



Volume 3 Edition 3

### FROM OUR COMMANDER

21 September 2011

#### Greeting!

At this time I would like to congratulate Dr, Donald D. Palmer, Jr., (a 2nd Lt. in the SVR), on being elected National Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW. I along with my staff and units of the 4th Military District SVR will be pleased to be at his service.

I have participated in the following events.

June 19th-Gravestone dedication at Mexico, Missouri.

June 24-26- The annual SVR-NCWAA School of the Piece, held at Jefferson Barracks County Park, St. Louis, Missouri. This year 74 cannoneers went through the school. 2nd Lt. Randy Baehr, SVR, (Capt. Chief Inspector for NCWAA Region XII) for his outstanding contributions to the NCWAA was presented with the George MacDonald Award. The award was well deserved, over the years, Lt. Baehr has played a main part in the SVR's work at this event.

July 9-10-The Ste. Genevieve Civil War Camp, a SUVCW Sesquicentennial Signature Event. July 30-General Grant's commissioning event at Ironton, Missouri, a SUVCW Sesquicentennial Signature Event.

#### NOTE:

I call your attention to the changes in the dates for filing some SVR paperwork. You Have been notified by Major Robert Champlin, Adjutant 4th Military District SVR of these changes. Please acknowledge and comply with these orders.

In F. C. & L., Lt. Colonel Jack G. Grothe, Commanding 4th Military District SVR



Editor's Note: I traveled to Chester, Illinois on 16 September 2011 to see the WW II LST 385 ship and saw our Commander and Mrs. Maggie Grothe manning the Merchant Marine booth. (Photo by Gary Scheel)

# Adjutant's Column

Gentlemen of the 4th Military District

New Regulations, for Immediate Implementation, as passed at the 2011 National Encampment. Simply stated, a new reporting date for the Unit Annual Application form has been moved forward to a receipt date, in District HQ, by 15 January (**vice 31 March**). Submission of following documentation to include Strength Report, Roster, Dues, and Yearly Activities is unchanged (31 March).

Col Grothe directs that confirmation of receipt and understanding of this order, issued as a **reply** to this communication, be forwarded directly upon receipt.

I remain, for the District Major R Champlin Adjutant General 4th Military District, SVR



### Reconnaissance

September 24 & 25; Civil War Reenactment at Hermann, MO. Sponsored by 5<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry Regiment Contact is Captain Emmett Taylor. Contact him for more information.

eptaylor@mac.com

October 8; 11:00am is the James B. Eads Memorial Ironclad Cannon Dedication in South St. Louis Square Park, 7700 S. Broadway. This invitation comes to us by Pvt. Noel C. Stasiak, who is also a member of Carondelet Historical Society, S. Broadway Merchants Association and Wm T. Sherman, Billy Yank, Camp #65 of SUVCW. All SVR men are encouraged to attend.

October 29; Members of Missouri S.V.R. Units and their spouses are Invited to a Reception/Dinner for National Commander-in-Chief Donald Palmer. Place; Ste. Genevieve Hotel Restaurant, Ste. Genevieve, MO Time: Reception at 4 p.m. Dinner at 5 p.m. The meal will cost \$11.21 per person and must be paid for in advance. RSVP by 17 October 2011. For reservation information or more information contact Gary L. Scheel at <a href="mailto:somewherel@sbcglobal.net">somewherel@sbcglobal.net</a> or call 888-883-9397. Sponsored by the Department of Missouri SUVCW hosted by Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James Camp # 326.

December 10; Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry SVR Dinner. We would like to invite all SVR units who would like to attend. Place: Creole House, Ste. Genevieve, MO. Time; 6;30 p.m. If you would like to attend contact Gary L. Scheel at <a href="mailto:somewhere1@sbcglobal.net">somewhere1@sbcglobal.net</a> or call 314-623-2062 for more information.

