



# The Sunflower Picket



www.suvcwks.org

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

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## Department of Kansas Tenth Annual Department Encampment



*From L to R: Incoming Department Commander Randy Durbin, Nancy Durbin, National SVCinC Jim Pahl, Barb Knopke, and outgoing Department Commander Jim Knopke.*

The Department of Kansas held its Tenth Annual Department Encampment on Saturday, April 22, 2006, at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka. Old Abe Camp 16 hosted the encampment. Thirty-two brothers from the Department of Kansas were present.

The Department was honored to have National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief James B. Pahl as an honored guest, along with Commander Paul Hadley, Department Commander for Nebraska.

Activities began at 11 AM with Tom and Deb Goodrich presenting an overview of early Kansas, entitled "Bleeding Kansas to Abraham Lincoln." This was an excellent presentation of some of the early activities and individuals associated with Kansas during the ten years from 1855 through 1865.

The Emma Edmonds Circle 2000, LGAR, hosted the noon meal, which was catered by Boss Hawg's BBQ. Again, plenty of food and good company for all.

Department Commander James R. Knopke opened the business meeting at 1:30 with a recognition of the Past Department Commanders. After the members of the encampment had taken their seats, the Past Department Commanders entered the room to their positions on the front row. Commander Knopke presented each with a certificate of recognition as Department of Kansas PDC. The Department Encampment was then officially opened, visitors welcomed, and business begun.

Reports were presented by the Department Officers, Camp Commanders or representatives, and Department committees. Under "unfinished business," the encampment was informed that the Benteen Bridge plaque and been procured and installed next to the bridge. Also, the encampment was asked to indicate that the Department was still interested in hosting a National Encampment. All gave overwhelming support. A motion was made to advise the National Site Selection Committee of our continued interest. Commander Knopke will handle this.

"New business" began with determining how many would be attending the National Encampment in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following all stated their intent to attend (status is post-Department Encampment status): Department Commander Randal L. Durbin, PDC James R. Knopke, PDC Alan L. Russ, PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, Roy A. Lafferty, S. Todd Meek, Craig A. Sundell, and Robert L. Wandel. A motion was made and carried to elect Lafferty, Meek, Sundell, and Wandel as delegates.

Commander Knopke announced that, per the Department bylaws, the 11th Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas would be on April 28, 2007. Also, per the bylaws, the camp next in line to host the Encampment was Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita. Commander Knopke asked Camp Commander Dale L. Rouse of Corp. Coyne Camp 1 if the camp was willing to accept the hosting of the Encampment. Commander Rouse accepted on behalf of the camp.

Seven proposed changes to the Department Bylaws were presented and approved. These had been distributed to all camps in March, as required by the bylaws. When the amendments have been approved by the National Commander-in-Chief, an updated version of the bylaws will be distributed to all camps.



*The Department officers and Past Department Commanders call upon the Ladies of the GAR.*

Resolutions supporting SVCinC James B. Pahl, Michigan, for the position of National Commander-in-Chief and JVCinC Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., Pennsylvania, for the position of National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief were approved.

The Mine Creek Battlefield Committee was approved as a Standing Committee of the Department. It had previously been a special committee without permanent status.

The nominations and election of officers followed, with all positions being unopposed. A motion was made and approved to accept by acclamation. The newly elected officers are:

Commander	PCC Randal L. Durbin Camp 16
Senior Vice Cdr	PCC Roy A. Lafferty Camp 4
Junior Vice Cdr	PCC Craig A. Sundell Camp 4
Secretary/Treasurer	PDC Alan L. Russ Camp 16
Council Members	Robert L. Wandel Camp 4 PDC Kenneth R. Spurgeon Camp 1 James M. Converse Camp 5

Before turning over his gavel, Commander Knopke presented Department Awards for 2005-2006. These were awarded, as follows:

**Leonidus B. Davis Award  
Recruiter of the Year**

PCC Craig A. Sundell, Camp 4 (16 Recruits)  
PCC Randal L. Durbin Camp 16 (16 Recruits)

**Captain Patrick H. Coney Award  
Member of the Year**

PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, Camp 1

**William H. Nixon Award  
Camp of the Year**

Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita

**Leander Stillwell  
Outstanding Achievement Award**

PDC Alan L. Russ, Camp 16

At that time, Commander Knopke turned over the gavel to SVCinC Pahl, who, in relieving Commander Knopke of his duties as Commander, presented Knopke with the Past Department Commander badge.



Outgoing Department Commander Knopke has his Past Department Commander badge pinned on by wife and LGAR National Junior Vice President Barb Knopke.

Incoming Commander Randal L. Durbin announced his selection of appointed officers for the next year. These are:

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chaplain             | Robert L. Wandel<br>Camp 4          |
| Patriotic Instructor | PDC Thomas E. Schmidt<br>Camp 1     |
| Graves Reg. Officer  | PDC Franklin C. Bergquist<br>Camp 1 |
| CW Mem Officer       | PCC Douglas E. McGovern<br>Camp 1   |
| Historian            | PDC Kenneth R. Spurgeon<br>Camp 1   |
| Eagle Scout Coord.   | PDC Alan L. Russ<br>Camp 16         |
| Counselor            | PDC Thomas E. Schmidt<br>Camp 1     |
| Guard                | Robert Barnes<br>Camp 1             |
| Guide                | Brian Van Schmus<br>Camp 4          |
| Color Bearer         | S. Todd Meek<br>Camp 1              |
| Webmaster            | Jonathan Goering<br>Camp 1          |

Incoming elected and appointed officers were duly installed by SVCinC Pahl. The Department Flag was passed from outgoing Commander Knopke to incoming Commander Durbin. Prior to closing the encampment, Commander Durbin presented PDC Knopke with a certificate of recognition as the eighth Department Commander.

The Tenth Department Encampment was closed at 4:45 PM.



Commander Durbin assumes command of the Department.



New officers for 2006-2007 are sworn in.



The Department flag is transferred from outgoing Commander Knopke to incoming Commander Durbin.

**2006 ENCAMPMENT  
PROCEEDINGS**

Copies of the proceedings for the 2006 Department Encampment are available via email for any member of the Department who wishes to receive a copy. Printed copies will also be distributed to each camp for their use and files. The electronic version is in Adobe PDF format and is 317 kbytes.

To request an electronic copy, email the Department Secretary at [suvcwks16@mindspring.com](mailto:suvcwks16@mindspring.com).

**DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP  
Membership as of May 31, 2006:**

	Members	Assoc.	Juniors	Total
01-Corp. Coyne	64	1	1	66
03-Joseph Gaston	4	1	0	5
04-Sgt. Churchill	18	3	0	21
05-Franklin	17	3	4	24
06-Mine Creek	14	2	0	16
16-Old Abe	22	0	0	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>154</b>

Dual members are only reported in their primary camp.

**NEW MEMBERS**

The following members have joined the Department of Kansas between January 1, 2006, and May 31, 2006.

Name	Camp
Brooks, Darrell R. (Member)	Camp 16, Topeka
Coblentz, Charles (Member)	Camp 1, Wichita
Erickson, Michael A. (Assoc.)	Camp 4, Lawrence
Iseli, Terry (Member)	Camp 1, Wichita
Koch, Delmar (Assoc.)	Camp 4, Lawrence
Sullivan, Robert M. (Member)	Camp 5, Olathe
Sundell, Andrew K. (Member)	Camp 4, Lawrence
Toll, Carl R. (Member)	Camp 5, Olathe
Toll, Jeffrey S. (Member)	Camp 5, Olathe
Toll, Russell G. (Member)	Camp 5, Olathe
Wandel, Robert D. (Member)	Camp 4, Lawrence
Welfelt, David S. (Member)	Camp 1, Wichita
Ziemann, Benjamin B. (Member)	Camp 4, Lawrence
Ziemann, Jacob A. (Member)	Camp 4, Lawrence

**LAST SOLDIER PROJECT**

By Blair D. Tarr

On the surface this is about the Last Soldier Project. This spring letters were sent out to at least one organization in each county, usually a museum or library, asking for their assistance in determining who the Last Union Soldier in each county is. The response has been gratifying. As of this writing, there are now leads—solid and soft—in 84 of our 105 counties.

I feel somewhat satisfied. What I am truly pleased with is that many of the organizations that have responded seemed to have been waiting for someone to ask the question—they know their Civil War veterans! Those that needed to do a little research seemed pleased to have been asked to pursue this historical exercise, possibly learning something about the people that populated their county.

Since the letters also included information about the other major projects—Memorials, Grave Registration, and Records—some took note and provided information beyond the request for the Last Soldier.

It's left me asking the question—is there opportunity here? We have an anniversary coming up—the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. I probably shouldn't put this in print, but I have to wonder what the State will do, particularly since it's a double observation. 2011 will also be the sesquicentennial of Kansas statehood.

Whatever happens, I can suggest two things. The first is that in making the Civil War anniversary an active event statewide, it has to take what may be an untraditional focus. The Civil War in Kansas affected maybe the eastern one-third of the state. The western two-thirds was still largely unsettled. But many of those who came after the war were veterans—enough of them to have Kansas referred to as "The Great Soldier State." Part of the observance is going to have to focus on how these people helped make Kansas and the communities they lived in.

The second thing is that whatever the state does, others—like the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War—are going to need to take an active role in promoting the sesquicentennial. And that may be where the opportunity lies.

We may be able to encourage people in each of the 105 counties to support our projects. This is a fine place to start. But can we possibly convert this into new members for not only the Sons, but other Allied Orders as well?

Any activities done by this Order during the years 2011 and 2015 will be affected by what we do in the next five years. The more people we have involved, the more meaningful will be our sesquicentennial activities.

In another month or so, I will begin sending out follow-up letters regarding the Last Soldier Project. There will be something with those letters I neglected to send out before. Membership information. It can't hurt.



## THE LAST UNION SOLDIER

### Albert Woolson

Honorary Commander-in-Chief 1953 / 1954

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

February 11, 1847 – August 2, 1956

Albert Woolson, a Civil War veteran and a son of a Civil War veteran was made an Honorary Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the 72nd National Encampment held in Buffalo, New York on August 23 - 27, 1953.

Comrade

Woolson was born in the New York farm hamlet of Antwerp, 22 miles northeast of Watertown, on February 11, 1847, the same day that Thomas Alva Edison, the inventor, was born. Willard Woolson, his father, was a carpenter in Watertown and apprenticed his son to the trade. The senior Woolson, however, had a second vocation. He was a musician, and when President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers in 1861, he and his fellow musicians enlisted in a body. When his family did not hear from him for more than a year, they traced him through Army records to a hospital in Minnesota suffering from a leg wound received at the battle of Shiloh. Shortly after the family was reunited, his leg had to be amputated and he died.

Minnesota's manpower was stretched thin to furnish its quota for the Union forces and at the same time to hold back the Sioux Indians, who were off the reservation in 1863. The Union needed heavy artillery and Col. William Colville organized a Minnesota heavy artillery regiment of 1,800 men. Albert Woolson got his mother's consent and was accepted into Company C, First Minnesota Volunteer Heavy Artillery. His military service dated from October 10, 1864. Enlisted as a rifleman, he eventually was assigned as a drummer and bugler. Late in 1864, the Regiment joined the Army of the Cumberland in Tennessee. It was commanded by Maj. General George H. Thomas, known to history as The Rock of Chickamauga, but more familiarly to his men as Pap.

The First Minnesota sat out the spring and early summer of 1865 in the shadow of Lookout Mountain, near Chattanooga, and in August the Regiment was ordered home. Comrade Woolson received his discharge on September 7, 1865.

He married Sarah Jane Sloper in 1868. She died in 1901. Three years later he married Anna Haugen who died in 1949. Survivors include six daughters, Mrs. John Kobus, Mrs. Arthur Johnson, and Mrs. Robert Campbell, all of Duluth; Mrs. Adelaide Wellcome, Mrs. F.W. Rye, and Mrs. J.C. Barrett, all of Seattle; and two sons, Dr. A.H. Woolson of Spokane, Washington, and R.C. Woolson of Dayton, Washington.

Comrade Woolson was a member of and participated in the last Grand Army of the Republic National Encampment in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949, and was the last surviving member of that Organization.

On August 2, 1956, Comrade Woolson died at the age of 109 years. He had been hospitalized for nine weeks with a recurring lung congestion condition. He lapsed into a coma five days before his death and did not regain consciousness. Members of his family were at his bedside when he died in St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth, Minnesota. In Washington, President Eisenhower said, The death of Mr. Woolson brings



sorrow to the hearts of Americans. The American people have lost the last personal link with the Union Army.

On August 6, 1956, Comrade Woolson, the Union Army veteran who outlived all his comrades, was laid to rest in the family plot in Park Hill Cemetery, Duluth, Minnesota. as thousands paid final tribute.

