

The Governor's Gazette

**The Newsletter of Governor William Dennison Camp No. 1
Department of Ohio
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Fall 2010**

As with every newsletter, we are asking for submissions for the newsletter. Ideas for submission may be vacations, reenactments, a family member's service history, etc. Requesting also dates of reenactments or living history programs that individuals might be interested in attending. We would desire all submissions be in:

by **December 10, 2010** for the Winter issue,
by **March 10, 2011** for the Spring Issue,
by **June 10, 2011** for the Summer Issue,
by **September 10, 2011** for the Fall issue,

NATIONAL WEBSITE

The National Organization has its own website. You may access it at: <http://www.suvcw.org/>. On the site you may find such items as Sons of Veterans Reserve, National Graves registration Database, Upcoming National Events, General Orders, Memorial University, etc.

In the year 1900, the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War voted to establish Memorial University, a college located in Mason City, Iowa. Its purpose was not only to educate, but also to instill patriotism in its students, and prepare them for an active role in American society. The University was closed in 1910. This web site, Memorial University, is intended to continue this noble cause and to encourage patriotism, good citizenship and provide a basic knowledge of the American Civil War.

In 2008, an education course for Junior and Junior Associates of the Sons of Union Veterans was developed by the SUVCW National Committee on Americanism and Education and made available through this web site.

In 2009, the curriculum of Memorial University was expanded with the development of an Officer Training Course for members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This course was a vision of now Past Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert and was achieved through the efforts of a Special National Committee on Education and Leadership established by the 127th SUVCW National Encampment.



DEPARTMENT OF OHIO WEBSITE

The Department of Ohio has its own website. You may access it at: <http://www.ohiosuv.com/>. On the site you may find such items as Department Orders, Calendar and Announcements, Bulletin Board/Forum, Graves Registrations, both Camp and Department Newsletters, the new SUVCW National Quartermaster Merchandise Online Store and SUVCW Charitable Foundation Online Store, etc.

CAMP DUES

Camp Dues are coming due for the 2011-year. They are \$31.00, paid to "GOV DENNISON CAMP 1, SUVCW". Send to Treasurer Robert Davis at, 84 Kramer Street, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110 or at upcoming camp meeting. Please do it as soon as possible, this will save on postage that has to be used to send out dues notices which comes out of the camp funds.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	NOTE
23 Oct.	1:00 p.m.	Pickaway Cty. Last Union Veteran Pleasant Cemetery	Mt. Sterling, OH	
26 Oct.	7:00 p.m.	Camp Meeting (Elections)	Veterans Memorial	Room 203
23 Nov.	7:00 p.m.	Camp Meeting Camp Installations	Veterans Memorial	Room 203
December	TBA	Camp Dinner		
15 Jan.	9:00 a.m.	Department of Ohio Mid Winters/Special Meeting	Veterans Memorial	Room 201
25 Jan.	7:00 p.m.	Camp Meeting	Veterans Memorial	Room 203

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO MID WINTER AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

The Mid-Winters meeting for your Department of Ohio is scheduled on Saturday, January 15, 2011, at the Franklin County Veterans Memorial. No Business Decisions will be transacted; however, Department Officers will be giving reports, making plans, and taking suggestions for the Department of Ohio. All brothers of the department are encouraged to attend.



BUFFINGTON ISLAND BATTLEFIELD CEREMONY

On July 17, the Buffington Island Battlefield Ceremony was held in Portland, Ohio. The following is taken for the program:

“The Battle of Buffington Island was the culminating event in the General John Hunt Morgan’s raid into Ohio. Morgan entering Ohio and especially Meigs County saw him confronted with citizen soldiers that threw up a gauntlet of fire and obstacles to impede his progress. The raiders were constantly engaged and harassed with skirmishing to reach this point on the raid. Militias were called up and the group from Marietta blocked the river crossing on July 18, 1863 and made possible the battle of July 19. This battle included members of the U. S. Army and well as the U. S. Navy with gunboats on the Ohio River. The battle is also noteworthy in the fact that it included three future presidents of the United States, all from Ohio: Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield and William McKinley”

