



# The Sunflower Picket



Recipient of the 2006 Marshall Hope Award for Best Department Newsletter

www.suvcwks.org

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

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## COME ONE, COME ALL!

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment April 28, 2007, 11 AM to 5 PM Wichita, Kansas

The 11th Annual Department of Kansas SUVCW Encampment will be held on Saturday, April 28, with the Cpl. Patrick Coyne Camp in Wichita playing host to the event. It will take place at the Disabled Americans Veterans Clubhouse, 3011 S. George Washington Blvd.

The schedule starts at 11 AM with a program by Randy Edens as Buffalo Bill Cody. This is followed by a Kansas civil war monument presentation by Brother Doug McGovern, Department Monuments and Memorials Officer.

Lunch will take place from 12 Noon until 1:30 PM. Lunch will be catered by Hog Wild Bar-BQ and the cost is \$10 per person, which will need to be paid at time of registration at the encampment registration table.

We will set up for the business meeting from 1:30 to 2 PM, with the business portion of the encampment starting at 2 PM. The meeting should be over by 5 PM.

If you have never been to a Department Encampment, take this opportunity to do so. It is an opportunity for fellowship with our brothers from across the Department, plus a chance to gain a new perspective about the SUVCW outside of your camp. Although camps are only authorized a specific number of voting delegates, all brothers may attend.

Let your Camp Commander or Camp Secretary know if you are thinking of attending. Look into opportunities to car-pool to Wichita. The only cost to attend is the cost for lunch.

Camp Secretaries need to advise Department Secretary Alan Russ as to who all is planning on attending from your camp. Separate instructions have already been sent to Camp Secretaries regarding this. This will ensure attendees have name tags and encampment ribbons.

Please make plans to attend the Department encampment as we conduct the business of our order. Your attendance and participation is essential to the continued success of the organization.

### Proposed Amendment to Constitution of the SUVCW

We have received communications from the National Secretary about a proposed Amendment to the National Constitution of the SUVCW. This will need to be acted upon by those in attendance at our Department Encampment. Last year, the Department of Wisconsin passed a resolution dealing with the tax status of the SUVCW. This resolution, which requires an amendment to our Constitution, was passed by the required two-thirds majority of the voting membership of the 125<sup>th</sup> National Encampment in August 2006. The proposed amendment must now be ratified by not less than 50 percent of the departments in the Order to become effective. The resolution we will be voting on accepting reads as follows:

### A Resolution

The Department of Wisconsin, at its 123<sup>rd</sup> Encampment, held in Saukville on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2006, unanimously approved and hereby submits the following resolution, changing the National Constitution of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War:

*Whereas*, the National Organization Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has operated as a benevolent, non-profit corporation since its Congressional chartering in 1956; and

*Whereas*, the National Organization Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has received competent legal counsel, advising that a change of tax code status from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3) is possible, and

*Whereas*, the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and its subordinate units would benefit from such a change, including but not limited to tax deductible donations from donors, grant money from private and public sources, and lower postage rates on corporate mailings;

*Therefore*, let it be resolved that the following Article X, entitled "Dissolution of Corporation," be added to the Constitution:

"This organization is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational or other purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law) or (b) by an organization contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

"Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding section of any future federal tax code), or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes."

Respectfully submitted:

Kent A. Peterson  
Commander  
Department of Wisconsin

Attest:

Brian Peters  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Wisconsin

## MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD WORK DAY

Saturday, April 7, 2007  
9 AM – 4 PM

The Department has scheduled a workday at the Mine Creek Battlefield on Saturday, April 7, 2007, beginning at 9 AM. One of the goals at Mine Creek is to try to get the look of the landscape back to what it looked like at the time of the battle in October of 1864. See the article about the work day on page 5, and please try to participate.

### Last Soldier Project

By Blair D. Tarr

Right now I am days past the “Russline,” which is better known as the deadline for submitting articles. Struggling for an idea, I thought I would give you one example of the fun in trying to nail down the Last Soldier in each of the 105 counties.

Keep in mind that the original intent from the National Organization was to honor the last Union soldier buried in each county. It sounds simple enough, even though you suspect there will be confusion between the last to die and the last to be buried.

Let’s take Linn County as an example, and I quickly give credit to Ola May Earnest, the director of the Linn County Historical Society, with the information provided for their last soldiers. She left me with no doubt that the last soldier to live in Linn County was Samuel “Uncle Sammy” Redding, who crossed the bar on October 28, 1941, 24 days short of his 101st birthday.

Redding was a native Ohioan living in Illinois when the war broke out. According to his obituary, he served with Company B of the 112th Illinois Infantry, during which time he saw about seventeen battles, including Atlanta, Franklin, and Nashville. He also spent one year as a prisoner of war.

