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The Newsletter of U.S. GRANT CAMP # 68  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

## **FROM THE COMMANDER:**

Brothers,

It is with great humbleness that I have taken on the responsibility of Commander of our Camp. I appreciate the honor that has been bestowed on me and would like to continue in the tradition that has been established by our previous Commander, Walt Busch. His example and dedication to the office the past three years will be hard to emulate and I hope that you will help me along the way. One of the first things I would like to explain is that my hopes are that we will be able to accomplish all that we need to, as a camp in order to honor our ancestors and all of those who served our country in the greatest hour of need.

One of our jobs as I understand it is to preserve and keep sacred the memory of those who gave their all and also those who served and sacrificed health and welfare to keep our nation whole.

Our camp has a great history of accomplishing this task. It is my hope that we will continue to make this our main goal in all of our activities. Please continue to be active and those of you who can, but have not, DO. For those of you who may not know me I would like to tell you a little about myself. I have been a member of the SUVCW since March 2002. I have been fairly active as a member. For two years because of work activities and church activities I have not attended as many meetings as I would like. I am the author of two Civil War books and am working on a third one. I was Camp Secretary/Treasurer for three years and also was what I believe later became Quartermaster (Purchasing and selling items that the Grant Camp has to offer for sale) I have been the Grave Registrations Officer for about four years and have also served in that position for the Department of Missouri for that length of time. I have been involved in giving numerous presentations of the Civil War at many schools, churches, historical societies and historic sites. I have just recently been allowed to give a Civil War presentation to some eighty children at Fort Davidson Historic Site and have given several at Jefferson Barracks. I also have served as Commander for the Missouri Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. I am a member of the Company of Military Historians and other organizations almost too numerous to mention.

I have been married to my wife Mary for over thirty-six years and we have three children and five grandchildren. I have been retired from Chrysler for five years and we are now owners of Somewhere Inn Time Bed & Breakfast in Ste. Genevieve, MO. The running of this B & B has greatly reduced my activities on weekends with our Camp.

Anyway enough about me, we voted at our last meeting that we use funds from our account to make every member of the Grant Camp a member of Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve,





Sons of Union Veteran's of the Civil War. So like it or not you are a dues paying member of Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry Regiment, SVR of the U. S. Grant Camp #68, you are now a member of this proud and history rich Regiment. I am proud to say that I am a Private in this Company. You will be hearing more from our Commanding Officer I am sure. Best Wishes to all of you and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In F, C & L,

Gary L. Scheel  
Commander  
U.S. Grant Camp #68  
SUVCW

### **PAST COMMANDER'S MESSAGE.**

I've enjoyed the last three years. I couldn't honestly say that unless I enjoyed working with the men in this camp. Together we've done quite a bit. It seems we always had a project and this year culminated in our camp as the camp largely responsible for putting on a successful national encampment.

During the past three years, our members have consistently stepped up to accept responsibilities and duties at the camp, department and national levels. I firmly believe that our camp is in the top 20 across the nation. It is only because of this camp's members support each other; help each other on projects; and consistently support goals set by the department and national.

I don't have to say that I hope this brotherly spirit will continue under "new management," because I know it will. I can only say that I hope under Gary's command the camp will continue to grow and new tasks, such as a 2013 National Encampment, will be taken on by the camp with enthusiasm and the knowledge that we, as a camp, as a team, get one heck of a job done well.

Thank you for voting for me three times as commander. I will always be at the camp's service.

Walt Busch  
Camp Commander

2004-2007



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## REAL SON GEORGE WILLIAMS HONORED AT SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT IN ST.



(L-R) Robert Petrovic, John Avery, Walt Busch, Bob Amsler & Don Palmer  
George Williams Seated

One of the greatest privileges that could happen to a SUVCW Camp is to have a Real Son as a member. Brother George was honored at the National Encampment in St. Louis this year as a Missouri Real Son. He was sworn in as 1<sup>st</sup> Corporal George Williams, Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry Regiment receiving his Sons of Veterans Reserve Badge. Recognized in front of all attending as a Real Son which is an honor for all who attend a National Encampment to meet a Real Son. Pictured above are the members of the Grant Camp who attended the National Encampment and were able to be at the ceremony.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Real Son, George Williams is 96



Brother George Williams is shown on his birthday on October 15, 2007. Brother Williams is an Original Son and a member of our camp. He has attended many of our camp meetings. So if you would like to have the rare privilege of participating in a meeting of our camp with a Brother whose Father fought in the Civil War then you should make every effort to be at Grolier's Inn in Sunset Hills on Lindbergh Blvd on the first Monday of the month. Special thanks to Brother Mark Coplin for his idea of giving Brother George Williams a birthday

party on his 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Brother Mark Coplin organized and brought to a successful completion this tribute to our Brother on his birthday. THREE HUZZAH's are given to Brother Mark for his work. In attendance from our camp was: Commander Walt Busch Secretary/Treasurer Mark Coplin, Council Member Bob Petrovic, Chaplain John Avery, George Williams, Gary Scheel, and Cher Petrovic

There were over twenty members of Brother George's family there plus a number of his friends were able to attend. John Avery, Mark Coplin and Gary Scheel gave presentations on Civil War items that they brought with them.



For those who are unsure, in the photo to the left, Brother George Williams is on the left and Brother Mark Coplin is on the right. All photo's furnished by Walt Busch





# A UNION SOLDIER CAN NOW REST EASY



The grave marker of Private Henry Williams, the father of George Williams of our camp, indicated that he had served in a Confederate Unit. Private Henry Williams proudly served in the Union Army at places such as at the Battle's of Franklin, TN and Nashville Tn. Brother George has tried to have his tombstone corrected and finally that day arrived. On a cold drizzly day, December 8<sup>th</sup>, his wishes were delivered.

Brother George, now 96 years old, and his family were able to make the four hour drive to Jeff, Missouri which is near Thayer, MO on the Arkansas border to attend the ceremony. It was an amazing day. Along with Brother George's immediate family in attendance, nieces and nephews were also present. Pictured below is Brother George seated with his family behind him.



U.S. Grant Camp #68 members present. From left to right back row. Private John Avery, Private Gary Scheel, Private Walt Busch and Sergeant Chris Warren. Front row George Williams

**THREE HUZZAHS!!**

to Brother John Avery for coordinating and organizing this tribute paid to Private Henry Williams. We greatly appreciate your attention to detail and your efforts.



## PLAQUE GIVEN TO GROLIER'S INN



U.S. Grant Camp's Commander Walt Busch and Secretary/Treasurer Mark Coplin are shown presenting to the manager of Grolier's Inn a Plaque of Appreciation. The plaque was presented at our monthly meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. As many of you know Grolier's Inn has let us use their large private room for many years without charging

us. Many of the members of the Grant Camp who attend the meetings purchase their evening meal to show their appreciation. The plaque is just a small way that we can let them know.....

**"THANK YOU"**

## **RE-UP 1 JANUARY 2008**

Yes Brothers it is our favorite time of year. When we have a chance to renew our membership dues for the U. S. Grant Camp #68. They are due, technically by the first of the year. If you would like to save the cost of postage bring your dues with you on January 7<sup>th</sup>. If for some reason you are unable to attend please send your check or money order for \$35.00 to or \$38 if you wish to pay SVR dues:

Mark Coplin,  
4856 Hursley Dr.

St. Louis, MO 63128

On 5 November 2007 we as a Camp voted to pay everyone's Sons of Veteran Reserve dues. The SVR dues are \$3 a year. Help us save money for a flag for our SVR Unit by sending in your \$3 with your Membership dues.



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## GRANT CAMP ACTIVITIES



Warren, Camp Commander of McCormick Camp #215 and dual member of our camp was responsible for organizing this ceremony. Leon Lefler great-great Grandson of Private Lefler and member of McCormick Camp #215 and many other members of the family were there as well as concerned citizens.