James Oiler and Dan Hinton, Buffington Island Representatives for the Department of Ohio, conducted the ceremony with participants from the Department of Ohio, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Ohio, Benjamin Fearing Camp No. 2, Cadot-Blessing Camp No. 126 and the McCook Circle 104 of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Representing Governor William Dennison Camp No. 1 and our Auxiliary were **Robert Davis, PDC**, **Jonathan Davis, PCC** and **Sandy Prosak, PCP**. The camp memorial wreath was placed before the stone marker noting the battle prior to the ceremony.

Following an opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Dan Hinton gave a great History of the Battle of Buffington Island. Speakers were Ohio Department Commander Charles Reeves and National Secretary for the Auxiliary for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Judy Morgan. Henry Myers gave the Benediction; the musket salute was given by members of Benjamin Fearing Camp No. 2 and Cadot-Blessing Camp No. 126, followed by the playing of Taps.



Following the ceremony everyone was invited over to the Battlefield Museum for lunch. The museum is located in the former Portland School that has a nice collection of artifacts and history of the battle.

129th NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

The 2010 National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic was held this year from August 12th through the 15th at the Marriott Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas by host Department of Kansas. This year's slogan was "Come to Kansas, where the Civil War began". Members attending from Governor William Dennison Camp No. 1 were **Robert Davis, PDC**, and **Jonathan Davis, PCC**.

Upon arriving in Kansas City on Thursday, we toured the Arabia Steamboat Museum located in the City Market at 400 Grand Boulevard with over 30,000 square feet of space. The Arabia was 171 feet long with twin stacks that at that time carried over 200 tons of cargo of store goods destined for this western frontier.

"In the year 1856, the steamboat Arabia served as a lifeline to the frontier, bringing tons of new supplies westward to settlements along the Missouri River. Steamboats a'comin meant new boots for the children, a new winter coat for the misses, and food, lumber and hardware for the home. The big side-wheeler had just left Kansas City when her hull was suddenly pierced by a submerged tree. She sank in just minutes with all of her treasures lost. Years after the tragic accident, the river changed course. The legendary Arabia and its hoard of buried treasure was discovered beneath a Kansas farm field. Buried for 132 years, her excavation in 1988



uncovered a time capsule of remarkably preserved 1856 frontier supplies, the world's largest collection. Items of nearly every description were found. Dishware, tools, clothing, guns, food, medical supplies, and jewelry were included in the remarkable find."

The Arabia struck a snag on September 5, 1856 as reported in the Kansas City Enterprise and would remain lost for the most part till 1988 when uncovered but at this time laid 45 feet underground in a farm field, one-half mile from the Missouri River.

The Joint Memorial Service was held on Friday morning when the names of deceased brothers and sisters of the Allied Orders during the past year are remembered. This year of special remembrance was Charles Corfman, PcinC who left us on September 30, 2009. During the business meetings a Vacate chair with a photo of brother Corfman sat in place up front.





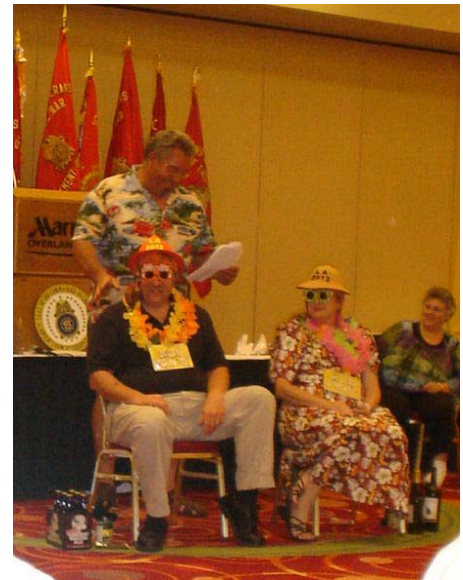
On Friday evening, the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Campfire was held featuring an interactive play “Bleeding Kansas” written by J. Howard Duncan and presented by the Lecompton Re-enactors.

