

THE WESTERN DISPATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 6TH MILITARY DISTRICT SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

VOLUME XI, NO. 2

SUMMER 2014



The SVR firing detail from Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (Col. Baker's regiment) fires a musket salute at the dedication of the headstone for Union Civil War veteran Adelbert Walkley. Photo by Kathy O'Neal

COMMAND POST



Gentlemen,
The summer in all its glory has arrived, and I hope you're all having a happy one. As we have now experienced the great day of our Independence, I hope you all found ways to commemorate it to your fullest. As we are the uniformed, ceremonial military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, our utility to the Sons is only fully realized when we are *in uniform and engaged in a ceremony*. If you or your unit were not able to participate in some patriotic activity this year, please look for ways to do so next year.

Reporting was completed mostly on time with one notable exception. Thank you to those Company and Battery Commanders who answered the call to do so. Having acted for my first time as District Adjutant (after years of skillfully dodging it), I can say that it was a rewarding experience to get my hands on the machinery of reporting, filing, and accounting. I doff my kepi at all your adjutants for your willingness to do this often overlooked but vital task. Without you we wouldn't be able to operate.

The year so far has not been altogether business as usual for the Mighty 6th. We have a new Commander, a new staff, and some other, larger changes both now and in the future. It is hoped that those changes will breathe even more life into your activities and raise your excitement to engage in more events, especially those which will bring you into new spheres of influence for the purpose of educating and recruiting. For now, we have some changes that are disappointing, and some that are cause for cheer. I'm a 'bad news first' kind of man, so we'll end on a happier note.

A few months ago I had the unhappy task of applying for the revocation of a unit's charter. After repeated attempts to communicate with them for annual reporting purposes it became clear that there was no wind in their sails. When the reporting deadline had passed and a letter was sent (after emailing and phoning), it became clear that despite the efforts of the unit's Commander, there was nothing left for them to give. With regret, they were disbanded. It is my hope that if anything is learned from this, it is that communication in both directions is absolutely vital. We are a volunteer organization, so please remember that word is not just a noun but a verb as well.



Turning the page from that closed door, we see another one opening in our district. At this time, applications are being sought for a **NEW** unit in a place we might not expect. Realizing that the 6th extends from Texas, Oklahoma, through the Southwest and on up to the Canadian border, I am very excited to report a new unit is forming in my home state of Washington. Through the efforts of **Governor Isaac Stevens Camp-at-Large #1 Commander York Barrett** and our transplanted Brother **Loran Bures**, PCC of Los Angeles' Rosecrans Camp #2, **Co. K, 1st Washington Territorial Infantry** is forming as we speak. To all brothers in the Pacific Northwest, please consider adding SVR member of this unit to your resume and sign up today. Information on how to do so is at the end of this newsletter.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Capt. J.C. Marti
Commander
6th Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IN EUGENE, OREGON

On Monday, May 26th, Co. B, 71st Pennsylvania Infantry met at the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery to perform two services. The first was in cooperation with the Lane County American Legion and VFW to honor all military veterans and the second was the dedication of the headstone for Private Adelbert Seldon Walkley (Companies C & E 13th Illinois Cavalry) who had previously remained unmarked for the past 92 years.

Our contingent consisted of Captain Steve Betschart with the Honor Guard. Sergeant Doug Sebranek carried the National Colors and Private Perry McGill bore the Camp Colors of the Edward D. Baker Camp Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. They were flanked by Private Curtis Johnson, Private Bryan Burch and Corporal Nick Rhoads. The



Chaplain D.H. Shearer reads General Logan's 1868 order establishing Decoration Day. Photo by Kathy O'Neal

Firing Detail was led by Senior Vice-Commander / 1st Sergeant Mark Stevens. Its members were Corporal Joseph Stevens, Sergeant Carlos Pasillas, Private Tim O'Neal, Private James Anello and Private (new recruit) Kevin Burton. During the American

Legion/VFW ceremony our Chaplain DH Shearer was asked to read the 1868 Order from GAR Commander General John Logan followed by three crisp musket volleys and the playing of Taps by Bugler Steve Betschart.

At the end of the general ceremony the company marched the short distance to the new marker of Private Walkley. Captain Betschart acted as Master of Ceremonies after the invocation by Rev. Shearer. With the assistance of Ms. Dorothy Brandner four descendents of Private Walkley were introduced. 1st Sergeant Stevens then gave a brief biographical sketch of the life and military service of Private Walkley followed by the traditional musket volley and Taps. The Benediction of Chaplain Shearer closed the dedication service.

As captain and commander of Company B, I would like to thank each of the participants for making this a memorable day for the relatives of Adelbert Walkley. The sacrifice of their time, energy and resources is much appreciated. I would also like to thank Mrs. Kathy O'Neal for being our photographer.

In F, C & L
Captain Steve Betschart
Co. B 71st PA Infantry, SVR

CHIEF'S CHARGE



Greetings Brothers! Time is sure passing quickly this year, and it is once again time for the Western Dispatch, Summer Edition.

It is always great to see our various SVR units active at local events, and May obviously is one of our busy months with Memorial Day ceremonies observed throughout our district. It was amazing to see so many of your events on

Facebook, and I encourage you to keep up the great work.

For those of you not involved in social media, I ask why not? What a great way to network with not only our SUVCW and SVR Brothers, but also to find out about Civil War events in your own area. In addition to Facebook, I encourage you to use LinkedIn as an effective communication tool to stay abreast of what your brothers are doing, as well as to find out what is going on in our "field". After all, you have chosen and committed to become a professional through your membership in these organizations, so why not be "professional".

In the last edition, I spoke to you about furthering your Civil War knowledge, through reading and/or educational programs. At the risk of repeating myself, I encourage, no actually I *challenge* you to step up and become a Civil War professional. Here are two more opportunities:

- The SUVCW offers our Memorial University program to members to learn more about our great organization. As I have yet to complete this myself, let's make it a goal for 2014 to get as many of our 6th Military District SVR members through this program as possible! Visit <http://suvchw.org/memuniv/memorialuniv.htm> and register for the SUVCW Officer Training Course #2009. Let me know when you finish and we can tally our numbers at the end of the year!
- Universal Class offers an online class: The American Civil War. <http://www.universalclass.com/i/course/the-american-civil-war.htm> for \$60 you can take this class and document your accomplishment with a certificate. This clearly demonstrates your commitment to our profession through learning and effective documentation. Keep me posted as you complete this class also.

