

THE FRANKLIN CAMP MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

VOLUME 6, No. 5

MAY 13, 2026

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE ART OF COMMAND



The April meeting of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp #5 witnessed a new camp commander take control of the gavel. Brother Daniel Stilley has assumed command of the camp following Past Camp Commander Jim Thornton’s elevation to Department of Kansas Commander. Dan had a lot on his plate for his first meeting.

He began with a rundown of upcoming community events for the camp, including the annual Memorial

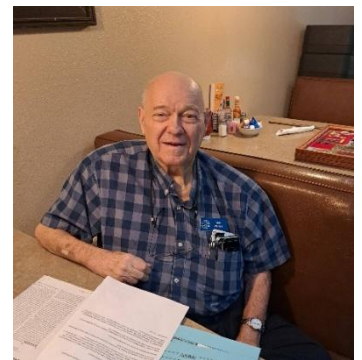
Day Quilt-of-Valor Presentation Ceremony on May 23, the Department of Kansas Wreath Laying Ceremony on the grave of Revolutionary War Patriot Sarah Ruddell Davis on May 25, and the Old Shawnee Days Parade on June 6. In preparation for the Quilt-of-Valor Ceremony, Commander Stilley scheduled a workday at the Olathe Memorial Cemetery on May 2 to tidy up the Civil War Circle.



Next up on the agenda, Dan reviewed the awards bestowed upon Franklin Camp and its members during the Department Encampment. This included a special presentation to the camp’s Junior Member, Harrington Montgomery. Harrington was honored with the “John Clem Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Junior Member 2025-2026”. His parents were in attendance for the presentation.



The evening’s Patriotic Instruction was given by Brother Dale Walters who truly gave those in attendance a lot to think about. In preparing his program, Dale put his PhD in psychology and his years in the counseling field to good use. Complete with handouts and worksheets for everyone, Dale took a deep dive into psychoanalyzing several of the Union Army’s key generals. He got everyone involved in the discussion and evaluation of the command style of the various generals.



Dale didn’t just look at what they did on the battlefield. He also included other events in the life of his subjects and how those events impacted their decision making. Most interestingly, he provided an anatomy lesson on the structures of the brain, what the individual parts do, and how those various parts work together in the decision-making process. All of this – life events and brain structures – interact in how the final decision is made.

Let’s just say everyone left the meeting with new perspectives on the commanding generals of the Union Army.

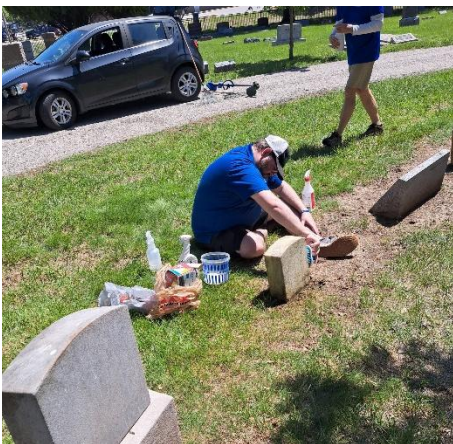
Franklin Camp Does Some Yard Work And Cemetery Clean Up

On Saturday, May 2, six brothers from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp gathered at the Civil War Circle and GAR Monument in the Olathe Memorial Cemetery. Their assignment was to tidy up the area in preparation for the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony and Quilt-of-Valor Presentations on May 23.

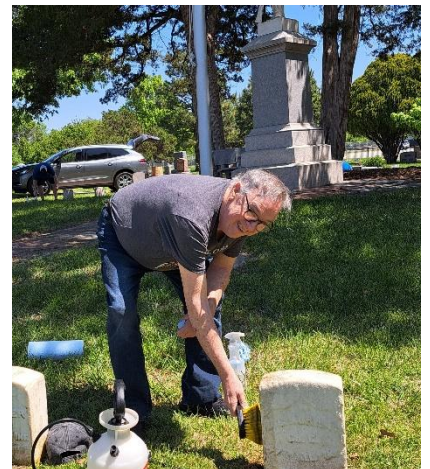
At the camp meeting on April 23, Camp Commander Dan Stilley expressed his desire to hold a workday at the cemetery. May 2 was selected as the day and six men stepped up. Commander Stilley, Past Camp Commander Jim Thornton, and Brothers Jon Awtry, Jerry Coffelt, Bill Stilley, and Josh Gillihan-Young arrived bearing various lawn tools to tend to the grounds and brushes to tend to the gravestones. Jerry brought some D-2 Cleaning Solution for the headstones and Josh purchased and donated a supply of D-2 as well.



