

The Sunflower Picket



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

The following was furnished by PDC Dean K. Speaks. Brother Speaks represented the Department at the funeral, both as a member of the SUVCW and as a friend.

Kansas Loses Last "Real Son"

VICTOR E. TULLAR

1909-2001

It is with a sad heart that I must report the death of the last known surviving Real Son of a Civil War Veteran in the State of Kansas, Mr. Victor E. Tullar, 91 of Beloit. He answered the final muster on Monday, April 2, 2001 at the Mitchell County Hospital in Beloit.

Brother Vic was a Charter Member of the Joseph Gaston Camp 3, Department of Kansas, located in Beloit, joining the Order on May 4, 1996. He was the son of Charles Mellanzton Tullar, who enlisted on August 2, 1862, as a Private in Company F, 130th New York Infantry, and served until the end of the war.

Victor was born on April 8, 1909 in Jewell County, Kansas, and lived in that area most of his life where he farmed. He had been living at the Long Term Care Unit of the Mitchell County Hospital for most of the past four years, due to his failing health. The following Sunday after his death would have marked his 92nd birthday.

Although Brother Vic was not able to attend meetings of the Order due to his health, he was extremely proud of his father's service to his country and of his own membership in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Vic's daughter often told me that two of the proudest moments in her father's life were when the members of our Camp presented him with his Membership Badge and Real Son Certificate and when the Department presented him with a plaque and flag at the re-dedication of Soldier's Square in Beloit during our 1998 Encampment. Brother Vic always pointed out his Real Son certificate, his Membership Badge, his Plaque and his Flag to each and every visitor who came to see him. He always had an infectious smile, a solid handshake, and a kind word for each person he ever met.

He is survived by his daughter, Marilyn (Mrs. Reed) Griest, Rt 2 Box 8, Jewell, KS 66949, and had recently lost his son, Vaughn.

FIFTH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

As required by National and Department bylaws, the Department of Kansas held it's Fifth Annual Encampment on April 7, 2001, in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Items of business before the Encampment included:

- Memorial Service, in conjunction with the Daughters of Union Veterans, for Victor Tullar;
- Reports from the Camps and Department Officers;
- Discussion of the situation involving the cannon located at the Hutchinson Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, followed by passage

of resolution to be sent to the City of Hutchinson, explaining the position of the SUVCW (*see separate article in this issue*);

- Approval of change to Department bylaws establishing a specific time the annual encampment is to be held and which camps are to host it;
- Request for the Council to hold a Fall Council Meeting and Encampment in Larned, date and time to be determined;
- Passage of Resolution supporting the nomination of Brother Dean Speaks, PDC, for a position on the National Council of Administration.
- Election and installation of officers for the 2001-2002 term.

The Annual Encampment for 2002 shall be held in Topeka, Kansas, on April 27, hosted by Old Abe Camp 16.

The following brothers were elected to Department offices.

Department Commander	Randall M. Thies, PCC <i>Old Abe Camp 16</i>
Senior Vice Commander	Alan L. Russ, CC <i>Old Abe Camp 16</i>
Junior Vice Commander	Douglas G. Smith, PCC <i>Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1</i>
Secretary/Treasurer	Dean K. Speaks, PDC <i>Joseph Gaston Camp 3</i>
Council	Frank Bergquist, PDC <i>Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1</i> Kim Nelson, PCC <i>Joseph Gaston Camp 3</i> Blair Tarr <i>Old Abe Camp 16</i>

FALL COUNCIL MEETING & DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

October 20, 2001, 10 AM

Larned, Kansas

As requested by the delegates to the 2001 Department Encampment, the Department Council will hold it's Fall Council Meeting on October 20, 2001, in Larned, Kansas. The meeting will begin at 10 AM, with the Council considering any Department business brought before it.

In addition to the Council meeting, a tour of some of the local G.A.R. related sites and projects will be available to attendees. Details will be published in the Fall issue of the Sunflower Picket.

BANNER NOW ON LINE

The June 2001 issue of the "Banner" should be arriving in your mailboxes in the near future. In the meantime, you can access it via the National SUVCW web site. It is a large file requiring a lot of download time. The publication is online in Adobe Acrobat format (available from www.adobe.com). The web address for the issue is:

<http://suvchw.org/banner/banner0106.pdf>

PRIVATE JOHN HENRY CALLAHAN

Company B, 122nd Illinois Infantry

Grave Marker Dedication & Memorial Day Service

On this past Memorial Day a hero was finally honored. John Henry Callahan received the Medal of Honor for his heroic act of capturing a Confederate battle flag on April 9, 1865. This occurred during the heated battle at Fort Blakeley, Alabama. The records of the day left no doubt as to the heroism displayed by Private John Callahan on that day. This was also the last major battle of the Civil War, because, on that same day, General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia was completing their surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant.

