



the Banner

Published Quarterly by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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No. 2

Report on Ohio Department Growth

Before I can begin to explain the growth and development of the Ohio Department, it is necessary for me to provide an historical overview of the process. To provide the overview, I have to go back to my days as Commander of Gov. William Dennison Camp No. 125.

After chartering the organization, the recruitment began. Everyone pitched in and began to look for prospective members. However, we could get only 10 to 15 persons to show up at our meetings — which are “comfortably frequent” — that is, quarterly.

It was obvious that folks would attend if they could calendar the event early enough. At about that time I gave permission to my Junior Vice Commander, Brother Chip Rogers, to begin to develop a mailing list and a meeting announcement. Once the routine was regularized — the meeting notice goes out two weeks before the meeting — we began to work on publicity.

Again I called on Brother Rogers to begin to formulate a media list and to get publicity for our Annual Meeting program in November 1990. The result of the combined membership mailing and media blitz brought 60-plus members and guests to the meeting. The discovery “regular communication” and “media contacts” was made at that time. Even today it is not rare to have at least 25 to 30 members and guests in attendance at meetings.

In June 1991 the Ohio Department was entrusted to my stewardship. Given the successes Dennison Camp No. 125 had enjoyed, I came to the Ohio Department determined to give



Photo courtesy Danny Wheeler

A True Son

Among materials passed on to this editor was a color photograph of a True Son of a Union Veteran of the Civil War. The notes accompanying the photo are dated August 19, 1991, nearly two years ago. The notes say: “Please find a picture of Walter Van Druff at DeWitt Park in Ithaca, N. Y. Walter is a member of Sydney Camp No. 41, Ithaca. He is the son of George Van Druff who enlisted in the 137th New York Infantry on Aug. 20, 1862, and was discharged on June 9, 1865.” The notes are signed by Danny Wheeler, then commander of the Department of New York, who added that others in the photo are members of the Sydney Camp. Because there can not be many True Sons, it seems important to this editor to publish this photo. —RCG

members their money's worth and to begin to put into motion the wheels of the organization.

With the good help of Brother Dick Greenwalt, I began to assemble the names and addresses of all known brothers in the Ohio Department. The result was, as part of my General Orders, the first Ohio Department direc-

tory in recent memory.

Once the directory hit the mail, letters and phone calls began to arrive at my hope. We had a group of people out there, while receiving General Orders, had no idea that friends and neighbors were also in-

Continued on Page 3

General Orders



General Orders No. 2
Series 1992-1993
Commander-in-Chief
1016 Gorman Street
Philadelphia, PA 19116
(215) 673-1688

1. Best wishes are extended to all for a happy and prosperous New Year. Let all take this opportunity to renew our obligation taken at our initiation, and try to live with the principles upon which our Order was founded: Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

2. A special thanks to the members of Anna M. Ross Camp No. 1 and its Auxiliary for the testimonial dinner in my honor October 10th. My deepest appreciation to the national officers, department officers, members and friends who made this a memorable occasion.

3. The Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Gettysburg were outstanding and will be remembered by all those attending and the committee can be proud of an excellently planned program. An estimated 4,000 Union and Confederate troops paraded through the streets of Gettysburg to the Woolson Monument for the wreath-laying ceremony by the National Heads and the Pennsylvania Departments' Heads of the Allied Orders. This was followed with a program in the cyclorama with guest speaker Professor Lecturer Benjamin Franklin Cooling. The banquet was attended by approximately 150 persons. The Blue and Gray Ball was attended by more than 750 participants. I extend my hearty thanks to all those who worked hard to make a spectacular success of the day.

4. On behalf of the national organization, I had the pleasure to present the annual scholarship award to Ms. Patricia A. Taylor of the Class of 1994, a history major at Gettysburg College.

5. Important dates for the proper observance by Camps and Departments: Lincoln's Birthday, February 12th Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C.; Appomattox Day, April 9th; Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, April 15, in Springfield, Ill.; Memorial Day, May 31st and 30th, and Flag Day, June 14th.

