



# HARDSCRABBLE

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



Vol. 2016, Issue #1 – March 2016

## Commander's Corner



Well, they say the third time is the charm. So here I go again – Camp Commander for a third time in my 18 years as a member of the Sons. I want to thank Bob Aubuchon PCC and his leadership over the past couple of years. I would also like to say thank you to our Camp Secretary and Treasurer Walt Busch. He is the true back bone of the camp. I am glad to see new faces at our meetings along with our tried and true members who have been part of this camp since day one. I look forward to seeing this camp continue to grow and be one of the leading camps in the Department of Missouri.

*Mark Coplin*  
Commander

## Inside this Issue....

" Missouri Monument.....	1
" 150 Years Ago in St. Louis.....	2
" New Officers Installed.....	5
" Department Spring Meeting.....	5
" Upcoming Events.....	6
" Sherman's Birthday.....	7
" Auxiliary News.....	7

## Editor's Note....

We have another Sesquicentennial to celebrate in 2016 . the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic. The issues in 2016 will be dedicated to observing this milestone. Enjoy!

*John Palmer*  
Council Member & Editor



# Victory! Restoration of Missouri State Monument at Vicksburg Begins

The project undertaken by the Department of Missouri to obtain the necessary funding to restore the Missouri State Monument at Vicksburg National Military Park has been a major roller coaster ride. In 2015, the Department made the right connections in the Missouri state legislature and the \$375,000 needed to restore the monument was included in the fiscal 2016 budget. Unfortunately, earlier this year, the Department of Natural Resources put a block on the funds as the head of the department believed that this project was not an appropriate use of these funds. The options presented were either to take legal action or work with the legislature to find a more appropriate resource in the fiscal 2017 budget.

But in early February, Commander Coplin, who also serves on the Department committee working the project, was contacted by Vicksburg and notified that the Missouri monument was elevated in priority and would receive the funds necessary to restore the monument through the National Park Service. It is not clear if the Department of



**Missouri State Monument Undergoing Restoration at Vicksburg National Military Park**

Missouri efforts in trying to secure state funding helped elevate the Missouri monument in priority, but either way, it is still a victory for Missouri!

Restoration efforts began in mid-February and were expected to conclude by the end of March. The next step will be to plan the re-dedication event. Although not formally decided, the leading candidate for a date is Memorial Day weekend

2017. The original dedication was on October 17, 1917.



## *The Grand Army of the Republic in St. Louis - A Solid Partnership*

In early 1866, the United States of America - now securely one nation again - was waking to the reality of recovery from war, and this had been a much different war. In previous conflicts, the care of the veteran warrior was the province of the family or the community. Soldiers then were friends, relatives and neighbors who went off to fight until the next planting or harvest. It was a community adventure and their fighting unit had a community flavor.

By the end of the Civil War, units had become less homogeneous. Men from different communities and even different states were forced together by the call to duty where new friendships and lasting trust were forged. With the advances in the care and movement of the wounded, many who would have surely died in earlier wars returned home to be cared for by a community structure weary from a protracted war and now also faced with the needs of widows and orphans. Veterans needed jobs, including a whole new group of veterans, the colored soldier and his entire, newly freed, family. It was often more than the fragile fabric of communities could bear.

State and federal leaders from President Lincoln down had promised to care for those who have borne the burden, his widows and orphans, but they had little knowledge of how to accomplish the task. There was also little political pressure to see that the promises were kept. But probably the most profound emotion was emptiness. Men who had lived together, fought together, foraged together and survived, had developed an unique bond that could not be broken. As time went by, the memories of the filthy and vile environment of camp life began to be remembered less harshly and eventually fondly. The horror and gore of battle lifted with the smoke and smell of burnt black powder and was replaced with the personal rain of tears for the departed comrades. Friendships forged in battle survived the separation and the warriors missed the warmth of trusting companionship that had asked only total and absolute commitment.

With that as background, groups of men began joining together - first for camaraderie and then for political power. Emerging most powerful among the various organizations would be the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), which by 1890 would number 409,489 veterans of the War of the Rebellion.

Founded in Decatur, Illinois on April 6, 1866 by Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or the Revenue Cutter Service who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865. The community level organization was called a Post and each was numbered consecutively within each department. Most Posts also had a name and the rules for naming Posts included the requirement that the honored person be deceased and that no two Posts within the same Department could have the same name. The Departments generally consisted of the Posts within a state and, at the national level, the organization was operated by the elected Commandery-in-Chief.

Records at the Missouri Historical Society Archives show that the Missouri Department of the GAR existed from 1883 to 1943. During this period, there were 11 posts located in the city of St. Louis. These posts, along with availability of records, are shown in the table below.