After the war, John Callahan moved to the area of Manhattan, Kansas, where he settled and raised his family. John Callahan lived a fairly obscure and quiet life. He joined the Lew Gove Post #100 of the Grand Army of the Republic. Like so many others, he also suffered in his later life with the afflictions caused by four years of harsh duty with the Union army. On March 13, 1914, John Henry Callahan left this world behind as he finally rejoined so many of his comrades in the next life.

John Callahan was buried in Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan, Kansas, next to his wife, Lucinda. Lucinda had preceded him in death, dying on May 5, 1907. For reasons which will never be known, the grave of Medal of Honor recipient Private John Henry Callahan was never marked with a headstone or marker of any kind.

Eighty-six years later, in the Spring of 2000, a U.S. Army sergeant stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, became aware of the story that a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient was buried at the Sunset Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Sergeant John Luerding, who serves with a Military Police unit at Fort Riley, took it upon himself to try to right this injustice. He and his family went to search the cemetery for Lucinda Callahan's grave, and Sergeant Luerding's young son, Gregory, was the first to find her grave. A subsequent search of cemetery records confirmed that John Callahan was buried in the unmarked space next to his wife.

Through the assistance of numerous people, a proper military grave marker, with the Medal of Honor inscription, was finally received. Early in this process, Brother Department of Kansas Secretary/Treasurer Dean Speaks, PDC, was contacted by Sergeant Luerding. Brother Speaks offered the assistance of the Department in whatever way it could to ensure John Callahan received the recognition he had earned. On April 28, 2001, Brother Dean Speaks and Brother Kim Nelson, along with guidance from the cemetery sexton, placed the marker at the gravesite. Brother Speaks can share many a story of the frustrations and rewards of bringing all of this together for Memorial Day, 2001.

At 1 PM on May 28, 2001, the ceremonies to dedicate the new grave marker for Private John Henry Callahan began. An estimated



twenty-five descendents of Private Callahan were on hand for the ceremonies, with an estimated total of from seventy-five to one hundred people in attendance. Department Senior Vice Commander Alan Russ served as Master of Ceremonies. The Colors were posted by a Color Guard from Fort Riley. Chaplain (Major) David Hann, U.S. Army, Fort Riley, delivered the invocation, benediction, and served as chaplain during the SUVCW dedication ceremony. Mayor Bruce Snead, Manhattan, issued a warm welcome from the City of Manhattan.

Brother Dean Speaks delivered the first address, as he described the heroics of Private John Callahan. Sergeant John Luerding next addressed the audience, as he told of being driven to right this injustice. He also spoke of the pride and honor he felt, knowing this is a story with the right ending.

The Honorable Jim Ryun, U.S. Congressman from Kansas' Second Congressional District, delivered the keynote speech, as he spoke of the need to never forget our veterans. Congressman Ryun reaffirmed his support for those military and patriotic issues coming before the House of Representatives.

The Sons of Union Veterans then dedicated the new headstone. An honor detail from Fort Riley, folded the American flag, and presented it to the descendents of Private Callahan. Terry Iseli, dressed as a bugler from the Eighth Kansas Infantry, played Taps, followed by a howitzer salute by Battery C, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, from Kingman, Kansas.

The descendents of John Callahan then presented the American flag to Ms. Jo Ann Flirt, Director at Blakeley Park Historical Site. She also provided a narrative of the battle in which Private Callahan had participated.

A brief Memorial Day service was then conducted to honor all veterans, as represented by Private Callahan. The Allied Orders of the G.A.R. also participated, along with Terry Iseli playing Taps, and another howitzer salute from the battery.

As the benediction was delivered and the colors were retired, all who were present knew a hero had finally received his just recognition. Rest in peace, John Henry Callahan, you are not forgotten.



Editor's Note: Private John H. Callahan is one of only thirty-four Civil War Medal of Honor recipients buried in the State of Kansas.

HUTCHINSON CANNON



Soldiers and Sailors Monument, in Hutchinson. One of the cannon is visible at the lower right of the monument.

