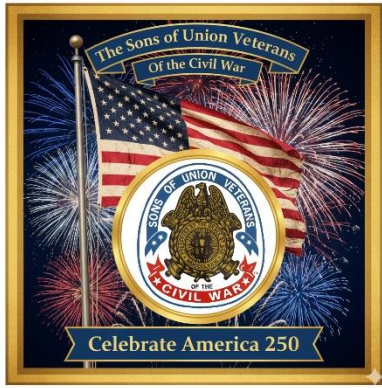




THE FRANKLIN CAMP MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

VOLUME 6, No. 8

AUGUST 17, 2026

CAMP RECEIVES SCREENING OF LOCAL DOCUMENTARY



At the July 23 meeting of the SUVCW Franklin Camp, those in attendance welcomed Mr. Hunter Brown, a May 2026 graduate of Blue Valley Northwest High School, who joined the gathering to screen his documentary film *"The Civil War and its Impact on Kansas City."* Hunter was a participant in the Blue Valley School District Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) where students were able to gain hands-on experience in fields they were considering as a career path. For Hunter, this was film production.

With twenty-one in attendance, Commander Dan Stilley opened the meeting with a discussion of the DUVCW Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Lone Jack Battlefield Cemetery in which he and Brother Bill Stilley participated as representatives for the SUVCW. He then offered suggestions for future community activities for the camp to take part in, including the Old Settlers Day Festival in Olathe coming up in September. Brother Bryan Wampler talked about the Kansas State Fair where the SAR will have a booth and offered to have the SUVCW Department of Kansas to join them. The final topic of the business portion of the meeting was the 2027 Department of Kansas Encampment taking place April 2, 2027, at the Old Shawnee Indian Mission. As hosting camp, Franklin Camp is responsible for coordinating the Friday evening dinner gathering and providing the snacks/drinks for the Saturday encampment meeting.

Following the business meeting, Mrs. Susie Whitfield, a CAPS program advisor and mentor, introduced Hunter Brown and his documentary film. The film was quite detailed and outlined the nation's discord during the period 1854 through 1865, beginning with the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Hunter explained how this act was the match that ignited the violence, specifically in the Kansas Territory with the flooding influx of both abolitionists and pro-slavery factions. His film included interviews with multiple historians and professors, along with comments from Kansas City Mayor Quentin Lucas.

Hunter's presentation touched on how today's population demographics are the result of the Civil War's influence, specifically the Missouri Counties of the Burnt District from General Order #11. Even the racial make-up of the area population is a result of what happened during those years.

It was more than just a film summarizing the facts of the war. Hunter's film extrapolated the events and tied them to the Kansas City area of today. When asked about what influenced him, Hunter explained he has always had an interest in film production and with Ulysses Grant being a personal hero, a film on the Civil War seemed a natural path to follow. So, why not a documentary on how the Civil War shaped Kansas City?



MEETING OF 7-23-2026

ATTENDANCE:

17 Members and 4 Guests in Attendance

Mark Anderson	Matthew Archambault
Jerry Coffeldt	Dennis Garstang
John Hansen	Philip Hansen
Richard Miller	Roger Miller
Lane Smith	Dan Stilley
Bill Stilley	Bill Stoker
Ron Thompson	Jim Thornton
John Thorup	Bryan Wampler
Jeffrey Winters	

Guests:	Steven Whitfield	Susie Whitfield
	Linda Stoker	Hunter Brown (Guest Speaker)

6:05pm Call to Order by Commander Daniel Stilley
Invocation Given by Acting Camp Chaplain Bill Stoker
Opening Procedures – Commander Stilley and Camp Officers

- Business:
- 1) Lone Jack Battlefield Cemetery Wreath Laying held by DUVCW on July 16
 - a) Commander Dan Stilley and Brother Bill Stilley participated with Commander Stilley serving as SUVCW Representative and delivering a reading during the ceremony.
 - 2) Portable PA/Speaker System
 - a) Still being researched for an affordable and dependable system.
 - b) Brother John Thorup stated Prairie Point Quilt and Fabric Shop will allow the camp to borrow their system for larger public events such as the QOV ceremonies.
 - c) Brother Thorup also made the suggestion of holding a “Quilt Raffle” to raise funds for purchase of a camp portable PA/speaker system.
 - 3) Old Settler’s Day Festival Participation
 - a) Possibly enter the parade as we did for Old Shawnee Days
 - b) Set up an information/recruiting table/booth at the festival
 - c) Secretary Thornton will look into
 - 4) Kansas State Fair – September 11-20
 - a) Brother Bryan Wampler (past president of Kansas SAR) invited the SUVCW to join with the SAR at their information booth at the fair. He will forward details.
 - 5) Department Encampment 2027 Preparations
 - a) Franklin Camp serving as host camp. Meeting to be held on April 3, 2027, at the Old Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway.
 - b) Franklin Camp will need to coordinate the Friday night dinner (April 2) and the snacks/refreshments for the Saturday meeting.
 - c) Committee formed with Bryan Wampler, Jeffrey Winters, and Commander Stilley.
 - 6) Treasurer’s Report – Richard Miller
 - a) Balance = \$ 606.55
 - b) Detailed Expenses
 - i) \$ 200.00 to Quilt-of-Valor group for supplies

Patriotic Instruction: Mr. Hunter Brown of the Blue Valley School District CAPS Program presenting his film on the Border War and the effects of the Civil War on Kansas City.

7:00pm Closing and Adjournment

THE DETAILS ARE IN THE FINE PRINT



At the July 23 meeting of the SUVCW Franklin Camp, Commander Dan Stilley indicated he would like to see the camp take part in the Olathe Old Settlers Day Parade and Festival as we did with the Old Shawnee Days Parade. Brother Jim Thornton offered to drive his convertible sports car, flying the 34-Star Flag again, as he did in the Old Shawnee Days Parade, while others agreed this would be a good camp activity where we could possibly man an information booth. Secretary Thornton stated he would look into it and handle the necessary participant forms.

Over the following weekend, Jim went online to the Old Settlers Festival website which seemed easy enough to navigate. Accessing the participant portal, he found the "Parade Sign-Up" page and began to fill it out. Simple

enough. It requested all the standard information: name, address, phone number, e-mail address, organization name, and I.D number if a charitable group, type of vehicle, and of course the driver's license number of the person driving. Then the page asked for proof of insurance. No big deal. Jim scanned in his car insurance card. Makes sense, right?

Now comes the fine print. All the way at the end, after filling out the entire document. Pop-up message: "Auto insurance card is insufficient. Please read below." So, Jim scrolled down to the FINE PRINT discussion about proof of insurance. Well, this turned out to be quite interesting. Apparently, participants in the parade are required to carry \$500,000 in insurance, have a certificate of said insurance, and list the Old Settlers Days Association as a certificate holder.



Well, this certainly wasn't going to happen! There was no way Jim or the Franklin Camp would have that kind of insurance. So, Jim contacted Dan about the situation. It was agreed the parade was out, but what about an information booth at the festival? Back to the festival participant web page.

Once again Jim filled out the required information, this time describing the organization and what the display/booth would entail. So far, so good ---- until he hit submit. Another pop-up message. This one said, "We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience; however, all slots have been filled and there is no room remaining for further vendors. We hope to see you next year!"

Franklin Camp was out of luck and would not be able to take part in Olathe's Old Settler Days. It was all spelled out in the fine print. One final question: Why couldn't this have been said up front at the beginning before filling out all the information?

IT'S CAMP OFFICER ELECTION TIME AGAIN!!

**NOMINATIONS
NOW OPEN**

In compliance with National and Department bylaws, SUVCW Camps are required to hold officer and council elections annually between August and December, inclusive. Terms of all offices are one year, per bylaws and opinions on said bylaws. Therefore, Franklin Camp 5 will begin accepting nominations for the offices of Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) Council Members immediately. Elections will be held at the September camp meeting with officer installations taking place at the October meeting. The term of office shall run from January 1 to December 31.

Our current officers and council members are as follows: **Commander:** Daniel Stilley; **Senior Vice Commander:** Matthew Archambault; **Junior Vice Commander:** Jeffrey Winters; **Secretary:** James Thornton, PCC; **Treasurer:** Richard Miller; **Council Member 1:** William Stilley; **Council Member 2:** William Stoker, PCC; **Council Member 3:** Ronnie Thompson.

Below you will find the Officer Nomination Form. If you wish, please complete and forward to Secretary Jim Thornton at JDThornton85@live.com prior to September 10 so he may contact the nominees and ascertain their willingness to serve. Please feel free to nominate yourself.

ELECTED OFFICERS NOMINATION FORM

I nominate for the Office of Camp Commander:

(Currently held by Daniel Stilley)

I nominate for the Office of Senior Vice Commander:

(Currently held by Matthew Archambault)

I nominate for the Office of Junior Vice Commander:

(Currently held by Jeffrey Winters)

I nominate for the Office of Camp Secretary:

(Currently held by James Thornton, PCC)

I nominate for the Office of Camp Treasurer:

(Currently held by Richard Miller)

I nominate the following three (3) for the Office of Camp Council Members:

(Currently William Stilley, William Stoker PCC, and Ronnie Thompson)

Your Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

PLEASE FILL OUT AND TURN IN AT OUR MEETING ON AUGUST 27.

OR SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS VIA E-MAIL TO THE CAMP SECRETARY, JIM THORNTON, AT JDThornton85@live.com BEFORE 9-10-2026.

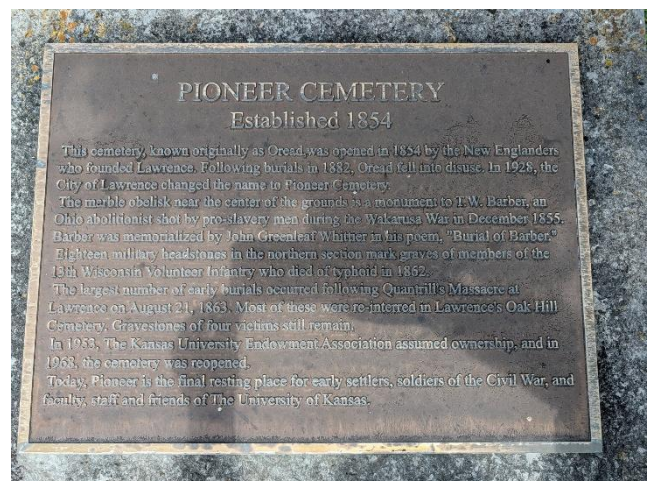
Department of Kansas Brothers **Represent the SUVCW** **At Monument Dedication**



With very short notice (less than a week), the Department of Kansas still put together a good representation at a re-dedication ceremony for a restored monument in Pioneer Cemetery in Lawrence, KS. Five Brothers from Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp and three Brothers from Franklin Camp were present for the unveiling. Attending from the Franklin Camp were Department Commander Jim Thornton, Camp Jr. Vice Commander Jeff Winters, and Brother Lee Wilson.

The monument (which is actually a reproduction of the severely deteriorated original) honors two of the martyrs killed in August 1856 during the Bleeding Kansas uprisings in Lawrence.

While there, the eight attendees also visited and paid respects to the fallen Union Soldiers of the 13th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry interred at the cemetery. Churchill Camp has done tremendous work in maintaining the headstones and re-dedicating the monument in 2006.



For more detailed information on the monument and who it honors, visit
<https://lawrencekstimes.com/2026/08/11/memorial-dedication-militiamen/>

The Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation

presents



HERITAGE DAY AT MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD



Saturday, September 26, 2026



Event Activities 10 am - 4 pm

Museum open until 5 pm



20485 Highway 52 • Pleasanton, KS 66075



EVENT ADMISSION

- Adults \$5
- Students \$2
- Children 4 & under Free

MUSEUM ADMISSION

FREE



LIVE CAVALRY



CANNON
DEMONSTRATIONS



LIVING
HISTORY



FAMILY
ACTIVITIES

Step back in time and experience history come to life!

Join us for a day of immersive Civil War history at one of the largest cavalry battlefields in the nation, where one of the largest cavalry battles of the Civil War was fought on October 25, 1864.



The
Mine Creek
Battlefield
Foundation



Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/minecreekbattlefieldfoundation/>

REPORT FROM THE **SUVCW NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT 2026**



The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held their 2026 National Encampment from July 30 through August 2 at the most hallowed battlefield of the American Civil War – Gettysburg. This year's encampment was hosted by the National Organization in commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary.

The Gettysburg location combined with America's 250th Birthday resulted in the largest turnout and attendance in decades. There were 267 registered brothers in attendance and 31 of 32 SUVCW Departments were represented. Only the Department of Connecticut was absent.

Representing the Department of Kansas were Commander Jim Thornton, Senior Vice Commander Tom Schmidt, Junior Vice Commander Roy Lafferty, Secretary Alan Russ, Treasurer and Chief-of-Staff Rocky Bartlow, and Past Department Commander Mike Todd. Due to unfortunate circumstances, PDC Kent Melcher and Brother Richard Hummell were unable to attend although having previously registered.

The encampment began on Thursday, July 30, with a three and a half hour guided bus tour around the battlefield with stops hitting the well-known attractions, such as Little Round Top and the field site of Pickett's Charge. The National Park Service provided tour guide was excellent and spoke of several little-known facts of the battle.

Business meetings were held Friday and Saturday, taking up most of both days, and a formal dinner banquet was held in the main ballroom of the hotel on Saturday night. Throughout the meetings, the proceedings flowed smoothly with no serious disagreements or debates on issues taking place this year. As department secretary Russ commented, this was highly unusual.



*Outgoing 2025-26 C-in-C
Kevin Tucker*

On Friday, to conclude the business meetings, formal elections were held for the 2026-27 national officers. Only one office required an actual run-off vote. There were three candidates nominated for two National Council of Administration positions. The winner of the first vote would assume the three-year term and the winner of the second vote between the two remaining would assume the one-year term.

The elected 2026-27 National Officers are:
Br. Daniel Murray - Commander-in-Chief,
Br. Robert Payne - Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief,
Br. David Hann - Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief,
Br. Rod Fraser - Council of Administration,
Br. Ben Frail - Council of Administration



*Incoming 2026-27 C-in-C
Daniel Murray*

Next year's 2027 National Encampment will be a lot closer – only about a nine-hour drive. Franklin, TN!! Hopefully, the Department of Kansas will have a large turnout and be well represented.

