

HARDSCRABBLE



Fraternity - Charity - Loyalty

Ever for the Union

Newsletter Publication for Ulysses S. Grant Camp #68

Department of Missouri - SUVCW

Volume 9 - Number 1- January - May 2007



Commander' Corner

I hope everyone had a good holiday season this year. The months off with family and friends are important, but now its time to gear up all fall in for the coming year, starting with the Lincoln Grave Site Ceremonies on April 15. However, if you haven't heard, St. Louis is hosting the national encampment this August. If you've never been to one (I first made it to Harrisburg last year), you really need to attend and help us run this year's. It's to be held at the Frontenac Hilton (Lindbergh and Clayton Roads) and should offer some interesting meetings. If you're like me browsing the artifacts, books and memorabilia is a lot of fun and so to is meeting people with similar hobbies from across the nation. You also get to meet new people from our own state. We have two new camps in Missouri that this camp helped jump start. The General James McCormick Camp 215 in Farmington and the Colonel David Moore Camp 70 in Canton are both up and running. I've been attending the Farmington meetings as much as possible since they are near my home. The group is history driven and tries to get Civil War speakers for every meeting. At least two of their members are local historians of note. Our next meeting is February 5th at 7pm at Growler's Pub. We will have a Civil War discussion and also plan out the calendar of events for the year. Do you have some Civil War related event of project you would like us to work on? If so , please attend your meeting.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

Walt Busch - Commander U..S. Grant Camp #68

U.S. Grant Camp Dues for 2007 are Due

It is that time of the year when we ask you to send money to Brother Coplin our Camp Treasurer. The dues are still \$35.00 and should be made out to U.S. Grant Camp #68. Please mail dues to 9629 Twincrest St. Louis, MO 63126-1505. Or you can attend a camp meeting and save 39 cents. Thank you in advance.

General Pope Captures New Madrid, Missouri

(taken from "The Blue and The Gray" edited by Henry Steele

Commager Copyright 1950) Sent in by Gary Scheel

My Dear Wife, In Camp New Madrid - March 14, 1862

"Glory to God in the highest & on earth peace & good will to men - glory to God for the signal & complete victory that has crowned our arms in the recent conflict with rebellious villains at New Madrid & peace & good will to men which I do hope is soon to follow such successes all over our country. On yesterday morning we arose at 2 o'clock & prepared breakfast & at 4 o'clock we passed from our Camp into the outer darkness on our way to the battleground. This time I knew we were going into the fight & certainly felt as if it were possible that I might never get back alive. On this occasion I had to part from our good Dr. Nixon; I had always had him with me before on all occasions & now he would no more be by my side.

Before daylight we arrived on the ground selected for the battle & in the grey morning took silently our respective positions in order of battle. The night previous the sappers & miners were engaged all night in placing the heavy guns intended to silence the Gunboats as well as the guns of the Fort. The battery was placed so quietly by

U.S. Grant 2007 Events (so far)

- February 5th - Camp Meeting at Growler's Pub on S. Lindbergh 7:00
- Ink Cemetery Work - On Going Call Gary Scheel to help.
- April 23rd (Thursday) Eagle Scout Court of Honor - Sappington
Elementary School - Need a color guard. Call Mark Coplin
- LaGrange Anniversary Parade - May 19th - Need Color Guard
- Jefferson Barracks - Memorial Day Marching
- August 9th - 12th NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT - St. Louis, MO
Frontanac Hilton

CAMP QUARTERMASTER

POLO SHIRTS - Red- White - Blue

S, M, L, XL	\$40.00
2XL, 3XL	\$43.00
4XL	\$48.00

DENIM SHIRTS - SHORT/LONG SLV.

S, M, L, XL	\$45.00
2XL	\$49.00
3XL	\$53.00

SWEAT SHIRTS - Red - White - Blue

S, M, L, XL	\$32.00
2XL, 3XL	\$35.00
4XL	\$40.00

SATIN JACKETS - BLACK OR BLUE

S, M, L, XL, 2XL	\$95.00 FLANNEL
	\$98.00 QUILTED
3XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$99.00 FLANNEL
	\$103.00 QUILTED

ADDRESS LABELS - 90 COUNT

SUV - GAR LOGOS \$4.00

NAME BADGES - LASER ENGR.

2 X 3 PLASTIC Blue - Camp Red - Depart.

Gold - National

\$6.00 for Camp Members \$9.50 for Non- Camp
Members

COFFEE MUGS - SUVCW

\$15.00

STATION BANNERS

14X16 - SET OF 3

WITH FRINGE - \$110.00

WITHOUT FRINGE - \$80.00

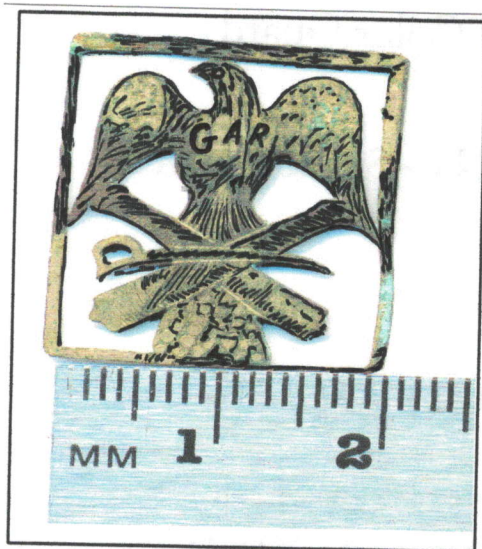
Contact Gary Scheel to Order Items

(636) 257-5247



Missouri Department Meeting

Our next Department meeting will be on February 24th at 10am in the house meeting rooms at the Capitol in Jefferson City, Missouri. These are your meetings as well and all our camp members are encouraged to be there. If anyone would like to go and needs a ride, I will be glad to work arranging one for you. Walt



