Commander's Corner: Hello All, we have had lots of great events biding our time this late winter/spring. I want to thank Brother Wayne McElfresh of Camp 125 for the special presentation at the last meeting at the Athens Ponderosa. The Sultana disaster is one of the tragic stories of the Civil War. At our next meeting we will be having another special guest presenting some very special Civil War history. Dr. Allyn Reilly is the great-great-grandson of David Wills who figures prominently in the history of the Battle of Gettysburg. It was his house that President Lincoln stayed in the night before he delivered one of the most famous pieces of oratory in modern history. He will be sharing some of that history at our next meeting, WHICH WILL BE AT THE GAR HALL IN FROST ON THE 25 MAY, at 6:00pm so do not miss this one.

The SVR Units in our Camp attended their first living-history event at Gettysburg Battlefield encamping on Cemetery Ridge. The weather ran the entire gambit posing some interesting challenges for all, but even if the Earth cracked open and lava spewed forth, it would have been alright with us. We have been invited back again next year and all had a great time. It was also a learning experience for those first-timers camping.

Coming up this month is the task of visiting Cemeteries to mark the graves of Union Dead. I will expect some help from some of the High-school brothers on a couple evenings. This is a fun and honorable event which one should not miss. I will begin with the Union St. Cemetery in Athens.

Commander Sam Booth

Sec/Treas. The Camp Annual report has been sent in and it was nice to send in a report with 9 gained members and only 2 loss. We now have a total of 40 Members plus 3 Juniors. Thanks to Cdr. Booth and Brother Matt Ashcraft for the latest new Members, and thanks to all the members for signing up again for another year. I think we had a good speaker at the March Meeting in Herb Parkinson. We are planning to have a very interesting Speaker at the Memorial Meeting, 25 May, at the GAR Hall, who will be Dr. Allyn Reilly, who is the Great Great Grandson of David Wills. Thanks to Cdr. Booth for getting this speaker.

The Agenda for the meeting is extensive so we would like for Members to arrive before 6:00pm so we may get the program started on time. We will have a pot luck dinner, then the program, then a short initiation for the new Members. Then we go to the Frost Cemetery to place flowers on graves, then have the Marker Dedication for deceased Member Clarence Frost. Parking will be in the lot beside the Hall, furnished by the Coen Family. Bring a covered dish.

For anyone interested in the 1st Minnesota Infantry, Camp 125 will have a speaker to give a talk on them at their June 8, 2005 Meeting, 7:00pm at the Athens Ponderosa. The 1st Minnesota lost 82% of their men the 2nd day at Gettysburg. Our SVR Units had the privilege to Camp, beside the spot that the 1st Minnesota had their fight. Hope to see you all at the Memorial Meeting. A map has been attached at the end of the Newsletter for directions to the Frost GAR Hall. If you have never seen the hall it is very interesting to see.

Sec./Treas. M. W. Lowery, Sr.
Raffle: James A. Garfield Camp #142 is holding another Raffle. This time they have three prizes and each prize is a Colt Revolver and Accessories. The three Colt Revolvers are a Colt 1860 Army (.44 cal), Colt 1861 Navy (.36 cal) and a Colt 1851 Navy (.36 cal), each one also includes Wooden Case, Nipple Wrench, Powder Flask, Bullet Mold and Percussion Caps. There will also be an optional cash prize of $300.00. If any Member is interested in this raffle please let me know and I will send a request for tickets. Each ticket will be $1.00 and 6 tickets for $5.00. Remember each ticket we sell the Camp will gets 50 Cents of the $1.00. Sec./Treas. M. W. Lowery

Congress Legislation: There are three pieces of legislation in Congress that the SUV has an interest in at this time. Please contact your Representative or Senator.

H.R. 657 - Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act. To Establish a commission to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.


House Sponsor: Rep. Ray LaHood, IL.

S. 80 - To restore the tradition day of 30 May observance of Memorial Day, and for other purposes.

Senate Sponsor: Daniel K. Inouye, HL.

SUV Web Site

Camp Schedule:

May 25 Memorial Meeting GAR Hall
Jun 17-19 Ohio Dept. Encamp. Alliance, Oh.
Aug 4-7 National Encampment Nashua, NH
Nov 10 Regular Meeting Athens Ponderosa
Nov 18-20 Rememberance Day Gettysburg, Pa.

March Combine Meeting Minutes:

The Combine Meeting of the Gov. William Dennison Camp 125 and John S. Townsend Camp 108, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was called to order at 7:00pm by commander Martin W. Lowery, Sr. of Camp 125, at the Athens Ponderosa Restaurant, Athens, Ohio on March 9, 2005. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patriotic Instructor Earl Funk.

Commander Lowery welcomed all the Members and Guests. He gave out the Agenda for the night, then introduced the speaker for the night’s program. Mr. Herb Parkinson gave a presentation on “Almost Home, Ohio Boys on the Sultana”. It lasted for approximately 1 hour, then a short question and answer period followed.

