



# Sons Of Union Veterans Of The Civil War Colonel John C. Bryner Camp 67 Department Of Illinois

The monthly meeting of the Colonel John C. Bryner Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp 67 of Peoria, Illinois opened on Monday, **May 14, 2007** at 7:30 PM at the GAR Hall. Chaplain Wachtveitl performed the invocation followed by the Pledge. Those members in attendance were as follows:

Brothers: Jon Lickey                      John Dace                      Dave Rogers                      Mike Triplett  
                 Joe Hutchinson                      Lionel Kinney                      Larry Wachtveitl

Also present was Brother Hutchinson's wife, Linda Aylward who took meeting notes due to Brother Hutchinson's recent shoulder surgery.

**Secretary's Report:** Camp secretary, Joe Hutchinson, read the minutes of the March meeting. Brother Hutchinson noted that there was no April meeting due to a lack of a quorum. Brother Wachtveitl made a motion to approve the minutes. Brother Rogers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Kinney reported the balance of the Camp's account. He reported that all checks had cleared and that Brother Triplett had returned his refund check for his dues overage to the Camp treasury as a donation. The cost of the Department luncheon was discussed. Brother Hutchinson bought food and beverages and Brother Lickey purchased table service, tablecloths and other supplies. The Department members attending lunch were charged \$5.00 each resulting in a small deficit. Brother Hutchinson and Lickey agreed to cover the deficit, resulting in no expenditure to the Camp. The extra supplies would be stored for future Camp activities. Brother Wachtveitl made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with Brother Rogers seconding the motion. The motion was approved.

The membership stands at 27 with six being "Real Sons", seventeen regulars, and four associates.

**Sickness and Distress:** Brother Lickey stated that his son, Nathan, who is the Dept. Webmaster, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer and will be receiving surgery on May 16. Brother Hutchinson stated that his shoulder surgery was on April 19 and that he is in therapy now to regain his range of motion.

**Committee Reports:** Brother Hutchinson reported that the Camp has received the matching \$500.00 Memorials Grant from Department and that his wife has ordered the statue. Brother Rogers submitted a donation toward the project that will be matched also. Fund raising continues as more is needed for shipping and erection costs.

Brother Hutchinson reported that he received E-mail from National Graves Officer; Robert Lowe stating that the 1723 veterans submitted have been entered into the National database and that 12.3% were previously listed.

**Communications:** Commander Lickey received a message from Paul L. Whalen a couple of days ago that the new monument to his great-great grandfather, Henry Sumpter had been installed in Oakwood Cemetery in McComb, IL. Mr. Whalen requests an honor guard for May 26. The issue was discussed at the Dept.

encampment and it was decided that there was not enough time to prepare a proper ceremony and that Mr. Whalen should be contacted as to the possibility of an alternate date.

**Old Business:** The date for the cleanup of the clubroom was again deferred.

Brother Hutchinson reported that the issue of Brother Huber and Triplett not receiving their issues of the Banner has been resolved and that C in C Pahl personally took care of the problem.

**New Business:** Brother Hutchinson brought up at the Dept meeting the issue of the storage fee to be paid to the CILF for the storage of Dept. records. He stated that the Dept voted to advance \$100.00 pending review of Dept minutes for the exact amount and term. Brother Wachtveitl is to create a statement to submit to Dept. at the next encampment. He also stated that Brother Stephany, PDC, would like to see a dehumidifier purchased for the Hall to prevent damage to papers and artifacts stored. Brother Hutchinson made a motion at the Dept meeting for the Dept to make such a purchase and \$200-500 was earmarked for the purchase pending research on the availability and cost.

Commander Dace asked the membership if there were any plans for Camp programming for Memorial Day. It was stated that there were none at the present time. Brother Pletkovich having done programs in prior years had not come forward this year. There was discussion about the dedication of the new WW I-WW II memorial to take place at 10 AM on May 26 on the Courthouse grounds in Peoria. Brother Triplett stated that her was going to the Danville Veterans Home to take part with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Artillery for a program there.

