



The Haversack

Newsletter of the
7th Military District
Winter 2012



VII



Sons Of Veterans Reserve



Commanders Comments

The Sons of Veterans Reserve is the Military and Ceremonial arm of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and should positively reflect the values of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

Wikipedia describes a Fraternity as "a brotherhood that has formal codes of behavior and a mutually beneficial purpose". Webster's defines it as "a group of people associated or formally organized for a common purpose, interest, or pleasure". This is exactly what the Sons of Veterans Reserve should strive to impart in its members and actively promote on a daily basis. Being in our Fraternity should instill a sense of pride and belonging to something that has as its goal the remembrance of our valiant Union ancestors and should reflect a higher code of conduct than that which would normally be encountered in the general public.

Charity can be as simple as caring about someone or something and giving freely of our time and money. It can also encompass something as small as putting effort into participating in an SVR gathering or adopting and cleaning a headstone of a Union Veteran. Charity is a value that can always reflect a positive light on you and the organization to which you belong.

Loyalty is a word we all know very well and many live it in their daily lives. In our case as brothers of the SUVCW and SVR, it means that we are devoted to a cause and to our wonderful country. It also can be applied to loyalty to our organization and the principles for which it stands. This value should be one that never fails us. It was because of loyalty that our ancestors fought and died to preserve the United States and keep it as one strong and powerful nation.

These values of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty should be a part of our lives and we should strive to instill them into our hearts and minds, which in turn will reflect on the activities and interactions that we participate in while

representing the Sons of Veterans Reserve. If we make this our goal everyone who comes in contact with us will have a positive impression, not only of our units and people, but also of the SUVCW/SVR in general. Let's start today and show everyone what it is that we are so proud of.

The Union Forever!!!
Major Early

Living History in Winder, GA

By Captain Eric Peterson, SVR

On the 28th of January 2012 members of the 14th Corps HQ Guard treated the public to a living history program on the lawn of the Barrow County Museum. There were displays of a dog tent and common soldier's equipment from the civil war. The emphasis of the SVR program was about the technological superiority of Federal forces over their Confederate foe and how that helped the Union win the war.

Don Bickham portrayed an Ordnance Sergeant and displayed his collection of repeating rifles. This dovetailed nicely with the next station in the exhibit, which was Eric Peterson's 1st person portrayal of General George H. Thomas. Thomas explained how Thomas' forces at Mill Springs used the 1861 Springfield helped bring about a decisive defeat of the rebel forces under Crittenden and Zollicoffer who were mainly equipped with flint-locks on January 19, 1862. The crowd learned that this was the first major Union victory in the west and enabled General Grant to capture Forts Henry and Donelson in February of 1862.

Don Bickham, and Tim and Andrew Klob also taught the history of the GAR to the public spectators who attended the event. The event was well advertised by the Barrow County Museum and attendance was very good including one home schooled group who made a field trip of the event. The students ranging in age

from 6 to 17 were well engaged and enjoyed the program very much. They asked a lot of questions and learned a lot about the American Civil War.



Eric Peterson as General Thomas addresses questions from teacher Jean Miller.

Barrow County Museum is housed in the old jail house in Winder Georgia. The event brought in more than the usual number of visitors at the museum on a Saturday and was deemed a great success by Museum staff.



Don Bickham explains the history of the GAR / SUVCW to Darien Henson and Karen Mass.



Eric Peterson poses for the Barrow County Newspaper with Don Bickham in the back ground

Tenth Tennessee Does First Ever Overton County March

Members of the Tenth Regiment, Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry were the first Federal Civil War Unit to be invited to participate in the Annual Overton County, Tennessee Parade On Saturday, December 10th, 2011. The Unit served as Co-Grand Marshalls of the parade along with members of the Myers-Zollicoffer Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The air was chilly but spirits were high as the 10th led the two and a half mile parade route followed by their confederate cousins.

The unit was well received by the large crowds that lined the parade route and those participating thoroughly enjoyed the event. The parade is one of the largest events in Northeastern Middle Tennessee and provided both exposure and positive publicity for the SUVCW and the SVR.



Members of the 10th Tennessee SVR and Myers-Zollicoffer Camp, SVC, join together as Grand Marshalls of the Overton County Parade, December 10th, 2011.

Sesquicentennial of The Battle of Fort Donelson Observed

By 1st Lieutenant Dave DuBrucq, SVR

February, 2012 marked the Sesquicentennial of one of the most important Battles in the western theater of operations and was in large measure responsible for the rise of General Grant to prominent status as one of the Union's most able, aggressive and successful military commanders.

General Grant invested Fort Donelson on the 12th of February, 1862, with 15,000 troops, reinforced that evening by six regiments of infantry and Flag-Officer Foote's fleet of four ironclad and two wooden gunboats--the St. Louis, Carondelet, Louisville, Pittsburg, Tyler and Conestoga.

