

Old Abe Camp No. 16

Department of Kansas

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Topeka, Kansas

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Heartland Military Day: Salute to America's 250th

Five brothers from our camp attended and participated in this celebration on Saturday, June 6th (Which also happens to be the anniversary of "D Day"; i.e., the allied invasion of Europe in 1944.) located at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka. Although I am not aware of any official count of the attendance by the public, it is probably not an exaggeration to say that at least a thousand or more people were there. The camp was represented by brothers Ron Martin, Rocky Bartlow, Tom Morgan, Jerry Reiman, and Chris Cardone. Brothers Jerry and Tom performed an outstanding drum cadence for the parade, while brothers Rocky and Chris ensured our Camp Banner prominently displayed in the parade as well.

In addition to participating in the parade, brother Rocky had the excellent idea of setting up a table with our Camp Banner displayed and doing some public outreach and recruitment activities immediately after the parade. Special thanks to these brothers for enabling our camp to provide meaningful participation in observance of the 250th anniversary of our nation!



Submission and Photographs by: Camp Commander Ron Martin

Upcoming Meetings

9/26 – Workday at Foster Cemetery, 8:00 AM

10/1 6:30 Perkins: Guest Speaker – Dale Walters, *The Art of Command – Thinking and Decision Styles of Union Civil War Commanders*

Induction Ceremony for Candidate Jeffrey Payne

10/24 – Workday (Location TBD)

11/5 – 6:30 Perkins: vote on Camp Officers for 2027

12/3 – 6:30 Perkins: New Camp Officers for 2027 will be installed; Department Commander James Thorton presiding.

Sawyer Edelman's Lucky Find – A WWI 1917 Kelly Helmet

July 2nd. 2026

About 3 years ago I started finding cool rocks around my farm. Someone encouraged me to try the Geology 4-H project, and I decided to do it; I have been hooked ever since. The problem is I needed someone to help identify my rocks, minerals and fossils. One of my fellow 4-H members introduced me to **Rob Reeves** (SVC) and that is how our friendship began. He has been a great mentor and leader to me in the project as well.

Fast forward to this year, we had multiple heavy rains with one particular rain of 5+ inches that moved a lot of rock in the creek where I typically walk. On a Sunday evening, I asked my parents to hunt this creek with me. I have probably walked this creek about 20 times. I have found a few things in this creek but mainly fossils. This day there was a lot of erosion that shifted the normal rock bar down the creek about 50 yards. On this sand bar I saw a piece of metal sticking out of the sand. I pulled it out of the sand and cleaned it off and I told my parents I found a hat. My mom thought it was a ball cap and my dad thought it was a piece off of farm equipment or part of a light. I was undecided what it was, but it still looked like a hat to me.

When we got back to the house, we sent pictures to Rob Reeves and asked if he knew anything about this. My parents started researching helmets to see if we could identify the hat. This is how I got introduced to the **Old Abe Camp #16**. An email chain got started to help me identify the helmet thanks to Rob. There was discussion on which helmet it could be as this one is beat up and rusty. Rob then invited me to the **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War of Kansas meeting**. On July 2nd I attend the meeting and presented my helmet. It was



identified as a WW1 1917 Kelly Helmet. The group discussed how a WW1 helmet got up in the area I was walking. The story is unknown as it was a few miles north of a WW1 route. I really appreciated the information I received about this helmet. Even seeing one in good condition at the meeting made me want to hunt and walk that creek even more. My helmet is now part of my educational project in 4-H geology. My educational project for 4-H this year is about walking creeks and what you can find. I have some fossils, minerals and rocks in the show box. I have replicated an arrowhead as well. Part of the educational project is doing an essay about the project. I took pictures and put them in my project essay. This project won **Grand Champion** at our local fair and will be displayed at the state fair. I have had a lot of people ask me about the helmet and how awesome it was that I didn't just throw it away or keep on walking.. I cannot thank Rob Reeves enough for this opportunity and the members of the Old Abe Camp #16 for welcoming me to their meeting.

CIVIL WAR MACARONI AND CHEESE

Prep Time: 5 minutes **Cook Time:** 45 minutes

Total Time: 50 minutes **Servings:** 4

NOTE: You must use whole milk for this recipe. If you use low fat or non-fat milk, the mixture may curdle.

INGREDIENTS Preheat oven to 400 F.

- 4 Cups Whole Milk
- 1/2 pound elbow macaroni pasta (2 to 2 and 1/2 cups)
- 2 Cups packed, grated cheddar cheese (about 1/2 pound)
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Nutmeg
- 1/4th to 1/3rd Cup breadcrumbs
- Cayenne (optional)

METHOD

Cook the macaroni in milk. Heat the milk in a large saucepan until steamy. Stir in the dry macaroni pasta. Let come to a boil, reduce the heat to a simmer. Pay attention while the macaroni is cooking in the milk as the milk may foam up and boil over if the milk get too hot. Cook the macaroni for 15 minutes or until done. The macaroni should absorb almost all the milk.

Make the sauce with butter, cheese, spices. As soon as the macaroni is close to being done, melt the butter in a separate saucepan, stir in the grated cheese, black pepper to taste and a pinch of freshly grated nutmeg.

Mix the sauce and cooked macaroni. Once the cheese has melted, pour the sauce into the macaroni and milk mixture and stir to combine. Taste and add salt if needed.

Top with breadcrumbs and bake. Place macaroni and cheese mixture in a baking dish. Sprinkle the top with breadcrumbs. Sprinkle lightly with cayenne (if using). Bake in a 400F oven for 20 minutes or until the top is lightly browned.

(Note: My great-grandmother did all of her cooking on a wood burning stove. In addition to a top for cooking with pots and pans, it also had an oven and separate compartments for baking pies and bread and keeping food warm.)

Submitted by: CC Ron Martin

“Out of the Ordinary” Entertains at Department Encampment Evening Meal

SVC Robert Reves of “Old Abe” Camp #16, following directives from our commanders at the National, State, and Local Levels of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, offered some unique entertainment in celebration of the Nation’s Semi quinentennial, on the evening of March 27th at the lovely BBQ meal and excellent program by P.D.C. Alan Russ reminiscing about the reconstitution of the Department of Kansas in 1996 after the surrender of the original charter in 1973 and presaging the Department Encampment at the Kansas Museum on March 28th.

The event held at the Kansas National Guard Military Museum, SVC Reves, his wife Lesa and son Morgan appeared in garb reminiscent of our Nation’s Independence and presented vocal music of that time through the Napoleonic Wars; with which Revolutionary war veterans would have been well acquainted. Selections included the following:

1. “Let Union Be” a song of convivial gatherings and rallies
2. “The Darby Ram” which originated in the market town of Darby in England and according to an 1896 anecdote shared by SVC Reves, was a favorite of General George Washington.
3. “Old Soldiers of the King” a tongue in cheek song authored by Benjamin Franklin to the tune of “An Old Courtier of the Queen” which first appeared in the Boston Gazette 11/27/1775
4. “Don’t Forget your Old Shipmates” an 1839 song written by Richard Creagh Saunders and led by the Senior Vice Commander’s son Morgan Reves
5. “Froggy would A-Wooing Go” a version of “Froggy went a Courting” of which there are many, this version may have originated in Suffolk, England in the 1500’s and poked fun at local nobility
6. “The Parting Glass” a Scottish tune that the Reves family customarily uses as a closing number, this song originated in the 1630’s from a tune called “Good Night and God be With You All” second only to Robert Burn’s “Auld Lang Syne” as a parting song in Scotland

The Reves family have been giving this kind of performance for several years now and bill their group as “Out of the Ordinary”. This is a reference to the fact that public houses were often called “Ordinary Houses or Ordinaries” in the 18th century; and if something spectacular occurred outside, the crowd would rush out of the Ordinary to see it; thus, coining the term still in use today. Robert has been singing period music for over thirty years now and his wife and son have joined him in the last fifteen in this endeavor. They sing at several colonial gatherings in Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois as well as performing for children’s educational events and historical societies around the country. The program was well received by those in attendance at the pre-encampment meal and a pleasure for the members of “Out of the Ordinary” to perform. If any of the brothers or Camps within the Department of Kansas would be interested having them perform at a camp function or local event, please contact Robert at rreves@ksu.edu.

Submitted by SVC Robert Reves



Henry Godlove

In August of 1862 Henry walked almost twenty miles from his farm to the town of Louisville, Kansas to attend an enlistment rally for the 11th Kansas Volunteer Infantry and enlisted on August 28th. Leaving his pregnant wife and two infant children Henry walked from his farm to Fort Leavenworth a journey of 90 miles to muster in to the newly established Camp Lyon on September 15th, 1862. He became a member of Captain John M. Allen’s Company “K” of the 11th Kansas Volunteer Infantry. Armed with Fremont’s Prussian muskets and enlistment bounties negotiated by command from various Leavenworth businessmen the regiment set off on October 4th, 1862, to join General James Blunt.

The company nearly saw service at Old Fort Wayne in the Indian Nations on October 22nd. On November 28th they engaged Confederate forces under John S. Marmaduke and Joseph Shelby at Cane Hill, Arkansas. On December 7th fourteen miles from Cane Hill the company was engaged against Confederate forces under Thomas Hindman at Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Some time was spent after these actions pursuing Rebel forces in the Boston Mountains after which action was seen again at Van Buren, Arkansas. Traveling through Missouri the company arrived back in Kansas April 4th of 1863 for an expected month’s furlough but were recalled to service on April 16th, time enough for Henry to meet his new son Oliver Clark. Further action in Missouri followed and by August 14th under S.O. #363 the war department converted the regiment from infantry to cavalry. During the remainder of 1863 the company and the bulk of the regiment pursued guerilla forces on both sides of the Kansas/Missouri border. This onerous duty became Sisyphean after the collapse of a women’s prison in Kansas City guarded by members of the regiment on August 13th and the subsequent issue of Order #11 by the 11th Kansas former commander Thomas Ewing Jr. Both events plus constant deprivations by guerilla forces gave the men of the 11th Kansas Cavalry a new set of tactics in fighting a “phantom” army and increased a smoldering conflict between Kansas and Missouri that exists to the present day. Fighting actual Confederate forces resumed on August 19th, 1864, at the Battle of Lexington, Missouri repelling the forces of Sterling Price.

This action continued August 21st & 22nd at Little Blue and Big Blue and then Westport on the 23rd before finally routing the enemy away from Kansas and Missouri and trailing them to Webbers Falls Arkansas ending the last major incursion of Confederate forces in the western theater. In January of 1865 the regiment was ordered back to Fort Riley, Kansas from there several companies were ordered to the far western extremis by way of Fort Kearney, Nebraska and into present day Wyoming and Colorado. Once again, the men of these companies resumed tactics learned fighting guerillas on the Kansas/Missouri and applied them to bands of the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Sioux nations in protecting stage and telegraph lines in stations scattered across the territory. Company "K" had members stationed at Deer Creek and Platte Bridge Station when these native incursions came to a head on August 26th in the Battle of Platte Bridge Station and the Battle of Red Buttes. These two battles are considered to be some of the most significant battles of the "Indian Wars" fought on the Great Plains and left a significant mark on Company "K"; both in fighting an overwhelming force of native warriors and watching helplessly from Platte Bridge Station as the men under Commissary Sergeant Amos Custard Company "H" were massacred at Red Buttes within view of the station. Members of the company held the even grimmer task of interring the mutilated bodies of their fallen and tending their wounded after these battles as they prepared to return to Kansas to muster out.

On September 13th, 1865, Henry Godlove mustered out with Company "K", his discharge is on file in a daily receivership ledger in the Register of Deeds office at the Pottawatomie County Courthouse in Westmoreland, Kansas. He returned to his farm and in 1870 built a stone house there which still is in use as a residence. In addition to his daughter and two sons born prior to and during the war Henry and Minerva had six other children. As was the fashion amongst those of a patriotic bent several of their names reflect military men and leaders of that era: Grant, Abraham Lincoln, Sherman, Walter, Israel Aaron, and John Commodore. Henry's daughter Nancy (Nannie) Jane married Elihu Hinshaw son of Silas Hinshaw of Company "A" of the 11th Kansas who was killed on June 16th, 1865, during the regiments time in the far west. Henry was a founding member of Grand Army of the Republic Post #39 in Onaga, Kansas named "Custard Post" in honor of Commissary Sergeant Amos Custard Company "H" of the 11th Kansas. On October 6th, 1914, Henry Godlove died at his granddaughter's home in Onaga, Kansas and was laid to rest in the Regar Cemetery within three miles of his farm. His name was read out in the Necrology Service at the 34th Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas Grand Army of the Republic Held in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1915.

Stories From the Stones

(Submitted by PCC Jerry Reiman)

John Sanderson

John Sanderson was born December 26th, 1844, and died December 14th, 1914, at the age of 69. He is buried in Mount auburn Cemetery, Topeka, KS in Block 11, Lot 14, Grave 6.

Sanderson was a private of Company K, 58th Ohio infantry. In April 1865, he was stationed near Vicksburg MS. On April 24th one captain, one sergeant, two corporals, and 18 privates were assigned to act as a guard unit for the transport of over 2,000 recently released Union prisoners-of-war on the Mississippi steamboat Sultana. At 2:00 a.m. on April 24th, 1865, when the Sultana was seven miles north of Memphis, TN, her boilers exploded. Over 1,500 people lost their lives. Private Sanderson was one of the lucky ones that survived. It was because of Mr. Sanderson's heroic efforts to save the lives of others and himself, when the Sultana was sunk, that his pension was increased from \$12 to \$30 a month. Sanderson was a member of Lincoln Post No.1, G.A.R. and was commander of the Post in 1905.

His death in 1914 was the result of a gas leak in his home. Sanderson and his wife were found dead in a closed room with the stove going "at full blast." He was reported to be in bed, and his wife was sitting in a rocker. They had been dead for several days when their bodies were found.

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.



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