Secretary of the Army, Wilber Bruckner, headed a delegation of political and military dignities including Assistant Secretary Hugh M. Milton, Senators Hubert H. Humphrey and Edward J. Thye, as well as Representative John A. Blatnick. Other dignitaries included Lt. General William H. Arnold, Fifth Army Commander, Chicago; Governor Orville Freeman and Maj. General Jos. E. Nelson, State Adjutant General.

More than 1,500 persons attended the 2 P.M. funeral in the Duluth armory, hundreds more lined the route to the cemetery, and about 2,000 watched as the bronze casket was set down with full military honors.

At 1:45 P.M., an army drum and bugle corps, stationed outside the armory with an army marching unit of 109 men (one for each of Comrade Woolson's years), blew retreat. A military guard of honor, lining the walk to the armory door, snapped to attention. Military men saluted and the Fifth Army Band played a funeral procession.

Six Army Sergeants, acting as pall bearers, carried the casket into the armory, following Lt. Col. Augustine P. Donnelly, a Presbyterian chaplain attached to Fifth Army Headquarters, Chicago. As the procession entered the armory, the Carillon Chorus Club sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Col. Donnelly, who conducted the services, started the ceremony at 2:03 P.M. with, I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord. The service ended with a short prayer at 2:45 P.M.

The procession left the armory with the band - the drums were decked in black - playing Chopin's Funeral Dirge. Behind the band came the army marching unit plodding in slow cadence in the 85 degree heat. At 4 P.M. the band's drums could be heard at the cemetery.

The Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Fife and Drum corps of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War took over the procession's lead at the cemetery gate and played Onward Christian Soldiers. The color guard followed the fife and drum corps. Behind them marched Col. Donnelly. Then came the hearse and numerous automobiles.

At 4:17 P.M. pall bearers brought the casket and Col. Donnelly presented a short funeral oration. The pall bearers, who had been holding the casket flag two feet above the casket, folded it and gave it to Secretary of the Army Bruckner, who in turn presented it to Mrs. Kobus.

The Grand Army of the Republic funeral service was then performed by members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, as they placed a wreath, a rose, and a miniature United States flag atop the casket.

An army firing squad fired three volleys. The bugler sounded Taps while military men saluted. The group was silent. The firing squad marched away. The fife and drum corps faded into the distance with the fifes whistling the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

*Modified from the Banner, Fall 1956, © 1999, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as published at [www.suvvcw.org/pcinc/woolson.htm](http://www.suvvcw.org/pcinc/woolson.htm).*

*The following two articles were provided by Brother Arnold Schofield, Camp Commander, Mine Creek Camp 6.*

## BATTLEFIELD DISPATCHES

### "Battle of Mine Creek"

Pvt. P.H. Steele, Co. K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Cav.

#### Introduction:

*The National Tribune Newspaper was published in Washington, D.C. from 1877 through the 1940's and encouraged Veterans of the Civil War to submit their memories of that war to the newspaper for publication.*

*This column has been edited to only include the author's description of his participation in the Battle of Mine Creek that has also been identified in various memoirs and official U.S. Army Reports as the Battle of the Osage. Brackets were not part of the original column and have been used to identify the editor's commentary or to clarify a particular word.*

#### GALLANT TROOPERS

##### A 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Cav. Veteran Tells of the Battle of the Osage

*Editor National Tribune:* Reading in your estimable paper so many accounts of incidents of war times, I felt like I wanted to say a little in reference to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Cavalry, of which I was a member, in Co. K for four years.

I read recently a communication from Comrade S. M. Reeves, 13<sup>th</sup> Mo. Cav., about the Battle of the Osage, where he says they captured Gen. Marmaduke and a thousand prisoners.

I know something about that fight, as it was there I got a rebel ball in my leg that made me a cripple for life. I say the regiments that took part in that fight were the 3d and 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Cav., 10<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mo. Cav. and the 7<sup>th</sup> Ind. Cav. The charge was led by Lieut. Colonel Benteen, 10<sup>th</sup> Mo. Cav. When our line was formed, one single line, it did not cover the front of the line of the enemy, who had 12 guns [Artillery] in his center. We had no guns [Artillery] and his men [were] four lines deep, supporting his guns.

The Battle of the Osage was, without doubt, the most brilliant cavalry charge in the history of the [Civil] War. Not a ditch, tree, stump or fence on the open plain; a single line charging four lines with 12 cannon in its center, and the one line of the charging column not covering the front of the enemy. [Benteen's Brigade consisting of approximately 1,250 troopers led the Union charge and was followed closely on it's right by approximately 1,250 troopers of Colonel John Phillips Brigade of Missouri State Mounted Militia.]

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Cav. held the left center and with its proverbial "Yankee Cheer" dashed on the lines of the enemy. It was a scene worth going miles to see.

The result of battle was a complete rout of Gen. Marmaduke's division; the General himself, Gen Cabell, four Colonels and about 800 others taken prisoners.

As to who captured Gen. Marmaduke there is no doubt. He surrendered to Private Jas. Dunlavy, Co. D. 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Cav., and Gen. Cabell gave himself up to Sergeant Cavalry Young, Co. L of the same regiment. Both the captors had medals [Congressional Medals of Honor] awarded them by Congress.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Cav. went into that charge with less than 300 men and lost 33. [Each Union Regiment was severely under strength during the Battle of Mine Creek and each regiment contained from 200 - 250 soldiers.] To the other regiments who took part in this memorable charge too much praise cannot be accorded and with a leader who had less courage and magnetism than Lieut. Colonel F[rederick] W. Benteen, of the gallant old 10<sup>th</sup> Mo. Cav., the whole thing would have been a lamentable failure.

I do not write this with a view to bolster up the reputation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Cav.; it does not need it; it's history is written all over the southwest and written in the blood of as good and brave men as ever drew saber in defense of American Liberty."

#### ["The Ultimate Sacrifice"]

*[The following paragraph appears to be an afterthought by the author (Pvt. Steele), however it is a horrific example of how a graphic incident of war was seared into his memory, never to be forgotten. This type of memory is one that most, if not all COMBAT VETERANS of all the WARS & CONFLICTS carry and haunt them forever. THANK YOU (It Can Never be Said Enough) to all of the COMBAT VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES for defending & protecting the FREEDOMS we as a nation enjoy everyday!]*

One thing in connection with this fight I must say and then I will close. Co. D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Cav., came directly in front of the rebel battery [cannons] and just as our lines struck the battery private R. A. Buzzard, Co. D, had his horse shot. He got on his feet and jumped on one of the guns [cannon]. He swung his revolver over his head and at that moment received a ball [bullet] through his heart and fell dead, with his arms locked around the cannon.

