



# HARDSCRABBLE

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



Vol. 2015, Issue #2 – May 2015

## Commander's Corner



Call to duty Ulysses S. Grant Camp members! Memorial Day ceremony is May 25, 2015 10:00 am. Assemble by 9:30 am. This is a great event. The crowds have been increasing the last 2 years. Last year about 75 spectators. That's GREAT!. This is a chance to present a good showing for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Please attend and interact with the crowd. Some ask a lot of questions. Its great! Also the Department Encampment at Jefferson City is on June 6, 2015 at 9:00 am. I'll be there. Attend the meeting and see the Missouri Capital. I hope to see a lot of you there at both events.

*Bob Aubuchon*  
Commander

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## Editor's Note....

In recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the theme of this issue will be on events commemorating this dark period in U.S. history. Hope you enjoy!

*John Palmer*  
Senior Vice Commander & Editor



## Lincoln Funeral Re-enactment Takes Springfield, Illinois Back to 1865

Springfield, Illinois was taken back 150 years with the re-enactment of the Lincoln Funeral. Over the first weekend in May, the Lincoln Funeral re-enactment provided visitors with a full slate of entertainment and educational enrichment. Several Grant Camp members, including Camp Commander Bob Aubuchon, Senior Vice Commander John Palmer, PDC Marty Aubuchon, PDC Bob Petrovic, PCC Bob Amsler, PDC John Avery and PCinC Don Pallmer, attended one or more of the events over the course of the weekend.

On Saturday, May 2, the main event focused on the arrival of Lincoln's arrival at the train station and the movement of his coffin to downtown Springfield. After the opening ceremony, an all night vigil with the hearse and coffin took place. In addition, a variety of lectures, and several Civil War encampments were available. During the evening, a concert was provided by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

On Sunday, May 3, the funeral procession from downtown Springfield to Oak Ridge Cemetery took place.



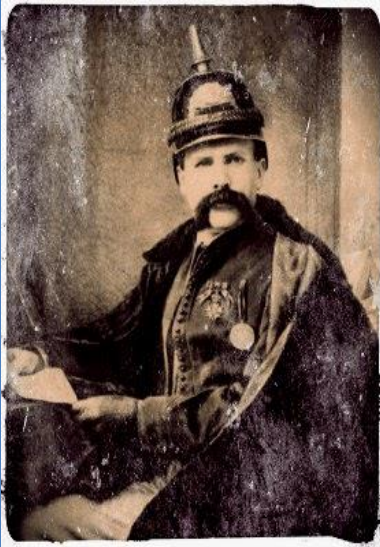
**PDC John Avery (R) on board the replica of Lincoln's hearse on its way to Oak Ridge Cemetery**

The procession included military and civilian re-enactors, and our own PDC Avery, who portrayed Frank T. Sands, Abraham Lincoln's undertaker, aboard the hearse. At the cemetery, there were a number of speeches by a variety of dignitaries, one of which was past SUVCW National Chaplain Jerry Kowalski. At the conclusion of the program, the coffin was placed in the original receiving vault - just as it happened 150 years ago.



## Was a St. Louisan Involved in the Lincoln Assassination?

Was there a St. Louis connection to the Lincoln Assassination? For a short period of time, there was.



**Francis Tumblety**

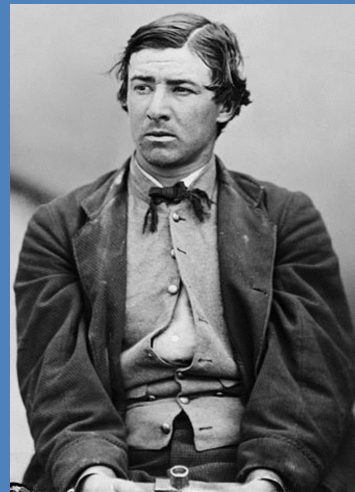
Francis Tumblety was an Irish-American medical imposter who earned a small fortune posing as an Indian Herb doctor throughout the United States and Canada. He was an eccentric self promoter and was often in trouble with the law. According to the 1850 U.S. Census, Tumblety was born in Ireland in 1830 and emigrated to Rochester, NY several years after his birth with his parents and 10 brothers and sisters.

Tumblety left home at age 17 and set himself up in business, initially in Detroit. He claimed to be a great physician, but was widely perceived as a quack. He sold patent medicines, such as Tumblety's Pimple Destroyer and Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills, and gained a reputation for his eccentric, flamboyant clothing, which was frequently of a military nature. According to Tumblety, by 1857 he was practicing medicine in Canada before moving to Washington, D.C., where he claimed to have met future president Abraham Lincoln.



