

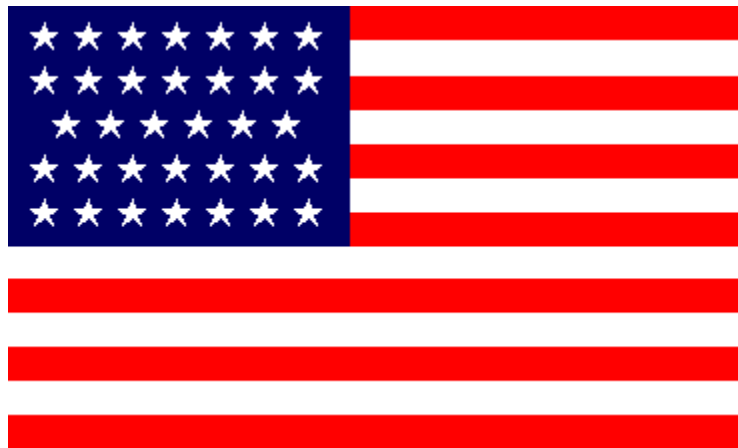


The Haversack

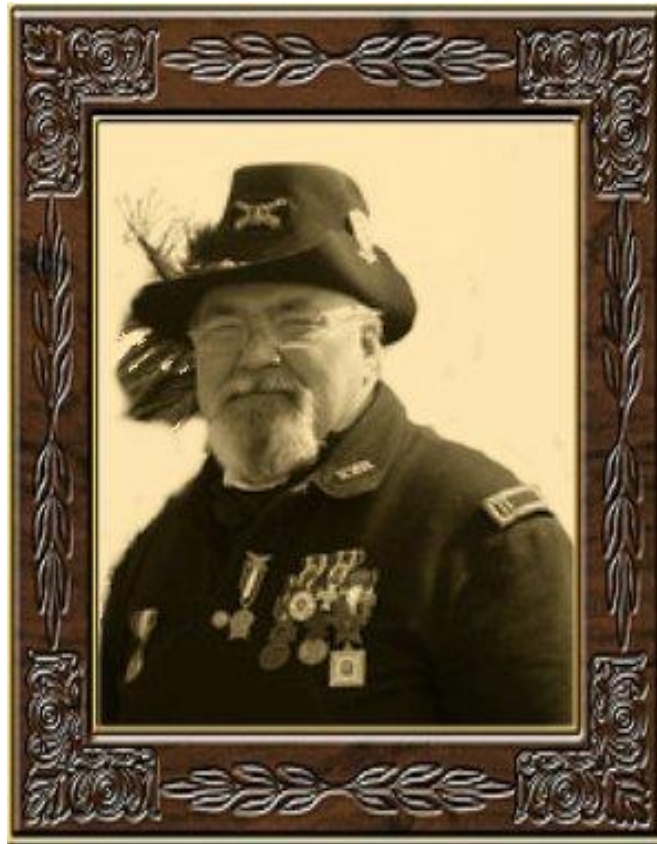
Newsletter of the
7th Military District
Spring 2012



VII



Commander's Column



Captain Eric Peterson

Greetings brothers,

By now most of you should have heard that I have been appointed as the commander of the 7th Military District. Brother Ken Early stepped down as commander due to his recent assignment to Germany as part of his ongoing commitment to the US Air Force and the security of our nation. Ken felt that he could not devote the attention he desired to his duties as district commander while he was engaged in operations overseas.

I have enjoyed working with Ken. He has always been a good friend and a devoted member of the SVR. I am pleased to appoint Ken as the District Chaplain because we can continue to work together and benefit from Ken's insights in a somewhat less demanding capacity. Due to our strength of our district Ken will receive an administrative reduction in rank in the SVR to second lieutenant.

I also thank Ken for recommending me to Major General Grim for the post of District Commander. I also wish to thank the rest of my staff for their support including two men who are being promoted to the rank of Captain in recognition of their service effective April 7, 2012: Captains David DuBrucq and Phil Hinman. David will be the new District Adjutant and Phil will be my Chief of Staff. 2LT Ted Golab is staying on as District Inspector General.