4 Nov 2007 Members of the Grant Camp, in the photo (L-R) Gary L. Scheel, Chris Warren and Marty Aubuchon (Walt Busch not in the picture) along with members of the McCormick Camp and Sherman Camp paid tribute to Private Franklin Lefler he was a member of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Enrolled Missouri Militia. Brother Chris



Photo by Mrs. Chris Warren



10 November 2007 at 9 a.m. in Wildwood, MO a ceremony was held at the Throckmorton Place Grave site. Attending the ceremony from L-R are 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Marty Aubuchon, Private John Avery, Private Walt Busch and 1st Lt. Bob Amsler.

Other photo's furnished by Walt Busch



10 November 2007 at 3 p.m. at Memorial Park in Webster Groves, MO members of the Grant Camp and the Sherman Camp participated in a ceremony sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The members present were Private Walt Busch (far left) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Marty Aubuchon (far right)







Photo's furnished by Walt Busch

11 November 2007 a ceremony was held at Quinette Cemetery in Kirkwood, MO. The ceremony was held to honor five United States Colored Soldiers who had served during the Civil War. There were nine members of the Sons of Union Veterans there including three members of the Grant Camp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Marty Aubuchon (4<sup>th</sup> from Right), John Avery (6<sup>th</sup> from right kind of hiding) Department Commander and Camp Commander Walt Busch (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) Also present and not pictured was Dan Jackson. Could the reason that John Avery was hiding was because he was wearing a skirt?



## *CENTRAL REGION SENIOR VICE COMMANDER WALTER E. BUSCH*

Past Camp Commander, current Department Commander Walt Busch was elected Senior Vice Commander of the Central Region. Another honor bestowed upon a member of our camp.

On 6 October 2007 at the Central Regions Allied Orders Conference in Crawfordsville, Indiana Brother Busch was elected Senior Vice Commander (I think it was the hat).

Also attending from our camp was Don Palmer and Bob Petrovic both shown in the parking lot campaigning hard to make certain that the best person



elected to the position of Senior Vice Commander was Walt Busch.

(Editorial Disclaimer) Editor was not present at what appears to be parking lot lobbying. So at best part of the above article is basically a guess.



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## **COMPANY A, 2<sup>ND</sup> MISSOURI INFANTRY** **1<sup>ST</sup> LIEUTENANT ROBERT AMSLER JR.** **COMMANDING**



The following are a list of officers and non-commissioned officers for our Company.

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Robert Amsler Jr.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Marty Aubuchon

1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Mark Coplin     Sergeant Chris Warren     1<sup>st</sup> Corporal George Williams

2<sup>nd</sup> Corporal Brian Smarker     3<sup>rd</sup> Corporal Glyen Brown III     4<sup>th</sup> Corporal Mark Liby  
Bob Petrovic, Adjutant

In our last meeting it was discussed that we would like to have two flags that are copies of the original 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry Regiment flags. The original flags are at the capitol building in Jefferson City but are rolled up. The only way that we can look at them is for them to be unrolled. The officials at Jefferson City have stated because of their delicate condition they unroll them when they are ready to restore them. At present the cost is estimated anywhere from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars. The hope is that the flags will soon be restored so we can look at them and have exact copies made. The cost to have double sided silk flags made, like the originals, will be about five hundred dollars a piece. At present we plan on using our camp flags.

## *PRIVATE WALT BUSCH RECEIVES AWARD*

Brother Walt Busch attending the National Veterans Celebration at Gettysburg, PA on November 17, 2007 was awarded a Meritorius Service Medal by Brigadier General Robert Grimm. The official explanation for this award is as follows.

Meritorious Service Medal: A silver star worn on the SVR membership badge may be awarded to those members who demonstrate outstanding meritorious service specifically on behalf of the SVR. It may also be awarded to those members who recruit a minimum of ten (10) new members into the SVR in a calendar year.

Brother Walt won this award after having recruited eleven new members into the Sons of Veteran Reserves. Another great achievement for one of the members of our camp.

