing Ceremony for their meetings. Not only does it give the meeting structure it also reminds us of what the SUVCW is all about. The Ritual and Ceremonies is what makes our organization unique and we should use them when ever possible.

Except for the Wichita Camp, the rest of the Camps are new or are in a transition stage. I want to remind all Camps that the Department is willing to help if called upon. One of the things that came out of the Fall Council meeting on November 19th is that we will have a training seminar for incoming officers and staff. This will be a program open to new officers and staff

members and any member that is interested in holding a position at Camp and State level. We felt that our numbers have grown to where this training would be of value to our members. This ideal was brought to us by Roy Lafferty, Camp Commander of the Lawrence Camp and I have asked him to set this program up. We hope to have our first seminar in February of '06. You will all be notified as to when and where it will take place.

In 2006 we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the restart of the Department of Kansas Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. With the rebirth started by Dean Speaks, PDC, we have grown from three Camps to six and from a small number of members to over 160 members. Let us make this year one that our Union relative would be proud of as we move forward to grow the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

CAMP NEWS

Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1 - Wichita

Camp Commander	Dale A. Rouse
Senior Vice Commander	Mark A. Britton
Junior Vice Commander	James P. Coyne
Secretary/Treasurer	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC

Camp meetings are held at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 George Washington Blvd. in Wichita. The meetings are held at 7 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month. The Camp does not meet in July, August or December.

Final plans for the Lincoln Remembered fundraiser were put together at the October 27th meeting. Brother Doug McGovern gave the Camp an update on the Monuments and Memorials site on the Department of Kansas website. He expects to double it in size with the new information that he has acquired. Also 2006 election of officers was held.

November was a busy month for the Patrick Coyne Camp. The newly formed Camp Color Guard was involved in Veteran's Day services at the Fox Theatre in Hutchinson and marched in the Veteran's Day parade in Wichita. The "Lincoln Remembered" fundraiser was held on November 12th with 72 people in attendance. Tim Rues from Lecompton gave a fine first person portrayal of Jim Lane. Also, Loren Ratzloff portrayed Abraham Lincoln and read the Gettysburg Address. With good food and great entertainment, the evening was a great success.

Officers were duly installed at the November 17th meeting. Department Commander Jim Knopke conducted the installation. 2006 officers are as follows:

Camp Commander	Dale L. Rouse
Senior Vice Commander	Mark A. Britton
Junior Vice Commander	James P. Coyne
Secretary/Treasurer	Thomas E. Schmidt
Camp Council	John H. Hartford
Camp Council	Kenneth Spurgeon
Camp Council	Douglas E. McGovern
The following Camp appointments were made:	
Chaplain	Mark A. Britton
Patriotic Instructor	Gary L. Wiles
Historian	Mike L. Halfman
Guide	Todd Meek
Color Bearer	Jon F. Birket
Counselor/Graves Registration	Frank Bergquest
Monuments & Memorials	Douglas McGovern
Program Chairman	Thomas E. Schmidt

Also, at the November meeting, the Camp decided to become involved in an overseas serviceman program. The Camp will be helping provide two current servicemen, who are in Iraq, with some basic items that they have requested.

Joseph Gaston Camp 3 - Beloit

Camp Commander	Kyle A. J. Peterson
Senior Vice Commander	H. Gail Pearson
Junior Vice Commander	Frederick J. Severance
Secretary/Treasurer	Dean K. Speaks, PDC



From L to R: Patriotic Instructor Craig A. Sundell, SVC H. Gail Pearson, Commander Kyle A. J. Peterson, Chaplain Kim L. Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer Dean K. Speaks, and JVC Frederick J. Severance.

Camp meetings are held quarterly at the Mitchell County Historical Museum, 402 W. 8th St., in Beloit.

The Camp held its quarterly meeting on Kansas Day, January 29, 2006, and installed officers for the year.

Sgt. S. J. Churchill Camp 4 - Lawrence

Camp Commander	Alan L. Van Loenen
Senior Vice Commander	Michael W. Anderson
Junior Vice Commander	Michael Hadl
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert L. Wandel



From L to R: Secretary/Treasurer Robert L. Wandel, SVC Michael W. Anderson, Commander Alan L. Van Loenen, and JVC Michael J. Hadl.