In 1883, he settled in the town of Parker, where he spent the remainder of his life. There seems to be little debate he was Linn County’s Last Soldier. But, remember, the original purpose of the project was to find the last burial. That’s where Edward Larkey enters the picture.

Mr. Larkey is not a Kansan. He is definitely a Missourian. He is born in Ray County, Missouri, in November 1843, and served with both Company A of the 3rd Missouri State Militia Cavalry and Company I of the 6th Missouri State Militia Cavalry. The latter service should have placed him at or near Mine Creek on October 25, 1864.

After the war he lived in Missouri, eventually dying at his home at Merwin in March 1943, allowing him the claim as the last living Union soldier of Bates County. But he apparently had been attending church at the East Mt. Zion Church, just across the state line in Kansas, and it is there he is buried—the last Union Civil War soldier to be buried in Linn County.

We will give credit in our efforts to each of these gentlemen, which seems like the only fair thing to do. It will be an effort repeated in several counties, where the last to die was not necessarily the last one buried.

### OF INTEREST

#### BG (Bvt) Uri Balcom Pearsall

*Our brothers from other Departments occasionally find something of interest for this area. This article was submitted by Jerome L. Orton, PDC, Department of New York, SUVCW. He states the article was found in the 1983 journal of the NY Dept. Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. There was a photograph of Albert Peck, Erastus Peck and Uri B. Pearsall. The article had been given to him by a descendant of Uri Pearsall. We thank brother Orton for taking the time to think of his Kansas brothers.*

Uri Balcom Pearsall was born in Owego, Tioga County, New York on July 17, 1840.

His career in the Civil War was particularly noteworthy. He entered the service as a private in the 4th Wisconsin Volunteers on May 14, 1861. His advancement was rapid, finally reaching the position of Colonel. He was a breveted brigadier general for meritorious service. He was Lt. Col. of the 99th Colored Troops and later became colonel of the 48th Wisconsin Infantry.

Many of his relatives served in the Civil War including four brothers-in-law, Albert, Marcus, Chauncey and Erastus Peck. Corp. Chauncey T. Peck

and Capt. Albert E. Peck were killed on May 15, 1864 at almost the same instant in the bloody Battle of Resaca, Georgia.

Although quite young he had broad experience in the organization and training of men. However, he felt on account of his youth and inexperience in military affairs that he could not in justice to the men who would under his command accept a commission. He often said that the results of a campaign depended on the brains and magnetism of the officers and the success depended upon the men.

He was twice elected mayor of Fort Scott, Kansas and delegate to the 1st constitutional convention of Kansas. General U.B. Pearsall Post 500, Grand Army of the Republic, of Kansas was chartered in his memory on April 15, 1912.

At the time of his death on February 28, 1907, he was quartermaster at the Soldier’s Home in Leavenworth, Kansas.

### Civil War Veterans in Illinois

Brother Brian Van Schmus furnished the link to the following web page for those whose Civil War ancestors may have lived in Illinois after the war. The link takes you to Archive.org where the following book is available online:

“Soldiers’ and patriots’ biographical album : containing biographies and portraits of soldiers and loyal citizens in the American conflict, together with the great commanders of the Union Army; also a history of the organizations growing out of the war: The Grand Army of the Republic, The Loyal Legion, The Sons of Veterans, and The Woman’s Relief Corps” (1892). A word of warning, though, do not select to download the complete .pdf version, because it is 95 MB in size. You will be there awhile. Instead, try using the “flip book” option, which takes you to the images page by page. If you put the cursor toward where the last pages of the book would be, you can get directly to the index and find the page number you are looking for. Again, “Thank you, Brian,” for letting us know about this. The link is:

<http://www.archive.org/details/soldierspats00chicrich>

### Department of Kansas Training Session February 3, 2007, Mine Creek Battlefield Visitors Center



Attendees at the Training Session were, from left to right: (Front Row) Todd Meek (Camp 1), Blair Tarr (Sec/Treas-Camp 16), Bob Wandel (Sec/Treas-Camp 4), Department SVC Roy Lafferty, PCC (Camp 4), and Verle Olson (Sec/Treas-Camp 5); (Back Row) Department Secretary Alan Russ, PDC (Camp 16), Jim Knopke, PDC (Camp 5), Mark Britton (CC-Camp 1), Brian Van Schmus (Camp 4), Tom Schmidt, PDC (Sec/Treas-Camp 1), Matt Toll (CC-Camp 5), Mike Anderson (CC-Camp 4), and Jim Converse, PCC.



