

The Haversack

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



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Commander's Comments

Greetings, I hope you are all well.

As you all know by now this will be my last column in The Haversack as your District Commander. I will retire from the SVR effective September 1st. General Grimm will appoint a new district commander from among our current officer corps. I know that you will all perform your duties going forward in an exemplary manner as you have always done.

The National Encampment is coming up in August and I will be appointed as the event Provost Martial. Captain David DuBruccq has accepted appointment as my deputy provost. I ask all members of the 7th Military District attending the encampment to report for duty. We need uniformed members to perform guard duty. Color Guard and escort duty. I will arrive at the convention center on Wednesday evening. The host department will have an operations room at the hotel. I suggest we all meet there for orders.

I am sure we are all painfully aware of the civil unrest and destruction of monuments going on within our republic currently. This is something we cannot allow and uphold our oath we all took. The tearing down of statues recently moved to Union Army heroes, General U.S. Grant, Colonel Hans C. Heg and General George Custer. Antifa and BLM are now threatening to desecrate the National Cemetery at Gettysburg on July 4th! This erasure of our history must stop if the republic is to survive.

What can we do as members of the SVR? The vandals have become so emboldened that they are now announcing in advance what statue they intend to attack next. This information helped save the Emancipation Statue in Washington D.C. I call on the SVR in the 7th Military District to take action to save our monuments. If you hear of a planned attack on a monument then alert the police. We can also appear at the monument ahead of time to stop the vandals. A recent attack on the statue of Lord Baden-Powell in England was thwarted when hundreds of former Boy Scouts rallied around the statue. We can do the same thing here. The worst thing we can do is to do nothing to stop this. We owe it to the sacrifices of our ancestors to preserve these monuments and protect them from the mob.

Stay Safe.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

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



The Declaration of Independence

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.


He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

(con'd)

The Declaration of Independence

In Congress, July 4, 1776. (con'd)



For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:
For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:
For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:
For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:
For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences
For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:
For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:
For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.
He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.
He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.
He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

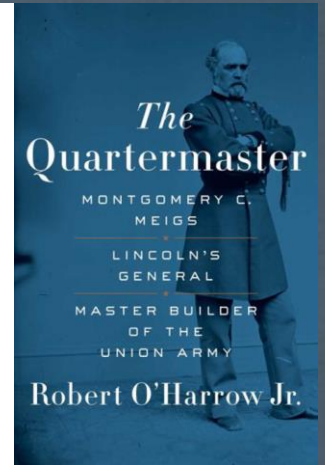
We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The Quartermaster

Robert O'Harrow Jr.

(book review)

In our times of seemingly endless untruths, prevarications and outright lies by the politicians running our country it is pleasant to read about an individual that held his personal honor as a guide during his military career and life overall. That man was Union General Montgomery C. Meigs, the Quartermaster General of the Union armies during the Civil War. In a rather short book titled *The Quartermaster – Montgomery C. Meigs – Lincoln's General – Master Builder of the Union Army* by Robert O'Harrow Jr. the author writes about the man's exceptional life which was guided by his own strong moral compass. He was graduated from West Point as an engineer and began his military career building forts for the Army and working on improving navigation on the Mississippi River while serving under the command of Robert E. Lee. When the water supply of Washington D. C. became so contaminated that people were actually dying from drinking it he was placed in charge of designing an aqueduct system to bring fresh water to the Capital. Of note is that a curious explorer can still find some of these sources of fresh water in use and bearing a plaque with Meigs' name and the year they were dedicated. As a soldier during the war with Mexico he missed out in the fighting while serving at other posts from 1846 through 1848. Additionally, Meigs found himself uncomfortable with the aggressive way President Polk led the country into the conflict. A few years later Meigs was placed in charge of the renovation of the Capitol building which led to the iconic structure that we know today.



During our Civil War General Meigs was asked to take command of the Quartermaster General's position which soon led him into conflict with the Secretary of War, Simon Cameron. The President had placed Cameron in that powerful position as a payback for his early support of Lincoln in his drive for the presidential nomination by the Republican Party and his delivering the state of Pennsylvania in the fall general election. However, in short order, Cameron soon found himself in legal trouble for receiving kickbacks from numerous suppliers of goods to the army which forced Lincoln to find a new position for him as ambassador to Russia. With Edwin Stanton now running the War Department Meigs became recognized for his honesty and hard work and soon had a steady supply of goods and arms going to the Union forces as they slowly but steadily beat back the Confederate armies. A good example of his dedication to duty is illustrated during his trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee when the Army of the Cumberland was besieged within that city by the Army of Tennessee led by Confederate General Braxton Bragg. The trip was very dangerous and exposed him to hostile fire but he wanted to see how General Rosecrans and his troops were handling the situation. What he found was rather surprising in that he came to believe that the Assistant Secretary of War, Richard Dana, was overstating the dire straits of the army while Secretary of War Stanton was using these misleading reports to push for Rosecrans removal while replacing him with U. S. Grant.

