

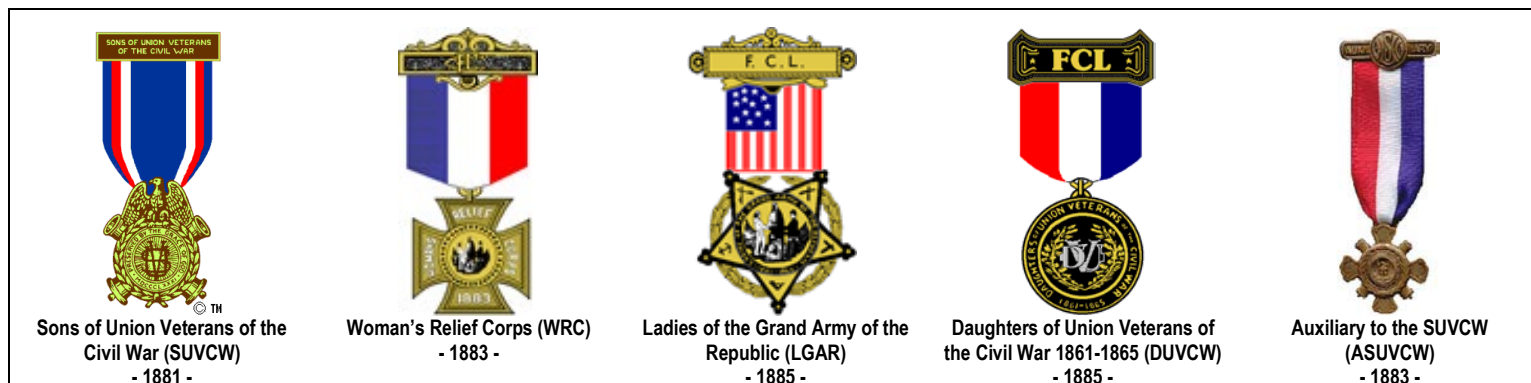
The Sunflower Picket

Recipient of the 2006 Marshall Hope Award for Best Department Newsletter

www.suvcwks.org

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

ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC



(See Order of Precedence article on page 2 for proper order.)

NEW BROTHERS, JUNE 1, 2026 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Name

Date Joined

Camp

Ancestor

No new brothers to report.

OUR FALLEN BROTHERS

June 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

"The faults of our Brothers we write upon the sand, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory."

Name

Deceased

Ancestor

Camp

No losses to report.

IN THIS ISSUE

ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC	1
NEW BROTHERS, JUNE 1, 2026 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2026	1
OUR FALLEN BROTHERS.....	1
IN THIS ISSUE.....	1
ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GAR	2
FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER	2
CAMP STRENGTHS, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026	3
2026 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT.....	3
2027 DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS ENCAMPMENT.....	3
LINCOLN TOMB CEREMONY APRIL 10, 2027.....	3
2026 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA	4
SUVCW 1881 CLUB	4
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS REPORTS	5
SENIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.....	5
JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.....	5
SECRETARY.....	5
TREASURER & CHIEF OF STAFF	6
PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR	6
CHAPLAIN.....	7
GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER.....	8
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL OFFICER	8
DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR	8
EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATE COORD.....	8
CAMP NEWS	8

CORP. PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1	8
Camp Officers	8
SGT SAMUEL J. CHURCHILL CAMP 4	8
Camp Officers	8
Charles W. Bailey Commemorative Marker.....	9
Camp Activities.....	9
FRANKLIN CAMP 5	10
Camp Officers	10
Franklin Camp Creates a "Camp Archives"	10
HUMBOLDT CAMP 9.....	11
Camp Officers	11
PVT JOHN N. ECKES CAMP 10	11
Camp Officers	11
OLD ABE CAMP 16.....	11
Camp Officers	11
OFFICIAL	12
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2026-2027	12
DEPARTMENT COUNCIL ACTIONS	12
DEPARTMENT ORDERS	13
Commander James D. Thornton, PCC.....	13
IN CONCLUSION.....	13
The Sunflower Picket	13

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GAR

When the SUVCW is hosting a function, the Ritual and Ceremonials of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil addresses the proper precedence and courtesy concerning the Allied Orders of the GAR. This information is contained in Appendix C of the Ritual and Ceremonials, beginning on page 60.

Although this rarely comes up at a camp meeting, we do have occasions at Department encampments and ceremonies where we may well be honored by the presence of more than one of the other Allied Orders, MOLLUS, SCV, and other orders. Read Appendix C of the SUVCW Ritual and Ceremonials for further information on this matter.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

James D. Thornton, PCC
**IS YOUR CAMP VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE
IN THE COMMUNITY?**

Brothers,

In looking over the Department of Kansas membership statistics, there are some shocking numbers that have come to my attention. Our department seems to have become stagnant – no new members joined between March 17 and August 22, 2026. Taking this back further to the period April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, I came across a very interesting set of data.

The department has three camps with net gains and three camps with net losses. It was a very clear and obvious difference between the two groups of camps. I decided to perform a side-by-side comparison of the two groups to determine the cause of this difference. And I believe I found the reason. The three camps with net gains in membership are **VISIBLE** in their communities and the three camps with losses are **INVISIBLE** in their communities (does anyone know they exist?)

