



The Brevet Private Fall 2002

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

2002 National Encampment—and More

The National Encampment, held in August, was a success. I have received a number of letters, e-mails, etc. telling us how much they enjoyed the encampment. The meetings went well and the entertainment was outstanding.

Thanks go to all the brothers who help make this encampment a good one. Especially, Nick Kaup, the overall coordinator; Jon Austin who handled the hotel and booklet; Bill Kooser who coordinated reservations, Charlie Willman who kept the funds straight; and Chuck Murphy and Ron Clark who handled the tours.

We are now in the process of forming a committee to work on the bi-centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. We hope, as a department to work with the Lincoln Home to help celebrate this event and to have our own services as well. Please contact your camp commander if you are willing to help in this endeavour.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Daniel W. Hans, Commander
Department of Illinois

Bob Grim Elected 116th CIC of the SUVCW—

One of the highlights of the National Encampment was the election of officers. Robert E. "Bob" Grim of Sabina, Ohio was elected the 116th Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW. A Colonel in the SVR, Brother Grim has been serving as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW and Editor of The Banner.



Bob Grim, CIC

CIC Grim grew up in Ohio, served in the United States Air Force for four years, then became a teacher. In 2001 he retired after thirty-four years as an educator.

In addition to the SUVCW, Bob is involved with a number of civic and fraternal organizations at both the national and local levels.

CIC Grim is married to Charlotte, has one son, and two grandsons.

Did you hear the one about the vacuum cleaner salesman, the cow patties, and the electricity? Ask Commander Hans.

November 2 Mid-year Encampment at Tuscola—

We will meet for lunch at the 1871 Luncheonette in Tuscola around 11:00 am. After lunch we will go to the county courthouse and conduct our business in the GAR room.

To get there take I-57 to US 36 (Exit 212). Travel west to the third stop sign which is Main Street. Turn north on Main Street and go to the first stop sign after the railroad tracks. Turn left and the 1871 Luncheonette is on the left. The courthouse is about 5 blocks from the restaurant.

Dues on the Way Up—

It appears as though dues will go up. The National raised the per capita assessment \$6 and they want it all paid by April 30, instead of quarterly. This means that your Camp dues will undoubtedly be increased but, more importantly, a Camp will be unable to carry delinquent members on the rolls as has been done in the past. Please pay your dues when due.



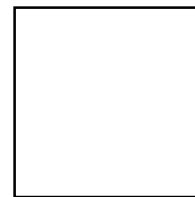
Members of the Illinois contingent at the 2002 National Encampment say "cheese" for the camera.



The 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band entertained at the National Encampment.

The Brevet Private
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First Class Mail



Mid-year Encampment in Tuscola on November 2
Kelly's Battery Cannon Salute at Fort Sheridan on November 11
Lincoln Library Dedication in Springfield on November 18

Confederate Invades Glenview, IL—Wins Hearts and Minds of Brothers With Story About the H. L. Hunley Submarine—Steve Quick, Commander of



Steve Quick

Camp Douglas Chapter, Sons of Confederate Veterans, enthralled the Brothers of Custer Camp #1, SUVCW, with his account of the H. L. Hunley and its predecessors at the Custer Camp's regular

meeting at Hackney's Restaurant in Glenview on Monday, September 23.

Commander Quick is the descendant of over thirty Confederate soldiers and is a frequent Confederate interpreter at Chicago area schools, historical societies and park districts.

The Hunley was not the first Confederate submarine. The *Pioneer* was scuttled in the Canal Basin in New Orleans the day Farragut took that city. The *Pioneer II (American Diver)* swamped and was lost in Mobile Bay in February, 1863. Following that loss, another submarine was built and offered to General Beauregard, so the entire operation was moved to Charleston, SC. The new vessel, ultimately named *The Hunley*, sank twice, killing thirteen Confederates, before it sank the USS *Housatonic* and disappeared, adding eight more submariners to the death toll. Commander Quick pointed out that these vessels were privateers, not CSS ships and that Horace L. Hunley, the principal financial backer of all three enterprises was one of the eight who died in October 1863 while conducting a training exercise in the Cooper River. Quick also reported that it was probably true that George Dixon, the Hunley's last Captain, had survived Shiloh because of a gold coin given him by his fiancé. The bent coin was found in the recovered Hunley.