6. Attention all Departments: Please send me the dates of your Encampments. I am working on my travel schedule. I will be accepting the first request I receive.

7. Please support our fund-raising officers; they need your help to make their goals. This is needed to make our organization a success. The National Patriotic Instructor is Chip A. Rogers, No. 4 Julian Drive, Athens, OH 45701. This GAR Memorial Fund supports various patriotic programs. Sr. Vice Commander in Chief Allen W. Moore, 1109 N. Co. Road, West Kokomo, IN 46901. This fund pays for promoting new members through advertisements in publications.

8. The new Banner editor is Russell C. Gregory, P. O. Box 252, Ionia, MI



Department Commanders
Sons of the Union Veterans
of the Civil War

Subject: Banner

At the Council of Administration Meeting on Nov. 15, 1992, the Council voted to replace the Banner Editor. As of that date, the new Banner Editor is Russell C. Gregory, P. O. Box 252, Ionia, MI 48846-0252. The cut-off dates for having items printed in the Banner will remain the same: 1 Sept., 1 Dec., 1 March, and 1 June. The editor will be needing newsworthy articles on our Order, along with your encampment and events dates, and we must get this information to him as early as possible so it can get to the membership so they will have the time to act on it. He will also need filler articles to keep on file for use as needed.

I, as Commander in Chief, will try to have a report from some camp or department that has shown the most improvement in both membership

48846-0252. Camps and Departments are urged to submit news items and photographs pertaining to their activities.

9. ALL CAMP SECRETARIES, PLEASE NOTE! Send your current Roster, including address changes, and names and addresses of new members, to the Membership List Coordinator, Richard A. Williams, 1917 Teel Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910.

10. To all who have suffered the loss of loved ones, I extend my deepest sympathy; to those who are ill, my sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

By Order Of:

Elmer F. Atkinson
Commander-in-Chief

and activity in the advancement of our Order. The next issue will have information from Department Commander Medert from Ohio on how his Department is becoming the most active in the Sons. Write me and let me know what and how you are doing to improve your camp or department, and I will pick the most improved and have it printed in the Banner.

I hope everyone received the fall copy of the Banner. If so, you will see I have appointed a Membership List Coordinator: Richard A. Williams, 1917 Teel Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910. He is in need of your help. The membership list needs to be up-dated and he needs correct information from you. Each department should have an up-to-date Roster of all camps and members, with addresses, zip codes submitted to the National Secretary, James Lyons, 411 Bartlett Street, Lansing, MI 48915. Along with this you must send a copy of Report of Camp Installing Officer, Form 22, for each of your camps.

If we all work together and get correct information to the persons who need it, the Banner will get the information to the membership before it becomes history.

Yours in F., C., & L.
Elmer F. Atkinson
Commander In Chief

involved. We had established the first "Communication Network" in the Department.

Part of my resolve, as Department Commander, was, and still is, to visit every active camp in the Ohio Department. I have travelled to a good many of them and for a variety of reasons. A meeting in Columbus result in the rebirth of Dennison Camp No. 1. One of the Dennison Camp No. 125 members, Brother Robert Grim, began to work on putting together a camp in the Washington Court House area of Ohio. Dennison Camp No. 125 hopes to be on hand for the initiation ceremony in October when this camp, with 27 members, is chartered. I hate to think of the miles travelled, letters written, and phone calls made in this endeavor.

In the Spring of 1992, I gave permission to my aide-de-camp, Brother Chip Rogers, to begin something we call "The Camp Commander Communique." This information piece is personalized and sent to the commander of each active camp in the Ohio Department. At present we have nine active camps. The theme of this publication is to share information, observations, and general commentary. Right now, the CCC is featuring information and reports from the National Encampment. This allows everyone to live the ex-

perience, albeit vicariously.

