



# The Railsplitter

The Newsletter of the Department of Illinois,  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



SUMMER 2020

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## UPCOMING ENCAMPMENTS:

The schedule for future Encampments and their hosts are as follows:

Oct 2020, Custer Camp #1,

Future scheduling T.B.D.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chaplain's Corner

Patriotic Instruction

"Keyboard Klacking" from the DSVC

Camp News

And MORE!

## Commander's Corner



Brothers,

What an honor it was to be elected your Department Commander just a few days ago. I sincerely thank you for this opportunity. I pledge to do my very best to live up to your expectations.

I'll never forget the excitement and joy I experienced when I joined the John A. Logan Camp #26 way back when. Brothers Dyer, Johnson, Aarli and their camp brothers impressed me beyond measure. I knew what a wonderful organization I was joining.

I began studying and collecting Civil War artifacts at a very young age. I had the bug. My interest eventually led to a teaching career of 33 years teaching American history. Perhaps that's why it saddens me so much to see what is and has been happening in our nation over the past several years.

The tearing down of monuments and destroying our past is a shame. Our history shows us where we were and leads us to what we have become. Of course mistakes were made and I'm sure some will continue as will new future mistakes be made. Hopefully we learn from such things.

History cannot and should not be erased. We as Sons are a living example of that trust as handed down to us by our ancestors. The GAR itself thrived and survived for 90 years. Those brave old soldiers shared a common bond of war, suffering and survival. We are the inheritors of their experience and trust. It is now our commitment to continue that effort. We must continue to grow with new members. Our last wish is to live long

enough to see our Order fade away. As Brother Nick Kaup states, 60% of our members are 60+ years of age. Recruiting must take a high priority at every level.

I find that the Department of Illinois is healthy. We are better off financially than ever before. Our camp numbers are growing. Our member numbers remain stable. We must persevere and continue to develop and grow. I believe the addition of a new Quartermaster position and an update of our by-laws will certainly steer us in that direction.

At this particular time in our nation's current state of affairs it is vital that we support ALL historical organizations in saving our past. Our UCV brothers are under attack. It also appears that other historical figures are likewise in danger of having their statues removed. What a shame has befallen our nation. Hopefully this will pass. We must do our part in that effort.

I will close on a positive note and again thank you for your support. I look forward to a great year and hopefully soon we can meet again in person and enjoy the brotherly love we have as in the past. God bless each of you and stay healthy.

Sincerely in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Tom Oestreicher

Commander, Department of Illinois

## WANTED!

THE DEPARTMENT NEEDS  
YOU!

URGENTLY NEEDED:  
EAGLESCOUT COORDINATOR

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:**

A number of years ago I gave a retreat to my high school and college classmates on "How God can talk to us and move us through movies."

There is one film that struck me very mightily. That film was GLORY. The scene that I chose was the campfire the night before the 54th Massachusetts went into battle at Battery Wagner. (Type in "Glory - I love the 54th, campfire") If you go to YouTube select the longest version - I think it is only 5 minutes long.

While I was on that site I came across a cut from the movie THE COLOR PURPLE. I never saw that particular film, but I gave it a try. I suggest you do too.

(Type in "THE COLOR PURPLE - God is tryin to tell you something")

St Augustine in the third century said, "Qui cantat, bis orat." Who sings prays twice. My wife and I sang in a Church Choir, and until the Pandemic she sang in a College Choir, with five concerts a year. God is surely speaking to you and me through music and movies. What do you think?

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

*Chaplain Jerry*



Dear Brothers of the SUVCW,

You have bestowed on me an extremely wonderful honor, and I am hum-

bled by it.

Because I love God I also love my husband of almost 53 years and will do anything to help Chaplain Jerry do the Lord's work! We are one in the Lord and when I take care of Jerry I am taking care of myself and together we are giving God the praise, the honor and the glory for everything good that we do.

I am beyond words to adequately express what it means to me to be given recognition by all of you who I have come to love and respect as being of the highest integrity.

Until my dying day I will be lifting up the Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders in prayer!

I remain your obedient Sister in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty!

*Chaplain Jo Ellen Kowalski*

**CAMP ORGANIZER REPORT:**

We have completed the second new camp in three years with the April charter of U.S. Grant Camp 1863, located in the near western Chicago suburbs. This latest camp is composed of new members, dual and transferred brothers and is made up of a core of seasoned brothers. We have plans this fall to work on the formation of an eleventh camp in the far south suburbs of greater Chicago. Our long term growth goals may include down state locations pending further research. We will be analyzing the demographics to determine how that may come about. So much depends on securing new members who will commit to playing active roles in the Order. So, the two crucial elements in the long range goal here in Illinois are active and younger members.

