

The Haversack

Newsletter of the 7th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve



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Commander's Comments

Greetings Gentlemen,

I wish to thank all the officers and men of the 7th Military District who assisted with the National Encampment and memorial dedication in Marietta and Allatoona Pass this past August. It was a very successful encampment. I knew we would be hard pressed for men during the encampment as many men of the 14th Corps HQ Guard were busy doing other duties during the encampment. Many of our soldiers were members of the now famous "Red Shirt Brigade" that were engaged in doing all the organizational work of the encampment. We were able to fulfill our provost, color guard and escort duties with the help of men from other companies in the 7th Military District, and SVR soldiers from the 2nd Military District who volunteered to serve.

The last event of the encampment was the dedication of the Wisconsin Monument at Allatoona Pass. Again the SVR proudly did its duty. Captain Ward and Lt. Huttick were of great assistance in acting as VIP escorts at the ceremony. They, Along with me escorted the C-in-C and the President of the Auxiliary as well as members of other Department Delegations and the representatives of the Allied Orders as they laid wreaths at the base of the Wisconsin Monument. The 14th Corps Guard, SVR was present to perform color guard, and honor guard duties at the ceremony. With the assistance of the 104th Illinois Infantry and the Chicago Board of Trade Battery re-enactors the ceremony was executed with Military Precision. I was very proud to command the combine military team assembled there. Sister Sara Meier, Past President of Amanda Stokes Tent #2, DUVCW was very complimentary of the conduct of the SVR at the ceremony.

With the dedication of the Wisconsin Monument to the 12th Wisconsin Light Battery and the 18th Wisconsin Infantry the ten year project to raise funds and erect monuments to the Union regiments that fought there is complete. As a Wisconsin Native who was actively involved in this project it was a very satisfying and proud day for me. I cannot emphasize enough how proud it made me to lead the SVR during this dedication.

As Sgt Ray Wozniak pointed out during the ceremony, most of the money for all five Union Monuments (Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) came from donations from the SUCVW, SVR, DUVCW, Auxiliary, WRC, and LGAR membership. Before that there were only small flat stones for each unit that often went unnoticed by visitors to the park. Now these tributes to the brave fallen Union soldiers stand in a beautiful memorial park at the entrance to the Allatoona Pass railroad cut, and the Star Fort that they and General Corse so courageously defended in 1864.

In FC&L,

Major Eric Peterson
7th Military District, SVR
Commanding



National Encampment



Color Guard at the National Encampment, left to right: Private Alan Bright (14th Corps Guard), 1st Sergeant and National Color Bearer, Sgt Bill Miller (14th Corps Guard), Private Jeff Hightower (14th Corps Guard), Major Eric Peterson (7th Military District Commander & Deputy Provost)



Left to right: 2nd Lt George Huttick, Major Eric Peterson, and Captain Jim Ward at Allatoona Pass



Left to right: Captain Ted Golab (Inspector General 7MD), Cmdr Ray Wozniak (Elias Moon Camp #2) and Major Eric Peterson (Commander, 7MD)



Allatoona Pass

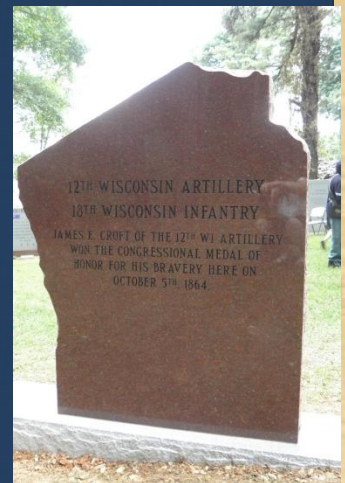
Battle of Allatoona: 2014 Wisconsin Monument Dedication

A single descendant of a Missouri soldier in the CSA noticed there was no evidence the Battle of Allatoona took place, a battle his ancestor fought in. Trees had grown where there were none in the 1860's, and a nearby dam had been constructed some time later, altering the appearance of the land.

