



HARDSCRABBLE

Fraternity - Charity - Loyalty

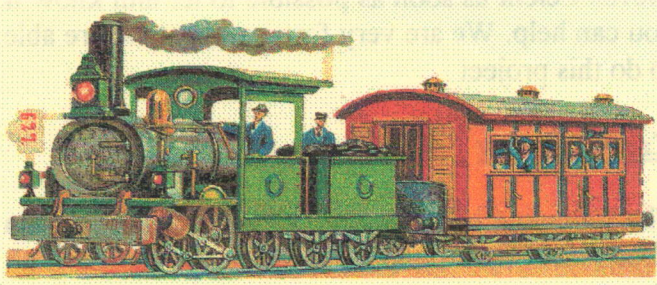
Ever For the Union



Newsletter Publication For The U.S. Grant Camp #68 Department of Missouri
Camp Commander: Bob J. Amsler Jr.

Volume 1. No. 4. September/July 1997

Editor: Steven Leicht



Iron Mountain Railroad

Seats have been reserved for the St. Louis Iron Mountain & Southern Railway for October 17. The Iron Mountain Railway is over 150 years old and played a major role during the Civil War transporting troops. October 17th is the weekend there will be Civil War Reenactors present. There will be a reenactment somewhere along the train route during the ride. The train will be stopping and we will be allowed off the train to visit with the reenactors.

The train station is located about 2 hours south of St. Louis in Jackson, Missouri. Car-pooling can be arranged. The train will leave the station at 2 p.m., and we will be going out to eat dinner after the ride. Tickets for the train are \$12.50 for adults. Anyone who is still interested in riding on the Iron Mountain Railroad and has not made reservations or needs directions please contact PCC Steven Leicht @ 487-2585. Reservations are limited.

September 2nd meeting

Meeting starts at 7pm. Those who are interested in eating dinner at the restaurant can meet about 6-6:30pm for dinner. Meals are reasonable and we should show our support for the restaurant whenever we can. We do not have to pay for the meeting room where we meet for Camp meetings. It would help show our thanks to the Restaurant and appreciation by eating prior to the meetings.

PCC Steven Leicht will be bringing various books on the civil war and the SUV.

We will have the new coffee mugs at the meeting for those interested in buying one. We will also have the new Camp Flag at the meeting for the members to see.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 2nd: Camp meeting at Young's Restaurant. 385 Meramec Station Rd. Meeting will start at 7pm.

September 5th: "Harvest Time" at White Haven from 10:00am - 3:00pm.

September 26th: Restoration of Civil War Cannons (cannons at Gravios and Grant Rd)

October 3rd: Grant and the Mexican War at White Haven. (1998 marks the 150 anniversary of the Mexican War)

October 5th: Camp meeting at Young's Restaurant. 7pm.

October 17th: Iron Mountain Railroad and dinner.

November 4th: Camp meeting at Young's Restaurant 7pm. We will be nominating offices at meeting for elections.

November 7th: In Search of Ulysses S. Grant at White Haven. (Lecture given by Park Historian Pam Sanfillippo)

December 2nd: Camp meeting at Young's Restaurant 7pm. We will have elections of officers and installation. We will be having food served after meeting.

December 5th: Holiday at White Haven (Ornaments, mulled cider and seasonal 19th century crafts)

January 6, 1999: No Camp Meeting.

National Encampment

Brother Steven Leicht was reappointed National Chief of Staff for a 2nd term. Brother Bob Petrovic was also reappointed to the position of National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator. Bob Amsler was reappointed assistant National Counselor along with Jim Gallen from Sherman Camp.

The Department of Missouri was one of 5 Departments that received an award for having their forms turned in on time. Congratulations to Bob Petrovic for a job well done.



Stone Gate at Gravios and Grant Rd.

Cannon Restoration Project

PCC Steven Leicht has gotten permission for the members of the Ulysses S. Grant Camp to paint the 2 cannons that rest at the corner of Gravios Road and Grant Road. The Bush family had purchased the cannons and placed them in the stone wall that once led to a restaurant at this location. They face White Haven home of Ulysses S. Grant.

PCC Steven Leicht has gotten permission from the Bush family to repaint these cannons to further their preservation for future generations. If you are able to help with this project you must contact PCC

Steven Leicht @ 487-2585. We have been asked to limit the numbers of members present at this site due to the cannons being so close to Gravios Road. The Bush family is concerned for the safety of the men. Also PCC Steven Leicht must turn in the name of the members that will be working on this project to be cleared with the Security Guards in charge of the Bush family property. This has to be done prior to the start of the project. Please contact Steven Leicht as soon as possible to let him know if you can help. We are very fortunate that we are able to do this project.

Camp Library

The following books were donated by Craig Brown to be placed in a Camp Library:

How Lincoln Remade America
McClellan's Master Plan
Davis, The Warrior President

If anyone would be interested in reading these books they will be at the September meeting. If anyone else would like to donate books or magazines to be shared with the other members or would like to read on of the books listed above please contact Commander Amsler @ 353- 9131.

Upcoming Election of Camp Officers

It is important that we have members willing to hold positions within the Camp. It is also important that the members participate in camp functions as much as possible. This will only benefit all the members of the camp. You need to think about how you can help the Camp whether holding a position or helping with some of the projects. Keep this in mind in the upcoming months. Contact Commander Amsler if you would be interested in holding a position within the Camp. The Camp will only be as active as the members make it. We are here to perpetuate the memories of our Ancestors. This includes doing projects like cemeteries, memorials and participating in Memorial Day Ceremonies. If only a handful of men are willing to work, we will be limited in our activities. Please keep this in mind if you are asked to help in the future.

