



The Sunflower Picket



www.suvcwks.org

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

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Department of Kansas Tenth Annual Department Encampment

April 22, 2006
11 AM – 5 PM
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 place this date on your calendar, and plan to attend. The schedule of events is as follows:

11:00 – 12:00 Program – “Bleeding Kansas to Abraham Lincoln” presented by Tom Goodrich (Tom will be available after the program for discussion and for you to purchase his books

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch – Cost is \$10.00. Barbeque meats from Boss Hawg’s BBQ, along with potato salad and baked beans.

1:30 – 2:00 Set up room for Encampment

2:00 – 5:00 Business Meeting. We will be recognizing our Past Department Commanders and conducting the business of the Department. This will include reports from the camps and Department officers, action on several proposed bylaws amendments, and the election and installation of officers for the next year.

All members of the Department are encouraged to attend the Encampment. If you are planning to attend, you need to notify your Department Commander or Secretary by April 14, both as to attending and whether or not you plan to eat the noon meal with us.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

This year, at our Department Encampment, we will be honoring the past commanders of our Department. Being a Past Department 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 department commander.

The regulations of the Order state: “Brothers who have served a full term as Department Commander or who have been elected to fill a vacancy and who served to the end of that term may wear the Past Department Commander badge and are entitled to use the suffix P.D.C. in conjunction with their name.” They attend the Department of Kansas encampments as voting members, and do not count against the maximum delegate strength for a camp. Likewise, they attend the National Encampment with “automatic” voting rights and do not count against the maximum delegate strength for the Department.



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

Name	Period	Home Camp
1. Dean K. Speaks	1996-1999	Camp 3
2. Franklin C. Bergquist	1999-2000	Camp 1
3. Kenneth D. Strader	2000-2001	Deceased
4. Randall M. Thies	2001-2002	Camp 16
5. Alan L. Russ	2002-2003	Camp 16
6. Kenneth R. Spurgeon	2003-2004	Camp 1
7. Thomas E. Schmidt	2004-2005	Camp 1

To these Past Department Commanders we say, “Thank you” for stepping forward when you did to accept the responsibility of being Department Commander. It is a demanding task, and each of these brothers can tell you about the satisfaction of helping guide the future of the Department. All have truly earned the honor of P.D.C.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Tentative Membership as of March 31, 2006:

	Members	Assoc.	Juniors	Total
01-Corp. Coyne	62	1	1	64
03-Joseph Gaston	4	1	0	5
04-Sgt. Churchill	18	3	0	21
05-Franklin(est.)	13	3	4	20
06-Mine Creek(est.)	16	1	1	18
16-Old Abe	22	0	0	22
Total	135	9	6	150

Dual members are only counted in their primary camp.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

All camps are reminded that Annual Reports (Forms 27 and 27D) must be submitted to the Department Secretary before the Annual Department Encampment. If you have any questions or need help in completing the reports, contact Department Secretary Alan Russ at the email address shown under Department Officers.

Mine Creek Bridge Project

Randal L. Durbin, PCC

In April 2005, members of the Department of Kansas constructed a twenty-three foot bridge over a tributary of Mine Creek. This structure enabled the battlefield to designate a circuitous route for a walking trail. The trail allows battlefield visitors to see important sites necessary to understand the battle. It also allows small vehicles to traverse the field for maintenance and for the transporting of disabled persons. A tour brochure has been published and is available at the Visitors Center for persons interested in the battle. The Kansas Department, through many means, raised the funds for the purchase of the bridge, which was paid in full this month. Thanks go to Jim and Barbara Knopke for their “cookie jars” which went a long way to raising the final funds to pay the cost of the bridge. Also, a special thanks goes to all brothers and camps who reached into their pockets to help pay for the bridge.

Soon, a plaque will be placed beside the bridge describing the efforts of the members of the Kansas Department. At the 2005 encampment, it was voted to name the bridge in honor of Lt. Colonel Frederick Benteen, whose forces successfully attacked rebel lines in the area near the bridge.

I hope members will take the opportunity to visit the battlefield and take pride in the bridge that is so important to the interpretation of the battle.



Memorials Officer

Douglas E. McGovern, PCC

Kansas Civil War

Memorial/Monument Catalog

The combination of additional references, photos from individuals trips, and just driving around taking pictures has raised the count of recorded monuments to well over 200. The website listing is in the process of a full revision in order to incorporate this level of change. The date for release of the newest information has slipped to sometime this summer. It is not too late for additional submissions so please furnish copies (or digital files) of anything you have laying around.



Graves Registration

Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC

Why Graves Registration?

Why graves registration? Way back when, even before I was in the Army, there was Graves Registration under the Quartermaster Department of the Army. During the Mexcan War, Quartermaster Officers were with the American Forces in Mexico. Their duty was to collect the remains of Americans, bury them in temporary cemeteries, and later make arrangements for the remains to be returned to the United States. Of course this didn't always happen.

During the Civil War, this same Graves Registration was swamped by the number of remains and the shifting battle lines from battle to battles. Union troops would retake grounds that they had taken before, only to find the unburied remains of fallen comrades who had died during the previous battle. Later, due to public outcry, Graves Registration came into its own.

