

George W. Williams, Real Son, became a member of



US Grant Camp in March, 2007. He was a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserve and was sworn into his rank as Corporal by Commander-in-Chief James Pahl at the St. Louis National Encampment in 2007.

The grave marker of Private Henry Williams, the father of George Williams of our camp, indicated that he had served in a Confederate Unit. Private Henry Williams proudly served in the Union Army at

places such as at the Battle's of Franklin, TN and Nashville TN. Brother George has tried to have his tombstone corrected and finally that day arrived. On a cold drizzly day, December 8, 2007 his wishes were delivered. Brother George, now 96 years old, and his

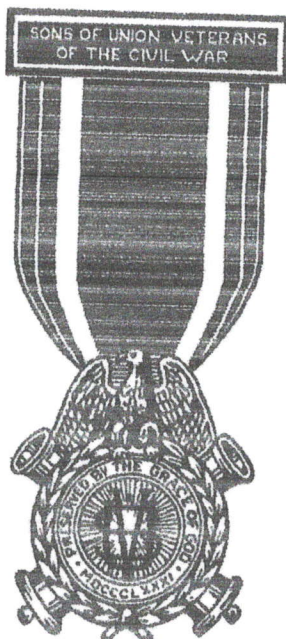


family were able to make the four hour drive to Jeff, Missouri which is near Thayer, MO on the Arkansas border to attend the ceremony. The corrected grave marker was placed at the grave. It was an amazing day. Along with Brother George, there were also immediate family in attendance which included nieces and nephews.

George passed away on 25 Oct 2008. Grant Camp Chaplain John Avery conducted the ceremonies at the funeral home and at the grave site. He was buried on October 27th at Bethlehem Cemetery on Bellefontaine Road in North St. Louis. Department Commander Emmett Taylor was present both at the wake and at the funeral. We cannot express our appreciation in a way that would do him justice.



Commander-in-Chief Dave V. Medert called and expressed his sympathy to the family. Besides our Commander Taylor there were five members of the Grant Camp there.



Application to Join the
**SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865**

Membership Request – (Check One)

- ☒ Camp Membership
Camp Name & Number: U. S. GRANT Camp # 68
Department Name: MISSOURI
☐ Department Membership-at-Large
☐ Camp-at-Large Membership
Camp-at-Large Name: _____
☐ National Membership-at-Large

Membership Type – (Check One)

- ☒ Member (14 Yrs & Older, Has Lineage, Complete Pages 1 & 2)
☐ Junior (6-14 Yrs, Has Lineage, Complete Pages 1 & 2)
☐ Associate (14 Yrs & Older, No Lineage, Complete Page 1 Only)

Application of: George Grover Williams
Fountains Ind. & (First) Assisted Living (Middle) (Last) Apt. 408
Address: 3450 Village Lane Granite City, IL 62040
(Street / P.O. Box) (City) (State) (Zip)
Telephone: Home 618 797 3321, Work N/A retired, Fax _____
Daughter
E-mail massroses4u@yahoo.com Occupation: retired welder-McDonnell Douglas
now Boeing
Date of Birth: 10/15/11 Place of Birth: Jeff, MO

I declare under the penalties of perjury that this application has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is true, correct and complete and, if accepted, I will obey and support the National Constitution and Regulations ("C&R") of the Order, Bylaws of the Department and Bylaws of the Camp.

Dated this 15th day of February 20 07
Signed: [Signature] Witness: Sandra Kinder

Recommended by SUVCW Brother: ROBERT M. PETROVIC PDC

Application Fee: \$ 10.00 + Annual Dues: \$ 35.00 = Total: \$ 45.00

Date Elected: _____ Date Initiated/Enrolled: _____ National Number: _____

LINEAGE

(To be completed by those applying for Member or Junior status)

A Photocopy of your ancestor's Civil War military or pension record must be attached to this application.

I base my eligibility to be a Member/Junior in the SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR (SUVCW), 1861-1865, by right of lineal or collateral descent in the following line from my:

Father
(Grandfather, Great Uncle, etc.) Father, Henry Williams
(Ancestor's Name)

who served and/or died honorably in the United States Army, Navy or Marines or Revenue Cutter Service, or in a state regiment subject to the orders of United States general officers during the Civil War 1861-1865. Neither I nor any of my ancestors through whom I claim eligibility ever voluntarily bore arms against the government of the United States.