While Dan, Jerry, Bill, and Josh got to work on cleaning the grave markers, Jim and Jon got to work on the grounds. Both had brought along their string trimmers and proceeded to trim around each headstone, the edges around the circle, and the sidewalk approach to the GAR monument. After the trimming, Jon and Jim tackled pruning the four rose bushes at the entrance to the circle. Both endured “injuries” from the thorny bushes.



Several of the stones received heavy duty scrubbing due to significant build-up of mold, lichens, etc.



After two and a half hours of scrubbing, the team finished up by giving each headstone a good spray down of D-2 to hopefully work its magic over the next couple of weeks. We should have an attractive area for our ceremony.

Cooperating in Educating Our Youth



Under the new, combined banner for the very first time, Brothers of the SUVCW Franklin Camp teamed up with the men of the SCV Key Camp for the annual “School Day” at Lone Jack Battlefield. The Key Camp provided their impressive replica weapons collection, allowing the eighth-grade students to experience a hands-on education of the American Civil War.

Past Camp Commander Bill Stoker put his knowledge of artillery projectiles to good use in explaining the differences between them.



He also teamed up with Key Camp Lt. Commander Larry Sumner to demonstrate the distinct types of rifles used during the war. One of the key elements of the Key Camp’s replica artifacts display is allowing the students to actually handle the non-firing weapons and to physically inspect their workings.



both organizations spent time discussing the war’s impact on this area and explaining how deeply divided the citizens were. Every year, the men who participate come away saddened by how little today’s youth know about history. By collaborating with the Key Camp and their wonderful collection, the SUVCW Franklin Camp can play its little part in correcting this lack of education in history being provided today.



The two groups were also able to provide a living example of divided loyalties. Brother Jerry Coffelt arrived all decked out in his customized “S.O.B.” uniform. Jerry provided a bit of good humor to the day’s education. Note Jerry is wearing his Sons of Confederate Veterans Key Camp name tag on the BLUE side of his vest.

Thanks to his ever-present cell phone camera, he provided a few dozen photos of the day and the Civil War education given to over two hundred students.

Thank you Key Camp for providing your displays and the canopy. Hopefully, we made an impact on some of these students, and they learned something from us. Just maybe some of our words will stick with them.

GUEST COMMENTARY

By Rick McPherson

They Learned to Respect Each Other and Get Along But Do Their Descendants?



In the decades following the War Between the States, veterans of both armies gathered at reunions across the country, shook hands, and shared their stories. Former enemies gradually became fellow citizens through fraternal organizations such as the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the United Confederate Veterans (UCV). Their meetings—sometimes on the very fields where they once fought—helped shape a national process of reconciliation.

By the 1880s and 1890s, joint Blue-Gray reunions at places like Gettysburg and Chickamauga allowed Union and Confederate veterans to socialize, reminisce, and acknowledge one another’s hardships. Many struggled with trauma and reintegration, yet others found common purpose in rebuilding communities, advancing education, and serving the public together.

Today, the two largest descendant organizations that grew from those original groups are the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), with more than 6,500 members, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), with over 30,000 members. This raises an important question: Do the descendants of once-bitter enemies still work together to preserve each other’s heritage?

The SUVCW, as the legal successor to the GAR, focuses on honoring Union veterans and promoting patriotism. The SCV is dedicated to defending the reputation of the Southern soldier and preserving Southern heritage.

While the SCV has often found itself at the center of public debates over Confederate monuments, the SUVCW has taken a clear position in support of preserving all Civil War memorials. The SUVCW has stated that it “strongly oppose(s) the removal of ANY reminders of the Civil War,” including Confederate monuments and markers to “gallant soldiers in the former Confederate States.”

In the Kansas City area, several members of the Key Camp hold dual membership in both organizations, reflecting family histories that include ancestors who fought on both sides. For them, mutual respect is natural -- they honor the service of all their forebears. Yet among the broader membership of both groups, there remains occasional debate about how closely the two organizations should cooperate.

Despite these differences, both Camps actively participate in shared events throughout the region. Without this cooperation, the Civil War would have little visible presence in our community. When we appear together -- Union blue and Confederate gray -- we make a stronger impact, and we ensure that the history of our ancestors is not forgotten by younger generations.

