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Newsletter Publication For The U.S. Grant Camp #68 Department of Missouri
Camp Commander: Don Palmer

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Editor: Steven Leicht

White Haven Debate – 06 November 1999

On November 6, Mark Coplin, Don Palmer and Dwight Prade of the U.S. Grant Camp participated in a debate held at White Haven (sponsored by the U.S. Grant National Historic Site). The subject of the debate was Ulysses S. Grant and the Civil War. Also participating was Tom Hubert of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) and Jack Powell and Don Waldemer from the Civil War Round Table of St. Louis (CWRT). The program consisted of three "mini-debates", two of which included the Sons of Union Veterans (SUV). The first mini-debate contested between the SUV and the SCV focused on Grant and Robert E. Lee and their respective greatness as generals. Don Palmer presented the case for Grant and Mark Coplin provided the rebuttal on the issue of Lee. The third mini-debate, contested between the SUV and CWRT centered on the issue of whether Grant was essential to the Union victory. Dwight Prade presented the rebuttal on the case made by the CWRT. The second debate, contested between the SCV and CWRT focused on the question of which battle, Vicksburg or Gettysburg, had the greatest impact on the outcome of the war. After the debate, questions from the audience of about 40 visitors were entertained. The feedback from the audience and the staff at the U.S. Grant Historic Site was very positive.



Participants in the White Haven Debate (L to R: Dwight Prade, Jack Powell – CWRT, Don Palmer, Tom Hubert – SCV, Mark Coplin and Don Waldemer – CWR1)

Christmas Dinner – 03 December 1999

The U.S. Grant Camp held their annual Christmas Dinner/Officer Installation on 03 December at Young's Restaurant. Camp members and their families enjoyed a festive evening that included an informative presentation by Lisa Conard, Park Ranger from the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, on the history of White Haven and the recent efforts to restore the site. PCC Steve Leicht installed Don Palmer as the new Commander, Dwight Prade as the new Junior Vice Commander, Mark Coplin as the new Secretary/Treasurer and Bob Amsler, Jr. as a member of the Camp Council. PCC Leicht also presented certificates of appreciation to Don Palmer and Scott Williams for their work in establishing the camp web site and membership certificates to members that were present. In appreciation for all of his efforts as Camp Commander, new Commander Don Palmer presented PCC Leicht with an original autographed copy of a book by General John A. Logan, who was well known as being instrumental in establishing the rituals associated with Memorial Day.



The White Haven Debate (L to R: Lisa Conard, Debate Moderator and Sons of Union Veterans Dwight Prade, Don Palmer and Mark Coplin)



Park Ranger Lisa Conard from the U.S. Grant National Historic Site gives a presentation on the history of White Haven and the recent renovation/preservation efforts



PCC Steve Leicht installing new officers at the Christmas Dinner (L to R: Dwight Prade, Don Palmer, Mark Coplin and Steve Leicht)

February Camp Meeting

The first camp meeting of 2000 was held on 02 February at Young's Restaurant. Commander Don Palmer presented the Camp goals and objectives for the year 2000, which included increasing membership, increasing camp revenue, increasing camp visibility, both internally and externally, increasing interaction with Allied Orders and continuing to promote the good of the Order. Commander Palmer also reminded members that 2000 dues (\$28.00) were due at the beginning of the year and need to be paid as soon as possible (if you haven't already done so). Phil Hinderberger was voted into membership by the camp. Discussions were held regarding finishing the Odd Fellows Cemetery project and the next steps in the Father Dickson Cemetery project. Before the meeting concluded, Secretary/Treasurer Mark Coplin presented a report on the camp finances.



Calendar of Events

Feb 27 Sherman Birthday Ceremony

The U.S. Grant Camp was invited by the William T. Sherman-Billy Yank Camp to participate in the Sherman Birthday ceremonies to be held on 27 February at Calvary Cemetery. For those interested in attending, the ceremony begins at 1:30 pm; however, if you plan to participate in the procession, you need to be at the main gate at 1:00 pm. Lt. Gary Gilbert of the SVR will lead the military procession. Those in civilian attire will fall in behind the military unit. Commander Palmer was invited to say a few words as part of the proceedings. Afterwards, the Sherman Camp is hosting a dinner at Romine's Restaurant located on Riverview Dr. in north St. Louis County. Those interested in attending the dinner should notify Commander Palmer so that he can forward numbers to PCC Paul Leistritz of the Sherman Camp.

Feb 26 Department of Missouri Meeting

There will be a Department meeting on 26 February at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. Some of the items on the agenda include:

- Department By-Laws
- Patriotic Instructors Presentation
- Grave Registration/GAR Monuments
- State GAR Post Locations
- 2001 National Encampment Planning
- New Camp Formation
- Common Repository for Camp/Department Records

We will be car-pooling to Columbia, so if anyone is interested in attending, please contact Commander Palmer.

March 1 Camp Meeting

The next Camp meeting will be held on Wednesday, 01 March at Young's Restaurant. The meeting will commence at 7:00 pm. Some of the topics on the agenda include planning for cemetery projects, Camp merchandise and the new member recruitment plan. We will also be having a guest speaker. Dan Reisel, Re-enactor from

the 8th Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry – U.S., will be giving a presentation on firearms during the Civil War. This presentation should be very informative and members should make it a point to attend.

March 4 U.S. Grant National Historic Site

As part of their Special Saturday Program initiative, the National Park Service will be sponsoring a program on Saturday, 04 March, entitled, "Touring Grant's St. Louis". This reprise of the popular bus tour includes ranger-guided exploration of the various city and area sites (some still stand, some were lost to development) associated with Ulysses S. Grant. Reservations are required, and there is a \$10.00 advance fee. Please call the National Park Service at (314) 842-3298 for reservations or more information.

March 25-2001 National Encampment Planning

Did you know that the 2001 National Encampment will be held in Springfield, MO? It is being planned jointly by the Departments of Missouri and Kansas. The next planning meeting for this event will be held in either Wichita or Topeka, Kansas on 25 March. Anyone interested in participating in the planning process for this event should contact Missouri Department Commander John C. Rutherford at (417) 890-5893.

April 1 U.S. Grant National Historic Site

Author and Grant scholar Dr. Brooks Simpson returns to White Haven on 01 April to sign his new Grant biography, which will be available for purchase in the site sales area. Dr. Simpson is one of the many historians who will be in St. Louis for the combined conference of the Organization of American Historians, the National Council on Public History and the Missouri Conference on History, 30 March to 01 April. For more information, please call park historian Pam Sanfilippo at (314) 842-1867 ext 28 for more information.

April 5 Camp Meeting

There will be a Camp meeting on 05 April at Young's Restaurant. The meeting will

commence at 7:00 pm. The agenda is "to be determined".

April 15 Lincoln Death Day

Members of our Order are invited to participate in a memorial service marking the 135th anniversary of the death of President Abraham Lincoln. The service will be conducted on Saturday, 15 April at 11:00 am at the Lincoln Tomb in the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL. There will be a luncheon at the Lincoln Plaza Hotel following the ceremony. Reservations for this luncheon need to be made by 20 March. The featured speaker will be Illinois State Historian Thomas F. Schwartz. The U.S. Grant Camp will present a wreath at the ceremony. Any member interested in attending the ceremony, please contact Commander Palmer or Secretary/Treasurer Mark Coplin.

May 3 Camp Meeting

Meeting will be held at Young's Restaurant. The meeting will commence at 7:00 pm. The agenda is "to be determined".

Announcements

- Ulysses S. Grant Camp #68 would like to officially welcome Phil Hinderberger (Major, USMCR, Retired) to the camp. Phil is transferring in from Gen. George Wright Camp #22 of the Department of California & Pacific. His Great-Great-Grandfather served in Co. C, 17th Missouri Infantry. In fact, Phil has established a web site dedicated to the 17th Missouri, and can be accessed through the U.S. Grant Camp website or directly at <http://members.aol.com/RHinderber/index.html>.
- The U.S. Grant Camp would like to extend its deepest sympathies to Junior Vice Commander Dwight Prade and his family on the recent passing of his mother. May he find comfort in knowing that the thoughts of his brothers in the Grant Camp are with him at this difficult time.

- We will be changing the location of where the Camp meets. Young's Restaurant is going to be relocating due to the expansion of Highway 141. There will be an announcement in a future newsletter. Our last meeting at the present location should be May 3rd.
- If anyone has not paid his dues for 2000, please send them to the Sec/Tres Mark Coplin at 9629 Twincrest, St. Louis, MO 63126.



Camp Travel Guide

Fort Clinch State Park

The Civil War in Florida? Actually there are several Civil War sites in Florida. Commander Palmer, during his holiday vacation in Florida, had an opportunity to visit Fort Clinch State Park near Jacksonville, FL. This fort was one of the "Third System of Fortifications" built during the 19th century for coastal defenses. Fort Clinch was named after General Duncan Lamont Clinch, an important figure in Florida's Seminole War of the 1830's. Construction of the fort began in 1847. By 1860, only two bastions and one-third of the brick wall were completed. The ramparts were in place and the guardhouse and prison finished. The lumber sheds, storehouse and kitchens were in various stages of completion; however, not a single cannon had been placed in position. With no federal garrison present, Confederate militia quietly took possession of the fort at the beginning of 1861. They did no work on the fort, but rather established batteries in the fort, the town of Fernandina, and strategic locations on Amelia and Cumberland Islands. Union forces advancing along several South Carolina and Georgia coastal islands in early 1862 caused General Robert E. Lee to authorize a withdrawal from the area. On 03 March 1862, the evacuation was completed,

even as federal gunboats and troops arrived to re-establish Union control of Fort Clinch. Units of the 1st New York Volunteer Engineers quickly began a push to complete the fort.

The advent of the rifled barrel cannon ended the era of stone and brick fortifications. Firing heavier shot, with greater accuracy and higher velocity, these new weapons breached the walls of Savannah's Fort Pulaski on 10 April 1862. Nevertheless, continuing efforts led to the near completion of Fort Clinch until 1867, when work at the fort was halted and the post was deactivated.

Fort Clinch was pressed into service during the Spanish-American War in 1898, and one final time during World War II. The Coast Guard, in a joint operation with the Army and Navy, established and maintained a surveillance and communication system within the fort and along various coastal islands in the area.

Today, Fort Clinch stands as one of the finest examples of Third System Fortifications now in existence, and is listed on the National register of Historic Places.



Fort Clinch near Jacksonville, Florida was used by both Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War.



Mounted howitzers on a Fort Clinch bastion overlooking Cumberland Sound



Fort Clinch: L to R, Guard House, Enlisted Barracks, and Storehouse/Dispensary.

Notable Dates in Union History

January

01 – President Abraham Lincoln signs
Emancipation Proclamation (1863)

13 – Admiral Porter attacks Fort Fisher
(1865)

16 – General Henry W. Halleck born
(1815)

21 – General John C. Fremont born
(1813)

February

01 – General Sherman begins Carolina
Campaign (1865)

03 – Meridian Campaign begins (1864)

08 – General William T. Sherman born
(1820)

09 – General John A. Logan born (1826)

12 – President Abraham Lincoln born
(1809)

13 – Battle of Fort Donelson (1862)

14 – General Winfield S. Hancock born
(1824)

19 – General Francis P. Blair, Jr. born
(1821)



Camp Orders

Series 2000, Number 1

1. In order to continue the positive directions the U.S. Grant Camp has taken since its charter was granted in 1996, several short term and long term goals and objectives were established. These shall be used to measure the performance of the camp in 2000 and out years.
2. At the end of 1999, the U.S. Grant Camp membership stood at 22 members (73% Member, 18% Associate Member and 9% Junior). A short-term goal has been established to increase the membership ranks to 30 by the end of 2000. A long-term goal was established to triple the 1999 membership level by the end of 2004. The Camp Junior Vice Commander shall develop a plan to accomplish this.
3. In order to increase member attendance at camp meetings, a guest speaker program will be established to enrich the meetings and provide educational opportunities for camp members. This program shall be developed by the Camp Senior Vice Commander.
4. A goal shall be established to increase interaction with other SUVCW camps and Allied Orders. We are all working towards common goals and, with a renewed spirit of cooperation, more ground can be covered in a shorter period of time.
5. The Camp has undertaken many admirable tasks over the past several years. This needs to be conveyed to the department and national organizations on a regular basis. This also needs to be conveyed to the general public. A goal has been

established for regular reporting of camp activities to the Department Senior Vice Commander for incorporation into the BANNER. A goal has also been established to ensure camp activities receive coverage in local newspapers, radio and or television news. The Camp Senior Vice Commander shall be instrumental in seeing that this goal is accomplished.

6. Camp meetings will follow (as close as possible) the Rituals of the Order. Camp officers will attend meetings in formal attire (if possible) with membership badges. Camp members may attend in casual dress; however, it is requested that members wear membership badges to the meetings.
7. Several Camp Committees shall be established to enhance the conduct of camp business. These committees include: (1) Graves Registration, (2) GAR/Civil War Monuments, (3) Camp Merchandise, (4) Camp Web Site and (5) External Relations. Chairmen of these committees shall be appointed at a later date.
8. It is the Commander's sincerest hope that all members find their association with the Order enjoyable and rewarding. It is requested that members supply feedback from time to time so that continuous improvement can be realized.

By Order of:

Donald D. Palmer, Jr.
Camp Commander
02 February 2000



Department Orders

Series 1999-2000, Number 2

1. It has been nearly a full quarter since the 25 September joint meeting between the Missouri and Kansas Departments near Austin, MO. A second joint meeting on 27 November has also come and gone. The attendance by members of Missouri's camps has been excellent, and a wide range of ideas has been established for the 2001 National Encampment. In fact, some of the ideas are so unique that it has been decided to omit mention of any details until the Lansing National Encampment plans are fully published. The next 2001 planning meeting will be on 25 March 2000 in either Wichita or Topeka, KS.
2. A seed fund will be necessary to finance the purchase of raffle items for the 2001 National Encampment. At the Missouri Department's June 1999 meeting, members agreed to a \$20 bond (hereafter described as a Loyalty Bond), which will be designated exclusively for this seed fund. Missouri Department members may voluntarily contribute money and obtain a Loyalty Bond. All camps are asked to maintain a register with the name and address of camp members who purchase Loyalty Bonds, and forward a copy of the register and money to the Missouri Department Commander. The Department Commander will then issue a certificate in the name of each SUVCW member who contributed money for a Loyalty Bond. At the conclusion of business for the 2001 National Encampment, this bond will be redeemed; the money will return to the camp to which each bond holder belongs, and the money will be used as a partial payment of each Loyalty Bond.

holder's 2002 annual dues. Please consider contributing \$20 for a Loyalty Bond. Every member now has an opportunity to contribute actively to the success of the SUVCW 2001 National Encampment.

3. Department staff since the recent reorganization are as follows: Commander John Rutherford, Senior Vice Commander Vern Stottlemire, Junior Vice Commander John Martin, Secretary-Treasurer Bob Petrovic, Council John Pillers, Bud Marks and Zac Caldwell, Counselor Bob Amsler, Assistant Secretary Jeff Patrick, Assistant Treasurer Mark Coplin and Patriotic Instructor Don Palmer.
4. The National organization has queried the Missouri Department regarding our next Department Encampment and elections. After discussion with Missouri Department members who attended the joint meeting on 27 November, it was decided to hold the Missouri Department Encampment and officer elections on 10 June 2000.
5. This is a reminder to camp officers and Missouri Department members. A \$2 increase in the national per capita tax will begin on 01 January 2000, so please make a note of this when calling upon membership for dues (also known as "per capita tax").
6. Two Camp per capita tax forms are included for the quarter ending 31 December 1999. Also included are two copies of camp officer installation forms. Please return one copy of each form with the appropriate fees to Department Secretary-Treasurer Bob Petrovic on or before 31 December 1999. Also

included is a copy listing the Department of Missouri staff.

7. The Missouri Department internet website is located at the following: <http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Barracks/2683>. Should any department member aspire to be the Department webmaster, please contact the incumbent Missouri Department Commander.
8. Department business is at a point where some things should be discussed very soon. For this reason, I call upon all Missouri Department members to attend a Missouri Department meeting on 26 February 2000. Since most Missouri Department members prefer Columbia, Missouri as the central meeting location, the next meeting will be held in Columbia. A map locating the precise location of the meeting site will be sent to members-at-large and camps in January. Of course, the weather will be unseasonably sunny and warm for this meeting, so I hope to see many Missouri Department members attending this meeting.

By Order of:

John C. Rutherford
Department Commander
07 December 1999

