



THE FRANKLIN CAMP MONTHLY BULLETIN

OFFICIAL DISPATCH FOR THE FRANKLIN CAMP #5
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

VOLUME 5, No. 12

DECEMBER 11, 2025

NOT JUST AMERICAN HISTORY, BUT WORLD HISTORY



The November 2025 meeting of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp provided an opportunity for a lesson in world history. Held a week early due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, this meeting became one of the best attended in recent memory with over twenty brothers in attendance. The draw seemed to be the topic of the evening's presentation, a subject rarely thought about or considered. Brother John Hansen would be speaking to the gathering about the European reaction to the American Civil War and its global impact. It was quite an education!

Following a brief business meeting to open the evening, John took center stage and began with an overview of where the relationship between the Southern States and Europe stood at the outbreak of war. In 1860, 75% of the world's cotton supply was provided by the Confederate States. In Great Britain alone, 25% of the population depended on the cotton textile industry for their income.

As John then pointed out, cotton exportation was key to the Confederate economy and became a negotiating tool used by the Confederate government to bargain for European support in their war for independence. But there was one problem: the slavery issue. Not to mention the possibility of war with the United States should they support the Confederacy, as nearly happened with the Trent Affair.



And it wasn't just Great Britain that was affected by the American Civil War. Demonstrating the depth of the research he put into this presentation, John expanded on the world-wide effects this war had. Using maps and bullet points, he explained how other nations, from Russia to Japan to the Middle Eastern empires, and even the papal states were impacted. The production of cotton increased in other parts of the world, such as India and Egypt, to meet the demand, and new profits in cotton were among the motives of the Russian conquest of Central Asia.

The American Civil War became a global incident forcing President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward to develop an international policy. For the first time in its history, the United States had a major impact on global economics. And it was because of a Civil War.

Holiday Dinner



Thursday, December 18, 2025

6:00pm

The Second Annual

SUVCW Franklin Camp Holiday Get-Together

For All Brothers and their Guests

Pegah's Family Restaurant at 12122 W. 87th Street

Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 6:00pm

There is no set menu - everyone can order on their own

*(**There will be NO camp business discussed or transacted — this is strictly a social event**)*



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
FRANKLIN CAMP No. 5
OLATHE, KS
JIM THORNTON, COMMANDER

IT'S TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUES

Attention all Brothers of the Camp – it is that time of year when we are all required to submit our membership renewal dues! The Franklin Camp officers take immense pride in announcing that we continue to be the largest camp in the Department of Kansas with 45 active members, 8 more than the next closest camp. With your support by renewing your membership, we hope to maintain this status and continue to grow the camp membership.

Dues for Calendar Year 2026 will be \$45.00 (\$33.00 Nat + \$7.00 Dept + \$5.00 Camp = \$45.00 Total). ***Life Members are only responsible for Department Dues (\$7.00) and Camp Dues (\$5.00) for \$12.00 in total.*** Payment of the \$45.00 dues must be submitted to Camp Treasurer Richard Miller by March 1, 2026.

You are welcome to include an additional donation to the camp's new Quilt-of-Valor fund (or indicate if you would like to include an additional donation for a camp function/expense of your choice). Simply make note of any additional donation.

Electronic payment is preferred. We offer two options for electronic payment for your convenience. **(1)** You may go to PayPal (<https://www.paypal.com/> or through the PayPal app) to send payment to the camp. You can send your payment directly to the camp checking account by using Richard Miller's email address: **rt_miller@att.net** as the receiver of payment. **(2)** You may also send your dues payment through Venmo. You may send your camp dues payment to the camp using Venmo ID **Richard-Miller-1085** as the recipient.

If you must send your renewal dues via U.S. Postal Service, please cut out and complete the form below, then mail along with your check for \$45.00 (***or \$12.00 for Life Members***) made out to SUVCW Franklin Camp to camp treasurer Richard Miller.

