



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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TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, January 14, 2017 - Lawrence, Kansas

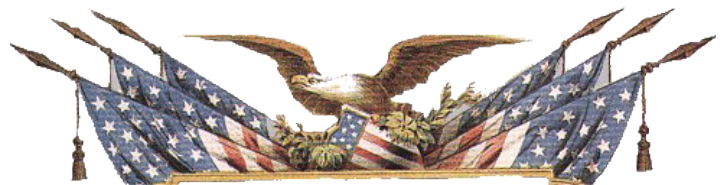
The Twenty-First Annual Department Encampment will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2017, in Lawrence, Kansas, at Dorsey-Liberty American Legion Post 14, 3408 West 6th Street. The doors will open by 9 a.m. for registration, and the Encampment will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a Memorial Service for department brothers lost during 2016.

We are honored to have SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Donald Martin, Department of Ohio, scheduled to attend the encampment. This is a great opportunity to share fellowship with brothers from across the state. Please plan to attend. Watch for forthcoming registration information.

Here is the tentative encampment agenda:

- 09:00 a.m. Registration Opens
- 10:00 a.m. Memorial Service
- 10:30 a.m. Business Meeting (Morning Session)
- Noon Lunch (time approximate)
- 01:00 p.m. Business Meeting (Afternoon Session)

Inclement weather date is January 28, 2017, at same location



2016 SUVCW National Encampment



Department of Kansas Delegation in Springfield IL

(left to right) PDC Kent Melcher, DC Mark Britton, PDC Roy Lafferty, Brother Ryan Todd, DJVC Mike Todd

Brother Ryan Todd Highlights Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 Youth Engagement Activities for the National Encampment Audience

One of the highlights of the 2016 National Encampment occurred on Friday, August 12, as outgoing Commander-in-Chief Eugene Mortorff, recognized Churchill Camp 4's activities with area youth. Calling Brother Ryan Todd to the podium to speak with the assembled SUVCW National Encampment body about the development and progress of the Black Jack Battlefield National Historic Landmark scout camporee, Brother Ryan discussed how putting action to ideas have helped grow this event each year. He also publicly thanked his Camp 4 Brothers several times during the impromptu presentation.

The first camporee held at the historic battlefield, where many consider the opening shots of the American Civil War were fired, was held in 2013 had 33 scouts and leaders in attendance. As word spread about this exciting campout, the 2014 event more



than doubled in size, with 77 scouts bivouacking. In 2015, 272 scouts and scouters pitched their tents, representing an eight-fold increase in participants over the inaugural event just two years earlier; that's also about two and one half times the number of participants in the 1856 battle!

Why has the event proven so popular? Besides the opportunity to camp on hallowed ground, the scouts had a variety of activities that led to them earning the coveted BSA Historic Trails Award and the official Black Jack Battlefield Camporee patch; fun and patches are sure ways to attract scouts!



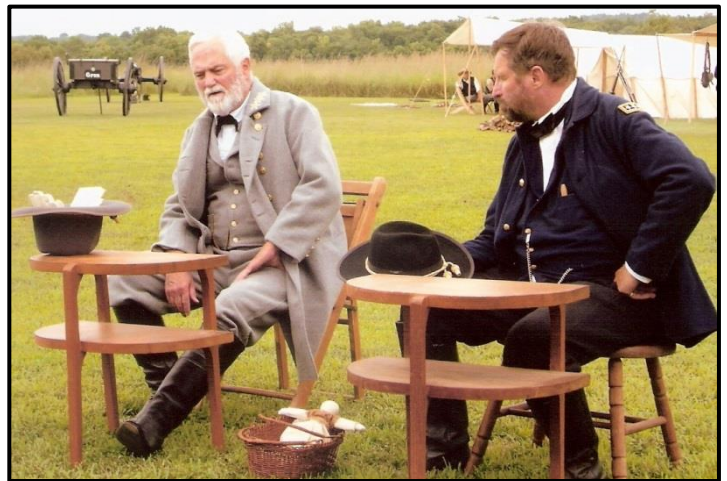
Dept SVC Bill Fischer can attest that the Historic Trails Award is highly valued by scouts since there are limited opportunities to earn it. Brother Bill organized a 2014 Boy Scout district camporee at Fort Scott Riverfront Park, where scouts visited neighboring Fort Scott National Historic Site and completed activities leading to the award. For those interested, Fort Scott NHS may be hosting a Fall 2017 scout district camporee in honor of the 175th anniversary of the US Army's founding of the fort in 1842; there's sure to be a special commemorative patch.