My ancestor was mustered into service on Sept. 13th, 1863, in Company I
of the 37th Regiment Ky, with the rank of private, and was honorably
(Regiment, Battery, Ship, etc.)

discharged or died while in the service of the United States, at the rank of private-Co. K
on Aug 17th, 1865, by reason of honorable discharge 4th Kentucky
***** mounted
Infantry

Lineage

I am the son of:

Henry Williams birth 10/13/47
Deceased 10/14/
21

Who was the son/daughter/sister/brother of: _____

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Additional information about your Civil War ancestor including but not limited to his affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), or other post-Civil War veterans' organization(s), and his resting place may be attached.

Real Son George Grover Williams

March 5th, 2007 the U. S. Grant Camp #68 in St. Louis, Missouri installed their newest member, Real Son George Grover Williams. About 45 people were present for the installation with 4 generations (25 Members) of his family being present to help in the installation. The camp presented George with his membership medal and a Real Sons certificate. George was born on October 15, 1911 in Jeff, Missouri. George is the son of Henry Williams who was born on October 18, 1847 and passed away on October 14, 1927. Henry was mustered into service on September 13, 1863 as a private in Co. I, 37th Regiment Kentucky Infantry (Mounted) and was honorably discharged on April 19, 1864. He was then mustered into service on July 1, 1864 in Co. K, 4th Kentucky Infantry (Mounted) to serve 3 years as a private. He was honorably discharged early on August 17, 1865 as a private.

After the installation George told some stories about the civil war that his father told him. One story was of Henry helping release Union prisoners at Camp Sumter, a notorious Confederate military prison in Andersonville, GA. Other stories his father told him were about the major battle in Shiloh, Tennessee.

Henry spent his last years at the State Federal Soldiers' Home of Missouri in St. James.

The U. S. Grant Camp #68 is honored to have George Grover Williams as its newest member.

Oregon County man recounts years as son of Civil War soldier, boyhood of hard times

BY MARILETH SISCO
Quill Staff Writer

He was born in the tiny Oregon County hamlet of Jeff in 1911, the same year as Tennessee Williams, who may or may not be a relation. It also was the year explorer Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole.

The sixth child of a man 64 years his senior, George Williams grew up listening to stories of what the war years were like. Not the World Wars, nor the Spanish-American. Henry Williams, George's father, fought in the American Civil War, against his own father's wishes and his whole family's beliefs. George, who now lives in Chesterfield, recounted the story to The Quill on a recent visit to relatives in Thayer.

"The family was living at Elizabethtown, Ky.," George said of his father. "There were seven boys and seven girls. One of them was named George and I was named after him. When the war came, dad joined up. He was just 13 or 14, and he went for the Union side. His dad said he was too young, and went and got him and brought him home. He went to school another year and then he went back, and that time his dad let him go."

The young Henry Williams left to find adventure, and got more than he bargained for, his 93-year-old son told The Quill.

"The war was all over the country, and all over Missouri. He fought at Shiloh, Tenn., and I remember him telling us the battle was into its second day when they got there. They came and found where the troops had been pinned down by sniper fire on the first day. He said every time someone looked over the rim of the trench, they were fired upon. He said there must have been a 100 dead soldiers in that trench, and none of them was shot below the Adam's apple."

From there, Williams said, Henry's company of Union cavalry traveled from battle to battle all across the South, ill-equipped, barely trained and

with never enough to eat.

"They about starved to death. He told how they found a sheep once and shot it, and it was so poor its bones were sticking out all over."

It only got worse as the war drew on, even though his side was winning.

"He was at Andersonville when the Union troops took it and opened up the prison. It was awful."

History says he judged rightly. The Andersonville Civil War Prison, where more than 13,000 Union soldiers died of malnutrition, exposure and disease in the 15 months of its existence, has become archtypal of wartime atrocities committed by any army.

But Henry, George said, when he arrived at Andersonville, although as a free man, wasn't in much better shape than the prisoners.

"He was in Macon, Ga., when the war ended and he was discharged. They loaded them all onto a freight train and they came home covered with lice, and most of them had dysentery."

UNFORGIVEN; MOVING ON

That wasn't the worst of it, George said. Henry had elected to take the Union side; he was the only family member who did. He wasn't able to continue living in Kentucky. He married and moved to Missouri, had some children, and then his wife died. Eventually he married again, to George's mother.