SUVCW – Department of Kansas – Franklin Camp 2026 Dues

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

Member Phone Number: Land Line: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Member E-Mail: _____

Please complete the information requested above. Mail with your check for \$45 (\$12.00 for Life Members) to:

Richard Miller
9801 Sagamore
Rd
Leawood, KS 66206

*****PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF ANY ADDITIONAL DONATION TO THE QUILT-OF-VALOR FUND*****



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

AMERICA 250 MEDAL

**NOW AVAILABLE
FROM THE SUVCW
QUARTERMASTER STORE**

\$35.00 + SHIPPING

**TO ORDER YOURS
PLEASE VISIT**

https://suvchw-qm-store.square.site/product/america-s-250-medal/T663B7EN7R46IJ5B2ZBCKCIT?fbclid=IwY2xjawOa1vtleHRuA2FlbQlXMABicmlkETE1cFdScmxJR0RabmhmWURGc3J0YwZhchBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHh-UiDeiKrYl6e7zpXH8JXFRsKi77dCsLWvYY4U-iAm0PHGNpluk44FV7ydN_aem_CLMDGIJ8cO2ZIZJTU0LCew



THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

DECEMBER 2025

Franklin Camp Commander Jim Thornton



Well, we have now reached the end of 2025. As we prepare to begin 2026, the 250th Anniversary of the United State of America, we, as descendants of Union Veterans of the American Civil War, should stop a moment and think about our special connection to this anniversary. It was our ancestors who are responsible for the preservation of the Union and allowing our nation to reach this milestone intact.

Currently, our Department of Kansas is doing just that. The Department has formed a “Department of Kansas 250 Committee” to brainstorm special events and to assist the camps of Kansas with ideas for becoming involved in local and community celebrations of this special time. It is my hope that Franklin Camp will be able to participate in events around Johnson County this summer.

This 250th anniversary of our nation is an opportunity to promote our organization and to encourage the public to research their family tree for Union ancestors by explaining the importance of those ancestors in the preservation of the Union. This opportunity holds especially true for our SUVCW Brothers who are also members of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

Think about that for a minute. As a member of the SAR, you claim lineage to ancestors who founded and formed the United States of America. As a member of the SUVCW, you claim lineage to ancestors who preserved the United States of America ninety years later! How cool is that to be able to claim membership in both organizations?

And it isn't that hard to find eligible SUVCW members within the SAR. Franklin Camp has several brothers who are SAR members. If you are one of those with SAR membership, I challenge you to attend your chapter meetings and promote membership in the SUVCW. Our membership application process is not that difficult, in fact, it's pretty simple, especially for someone who has already traced their family tree to join the SAR. Offer to assist them with the application process or put them in contact with me or our camp secretary. Remember, the SUVCW accepts collateral lineage.

The year 2026 brings us a golden opportunity to grow the SUVCW by using the “preservation of the union” platform. Granted, the United States would probably still exist today had the outcome of the Civil War been different, but it would be fractured as six of the original thirteen colonies/states left the Union to join the Confederacy. Thus, we would not be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the original United States.

Our ancestors preserved the United States as we know it today, 250 years later. Let's make sure no one forgets.

*Your Commander,
Jim Thornton*



WHERE WOULD FORT LEAVENWORTH BE WITHOUT WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN?

Without a doubt, when we think of General William Tecumseh Sherman, we think of his battles and conquests during the American Civil War – Shiloh, Vicksburg, Atlanta, the March to the Sea. Few realize or know that following the war, General Sherman did not simply disappear or fade away. He remained in the army and was instrumental in the military occupation of the south during reconstruction. When Ulysses S. Grant was elected President in 1868, he of course brought along his right-hand man, Sherman, and appointed him Commanding General of the United States Army, the post he formerly held.