We recently reviewed membership profiles in selected northeastern Illinois camps. Here are some of our findings. We call it the 60/60 - that is: over 60% of the members are over the age of 60. Some might say well over that age. We reviewed our latest group of new members and found all but two were well past retirement age. The positive side of the retired brothers have move free time to become active in the Order. However, the ultimate down side is the future of our order here in Illinois beyond the five, eight or ten year marks. We are a "Thin Blue Line" that continues to get grayer.

When we began the Department of Illinois reorganization in 1989 we had three life members with no chartered camps. Prior to 1986 the SUVCW in Illinois did not even chair the Lincoln Death Day program. That was thirty-five years ago. The decline and loss of our department charter took approximately five years. We are not suggesting the department is at that stage

currently, but we are again in a membership state of decline compounded by an aging roster. Much of the membership decline can be attributed to the drop in Civil War history awareness after the centennial period and the Ken Burn's documentaries from the 1960s to 1990s coupled with a new membership challenge. Today our general populations are not "joiners". It has become more difficult to find those that are.

New members must become familiar with our four principles. Members must be dedicated to our four key areas. They are: Patriotism & Good Citizenship, Preservation, Education (History), and Honor (Memorial Day, ROTC, Military, & Eagle Scout Programs). The future of our SUVCW/IL is dependent upon younger, energetic members who must continue the work of the Order. Without them we may repeat the events that led up to the decline of our department in 1985.

Though we have added two new camps, our total department membership shows a net loss of four brothers. It illustrates the need to find innovative ways to secure new members. We have been successful in some areas and failed in others. We must resolve to find ways to add to our camp rosters. We recommend that our incoming department commander form a membership committee composed of selected brothers from each of the ten camps and chaired by either the DC or a VC. If needed, I would recommend budgeting appropriate funds to add for marketing and advertising in securing new members.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Nick Kaup, PDC, Chairman, SUVCW/IL Camp Organizer.  
May 18, 2020

**PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION:**

Thousands of women served as volunteer nurses during the Civil War. There is very little written recording their service, though a few of the more famous names left accounts: including Louisa May Alcott, Jane Stuart Woolsey, Susie King Taylor, and Katherine Prescott Wormeley. At the beginning of the war, nurses were merely volunteers who showed up at military hospitals with good intentions. After the Battle of Bull Run, Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix identified a need and organized a nursing corps to help care for wounded soldiers. These women came from great mansions, log lean-tos of the far frontier, and the chaste confines of eastern convents. Lacking systematic professional training but endlessly resourceful, these volunteers labored tirelessly to bring aid and comfort to sick and wounded soldiers on both side of the fighting.

At the outbreak of the war, nursing as a profession was in its infancy and dominated by men. Women were generally considered too frail to cope with the rigors of ministering to the sick. There were only about 150 hospitals in the entire country. At the time no formal nursing schools existed. The massive numbers of sick and wounded men needing care was exacerbated by the lack of medical professionalization. Wartime hospital facilities, particularly early in the conflict, were primitive and disorganized. Military protocol banned women from field hospitals. So, most nursing duties continued to be assigned to men. Increasing numbers of casualties and the overburdening of aid facilities, however, soon broke down gender-related restrictions on nursing. This development spurred the nation's women into taking immediate and decisive action to help correct the situation.

Although there was no formal training, it was expected that any sister, daughter, or mother was able to nurse the sick of her household. Women were idealized and glorified as bedside watchers. Women's silent, long-suffering ministry was the subject of countless poems and tales, but it was to hold sway principally in the home, usually her own home, and never in a circumstance that brought her into competition with the professional doctor's role. Of course, the majority of American women, as con-

temporary feminine observers delighted to stress, stayed home during the Civil War and suffered. But the efforts of the women at home to aid their men were not all so passive. Women formed around ten thousand Soldier's Aide Societies. They made countless bandages. They held huge Sanitary Fairs that together netted three million dollars for supplies to heal the wounded. Not all of them confined their labors to the home front.

Many of these women were Illinoisans. So, instead of reviewing the stories of the famous women listed above, I chose to highlight three women who either came from or served from Illinois.