**Historian**

**Kenneth R. Spurgeon, PDC**

**Historic Kansas**

As I have traveled around the state and spoken to historical societies and schools, teachers and interested historians have often asked about where to find accounts of Kansas during the Civil War. This is difficult because often primary accounts were filled with such emotion and partisanship that it's difficult to get a balanced view.

One individual that is interesting and informative in the Kansas Civil War period is Samuel J. Crawford. A few books have been written about Crawford, but years ago I found his autobiography, "Kansas in the Sixties" to be of great interest.

Crawford was born in Indiana in 1835 and died in Kansas in 1913. He came to Kansas during the territorial period, settling in Garnett, Kansas. Assisting in the raising of the Second Kansas Infantry, Crawford participated in the battles of Wilson's Creek, Prairie Grove, and Westport. His first hand accounts of battles in the Trans-Mississippi region are unique and interesting. In 1864, Crawford was elected as our third governor and the last of the war governors. After his term ended in 1868, Crawford led the 19th Kansas Cavalry and fought with George A. Custer in the Indian Campaign of 1868-1869. His autobiography was finished in 1911 and as he completed his preface, he commented that he was one of the last two war governors living, the other being William Sprague of Rhode Island. Sprague outlived Crawford by two years, dying in 1915. Crawford's autobiography was last reprinted by Kansas Heritage Press in Ottawa in 1995.



*Samuel J. Crawford*

As Crawford concludes his preface, he summarized the scenes and sights he had witnessed in Kansas' birth: "Following these awful scenes, which I have endeavored to sketch accurately, came peace, harmony, happiness, and prosperity. The cannon were melted into monuments; the muskets were put away as relics of the past; swords were sheathed; and the bugle-call to arms was no longer heard. Brave boys were they who fell, and just as brave were they who remained to tell the tale." - Samuel J. Crawford, Topeka, Kansas, July 1911.

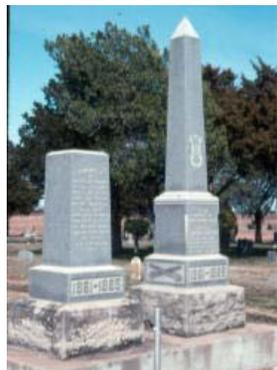


**Memorials Officer**

**Douglas E. McGovern, PCC**

**Kansas Civil War**

**Memorial/Monument Catalog**



As I review the various monuments in the State of Kansas, it is clear that there are many, many stories that would be fascinating to know. For example, in Oxford Cemetery (Sumner County), twin spires are mounted on a common concrete pad.

The left monument is inscribed:

"In memory of the mothers, grandmothers sisters,

daughters, wives, sweethearts, and lady friends of the soldiers of 1861-1865 who saved the Union and freed the prisoners who were bought and sold like cattle. ~ erected by J.M. Buffington".

Who was J.M. Buffington, and how do we separate (or combine) the wives, sweethearts, and lady friends?

May we continue to remember and to honor those who fought for us.



**Patriotic Instructor**

**Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC**

**Memorial Day 2007**

The Memorial Day holiday will soon be upon us. Has your camp planned any special activities for either your May meeting or for the weekend itself? If not, now is the time to put a camp activity together. It could be a special ceremony for a Civil War ancestor of one of your camp members or marking the graves of Civil War veterans with flags at the local cemetery. The main thing is that we become involved.

Do you remember the lines in the SUVCW initiation ceremony pertaining to Memorial Day? They go like this, "to always observe the day set aside by the Grand Army of the Republic as Memorial Day sacred to the memory of the Union Soldiers and Sailors of 1861 to 1865 and do all in my power to persuade others to do the same." Below is GAR Commander John A Logan's General Order No. 11 from 1868 officially establishing May 30 as Memorial Day. What more inspiration do we need?

**General Order No. 11**

**Headquarters, Grand Army of the Republic  
Washington, D.C., May 5, 1868**

I. The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foe? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their death a tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the Nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and found mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain in us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges

upon the Nation's gratitude, -- the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this Order, and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department commanders will use every effort to make this order effective.

By command of:

JOHN A. LOGAN,  
Commander-in-Chief.



**Chaplain**

**Robert L. Wandel**

**Civil War Chaplains**

Of the 3,000 Union Chaplains who served in the Civil War, we are honored to have two such individuals buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence. I obtained the obituaries of these men from the KU Library with the help of Kathy Lafferty, I hope you will enjoy reading about these men.

**ANOTHER VETERAN IS GONE**

*Lawrence Daily World, January 7, 1910.*  
Samuel Hartley, Soldier of Two Wars, Died Yesterday

Samuel E. Hartley, a veteran of two wars passed away at his home in this city yesterday. He was 84 years old. Pneumonia was the cause of death. Mr. Hartley served in both the Mexican and the Civil war.