Grave Marking/Headstone Dedication Ceremony Held by Old Abe Camp 16

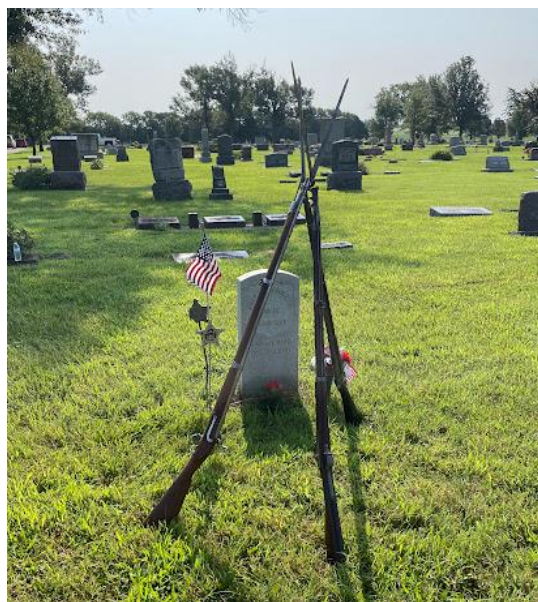
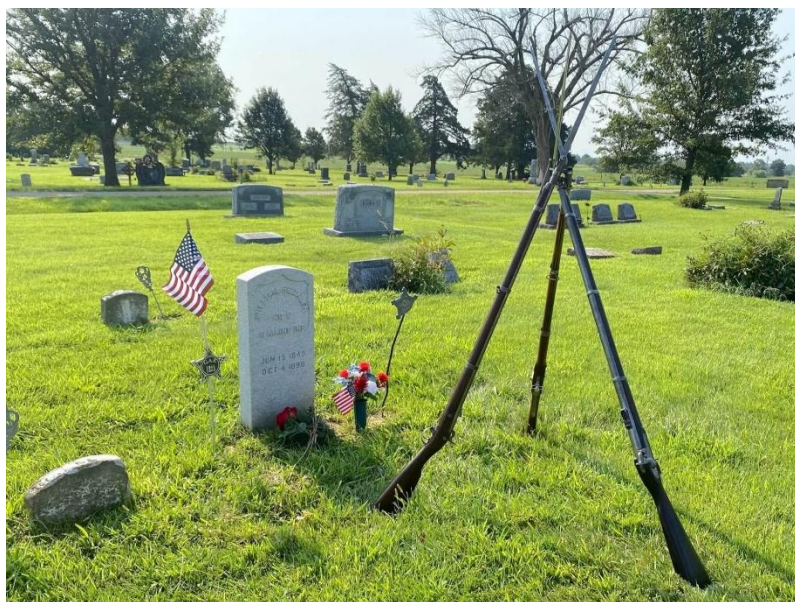
On Saturday, August 8, 2026, the SUVCW Old Abe Camp #16 out of Topeka held a double grave marking/headstone dedication ceremony in Osage City, Kansas for two forgotten Union Soldiers who lied in unmarked graves. These graves were brought to the attention of Old Abe Camp by brothers from the Department of Nebraska during their research into the ancestors of their department.



Led by the efforts of Department Council Member (and Old Abe Camp Junior Vice Commander) Jonathan Holder, U.S. Government Issue Headstones from the Department of Veterans Affairs were obtained and shipped to the Osage City Cemetery where the cemetery sexton graciously received them. Brother Holder spent many hours researching the life stories of these two soldiers and attempted to reach out to any surviving family members. Coordinating with the cemetery and his camp, Jonathan put together a moving ceremony that followed the format laid out by the Grand Army of the Republic, featuring Old Abe Camp Commander Ron Martin, PDC Rocky Bartlow, and Brother Boone Dodson who served as commanding officer of the honor guard which fired a three-volley salute.

Department of Kansas Commander Jim Thornton attended the ceremony and recited the poem "*The Unknown Dead*" by Elizabeth Robbins Berry which is called for in the "Ritual and Ceremonials of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War."

It was a moving ceremony that will hopefully provide final rest for two long-forgotten Union Soldiers, Private William Beckler and Private Joel Haworth.



IT'S NOT TOO SOON!
SPONSOR A WREATH NOW FOR
A FALLEN VETERAN

KS0168P – SON OF THE UNION
VETERANS CIVIL WAR
FRANKLIN CAMP KS

Please help us Remember, Honor, and Teach on December 13, 2025 at 11:00 am by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering, or inviting friends to help.

On December 19, 2026, at 11:00 am, The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp KS will be helping Johnson County Memorial Gardens to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

Wreath sponsorship is only \$17. And \$5 comes back to the camp!

Please visit <https://wreathsassamerica.org/pages/180926/Overview/?relatedId=0> to sponsor a wreath through the SUVCW Franklin Camp. Click the **RED** "Sponsor Wreaths" button and follow the onscreen directions. You may sponsor a wreath for our chosen cemetery, or you will be given an option to designate your wreath to be placed on a loved one's grave at a participating cemetery. A Wreaths Across America volunteer will ensure your wreath is placed on your chosen grave.

The Group ID Number for the SUVCW Franklin Camp No. 5 is KS0168P



A Place of Their Own in Kansas, the Soldier State

By Rick McPherson

After the Civil War, many veterans returned home feeling disconnected from the lives they had once known. War had changed them, and ordinary life no longer felt familiar. For some, the answer was to leave everything behind and head west to Kansas, where open prairie and new communities offered a chance to begin again, where they could reenter society and form their own unique communities.