During the ensuing years of Grant's presidency, much of Sherman's time as Commanding General was devoted to making the Western and Plains states safe for settlement through the continuation of the Indian Wars, which included three significant campaigns: the Modoc War, the Great Sioux War of 1876, and the Nez Perce War. Despite his harsh treatment of the warring tribes, Sherman spoke out against speculators and government agents who abused the Native Americans living within the reservations. During this time, Sherman also reorganized the U.S. Army forts to better accommodate the shifting frontier.



W. T. Sherman
General William T. Sherman, circa 1885

Following Grant's presidency, Sherman stayed on as Commanding General of the Army for the rest of his military career, stepping down on November 1, 1883. But what he accomplished and what he established during his last few years as commanding general, would change the course of history in our area.

Sherman's first impact was the establishment of a military prison. For the first 99 years of the Army, there was no centralized structure for the confinement of prisoners. Discipline in the Army was harsh, and physical punishment was designed to be public with the desired effect of deterring the offender and those observing. Army and congressional leaders, including General of the Army Sherman, expressed concerns with the uniformity of treatment in Army stockades and the little control by the Army over the treatment of Army prisoners in state prisons.

On May 21, 1874, Congress approved the establishment of the United States Military Prison. The original location for the prison was Rock Island, Illinois. However, concerns about the

proximity to the Ordnance Depot manufacturing changed the site. Fort Leavenworth was then chosen as the location for the U.S. Military Prison by the Secretary of War, who was influenced by Sherman's input. Sherman and the Secretary of War oversaw the construction of the United States Disciplinary Barracks on the grounds of Fort Leavenworth.

Now that he had dealt with the problem of what to do with military prisoners and how to deal with them uniformly, Sherman turned his attention to the lack of specialized knowledge among the officers in the army and the lack of specialized training being imparted by the United States Military Academy at West Point. He agreed that West Point provided the basic skill set needed for officers, but the army had become much more "specialized" since the Civil War with different knowledge required for each function or "specialty."



First Military and First Federal Prison



Once more, Sherman turned his attention to Fort Leavenworth to answer his call. Beginning in the 1880s, he and the U.S. Army began establishing schools to provide intensive training in military specialties. The first of these was the School of Application for Infantry and Cavalry, founded at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1881 by William Tecumseh Sherman. For graduates of the United States Military Academy, the school allowed practical application of the theories they had learned at the academy. It became the army's version of a graduate school. Here, also, student officers detailed in the field improved their knowledge

of their profession. In 1901, the school was expanded into the General Service and Staff College and opened to officers of all branches; today, it is the Command and General Staff College.

Also established at the same time at Fort Leavenworth was the Cavalry and Light Artillery School. Following Sherman's retirement, the U.S. Congress in 1887 appropriated \$200,000 to move this school to Fort Riley, Kansas. But five years went by before the Cavalry and Light Artillery School was formally established and moved from Fort Leavenworth.

So, why did Sherman seem to have a fondness for Fort Leavenworth? It possibly stems from his pre-war life in the 1850's. Sherman, a West Point graduate, served 13 years in the U.S. Army before resigning his commission to become a banker in California. The bank business failed, and he lost most of his money in paying off the bank's debts. In 1858, at the suggestion of his father-in-law, Sherman came to Leavenworth to join the law firm of his brothers-in-law Thomas and Hugh Ewing (yes, his father-in-law was General Thomas Ewing of General Order #11 infamy). Though not a lawyer, he was to handle the non-legal affairs of the firm, while the brothers-in-law handled the courtroom part of the business.

Sherman decided that since his name was part of a law firm (the law firm of Sherman, Ewing, and McCook), he should get a license as a lawyer, although he had not studied law. He writes in his memoirs that "one day when United States Judge Lecompte was in our office, I mentioned the matter to him: he told me to go down to the clerk of his court, and he could give me the license. I inquired what examination I would have to submit to, and he replied, 'none at all'; he would admit me to the bar on the ground of general intelligence."