Post Number	Post Name	Records Availability
1	Frank Blair	Yes
2	General Lyon	Yes
13	Col. Hassendeubel	Yes
107	Harry P. Harding	Yes
131	Ransom	Yes
193	Julius P. Garesche	Yes
301	Capt. Charles Denmy	No
304	John A. Logan	Yes
343	Col. Shaw	No
444	Elwood Miller	No
496	Col. Meumann	No



## The Grand Army of the Republic in St. Louis – A Solid Partnership

The following are some interesting facts about these posts obtained from surviving records.

### Frank P. Blair Post No 1

The Blair Post was chartered on December 1, 1879 and was subsequently mustered on January 8, 1880. The post was headquartered at 1708 Market St., the current location of the Main Office of the U.S. Postal Service in St. Louis, and met every first and third Monday evenings each month. The Blair Post had a number of prominent St. Louisans as members, including Adolphus Busch, one of the founders of the Anheuser Busch Brewing Company, Gen. John W. Noble, former Secretary of the Interior (1889-1893), Henry F. Kiel, father of future St. Louis mayor Henry W. Kiel, and Leo Rassieur, Commander-in-Chief of the GAR (1900-1901). Other interesting facts from the Blair Post include a claim that it was the first organization in St. Louis to observe Lincoln's birthday (February 12) on an annual basis and the first to perform service-book ceremonies at Jefferson Barracks. Also, in mustering over 1400 members between 1880 and 1905, was the largest post in Missouri. Several other posts in St. Louis were chartered from the rolls of the Blair Post. It also claimed to have the oldest member of the GAR (William Haynes, also a War of 1812 veteran, died in 1899 at the age of 112) and one of the youngest GAR members (Nick Karr, enlisted on Aug. 7, 1862 at the age of 11). It was also noted that the post was presented with the XVII Army Corps Headquarters flag by the widow of Gen. Frank Blair. Some of the surviving records of the Blair Post include a variety of post publications, correspondence, rosters, by-laws, financial records and lists of deceased members.



Noble

Busch

Rassieur

### Gen. Lyon Post No. 2

The Lyon Post met at a location on 13<sup>th</sup> St. and Franklin Ave. in St. Louis every third Monday of each month. The post was named after Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, who played a major role in keeping Missouri in the Union, and who was killed at the Battle of Wilson's Creek in August 1861. The original structure no longer exists and was located where the Edward Jones Dome is currently located. It was chartered in October 1884. In addition to the charter application, a post roster from 1889 still exists.

### Col. Hassendeubel Post No. 13

The Hassendeubel Post met at South St. Louis Turner Hall at 10<sup>th</sup> and Carroll Streets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The structure still exists and currently houses condominiums. The post was named after Maj. Franz Hassendeubel, of the 17<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry, also known as "the Turner Rifles". Who was killed during the Vicksburg Campaign in June 1863. The post consisted of a significant number of veterans of the 17<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry, including many of the German-Americans who were fierce Unionists. Some records still exist at both the Missouri Historical Society Archives in St. Louis and the GAR Museum and Library in Philadelphia, PA, including post rosters from 1890 and 1892.



Present Day Photo of South St. Louis Turner Hall

### Harry P. Harding Post No. 107

The Harding Post met at a location at the northwest corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Angelrod Streets every second and fourth Friday of each month. One of the prominent members of the Harding Post was Mathias Hermann, founder of the Math Hermann Funeral Home on Redman Ave., which is still in operation today. A limited number of records exist, including a post roster from 1901 located at the Missouri Historical Society Archives.



## The Grand Army of the Republic in St. Louis – A Solid Partnership

### Ransom Post No. 131

The Ransom Post met at a location at the northwest corner of Garrison Ave. and Olive St. every second and fourth Saturday of each month. The post was named after Gen. Thomas E. G. Ransom, who commanded a brigade under McPherson's XVII Corps, and who died of wounds received at the Battle of Sabine Cross Roads in April 1864. One of the most prominent members of the Ransom Post was Gen. William T. Sherman. A variety of post records exist and are located at the Missouri Historical Society Archives. Also, a eulogy of Gen. Ransom presented by Gen. Sherman to the post membership on June 20, 1884 is located on the MOLLUS website.



Gen. W. T. Sherman

### Julius P. Garesche Post No. 193

The Garesche Post was named after Lt. Col. Julius P. Garesche, Chief of Staff to Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans, who was killed at the Battle of Stones River in December 1862. This post was apparently short lived. It was chartered after 1884, but apparently surrendered its charter in 1892. The surrendered charter exists at the Missouri Historical Society.

### Capt. Charles Denny Post No. 301

The Denny Post has very little information available. It was chartered after 1890 and apparently surrendered its charter in 1900. As of this date, no records have been found.