In the event you are wondering why I stress education and training so much, I have spent the last 30 years training firefighters

throughout the Western United States, both in fire departments and at community colleges and universities. In the fire service, we stress the need for education and training as part of our professional development. As stated previously, you are a Civil War professional and owe it to your profession to better yourself. By working together in 2014 to improve our Civil War knowledge, we can better honor the "Boys in Blue".

We have a few Western events coming up in the near future. Two 2014 California events at actual Civil War forts include:

- Fort Point (San Francisco, CA) August 16, 2014
- Gardnerville Civil War Reenactment Gardnerville, NV) September 12-14, 2014
- Fort Churchill Encampment & Reenactment Silver Springs, NV) October 3-5, 2014

Interested in participating in a West Coast event in NV/CA/OR/AZ, contact me for details at trainingchief@firehousemail.com . Stay Safe!

Your Humble Servant,

Wayne L. Eder, EFO, MBA
Captain
Chief of Staff, 6th Military District SVR

Commander
Battery A, 3rd United States Artillery, SVR,
NV)



HONORING THE DEAD: SAMUEL MERRILL JESSUP, 1833-1864

By Private Ronald Cannon, Co. C, 8th California
Infantry

Samuel Merrill Jessup was born about 1833 at Stilesville, Hendricks County, Indiana, the sixth child of Levi Jessup and Jemima Unthank. The Jessup family had

migrated to Indiana from North Carolina in 1821, settling in Hendricks County in 1823. Merrill, as he was known, was probably named for Indiana State Treasurer Samuel Merrill, who held office while Levi served in the state senate in 1833. In the spring of 1850, when Merrill was about sixteen years old, the Jessups moved to Henry County, Iowa, settling in Jefferson township. Merrill remained in Iowa for the next ten years, living part of the time with his eldest brother, William. But as the decade of the 1860s opened, Merrill migrated to Gentry County, Missouri, where he was married to Minerva Jane Dunn, daughter of a Baptist preacher, on 2 May 1860.

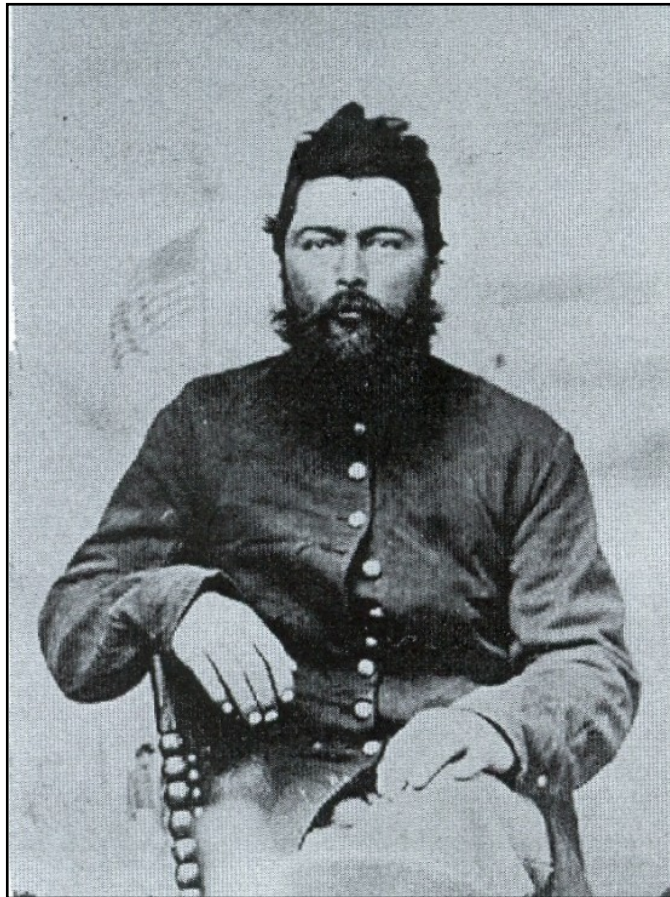
Their first child, Ruth Ann Eliza, called Annie, was born the following year on 3 July 1861. As Merrill and Minerva were starting their family, tensions brewing in the country for several years finally resulted in war. Over the next year Merrill continued to farm in Gentry County and provide for his family. The second

summer of the war brought new efforts in recruiting, however, and on 22 August 1862 Merrill chose to enlist in Company F, Thirty-third Missouri Volunteer Infantry at St. Joseph, Missouri, leaving a pregnant wife at home. He was mustered in at Benton Barracks, near St. Louis on 3 September 1862. Merrill remained with his regiment throughout his service. Eventually assigned to the Sixteenth Army Corps, Merrill and the Thirty-third spent a year in Helena, Arkansas, until January 1864, when the regiment was ordered to Vicksburg. The regiment then participated in General William Tecumseh Sherman's month long Meridian Campaign, which was intended to destroy Confederate

cavalry under General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Subsequently, the Thirty-third Missouri was a part of General Nathaniel Banks' unsuccessful Red River Campaign in Louisiana, and was involved in battle at Pleasant Hill on 9 April. Merrill was then promoted to corporal on 1 May 1864, while the regiment was still in Louisiana.

In July, the Thirty-third Missouri and the Sixteenth Corps were involved in General Andrew J. Smith's further expedition against General Forrest in order to protect General Sherman's supply lines. In the action that ensued on 15 July at Tupelo, Mississippi, Merrill was

wounded in the left thigh. He was removed to the United States General Hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, where he died six days later on 21 July of "inflammation of lungs." His personal effects, which consisted of a pair of trousers, flannel shirt, socks, shoes and soldier's blouse,



Samuel Merrill Jessup

were given to his brother Jonathan, who was also present at Tupelo, to be sent back to his family in Gentry County, Missouri. He was buried in the National Cemetery at Memphis. Samuel left a young widow, Minerva, and two small daughters: Annie, aged three; and Edna Francis, born 6 February 1863 and aged nearly one and a half, whom he probably had never seen.