The first woman is Ann Stokes, an African American woman, born as a Tennessee slave in 1830 and later a resident of Mound City, Illinois, who is believed to have been the first African American woman to serve onboard a U. S. military vessel. She was taken aboard a Union ship in January 1863, just after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. She volunteered to serve as a nurse on the U. S. Red Rover, a steamboat that had been captured from the Confederacy. This ship traveled the Mississippi and other interior rivers, venturing deep into Confederate territory to treat sick and injured Union military personnel. Under the direction of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of the Order of the Holy Cross, Stokes and her fellow nurses treated almost 3,000 patients onboard. Stokes served until October 1864, and married a member of the Red River crew, living the remainder of her life in Southern Illinois. She applied successfully for a pension for her own service in the U. S. Navy, becoming the first woman ever to do so.

The second was Sarah Gallop Gregg. On January 1, 1863, Gregg, a milliner from Ottawa, Illinois began two years of service as a nurse with the Union forces during the Civil War. During this time she recorded the events of the day in her diary. After the war, she returned to Ottawa, where she remained until her death in 1897. Knowledge of her service and of her diary lingered among local residents, but she was generally unknown outside of LaSalle County, Illinois. Her name surfaced in 1929 and in the early 1930's, when she was represented in a

collection of figurines, depicting women of note in Illinois history by noted sculptress Mina Schmidt. These sculpted figurines were exhibited at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago. Mrs. Gregg's name also appeared in two master's theses during the 1930's and in two articles in the Journal of the State Historical Society. Again, she faded from public awareness until 1968 when, Dr. R. C. Slater, an osteopath from LaSalle, Illinois, who was a collector of Lincoln memorabilia, donated a typed manuscript of her diary and photocopies of some of her correspondence to the Illinois State Historical Library. Her diary can be read online, although recollected information about some events written in it was added at a later date.



The third, Mary Ann (Ball) Bickerdyke, was born on July 19, 1817 and died on November 8, 1901. She enrolled at Oberlin College, one of the few institutions of higher education open to women at this time in the United States, but she did not graduate. Upon leaving Oberlin, Bickerdyke became a nurse. She assisted doctors in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the cholera epidemic of 1837. In 1847 she married Robert Bickerdyke. They had two sons.

In 1856 Mary Ann and her family moved to Galesburg, Illinois where she worked as a botanic physician healing primarily with alternative medicines using herbs and plants. Her husband died in 1859, making her a widow. At the outbreak of the American Civil War, residents of Galesburg, hearing of the deplorable conditions in army hospitals, purchased medical supplies worth five hundred dollars for soldiers serving at Cairo, Illinois. The townspeople trusted Bickerdyke to deliver these supplies. She went to Cairo, Illinois as a nurse, and while there she organized hospitals and gained General Grant's appreciation. Grant endorsed her efforts and detailed soldiers to her hospital train, and when the army moved down the Mississippi, Bickerdyke went too, setting up hospitals where they were needed. She became a matron of the hospital in only five months.

*Continued on page 4*



*Patriotic Instruction cont. from page 3*

Bickerdyke later joined a field hospital at Fort Donelson, where she witnessed her first battle. After that she was appointed matron at Gayoso Block Hospital in Memphis. She had 900 patients, including 400 Native Americans. She employed escaped and former slaves who helped provide aid to all patients in her hospitals. She stressed sanitary conditions at all the places she served based on her experiences during the cholera outbreak. Bickerdyke was described as a determined nurse who did not let anyone stand in the way of her duties. Her patients, referred to her as "Mother" because of her caring nature. Once, when a surgeon questioned her authority to take some action, she replied, "On the Authority of Lord God Almighty, have you anything that out-ranks that?"

During the War, she became chief of nursing under the command of General Grant and served at the Battle of Vicksburg. Mary Ann was responsible for establishing 300 field hospitals during the war. As chief of nursing, Bickerdyke sometimes deliberately ignored military procedures, and when Grant's staff complained about her behavior, Union Gen-

eral William T. Sherman reportedly threw up his hands and exclaimed, "She out-ranks me. I can't do a thing in the world." Sherman acknowledged that she was "one of his best generals" and other officers referred to her at the "Brigadier Commanding Hospitals." Bickerdyke was a favorite of both Grant and Sherman, who often provided her with whatever supplies she wanted. She was at the Battle of Lookout Mountain, the Battle of Missionary Ridge, and followed Sherman on the march to capture Atlanta. She served in the Civil War from June 9, 1861 to March 20, 1865 working through nineteen battles.

After the war she worked at the Home of the Friendless in Chicago. There she helped 50 families to move to Salinas, Kansas as homesteaders. She was a life-long advocate for veterans. She became a lawyer who assisted veterans and their families to obtain pensions after the war. She also worked for the Salvation Army.

