

US Grant Camp #68 SUVCW
Meeting Minutes 3/13/17
Frailey's Grill, I-55 & Butler Hill Rd, St. Louis, MO

Present: Jim Stebbings, Bob Petrovic, Marty Aubuchon, Walt Busch, Mark Coplin and Fr. Vincent Heier

Open with **prayer and pledge** at 1901 hrs, led by Mark Coplin

Reading and **approval of Minutes, Treasurer Report and Sec. Report** on Motion by Bob Petrovic and second by Marty Aubuchon with treasurer's report subject to audit. Passes.

Commander's Report

Attended Vicksburg Committee Meeting in O'Fallon, MO. Discussed the ribbons to be bought for the ceremony. Group thinks we need to buy some as a group and resell.

Shipped two more badge orders out

Arch Engraving is moving next to Spencer's Diner in Kirkwood.

No reports from the **Senior or Junior Vice Commanders**

Department Report

Department discussed **having national encampment in St. Louis**. Group feels we can do it. Walt has reservations

Vicksburg Monument Ribbons – Walt makes motion to buy 15 more, to help dept keep costs down. Bob Petrovic 2nds. Passes. Concerns over the price the ribbons were going to cost were expressed by Bob and Walt as they usually get encampment ribbons a lot cheaper. Info passed along after meeting to Gary Scheel, member of the committee.

Civil War Trivia – With Answers this time.

1. Apart from West Virginia, what was the only other territory to achieve statehood during the war? **(Nevada – Oct 31, 1864 – known as the Battle Born State)**
2. Which Union general has a bridge named after him on the Antietam battlefield?
(Ambrose Burnside) What were the bridges two other names? **The bridge has two other names, one is "Rohrbach's Bridge", after a local farmer Henry Rohrbach who lived nearby. The second name, "Lower Bridge" is in reference to the Upper Bridge and Middle Bridge located further upstream that also allowed movement of freight, animals, and people across the creek.**
3. What city was known as "The turntable of the Confederacy"? **(Atlanta)**
4. T or F - Union general Abner Doubleday invented baseball as a way for his men to pass the time in camp. **(False – Baseball predates the Civil War) Doubleday was at West Point in 1839 and did not invent baseball - In September 1845, a group of New York City men founded the New York Knickerbocker Baseball Club. One of them—volunteer firefighter and bank clerk Alexander Joy Cartwright—would codify a new set of rules that would form the basis for modern baseball, calling for a diamond-shaped infield, foul lines and the three-strike rule. He also abolished the dangerous practice of tagging runners by throwing balls at them. The first official game was played in 1846. Baseball is the American form of English Cricket and Rounder.**

5. Who founded the American Red Cross?

Mary Edwards Walker – Sarah Emma Evans - **Clara Barton** – Susan Baker

Clara Barton and a circle of her acquaintances founded the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C. on May 21, 1881. Barton first heard of the Swiss-inspired global Red Cross network while visiting Europe following the Civil War.

6. In which battle did John Bell Hood receive the wound that cost him his leg?

Antietam - Gettysburg - **Chickamauga** - the Wilderness

7. Which battle included the ground known as “Hell’s Half Acre”? (**Murfreesboro – Stone’s River**)

8. Which cavalry regiment captured Jefferson Davis? 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Michigan Calvary? (**4th**)

9. Of the following who was NOT a corps commander at the battle of Shiloh?

Leonidas Polk – Braxton Bragg - PGT Beauregard - William Hardee

10. On which battlefield can you see the “Eternal Light Peace Memorial”?

Antietam - Manassas - Appomattox - **Gettysburg**

Fun Fact – “I would rather be assassinated than see a single star removed from the American Flag.”

“Vicksburg is the key. The war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket.”

Abraham Lincoln

Old Business

ROTC – John Avery – Sent email to camp regarding who can cover ROTC award ceremonies this year. Dan Jackson in contact with Walt and John

Memorial Day Events - Grant Camp running it.

Vicksburg – St James Camp is having a special ceremony during the event

World War I – Jack Grothe suggesting a memorial presentation (separate from Memorial Day?) for a WWI vet – will have more info next meeting

July 22 – Set for Grant Remembrance Day – Unknown as of yet if a firearms salute will be permitted.

New Business

Mark Coplin – brought up the proposition from Jack Grothe **about merging Sherman camp and Grant Camp (see attached)**. This caused a lot of discussion. Mark was to send out e-mails to all members after the meeting for their thoughts. Some points were:

- a. Renaming camp Grant-Sherman, or not
- b. Having Sherman camp run as a division of Grant Camp, which is allowed by C&R.
- c. Leaving things as is.

A concern is also, if we go through the trouble of doing a name switch, etc. How many members will we be getting? Will most of their members (since many are paper members) drop out and we will have gone through major changes to accommodate just 5 new members? So the thought process goes on.