Samuel E. Hartley was born April 17, 1825 in Stubend County New York. In 1847 at the age of 21 he enlisted in the Mexican war and served fourteen months. After the Mexican war he moved to Pekin, Illinois where he was married. Ten children were born to the family and seven are alive living. In 1858 he moved to Wauseon, Fulton County, Ohio where he enlisted in the civil war at Lincoln's first call in Company H of the 14th Ohio. In the late summer of 1861 he reenlisted in Company K 111th of the Ohio, and served until the close of the war. He moved to Lawrence in January 1887. He died January 6, 1910 at the age of 84 years, 8 months and 29 days. He was a member of the Washington Post 12 in Lawrence.

**CHAPLAIN DAVID WHITE DEAD**

*Lawrence Daily World, October 25, 1901*  
Chaplain David White died at his home 1535 Massachusetts St. this morning rather suddenly of heart failure. He had reached the mature age of 83, and his entire life was one of great activity, both in thought and action.

Chaplain White was born near Chattanooga, Tenn., and early entered the ministry, having a charge in 1840 on Chicamauga Creek, afterwards the famous battle field. During the Civil War he entered the service of his country as Chaplain of the 107th Illinois and after the war was commissioned as Chaplain in 1866. He had exciting experiences with Indians, twice narrowly escaping death by torture, and participated in the Big Sioux rising in 1866-67 at Fort Phil Kearney, Wyoming.

After an excellent record in the army he retired in 1882 and came to Lawrence in 1884. He has been a prominent member of the Washington G.A.R. Post 12, and one of the venerated Lawrence residents. He leaves a son and four daughters to mourn his death.

Two men who served the Lord and their Country. We are grateful that they were willing to do so. Their tombstones pay tribute to their duty.



**Junior Vice Commander  
Craig A. Sundell, PCC**

Brothers,

It is springtime now, and the department encampment draws near. I hope we all remember our Union ancestors and think of how they must have yearned for this time of renewal at the end of a harsh winter. Many armies simply ceased campaigning during winter due to the poor conditions. These campaigns renewed in the spring on roadways clogged with mud, next to fields of new flowers and fresh grass.

Because of the increase in military operations, much recruitment was needed and done early in the year. Men felt better about leaving farms and families when new crops were planted and the land was green again. I hope we can all reflect for a moment on the image of these men volunteering for the Union cause. I also hope we will renew our efforts to speak to those around us who do not yet belong to the SUVCW and encourage them to visit a Camp meeting or activity. I further encourage all brothers to speak with our fellow brothers, especially those in other Camps, to help keep all our Camps strong and expanding. It is so very true that a single kind and encouraging word can create a lasting friendship or bond.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
Craig Sundell, JVC



**Senior Vice Commander  
Roy A. Lafferty, PCC**

The 2nd annual Department training session at Mine Creek was a success. We had about 15 attendees representing all but one camp. Next year's session will be hosted by Franklin Camp 5 in Olathe. Please let me know of any topics you would like to see covered.

As I mentioned in the last issue of the Sunflower Picket, the Department is beginning work on a five year plan. The first group I will be soliciting is the Past Department Commanders; so if you are a PDC, start watching your mail box. The second group will be the incoming Department Officers; followed by the camps, so be thinking on what you would like to see your Department doing.

I want to encourage everyone to attend the Mine Creek Work Day on April 7. This is a fantastic opportunity to show what we stand for as a Department.

Also, this is the last Sunflower Picket with me as SVC. First, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve you as your Department SVC. I have learned much about each of the camps and the good work you are doing. I also want to thank Alan Russ for making my job easier by producing the Sunflower Picket.



**Commander's Corner  
Randal L. Durbin, PCC**

This will be my last report as Department Commander, and I want to thank all SUVCW brothers in the Department of Kansas for your efforts in honoring the men who wore the blue.

I was privileged to install the officers of the Mine Creek and Franklin Camps and was able to conduct the ceremony for the Churchill Camp commander. I want to thank Senior Vice Commander Lafferty for conducting the installation ceremony for the other officers in the Churchill Camp in December.



I look forward to seeing many of you at the Department Encampment on April 28th. The Patrick Coyne Camp always hosts a great event and I'm sure another is in the making.

I would like to commend Dr. John Spencer for his efforts to move the Mine Creek Camp forward. He has many great ideas for activities this coming year for the camp and several prospective members from the Ft. Scott area.

In Fraternity, Loyalty and Charity.  
Randal L Durbin  
Department Commander

**CAMP NEWS**

**Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1 - Wichita**

Camp Commander	Mark A. Britton
Senior Vice Commander	James P. Coyne
Junior Vice Commander	Todd Meek
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.

Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1 reconvened in January 2007 after the holiday break. At their January meeting, they performed an initiation ceremony for new member Phil Blake. They also firmed up their committee for the April 28, 2007 Department of Kansas Encampment to be held in Wichita. This committee consists of Tom Schmidt, Mark Britton, Jim Coyne, Todd Meek, Frank Bergquist, Ken Spurgeon, Jon Goering, and Dale Rouse. The Camp was also informed they would again be presenting a Jr.-ROTC award at Derby High School in April at its awards ceremony. Brother Doug McGovern reported the contracts for the final phase of the refurbishment of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Hutchinson have been let.

Three members of the camp, Mark Britton, Todd Meek, and Tom Schmidt, attended the Department of Kansas training day at Mine Creek on February 3. In their February camp meeting, the Lincoln Remembered committee reported they have their speaker lined up for November 2007. Also, a decision was reached for what do to for the May meeting to honor Memorial Day. The camp will meet in Hutchinson and perform a version of "The Last Soldier Ceremony" for Brother John Hartford's civil war ancestor, who is buried in Hutchinson. Doug McGovern presented a wonderful Power Point program on Civil War Monuments in Kansas at the February meeting. The camp is hoping to have good representation at the Mine Creek work-day on April 7.

The camp color guard was invited to present the Colors at the Museum of World Treasures in Wichita on Saturday, March 3 for the opening on a new exhibit on composer Stephan Foster. Participating in the color guard were Shawn Bell, Jim Coyne, Dale Rouse, Robert Barnes, and Tom Schmidt.

We hope to see many brothers of the other Kansas camps at the Department encampment, April 28, 2007. Make your plans to attend.

**Sgt Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4-Lawrence**

Camp Commander	Michael W. Anderson
Senior Vice Commander	Michael Hadl
Junior Vice Commander	Brian Van Schmus
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, with monthly programs starting around 7:30 PM. All SUVCW Brothers and the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The fine tradition of excellent speakers for programs at the meetings of Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 continues for the year 2007. In March, KU Professor Dr. Jennifer Weber spoke about her book, Copperheads, recently published by Oxford University Press. PCC

Alan Van Loenen, our Patriotic Instructor, is working diligently to acquire speakers for the rest of the year, including the Civil War on the Western Frontier celebration that always takes place in Lawrence every August.

I have been in contact with the KU Endowment Association, the owner of Pioneer Cemetery on the West Campus of the University of Kansas, about the work that needs to be done on the GAR monument. Negotiations continue about who would do the work of re-plastering the monument and mounting the new plaque, in addition to scheduling this with University Facilities Operations, the department responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery. Wheeled vehicles are not allowed in the cemetery and this poses some limitations on easily transporting materials. We also have to be flexible on scheduling the work, being cognizant of any future funerals. I am hopeful that we will still be able to re-dedicate this GAR monument over the Memorial Day weekend of 2007, slightly more than 100 years after its original dedication. Stay tuned!

**Franklin Camp 5 - Olathe**

Camp Commander	Matthew G. Toll
Senior Vice Commander	William D. Stilley
Junior Vice Commander	Lane D. Smith
Secretary/Treasurer	Verle L. Olson

Camp meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, beginning at 7:30 PM. Meetings are held in the Governors West Conference Room, Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe Street.

Franklin Camp had an exciting meeting on the 8th of March. Lt. Col. Scott Porter (Ret.) presented a program on the Battle of Camden Point. He had a very informative program, complete with slides and stories.

Everette Sitzman is now home and mending fast. We expect him to attend the next meeting on April 18.

We are looking forward to the upcoming months. Mahaffie Civil War on the Border is coming up, and we will be looking forward to some successful recruiting there. Also, we will have Ed Kennedy speaking at our next meeting on April 18. We are currently entertaining ideas for a more reliable home for our meetings. It seems the City of Olathe has priority in room reservations, so our meeting schedule is a little out of whack. If you have any questions please contact Matt Toll at mtoll1974@sbcglobal.net.

**Mine Creek Camp 6 - Pleasanton**

Camp Commander	Arnold W. Schofield
Senior Vice Commander	John H. Spencer
Junior Vice Commander	Kenton E. Bell
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert E. Woody II

Camp meetings will be held at the Carriage House in Fort Scott, at 7 PM on April 3, June 5, August 7, November 6, and December 4 for 2007. The meetings include dinner and a program.

On November 19, 2006, Mine Creek Camp 6 met and decided to make retention of present members and recruitment of new members major goals of 2007. The camp also agreed to schedule more events and regular meetings. The meetings will be held in Fort Scott on the first Tuesday of the designated months. A color guard and honor detail will also be organized in order to participate in local Memorial Day ceremonies and other appropriate events.