On June 21, 2001, PDC Dean Speaks, Department Secretary/Treasurer, and Alan Russ, Department Sr. Vice Commander, met with the Hutchinson, Kansas, Landmarks Commission in Hutchinson to discuss the two Confederate Civil War cannon located at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

The monument was erected in 1918 to honor all soldiers and sailors "Loyal to our flag." Two captured Confederate cannon were placed on permanent loan, in joint stewardship between the Grand Army of the Republic and the City of Hutchinson. One cannon is the only one of its kind known to have survived, and the other is one of just eight of that type still in existence.

Although there originally had been some confusion by the City of Hutchinson as to whom legally had control of the cannon, this issue has been resolved. Brother Speaks, acting in behalf of, and with direction from, the Commander in Chief, had submitted documents and correspondence to the city, documenting the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as the legal successor to the GAR in this matter.

The Department had passed a resolution during the Annual Encampment in Hutchinson stating the position of the SUVCW with regard to keeping the cannon at the memorial. The resolution also addressed our opposition to the issue of repeatedly moving the cannon from the memorial for display elsewhere.

The meeting on June 21 produced good results. It appeared to help everyone understand each other's viewpoints. Both groups agreed that the primary purpose was to keep the cannon in Hutchinson and have them restored to their proper condition. Along with this effort, the Landmarks Commission raising funds for repairs to the monument and improvements to the site location. A total of \$83,000 is needed to accomplish these things (of which just over 25% would go for cannon carriages). The City of Hutchinson has agreed to cover one-third of the cost in matching funds. That, of course, means the other two-thirds must be raised from private sources.



In order to help raise funds for the restoration, the Landmarks Commission is selling commemorative brick pavers. The pavers will be used around the monument and cannon.

These bricks range in cost from \$25 to \$175. A basic four inches by eight inches brick with three lines of text would cost \$35. The cost of the bricks is tax deductible. For further information about supporting this worthy project, contact Vicki Koepsel at the Hutchinson Planning Department, (316)694-2635, for a brochure.



PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Earl McIntosh

SCHOOL FLAG DISPLAY ACT

Governor Graves Signs Bill Into Law

You might just see a few more flags flying at schools next year. Kansas Governor Bill Graves signed into law a bill requiring all schools to fly the American Flag. Schools will also be required to provide patriotic observation, including the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Students will also be given instruction in flag etiquette, use and display. In the Senate, the bill passed 40 to 0. The House of Representatives passed the bill 117 to 4. Please take the opportunity to thank your state legislator for supporting this bill. The complete text of the bill follows, for your information.

HOUSE BILL No. 2105

AN ACT concerning the flag of the United States of America; relating to the use and display thereof; amending K.S.A. 72-5308 and 73-707 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 72-5308 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-5308.

(a) The state board of education shall prepare for the use of the public schools a program providing for patriotic exercises the board deems to be expedient, under such instructions as may best meet the varied requirements of the different grades in such schools. The program of patriotic observation of every school district shall include:

- (1) A daily recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
- (2) instructions relating to flag etiquette, use and display; and
- (3) provisions relating to the observance in public schools of Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Memorial day, and Flag day, and such other legal holidays designated by law.

(b) The state board of education shall adopt any rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of subsection (a).

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 73-707 is hereby amended to read as follows: 73-707. The board of education of every school district and the proprietor of a private or

parochial school, in this state shall provide a suitable flag of the United States of America with staff or flagpole for every school-house under the control and supervision of such board or proprietor. The flag shall be displayed in conformance with the instructions relating to flag etiquette, use and display adopted by the state board of education under K.S.A. 72-5308, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 72-5308 and 73-707 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.



HISTORIAN

Dean Speaks

LELAND JUSTIN WEBB

August 5, 1846 - February 21, 1893

Sometimes, what you are looking for is to be found right under your very nose. We had very little information concerning the early existence of Old Abe Camp 16, when a look at the National SUVCW web page (www.suvcw.org) produced some interesting information. One of the early SUVCW National Commanders was from Kansas, and his biographical sketch mentioned he was the first Camp Commander for Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka, Kansas.

This early leader is LELAND JUSTIN WEBB. He also has the distinction of being a Civil War Veteran, as well as being the son of a Civil War Veteran. In these capacities, he belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the Sons of Veterans, USA, (SofV), and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). He also belonged to the Sons of the Revolution.