This descendant had landscaping experience, and set out to propose a monument, first to the Missouri men who fought there, and then to each state with units participating. The monuments in one way or another reflected the shape of the states involved, and were arranged in an open circle to signify the nation coming back together. In August 2014, the Wisconsin monument was dedicated on the Sunday afternoon following the SUVCW National Encampment. 7th Military District, SVR provided escorts for wreath layers.

I recommend if your travel plans allow, that you locate and visit this memorial. Think about the intense fight, basically for "hardtack" biscuits, as CSA forces fell back from the Battle for Atlanta. Think about a small Union contingent unaware they would be called on to mount such a hard-fought defense. Think about how, despite the heroics and horrors of the conflict, no trace remained. Think about the one man who set about to rectify that oversight. Think about those in a number of states who could appreciate his vision and join in the memorial effort. Think about the well-conceived design that encourages thinking that all this time after the Civil War, citizens have come a long way toward reconciliation. True, you might note a nod to "states' rights", and true, no mention of the abolition of slavery is noted, but it is also true that the union of states is a theme. I encourage you to join me in thanking all involved in the memorial project, and in remembering combatants on both sides of this intense struggle.

Captain James Ward
7th Military District, SVR



Color Guard at the National Encampment, left to right: Private Alan Bright (14th Corps On August 15th, 2014 SVR, and re-enactors came together to salute the fallen at Allatoona Pass.

Our Ancestors

The Closing Months of 1864

At this time in 1864, no one knew the American Civil War would be over in less than seven months, but were beginning to understand it was only a matter of time. Even so, President Lincoln had been resigned to the fact that he was probably going to lose his bid for re-election. So convinced was Lincoln, that he asked his cabinet to sign, without reading, a memo: "This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this Administration will not be re-elected." A pessimism over what was viewed as a highly probable defeat in the election of 1864 and a feeling that the new President, likely General McClellan, would not carry out the war aims weighed heavily upon Mr. Lincoln.

On September 1, 1864, after being defeated at the Battle of Jonesborough the Confederates evacuated Atlanta and on September 2nd, Sherman's army occupied Atlanta and informed President Lincoln "Atlanta is ours and fairly won." The capture of Atlanta and the overwhelming support of the troops for their much revered Commander-in-Chief would assure the re-election of Lincoln.

After the loss of Atlanta, even the most ardent confederates were coming to realize their cause was lost. Though fighting stubbornly, Lee was invested at Petersburg, Virginia with Grant's noose slowly tightening. Sheridan was on the heels of Early's Confederates in the Shenandoah Valley and Sherman was about to embark on his famous march to the sea. The Mississippi Valley was firmly under federal control and Fort Morgan, the last major Confederate post at the entrance to Mobile Bay, fell to the Federals. The port was effectively in Union hands. This left Wilmington, North Carolina, as the only significant port partially open to Confederate blockade-runners.

John Bell Hood in a desperate bid to draw Sherman from Georgia, devised a plan to march back into Tennessee and threaten Nashville. Forrest's raids in Tennessee and Alabama were of limited value and served only to harass federal supply lines. Hood's Army of Tennessee pressed North into Middle Tennessee in pursuit of Schofield's Federals but Schofield slipped past Hood's army at Spring Hill, Tennessee and Led by Gen Jacob Cox, entrenched at Franklin. The subsequent Battle proved costly for Confederates who suffered the loss of six general officers including the very capable "Stonewall of the West" General Patrick Cleburne. Schofield reached Nashville and joined General George Thomas. Hood would be defeated in a rout at Nashville little more than two weeks later that would effectively eliminate the Army of Tennessee as an effective force.