The Hunley was located in 1995. It was raised in August 2000 and is being excavated in Lasch Laboratory in North Charleston, SC. There is a Hunley website (www.hunley.org) and many books on the subject. Commander Quick is available for presentations and can be reached by telephone at 847-215-8609 or by e-mail at "squick1148@aol.com".



The Brothers of Colonel Frederich K. Hecker Camp #443 conducted a nice ceremony at Walnut Hill Cemetery in Belleville on Memorial Day 2002—Photo courtesy of Camp Commander Steve Vodde.



On April 15, 2002 The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Allied Orders of the GAR conducted a service to commemorate the founding of the GAR in Petersburg, IL in 1866. The site was the grave of GAR founder Dr. Benjamin L. Stephenson. Department Chaplain Jerry Kowalski (above) is shown presiding.—Photo courtesy of Harold and Jackie Wright.



The Lincolns (Max and Donna Daniels) take a bow for the audience at the 2002 National Encampment.

Thank You Civil War Courier—

The 2002 National Encampment Committee, Nick Kaup, Chairman, wants everyone to know that we owe a great big "thank you" to Reece Sexton, publisher of *The Civil War Courier*. Mr. Sexton supplied the bags that held the goodies handed to Encampment attendees when they registered. If you might be interested in subscribing look him up at www.civilwarcourier.com or write to PO Box 625, Morristown, TN 37815.

Confederate Controversy in Lawrenceville—

The Ethernet has been "running hot" with a flurry of e-mails over the past two weeks. The Illinois Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans wants to erect a memorial stone to honor the memory of twelve Confederate veterans buried in Lawrence County but its placement, approved by the Lawrence County Board on September 18, is being blocked by the efforts of Dennis Bridwell of Sumner, who may or may not be a member of the SUVCW. Mr. Bridwell is currently a candidate for Lawrence County Sheriff.

Department Commander Dan Hans was contacted about the matter by Commander Terry Warren of Camp 1802, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Illinois Division. Commander Hans asked for opinions and the e-mails started flying. So far, none of the Illinois Brothers contacted have had any objections to the placement of the SCV stone and when it was reported that there is no Union memorial in Lawrence County several indicated they would contribute to a fund to rectify that situation.

Lawrence County is located on the eastern border of southern Illinois separated from Indiana by the Wabash River. At the outbreak of the Civil War the County's population was 9,214 which included 238 African-Americans. The County was credited with 1,230 Union enlistments—13.7% of its white population— a little better than the 13.3% average for all counties combined. There are no figures available as to how many Lawrence County residents may have opted to serve with the Confederacy.

It will be interesting to see how this matter is resolved.

Lincoln Library Dedication—Scheduled for November 18 (in Springfield), details are sparse. Contact SVC Ron Clark at 217-523-0896 or SUVCW4@aol.com to learn more about this event.

History Quiz—The question in the last issue was: "What Union General was called "Old Slow Trot" by his troops? Why?"

It was Major General George Henry Thomas, the "Rock of Chickamauga". Early in the war, Thomas was injured in a train accident and for many months was too sore to ride faster than a trot so his troops popularized a nickname which he had acquired as a result of his deliberate gait while a cavalry instructor at West Point. —Sources: *The Civil War Quiz & Fact Book* and *The Civil War Dictionary*.

New Question—Name a general from Illinois who had been a music teacher and storekeeper before the War. What made him famous? What did he do after the War?



New members of Custer Camp #1 receive a replica of General Custer's red neckerchief. (l to r) Keith Zandy, Jim Lehman, Camp Commander Tom Hauff, Tim Meier, and Everett Nyland.

President Lincoln went with a young woman to a hospital in Washington, where she became very much interested in the condition of a young man, and the following conversation ensued:

Lady: "Where were you wounded?"
 Soldier: "At Antietam."
 Lady: Yes, but where were you wounded?"
 Soldier: "At Antietam."

Lady then begs the President to help her, as she feels a deep interest in the poor soldier.

President (taking the young lady by both hands affectionately): "My dear girl, the ball that hit him would have missed you."—Source: *Blue & Gray Laughing*, Paul Zall, Ed.

Veteran's Day Observance—November 11, 11:00 am at Fort Sheridan. Kelly's Battery will fire a cannon salute. Contact Tom Hauff, Commander, Custer Camp #1 for details (857-998-6177).