By June of 1992, and inspired by past Commander in Chief Lowell Hammer's call for members, I proclaimed June as "SUVCW Membership Month." To that end, proclamations were sent, via the CCC, to all camp commanders along with packets of membership applications. Each member in good standing of Dennison Camp No. 125 was issued five of the membership applications.

Again, utilizing the CCC, I have attempted to collect information from the active camps. The objective is to present a Camp Directory, along with the Membership Directory, the name time the directory is published. This project, by the way, is an on-going one and I hope that my successor will continue the program.

At the 1992 Ohio Department Encampment, I was re-elected to a second term as department commander. We enjoyed the largest encampment in recent memory along with the largest banquet that anyone can remember — more than 100 people. I have been encouraged to continue my term of office in an attempt to provide me with the extra time needed to visit camps and to oversee the rejuvenation and building of camps in the department.

As part of my second term, I have assigned all my officers various camps and appointments which they

are to oversee. My intention is to make the camps realize that we are there for their benefit, and to make them grow.

If I had to point to one specific stimulus — from Dennis Camp No. 125 to the Ohio Department — that has been responsible for the rapid growth and development of the organization, I would have to say that it is: Communication, Communication, Communication. I have found that an informed camp is an active camp and an informed department is an active department. Every brother wants to get something for his dues. I think we are indeed making progress in that respect.

My advice to fellow department commanders is:

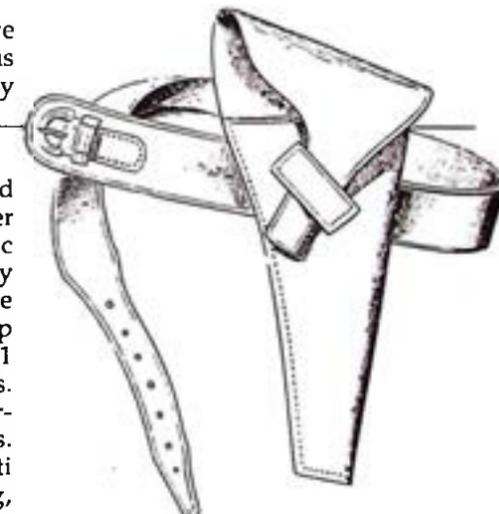
—Organize and correct your mailing lists;

—Inventory your camps; make sure they are still there and have some semblance of organization;

—Give your membership its money's worth: communicate.

The Ohio Department is now 227 brothers strong and still growing.

Yours in F., C. & L.,
David R. Medert,
Commander
Ohio Department SUVCW



named in honor of Henry Casey, of Bloomingburg, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for service during the Civil War.

—Mike Colligan at Hamilton has organized Camp Capt. John P. Bruck No. 96. A charter may have been awarded by the time this Banner is distributed.

Ohio Department News

Camp Governor
William Dennison
1993 Schedule

Some events scheduled for Camp Governor William Dennison, No. 125, Dept. of Ohio, include:

- Lincoln Day dinner meeting, Feb. 9.
- Camp Council meeting, April 13.
- Regular meeting, May 11.
- NCWAA Artillery School, Old Fort Niagara, N. Y., May 21, 22, 23.

Other notes, from material supplied by Chip Rogers and others:

—Mark Barnes of Camp Dennison has designed a new membership campaign brochure which has been distributed to all Civil War

Roundtables in Ohio.

—Department Commander David R. Medert and Secretary Treasurer Richard L. Greenwalt are enthusiastic about Ohio SUVCW activities. They say "domant camps have come alive this due to strong, vibrant leadership in each camp. Camp Dennison No. 1 in Columbus now boasts 27 membrs. ... Camp Banning No. 207 in Mt. Vernon is making excellent progress. Camp Grant No. 100 at Cincinnati nears its first reorganization meeting, thanks to the efforts of Sears Newnam-Cordner.