HONORING THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

By 2nd Lieutenant Allen R. Davis

The remains of unknown Civil War Veterans lie in graves throughout the nation. Some of those graves are marked and some remain unmarked. Although we do not know who these men are, we do know that sometime between 1861-1865 they left their homes never to return. Many of them had



Headstone honoring The Unknown Soldier, Silveyville Cemetery, Dixon, CA

wives and children at home who learned to face the future without their husbands and fathers. The Silveyville Cemetery, Dixon, California contains a headstone "To Honor The Resting Place of The Unknown Soldier". The manager of the cemetery told me on May 24, 2014 that the

soldier buried in that grave died at Gettysburg during the Civil War and that after the war, when the bodies of the deceased soldiers were exhumed those who had no identifying information were shipped to various states in the Union and laid to rest. It is unknown whether the soldier buried in the Silveyville Cemetery wore the Blue or the Gray.

During the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Pioneer Cemetery, Calistoga, California, members of Companies B and C, 8th California Infantry, along with the Sisters of Ivy Stiers Auxiliary 23, participated in a memorial service honoring the Civil War Veterans buried in the cemetery. Members of Ivy Stiers



Tanya Gjerman lays the white rose in memory of all the unknown soldiers from every war during a ceremony at Pioneer Cemetery, Calistoga, CA

Auxiliary 23 laid a rose in honor of each soldier as 2nd Lieutenant Allen Davis read the soldier's name, unit and state served. The last rose, white in color, was placed in memory of the unknown soldiers of every war who lie in marked and unmarked graves.

May we never forget these men, whose identity remains a mystery.

DECORATION DAY. A POEM

By George Loomis, 1891

(Editor's note: stanza's 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are quoted below as they were read by Tiana Gjerman at the Pioneer Cemetery, Calistoga, CA on Memorial Day 2014)

Amid the throng a little girl was seen
Wending her footsteps towards the
lonely mound
The grass upon it, was as fresh and green
As that which grew on consecrated ground
"Tis true" she said "that others seem to scorn
This one lone gave so friendless and forlorn
But I will go and strew with little flowers
What God baptized with sunshine and with
showers."

The tender tribute which pure childhood gave
Called forth rebuke from some who stood anear
"Why scatter roses on a Rebel's Grave
Twas not for this, that we assembled here."
The girl looked up in innocent surprise
Through tear-drops gathering in her hazel eyes
At length in faltering accents she replied
To those who would her noble motives chide:

"My own dear Father was a soldier too,
Far in the Sunny South he marched away
With friends and comrades dressed in Union
Blue

To meet the Rebel enemy in Gray.
He kissed his darling – told me not to cry,
"When will you come," I said, he answered "by
and by"

But O he'll never Come! For he was slain
And now lies buried on the battle plain."
"Perhaps some little southern girl will go
And deck poor Papa's grave with Sunny flowers
And oh! how happy I would be to know
That it was cared for as we care for ours
And if she should – I could not love the one
Who blamed her for so kind an action done.
Hard is the heart and cruel, that denies
A singler flower where buried Papa lies."

"And who can tell but in that distant land
Some little orphan girl like me, has cried
Because no Father takes her by the hand
And now she knows not when nor where he died

It may be true, that in this very spot,
Neglected her avoided and forgot
The father of my unknown sister lies
For whom she nightly prays, and grieves, and
cries."



Tiana Gjerman, Ivy Stiers Auxiliary 23, recites "Decoration Day.
A Poem" at Pioneer Cemetery

EDITOR'S NOTE



Brothers, I offer you the
Summer Edition of *The
Western Dispatch*. As you
will see, this edition is
slightly larger than normal, but
that is directly correlated to the
amazing work YOU have done so
far this summer! This edition chronicles the
activities of the 6th Military District over two
holidays: Memorial Day and Independence Day.
Thank you for your contributions to this
edition. Please keep the news and information
coming so that we can memorialize for future
generations our work to honor our Boys in
Blue.

Some of the highlights of this edition include an
article by Captain J.C. Marti which details the

results of the survey conducted a few months ago. Please read the article as it gives specific details regarding the SVR's place within the larger organization of the SUVCW. We also receive encourage to further our knowledge of the Civil War by our Chief of Staff, Captain Wayne Eder. Brother Randy Fletcher provides insight into the new regulations regarding headstones from the Veteran's Administration.

In addition, you will find information regarding two Brothers in the SUVCW who are campaigning for the office of Junior Vice-Commander-In-Chief. We include their resumes here at their request so that those of our number who are attending the National Encampment in August will be better informed as they prepare to cast their vote for that office. *Please note that neither the 6th Military District Staff, The Western Dispatch, it's Editor nor anyone affiliated with the 6th Military District officially endorses either of these candidates.*

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of *The Western Dispatch*. Your feedback is always appreciated and may be directed to me at allenrdavis@yahoo.com.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Allen Davis
2nd Lieutenant
Public Information Officer
6th Military District

ROSE, WHITE & BLUE PARADE

Private John E. Stolp, Company C, 8th CA Vol. Inf.

July 4th, 2014 saw members of Company C, 8th CA Volunteer Infantry participating in the 7th annual Rose, White & Blue Parade held in San Jose, California. The parade route covered just over a mile and a half in distance, and was made most enjoyable by the

mild weather which enlivened the festivities of the day. Four members of Co. C mustered for duty this year, and were joined by three members of the Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No.52. A marked increase from last year's numbers!

Informational brochures were available and



Phil Sheridan No.4, Camp Commander Stephen Aguirre leads the Camp and the Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No.52 during the 2014 Rose, White & Blue Parade in San Jose, Calif., on July 4th.

distributed to interested spectators, and many photo requests were granted to the patriotically minded crowds. Phil Sheridan Camp 4's Patriotic Instructor, Bro. John Jensen, was on hand and participated at the conclusion of the parade route in answering questions posed by the public. Local TV coverage on KRON 4 had a few seconds worth of footage which can view [here](#).