Department Fundraiser

Anyone who still has tickets for the Don Troiani "Emmittsburg Road" print needs to turn them in by September 20th. Money and ticket stubs can be sent to Bob Petrovic at 4729 Mehl, St. Louis, MO 63129. Money raised goes to fund the Department and helps keep our dues for the Department low. A portion of the money will go to the Camp. The print was illustrated in the last newsletter and is valued at just under \$500.00.

New SVR Unit

Due to the work of Bob Petrovic, members of the Ulysses S. Grant Camp now have an active Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) unit. It was announced at the National Encampment that the 2nd Missouri unit was formed and all the paperwork is finalized. Anyone interested in joining this unit please contact Bob Petrovic @ 892-2158.

Congratulations to the men of the 2nd Missouri and Bob for your efforts!

Harvest Time at White Haven

The National Parks Service will be presenting an example to how a farm was operated during the 19th century. They will be showing how wool is spun, foods prepared and crops are harvested.

This will take place Saturday September 5th from 10:00am – 3:00pm at White Haven. There will also be games for the kids, log splitting, butter churning and examples of how to prepare foods. For more information contact Visitors Center @ 842-3298.

Letters from the Front

David Allen Jr. of the 29th MO Vol. wrote the following letters home to his family.

Camp Burkhardt near Cape Girardeau, MO
December 6th 1862

Dear Mother,

This evening I received Jim's letter of the 16th and was exceedingly glad to get it although it is not so

late as the one I received on Wednesday, which was dated, the 25th.

The time I spent from leaving here until our return was very long, making about 4 weeks during which I received no letters from home. So a letter of any date is acceptable.

I would like to see the Owl, which by Jimmy's description is well mounted. I often think of you all and the Library and they are the only thing that prevents me from enjoying myself in the highest extremes.

The moments thinking of home and those left behind are some of my happiest.

These cold winter nights I lay in my tent. The moon shinning in on me and think of the past year. I have a very comfortable time. Mr. Cork (Commissary Clerk) and myself have a tent to ourselves. We have a small stove about the size of a large Camp kettle, which makes our house very comfortable. We cook our own rations and are very independent.

We have 4 blankets and a straw sack and so sleep very comfortable.

I like Uncle John's letter very much and I myself have already adopted a good many of his hints before receiving the letter. I all along have kept my straw thick and have always been fortunate enough to get first rate straw. I try to keep myself as much as possible like I used to at home.

I have written 2 letters a week since leaving Patterson and intend to continue so. Tell Jimmy to write as often himself and let me know all the news.

The paymaster Major William Jones is here and I will send you some money by him as he returns to St. Louis as soon as he has paid us of which he will do as soon as Col. Cavender arrives.

Tomorrow or next day we will leave for down the river destination unknown at moment but I will let you know as soon as we arrive.

I wrote to Jim a day or two ago. Tell him not to get those books until he gets the money from Major Jones, which will be in a few days.

I want to hear every letter how the pets get along and the flowers. How's Renee?

Tell Alex and Anna to write to me also write yourself and tell Aunties to write too. I like to get a letter from you all now and then.

Thanksgiving Day passed while on our march to this place and so was not celebrated. Some of the companies did not know of the appointment.

I wish you would send me some recipes how to make piecrust and pudding. Cork and I want to have a Christmas dinner. Let me know how to make minced meat. We can get them baked in the Col.'s Stove.

We are having fine clear and cold weather.

Give my love to Auntie's, Jim, Alex, Anna and retain a large share for yourself.

Ever for the Union,
Your Affectionate Son

David Allen Jr.

.....
On Board John Warner
December 9th 1862

Dear Brother

We are once more floating on the Farther of Water in movement for she land of bottom. Yesterday I sent you \$25.00 by Major Jones Paymaster. I'm in good health and in excellent spirits. The letter I received from home have relieved me of depression of mind that I may have been laboring under.

I hope long before this reaches you that you will have received the money. Major Jones is a gentleman every inch of him and you will not fail to receive the money through any neglect of his.

We did not get away from Cape until 5 O'clock this morning but we have made considerable headway up to this time 12am. Considering the state of the river, which is very low.

The books I wrote to you for you will keep until an opportunity occurs of sending them of which I will notify you in time.

I hope you will all have a merry time Christmas. Take a portion of the money I sent you and get whatever you want in the way of presents. I will send you more when I get my extra duty pay, which I will as soon as we reach our Brigade.

How do you get along at College, and how do Alex and Anna get along at school? One of them ought to write to me every other letter. Tell Anna she will see Santa Claus this Christmas.

Does the library look the same as ever? Have they made any additions in any way since I left?

When you write let me know how all our pets get along. How is Reney, the bird's etc? Occasionally I see some place along the river I would like to own and build many castles in which we would spend many future days. May they prove substantial. By the help of God they will. But first this rebellion must be crushed and I dedicate myself to the cause.

We have fine time Cork and I. We have a tent all to ourselves and a small stove, which makes things very comfortable.

Give my regards to Mr. and Mrs. Jones and all the inquiring friends.

Give my love to Aunt Elisabeth and Aunt Sarah also Alex and Anna; retain a portion for mother and yourself.

We have excellent weather. I hope to hear from you soon. Write twice a week.

Ever for the Union,
Your Affectionate Brother

David Allen Jr.

P.S. please find enclosed \$5.00 more which I find I can spare. Acknowledge the receipt in your next letter