At the end of the Civil War and after the National Cemeteries were established, a major effort was made to gather all of the remains and move them to appropriate cemeteries. Of course there were many unknowns, and they are unknown to this day.

Next to the Lee House at the Arlington National Cemetery close to Washington, DC, is a monument to the unknown dead. It is a monument, but also a mausoleum, for it contains the remains of over 700 soldiers of both the North and the South. This is the final resting place of the remains that were found on various battlefields. It could not be determined whether they were Union or Confederate.

Now, what does this have to do our SUVCW Graves Registration? These soldiers, sailors and marines deserve to be remembered. They deserve an appropriate marker showing their service to our country. That is where our obligation continues.



Patriotic Instructor

Craig A. Sundell, PCC

Carol Dark Ayres, in her book, Lincoln and Kansas writes:

"On his journey from Illinois to his March 4th Washington inaugural, Lincoln stopped in Philadelphia, PA, on Feb. 22, 1861, to raise a new flag over Independence Hall. The Flag bore, for the first time, the 34th star — Kansas. He made these remarks:

"Fellow Citizens: -- I am invited and called before you to participate in raising above Independence Hall the flag of our country, with an additional star upon it. (Cheers) ... I propose to say that when that flag was originally raised here it had but thirteen stars. I wish to call your attention to the fact, that, under the blessing of God, each additional star added to that flag has given additional prosperity and happiness to this country until it has advanced to its present condition; and its welfare in the future, as well as in the past, is in your hands. (Cheers) Cultivating the spirit that animated our fathers, who gave renown and celebrity to this Hall, cherishing that fraternal feeling which has so long characterized us as a nation, excluding passion, ill-

temper and precipitate action on all occasions, I think we may promise ourselves that not only the new star placed upon the flag shall be permitted to remain there to our permanent prosperity for years to come, but additional ones shall from time to time be placed there, until we shall number ... five hundred millions of happy and prosperous people. (Great Applause) ..."



Chaplain

Robert L. Wandel

As I said in the last few articles about Civil War Chaplains, they served many roles, including being spiritual leaders, postmen, bankers, doctor, and many other things to keep the morals and the morale of the soldiers at a high level. The following article shows more of how chaplains worked to help regiments accomplish their tasks and tells of the dangers they faced. I am relating as much as I remember about the life of one of Kansas's own chaplains.

The Guns and the Gospel

This is the title of an autobiography of Hugh D. Fisher, a Regimental Chaplain for Jim Lane. In the book he tells about the many experiences he had as he became a preacher in different areas of the U. S. prior to the Civil War. When the troubles started in Kansas he joined the Jayhawkers. He relates how he and fourteen men were ordered by Lane to escort several hundred contraband slaves to safety in Kansas. These slaves had flocked to Lane's Brigade after the Osceola, Missouri raid. Once he escorted the slaves across the Kansas border, he told them "in the name of the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, and by the authority of General James H. Lane, I proclaim that you are forever free".

In regard to the danger of being a Chaplain and not always having the protection of the army. He relates how his wife saved his life from Quantrill and his men during the Lawrence raid. He hid in the basement and she challenged the ruffians and out-foxed them to protect him. After the raiders set the house on fire she and a neighbor fought it in the area where Hugh was hiding. This was done long enough to allow him to get out of the house after most of the men left. He hid under a rug outside and stayed there until all of the raiders left Lawrence.

So we see that it was not easy being a Civil War Chaplain. The soldiers were not the only ones with their lives in danger while trying to save the union of the states.



Junior Vice Commander

James A. Scheidel, Jr., PCC

Brothers,

In Topeka this April, we will gather together for our Tenth Department Encampment. Take a moment to congratulate each other and celebrate this important milestone. Why a celebration? If you consider only a few short years ago the Department of Kansas was on the verge of extinction, it is clear this is truly a moment for celebration. We've added two new camps and have been the recipient of the US Grant Trophy for the largest growth per camp in the country for the past two years. This would have not been possible without all who have worked so hard devoting much of their time recruiting new brothers. As a direct result we've sustained our growth and enlarged our department. National is taking notice of the Department of Kansas; so, keep up the good work, gentlemen!

As my term ends, I thank you all for your outstanding efforts and giving me the opportunity to serve as your Department Junior Vice Commander.



Senior Vice Commander

Randal L. Durbin, PCC

Since the last Sunflower Picket, I attended the Beloit Camp's meeting in January and an encampment planning session at Mine Creek.

The Beloit camp meeting was very enjoyable, as Deb Goodrich presented a wonderful program, and it is encouraging to see the camp members working hard to see their camp becomes a success.

Commander Knopke has worked hard to ensure an enjoyable and informative encampment. I look forward to seeing everyone at the program and meeting.



Commander's Corner

James R. Knopke, PCC

It is hard to believe that I have been Department Commander for almost 12 months and that on April 22nd, at the 10th Annual State Encampment, I will be stepping down. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Commander. I would like to thank all of the Department Officers and Appointees for their support and help throughout my term. To them I say "Job Well Done."