Next year, with luck, the numbers of participants will increase, and plans for an informational booth will be realized. Huzzah! For the Rose, White & Blue!

GENERAL ORDERS

11 March 2014
SVR General Order 2014-07

1. Effective this date, the Commanding General Sons of Veterans Reserve has ordered that all units and Districts within the Sons of Veterans Reserve submit the IRS response to the filing of the 990N with the Annual Unit Strength Report (Form 19).
2. If the Annual Unit Strength report has been submitted for 2014, then a copy of the IRS letter must be forwarded prior to the "drop dead" date for Form 19 submission.

16 March 2014
SVR General Order 2014-08

1. Effective this date 2nd Lieutenant William M. Tojek has been appointed to the position of Adjutant of the Weber Guard. 2nd Lieutenant's commission will be in effect until 16 March 2017 or until properly relieved.
2. Effective this date the Commanding General announces the retirement of Captain Brad Schall, PCinC, and his Adjutant First Lieutenant Don Wilt into the Inactive Reserve of the Sons of Veterans Reserve. These two Brothers have served the SVR for over 10 years and lately as the Commander and Adjutant of Company B, 8th California Volunteer Infantry. The Commanding General wishes to thank these Brothers for their dedication and involvement in the SVR. Their leadership will be missed.

5 May 2014
SVR General Order 2014-09

1. Effective this date, and due to continued failure of the unit to provide required documentation, the Commanding General, disbands Company A, 8th U.S. Infantry of the 6th Military District.

22 Jun 2014
SVR General Order 2014-10

1. With the issuance of SUVCW Commander-in-Chief General Order 22 on 15 June 2014, the Commanding General SVR requires that all District Commanders to immediately cause a survey the units under their command and report to the Adjutant General of the SVR the name and rank of all junior members along with the name of the parent or grandparent who accompanies the junior when he attends meetings or participates

in events.

Major General Robert Grim
Commanding Officer
Sons of Veterans Reserve

Attest:
Donald E. Darby
Colonel, SVR
Adjutant General



DISTRICT SPECIAL ORDER 2014-1

23 June 2014

TO: All Unit Commanders of the Sixth Military District

RE: Report of membership of Juniors within the SVR Units of the Sixth Military District

Pursuant to SVR General Order 2014-10, issued June 22, 2014, all unit commanders within the Sixth Military District shall cause to be filed with the District Adjutant a written report stating whether or not your unit has Junior Members on the rosters of your individual units.

Those Units who do have Junior Members serving within their ranks shall provide in said report the Name, Rank, unit assignment of the minor soldier and shall provide the name of the parent or grandparent who accompanies said minor soldier to all unit meetings and/or activities.

Said reports shall be filed with the District Adjutant within seventy-two hours of the receipt of this Order. Reports will be carbon copied by Unit Commanders to the District Commander as well.

From this data, the District Adjutant shall then compile a report to the Adjutant General of the SVR relating the pertinent information mandated by SVR General Order 2014-10.

Captain J.C. Marti
Commander
Sixth Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve

Attest:
Captain Kenneth Auld
Adjutant
Sixth Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve



VA REGULATIONS KEEP CIVIL WAR VETS IN UNMARKED GRAVES

By 2nd Lieutenant Randy Fletcher, Co. B, 71st Penna.
Volunteer Infantry

In May the Col Edward D. Baker Camp installed headstones on two previously unmarked graves of Oregon Civil War veterans. A Confederate headstone was installed on the grave of Corporal Samuel Creson, 28th North Carolina Infantry at Pilot Butte Cemetery in Bend. At Eugene Pioneer Cemetery a Union headstone was placed on the unmarked grave of Adelbert Walkley, a Saddler with the 13th Illinois Cavalry. The Walkley headstone was dedicated with a ceremony, musket salute, and Taps on Memorial Day by Co. B, 71st Pennsylvania Infantry, SVR.

The two headstones installed in May bring the total number placed by the Baker Camp to 115 since 2005. The vast majority of the headstones were Civil War veterans but there were a couple of Spanish American War vets and World War I soldiers as well. Most of the headstones were supplied by the VA but a few, for the unmarked graves of veteran's wives and children buried the GAR plot at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery were donated by Lisa Ponder of Heritage Stone in Eugene. The headstone for Nurse Mandana Thorp at Portland's River View Cemetery was purchased with privately raised funds and a similar effort is underway for

Nurse Catherine Conklin in Toledo.

The number of headstones installed is a tremendous source of personal pride not only for me, but for every member of the Baker Camp and our friends all over the state who have helped. Unfortunately, a change in VA regulations has almost stopped our work. The VA now requires that a next of kin, a direct or lateral descendant of the soldier, must personally request the headstone. In the past, cemeteries were allowed to make the request. We are facing a sometimes insurmountable challenge in locating relatives of men who died over 100 years ago. In many cases, the graves were unmarked because the men had no family to care for them. Even when we do find a next of kin, the VA seems to challenge almost every piece of documentation we submit.

This problem is not limited to the Baker Camp but is going on all across the country and, quite frankly, it is disgraceful. The sesquicentennial of the Civil War had brought a lot of interest to this issue and the VA has dampened the enthusiasm of hundreds of volunteers with their draconian requirements. The Ohio congressional delegation has introduced HR 2018 which would reinstate the ability of a cemetery to request a headstone for a deceased vet when no next of kin can be found. At hearings held in Washington DC in April, the VFW, the Ohio Civil War Roundtable, and other veterans groups testified in favor of the bill. Only the VA testified in opposition.

The VA acknowledges the problem but wants to remedy it through change their administrative rules. The VA testified at an earlier hearing in 2013 that they would have the problem fixed early in 2014. It took them three years to draft the rule changes that created this problem. The change in regulations was brought on over a couple of well publicized family disputes over which emblem of faith should be placed on modern military headstones. Unmarked Civil War graves are just caught in the fallout. Ironically, upright Civil War military headstones do not even have an emblem of faith on them. Union headstones have the Union Shield and Confederate headstones feature the Confederate Cross of Honor.

