



HARDSCRABBLE

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



Vol. 2017, Issue #1 – June 2017

Commander's Corner



It has been a busy year so far. Vicksburg was well attended and successful. I look forward to going back to take my time looking around the battlefield. Earlier this year our camp was approached by Sherman Camp to merge the camps. Walt was so kind to write a letter to Sherman about our stance on maintaining US Grant Camp as our camp name. Have yet to hear back from Sherman with a response to our proposal. Plans are under way for our event at White Haven for our camp's Grant Remembrance Day Event. The theme this year will tie in nicely with our Missouri Monument event that was at Vicksburg. Please keep Brother Mike Hudson and his family in your prayers after the recent passing of his wife Linda.

Mark Coplin
Commander

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Editor's Note....

The Grant Camp has had an active Spring, both in state and out! The highlight had to be the Missouri Monument re-dedication events in Vicksburg, MS. But a lot more is planned for this Summer, so it's not too late to get involved!

John Palmer
Council Member & Editor



Busy Memorial Day Weekend Concludes at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

On May 29, members of the Grant Camp gathered at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery to participate in Memorial Day activities. Prior to the main program coordinated by the Inter-Veterans Memorial Day Committee, Camp members in uniform marched in the procession to the old flag circle where the main program was held. Like last year, the procession of veterans and patriotic organizations was relatively short.

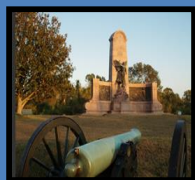
At the conclusion of the main program, a follow-on program was held in the Old Post sections of the cemetery to commemorate the earliest Memorial Day programs held at Jefferson Barracks programs that included participation from both Union and Confederate Civil War veterans.

Members of U.S. Grant Camp #68 of the SUVCW and Sterling Price Camp #145 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, teamed up to honor the 12,000 Union and over 1,000 Confederate veterans buried there. In the Union section, PDC John Avery served as master of ceremonies

and coordinated a program very similar to a GAR commemoration program that was conducted at Vicksburg National Cemetery only two days before. The Jefferson Barracks program also included musket and artillery salutes and playing of Taps. A similar program was conducted in the Confederate section by Sterling Price Camp members Jim England and Ray Cobb. The Civil War-focused program was well attended by visitors to the cemetery.



Artillery Salute fired during the Memorial Day Ceremonies At Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery



Monument Re-dedication at Vicksburg: A Great Weekend for Missouri!

Over three years of work by the Department of Missouri came to a glorious end over Memorial Day weekend with the re-dedication of the Missouri state monument at Vicksburg National Military Park. Over 200 Missourians traveled to Mississippi for this special event. U.S. Grant Camp #68 was well represented at the event with seven members and their families attending.

The festivities began Friday night with a dinner reception hosted by the Friends of Vicksburg and the Vicksburg Chamber of Commerce at the BB Club in downtown Vicksburg. Artifacts from the original dedication were on display and the film of the 1917 Peace Jubilee that included the Missouri monument dedication was played for the attendees. Certificates of appreciation were presented by both the Sons of Union and Sons of Confederate Veterans to the National Park Service and the Friends of Vicksburg for their support of the monument restoration and re-dedication.



Reception for Missourians at the BB Club in Vicksburg

On Saturday, the re-dedication events commenced with a welcome from Park Superintendent Bill Justice. The Colors were presented by a Color Guard consisting of members of both Sons of Union and Sons of Confederate Veterans led by PDC Larry Dietzel. A stirring rendition of the National Anthem was led by Nora Dietzel. The invocation was provided by Rev. Tommy Miller of the Good Shepherd Community Center in Vicksburg,

Bill Justice returned to provide a short history of the Missouri monument and the events leading to the centennial re-dedication. He also thanked the Sons of Union Veterans in Missouri for their role in helping to make this event happen. Marianne Mills of the National

Park Service Southeast Regional Office spoke about the importance of this event and the visibility it has received within the Department of the Interior.

The hereditary groups then spoke from the perspective of descendants of the soldiers who fought here. Sons of Confederate Veterans General Executive Council Member and Past Missouri Division Commander Darrell Maples spoke about the importance of preserving history and not bowing to political correctness in this endeavor. Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Past Commander-in-Chief and Past Missouri Department Commander Don Palmer took a more personal approach and talked about his ancestors who served in the 11th Iowa and 32nd Missouri Infantry Regiments. Both of these regiments were engaged in the Vicksburg Campaign.