The three camps who have been showing growth (until recently) are involved in their respective communities and make themselves seen. They actively engage with the public and take the initiative.

One of these camps does incredible work with their downtown community and surrounding communities by putting up holiday decorations, window displays in



businesses and museums, entering community contests, etc. They even took on sponsorship of youth events for the 4-H fair. They make their presence known and are **VISIBLE**.

The other two growing camps likewise make their existence known to the public by getting out there in parades, local festivals, and public events. But they don't just sit there at a table or under a canopy. They interact with visitors and socialize with the patrons. One of these two camps even appears on local radio stations and promotes the Order and explains its purpose and mission. These two camps (along with the first one) also do hard labor with cemetery preservation work and the cleaning/resetting of Union Veteran headstones, bringing this work to the attention of local news media as well as social media. Again, they are **VISIBLE** and seen.

What about the other three camps with losses? Don't get me wrong – they are active. They take part in the Wreaths Across America campaign, and they do perform cemetery work. But are they actively engaging in the community and making their presence known? Do they alert the local media about their activities?

Sure, Facebook and other social media are fine. Each camp has a Facebook page or group page. But it's not enough to simply post photos on there. That is not being visible in the community. The public must see us in action. We must be engaging with people. We can't be shy. If we want to grow, we have to be inviting. And to be inviting, we have to be **VISIBLE**. Talk to city hall and other civic organizations. Offer to join them in a park cleanup day.

I understand visibility can be tough to achieve. There are vast differences in the various community settings our camps experience – small towns versus large urban areas. But opportunities are there, we just have to make use of them. One opportunity open to all camps is to offer to provide a speaker or a presentation to other civic groups (or to assisted living facilities/retirement communities) – design and print some camp business cards to hand out. Have the camp join the local Chamber of Commerce which will get you listed in local directories.

If we want to survive and grow, we must become **VISIBLE**. Monthly meetings are fine, but they are not enough. We must engage the public and the community. We must make ourselves seen and known.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

James D. Thornton, PCC
Department Commander

CAMP STRENGTHS, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

As of September 30, Kansas listed **169** brothers, including dual brothers. This is a net change of **zero** within the Department since March 31, 2026.

<u>Camp Name & Number</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1	27	0
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4	31	0
Franklin Camp 5	44	0
Humboldt Camp 9	10	0
John N. Eckes Camp 10	19	0
Old Abe Camp 16	38	0

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS 169 0

2026 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania



Left to Right: PDC Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC Roy A. Lafferty, Dept. Cdr. James D. Thornton, PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Michael A. Todd, PDC Alan L. Russ.

Photo by SUVCW National Photographer Edward Norris, PCinC

The 2026 National Encampment was held July 31 and August 1 at Gettysburg, and it is now in the history books of the SUVCW. The National Encampment Committee hosted the encampment this year and were assisted by the Department of Pennsylvania.

Representatives from the Department of Kansas were Department Commander James D. Thornton, PCC; Senior Vice Department Commander Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC; Junior Vice Department Commander Roy A. Lafferty, PDC; Secretary Alan L. Russ, PDC; Treasurer Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC; and Michael A. Todd, PDC.

It was a productive encampment with changes and such coming in an upcoming issue of *The Banner*.” The

Department of Kansas now has two National appointed officers: PDC Rocky L. Bartlow, reappointed as National Membership-at-Large Coordinator; and PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, newly appointed as National Battle Flag Preservation Officer. Congratulations to both of them.

The 2027 National Encampment will be held August 12 thru 15, 2027 at the Marriott Hotel in Franklin Tennessee. Business meetings will be held on August 13 and 14. Details will be provided as they become available.

2027 DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS ENCAMPMENT

The **2027 Department of Kansas Annual Encampment** will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2027, at the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historical Site, 3403 W. 53rd St, Fairway, Kansas. Franklin Camp 5 is the host camp.

An informal evening meal is again planned for Friday evening for those able to attend. It will be at Pegah's Family Restaurant, 12122 W. 87th St, Lenexa, Kansas. Attendees will order from the menu.

More details will be provided later this year.

LINCOLN TOMB CEREMONY APRIL 10, 2027

All are invited to participate in the 71st Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, sponsored by the SUVCW and Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U.S. (MOLLUS), commemorating the 162nd Anniversary of President Lincoln's death. It will be held at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois, at 10 am on Saturday, April 10, 2027.

The Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson Memorial Service will be held at 3 pm that day in Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, Illinois. Dr. Stephenson is credited as the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic.





The Stephenson Memorial Service will give us an opportunity to see the Department of Kansas paver at the gravesite.

Headquarters hotel and additional information coming in Fall 2026.

2026 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



WREATHS — across — AMERICA

★ **KEEP MOVING FORWARD** ★

The following Department of Kansas camps are participating in the Wreaths Across America program in 2026, both as a remembrance to the veterans and as a camp fundraising event. If you wish to support your camp, a different camp, or all the camps, here is information for doing so:

Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence

Location: Maple Grove Cemetery, Lawrence

Group ID: KS0148P

Group Page: www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/KS0148P

-or-

Location: Pioneer Cemetery, Lawrence

Group ID: KS0148P

Group Page: www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/KSPNRC

Franklin Camp 5, Olathe

Johnson County Memorial Gardens, Overland Park

Group ID: KS0168

Group Page: www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/KS0168

Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka

GAR Section, Topeka Cemetery, Topeka

Group ID: KS0168P

Group Page: www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/KS0195P

SUVCW 1881 CLUB

What is the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1881 Club? It was started in 2023 to raise funds to invest in the Order's future. The donations are added to the Permanent Fund and invested in the Order's future. To date, the SUVCW 1881 Club consists of nineteen members.