P.H. Steele, Co. K, 3rd Iowa Cav.,  
Manhattan, Colorado

#### Source / Location:

Original: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., "National Tribune" Newspaper Column, Thursday, January 6, 1898.

Xeroxed Copy: Mine Creek Battlefield SHS, KS, 20485 Ks. Hwy. 52; Pleasanton, Ks. 66075,

Reference: National Tribune Notebook Vol. I,

Edited: Arnold W. Schofield, 12/24/05.

Superintendent: Mine creek Battlefield SHS.

Note: Complete set of the National Tribune Newspaper is located in the Houston Library at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Republic, Missouri.

### EBONY WARRIORS "Freedom fighters"

During the past 30 years the role of the African – American Soldier in the Civil War has finally been recognized, studied and published in various books and magazine articles. Approximately 187,000 Black soldiers served in the Volunteer Forces of the Union Army and an additional 20,000 served in the United States Navy. However, there is very little information on and recognition of the Black Militia Soldiers who responded to an immediate crisis like the "Minute Men of the American Revolution." In Kansas a number of Black Militia Companies were organized to assist in defending the state from the Confederate invasion, commanded by Major General Sterling Price, in October of 1864. Two of these companies were from Linn & Bourbon County.

Company "E" (Colored) of the 1st Battalion, Irregular Kansas State Militia was organized at Mound City, Kansas on October 15, 1864. It was commanded by Capt. H. C. Seaman (white) and consisted of the following individuals who were defending their freedom and homes in and around Mound City: 1st Lieut. Miles Rainwater, 1st Sgt. Gilbert Van, 2nd Sgt. Lewis Martin, 3rd Sgt. London Martin, 1st Corp. Benjamin Parks, 2nd Corp. Austin Bell, 3rd Corp. Andrew Tutt, Privates Steven Ridge, Henry Fristo, George drew, Willis Johnson, Joseph Van, Andrew Lawrence, Joseph Willingham, William Russell, David Van, Lewis May, Bunos Porter, John Bell, Spencer Reed, Charles Lawrence, Moses Daniel, Harrison McDowell, Charles Pea, James Mills, Green Logan, Samuel Lindsey, Randal Wagoner, James Kid, Zacharus Lindsey, Payton Martin, Elijah Rodman, Andrew Kates, Harry Rogers, Esari Whitfield, George Allen Garr, Moses Symonds, Rodford Simpson, David Hare, Robert Martin, Josiah Cook, William Allen, Thoams Brown, Edmund Walker and Green Russell. This company was part of the Union garrison which successfully defended Mound City and defeated the attacking Confederates early in the morning of October 25, 1864 before the Battle of Mine Creek. I would like to thank Ola Mae Ernest of the Linn County Historical Society for sharing this very rare roster of Company "E".

On October 13, 1864; two days before Company "E" was organized in Mound City, the Commanding Officer at Fort Scott, Captain D. S. Vittum, issued the following order:

"1st Lieutenant William D. Matthews of the Kansas Independent Light "Colored" Artillery Battery, Commdg. Colored Militia at this Post will enroll all able bodied Colored Men in

Bourbon County and assemble them at this Post immediately."

Lieutenant Matthews was the "Black Officer" who organized and commanded the "Black" Militia Company that was stationed in the forward Rifle Pits (trenches) on the south bank of the Maramaton River at the base of "Red Hill" in Fort Scott. Unfortunately, the roster (list) of these soldiers has not been located, but the following "Commendation" was discovered IN Lieut. Matthews' Military Service Record:

"Headquarters Fort Scott, Kansas  
November 18, 1864.

Lieut. W. D. Matthews, Colored Light Artillery, Fort Scott, Kansas. Sir: On leaving this post pursuant to order from the Department Headquarters, I desire to express to you my sincere thanks for the patient industry and skill with which you have discharged your various duties since I placed you on duty to assist in preparing the Post for a vigorous defense against the probable attack of the enemy. You have been a model of proper discipline and subordination, strictly attentive to duty, promptly obedient to orders and acting with a wise discretion in all matters requiring the exercise of you individual judgment. Trusting that you maybe successful in the service and in life, I am,

Very Respectfully Yours,  
Charles W. Blair,  
Colonel, Commanding Post."

This was very unusual because during the Civil War, it was very rare for a "White Officer" (Colonel Blair) to complement a "Black Officer" with an "Official Commendation" in writing. After the crisis of Price's Invasion had past, the "Minute Men" of these Black Militia Companies returned to their homes in or near Mound City or in Jerden's Row in Fort Scott. After the Civil War was over, Lieutenant Matthews received an "Honorable Discharge" and returned to his home in Leavenworth, Kansas.



### Historian

Kenneth R. Spurgeon, PDC

### A. P. Davis

### Father of the SUVCW

Dear Brothers,

Let me take this opportunity to say greetings and give you a bit of brief history regarding the founding of our order.

The founder of the SUVCW was a man by the name of Augustus Plummer Davis, 1835-1899. Davis is an interesting character, and a full biography of him can be found on the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War website as written by PCinC Richard Orr.

Davis was an early adventurer, traveling west when young and participating in the California Gold Rush, followed by joining the US Navy and serving with it until 1860. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Davis, 26, was commissioned as the Captain of Company F, 11th Maine Infantry. He served in the Peninsular Campaign and was wounded at the Battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia. In 1863, he resigned and then was appointed as a Provost Marshal for the 3rd District of Maine.

After the war, Davis continued to lead an interesting and sometimes volatile life. Three marriages that saw a death and a stormy divorce tainted his reputation somewhat. Still, by 1880, Davis had established himself as a pillar of the community of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was a member of the GAR, MOLLUS, and other organizations when, in 1881, he first conceived the idea of a Sons of Veterans organization.

He said in an interview given in 1890 in St. Louis, Missouri:

"I had an idea that there should be some such an order as the Sons of Veterans for some time before its organization. A number of others

shared the opinion with me, but when I would bring the matter before the Grand Army encampment, a majority would be found opposing it and the matter would be set aside. In the year of 1880, I organized a "junior marching band" composed of small boys and it was so much of a success Mrs. Davis and my son urged me to organize a permanent organization. The matter came before us strikingly by the events of Memorial Day. Who would strew flowers on the graves of heroes when the shattered fragment of the Grand Army was no more? I went to work on the prospectus, mapped out the constitution, and endeavored through that summer unsuccessful with my project.

"On November 12, 1881, I got together with eight boys, and the first camp of the Sons of Veterans was organized."

