

# The Haversack

Newsletter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve



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## Commander's Comments

Greetings Gentlemen,

The summer is upon us and therefore the campaign season for the SVR is in full swing. Please do all that you can to support your Company Commanders in accomplishing the mission at the myriad 150th Anniversary events upon us this summer. The SVR is the high visibility component of the SUVCW and the public will judge us not on our intentions but on how well we execute our duties.

I trust that all the units participated in Memorial Day services in their communities. I once again was with the XIV Corps Guard at Marietta National Cemetery. Our persistence to be mentioned paid off this year. Some of you may recall that in the past two years the SVR / SUVCW was not mentioned nor was the civil war. That's really incredible when you consider that but for the Civil War and the efforts of Mr. Cole and General George Thomas the cemetery would not exist. This year we were assured by the Memorial Day Committee President that we would be recognized for our service during the ceremony, and true to his word both the Civil War and the SUVCW / SVR were mentioned. We did our duty and honored the sacrifice of the fallen veterans now buried at the National Cemetery in Marietta. We did rely heavily on cooperation from re-enacting units, the 104th Illinois and the 3rd Tennessee. I mention this because very few of the men in those two units are SVR brothers. This should not be. If you are experiencing events where the SVR is the minority of the troops involved we must redouble our efforts to recruit.

This August 17th at 3pm the SUVCW and Allied Orders will be dedicating the Wisconsin monument at Allatoona Pass. This is the 150th Anniversary of the battle and the last day of the National Encampment. I would like as many SVR soldiers there as possible. I am asking all the companies in the 7th District to attend this ceremony. I will also be calling on reinforcements from other SVR units around the country. This will be a very publicly visible event and many National Officers will likely attend. Please contact me to let me know if you can attend the ceremony. I will need an SVR officer to command the color guard and rifle detail and as many enlisted soldiers with rifles as possible. Contact me at 470-207-7106 or [Huscarleric@gmail.com](mailto:Huscarleric@gmail.com) to let me know if you can commit to the ceremony. It would be a great way to celebrate the dedication of the last Union Monument to go into the Allatoona Pass Battlefield Memorial with a big turn out of SVR soldiers from across the country.

I look forward to seeing you at the National Encampment in August! events.

In FC&L,

Major Eric Peterson  
7th Military District, SVR  
Commanding



**2014 National Encampment  
RESERVATION FORM  
SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE  
(SVR) BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, August 16, 2014 @ 8:00 A.M.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of seats required \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15.00 per person**

**Reservations and Payment MUST be received by 1 August 2014**

**NO AT THE DOOR SALES**

Make Check payable to TAG-SVR.

Return this Form and payment to:

Colonel Donald E. Darby  
Adjutant General, SVR  
1382 Western Ave  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Note: A copy of this form may be found on the 7<sup>th</sup> Military District FB Page or at  
<http://www.svrva.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2014-Encampment-Breakfast.pdf>



**FROM CASEY'S INFANTRY TACTICS  
Instruction of Officers**

60. The instruction of officers can be perfected only by joining theory to practice. The colonel will often practise them in marching and in estimating distances, and he will carefully endeavor to cause them to take steps equal in length and swiftness. The will also be exercised in the double quick step.

61. The instruction of officers will include all the Titles in this system of drill, as well as a perfect knowledge of the system of firing as prescribed by the War Department.

62. Every officer will make himself perfectly acquainted with the bugle signals; and should, by practice, be enabled, if necessary, to sound them. This knowledge, so necessary in general instruction, becomes of vital importance on actual service in the field.

[Ed. Note: ...I guess I will be learning to bugle!... (and then I can be a Bugling Merit Badge Counselor for the Boy Scouts)]

**Chaplain's Pulpit**

Brothers of the 7th Military District,

Was President Abraham Lincoln religious? That is the question which has been asked by many students and scholars of the Civil War for many years. In researching this subject I came across an interesting and enlightening Chronology that was compiled by Dr. Mark A. Noll that points out many statements that were made by the President during his lifetime concerning religion. I would like to thank the christianhistoryinstitute.org for placing this chronology on their website and allowing me to reprint it in the Haversack. I hope you all enjoy this interesting information.

Chaplain Kenneth Early  
7th Military District, SVR



**1846:** Handbill during Congressional campaign denies rumor that Lincoln has ever spoken against Scripture, "religion in general, or . . . any denomination of Christians in particular"

**1851:** During his father's last illness, asks step-brother to urge his father "to call upon, and confide in, our great, and good, and merciful Maker; who will not turn away from him in any extremity."