—On Oct. 10, 1992, initiation and installation ceremonies were conducted by the Ohio Department at Washington Court House for a new camp of 23 members. It is Camp Henry Casey No. 92, commanded by Robert Grim, who is also chief of staff for the Ohio Department. The camp was

Notes From The National Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS RE-ORGANIZED: Commander-in-Chief Atkinson convened a special Department Encampment at Joliet, IL, on Oct. 31, 1992, for the purpose of electing new officers and to reorganize the Department. Also present and assisting were National Secretary Lyons and National Treasurer Orr.

The meeting began with a review of the operating problems of the Department in recent years. The structural organization of a Department was discussed and the duties of the various officers were examined in some detail.

Following a brief recess, officers were elected to serve until the next Department Encampment. Commander-elect Nick Kaup requested that National Secretary Lyons serve as installing officer. The new officers were installed in due ritual form:

Nicholas Kaup, Commander: 221 16th Street, Wilmette, IL 60091.

Timothy Frake, Secretary: P. O. Box 502, Crystal Lake IL 60014-502

James Muetting, Treasurer: 1727 Morse Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

David Bailey, Jr. Vice Dept. Commander: 1569 Marquette Avenue, Naperville, IL 60565.

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO AND WYOMING: We have been informed that a new Department Commander has been elected. Please correct the list as published in the preceding issue of the Banner. He is: William Elswick, Commander; 4282 S. Logan, Englewood, CO 80110.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT NEW CAMP FORMED: Congratulations are extended to the members and officers of Governor Crapo Camp 145 of Flint, MI. The Camp was organized Oct. 14, 1992, and the Charter application was submitted with twenty names. Credit for the organizational efforts go to Dean Lamphere of Lapeer and David Wallace of Flint.

The Camp was instituted and its Charter presented by Department

Commander James B. Pahl on Dec. 16. The Camp will meet at the Flint Public Library regularly, although occasionally meetings may take place at other locations.

David Wallace was elected as the Camp's first Commander, with Dean Lamphere filling the post of Sr. Vice Commander. Since the submission of its Charter application, the Camp has added four new members.

HALL PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: The GAR Hall in Sunfield, MI, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The date of this action was Oct. 29, 1992, according to word received from the Michigan Bureau of History.

The Sons of Veterans United States of America was:

Instituted on Nov. 12, 1881, in Pittsburgh, PA.

Incorporated Dec. 28, 1881, Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County, PA.

Incorporated Oct. 1, 1888, Cook County, IL.

Name Change approved September 1926 at the 45th National Encampment to "Sons of Union Veterans of

The hall was built by members of the Samuel W. Grinnell Post 283 in 1899. It has been in continuous use by the GAR and its Allied Orders since then. The hall remains as it was when the Civil War veterans met there.

Owned by the Helen M. Edwins Tent No. 30, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the hall is being restored by the Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17. Work on the hall continues with ceremonies planned for later this year.

James T. Lyons
National Secretary
411 Bartlett Street
Lansing, MI 48915

the Civil War."

Incorporated Aug. 20, 1954, 83rd United States Congress, Second Session, in Public Law 605, Chapter 774.

Numerous attempts were made to change the name to "Sons of the GAR," however this was felt to be too restrictive since only about one-third of Union veterans ever affiliated with the GAR.

—Richard C. Schlenker

Maryland Department News

Lincoln-Cushing Camp and Auxiliary of Washington, D. C., held a regular quarterly luncheon meeting at the Navy Yard Officers Club on Dec. 5, 1992, at which time annual elections were conducted.

New members initiated by Auxiliary President Florence Foight were Kathryn Bateman and Hoa Tran.

Elected officers installed by Past Commander in Chief Lowell Hammers were Sisters Gayle Morris as president; Dawn Hayner, vice president; Dorris Schlenker, secretary-treasurer and counselor; Betsy Hammer, patriotic instructor; and Claire Davis, chaplain.

19th SVR Annual Muster

Everything was dampened except the spirits of the participants at the 19th National Muster of the Sons of Veterans Reserve as they gathered at City Island in Harrisburg, PA, Sept. 25-27, 1992.