Leland J. Webb first enlisted on October 15, 1861, at the age of 15, as a drummer in Company H, 16th Wisconsin Infantry. He was discharged August 25, 1862. Returning to Wisconsin he enlisted in Company I, 30th Wisconsin Infantry as a musician. He then enlisted with Company E, 1st Illinois Light Artillery and was discharged on July 15, 1865. He served in several major engagements including Pittsburg Landing, Tupelo, the Siege of Corinth, Guntown, Holly Springs, and Nashville. It was at the battle of Pittsburg Landing where the regiment suffered a terrible loss, with most of the troops being captured. The young Leland escaped, took his drum to a safe place, acquired a musket and went into the fight with a small remnant of the regiment. When the major in command of the group asked Webb where his drum was, he replied, "Oh, the d--d thing won't shoot, so I put it away."

He moved to Ft. Scott, Kansas in 1868 and served for six months with the 19th Kansas Cavalry in service against the indians. On December 11, 1869, he was admitted to the bar. He served as the first mayor of Columbus, Kansas. In 1870 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He married Helen Herman in 1870 and had two children. His son, Herman, died in infancy. His daughter, Mabel, later married Harry J. Wells of Topeka.

He served a number of positions in Lincoln Post 1, Department of Kansas, Grand Army of the Republic, 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 Sons of Veterans Old Abe Camp 16, in Topeka, Kansas. 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 as the seventh Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans in 1890 and served with distinction. He died an untimely death on February 21, 1893.

Leland Justin Webb is buried in Topeka Cemetery, Topeka, Kansas. His grave is marked with a large, gray granite monument, which proudly displays a large, etched G.A.R. badge at the top. Also buried in this family plot are his wife, Helen Webb Golden, a son, Herman who died at the age of four, a daughter, Mabel Webb Wells, who died at the age of 24, and some of his grandchildren. Across from Webb's family plot are located the graves of his father, Maj. William C. Webb and the senior Mr. Webb's wife, Emma. With the new found knowledge of Leland J. Webb, and his importance to the Department of Kansas and Old Abe Camp 16, we strengthen our ties to those great men who so valiantly fought to preserve this union. It was their foresight in forming the GAR and SUVCW, which, even today, keeps their memories alive.

Material for this article was obtained from the National SUVCW web site, "Collected Biography Clippings", Vol. 1, Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS), Topeka, Kansas, and MOLLUS Commandery of Kansas Circ. 16, Series 1893, dated Dec. 25, 1893, obtained from KSHS.



CHAPLAIN

Del Downs

Something To Think About

"If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him?" *From Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.*

The following excerpt from "Religious Revival in Civil War Armies" by Gordon Leidner gives us some insight into the use of chaplains during the Civil War:

"Abraham Lincoln recognized the value of religion as a stabilizing force in the Union army, and did all within his power to provide for organized spiritual guidance to soldiers. On May 4, 1861, he ordered all regimental commanders to appoint chaplains for their units. The Chaplain was expected to be an ordained minister of a Christian denomination, and was to receive an officer's salary (initially \$1,700 per year, later cut to \$1,200). Lincoln also provided as much support as he could to the United States Christian Commission, an inter-denominational organization that was dedicated primarily to the spreading of the Gospel in the Union armies.

"Unfortunately for the southern soldiers, Jefferson Davis and his administration put less value on the establishment of army chaplains and evangelistic activities within the army. There was no corresponding effort to assure that every regiment had a chaplain, and those that were appointed received a salary initially of \$1,020 per year, which was soon reduced to \$600. Although the salary was later increased to \$960, few Confederate army chaplains were ever fully supported by the Confederate authorities. The Confederate government was more anxious to have 'fighting men' than 'preaching men.'"

And the rest, as they say, is **HISTORY!**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Randy Thies, PCC

"Bring in new members! Raise more money!" These are familiar phrases in newsletters of the various organizations to which I belong. Those are not the phrases you're going to hear from me, however, even though it would definitely be a good thing for us to increase our membership and bolster our coffers.

Rather, I want to ask you to do what you can to promote the SUVCW and remembrance of our Union ancestors through direct action, by doing something of value in your community. There are innumerable ways in which you or your camp can do something worthwhile, whether it is marching in a parade, serving on the local Memorial Day committee, or doing things of a more long-lasting nature such as cleaning and resetting veterans' gravestones or facilitating the restoration of your local Civil War monument.

For obvious reasons, monuments and gravestones have come to be a logical focus of our community service, just as Civil War reenacting has become a viable venue for fundraising and fostering public awareness of the Civil War. Fortunately, these sort of events are also a photogenic "natural" for attracting the attention of local newspapers and television stations. Let them know who you are, and who you represent! By doing so, not only will our overall goals be accomplished, but we will also attract public attention and new members, ultimately creating a stronger organization.