Currently the District has roughly 80 men deployed in three companies in Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. We should be able to increase that strength. I believe that the SVR is unique among those who don Union uniforms. Others who do so are camp guard units and re-enactors. These units have differing reasons for doing what they do. Some, like us, wish to preserve and teach history, while others may simply do it for fun. The thing that makes us unique among these organizations, that really make us the elite, is our common bond in being descendants of those heroes who fought to save the Union during The Great Rebellion. Re-enacting units and camp guards come and go, but we are the bearers of the legacy of the Sons of Veterans and Ultimately the GAR. It is our mission to keep green the memory of the boys in blue that was handed down from the GAR that sets us apart from the others.

I have been thinking recently about how we strengthen our presence. Obviously recruiting is important, but in these busy times many either don't feel they have the time or possibly the knowledge to start a unit from scratch which is often what happens as SVR units tend to spring up in various SUVCW Camps. This is a good thing, but due to reporting requirements and other administrative duties small units starting out often struggle and founder. Several units this year have disbanded. Clearly we need a better approach.

I believe that one of the best things we can achieve is to have a few strong units of good quality rather than rush to form many small new units. I would encourage all brothers of the SUVCW to join the SVR. If there is no unit affiliated with their camp we should encourage them to join one of the three existing companies in the district. Often camps are close enough geographically that it is possible for SVR units from different camps to belong to the same company. Where this is not geographically practical, of course, we would like to see a new company formed there. I believe that there is nothing in the regulations to prevent a squad sized detachment of SVR members to belong to a stronger company. Perhaps in this way we can grow the existing companies into units nearing company size. I don't know that any companies will achieve a paper strength of 100 to 120 men in the near future, but we can probably get these to the size of veteran companies that were sometimes only 30 to 50 men. Think of the possibilities that would open!

We could do so much more and draw more attention to our cause in this way. So talk to your friends in the SUVCW Camps and encourage them to join your company. We have a

solid professional staff in the district and three solid companies with strong company commanders. Let's build on this solid foundation and see if we can grow to at least 100 men by 2013. This is the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. We should have a great opportunity to expand our presence and public awareness of who we are

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

Captain Eric Peterson
7th Military District, SVR
Commanding

District Public Information Officer Candidate

If any member is interested in making application for the position of District Public Information Officer, the following duties are required of the position:

Act as the Public Information official for the 7th Military District with duties to include publication of notices of activities, announcements and other items of interest as requested by the National Staff and District Commander. Encourage and accept articles and photographs for publication from throughout the District. Prepare and publish the Quarterly Newsletter "The Haversack" for publication in PDF format and distribute it to the District membership. the SVR National Webmaster for publication on the national website (a sample of the most recent issue of The Haversack can be viewed on the national website) and other parties affiliated with or interested the 7th Military District. Prepare and submit items and photographs to the editor of the National SUCVW magazine "The Banner" for publication. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the District Commander. A knowledge of Microsoft Word, a photo editing program and/or similar publishing program is needed.

The position carries with it the rank of 2nd Lieutenant (Staff) with potential for promotion based on performance of duty. Interested parties can contact the current Public Information Officer with any questions they may have concerning the position at: sockettuem@comcast.net or communicate their interest to the District Commander.

Our Thanks

2nd Lt Ken Early, who has served us so well as 7th District Commander has stepped down from that position due to his commitment to the Armed Forces and military orders to overseas duty. We all join in recognizing his loyal and dedicated service to the District and to the SVR. His many contributions are sincerely appreciated as is his unselfish commitment to the defense and security of our great American republic. We wish him every success in his new assignment and are delighted he will remain with us as District Chaplain.

Change of Command

Welcome to Captain Eric Petersen as the new Commander of the 7th Military District, SVR. Captain Petersen has served the district as its Chief of Staff for several years and has been promoted to his current position by Major General Robert Grim, Commanding General, SVR, effective March 3rd, 2012.