Hurricane Danielle dealt a glancing blow on Friday and Saturday, followed by a western storm on Sunday to settle the dust at Camp Atkinson, named for our commander in chief.

Camp life went on despite the adversities, as did firing and drill demonstrations, ladies' tea and promenade, skirmishes depicting the Battle of Carlisle and Devil's Den at Gettysburg, and several raids on the steam railroad. The sounds of musket fire and booming cannon echoed across the Susquehanna River valley.

Although the weather diminished the number of participants and spectators, historic preservation and commemoration went on.

The 20th National Muster will be held Sept. 24-26, 1993, in Olean, NY.

Richard C. Schlenker
Past Commander in Chief

Indiana Department News

The Benjamin Harrison Camp No. 356 met at the Indiana World War Memorial in Indianapolis on Nov. 15. Alan T. Nolan, noted Civil War author and Indianapolis attorney, presented the program. His topic was "Myths of the Civil War." Both Mr. Nolan and Robert Burton were initiated as new members, followed by an election of 1993 officers.

The Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1 held its November meeting at Richard's Restaurant in Kokomo. A narrated slide presentation on Abraham Lincoln was given by Stephen Belcher, a member of Camp No. 356 and of the Indianapolis Round Table. Officers for 1993 were elected.

Allen W. Moore, Secretary-Treasurer,
Benjamin Harrison Camp
& Senior Vice Commander in Chief



Of Stars & States

'Tis a puzzlement at times when considering how many stars were in the field of the U. S. Flag during the Civil War.

One must consider a specific time when thinking about it.

Thirty-three stars adorned the garrison flag which was flying over Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, S. C., on that fateful morning of April 14, 1861, when troops of South Carolina bombarded the fort at 4:30 a.m., setting in motion the great conflict which had been long smoldering.

Stars are added to the blue field of the flag on the Fourth of July following granting of statehood.

Kansas, the 34th state, had joined the Union on Jan. 29, but a star was not added until July 4, 1861.

West Virginia, the 35th state, was admitted on June 20, 1863, thus flags of 33, 34, and 35 stars might have been seen during the war.

Although Nevada became the 36th state on Oct. 31, 1864, a star was not added until July 4, 1865, after the surrender at Appomattox.

To date there have been 27 official versions of the Stars and Stripes.

Richard C. Schlenker
Past Commander in Chief

Central Region Conference Report

The Central Region Conference, SUVCW and AUX-SUVCW, met at the Midway Motor Lodge in Lansing, MI, on Oct. 3-4, 1992, Commander James T. Lyons presiding.

The CRC includes Colorado-Wyoming, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin.

Agenda items included an update on the 1991 Resolution dealing with the 125th anniversary of General Logan's General Order No. 11 — Memorial Day. Postmaster General Runyon was contacted regarding a commemorative stamp and a picture of Gen. Logan and General Order No. 11 were provided. No reply to date.

The 1991 Resolution concerning records in Carlisle Barracks was presented to the 1992 National Encampment. The resolution was adopted by the National Encampment and referred to the National Historian for action.

Junior Vice Commander in Chief Keith Harrison led a focused two-day discussion concerning membership recruitment and retention. Excellent ideas were brought forward and analyzed. Brother Harrison summarized these in a 4½ page document which was subsequently submitted to all Department and Camp-At-Large junior vice commanders.

The banquet speaker was Dr. Weldon Petz, a world-renowned Lincoln scholar who has more than 40,000 Lincoln artifacts in his personal collection. Dr. Petz is a member of U. S. Grant Camp No. 101, Dept. of Michigan. Dr. Petz presented an excellent program, "A Pilgrimage with Abraham Lincoln," complete with many artifacts.

The October 1993 CRC will convene in Milwaukee, WI, with two conference topics: 1. A 1992 recruitment discussion follow-up; and 2. The Importance of the Civil War on the U. S. Constitution.