PCinC Don Palmer Speaking at Re-dedication

The keynote speaker for the event was retired Brigadier General Parker Hills. Gen. Hills is also a well known historian and published a book entitled *Art of Commemoration*, a review of the historic and artistic importance of all of the state monuments at Vicksburg National Military Park. He talked about the design of the Missouri monument and discussed the artistic inspiration behind each component of the monument. For example, the monument stands 42 feet tall, one foot for each of the 42 Union and Confederate regiments from Missouri. The ships bow is shown navigating its way through troubled waters caused by Civil War. The statue, known as *Spirit of the Republic*, was based on the Hellenistic Greek goddess of victory, Nike.



Monument Re-dedication at Vicksburg: A Great Weekend for Missouri!

U.S. Representative Vicky Hartzler (MO-4th District) then presented greetings from Washington DC and the members of the Missouri congressional delegation. She spoke of her appreciation of American history and specifically, the Civil War. She commended the hereditary groups for their efforts in preserving history, specifically in Missouri, and the National Park Service for their ongoing efforts in providing educational opportunities for all Americans.



Retired Brg. Gen. Parker Hills (L) and U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R) Speak at Re-dedication

Missouri State Representative Warren Love (Osceola . 125th District), who is also a member of Westport Camp #64 in Kansas City, presented greetings from the Missouri legislature. He then followed his remarks with a reading and presentation of a resolution from the Missouri State Senate recognizing the centennial re-dedication of the Missouri state monument at Vicksburg.



Resolution Presented to Bill Justice by MO Rep. Warren Love

The unveiling ceremony, reflective of the unveiling 100 years before, was led by members of the 4th Military District SVR. The unveiling was followed by an artillery salute provided by the Mississippi Army National Guard. The unveiling concluded with a memorable performance of *An American Trilogy*, a medley of Dixie, Battle Hymn of the Republic and a slave spiritual, by Nora Dietzel.



Unveiling Ceremony Led by 4th Military District SVR



Artillery Salute by Mississippi Army National Guard

The ceremonies concluded with a Benediction provided by PDC John Avery. After the ceremonies, members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War convened at Vicksburg National Cemetery to conduct a ceremony for the approximately 260 Union soldiers from Missouri buried there.

It was a great weekend for Missouri! This project was an example of teamwork, both internally in the Department of Missouri and externally with the National Park Service.

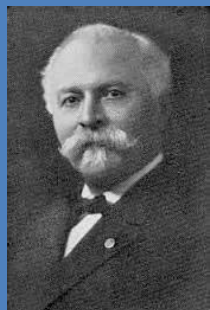


Did You Know?: Missouri Monument at Vicksburg Has Strong St. Louis Roots

In honor of the centennial anniversary of the Missouri State Monument at Vicksburg National Military Park, the feature articles for this year will focus on various aspects of the Missouri monument that may not be commonly known. The first feature article will center on the St. Louis connections associated with the development of the monument and its subsequent dedication. These connections include project leadership, monument design and defining the artistic aspects of the monument.

Leo P. Rassieur

In 1911, Missouri governor Herbert S. Hadley put forward a plan to establish a Missouri state monument at Vicksburg National Military Park. He appointed St. Louis attorney Leo Rassieur as president of the commission to develop and dedicate this monument. In addition to his service as an attorney, Rassieur was also vice president of the St. Louis School Board and president of the St. Louis Gymnastics Society. He was also elected St. Louis Judge of Probate in 1894.



Leo Rassieur

Rassieur's connections to the Civil War were also well known. He enlisted in 30th Regiment of Missouri Infantry, fought in the Trans-Mississippi theater the war, including the battle of Bayou, the Siege of Vicksburg, and assault and capture of Fort Blakely. Rassieur was a Captain by the time 30th was mustered out of service on August 21, 1865.

In the years after the Civil War, Rassieur became an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Missouri. He was a member of Frank P. Blair Post #1 in St. Louis. In 1900, Rassieur was elected to a one year term as the Grand Army of the Republic's National Commander-in-Chief. Rassieur was the only St. Louisan to serve as GAR Commander-in-Chief in the 90-year history of the organization.

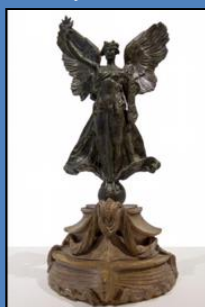
Rassieur brought three key discriminators that were recognized by Governor Hadley: (1) veteran of the Vicksburg Campaign, (2) strong track record of leadership and (3) appreciation for Civil War history. As such, Leo Rassieur was the ideal candidate to lead development of the Missouri monument. He was one of the key speakers at the Missouri monument dedication on October 27, 1917. Rassieur died in 1929 and is buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis.