1st Lieutenant Phil Hinman who has served as District Adjutant has been promoted to the position of 7th Military District Chief of Staff with the Rank of Captain, effective April 7, 2012. In addition, 1st Lieutenant David DuBrucq who has been serving as the District Public Information Officer has been promoted to the Position of District Adjutant with the rank of Captain, effective April 7, 2012. Captain DuBrucq will also continue to serve as Public Information Officer until a candidate is identified and selected by the District Commander to assume that post. 2nd Lieutenant Ted Golab will continue to serve as Inspector General and Kenneth Early will assume responsibility as 7th District Chaplain with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant effective April 7, 2012. Contact Information for each of these officers can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Amzi D. Harmon Company at New Smyrna for 2012 Sesquicentennial

One hundred and fifty years ago, Union and Confederate forces fought at New Smyrna (now New Smyrna Beach), Florida. The National SUCVW Sesquicentennial Committee approved this as the 2012 Department of Florida Sesquicentennial Signature Event.

Amzi D. Harmon Company, SVR, manned a display table at a Department of Florida tent and awning with Commander Farrell and Sesquicentennial Committee Chairman Heiple from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday March 17, 2012.

A 1:00 pm ceremony was begun by Department Commander Farrell's opening remarks. Private Whitlam (serving as Department Chaplain) offered an invocation. Harmon Company Commander Ward and Private Slavin posted the Colors, with musket-men First Sergeant Linscott and Private Irons. The musket-men then marched to the lagoon's bank forming a musket squad with Corporal Custer and Mike, a guest Confederate musket-man re-enactor. Sesquicentennial Chairman Heiple read the names of those killed in this action: LT Budd, and Seamen Burch and Marlow of the USS Penguin, and Master Mather, and Seamen Arnold, Bates, Brown, and Deloris of the USS Andrew, as well as a pilot whose name was not recorded (no Confederate losses were reported). A wreath was laid at the stone marker. The musket squad fired three volleys. Private Whitlam offered a benediction, and Commander Farrell concluded the ceremony. Private Hans served as photographer.

Details of the engagement can be found at the Department of Florida website, as well as at www.flheritage.com. The "Florida Civil War Heritage Trail" can be found at this website.



1stSgt Harvey Linscott, Corporal Buck Custer, Private Ron Irons, Mike of New Smyrna



2Lt Ward (beside U.S. Colors); Private Whitlam (beside brass-on-stone marker); Private Slavin (beside Department of Florida flag), 1stSgt Linscott, Corp. Custer, Pvt. Irons, and Mike of New Smyrna (all 4 at lagoon bank behind tree).



Private Ron Irons, Private Bill Slavin, 2Lt. Jim Ward and 1st Sgt. Harvey Linscott

Amzi D. Harmon Company at the "Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War" Massing of the Colors

By 2nd Lt James Ward

Amzi D. Harmon Company marched with Lucius L. Mitchell Camp 4 and other veterans and civic organizations to commemorate the last naval battle of the revolutionary war at Veterans Park in Merritt Island, Florida March 3, 2012. This has become an annual event.

In the group photograph, Private Whitlam (serving as Camp 4 Camp Commander), Department of Florida Commander Farrell, Brothers Maniaci, Polston, Heiple, Jeff Chandler, Harmon Company Commander Ward, Private McCracken and Corporal

Custer are shown. In a second image, Private McCracken bears the National Colors. Brother Maniaci bears the Camp Colors, and Brother Jeff Chandler serves as Guard. 2Lt Ward and Brother Heiple are shown in the third image.