To become a member of the 1881 Club, a brother must contribute \$1,881.00 to the SUVCW. The contribution may be made as a one-time contribution, or it may be paid over a three-year period. To remain a club member, the individual must continue donating at least \$25.00 each month.

Each club member receives a neck ribbon with the A.P. Davis 1881 Club medal. Members of the club also receive other perks, including a reception at National Encampments and having their name published as a club member in each National Encampment Book.

Donations to the SUVCW are tax deductible and can be made online at www.suvcw.org – note your donation is for the 1881 Club. See <https://suvcw.org/1881club> for more information.

Major Augustus P. Davis was the founder of the SUVCW. Find more information about A. P. Davis at <https://suvcw.org/our-founder-ap-davis>

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS REPORTS

SENIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC

Fall is almost here. What that means for our organization is the election and installation of camp officers. You have read and heard me say many times before “The local SUVCW camp is the lifeblood of our organization”.

Consider putting yourself out there to either run or ask about being appointed to a position in your camp. It is a great way to become involved in the leadership and direction of the camp. Involving additional members in the camp is a wonderful way to maintain member interest and bring new ideas to the group. The appointed positions of Chaplain, Patriotic Instructor, Historian, Guide, Color Bearer, Guard, Graves Registration Officer, Monuments and Memorials Officer and Eagle Scout Coordinator are great places to consider. When you are ready think about an elected position such as Camp Council position or Jr. Vice Commander. The Junior Vice Commander position could be the steppingstone for later becoming Senior Vice Commander and Camp Commander of the camp.

If you don't know what the elected and appointed camp positions duties are, here is a link from the National Website that explains them: [SUVCW Regulations](#).

Check it out. See what you might be interested in and give it a try. Your camp will be more than happy to help and assist you in becoming more involved. All camps that I know of need people willing to serve in the camp. Give it a try!



JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Roy A. Lafferty, PDC

As Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, we are entrusted with preserving the memory, sacrifices, and legacy of the men who saved the Union. One of the best ways to strengthen that mission is by attending our National Encampment.

In 2027, the SUVCW National Encampment will be held in historic Franklin, Tennessee, a community rich in Civil War history and remembrance. The Encampment offers far more than



business sessions. It provides an opportunity to meet Brothers from across the nation, exchange ideas, learn from our shared experiences, and renew our commitment to the purposes of our Order.

Just as importantly, Franklin is one of America's greatest battlefield preservation success stories. For decades, much of the battlefield was covered by modern development. Perhaps the most famous example was the site where Confederate General Patrick Cleburne was mortally wounded during the Battle of Franklin. For years, that ground was occupied by a Pizza Hut. Through the dedication of preservationists, local leaders, historians, and citizens, the restaurant was removed, the land was restored, and today visitors can stand in a park on the very ground where one of the battle's defining moments occurred. Franklin demonstrates what can happen when people are committed to preserving our nation's history for future generations.

Whether you are a longtime member or a recently recruited Brother, the National Encampment is a chance to experience the SUVCW at its best. The friendships formed, the historical sites visited, and the collective spirit of the organization remind us that we are part of something much larger than ourselves.

I encourage every Brother who can to begin making plans now to attend Franklin in 2027. Come see firsthand one of the most impressive battlefield reclamation projects in the country, honor the sacrifices of those who fought there, and support the work of our Order. Let us come together to ensure that the legacy of the Grand Army of the Republic continues to inspire future generations.

Franklin awaits. I hope to see many brothers there as we represent Kansas and the Department with pride.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Roy Lafferty, PDC

SECRETARY

Alan L. Russ, PDC

REMINDERS:

* Effective September 2026, the Form 30 CAMP STATUS REPORT is now BROTHER'S STATUS REPORT.

* Also, the latest version of the CAMP ANNUAL REPORT is the April 2026 edition.

* Always use the latest form when you prepare your camp's report this Spring.

Previous versions of the above forms will be rejected.



Summer is over and camp elections and installations are about to begin. Be sure to read Department Order 7 concerning this. Also ensure the form reflects the full name of the officers. Do NOT use nicknames.

As always, check the National website at www.suvcw.org in the "Governance & Forms" section to ensure you are using the latest official forms.

If you have any questions, contact the Department Secretary.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Alan L. Russ, PDC, Department Secretary
Email: Secretary@suvcwks.org

TREASURER & CHIEF OF STAFF

Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC

Brothers,

As we head into the "BER" months (Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec) there are several important things happening, most notably the nomination and installation of camp officers for 2027, and Treasurers begin collection of dues for your camp. For those who have not done so, please notify me when your camp plans to install officers so I can help DC Thornton organize his schedule to be there if he can. I also find that November is a good time to send out dues letters to the membership and start collecting. That will save you much time and effort as you prepare to send in your Form 27 to the department by the end of April. March can be a real scramble if you have not planned for it. I encourage you to do so now.