By 1883, the organization was a National one. At his death, a Sons of Veterans burial service was conducted, rather than a GAR one. The pall bearers, honor guard, and firing detail were all from his beloved Sons. Even his GAR Comrades conceded that it was only fitting that the "Father" of the Sons receive an SV burial.



### Memorials Officer

Douglas E. McGovern, PCC

### Kansas Civil War

### Memorial/Monument Catalog

Notes on various monuments have been furnished to the National Memorials Officer to get suggestions on what should be included in our listing. From those suggestions and from looking at other Departments' websites, I propose to generate two different data bases. The first will include those monuments which were clearly dedicated to Civil War era participants. This would include monuments erected by the G.A.R., W.R.C., etc, those directly dedicated to Civil War soldiers or sailors, and those that specifically reference the Civil War. Every attempt will be made to make this first database as complete as possible. The second data base will contain those monuments and memorials which refer to "Veterans of All Wars" or, in some other way, render honor to our Civil War ancestors. This data base would be important for two purposes, the first being to provide remembrance of those who served. The second purpose is to identify those sites which 1) have been inspected; and 2) do NOT have a direct Civil War connection. This database would not be intended to be "complete" but would record whatever information is furnished that does not fit in the first database.

I would appreciate any comments or thoughts on the appropriateness of this approach.



### Graves Registration

Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC

### Government Headstones

Well, we've talked about various headstones. But what about the main difference between Union and Confederate headstones. The story goes that the confederate stones were made pointed so that Union Soldiers could not sit on top of them. True or not, it makes a good story.

The real reason was to distinguish between the two armies. When the Spanish American War occurred later, and unfortunately the fallen came back, only one style of headstone was used. The rounded top of the Union Soldiers. The only problem was left up to the individual families as to whether to use either the Union or Confederate style when the deceased had Union Service prior to, during, or after CSA service. Remember all the variations as you read about your ancestors.



But even then there was a difference in style due to the manufacturer. It varied in height, thickness, length and unfortunately quality of stone and engraving. Remember, the lowest bidder got the contract.

One other thing to remember about, are those headstones that have the line reading "MEDAL OF HONOR". This column is too short to list all the names of the Civil War era awards of this medal.



General George Custer's unit during the closing days of the war received thirty six awards of the Medal of Honor. All of these were for the capture of a rebel flag.

If you find one of these markers please let me know, by emailing freehold@swbell.net. I have records on many of the MOH recipients for Kansas, but there are always some missing. We placed a MOH marker for Captain James Kirk in Maple Grove Cemetery in Wichita. I while standing by his graveside at the ceremonies, I spotted the resting place of Samuel Wright, also a CW veteran. We were able to also place a marker for him.



**Patriotic Instructor**

**Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC**

**Three Occasions to Show Our True Colors**

As I write this article for the "Sunflower Picket", it is about 2½ weeks before Memorial Day. By the time you read it, we will have celebrated Memorial Day. I hope you individually, or your camp, did something "to always observe the day set aside by the Grand Army of the Republic as Memorial Day sacred to the memory of the Union Soldiers and Sailors of 1861 to 1865 and do all in you power to persuade others to do the same". Does the above quote sound familiar? It should. It is part of the SUCVW membership initiation ceremony. This charge handed down to us by our ancestors is one we should not take lightly, and I hope we did them justice in our observance of Memorial Day 2006.

Next on the calendar is Flag Day on June 14 – a designated holiday of whose history I knew very little about. The following information is taken from the website www.usflag.com:

"The idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. B. J. Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

"On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

"In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With B. J. Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day

Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

"Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

"Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day."

Last but not least is the 4th of July, which will be here before we know it. All of you are familiar with "Independence Day" and its symbolism and meaning to all Americans. Enjoy the day and what it really means to each of us in relationship to the freedoms that are part of our everyday life.

As we move through these holidays, take time to observe them properly and reflect on the real reason they are in place. I believe our ancestors would expect that from us as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.



**Chaplain**

**Robert L. Wandel**

I read an article the other day about a fellow visiting Edinburgh Castle and viewing the crown jewels of Scotland. When he approached the central crown, he turned to the guard and asked "How much is it worth?"

"Young man," he said. "Three thousand men died in one day to put that crown on the head of Robert, the Bruce. If you want to put a price upon human blood you are welcome to try. That crown is priceless."

The author went on to state that the blood that stained Calvary was also indeed "Priceless".

The other day I went to my daughter's fourth grade class at school to discuss the Civil War with them. A number of the students wrote me "thank you" notes. The thing that they remembered about my speech was that if someone was wounded in the arm or leg the limb would have to be removed using a bone saw and no anesthesia, but had to just bite the bullet, literally.

In most of the letters that I have read from men of the Civil War, I have been impressed that they were very religious. Most of them stated in their letters, that if they were to be killed that they had the hope that they would be going to a better place and meet their savior.

The Chaplains had a hard time trying to keep the men from swearing, drinking, playing cards, and keeping them away from ward women. The Bible was usually the only sword that they could carry with them. They were mostly devout men who served the Lord and helped the men in the times of greatest bloodshed.

In conclusion, the blood of all mankind that is shed in wars to protect freedom is priceless, from the least of us to the Greatest of All.



**Junior Vice Commander**

**Craig A. Sundell, PCC**

Brothers,

Thank you very much for electing me JVC for 2006-7 and for the receipt of the Leonidus Davis Recruitment

award for 2005-6. I am particularly grateful, since I was unable to attend the Department Encampment in Topeka due to professional and business duties in Peru.

I had the great pleasure of giving a 20 minute talk on the US Civil War and the SUCVW to visitors, scientists and employees at the National Natural History Museum in Lima, Peru during my visit. The audience was mostly Peruvians with several North American visitors also present. Even in my broken Spanish, the Union STILL won!!

It was both surprising and gratifying to me to see a high level of interest in and knowledge of the US Civil War on the part of the Peruvians in our Civil War and the Union's fight for preservation and human freedom. There was nearly an hour of questions and discussion after my brief talk.

It demonstrated to me how important it is for each of us to be an ambassador for the Union and the United States. Most Latin American countries modeled their constitutions and forms of government on our own democracy because of the emphasis on the right of all persons to have a voice in their government. In Peru, it was not so much a question of slavery, but rights for Indians and women versus the landed aristocracy.

I would also like to inform everyone that Humboldt, KS is holding its bi-annual Civil War and History days on June 9 through 11. I will be speaking at 7 PM Friday, June 9, in honor of the Union soldiers buried at the Humboldt Cemetery. On Sat. the 10th, I will man a table with CW artifacts and distribute information on the SUCVW, including membership applications. Several of our fellow Brothers will be their as re-enactors. I encourage anyone interested to attend, if possible.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
Craig Sundell



**Senior Vice Commander**

**Roy A. Lafferty, PCC**

First, I want thank the Department for the honor of letting me serve as the Department Senior Vice Commander this year. I hope during my term that I live up to your expectations.

