



The Sunflower Picket



Recipient of the 2006 Marshall Hope Award for Best Department Newsletter
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Publication of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

2010 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT TO BE HELD IN KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

- Commander**..... **Roy A. Lafferty, PCC**
2613 Pickwick Pl, Lawrence KS 66049-1731
Commander@suvcwks.org
- Sr. Vice Cdr**.....**Craig A. Sundell, PCC**
1530 Learnard Ave., Lawrence KS 66044-3736
SVC@suvcwks.org
- Jr. Vice Cdr**.....**James M. Converse, PCC**
8611 W. 84th St., Overland Park KS 66212-2704
JVC@suvcwks.org
- Sec./Treas**.....**Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC**
404 N. Walnut St., Peabody KS 66866-1148
Secretary@suvcwks.org
- Patriotic Instructor** **S. Todd Meek**
727 W. MacArthur Rd, Apt 215
Wichita KS 67217-3661
Patriotic@suvcwks.org
- Chaplain** **Alan L. Russ, PDC**
P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068
Chaplain@suvcwks.org
- Graves Registration** **Robert L. Wandel**
2731 Bonanza St., Lawrence KS 66046-5137
Graves@suvcwks.org
- Historian**..... **Blair D. Tarr**
617 SW Taylor St, Apt 11
Topeka KS 66603-3243
History@suvcwks.org
- CW Memorials Officer**.....
..... **Douglas E. McGovern, PCC**
100 W. 20th St., Hutchinson KS 67502-2846
Memorials@suvcwks.org

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successful. The Department of Kansas will host the SUVCW 129th National Encampment in 2010. Proposed dates are August 12 through 15, 2010, with the business meeting being held on August 13 and 14.

The Department committee will be meeting with a representative of the National Committee on November 12, 2008, and meet with the prospective encampment hotels.

Additionally, the Department needs brothers who are willing to work on the numerous National Encampment committees which will be formed over the next eighteen months to bring it all together.

The Department is honored to have been selected to host the 2010 Encampment. The LGAR and ASUVCW will also be holding their encampments at the same time and place. Members of both groups will be participating on some of the encampment committees.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

In Memoriam

MARINE L. WOLF

(August 22, 1928 – October 11, 2007)

Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1
who honored the memory of his grandfather,
Private Aaron Wolfe, Co. I, 53rd Indiana Inf

*Grant him thy peace;
Let light perpetual shine upon him.*

SUVCW 126th NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT Saint Louis, Missouri

The 126th National Encampment for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held from August 9 through 12, 2007, at the Hilton Hotel in Frontenac, Missouri. The Department of Kansas was represented by its largest attendance at a National Encampment since the reforming of the Department. Eight brothers from Kansas attended, including: Department Commander Roy A. Lafferty; PDC Alan L. Russ; PDC Thomas E. Schmidt; PDC James R. Knopke; and Delegates PCC Douglas E. McGovern, Michael W. Anderson, Matthew G. Toll, and Robert L. Wandel.

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2010 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT WILL BE HELD IN OVERLAND PARK First time an SUVCW National Encampment held in Kansas

PDC Jim Knopke, Chairman of the Department of Kansas National Encampment Committee, was notified on September 30, 2007, by the chairman of the National Encampment Site Selection Committee that the Kansas application to host a National Encampment was



Department of Kansas Attendees at the 2007 National Encampment. From left to right: Michael W. Anderson, PDC James R. Knopke, Robert L. Wandel, Matthew G. Toll, Department Commander Roy A. Lafferty, PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC Alan L. Russ, PCC Douglas E. McGovern.

The following article was written by Brother Matthew G. Toll, Camp Commander, describing his experience and observations of the 126th National Encampment.

Just a short ride across Missouri, a gathering of a brotherhood began to assemble in early August for the 126th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. At this Encampment, friendships will be made and deals are to be brokered, business is to be discussed, and votes shall be tallied, thus beginning the 126 annual encampment, soaked in such tradition it would make the strongest "Patriot" shed the slightest tear.

As Commander-in-Chief James Pahl called the meeting to order, the Encampment sprang to attention, eager to tend to the Order's needs. Placed just to the speaker's left, next to the altar was a memoriam, or a reminder of our fathers who served to keep this great Nation whole. Positioned with ever loving care was a vacant chair as to suggest the attendance of the founders of our order, the Grand Army of the Republic, and on that chair was a GAR coat complete with membership badge; a GAR belt and sword; and a GAR hat, a small but powerful reminder for the gathering.