One of those veterans was Albert Freeman Waugh, a Union soldier from Wisconsin who had been badly wounded at the Battle of Perryville. Crippled for life, he struggled to fit back into his old hometown after the war. In 1872, much to the objections of his wife, he moved his family to central Kansas near the new settlement of King City, a community founded largely by Union veterans and their families the previous year.



<<< (left) Albert Freeman Waugh of the 1st Wisconsin before a Confederate bullet tore through his knee at the October 1862 Battle of Perryville, Ky. The wound left him crippled, an everlasting reminder of war.

Kansas became a destination for many former soldiers because land was available through the Homestead Act, railroads offered affordable travel west, and veteran colonies provided support and companionship. These settlements were built by people who shared common experiences from the war and wanted to create stable lives together on the frontier.

Soldier colonies were an efficient and cost-effective way of organizing and relocating veterans to the frontier after the civil war. But it was much more than that. Many of these soldiers that migrated to Kansas had been exposed to high-drama combat during the war and did so using the anonymity and newness of the frontier to reintegrate into society on their own terms.

Life in Kansas was difficult but hopeful. Families arrived to find wide-open prairies with few buildings and little protection from harsh weather, crop failures, and isolation. Veterans and their neighbors worked together to build homes, schools, churches, stores, and towns from almost nothing. Communities such as King City in McPherson County and Collyer in Trego County, in far western Kansas, grew through cooperation, determination, and shared sacrifice. Soon towns like Chapman, Sedgwick, and Emporia saw their development driven by Union soldiers filing military claims for 160-acre tracts of land.



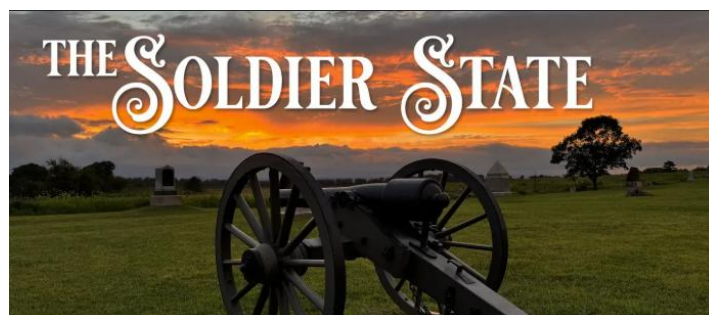
The McPherson House in King City (later McPherson, KS)

Like many others, Albert Waugh needed solitude and the lack of an established social structure on the frontier to put his life back together. Although he would later serve as a judge, county commissioner, and as a self-taught doctor, he did so quietly, refusing to make speeches or enter any public debate.

For many veterans, these frontier towns offered emotional healing. Surrounded by fellow soldiers who understood the hardships of war, they could quietly rebuild their lives without the expectations of the communities they had left behind. They gathered for Memorial Day celebrations, shared stories of army life, and helped one another through the struggles of farming and settlement.

Veterans had some advantages over the general population when moving west through the Homestead Act, especially those who had been wounded or disabled. Thus, throughout the 1870's and 1880's, Union soldiers helped many new colonies spring up across Kansas. In Ellis County alone, 24 colonies of various types settled there. A soldier's pension of \$15 per month helped provide the capital for their new settlement, which was considered preferable versus an aimless life in a soldier's home. With the encouragement of the GAR, Kansas would soon be known as the "Soldier's State."

Over time, these veterans transformed the Kansas prairie into thriving communities. When they moved to the frontier, they deliberately chose to do so in the company of fellow veterans with whom they shared a common bond. Though they carried the scars of war, they found in Kansas an opportunity for independence, purpose, and a new beginning for themselves and their families.



Looking Back....