**1858:** Debates with Stephen A. Douglas in race for U.S. Senate seat from Illinois; employs many biblical references and several times corrects Douglas's inaccurate use of the Bible

**1861:** Leaves Springfield after stirring address at train depot, including these words: "Without the assistance of that Divine Being . . . I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail"; *Mar. 4:* inaugurated president; *Apr. 12:* firing on Fort Sumter (Charleston, South Carolina) begins Civil War

**1862:** Muses privately that in the Civil War "God's purposes" may be "something different from the purpose of either party"

**1863:** *Jan. 1:* Emancipation Proclamation frees all slaves in areas still in active rebellion against the Union; *Mar. 30:* proclaims national fast and says that as a nation, "we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us . . . and have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own"; **Oct. 24:** tells delegation of Presbyterians from Baltimore, "I have often wished that I was a more devout man than I am. Nevertheless, amid the greatest difficulties of my

Administration, when I could not see any other resort, I would place my whole reliance in God, knowing that all would go well, and that He would decide for the right"; *Nov. 19:* Gettysburg Address

**1864:** Tells group of African-Americans who have given him a special presentation Bible, "In regard to this Great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Saviour gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it"; *Nov.:* reelected

**1865:** *Mar. 4:* In Second Inaugural Address Lincoln says that both North and South "read the same Bible, and pray to the same God," and also (quoting Ps. 19:9) that even if God should let the war continue until "every drop of blood drawn with the [slaver's] lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword . . . still it must be said 'the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether' "; *Apr. 15:* dies from gunshot wound inflicted the previous day

Dr. Mark A. Noll is McManis Professor of Christian Thought at Wheaton (Illinois) College and a member of the editorial advisory board of CHRISTIAN HISTORY. His most recent book is A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada (Eerdmans, 1992).



# Amzi D. Harmon Company

Captain Jim Ward, Commanding

**Mount Peace Cemetery,  
St. Cloud, Florida  
May 26, 2014**

Privates Ron McCracken and Skip Whitlam were escorts, Private Michael Urell posted the Lucius L. Mitchell Camp#4, Department of Florida, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Flag, and Brother Connie Landry laid a wreath in memory of American Servicemen and Servicewomen who died on active duty.

Also participating were the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Daughters of the American Revolution, and other military, veteran, civic, and fraternal organizations, as well as Rebecca Borders, Mayor of St. Cloud.

Captain Jim Ward  
Amzi D. Harmon Company  
Commanding



Shown are (left) Connie Landry, Skip Whitlam, Michael Urell, and Ron McCracken

## **Amzi D. Harmon Company Sons of Veterans Reserve Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Memorial Day 2014

To quote Brother Hanby, Department of the Chesapeake: "a photo of the grave stone marking the final resting place of Sgt. David Grubb, who nobly fell in defense of his Country. He died from wounds received at the Battle of Chancellorsville, May 31, 1863. Aged 25 years 10 days. Co. H 95th PA Vols. Erected by his comrades. Siloam, UMC, Boothwyn, PA. May we never forget his sacrifice."

After enlisting August 1862, my ancestor Private Edward Coburn Gearey, Company E, 149th New York Infantry also fought at Chancellorsville, from which an illness sent him to Philadelphia Hospital. It took months, but he recovered sufficiently to be returned to duty.

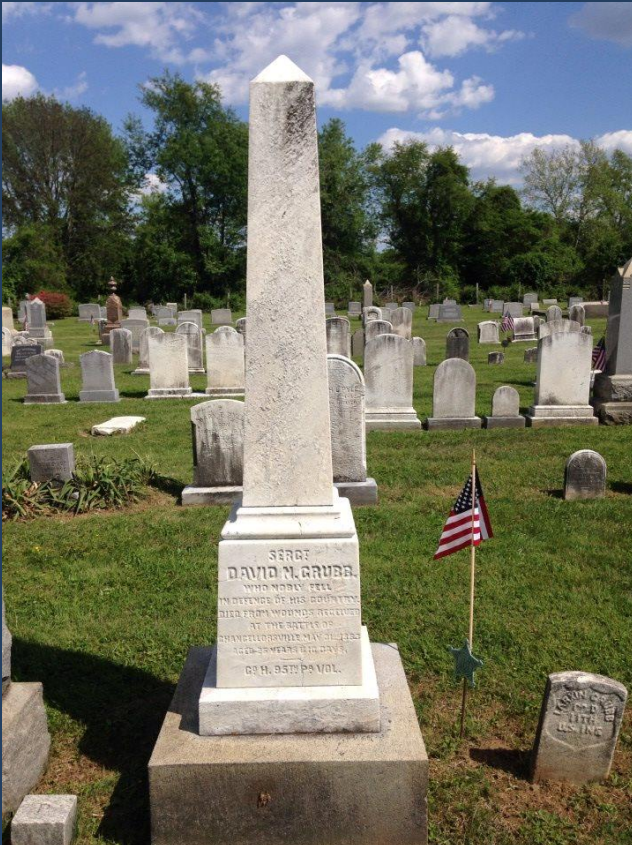
Privates Whitlam, McCracken and Urell, Amzi D. Harmon Company, participated in the Memorial Day observance at Mount Peace Cemetery with Connie Landry, another Lucius L. Mitchell Camp 4, Department of Florida Brother. Private Urell posted Camp 4 Colors, and Brother Urell laid a wreath during those portions of the ceremony. Also participating were Active Duty personnel, Veterans, St. Cloud Officials, and the public.

