

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL FUND REQUEST**

(FORM CWM #62)

REQUESTOR INFORMATION (Please print or type)

CAMP AND DEPARTMENT NAME: Old Abe Camp #16 Department of Kansas

NAME/ TITLE OF CONTACT PERSON: Robert J. Reves Member

ADDRESS: 17190 Galilee Road

CITY: Olsburg STATE: Kansas ZIP CODE: 66520

PHONE(S): 785-323-7646 Cell 785-410-2747 Cel E-MAIL: rreves@vet.ksu.edu

SIGNATURE: _____

NAME OF MEMORIAL/MONUMENT Fort Caspar Cemetery/11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry Headstones

NAME, NUMBER & STREET ADDRESS OF CEMETERY OR OTHER LOCATION

4001 Fort Caspar Road; Casper, Wyoming 82604

LOCATION DESCRIPTION (i.e. corner of 3rd and Lincoln St) Southwest corner of Wyoming Boulevard and Fort Caspar Road in Casper, Wyoming.

GPS N 42 W 106 City Casper Natrona County State WY ZIP 82604

WAS REQUIRED FORM CWM-61: GAR MONUMENTS/CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS ASSESSMENT SUBMITTED? Y ___ N X

___ EXISTING MONUMENT X NEW MONUMENT ___ LAST SOLDIER PROJECT

RESTORATION COST \$ _____ AMOUNT RAISED \$ _____ REQUESTED \$ 2,000

CHECK PAYABLE TO: Fort Caspar Museum Association

ADDRESS: 4001 Fort Caspar Road

CITY: Casper STATE WY ZIP CODE 82604

Memorial Grant Committee Use Only					
Grant Request # _____		Amount Approved \$ _____			
Approve	Deny	Table	Name Committee Member	Signature	Date

Check box, sign, date & return completed email to Committee Chair, who will send to National Treasurer for payment.

MONUMENT/ MEMORIAL INFORMATION

WHEN WAS IT BUILT: NEW WHO OWNS IT: City of Casper

WHO IS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE? City of Casper

ARE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE? No FROM WHERE: _____

ARE OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE? Yes FROM WHERE: Private donations and veterans service organizations

WAS A GRANT FROM THE SUVCW PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FOR THIS PROJECT? No

DATE: _____ AMOUNT: _____

DESCRIBE THE WORK THE GRANT IS NEEDED FOR (Be specific, use continuation sheet if needed)

Please see additional sheet for full description of project.

WHO EVALUATED THE NEED FOR THE WORK AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? Johanna Wickman, MA--History; Michelle Bahe, MA--Museum Studies

WHO WILL DO THE DESCRIBED WORK, AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? Casper Monument Company, 99 year-old monument company in Casper, Wyoming

WHO WILL RECEIVE FUNDS IF GRANTED? Fort Caspar Museum Association

LIST WHAT THE CAMP/DEPARTMENT HAS AND/OR WILL DO TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROJECT

The Department of Kansas has done very little to support the project, other than view several proposals submitted by Robert J. Reves. Old Abe Camp #16 via private donation and passing the hat as raised several hundred dollars. Robert J. Reves with the help of family and others has raised in excess of \$2000.00 for the project.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Civil War Memorial/Monument Fund

DESCRIBE THE WORK THE GRANT IS NEEDED FOR:

The Fort Caspar Museum and Historic Site has a commemorative cemetery honoring soldiers who died while stationed at the post between 1862 and 1867. The cemetery was established in 1970 with the installation of the first headstone for Private David Umphlet of the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. Over the next decade, ten more headstones were added for members of the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry and then the project stopped for unknown reasons.

We are working to add nine headstones for soldiers of the 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry to the existing cemetery to honor the soldiers the regiment lost in service at the post. Each headstone costs \$900. We are requesting \$2,000 to cover the costs of two headstones and installation. Casper Monument Company is donating the engraving fees for the headstones.

The full scope of the project is to add approximately 40 headstones to the current eleven headstones of the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. These additional headstones will represent twenty more soldiers of the 11th Ohio, nine of the 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, five of the 6th West Virginia Volunteer Cavalry, and a few from the 6th U.S. Infantry, 18th Infantry, and 2nd Cavalry regiments. The project also includes the addition of a walkway, a new interpretive sign, and a reflection bench for visitors to pay their respects. The commemorative cemetery is next to a large hill containing the remains of several unknown soldiers, a civilian monument, and a G.A.R. monument installed in the 1950s. The addition of these headstones is a critical part of the project, not only to gratefully honor and acknowledge all those who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, but also to properly interpret the history of Fort Caspar to visitors and residents alike.

To the Esteemed Department Command of Kansas Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and its Camps

Officers and Brethren,

As a follow up to the formal letter I sent on the 6th of February to Department Command and the Camps I would like to report the following. I have raised \$1620.00 from the following sources:

1. Westmoreland Masonic Lodge #257
2. Sword of Bunker Hill Jay Sheldon #117
3. Onaga Historical Society
4. Friends and Family

Each of these three organizations has been very accommodating in allowing me to make a pitch about the Fort Caspar Museum Association Commemorative Cemetery project. The Onaga Historical Society also offered expertise concerning possible sources of corporate funding and historical grant mechanisms which I have forwarded on to Johanna Wickman one of the Fort Caspar Museum Association board members.

To date I have had no response from Department Command or any of the Camps concerning this project. I think that we as a body do an excellent job of supporting efforts in the Eastern Theater to preserve historic battlefields and support monuments, but here is an effort that honors fallen men not only in the Western Theater but our own Kansas Troops! If this is an effort that is not squarely up the alley of the Department of Kansas than I am unsure of our purpose?

As before I would be glad of any information or expertise any of you could offer to this effort. Also as before I do plan on attending the Department Encampment in Winfield and would be glad to present as the agenda allows. As a side note if anyone wishes to donate to the project the use of the donation button incurs a finance fee as a work around checks made payable to the Fort Caspar Museum Association can be sent to the following addresses:

Fort Caspar Museum

4001 Fort Caspar Road

Casper, WY 82604

Or

Johanna Wickman

2941 Ridgecrest Drive

Casper, WY 82604

There is also now an effort being made that I believe Rocky posted for me concerning an effort to bring descendants of 11th Kansas men to the Fort Caspar Museum July 20th-22nd for a first of its kind reunion during their annual Caspar Collins Day activities and the new temporary exhibit that will run from the end of March for a full year detailing the 11th Kansas' service at the post and across what as then Dakotah Territory.

Respectfully Submitted in F, C, & L,

Robert J. Reves

Old Abe Camp #16

Re: 62 New Grant Request

Johanna Wickman <wickmanjd@gmail.com>

Fri 1/5/2024 4:44 PM

To: Walter Busch <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Robert Reves <[REDACTED]>; Rocky Bartlow <[REDACTED]>

All,

I'm happy to weigh in on any questions about the Fort Caspar Memorial Cemetery project. To address one comment, the grant was not to apply for "\$2,000 for each monument." The headstones themselves cost \$900 each making the cost of the nine 11th Kansas markers \$8100. The application was for support of the 11th Kansas phase and overall project as opposed to each monument within the project. There are no bodies buried under these headstones, they are cenotaphs, however, there are remains of five unknown soldiers buried in a small hill directly behind the headstones creating a memorial cemetery area. Because these markers are not connected with burials, we believed they fell under the memorial category.

The reason for this memorial format is that in the 1970s eleven headstones for eleven men of the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry were installed on the site in recognition of their deaths in the line of service. It sat that way for almost 50 years until 2022 when I started this project to bestow the same honor for ALL of the men of the various regiments who lost their lives while in service at Fort Caspar. This brings the amount from a cherry picked eleven soldiers from one regiment to about fifty from five regiments. In order to complete such a large task successfully, it must be completed in stages. The first stage was to obtain nine stones to match the previous eleven from the 1970s, for the 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. That has been completed and they are all installed. The next phase is to do the same thing--same stones, same engravings, for five men of the 6th West Virginia Volunteer Cavalry--and so on, until all 50 are installed.

We are continuing in this same format to match what was started in the 1970s. It would not be right to simply place a single monument with the remaining names. They all deserve the same honor and respect, and therefore the same form of markers. Essentially, this is a project that was started in the 1970s and then dropped from 1980 until 2022 when I picked it back up.

Yes, the VA will provide both memorial and traditional headstones, however it is a lengthy and irregular process. We have been running through that system for two years now for a reburial of a Kansas soldier. His headstone application has been churning through the VA and the National Archives for two years this month with no end in sight. In addition, those stones are engraved differently now than the eleven we already had from the 1970s, so they would not match. We've definitely opted for the more expensive route, but this allows us to ensure that all of the headstones for the soldiers of each regiment are installed together and therefore dedicated together, that they match the pre-existing headstones, and that they are done in a timely manner.

Once all of the headstone markers are installed, interpretive signage will also be placed discussing what I've outlined above as far as a history of the memorial cemetery and cenotaphs, as well as information on each regiment. There will also be a walking path with a reflection bench by the stones.

We have been working with local veterans organizations, state veterans organizations, as well as one of our Wyoming U.S. Senators on this project. The majority of funding has come from private individuals who have stepped forward to support the recognition these veterans deserve. I am especially grateful to Robert Reves' Old Abe Camp #16 which has been very supportive of our efforts. I completely understand if this is a somewhat unusual project that does not fit well into the established grant category. I also understand how important it is to maintain current memorials that fall into disrepair over the years--we have a GAR monument on our site near the cemetery that we plant flowers in each summer and maintain. I appreciate Rob and Rocky's efforts on this project on our behalf and any support or suggestions you all may have.