As the day's business carried on, various amendments were voted on, speakers spoke and issues debated, all for the good of the order. The meeting would break occasionally; allowing visitors from the other four Allied Orders to show their appreciation for help received from the years labors. All five Allied Orders being present; the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Auxiliary of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women's Relief Corps, and the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865. This year's Encampment was especially unique with the attendance of the DUVCW, this being one of the only times all five allied orders gathered together since the 1950's, making the occasion particularly exceptional. The visitations were reciprocated with delegates appointed by Commander-in-Chief Pahl from our order to visit the others at various intervals. These delegates also bore gifts from C-in-C Pahl.

Also the Encampment awards were presented and accepted. Two members of our department were honored for their diligent and hard work; Brother Alan Russ PDC was awarded the "Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star" for outstanding service to the order. Also recognized with the "Meritorious Service Award", was Brother Doug McGovern PCC, awarded for his exceptional work with the monuments registrations and organization in the department of Kansas.

After the first day's meetings were adjourned, the membership gathered to present various gifts and skits to Commander-in-Chief Pahl. All Departments wanted to thank him for his time and hard work as Commander-in-Chief. Kansas Department Commander Lafferty, Department Past Commanders, Department Officers, and Delegates that were in attendance, presented Commander-in-Chief Pahl with a limited edition framed print of the "Battle of Mine Creek", on behalf of the Department of Kansas. Commander-in-Chief Pahl expressed great gratitude for the gift, and later shared that he had hung it in his personal office for all to view.

In closing, my experience at the National Encampment was extraordinary! The comradeship and patriotic devotion of so many was impressive, and would renew any lost sense of patriotic ideals in anyone. I would like to end with a quote from Mr. Lincoln that I feel best describes our Order's work,

"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."

President Abraham Lincoln
Second Inaugural Address
March 4, 1865.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Membership as of September 30, 2007:

	Members	Assoc.	Juniors	Total
01-Corp. Coyne	65	2	1	68
04-Sgt. Churchill	21	2	1	24
05-Franklin	21	3	5	29
06-Mine Creek	10	2	0	12
16-Old Abe	21	0	0	21
Total	138	9	7	154

Dual members are only reported in their primary camp.

NEW BROTHERS

The following brothers have joined the Department of Kansas between April 1 and September 30, 2007.

Name	Camp
Brenner, George M. (Member)	Camp 4, Lawrence
Gaskins, Michael L. (Member)	Camp 1, Wichita
Hanscom, Brandon J. (Junior)	Camp 4, Lawrence
Hull, Darrell D. (Member)	Camp 1, Wichita
Meis, Steven J. (Junior)	Camp 5, Olathe
Porter, Scott A. (Member)	Camp 5, Olathe
Smith, Cade E. (Member)	Camp 5, Olathe

2008 CAMP DUES

It is not too early to start the SUVCW membership renewal process in your respective camps. In the Wichita camp we announce to the attendees at the fall camp meetings to pay your dues at one of the upcoming camp meetings, before the first of the year, (the Wichita camp does not meet in December). This way we can usually get the majority of our regular meeting attendees renewals handled easily. As a result, we are only sending out renewal notices to members who don't regularly come to camp meetings. Also, our first dues notice goes out in early December. Second notice in January etc. Our goal is to have membership renewals done as soon as possible.

I would encourage camp commanders and camp secretary/treasurers to start with membership renewals at your next meeting. The sooner the better for reporting and retention.

Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
Department Secretary/Treasurer

"Lincoln Remembered 2007"

The Cpl. Patrick Coyne Camp's annual fundraiser, "Lincoln Remembered," will be held Saturday, November 17, at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 South George Washington Blvd., in Wichita. The buffet-style covered dish dinner begins at 5:30 PM, and the program starts at 7 PM. The speaker this year will be Dr. Craig Miner, history professor at Wichita State University. His topic will be "Lincoln's Legacy."

Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased in advance from any Cpl. Coyne Camp member, as well as at the door. This fundraiser is the main source of funding for many of the programs the camp is involved in throughout the year.

Your support is appreciated.