Captain Dave DuBrucq
7th Military District, SVR

Pvt. Montgomery Shannon

M. Shannon enlisted in the 7th Penna Cavalry, November 1861, at Camp Grebble, near Harrisburg, Pa. He was 54 at the time of his enlistment, rather old to sit in a saddle on a hard campaign. But then again folks were pretty hardy in those days. Family legend says he didn't enlist to save the Union, free the slaves or for the adventure. He joined up to get away from his wife and three daughters. He had worked with mules in the coal mines of the anthracite Region of Penna so occasionally served as a teamster or ambulance driver. He reenlisted in Huntsville, Alabama when the 7th served as Provost for the city. While there one of men who had been a miner found a vein of coal nearby. The Col. granted the men to mine coal. All the Huntsville men had "left " home so there was much corn in the fields. One of the men had been a miller so they rebuilt a mill and ground the corn. The regiment gave the meal and coal away to the locals for the asking. The Col. recorded that they were not welcome when they came to town but attitudes changed and they were sorry to see us leave. On the way home for their 30 days leave they boarded a steamboat at Nashville. The army mess hall that they dined at apparently didn't please them so rioted causing \$300 worth of damages. The Provost of Cincinnati herded them back on the boat. In the process the 7th killed one of the guards. After the regiment was loaded the Provost brought in two cannons and threatened to fire on boat if they attempted to get off. At Camp Curtin near Harrisburg army paperwork had to be completed authorizing the leave. This was too slow to suit the men so they marched to the Capitol where they formed on the steps and gave three boos for the Governor. The Col. stepped forward and told the men to go home and come back in thirty days. The Col said men of the 7th were the roughest and hardest men to discipline in the army but in a fight he'd rather lead no other regiment. The regiment is listed as one of the top 300 regiments in the Union Army. They garrisoned Central Tennessee, fought in the Battle of Nashville and General Wilson's Raid through Alabama and Georgia. Pvt. Shannon was discharged at Macon, Ga., on 22 August 1865. On the way home it is recorded that my ancestor traded his discharge papers for a glass of whiskey.

Pvt. Charlie Engle, PDC
10th Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry

FROM CASEY'S INFANTRY TACTICS

Instruction of Sergeants

63. As the discipline and efficiency of a company materially depend on the conduct and character of its sergeants, they should be selected with care, and properly instructed in all the duties appertaining to their rank.

64. Their theoretical instruction should include the School of the Soldier, the School of the Company, and the Drill for Skirmishers; as also a knowledge of the principles of firing. They should likewise be well instructed in their duties as battalion guides.

65. The captain selects from the corporals his company, those whom he judges fit to be admitted to the theoretical instruction of the sergeants.

Upcoming Unit Events

XIV Corps HQ Guard

- Forthcoming!

Amzi D. Harmon Company

- Forthcoming!

10th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry

- October 17-18, 2014: Tennessee History Festival, Capitol Mall State Park, Nashville
- November 15-16, 2014: 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, Franklin, Tennessee
- November 30, 2014: Annual March to Carter House, This year will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the November 30, 1864 Battle

Department / National Events

- August 2015 – NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

On Facebook...

SVR

- [2nd Military District, SVR](#)
- [3rd Military District SVR](#)
- [4th Military District, SVR](#)
- [6th Military District, SVR](#)
- [7th 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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HUZZAH!

Congratulations to the Department of Georgia/South Carolina upon hosting the 2014 National Encampment.

If there were any glitches they didn't affect a well presented Encampment. The host brothers outfitted in red shirts was a nice touch as well as being helpful Thanks for the ancestor pin for descendants of veterans who fought in the Atlanta Campaign. The site of the many available in the Atlanta area was a fine selection. It appears the deep southern departments are getting some respect by locating the Encampment in the "deep south" and the election of the first southern brother in the modern area that I know of from attending the last fifteen encampments Huzzah to you Council Member Brian Pierson. Thank you, Brothers of the Department of Georgia/South Carolina Department

Pvt. Charlie Engle, PDC
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 Fall 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!

NEXT ISSUE: December 2014