



# HARDSCRABBLE

Newsletter of Ulysses S. Grant Camp #68, St. Louis, MO



Vol. 2015, Issue #1 – February 2015

## Commander's Corner



I want to let you all know that I am happy to serve as your commander again this year. I am pleased the last couple of months that we had fairly good turn out for our meetings. To those who regularly attend .....thank you. Hopefully others will participate. We do have a few ceremonies this year and I would like to see more participation from our Camp. If you are not involved in the SVR, come as you are in proper dress. Preferably no jeans. Just showing up would be excellent. I encourage participation, both at ceremonies and meetings. I hope I'm up to your expectations. Thanks again for letting me serve as your Camp Commander.

*Bob Aubuchon*  
Commander

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## Editor's Note....

You asked for it and now you've got it! Based on the 2014 Camp Survey results, HARDSCRABBLE has been resurrected. Hope you like the new format. Feedback is always welcome!

*John Palmer*  
Senior Vice Commander & Editor



## Camp Mourns Passing of "Real Son" Hilbert "Herb" Gramelspacher, 95

Sadly, we recently lost another direct link to the veterans who valiantly fought to save the Union during her darkest days from 1861-1865. Hilbert "Herb" Gramelspacher, Grant Camp member and "Real Son", passed away on February 1 in Poplar Bluff, MO at the age of 95. Brother Gramelspacher's father, Joseph Gramelspacher, served as a private in Company E, 143<sup>rd</sup> Indiana Infantry. He was 16 when he enlisted on February 6, 1865 and was discharged on October 17, 1865. My father never talked about the Civil War, said Brother Gramelspacher. He was 11 when his father died in 1931 at the age of 83. He did show me his rifle, said Brother Gramelspacher. He ended up giving it to my sister and her family has it now. Brother Gramelspacher, his sister and brother received Civil War pensions until they were 16. The pensions got us through the Depression in the 1930s, said Brother Gramelspacher.

Brother Gramelspacher worked in a Civilian Conservation Corps camp for two years and served over seven years in the U.S. Coast Guard during and after World War II. He



was a radioman on the ice cutter *USS Comanche* on the Greenland Patrol and on the destroyer escort *USS Falgout* on trips to North Africa. During his working career, he was a Westinghouse appliance repairman and service manager in California where he worked in the homes of several celebrities, including Lucille Ball, Joan Crawford, Jerry Lewis and Cybill Shepherd.

Brother Gramelspacher's remains were cremated and his ashes were interred next to his first wife Melba in Pontiac, MS. Ulysses S. Grant Camp #68 was proud to have Brother Gramelspacher as a member and extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends. Per Special General Order #4 issued by Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell, membership badges shall be draped for a mourning period of 30 days.



## Missouri Constitution of 1865: “The Drake Constitution”

On New Year's Day 1865, St. Louisans could see the light at the end of the tunnel and that the end of the war in Missouri was near. By January 1865, all Confederate forces under Sterling Price were forced out of Missouri after his failed campaign in the Fall of 1864. Price arrived in Arkansas on December 2, 1864 with only 6000 survivors from his ill-conceived campaign. In Price's report, he noted that he marched over 1434 miles, fought in 43 battles/skirmishes, captured over 3000 Union troops and 18 artillery pieces, and destroyed over \$10 million worth of Missouri property. What he did not report was that his Fall 1864 raid failed to meet any of its original objectives!



St. Louis Mercantile Library (c. 1860)



Sen. Charles D. Drake

With Missouri now firmly in Union hands, state legislators now turned their attention to governing. Back in 1863, the Missouri General Assembly passed a gradual emancipation order. Over the next two years, this order became increasingly unpopular, due to the fact that many Missourians came to believe that anything other than immediate and unconditional emancipation was an attempt by slave owners to maintain some form of slavery. Now, in

response to the criticism of gradual emancipation, the General Assembly voted for a convention to be held to consider changes to the Missouri Constitution of 1820. This convention was held from January 6-11, 1865 and met at the St. Louis Mercantile Library (original building located at Broadway and Locust).