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE Emporia, Kansas

The Department of Kansas participated in the Independence Day Parade in Emporia on July 4. All but one Department camp was represented.

This was an opportunity for the Department of Kansas to make itself known in a community where we are hoping to establish a camp. The community has a rich Civil War heritage, with Company A, 1st Kansas Infantry being raised in Emporia. This unit was actively involved in the Battle of Wilson Creek in August of 1861.



Camp Commanders Dan Karr and Mark Britton lead the way.



Everyone loves a parade! Brothers of the Department of Kansas pass in review in Emporia.

WEBSITE REVISED

www.suvcwks.org

There is a new look for the Department of Kansas website. Please take a few minutes to visit the website and see what is there.

Back in 2001, PDC Dean K. Speaks put together the first Department website. This website was well received; however, it was hosted on a commercial site which used frequent "pop-up" adds when the site was being visited. Although the information was good, the inconvenience of the pop-ups was not.

In 2005, the Department of Kansas decided to register its own domain name as "suvcwks.org" and host the site on a paid host provider. At that time, Jon Goering, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, stepped forward to handle the task of webmaster. Jon revised and updated the website, because a lot of the previous source pages had been lost in a computer "crash." Jon is to be credited for his outstanding job of maintaining the site. But alas, time and other commitments took their toll, and he notified the Department Commander that he no longer had the time to keep the site properly maintained.

Department Commander Roy Lafferty has appointed PDC Alan Russ to perform the duties of webmaster for the Department. And again, in the tradition of new webmasters, PDC Russ has revised and revamped the site.

One decision that was made by the Department is to provide camps with more operational information on the site. Department bylaws, policies, procedures, and orders are posted on the site. Camp information and contacts are provided for those camps which do not have their own website. When a camp has its own website, a link will be provided to it.

Department Email Addresses

Another item which has been implemented is a standard set of email addresses for all Department Officers and primary Camp Officers. This is an email forwarding service which routes the email to the personal email address of the officer. These are not "personal" email addresses, but are for the brother currently holding that office. Shortly after a change in the office holder, the email address will be re-routed to the new recipient. If you have questions about these, contact the Department Commander or Webmaster.

The new Department email addresses are:

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander

Commander@suvcwks.org

Senior Vice Commander	SVC@suvcwks.org
Junior Vice Commander	JVC@suvcwks.org
Secretary/Treasurer	Secretary@suvcwks.org
Immed. Past Dept Cdr	IPDC@suvcwks.org
Council Member – 1	Council1@suvcwks.org
Council Member – 2	Council2@suvcwks.org
Council Member – 3	Council3@suvcwks.org
Patriotic Instructor	Patriotic@suvcwks.org
Chaplain	Chaplain@suvcwks.org
Graves Reg. Officer	Graves@suvcwks.org
Historian	History@suvcwks.org
CW Memorials Officer	Memorials@suvcwks.org
Eagle Scout Coordinator	EagleScout@suvcwks.org
Counselor	Counselor@suvcwks.org
Webmaster	Webmaster@suvcwks.org

CAMP OFFICERS

Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1

Camp Commander	CC1@suvcwks.org
SVC	SVC1@suvcwks.org
JVC	JVC1@suvcwks.org
Secretary/Treasurer	Secretary1@suvcwks.org

Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4

Camp Commander	CC4@suvcwks.org
SVC	SVC4@suvcwks.org
JVC	JVC4@suvcwks.org
Secretary/Treasurer	Secretary4@suvcwks.org

Franklin Camp 5

Camp Commander	CC5@suvcwks.org
SVC	SVC5@suvcwks.org
JVC	JVC5@suvcwks.org
Secretary/Treasurer	Secretary5@suvcwks.org

Mine Creek Camp 6

Camp Commander	CC6@suvcwks.org
SVC	SVC6@suvcwks.org
JVC	JVC6@suvcwks.org
Secretary/Treasurer	Secretary6@suvcwks.org

Old Abe Camp 16

Camp Commander	CC16@suvcwks.org
SVC	SVC16@suvcwks.org
JVC	JVC16@suvcwks.org
Secretary/Treasurer	Secretary16@suvcwks.org

NEW JUNIORS ON HOLD

Acceptance of New Juniors Suspended Until Further Notice

At the 126th SUVCW National Encampment, a motion was made to modify rules for Juniors, in that they would not be required to have lineage. At the age of 14, they could then become either members (with lineage) or associates (without lineage). The motion passed.