It was on February 16th General Grant sent this famous reply to his old friend, General Simon Buckner who had requested terms for capitulation:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY IN THE FIELD
Camp near Fort Donelson
February 16, 1862.

General S. B. BUCKNER,
Confederate Army.

SIR: Yours of this date, proposing armistice and appointment of commissioners to settle terms of capitulation, is just received. No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U.S. GRANT,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

The Tenth Regiment, Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry, SVR, members of the 49th Iowa U.S. Volunteers, SVR, of Des Moines Iowa, and Co. B, 9th Regiment of Kentucky U.S. Volunteers joined together with the National Park Service and Superintendent Steve McCoy, to honor the union fallen who rest in the National Cemetery at Fort Donelson.

670 Union soldiers from the Battle of Fort Donelson are reinterred there. These soldiers (which include 512 unknowns) had been buried on the battlefield, in local cemeteries, in hospital cemeteries, and in nearby towns.



R to L: Superintendent Steve McCoy, 1st Lieutenant Dave DuBrucq, 10th Tennessee, SVR, 2nd Lieutenant Danny Krock, 49th Iowa, SVR, Fort Donelson Camp 62 Chaplain, PDC Sam Gant, Br. Chip Huffman and Br. E. Curt Fields in the Person of General Grant render a salute as the Color Guard takes the field at Fort Donelson National Cemetery, February 18th, 2012.

In one of those priceless personal stories that brings the Civil War to a more human level, an ancestor of one of the 49th Iowa members, Cpl Louis Zenti, who participated in the ceremony is among the 158 known federal soldiers who rest at Fort Donelson. He is Identified as William Cumpston of the 12th Illinois. William and his brother Albert were both in company B 12th Illinois Infantry. When the Confederates tried to break out of the siege on the morning of February 15th companies A and B were deployed as skirmishers in front of their regiment and took the brunt of the initial attack.



Cpl Louis Zenti, whose ancestor William Cumpston is buried in the background is joined by General Grant (Brother Dr. E. Curt Fields) at the memorial wreath and GAR marker placed at Fort Donelson National Cemetery Flag Staff.

Apparently Albert Cumpston recounted the story to a niece many years later. Albert said that when the Confederates attacked that morning their skirmish line was firing on the rebels but were unsure of the attackers numbers. "Soon thereafter William was hit and when I (Albert) bent down to check on him a ball hit me in the head." Albert said he lost consciousness and when he awoke he saw that William had crawled some 30 yards away towards their lines but had died. Albert said he was made a prisoner but was released after the Confederates surrendered the next day. Albert also said he tried to find William's body but never did. After Albert Cumpston was freed he was sent to a hospital where he took over a year to recover from his wound not returning to his regiment until April 1863.

William's headstone reads "W.H. Cumpston ILL # 232"



1st Sergeant (and Fort Donelson Camp Commander) Roger Tenney leads the Color Guard followed by Corporal Bill Heard, Pvt Isaac Heard and Private Geroge A. Huttick of the 10th Tennessee U.S.V.I.

The fort Donelson Ceremony was open to the public and visitors from as far away as Denver, Colorado attended the event marking the historic anniversary.

Participants remained after the ceremony and answered questions from park visitors. Infantry demonstrations were conducted throughout the day by Company B, 9th Kentucky U.S. Volunteers And General Grant (Br. E. Curt Fields) was on hand to answer questions and greet visitors.





General Grant Addresses the Color Guard, Cpl Bill Heard, Pvt Isaac Heard, Pvt George A, Huttick, 1st Sgt David Thompson, 49th Iowa, Cpl Tommy Phillips and Pvt William Heyd.



A Salute is fired by the 9th Kentucky at Fort Donelson

Awards

The following Awards have been presented to personnel and units of the 7th Military District

10th Regiment Tennessee U.S.V.I., SVR
Commanding Officers Unit Citation

1st Lieutenant David DuBrucq, SVR
10th Regiment, Tennessee U.S.V.I.
Meritorious Service Medal

Support Your SVR



SVR

Challenge Coins

In Full Color

SVR Commemorative

Gettysburg Commemorative

First in a series of coins commemorating the SVR and the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Coins are \$5.00 each plus shipping of \$3.00 for up to 6 coins. Shipping for 7 - 12 coins is \$6.00. For 13 or more coins, call for price on shipping.

Make checks payable to: TAG-SVR

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7th Mil Dist on Facebook

Be sure to visit and join our Facebook Page: 7th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve

Know someone who is not getting the Haversack? Contact 1stLt Dave DuBrucq at sockettuem@comcast.net to be added to the list!

Help make The Haversack a success!
Please be sure to submit all articles and photographs of interest
for publication in your newsletter!

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