Harry I. Hellmuth

Harry Hellmuth was born in St. James, MO in 1884. Educated at St. Louis University, he later studied architecture in the atelier of Don Barbar in New York and there earned special honors. He entered the St. Louis office of his brother, George W. Hellmuth in 1900, returning to New York in 1907 where he spent four years, studying with W.T. Partridge, H. VanBuren Magneigle, Albert Sterner as well as York & Sawyer. He returned to St. Louis, becoming the partner of his brother, George. The Hellmuth's strong reputation in the St. Louis area led to the contract to design the Missouri state monument in 1913. Hellmuth would go on to design a number of well known buildings in the St. Louis area, including the Little Flower Catholic Church in Richmond Heights. Harry Hellmuth died in 1963 and is buried at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis. Hellmuth's nephew, George W. Hellmuth, was one of the founders of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassebaum, a major St. Louis-based architectural firm founded in 1955 and is still in existence today.

Victor S. Holm

Victor Holm was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1876. He came to the United States in 1889 and studied at the Art Institute of Chicago under Lorado Taft. He also studied at the Art Students League in New York, and was director of the Fine Arts palace for the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, NY. In 1909, he became an instructor of sculpture in the School of Fine Arts at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. His expertise in bronze sculpting led him to be selected in 1913 to work with architect Harry Hellmuth to produce the Missouri state monument to be placed at Vicksburg National Military Park.



Spirit of the Republic

The centerpiece of the Missouri monument is the bronze statue 'Spirit of the Republic'. This statue is based on the Nike, the Hellenistic Greek goddess of victory. The model developed for the larger bronze statue still exists today and is in the collection of a local St. Louis resident. Its apparent value at auction is about \$46,000.

Holm was also responsible for six other relief portraits sculpted in 1914 and 1915 and placed on the battlefield. Holm continued to be a leading artist in the St. Louis area until his death in 1935.



Branson Hosts Missouri Department Encampment for First Time

The 22nd annual Missouri Department Encampment (since the Department was re-chartered in 1996) was held on June 3 at the Camden Hotel and Conference Center in Branson, MO. This is the first time the Department Encampment has been held in Missouri's famous vacation spot. A total of 20 brothers representing eight Missouri Camps (one in Arkansas) were in attendance, including five from Grant Camp. In addition, National Secretary Jonathan Davis from Ohio represented the National organization at the Encampment.



**PCinC Don Palmer
Reviews Reports**

National Secretary Jonathan Davis, who was representing CinC Don Martin, discussed the recent IRS approval granting the National organization SUVCW a 501c3 status. This, however, did not extend to subordinate organizations, including Camps and Departments. He also discussed the upcoming National Encampment to be held in Lansing, MI from August 10-12.

Reports of officers and committees were provided. Some of the key highlights of these reports included:

- “ New Camp forming in Jefferson City likely to happen. New Camp also forming in Conway, AR, but too early to tell if they will succeed.
- “ Motion passed to continue paying suvcwmo.xxx about \$5 for each domain to continue to maintain web presence.
- “ Vicksburg Monument Committee re-appointed to continue to work with Vicksburg National Military Park to address regimental marker needs.
- “ Motion passed to form a committee and a proposal to host the 2020 National Encampment in St. Louis.
- “ Eads Award Criteria . two proposals were submitted to amend the scoring for the Eads Award for most outstanding Camp(s). Motion passed to adopt the proposal submitted by Senior Vice Commander Dale Crandell.
- “ Motion passed to eliminate Benevolent Fund.
- “ History Day Essay . Motion passed to appoint committee to develop criteria for SUVCW participation and bring to October meeting.
- “ JROTC Outstanding Cadet Competition . motion passed to extend program through 2019, but present the awards at the October meeting.

A lunchtime presentation was provided by Ken Elkins, a ranger at Wilsons Creek National Battlefield. He spoke about different perspectives on the Battle of Wilsons Creek.

A number of awards were presented to the Grant Camp and its members, including:

- “ Eads Award for recognition as an Outstanding Camp.
- “ Blair Award for Most Outstanding Member to PDC Marty Aubuchon. Award was presented to Brother Aubuchon by Department Commander Randal Burd at the June Camp meeting.
- “ Department Commendation was presented to PCinC Don Palmer for his efforts as Chairman of the Vicksburg Monument Committee.



**Department Commander Randal Burd Presents Awards
to Jack Grothe (L) and Cadet Colten Kerr (R)**

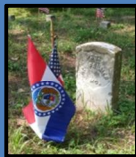
In addition, key awards were presented to the following:

- “ JROTC Outstanding Cadet presented to Colten Kerr from Independence Chrisman High School
- “ 50th Anniversary Award presented to PCC Jack Grothe from Sherman Camp 65.
- “ Meritorious Service Award presented to PCC Doug Roussin from Fletcher Camp 47

As the last order of business, elections for 2017-2018 officers was held. Randal Burd was re-elected Department Commander, PCinC Ed Krieser was elected Secretary/Treasurer and Al Heidbreder was elected to fill the one Council seat up for election.



National Secretary Jon Davis Installs 2017-2018 Officers



Memorial Day Weekend Includes Ceremony Honoring Missourians Buried at Vicksburg National Cemetery

The activities at Vicksburg National Military Park over Memorial Day weekend didn't end with the Missouri monument re-dedication. Immediately after the re-dedication program, members of the Department of Missouri, SUVCW, including several Grant Camp members, ventured over to the National Cemetery at Vicksburg to honor Missouri soldiers buried there. Prior to the event, the Department of Missouri arranged to have Missouri flags placed on the graves of the approximately 250 known Missouri veterans and several more unknown soldiers that were known to be from Missouri.

The ceremony was coordinated by PDC John Avery and was a re-creation of a GAR ceremony used in the 1880s for grave dedication purposes. The ceremony included laying of evergreen, which symbolized the love of comrades in arms, flowers, which symbolized purity and a laurel leaf, which symbolized victory. Wreaths were also laid by Missouri Department Commander Randal Burd and Grant Camp Commander Mark Coplin. Speakers at the event included PCinC Don Palmer and PCinC Ed

Krieser, Commander of the 4th Military District, SVR. The ceremony concluded with the singing of the Battle Hymn of the Republic and playing of Taps.

The staff at Vicksburg National Military Park was extremely helpful with the logistics for this event. They had indicated that the Sons of Union Veterans in Missouri are apparently the first to honor soldiers from a specific state in this manner, and they were very impressed.



Ceremony at Vicksburg National Cemetery Honoring Missourians Who Fought to Save the Union



U.S. Grant Camp #68 2017 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.

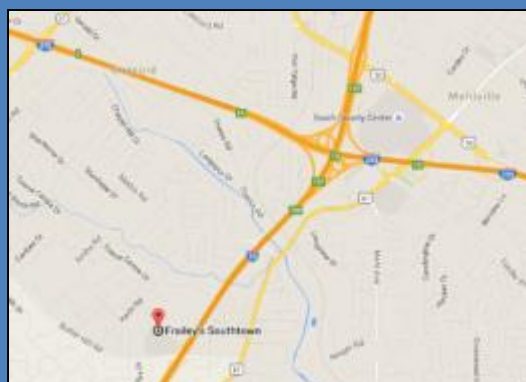


U.S. Grant Camp #68 Meeting Information

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....

- ~ Jul 10 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ Jul 22 . Grant Remembrance Program at U.S. Grant National Historic Site
- ~ Aug 10-13 . 136th National Encampment at Lansing, MI
- ~ Sep 11 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ Oct 7 . Central Region Association Meeting @ Cleveland, OH
- ~ Oct 9 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill
- ~ Oct 14 . Missouri Department Fall Meeting @ State Capitol, Jefferson City
- ~ Nov 13 . Camp Meeting at Frailey's Grill



Grant Camp Present at Lincoln Tomb Observance



On Saturday, April 15, several members of U.S. Grant Camp 68 attended the 61st annual Lincoln Tomb Observance in Springfield, IL.

Attendees included PDC's Marty Aubuchon and Bob Petrovic, as well as our favorite dual member, PCinC Jim Pahl. Brother Petrovic, who also serves as chairman of the Lincoln Tomb Observance Committee, was interviewed by the local paper, the Springfield State Journal-Register. The program included addresses by SUVCW CinC Don Martin and MOLLUS CinC James Simmons, and wreath presentations by over two dozen Camps, Departments and Allied Order organizations. The event concluded with a luncheon at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel.



News from the Auxiliary

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



Some sad news from Julia Dent Grant Auxiliary #68. It was reported that the remaining members of the Auxiliary voted at their January meeting to surrender their charter and disband.

Julia Dent Grant Auxiliary #68 was chartered on June 1, 2013, one of three Auxiliaries in Missouri at that time. Auxiliary #68 met at the same time and location as U.S. Grant Camp #686 .a measure of convenience due to the number of spouses involved. The ladies joined the gentlemen for a pre-meeting dinner and then once their order of business was completed, Auxiliary members would break out the %ummikub+ game. Auxiliary members would also support the Grant Camp at their annual events, including Memorial Day, Grant

Remembrance Day and made appearances at the annual Missouri department Encampment.

Auxiliary #68 members who wish to remain members of the ASUVCW should contact Cher Petrovic and obtain a transfer form. The departure of Auxiliary #68 leaves only the Louisa Volker Auxiliary #215 in the Farmington/DeSoto area in Missouri. With your transfer form, you will be able to join another Auxiliary or become a Member-at-Large.

Best wishes to all of the ladies and maybe when the time is right, we will see Auxiliary #68 active again. But the good news is that the ladies will still be joining us at pre-Camp meeting dinners!