Let us hope that both organizations will continue to stand side by side at our shared events, preserving the memory, service, and sacrifices of all who lived through America’s defining conflict.

HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp has a very busy holiday weekend coming up which offers everyone a chance to step up and help support the camp. Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25, will see the Franklin Camp honoring six of our military veterans with a Quilt-of-Valor presentation, followed two days later by an “America 250” event being sponsored by the Department of Kansas.

First up will be the camp’s annual Memorial Day Ceremony to be held on Saturday, May 23, at 10:00am at the Olathe Memorial Cemetery Civil War Circle and GAR Monument. Volunteers will be needed to help with setting up before the ceremony and take down after the ceremony. During the presentation of the quilts, volunteers are needed to hold and display the quilt as it is presented to the veteran by the Quilt-of-Valor group. Those wishing to help with setting up are asked to arrive at the cemetery between 9:15 and 9:30. All that is asked for is the setting up of chairs for the attendees and helping with setting up the tables for the quilts, plus placing flags on all the graves in the Civil War Circle. Afterwards, folding up the chairs & tables and removing the flags from the graves. It is possible Camp Commander Dan Stilley may ask for volunteers to assist with some reading or speaking parts of the ceremony.

The second event needing volunteers will be held on Monday, May 25, at 10:00am at the Shawnee Methodist Mission Cemetery located at 5341 Canterbury Road in Fairway (just east of Mission Road on the south side of Shawnee Mission Parkway). The Department of Kansas will be hosting a wreath laying ceremony upon the grave of recognized Revolutionary War Patriot Sarah Ruddell Davis. She is the only confirmed Revolutionary War Patriot buried in Kansas. And she lived to witness the American Civil War, passing away after Robert E. Lee’s surrender to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Volunteers in Union Uniform are especially needed to take part in the Color Guard with the Sons of the American Revolution. It is hoped to have a combined SAR & SUVCW color guard present the colors to open the ceremony and retire the colors at the end. Volunteers may also be asked to take part with a reading or speaking role.

The weekend of May 23-25 is your chance to get involved! Come on out and join us. Experience the SUVCW and spend some time with your Franklin Camp Brothers outside of the monthly dinner meetings.



Please Join Us!

2026 Memorial Day Ceremony *Quilt-of-Valor Presentations*



Saturday, May 23, 2026

10:00 am

Olathe Memorial Cemetery

738 N. Chestnut, Olathe

Civil War Circle

2026 MEMORIAL DAY QUILT-OF-VALOR RECIPIENTS

LARRY G. ROSENOW: Specialist 5th Class, United States Army; Served October 4, 1966, to July 4, 1968; Military Occupational Specialty was Finance and Human Resources; deployed to Vietnam October 1967 to July 1968; awarded Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal



FRITZ B. CHERILUS: Colonel, United States Army; Served 31 years (1990 to 2021); Military Occupational Specialty was Field Artillery; Served during the Global War on Terrorism, including the Iraqi Campaign (Operation Iraqi Freedom) and the Afghanistan Campaign (Operation Enduring Freedom); Deployed with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment; Awarded the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, and National Defense Medal.



JAMES E. REECAMPER: First Sergeant, United States Army; served 22 & ½ years (January 1966 to July 1988); Military Occupational Specialty was Infantry; Deployed to Vietnam 1967-1968; Also assigned to Germany; Awarded Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Combat Infantry Badge.



MICHAEL F. KEOHANE: Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army; served 25 years (April 1968 to July 1993); Military Operations Specialty was Artillery (Air Defense Artillery); Deployed to Vietnam 1972-1973; Assignments to multiple countries, including Germany and South Korea; Awarded Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (4x), Army Commendation Medal (3x), Army Achievement Medal (2x), National Defense Medal (2x), Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.



RONALD S. GROSSMAN: Sergeant (E5), United States Army; Captain, United States Air Force; Served 48 years (October 1973 to December 2021); Military Operations Specialty in the Army was Aviation Operations Specialist; Military Operations Specialty in the Air Force was Navigation Specialist; Deployed to Vietnam; Also assigned to Alaska, Guam, Okinawa, South Korea, and Diego Garcia; Awarded Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon w/Oak Leaf Cluster.