Bickerdyke received a special pension of \$25 a month from Congress after Mary Livermore lobbied on her behalf. This special bill was supported by Generals Grant and Sherman. The bill

passed on May 9, 1886. This was a token pension to this hero of the Civil War. There is a Bickerdyke Memorial in Galesburg, IL. (below)



Chaplain Jerry Kowalski requested an article about Illinois nurses in the Civil War. The work of nursing touches me personally, as my daughter Michelle Zafran has been a nurse in Northwest Indiana for 26 years. My eldest grandson's wife, Megan Lewis, has been a nurse for eight years at Methodist Hospital. Two of my cousins presently serve in the military as nurses. We thank all caregivers, past and present, for their service.

Respectfully Submitted, in F.C.L.  
Michael Zafran, P.I. Department of IL

## First To Remember by Ray Hubbs June 1938 issue of The American Legion Monthly

Appomattox and the assassination of Lincoln were scarcely a twelve month past when a small town in Egypt, as the southern section of Illinois was and is known, set aside a day for the memory of Union soldiers who had made the supreme sacrifice. That service, in Woodlawn Cemetery at Carbondale, may fairly lay claim to being the forebear of Memorial Day as we know it, for the orator at that 1866 gathering was none other than John A. Logan---two years later as Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic General Logan issued his famous General Orders No. 11 designating May 30th as the day on which Grand Army posts should decorate graves of their deceased comrades.



*Woodlawn Cemetery, Carbondale, Illinois, where Memorial Day services were held in the spring of 1866. Present was John A. Logan, who two years later, as Commander in Chief of the G.A.R. issued the famous General Orders, 11 that created Memorial Day. The ladies here shown---Mrs. John Amon, Miss Hattie Mayhew, Mrs. George L. Bowyer, and Mrs. Jennie Thompson---attended*

*Carbondale's first Official Memorial Day observance in 1869. Mrs. Thompson is mother of a World War soldier.*

Four women of Carbondale, who marched as little girls behind General Logan in 1869, the year following the most famous of the General Orders, were recently honored by their town. The Sons of the American Legion turned out their national championship drum and bugle corps as part of the ceremonies. The corps was organized among the sons of the members of Donald Forsythe Post of The American Legion at Carbondale, on November 25, 1931.

On that May 30<sup>th</sup> sixty-eight years ago these four whom the Legion recently honored were part of a group of girls who carried flowers for the soldiers' graves. They listened attentively as Congressman Logan delivered the "oration of the day." "Dedication Day" was what the people who attended the service called it in 1869. The people gathered near the monument already erected in honor of Colonel White of the 31<sup>st</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry. John H. White had enlisted at Marion on the famous day in September 1861 when John A. Logan made a speech that, some say, saved southern Illinois for the Union. Logan led the regiment, and White was second in command. At Fort Donelson on February 15, 1862, Lieutenant Colonel White was killed in action and General Logan was severely wounded. Seven years later Congressman Logan stood by John H. White's grave to speak of the brave deeds of their comrades. Jacob Cole, who had been chaplain of the 31<sup>st</sup> through its entire service of nearly four years, offered the prayer of the living in honor of the soldier dead.

*Continued on page 5*



*First to Remember continued from page 4*

These ceremonies were not strange to Woodlawn Cemetery, as we mentioned at the beginning of this article. John A. Logan has been the speaker on that day in April 1866, the first Memorial Day. The same veterans and the same townspeople had joined in honoring the soldier dead. A day of remembrance had been set aside in the first springtime of peace.

That day's ceremonies had had their inception a few weeks before at a little country church southwest of Carbondale. Two veterans of the Mississippi campaigns were sitting on the church steps, waiting for the minister to come for the morning service. While they talked of the year just past, a year of peace that had been very precious after the turmoil of battle and the weary marching, they noticed a family come out of the woods into the churchyard. They recognized a young widow of the neighborhood and her little girls, each carrying a handful of flowers---spring beauties and violets picked along the path. The two former soldiers thought with sorrow of the young man who had marched away so firmly, although his new home and his young wife and their baby daughters were so dear to him. They thought, too, of the shadow of a man who had come home, wracked by the war's toll, for a few short weeks before death ordered the final mustering out. They watched the widow and the orphans kneel and arrange the simple flowers over one of the new graves in the little cemetery. They saw the woman thrust a little flag firmly into the earth, while a breath of wind caught its folds and wave it bravely. Hand in hand, the little party slowly walked away.