Secondly, I want to thank PDC Alan Russ for his work on the Sunflower Pickett. I'm sure you will agree that it would be hard to find a better department newsletter. This is a job that normally falls to the SVC, but in this case, any SVC that would remove Brother Russ should be brought up for disciplinary actions and removed from office himself. Please support Brother Russ by sending him articles, regardless of size. I'm sure if you find something interesting, there will be about 140 other brothers in the department who will find it interesting, also.

On the topic of newsletters, I hope all the camps are sending one out to their members on a regular bases. Newsletters are a great way of keeping the members of the camp informed of what is going on and a reminder of upcoming meetings and events. They can also be used as a recruiting tool when they are sent to prospective members. If your camp currently doesn't have a newsletter, please contact me and I will help you get one started. If your camp has one, please add me and the Department Commander to your circulation list.

One of my other duties as SVC is to forward information to the Banner, the national magazine that is sent to all members. I'm setting a personal goal of having an article about the Department of Kansas in each issue. We are doing some great things in this department, and we should let the other departments know about it. I would like each camp to send me information on what they have done since January of this year, along with the Department Encampment and the 2006 Memorial Day events which just concluded. This should provide a good start. Camp Commanders and SVCs, this is a good way to start on your report for the next Department Encampment.



**Commander's Corner**

**Randal L. Durbin, PCC**

No doubt everyone is busy with their daily activities. Members of the Sons of Union Veterans are the kind of people who stay involved with their families and communities and always have great demands upon their time. That is why I am so grateful for the efforts of the staff and camps in the department for all the wonderful activities they plan and carry out through the year.



Memorial weekend will soon be upon us. I know many camps will be setting out flags and participating in ceremonies. I commend you for your efforts. This epitomizes what the Sons of the Union Veterans is all about. Our reason for existing is to honor the memories of the Soldiers and Sailors of 1861 – 1865. Thank you for your involvement and I want to wish everyone a safe trip if they are traveling to honor their ancestors.

I look forward to the coming year. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas and concerns you might have with the Department.

**CAMP NEWS**

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

Camp Commander	Dale A. Rouse
Senior Vice Commander	Mark A. Britton
Junior Vice Commander	James P. Coyne
Secretary/Treasurer	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC

Camp meetings are held at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 George Washington Blvd. in Wichita. The meetings are held at 7 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month. The Camp does not meet in July, August, or December.

Our April 27 meeting program was given by Terry Iseli, a veteran Civil War reenactor. He gave a program on Civil War bugling, with demonstrations using a variety of bugles. The May 25 meeting will be held at the Andover Cemetery, where we will perform the Last Soldier Ceremony for Brother Marine Wolf's ancestor, Aaron Wolfe, 144th Ohio Inf. We will have a color guard and firing detail. This is becoming an annual ceremony at different locations in recognition of Memorial Day.

Our next meeting will be June 22, no meetings are held during the summer months of July and August. We will resume meeting September 28.

Dale Rouse  
Commander

**Joseph Gaston Camp 3 - Beloit**

Camp Commander	Kyle A. J. Peterson
Senior Vice Commander	H. Gail Pearson
Junior Vice Commander	Frederick J. Severance
Secretary/Treasurer	Dean K. Speaks, PDC

Camp meetings are held quarterly at the Mitchell County Historical Museum, 402 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St., in Beloit.

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

Camp Commander	Alan L. Van Loenen
Senior Vice Commander	Michael W. Anderson
Junior Vice Commander	Michael Hadl
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert L. Wandel

Camp meetings are held at the Watkins Museum of History, 11<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts Streets, at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month, with monthly programs starting around 7:30 PM. All SUVCW Brothers and the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The program at the April meeting was presented by Mr. Richard Stitt and Dr. Jerry Pees on their Civil War ancestor, Union Army Corp. James B. Pees. Corp. Pees survived both Andersonville Prison Camp and the

sinking of the steam ship Sultana, which, at the time of its sinking, was being used to transport Andersonville survivors. The program was based upon Corp. Pees' original Andersonville prison camp diary and original letters written by him during his service in the Union Army. Mr. Stitt and Dr. Pees had the original diary and letters on display as part of their program.

The May 18, 2006, meeting will feature a lecture from a Lawrence, Kansas, author on his research for a Civil War era book. The June 15 program will be presented by Rebecca Phipps, Watkins Museum director, and her staff. They will discuss and show Civil War and related artifacts from the Watkins Museum collection. On July 20, Kerry Altenbernd will discuss the Battle of Blackjack.

Camp 4 has continued its planning and preparation for Memorial Day to place flags on the graves of Civil War veterans. The camp is also in the process of setting a schedule to meet with University of Kansas officials about Pioneer Cemetery, depending on the outcome of the camp's request from SUVCW National Headquarters for assistance in funding for this project.

Lawrence will have its annual "Civil War on the Western Frontier" (CWWF) celebration from August 11 through August 21, 2006. Camp 4 will take part in the CWWF by sponsoring two Civil War lectures. The first, on Thursday, August 17, is "The Faces of the 8th Kansas," by William McFarland. Then, on Friday August 18, Thomas Zachary will discuss "The Battle of Wilson's Creek." A Civil War living history encampment will be held on Saturday, August 19th in Lawrence's South Park. Details on the other lectures will be forwarded to the camps at a later date.

Camp 4 sponsored an ROTC award, which was presented on May 11 at the Kansas University ROTC graduation program to the outstanding Army ROTC graduating cadet.

Alan L. Van Loenen  
Commander

**Franklin Camp 5 - Olathe**

Camp Commander	James M. Converse
Senior Vice Commander	Matthew G. Toll
Junior Vice Commander	D. Curtis Rapue
Secretary/Treasurer	Everette T. Sitzman

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

Franklin Camp participated in the Mahaffie Civil War Days Reenactment in April. Our table produced twelve membership prospects, with one joining the Camp this month. We plan on this two-day event to be a yearly effort for the Camp.

Our members are in full preparation for Memorial Day 2006. On Saturday, May 27, at 1 PM, we will rededicate the GAR Franklin Post 68 Civil War Monument. Featured speaker for the event is former Kansas Governor John Anderson. Our first purchase of 244 flags will be adequate to decorate the Union Soldiers at the Olathe Memorial Cemetery. Under the direction of Graves Registration and CW Memorials Officer Bill Stillely, volunteer members held a monument cleanup day. A full census of Union Soldiers buried at the cemetery has been completed.

At the request of the Department CW Memorials Officer, our Camp surveyed the Colored Union Soldiers and Sailors Monument at Woodlawn Cemetery in neighboring Wyandotte County, Kansas. Also surveyed was the mass gravesite of the fallen Union Soldiers killed at the Battle of Westport. These casualties were removed from Missouri, crossing the Kansas River, to be buried at the Huron Cemetery, Wyandotte County, Kansas. Ongoing research of this site is certainly merited. Although the mass grave is marked, the names of the Union Soldiers are missing. There is interest in Wyandotte County for a new Camp that we will continue to encourage and support.

Respectfully submitted in FC&L,  
Jim Converse  
Commander

**Mine Creek Camp 6 - Pleasanton**

Camp Commander	Arnold W. Schofield
Senior Vice Commander	Jeff D. Finn
Junior Vice Commander	Kenton E. Bell
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert E. Woody II

Camp meetings are held at the Mine Creek Battlefield Visitor Center, at 2 PM on the third Sunday of each month.



During April, the camp prepared the concrete base to mount the pedestal and plaque for the Benteen bridge as a camp work project. The Department of Kansas furnished the plaque and pedestal, and the Mine Creek Camp had volunteered installation labor. This gives a final finished touch to the bridge, and informs the visitors about the bridge being donated and constructed by the SUVCW.

**Old Abe Camp 16 - Topeka**

Camp Commander	Randal L. Durbin
Sr Vice Commander	D. Darrel Gilliland
Jr Vice Commander	Delton Gilliland
Secretary/Treasurer	James R. Knopke, PCC

Camp meetings are held at Perkins Restaurant, 1720 SW Wanamaker Rd., in Topeka, at 6:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month.

The camp will place flags on the graves of CW veterans in the Topeka Cemetery during the Memorial Day holiday.

We will continue the monthly work projects (fourth Saturday) at the Topeka Cemetery.

Old Abe Camp 16 enjoyed the opportunity to host the Department Encampment. We hope that those brothers who attended were satisfied with the arrangements and facilities provided. It was certainly our pleasure.

Dan Karr  
Commander

**DEPARTMENT ORDERS**

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
P.O. Box 306, Overbrook, Kansas 66524-0306  
(785)453-2185, email: randaldfsb@hotmail.com

DEPARTMENT ORDER 1 APRIL 24, 2006  
SERIES 2006-2007

1. Having been elected and installed as Department Commander by the assembled delegates at the Tenth Department Encampment at Topeka, Kansas, on April 22, 2006, command is hereby assumed and headquarters established at the above address. All correspondence

requiring the attention of the Department Commander should be sent to the above address.

2. The following brothers were also elected at the Tenth Department Encampment to the positions indicated:

- Senior Vice Commander Roy A. Lafferty, PCC,  
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
- Junior Vice Commander Craig A. Sundell, PCC,  
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
- Secretary/Treasurer Alan L. Russ, PDC,  
Old Abe 16
- Council Kenneth R. Spurgeon, PDC,  
Corp. Patrick Coyne 1  
Robert L. Wandel,  
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4  
James M. Converse,  
Franklin Camp 5

3. I have appointed the following brothers to the positions and responsibilities indicated:

- Patriotic Instructor Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC,  
Corp. Patrick Coyne 1
- Chaplain Robert L. Wandel,  
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
- Historian Kenneth R. Spurgeon,  
PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne 1  
Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC,  
Corp. Patrick Coyne 1
- Graves Registration Officer Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC,  
Corp. Patrick Coyne 1
- CW Memorials Officer Douglas E. McGovern, PCC,  
Corp. Patrick Coyne 1
- Eagle Scout Coordinator Alan L. Russ, PDC,  
Old Abe 16
- Department Webmaster Jonathan P. Goering,  
Corp. Patrick Coyne 1
- Guard Robert Barnes,  
Corp. Patrick Coyne 1
- Guide Brian Van Schmus,  
Sgt Samuel J. Churchill 4
- Color Bearer S. Todd Meek,  
Corp. Patrick Coyne 1

4. All business correspondence, bills, and requests for payment should be sent to PDC Alan L. Russ, Department Secretary, P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068.

5. All requests for monuments and memorials grants, and all completed monuments and memorials registration forms should be sent to PCC Douglas McGovern, 100 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hutchinson KS 67502-2846.

6. All graves registration forms and information should be sent to PDC Frank C. Bergquist, Department Graves Registration Officer, 4255 Laura Circle, Wichita KS 67216-4210.

7. All requests for Eagle Scout Certificates should be sent to PDC Alan L. Russ, Department Eagle Scout Coordinator, P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068.

8. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment for the Department of Kansas is scheduled to be held on April 28, 2007, in Wichita. Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1 has accepted the responsibility to be the host camp. The camp will report to the fall Department Council meeting as to its ability to host the encampment.

9. I want to thank all brothers who agreed to serve on the department staff this year. No Department Commander can carry the full load of responsibility, nor should he ever try to claim the credit for the accomplishments during his term. It will be to the credit of the excellent staff and all department members for any activities and programs we carry out in the future. I look forward to our next activity and meeting.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

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

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

**HEADQUARTERS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

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

DEPARTMENT ORDER 2 APRIL 27, 2006  
SERIES 2006-2007

**MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD STANDING COMMITTEE**

1. The Tenth Department Encampment approved status of "standing committee" for the Mine Creek Battlefield committee. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate and work with the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation and the Kansas State Historical Society to explore ways improve the condition of the battlefield, to enhance the experience of visitors to the battlefield, and to help ensure the preservation of the battlefield.

2. As per Article X, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas, this committee shall consist of no more than five members. Three members shall appointed from the Department, one member from Mine Creek Camp 6, and the Department Commander. The committee shall elect its chairman, annually, at the first meeting after the Department Encampment.

3. The committee shall prepare a report to be presented to the Department Encampment on their activities for the year. A copy of the committee report shall be forwarded to the Department Commander and the Department Secretary who shall include such reports in the minutes of the Department Encampment.

4. I hereby appoint the following members to the Mine Creek Battlefield Standing Committee:

- Randal L. Durbin, PCC, Department Commander
- Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1
- Kenneth R. Spurgeon, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1
- Roy A. Lafferty, PCC, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4
- Robert L. Woody, Mine Creek Camp 6

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

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

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

**HEADQUARTERS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
P.O. Box 306, Overbrook, Kansas 66524-0306  
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DEPARTMENT ORDER 3 MAY 12, 2006  
SERIES 2006-2007

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES APPOINTMENT**

1. In accordance with Article X, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas, the following special committee is re-appointed.

**NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE**

2. The purpose of this committee is to prepare and present proposals to the National Site Selection Committee requesting for the Department of Kansas to host a National Encampment. Committee shall remain in contact with the National committee and arrange to meet with them annually during the National Encampment. Once an agreement by National has been received for hosting a National Encampment, the function of the Department National Encampment Committee shall become that of organizing all efforts for the actual hosting of the encampment.

3. The committee shall meet as deemed necessary by the chairman. The committee shall prepare a report to be presented to the Department Encampment on their activities for the year. A copy of the committee report shall be forwarded to the Department Commander and the Department Secretary who shall include such reports in the minutes of the Department Encampment.

4. I hereby appoint the following members to the National Encampment Committee:

- James R. Knopke, PDC, Old Abe Camp 16 (Chairman)
- Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1

Alan L. Russ, PDC, Old Abe Camp 16  
IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,  
*/s/ Randal L. Durbin*  
Randal L. Durbin, PCC  
Department Commander

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

**HEADQUARTERS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
P.O. Box 306, Overbrook, Kansas 66524-0306  
(785)453-2185, email: randalrfsb@hotmail.com

DEPARTMENT ORDER 4 MAY 12, 2006  
SERIES 2006-2007

**APPOINTMENTS OF PROJECTS CHAIRMAN**

1. Brother Blair D. Tarr, Old Abe Camp 16, is hereby appointed as chairman for the following projects:

**LAST SOLDIER PROJECT**  
**GAR RECORDS PROJECT**

2. As project chairman, he shall serve as the point of contact for these projects within the Department of Kansas. He is authorized to pursue these projects in the name of the Department, and may appoint team members to assist him, as necessary. The project chairman should work closely with the Department Historian to avoid duplication of efforts.

3. Those brothers of the Department interested in assisting in these projects should contact the project chairman at the following:  
Blair D. Tarr, 617 SW Taylor St., Apt 11, Topeka KS 66603-3243, Email: BTarr@kshs.org

4. The purpose of the Last Soldier Project is to attempt to identify and gather information on all Union Civil War soldiers who hold a status of "Last Soldier" in the 105 Kansas counties. This may include the last to die, the last burial, and the last to live in the county.

5. The purpose of the GAR Records Project is to support the National Organization's effort to identify the location of all existing GAR records. The purpose of this project is to assist in future research efforts with regard to the records.

6. The project chairman shall prepare a report to be presented to the Department Encampment on the activities for the year. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the Department Commander and the Department Secretary who shall include such reports in the minutes of the Department Encampment.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,  
*/s/ Randal L. Durbin*  
Randal L. Durbin, PCC  
Department Commander

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

**HEADQUARTERS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**  
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DEPARTMENT ORDER 5 MAY 15, 2006  
SERIES 2006-2007

**BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

1. The Tenth Department Encampment approved an amendment to the Bylaws of the Department of Kansas creating a "standing committee" for the proposed bylaws amendments. This Department was notified on May 14, 2006, by Commander-in-Chief Donald Darby that he has approved the amendment. Therefore, said amendment is now in effect.

2. The Bylaws Committee is hereby appointed under the provision of Article XV, Section A, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas. The purpose of the committee shall be as prescribed by Article XV, with regard to proposed



amendments submitted at other than a Department Encampment.

3. The committee shall prepare a report to be presented to the Department Encampment on their activities for the year. A copy of the committee report shall be forwarded to the Department Commander and the Department Secretary who shall include such reports in the minutes of the Department Encampment.

4. I hereby appoint the Elected Officers of the Department to act as Bylaws Committee.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

/s/ Randal L. Durbin

Randal L. Durbin, PCC

Department Commander

ATTEST:

/s/ Alan L. Russ

Alan L. Russ, PDC

Secretary

## FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

### 125<sup>th</sup> National Encampment Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

August 10 through 13, 2006

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

In addition to this being the 125<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the SUVCW, all other Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic will be holding their National Encampments with us. This will be the first time in over 50 years all orders have come together at the same time for their encampments.

The host hotel is the Hilton Harrisburg Towers in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Allied Orders combined banquet will be held at the National Civil War Museum.

In addition to the business meeting of the Order, activities include a tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield (minimum charge per person), 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary rededication of the GAR Memorial on the Gettysburg Battlefield (no charge – transportation provided), the

Friday evening campfire, and the combined Allied Orders banquet.

There is a lot of Civil War related sites to see within a short distance of Harrisburg. Be sure to plan a little extra time before or after the encampment to take advantage of the area.

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

### Central Region Association Allied Orders of the G.A.R. 2006 Annual Conference October 7, 2006 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Department of Iowa will be hosting the 2006 Annual Conference of the Central Region Association (CRA), Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic. This meeting will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2006.

The morning seminar will cover battle flag preservation projects. The topic of the afternoon seminar is "Lobbying your Legislators."

The Central Region Conference provides an opportunity to meet and have discussions with the members of the Allied Orders who are your neighbors. It provides a great opportunity to discuss and learn from common problems, along with working toward common solutions. We believe the CRA is rapidly getting to a place where it will be better able to help its member departments and orders.

The conference will be held at the Marriott, Cedar Rapids, located at 1200 Collins Road NE. This is the same hotel where the 2004 National Encampment of the SUVCW was held.

Additional information and registration forms are available from your Camp Secretary.

## THE LAST WORD

Alan L. Russ, PDC, Editor

### Receive Your Sunflower Picket by Email

Would you rather receive your Sunflower Picket by email? We are offering this in an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs.

There are a couple of advantages to you. You will receive your issue two to five days earlier than by mail, and the pictures will be in **color**. The Department will save printing costs and postage (\$1.50 per copy printed and mailed).

If you would prefer to receive the Sunflower Picket by email, send an email to the Newsletter Editor and let him know. Email address is:

[suvcwks16@mindspring.com](mailto:suvcwks16@mindspring.com)

On the other hand, if your email provider does not allow attachments, or your system cannot handle attachments running from 200 KBytes to 750 KBytes (especially if you have a slow dialup connection) then this is not for you. If you want to continue receiving the Sunflower Picket by mail, take no action. You will continue to receive it as you currently do.

### Next Issue

The Spring issue will be mailed by October 1, 2006. 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 **September 15, 2006**, preferably in electronic format. Send submissions to:

PDC Alan L. Russ, Newsletter Editor

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

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