On another completely different note, I have been exploring my lineage and am excited to say that I've found ten ancestors which fall into the qualifications of those I can count as blood relatives. If you're not aware, not only your grandfather (great, great, etc.) but your uncles qualify as well (grand, great, etc.). When you explore your lineage and find a grandfather who fought, be sure to look "horizontally" in your family tree to explore whether his brothers, or the brothers of your grandmother, served as well. I have been excited to find five grandfathers and five granduncles (all "greats" of various levels) and am looking forward to sending supplemental applications to add them to my file. Each



supplemental application is \$15 when you send them in to your camp secretary for processing. Don't forget to send along the associated proofs of each link of your lineage.

Finally, I've also decided to join MOLLUS. MOLLUS is the oldest civil war soldier society and stands for Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the US. From the MOLLUS website (<https://loyallegion.org/>):

"The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) is the first and oldest Civil War Union hereditary organization in the United States. The Order was founded by Union commissioned officers on April 20, 1865, only days after Lincoln's assassination and Lee's surrender at Appomattox."



Direct descendants and collateral relatives, first cousins and closer in relationship, of Civil War Union commissioned officers who honorably served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Revenue Cutter Service, or Federalized state militia/home guard may be eligible for membership in the Loyal Legion as Hereditary Companions." I've sent in my application and am currently awaiting a response.

I hope you to are excited not only about what is happening in your camp, but also the rich history to be explored, and the joy of finding another nugget of that history!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Rocky Bartlow, PDC

Department Treasurer/Chief of Staff

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Christopher R. Cardone

Brothers, I hope you have all had a wonderful and safe 4th of July. Although it is getting closer to Fall season, we're not out of the heat of Summer, yet. So please, on your workdays, community events etc., stay cool and hydrated. Recently I had the honor of doing a living history demonstration at the Riley County Museum in July. This has possibly been one of their first living history events at the museum. There were ninety-five visitors on that day. I not only had my reenactment gear out but also took the time to have my ancestors' photos out and talked to visitors about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Many visitors had no idea of the existence of our organization. It was a joyful time speaking with the public on events out west of the Mississippi River during the Civil War, as well with educating people young and old of the difficulties many had to endure during the trying time in our country's history. They were also quite shocked about how many SUVCW camps are in Kansas alone. It has been very

heartwarming seeing the community events and workdays still going on despite this harsh heat. Many community members appreciate the work that has been done. I only ask brothers to once again stay hydrated while carrying steadfast hearts.



Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Chris R. Cardone

CHAPLAIN

Rev. Stanley E. Palmer

(Continued from the June issue of The Sunflower Picket)

A chaplain, like a pastor, is a “physician of souls”.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, over 3,000 men served as chaplains in the Union Army, with the largest percentage of them coming from the ranks of the Methodists, followed by Baptists, and Presbyterian. Smaller in number were Congregational, Episcopalian, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic.

Chaplains were initially required to be ordained ministers of a recognized Christian denomination. Normally a letter or certificate from their church was required to prove the minister’s standing within his church body.

The tremendous need for chaplains to provide spiritual



care at the beginning of the war was unprecedented up to that time. One private entity that played a major part in meeting that need was the US Christian Commission (USCC). The USCC was formed in 1861 mainly by Protestant church bodies and the YMCA, but also by ordinary concerned Christian citizens. Hence, the USCC served in a parallel capacity to assist the War Department in its efforts to provide chaplains to soldiers and sailors. With about 5,000 volunteers (“delegates” as they were called), it also worked alongside the newly created US Sanitary Commission in providing medical services and supplies.

Unlike the War Department, the USCC did not appoint or muster chaplains, as it had no authority within the military to do so. However, it was able to guide and make recommendations as to the effectiveness of where and how chaplains served, and the distribution of religious personnel and materials in the Union Army. The Christian Commission supplied additional Protestant religious workers, collaborated with existing chaplains, and filled gaps in regiments that lacked chaplains with laymen who were willing help in such a capacity. Again, while USCC had no control where a chaplain would ultimately be assigned, it often helped determine where spiritual support was available by sending its own delegates to units, hospitals, and battlefronts.

Question: So, when did Jewish rabbis officially enter the picture with ministry to the “Boys in Blue”?

Answer: Not long after the beginning of the war. In the fall of 1861, a Jewish rabbi, Arnold Fischel was elected to become the chaplain for the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry (or “Cameron Dragoons” as they were affectionately known). Fischel’s appointment was initially rejected by the War Department because the law allowed for only Christian clergymen. To Fischel’s credit, his fierce determination served him well. He responded by traveling to Washington DC, ministering to Jewish soldiers, and personally lobbied President Lincoln and Congress to change the law to accommodate Jewish rabbis. Lincoln agreed with Fischel. The chaplaincy law was amended in July 1862 to allow for “regularly ordained ministers of any religious denomination”, thus officially allowing rabbis to serve as US Army chaplains. Frankel was officially commissioned as a Jewish chaplain in September 1862.

Thanks be to God for these gentle servants of the Lord who faithfully labored to support the heroes of the war.