Veterans Crowell and Winchester had seen all the horrors of death since their enlistment in the 81<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry during the summer of 1862. But they had to shield their eyes from one another. Ambrose Crowell thought of the nine months of agony he spent behind the stockade at Andersonville. There had been heroism in that prison, where men starving to death by inches had refused the daily offer of health and liberty obtainable by taking the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy.

Some had come through it all, but should they forget the fellows who had fallen out of the ranks?

Before the two men had put their thoughts into words, the minister arrived. Their voices stumbled and choked as they described what they had seen. Other mounds in that churchyard marked the resting places of other comrades in the war so hardly won. Should there not be some token of remembrance for them?

The country folk gathered, and the meeting began. The minister retold the story. With one heart they wished to follow the unconscious example of the widow and her daughters. The last Sunday in April was set as the day they would meet. "Easter flowers," as the country people called the jonquils and daffodils, would be in full bloom on that day.

A veteran of the 31<sup>st</sup> spoke of his captain's grave in the nearby town. Horace L. Bowyer had died of wounds suffered at Shiloh. Could they go to Carbondale from the country churchyard and mark graves in Woodlawn?

When the townspeople heard of the plan, they wished to join in the tribute. Among the prominent citizens were Colonel Daniel H. Brush, Major John W. Lawrence, and Captain Asgil Conner of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Captain Isaac Clements of the 9<sup>th</sup>, and Captain E. J. Ingersoll of the 73d. They talked to the others who had returned to Carbondale after the war.

John A. Logan, who had led many of these men, both

living and dead, in the field, was living in Carbondale and trying to re-establish his law practice. The idea appealed to him.

The ministers became interested. The good housewives thought of the people who would drive a slow team to town and be hungry after the ceremony. Carbondale citizens decided they would make it a day to be remembered. Every one wished to honor the neighbors who had marched to battle.

April 29, 1866, was a bright day already touched with summer. Uniforms and campaign hats were brought out and brushed and put on proudly by men who had wished only to forget them a few months before. Wives and children were left to come on alone, while soldiers joined their fellows on the public square. They fell into ranks with the ease of long habit, and marched with the swing and cadence of veterans toward the old Methodist Church on East Jackson Street.

Captain Ingersoll was marshal of the day. He and John A. Logan mounted their horses. With the two leaders riding side by side, the column moved forward in the hush. In the line 219 veterans of the Union armies tramped toward their comrades in the cemetery. The people came walking after.

At Woodlawn Cemetery on east Main Street sixteen flour barrels had been stood on end with cross pieces and plank flooring to make a stand. The ministers took their seats upon this platform. There were J. W. Lane of the Carbondale Methodist Church, Mint Phelps, and old Simon Hiller, who had founded the Crab Orchard Christian Church where the idea of this service had been born.

While all the world was hushed in reverence, the roll of the departed was read. The Rev. Mr. Lane clasped his hands and raised his voice in prayer.

The speech of the day was Logan's. His great powers of oratory left him as he looked into the faces of his neighbors and his fellow soldiers. He spoke simply, from the heart:

"Every man's life belongs to his country, and no man has a right to refuse it when his country calls for it."

Those words from Logan's lips and heart were recorded in a family Bible by the sexton of the cemetery. This sexton was James Green, a cousin of General Logan and a nephew of the general's father.

When the last words were spoken, the crowd moved quietly. Each widow and orphan, each bereaved mother or father or sister, took a place beside the mound that was dearest. The flowers they carried were placed beside those laid there earlier in the day. A squad of riflemen moved from group to group, and over each grave a volley was fired. As the echoes faded, and the smoke drifted away, Taps was sounded by a bugler who had once called Assembly or Charge to these same men.

The blue line formed again. Still led by Logan, the veterans moved off to the scene of another operation. Again the people followed.

The citizens of Carbondale provided a free barbecue for all their guests, and it was one of the greatest crowds ever assembled in the town. In another grove the barbecue pits were opened. Fresh bread was ready to hold the juicy meat. Great barrels held lemonade. There were rows of gourd drinking cups. Everyone could refresh himself while he visited.

The hogs for the barbecue were furnished by the Dillinger boys, who had fine farms east of town.

*Continued on page 6*

*First to Remember continued from page 5*

John Borger, a young German who kept the Carbondale bake shop, had busied himself most of Saturday night with baking the bread which was his contribution. Women and girls had squeezed lemons until their arms arched.

But all work was forgotten, and everyone visited happily. John and Mary Logan moved through the crowd, greeting people with friendly reminiscences of war days.

