

The Haversack

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



Major Eric B. Peterson
Commander
Huscarleric@gmail.com

Captain David DuBrucc
Chief of Staff
sockettuem@att.net

Captain Bill Miller
District Adjutant
whmiller949@bellsouth.net

Captain Ted Golab
Inspector General
Tiger126@Bellsouth.net

2nd Lt George Huttick
Public Information Officer
GAHuttick@netscape.net

2nd Lt Gary M. Burke
District Chaplain
escaped886@yahoo.com

Commander's Comments

Greetings men of the 7th Military District,

Now that Memorial Day is past and the high season is upon us I suspect that we all have been busy in carrying out the duties of the SVR. Later this month it will be the honor of the XIV Corps HQ Guard to perform color guard and escort duties at the DUVCW National Encampment opening in Atlanta. Anyone from the other companies interested in participating should contact me. The opening is at 7:30pm on July 24th. The location is The Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel, 4736 Best Road, Atlanta, GA 30337. I ask soldiers to be on site no later than 7pm so we can get organized and rehearse.

Since we are entering the active period of the year I ask that you all take the time to send news of your events to Lt George Huttick for inclusion in the Haversack. Lately, as it gets hot here in the south, I have seen instances where SUVCW commanders are arranging participation in events asking that there be nobody present in uniform! I think this is a mistake. While I understand that the heat in wool uniforms can be extremely unpleasant, this is taking away an element of visibility to your events. SVR soldiers are generally very adept at drinking copious amounts of water and I would expect that our officers and NCO's know to give appropriate instruction for cooler wear of the uniform, such as open jackets, etcetera. The main thing is drinking water. I recently heard soldiers at Fort Meade take water in formation as they sang out in unison, "Hydrate or die!" I guess it's their way of reminding young soldiers to keep drinking water in the field. SVR unit officers should take care of their soldiers and discuss with the SUVCW Camp Commander their concerns about the heat. Obviously, we have some older soldiers who cannot tolerate the heat well and it's incumbent upon the unit commander to be aware of that and act accordingly; can that soldier be given light duty where they need not march or stand? Can they be placed in a shady area? I'm not kidding about the last part. I have seen officers place a formation right in the direct sunlight to stand for a long period when they had shade available only a dozen feet away!

Let's all be safe out there and please use common sense, but don't abandon the uniform simply because it's hot. It's all a matter of caring for each other. I have seen our brothers in the SVR dresses in polo shirts pass out with the heat; mainly because they were not drinking enough water.

In FC&L,

Major Eric Peterson
 7th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve
 Commanding



Book Review
Civil War Curiosities
Strange Stories, Oddities, Events, and Coincidences
By Webb Garrison

Have you ever been in a discussion about the American Civil War with someone and can't remember a fact or detail that would prove your point? Do you like seemingly strange coincidences in history or just want a quick reference about something related to the Civil War? Webb Garrison has done a fine job cataloging these facts in his book *Civil War Curiosities*.

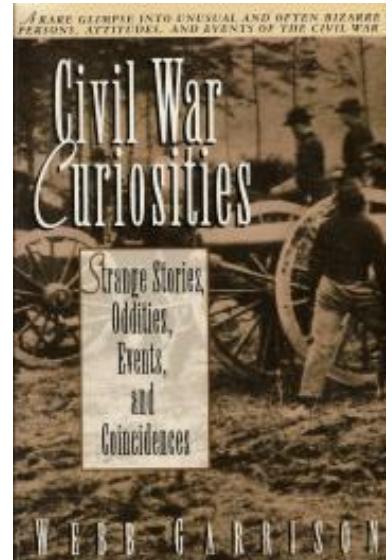
This is no mere book of lists however. Mr. Garrison uses narrative to illustrate the story behind the fact. Some are very brief and some of these narratives go on for several pages. He has grouped his research into five major groupings; 1. Memorable Players in the Nation's Greatest Drama, 2. Supporting Members of the Cast, 3. No Two Military Events Were Identical, 4. The Eye of the Beholder, and 5. Beyond the Headlines.

In part one he compares and contrasts the two Presidents, Lincoln and Davis. He goes into all kinds of personal detail about these men. He covers the fact that they were only born a few dozen miles apart, and contrasts their backgrounds. Lincoln representing the self-made man and Davis coming from the wealthy planter class.

He also goes on to discuss a whole host of people who were famous during the war or would become famous after the war. Mr. Garrison has included such notables as Frederick Douglas in this section. While Frederick Douglas needs no introduction to this audience, he also mentions Commodore Matthew Maury who left the US Navy to accept a commission in the CS Navy and helped in the development of confederate submarines. By the way, Mr. Garrison also notes that Commodore Maury is the discoverer of the Gulf Stream. Sam Clemens is mentioned in this chapter. At the time of the civil war he had not yet written under the nom de plume Mark Twain. He does detail Mark Twain's enlistment in a pro-confederate Missouri Militia Unit. That enlistment lasted only a few weeks until he found an opportunity to desert. His escapades were the inspiration for the Mark Twain Short Story entitled "The Short History of a Campaign that Failed".

In "Supporting Members of the Cast" he chronicles the support that women gave to the war effort of both sides. He also goes on to detail several fighting clergymen from both sides including Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk who was an Episcopal Bishop before the war. It may have been better for the confederacy had the Bishop remained at the altar. This seems to be a universal opinion in the civil war community.

Part Three's title seems to be a no brainer. I suspect that the battle information given by Mr. Garrison was difficult to classify in any other way. In that section of the book he details how the war was carried to the civilian sector by both sides. The title of that chapter? "The War is to be Illuminated By Burning Cities and Villages". I found this chapter to be very interesting given the bad rap that General Sherman gets for the events of the March to the Sea and the Carolina Campaign. Mr. Garrison points out a whole host of purveyors of the total war concept that practiced this fiery art both before and after Sherman. Some of them wore Gray! In January 1862, Confederates in Kentucky established a "scorched earth" policy. Aimed at Unionists, it made victims of persons favoring neutrality. To prevent anything useful from falling into enemy hands, self-styled Southern patriots burned the depot, blacksmith shop, and general store at Horse Cave. Moving on to Cave City, they torched the depot, hotel and stables.



**Book Review
Civil War Curiosities**

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This section also goes on to chronicle the role that black soldiers played in the war. It shows that even after being accepted into uniform they had a long row to hoe before being accepted as equals. This even appears to be true of officers who seemingly promoted the use of black soldiers. I learned that General Thomas was for the use of black troops after he was against it, before he was for it! It seems that the good General who was arguably the father of the modern Army and was at the very least responsible for many military innovations just couldn't make up his mind how he felt about the employment of black soldiers. Early in the war, he was chastised for encouraging it. He then came out against it, then seemed to praise their value to the war effort by late 1864.

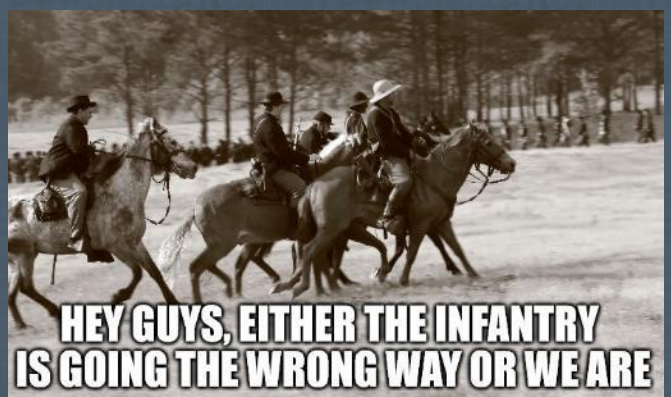
Frightened civilians in the area fled to Munfordville. They had been told that soldiers under Colonel Hammond would return in a day or so and "burn every house that could be used by the Union Army in its' advance as a hospital or quarters". Secessionists kept their promise, but they didn't stop with homes and stores. A contemporary account is cited by Mr. Garrison..."They also burned up all the hay, oats, and fodder stacks along the road, and drove off or killed all the cattle, horses, and mules to be found. This is two full years before Sherman implemented his well-known strategy.

Part Four- Eye of the Beholder chronicles the many critical views of Lincoln's less than handsome appearance and mannerisms. It also goes on to discuss the many different styles of dress sported by many civil war notables from the very plain like General Grant, to the flamboyant like JEB Stuart to the ridiculous like George Custer. Mr. Garrison cites one of Custer's peers who described Custer's uniform as "that of a circus rider gone mad!" This and other observations about very famous civil war personalities by their contemporaries makes for very entertaining and enlightening reading.

Part Five – Beyond the Headlines is a collection of stories about the abuse of the press and Yellow Journalism and outright propaganda that was written by the fourth estate during the civil war. Most of the stories are shown by Mr. Garrison to be exaggerations or outright lies. There is one striking illustration included that showed up in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper depicting Southern appliances, furniture and jewelry purportedly made from the bones and teeth of Unionists!

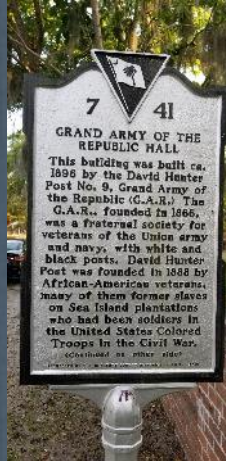
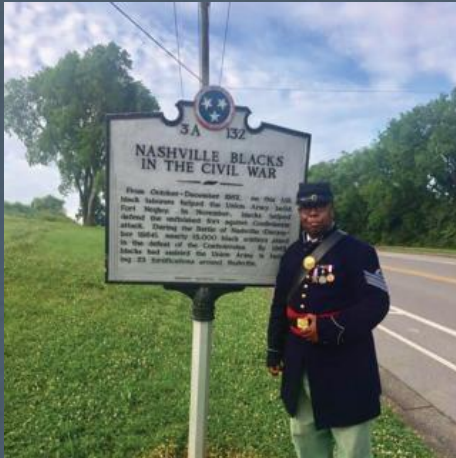
Mr. Garrison has done a fine job of bringing all these stories together in a very entertaining fashion. The book is hard to put down once you start reading it, and there is something to tickle, and provoke almost anyone who reads it. I was troubled by the number of typos in the book that should have been caught by the publisher. They run the usual gamut including changing the civil war to the 20th century by publishing dates of various events as September 17, 1962 or April 12, 1961. There were also a very few factual errors that tended to reinforce modern myth about the war that I discovered, but that is nit picking. On the whole I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys trivia, or delving into less common subjects of the civil war.

Submitted by Major Eric Peterson



Social Media

(pictures are linked to source materials)



Historical Regulations ...

FROM CASEY'S INFANTRY TACTICS

Article II

PART SECOND

LESSON II.

MANUAL OF ARMS.

INSPECTION OF ARMS.

LESSON III.

TO LOAD IN FOUR TIMES.

259. The object of this lesson is to prepare the recruits to load at will, and to cause them to distinguish the times which require the greatest regularity and attention, such as charge cartridge, ram cartridge, and prime. It will be divided as follows:

260. The first time will be executed at the end of the command; the three others at the commands, two, three and four. The instructor will command:

1. Load in four times. 2. LOAD.

261. Execute the times to include charge cartridge.

TWO.

262. Execute the times to include ram cartridge.

THREE.

263. Execute the times to include prime.

FOUR.

264. Execute the time of shoulder arms.

TO LOAD AT WILL.

265. The instructor will next teach loading at will, which will be executed as loading in four times, but continued, and without resting on either of the times. He will command:

1. Load at will. 2. LOAD.

266. The instructor will habituate the recruits, by degrees, to load with the greatest possible promptitude, each without regulating himself by his neighbor, and above all without waiting for him.

267. The cadence prescribed No. 136, is not applicable to loading in four times, or at will.

LESSON IV.

FIRINGS.

268. The firings are direct or oblique, and will be executed as follows:

THE DIRECT FIRE.

269. The instructor will give the following commands:

1. Fire by Squad. 2. Squad. 3. READY. 4. AIM. 5. FIRE. 6. LOAD.

270. These several commands will be executed as has been prescribed in the Manual of Arms. At the third command, the men will come to the position of ready, as heretofore explained. At the fourth they will aim according to the rank in which each may find himself placed, the rearwards men inclining forward a little the upper part of the body, in order that their pieces may reach as much beyond the front-rank as possible.

271. At the sixth command, they will load their pieces and return immediately to the position of ready.

272. The instructor will recommence the firing by the commands:

1. Squad. 2. AIM. 3. FIRE. 4. LOAD.

273. When the instructor wishes the firing to cease he will command:

Cease—FIRING.

274. At this command the men will cease firing, but will load their pieces if unloaded, and afterward bring them to a shoulder.

SVR Regulations

Article XII

General Provision

1. It shall be the policy of the SVR to strive, where possible, for a minimum amount of red tape and regulations. Military regulations as may be deemed to be absolutely necessary for the efficient operation of the SVR, shall be established by the Commanding Officer, SVR and shall not be in conflict with the Constitution and Regulations of the SUVCW. While it shall not be the policy to demand drastic or unreasonable requirements which may become burdensome to individual SVR members or units, adherence to these Regulations shall be expected.
2. All senior grade commissions (Major, Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel) shall be subject to approval of the NMAC.
3. All SVR members shall belong to and maintain their membership in the SUVCW. If a SVR member lets his SUVCW membership expire, he shall be automatically suspended from the SVR until he again becomes a member of the SUVCW.
4. These Regulations supersedes all previous SOPs and Regulations. Copies of these Regulations may be obtained through the office of the SVR Chief of Staff. Permission is hereby granted to copy these Regulations.

Article XIII

Regulation Approvals

The foregoing Regulations for the National Military Department, Sons of Veterans Reserve was approved 09 August 2008 by the 127th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and amended 14 August 2010 by the 129th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and amended 13 August 2011 by the 130th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Well, not all that intentionally.... Good news is, we have gone through all of the SVR Regulations! Yet, that means we won't have that material in upcoming editions. Thank you to the contributors this year for their submissions! It has been nice to see a book review in this edition – we haven't had one in several years. Our ongoing supply of Civil War Facts, Oddities, and back page clips is still strong. Memes have started to show up.

What's missing?

Well, honestly, it's the units! We have four active units within the 7th Military District:

- IX Corps Headquarters Guard
- Amzi D. Harmon Company
- 10th Tennessee Volunteer (U.S.) Infantry
- Major General Samuel P. Carter Company

There are things going on in your units! Photos and articles would be great!

In FC&L,
2nd Lt. George Andrew Huttick,
Public Information Officer

CIVIL WAR FACTS

- General Grant was an excellent horse rider by age 12. Although not a great student – he was 21st out of his 29 member West Point class of 1843 – he was one of the academy’s most skilled riders ever. His favorite and most famous horse during the Civil War was Cincinnati, the son of Lexington, the fastest four-mile thoroughbred in the United States.
- In September 1862, approximately 72,500 troops guarded Washington, D.C.
- Southerners called the period of post war Reconstruction of the South, “Yankee Rule.”
- The Cruiser CSS Florida was illegally seized by the Federal Navy in neutral Brazil. She was towed to Hampton Roads and sunk. This caused an international Incident.
- The surrender terms at Appomattox in 1865 permitted every Confederate cavalryman to take his horse home with him. This provision, requested by Lee, was adopted by Grant who realized that once they returned to civilian life, former soldiers wouldn’t be able to work their farms without the horses they used in war.
- Union General Winfield Scott served under every president from Jefferson to Lincoln and was on active duty as a General from 1808 to 1861 – longer than any other person in American history.
- President Abraham Lincoln issued General War Order No. One on January 1, 1862, calling for a Union offensive and for all U.S. naval and land forces to begin a general advance by February 22nd, George Washington’s Birthday. His order was ignored by a less than aggressive George McClellan.

Submitted by Capt. David DuBrucq

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 consists of 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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Inquires / articles for The Haversack may be forwarded to:

2nd Lt. George Andrew Huttick,
Public Information Officer
7th Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve
GAHuttick@netscape.net

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 - [38th Indiana Infantry Company A. SVR](#)

Departments in our District

[Department of Tennessee](#)

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- [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 \(GA\)](#)
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Click the link, and “Like” them!

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

We want articles (with pictures!)

Thanks to all the contributors of this edition!

So... What’s needed...?

Articles for the next Edition of the Haversack!

- Unit Activities
- Biographical Sketches
- 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 JUNE 2019!