Last Soldier Project- Walt complaining that we have done nothing to promote the Last Soldier Project and we have three good candidates in the St. Louis area for whom we can get a marker. They are:

St. Charles - George Lockhart, Private Co F 12th US Colored Infantry – Buried Oak Grove Cemetery, died 1943

St Louis City - John W. Hanson, Private Co C 30th WI Inf, Buried Section 65 Site 10451-I, Jefferson Barracks, died 1942

St Louis County – August Moreau, Seaman – Monitor, GAR member, buried St. Monica Cemetery, Old Section, Lot 27, Creve Couer, died 1945

Walt will start working on something for this once he is retired.

Jim Stebbing advised he will contact Dale Crandell about what he envisioned for **History Day Essays** Awards Program.

Meeting closed with prayer by Father Heier at 2015 hrs.

Secretary Report for 4/10/17 Meeting

We will be discharging Phil Hinderberger, Barney Combs, James Elliott Hoskins and Andrew Clooney. Dan Jackson says he will pay still so keeping him on list. If my math is correct that leaves us with 30 members (not counting lifers).

Paid SVR dues from that account this month.

Treasurer Report for 4/10/17 Meeting

DATE	Item	Description	Cash in	Cash Out	Bank Transact
3/11/2017	Cash	Glenn Alsop payment on \$40 coin set. Still owes \$20	20.00		
3/10/2017	15619	Don Alwine Dues & SVR	38.00		
3/13/2017	5051	Chris Hunter Dues & SVR Dues	38.00		
3/13/2017	3559	Steve Doyle Address Cards	15.00		
3/13/2017	6611	Secord Name Tags	39.00		
3/13/2017	1389	Cushing Camp Name Tags	18.00		
3/22/2017	DEP	Deposit			168.00
3/21/2017	6634	H Hunt Dues	35.00		
3/24/2017	8657	Paul Hauser \$20 for Vicksburg Coins, money to go to Dept	20.00		
3/27/2017	157	4th Mil Dist SVR Dues 2nd MO		-132.00	-132.00
3/27/2017	158	Dept of MO \$50 for Grant Camp Net & \$20 for 2 coins		-70.00	-70.00

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TOTALS	19,038.6 2	-17,335.31	2,200.53
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TOTAL Check & Savings	2,200.53
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Committed Funds	
SVR Fund	\$69.51
Total	\$69.51

TOTAL MONEYS	
Total Checking	\$2,200.53
Undeposited Funds	55.00
Total	\$2,255.53

Committed Funds	\$69.51
30 Members times per capita	\$880.00
Uncommitted Funds	\$1,306.02

Sherman Camp Proposal

March 5, 2017

Jack Grothe called me this weekend to talk about the upcoming Memorial Day events. He mentioned the Gold Star Mother would like to hold a memorial service for the WW I soldiers at some point in time. He commented on his work with John Avery on the JROTC awards. After a few minutes, he then stated that he wanted to have a difficult discussion on the possibility of one camp forming in St. Louis and that camp would be made up of Sherman and Grant. He feels that enough time has passed that the two camps could work better together rather than separate. Per Jack - Sherman Camp's membership is mostly on paper. Not too many of their members are active and they are struggling to get new members. The proposal is that we maintain our current Grant Camp officers in the newly formed camp. That the new camp will be run for 1-2 years and then phase in elections of officers for the newly formed camp. The camp name is up for discussion - Jack proposed the name be Grant - Sherman Camp. He also proposed Billy Yank Camp. He made mention that we are a fraternal order and that we need to consider what is best for both camps. He stated that the pluses outweigh the negatives. He would like us to consider their proposal and request more information as needed. He would also like to - at some point have a face to face meeting with the officers of each camp to discuss this further.

I informed Jack that I would bring this proposal before our camp for discussion and consideration. For those of you who have been with the camp for a long period - there have been some hard feelings between our camps. The members that formed this camp came from Sherman Camp originally. I would like each member to consider our options. If we don't merge camps - Sherman may fold any way and we will be taking on their members. Those members who do join our ranks may not feel welcome and be members on paper only. Other members of a folded Sherman camp may just quit the order and how does that help the Department. If we merge camps, we can do so with the members of Sherman coming to us is FCL. Those members that are active can help our efforts and we can incorporate Sherman's Death Day into our camp events every year. This could also help the Department in the long run. By seeing that we can work together it may help the Department. On the flip side - how will this hurt our camp. Will we lose members over this proposal? Some of the issues that caused the split are still an issue.

I for one who lived through the issues we had in the past - find the words I just typed confusing. When Jack first mentioned this idea to me, I was against it. After talking with Brother Avery and getting a chance to write this proposal out on paper I started to see the bigger picture. The Sons of Union Veterans. Not U.S. Grant Camp - not Sherman Camp but the The Sons. The Department of Missouri.

What I would like to happen from here is we all take a deep breath. Take this paper home and consider what is before us. Next month we will have a discussion at the camp meeting. I want the discussion to be civil. If we need to talk with the members of Sherman before we take a vote we will do so. At some point the Camp will need to vote on this issue. I feel this is an issue that every member should have the opportunity to speak on. So instead of voting at the camp meeting I would like to send out an email to all the Grant Camp members. I will tabulate the results and share them with the membership.

Thanks for being a part of this camp - this is your camp. Thanks for letting me be your commander -

Mark Coplin - Camp Commander