



A United States Air Force unit conducts Veterans' Day Services at an undisclosed Middle Eastern location. The piper on the right is Brother James Shea of Peoria, member of Colonel John Bryner Camp #67. Photo courtesy of Jon Lickey.



# The Brevet Private Winter 2003

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

## A Message from the Commander—

Brothers:

I wish all of you a prosperous, healthy, and happy New Year!

The mid-year encampment in Tuscola was a rousing success. Thanks go to all the people who made us welcome and allowed us to use the GAR room in the courthouse. If you get to Tuscola, this is a must visit site.

We are putting more emphasis on the ROTC/JROTC awards. If there is anybody in any of the camps that would like to handle this project within their camp area, please contact PDC Nick Kaup at 847-256-1942 or NMDJKAUP@aol.com. Most of what this would entail would be presenting the award to the deserving cadet. Obviously, nobody can attend all of these presentations, but it is nice to have a member of the Sons attend as many as possible.

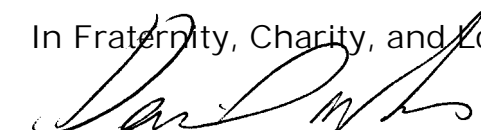


Commander Hans

At the mid-year it was decided to support the battle flag restoration project here in Illinois. The Department will contribute \$500 to each camp for this purpose. In order to qualify for the money, the camp must pick a flag and have a plan for fund raising for this purpose. It is also okay to go in with another organization such as a Civil War Round Table or other organization in order to do that. When the plan from the camp is submitted to the Department, the Department will determine when the money should be made available for the camp. We did this rather than put all \$3000 earmarked for this purpose in one flag since the camps are from various parts of the state and there are regimental flags from these areas that need restoration. If you are interested in working on this worthwhile project, please contact your Camp Commander.

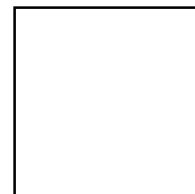
The Department of Illinois is, under the direction of PCinC Al Loomis of Indiana, working on the 2009 Lincoln Birth Bi-Centennial. In this regard a committee was formed to work on this. The members are the Department Commander and the Camp Commanders or those persons designated by the Camp Commanders. The committee was set up this way because the celebration is quite some time away and in order to have continuity of the committee. The Departments of Indiana and Kentucky are working on this project as well. I have already been in contact with the person in charge of the Lincoln's Home in Springfield to introduce ourselves and to offer whatever assistance we can give for this celebration. While he is not working on this now, at least he knows who we are and what we are about.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

  
Daniel W. Hans, Commander  
Department of Illinois

The Brevet Private  
PO Box 962  
Wheaton, IL 60189-0962

First Class Mail



GAR Anniversary Commemoration in Petersburg in April  
Lincoln Death Day Commemoration in Springfield in April  
Department Encampment in Springfield on May 3  
National Encampment in Fort Mitchell, KY August 7-10

### Report from Tuscola by Charlie Willman

The Department held its mid-year encampment in the beautiful GAR Room in the Douglas County Courthouse in Tuscola on November 2, 2002. Camp #24 hosted the meeting.



Brother Willman

The following members were present: Nick Kaup and Keith Zandy of Camp #1; Steve Stewart, Bill Kooser, Steve Westlake, Jerome Kowalski and Dan Hans of Camp #2; Frank Lincoln, Kim McGee, Chuck Knox, Jim Wiesener, Jerry Reynolds, Charles Gam, and Dana Hales of Camp #24; Jon Lickey of Camp #67; and Charlie Willman of Camp #443.

Secretary Willman presented printed copies of the minutes of the encampment held May 4, 2002 in Springfield. Minutes were approved as printed.

Willman also presented a Treasurer's Report, which showed a balance on hand as of June 30, 2002 of \$6,433 and a current balance of \$5,980.

Commander Hans spoke of the problems that were occurring in Lawrence County when the SCV sought permission to place markers on the graves of the Confederate Veterans.

Nick Kaup, chairman of the Encampment Committee, gave a report on the National Encampment held this past August in Springfield, and thanked all members for pitching in and making the event a big success.

A National Encampment Financial Report presented by Willman showed a surplus of \$6,588 which includes donations of \$550 by camps and \$3,000 from the Department. It was decided to return these donations to the donors.

It was decided to utilize the funds remaining in the Encampment Fund to help restore the Illinois Regimental Battle Flags of the Civil War. It was reported that it would cost about \$3,000 to restore each battle flag. Commander Hans appointed the following members to serve on the committee: Jon Lickey, Nick Kaup, Steve Stewart, Keith Zandy and Bill Kooser.



Some Brothers of Camp#24 engrossed in the proceedings at the encampment.

A visitor asked the reason at the convalescent camp for the number of deaths. "You see, sir, the Government laid out a big graveyard, and soldiers always avail themselves of all Government allowances. That's why they die so fast."—Source: Blue & Gray Laughing, Paul Zall, Ed.

**Before and After!** In case you're wondering what the money spent on flag restoration might do, here's an example of the kind of magic that can take place. This flag is in the Missouri State Museum.



Flag pictures courtesy of Brother Mark Trout, Publisher/Editor of The Missouri Unionist, the Department of Missouri's newsletter.



**History Quiz**—The question in the last issue was:—"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?"



General Grierson

No, it wasn't John Wayne. It was Benjamin Henry Grierson who, in 1863, during the Vicksburg Campaign, led a cavalry raid that covered 600 miles in 16 days. A colonel at the time, Grierson was promoted to brigadier general in 1863 and major general in 1865.

He continued in military service after the War and commanded the 10th United States Cavalry in Indian fighting. Grierson retired in 1890 as brigadier general, USA.—Source: The Civil War Dictionary.

You can learn more about the Grierson raid at: [www.swcivilwar.com/GriersonRaidReport.html](http://www.swcivilwar.com/GriersonRaidReport.html).

**New Question**—Who was Colonel John Bryner? In what unit did he serve?



Dana Hales, Commander of Camp #24 and host of the encampment.



Jon Lickey, Commander of Camp#67 surveys the GAR room in the courthouse in Tuscola.



Curator Marlene Lincoln explains the features of the GAR room to some of the Brothers.

An inquiry should be instituted as to how many of those double-acting shooting irons (Belgian muskets) we have in the country—"double acting" because they are about equally dangerous at either end. A good story is told of one of our Illinois colonels, who was heard praising the arm. He says: "In platoon firing with the Belgian musket, I can tell how many pieces have been fired." "How can you tell that?" Oh, I count the men on the ground. It never deceives me. It is fire and fall back—flat."—Source: Blue & Gray Laughing, Paul Zall, Ed.



A service for Dennis Kelly was conducted July 14, 2002 at the Wheaton Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Frank Adams.

The Camp#2 2003 Fundraiser will feature 9 VHS tapes of Ken Burns' The Civil War and two sets of books—Lincoln's Speeches and Writings and The Autobiographies of Generals Grant and Sherman. A donation of \$1 will give you a chance to win. For \$5 you get six chances. The prize drawing will be held on November 12, 2003 and participants do not need to be present to win. Those interested in participating should contact Brother Bill Kooser via email at [signalofficer@illinoisuvcw.org](mailto:signalofficer@illinoisuvcw.org) or by telephone at 630-668-4882.