Charles D. Drake, a former member of the Missouri House of Representatives (1859-1860), played a major role at the convention. Because Drake was a vocal and uncompromising Radical Republican and an experienced lawyer, the mostly inexperienced delegates relied on him greatly in the formation of the new Constitution, which became known as the "Drake Constitution." The following were highlights of the new Constitution:

- ~ Banned the practice of slavery without exception.
- ~ Restricted the rights of former Confederates and Confederate sympathizers.

- ~ Part of the constitution was embodied in what became known as the "Conclad Oath", which was contained in Article 2. It required teachers, lawyers, clergy, and all voters to promise that they had not committed a long list of disloyal acts. These groups were targeted for their influence over the general population.
- ~ In addition, with support of the rural delegates, Drake forced evacuation of the offices of all judges, lawyers, and sheriffs and restricted the right to vote to only those who had been loyal to Missouri and the Union. This ensured the election of Radicals to all the newly vacated positions.
- ~ The Drake Constitution, officially known as the Missouri Constitution of 1865, was adopted by the state legislature on April 8, 1865. It was then sent to the people for ratification.

The vote to ban slavery in the Constitution was almost unanimous. Only four members of the convention voted against it. William S. Holland of Henry County introduced a resolution that would become part of Article 4, which forbade the General Assembly from compensating slave owners for the loss of their property.

Another major part of the new Constitution, the "Conclad Oath", was so severe that many Unionist men, such as Francis P. Blair Jr., refused to support it. The German community who had fiercely defended the Union opposed the draconian limitations imposed by the oath. However, the Radicals, many of whom suffered the cruelties of pro-South guerillas, made sure the oath became a part of the final Constitution.



## Missouri Constitution of 1865: “The Drake Constitution”

(Continued)

The Constitution did more than emancipate slaves and restrict voting rights. In many ways it was very progressive. It created free public schools, although they were segregated. It also forbade the government to lend its credit to private individuals or corporations. The Constitution, for all of its benefits, failed to provide true equality for the African American population it freed. They would not receive the right to vote until the passage of the 14th Amendment in 1868.

The ratification of the Drake Constitution came down to just a few votes. The east and central parts of Missouri rejected it. But heavy support from the northwestern and southwestern regions, where Confederate guerillas had terrorized loyal citizens, and from Union soldiers who were on the battlefield, gave the Constitution a narrow victory. Eventually, as war tensions cooled and Unionists entered into business contracts and political coalitions with former rebels, many of the draconian aspects of the Constitution, like the restrictions on voting, were eliminated.

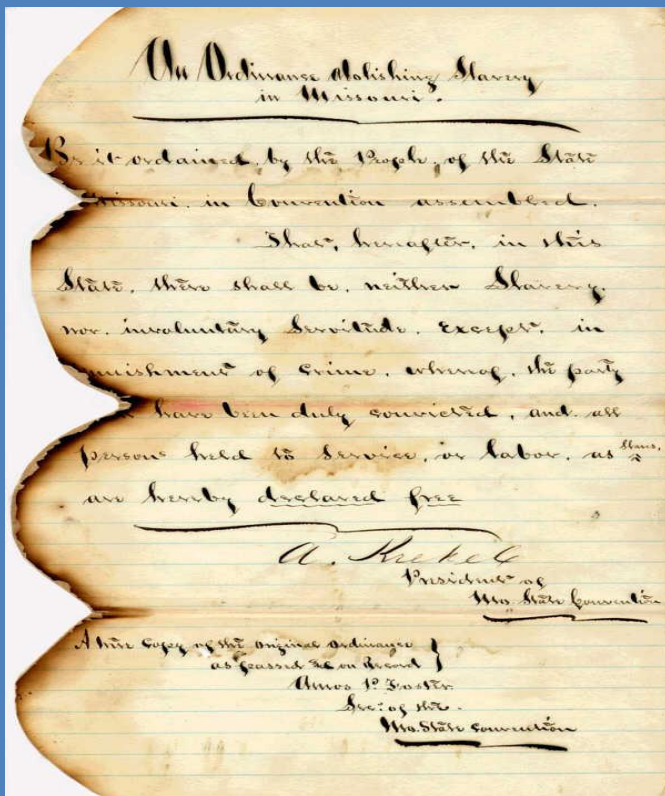
In 1868, the United States Supreme Court disallowed the portions of the Drake Constitution that foreclosed the professions to former Confederates, and a coalition of liberal Republicans and former Confederate Democrats began to make inroads in the state. The Radicals began to lose elections, and by 1872, had been swept from office. The Missouri Constitution of 1875 replaced the most objectionable features of the Drake Constitution. It was no accident that the president of the 1875 Constitutional Convention was Waldo P. Johnson, a former Confederate senator.

Drake was later elected as a Republican to the U.S. Senate and served from March 4, 1867 to December 19, 1870, when he resigned to accept a judicial position. While in the Senate he was chairman, Committee on Education (Forty-first Congress). He was appointed Chief Justice of the United States Court of Claims by President Ulysses S. Grant and held that position from 1870 to 1885, when he retired.



**Drake Grave at Bellefontaine Cemetery**

He published a *Treatise on the Law of Suits by Attachment in the United States* (1854) and *Union and Anti-Slavery Speeches* (1864). He died in Washington, D.C. on April 1, 1892; his remains were cremated and the ashes interred in Bellefontaine Cemetery in north St. Louis.



**1865 Ordinance Abolishing Slavery in Missouri**

The document shown is the ordinance abolishing slavery in Missouri that was proposed and later adopted on January 11, 1865 at the Missouri Constitutional Convention in St. Louis. This document is significant in the state's history because it was approved three weeks before the United States Congress proposed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery in the United States, did not go into effect until December 18, 1865. This document was one of those rescued from the burning Capitol building after it was struck by lightning on February 5, 1911. Although the Capitol was destroyed, many important documents were saved with varying degrees of damage.

## New Officers Installed at Annual Camp Christmas Party

The annual Grant Camp Christmas Party was held on December 9 at Greenbriar Hills Country Club in Kirkwood, MO. A total of 22 Camp and Auxiliary members and guests enjoyed a festive evening of fellowship and Holiday cheer.



In addition to dinner and officers installation, members and guests were treated to an educational program provided by noted author Jeffrey S. Copeland on his new book, *And No Harm to Kill the Devil*. This book focuses on the life and legend of John Fairfield, who was considered an abolitionist for hire.

### U.S. Grant Camp officers for 2015 include:

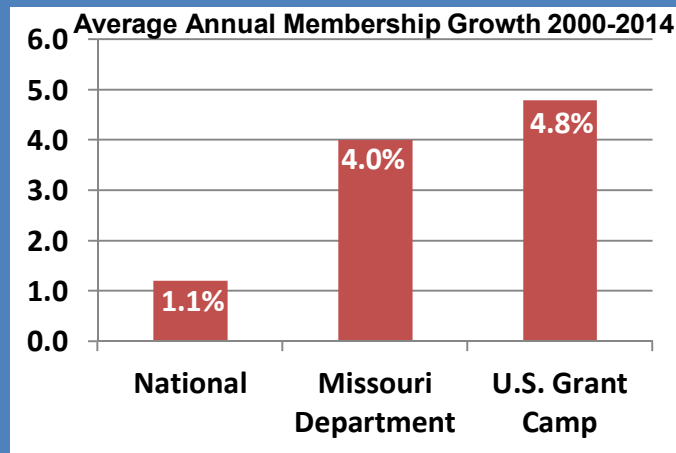
- ~ Robert Aubuchon . Commander
- ~ John Palmer . Senior Vice Commander
- ~ Mike Hudson . Junior Vice Commander
- ~ Walt Busch, PDC . Secretary/Treasurer
- ~ Robert Amsler, PCC . Council
- ~ John Avery, PDC . Council
- ~ Robert Petrovic, PDC . Council
- ~ Fr. Vincent Heier . Chaplain
- ~ Martin Aubuchon, PDC . Patriotic Instructor



## Vision 2020: Grant Camp Outpacing Department and National in Membership Growth

Vision 2020 was established in 2011 in order to establish a vision for what we want this Order to look like by the year 2020. The strategic plan developed to achieve this vision was approved at the 2012 National Encampment. A key element of this strategic plan in membership growth, where a goal was established to achieve a National membership level of 10,000 members by the year 2020. This is a challenging goal, as the Order would need to grow an average of 5.1% each year in order to achieve it. As can be seen in the charts below, since 2000, the National organization is averaging only 1.1% growth per year.

However, both the Grant Camp and the Department of Missouri are doing somewhat better in membership growth. Specifically, since 2000, the Grant Camp has grown from 17 to 35 members, reaching a peak of 37 members in 2013. This equates to an average annual growth rate of 4.8% since 2000. But if we focus on the most recent period between 2009-2014, the average growth is a whopping 7.4%, far outpacing the performance of both the Department of Missouri and the National organization. Clearly, the Grant Camp is doing its part to support the Vision 2020 membership growth goal. But we can't rest on our laurels - there's more work to do!



## Upcoming Events....

- ~ Feb 28 . Swap Meet at Affton Community Center, Affton, MO
- ~ Mar 1 . Sherman Birthday Program at Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis, MO
- ~ Mar 7 . Department Meeting at State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO
- ~ Mar 9 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ Apr 11 . Lincoln Tomb Ceremonies at Springfield, IL
- ~ Apr 13 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ May 1-3 . Lincoln Funeral Procession Re-enactment, Springfield, IL
- ~ May 11 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill



## Sons of Veterans Reserve Activities

Just a reminder that Grant Camp members are active in two SVR units within the IV Military District, both of which are welcoming new members. If you did not know, the SVR is the uniformed ceremonial element of the SUVCW. There are a large number of local, state and national events that SVR units typically attend each year. It would be great to see Missouri units represented in as many of these as possible.

If you are interested in joining the SVR, or if you are already a member and have interest in attending an event, please contact one of the unit leaders listed below:



Co. A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry  
Capt. Robert Amsler  
ramsler@worldnet.att.net



Co. A, 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Engineers  
1Sgt. Martin Aubuchon  
deb.martyaubuchon@sbcglobal.net



## News from the Auxiliary

### Julia Dent Grant Auxiliary #68, St. Louis, MO



Yes, Virginia the Grant Camp does have an Auxiliary! The Julia Dent Grant Auxiliary #68 was chartered on June 1, 2013. Auxiliary #68 is the newest of three Auxiliaries in the state of Missouri. The other two are located in Farmington and Ste. Genevieve. Auxiliary #68 is currently at eight members and growing.

The Auxiliary strives to assist the Sons of Union Veterans in keeping alive the memories of our ancestors and their sacrifices for the maintenance of the Union; to caring for helpless and disabled Veterans; to properly observe Memorial Day; to aid and assist worthy and needy members of our Auxiliary; to instill true patriotism and love of country; and to spread and sustain the doctrine of equal rights, universal liberty and justice to all.

Auxiliary #68 meets along with Grant Camp #68 at Frailey's Southtown Grill off of I-55 and Butler Hill Rd on

the second Monday of each month. The ladies join the gentlemen for a pre-meeting dinner and then break for the respective meetings. After business is taken care of, the ladies break out the Rummikub game for some team building and fellowship.

#### Auxiliary officers for 2015 include:

- ~ Deb Aubuchon . President
- ~ Sandy Walther . Vice President
- ~ Cher Petrovic, PAP . Secretary/Treasurer
- ~ Sarah Palmer . Chaplain
- ~ Gail Egbert . Patriotic Instructor

If there are ladies in your families interested in joining Auxiliary #68 or learning more about the Auxiliary in general, please contact Cher Petrovic at cherscars@aol.com.