I hope this might answer any questions you may have about the project. And as mentioned earlier, I completely

understand that this is a bit different because of its format. Please let me know if you have any further questions and I'd be glad to answer them.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

--Johanna Wickman

On Fri, Jan 5, 2024 at 2:42 PM Walter Busch <webusch@hotmail.com> wrote:

the va calls them memorial stones and they take the place of tombstones soldiers/sailors with burial at sea, unknown or unconfirmed burial locations. unless under a condition i mentioned, they would not fall into the program

a lot of the issue is that people who want new monuments take a back seat to us trying to keep monuments in repair. new monuments are not even considered until 5 months out from the national encampment to make sure repairs are done first. a monument i am working on will take \$70,000 to repair and we will get only \$2,000 from national for this project if approved. therefore we are having to do legwork and get the local community behind it, in this case german-americans. so if you are talking 10 "monuments" and wanting \$2,000 for each, that is pretty much the entire monument budget for one year. i strongly suggest you try alternatives because if it looks like a tombstones they will probably be treated as such by the committee. in fraternity, charity and loyalty
walt

check out my books on Amazon.com

and the websites I manage:

www.suvcwmo.org

www.grantcamp.org

www.battleofpilotknob.org

www.shootingclubstlouis.com

www.stammtischstlouis.com

<https://missouri-kentuckycolonels.weebly.com/>

From: Robert Reves <rreves@vet.k-state.edu>

Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 1:35:59 PM

To: Walter Busch <[REDACTED]>; Rocky Bartlow [REDACTED]

Cc: Johanna Wickman [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: FW: 62 New Grant Request

PDC Busch,

I am cc'ing Johanna Wickman on this as she is president of the Fort Caspar Museum Association and a very dear friend of my family. She was instrumental in helping fill out the forms submitted and will likely have better justifications for things than I will, so please read over my comments and hers when she submits them and then see if you think the advice you have already given is the best course of action or if the submission already made is valid. I appreciate your kind offices already given and those that may arise from the course of this e-mail.

1. I know some effort was made towards VA assistance and Johanna will need to fill in the blanks here, but these markers are marking men of the 11th who are not buried on this site but scattered in unmarked graves or interred on BLM and Military Installations where there is very limited access. So these are literally monuments and not headstones.
2. These stones have been set so I would find that consistent with the caveat you mentioned about putting the monument in place.

Reponses to your comments about funding from the Memorials and Monuments grant program:

1. This is a phased project to hopefully someday honor all the Civil War soldiers who were stationed or passed through Platte Bridge Station i.e. Fort Caspar. So the entire project is a memorial.
2. I think some effort is being made towards upgrading the current historic information marker that was in place for the Phase I 11th Ohio men to include this current phase of the 11th Kansas men. Johanna will need to add more light to this situation.
3. The stones are already cut and set to match not only the Phase I 11th Ohio stones but those contained in all the actual Veterans Cemeteries across the nation.

Hopefully I haven't muddied the waters too much with my comments and it remains to be seen what tack Johanna will take with all of this, also I believe an effort was made in reaching out the combined association that serves Wyoming, Colorado etc. and little or no response was received from that group. If you have good contact information for the leadership amongst those Comrades to make a joint effort it would truly be appreciated.

In closing once again my thanks and I await further discussion. I would love to have a copy of your thesis on Ewing and would gladly pay any expenses incurred if you would go to that trouble, or if it is available commercially please let me know where? The 11th Kansas is a sickness for me of the best kind and Johanna is similarly afflicted, if you have not read her book "The Forgotten Senator The Life and Character of Preston B. Plumb" I would urge you to obtain a copy.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rob

Old Abe Camp #16 Topeka, Kansas

G-G-Grandson of Henry Godlove Company "K" 11th Kansas Volunteers

From: Walter Busch [REDACTED] >

Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 10:22 AM

To: Rocky Bartlow [REDACTED]; Robert Reves [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: FW: 62 New Grant Request

Dear Robert & Rocky:

Ok - This is a cursory review and I am only an advisor to the memorial grants committee. I want to start by saying that the 11th Kansas is s a favorite of mine since it was first led by General Thomas Ewing, about whom I wrote my thesis. Here are the problems I see with this.

1. This seems to be trying to get Monument funds for Tombstones. If the people are buried there and need VA tombstones, the VA provides them and your camps ought to be able to work on getting these. Tombstones are not monuments by definition of this grant program.
2. The grant program does not pay for any landscaping (putting the monument in place excepted).

So, if you want money from the Memorials and Monuments grant program, I would suggest three potential courses.