Our first meeting of 2007 was held on February 6 in Fort Scott. Seven potential new recruits attended. Senior Vice Commander John Spencer presided over the meeting, as Commander Arnold Schofield was recovering from recent knee surgery. Department Commander Randall Durbin gave a program on the history of the SUVCW and general comments on the process of joining. John Spencer gave a Power Point program on Monuments at Gettysburg, followed by

Monuments in our Area. A connection was made between the local monuments and the GAR.

Members of Mine Creek Camp 6 met with the American Legion Post - Mound City, Kansas, in late February and the two organizations agreed to participate in the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Mound City Cemetery and Soldier's Plot. This location is especially appropriate, since many of the Union soldiers killed at the Battle of Mine Creek are buried in this Soldier's Plot, where a large statue of a Union Soldier, placed by the GAR, stands guard. This will be the first event the camp's color guard will participate in.

Planned business meetings with programs are scheduled for :

- April 3 - with a mustering-in ceremony.
- June 5 - Program and business meeting.
- August 7 - Program and business meeting.
- November 6 - Fall business meeting with a short program and election of officers.
- December 4 - social gathering with installation of officers.

Two work days are planned at Mine Creek Battlefield April 7 and September 15 2007.

**Old Abe Camp 16 - Topeka**

Camp Commander	Dan E. Karr
Sr Vice Commander	Delton Gilliland
Jr Vice Commander	John Jewell
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 Thursday of each month.

Our Cemetery Project gets underway with the good weather of March 24 and will continue through early fall. On the fourth Saturday of each month we reset and/or repair headstones at the graves of Civil War veterans buried in the Topeka Cemetery at 10<sup>th</sup> and California Street in Topeka. We spend about three hours each work day on this project.

Our Camp is preparing for the upcoming Department Encampment at Wichita. We expect good attendance by the brothers of Old Abe Camp in support of our camp member, Department Commander Randal Durbin.

**DEPARTMENT ORDERS**

**HEADQUARTERS**

**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

P.O. Box 306, Overbrook, Kansas 66524-0306  
(785)453-2185, email: randalrfsb@hotmail.com

DEPARTMENT ORDER 6 JANUARY 15, 2007  
SERIES 2006-2007

**SUSPENSION OF CAMP CHARTER**

1. Whereas, the membership of JOSEPH GASTON CAMP NO. 3 of Beloit, having stated an intention to discontinue functioning as an active camp and not hold elections of officers for 2007, and the camp having not held these elections and filed required forms; and
2. Whereas, In May 2005, JOSEPH GASTON CAMP NO. 3, with permission of the National Council of Administration, was permitted to hold camp elections outside of the required time frame for such elections; and
3. Whereas, in May 2005, five brothers were assigned to the camp, plus one dual brother, and there has been no change in the membership for the camp since that date; and
4. Whereas, Chapter I, Article I, Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, states the following:

*Section 3. No Charter shall be surrendered by any Camp, so long as ten Brothers thereof, in good standing, demand its continuance; and provided further, the Department Commander*

*and each and every Brother of the Camp shall receive at least twenty days notice, in person or by mail, of the intention to surrender the Charter. Section 4. In case of the surrender or forfeiture of a Charter, all the Camp property and money shall be turned over to the Department Commander or to his duly authorized representative, and become the property of the Department. Any transfer or disposal of any of its property by a Camp in arrears for its per capita tax shall be fraudulent and void, and any such transfer or disposal by a Camp of its property in contemplation of disbandment or surrender of its Charter shall also be fraudulent and void. All property of a Camp is held by it as a charitable trust that is to be held and used for the purpose for which the Order exists, and any such transfer or disposal within six months of disbandment or surrender of its Charter without consent of the Department shall be conclusively presumed to be in contemplation of such disbandment or surrender. No Camp shall divide its property among its Brothers.*

5. Whereas, with regard to Section 3, above, JOSEPH GASTON CAMP NO. 3 has only five brothers of record, and as such, there is no possibility for a qualified demand from ten brothers of the camp for its continuance;

5. Therefore, by authority vested in me under Chapter I, Article 1, Section 7 of the Regulations of the Order, I hereby **SUSPEND THE CHARTER** of the JOSEPH GASTON CAMP NO. 3, Beloit, Kansas. This order of suspension effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Camp complies with the Regulations of the Order or the charter is revoked.

6. The Camp Commander and the Camp Secretary are given until February 15, 2007, to contact the Department Commander and/or the Department Secretary in reference to complying with this order. The balance of the Camp funds shall be forwarded by check or money order to the Department and made payable to "DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS, SUVCW". Appropriate arrangements for the transfer of physical property shall also be made by that time.