# Headquarters Company Franklin, WI

During the Summer, members of the Headquarters Company marched in four parades and manned information booths at several events. The Company marched at the head of

the Civil War division of the Positively Patriotic Parade in June. The parade kicked off the 10th annual Reclaiming Our Heritage event at Milwaukee's VA Medical Center. In July, the company hit the pavement again during the 62nd annual South Shore Frolics Parade, which ended on the shore of Lake Michigan. On Labor Day Weekend, the company trouped for crowds at the annual St. Francis Days Parade. A week earlier, the men served as a color guard and manned a Sons & Auxiliary information booth at the West Allis Settlers Weekend.

The Company and members of C.K.Pier Badger Camp 1 and Aux. 4 march in the South Shore Frolics Parade.

Additionally, since 1996, members have helped maintained a local abandoned cemetery on a semi-annual basis. The last clean-up on September 10th, including setting

two headstones, one for Pvt. Johann Bahler, 17th WI Inf. and Surgeon Levi Halsted, 5th WI Inf. Gravel was spread on the drive and general yard work was completed. Weeks earlier, a new flag pole was installed at the cemetery, paid for by members of the Company, Camp and Auxiliary. Boy Scouts of Troop 61 have helped with the cleanup over the years.



Pvt. Joe Fallon talks Civil War to young visitors the West Allis Settlers Weekend while Dave Howard looks on.

Submitted by, Major Steve Micheals Commander Headquarters Company

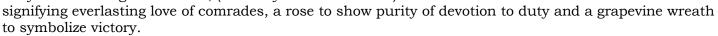
# Company C, 5<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry Regiment Wentzville, MO

MEXICO, Mo. — Side by side, brothers David and Walker Lillard moved to Missouri as slaves, joined the Army and married their sweethearts.

Cpl. David Lillard's descendants Joyce Hogan, Retha Mayfield, Earlene King and James Hubbard listen to the Rev. Karl M. Thomas' eulogy for Lillard. About 90 people gathered Sunday to dedicate a grave marker for Lillard.

June 19th in Elmwood Cemetery, their descendants, side by side for the first time in more than 100 years, watched while descendants of men who fought on opposing sides during the Civil War stood side by side to honor them.

The ceremony to mark the grave of Cpl. David Lillard followed a ritual established in 1917 for funerals and memorials for members of the Grand Army of the Republic. They laid an evergreen wreath, (Photo by Don Shrubshell)



"The only thing I could think about was the two of them," Joyce Hogan, great-granddaughter of David Lillard, said as she held the U.S. flag presented to her during the ceremony. "I think of those two little boys who left Kentucky as slaves. The bond they must have had between each other must have been unbelievable."

The Lillard brothers enlisted in the Fourth Missouri Colored Infantry in March 1864. Their owner, Abraham Tinsley, was paid \$300 each for their services as soldiers. The unit was reorganized as the 68th U.S. Colored Infantry and took part in one of the last battles of the war, at Fort Blakely, Ala., where they fought against the remnants of the Missouri Confederate brigade.

Walker Lillard's grave was dedicated last year. An article about that ceremony caught Hogan's attention as she was researching her family, and yesterday's ceremony was the culmination of efforts to locate David Lillard's grave. Wayne Sampson, commander of the Alexander Asboth Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and treasurer of the Elijah Gates Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, led the ceremony.

A color guard representing those two camps, as well as the Tiger Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans, provided a fired salute, and the choir of the Second Missionary Baptist Church in Mexico sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Hogan's sister, Retha Mayfield, joined her. They traveled from their homes in Los Angeles to attend the event and meet James Hubbard and Earlene King of Clinton Township, Mich., great-great-grandchildren of Walker Lillard. "This is beyond belief," Mayfield said of the reunion.

Hubbard and King had visited Mexico last year for the dedication of the stone at Walker Lillard's grave. Hubbard learned he had cousins in California when he received an email from Hogan. He feels he has done a service to his late mother by making the connection.

"My mother always asked me to find her family," he said. "She never knew her father."

During the ceremony, Sampson noted black and white, Union and Confederate were together. "We are not here to fight the war over," he said. "We'll do that another day. We are here to honor two soldiers who fought for what they believed in."