GAR Item - What is it? The picture shows bronze or copper GAR item that is less than one inch square. It had no eye on it so it was not made to wear around a neck. Could it be like a challenge coin? If anyone has a good guess as to what it is - we'll publish it in the next Hardscrabble. Good luck

Good Bye to Mark Liby and his son Garrett - New Camp Formed in Canton

In our last issue of Hardscrabble we welcomed Brothers Mark Liby and his son Garrett from Canton, MO to the camp. Now we must say good bye to Mark and Garrett. They have gone off and successfully started their own camp. Bob Petrovic and Mark Coplin attended the camp's first meeting to help them organize the camp and elect officers. Camp forms and dues along with accounting and banking needs were some of the topics talked about. Those members that attended the meeting seemed excited about the future of a camp in their area. Many that attended had already thought of great ideas to help promote the camp. Best of luck to our brothers to the north. We are looking forward to working with Camp Commander Mark Liby and Senior Vice Camp Commander Garrett Liby as they work to help those in the Canton area remember those that served the Union.

LaGrange 175th Anniversary

Pat Livingston and the Mayor of LaGrange have requested our camp's presence at the 175th Anniversary of LaGrange on May 19th. A monument to all the men and women that have served in the military at any time from La Grange will be dedicated. The Flags for Vets Group has worked hard to pay for this monument. A representative from each war will be there to help read the names of those that served in that particular conflict. They are wanting us to participate not only in the dedication ceremony but also to march in the parade and set up a display or tent like we have done in the past. The parade begins at 9:00 and the dedication will be sometime later that day. Last year Walt, Gary and Mark attended. It would be nice to have a larger group attend. We may ask the camp from Canton for some assistance with this program. Contact Mark Coplin if you are able to attend. (314) 963-9972

our men that the pickets of the enemy stationed within less than three hundred yards were not aware of its being done & when our regiments came up to their positions to support the battery we were fired upon & it was then the grey of the morning & the guns of our battery replied much doubtless to the consternation of said pickets. We took them completely by surprise, the gun boats had no steam up & it was some time before they got into position.

The 39th was given the position of honor & of greatest danger being on the extreme right, that is in the advance of all & our boys behaved splendidly. Gen Pope & all the generals under him paid us the highest compliments. We were under fire of shot & shell for twelve mortal hours & wonderful to say only one man in our whole regiment was wounded & he only a slight round shot. I suppose 400 or 400 shot & large shells passed within thirty to forty feet of our men during the day. The cannonading & bursting of bombs was like continuous peals of thunder. The whizzing of the balls & shell was very peculiar & caused involuntary dodging all around &, notwithstanding the real danger we were constantly in, it was a constant source of amusement & merriment amongst the men ... Our business was to lay perfectly still in position in which we were placed & be ready at any time to repel an attack upon the battery & in consequence our men lay on the ground the whole day, none being allowed to rise except for reasonable purposes.

The hair breadth escapes were very numerous. I can only say that a large round shell took off a mans haversack & bent his bayonet hanging by his side without touching the man; and another man laying on the ground with his knapsack strapped to his back had a 32 lb shot pop right on his back & bounce off without doing more than knock his breath out of his body for a time-the ball of course was nearly spent. A 24 lb shot passed within 18 inches of my head & ploughed into the ground 20 ft beyond me. I was sitting down at the time. The large & small balls bounced about just as if some of the great powers were playing a game of foot ball & the bombs burst over & around us until we really got to regard them more as if it was pyrotechnic display, than if they were instruments of death, sent from a malignant & treacherous. The enemy got our range very correctly & fired all day right to our position, but we were wonderfully preserved.

I got at one time upon a high stump & with my glass commenced looking all along the levee some 1200 yards off for the position of the gun boats & had not more than got down on the ground than bang bang went the heavy guns from one of the gun boats & the shot & shell came whirling right over head & some 20 shots were fired right in our direction showing that I had been seen by the enemy with their glasses.

A large shot came bounding along the ground in the early part of the day & passing us went right in to the ranks of the 27 Ohio who were on our left & took off the legs of three men & stopped right there as if tired. Another large 32 lb shot struck a large log behind which an officer had just dodge & bounced up in the air about fifty feet looking like a great foot ball. At times the shot could be distinctly seen as they came along and easily dodged.

When night came on we were ordered to remain on the field in just the same position with the strictest injunction against either sleeping or allowing a single man to sleep & we prepared to pass the night as best we could. I sent my man to camp for my rubber blanket & buffalo & stood up against a tree most of the night. At about 12 oclk a most terrific rain & thunder storm came on & Heavens artillery outdid in noise that of the day. It was singular sight to see by the glare of the lightning which was very bright to see two thousand men standing up with their blankets on being thoroughly drenched in rain.

At daylight we were relived & marched back to camp where we had hardly arrived when we heard loud & continuous cheering in the direction of the Fort & after a while we learned that the enemy had evacuated the place leaving a large amt of stores tents, 500 head of horses & mules, some 20 or 30 large guns, besides many stores in the levee & ample supplies of ammunition - everything in fact was abandoned last night in the greatest confusion & we found we had done them terrible damage yesterday. One or two gun boats very much disabled, guns in the fort badly knocked about & there is no doubt they were terribly frightened at seeing us remain on the field of battle all night lest we should storm their works. They must have had 11000 menThey left tents sufficient for 10,000 men & everything else proportion.

It is one of the most thorough & complete victories we have had & with very little loss of life. The generalship displayed by Genl Pope is entitled to all praise. I am very tired. Good night.

Alfred - Colonel A.W. Gilbert, Letter to His Wife