The General and his wife, Louisa Meigs, additionally paid the ultimate price when their son, John Rogers Meigs, was killed-in-action while fighting with the Union forces commanded by Phillip Sheridan, in 1864. By that year the extremely large number of casualties from General Grant's "overland campaign" required the need of some type of new burial ground. With General Meigs placed in charge of finding one, he designed what became known as Arlington National Military Cemetery on the plantation of Robert E. Lee's wife, Mary Custis, where her beautiful ancestral home looks down on the Potomac River.

The hard facts of the book include that it is only 245 pages long with 38 pages of notes, a very good index but no bibliography. It was published by Simon & Schuster, which is located in New York City, in 2016. The author was a reporter for the Washington Post and I found his writing led to an easy read while keeping you focused on the General's life. If you are interested in one of the key reasons why the Union forces were successful in the field this is a must read while also an excellent study into a life well lived. As usual, if the book seems interesting to you, it is available for a short term loan.

Previously published Sultana Camp #1 Newsletter
submitted by Br. Mike Downs, PDC

Historical Regulations ...

FROM CASEY'S INFANTRY TACTICS

Article II

PART SECOND

LESSON II.

MANUAL OF ARMS.

LESSON VI.

BAYONET EXERCISE.

313. The bayonet exercise in this book will be confined to two movements, the guard against infantry, and the guard against cavalry. The men will be placed in one rank, with two paces interval, and, being at shoulder arms, the instructor will command:

1. Guard against Infantry. 2. GUARD.

One time and two motions.

314. (First motion.) Make a half face to the right, turning on both heels, the feet square to each other; at the same time raise the piece slightly, and seize it with the left hand above and near the lower band.

315. (Second motion.) Carry the right foot twenty inches perpendicularly to the rear, the right heel on the prolongation of the left, the knees slightly bent, the weight of the body resting equally on both legs; lower the piece with both hands, the barrel uppermost, the left elbow against the body; seize the piece at the same time with the right hand at the small of the stock, the arms falling naturally, the point of the bayonet slightly elevated.

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and one motion.

316. Throw up the piece with the left hand, and place it against the right shoulder, at the same time bring the right heel by the side of the left and face to the front.

1. Guard against Cavalry. 2. GUARD.

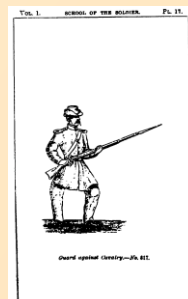
One time and two motions.

317. Both motions the same as for guard against infantry except that the right hand will be supported against the hip, and the bayonet held at the height of the eye, as in charge bayonet.

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and one motion.

318. Spring up the piece with the left hand and place it against the right shoulder, at the same time bring the right heel by the side of the left, and face to the front.



The Star Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key



O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous
fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming;
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream;
'Tis the star-spangled banner; O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave,
From the terror of flight and the gloom of the grave;
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

O! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land,
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a
nation.

Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just.
And this be our motto— "In God is our trust;"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

Quotable Civil War Quotes War Factoids

“We were in the very maelstrom of the battle. Men were falling every moment. The horrible noise was incessant and almost deafening. Except that my mind was absorbed in my duties, I do not know how I could have endured the strain.” - Lt. Fredrick Hitchcock, 132 Pennsylvania at Antietam, Sept 17th, 1862

“No tongue can tell, no mind conceive, no pen portray the horrible sights I witnessed this morning.” - Capt. John Taggart, 9th Pennsylvania on Antietam

Submitted by Capt. D. DuBrucq

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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 **articles about your** 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 Factoids

- In the states loyal to the Union, 777,000 men were drafted and classified as fit for military service.
- During the American Civil War, the term Union, in common use today, was rarely or never used. The Union were referred to as Federals.
- The American Civil War was the last major conflict in which most regiments had their own military bands to inspire them in combat.
- By 1864, the Henry Repeating Rifle was selling for \$35.00, or \$550.55 in today's dollars. Still a bargain.
- Federal Major Albert James developed the wig-wag signaling system that used flags by day and torches by night after observing American Indian smoke signals and sign language.
- Coffee cooler was a Federal term for a worthless soldier
[ed. Note: Was this a foreboding of people who bought chilled items sold at high end coffee shops today?]

Submitted by Capt. D. 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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 - [Major General Samuel P. Carter Company](#)

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 \(GA\)](#)
- [Kennesaw Mountain #3 \(GA\)](#)
- [Kenner Garrard Camp #4 \(GA\)](#)
- [Charles Devens Jr. #10 \(SC\)](#)
- [Sultana Camp #1 \(TN\)](#)
- [Maj. Gen James H Wilson #1 \(AL\)](#)
- [Maj. Wm. A. McTeer #39 \(TN\)](#)
- [Pvt. Richard Taylor #53 \(TN\)](#)
- [Fort Donelson #62 \(TN\)](#)
- [Army of the Tennessee #64 \(TN\)](#)

- [National SUVCW](#)

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!

NEXT ISSUE SEPTEMBER 2020!

(hopefully)