“We go back on May 30, 1854, the Kansas Nebraska Act is signed by President Franklin Pierce opening two new territories for westward expansion. This act rescinded provisions of the Missouri Compromise of 1820 whereby no new slave state would be permitted north of a line marked at 36 degrees 30 minutes N latitude and west of Missouri. It ignited a fire, which grew in intensity until it enveloped the nation in civil war. The fuel for the fire was slavery. The tinder for the fire was Popular Sovereignty; power vested in the people. Now the settlers in the new territories will vote for their own constitution that will allow pr prohibit the ownership of slaves.”

This play takes place as a political meeting where the audience met some of the people of the era, listening to their opinions, their politics, and stories of personal hardships.

Lecompton, Kansas originally was the Territorial Capital between 1855 to 1861.

All that attended were invited to stay following the Campfire for the Courtesy Hour where Commander-in-Chief Leo Kennedy and National President Nancy Hilton was roasted before leaving office. During this time Departments are offered time to thank the Commander-in-Chief and National President for their leadership in words, skits, and/or gifts and of course work the honored guest into the skits.



During the business portions of Friday and Saturday, many items were addressed from motions brought up before the membership to the budget for this coming year. Saturday afternoon elections were held for the 2010 – 2011 year, this year your elected National Officers are Commander-in-Chief D. Brad Schall from the Department of California/Pacific, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Dr. Donald Palmer, Jr. from Department of Missouri and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor from Department of Massachusetts. Eugene Mortorff from the Department of Maryland is National Secretary. Richard Orr, PCinC remains National Treasurer and Danny Wheeler, PCinC remains National QM. William Vieira from Department of Rhode Island was reelected to National Council of Administration, along with Robert Petrovic of the Department of Missouri and Alan Russ from the Department of Kansas was elected to finish out the last year of Perley Mellor's term on the Council of Administration. These three join Tad Campbell of the Department of California and Pacific and Ken Freshley of our Department of Ohio.

Thinking ahead? The 2011 National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Allied Orders will be held from August 11 – 14, 2011 in Reston, Virginia at the Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191.

More information will be in the spring edition of the Banner or found on the National web site early next year.

CANAL WINCHESTER LABOR DAY PARADE

For the ninetieth year, Governor William Dennison Camp No. 1 participated in the Canal Winchester Labor Day Parade. This long time association with the parade was recognized by again being placed towards the front of the participates.

In attendance were 21 uniformed men consisting of members of both Governor William Dennison Camp No. 1 and William Mckinley Camp No. 21, members of the 30th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, ladies and children, Past Department of Ohio Commander Donald Grant, and of course Governor Dennison (**Robert Davis, PDC**). Camp Brother **James Ruley** again commanded the troops.



The ladies of the Auxiliary for another year made bookmarks to pass out and some participates brought candy to throw out during the parade.

For those who chose not to walk, Larry Dowler supplied his trailer with straw bales pulled by his 1936A John Deere Tractor along with his time to ride in the parade is appreciated.

DEPARTMENT MID-WINTER MEETING

The Department of Ohio, Mid-Winter Meeting is scheduled for 15 January 2010 at the Franklin County Veterans Memorial Building, 300 West Broad Street, Room 201, Columbus, Ohio. The Mid-Winter Meeting will start at 10:00 am; all brothers are encouraged to attend. No business may be transacted, however, Department officers will be giving reports, making plans and taking suggestions for the Department of Ohio. A Special Meeting will follow the Mid-Winter Meeting for the purpose of amending the Department By-Laws. The Camp Auxiliary will serve lunch afterwards.