Submitted in F. C. and L.,
J. Douglas Park
CRC Secretary 1992-93

Junior Vice Commander in Chief Harrison's remarks at the Dedication of the Veterans Room in Michigan's Capitol

The Capitol of the state of Michigan was built in part to honor Civil War veterans and to house Civil War relics, including Michigan's battle flags. A military museum was once located in the south wing of the first floor.

By Act of the Legislature, a room in the Capitol was set aside for use as the headquarters of the Michigan Department, Grand Army of the Republic. The room was used by successive veterans groups and was closed in 1955.

On June 13, 1992, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Michigan Department, placed a plaque outside the room. When, during restoration, the battle flags were removed from the rotunda cases and the decision was made to place replicas in the cases after the Capitol was restored, Lewis N. Dodak, then Speaker of the House, announced that one of the restored House committee rooms would be dedicated to honor all Michigan veterans, past, present and future.

The House Appropriations room was chosen and a special flag case to house veterans organizations flags was built in the room. A plaque has been installed in the room with the following wording:

Nearly 90,000 Michigan volunteers fought in the Civil War. One of the reasons this Capitol was built was to house Civil War artifacts, including the bloodstained battle flags, and to honor Civil War veterans.

In 1897, a room was set aside in the Capitol for the use of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization that worked to preserve the memory of their dead Civil War comrades and improve the welfare of the living.

Over the years, other sons and daughters of Michigan have heeded the call to fight in other conflicts. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice to help preserve the Union and the freedoms enjoyed by Michigan citizens today. Following in the path of the GAR, other veterans' organizations have been formed over the years to preserve the memory of fallen comrades and improve the welfare of living veterans.



The citizens of Michigan, as a token of appreciation, respect, and gratitude, dedicate this place of honor in our Capitol to the past, present, and future veterans of the State of Michigan.

When the Veterans Room was dedicated on Nov. 19, 1992, Keith G. Harrison, Junior Vice Commander in Chief, SUVCW, was one of the major speakers.

Following is Harrison's message:

"I bring you greetings from the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The Sons of Union Veterans is a congressionally chartered patriotic and educational organization created in 1881 and recognized in 1954 by the Grand Army of the Republic as its legal successor.

"Among the charges given to the Sons by the Grand Army veterans was to preserve and perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union of this country in 1861-1865, and to cooperate in doing honor to all those who have patriotically served this country. I am honored to be here today to represent the Sons of Union Veterans and, through it, the Grand Army of the Republic.

"The Grand Army of the Republic may be best described as a visionary veterans organization whose members' dedication not only helped to preserve a nation but also helped to ensure, through the establishment and institutionalization of laws,

traditions and memorials, that our veterans and their contributions would not be forgotten by the American public.

"However, and as many of you here today are aware, we, as a nation, have recently passed through a period of time where anything associated with military service to this country was considered, at best, unimportant. As a consequence, you can now go just about anywhere within Michigan and see decay and neglect of many of our monuments and memorials not only to our Civil War, but also our later war, veterans.

"Today, we are here to dedicate a room within this beautifully restored Capitol building as the Veterans Room. This room and its contents are to serve as a memorial to the service and significance of the veteran, both past and present, to this state. It is our hope that this room and dedication ceremony may also be viewed as something even larger.

"In keeping with another charge given to the Sons of Union Veterans by the Grand Army of the Republic, it is our hope that this newly-dedicated Veterans Room will serve as a focal point, a symbol of the renewed interest by Michigan and its citizens in the need for restoration and stewardship of all our veterans' memorials, monuments, and grave sites across the state.

"In keeping with this desire, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War would like to take advantage of the significance of today's ceremony to encourage all Michigan veterans organizations, regardless of what war service or special group they may represent, to come together and jointly promote such a revitalization and stewardship program within Michigan.