Amzi D. Harmon Company at the "Battle of Narcoossee Mill, Florida"

By 2nd Lt. James Ward

The 19th Annual Battle At Narcoossee Mill began Friday March 23, 2012 with a school program of authentic camps, display tables, sutler's row, and related demonstrations. Saturday March 24 continued the authentic camps and displays for the public with a ladies tea, musicians performing Civil War era music, a battle, dusk artillery fire, and a barn dance. A second battle was conducted Sunday March 25. The weather was close to perfect, especially compared to the 2011 persistent rain. Boy Scouts of America troops and the public from Florida and a variety of other states attended. Department of Florida Commander Farrell and Brother Heiple manned a Camp 4 display table. Harmon Company Commander Ward is shown with Private Shaffer and his Camp 7 display table of Civil War era muskets and rifles. Corporal Custer served as event Master of Ceremonies. Privates Whitlam and Slavin also manned the display tables, and Brothers Jeff Chandler and Chris Maniaci pitched a tent in the authentic campsite. This is an annual event. Details can be found at <http://www.floridareenactorsonline.com>.

The mission is to remember Civil War combatants and encourage public awareness by providing visual displays and actions, and by being available for discussion, and to identify prospective members.

Note: the formation at parade rest, and the infantryman beside the Colors are representative of the re-enactors from a variety of states that comprised the authentic campsite and participated in the two-day battle.



150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh

By Captain Dave DuBrucq

On March 31st and April 2nd, 2012, the cannons roared once again in McNairy and Hardin Counties in Tennessee, site of the April 6th and 7th, 1862 Battle of Shiloh. More than 6,000 re-enactors took part in two events depicting the Battle.



The long federal line at Shiloh's 150th Anniversary

The clash at Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing) started on the morning of April 6th, 1862. Federal forces under the command of General U.S. Grant were caught by surprise in attack by General Albert Sidney Johnston's confederates in one the Civil War's most famous "cliffhanger" battles. In a statement describing the battle, General Grant said "In numbers engaged, no such contest ever took place on this continent."

Although severely battered on the first day, Union forces held. General Johnston had died from a mortal wound in fighting on the 6th and had been replaced by General P.G.T. Beauregard. The following day, April 7th, 1862, the fortunes of battle were reversed. Reinforced by newly arrived troops from Nashville under the command of General Don Carlos Buell, Grant's federal army went on the offensive with a 6:00AM attack by General William Nelson's Division. Union troops advance and threw back the confederate line. Beauregard, who was unaware that Grant had been reinforced during the night, ordered a counterattack. Nelson's advanced was stopped, but his battle line held firm and would not break. Beauregard had suffered heavy casualties and realized he could not prevail. He made the decision to withdraw toward Corinth, Mississippi.

Civil War author and historian Shelby Foote called Shiloh "a great big fistfight with two big mobs slugging away at each other."

Historian Bruce Catton noted the following, "Now the war had come down to uninstructed murderous battle in the smoky woodland, where men who had never been shown how to fight stayed in defiance of all logical expectation and fought for two nightmarish days. And because they had done this the hope for an easy war and a cheap victory was gone forever."

The nation was utterly stunned by the magnitude of the battle and the number of casualties. Some 23,700 men were killed, wounded or missing after its conclusion. Americans on both sides began to realize for the first time that the war would be long, bloody and costly.

General Johnston became the first full general in American history to be killed in battle. A bullet struck an artery behind the knee and bleeding into his boot he died in about 20 minutes.

The Union suffered some 13,000 casualties and the Confederate Army of Mississippi had lost 10,700 men. The raw courage and tenacity of the largely inexperienced and undertrained troops who fought at Shiloh can never be overstated.

General Grant's mastery of the Confederate forces continued; he had beaten them once again. The Confederates continued to fall back until launching their mid-August offensive.





Federal artillery fires at advancing confederates, 150th Anniversary of Shiloh



Federal Troops prepare cartridges at the 150th Anniversary Re-enactment of the Battle of Shiloh

Portraying General Grant

By Captain Dave DuBrucq with Dr. Curt Fields

Have you ever imagined what it might have been like to fill the shoes of General Grant? Dr. Curt Fields, a member of Fort Donelson Camp 62 and the 10th Regt, Tennessee U.S. Volunteers, SVR, is someone who might be able to provide us with some insight into that question. He has portrayed the general at several sesquicentennial events and received high praise from all quarters for the authenticity and dedication with which he presents the Grand Army of the Republic's famous commander. I have had the honor of appearing with him and now have the privilege of introducing him to all of you. In his own words, Dr. Fields, Curt to those who know him, tells us who he is and why he portrays the general.