After the encampment, the change was determined to be in non-compliance with the SUVCW constitution. As a result, Commander in Chief Charles Kuhn has suspended the accepting of applications for new juniors pending resolution of the situation. Below is his General Order 5 covering this. Camps will ensure their compliance.

**GENERAL ORDER 5
SERIES 2007 – 2008
28 August 2007**

1. With the recent action that took place at the 126th National Encampment concerning Junior Associates, the National Counselor, the Constitution and Regulations Committee, Past Commanders in Chiefs, Brothers of this Order who have expertise in the legal field as well as this Office have spent large amounts of time in examining all areas of the Constitution and Regulations of the Order. There is one other area of the Constitution that is in conflict with the Regulations of the Order.
2. These types of things occur when we try to address Constitutional issues by amending the Regulations. The Constitution defines who we are and why we are here. The Regulations place rules upon each of the items in the Constitution. That is why we cannot repair Constitutional issues such as

Membership in the Order with amendments to the Regulations.

3. Membership must be addressed with Constitutional amendments. For the same reasons set forth in General Order #4, Series 2007 – 2008, Junior Membership as a whole has placed the Constitution in conflict with the Regulations of the Order. This is a situation that is non tenable.

4. The Constitution is very specific in defining Membership in the Order. It specifically states that there will be three (3) classes of Members. They are Members, Life Members, and Honorary Members.

5. Therefore with a heavy heart and a great deal of thought as well as reluctance to issue this Order it is the general consensus that further recruitment of Junior Members must be held in abeyance until such time that the Constitution and the Regulations of this Order are no longer in conflict with each other concerning this issue.

6. Juniors that have already been initiated into the Order, and are currently on the Roster of the same, shall remain with the same restrictions as are currently in force concerning them.

7. Applications for Juniors that have applied to a Camp, Department or the National Order prior to 29 August 2007 may be initiated into the same. Any further recruitment of Juniors shall cease until such time as the Constitution and Regulations of the Order are no longer in conflict concerning Juniors.

8. It is my earnest hope that this issue will be brought to a close during this Administration. I will do everything within my powers as Commander in Chief to bring this to a successful conclusion and re-establish Juniors and Junior Associates within the Order if at all possible, for this issue also affects this Office as well. I too have a Grandson that will be eligible to become a Junior next year.

So ordered this 28th day of August, 2007;

Charles E. Kuhn, Jr.
Commander in Chief, National Order, SUVCW



Memorials Officer

Douglas E. McGovern, PCC

Kansas Civil War

Memorial/Monument Catalog

The catalog (and website) are due to be updated in the next month or so. Additional entries and clarifications have been received for a number of sites. Now is the time to get in those last minute pictures that you have in your cameras!

As brothers travel around the state, take the time to stop and appreciate some of our heritage. The Delphos Cemetery in Ottawa County has a beautiful granite monument.



The engravings read:

"We Here Highly Resolve ~ That These Dead Shall ~ Not Have Died In Vain ~ 1861 - 1865".

"In Memory Of Our ~ Patriot Dead ~ Erected By Wilderness ~ W.R.C. May 30, 1897".
"We Loved Our Country ~ Gave Our Lives For Her ~ Do Ye Our Children ~ For Her Honor Live".
"Sleep In Peace With Kindred Ashes ~ Of The Noble And The Dead. ~ Hands That Never Failed Their Country ~ Heart That Never Baseness Knew".
Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Doug McGovern – Civil War Memorials Officer

Greetings from your Graves Registration Officer. The National Encampment was very interesting, and it gave us a chance to talk to others who are doing the same thing we are doing in their states.

I did have a chance to talk to Bob Lowe, the National GRO, and we are working on getting some of the Kansas info and photos added to the National website. If you have any information about Civil War graves, please send the information to me and I will add them to the database.

We need your help to get all of the information from the State that we can get. So far I know that we have covered Douglas, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Franklin, and partial coverage of Anderson, Brown, Shawnee, Miami, Linn, and Johnson counties.

If you are interested in covering a county or a part of a county, please contact me so we can coordinate our efforts.