"We believe, given what our past and present veterans have done for us, that we owe them nothing less than our assurance that their memory and monuments bespeaking their sacrifice and valor will forever be maintained for the benefit and appreciation of all future generations of Michigan citizens."

Lincoln Tomb Memorial Ceremony to be April 15

A memorial ceremony to mark the 128th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's death will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 15, at the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, IL.

The Lincoln Plaza will be our headquarters hotel and the site of the luncheon following the rites at the tomb. A shuttle bus will provide transportation between the tomb and the hotel.

As a department or camp commander, a department or unit auxiliary president, or as an individual member of our Order, you are urged to participate in this commemoration. If your organization wishes to take part, please indicate by letter that: 1. you will present a wreath; and 2. you wish to make a specific number of luncheon reservations.



It is imperative that the number of reservations and names for whom reservations are being made be indicated. At this writing, the price of the luncheon has not been determined. **Cancellation of luncheon reservations must be made known by Saturday, April 10, at the latest.**

To make reservations and to assure a proper listing of your organization and the name of your wreath-bearer in the printed program, send your letter, giving full details, not later than **Tuesday, March 23, to:**

Robert M. Graham, Co-Chairman
Lincoln Tomb Ceremony Committee
1320 North Osborne Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702

Wreaths may be sent to the Lincoln Tomb for delivery not later than 9 a.m., Thursday, April 15, 1993. Please instruct your florist to deliver your wreath c/o The Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, IL.

Illinois Department News

From George Armstrong Custer Camp No. 1, Crystal Lake, IL: The camp's number one priority is a huge undertaking: replacing more than 200 grave markers at Rosehill Cemetery. When Nick Kaup, past camp commander, wrote at the end of November, he said, "We just this week have secured the *original* Record Book listing all those people who served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

The primary reason, Kaup said, for this project was the level of deterioration of the markers. He said he believes most of the soldiers buried in one lot were personnel who died in the local hospitals.

Even with that project, the camp had a booth at the annual Midwest Civil War Collectors show. Kaup writes, "We held a membership drive, had a raffle for a Civil War sword (reproduction), and a series of GAR books. Our camp raised more than \$400."

GAC Camp No. 1 has nearly 50 members. "We feel we have come a long way in the two years since the camp reorganized. ... In addition to our growing membership, the Camp also has a new camp flag and a new American flag, both donations to us."

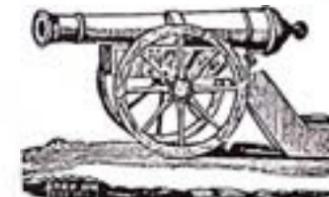
Nick Kaup
Past Camp Commander
G. A. Custer Camp No. 1

Print Winner

The winner of the Dale Gallon print, "Final Glory," for which a drawing was held at the National Encampment, was James F. Sullivan, a member of the Sons who lives at 6336 Shane Lane, New Port Richey, Fla. 34653-5224.

He is a real Son. His father was Mickey Sullivan, Co. K, 6th Wisconsin Volunteers, the Iron Brigade. Commander In Chief Atkinson writes that Sullivan would like to hear from

other members of the Sons living near him in Florida, who would be interested in starting a camp.



Sherman's great great grandson joins Ohio camp

From Gov. William Dennison Camp No. 125 comes word that a great great grandson of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman has joined that camp.

From the newsletter, as forwarded by Richard Troup, Junior Vice Commander, McConnelville, OH, we read:

"Keith Ashley announces that Camp Gov. William Dennison No. 125 has acquired as a new member Frederic Sherman Cauldwell Jr. of 29 Woodland Street, Millbury, MA. While engaged in a college project, Keith visited the Sherman House in Lancaster in September to find material for a report.