Looking ahead, Friday May 30 is Decoration Day. Please let me know, or First Sergeant Linscott know if you as an individual or with your Camp or Department plan an observance.

James Ward  
Captain, SVR  
Commanding

Attested:

Harvey Linscott  
1st Sgt, SVR  
Adjutant





# 10<sup>th</sup> TN US Vol Infantry

Captain Dave DuBrucq, Commanding

## General Grant at 150th Anniversary of Appomattox Surrender



I have the honor to report to you that Dr. Curt Fields, a member of the 10th Regiment, Tennessee U.S. Volunteers, has been selected to portray General Grant at the Sesquicentennial of the Surrender in 2015

Curt has been an active member of our unit and has portrayed General Grant at every important event throughout the region. Congratulations to Curt on his selection for this honor!

Captain Dave DuBrucq  
10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry  
Commanding



Dr Curt Fields, seated, portrays General U.S. Grant at the McClean House  
Appomattox, Virginia, 2014



Capt. Dave DuBrucq gives the Veterans Presentation during the  
Memorial Day Observance at Fort Negley in Nashville.

## Memorial Day 2014

Members of the 10th Tennessee Infantry participated in the 2014 Memorial Day Service at Fort Negley, in Nashville, Tennessee. The Fort, the largest inland stone fort built during the civil war was the centerpiece of the Union defenses of Nashville. Captain Dave DuBrucq delivered the Veteran's Memorial address and laid the traditional wreath honoring the fallen on behalf of veterans of all wars. 1st Sgt Roger Tenney presented "taps" and the invocation was given by Pvt Sam Gant, Commander, Department of Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. Dr. Clay Bailey, President of the Friends of Fort Negley, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Captain DuBrucq also represented the 10th Tennessee, SVR at Ceremonies at Stones River National Battlefield and Cemetery in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Captain Dave DuBrucq  
10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry  
Commanding



Stones River National Battlefield National Cemetery Memorial Day, 2014

# Our Ancestors

## The Whitley Brothers

Taylor Whitley, a veteran of the War of 1812, lived in Whitley Hollow in Red Boiling Springs, TN. After the War of 1812 he married Mehilina Adams and together they had 12 children, eight sons and four daughters. Nearly fifty years passed and his children had grown to adults having their own children when this country was again at war. Loyal to the Union, seven of his sons enlisted in the Union Army between September 15 and October 1, 1861. Traveling to Camp Anderson in Monroe County, KY to enlist were: Kinchen Whitley (age 44); James M. Whitley (age 42); Axum Whitley (age 40); Vincent Whitley (age 38); Wiley Whitley (age 31); Noah Bethel Whitley (age 26) and Jefferson Cannon Whitley (age 23). All seven brothers were enlisted in Captain Lafayette Harlin's Company D, 9th KY Infantry. Being older than the average recruit, many of them served as cooks, nurses and in the Pioneer Brigade. Jefferson was shot in the knee during the Battle of Stones River, and walked with a cane the rest of his life. Wiley became ill and resigned after the battle of Shiloh, when he recovered he enlisted in the 8th Tennessee Infantry serving as a wagon master until the end of the war. Axum is believed to have died in a prison camp in Richmond, Virginia. Vincent was discharged via a surgeon's certificate on May 22, 1863. Noah was discharged for disability on December 10, 1864. Kinchen served as a blacksmith and James served as a hospital nurse and in the Pioneer Brigade, both served until they were discharged on December 15, 1864 in Louisville, Kentucky. Most of the Whitley family is buried in the Whitley Cemetery in Red Boiling Springs, TN.

Pvt. Chad Comer  
10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry  
(great x3 grandson of James M. Whitley).