This past year was a busy one. As Department Commander I visited and participated in various ways with the Camps. In May I installed the new officers for the reorganized Camp of Joseph Gaston Camp # 3 in Beloit. I participated in the dedication of the Mine Creek Bridge, on June 25th. In August I attend the National Encampment and brought our new Department flag to be displayed with all the other flags. There we received our second consecutive U S Grant Trophy for the greatest percent of increase by a Department. We also made our bid to host a National Encampment in 2010 or 2011. In September I installed the officers, for the first of two new Camps, Franklin Camp #5 (with 20 members) in Olathe and in November for Mine Creek Camp # 6 (with 26 members) at Mine Creek Battlefield Site. On October 1st, I attended the Central Region Association of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic held in Lawrence, Kansas. Of all the things I did this year I would have the say that performing the annual installation of new officers and appointees for all the Camps, except Lawrence; and I am sorry for missing that one, gave me the greatest satisfaction. As I visited these Camps and saw their growth, I knew that the Department's future is bright.

In closing, I would like to say one thing about keeping the Camps and the Department's future bright and that is involvement. We need more Brothers to step up and take an active roll in their Camps and the Department. This winter we held our first workshop to help new officers and appointees learn from those that know how to do the vital jobs that keep this organization running smoothly and efficiently. There were eighteen Brothers present and it was a great opportunity for them to learn about the inner workings of the organization. There will be more (continued) workshops in the future and if you are interested in a position it would be a good way to learn about it. Remember, what makes an organization strong is all its members are participating not just the few.

Thanks, again, to all that made this a great year for the Department of Kansas and a special thanks goes to Alan Russ, PDC and Tom Schmidt, PDC. The Department Commander is only as good as his staff is and I haven been very lucky.

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.

The camp is still in the process of implementing our overseas serviceman adoption program. We have been in contact with two servicemen and are wanting to help them with some items that we can provide from here in the States that they need.



Corp. Coyne Officers for 2006 - (l. to r.) SVC Mark Britton, Secretary/Treasurer Tom Schmidt, JVC Jimmy Coyne, and Commander Dale Rouse.

The Camp voted in January to use memorial funds for both PDC Ken Strader and Norm Kimrey to purchase a Camp SUVCW flag. The flag will have ribbons attached in their memory.

We are already planning for our November "Lincoln Remembered" fund-raiser. The date has been set as November 18, and our speaker will be author Tom Goodrich. Please add this to your calendars.

Again this year, we will be presenting an SUVCW ROTC medal to an ROTC member the second week in April.

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

Camp meetings are held quarterly at the Mitchell County Historical Museum, 402 W. 8th St., in Beloit. No report submitted.

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

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

The Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp continues to work on and set up camp committees for the items listed below for the 2006 year.

1) Adams and Pioneer Cemetery in Lawrence, Kansas area. Object of the Lawrence camp it to try to perform some maintenance of these "forgotten" cemeteries and make the Lawrence community aware of their existence and the Union Civil War veterans buried in these two cemeteries.

2) Establish a "fund raising" committee so that Camp 4 can raise some funds to continue and improve upon our camp activities to make the Lawrence community aware of the Civil War history of the Lawrence, Kansas, community.

3) To continue and improve the camp's Memorial Day Flag ceremony for Civil War veterans.

4) To continue to educate and make the Lawrence community aware of US Civil War history in order to honor our Civil War veterans.

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.

No report submitted.

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.

No report submitted.

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

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.

Old Abe Camp 16 held its regular meetings in January, February and March. We have the privilege to host the 2006 State Encampment. It will be held at the Pottawatomie Indian mission school at the Kansas State Historical Society, Saturday, April 22nd, beginning at 11:00 a.m. This year's program will be presented by Tom Goodrich, with lunch catered by Boss Hogg's Barbecue. We look forward to our brothers from throughout the Department visiting us in Kansas' capital city.

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

**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 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.

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 June 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 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 **May 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



Coat of Arms, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

COME ONE – COME ALL
10th Annual Department of Kansas Annual Encampment
April 22, 2006

Pottawatomie Mission Building – 2nd Floor
Kansas Museum of History, 6425 SW 6th St.
Topeka

All brothers of the Department are encouraged to attend this encampment. This is an opportunity to participate in the business of Department. If you are planning to attend, notify your Camp Commander or Camp Secretary by April 15. Be sure to say whether you will be joining us for lunch, so we will know how much food to order.

Please come and enjoy fellowship with the brothers of the Department of Kansas. Also, be sure and plan to attend the business meeting to participate in the business process of the Department.

ENCAMPMENT SCHEDULE

11:00 – 12:00 “From Abolitionists to Lincoln”

Civil War program by Tom Goodrich

There will be an opportunity to purchase books and visit with the author after the program

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch - \$10.00 per person (registration required)

BBQ beef or ham, baked beans, potato salad, dessert and drink

2:00 – 5:00 Business meeting

Recognition of Past Department Commanders

Honored guest National SVC-in-C James Pahl

Business of the Order

Election and installation of Department Officers

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