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

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

*/s/ Randal L. Durbin*  
Randal L. Durbin, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

*/s/ Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

**HEADQUARTERS**

**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

P.O. Box 306, Overbrook, Kansas 66524-0306  
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DEPARTMENT ORDER 7 FEBRUARY 12, 2007  
SERIES 2006-2007

**APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

1. As the Eleventh Annual Encampment, Department of Kansas, approaches, and in accordance with the tradition of the Department, I hereby appoint a **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** for the purpose of finding qualified brothers of the Department who are willing and able to serve as the

elected officers of the Department. Said committee will report their recommendations of a slate of officers to the Department Encampment for further action by the Encampment.

2. All brothers who are interested in being considered for election to a Department Office, including Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Secretary/Treasurer, and three Council positions, should make their name known to one of the members of the Nominating Committee prior to the Encampment. Please also note that this does not preclude nominations from the floor at the Encampment.

3. The following brothers are hereby appointed to serve as the Encampment Nomination Committee:

- James R. Knopke, PDC, Franklin Camp 5, Olathe, Chairman
- Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita, Member
- Alan L. Russ, PDC, Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka, Member

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

*/s/ Randal L. Durbin*  
Randal L. Durbin, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

*/s/ Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES**

**MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD**

**WORK DAY**

**Saturday, April 7, 9 AM – 4 PM**

*PDC Tom Schmidt*

As most of you know the Department paid for and built a 23 foot span bridge in April 2005 at the Mine Creek Battlefield to help facilitate a circular tour of the battlefield. At the 2006 Department Encampment, the Mine Creek Committee was retained as an ongoing committee to act as an interface for the Department with the Mine Creek Battlefield and the Battlefield Foundation. This committee consists of PDC Tom Schmidt, Dept. Commander Randy Durbin, Bob Woody, PCC Roy Lafferty, and PDC Ken Spurgeon. It was felt we needed to continue to help promote and interface with the only major Civil War battlefield in our state.

As a result, we have scheduled a workday at the Mine Creek Battlefield on Saturday, April 7, 2007. One of the goals at Mine Creek is to try to get the look of the landscape back to what it looked like at the time of the engagement in October of 1864. Brother John Spencer advises that we will most likely be cutting brush - and burning it, if weather permits. We may also have an option of painting posts - (white) and cleaning up the markers. Dress accordingly.

The plan is for people to arrive by 9 AM on Saturday, April 7, at the battlefield Visitors Center, just outside Pleasanton. We'll break for lunch and then work until late afternoon (4 or 5 PM). After that, we will then take a guided tour of the battlefield.

Please promote this workday in your camps, and lets get a great turnout from the Department of Kansas. Get this event on your camp calendar, now, and line up carpools to help people participate. Many times, camps are looking for group activities for their members to help with. Here you go. The workday will enable SUVCW members to meet other camp members in the Department, as well as take part in a very worthwhile project.

I will be in touch with the Camp Commanders as April draws closer, in order to get their camps estimated

participation. Depending upon response, we hope to make this an annual activity of the Department of Kansas.

### FREE STATE BALL Saturday, April 14, 7 – 10 PM Lawrence, Kansas

Take a step back to a more genteel, though by no means more peaceful, time: to the nascent Kansas of 1864. Imagine the celebration as the citizens of Lawrence gather after a hard year of rebuilding their city, decimated by William Quantrill and his raiders in August of 1863. Lone Chimney Films will host the Free State Ball in support of their current production, *Bloody Dawn: The Lawrence Massacre*. The ball will be held in honor of those dedicated Kansas who lost their lives on August 21, 1863, as well as those who survived and, in some cases, literally rose from the ashes to rebuild their homes, businesses, and community.

The Free State Ball will be held April 14, 2007, from 7 PM to 10 PM in the Crystal Ballroom of the historic Eldridge Hotel, located at 701 Massachusetts in Lawrence. Come and socialize with beautiful ladies in their best ball gowns as well as Kansas' most handsome gentlemen. Don't worry if you can't dance, as instruction will be available on Victorian steps. Period attire is welcome, but certainly not required! The Free Staters will provide music. They will be serving hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar will be available. Tickets are just \$25.00 each but are limited in number and must be purchased in advance. You can purchase tickets by visiting Lone Chimney Films on the web at [www.lonechimneyfilms.org](http://www.lonechimneyfilms.org) or by calling (316)259-4182 or (316)737-5212.

### 126<sup>th</sup> National Encampment SUVCW August 9 through 12, 2007 Saint Louis, Missouri

The host hotel is the Frontenac Hilton Hotel in Frontenac, Missouri. Frontenac is a suburb located west of Saint Louis, Missouri. Four of the five Allied Orders will be meeting at that location during our encampment. Only the Womens Relief Corps will not be present.