### John A Logan Post No. 304

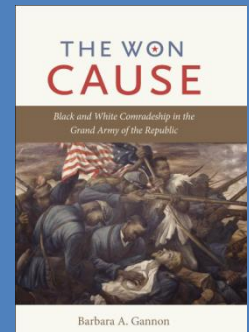
The Logan Post was named after Gen. John A. Logan, who commanded the XV Corps during the Civil War. After the war, he served as Commander-in-Chief of the GAR and as a U.S. Senator. The Logan Post was chartered after 1890 and apparently surrendered its charter in 1903. Some post records exist at the Missouri Historical Society Archives.

### Col. Shaw Post No. 343

The Shaw Post met at a location at the southwest corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Pine Streets every second Friday and fourth Tuesday of each month. The post was named after Col. Robert Gould Shaw, who commanded the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, the first all-black regiment in the Union Army. Col. Shaw was killed during the assault on Fort Wagner, SC in July 1863. The Shaw Post was the only all-black post in St. Louis. The Shaw Post was highlighted in the book *The Won Cause: Black and White Comradeship in the Grand Army of the Republic* authored by Barbara A. Gannon. One of the notable members of the Shaw Post was Dr. George Wellington Bryant. Dr. Bryant was born a slave, and served in the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry. After the war, he studied in Heidelberg, Germany and London, England, eventually earning a doctorate in medicine. At present, no other records of the Shaw Post have been found.



Dr. G. W. Bryant



"The Won Cause"

### Elwood Miller Post No. 444

The Miller Post has very little information available. It was chartered after 1890 and apparently surrendered its charter in 1902. As of this date, no records have been found.

### Col. Meumann Post No. 496

The Meumann Post met at 2726 Arsenal St. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The post was named after Col. Theodore Meumann, who commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Infantry regiment. The post was still active in 1905, but no other records have been found.

This article was made possible through the outstanding research on Missouri's GAR Posts conducted by U.S. Grant Camp Secretary Treasurer Walt Busch, PDC.



## *Festivity, Education and Business Converge at Grant Camp Christmas Party*

The annual Grant Camp Christmas Party was held on December 8 at Greenbriar Hills Country Club in Kirkwood, MO. A total of 20 Camp and Auxiliary members, including our newest member Elliott Hoskins, and guests enjoyed a festive evening of fellowship and Holiday cheer.



**Grant Camp Members Gather Around the Tree**

In addition to dinner and officers installation, members and guests were treated to an educational program provided by our own Chaplain Fr. Vincent Heier on %Grant as Portrayed by Hollywood+ as a number of Camp members were not able to attend his program at White Haven back last July.

### **U.S. Grant Camp officers for 2016 include:**

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



## *Spring Department Meeting Highlights*

The Spring Department business meeting was held on March 12 at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. There was a full agenda for the meeting that covered a number of topics. Per the normal business agenda, officers and committee chairman provided reports. In addition, a number of old business and new business topics were covered. These included:

- ~ Development of a Policy & Procedures Manual for the Department, to include items such as awards information, mourning periods, etc.
- ~ Review updated By Laws that extracted the awards information. These will need to be reviewed again prior to submittal to Camps.
- ~ A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Vicksburg Monument project. An update was provided regarding the funding situation, which was positive now that the National Park Service has provided the necessary funds for restoration. The discussion now turned to a date for the re-dedications ceremony. The leading candidate appeared to be Memorial Day weekend 2017; however, there was some interest in Labor Day weekend 2017. The committee was tasked with

discussing options with the staff at Vicksburg National Military Park.

- ~ In honor our recently departed Brother Wayne Sampson, a motion was made and passed to change the name of the Show Me Spirit Award to the Wayne Sampson Show Me Spirit Award.
- ~ A discussion was held relative to the proposed House Bill 2476, also known as the Historic Preservation Bill.
- ~ An update was provided regarding the Department of Missouri interest in hosting the 2019 National Encampment in Branson, MO. The 2017 Encampment will be held in Lansing, MI and the 2018 Encampment in Boston, MA.
- ~ An update was provided on plans for the 2016 Department Encampment, which will be held at the Drury Inn in Fenton, MO. National Council member Don Shaw will be attending on behalf of the CinC.
- ~ A discussion was held on the location for the 2017 Missouri Department Encampment, and a motion was passed to hold it in Branson, MO.