After a 5 minute break Commander Samuel Booth declared Camp 108 duly open for the transaction of such business as may legally come before it and made welcome to the Camp Members.

A motion was made by Brother Denbow to back Holland Promotions, subject: Undergrown Railroad. It was set aside for later.

Cdr. Booth reported that Brother Curtis Kearns will do the Ohio University ROTC presentation at this years Military Ball.

As no other business was to be conducted Cdr. Booth declared Camp 108 closed for business.

The SVR then held a meeting for Battery I and the 63rd OVI to talk about upcoming events.

Submitted by Sec/Treas Lowery

Chaplin: We would like to let the Membership know that one of our younger Members had to have a serious leg operation and is now recovering very nicely. All the Camp 108 Members wish Brother Ty Smathers a speedy recovery.

I am still asking for Newsletter Articles so we can make the Newsletter more interesting and get information out to the Membership. There is no use to spend good money on a paper that does not do the job of passing information out to it’s Members. Should I keep putting out the Newsletter??
63rd OVI position at Battery Robinett during the Battle of Corinth, Oct. 3rd -4th, 1862. Col. John W. Fuller deployed his Ohio Brigade on the exposed sloping grounds forward of the bastion with the 43rd Ohio near the crest of the ridge fronting to the west, its right anchored on Battery Robinett, the 63rd Ohio fronted to the north with its right resting near the Memphis road. The 27th Ohio was on the right of the 63rd, and the 39th Ohio held the right flank of Fuller’s line. Upon sighting the oncoming rebels, Col. Fuller had the 43rd Ohio "change front forward to better protect the Battery," and called up on the 11th Missouri of Mower’s Brigade, posting these men 25 yds. in the rear of the 63rd. A murderous storm of musketry from Fuller’s Infantrymen and Artillery fire from Federal redoubts, however, quickly brought Brig. Gen. C.W. Phifer’s advance Brigade to a halt. The gruesome slaughter shocked the National solders. Col. John W. Sprague of the 63rd Ohio stated that Phifer’s "first line was literally shattered to fragments. The survivors rushed pell-mell on the second line, throwing it into confusion."

To Capt. Oscar Jackson, Co. H, 63rd OVI, commanding the infantry company under Col Sprague, the massive carnage inflicted on the attacking Southerners proved difficult to comprehend: "it seems to me that the fire of my company had cut down the head of the column that struck us as deep back as my company was long. As the smoke cleared away, there was apparently ten yards squared a mass of struggling bodies and butternut cloths."

Gallantly conspicuous on horseback, Col. William P. Rogers, CS, a comrade of President Jefferson Davis, advanced at the head of his veteran regiment, the 2nd Texas, leading successive charges against the Union bastion. Like Phifer’s before them, were blown apart by blasts of shell and canister which swept the cleared kill zone. In addition, crushing volleys of musketry delivered at point blank range by Fuller’s stubborn Ohio Brigade decimated entire company files and the Southern troops, urged on by frantic field and line officers.

In response to shouted commands, the 11 Missouri and the 27th Ohio sprang to their feet and along with the Survivors of the 63rd Ohio charged into the Confederates struggling to sustain the attack in front of Battery Robinett. Volleys of musketry decimated the Confederate ranks and sent the survivors reeling northward. Victorious Federals pursued the Confederates back into the woods from which less than 30 minutes before they had confidently emerged. Among the numerous Confederates cut down in the shadows of Battery Robinett was Col. Rogers of the 2nd Texas. The volley that killed him was fired by a number of soldiers from the 63rd Ohio, who in fury of the countercharge received shouted orders from Col. Sprague to shoot the conspicuous officer on horseback. The Buckeyes ably responded and as their volley ripped the air, both horse and rider collapsed to the ground near the stump of a tree only a few yards from Battery Robinett’s northern embrasure. Later, while engaged in removing Confederate dead from the battlefield. Col. Fuller’s survivors examined Roger’s body and observed he had been struck at least "Seven" Minnie Balls fired at close range, rendering the body armor he wore all but useless. The 63rd Ohio Vol. Inf. played a major role in a number of battles in and around Corinth, Miss., Tenn. and Ga..

Author: Stacy D. Allen, Historian at Shiloh National Military Park.

Battery I & 63rd OVI Have so far Camped at Hurricane WVa, Gettysburg Battlefield and Gallipolis Ohio. We have had great turnouts at the events so far and hope to keep having them. We are scheduled to do events later at Resaca Ga., Lake Snowden, Phillipi WVa., Newark Oh., 141st Gettysburg, McConnelsville, Oh., Buffington Isl., Washington Oh., Reynoldsburg tomato Festival, Heritage Festival Athens Oh., Corinth Ms., Burr Oak Boy Scouts and Guyandotte, WVa. Events are subject to change weekly.