As usual, the business meeting is held on Friday and Saturday. A campfire program is scheduled for Friday evening, and the Allied Orders Banquet is Saturday evening.

There are numerous Civil War related sites to see within a short distance of Saint Louis. Be sure to plan a little extra time before or after the encampment to take advantage of the area. Additionally, the Department of Missouri will be hosting tours on Thursday.

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

### Central Region Association Allied Orders of the G.A.R. 2007 Annual Conference October 6, 2007 Crawfordsville, Indiana

The Department of Indiana will be hosting the 2007 Annual Conference of the Central Region Association (CRA), Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic. The meeting will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007. Crawfordsville, Indiana, is located just Northwest of Indianapolis.

Additional information will be furnished as it becomes available. Keep your eye on this space for updates.

## 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](mailto: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 Summer issue will be mailed by June 10, 2007. This issue will focus on the Department Encampment and Memorial Days activities. 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 **June 1, 2007**, preferably in electronic format. Camps may want to send the information about their Memorial Day activities, preferably with a photo, as a separate article.

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)

### LELAND JUSTIN WEBB Commander-in-Chief 1890/1891

Leland J. Webb holds the distinction of being the first Camp Commander for Old Abe Camp 16 and the only National Commander-in-Chief for the Sons of Veterans/Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to be elected from Kansas. He was both a Civil War veteran and a member of the Sons of Veterans.

He served a number of positions in his Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post and served as Aide de Camp to GAR Commander-in-Chief John P. Rea. He was responsible for introducing the resolutions recognizing the Sons of Veterans, USA by the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1884, he served as the first Camp Commander of Old Abe Camp 16. He was elected 3rd Grand Division Commander doubling membership and camps in one year. He served as Kansas Division Commander in 1886.

He served several national positions including Judge Advocate General. He was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans in 1890 and served with distinction.

The following was published by the Headquarters Commandery of the State of Kansas, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, on December 25, 1893, as a memorial to Leland J. Webb.



### IN MEMORIAM.

"Companion LELAND JUSTIN WEBB departed this life at Topeka, Kansas, on the 21st of February, 1893, in the forty-seventh year of his age. He was the oldest son of Companion Colonel William C. Webb of Topeka. He was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, on August 5, 1846. In 1853 he went with his parents to Wisconsin, where he passed his boyhood days.

"While a mere boy, Companion LELAND J. WEBB, in October 1861, enlisted as a drummer in Company H, 16th Wisconsin Vol. Inf., and in that and other regiments served in the Union army continuously until his final discharge by reason of the close of the war on July 15, 1865. The last seventeen months of his service was as a Private in Company E, 1st Illinois Light Artillery. He participated in some sixteen engagements during his military service, among them being the battles of Pittsburg Landing, Tupelo, the Siege of Corinth, Guntown, Holly Springs, and Nashville. After removing to Kansas, he served for six months in the 19th Regiment Kansas Cavalry, Col. Samuel J. Crawford.

"In 1868 he located at Fort Scott, Kansas, where in December, 1869, he was admitted to the bar. He removed to Columbus in Cherokee county, in 1870, and was shortly afterward elected first mayor of that town. In 1871 he went to Cowley county, and in 1876 was chosen a Representative in the legislation from that county. In 1880 he removed to Topeka, where he engaged in the practice of law until his decease.

"The patriotism and loyalty of Companion LELAND J. WEBB was the priceless heritage of two centuries of his family history. During the last ten years of his life he was active and prominent in the Orders of Sons of Veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic, and Sons of the Revolution. He was a Past Commander of Lincoln Post No. 1, and Past Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. He joined the Kansas Commandery of the M. O. L. L. U. S., in June 1887, as a member of the Second Class.

"In the family circle he was a devoted husband and loving father. He was a faithful friend, and cherished never-ending gratitude toward all at whose hands he received kindly offices.

"In the death of Companion LELAND J. WEBB the Kansas Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion has lost a valued member, whose service in behalf of his country, and of the patriotic orders to which he belonged, and as a citizen of Kansas, deserves the highest regard and the lasting affection of his surviving Companions and Comrades."

# Sons of Union Veterans



of the Civil War

## Department of Kansas

11th Annual State Encampment

Saturday, April 28

DAV Building

3011 Geo Wash Blvd

Wichita, KS



### Schedule

11 am - Noon

Program by Buffalo Bill Cody  
Presenter Randy Edens

Noon - 1:30 pm.

Hog Wild Pit BBQ Lunch - \$10

1:30 - 2 pm

Setup for Encampment Meeting

2 - 5 pm

Encampment Meeting