MICHAEL T. CHYCHOTA: Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army; Served 24 years (June 1969 to July 1993); Military Operations Specialty was Field Artillery; Served at multiple bases across the country and in Germany; Awarded Meritorious Service Medal w/Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal w/Oak Leaf Cluster, and Army Achievement Medal w/Oak Leaf Cluster.





AMERICA 250 EVENT



HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

WHEN: Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, at 10:00am

WHAT: Wreath Laying Ceremony upon the grave of recognized Revolutionary War Patriot Sarah Ruddell Davis.

WHERE: Shawnee Methodist Mission Cemetery; 5341 Canterbury Road, Fairway, KS 66205.

WHO: The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Kansas; assisted by the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution; presentation of the colors by a combined SAR and SUVCW Color Guard.

WHY: As part of the nationwide “America 250” celebration in honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, the SUVCW Department of Kansas is honoring and recognizing Sarah Ruddell Davis, a recognized patriot of the American Revolution who also lived long enough to witness the Kansas-Missouri Border War and the American Civil War. Among the close to 20 Revolutionary War “Patriots” buried across the Kansas City area, Sarah appears to be the only one buried within the State of Kansas.



Franklin Camp **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

MAY 23: Annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Quilt-of-Valor Presentations

Where: Olathe Memorial Cemetery; 730 N Chestnut St, Olathe, KS 66061
At the GAR Memorial and Civil War Circle

Time: 10:00am

MAY 25: “America 250” – Ceremony and Wreath Laying on Grave of Sarah Ruddell Davis

Where: Shawnee Methodist Mission Cemetery; 5341 Canterbury Rd, Fairway, KS
(on Shawnee Mission Parkway, just east of Old Mission United Methodist Church)

When: 10:00am

What: Sarah Ruddell Davis is a recognized Revolutionary War Patriot by both the SAR and DAR. She is buried here. The Department of Kansas, as part of the America 250 Celebration will perform a wreath laying and ceremony.

JUNE 6: Old Shawnee Days Parade

Where: Downtown Shawnee; along Nieman Road and along Johnson Drive

When: 10:00am, Saturday, June 6

What: SUVCW Franklin Camp has entered the parade; Brother Jim Thornton will be driving his convertible sports car with SUVCW signage; camp brothers are encouraged to walk along.

JULY 30: SUVCW National Encampment

Where: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Aspire Hotel and Suites

When: July 30 to August 2

Details: Visit <https://suvchw.org/encampment-hotel>



Not Your Normal Morning Cup of Joe



If you're like me, every morning, I wake up and have a cup of coffee (or two or three). Coffee was also an essential part of a Civil War soldier's routine. They drank their coffee whenever they could, refueling themselves for the long days and nights ahead. And through the hardships of war, soldiers shared campfires, rations, and friendships. Coffee wasn't always part of a soldier's ration, though. It became a wartime staple thanks to President Andrew Jackson's Army General Order No. 100 substituting coffee and sugar rations for alcohol in 1832. At the outbreak of the Civil War, and with the Union Blockade of Confederate ports in April of 1861, the availability of coffee to Confederate soldiers and families across the country dwindled. As a result, Confederate soldiers and families on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line devised unique ways of obtaining their coffee.

Shortly after the start of the war, the Union blockade halted the import of goods through Southern ports. This not only affected the influx of Confederate uniforms, weapons, and medicines, but also rations. In a rare case, Confederate officers reverted to pre-1832 rations, substituting whiskey for coffee. A soldier in the 28th Virginia Infantry, discussed this event in a letter to his sister while in camp near Fairfax Courthouse on October 13, 1861: *"There is a good deal of drunkenness in camp now, they give the soldiers whiskey instead of coffee. They give them four days rations at once, and some of them drink all of theirs in a day."* This instance, however, seems to be a one-off occurrence even more so as the war continued, as whiskey was needed more as an antiseptic for wounded soldiers.



Pickets trading between the lines. Sketch by Edwin Forbes. Courtesy of the Library of Congress

The lack of coffee didn't stop some Confederate soldiers. Informal truces arose, and trade between the picket lines flourished. Because of the blockade, Union troops were unable to buy Southern tobacco, creating a common ground and an array of innovative ways for soldiers to acquire the unavailable. While in Fredericksburg, Virginia, one Confederate soldier slipped a note across picket lines that said *"I send you some tobacco and expect some coffee in return. Send me some postage stamps and you will oblige yours Rebel."* Along the banks of the Rappahannock River, also in Fredericksburg, local folklore suggests that Confederate soldiers constructed small sailboats to send tobacco to Union forces on the other side of the river, requesting coffee to be sailed back when the wind changed.