What can you do? Contact your senator or congressman and ask them to support HR 2018. The Baker Camp has been in contact with both Oregon senators, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, on this issue. Also, please visit the web page Mark Their Graves <http://www.marktheirgraves.org> and sign their online petition.

MEDAL OF HONOR PARADE

by

2nd Lieutenant George Hansen, Co. K, 1st U.S. Infantry

Sons of Veterans Reserve unit, First U.S. Infantry, Company K, participated in the 13th annual City of Gainesville Medal of Honor Parade on April 12. The city of Gainesville, Texas, has sponsored a four-day celebratory event since 2001 honoring those who have received the nation's highest award for valor - the Medal of Honor. The affair culminates into a downtown parade on a Saturday.

The yearly event amasses the largest gathering of Medal of Honor recipients at one time where



Members of Co. K, 1st U.S. Infantry starting from left - 2nd Lt. George Hansen, Pvt. Drake Peddie, Pvt. Charles Sprague, and Sgt. Blair Rudy (far right).

2014 brought together 21 MOH heroes. Gainesville is the only city in the United States that has a Medal of Honor host city program. The Medal of Honor was created in 1861 during the American Civil War to give recognition to those who distinguished themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity" in combat with an enemy of the United States. There have been 3,468 Medals of Honor awarded to the nation's soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and coast guardsmen since the decoration's creation, with more than half of them presented for actions during the four years of the Civil War.

Assisting Company K in the parade were members of the Heritage Brass Band of Dallas and several local reenactors.

CHAPLAIN'S PULPIT



By 2nd Lieutenant, Rev. Doctor Gary
Alan Dickey
Chaplain, 6th Military District

ELEGY TO A FALLEN SOLDIER

Dedicated to Spc. Adam Rosema (died March 2007) &
Pfc. Cory Hiltz (died June 2007)

We follow you with heavy steps behind
your casket lifted proudly.

Too young a hero to have fallen so far away
and too dear,

Yet to our hearts you are yet so near.

You could not have been braver nor made us
more proud,

Yet the hollowness of our hearts bears our
tears of unrealized hopes for the years.

Flag unfurled and rifles fired pierce the silence
of the grave

And remind us of your courage and your country
that has called you brave.

The sound of pipes and bugle bring solemnity
and Taps

Reminding us of something more perhaps.

For beyond our mortality stands the eternity of
God.

So to rest young Soldier — we salute you —
you have faithful been —

It is up to us your battle now to win.

And work and pray for peace as we honour you so
that you will not have died in vain.

Stand down brave soldier and now safely rest
for the Lord is nigh

And God bless your soul into eternity

And angels hold you in their arms and keep
you safe. Amen.



Dr. Gary Dickey piping for Adam Rosema

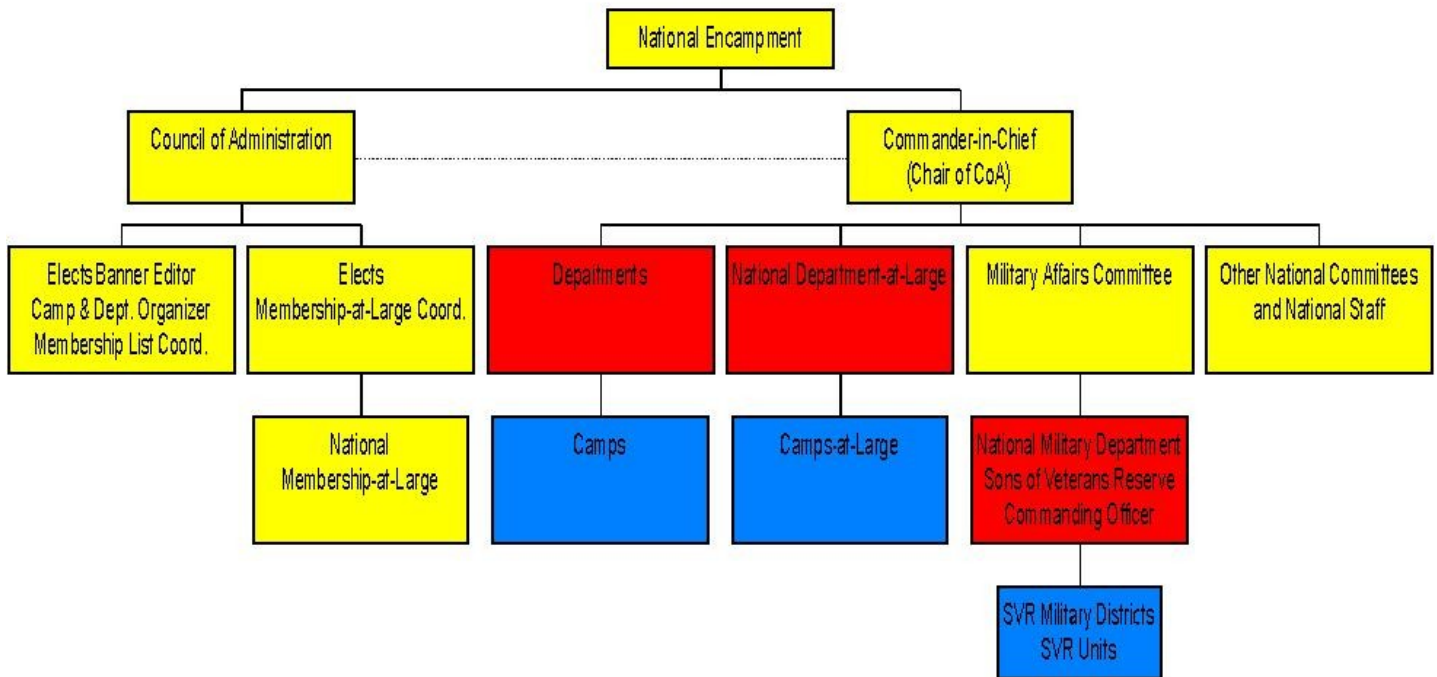
IF NOT US, THEN WHO? IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