Patriotic Instructor

S. Todd Meek

NO ARTICLE SUBMITTED



Chaplain

Alan L. Russ, PDC

"Our Heavenly Father, High and Mighty Ruler of the universe..." With these words, the Camp Chaplain leads the prayer at the opening of each meeting. It is this prayer which should remind us of our real place within God's world. We are here for His service, not He for us. It is God's rules which should govern us, not our rules imposed upon or ignoring His. Listen to the words being said when the chaplain invokes the Divine Blessing, for these are not just old words we continue to report, but, indeed, our prayer for guidance, direction, and protection. For, as the chaplain concludes the prayer, he asks for His aid for the meeting at hand and His blessing upon us and our organization so that we continue in the qualities He would ask of us.

This prayer is not just a group of words, for, indeed, the power of prayer is a strong thing. The next time your Camp Chaplain recites the opening prayer, quietly pray along with him. The words are simple, but what is asked is powerful.



Historian

Blair D. Tarr

**Last Soldier Project
"The Last Widow"**

It started out as an innocent question from Alan Russ, which will be a surprise to those who find it hard to believe Alan would ask an innocent question. It did, however, provided the basis for another story in the Last Soldier file.

At the National Encampment, PCinC Steve Michaels gave Alan a clipping from the *Kansas City Kansan* of December 7, 1986, that identified Mattie T. Brown as the last Civil War widow in the state of Kansas. She was visited at that time by Jerry Orton of Wilton, New York, a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Orton had contacted the Burnside Post 1, of the Women's Relief Corps to arrange a meeting.

And the question was: Was Mattie Brown really the last Kansas widow?

It appears that she was. It seems that when she passed away on January 31, 1988, there was no one left who had been married to a Civil War veteran—at least a Union veteran. I had the thought that S.P. Dinsmoor's young widow—he of the Garden of Eden fame in Lucas—had been living in the Kansas City area, and she might be last. It turned out that Emilie Brozek Dinsmoor Rounkles indeed lived until April 1995, but she had been on the Missouri side, at Excelsior Springs. If anyone can claim the distinction of last widow in Missouri, it must be her.

Mattie Thomas was married to Francis Monroe Brown on February 18, 1934 at Liberty, Missouri. She was 41; he was 91. Francis was a native of Aurora, Illinois, born there on October 23, 1842. He later lived in Galesburg, Illinois, where he was apparently a witness to the Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858. Francis is described in his obituary as being half Negro, and half Creek Indian. A 21-year old farmer when he enlisted in the Navy in 1863, he served for three years, and the obituaries state that Francis was a personal messenger and occasional barber to Admiral Farragut.

After the war Francis enlisted in one of the "Buffalo Soldiers" cavalry units, and later enrolled in the Indian Scouts, scouting for and guiding government wagon trains. All together, he was in the service of the government for 54 years.

As with any veteran who lived into the late 1930s and early 1940s, he served the G.A.R. in a statewide office—two of them—as vice commander and as a chaplain. He died at home in Kansas City, Kansas, on March 11, 1943.

That date of death makes him the likely candidate to be Wyandotte County's last surviving Union veteran. But remember, the Last Soldier Project originally was to document the last buried in each county, and it is not going to be Francis Brown in Wyandotte County. He is buried at the Leavenworth National Cemetery.

As for Mattie, she established a scholarship in her husband's name at the Trinity A.M.E. Church in Kansas City, Kansas, and remained active in the affairs of the church. Born in Mississippi, she had come to Kansas City in 1919, and it appears she had been married once before. She was survived by a son and daughter for whom it seems Francis was their stepfather.

Unless someone has better information, Mattie Thomas Brown is the last Civil War widow in the state of Kansas. Because of a clipping handed to Alan, we believe we know this and also Francis Brown's status as a last veteran in Wyandotte County.

And if any of you want to determine the 'Last Widow' in each of the 105 counties in Kansas, you are free to take on the project!