Fraternally yours in the Lord’s service,
Rev. Stanley Palmer
Chaplain, Department of Kansas

GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER*Joseph E. Chrisman, PCC*

Fall is upon us and it's the perfect time of the year to get out into the great outdoors and get some exercise!

First grab a 2-gallon garden sprayer, add 1 gallon of D/2 Biological Solution and 1-gallon ordinary tap water and give it a good shake.

Next take the sprayer and put it in the back of your old pickup and head to the nearest small township cemetery near you. Grab the sprayer and start walking. Look for the familiar round top white marble marker sporting a shield. Walk up to the marker and start spraying the D/2 50/50 solution. Start at the top and spray to the bottom; to the point of runoff. Be sure to get all four sides. Try not to waste too much but make sure all the stone gets wet. The heavier the biological growth, the more D/2 you will use. Spray all Civil War markers, even if they look clean, they still have biological growth on them.

No need to scrape or do any brushing.... Just spray and walk away, that's it! Over time the wind, the rain, the snow, and the sun will gently clean the marker making it look new.

Did the marker turn orange, red, or some other weird color? Not to worry! That's what we call the D/2 Blush. It's a good sign letting you know the D/2 is already killing



the algae, mold and lichen. The blushing only lasts a day or two.

Don't worry about straightening, leveling or raising sunken markers now. That can be done later. The main objective is to make sure all Civil War markers are readable for Memorial Day 2027. Also, be sure to communicate with other Brothers in your camp and keep track what cemeteries have been treated.

Before you start spraying the marker, read the inscription out loud, saying the veteran's name. We all die two deaths. The first death is when our body stops working and we are interred into the ground. The second death occurs when the last person to ever say our name dies, then we are gone forever.

Now get off the sofa and get some exercise!

Joe Chrisman, PCC

Department Graves Registration Officer

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL OFFICER*Jeffrey Winters*

A Civil War Memorials Officer is both a historian and a preservationist, ensuring that Civil War memorials are found, protected, and remembered for future generations. I can use your assistance around the State of Kansas letting me know of Memorials you have found or ones you would like to highlight. Please send me any materials, pictures, etc ,to my email address at wintja56@gmail.com. Also advise me if you have a Camp point of contact for memorials in your area and for sending completed Form CWM 61s to me, the Department Memorials Officer.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Winters, KS Dept Memorial Officer.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR*K. Kirk Nystrom, PDC*

No article submitted.

EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATE COORD.*Eric L. Crittenden*

No article submitted.

CAMP NEWS**CORP. PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1***Wichita***Camp Officers**

Camp Commander
Senior Vice Commander
Junior Vice Commander
Secretary/Treasurer
Council

Patriotic Instructor

Steven W. Hamlin, PCC
Timothy A. Baxter
Adam P. Harrison
Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
Dale L. Rouse, PCC
James H. Graves, PCC
Bruce F. Burke
Randolph J. Colby Jr.

Chaplain
Historian

Dale L. Rouse, PCC
Michael L. Halfman, PCC

No article submitted.

SGT SAMUEL J. CHURCHILL CAMP 4*Lawrence***Camp Officers**

Camp Commander
Senior Vice Commander

Michael D. Heck, PCC
Brent D. Whitten

Junior Vice Commander
Secretary
Treasurer
Council

George E. Goff Jr.
Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
Michael A. Todd, PDC
Joseph L. Bodine
W. Patrick Myers, PCC
Paul Jefferson, PCC
Michael J. Hadl, PCC
Roy A. Lafferty, PDC
Michael J. Hadl, PCC
Paul Jefferson, PCC

Patriotic Instructor
Chaplain
Historian
Civil War Memorials Officer

Charles W. Bailey Commemorative Marker *Last Union Civil War Veteran in Kansas*

Earlier this year, PCC Mike Hadl of the Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp in Lawrence discovered an obituary in the Lawrence Journal World in the 75 years ago column about Charles W. Bailey of Baldwin City, Kansas. In the obituary, it mentioned he was the last surviving Civil War veteran in Kansas. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Baldwin City. Mr. Bailey was part of two Wisconsin Infantry units.

After much research and locating a relative of Mr. Bailey who lives in Colorado, the camp has been working to procure a stone indicating Mr. Bailey was indeed the last surviving Civil War veteran in Kansas. Douglas County Monument Works in Lawrence has been assisting them in this endeavor. The camp has been raising funds to this end. The total project will cost about \$2,000, which includes flag markers.

So far, the camp has raised two-thirds of the necessary funds. If you want to be part of remembering the last Union Civil War veteran in Kansas, the camp would appreciate any funds you might consider donating.

Checks in any amount may be made payable to "Sgt. S. J. Churchill Camp 4, SUVCW" and mailed to:

Tom Schmidt
PO Box 486
Eudora, KS 66025

Or, if you want to use Venmo, please contact Department Treasurer Rocky Bartlow, PDC, for instructions on how to remit the funds at treasurer@suvchwks.org. In the comments, indicate it is for the Bailey Stone.

A dedication ceremony will take place once the stone has been received and placed. Some of Mr. Bailey's descendants are going to try to attend.

Thank you for your financial consideration of this worthwhile project.

