



PAST IN REVIEW

Volume 6 Number 4

17 September 2014

From Our Commander



Fall is in the air

Is it just me, or are the summer months really getting shorter? Seems like just a couple of short weeks ago when we saw the last of the Woolly Mammoths munching on the daffodils that had been audacious enough to pop through the snow on the small hillside next to our garage, on their way back to Minnesota where they belong.

As short as it was, I know that the summer months were busy times for most of us in the SVR as we undertook to try to remain productive in our activities to honor our ancestors, while at the same time limiting the amount of time spent in the “woolies” for the sake of not enriching our cardiologists. In my own “home unit” of the 49th Iowa we solved that problem about three years back by coming up with a “summer uniform” that consisted of tan slacks, black polo shirts and baseball caps with unit logos on them which still identified us as a unit, but proved to be several hundred degrees cooler. We also begin to look with considerable favor at those appearance requests that involved any environ that was blessed by the presence of air-conditioning (perhaps the world’s all-time greatest invention, IMHO...of course I am prejudiced by the fact that the guy who dreamt it up was a Scotsman!) The concept of the “summer uniform” is something that I highly recommend, if your own unit hasn’t already adopted some form of alternative dress for those days when the air temperatures approach that of your own body’s.

Myself and two of my staff were honored to take part in the ceremonial dedication exercises at the Moore’s Mill Battlefield site down in Missouri in July and had the chance to visit with several of our brethren from area Camps and SVR units, as well as PCinC Palmer and Lt. Col. (Ret’d) Grothe. We also got to meet some of our counterparts from the local SCV, and enjoyed their more hospitable welcome than what was shown to some of our ancestors on their last visit to that neck of the wood.

Speaking of hospitality...four of our District staff (Captains Grim, Stahr, Rittel and Kowalski) enjoyed the hospitality of the environs of Marietta, Georgia, as we attended the National Encampment of the Allied Orders and the associated activities in mid-August. And we didn’t set anything on fire when we left the area...unlike the previous visits of those same ancestors.

At the SVR Breakfast, MG Grim asked that I give a short dissertation on the upcoming Lincoln Funeral Train Event in Springfield next May. Just as a reminder, if YOU wish to go to that event and just watch...all you have to do is show up and find a spot on the curb.

If you wish to PARTICIPATE in the event while wearing the uniform of the SVR you will need to go on-line at the website set up for “re-enactor registrations” and get yourselves registered and pay their fee of \$20.00. That registration can be accessed at http://lincolnfunealtrain.org/participant_info.

If your UNIT wishes to participate in the activities on either Saturday or Sunday (May 1 and/or 2nd) you also need to get in touch with Department Chief of Staff, Captain Court Stahr at 1/cplstahr@gmail.com and let him know BEFORE MARCH 15th, 2015, so that we can relay that information on to the organizers. The organizers are wanting us (the SUVCW/SVR) to play a significant role in the activities, but it need to be an organized effort, and have asked us to compile data for them on what units and individuals will be on hand to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Note: Without further elaboration on the subject, I am very pleased to relate that our own beloved Chaplain Kowalski, will be on hand and playing a very significant role in the Sunday events at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Captain Jerry will do a fantastic job at this momentous event...if you agree, please say "Amen".

Oh, yeah, the last-best intel that I had on the matter indicated that several of the most senior commanders of our National Headquarters will likely be coming to the event as well. As will Major Joseph Marti, the Commander of the Sixth Military District. I am fairly certain that other SVR members from other Districts will be coming, but I've not actually heard from them as yet.

I HIGHLY encourage you to attend this event, as it will truly be one of those "armchair memories" that you will want to be in possession of in the years to come...and bring your grandsons. They are likely to be here for the bi-centennial of the Civil War, while you and I will not. How great for them to be able to tell their own grand-children, "I was there in Springfield back in 2015 with your great-great-grandfather to see the reproduction of President Lincoln's Funeral Train"

I also highly recommend that you consider returning to the Lincoln Tomb event (next year will be held on April 11th) as it truly is a worthwhile endeavor, and one that this District should be very proud of. After all, it one of two National SVR events that are held annually, and deserves to be a bit higher on the radar screen for us in terms of active unit participation.