**For the Good of the Order:** Brother Kinney mentioned that at the Dept. meeting there was much discussion over a rift that occurred some years ago between the Allied Orders and the SUVCW. C in C Pahl wants to reconcile the differences and have joint National Encampments once again. It was decided that Illinois should apply to be the host for the 2010 National Encampment and hold it in Springfield, which is also the headquarters for the Daughters of Civil War Veterans. As PDC, Brother Lickey would present a proposal at the National Encampment this August. Brother Lickey asked if there were any members present who would like to attend as delegates or alternates. Brother Kinney expressed interest and Secretary Hutchinson provided a credential card.

There was discussion as to why Brother Pletkovich did not stay to make his presentation about his book during the Dept meeting. Brother Lickey said that he had another engagement. Brother Hutchinson said that arrangements should have been made for him to make the presentation after lunch, before the meeting started.

Brother Rogers showed the Camp artifacts to that were found at the former site of Camp Lyons, which was on Prospect Road across from Glen Oak Park in Peoria. A friend of his had received permission to search private yards with a metal detector. He found a horseshoe, a belt buckle from a harness, and three minne balls. There was discussion that there is probably even more items buried in the area. One of the bullets was donated to the Camp to display. Brother Hutchinson said that a letter of thanks would be sent if Brother Rogers would get him the address.

Commander Dace described the awards banquet at ISU where he presented an ROTC medal and certificate. He stated that many different kinds of awards were given ranging from certificates to monetary awards in the thousands of dollars. Brother Hutchinson stated that Brother Hemingway had presented an ROTC award at WIU also.

Brother Lickey performed the benediction and the meeting was closed at 8:35 PM.

**\*\*\*The next meeting will take place at the GAR Hall on August 13 at 7:00 PM.\*\*\***

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Hutchinson  
Senior Vice-Commander  
Secretary, Camp 67

**Please Note: There will be no July meeting**



**His Body Lies Unappreciated in Onarga, Illinois Cemetery**  
**By Patricia Dissmeyer Goff, November, 1999**

"Unwept, unhonored and unsung."  
---- Allan Pinkerton, 1868

A group of Onarga, Illinois citizens, led by David Danforth, intend to erect a monument to Timothy Webster at his gravesite on Memorial Day, 2000. Timothy Webster was instrumental in the shaping of our nation and should be remembered, recognized, and revered. Timothy Webster has been recognized as Allan Pinkerton's most famous active agent in the Civil War. He is partially responsible for thwarting an assassination attempt on president-elect Abraham Lincoln. It is impossible to know exactly how events would have transpired at that time without Lincoln at the helm, but it is certainly true that the history of the United States would have been dramatically different if Pinkerton and Webster had failed in their mission and Lincoln had been killed before even entering the Presidency.

Timothy Webster was baptized on March 12, 1822 in New Haven, Sussex County, England. He immigrated to America in September or August 1830 with his parents and settled in Princeton, New Jersey. After he finished school, in 1853 he became a policeman in New York City. He became very good at it and around 1854 was noticed by a friend of Allan Pinkerton's who recommended him for detective work. Webster went to work for Pinkerton and quickly became their best agent. Timothy had married Charlotte Sprowles on October 23, 1841 in Princeton, New Jersey. They had four children, two of whom died young. Their son, Timothy Jr., born in 1843, joined the Union Army from Onarga, Illinois on July 30, 1862 enlisting in Company D, 113th Infantry. Timothy Jr. married Ursula Treadway in March of 1864 in Olney, Illinois. He was wounded in a battle at Ripley, Mississippi on June 11, 1864 and his leg was amputated. He was taken to a confederate prison in Mobile, Alabama and died there on July 4, 1864.