This article was published on page A10 of the Monday, June 20, 2011 edition of The Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Slave siblings are reunited Ceremony brings family together.."



# Company B, 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry Council Bluffs, IA

This summer has been very active and, in consequence, our roster has grown by 15%! Our first event of this quarter was June 11-12 at the Carson, IA re-enactment. We had a big SUVCW/SVR recruiting display. The Nebraska Rangers, our western neighbors were also represented. On the 18th, several members traveled to the town of Manning, where, despite a very wet morning, we set up to do our living history program and recruiting station. It was very well received and we are to return next year. This event was organized by Sgt. Dave Burkett.

On the 25<sup>th</sup>, we, along with members of the 49<sup>th</sup> Iowa and the Nebraska Rangers, held a gravestone dedication at Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs. Approximately 25 members of the family were present for the ceremony.

July 16-17 saw several members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa and K Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Artillery, SVR attend the "Railroad Days" event at the Historic Dodge House, one-time home of Major General Grenville M. Dodge. August 8<sup>th</sup> saw us return to the Dodge House, where we assisted the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The 168<sup>th</sup> started life as the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. Its first commander was, as most know, Colonel G. M. Dodge. Dept. Commander James Braden assisted in cutting the celebratory cake with the battalion sergeant-major.

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful late summer day. Five members traveled to the tiny town of Thurman, IA to take part in their Historical Heritage Days celebration. We were very well received and made several contacts for assistance with the Graves Registration project.

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> was a chilly, drizzly day in the small northwestern Iowa town of Correctionville. Four members of our Camp, 1 LT Mike Carr, 1 Sgt. Dennis Sasse, Sgt. Dave Burkett, and Pvt. Jim Braden, along with two members of Battery K, 4<sup>th</sup> US Artillery, SVR, 1 Sgt. Glen Kelley and Pvt. Vern Damgaard (also members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa), and two members of the Dept. of Nebraska took part in a double dedication.

The first dedication was a headstone for Corp. Lewis B. Solomon, Co. D, 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Vol. Infantry. Master of Ceremonies was Sgt. Burkett, who is also the Dept. Graves Registration Officer. After a shot from the cannon, the Colors were presented by a mixed unit from the 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa, the Nebraska Rangers, the Correctionville American Legion post and the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 168<sup>th</sup> Inf., Iowa National Guard (formerly the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Vol. Inf.).

The National Anthem was played by the River Valley High School Band. A few appropriate remarked were made by Dept. Commander James Braden and PDC Norm Weber of the Dept. of Nebraska. Correctionville Mayor Jerry Hyler was introduced and he read a proclamation declaring Sept. 17, 2011 Lewis Solomon Day. This was followed by the reading of "The Festival of the Dead" and "Laying of the Flowers" by 1 LT Mike Carr, Commanding Officer of the 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Dennis Sasse, the Dept. Chaplain, gave the benediction. We would like to thank the three members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry for attending and taking part in the ceremony: SPC Michael Bassett, PFC Ethan Kathol and Pvt. Michael Riesselman. We were also honored by the presence of about a dozen Freedom Riders. The second dedication, or rather re-dedication, was of the GAR Hall, one of just a very few left in Iowa. Mayor Hyler "deeded" the building to the SUVCW during the re-dedication ceremony, and once the ceremony concluded, Dept. Commander Braden deeded the building back to Correctionville.

Our unit has not hosted any Sesquicentennial Signature Events; several of us are also, however, are members of the 49th Iowa, our Dept. Color Guard. We, as the 49th, held an event in Des Moines on April 12 that garnered our Dept. Sesquicentennial Committee (I am honored to serve as Chair) an award at the National Encamopment. We have hosted three Dept. of Iowa Sesquicentennial Committee dedication ceremonies for Cass, Pottawattamie and Woodbury Counties.