**Junior Vice Commander
James M. Converse, PCC**

It is truly an honor to serve as Junior Vice Commander of the Department of Kansas. I believe that my great-great grandfather, Wagoneer Robert B. Converse, 177th Pennsylvania Infantry, who was the Chaplain of G.A.R. Gregory Post 326 at Pawnee Rock, Kansas, would be proud. I was unable to attend the National Encampment in St. Louis as a delegate, but have been active in Franklin Camp 5 activities as editor of the camp newsletter, *The Bugler* and Camp Historian. I organized the camp's rededication of Captain William Hogarty's gravesite at the Quindaro Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas, on Memorial Day weekend. Department Commander Roy Lafferty participated in this event, portraying Medal of Honor Recipient Captain Hogarty and reading a wartime biographical speech the Captain wrote and delivered to the Missouri MOLLUS Commandery in 1903. The Wyandotte County Historical Society co-sponsored the event, with extensive coverage of Captain Hogarty's history by the *Kansas City Kansan* newspaper. Thirty-four Civil War-era Medal of Honor recipients are buried throughout Kansas. I very much encourage each

Department of Kansas Camp to recognize these honored sites and conduct appropriate activities to memorialize them. During this quarter, there were no National memberships received by this office for assignment to Department of Kansas Camps.



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

As many of you know, I have been in the third world for the past three months. It sure is great to be back in the U.S.A! I thought many times about my comrades in the SUVCW and our ancestors while I was in Peru. We experienced an 8.0 magnitude earthquake just after the National Encampment in August. I extended my stay to help friends in the hardest hit areas, south of Lima, where they had aftershocks of 6.3, with four above 5.0. While I was moving 1,100 pounds of food to folks in a pueblo village of 3,000 people, it struck me how I had always known of the difficulties our ancestors faced in the Civil War, but now I was in similar conditions (although without the bullets!) The main problem was water!!! We have all seen the cowboy on television drink out of a muddy steer track, but when I was in Occucaje, you had to decide if you would drink the non potable water, boil it and hope, or just hold out.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of the Civil was the lack of knowledge of bacteria and infection. More men died of disease and infection than by battle. Much of this was dysentery. They just didn't know to boil water before drinking, or to use antiseptic in surgery and medical practices. Within five years after the end of the war, the discoveries of Pasteur and Lister in Europe were well known and common practice. Perhaps half of those who died, military and civilian, might have lived, if science and medicine had been as rapid in its advance as the technology of firearms and artillery.

The 21st century problem was electricity. Many towns didn't have power for 5 to 7 days, and all the modern water systems need power to pump. Finally, large trucks appeared and people by the hundreds lined up for the first 'fresh' water in nearly a week.

Three days of rice and beans added to the experience. I ate as little as possible, knowing that everything I ate was something someone else couldn't. I knew I would be driving back to Lima in several days, but these people were in for several months of limited supplies and still needed to rebuild their adobe houses that were slumped over with the roofs looking like lean-to's on single standing sides of mud blocks.

Try going for a single day without water or join our re-enactor comrades for a day or two in the life of our Civil War ancestors, and I believe you will appreciate our country and the sacrifices our ancestors made so we can live the way we do!!



**Commander's Corner
Roy A. Lafferty, PCC**

By now you know that we will be hosting the 2010 National Encampment. Many thanks to PDCs Jim Knopke, Tom Schmidt, and Alan Russ for putting in a lot of hard work to bring this about. You also need to be congratulated, because the Department of Kansas is recognized as a growing and vibrant department due to your participation in the various camp and Department activities. Over the next few weeks the encampment committee will start laying the ground work for 2010 and will be letting everyone know the next steps that need to be taken. The Department will need your help. If you see something that looks interesting to you speak up, this will be a Department wide effort.



Those that attended this year's National Encampment in St. Louis will agree that it was very successful, with a lot being accomplished. I would like to congratulate PCC Doug McGovern on receiving the Meritorious Service Award for his work on the Union

Veterans Monuments in Kansas. There is a link on the Department web site where you can check out what Doug has done.

This was the first encampment in the last four years that we did not win the Grant trophy for the largest percentage increase in membership. I want to challenge the Department to reclaim the trophy next year. If each of us will try to recruit one new member, this is an easy goal to obtain. Be thinking of someone, invite and take them to a camp meeting. If they don't live near you, take them to a camp meeting near them.

This is a reminder to the Camp Commanders and Secretaries; when General and/or Department Orders are sent out, please read them in the communications section of your camp meetings. Most of these orders effect the operations of the camp and could cause the camp to fall into non-compliance.

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 at 7pm, on the fourth Thursday of the month. The Camp does not meet in July, August or December. The November meeting is on the third Thursday, due to Thanksgiving.

Our last meeting before our summer break was held at the Museum of World Treasures in Old Town in Wichita. The members had a very educational time as we viewed the many exhibits. To be sure, the Civil War section was a great hit, as the collection is quite extensive.