1. . . . The Best Option is to create a single monument with the names you want on that and raise funds for that.

2. . . . Also a good option is to put your tombstones in place and then develop a historic informational marker that can be placed nearby with an explanation about

how these men/this unit were critical in, for example, holding the line as Price tried to invade Kansas. This is also very educational, so I consider it more

important in promoting patriotism.

3. . . . Technically, individual monuments could be developed over each gravesite and if each was engraved stating they were placed there by the SUVCW on a certain

date in honor of ____ it would qualify as a memorial/monument according to our program. However, since there are several sites in the same cemetery

involved, I doubt that the program would approve more than one. With the 10s of thousands of Civil War monuments already in place and in need of repair, I

doubt seriously if the program would approve several new monuments in one cemetery.

All things considered, I think the project is a worthy project, but for it to receive funds from this particular program I would suggest ONE monument be developed to honor all the soldiers you intend to honor.

Second to Last, there is a potential source of funds that I have no connection with, but they approve money for monuments and (I think) other projects and that is the SUVCW Charitable Foundation. I am attaching a copy of their form.

Lastly, as this project is in another SUVCW's department, I would strongly suggest working with them and if you develop a monument working particularly with their monument's officer or at least keeping them informed of your efforts.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Walter Busch

Civil War Monuments/Memorials Officer of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Past Department Commander, Missouri Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Colonel, Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

[check out Walt's Civil War Books on Amazon.com by clicking here](#)

manages & designs the following websites:

suvchwmo.org

grantcamp.org

shootingclubstlouis.com (St. Louis Schützenverein)

battleofpilotknob.org

stammtischstlouis.com

missouri-kentuckycolonels.weebly.com

From: cwmemorials@sucvw.org [REDACTED] on behalf of Rocky Bartlow [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 11:55 AM

To: cwmemorials@sucvw.org [REDACTED]

Cc: Robert J Reves [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: FW: 62

PDC Busch,

I wonder if you might help a member of our camp (Old Abe 16, Kansas) with this request. He hasn't received a response and this worthy cause could use some attention.

Please let me or brother Reves know if there is anything we can provide.

Kind Regards in FCL,

----- Forwarded

From: **Robert Reves** [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, Jan 4, 2024 at 10:40 AM

Subject: FW: 62

To: Rocky Bartlow [REDACTED]

Rocky,

I was going through some e-mails this morning and came upon this submission. I have never heard anything since this was submitted either yea or nay? Since you are a bigger fish in the organization than I am is there any avenue to see if this is pending or what transpired?

Happy New Year,

Rob

From: Robert Reves
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 1:29 PM
To: cwmemorial_grant@suvcw.org
Cc: Johanna Wickman [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 62

PDC Milburn and the SUVCW Memorial/Monument Committee Etal:

Attached please find copies of Form 62 and some supporting documentation concerning this request. This being the first time I have ever done anything of this magnitude please contact me immediately if anything contained herein is in error or if additional information/forms are required. This project is very near and dear to my heart as you will hopefully find illustrated in my attached letters to the Department of Kansas. It saddens me that other than receiving the attached e-mails and a subsequent reading of one of them at the Department Encampment earlier this spring, no action whatsoever has been undertaken by the Department of Kansas or its leadership as a whole. One of the reasons I joined this organization in the first place is to support and honor our fallen comrades regardless of the location of the monument, battlefield, or other historic site. On the other hand PDC Rocky Bartlow our current treasurer of Old Abe Camp #16 and the brothers of our camp have been very supportive of the effort and kind enough to allow me to spearhead this effort under their auspices. Please help restore my faith in this organization by kindly considering the funding of this request. I look to the "better angels of your nature" in this matter and will gladly continue my own private efforts on behalf of the Fort Caspar Museum Association. Incidentally I have cc'ed Johanna Wickman of Wickman Historical and member of the Fort Caspar Museum Association Board as she is spearheading this effort on their end. Johanna is a kindred spirit in our great work gentlemen and can assist with any details that I do not have readily available. In closing again my thanks for your kind offices on our shared behalf.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert J. Reves

Old Abe Camp #16

Department of Kansas

17190 Galilee Road

Olsburg, KS 66520
[REDACTED]

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In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rocky L Bartlow

Secretary/Treasurer Old Abe Camp #16, Topeka

Treasurer & Past Dept Commander, Kansas

National Member-At-Large Coordinator

https://ci3.googleusercontent.com/mail-sig/AIorK4yCJofOLXciKL9-IQbmsu2oDtoB1Lm4xVZQAyp_bqkzpuWasLH8Edg9knKtFijEbUPoF39jSyY

We are the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. We are the descendants of the men who fought to save the Union. Their blood runs in our veins. We must not, we cannot forget.

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cwmemorials+unsubscribe@suvcw.org.