Although he only resided in Leavenworth for two years, William T. Sherman has left quite a legacy in the community, all of it established more than 25 years after leaving. Today, his name is attached to numerous items in town. There is Sherman Street in town and Sherman Avenue within Fort Leavenworth. There is an historical marker at 115 Delaware Street in downtown Leavenworth marking the location of his office from 1858.

And most importantly, the primary building of the United States Command and General Staff College is "Sherman Hall" with a large metal plate above the entrance.

Today's Fort Leavenworth owes much of its purpose and existence to William Tecumseh Sherman. Where would it be today without his influence? Would it even still exist?



DID YOU KNOW?

POST-WAR KANSAS CITY NEWSPAPER

SUPPORTED THE CONFEDERACY

Most likely, all but maybe two or three of our Franklin Camp Brothers recall that Kansas City used to have both a morning newspaper, *The Kansas City Times*, and an evening newspaper, *The Kansas City Star*. From 1880 until 1990 both newspapers (under the same ownership since 1901) operated side-by-side, keeping the Kansas City area up to date on local, regional, national, and world news. On March 1, 1990, *The Kansas City Times* ceased to exist, and *The Star* began morning publication only.



But what many do not know is that *The Kansas City Times* began life as a Southern sympathizer, founded by a former Confederate soldier who was a staunch apologist for the Confederacy and its former politicians and soldiers. John Newman Edwards, along with John C. Moore, established *The Kansas City Daily Times* in 1867 to support the Democratic Party's anti-Reconstruction policies.



Formerly of the Confederate Missouri Brigade, prominent newspaper publisher John Newman Edwards defended the James Boys to arouse public sympathies and also arranged for the surrender of Frank James.

John Newman Edwards was born on January 4, 1839, in Virginia and moved to Lexington, Missouri, around 1855. Edwards, with the rank of Major, was Chief-of-Staff for Confederate General John S. Marmaduke before being assigned as adjutant of Confederate general Joseph O. Shelby's division during the American Civil War and was given the duty of composing Shelby's military reports, which he did quite colorfully, presenting Confederate soldiers and bushwhackers as heroic warriors.

As adjutant of Shelby's command during Sterling Price's Missouri raid, Edwards distinguished himself at the battles of Little Blue River and Westport, and organized the

loot captured at many Union held towns, including Potosi, Boonville, Waverly, Stockton, Lexington, and California, Missouri. Following the collapse of the Confederacy, Edwards remained with Shelby as the remnants of the command fled south to Mexico. He played an integral role in obtaining the land grant from Emperor Maximilian which led to the establishment of the Colony of Carlota, populated by the former Confederates.

Returning to Missouri in 1867, Edwards joined *The Republican* as a reporter but was quickly disillusioned. The same year, he began the *Kansas City Times*, a staunch Democratic paper in a military ruled state governed by Republican Party officials. Edwards used the paper to champion a return to prominence of former Missouri Confederates, denounced black jurors, "scalawags", and "carpetbaggers", and agitated against military occupation.

After the 1869 robbery of the Daviess County Saving Association in Gallatin, Missouri, Edwards met with Jesse and Frank James. In the pages of the *Kansas City Times* Edwards established the James Brothers as symbols of ex-Confederates "striking back" against perceived corruption, graft, oppression, and criminality of military backed Republican rule in Missouri.

In 1871, the *Kansas City Times* proclaimed itself, "the voice of the southern Democracy, and the latter-day champion of the unrepentant Confederacy". In the run-up to the election of 1872, Edwards devoted much of his editorial venom to denunciations of Republican President Ulysses Grant's "corrupt, tyrannical administration" and "the carpet bag dynasties" that Radicals were supposedly foisting on the South. Soon Edwards, now a leading figure in the Confederate wing of the Democratic Party, was in full myth-making mode.

Edwards remained at the *Times* until 1873 when he moved to St. Louis to edit *The Dispatch*, attempting to duplicate the Confederate leaning opinions he had established in *Kansas City*.