In another instance, a soldier in the 31st Virginia Infantry took part in a truce with Union soldiers on March 23, 1865, in which he exchanged newspapers with a Union soldier, and others in his company received coffee. Soon after, "the truce ended and both parties resumed the firing."

One of the more interesting aspects of the coffee shortages was the creative ways families and Confederate soldiers came up with alternatives. Roots and vegetables were ground up and sometimes blended together in the attempt to create a drink with the most coffee-like taste. Lt. Col Freemantle, a British officer visiting the Southern states in 1863 declared, *"The loss of coffee afflicts the Confederates even more than the loss of spirits; and they exercise their ingenuity in devising substitutes, which are not generally very successful."*

The possibilities were endless. Newspapers printed recipes for coffee substitutes as early as August of 1861.

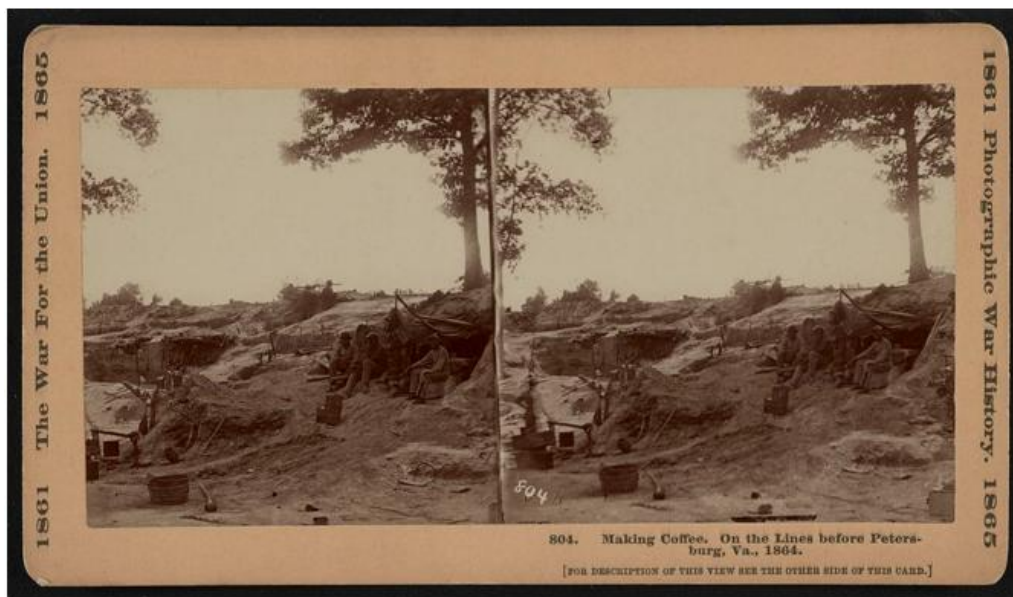
The North Branch Democrat, a Pennsylvania newspaper, in its October 22, 1862, issue provided several different blends of coffee substitutes, to include wheat, chestnut, sweet potato, carrot, barley, pea, and chicory root. Others popular substitutes included beets, acorns, cotton seeds, persimmon seeds, and asparagus seeds.

Sometimes families got extremely creative. One Arkansas True Democrat reader wrote the editor on October 17, 1861, describing his or her favorite coffee recipe using tan bark, old cigar stumps, and water, all boiled in a dirty coffee pot. In a tamer recipe, Julia Breckinridge, of Botetourt County, Virginia, wrote her mother-in-law on October 26, 1861, stating, *“I tried the dandelion coffee the other night-and it is quite as good as any real coffee I ever tasted. Jenny said she never would have known that it was not coffee if she had not been told so.”* In a letter a few weeks later, Julia Breckinridge tells her husband, Gilmer, *“We have taken to drinking rye coffee and I...never care to drink any other kind.”* A reader from Gwinnett County, Georgia agreed with Julia in the Savannah Republican on September 9, 1861:

“Sugar and coffee are getting scarce and high. The sugar we are learning to dispense with, and we have an excellent substitute for coffee, very cheap and abundant. It is rye—we have been using it in our family for six weeks, and I think it equally as healthy, and as palatable as the real thing....So you see as far as coffee is concerned, we don’t care a straw about Lincoln’s blockade.”