Who is Dr. Curt Fields? "I am a native of Memphis, TN.

I have had careers in:

- * Education as a teacher from the Jr. High school to the University level. I still teach Sociology for the Univ. of Memphis as an adjunct assoc. professor and teacher education/prep courses for Belhaven Univ. at the Memphis campus. (Small Presbyterian college based in Jackson, MS since 1883 w/campuses in several cities).

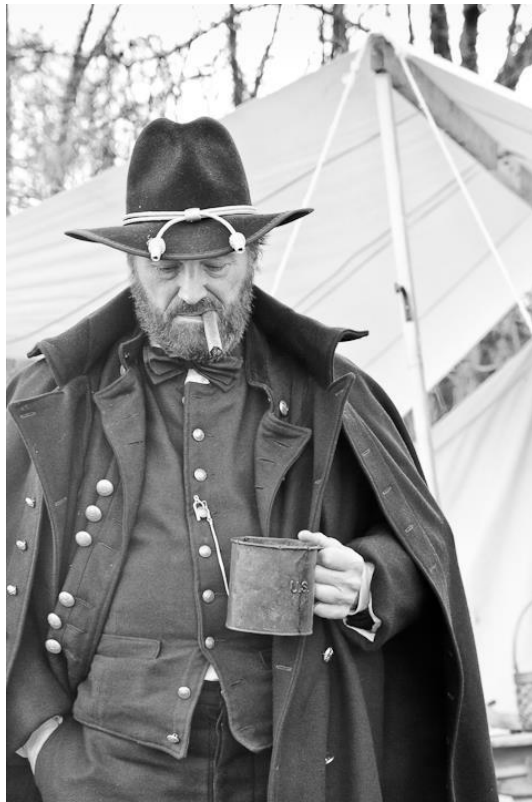
- * I am a recently retired HS school Principal.

- * I was a Memphis Police Officer for four years (I was an MPD hostage negotiator for the MPD) and a Reserve Police Officer for twenty years after my regular service. I hold the record of being the only Memphis Police Officer to have a Ph. D.

- * I have two degrees from Memphis State University and two from Michigan State University.

What was it that made you take an interest in American Civil War?

I have always been a History student in general and a rabid Civil War student more specifically."



Dr Curt Fields as General Grant at the 150th Anniversary
of the Battle of Fort Donelson

Why General Grant?

"I had an 'epiphany' after having met President Lincoln (Dennis Boggs, also a member of the SUVCW and 10th Tennessee, SVR) at the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga and having my picture taken with him. It, rather suddenly, occurred to me that I am General Grants' height, weight and body style. I thought that if I grew a beard and wore the appropriate uniform, that I just might look like him. Well, I did and I do.

Had I looked like someone else in the War, I would have given serious thought to portraying that individual(s).

I always had a respect for General Grant. However, after committing to portray him and studying him extensively, I have come to genuinely like him. He really was a nice guy!"



Portraying Grant at Shiloh

When did you first begin portraying the general?

"I made my first appearance as General Grant at Fort Donelson in February of 2010."

How did you prepare for his Character?

"I read, and continue to read, his Memoirs (and Julia's Memoirs), as well as everything I can find of what others wrote about him, e. g. books, interviews, statements made by the General and/or by contemporaries who knew or met him.

I particularly like to read the books by his staff and those close to him during the War because they tell of his persona, habits, and demeanor. THAT is the 'stuff' I like to know about the General because that is how I determine how to conduct myself when portraying him in order to be most true to how General Grant actually acted, moved, talked, etc. (for example: did you know that his favorite breakfast was cucumber slices dipped in cold pickle brine?) I also study his biographies and the other books written by past/present authors about Grant.