It was a day of friendliness and remembrance. Those who slept the long sleep were remembered, and those who were living made new resolves of friendship and loyalty. There was some talk of a new organization to be formed by ex-soldiers, a plan about which Logan had heard from a man named Stephenson in Springfield. But homely, familiar things got more attention.

That fall John A. Logan was elected Congressman-at-large from Illinois. In the East he visited the battlefields with Mrs. Logan. They saw the Confederate graves at Gettysburg covered with flowers and flags in the spring of 1867. The next spring they planned to visit Richmond and other Virginia scenes. Charles L. Wilson of the *Chicago Journal* was asked to accompany them. But Congressman Logan was detained by business, and the party proceeded without him. At Petersburg they visited the Confederate cemetery and saw the faded flowers and bleached flags upon soldiers' graves. On the evening of their return to Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Logan and their guests sat in the parlor of the old Willard Hotel. The picture of the Petersburg Cemetery was vivid in the minds of the returning travelers, and Mr. Logan was touched by the story.

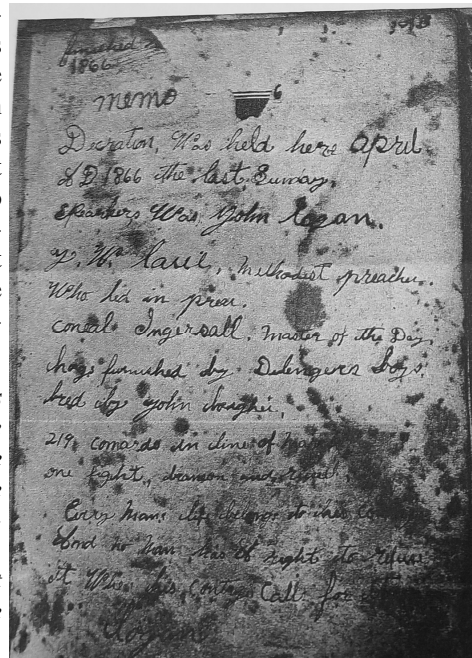
On May 5, 1868, John A. Logan issued the famous General Orders, Number 11, calling on all Grand Army posts to decorate the graves of comrades who had died in defense of their country. Because the flowers would then be at their best, May 30<sup>th</sup> was chosen as the day of national remembrance. Arlington was the center of the ceremonies on that day, although similar exercises were held in every State of the Union.

When John A. Logan was at home again, Carbondale held its first Memorial Day services under the regulations for a national holiday. Woodlawn Cemetery was again the setting for a ceremony which could only repeat the solemnity of the 1866 service, sprung spontaneously from the hearts of the people.

Many of the veterans and citizens who participated in the Memorial Day services of 1866 and 1869 now lie in Woodlawn cemetery. The Carbondale Business and Professional

Women's Club has assumed its maintenance and beautification. Donald Forsythe Post of The American Legion succeeds John W. Lawrence Post of the G.A.R. in making Woodlawn Cemetery a center for Memorial Day services each year. The Sons of the Legion carry on. Egypt's beloved day is not forgotten, nor do the people of southern Illinois forget "the cost of a free and undivided Republic."

Right: Sexton James Green made some notes about the 1866 Carbondale service on the fly-leaf of his bible. Note the fact that there was "one fight".



Legionnaire Ray Hubbs is closely connected by blood and service ties with every man mentioned in this article. As a boy John A. Logan rode his father's horses on a straightaway race-track beside the farm of Ray Hubb's great-grandfather. Veterans Crowell and Winchester served in the same Civil War regiment as Hubb's grandfather. The regiment marched nine thousand miles, so Ambrose Crowell's feet were spared some agony by his confinement in Andersonville. Asgil Conner was captain of the company in which Ray Hubb's great-uncle served. Isaac Clements had two men of Ray Hubb's family in his regiment when they marched away. Both were killed in action.

Submitted by Dave Wildermuth, Commander, Camp 443

The article, written by Ray Hubbs, was Grandfather to Brother Kerry Koen of our camp. Kerry now lives in Boca Raton Florida, retired from the Herrin Illinois Fire Department as Chief.

## KEYBOARD KLACKING

*From DSVC Joe Hutchinson*

Well, it has been a memorable Memorial Day season. Most of us have been isolated in our homes since mid-March. We missed having our annual ceremonies at Lincoln's Tomb in Springfield and at Petersburg and Memorial Day ceremonies were not in the fashion we were accustomed to.