From the Franklin Camp Newsletter "The Old Flag"; Volume 4, No. 10; October 2008

FINDING YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION



Patty Eggers sharing Civil War documents of Army Private (Musician) Charles Facius, Co E, 2nd Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry.
Photo-Matt Toll

All attending Franklin Camp's regular September camp meeting at Olathe City Hall, one of the most impressive patriotic instruction sessions to date. Patty Eggers, mother of Junior Member Steven Meis, presented to us the fruits of her years of family and genealogy research about Steven's Civil War Great-Great-Great Grandfather, Private (Musician) Charles Facius, Co E, 2nd Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry.

Patty shared her sources and methods for discovering military records that were generated about Private Facius. The OLD FLAG editor gathered a half dozen great ideas for displaying these documents and photographs.



Junior Member Steven Meis handing artifacts to Department Commander Craig Sundell (left) and Department JVC Jim Knopke during Camp Meeting.
Photo – Matt Toll



Patty Eggers and son, Steven Meis, showing camp members photo panel.
Photo - Editor



Reference Table with common resources used to research Civil War ancestors
Photo-Editor



Department JVC Jim Knopke looking over Private Facius' G.A.R. Transfer Certificate.
Photo - Editor

"The Old Flag" was the official newsletter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp 5. It was edited and published monthly by Past Camp Commander Jim Converse 2008-2010.

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.suvw.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, AUGUST 27**, 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 Senior Vice-Commander Matthew Archambault presenting "*Salt and its Role in the Civil War*."

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

August 2026 – Matthew Archambault – Salt and its Role in the Civil War

September 2026 – Dale Walters – The Myth of the Lost Cause: Some Hidden Motives

October 2026 – John Hansen – Civil War Ghost Stories

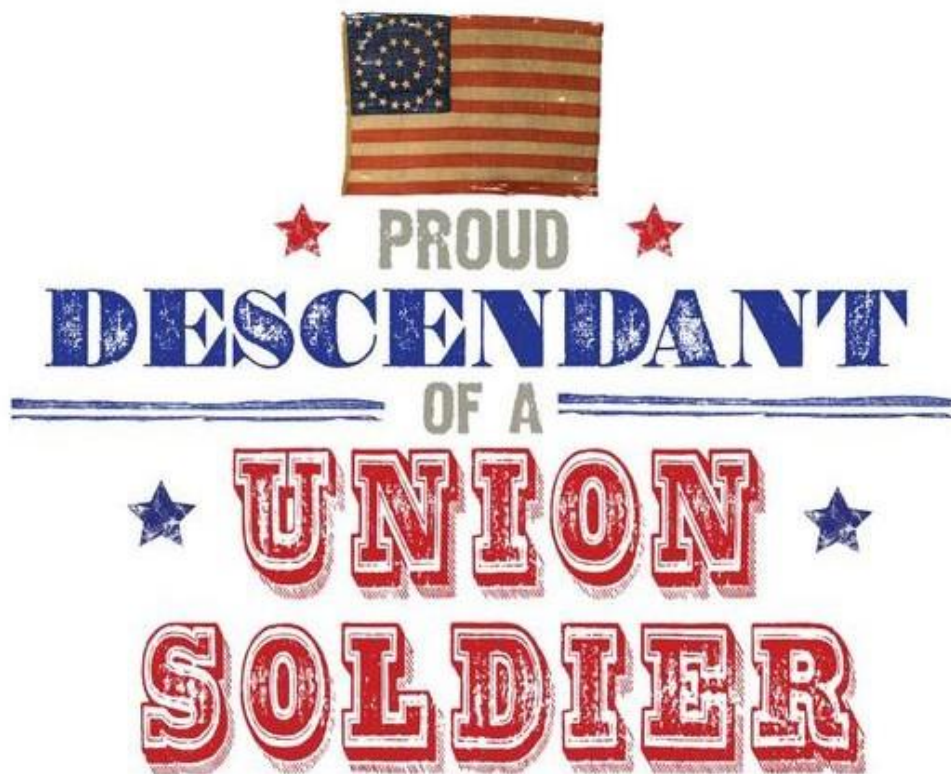
November 2026 – Jim Thornton – Coffee and the Civil War

****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.”