**The Lindell Hotel in St. Louis, a Haven for Confederate Sympathizers During the Civil War**

In 1863, Tumblety came to St. Louis for the first time and took rooms at the Lindell Hotel. The Lindell Hotel was also famous for hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> Grand Army of the Republic National Encampment in 1887. Federal tax records showed that he eventually established residence in St. Louis with a home at 50 Olive St. As he recounted in letters, his flamboyant ways did not appeal to those in St. Louis and he claimed to have been arrested in both the city and in Carondelet, an independent city at that time, for putting on airs and being caught in quasi-military dress. Regardless of his claims, Tumblety most likely caused trouble during these troubled times in St. Louis because of his apparent southern sympathies. In early 1865, he was arrested on the serious charge of what amounted to an early case of biological terrorism. Federal officers had him arrested after he was allegedly involved in a plot to infect blankets, which were to be shipped to Union troops, with yellow fever. The whole thing did turn out to be a case of mistaken identity (an alias of Tumblety's was remarkably close to a real doctor involved) but it's likely that he would not have been suspected if not for some actions on his part. Tumblety was taken to Washington, D.C. and imprisoned until the confusion over the plot could be cleared up. He was later released and returned to St. Louis.



**David Herold, Lincoln Assassination Conspirator Hanged in July 1865**

The news of President Lincoln's death from an assassin's bullet on April 15, 1865 spread quickly as did the manhunt for his killers. On May 5, 1865, Tumblety was arrested in St. Louis and taken to Washington, D.C. on orders of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton for alleged complicity in the Abraham Lincoln assassination, simply because he was an acquaintance of David Herold, who was captured with John

Wilkes Booth. There was nothing to tie him to the plot, however, and Tumblety was released without charge on May 30.



## Was a St. Louisan Involved in the Lincoln Assassination?

The story for Francis Tumblety doesn't end there as he had other issues, Tumblety appeared to revel in denouncing all women, but reserved a special hatred for prostitutes; he blamed his misogyny on a failed marriage to a prostitute. In Washington, D.C., he displayed a collection of uteruses preserved in jars, which he kept in his study, to his guests at an all-male dinner party, and proudly boasted that they came from "every class of woman". Tumblety visited Europe several times, including Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany, and France. He claimed to have been introduced to Charles Dickens and King William and to have provided treatment to Louis Napoleon, for which he was awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

The London Metropolitan Police arrested Tumblety on November 7, 1888 on charges of "gross indecency", apparently for having been caught engaging in a homosexual encounter, which was illegal at the time. While awaiting trial on this charge, and knowing that Scotland Yard was increasingly interested in him with regard to a recent murder spree in the Whitechapel area of London, he fled England for France on November 20 under the false name of *Frank Townsend*, and on November 24, 1888 he returned to the United States. Already notorious in the United States for his self-promotion and previous brushes with the law, Tumblety's arrest in London was reported in *The New York Times* as being connected to the Jack-the-Ripper murders. American newspaper reports that Scotland Yard tried to extradite him have not been confirmed by research in the contemporary British press or the London police files. However, English police inspector Walter Andrews travelled to the United States, perhaps partly to trace Tumblety. The New York City Police, who had him under surveillance, said "there is no proof of his complicity in the Whitechapel murders, and the crime for which he is under bond in London is not extraditable". Tumblety published a self-promoting pamphlet titled *Dr. Francis Tumblety – Sketch of the Life of the Gifted, Eccentric and World Famed Physician*, in which he attacked the rumors in the press but omitted any mention of his criminal charges and arrest.

Tumblety was mentioned as a Ripper suspect by former Detective Chief Inspector John George Littlechild of the Metropolitan Police Service in a letter to journalist and author George R. Sims, dated September 23, 1913,

which was discovered by Evans and Gainey for sale in an antique bookshop in Richmond-upon-Thames. Littlechild suspected Tumblety because of his extreme misogyny and his previous criminal record. Other Ripperologists have dismissed Tumblety as a plausible Ripper suspect, citing the fact that his appearance and age did not match the description of any of the men that were seen with the murder victims, and that his relatively tall height of at least 5 feet 10 inches and enormous moustache would have made him particularly conspicuous. However, a contemporary interview describes Tumblety as having a much smaller moustache at the time of the Whitechapel murders than is seen in the well known photograph of him. Tumblety was named as the most likely Ripper suspect by a professional criminal profiler and a forensic handwriting analyst in the "Jack the Ripper" episode of History Channel's "Mysteryquest".



The "Jack-the-Ripper" Murders Created a Sensation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

After his ordeals in England and New York City, Tumblety ended up in St. Louis. He also traveled for a time, avoiding Washington, but frequently visiting Baltimore, New Orleans and St. Louis. He continued to live in hotels and established no permanent residence in any of the cities. In April 1903, Tumblety checked himself into St. John's Hospital and Dispensary at 23rd and Locust Streets in St. Louis. The hospital, which was then located in the old Catlin-Beach-Barney Mansion, provided care for indigents, which is how Tumblety was presenting himself at this time. The hospital is still in operation today as St. John's Mercy Medical Center, located at Interstate 64 and Ballas Road. Tumblety remained at St. John's until his death from heart failure at age 73 on May 28, 1903. He is buried next to his parents at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester, NY.