Our new Commander-in-Chief, Tad Campbell, has seen fit to appoint me to the National Military Affairs Committee, and I will be working with other committee members on some potential re-evaluation and revision of the extant rules and regulations for the SVR. If you've read them, I think you would agree that they are in serious need of some updating, and re-examination of issues of span of command and control, job descriptions, terms of service, training of personnel at all levels of participation, command qualification, etc.

So, the task may have gotten broader, but it is worth doing.

As we continue the march toward the end of the Sesquicentennial Observances, I urge all of you to stay active and to participate with your units in the events that will be bringing to a close our one-hundred-and-fiftieth year since the end of the war that brought our ancestors together in a band of common brotherhood. And book your hotel rooms for Springfield...they are going fast!

One last thought.....every year in September, my own 49th Iowa V.V.I. visits the rifle range to conduct live-fire training and qualifications with the 1861 Springfield Rifles that we carry ceremoniously throughout the rest of the year in our Honor Guard duties. We have found that this yearly marksmanship event fosters considerable *esprit d' corps* in the unit; and, it provides for some good-natured rivalry between our guys. It also gives each rifleman a first-hand look at the enormously destructive fire-power of these weapons and enables them to be more precise in relating that experience to the public during educational programs and "meet and greet" functions that we do very regularly.

We have, in fact, found these "range weekends" to be so much fun that we are giving some consideration to forming a competitive rifle team to perhaps begin taking part in some regional and national black powder shoots around the Midwestern area of the country. If any of you might be

interested in learning more about it, and perhaps taking part in such a team we would certainly welcome your participation. Drop me a note at digger1@q.com over the coming winter months if you have an interest in the idea.

Major David M. Lamb
Inf., Commanding
Fourth Military District/SVR

National SVR General Orders

Sons of Veterans Reserve

8 September 2014

SVR General Order 2014-13

1. Gregory R. Decker is commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Lt. Decker will serve as Judge Advocate Company C, 5th Regt. Missouri Volunteer Cavalry.
2. David C. Warren is commissioned a 1st Lieutenant, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Lt. Warren will serve as Commander Company E, 47th Missouri.
3. Richard K. Coplin is commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Lt. Coplin will serve as Judge Advocate Co. E, 47th Missouri
4. These commissions are effective this date and will remain in effect until 8 September 2017 or until properly relieved.

Major General Robert Grim

Commanding Officer

Sons of Veterans Reserve

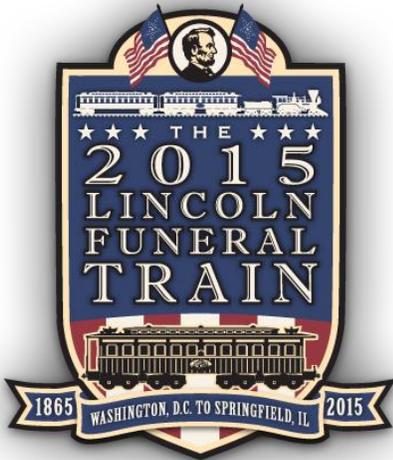
Attest:

Donald E. Darby

Colonel, SVR

Adjutant General

Lincoln Funeral Train Event



Lincoln Funeral Train Event
May 1st through 3rd, 2015

Participation by SVR Units of the Fourth Military District

Gentlemen,

We have now passed the “one-year and counting” mark for the historic re-creation of the funeral of President Abraham Lincoln that will be taking place in Springfield, Illinois over the course of the first weekend in May of 2015. (Visit their outstanding website at www.The2015LincolnFuneralTrain.com. to read all about this historic undertaking).

This is an excellent website where you will find considerable information about period camping, set up for RV's, hotel/motel reservations, satellite events such as lectures, theater productions, concerts, etc.

Another excellent source for information on the event and registration can be found at http://lincolnfuneraltrain.org/participant_info.php.

The organizers of the event in Springfield have asked that the Fourth Military District/SVR co-ordinate with them to determine how best units of the District may assist as *PARTICIPANTS* in some of the scheduled events that will include the arrival of the reproduction funeral train at the current Amtrak station and a processional to the old Capitol building; candle-light vigil there, processional along the route of the original funeral to Oak Ridge Cemetery, and manning the various venues associated with the event.