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

Over the past few months we have continued to locate graves in the Lawrence area. Several members attended the Mine Creek and Franklin camp initiations.

Our new camp officers for 2006 are Alan Van Loenen as Camp Commander, Mike Anderson as SVC, and Mike Hadl as JVC. Bob Wandel will continue to run the camp as Secretary-Treasurer.

We are beginning to plan for next year. Our speaker in January will be Kathy Lafferty, talking about Lawrence photographer Captain James B. Shane. We will also have speakers this year on Kansas and the Civil War; and a Lawrence resident's ancestor who survived Andersonville and the Sultana.

Franklin Camp 5 - Olathe

Camp Commander	James M. Converse
Senior Vice Commander	Matthew G. Toll
Junior Vice Commander	D. Curtis Rapue
Secretary/Treasurer	Everette T. Sitzman

Camp meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, beginning at 7 PM. Normally, meetings are held at the City offices, 100 E. Santa Fe.



Members of Franklin Camp 5 are initiated into the Order at the camp installation meeting on October 17, 2005. (Photo by Barb Knopke)

On November 12, 2005, Franklin Camp honored the veterans of the Civil War by conducting a memorial service at the GAR circle in Olathe cemetery.

Mine Creek Camp 6 - Pleasanton

Camp Commander	Arnold W. Schofield
Senior Vice Commander	Jeff D. Finn
Junior Vice Commander	Kenton E. Bell
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert E. Woody II

Camp meetings are held at the Mine Creek Battlefield Visitor Center, at 2 PM on the third Sunday of each month.

Col. John A. Martin Camp 8 (MAL)

Col. Martin Camp 8 has served as the Department Membership-at-Large camp for the last seven years. The Department elected to not utilize an MAL camp, but rather, to assign all members to an active camp. With the installation of Franklin Camp 5 and Mine Creek Camp 6, the last two MAL members have now been assigned to an active camp. Future issues of the Sunflower Picket will not carry information concerning Col. Martin Camp 8.

Old Abe Camp 16 - Topeka

Camp Commander	Randal L. Durbin
Sr Vice Commander	D. Darrel Gilliland
Jr Vice Commander	Delton Gilliland
Secretary/Treasurer	James R. Knopke, PCC



From L to R: Camp Commander Randal Durbin, SVC Darrel Gilliland, and Department Commander James Knopke.

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

The camp schedules work projects on the fourth Saturday of each month (March through October) at the Topeka Cemetery.

Officers elected and appointed for 2006 are:
 Randal L. Durbin, Commander
 Darrel Gilliland, SVC
 Delton Gilliland, JVC & Council
 James Knopke, PCC, Secretary/Treasurer
 Alan Russ, PDC, Chaplain & Council
 James McHenry, Patriotic Instructor & Council.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

HEADQUARTERS

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
 21733 W. 56th St., Shawnee, Kansas 66218-8407
 (913)422-4953, email: jknopke@everestks.net

DEPARTMENT ORDER 6 OCTOBER 17, 2005
 SERIES 2005-2006

INSTALLATION OF FRANKLIN CAMP NO. 5

1. It is my great pleasure as Department Commander to announce the installation of FRANKLIN CAMP NO. 5 as an active camp within the Department of Kansas. Installation of the camp is effective this date, subject to final approval by the Commander in Chief, SUVCW.
 2. As such, I commend the efforts of all involved in the process, including:

PCC Craig A. Sundell, Camp Organizer, for his work in bringing the camp together; and

The newly elected officers of the camp, for stepping up and taking a leadership role to ensure the future success of the camp.

2. It is through the efforts of all the brothers of the Department of Kansas that we have realized much success in growth within the Department, as exemplified by the installation of Franklin Camp No. 5. Thank you to all for your support.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

James R. Knopke, P.C.C.
 Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, P.D.C.
 Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

Department of Kansas

Tenth Annual Department Encampment

April 22, 2006

Topeka, Kansas

The Department of Kansas will be holding its Tenth Annual Department Encampment on Saturday, April 22, 2006, at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka. Old Abe Camp 16 is the host camp for the encampment.

Please put this date on your calendar, and begin making plans to attend. It is anticipated that the encampment will follow the same format as has been used the last several years, with a lunch available and a guest speaker. The business meeting will be held in the afternoon. Again, the Ladies of the GAR will be holding their Department Encampment in conjunction with ours.