By Captain J.C. Marti
Commander, 6th Military District

As some of you are aware, last January a survey was created and your input was requested on a variety of topics related to the Sons of Veterans Reserve, our members' perception of what that meant, and how satisfied they were with how things are currently going. The results were pleasantly surprising in some cases, but overall the experience was illuminating in an unexpected

adequate opportunities to participate in uniformed SVR events ((37.5%). When asked how easy it would be to explain the difference between the SVR and the SUVCW, most replied "extremely easy", but one voted for "I wasn't aware there's a difference" (Hint - there is!). Most thought the level of communication was adequate from their commander, but disappointingly (12.5)% answered "Who?" When asked "Do you feel the SVR serves a purpose distinct from the SUVCW overall?" (50)% said yes but (16.7)% said no. In the free response section, one great suggestion was to *"Recruit all [members] as dual members by attendance of SVR recruiters at SUVCW Election of Officers meetings. These meetings hold the highest attendance of Brothers. Designate at least one Brother per Camp, who is a dual member, as an official Recruiter and provide official*

National Organization Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



(and not so pleasant) way. Most respondents said they found their work in the SVR is meaningful (33%), and overall satisfaction won as well (37.5%). Most respondents also find they have

recognition for that Brother for recruiting an agreed upon number of new Brothers in the SVR."

Another comment suggested that there was no distinction between an SVR activity and an SUVCW activity, as the SVR is "subordinate to the SUVCW." Well, yes and no. Insofar as we are all members of the SUVCW, the answer has validity. That said, a particular unit does not need to work through a camp or department in order to conduct a meeting, engage in a project, or hold an event. As SVR Commander Major General Robert Grim wrote to me, "*We need to emphasize that the SVR is the Military Department of the SUVCW. Like other SUVCW departments we operate within the rules and procedures of the SUVCW Constitution and Regulations. SUVCW Departments are limited to geographical areas prescribed in their department charters (Sometimes enlarged or reduced by the National SUVCW organization.) The SVR Military Department is somewhat different from the other SUVCW departments. For example, we write our own SVR Regulations (Like Departments make their own By-Laws), but our Regulations must be approved by the SUVCW national encampment.*" Although most SVR units are comprised with members from a particular camp, those units are governed separately from said camp and are not subordinate to either a camp or department, but rather to the SVR Commander, then the National Military Affairs Committee, who finally answers directly to the Commander in Chief of the SUVCW and the proceedings of the National Encampment.

A few suggestions expressed a desire to have time set aside for promotion within SUVCW camp meetings, and to have more training on drill and ceremonies. All of them were good, constructive ideas that were sometimes surprising and often illuminating, but the most interesting fact in all of these had nothing to do with the questions and answers. The most compelling feature of this survey is the respondents themselves. In a survey emailed repeatedly, posted on our Facebook page, and promoted within this newsletter, only 24 members responded. According to the 2014 annual report submitted to the National Staff,



we stand at 212 members. This amounts to 11% total respondents.

To the 11% who answered the survey, thank you for taking the time and interest in our organization to try to make it better. Your efforts are appreciated. To the 89% who ignored it...I would like to remain positive, and remind myself that we are all volunteers, but I have to say that to have 89% of our members ignore a repeated request from their commander, whomever that is, is disappointing to put it mildly. If we are a volunteer organization...then volunteer. I would challenge you all to reexamine your reasons for being in the SVR and ask yourself if you are in fact honoring your ancestors and mine by doing...nothing.

With apologies for the ominous tone, the fact is the Sesquicentennial we were all hotly anticipating as a resurgence of interest in the Civil War has largely failed to capture the imagination of the public. Fraternal organizations of every kind are waning in this country. After applauding the fact that you men have signed your name and raised your hand to uphold the ideals and aims of our order, it remains that if we are to long continue as the sole legal heirs to those men who fought and died so valiantly, we simply need to do more. We cannot be satisfied that we paid our few dollars and have a certificate suitable for framing. Paper units and paper members are not of help to anyone. We need to be an organization that moves and adapts to the reality that faces us. We need to commit to doing more in the schools instead of lamenting that history classes reduced the Civil War to a few days of dry lecture. We need to market ourselves in a way that ensures that not another Memorial Day goes by with one or none of the public in attendance. We need to communicate tips and tricks learned along the way with each other. Obviously we need to recruit intelligently and constantly.

The bottom line is that, as the uniformed, ceremonial arm of the SUVCW, and by extension the GAR, we need to stand up and be

counted. Get to that parade. Attend living history events. Get you uniform put together with thoughtfulness and wear it with pride, knowing you stand apart in representing the Boys in Blue. Talk to the youth of our nation who know almost nothing about this great "crossroads of our being" as a nation, as the late Shelby Foote called it. Finally, ask yourself one question: do I want to be part of the 11%...or the 89%?

BATTERY A, 3RD US ARTILLERY SVR UPDATE

Memorial Day 2014

The General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25 of Reno, NV and its SVR unit Battery A, 3rd US Artillery continue their area activities during this 150th anniversary of Nevada's statehood. Multiple events were attended during Nevada Memorial Day observances including:

- Virginia City, NV parade and graveside ceremony at Civil War veterans graves
- Reno, NV GAR cemetery graveside ceremony attended by Nevada Senator Dean Heller (R)
- Carson City, NV Memorial Day Ceremony at Lone Mountain Cemetery
- Carson City, NV GAR Monument wreath laying



Federal Gun Crew at Dayton, NV

invited to participate in the annual Alcatraz Civil War event on 4/5/14. SUCVW/SVR members Ray Ahrenholz and Wayne Eder represented Camp 25 at this event. Members conducted presentations to approximately 1,500 visitors on the use of Civil War artillery, utilizing the "forts" original Flank Howitzer as a teaching tool.

SUCVW Camp 25 Open House-Major General John G. Foster, April 6, 2014

Camp 25 Chaplain Wayne Eder portrays Major General John G. Foster in the first person as a living historian and member of Lincoln's Generals, a Pennsylvania living history group. General Foster was at the annual SUCVW Camp 25 Open House on April 6, 2014.

Hawthorne, NV Armed Forces Day May 16, 2014

The Nevada Civil War Volunteers (NCWV) hosted a Civil War Reenactment at Hawthorne's annual Armed Forces Day. SUCVW/SVR members Wayne Eder, Brian Worcester, and Ray Ahrenholz participated by staffing the Model 1841 12 lb. Mountain Howitzer. There were two battles with approximately 500 spectators, as well as a school day in which approximately 200 High School students participated.