Camp Activities

Submitted by Commander Michael D. Heck, PCC

Neither heat nor drought nor gloom of having no regular July meeting could keep the members of Camp 4 from their

appointed duties. Here is a summary of Camp activities since the last edition of the Sunflower Picket:

The June meeting featured a thought-provoking presentation by Lawrence middle school teacher Tom Barker titled "Was John Brown a Good Abolitionist?" In an exercise like one he uses to promote critical thinking among his students, Mr. Barker distributed source materials on Brown – both pro and con – and asked the members to answer the question posed by the title of his speech. Whether the Camp proved as smart as seventh graders remains a matter of some speculation.

On invitation from the local chapter of Sons of the American Revolution, a delegation of Camp 4 members participated in a public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, the 250th anniversary of the first such public reading.

Three members of Camp 4 – Tom Schmidt, Mike Todd and Roy Lafferty – attended the SUVCW National Encampment in Gettysburg, PA, July 30 to August 2.



Pioneer Cemetery monument dedication: L. to R: From Camp 5 - Lee Wilson, Eric Smallwood, Jeffrey Winters, and Department Commander James D. Thornton. From Camp 4 - Mike Hadl, Tom Schmidt, Paul Jefferson (seated), and Roy Lafferty

Five members of our Camp were present at Pioneer Cemetery in Lawrence on August 16 for the rededication of a restored moment to two Free State martyrs killed in 1856 during the period known to history as "Bleeding Kansas".

The program for the August meeting was presented by PCC Mike Hadl. Just when we thought we had identified the graves of every Civil War veteran buried in Lawrence, Mike discovered two more. His gave the Camp some background on these finds: Private Thomas Lavelle whose

unit participated in Sherman's March, and Landsman Patrick Conway who served in the naval blockade of the



Camp 4 members Mike Todd (far left), Kent Johnson (in red shirt) and Roy Lafferty (far right) display a Civil War era replica cannon as part of the Weapons of the Civil War program at Watkins Museum.

South aboard the USS T.A. Ward.

On August 21 the Camp contributed to a "Weapons of the Civil War" event sponsored by the Watkins Museum of History as part of its annual "Civil War on the Border" program. PDC Roy Lafferty arranged for the 3rd Kansas Light Artillery to display a replica Civil War cannon outside the museum and answered questions from the attendees.

Our September meeting featured a program by Janine Colter, president of the Lawrence Kansas Juneteenth Organization. Janine spoke on the history of Juneteenth and some details of the annual celebration event her group hosts and also suggested some opportunities for our respective organizations to collaborate.

Looking forward to October, Camp 4 is hosting a talk by Dennis Domer, historian and editor of the multi-volume Embattled Lawrence book series. Prof. Domer will be speaking about A.J. Griffin, Civil War veteran and prominent Lawrence businessman. The event is scheduled for 7:00 pm, October 15 at the Watkins Museum of History. The general public is invited to attend.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Michael D. Heck, Commander

FRANKLIN CAMP 5

Olathe

Camp Officers

Camp Commander
Senior Vice Commander
Junior Vice Commander

Daniel W. Stilley
Matthew T. Archambault
Jeffrey A. Winters

Secretary
Treasurer
Council

James D. Thornton, PCC
Richard T. Miller
William D. Stilley
William J. Stoker, PCC
Ronnie R. Thompson
Lane D. Smith, PCC
Floyd E. Guliford
Joshua S. Gillihan-Young
Roger B. Miller
James D. Thornton, PCC

Patriotic Instructor
Chaplain
Graves Registration Officer
Historian
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator

Franklin Camp Creates a "Camp Archives"

Submitted by Camp Secretary Jim Thornton, PCC

Back in January, Franklin Camp 5 celebrated its Twentieth Anniversary as a camp. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp #5 was organized on October 17, 2005. The camp received their official charter within the Department of Kansas on December 6, 2005, and the signature of the National Commander in Chief on December 20, 2005. Five of our original charter members are still with the camp, and Daniel Stilley, who was a Junior Member at that time, is now the camp commander.

As the camp reminisced about those early days, several of the long-time members recalled many events the camp was involved in and wondered about photos and documents from the early years. Some brought forth memories of brothers who have since passed away and who were such a vital part of the formative years of the camp. A few posts were made on the camp's Facebook Group Page as well as a couple of articles written in the camp newsletter about the camp's anniversary.

Well, those Facebook posts and newsletter articles had a far-

reaching effect. Past Department Commander and Past Camp Commander Jim Converse reached out to Franklin Camp Secretary Jim Thornton via both phone call and email. Brother Converse was the very first Franklin Camp Commander. While still a member of the SUVCW and Franklin Camp, he now lives in Ohio. And he had A LOT to share.

Brother Converse still had dozens of photos, camp newsletters, camp documents, etc. stored on his computer. He wanted to know if the camp would like to have all that information from the past. He shared some of it via email



PDC James M. Converse - first camp commander for Franklin Camp 5

attachments for Secretary Thornton to review and evaluate. Of course, Franklin Camp wanted it!

After a few more conversations, PDC Converse informed Brother Thornton that he would download all his Franklin Camp records to a flash drive and mail it to him. In early July, Secretary Thornton received the flash drive in the mail. And what a gold mine of Franklin Camp history. Six and a half (6.5) gigabytes of information and records of the camp's early years.