As we prepare to begin our fall schedule of meetings, we look forward to the privilege of being able to meet together for camaraderie and to honor our ancestors. November holds a great deal of importance to our camp, as we will be involved in our "Lincoln Remembered" fundraiser event. This year we will be privileged to have Dr. Craig Miner from Wichita State University as our guest speaker. This event always proves to be a great time of honoring our heritage of President Abraham Lincoln and to raise some funds for the camp. We will also install our new camp officers at our November 15 meeting.

The camp continues to be involved and interested in the Maple Grove Heritage Association in connection with the preservation and restoration of the Maple Grove GAR Pavilion project. The work is underway and we look forward to its completion.

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, 1047 Massachusetts Street, in beautiful downtown Lawrence. Meetings are at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month, with programs starting about 7:30 PM. All SUVCW Brothers and the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

After a couple of months with no speaker, the situation was rectified at our July meeting. Robert Collins, author of *Jim Lane: Scoundrel, Statesman, Kansan*, was with us on July 19, and he had copies of the book with him.

Robert Collins has had stories and articles appear in many periodicals including *Tales of the Talisman*, Marion Zimmer Bradley's *Fantasy Magazine*, *Pyramid*, *The Fifth Dimension*, *Wild West*, *Model Railroader*, *Chronicle of the Old West* and the *Wichita Eagle*. His first science fiction novel, *Expert Assistance*, was just published by Asylett Press. Pelican Press published his recent book on Jim Lane, in addition to his biography

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 (up to \$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

The *Sunflower Picket* is posted on the Department website. If you elect the email option, you will be sent an email with a link to the newsletter when it is available for downloading. 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 Winter issue will be mailed by January 1, 2008. This issue will focus on the National Encampment and upcoming camp activities for the year. 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 **December 15, 2007**, preferably in electronic format. Camps should send the information about their camp activities, preferably with a photo.

Send submissions to:

PDC Alan L. Russ, Newsletter Editor

P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068

Email: suvcwks16@mindspring.com

P.S.

The following is from the Kansas State Historical Society website at http://www.kshs.org/places/capitol/representatives/barber_thomas.htm

Thomas W. Barber

Died December 6, 1855

Originally from Pennsylvania, Thomas W. Barber was the son of Thomas and Mary Oliver Barber. He came to Kansas Territory in 1855 from Richmond, Indiana, where he was a manufacturer of woolen cloths.

Once in the territory, Barber took a claim north of the Wakarusa River (Bloomington vicinity), some eight

miles southwest of Lawrence, and became involved in the free-state cause. He was shot and killed by a proslave party-reportedly by George W. Clark, the Indian agent-on December 6, 1855, on a road four miles southwest of Lawrence. Barber, who was in the company of his brother Robert F. Barber and Thomas M. Pierson at the time of the shooting, had gone to the aid of his Lawrence neighbors during the so-called "Wakarusa War," and, while his assailant was reportedly bragging that he had "sent another of these d--d abolitionists to his winter quarters," Barber's body was being taken to Lawrence where he became an instant martyr.

This incident perhaps influenced Governor Wilson Shannon to increase his efforts to work a truce between the two factions who stood on the brink of open warfare. The following year T. W. Barber's brother Oliver moved to Kansas where he was active in territorial and state politics, serving as a Douglas County commissioner and in the territorial and state legislatures.

The following is from the Kansas State Historical Society website at http://www.kshs.org/places/capitol/representatives/lane_james.htm

James Henry Lane

June 22, 1814 - July 11, 1866

James H. "The Grim Chieftain" Lane, who finished out his Kansas political career as a U. S. senator, was born in Indiana in 1814. After studying law in his father's office, Lane was admitted to the bar in 1840, practiced law, and served with the Indiana Volunteers during the Mexican War. As a Democrat he also served as lieutenant governor of Indiana and as a member of Congress, during which time he cast a vote for the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. He moved to Lawrence in 1855, where he gained the notoriety that assured him a prominent place in the history of the state and nation.

Lane joined free-state forces, despite his Democratic background, and soon became one of the Free State Party's most significant leaders. He was never an abolitionist, and he could be ruthless; Lane shot and killed a neighbor in 1858 over a boundary dispute. His detractors, then and now, paint him as an "unbalanced," pugnacious jayhawker.

Lane served as president of the Topeka and Leavenworth constitutional conventions, was elected one of the state's first U.S. senators. He raised the "Frontier Guard," recruited and commanded "Lane's Brigade" (actually, the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Kansas Volunteers), and was responsible for forming the First Kansas Colored Volunteers, the first regiment of African American troops to see action on the side of the Union during the Civil War.

Always controversial, Lane was a dominant force in Kansas and to an extent national politics for a decade. He was reelected to the U.S. Senate in 1865. Shortly thereafter, he lost favor in Kansas after backing the reconstruction policies of President Andrew Johnson, including the president's veto of the Civil Rights Bill. Because of despondence, as well as ill-health (maybe even mental illness), Lane shot himself in the head in 1866. He was buried in Lawrence's Oak Hill Cemetery.

The following is from the Kansas State Historical Society website at http://www.kshs.org/places/capitol/representatives/montgomery_james.htm

James Montgomery

December 22, 1814 - December 6, 1871

James Montgomery was one of Kansas's most famous (or infamous) "jayhawkers. Born in Ohio in 1814, Montgomery moved to Kentucky, taught school, and became a minister in the "Campbellite" church. Then he went to Missouri where he lived with his second wife until soon after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854.

Montgomery purchased a claim in Linn County, near Mound City, and quickly became a recognized leader of the free-state movement. In 1857 he organized a company of men to protect the free-state minority of southeast Kansas and to harass pro-slave settlements in Kansas and Missouri. While this type of activity abated for some months in 1859 and 1860, shortly before the Civil War officially began in April 1861, Montgomery and Charles "Doc" Jennison renewed their earlier activities and reportedly began "operating a ring of 'desperate jayhawkers' engaged in regular robbing. Stolen mounts were recognized up in Iowa, and jocular people said that the pedigree of every good horse was 'out of Missouri by Jennison.'" Montgomery soon joined the regular service, being elected colonel of the Third Kansas Volunteer Infantry, a part of "Lane's Brigade." When the Third, which gained quite a reputation along with the rest of the brigade for its jayhawking, was consolidated with some other units to form the Tenth Kansas Volunteer Infantry in April 1862, Montgomery remained the regiment's colonel. In early 1863, however, he transferred to the Second Regiment, South Carolina Colored Volunteers, and helped fill its ranks with black recruits. Throughout 1863 and part of 1864, Montgomery practiced his brand of Kansas warfare in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. In 1864 he resigned his commission, returned to Kansas, and ended his military career as colonel of the Sixth Kansas State Militia, which was active in October of that year during the threatened invasion by General Sterling Price. After the war, Montgomery returned to his Linn County farm, where he died, December 6, 1871.

**HAVE YOU INVITED SOMEONE TO JOIN THE
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL
WAR, LATELY?**

129th National Encampment
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
August 12-15, 2010
Overland Park, Kansas

"If I went west, I think I would go to Kansas..."

- Abraham Lincoln, March 17, 1860

The Department of Kansas is proud to have been selected to host the 2010 National Encampment for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

This is the first time in the history of the SUVCW or GAR a National Encampment has been held within the borders of Kansas.

From the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, through the years of "Bleeding Kansas" and its border wars from 1855 to 1861, through the Civil War, and in the post-war Western expansion when Kansas would become known as the "Soldier State," Kansas has been synonymous with the Civil War.

Area attractions within 60 miles of Overland Park include:

Mahaffie House, Olathe KS	12 miles
Liberty Memorial/World War I Museum, KC MO	19 miles
1856 Arabia Steamboat Museum, KC MO	20 miles
Truman Library, Independence MO	24 miles
Blackjack Battlefield (1856), Baldwin City KS	33 miles
Site of Quantrill's 1863 raid, Lawrence KS	35 miles
John Brown Museum, Osawatomie KS	41 miles
Frontier Army Museum, Fort Leavenworth KS	49 miles
Mine Creek Battlefield, Pleasanton KS	56 miles
Lexington Battlefield/Confederate Cemetery, Lexington MO	56 miles

Visit the Department of Kansas website at www.suvcwks.org for information, as it becomes available, and for links to the above area attractions.

Come to Kansas – where the Civil War began.

Roy A. Lafferty, PCC
Department Commander