Dayton, NV Sesquicentennial Celebration May 17, 2014

The Nevada Civil War Volunteers (NCWV) requested SVR support during a Living History Day in Dayton, NV honoring Nevada's 150th anniversary. Wayne Eder and Ray Ahrenholz helped start the day's festivities by firing a round from the

Mountain Howitzer.

Civil War Alcatraz April 5, 2014

Members of Battery A and its sister unit, Battery B, 1st NJ Light Artillery-DPFB were

Kentucky Colonels

The SVR in Nevada continues to work diligently to preserve the memory of the "Boys in Blue". On June 22, 2014, several SVR members were honored at the regular SUVCW Camp 25 meeting with commissions in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. <http://kycolonels.org/> Camp 25 Commander John Riggs, acting in his capacity as Aide-de-Camp to Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear, presented the commissions to the following SVR members:

Wayne L. Eder, Battery Commander and Chief of Staff 6th Military District SVR
Ray Ahrenholz, Chief Bugler, Battery A, 3rd US Artillery
David Davis
Brian Worcester
Ed Carson
Frank Wood
Roger Linscott

Commander Riggs had nominated these members for the recognition based on their continued dedication to honoring the brave men that fought the American Civil War and their efforts to preserve the Union. These SVR members are continually active, participating in events throughout the West and in some instances, to 150th events in the East.



Camp 25 SUVC/Battery A, 3rd US Artillery Members receiving "Kentucky Colonel" Commissions 6/22/14.

Graeagle Civil War Reenactment

The community of Graeagle, CA hosts an annual 4th of July event that includes a Civil War reenactment each year. Members of Battery A, 3rd US Artillery-SVR once again attended in force, adding the groups 121b. Mountain Howitzer to the Federal gun line. Over two days on July 5-6, 2014, the Battery participated in 4 battle scenarios, firing 85 rounds from the gun. Thanks to SVR members that participated and supported the event including Wayne L. Eder, Ray Ahrenholz, Ken Auld, John Riggs, Tyrone Davis and David Davis.

Upcoming Events

Saturday August 9th 2014 Aurora, NV Civil War Veteran Monument Dedication

September 12-14, 2014 Gardnerville, NV Civil War Reenactment

For additional information, please contact Wayne Eder at trainingchief@firehousemail.com

CANDIDATE RESUMES FOR JVCinC SUVCW

Editors Note: Although we take no position of endorsement for any candidates, we have before us two fine and capable candidates with years of fruitful service to the Order. Surely it will be difficult to decide but we present this here for those attending the National Encampment in order to inform the voters who will presumably decide the course of the next several years of the Sons.

Robert M. Petrovic, PDC

5519 Cherokee Lane
Cedar Hill, MO 63016-2527
P# 636-274-4567 Fax# 636-274-4568
Email : rpetro7776@aol.com

Brothers,

Here is my resume of why I feel I am qualified for the office of Junior Vice Commander.

I am retired and have more time to devote to the Sons and I will be available when I am needed.

I joined the Sons in 1985 as an associate. I became a full member in April 2014.

I served as camp Secretary/Treasurer for 10 years which gave the rank of Past Camp Commander.

In 1996 I helped form the Department of Missouri and I was the first Department Commander.

I helped form several camps including the one I am in now and several SVR units.

I have been the National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator since 1998, and still hold that position.

I served 3 years on the Real Sons and Daughters committee.

I served as a member of the Ebay Surveillance committee.

I served as Chairman of the Ebay Surveillance committee, 2000/2001.

I served as a member of the 200L National Encampment committee held in Springfield MO.

I was appointed to the National Encampment Site committee in 2003 and was appointed chairman in 2013. I was awarded the Meritorious Service award with Gold Star in 2004 which is the order's highest honor.

I am one of the founding members of the SUVCW Charitable Foundation and I am the present chairman.

I was the chairman of the 2007 National Encampment held in St Louis MO.

I was a member of the Council of Administration for a total of 9 years.

I served as chairman of the Civil War Memorials Grant committee for several years.

In 2009 I was appointed as chairman of the Lincoln Tomb Observance and still hold that position.

I was appointed National Chief of Staff for the SVR in 2009.

I have served several years on the Military Affairs committee.

In 2012 I was awarded the SVR Distinguished Service Medal with Gold Star which is the SVR's highest honor.

I was appointed Co-Chairman of the Remembrance Day program in Gettysburg.

Don Martin

National Council of Administration 2011-present

National Committee on Constitution and Regulation 2013-present

National Civil War Memorial Grant Committee 2012--present

National Military Affairs Committee, 2011--present

National Patriotic Instructor 2009-10 and 2010-11

National Guide 2008-2009

Ohio Department Commander 2011-12

Sergeant Richard Enderlin Camp 73 Commander 2005-2010

Graduate Memorial University Officer Training Course, 20 Sep 2009

US Air Force Veteran 1983-1992

High School Social Studies and Science Teacher 1998-Present

SUVCW member since 1998

Preserving and Perpetuating the GAR

- **Dedication of grave stones and memorial plaque** to 73rd OVI soldiers who died of measles and camp disease at Clarksville, WVA, 1862. Researched, organized, & coordinated installation. Oct 2012

-**Last Union Civil War Veteran Project**, Researched, organized and participated in the dedication ceremony Pickaway County 2010, Pike County 2009, Ross County 2007. Franklin County Honor Guard 2009.

- **History of Enderlin Camp #73**. Wrote and maintain. 2008-present.