At The Capitol Bicentennial Mall in Nashville, Tennessee

My presentations as Grant are, as much as possible, quotations from what he said, or wrote, himself. I minimize myself and try to stay as closely as possible to what General Grant actually said about a given situation.

When I have to make a statement that he did not himself make, I rely on my studies to say as closely as possible what he might have said in that situation or question. That is where the study pays off because, hopefully, I know him so well, I can approximate how he thought and not say anything he wouldn't have said."



Curt Fields as General Grant with Ms. Lena Moody as Julia Dent Grant

Curt recently related the following "Accurately portraying General Grant is a heavy burden that I work on daily."

There are few, I believe, who could do it better than our own Curt Fields. For more information see Curt's website: <http://www.generalgrantbyhimself.com> or visit Curt Fields on Facebook.

Final Muster



Private Michael Boley, 10th Regiment, Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry, SVR, passed away in February, 2012. Our deepest expression of sympathy is extended to Private Boley's family and friends and especially to his wife, Mrs. Michael Boley, daughter, Sister Julie Boley Huttick, DUVCW, and Corporal George Andrew and Pvt George Michael Huttick, SVR, son-in-law and grandson of Private Boley.



Private Dan Spellman of Amzi D. Harmon Company, SVR, passed away after serving in the Department of Ohio, and as Secretary/Treasurer of Lucius L. Mitchell, Camp 4 in the Department of Florida. Harmon Company Commander Ward spoke at his February 24, 2012 Memorial Service at the invitation of his family. Department Commander and Mrs. Farrell attended, as did seventy family members, friends, and colleagues. Among other activities, Brother Dan was a coin collector. He paid his SVR dues with two Abraham Lincoln silver dollars.



Corporal William "Bill" Heyd, 10th Regiment, Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry, SVR, passed away on March 17th, 2012. Our deepest expression of sympathy is extended to Corporal Heyd's family and friends and especially to his wife, Mrs. Janice Heyd, his daughter Lauren and son Jeff. Corporal Heyd was active in both the 10th Tennessee and as an artillery re-enactor. Corporal Heyd last stood with the 10th Tennessee at the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Donelson.

Eternal Rest grant unto them, Oh Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them

National Civil War Ball Remembrance Day 2012, Gettysburg

**Music by the Philadelphia Brigade Band
with dances led by dancemaster.**

Period dress encouraged, but not required.

Door Prizes, plus prizes for Ladies CakeWalk. Cash Bar

Time: 9 PM, 17 November 2012

**Place: Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center
Rt. 15, South of Gettysburg.**

Price: Advance Tickets: \$20 per person.

At Door: \$25.00 per person.

Tickets: Make Check out to "SVR Remembrance Day Ball"

Include stamped, self-addressed envelope for tickets.

Mail to: Brig. Gen. Henry E. Shaw, Jr.

27 Griswold Street

Delaware, OH 43015-1716

740-369-3722

Questions, contact: hshaw@columbus.rr.com

**Ticket Orders received after 12 November
will be distributed at the Ball.**

**BALL PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO the
Gettysburg NATIONAL MILITARY PARK**



Memorial Day Observance



May 26, 2012
11 am to 1 pm

Please Join Us in Honoring
All American Service Members and
Those Who Died Building and Garrisoning
Fort Negley and Nashville's Fortifications

Free and Open to the Public



Fort Negley
Visitors Center



1100 Fort Negley Blvd. ~ Nashville, TN 37203 ~ 615.862.8470
www.nashville.gov/parks/historic/fortnegley



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Supported By The 10th Regt, Tennessee U.S. Volunteers, SVR

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

The Haversack is published quarterly as the newsletter of the 7th Military District
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Captain Eric Petersen, Commander
Captain Phil Hinman, Chief of Staff
Captain David DuBrucq, Adjutant/PIO
2nd Lieutenant Ted Golab, Inspector General
2nd Lieutenant Ken Early, Chaplain