In 1877, Edwards published *Noted Guerrillas*, an account of Confederate partisan warfare during Civil War in western Missouri and border Kansas. Edwards grew concerned in the early-1870s that Missouri, a divided state which ultimately remained in the Union, would be isolated from the mainstream Lost Cause movement. So more than just a chronicle of the guerrilla war in the western borderlands, "Noted Guerrillas" also functioned as the basis of an "irregular Lost Cause" that Edwards specially constructed for Missouri. William Clarke Quantrill, "Bloody Bill" Anderson, and the James brothers, Frank and Jesse, were among the bushwhackers deified as Confederate heroes in place of standard Lost Cause icons like Robert E. Lee, J.E.B. Stuart, and P. G. T. Beauregard.

He later moved to Sedalia to become editor of *The Democrat*. He also became editor of the *St. Joseph Gazette*. As he had with his previous stints as newspaper editor, he attempted to mold these newspapers into his own personal pro-Confederate campaign.

In 1887, Edwards returned to *Kansas City* as editor of the paper he had founded. For all his bombast, Edwards had no desire to inaugurate another actual civil war; the newspaperman's objective was to instill pride in ex-Confederates and help orchestrate their return to political power. His lionization of Jesse James was a means to that end, and by 1880, the objective had been largely achieved. Reconstruction was over, and Missouri's legislature and congressional delegation were filled with ex-Confederates.

Now beset by severe alcoholism, Edwards managed to pen a fiery obituary after learning of Jesse's death, and he acted as intermediary in arranging for Frank James' later surrender to Missouri authorities. But Edwards' time, like Jesse's, was passing, and in 1889 the flamboyant newspaperman followed the outlaw he had made legendary into the ground.

The Kansas City Times had by the 1880's become part of The Associated Press. In 1901, William Rockhill Nelson purchased the *Times* and its associated franchise rights from The Associated Press. Nelson considered himself non-partisan, but had occasional progressive and southern Democratic leanings, but nowhere near as extreme as Edwards had been.

So, there you have it. One of the primary *Kansas City* newspapers began life as a pro-Confederate publication soon after the Civil War. Thanks to these political leanings, the *Times* became responsible for the glorification of Jesse and Frank James. How different would our local history be, not to mention our local legends, without the attitudes and writing styles of John Newman Edwards and *The Kansas City Times*.

Now you know.

FRANKLIN CAMP MONTHLY BULLETIN

The Franklin Camp Monthly Bulletin is a newsletter published for the Franklin Camp #5 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The SUV is a non-profit organization with a patriotic, historical, and genealogical orientation and is not affiliated with any other organization. Opinions in this newsletter reflect the views of the writers and are not necessarily a statement of the views of the SUV, the Department of Kansas, nor any other camp. Comments and articles are solicited.

Franklin Camp Website Resources

Franklin Camp Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/805798033688654>

Franklin Camp Webpage: <https://suvwks.org/franklin-camp-no-5/>

SUV National: <http://www.suvcw.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SUVCW/>

Department of Kansas Website: <https://suvwks.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sons-of-Union-Veterans-of-the-Civil-War-Department-of-Kansas-124886647572266/>

Franklin Camp Officers

<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>SR. VICE COMMANDER</u>	<u>JR. VICE COMMANDER</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
Jim Thornton	Matthew Archambault	Jeff Winters	Dan Stilley	Richard Miller

NEXT MEETING

Franklin Camp No. 5 meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at Pegah's Restaurant, 12122 West 87th Street, Lenexa, Kansas. The camp does not meet in December.

The Franklin Camp will meet on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 22**, at Pegah's Restaurant at 12122 W. 87th Street in Lenexa, Kansas, at 6 p.m. for dinner and conversation. Our featured program will be provided by Brother Dan Stilley who will be speaking to us on "*The 1916 GAR Reunion in Kansas City*".

Come early and join us for camaraderie, dinner, and education! As always, your wife or significant other is welcome. Feel free to bring guests!

Don't forget to bring a prospective recruit!

UPCOMING PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION FOR THE FRANKLIN CAMP

January 2026 – Dan Stilley – The 1916 GAR Reunion in Kansas City

February 2026 – Richard Miller – John Brown's Life Before Kansas

March 2026 – Jeff Harrington – Civil War History of Morticians

April 2026 – Mike Thompson – Navy Seals

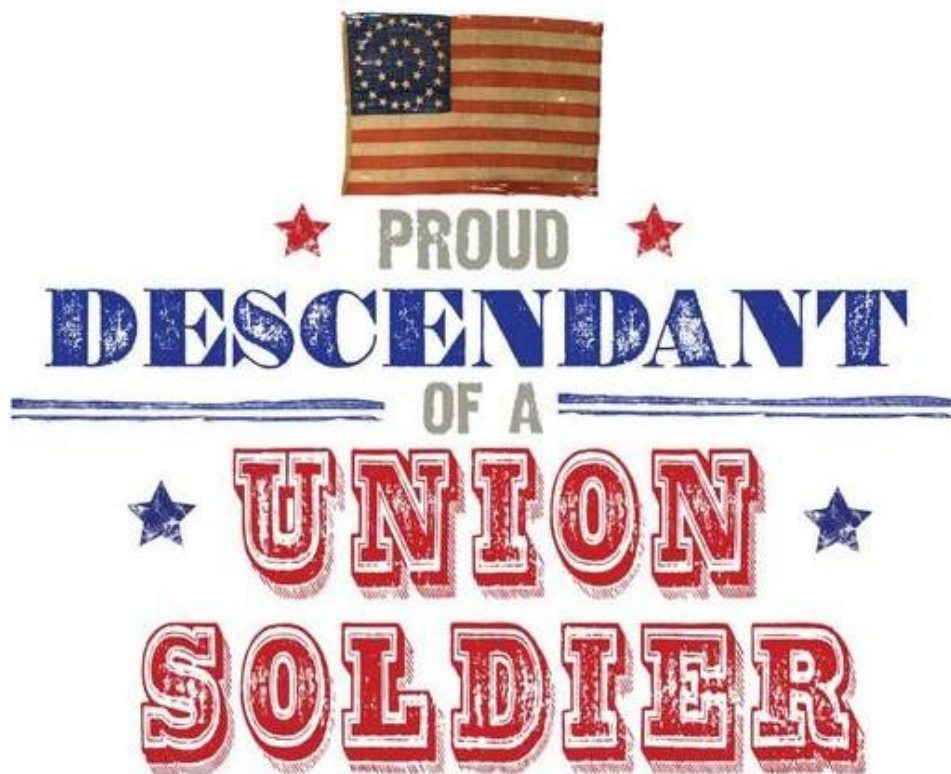
May 2026 – John Hamilton – The Bloody 100th Bomb Group

****IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT A PROGRAM AT A FUTURE MEETING, PLEASE E-MAIL A MEMBER OF OUR PROGRAMS COMMITTEE****

WANTED: NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The Franklin Camp Monthly Bulletin is always looking for articles on topics of interest. If you attend a Civil War event or have something you would like to contribute to the monthly newsletter (maybe a book recommendation and review?), please notify our newsletter editor Jim Thornton at JDThornton85@live.com. We would really like to continue the series on the ancestors of the membership. If you would like to contribute a biography on your Union Veteran ancestor, please submit your contribution in a WORD DOC or PDF format to Jim at the e-mail address above.

“THE LAST FIVE LETTERS OF THE WORD HISTORY SPELL “STORY.” AND THAT’S EXACTLY HOW HISTORY SHOULD BE TAUGHT. NUMBERS AND DATES HAVE NO SOUL. SUCH PRESENTATIONS FALL FLAT, FOR HISTORY IS ALIVE AND RELEVANT.”



REQUIRED DISCLAIMER: “Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material.”