Of course, this needed to be shared with the camp membership. So now the Franklin Camp Monthly Bulletin, the official newsletter of the camp, features a section called "Looking Back...." which includes reprints of those early newsletter articles and a few of the photos from years ago. Needless to say, Brother Converse is credited in the newsletter for this section. It would not be possible without his willingness to reach out and share the camp history with us.

So now Franklin Camp Secretary Thornton has a file on his computer titled "Franklin Camp Archives." Maybe some day in the future he can pass it on to a camp secretary looking for the history of the camp.

Jim Thornton, PCC

Franklin Camp 5 Secretary

HUMBOLDT CAMP 9

Humboldt

Camp Officers

Camp Commander	Rocky D. Ansell, PCC
Senior Vice Commander	Randy A. Downey
Junior Vice Commander	Barrett E. Young, PCC
Secretary	Barrett E. Young, PCC
Treasurer	Randy A. Downey
Council	William F. Schomaker
	William R. Hartford
	Dean L. Dillard
Patriotic Instructor	William F. Schomaker
Chaplain	William F. Schomaker
Historian	Bridger P. Keyes, PCC
Civil War Memorials Officer	Rocky D. Ansell, PCC

No article submitted.

PVT JOHN N. ECKES CAMP 10

Winfield

Camp Officers

Camp Commander	Terry E. Justice, PCC
Senior Vice Commander	David W. Taylor
Junior Vice Commander	Dustin L. Jones
Secretary/Treasurer	Eric L. Crittenden
Council	Gregg L. Talkington
	Gordon L. Hare
	Kent M. Melcher, PDC
	Kent M. Melcher, PDC
	Kent M. Melcher, PDC
Patriotic Instructor	
Chaplain	

Graves Registration Officer	Joe E. Chrisman, PCC
Historian	Gregg L. Talkington
Civil War Memorials Officer	Joe E. Chrisman, PCC
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator	Eric L. Crittenden
Signals Officer	Kent M. Melcher, PDC

No article submitted.

OLD ABE CAMP 16

Topeka

Camp Officers

Camp Commander	Ronald H. Martin
Senior Vice Commander	Robert J. Reeves
Junior Vice Commander	Jonathan A. Holder
Secretary/Treasurer	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC
Council	Craig E. Dunstan, PCC
	Jack A. Sanders
	Christopher R. Cardone
	K. Kirk Nystrom, PDC
	James L. Seipel
Patriotic Instructor	Jerry W. Reiman, PCC
Chaplain	Christopher R. Cardone
Graves Registration Officer	Jerry W. Reiman, PCC
Historian	Jonathan A. Holder
Civil War Memorials Officer	
ROTC Coordinator	Gary W. Kraus, PCC
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator	

SVC Brother Robert Reves works with Sawyer Edelman and his mom, Valerie, in his capacity as a state leader in the Kansas 4-H Geology project. The helmet Sawyer found was beyond Reves' scope of identification, but he knew the brothers of "Old Abe" would be great founts of knowledge about gear from the World Wars. With that in mind, Brother Reves invited Sawyer and Valerie to the camp's July meeting. Brother Frank Siltman, in fact, brought a Kelly Helmet from his own collection to show Sawyer what they originally looked like during service. The following article was submitted by Sawyer Edelman.

About 3 years ago I started finding cool rocks around my farm. Someone encouraged me to try the Geology 4-H project. I was contemplating it, and I decided to do it; I have been hooked ever since. The problem is I needed someone to help identify my rock, minerals and fossils. One of my fellow 4-H members introduced me to Rob Reves 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 rains with large volumes of rain. One particular rain of 5-plus inches moved a lot of rock in the creek that I typically walk. On a Sunday evening, I asked my parents to go 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 particular day there was a lot of erosion that took place. Shifted the normal rock bar down the creek about 50 yards. I was hunting that bar and I was ahead of my parents a little bit. On this sand bar I saw a piece of metal sticking up out

of the sand. I pulled it out of the sand and cleaned it up off a little bit. I told my parents I found a hat. My mom thought it was a ball cap type of hat and didn't even look up. My dad told me he thought it was a part from farm equipment or part of a light. I was undecided on what it was but it still looked like a hat to me.

My mom told me when we get back to the house, we will send pictures to Rob Reves to see if he knew anything about this. My dad and mom 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 pretty 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 attended the meeting and presented my helmet. It was proven to be 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 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. Due to possibility of theft, I did not want to put the helmet in the box. 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.

A lot of people know I like to hunt things that pertain to the geology project and this year I have really been



SVC Robert Reves and Sawyer Edelman at the July Old Abe Camp meeting.

successful with artifacts and some other geology items. 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 went on to get information about the helmet and shared the information via social media. I cannot thank Rob Reves enough for this opportunity and the members of the Old Abe Camp #16 for welcoming me to their meeting.