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

## Upcoming Events....

- ~ Apr 11 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ Apr 16 . Lincoln Tomb Ceremony at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, IL
- ~ May 9 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ May 30 . Memorial Day Ceremonies at Jefferson Barracks
- ~ Jun 4 . Missouri Department Encampment at Drury Inn, Fenton, MO
- ~ Jun 13 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ Jul 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  
ramslers@worldnet.att.net

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



## U.S. Grant Camp #68 2016 Officers

Commander .	Mark Coplin
Senior Vice Commander .	Mike Hudson
Junior Vice Commander .	Bob Aubuchon
Secretary/Treasurer .	Walter Busch
Council -	John Palmer
Council -	John Avery
Council -	Bob Petrovic
Patriotic Instructor -	Martin Aubuchon
Chaplain -	Fr. Vincent Heier

### Membership Inquiries?

Please contact Junior Vice Commander Bob Aubuchon at [baubpowder1@gmail.com](mailto:baubpowder1@gmail.com).

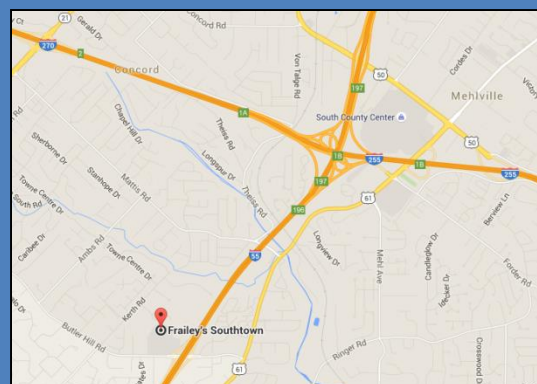


## U.S. Grant Camp #68 Meeting Information

Meeting Dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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





## Grant Camp Helps Commemorate Sherman Birthday at Calvary Cemetery

On February 28, several members of U.S. Grant Camp #68 attended the ceremonies commemorating the birth of Gen. William T. Sherman at Calvary Cemetery. This annual observance, coordinated annually by William T. Sherman Camp #65, typically includes an ordered march to the Sherman gravesite, a guest speaker and musket and artillery salutes. The guest speaker for the event was Timothy S. Good, superintendent at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. Following the ceremony, Camp members and other participants joined in fellowship at Ferguson Brewing Company for a meal.

Even though Gen. Sherman was originally from Lancaster, Ohio, business opportunities brought him to St. Louis in 1861. Sherman became president of St. Louis Railroad, a street car company, a position he would hold for only several months. After the firing on Fort Sumter in April 1861, Sherman offered himself for military service.

After the war, he lived most of his life in New York City. However, he kept his ties to St. Louis, becoming a member of Ransom Post 131 of the GAR. He died on February 14, 1891 at the age of 71. Although he was born a Presbyterian, he married into a devout Catholic family and was re-baptized. As such, he was buried at Calvary Catholic Cemetery.



Sherman Birthday Ceremonies at Calvary Cemetery



## News from the Auxiliary

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

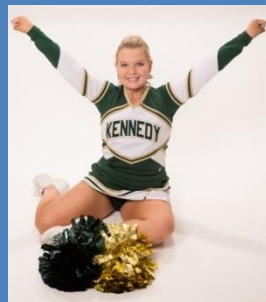


Members of the Julia Dent Grant Auxiliary attended the annual Grant Camp Christmas Party in December. Also, Auxiliary officers for 2016 were elected and installed.

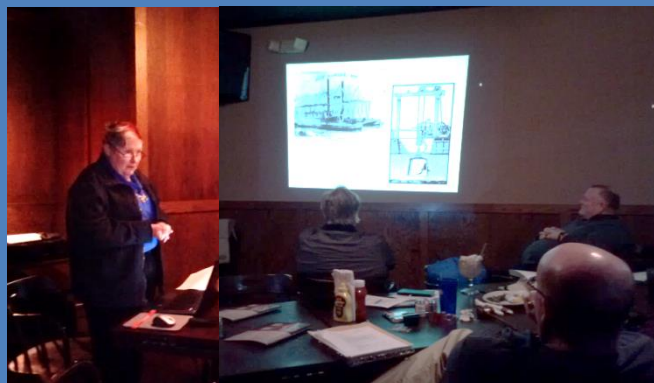
### Auxiliary officers for 2016 include:

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

In March, PAP Cher Petrovic presented a program on James B. Eads at the March meeting of the U.S. Grant Camp/Julia Dent Grant Auxiliary. Sister Petrovic's program focused on Eads' contributions to the Union effort during the Civil War and highlighted his major accomplishments as a civil engineer. Her program was well received by those in attendance from both the Grant Camp and the Julia Dent Grant Auxiliary (not to mention the staff at Frailey's who peeked in the room!).



In February, Auxiliary Chaplain Sarah Palmer received her varsity letter for cheerleading at John F. Kennedy High School. She is only a freshman! As was noted in the previous issue, Sister Palmer also has a role in the Allied Orders of the GAR Central Region Association as Guide and is looking forward to Nashville.



Cher Petrovic Presenting Her Program on James Eads