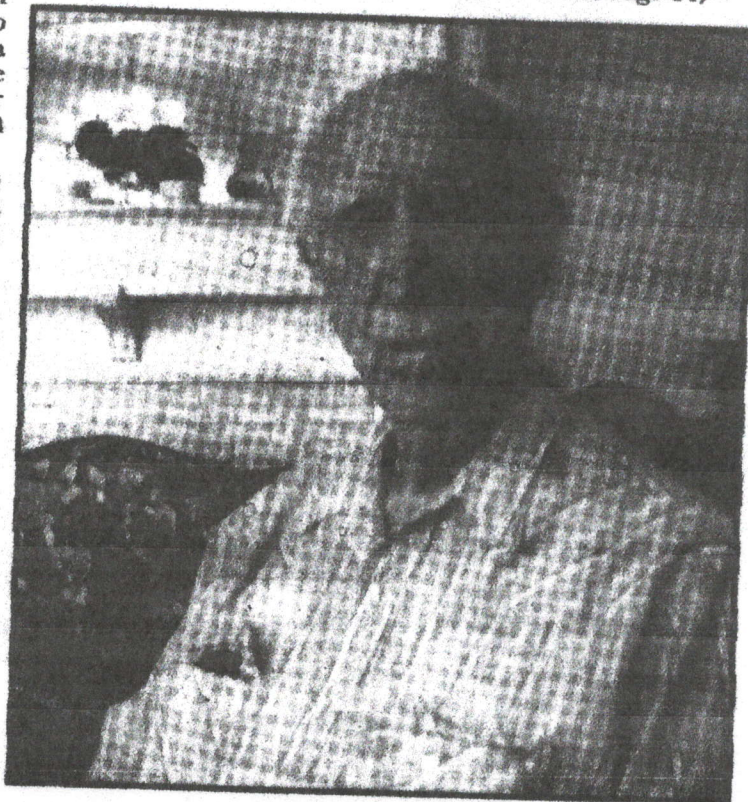
"He'd go home to visit once in awhile, and they'd always fight. He'd come home with knots on his head."

For his patriotism, George said, the government eventually rewarded Henry with 40 acres - of the poorest land on earth.

"The ground was too poor to do much with. We had cattle, and we had to carry water a quarter mile up the hill. I loved eggs, but mama had to sell them to buy sugar and flour."

By the time Henry was born his father was an old man, and life on their little Oregon

(See Soldier, Page 14)



GEORGE WILLIAMS

Interviewed in 2002 or 2003 article West Plains, Mo. The Quill front page of newspaper

Soldier

From Page One

County farm never got easier.

"Mama was a midwife. They never had a doctor down there. She'd go whenever someone was sick, and there'd always be four or five women who'd gather when someone was having a baby. There's maybe a couple hundred children running around that she helped bring into this world."

A BOYHOOD OF HARD TIMES

George said his family was no different from others in the area. And the hard times never went away. "It was a hard life. For a long time they would close up the school for a couple of months in the fall so everyone could go to Arkansas and pick cotton. I wasn't any good at it. My mother and sisters could pick 200 to 250 pounds a day. I was lucky if I got 50 or 60.

"But we grew a garden, and always had an orchard, and always had fruit. I don't know where he learned about it, but my father could prune trees and vines, and graft them. We picked blackberries, and had apples and plums. You lived on whatever you raised. You'd buy sugar and flour and meal, or if you raised corn you'd take it to the gristmill. Mama would start sweet potatoes in a bed, and break off the sprouts and plant them. There were six of us, two boys and four girls."

But as he grew older, the only way his father could help provide for the family was by leaving, George said.

"He was shorter than me and he was always thin. He would go up to the old soldiers' home at St. James and stay there, and while he was there he would cut the other old soldiers' hair and send the money he made home to mama. I remember we went up to visit him once, I think it was in 1923." George was 12 at the time of the visit. Just four years later, two days short of George's 16th birthday, Henry

died. He was 80.

GROWN UP AND TRAVELING TO TRY TO EKE OUT A LIVING

Then it was George's turn to leave.

"I'd go up to St. Louis and do odd jobs for a while and earn a little money, get to doing good, and then I'd get homesick and have to come home and see my buddies and all. Then I'd starve out and have to go back. I remember my first trip up there was all on gravel roads, and took 13 hours. I've been up there off and on since 1928, I guess. I couldn't hardly give up down here because all the folks were here. But I couldn't make a living."

Then the Depression hit, and jobs disappeared. By that time, George said, he was married, and had children to feed.

"I went to Colorado in '34 to work in the wheat fields, but they hadn't got any rain and there was no wheat to harvest. I went on to the beet fields, and finally got work at Fort Collins, where a guy I was traveling with knew someone. I made a total of \$35. I rolled it up in my sleeve and rode a freight train home. I'd go pretty regular to Kansas to the harvest fields, too. A lot of us did."

BETTER TIMES

It wasn't until the United States started gearing up for World War II that times got better, George said.

"I learned how to weld and was able to get work at Emerson Electric working on war planes, helping build gun turrets. Then after the war I got on at McDonnell-Douglas, and stayed there until I retired. So I settled in St. Louis and bought a home there, and we had a good life. Since the war I've done all right. I know how to watch my pennies."

READING AN OBITUARY LEADS TO MARRIAGE TO LOUISE

But things haven't always been smooth sailing, he said. "I lost my wife in '87, and went about two years until I decided I wasn't much of a bachelor. I saw in the paper where Louise's husband had died. She was Ruby's cousin and I'd known her for a long time." He paused and grinned. "So I came down here and got Louise."

Once he found a trade and got himself established, George said, his life changed, and everything has been easier since. Until just lately. A botched cataract operation robbed him of part of his sight, and he is no longer able to drive.

"After I retired, I had a hobby of buying and trading sporting guns, until my eyes got too bad. That's taken its toll. It's hard not driving. I always loved traveling and loved to drive."

Asked if coming so near to his old home makes him nostalgic for the old days, his answer was emphatic.

"I don't miss the old times. They were hard times for me. I doubt that the young people growing up now could do it."

LESSONS LEARNED

George said his mother taught him many things, and his father just one. But it has taken the lessons from both to get him through his long and successful life.

The value of hard work and determination he learned from his mother, he said. Sticking to what you know is right, whatever the cost, that was his father's gift to him.

"One swat on the pants was all I got from him. He was harder on the older ones. But I was always afraid of him, even though he was shorter than me. He was stern, but he taught us to be honest."



L-R Standing: PDC Bob Petrovic, PDC John Avery, DC Walt Busch, PCC Robert Amsler Jr, PDC Don Palmer. Seated: Real Son George Williams
March 5, 2007



Real Son George Williams - March 5, 2007



Left to Right Standing: Gary Scheel, Dan Jackson, Robert Amsler Jr, Don Palmer, Bob Petrovic, Mark Coplin, Martin Aubuchon, Walt Busch, David Christopher Warren, John Avery. Induction of Real Son George Williams into US Grant Camp 68, St. Louis at Growler's Pub. South Lindbergh, Sunset Hills, MO - March 5, 2007. Seated: George Williams - Real Son



In the name and by the authority



SONS of UNION VETERANS

of the CIVIL WAR



H. Davis
47

This will certify that George Grover Williams
is a Real Son of Pvt. Henry Williams, Co. K.
4th Ken. mtd. inf and was duly mustered into the
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
at St. Louis in the State of Missouri
March 5, 2007

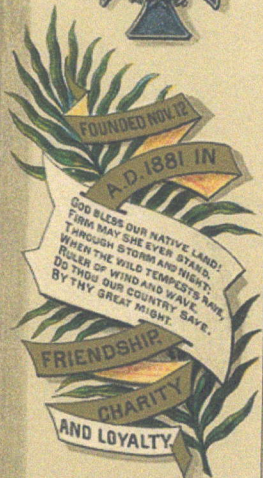
* And that he is now a Brother in good standing. *
in Vysses S. Grant Camp No. 68 Department
of Missouri located at St. Louis

In witness whereof, the names of the proper Officers
and the Seal of the Camp are hereunto affixed.
Given at St. Louis in the State of Missouri
this 5th day of March
in the Year of Our Lord 2007

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

COMMANDER



THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

MOURNS · THE · DEATH · OF

George Grover Williams

HIS · BROTHERS · IN · ARMS · HONOR · AND
WILL · FOREVER · HOLD · HIM · IN · SACRED · REMEMBRANCE
FOR · PRESERVING · THE · TRADITIONS · OF · HIS · ANCESTOR
A · FAITHFUL · SOLDIER · IN · THE · WAR · WHICH · PRESERVED
THE · UNION · AND · THE · INTEGRITY · OF · THE · NATION

PRESENTED BY Ulysses S. Grant CAMP NO. 68

CAMP COMMANDER



U. S. Grant Camp #68
St. Louis, MO



National SVR General David Medert Jr inducts Real Son George Williams into the Sons of Veterans Reserve - 2nd Mo Infantry Co A. Pictured in back - Major Jack Grothe - Commander 4th District SUVCW August 2007 - St Louis - Frontenac Hilton - Saturday Banquet of the National Encampment