IF YOUR UNIT wishes to go and PARTICIPATE in this event, please be thinking about two things:

1. Each individual who wishes to take part in the events will need to Pre-Register and pay a fee to the coalition. You can do this by going to their website and clicking on the link for “*Registration*”.
2. Unit Commanders are encouraged to notify Capt. Court Stahr, Chief of Staff, 4MD/SVR that your *UNIT* is planning on attending and wishes to play a participatory role in the event.

Please contact Capt. Stahr at lcplstahr@gmail.com. and let him know that your unit is planning on going and how many personnel from your unit you will be bringing to the event. **No Later Than the close of business on 15 March, 2015.** If they do not do so, the unit not be taking part in the ceremonies. Individuals wishing to attend in SVR uniform will also need to register with the event organizers and pay the associated registration fees.

All registration information can be found at www.iowavalor.com or by visiting the website for the Lincoln Funeral Train at www.The2015LincolnFuneralTrain.com .

Further information will be forthcoming in this newsletter as we draw nearer to the dates of the event.

See you in Springfield next year!

Maj. David M. Lamb
Inf., Commanding

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Brothers in National Order, Fourth Military District SVR, and the Departments of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin:

Chaplain Jerry has offered to do the graveside service for the Yaeger Family - since they do not have a clergyman handy. That a GAR Memorial Service will be conducted in Stockton, Il where Carson was born and is buried - at a date to be determined. I am in touch with his son, and will communicate details as they are worked out. I am shooting to do it on the Saturday before Veterans Day in November. Everything is tentative.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Chaplain Jerry

4th Military District SVR Ceremonies

Members of the 4th Military District, SVR, participated in the historic Monument Dedication for the formerly unknown members of the 56th United States Colored Troops at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, on August 16th, 2014. The names of the 178 members of the 56th were listed on the Monument which was made possible through the efforts of the St. Louis African American History and Genealogy Society.

The 56th Regiment USCT was originally organized at St. Louis as the 3rd Arkansas Voluntary Infantry (African Descent) because the State of Missouri did not want African American troops. The 3rd Arkansas, later federalized as the 56th UNST, was ordered from St. Louis to Helena, AR, where they served with distinction. The Regiment was mustered out in September 1866 and it was on the trip home the 178 died of what would be later identified as cholera. There were buried in a grave on Quarantine Station, marked only with a monument reading only "To the Memory of 175 Non Com. OFFICERS and Privates of the 56. U.S.C. Infantry Died of Cholera in August 1866." In 1939, a list of those of the 56th who died was found. The bodies were then moved to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery and buried in a graved mark "Unknown Soldiers 56 U.S. OLD INF".



Headquarters Company

Franklin, WI

Headquarters Company Marches, Talks to Public

The 4th Military District's Headquarters Company wrapped up the second half of this past summer with much activity.

On July 26th, the unit marched in the South Milwaukee Heritage Days Parade.

Of the nine-brother Wisconsin delegation to the 133rd National Encampment in Marietta, Georgia, six also represented the 4th Military District's Headquarters Company.

After returning from the 133rd National Encampment, the 4th MD Headquarters Company performed color guard duty and manned an information booth at the 9th annual West Allis Settlers Weekend. The event, sponsored by the West Allis Historical Society on August 23rd and 24th, brings together living historians of several eras. Brothers shared the stories of their ancestors, showed the public Civil War artifacts and weaponry while sisters of C.K. Pier Badger Aux. 4 sold canned goods and spoke on the woman's role during the war.

A week later, the Headquarters Company marched in the St. Francis Days parade, which kicked off the Labor Day weekend. Probably for the first time, the unit was caught in a downpour halfway through the parade.

South Milwaukee, West Allis and St. Francis are suburbs of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

← 1Sgt. Tom Brown and Pvt. Brian McManus perform color guard duty at West Allis, as multi-era troops render a salute.

1Sgt. Brown speaks to a visitor to West Allis Settlers Weekend.



Pvt. Dave Howard shows a button shield to interested onlookers at West Allis. →



← Pvt. Jeff Graf and 1Sgt. Tom Brown show Civil War weaponry to onlookers at West Allis.



The unit marched in the 2014 St. Francis Days Parade. The unit survived the bucket (of rain) challenge during the St. Francis Days Parade.



Mulligan's Battery

Company L, 1st Illinois Light Artillery

Glenview, Illinois

Mulligan's Battery participated in the Glenview (IL) 4th of July parade.