Very few of us were able to hold the usual ceremonies for Memorial Day and had to be content with small groups with no public attending. Many of us per-

formed private remembrances.

We had to postpone the Department Annual Encampment to June. A virtual meeting was held via the online platform, Zoom. A couple members who normally would not have been able to attend due to distance or disability were able to take part. Perhaps National could make future allowances for some distance attendance, but that is an issue for the National Encampment to take up.

A lot was accomplished. Department Secretary Aarli has sent out the draft of the meeting proceedings and you should have them by now. We thanked PDC Har-

ry for his hard work and welcomed new DC Tom Oestreicher. Most of the officers are staying the same and National C in C Edward Norris was on hand electronically to perform the installation.

Be sure to check out the new Dept. Quartermaster Store on the Dept. website under the resources tab.

Hopefully the next months will be more normal, albeit a new normal with social distancing and face masks being more prevalent. Stay safe and well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Hutchinson, DSVC



A photograph of two weathered, light-colored gravestones for World War I soldiers. The stone on the left is for James M. McNamee, and the one on the right is for John E. Rucker. Both stones are inscribed with their names, 'CO. F', and '1ST NEW YORK'. An American flag on a wooden pole is positioned between the two stones. The background shows a grassy field with other distant headstones.

[illegible]

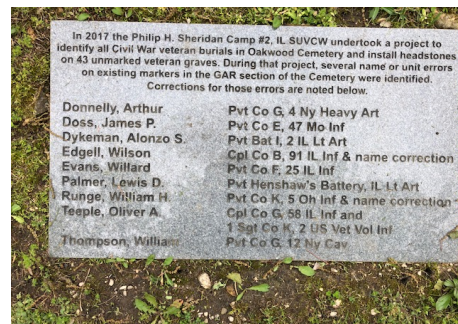
A wide-angle photograph of a cemetery. Numerous white, rectangular headstones are arranged in neat, parallel rows across a green lawn. In the background, several tall, thin, leafless trees stand against a cloudy sky. A few small, colorful flags are visible near some of the headstones. The overall scene is peaceful and orderly.



POST NO. 120  
PLANO, IL  
MAY 1899  
  
REDEDICATED BY  
"POST 395"  
AMERICAN LEGION  
PLANO, IL  
MAY 1999

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REDEDICATED BY  
E.H. SHERIDAN CAMP 2  
IL SONS of UNION VETERANS of the CIVIL WAR  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 395  
PLANO, IL  
JOLIET CENTRAL HS JROTC CADET  
JOLIET, IL  
JUNE 1, 2019



IN HUMBLE RECOGNITION

THE FLAG IS FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF  
UNTIL NOON ON MEMORIAL DAY AND THE  
SERVICES CONDUCTED HERE ARE IN  
SACRED MEMORY FOR ALL VETERANS  
BURIED IN THIS CEMETERY

## West Aurora Cemetery



**Submitted by Chuck Murphy**

On Monday, May 25th Camp 4 Sons gathered behind Lincoln's Tomb at the GAR Mound in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Attendees included CC Joseph Kessler, Camp and Department Councilman Gene Walker, Senior Vice Camp Commander Larry Werline and Chuck Murphy, Patriotic Instructor. Commander Kessler offered a prayer and a few remarks and Larry delivered a short presentation in the 1st person of General Ulysses S. Grant.



At 9:00am several Brothers participated in the 114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment's Memorial Day Ceremony, including PCC Don Ferricks, PDC Stan Buckles, and Richard Schachtsiek.

**Elkhart Rendezvous Update**

Planning continues for October 10, 2020 pending COVID-19 developments. Further information as it becomes available.

**Submitted by Bob Kurek**

Grave of Samuel Downing, 55th IL INF represents his comrades buried in St. Paul Evergreen Cemetery, Bloomingdale, IL.

**Submitted by Leroy Borkhart**

We visited Altona early. Jacob Borkhart is my Great Grandfather. Needham Rogers is my Great-great Grandfather. Needham was Jacob's father-in-law and they both served in the 89th IL INF Company G. G-Grandfather Thomas Moody (mother's side) served in Co E 148th IL INF. He signed up as a 100 day soldier.

**Submitted by Darrell Clevidence**

Great-great-grandfather. Pvt. Thomas W. Turner; 17th Virginia Infantry Regt., Co. F, CSA, April, 1861 – April, 1865. Argo Cemetery, Argo Fa, IL.