Allen Blevins, third wife, Lucy Eva Davis, and some of their children  
(Circa 1892, probably Greene County, Indiana)  
Note Grand Army of the Republic Membership Badge

## Allen Blevins

Allen Blevins was born on February 23 or 26, 1832 of Rial or Ryal Blevins and Isabella Cornett Neal (her second marriage) of Clay County, Kentucky and later Laurel County, KY. Late 1836, Allen was in Roane County, Tennessee with his father and step-mother; a sister, and three half siblings. By 1860, Allen lived in Cumberland County, Tennessee with his wife Eliza Basket. He is listed as a farmer on his military records and several of the censuses. Although some records show Allen with middle initial H it appears that this was only added in and not really representative of a name.

Allen Blevins did not join immediately when the War Between the States broke out (although his half brother John Hill Blevins left the Confederate county of Cumberland and served throughout the War also in Company I, 1st Regiment (East) Tennessee Volunteer Infantry). On July 17, 1862, Allen joined Company E, First Regiment (East) Tennessee Volunteer Infantry at Camp Cottrell at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. He appears there shortly after John H. Blevins was on furlough and it is suspected that he was recruited by his half brother. Regimental history shows this was under General Morgan of the Army of the Ohio. It appears the regiment during Allen Blevins' service was assigned to Cincinnati, OH; Bowling Green, KY; Louisville, KY; and fought at Stone's River in December 1862. It is unlikely Allen Blevins actually fought at Stone's River because his discharge papers list him as unfit for 90 days and it is unknown if he did supporting work when not in the front lines. It is possible that he participated in several skirmishes in East Tennessee, but this is unclear – only the fact the regiment was in the right place and the right time when several are recorded.

During a march from Cumberland Gap to Tazewell, TN (approximately 10-15 miles) in inclement weather on August 11, 1862 he contracted tuberculosis and later choric diarrhea according to his January 14, 1863 discharge for disability which led to his discharge on February 7, 1863.

He returned to Cumberland County, TN, but by 1866 was divorced by Eliza for running off with Sintha Kindred, whose brother-in-law served in Allen's company. It is unclear if her husband served in the Confederate or United States armed forces, or not at all. He is known to be dead before 1868, and possibly during the war. Allen and Sintha ended up in Greene County, IN where they had several children before they divorced and Allen remarried for a third time to Lucy Eva Davis. Allen died October 9, 1913 in Solsberry, Highland Township, Greene County, IN and is buried in Newark Cemetery there. Eliza Basket Blevins settled with their three children in Missouri.

Pvt. Ernest Blevins  
XIV Corps HQ Guard

## District Administrative Guide

**January 15** - 7MD Adjutant receive Annual Unit Application (SVR form 3) from units (or earlier)

- employer identification number (EIN)(IRS)
- unit commander & unit adjutant signatures
- unit name – location
- unit commander name
  - street & email addresses
  - telephones;
- unit adjutant name
  - street and email addresses
  - telephones
- officer's commission (SVR form 1A)

**February 15** – Adjutant General receives Annual Unit Applications (SVRform3) (or earlier) from 7MD

- DC signature – officer's commission (SVR form 1A)

**March 15** –7MD Adjutant receive Annual Unit strength Report(SVR form 19) from units (or earlier)

- dues \$2 per enlisted, \$3 per officer
- roster

**March 31-** reporting period ends

**April 1** -later due date printed on form 19; 7MD directs 15 March

**April 30** - Adjutant General receives Annual Unit Strength Reports(SVR forms 19)

- National dues check payable to "TAG SVR" (send no cash)
- DC signature
- rosters
- officer's commission (SVR form 1A)

**May 15** -IRS 990-N/990-EZ/990 due

**August 1** - 7MD

- Awards Board receives award nominations
- Commander receives commission applications

**September 1** Deputy Commander, SVR receives award nominations from 7MD Awards Board

Adjutant General receives commission applications from 7MD Commander

**November** Commissions and Awards made (Remembrance Day, Gettysburg)

**Unspecified** -member application form (SVR form 5A)

- dues \$2 if enlisted, \$3 if officer

**Unspecified** -commissions to members from Adjutant General

Captain Jim Ward  
7th Military District, SVR  
Adjutant

References: Regulations of the Sons of Veterans Reserve, Articles III(4), V(2), and X(7)

## Humor

It was rumored that Gen. Johnson was to be relieved from command, because he had failed to arrest Gen. Sherman's progress. so one morning our picket asked.

"Hello Johnny, who's your commander now?"

"Sherman" replied the other.