Mulligan's Battery hosted an encampment as a fundraiser for the Glenview History Center over Labor Day weekend. U.S. Signal Corps and the 1st Michigan Engineers were also present. Highlights of the event included Chaplain Jerry Kowalski's portrayal of General George Thomas, Jessica Michna's portrayal of Mother Bickerdyke, and Luther Johnson a Sergeant in the USCT who spoke about the colored troops in the Civil War. Cannon demonstrations were given by 2nd Lt. Tom Hauff. Members Stuart Stefany, Nick Kaup, Bill Birzetis, Dane Nolan, Cpl. John Hauff, and 1st Sgt. Rob Hauff also participated. Sgt. Hauff exhibited and explained many artifacts in his traveling Civil War museum. Period fashions were exhibited by Barbara Hauff.

Company B, 10th Iowa Vol. Infantry

Council Bluffs, IA

Sept. 8, 2014

July 5th, seven members of our Unit travelled about three hours to Montezuma, IA to assist the 37th Iowa, SVR, with the re-dedication of their Civil War monument which had been moved from its original position next to the GAR hall because of the demolition of a neighboring building. Capt. Carr and Lt. Lindblom of the 37th Iowa shared duties as the dedicating officer. 1st Sgt. Sasse served as Chaplain.

Several members also attended the annual Railroad Days festivities in Council Bluffs. Our usual station is doing a living history program at the Gen. Grenville M. Dodge House.

Our next event was another living history the next weekend at Missouri Valley, about 20 miles north of Council Bluffs. The following weekend, we had members host another living history event during Keg Creek Days, which is about 20 miles south of Council Bluffs.

Sept. 6th, 4 members of the unit attended a gravestone dedication at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha, NE. This event was hosted by the Nebraska Rangers. Capt. Carr served as Officer of the Day. Corp. Dan Rittel and Pvt. Bill McAlpine posted the colors, while Pvt. John Weeber served on the rifle squad.

Company F, 78th E.M.M. Ste. Genevieve, MO



On July 4th Private Robert Mueller organized Ste. Genevieve's first, in a long time, 4th of July Ceremony. We had three members of Company F present in uniform. Company F along with the French Colonial Militia met at the public parking lot and marched the three blocks to the Courthouse where the ceremony took place. Present were representatives of the VFW who were the flag honor guard. We listened to several speeches and the crowd enjoyed the ceremonies. Thank you Private Mueller for your efforts and reinstating the 4th of July Ceremony in Ste. Genevieve.

The Ste. Genevieve Courthouse was used by several Union Regiments during the Civil War as a barracks and headquarters.

←L to R, Private Joe Williams, Private Ed Millinger and Private William Zoughaib. Private Bob Mueller and 1st Sergeant Gary Scheel represented the French Colonial Militia.

(Happy Birthday Dad)

150th Anniversary of Battle of Pilot Knob 27 & 28 September 2014

Saturday 27 September

8 a.m. Camps open to the Public
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Museum at Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site open
9 to 11 a.m. Artillery, Infantry & Cavalry Drill
10 a.m. Ladies programming
10:30 a.m. Renaming Ceremony
Noon to 6 p.m. Programming at Main Stage
Noon Opening military ceremonies
1 p.m. Running Battle to Fort Davidson begins
1:30 p.m. Main battle commences
6 p.m. Officer's Soiree
7 p.m. Grand Ball featuring Gum Spring Serenaders
8:30 p.m. Blowing up Fort Davidson
9:10 p.m. Grand Ball resumes
10 p.m. Event and vendors close

Sunday 28 September

8 a.m. Camps open to the Public
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum at Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site open
9 to 11 a.m. Artillery, Infantry & Cavalry Drill
10 a.m. Period Service by re-enactors
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Programming at Main Stage
1:30 p.m. Main battle commences
4 p.m. Event and vendors close

There are around 1,500 + re-enactors who have signed up to participate in the re-enactment this year. Normally there are between 500 to 700 re-enactors. During the battle the Confederates suffered 1,500 casualties.

General Sterling Price Confederate Army consisted of 8,000 + men. General Thomas Ewing Union Army consisted of 800 + men.

The re-enactment will take place on the exact site of the battle and the Battle of Pilot Knob occurred on 27 September 1864. Exactly 150 years ago. See you there.