Great-grandfather Pvt. John Schreiner; 92nd IL INF, August, 1861-April, 1863; 146th IL INF, August, 1864- July, 1865. Chadwick Cemetery, Chadwick, IL



Carroll County Civil War Monument, dedicated 1891, Mt. Carroll, IL



## Submitted by Darrell Clevidence



Great Uncle Cpl. Ray Moyer; U. S. Army, November, 1917- March, 1919. Oak Hill Cemetery, Mt. Carroll, IL.



Father-in-law Thomas F. Boyle; U.S. Navy, April, 1944-November, 1945. Aspen Grove Cemetery, Burlington, IA

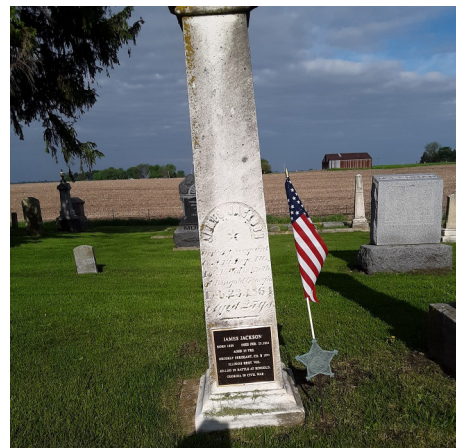


(Below left) Father, Cpl. Paul Clevidence; 11th Airborne Division, U.S. Army, April, 1945-October, 1946. Chadwick Cemetery, Chadwick, IL.



Uncle, S1c Morris Clevidence; U. S. Navy, December, 1943-April, 1946. Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison, WI

## Submitted by David Jackson



Great Uncle, James Jackson, Orderly Sergeant in Co. B, 19 IL INF. He was KIA on February 23rd, 1864 near Dalton, Ga. He is buried in the Elmira Cemetery, Elmira, IL. My Great Grandfather brought his

brother's body home for burial. I placed a flag on my Great Grandfather David Jackson's, grave. He was Corp. in Co. B 19th IL INF. He is also buried in the cemetery in Elmira.

## Submitted by Joe Hutchinson



Last Peoria County Soldier, PVT William Livingston, Co. E., 139th IL INF. Died age 97 on May 30, 1945. Interred at Mt. Hawley Cemetery, Peoria, IL.



Col. William A Thrush, 47th IL INF, died at Corinth Oct. 3, 1862. Interred on Mt. Auburn, Springdale Cemetery, Peoria, IL.



Col. John C. Bryner, 47th IL INF died at Camp Butler, March 19, 1865. Interred on Mt. Repose, Springdale Cemetery, Peoria, IL. & son Byron, PVT, Co. I, 47th IL INF.



## Submitted by Joe Hutchinson



150th anniversary of the original sentinel on Soldiers Hill, Springdale Cemetery, Peoria, IL.



Avenue of flags, Springdale Cemetery, Peoria, IL.



Original 1866 Civil War monument, formerly lost, newly restored at Springdale Cemetery, Peoria, IL.

## Submitted by Dave Wildemuth



Hecker Camp decorated graves around St. Clair County Civil War Monument on May 22 at Walnut Hill Cemetery, Belleville, IL for Memorial Day 2020.



Col. Hecker's grave in Summerfield.



*Middle column, bottom:*

The Cross of Southern Illinois (Bald Knob)



Mounds City National Cemetery



Alton National Cemetery



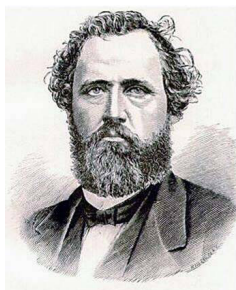
Hecker Camp private Decoration Day Service at Walnut Hill Cemetery Belleville May 30.

Hecker Camp Commander and his wife traveled over 400 miles Memorial weekend to visit and bring you these social distancing photos from Southern Illinois (Little Egypt).

Please visit Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp on their Facebook page to see more photos.

*In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty*





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SPACE (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH, ETC.)**

## BENCH

[illegible]

**DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE:**

Illinois Department Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War

**DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:**

<http://www.suvcwil.org/>

**NATIONAL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.suvcw.org/>

## RAILSPLITTER DEADLINES:

Fall: October 15 \* Winter: January 15 \* Spring: April 15 \* Summer: July 15

Please submit articles by the above deadlines. Articles may be edited for length and corrected for grammar and spelling. Not all photos may be used.

Send to "bryner\_camp67@yahoo.com". Text should be attached as MS-Word docs or contained in the body of the E-mail. Photos should be JPG attachments.

Remember, this is **YOUR** newsletter.