125th National Encampment

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

August 10 through 13, 2006

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

In addition to this being the 125th National Encampment of the SUVCW, all other Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic will be holding their National Encampments with us. This will be the first time in over 50 years all orders have come together at the same time for their encampments.

The host hotel is the Hilton Harrisburg Towers in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Allied Orders combined banquet will be held at the National Civil War Museum.

In addition to the business meeting of the Order, activities include a tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield (minimum charge per person), 50th anniversary rededication of the GAR Memorial on the Gettysburg Battlefield (no charge – transportation provided), the Friday evening campfire, and the combined Allied Orders banquet.

There is a lot of Civil War related sites to see within a short distance of Harrisburg. Be sure to plan a little extra time before or after the encampment to take advantage of the area.

It is not too early to start planning. For additional information, watch upcoming issues of the Banner. You may also contact one of the Department Officers for additional information.

Central Region Association

Allied Orders of the G.A.R.

67th Annual Conference

October 7, 2006, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Department of Iowa will be hosting the 67th Annual Conference of the Central Region Association (CRA), Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the

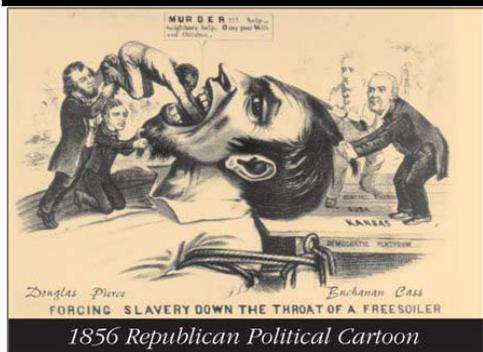
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Republic. This meeting will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2006.

The Central Region Conference provides an opportunity to meet and have discussions with the members of the Allied Orders who are your neighbors. It provides a great opportunity discuss and learn from common problems, along with working toward common solutions. We believe the CRA is rapidly getting to a place where it will be better able to help its member departments and orders.

The conference will be held at the Marriott, Cedar Rapids, located at 1200 Collins Road NE. This is the same hotel where the 2004 National Encampment of the SUVCW was held.

Additional information will be coming at a later time.



1856 Republican Political Cartoon

10th Annual Bleeding Kansas '06

The following series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent conflict over the slavery issue in Kansas Territory from 1854 through 1861 will be presented at the Constitution Hall State Historic Site in historic LeCompton, Kansas. All programs begin at 2 PM. Admission is FREE!

Feb 12 Edward Hoover, Prop. Kansas Territorial Press Museum, "A Newspaperman in Bleeding Kansas"

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

www.suvcwks.org

Feb 19 Ken Spurgeon & Jonathan Goering, Filmmakers, Lone Chimney Productions, "Touched By Fire: Bleeding Kansas"

Feb 26 Robert Collins, Historian & Author, "Dr. Blunt in Kansas Territory: Life of General James G. Blunt" talk followed by book signing

Mar 5 Diane Eickhoff, Biographer, "Revolutionary Heart: Clarina Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women's Rights" talk followed by book signing

For additional information, you may contact the Constitution Hall State Historic Site at (785)887-6520 or via internet at www.lecomptonkansas.com

THE LAST WORD

Alan L. Russ, PDC, Editor

Receive Your Sunflower Picket by Email

Would you rather receive your Sunflower Picket by email? We are offering this in an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs.

There are a couple of advantages to you. You will receive your issue two to five days earlier than by mail, and the pictures will be in color. The Department will save printing costs and postage (\$1.50 per copy printed and mailed).

If you would prefer to receive the Sunflower Picket by email, send an email to the Newsletter Editor and let him know. Email address is:

suvcwks16@mindspring.com

On the other hand, if your email provider does not allow attachments, or your system cannot handle attachments running from 200 KBytes to 750 KBytes (especially if you have a slow dialup connection) then this is not for you. If you want to continue receiving the Sunflower Picket by mail, take no action. You will continue to receive it as you currently do.

Next Issue

The Spring issue will be mailed by April 3, 2006. If you do not 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 **March 15, 2006**, 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



Read about the "Kettle" cannon beginning on page 2.

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