



# HARDSCRABBLE



A Newsletter Publication For The U.S. Grant Camp #68 Department of Missouri

Volume 3. No. 2. May 2000

Camp Commander: Don Palmer

Editor: Steven Leicht

## CAMP ACTIVITIES

### **WILDWOOD CEMETERIES**

In February, an article appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch regarding an old cemetery in Wildwood that contained the graves of three Union soldiers. As a result, Commander Don Palmer, Secretary/ Treasurer Mark Coplin and Bob Petrovic went out on 20 February to check the condition of the cemetery and the graves of these soldiers. The cemetery, officially known as the Mount Pleasant African Baptist Church Cemetery, is located on a wooded hillside off of Wildhorse Creek Rd. It contains the graves of three soldiers who served in Co. F, 68<sup>th</sup> USCI (United States Colored Infantry). Although the stones are in good condition, they are falling over and need to be straightened. Also, the cemetery itself is overgrown and strewn with leaves. Bob Petrovic then met with a member of the Wildwood Historical Society to discuss Grant Camp's participation in cleaning and re-dedicating this cemetery. There was definite interest, and Bob also found out that there are many more small cemeteries in the Wildwood area that contain the graves of Civil War veterans. The Grant Camp was invited to the next Wildwood Historical Society meeting for further discussions.



Graves of Union veterans (extreme left and right) at Mount Pleasant African Baptist Church Cemetery in Wildwood, MO.

### **Missouri Department Meeting – 26 Feb 00**

A Missouri Department meeting was held on 26 February 2000 in Columbia, MO. Commander Palmer and Bob Petrovic, who is the Department Secretary/Treasurer, attended the meeting. A committee was established to address the need for Department By-Laws. One member from each camp in Missouri will serve on this committee. Commander Palmer will represent the Grant Camp. Department Senior Vice Commander Vern Stottlemire will serve as chairman. Department Commander John Rutherford mentioned a new National initiative to identify the locations of all GAR posts. The formation of new camps was discussed, with strong possibilities in the Columbia and Joplin areas. The need for a Department-wide plan for graves registration to maximize coverage was also discussed. Commander Palmer, who is also the Department Patriotic Instructor, presented his plans for a Patriotic Instructor's page on the Missouri Department website.

### **Sherman Birthday Ceremony – 27 Feb 00**

U.S. Grant Camp Commander Don Palmer and Secretary/Treasurer Mark Coplin attended the Sherman Birthday Ceremony at Calvary Cemetery on 27 February 2000. This ceremony was sponsored by William T. Sherman-Billy Yank Camp #65 and the proceedings conducted by Commander Emmett Taylor. Lt. Gary Gilbert of the Sons of Veterans Reserve led the military procession. Commander Palmer presented flowers and gave a short speech at the invitation of the Sherman Camp. The weather, which is usually suspect in February, was perfect. This only added to the impressive ceremony conducted by the Sherman Camp.



### *March Camp Meeting*

The second camp meeting of 2000 was held on 01 March at Young's Restaurant. A presentation was made by guest speaker Dan Reisel, a re-enactor from the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry – US. His presentation on firearms of the Civil War was very informative. Dan was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a copy of *"Glorious Contentment: The Grand Army of the Republic 1865-1900"*. Another presentation was made to PDC Bob Petrovic, for his years of excellent service as Grant Camp Secretary/Treasurer. Also, Commander Palmer appointed members to the four committees established for 2000. These include the Graves Registration/Civil War Monuments Committee, Merchandise Committee, Web Site Committee and External Relations Committee. In addition, with a number of potential cemetery projects being brought to the Camp's attention, a priority list was generated, with the top priorities being completion of the Odd Fellows Cemetery project and the Wildwood cemetery.



(Above) Dan Reisel shows off a Henry Rifle, one of the weapons used by soldiers during the Civil War. This was one of many weapons Dan showed as part of his presentation. (Below) Commander Palmer presents a certificate of appreciation to Dan Reisel for his presentation to the Camp.



Commander Palmer presents PDC Bob Petrovic a plaque from the Grant Camp in appreciation of his years of service as Camp Secretary/Treasurer.

### *Inter-Vets Memorial Day Planning*

Commander Palmer attended the 01 April Inter-Veterans Memorial Day Planning Meeting. The Inter-Vets Committee over-see the Memorial Day ceremonies at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. A proposal to use the Civil War period hearse currently being restored by Senior Vice Commander John Avery to carry the ceremonial casket in the parade was made. The Inter-Vets group voted to accept this proposal, that also included an honor guard and pall bearers to be provided by the U.S. Grant Camp.

### *April Camp Meeting*

The third camp meeting of 2000 was held on 05 April at Young's Restaurant. Commander Palmer discussed the first quarter progress toward goals. Secretary/Treasurer Coplin prepared and presented a quarterly financial report. Other items discussed were the 25 March Council of Administration meeting rulings, members who have yet to pay 2000 dues and the status of Young's Restaurant.





## Upcoming Events

### ***April 15<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Death Day***

Members of our Order are invited to participate in a memorial service marking the 135<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 Coplin.

### ***April 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Wichita, KS on 29 April. Anyone interested in participating in the planning process for this event should contact Missouri Department Commander John C. Rutheford at (417) 890-5893.

### ***April 30<sup>th</sup> U.S. Grant Birthday***

A ceremony will be held on 30 April to commemorate the 178<sup>th</sup> birthday of General Ulysses S. Grant at Grant's Tomb in New York. The ceremony is sponsored by Oliver Tildon Camp #26, Department of New York. U.S. Grant Camp #68 will send a letter of greetings to acknowledge this important observance.

### ***May 3<sup>rd</sup> Camp Meeting***

There will be a Camp meeting on 03 May at Young's Restaurant. The meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. Some of the items on the agenda include the planning for the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Jefferson Barracks, recommendations by the Merchandise Committee for new products, and the date for the Installation Dinner. In addition, Senior Vice Commander John Avery will be giving a presentation on the role of the undertaker on Civil War battlefields.

### ***May 13<sup>th</sup> Loyalty Day***

The Loyalty Day parade and picnic, sponsored by the Gardenville Community Center, will be held on Saturday, 13 May. The parade is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. For those participating, assembly will be required at 12:30 p.m. Anyone interested in participating or attending please contact Commander Palmer for additional information.

### ***May 6<sup>th</sup> - U.S. Grant National Historic Site***

Artist Betsy Ward will guide a hands-on activity blending natural features of the park with traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century elements. Each participant (ages 6 and up) will create a shadow box collage to take with them. Programs will be held at 10:30, 1:00 and 3:00. Space is limited and reservations are required. Please call the National Park Service at (314) 842-3298 for reservations or more information.

### ***May 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day***

Ulysses S. Grant Camp #68 will be participating in the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery on 29 May. The ceremonies will begin at 10:00 am. The Grant Camp will be providing a period hearse to bring in the ceremonial casket as part of the parade. In addition, Grant Camp members will serve as pall bearers and provide an honor guard. If anyone is interested in participating, or would like more information, please contact Commander Palmer.

### ***June 3<sup>rd</sup> - U.S. Grant National Historic Site***

Here's another fun day for kids ages 6-12. Help kick-off the Junior Ranger program with activities that will earn participants the title of "Junior Ranger" at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.

### ***June 7<sup>th</sup> - No Camp meeting***

### ***June 24<sup>th</sup> Missouri Department Encampment***

The 2000 Missouri Department Encampment will be held on 24 June from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. in Jefferson City, MO. Senior Vice Commander-in-



Chief Ed Krieser will be attending. We will be car-pooling to Jefferson City, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Commander Palmer.

### ***July 5<sup>th</sup> - No Camp Meeting***

#### **Announcements**

- Lisa Conard, a park ranger at the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site and friend to U.S. Grant Camp #68, will be transferring to Oklahoma City, OK, to work at the new Oklahoma City National Memorial. The new memorial to those killed as a result of the bombing in 1995 will be dedicated on 19 April, and Lisa will be a part of this. The Grant Camp wishes Lisa the best of luck and special thanks for her support of camp activities over the past few years.
- Young's Restaurant will be moving to a new location beginning in the mid-May timeframe. The new location is just south of the current location on Meramec Station Rd. The 03 May camp meeting will be the last at the current location. A notice will be sent to the members informing them where the next meeting location will be.
- For those interested in helping the Missouri Department prepare for the 2001 National Encampment, Loyalty Bonds will be available. These Bonds will help the department raise "up front" funds to pay for the National Encampment. Loyalty Bonds can be purchased for \$20 each, and will be valued at \$21 when they mature after the Encampment in 2001. The Bonds can then be applied to the next year's membership dues. Anyone interested in purchasing a Loyalty Bond should contact Commander Palmer or PCC Steve Leicht.
- In addition to the current web site (<http://www.usgennet.org/~ahmostlu/grantcamp.htm>), U.S. Grant Camp #68 has established a site on Postnet.com. This site was established by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for non-profit groups. The Post-Dispatch pulls activities off

of the Postnet.com sites for publication in the regular newspaper. This will be a good way to bring camp activities to the general public.

#### **Camp Travel Guide**

##### ***Shiloh National Military Park***

Since this is the April edition of "Hardscrabble", it is appropriate to reflect on the 138<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh, which was fought on 06-07 April 1862.

During the winter of 1861-62, Federal troops pushing southward from St. Louis, MO captured Forts Henry and Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. This action forced Confederate General A.S. Johnston to abandon southern Kentucky and much of Middle and Western Tennessee. After withdrawing further south, he established a new line covering the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, the only direct railroad link to Richmond and Memphis. Realizing he could not wait for another Federal advance, Johnston began concentrating 44,000 men at Corinth, MS, whence he hoped to take the offensive and destroy General U.S. Grant's Union Army of the Tennessee before it could be joined by General D.C. Buell's Army of the Ohio.

When Johnston's Army of Mississippi hit the Federal camps on the morning of 06 April, the Confederates achieved complete surprise. Some northern troops fought doggedly to hold their line; others fell back and re-formed elsewhere. The Southern army rolled over one Union position after another until noon. Then along the Sunken Road, the Federals finally established and held a line that stopped the Southern advance. Confederate soldiers knew they had struck a "Hornet's Nest" and named it that. Rather than seek a way around the stronghold, the Southerner's charged the position repeatedly.

None of these attacks succeeded until Confederate General Daniel Ruggles brought up 62 cannon, the largest artillery concentration seen up to that point on a North American battlefield. Under cover of the hammering guns, Confederate infantry swept



forward, surrounded the Union defenders and captured most of General Benjamin Prentiss' division. That sacrifice bought time for Grant to establish a final line of defense near Pittsburgh Landing.

To the right and left of the Hornets' Nest, Federal forces fell back before the Confederate attack, and the fighting became a confused slugging match. On both sides, regiments became disorganized and companies disintegrated. General Johnston was killed while trying to push home attacks on the riverside of the battlefield to isolate the Union troops from the landing. General Beauregard subsequently took command of the Confederate forces.

By late afternoon, Grant's surviving troops were safe in their final line. His chief of artillery, Col. J. D. Webster, had established a line of 53 guns on the heights around Pittsburgh Landing. The Confederates, now as disorganized as the Federals, tried the flanks of the Federal position. The Union right beat them off easily. The vanguard of Buell's army crossed the Tennessee and filed in position on Grant's left covering Pittsburgh Landing. Union infantry, artillery and gunboat fire on that flank hurled back the Confederate attempt to cross the rugged Dill Creek terrain, and the fighting sputtered out for the night. While Confederates tried to reorganize, Northern gunboats sent salvos crashing into their lines at 15-minute intervals, and the remainder of Buell's army crossed the river.

By dawn on 07 April, the combined Federal armies numbered 55,000 men. Beauregard, unaware that all of Buell's army had arrived, planned to continue the attack and drive the Northerners into the river. At about 6 am, the Confederates went on the offensive again, and were, at first, successful. The stronger Union armies, however, soon began to push the Confederates back. Realizing that he had lost the initiative, Beauregard tried to break the Union drive by counterattacking at Water Oaks Pond. The Federal advance was stooped, but their line did not break. Low on ammunition and food, and with 15,000 of his men dead, wounded or missing, Beauregard knew he could go no further. He withdrew beyond Shiloh Church and began the

weary march back to Corinth. The exhausted federals did not pursue. The battle was over.

Shiloh National Military Park is located just south of Savannah, TN on Hwy. 22. The park was established in 1894 and spans over 3500 acres. Visitors can view a 25-minute film about the battle at the Visitors Center and both driving and hiking tours of the battlefield can be taken. The driving tour contains 14 stops at key locations on the battlefield. About 15 miles of hiking trails are available for those who are interested in some of the detailed history of the battle.



The National Cemetery at Shiloh National Military Park.



(Above) The Shiloh Church, from which the battle took its name. The current structure was erected in 1949 – only a small portion of the original structure remains. (Below) The Sunken Road – the final line of Union defenses at the "Hornets Nest".







Position of Ruggles' Battery – a total of 62 guns fired on the Union position across the field at the Sunken Road.

### Notable Dates in Union History

#### March

- 03 – Congress creates Freedmen's Bureau (1865)
- 04 – Abraham Lincoln inaugurated 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States (1861)
- 04 – General John Buford born (1826)
- 06 – General Philip H. Sheridan born (1831)
- 07/08 – Battle of Pea Ridge (1862)
- 09 – Battle of USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (1862)
- 12 – General Ulysses S. Grant promoted to command of all Union forces (1864)
- 17 – Campaign to capture Mobile, AL begins (1865)
- 29 – Appomattox Campaign begins (1865)

#### April

- 03 – Richmond surrenders (1865)
- 06/07 – Battle of Shiloh (1862)
- 09 – Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House (1865)
- 12 – Confederates fire on Fort Sumter (1861)

15 – President Abraham Lincoln  
Assassinated (1865)

27 – General Ulysses S. Grant born (1822)

29 – New Orleans surrenders (1862)

### Camp Orders

#### *Series 2000, Number 2*

1. The following camp members shall serve as chairmen of the four committees established in 2000. They are: Bob Petrovic – Graves Registration/ Civil War Monuments, Mark Coplin – Merchandise, Scott Williams – Web Site, and Dwight Prade – External Relations. Commander Don Palmer will serve as an ex-officio member of each committee.
2. The months of May, June and July are significant from a patriotic standpoint, with Memorial Day, Flag Day and Independence Day contained within. Each camp member should remember to demonstrate their patriotic spirit and display the flag on these special days. As members of an organization that promotes patriotism, we should be leading by example.

By Order of:

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





## Letters From the Front

The Following are some of the letters that were wrote by David Allan Jr. of the 29<sup>th</sup> Missouri Volunteers to his family during the campaign marching to the sea with General Sherman during the Civil War.

To: Mrs. David Allan  
St. Louis, MO

HQ 29<sup>th</sup> MO Regt. MO Vol.  
December 16<sup>th</sup> 1862  
Helena, Arkansas

Dear Mother

Here we are at Helena the place where General Curtis struck the Mississippi River after the battle of Pea Ridge. Helena is a little town as seen from the river; as yet I have had no opportunity of crossing to see it. We are encamped on the Mississippi side while Helena is across the river in Arkansas.

I have been very well and so has the Regiment considering the exposure they had underwent.

I mailed two letters at Memphis. I went ashore and seen the town. The town contains many very fine buildings and when the wharf is completed it will present a very fine appearance.

The park is a very nice place to walk. The beauty of the place is in its neatness. In the center is placed a Monument to the memory of General Jackson on one side of which is inscribed the memorable words "The Federal Union must be preserved". Some sacrilegious dog of a rebel seems to have some difficulty in swallowing the above and has defaced the word "Federal". While examining the monument several squirrels were running about seemingly indifferent to the visitors. I supposed no one disturbs them as there are numerous placards threw out the grounds notifying persons that they will be fined if found injuring any thing in the place.

I also was at the Gyoso House the first hotel in the place. Also the Head Quarters of the notorious Jeff Thompson while here and the place were he was standing when he heard the City surrendered.

Nothing of note has been seen since leaving Memphis.

I will endeavor to cross the river as I have two packages to be delivered to members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Iowa at this place. I also have hopes of seeing Henry Dristlehurst

General Blair is in Camp and reviewed the Regiment this morning.

I hope that the Presidents Proclamation may be enforced and with vigorous movements we may have a chance of seeing

home in the spring. I also hope that our Regiment may be ordered to Vicksburg. Where we have a chance of trying the rebels contained in it.

Give my love to friends, Alex, Anna and retain a share for yourself. Also to Jim.

Remembers me to Mr. & Mrs. Jones and all inquiring friends.

I will I will unto day after tomorrow and may give some news of Henry Dristlehurst.

Write soon

Ever for the Star Spangled Banner

Your Affectionate Son

David Allan Jr.

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To: Alexander Alan  
St. Louis, MO

HQ 29<sup>th</sup> MO Vol.  
Helena, Arkansas  
December 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Brother

Here we are camped in Mississippi hundreds of miles from home and where a year ago it would not have done for the rebels to see the tip of our nose for they would have been sure to pulled it.

It will soon be Merry Christmas time and I hope you will enjoy yourself, but I do not think you will see the same Santa Claus on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December this year. He is away down here now where you hear the birds singing in the morning.

I want you and Anna to write me and tell me how all the rest get along at school.

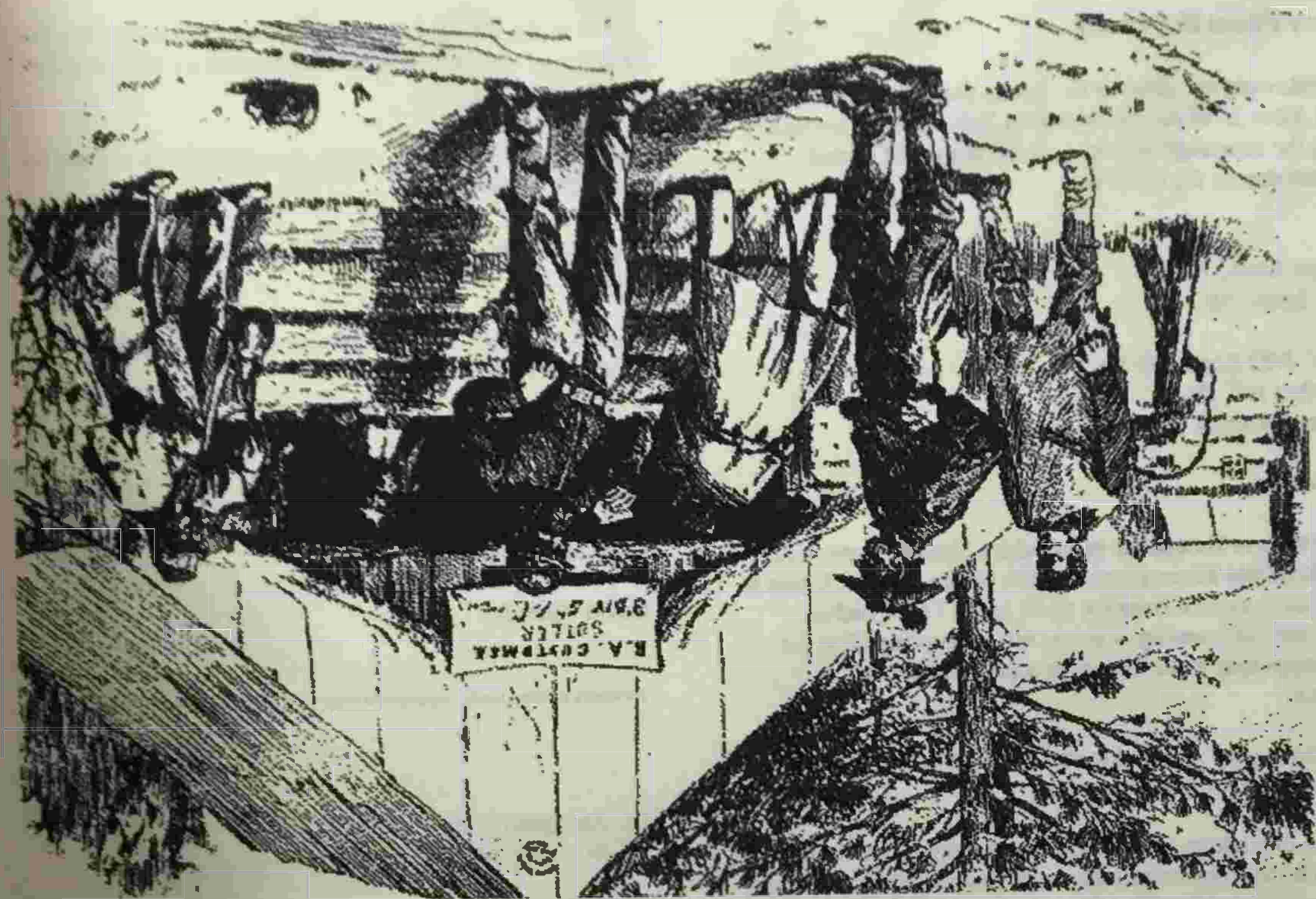
I the next letter Jim writes I want one of you to tell me how you spent Christmas and New Year.

Wishing all at home a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your affectionate Brother

Davis Allen Jr.





U.S. Grant Camp #68  
2743 Bloomfield  
St. Louis, MO 63129