OFFICIAL

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2026-2027

Department Commander	James D. Thornton, PCC
Sr. Vice Dept. Commander	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
Jr. Vice Dept. Commander	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC
Secretary (term exp. 2028)	Alan L. Russ, PDC
Treasurer (term exp. 2028)	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC
Council Member (term exp. 2027)	Jonathan A. Holder
Council Member (term exp. 2028)	Bryan W. Wampler
Council Member (term exp. 2028)	Brent D. Whitten
Council Member (IPDC)	Kent M. Melcher, PDC
Chief of Staff	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC
Patriotic Instructor	Christopher R. Cardone
Chaplain	Stanley E. Palmer
Graves Registration Officer	Joseph E. Chrisman, PCC

ROTC Awards Coordinator & Historian

GAR Records Officer	Joshua S. Gillihan-Young
Counselor	Boone O. Dodson
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator	K. Kirk Nystrom, PDC
Civil War Memorials Officer	Eric L. Crittenden
Signals Officer	Jeffrey A. Winters
Assistant Treasurer-1	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
Assistant Treasurer-2	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
	Alan L. Russ, PDC

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL ACTIONS Between June 1, 2026, and September 30, 2026

August 17, 2026 (Remote) Meeting

1. A regular meeting of the Department Council was held on August 17, 2026, for the purpose of discussing and acting upon the business that came before it.

2. Approved minutes of April 27, 2026, Council meeting.
3. Approved the Department acquiring domains suvcwks.com and suvcwks.net.
4. Next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2026, via Zoom, for the purpose of preparing a proposed budget for 2027.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

Commander James D. Thornton, PCC

JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

DEPARTMENT ORDER 07
SERIES 2026-2027

August 7, 2026

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF CAMP OFFICERS

1. References:

- a. SUVCW National Regulations Chapter I, Article V, Sections 2 and 3.
- b. Department of Kansas Bylaws Chapter II, Article III, Section A.

2. **CAMP OFFICER ELECTIONS:** In accordance with the above references, a camp shall elect the Camp Commander, Senior and Junior Vice Camp Commander, Camp Council, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) at a regular meeting of the Camp between the first meeting in August and the first meeting in December, inclusive.

3. **CAMP OFFICER INSTALLATIONS:** The officers of the Camp shall be installed at a regular meeting of the Camp to be held between the first meeting of September and the first meeting in the following January, inclusive, by the Department Commander or a person designated by him.

4. All camp secretaries shall notify the Department Chief of Staff (chiefstaff@suvchwks.org) of the date their camp will be installing its officers. This notification must be submitted no later than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of installation.

5. Camp officers are normally elected at one meeting and installed at the next meeting; however, it is permissible to hold elections and installation at the same meeting, provided the meeting is held between the first meeting of September and the first meeting of December, inclusive. Camps cannot install officers in August, and they cannot elect officers at a January meeting.

6. The Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers (Form 22) shall be completed and signed immediately after the installation of officers. Ensure you are using the current version of the form. The original form and one copy, along with the current camp roster, shall be forwarded to the Department Secretary within seven days of installation. It is highly recommended that the camp secretary send an electronic copy of the report for review by the Department Secretary prior to physically mailing both copies and the roster to him.

7. It is also imperative that the full name of the officers is reflected on the Form 22. Do NOT use nicknames, as this will cause the form to be rejected.

8. As Department Commander, I plan to install the camp officers for as many camps as I can. In the event of a conflict, I will designate someone to perform the installation for me.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

James D. Thornton, PCC
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

DEPARTMENT ORDER 08
SERIES 2026-2027

August 10, 2026

FIREARMS SAFETY AT SUVCW ACTIVITIES

1. Reference: Department Order 7 (2013-2014), as issued by Department Commander Rocky L. Bartlow on April 17, 2013. The requirements of this order continue the original requirements stated in D.O. 7 (2013-2014).

2. Purpose: As we continue our activities for this year, I am re-issuing this directive to make sure we ensure the safety of the brothers and those around us as we are out in public. Frequently, as part of our activities, we have weapons including firearms of various types. Let us ensure we handle them wisely by complying with the following:

3. Ordered: Whenever brothers of the Department of Kansas represent the SUVCW, whether the Department, a Camp, or individually, they shall conduct the activity safely by appointing a Safety Officer from among the brothers. The highest-ranking officer present at the start of the event shall make the appointment. The Safety Officer's duties shall be:

To ensure the general safety of brothers and the public by inspecting the environs and doing what is necessary to prevent injury. This shall include searching for things that might cause trips, falls, or overhead hazards and display items that could cause injury.

Ensuring all firearms are unloaded and ammunition and primers are separated so firearms cannot be loaded while on display.

Ensuring that those entering any area under SUVCW influence unload any loaded firearm and do not load it until they exit same area.

Removing items or people who are not in conformance with the requirements in the SUVCW area until such time they are in conformance. Should that not be possible, the Safety Officer has the authority to close the SUVCW portion of the event until such time that there is conformance.

4. Any brother acting as a re-enactor jointly with a SUVCW event shall comply with the above while in an area represented by the SUVCW. When he departs from same he would fall under the safety procedures of the re-enactment group of which he participates.

5. If a brother is the only member at a SUVCW represented event, he shall consider himself the appointed Safety Officer and ensure the above rules are followed.

6. It is the intent of this directive that brothers of the Department of Kansas represent our Order in a way consistent with our high calling. Ensuring the safety of our brothers and the public is paramount.

So ordered this 10th day of August, 2026.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

James D. Thornton, PCC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

IN CONCLUSION

The Sunflower Picket

The Sunflower Picket is the official publication of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Editor: Alan L. Russ, PDC – email: secretary@suvchwks.org

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. [G.O. No. 7 (Series 2021-2022)]