"He came across a new book on General Sherman written by his great, great nephew. Keith thought it would be nice to get a member of the family into the SUV, so he 'wrote to the publisher to ask for the address of the author or to have my request forwarded to the author.' The company did so and he replied in October and gave me five addresses of descendants of Gen. Sherman. I wrote each a letter asking that they join. On Nov. 16 I received the application in the mail. Here is what Mr. Cauldwell wrote:

"It was most interesting to receive your letter of Oct. 22 concerning the SUV. As one of the great great grandsons of Gen. Sherman, I would be most interested in joining the SUV, and I thank you for your kind invitation to join."

Mr. Cauldwell is trying to locate an original photograph of Gen. Sherman mounted on his horse at the Atlanta fortifications. He would welcome any information on this.

February 1863

In February 1863 — 130 years ago — the Union ram *Queen of the West* had a remarkable, if short-lived, career. One of the fleet of rams Charles Ellet, a distinguished engineer, had persuaded Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to let him rebuild from some unprepossessing river boats, the *Queen* appears to have had an inspired crew.

On Feb. 2, 1863, Col. Alfred W. Ellet commanding, the *Queen* ran the Vicksburg batteries during daylight hours — and took some fire. She had been ordered to attempt to ram the Confederate *City of Vicksburg*.

On Feb. 3, 1863, the *Queen of the West* took three Confederate vessels below Vicksburg and destroyed quantities of foodstuffs, cotton, and other goods. She took some prisoners.

On Feb. 10, 1863, the *Queen* headed for the Red River.

On Feb. 12, 1863, President Lincoln's birthday, the *Queen* on the Red River destroyed a wagon train and more materiel of war.

On Feb. 14, 1863, the *Queen* captured a Confederate vessel, *New Era No. 5* on the Red River. Later that day, the *Queen* ran around while exchanging fire with Confederate guns. She had to be abandoned. Col. Ellet transferred his command to the *New Era No. 5*.

Alfred Washington Ellet's older brother Charles, who died of wounds suffered in the Battle — and capture — of Memphis on June 6, 1862, was best-known as a bridge designer and builder

New Editor

The Banner got a new editor, and then he got sick.

I'm better now.

By way of introduction: I'm the Editor of The Ionia Sentinel-Standard, a six-days a week newspaper in Ionia, MI. Those who read extensively in Civil War material may recognize The Ionia Sentinel, our pre-1920 identity, as the newspaper long associated with Gen. James H. Kidd, 1840-1913, who served as commander of the Sixth Michigan Cavalry, one of the four regiments in the Michigan Cavalry Brigade commanded by Gen. George A. Custer.

I'm an Ionia County native, I was graduated from Michigan, and my house was formerly a one-room brick country school house, built the year the Brooklyn Bridge opened. I'm Ionia City Historian officially — and unofficially the county historian.

I turn 62 in March, a few days before National Secretary James Lyons does the same thing, and I plan to stop going to the office every day June 1 — not because I can afford to retire but because I have the Banner to edit, a couple of writing projects to complete, and more weeds in yard and garden than respectability will tolerate much longer.

Gradually there may be a few changes in the Banner: I want to work hard on photo reproduction, for example. I intend to make deadlines — so contributors will help by observ-

ing them also. Since I don't know everything and don't want to, it would help if abbreviations are spelled out the first time you use one. I use two style books, The Associated Press Style Book and Strunk and White's Elements of Style. And about six dictionaries, one from just after the Civil War.

It would help also, when you send a newspaper clipping, if you date the clipping and include the name of the town and state in which the newspaper is published.

Mostly I hope to do a good job — which means accuracy and clarity first. When I miss either or both, write or call up and complain. I don't have a fax machine at home. How can I put a fax machine in an 1883 school house? I even buried the electrical wires.

Ionia County is mid-Michigan and beautiful: rivers, hills, a covered bridge, fine old houses, abundant wildlife, excellent farms, and because the 21st Michigan Infantry was mustered in here, a Civil War site. The 16th Michigan Infantry, right up there on Little Round Top with Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the 20th Maine, had many from this county on its rosters.

Now don't get me started on the Sunfield, MI, GAR Hall; it's a treasure.

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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