In FC&L,

1 LT Mike Carr

## Company C, 34<sup>th</sup> Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry "Rock River Rifles" St. Louis, MO

19 May 2011 was the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Gold Dollar Coin event. Ulysses S. Grant National Historical Site St. Louis County, Missouri was given the honor by United States Mint. The honored speaker was Dr. John Marszalek, Executive Director of the U. S. Grant Association and Editor of the Papers of Ulysses S. Grant., and Al Rummels, Acting Deputy Director of the United States Mint. Besides men of Co. C, 34th Regiment Illinois Department Volunteer Infantry Sons of Veterans Reserve were other men of the 4th Military District also in Civil War uniformed.

Missing In American Project; Misouri Veternas Cemetery, Jerseyville, MO. was the site of last years Civil War Soldier and wife burial. This year the ceremony, 26 July 2011, was in National Cemetery, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. 1st. Lt. Funck encouraged men of Nebraska Rangers, Kansas City SUVCW and the eastern Missouri M.I.A.P. coordinator to attend,

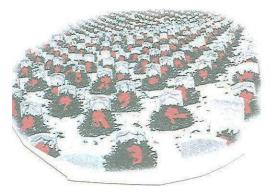
along with the men of Kansas. This year included soldiers from other wars.

September 11, 2011 was the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attack on our home land. 1st. Lt. Funck displayed his "We Will Never Forget" flag along with the U. S. Flag and the Marine flag. We thank all who took the time and prayer to remember the day.

September 17, 2011 at 2:00pm, Ulysses S. Grant National Historical Site will officially unveil two Civil War era Cannons. The unveiling ceremony will feature a keynote address by St. Louis County Executive Charlie A. Dooley. All Civil War uniform men are encouraged to be present. This same weekend is the Civil War camp at Kirkwood which also has a parade in the morning.

Your commander will attend on September 30 at 1L00pm in Springfield, MO. the dedication of the Civil War Orphans' Home Historical Marker.





Community Service Announcements: Each December grave decoration for the unknown are placed in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Over 2,800 are Civil War Veterans. They are removed in January and used again for next year.

Wreaths Across America' is in its 20 year. For the first 14 years Worcester Wreath of Harrington, ME. donated 5,000 wreaths a year. After a Pentagon photographer in 2005 snapped a photo of the wreaths in snow, the program exploded from 5,000 to 200,000 wreaths. Any one can order a wreath for their veteran, no mater what war they served.

This year's goal is to place a wreath on every one of Arlington's more than 225,000 graves – as well as on veternas' graves in nearly 600 other cemeteries. For your order place contact <a href="https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org">www.wreathsacrossamerica.org</a> or Wreaths Across America, P.O.Box 249, Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Submitted By 1st. Lt. Charles Ed Funck III Commander

## Company A, 49<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry "The Governor's Own" Des Moines, IA

#### Restoration as Our "Mission"

Specifically formed in June of 2009 to be the Honor Guard Unit for the Department of Iowa, the *Governor's Own Iowa Rifles"* of Company "A" 49th Regiment Iowa Veteran Volunteer Infantry adopted the "mission" of repairing, restoring, and (when necessary) replacing the Civil War monuments to Iowans who served the causes of Union and Freedom during that most costly of

American wars.



Members of the Regiment were drawn from every corner of the State of Iowa (and we now have members from other states, and one from the People's Republic of China). Every applicant must undergo one full year of evaluation before it is decided whether or not he is right for us and we are right for him. As this is a one-hundred percent participatory endeavor we strongly recommend to those seeking to become Guardsmen of the 49th Iowa that they make the commitment to taking part in unit activities, or not waste our time and their own by "joining" something that they do not intend to support by their presence and by their participation. It is all about commitment, and we expect much, but we give much in return....just ask any of us.



Those who meet our expectations are asked to "re-enlist" in the Regiment for a period of three years. Those who do so then earn the right to sew on their *Governor's Own* sleeve insignia tabs and become full members of the

#### Regiment.

As we see it, membership in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Sons of Veterans Reserve, and our individual units is all about commitment. Commitment to our heritage, commitment to our ancestors, and commitment to keeping alive the ideals that they fought and died for to keep this nation whole and free. We believe that actively seeking to preserve for the present, and restore for the future, those monuments that were actually built by our ancestors to commemorate their own sacrifices is what this organization should be all about. After all, did not the "Old Boys" of the Grand Army of the Republic leave it to us to continue the work that they were doing to promote patriotism and a sense of national unity by remembrance of what was nearly lost when this country ceased to believe in its own abilities to resolve its differences through enlightened cooperation between the several states that made up the constitutional union?

Over the course of the past several decades, many of the monuments that were built in the latter years of the nineteenth; and, the early years of the twentieth, centuries have suffered the ill effects of time and weather; vandalism and neglect, and a seemingly eroding national interest in the single most defining event in the nation's long history. (This nation did not even call itself "The United States of America" until after the holocaust of the Civil War). To those of us for whom our heritage is to at least some extent, our identity, forgetting the past is not an option; and, in today's difficult economic times expecting our government agencies to restore these aging monuments is probably not realistic. Also, when you factor in our seemingly growing rancorous political debates about what "government" could and should be doing, monument restoration probably will not rank very high on most politicians' lists of "popular"

causes" with which they wish to be identified. Long dead soldiers are easily forgotten, and they simply do not vote.

So, for these reasons, we of the 49th Iowa ask ourselves, "if not us, then who? And, if not now, then when?"

Since taking up this "cause" we have raised monies through seeking public donation, through participating in educational programs for civic groups, schools, colleges, governmental agencies, etc. that have allowed us to completely fund two major monument restorations (one in Vicksburg, Mississippi where some 30,000 Iowans fought; one here in the state of Iowa); partially fund the total replacement of another major monument on a county courthouse green; and to begin work on a fourth monument....all within the span of just over two years of our existence. In addition to our monument work we continue to seek out and register the graves of all Civil War veterans who rest beneath Iowa sod, and to repair and replace military gravestones of any and all veterans wherever we find them in need of attention, and to participate in veterans affairs at the state and national levels.

For our work in these area, our unit has been twice honored by sitting Governor's (of opposing political parties) of the state of Iowa who have accepted honorary "commissions" from us as our titular "Colonels-in-Chief" and in return have twice named us to be "The Governor's Own" and made us their official Honor Guard units as well. We have also received accolades from the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, the Iowa State Historical Society, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, the Iowa National Guard, and the National Commander of the Sons of Veterans Reserve/SUVCW. At our recent National Encampment, in-coming Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Donald Palmer, asked the 49th Iowa to be his official Color Bearers for his term in office. An honor that we have most humbly accepted. But, for all of the honors and accolades that have come our way, the greatest has been that the public here in Iowa (and wherever we travel outside of the state as well) has taken note of the "spit and polish" nature of our uniforms and come to recognize those "Infantry Blue" tabs on our sleeves that say, "The Governor's Own" on them. And when we make public appearances we consistently hear people say, "hey, it's the Civil War monument guys!" And it just doesn't get any better than that.

The 49th Iowa hosted the Official Iowa 150th kickoff event held on the Iowa State Capital grounds on 12th April, 2011. The event was attended by National SUVCW C-in-C D. Brad Schall, The Honorable Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa; Brigadier General Janet Phipps, Deputy Adjutant General of Iowa, Iowa Senator Dennis Black and other local dignitaries including representatives of United States Senator Tom Harking and United States Congressman, Leonard Boswell. At this event Governor Branstad issued a Guber-natorial Proclamation setting aside April 12th of each coming year as "SUVCW Day in Iowa." The 49th Iowa also provided the Honor Guard for the re-dedication of the Muscatine County Civil war Monument located on the ground of the Muscatine county courthouse in Muscatine, Iowa. This event was also attended by Governor Branstad, United States Congressman David Loebsack, Speaker Pro-temp of the Iowa House of Representatives the Honorable Jeff Kaufmann, and SUVCW (then SVC Dr. Donald Palmer.

For these events, Iowa shared the honor with the Great State of Missouri of being the first two Departments in the nation to be awarded the, "Albert Woolson Award for Outstanding sesquicentennial Events" by Commander in Chief D. Brad Schall during proceedings of the 30th National Encampment in Reston, Virginia.

The Commander of the 49th Iowa (myself) was honored by C-in-C Shall with the presentation of the "Cornelious F. Whitehouse Award along with Brother Alan Russ, PDC Department of Kansas, as being the "Most Outstanding Brothers for 2011".

Submitted by,

## Company F, 78<sup>th</sup> Enrolled Missouri Militia Ste. Genevieve, MO



building of Fort D in Cape Girardeau which occurred on August 6th. Photo includes 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Tom Farlow & Private Jerry Kasten. → On September 17<sup>th</sup> Corporal Tom Greminger of Company F, gave a presentation on the Civil War in Ste. Genevieve at the History Conference sponsored by Ste. Genevieve Historical Society.

On July 9th, the Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James Camp # 326 which included six member of Company F, unveiled the new Civil War Plaque which explains the Bank Raid on 15 August 1861 which was re-enacted just prior to the unveiling..

Seven members of Company F, also participated in the Ste. Genevieve Civil War Camp which occurred on July 9 & 10.

*Five members were* present at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of General Grant receiving his General's commission in Ironton, MO on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Six members also were present at the 150th Anniversary of the



On May 10, one member of Company F, participated in the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Camp Jackson Affair held in St. Louis at the Camp Jackson site. Sponsored by the U.S. Grant Camp # 68.

← Photo by Cher Petrovic

Five members were present at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of General Grant receiving his General's commission in Ironton, MO on July 30<sup>th</sup>. In the background is a monument that was put up by General Grant's Regiment to



commemorate his receiving his commission. Besides members of the SVR, U.S. Grant VI was present as well as his other his brother Eli Grant and their families.

Photo by Cher Petrovic

## Rockford Zouaves

### Rockford, Illinois

Greetings All,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt/Commander of the Rockford Zouaves SVR based at Memorial Hall Rockford, Ill.

In August of 2011 1Sgt Greg Carter sadly announced his resignation as 1Sgt of the Rockford Zouaves as he was headed off to Quincy, Ill. to attend college for the next two years.

On Sept. 7, 2011, we held a special election to replace Bro. Greg and I was selected to be the next 1Sgt. It is with pleasure I accepted and will try my best to fill the shoes of a very dedicated Bro. Carter. He will be missed but promises to stay in touch and be a help when needed. Currently, I am the Qtr. Master Sgt. for Battery G 2nd Ill.



Light Artillery, Secretary of John A. Logan Camp #26 SUVCW, Dept. Secretary for the Dept. of Illinois SUVCW and a charter member of the Rockford Zouaves SVR. A Past Master of Star In The East Lodge #166 A. F. & A. M. Rockford, Ill. in 1980 and 2005-07.

Served as Secretary for this Lodge from 1985-2003. I am also the Graves Registration Officer of the Logan Camp and have trekked many a cemeteries and documented nearly 2000 CW Soldiers over the past four years. My goal as 1Sgt of the Rockford Zouaves is to encourage growth in members, take an active part in more public ceremonies and assist our local Sons Camp in Rockford, the Ladies Auxiliary in Rockford, Dept. of Illinois and newest Camp in Sycamore, Ill. I can be contacted at: 1Sgt. Steve Aarli g2minime@charter.net

### Captain Randy Baehr Recipient of George MacDonald Award

The National Civil War Artillery Association has honored Captain Baehr by awarding him the prestigious George MacDonald Award that is handed out by the NCWAA annually. It is awarded annually to an individual who is recognized by the association chairman, Ethan Barnett, to someone who has made substantial contributions to the hobby, someone who's made a very big difference in spreading safety and in keeping the NCWAA moving forward. In 1992, Captain Baehr joined Co. M. He now serves as Captain and commander of the unit, which fields a battery of a 4 pounder Filley gun, and Ames 3 pounder gun, a Woodruff gun, and a 12 pounder mountain howitzer. He especially enjoys working with school children and enjoys organizing the School of the Piece held every other year at Jefferson Barracks. He also serves as a 1st Lieutenant in the Sons of Veterans Reserves as Public Relations Officer for the 4th Military District.