At Black Jack, Brother Ryan set up a Civil War Soldier Encampment as one of the stations that the scouts rotated through. Another station on the instruments and music of the Civil War was also a big hit. Scouts had the opportunity to earn a woodworking award by completing a mock Civil War rifle project that they used during two reenactments of the skirmish between pro- and anti-slavery forces led by Henry Pate and "Old John Brown," respectively; added sound effects and a smoke machine helped bring to life that long ago battle.

Three "Huzzah's" for Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 for their excellent community outreach events that have provided opportunities to educate youth on the importance of the Civil War and the sacrifices made by our Boys in Blue who ensured that "United" remained in our United States of America.

...and a special "Huzzah" for Brother Ryan Todd for his continued efforts to work with Camp 4 Brothers, the BSA, and Baldwin City USD 348 in engaging area youth with unique educational and historical programs that go beyond textbooks and lectures to create lasting memories and positive exposure for the SUVCW in our communities.

July 25, 1866. Congress establishes the rank of "General of the Army," and immediately promotes Ulysses Grant to that rank. War Dept G.O. 75 (September 5, 1866) made the insignia to be four stars. Congress also created the rank of "Admiral" on this date, with David Farragut promoted.



Lee and Grant at Appomattox has been a popular program presented by Franklin Camp 5 PCC Lane Smith and PDC Randy Durbin, shown here at the 2016 Heritage Days at Mine Creek Civil War Battlefield SHS

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

- November 11 – Veterans Day – take time to honor our Veterans
- November 18-19 – Remembrance Day Weekend, Gettysburg
- December 2-3 – Candlelight Tour, Fort Scott NHS
- January 14, 2017 – 21st Dept of Kansas Encampment, Lawrence
- April 15 – Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, Springfield, Illinois
- May – Memorial Day Activities to honor our Fallen
- August 10-13 – 131st National Encampment, Lansing, Michigan



(left to right) Nat'l Secy Jonathan Davis, PDC and Parliamentarian Kent Melcher, Brother Ryan Todd, CinC Eugene Mortorff, and two unidentified B3s (bald and balding Brothers).





Veteran Guilford Gage (AKA Herschel Stroud) speaking at Old Abe Camp Memorial Day activities at Topeka Cemetery. The ground and statue in the GAR Section were donated by Gage, a member of Lincoln Post 1, GAR.

***Fireman 1st Class Hiram E. Foster, US Navy
Crewman on the USS Hartford***
(provided by Dept SVC Bill Fischer)

I did not know that a maternal ggg-grandfather, Hiram Foster, had served during the Civil War until earlier this year when my lovely wife Sue uncovered documents online that demonstrated his service. I had previously gained SUVCW membership through a paternal gg-grandfather, Roman Braun, a German immigrant who served as a private in Company C 2nd Indiana Cavalry, a primarily German-speaking unit.

There is still a lot for me to uncover about Hiram Foster. Although Hiram's naval enlistment record states that he was born about 1822 in Washington County, New York, several censuses and his 1890 Philadelphia death certificate list birth in Vermont, which borders Washington County to the east. Hiram quickly answered the call for volunteers, enlisting in Philadelphia PA on April 30, 1861 as a "Coal Heaver" for a term of three years; his civilian occupation was listed as "machinist."

While service in the US Navy during the Civil War was often one of boredom for those serving on blockade duty, Foster had the good fortune (maybe?) of serving on the USS *Hartford*, a three-masted sloop of war steamship built in 1858, that became Admiral David Farragut's flagship in late 1861. The USS *Hartford* then led the assault to capture the heavily defended Confederate port of New Orleans in April 1862. The armada moved up the Mississippi River and captured Baton Rouge and Natchez without a fight. Although their progress stalled at Vicksburg, the USS *Hartford* helped cut the flow of supplies coming down the Red River heading for Vicksburg. This allowed for the long siege that ultimately led to the surrender of the Gibraltar of the Mississippi River.

Hiram Foster completed his three-year enlistment in May 1864 as a Fireman 1st Class and returned to Philadelphia. By doing so, he missed being part of the Battle of Mobile Bay that August, from which sprung the legendary Farragut order, "Damn the torpedoes." Interestingly, three USS *Hartford* coal heavers were among the Medal of Honor recipients for their actions during the battle.

While Civil War fame was elusive for ggg-grandfather Hiram, he had willingly enlisted at age 38 and had served honorably. Hiram Foster died in Philadelphia on May 16, 1890, and was buried in Fernwood Cemetery.

The USS *Hartford* survived for many years because it had been Admiral Farragut's flagship. However, US Navy neglect and subsequent deterioration resulted in the once proud ship sinking at her berth at the Norfolk Navy Yard in 1956 at the age of 98 years. Fortunately, many relics were salvaged, including a IX-inch Dahlgren gun which DSVC Fischer came across accidentally in Petoskey, Michigan, while on vacation in August. Being able to touch that cannon brought an even greater appreciation for Hiram Foster's service.