## *Grant Camp Present at 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Tomb Observance*

Members of U.S. Grant Camp #68 attended the 59<sup>th</sup> annual Lincoln Tomb observance on April 11 at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL. This year, the event commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's death. Grant Camp attendees included Camp Commander Bob Aubuchon, Senior Vice Commander John Palmer, PCinC Don Palmer, PDC Bob Petrovic, PDC Marty Aubuchon, PDC John Avery and PCC Bob Amsler.

The event included speeches by SUVCW and MOLLUS leadership, including SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell, who made his way to Springfield via the sesquicentennial events at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The event also included musical interludes provided by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band. Wreaths were presented by a large number of Allied Order organizations. Camp Commander Bob Aubuchon presented the wreath for U.S. Grant Camp #68.

A formal luncheon was held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel following the ceremony. Most of the Grant Camp members opted instead for a social gathering along with National Council Member Brian Pierson at Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery. The day ended with a visit to the GAR museum operated by the Woman's Relief Corps



**Grant Camp Members at Lincoln's Tomb**



## *Missouri State Monument Restoration Project Takes Major Step Forward*

In 2014, the Department of Missouri established a project to restore and ultimately re-dedicate the Missouri state monument at Vicksburg National Military Park. Grant Camp members PCinC Don Palmer and PCC Mark Coplin serve on the committee, with PCinC Palmer serving as chairman. The committee was appointed by Department Commander Glen Alsop. The Missouri monument, purchased by the state of Missouri, was originally dedicated in October 1917.

A survey of the monument conducted by the National Park Service in 2013 revealed that approximately \$375,000 would be needed for the stone and metal work necessary to restore the monument to good condition. The Department of Missouri, inspired by the success of the Department of Iowa in their monument restoration and re-dedication project, developed a plan to obtain state funding to cover restoration costs. But this proved to be easier said than done. Initial attempts by PCC Coplin and fellow committee member PDC Larry Dietzel to contact state legislators proved to be fruitless and frustrating. In addition, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon claimed that there were higher funding priorities, including a \$75 million renovation package for the State Capitol building in Jefferson City.



Since the Missouri state monument at Vicksburg honors Missourians who fought in both Union and Confederate forces, the Missouri Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans was contacted to enlist their support. Feedback has generally been positive, but support to date has been limited.

But the tide began to turn in February 2015 with an article that appeared in the Columbia Tribune describing the project and the plight of the Department of Missouri to obtain the necessary funds from the state. In raising awareness of the project, a key contact was made on the Appropriations Committee, Sen. Kurt Schaefer (R-Columbia). Thanks to Sen. Schaefer, the proposed 2016 state budget contains a \$375,000 earmark in the Department of Natural Resources budget for the monument restoration project. The budget passed both the House and Senate and was sent to Gov. Nixon on April 23.

## Upcoming Events....

- ~ May 25. Memorial Day activities at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery
- ~ May 30 . Decoration Day Program at Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis
- ~ **Jun 6 – 20<sup>th</sup> Missouri Dept. Encampment, State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO**
- ~ Jun 8 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ Jun 13 . Horace Locke grave dedication at Valhalla Cemetery, St. Louis
- ~ Jul 13 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ Jul 25 . Grant Remembrance program at U.S. Grant Nat'l Historic Site



## Sons of Veterans Reserve Activities



Members of Co. A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry SVR participated in the 59<sup>th</sup> annual Lincoln Tomb ceremonies on April 11, serving as escorts for the wreath presenters at the tomb. This included Capt. Robert Amsler, 1Lt. Marty Aubuchon, Sgt. John Avery and Cpl. Bob Aubuchon. (Photo courtesy of IV Military District)

The unit also participated in the Lincoln funeral re-enactment in Springfield, IL on May 3, marching in the procession from downtown Springfield to Oak Ridge Cemetery. Also in attendance at the Lincoln funeral re-enactment were Maj. Gen. Robert Grim, SVR commander, and Brig. Gen. Henry Shaw, deputy commander, SVR. A number of other SVR units from the IV Military District, as well as re-enactment groups participated in the event.



## News from the Auxiliary

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



Congratulations to PAP Cher Petrovic as she was recently appointed as National Supply Officer for the Auxiliary. The National Supply Officer acts as custodian of National Organization supplies, including dies used to strike badges and medals, maintains an inventory of supplies on hand and fills orders for same as promptly as possible. Watch out Danny Wheeler!

Congratulations also to Auxiliary Chaplain Sarah Palmer as she recently won major awards at the Greater St. Louis Science Fair. Sister Palmer, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at St. John Lutheran School in Ellisville, won scholarship awards from LMI Aerospace and the American Society for Nondestructive Testing. Her project, "To Dwell or Not to Dwell", evaluated household liquids as environmentally friendlier alternatives for industrial liquid penetrant testing. About 1600 projects from the St. Louis metro area were selected to participate in the week-long fair. Only about

200 students in the area receive a scholarship award each year, and Sister Palmer received two!



Sisters of the Julia Dent Grant Auxiliary attended two events in Springfield, IL, including the 59<sup>th</sup> annual Lincoln Tomb ceremonies commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's death, and the Lincoln funeral re-enactment held during the first weekend in May.