"How's that?"

"Well, when Sherman moves, we move"

There was humor in this reply but not of the ghastly kind that attended the reply of a wounded Confederate, after Gen. Johnson has been superseded by Gen. Hood, who made three unsuccessful charges.

The question was: "How many men have you fellows got left?"

"About enough for another killin" was the reply.

Thanks to Steve Reilly, Kennesaw Camp

The Civil WAR memoirs of Sgt, Lyman S. Widney, 34th Illinois Infantry

### A Straightforward Hooiser

An Indiana chaplain, at one of the camps near Corinth, selecting for singing the hymn commencing:

"Show pity, Lord, Oh Lord, forgive:

Let a repentant rebel live."

He had scarcely uttered the last word of this line when a private soldier in his congregation, an old man and a zealous Christian, earnestly cried out, "No Lord, unless they lay down their arms"

While the clergyman was offering a prayer, a rifle shot was heard as if from picket a mile away. The report of the gun was immediately followed by an exclamation from the same venerable Hoosier---"Lord, if that's a Union shot, send the bullet straight, an" if it ain't, hit a tree with it, Lord"

### Sentry Detail

Gen. Edward Johnson once came upon one of his sentinels on his post. He was seated on the ground, cleaning his rifle, which he had taken to pieces for that purpose. "Who are you" growled the General. "What are you doing here"? " I am a kinder sorter sentinel." answered the soldier "Who are you?" " I am a kinder sorter a general," mimicked old Ed. "Wal." said the soldier, not the least bit disconcerted "if you wait until I put my

gun together, "I'll git up and give you a kinder sorter salute." The General's mouth twitched, his eyes twinkled, and he rode rapidly away.

Thanks to Pvt. Charles Engle, 10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry



## Upcoming Unit Events

### XIV Corps HQ Guard

- Forthcoming!

### Amzi D. Harmon Company

- Forthcoming!

### 10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Volunteer Infantry

- Forthcoming!

### Department / National Events

- 14-17 August 2014 – NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT  
<http://www.2014nationalencampment.com/>

### Sesquicentennial Events

- Something must be coming up!... Let us know so we can let all the units know!

### On Facebook...

#### SVR

- [2nd Military District, SVR](#)
- [3<sup>rd</sup> Military District SVR](#)
- [4<sup>th</sup> Military District, SVR](#)
- [6<sup>th</sup> Military District, SVR](#)
- [7<sup>th</sup> Military District, SVR](#)

#### Departments in our District

- [Department of Tennessee](#)  
(includes MS and AL)
- [Department of Georgia and South Carolina](#)

### Camps in our District

- [Gen. John A. Logan #4 \(NC\)](#)
- [Gen. James B. Mcpherson #1 \(GA\)](#)
- [Elias Moon #2 \(GA\)](#)
- [Kennesaw Mountain #3 \(GA\)](#)
- [Charles Devens Jr. #10 \(SC\)](#)
- [Maj. Gen James H Wilson #1 \(AL\)](#)
- [Maj. Wm. A. McTeer #39 \(TN\)](#)
- [Fort Donelson #62 \(TN\)](#)

- [National SUVCW](#)

Click the link, and "Like" them!

(you'll get lots of updates of what is going on!)

The Haversack is published quarterly as the newsletter of the 7th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

The 7th Military District the states of Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

Any letters, articles, etc., published in The Haversack do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, officers, membership, guests, or the editor/publisher.

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On 8 May 2014 Bros. Bill Heard and Tommy Phillips attended the Dragon Battalion Awards Ceremony for the JROTC Cadets at York Institute in Jamestown, Tennessee. During the ceremony there were over 700 awards presented to the cadets of the battalion. These are some of the most outstanding young men and women I have ever met. It was my honor to present C/CPL Carl Powell with the Sons of Union Veterans Award. I would like to commend CW3 Bruce Catlett for the wonderful job he does with these young men and women. I have to say that he has good material to work with since they come from the home of Sgt. Alvin C. York.

Sgt. Bill Heard  
10th Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry

## We want articles (with pictures!)

**Thanks to all the contributors of this edition!**

### *So... What's needed...?*

Articles for the Summer 2014 Edition of the Haversack!

- Unit Activities
- Biographical Sketches of your Unit or your Ancestor, Biographical Sketches of other Civil War units or persons
- Research methods
- Civil War era jokes / cartoons

Some editing may be done to long articles to fit in the space available

Email updates and articles (with pictures!) to [GAHuttick@netscape.net](mailto:GAHuttick@netscape.net)!

NEXT ISSUE: September 2014