Out of all the substitutes, rye seemed to be the most popular for soldiers and families alike, but it had disastrous effects if not carefully cultivated and prepared. The Daily Dispatch, a Richmond, Virginia paper, reported a story on February 14, 1863, concerning the dangers of substituting rye in coffee. A German family of eight in Brooklyn, New York, was poisoned after drinking rye coffee purchased from a local shopkeeper. The newspaper included the letter from the Health Officer, who stated: *“The case of Mr. Croft’s family is not a solitary one. I had become cognizant of numerous instances in which the rye coffee had the same or similar effects.... Nobody should be surprised at the obnoxious effects of rye coffee, for with the rye itself grow ergot and other poisonous plants, and unless their seed be carefully separated from rye, poisoning is inevitable.”*

Coffee, a commonality in the Union and a luxury in the Confederate States, not only fueled the soldiers low on energy, but it brought unity between soldiers, comradery between lines, and an inexhaustible source of creativity among families. It has continued to be an essential part of everyday life, but today it is certainly easier to obtain!



Making coffee on the lines before Petersburg, 1864. Courtesy of the Library of Congress

NEXT MONTH: Coffee as a diplomatic tool used by President Lincoln

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>
Dan Stilley	Matthew Archambault	Jeff Winters	Jim Thornton	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, MAY 28**, 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 Mr. John Hamilton who will be speaking to us on "*The Bloody 100th Bomb Group of World War II.*"

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

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

June 2026 – Bill Quatman – A Young General and the Fall of Richmond

July 2026 – Matthew Archambeault – Salt and its Importance

August 2026 and September 2026 – OPEN

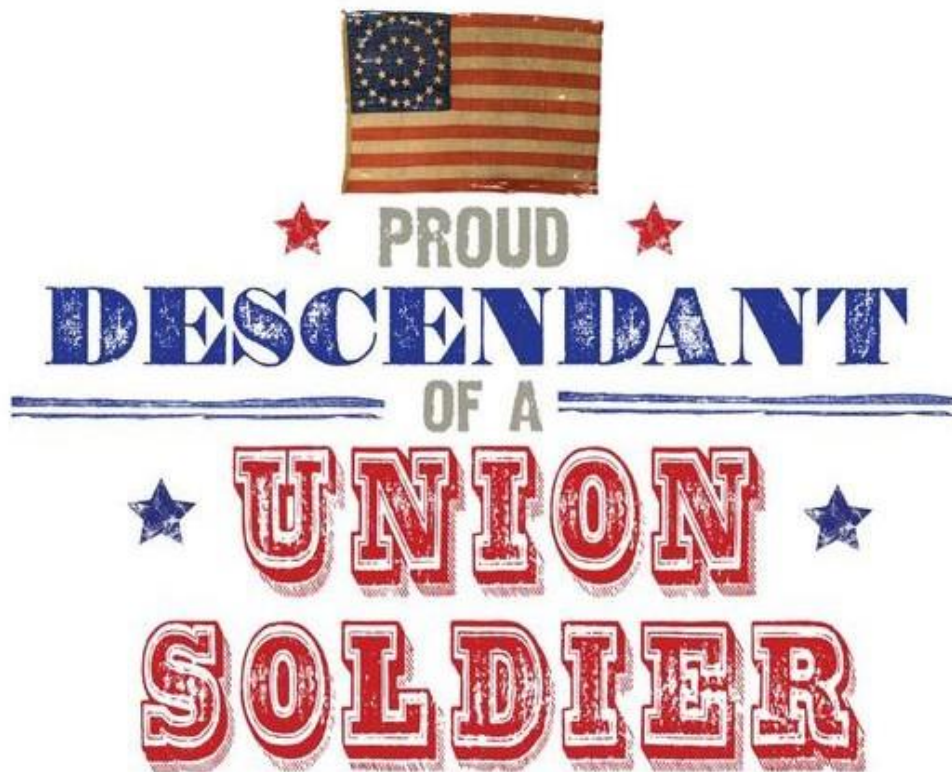
October 2026 – John Hansen – Civil War Ghost Stories

****VOLUNTEERS TO PRESENT A PROGRAM AT FUTURE MEETINGS ARE WELCOME! IF INTERESTED, 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. This year, in commemoration of our nation's 250th Anniversary, we would like to do a series of articles on what it means to you to be an American. What was your proudest moment as an American? 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.”