- **Lincoln Dinner** Enderlin Camp #73. Planned, Coordinated, Hosted Enderlin Camp #73's First. 11 Feb 2009

Honoring Union Veterans

- **Memorial Day Service**, Grandview Cemetery, Chillicothe. Master of Ceremonies 2005-09, Honor Guard 1999-03, Attendee 2010-present
- **July 4th Ceremony** Frankfort Historical Society. Participant 2013
- **Civil War Veterans Wreath Ceremony**, Sugar Grove Cemetery, Wilmington, OH, Honor Guard 13 Jul 2013
- **Parade, Chillicothe Feast of the Flowering Moon**, Marched with Camp, May 29, 2010
- **Grate Day Celebration**, Marched in parade and participated in Honor Guard. Atwater, OH 10 Oct 2009
- **Honor Guard**, Circleville Presbyterian Church, Civil War Veterans Memorial Service, Circleville. 2007

Patriotic Education

- **Guest Speaker and Living History**, "Civil War Soldier & Equipment", "73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry" Pike County Heritage Museum 2011, Waverly Street Festival 2009, Boy Scout Camporee 2007, Pike County Rotary Club 2006, University of Rio Grande 2003 & 2004, Waverly High School, 2000 – 2003.
- **Led Boy Scouts in flag placement** on military graves, Grandview Cemetery, Chillicothe. 1999, 00, 02 & 03
- **Assisted Boy Scout Eagle Project**, located and replaced/installed 128 GAR markers Chillicothe. Jun 2001

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

By Captain Ken Auld
Adjutant, 6th Military District

Editor's Note: The following excerpt from the Civil War Diary of James Wren of the Pennsylvania 48th Regiment dated December 14th 1862 at Fredericksburg VA shows that not everything about the Civil War was serious. There were some humorous times as well!



December 14th, 1862 In Fredericksburg, Va.... Today there was a very amusing thing that took place with Dye Davis and John Howells and Bill Hill, who was killed with the falling of the Chimney the day of the 12th.

When we crossed into the town of Fredericksburg, the men captured many things and these three, Davis, Howells, and Hill got into a house and a carpenter's store room and Dye Davis said, 'We be got him now, lads. Fill your haversacks.' And the haversacks was filled. Dye Davis said, 'Now, lads, lets go down to the fire and we will have some johnny cakes.' And when they reached the fire, Dye said, 'John Howells, do we get some wood and make a fire?', and 'Bill Hill, do we get some water and I will make some johnny cake' and the work went on and Dye made a cake on the old plate and he turned it up to see if it was done, but it was not browned yet and Jack said, 'turn 'em over any'ow.' Dye turned it over and said, 'Jack he is hard any'ow,' and they got the other side hard and Dye wanted to get it browned but Bill Hill got impatient and said, 'Damn, 'em, Dye, less have him!' The cake was handed to Bill and the cook put another on the pan and while Dye was working at the second one, Bill Hill could not get his knife to split the first one and Jack Howells says, 'Bill, get a stone and break'em.' They got a stone and broke it and tried to bit it, but it was no go and Jack examined it

The Sixth Military District is comprised of the following states: Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and submissions from throughout the district, preferably with photos. Please send all submissions, comments or/questions to PIO 2nd Lieutenant Allen R. Davis at allenrdavis@yahoo.com.



Please also be sure to read, discuss, and contribute on our Facebook page: 6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Remember to hit the LIKE button!

Remember to visit our District website: <http://6thmilitarydistrictsvr.weebly.com>.

carefully and exclaimed, 'Damn 'em, Dye, 'e is plaster of Paris, and the cook stopped instantly and exclaimed, 'Well, Jack, I did think he was damn heavy flour in my haversack.' And sure enough, it was white plaster of Paris.

CALLING ALL WASHINGTONIANS!

Attention Volunteers !

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS BOUNTY

The undersigned have been authorized to raise and organize Company K for Col. Steinberger's regiment of Washington Territory Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

An opportunity is here offered for service in the best disciplined and

Most Thoroughly Organized Regiment ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

Recruits for this company will be sent to Fort Steilacoom, and at once provided with comfortable quarters and subsistence. Enlistments will be for

Three Years, or During the War,

and in addition to the liberal allowances and pay now given to soldiers, every man who is honorably discharged from service will receive the sum of

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS, AS BOUNTY.

Full particulars as to pay, &c., will be furnished at the office of the undersigned at the Union Hotel, between the hours of 8 o'clock A. M. and 6 o'clock P. M.

York Barrett.
Loran Bures.

The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). SVR units participate in Civil War related ceremonies, parades, living history programs and educational demonstrations. Membership in the SVR is open to any Member (Hereditary, Junior Hereditary), or Associate Non-hereditary) in good standing in the SUVCW. The members of our proposed SVR Company are not limited to being Brothers of the Gov.

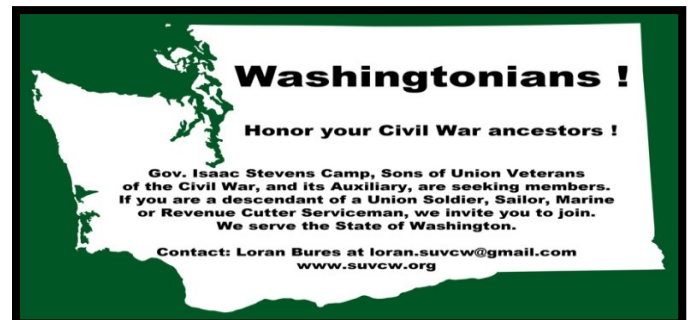
Isaac Stevens Camp, but may belong to any SUVCW Camp or be a National Member-at-Large. Also, you may belong to more than one SVR unit. Raising and organizing a SVR unit has long been a goal of acting Company Commander, York Barrett.

SUVCW Brothers desiring to enlist as soldiers or musicians (bugler, drummer, or fifer) in Company K, 1st Washington Territory Infantry, SVR must file the attached application for membership (Form 5A) with the Company's acting Adjutant, along with \$6.00 for 2014 dues. Make checks or money orders payable to "Loran Bures, Adjutant".

If you have any questions, or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Loran Bures
Acting Adjutant
Company K
1st Washington Territory Infantry
Sons of Veterans Reserve
11526 Bona Vista Ct SW
Olympia, WA 98512-9009
(360) 786-9451
<http://suvcw.org/svr/svr.htm>



Any letters, articles, etc., published in *The Western Dispatch* do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the SUVCW Inc., the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the 6th Military District, officers, membership, guests, or the editor/publisher. Copyright © 2014 6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve (SUVCW)

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED