



The Sunflower Picket

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

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Past Commander in Chief D. Brad Schall accepts token of appreciation at annual encampment



PDC Alan Russ presents PCinC Brad Schall of California with a delegate medal from the 1910 Kansas GAR Encampment held in Hutchinson. Brother Schall was born and raised in Hutchinson, Kansas. His native state yet holds a special place in his heart, and he returns as often as possible.

ANNUAL DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT HELD

The Eighteenth Annual Department Encampment was held on Saturday, January 11, 2014, at the Emporia Senior Center, 630 E. 12th Street, Emporia, Kansas. The Department was honored to once again host PCinC Brad Schall, this time in his capacity representing CinC Ken Freshley, who was unable to attend.

Twenty-eight Brothers from across the state, representing all four camps, enjoyed renewing friendships, gaining new acquaintances, and sharing comradeship, all while attending to the business of the department. The Department of Kansas Ladies of the GAR held their annual meeting in conjunction and provided a delicious lunch; thank you, ladies.

The seated elected department officers agreed to serve for the coming year and were duly re-elected by vote of encampment delegates. Total Department strength as of December 31, 2013, was 125, a net increase of four over 2012.

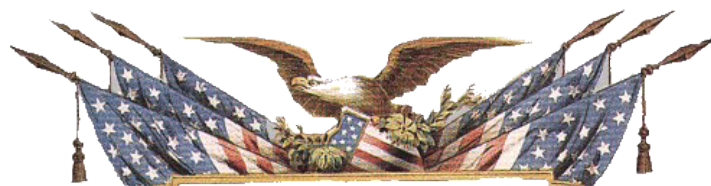
Awards were presented in recognition of outstanding work for the Order. Huzzah to the following Brothers and Camp:

Corp Leonidas B. Davis and PDC Dean K. Speaks Award for Recruiter of the Year
PCC Kent M. Melcher

Capt Patrick H. Coney Award for Brother of the Year
Jerry W. Reiman

Leander Stillwell Award for Outstanding Achievement
PDC Roy Lafferty

William W. Nixon Award for Camp of the Year
Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka



BROTHERS REMEMBERED

A Memorial Service was held prior to opening of the Encampment for three Kansas Brothers lost in 2013. We honor and remember them and their ancestors:

John H. Hartford, Corp Coyne Camp 1
Grandson of John Hartford

Wesley A. Hogan, Corp Coyne Camp 1
Grandson of Andrew Jackson Hogan

Thomas L. Page, Corp Coyne Camp 1
Grandson of John Henry Page

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

May 24 – Franklin Camp 5 Memorial Day service at GAR monument, Olathe Memorial Cemetery, 10:00 a.m.

May 24 – Old Abe Camp 16 Memorial Day service at GAR section, Topeka Cemetery, 7:30 a.m.

June 21 – Franklin Camp 5 Info Booth at Frontier Days, Edgerton

July 26 – Memorial Service for Charles H. Yust, Sylvia KS

August 14-17 – National Encampment, Marietta, Georgia

September 13 – Symbols of Sacrifice at Fort Scott NHS

October 18 – Mine Creek 150th Anniversary at the Battlefield (Fall Council Meeting to be held there) – hopefully our SUVCW Sesquicentennial Signature Event – plan on attending!

October 25 – Battle of Westport 150th Anniversary Reenactment

November 14-16 – Remembrance Day Weekend

January 10, 2015 – Department of Kansas Encampment



MASSING OF THE COLORS, TOPEKA

On April 27, 2013, Old Abe Camp 16 participated in the first "Massing of the Colors" at the All Wars Memorial in Gage Park, Topeka KS. The event was hosted by the Military Order of World Wars and promoted patriotism, respect and honor for the American flag and those who have served and are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Camp 16 provided a color guard and staffed an SUVCW information table.



From left: Camp 16 PCC Kent Melcher, JVC Nick Burchett, DC Rocky Bartlow, CC Conrad Fisher, and SVC Roger Lester

April 8, 1864 – The U.S. Senate passes the 13th Amendment to the Constitution (S. J. Res. 16) by a vote of 38 to 6. It declares that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall be duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." It still needed to pass the U.S. House and be sent to the states for ratification.

DEPARTMENT BROTHERS HELP ELECT ALAN RUSS AS NATIONAL SECRETARY



The Department of Kansas contingent (from left, PCC Bill Fischer, PDC Roy Lafferty, DC Rocky Bartlow, CC Conrad Fisher, PDC Alan Russ) to the 2013 SUVCW National Encampment in suburban Milwaukee WI was honored to support PDC Alan Russ's election to national office. Brother Russ has proven himself well qualified to serve as Secretary. His position brings great credit to the Sunflower State. Let's help Brother Russ show the Order that the Department of Kansas is a pacesetter by increasing membership and meeting all national deadlines!

April 22, 1864 – Congress passes the Coinage Act. It authorizes the two-cent coin, which also becomes the first U.S. coin to bear the inscription, "In God We Trust"

SYMBOLS OF SACRIFICE AT FORT SCOTT



Last September, volunteers placed a U.S. flag on the historic Fort Scott National Historic Site Parade Ground for each of the nearly 6,700 U.S. service members killed or who died in theater during the War on Terrorism. Those lost in earlier wars were also remembered. This year's ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014. Brothers are encouraged to attend.

PVT JOHN HENRY RICKSECKER HONORED

Brothers of the SUVCW Departments of Missouri and Kansas joined together on Sunday, March 23, 2014, at Forest Hills Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri, to remember Private John Henry Ricksecker, 104th Ohio Infantry Regiment. Ricksecker received the Medal of Honor on February 3, 1865, for his capture of the 16th Alabama Artillery's flag at the Battle of Franklin, TN on November 30, 1864. The event was organized by the Department of Missouri, and emceed by Commander Dale Crandell of Westport Camp 64, as part of National Medal of Honor Day, which is annually commemorated on March 25.

The Department of Kansas was invited to attend since Pvt Ricksecker had lived most of his post-war years in the Soldier State. Department Commander Rocky Bartlow was joined by Commander David Tollefson and PCC Lane Smith, both of Franklin Camp 5. PCC Smith brought along a Kansas state flag that was used in the ceremonial color guard. The flags of the department and camp were prominently displayed.

Other hereditary and veterans groups also attended, including local chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), the Society of the War of 1812, and Children of the American Revolution. The ceremony was enhanced as many were clad in vintage dress.



From left: DC Rocky Bartlow, PCC Lane Smith, and CC Dave Tollefson, with Gary Bradford, a new Camp 5 recruit, at the Ricksecker Ceremony in Kansas City, Missouri.



Also in attendance, to the pleasure of the crowd, was Colonel Don "Doc" Ballard, a fellow recipient of the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry in Vietnam. While a Navy Hospital Corpsman serving with the US Marines, Ballard came under fire caring for wounded, and threw himself on a North Vietnamese grenade to save the wounded Marines. When the grenade failed to explode, Ballard threw it away and continued to treat others. Doc Ballard later joined and retired from the Kansas Army National Guard.

The ceremony was a fitting way to honor Pvt Ricksecker, and included a color guard, placing of wreaths, speeches by notable guests including Colonel Ballard, a gun salute by members of the SAR, and a benediction by honorary chaplain PCC Smith.

National Medal of Honor Day provides an opportunity for Americans to recognize the 3,457 men and one woman (Mary Edwards Walker) whose heroism has been recognized with the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor. Established during the Civil War, the award is often mistakenly called the "Congressional Medal of Honor." The medal is generally presented by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress, but is officially known as the Medal of Honor.

There are 34 deceased Medal of Honor recipients buried in the greater Kansas City area. And there are 34 Civil War Medal of Honor recipients buried in Kansas. Fortunately, for those unable to attend the ceremony, enjoy the media coverage at:

<http://www.kmbc.com/news/Civil-War-veteran-received-Medal-of-Honor-after-150-years/25117338>

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/23/4910834/kansas-city-ceremony-recognizes.html#>

REMEMBER OUR BOYS IN BLUE ON MEMORIAL DAY AND EVERYDAY



Leavenworth National Cemetery, Kansas

ENGAGEMENT AND MASSACRE AT POISON SPRING, ARKANSAS

April 18, 1864

Union Major General Frederick Steele moved his troops south from Little Rock on March 23, 1864, for what became known as the Camden Expedition. After battles at Elkin's Ferry and Prairie D'Ane, Steele turned his army toward Camden (Ouachita County) on the Ouachita River, arriving there on April 15. Relatively safe within Camden's fortifications, Steele then addressed his critical lack of supplies.

On April 17, Steele sent a force of over 600 men and four cannon under Colonel James M. Williams with 198 wagons to seize



Brevet Brig Gen Williams (1865)

5,000 bushels of corn that were reportedly stored west of Camden. Marching to White Oak Creek some eighteen miles from Camden, Williams sent his troops, which included the First Kansas Colored Infantry Regiment, into the surrounding countryside to gather corn at area farms and plantations. Though Confederate cavalry had managed to destroy about half of the corn, the Yankee troops gathered the remainder, as well as other plunder, and regrouped at White Oak Creek. Williams was joined the next morning by a 501-man relief force of infantry, cavalry and two additional artillery pieces.

Confederate Brigadier General John Sappington Marmaduke, meanwhile, positioned approximately 3,600 Rebel cavalrymen backed by twelve cannon between Williams's column and Camden, blocking the Camden-Washington Road near Poison Spring. In addition to Arkansas, Missouri and Texas horsemen, his force included Colonel Tandy Walker's Choctaw Brigade from the Indian Territory.

Williams encountered the Confederate troops blocking the road on the morning of April 18 and established an L-shaped defense around his wagon train. The First Kansas Colored Infantry, recruited from former slaves from Arkansas and Missouri, fought off two attacks. A third, well-coordinated attack by four Confederate brigades broke the First Kansas line, and the entire Federal force retreated. Rebel troops followed them for two and one-half miles before calling off the pursuit.

The Southern troops then turned their attention to the wounded and captured soldiers of the First Kansas; both Union and Confederate accounts agree that many of the black troops were killed after the battle was over. Williams lost 301 men killed, wounded and missing at Poison Spring. Of those, 117 of the dead and sixty-five of the wounded were from the First Kansas Colored Infantry. Confederate losses were incompletely recorded but are believed to be fewer than 145.

A small portion of the Poison Spring battlefield is now preserved as Poison Spring State Park near Bragg City (Ouachita County).

Excerpt taken from article written by **Mark K. Christ** in *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, found at:

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=37>

For a more comprehensive summary of the entire Spring 1864 Red River Campaign, go to:

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/mansfield/mansfield-history-articles/redriverjoiner.html>

SITES TO SEE RELATED TO THE CIVIL WAR



White Haven, part of Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site

Long before Ulysses S. Grant served with distinction in the Civil War and became the 18th President of the United States, 2Lt Grant was assigned in 1843 to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, following graduation from West Point. Once there, he visited White Haven, the nearby home of his USMA roommate, Frederick Dent, and became a regular guest of the Dent family. There he met Fred's sister Julia, whom he married in 1848.

The Dents were slaveholders, with up to thirty slaves working on the farm. Grant left active military service in 1854 and lived on the Dent farm from 1854 to 1859. There he took an active role in its daily management, which included the enslaved African-American workforce. In fact, Grant became a slaveholder, purchasing a slave named William Jones. Yet, in 1859 Grant freely emancipated William in lieu of selling him for an estimated \$1000-1500.

In 1870 President Grant in a special message to Congress, insisted that "adoption of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution completes the greatest civil change and constitutes the most important event that has occurred since the nation came into life." Clearly, his time at White Haven influenced his role in conducting a war to preserve the Union and to end slavery.

For more information about visiting Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis, go to:

<http://www.nps.gov/ulsg/index.htm>