As Department Commander, I look forward to assisting camps and individuals with worthy projects. I am gratified by the excitement and sense of optimistic earnestness that characterize past undertakings, seen most recently in the Callahan grave marker dedication but also in our efforts to save various cannon that otherwise would have gone astray.

Likewise, I am particularly impressed by the accomplishments of SUVCW members in Larned, who have worked hard and long to improve the situation of Civil War markers in their area and to create new markers for related commemorative purposes. As one way of giving them credit, I want to urge all of our members to attend the Fall Gathering of the Department of Kansas in Larned, so that we can all see what has been done there.

Looking in the other direction, I applaud plans for future accomplishments such as the Pavilion restoration in Wichita's Maple Grove Cemetery, or Old Abe Camp's determination to improve Civil War monuments and veterans' markers in all of the Topeka-area cemeteries. I am confident that these will be rewarding undertakings with positive outcomes, and I know that the Department will benefit from such projects.

All in all, I am gratified by the accomplishments of the past and our plans for the future. Please join me in striving to make the future even better than the past!

PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1, WICHITA

The following article was submitted by Bill Nestelroad, Sec/Treasurer, Patrick Coyne Camp 1.

On April 14, 2001, members of the Patrick Coyne Camp 1 held a ceremony in Wichita, Kansas, to commemorate Remembrance Day of the death of President Abraham Lincoln. This ceremony was held at Maple Grove Cemetery in front of the Civil War Pavilion.

A wreath was laid in front of the pavilion, along with a firing of muskets, and a few words read about our great President.

Preservation efforts continue on the pavilion to preserve this monument for future generations, so the ideas and causes of the Americans who fought to preserve our Nation will not be forgotten.



From l. to r. - Ken Spurgeon, SVC, Frank Bergquist, PDC, Virgil Reed, Boris Bulatkin, CC, Bill Nestelroad, Sec/Treas., two members of the 8th KS reenactors, Tom Schmidt, JVC.

The elected officers of Patrick Coyne Camp 1, for 2001, are:

Camp Commander	Boris N Bulatkin
Senior Vice Commander	Kenneth R. Spurgeon
Junior Vice Commander	Tom Schmidt
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Nestelroad
Camp Council	John H. Hartford Doug Smith Kenneth Strader

The Camp normally meets at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 George Washington Blvd., at 7 PM. The officers normally meet at Charlies, 31st & Oliver, for dinner at 6 PM prior to the meeting.

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2001 are as follows:

- May 24
- June 28
- July 26 - No Meeting
- August 23 - No Meeting
- September 27
- October 25
- November 29 - Meeting moved to 29th.
- December 27 - No meeting

JOSEPH GASTON CAMP 3, BELOIT

The Joseph Gaston Camp 3 has been busy maintaining the Soldiers' Square at the Beloit Cemetery. In April, Victor Tullar, the last "Real Son" from Kansas, passed away. Members of the camp represented the Order at his funeral.

The elected officers of Joseph Gaston Camp 3, for 2001, include:

Camp Commander	Kim Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer	Dean Speaks

The Camp meets the last Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Port Library, 311 W. Main in Beloit.

OLD ABE CAMP 16, TOPEKA

Old Abe Camp 16 has already been busy this year with cemetery projects. Beginning in March, the Camp began, with the help of local high school groups and community volunteers, the process of recording the Civil War burials in Topeka Cemetery. This is an ongoing project for the remainder of the year.

In April, it was a trip to Foster Cemetery in South Topeka. With the help of members from the Ladies of the Grand Army of the

Republic, numerous stones were cleaned, and several badly sunken stones were reset.



Old Abe Camp 16 resets a Civil War marker at Foster Cemetery.

May is the annual Topeka Cemetery clean-up day, in preparation for Memorial Day, where Old Abe Camp 16, along with numerous other local groups helped prepare the cemetery for Memorial Day.

The camp took a road-trip to Burlingame for it's June project. There, they cleaned numerous Civil War grave markers at the Burlingame Cemetery. Additional cemetery projects are planned for the remainder of the summer.

Elected officers for 2001 are as follows:

- Camp Commander Alan Russ
- Senior Vice Commander Blair Tarr
- Junior Vice Commander Earl McIntosh
- Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Dunaway

Camp Council

- Rick Baker
- Del Downs
- Darrell Giles

The Camp meets on the second Monday of each month at Tevis' Restaurant, 821 SW 6th Street, Topeka.

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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will be mailed out by October 1, 2001. Camp SVC's should submit information and articles to the Department SVC no later than September 15, 2001. Electronic format is preferred.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL