



HARDSCRABBLE

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



Vol. 2018, Issue #1 – January 2018

Commander's Corner



First, I want to thank the Grant Camp for electing me to serve as Camp Commander. It has been 20 years since I last served as Commander and welcome the opportunity to lead the Camp again. One of my key Initiatives is to increase our Camps presence in the community. We are well known for our involvement on Memorial Day at Jefferson Barracks and our support of the Grant Remembrance at U.S. Grant NHS, but we need to be doing more, especially in the areas of education and supporting historic preservation. I would also like to include more speakers at our Camp meetings. But I need your help as we move forward in 2018!

Bob Amsler
Commander

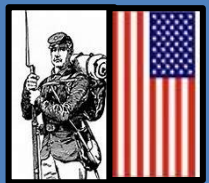
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Editor's Note....

Happy New Year! The Grant Camp had an active and fruitful year in 2017 and more to come in 2018. We thank PCC Mark Coplin for his years of leadership and welcome PCC Bob Amsler back to the Camp leadership role. It's a great time to get involved!

John Palmer
Editor



Last Surviving Union Veteran of St. Louis County Remembered

On Saturday, November 4, members of the Grant Camp gathered at St. Monica's Catholic Cemetery in Creve Coeur, MO to honor August Moreau, the last surviving Union veteran of St. Louis County. The ceremony was coordinated by PDC John Avery and led by Commander Mark Coplin and Chaplain Fr. Vincent Heier. A last soldier marker was placed at the gravesite and dedicated as part of the ceremony, Funds for the marker were provided by the Grant Camp and the SUVCW National Organization.

After the war, Moreau was a long time member of the Grand Army of the Republic as part of Harding Post 107 in St. Louis. He attended Memorial Day ceremonies for over 50 years, missing his first in 1944. He passed away on April 26, 1945 at the age of 99.

The next task associated with the Last Soldier project is to secure approval to place a marker at the grave of John Hansen, last soldier of St. Louis City. He is buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.



August Moreau

Moreau was a Navy Seaman aboard the USS Curlew (Gunboat No. 12), and also served on the USS Grampus, USS Neosho and USS Great Western. All of these ships were part of Admiral David Porter's "brown water" Navy, supporting operations up and down the Mississippi River.



Last Solider Marker at the Grave of August Moreau



College Campuses and the Civil War: The University of Alabama

Over the past three years, Hardscrabble has featured a series of themed articles throughout the year. In 2015, we focused on the Civil War sesquicentennial. In 2016, we commemorated the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 2017, we looked in on the Missouri state monument at Vicksburg in honor of the centennial rededication. As many of

you know, the editor has been involved in a college search over the past year and discovered that a number of college campuses were either influenced or directly impacted by the Civil War. In 2018, the feature



article theme will be on college campuses and the Civil War, beginning with the University of Alabama. Future articles will look at the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University and Vanderbilt University.

Back in August 2017, the editor had an official campus/admissions visit to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Although I had done some research on the university, mainly from the standpoint of academics and college life, I did not know that the school had a storied history, especially during the Civil War.

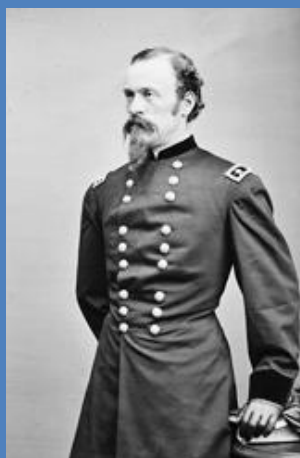
The University of Alabama was established by an act of the U.S. Congress in 1818 authorizing the Alabama Territory to set aside a township for the establishment of a "seminary of learning." Alabama was admitted to the Union in 1820 and the university opened its doors to students on April 18, 1831. Tuscaloosa, the original capital of Alabama, was chosen as the location for the university. In the 1850's, due to student discipline problems, the university president lobbied the state to transform the university into a military school. The transformation was approved and began in the Fall of 1860. After Alabama seceded from the Union on January 11, 1861, the university became a training facility for Confederate officers. It became informally known as the "West Point of the South."

After his victory at the Battle of Nashville, Union Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas and his Army of the Cumberland found themselves with virtually no organized military opposition in the heart of the South. Thomas ordered Brig. Gen. James H. Wilson (who commanded the Cavalry Corps of the Military Division of the Mississippi, but was



The University of Alabama Campus in 1859

attached to Thomas's army) to lead a raid to destroy the arsenal at Selma, Alabama, in conjunction with Maj. Gen. Edward Canby's operations against Mobile. Selma was strategically important as one of the few Confederate military bases remaining in Southern hands. The town contained an arsenal, a naval foundry, gun factories, a powder mill, military warehouses, and railroad repair shops.



Brig. Gen. James Wilson

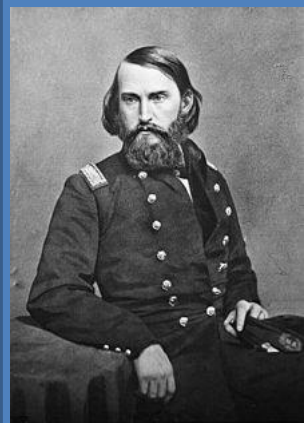
Wilson led approximately 13,500 men in three divisions, commanded by Brig. Gens. Edward M. McCook, Eli Long, and Emory Upton. Each cavalryman was armed with the formidable 7-shot Spencer repeating rifle. His principal opponent was Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, whose Cavalry Corps of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana consisted of about 2,500 troopers organized into two small divisions, led by Brig. Gens. James R. Chalmers and William H. Jackson, two partial brigades under Brig. Gen. Philip D. Roddey and Colonel Edward Crossland, and a few local militia.

Wilson was delayed in crossing the rain-swollen Tennessee River, but he got underway on March 22, 1865, departing from Gravelly Springs in Lauderdale County, Alabama. He sent his forces in three separate columns to mask his intentions and confuse the enemy;



College Campuses and the Civil War: The University of Alabama

Forrest learned very late in the raid that Selma was the primary target. Minor skirmishes occurred at Houston (March 25) and Black Warrior River (March 26), and Wilson's columns rejoined at Jasper on March 27.



Brig. Gen. John Croxton

On March 28, at Elyton, in present-day Birmingham, another skirmish occurred and the Union troopers destroyed the Oxmoor and Irondale iron furnaces. A detachment of General Emory Upton's division destroyed the C.B. Churchill and Company foundry in Columbiana and the Shelby Iron Works in Shelby on March 31, 1865. Wilson also detached a 1,500 man brigade under Brig. Gen. John T. Croxton and sent

them south and west to burn the Roupes Valley Ironworks at Tannehill and Bibb Naval Furnace at Brierfield on March 31. They then set their sights on the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

On April 3, 1865, Union troops met University of Alabama cadets at River Hill, at a bridge over the Black Warrior River. In a 1990 article on the subject, Clark Center, former Curator of the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, recounted the decision facing the group:

"As the Corps waited in position, President Garland held a conference with Commandant Murfee and Captain James S. Carpenter, a Confederate officer. Carpenter informed Garland and Murfee of the overwhelming odds facing the small force of three hundred boys. Not only were the cadets outnumbered, but the Federal troops were armed with repeating rifles. And to rub salt into the wound, the Corps' own field pieces, captured before they could be brought into play, were now trained on the bridge and its approaches from the Northport side. Garland made his decision. Unwilling to commit the Corps to useless sacrifice, he marched the boys back to the campus. Once there, they quickly gathered their overcoats, blankets, and haversacks, which they filled with hard-tack from the commissary stores, and fell back into ranks. By two o'clock in the morning the Corps and many of the faculty were marching east along the Huntsville Road, away from Tuscaloosa and the University"

Not all the faculty left, however. The next day, when Colonel Thomas M. Johnston and the 2nd Michigan Cavalry arrived on campus, they were met by Andre Deloffre, a Frenchman who taught French and Spanish, and William Wyman, who taught Latin and Greek. Deloffre, who served as the University librarian, was reportedly the one who begged Johnston not to destroy the rotunda, which housed some 7,000 volumes, in addition to the school's natural history collection. Johnston relented, at least enough to send a messenger to Croxton, asking what he might do. But the reply wasn't good. Croxton had no choice: all public buildings must be destroyed. On April 4, 1865, the University of Alabama campus was in flames.

So one might ask: Did anything survive? The answer is yes. Seven buildings survived the damage; four of which still stand today. These include:

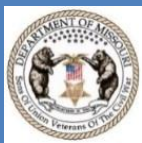
- The guardhouse, now known as the Roundhouse
- Gorgas House, located on the Quad
- The President's Mansion
- The old observatory, now known as Maxwell Hall

There are also historic markers located across campus that mark the locations of key buildings that were lost in the destruction of the campus.

The campus re-opened in 1871 and shortly thereafter, dropped its status as a military school. In 1892, the university opened its doors to women. The university continued to grow during the first half of the 20th century and was in the spotlight again on June 11, 1963 when Governor George Wallace attempted to block African American students from entering. Today, it is a diverse campus with over 37,000 students, with 55% of the student body hailing from states other than Alabama.



**Two UA Buildings that Survived and Still Stand Today:
President's Mansion (L) and Roundhouse (R)**



Fall Department Meeting Highlights

The Fall Department business meeting was held on Saturday, October 14 at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. A number of topics and/or issues were discussed, including:

- Positive feedback from CinC Mark Day on the Missouri Unionist.
- Increasing participation in the JROTC/ROTC program across the Department. The National ROTC coordinator reported that 57 medals were distributed to Missouri/Arkansas, making our Department the fifth most active in the SUVCW.
- Sponsorship of the American History Essay Competition. The proposal on the table is for the Department to provide a \$150 award for the best essay in the 19th century category between the War of 1812 and Reconstruction.
- Report of Vicksburg monument re-dedication merchandise sold at the National Encampment including 4 coins and no ribbons.
- Discussion about next steps in working with Vicksburg National Military Park focusing on repairing/replacing damaged Missouri regimental markers around the park.
- Appointment of By-Laws and Awards committees for the 2017-2018 administrative year.

- Department of Missouri proposal to host the 2020 National Encampment. It turns out that National Encampment Site Committee intends to award the 2020 Encampment to The Department of Georgia & South Carolina to be held at Charleston, SC. If the Department of Missouri is still interested in hosting, it looks like the next opportunity will be 2021.
- Resolution from U.S. Grant Camp 68 requesting National Encampment site selection procedures including the following: (1) documented deadline for all applications; (2) a statement that no decision will be made prior to the documented deadline; (3) a vote by members of the National Encampment Site committee be taken on the proposals submitted; and (4) votes made available to proposing Departments along with a debrief on the selection. Resolution was passed by the Department for presentation to the National organization.
- Discussion on the status of the 501c3 tax determination for the National organization and the rejection of the application for subordinate organizations.

After the meeting, a number of attendees retired to a favorite Mexican restaurant in Jefferson City for food and fellowship.



Good Food and Good Company Rule the Night at Grant Camp Christmas Party

The annual Grant Camp Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 6 at Trattoria Toscana in Crestwood, MO. Over 20 Camp members and guests enjoyed a festive evening of fellowship and Holiday cheer.

In addition to dinner, the newly elected 2018 officers were installed by PCinC Don Palmer. Past Camp Commander Mark Coplin was thanked for his years of dedicated service leading the Camp.



U.S. Grant Camp officers for 2018 include:

- Bob Amsler, PCC – Commander
- Sumner Hunnewell – Senior Vice Commander
- Robert Aubuchon, PCC – Junior Vice Commander
- Walt Busch, PDC – Secretary/Treasurer
- Mike Hudson – Council
- Bob Petrovic, PDC – Council
- Jim Stebbings – Council
- Fr. Vincent Heier – Chaplain
- Martin Aubuchon, PDC – Patriotic Instructor

PCinC Don Palmer Installing 2018 Officers



Grant Camp Participates in Annual St. Louis Veteran's Day Parade

On Saturday, November 11, PCC Bob Aubuchon represented the Grant Camp at the 34th annual St. Louis Veteran's Day parade to mark the annual observance of Veteran's Day. The parade kicked off at noon at Veterans Memorial Military Museum on Chestnut St., turned on to 14th St. and made its way to Market St., where it came to an end at Market and 20th St. The parade featured ROTC groups, classic cars, bands, organizations representing veterans of most wars fought by the United States, and a large number of veterans themselves.

The events kicked off near Soldiers Memorial with a 5K run to honor veterans as well as benefit the St. Patrick Center, many of whose clients are veterans. The morning featured a kids dash, music, games, hot chocolate, a photo booth, and fun for the whole family. The parade followed at noon.

This annual observance began in 1926 as Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War I. A congressional

act in 1954 changed the scope of Armistice Day to honor all veterans, and hence, became known as Veterans Day.



SUVCW Members from Missouri and Illinois Marching in the St. Louis Veterans Day Parade



U.S. Grant Camp #68 2018 Officers

- Commander – Bob Amsler
- Senior Vice Commander – Sumner Hunnewell
- Junior Vice Commander – Bob Aubuchon
- Secretary/Treasurer – Walter Busch
- Council - Bob Petrovic
- Council - Mike Hudson
- Council - Jim Stebbings
- Patriotic Instructor - Martin Aubuchon
- Chaplain - Fr. Vincent Heier

Membership Inquiries?

Please contact Junior Vice Commander Bob Aubuchon at baubpowder1@gmail.com.



U.S. Grant Camp #68 Meeting Information

- Meeting Dates: 2nd Monday of each month (no meeting in August)
- Meeting Time: 7:00 pm (many members gather for dinner prior to meeting at 6:00 pm)
- Meeting Location: Frailey's Southtown Grill
4329 Butler Hill Rd.
St. Louis, MO



Upcoming Events....

- Jan 8 – Camp Meeting at Frailey’s Grill
- Feb 12 – Camp Meeting at Frailey’s Grill
- Mar 10 – Missouri Department Spring Meeting @ State Capitol, Jefferson City
- Mar 12 – Camp Meeting at Frailey’s Grill
- Mar 25 – Sherman Remembrance Ceremony @ Calvary Cemetery
- Apr 9 – Camp Meeting at Frailey’s Grill
- Apr 14 – Lincoln Tomb Observance @ Springfield, IL
- May 5 – 56th USCT Remembrance @ Jefferson Barracks
- May 14 – Camp Meeting at Frailey’s Grill

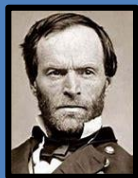


Welcome New Member!

The Brothers of U.S Grant Camp #68 would like to welcome **Cummings “Neil” Cantwell** from St. Louis, MO as a new member of the Camp! Brother Cantwell derives his membership from his ancestor, John Kilby Cummings, an Irishman, who mustered into the 5th Missouri Infantry US, a 3 month enlistment unit, in March of 1861. The unit was formed by Congressman Frank Blair and other Union activists, and was composed mainly of Germans.

The 5th Missouri was assigned to Col. Franz Sigel and moved to counter the pro-Confederate State Guard in southern Missouri. They were involved in actions at Neosho and Carthage, but were forced to retreat from both. Later, they joined Gen. Nathaniel Lyon’s force and participated in the Battle of Wilson’s Creek. After the Union defeat, the 5th Missouri retreated back to St. Louis and was mustered out in late August/early September 1861.

Cummings later joined the 20th Enrolled Missouri Militia and served as a Lieutenant Colonel. After the war, he became an entrepreneur, owning the St. Louis Glass Works. He was also involved with the GAR as a member of Frank Blair Post #1 in St. Louis. Cummings passed away in 1894 at the age of 62.



Grant Camp to Coordinate Annual Sherman Remembrance

It was previously reported that William T. Sherman Camp 65 in St. Louis, the oldest active Camp in Missouri, made its intentions known that it will be surrendering their charter. As such, U.S. Grant Camp 68, the sole remaining Camp in the St. Louis area, will take over as coordinator of the annual Sherman Remembrance program at Calvary Cemetery.

The Sherman Remembrance has been coordinated by the Sherman Camp, with support from the 4th Military District SVR, for many years. The event was typically held near the end of February in connection with Sherman’s birthday. However, at the November Camp meeting, the Grant Camp passed a motion to hold the event towards the end of March to commemorate Sherman’s

appointment as General of the Army in 1869 and to minimize the risk of inclement weather that impacted a number of the events over the years.



Sherman Gravesite

The remembrance program typically consisted of a uniformed procession to the grave site, a formal ceremony, a guest speaker and a musket salute. The Grant Camp intends to maintain the same level of quality administered by the Sherman Camp for so many years.

The 2018 event will be held on Sunday, March 25. More information will be provided as the event nears.