Brothers may contribute ancestor bios (about 500 words) for future issues.

December 20, 1866. On the sixth anniversary of its secession, South Carolina rejects the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, as Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas had previously done. The 14th Amendment made it clear that free blacks, and especially those formerly enslaved, were citizens of the United States of America. On July 9, 1868, with a pro-Republican Reconstruction legislature in place, South Carolina ratified the amendment.



Old Abe Camp 9 Brothers PDC Rocky Bartlow and PCC Conrad Fisher serve as color bearers during the August centennial remembrance ceremony of the 1916 GAR Encampment held in Kansas City. The event was organized by our Missouri SUVCW brethren.

Private Andrew M. Deal, 9th Kansas Cavalry



July headstone dedication ceremony in Mount Hope Cemetery, Humboldt, Kansas. Private Deal served in the 9th Kansas Cavalry, and was killed in action with fourteen other comrades when they were ambushed near Westport, Missouri, on June 17, 1863; Deal's remains rest in an unknown location. The memorial service and headstone dedication was hosted by Humboldt Camp 9 in coordination with Ms. Carolyn Whitaker, who did the hard work; she also invited descendants, who came by the dozens and who truly appreciated the honor given their ancestor. DC Mark Britton also participated. Another ceremony honored Sgt Ephraim Winstead of the 47th Missouri Infantry. Huzzah to all involved!

Cleaning and Repairing Headstones Is Hard Work



Old Abe Camp 16 has set a high standard in remembering our Boys in Blue by cleaning and repairing headstones in and around Topeka, and now Lawrence. Camp Commander Jerry Reiman was honored for such work with an SUVCW Meritorious Service Award in 2015. More than 1200 headstones have been cleaned in 14 cemeteries. Photo shows Brothers Fisher, Reiman, and Bartlow after resetting the headstone of sailor Jasper Moss in Topeka Cemetery. For more on Brother Jerry's work, see:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sib8YHx-hs>

Important and lasting work! Huzzah, Camp 16 Brothers!

Private John Holmes, Lincoln's Bodyguard

Old Abe Camp 16 recently dedicated a headstone in Topeka Cemetery for John Holmes, Ohio Independent Cavalry, who was on duty outside Ford's Theater the night President Lincoln was assassinated. Holmes began duty with the elite bodyguard unit in December 1863. He continued such service for President Andrew Johnson until September 1865. Holmes came to Kansas in 1877 and later operated a dry goods store with his sons in Topeka.

All the good work being done in Topeka Cemetery is being complemented by Eagle Scout candidate James Rakestraw's GPS mapping of all 1200 veterans buried in the cemetery. Such work will help ensure that our Boys in Blue are remembered for generations to come.

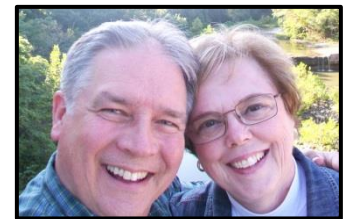
The SUVCW and Dept of Kansas camps must do all they can to encourage and mentor youth in Boy and Girl Scouting, 4-H, the Boys and Girls Clubs, church youth groups, and other youth organizations so they understand that those United States soldiers and volunteers who stood in the gap and sacrificed so much are owed a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. Honoring them yesterday, today, and tomorrow shall always be proper.

Dept SVC Bill Fischer Moving to Pennsylvania

Department Senior Vice Commander Bill Fischer, historian at Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott for the past six years, has accepted a National Park Service promotion to become the Chief of Resource Management and Visitor Services at Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Established by Congress in 1986, Steamtown NHS interprets the role that steam railroading played in the development of the United States from 1850 to 1950. The park occupies much of the former Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad yards in downtown Scranton, and includes structures dating back to 1865.

<https://www.nps.gov/stea/index.htm>

On a personal note, wife Sue and I came to Kansas just in time for me to attend the 2010 National Encampment in Overland Park as a member of the Dept of Ohio delegation. I joined Franklin Camp 5, then helped organize and became a charter member of Humboldt Camp 9 in 2015. I have also been honored to serve in several elected and appointed department officer positions under Commanders Lafferty, Bartlow, and Britton.



Due to begin work at Steamtown NHS the week of Thanksgiving, I will complete my current terms as Dept SVC and Graves Registration Officer, will attend the January 2017 Dept Encampment, and will not seek reelection to Dept offices. It has been my pleasure to serve with the Dept of Kansas during the Civil War Sesquicentennial. As a native Pennsylvanian with family now within a few hours' drive, I'm pleased for the new opportunities. But it has sincerely been an honor for Sue and me to call ourselves Kansans for six-plus years. Blessings to you all!