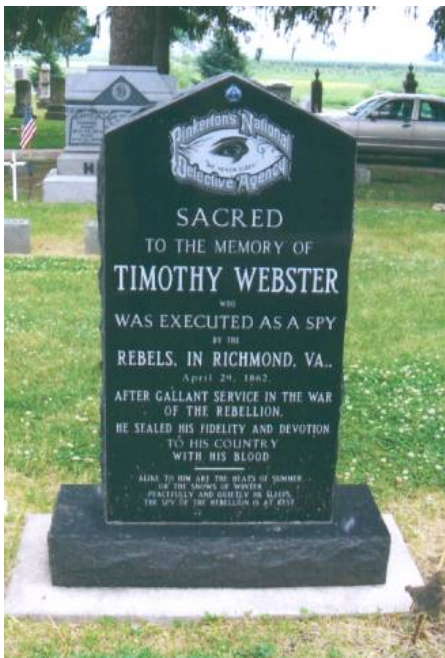
At the beginning of the Civil War General George McClellan asked Pinkerton to enter Federal service, which he readily agreed to. Timothy Webster went with him thereby changing from detective to Union Spy. Because of the nature of his work, Pinkerton suggested that Webster move his family to a safer place and work out of the Chicago office. Pinkerton suggested Onarga, which was located right on the Illinois Central Railroad so Webster could commute easily and his family would be safe. Pinkerton was familiar with the area and had said that he would like to have a farm and house there someday-an ambition that was carried out later. Webster was sent to pose as a Southern gentleman and managed to become a member of the rebel group "Knights of Liberty" in order to report on their plans and activities. In February of 1861 president-elect Lincoln was to travel from Harrisburg through Baltimore and on to Washington for his inauguration. While Webster was investigating rumors that secessionists were planning to blow up the steamers that ferried trains across the

Susquehanna River, he uncovered a plan to assassinate Lincoln as he changed trains in Baltimore. Because Timothy Webster was able to send a warning, Pinkerton was able to foil the attempt on Lincoln's life.

In 1862, Webster was continuing to gather information on the Confederacy in Richmond when he was stricken with inflammatory rheumatism, which was a result of several previous crossings of the Potomac River in frigid weather. Because he was too ill to send reports back to Pinkerton, two men were sent to locate him. They were captured by the Confederacy and forced to reveal secret information incriminating Timothy Webster. Confederate officers had trusted Webster many times with valuable documents and information and the Confederacy was extremely embarrassed by Webster's betrayal. Webster was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death by hanging.

When Pinkerton heard the news of the sentence, he and President Lincoln sent a message to the Confederacy threatening that if Webster were put to death, the Union would reciprocate by hanging a Confederate spy. Previously, Union policy had been to keep spies in jail and eventually exchange them for Union prisoners. The Confederacy ignored the threat and on April 29, 1862, Timothy Webster climbed the gallows in Richmond, Virginia. The noose was put around his neck and a black hood was fitted over his face. The trap was sprung but the knot slipped and Webster fell to the ground. After being helped back up the steps and re-fitted with the noose and hood he said, "I suffer a double death!" Timothy was buried hastily in Richmond. In 1871, at the pleadings of Timothy's widow, Charlotte, and to fulfill a promise he made to himself upon hearing of Timothy's death, Pinkerton sent George Bangs and Thomas G. Robinson (Timothy's son-in-law) to Richmond to locate his body and bring it North for proper burial in "Northern soil." They were fortunate in locating Timothy's body and that of his son, and both were moved to their final resting place in Onarga, Illinois, next to Timothy Webster's father, who had died in Onarga in 1860.

Timothy's widow, Charlotte, went to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Thomas Robinson in Onarga. In August or September of 1874, this family moved to California where Charlotte received a pension and lived with her daughter until she died on December 1, 1907. She is buried in the Old City Cemetery in Sacramento. Sarah Webster Robinson is buried in the Masonic Cemetery on Riverside Boulevard in Sacramento. Sarah's children never married, therefore there are no descendants of Timothy Webster. There are, however, many descendants of Timothy's siblings, and this author has been in touch with some of them. Those descendants have been extremely helpful in providing information on Timothy and his family.



Photos taken by Brother Bill White, Colonel Bryner Camp 67, on Memorial Day, 2007 in Onarga, IL.