PATRIOTIC MEMORIAL FOR PVT. WILLIAM C. BURNS

On Saturday, September 25, the members of Governor William Dennison Camp No. 1 and William McKinley Camp No. 21 along with family and residents of Zanesville, Ohio came together to celebrate the life and service of Private William Carver Burns. William Carver Burns was the last surviving member of Hazlett Post 81 of the Grand Army of the Republic.



“Joseph and Ester Aungst-Burns were both of hearty German descent. They both were born and grew up in Pennsylvania. After marriage in 1844, they moved to Zanesville with a dream. Joseph opened a glass factory in Zanesville, Ohio.

The young Burns family had 10 children – six boys and four girls – in the score of years preceding the “War between the States”.

William was the second son, born October 30, 1848. He had two older sisters, Henrietta and Frances, and a brother, George W. His younger siblings were: Robert M., Josephine, Kate, Eli C., and Charles D.

In May 1864, William, just 16 years old, was mustered into the 13th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, Company F at Camp Chase on the west side of Columbus.

The 13th OVC, Co. F saw the following action during the 14 months that William was engaged as a private - May 1864 through July 4, 1865.

He served under General Phil Sheridan and saw much action, including the capitulation of General Robert E. Lee to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865.

William was tasked with stacking Confederate arms there. Later he told that the Union present, officers and soldiers alike, so revered this great man, General Lee, they stood and saluted him as he left the surrender signing.

One of many accounts bears out his story – Lee signaled to his orderly to bring up his horse, and while the animal was being bridled the general stood on the lowest step and gazed sadly in the direction of the valley beyond where his army lay – now an army of prisoners. He smote his hands together a number of times in an absent sort of way; seemed not to see the group of Union officers in the yard who rose respectfully at his approach...

At Amelia Court House on July 4, 1965, William was mustered out of military service but in his remaining years he never ceased to commemorate his fallen fellow veterans.



According to newspaper accounts, he and Howard Ashton were responsible for instituting the celebration of Memorial Day in Zanesville. The initial ceremony held 5 May 1907.”

The ceremony for Private Burns was thought up by his great-great granddaughter; Pamela Steele of Tennessee along with family members here in Ohio starting this past spring to honor not only his service to his country but to the City of Zanesville, Ohio and finalized the last couple of months between representatives of the camps.

A color guard consisting of both Union and Confederate re-enactors commanded by **Col. James Ruley** started the service being led by bagpiper Jeff Linn. Speakers from William McKinley Camp No. 21 were Camp Commander Dan Starkey who gave an opening address and their Patriotic Instructor John Dye who provided a tribute to Private Burns and from Governor William Dennison Camp No. 1, **Robert Davis, PDC** was acting Chaplain giving the Invocation and Benediction along with playing Taps. Camp brother **Steve Ball** played patriotic music at times. Department Jr. Vice Commander Fred Lynch read Logan's General Order No. 11 and Brigadier General Robert Grim, PcinC, National Commander of the Sons of Veterans Reserve spoke on the history of the GAR and later presented a flag to the family of Private Burns.



Bill Lusher, the great-great grandson of Burns read a Proclamation of Governor Strickland and his son followed by reading a Proclamation of Mayor Howard Zwelling of the City of Zanesville proclaiming September 25, 2010 as Private William C. Burns Day. Mr. Lusher also read Taps as taken from the same copy William C. Burns was known for reciting at various military functions.



TIN TYPES

TinTypes are biographies of our ancestors who served during the Civil War. Tin Types articles originally appeared in the camp newsletters in the mid nineties.

Brother Jonathan C. Davis, PCC
The Biography of his 1st Cousin, 4x Removed
And Brother Lowell Varner Hammer, PCinC (1991-1992), Grandfather
Sgt. John Beisel Hammer
138th Regt. Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Company D

On July 28, 1842, John Beisel Hammer was born to parents William Hammer and Margaret Beisel-Hammer in Union Township; Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

At the age of 20, he enlisted into service on August 29, 1862 as a Corporal and mustered in on that same day into the 138th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Company D. His discharge papers list him as five feet –nine inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, and a farmer by occupation at enlistment. The men of Company D were recruited in Bedford County and reported at Camp Curtain near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

On August 30, 1862, his regiment proceeded to Baltimore, Maryland where it was ordered to duty at the Relay House that was the Washington junction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Here it guarded the railroad to prevent any sabotage by secession sympathizers, and to prevent any interruption of communications with the capital. Company D was stationed at Elk Ridge Landing.

In September of that same year, John Beisel Hammer fell ill with typhoid fever and was hospitalized at Relay House until December. He returned to duty with Company D performing guard duty until June 16, 1863 when the company moved to Harper's Ferry, here the 138th joined the Third Division, Third Army Corps. The 138th participated in general movements of the Corps during the summer and autumn of 1863 but suffered no losses until it met the enemy at Mine Run on November 27.

At dark of that day, after having held the ground against charges, the 138th was relieved by fresh troops, and rested for the night in the field. That day the 138th lost seven killed, forty-five wounded and three missing. Following this, the Army abandoned the campaign and returned to Brandy Station where it passed the winter.

In March 1864, in the reorganization of the army preparatory to the opening of the spring campaign under General Grant, the Third Division, Third Corps became the Third Division of the Sixth Army Corps with General Ricketts in command of the Division. At the beginning of May 1864, John Beisel Hammer was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

On May 3rd the army moved out and on the 5th after crossing the Rapidan River, it was attached in the thickets of the Wilderness. That night, the 138th was formed on the second battle line and with stubborn fighting held its ground. On the 6th, the 138th was moved to the front line and ordered to advance on the enemy works. In this battle John B. Hammer received a gunshot wound in the left hip and was taken to a field hospital for treatment. The wound was light and he remained with his command during recovery.



On June 1st, the 138th proceeded to Cold Harbor, Virginia where it took part in that battle. They remained there until June 12th when the Union Army was withdrawn and moved off towards the James River.

After crossing the James River, the Third Division moved up to Point of Rocks and assigned a position in the trenches at Bermuda Hundred. Soon afterward, the Division rejoined the Corps in front of Petersburg. In early July 1864, the Division moved to Monocacy, Maryland to engage the Confederates advance on Washington. In a battle on July 9, the 138th lost 39 men wounded, 21 captured and 8 missing before retiring to Baltimore.

In August 1864, the Corps was moved to Winchester and on September 19, 1864, the 138th moved forward to the front line driving the enemy to Fisher's Hill. In this attack, the 138th lost four killed, thirty-nine wounded, and three missing, one of the wounded be Cpl. Hammer receiving a gun shot wound in his right side. He was evacuated to Sandy Hook, Maryland and later to the Satterlee U.S. Army General Hospital at West Philadelphia entering there on September 25th. He remained there receiving treatment and recovery until December 12, 1864 upon returning for duty with Company D. The 138th was again at Petersburg, Virginia and detailed to garrison Fort Dushane.

Beginning on April 1, 1865, the 138th moved against the enemy attacking the following day in a rout of the Confederates. The enemy was pursued to Saylor's Creek where it was soundly defeated. Day later General Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse. Following the surrender, the 138th made a forced march to Danville, Virginia to support General Sherman but the assistance was not needed upon which they returned to Richmond by rail and marched to Washington D.C.

On May 12, 1865, John Beisel Hammer was promoted to Sergeant of Company D of the 138th. On the original warrant which was signed May 18, 1865 by the Commander of the Regiment, Colonel M. R. McClennan and the Adjutant, 1st Lieutenant Jacob W. Cress at Regimental Headquarters at Manchester, Virginia.

On June 23, 1865, Sergeant John Beisel Hammer was mustered out along with the rest of Company D of the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry in the Washington D.C. area. By the end of the war he had participated in twenty-one battles and minor engagements.

John Beisel Hammer died at 75 years of age on December 7, 1917 and is buried in the Pleasantville Cemetery in Pleasantville, Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

