

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OHIO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

109th Department Encampment



**Mt. Union College Campus
Alliance, Ohio
June 14-16, 1991**

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

The 109th Encampment of the Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was held at Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio on June 14, 15, 16, 1991; Commander Richard Smyser I, of Canton, Ohio, presiding.

The only business transacted on Friday June 14th, was the auditing of the books of the Department Treasurer, by the Department Council: Forest Altland, Larry K. Swogger, Roy Smith, David Medert, and Charles Corfman.

Campfire

Friday evening, the program for the Campfire for the Allied Orders in attendance was hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

This year there were no presiding National Officers present for the program, due to the fact that the Pennsylvania's Department held its meeting on this same weekend, and the Sons' Commander-in-Chief was from Pennsylvania.

The National President of the Ladies of the Grand Army, Lois Mayhew, with her husband Tucker Mayhew, who is serving this year as the Sons of Union Veterans National Chaplain came from their home Department of Pennsylvania, to attend our Saturday and Sunday sessions. Their attendance added greatly to the Encampment.

The program of the evening was devoted to tapes provided by Department Commander, Richard Smyser I. The first tape showed members of the Grand Army of the Republic at some of their Historic reunions in Gettysburg, Pa. This tape was a classic and the viewing of it certainly makes one again aware of his rich heritage. The second tape dealt with modern day re-enactors portraying The Boys in Blue at the surrender at Appomattox, which brought the terrible sacrifices of so many to an end. It is wonderful to know that so many are interested in keeping alive the accomplishments of our Ancestors.

Each of the Presiding Officers of the Allied Orders present brought greetings and expressed desires for profitable Encampments for all of the Allied Organizations.

The evening concluded with refreshments provided by the host group, which featured a cake baked by P.D.C. Larry K. Swogger which was decorated with icing depicting the Post flag of the former GAR Post at Braceville, Ohio, and a social time was enjoyed by all.

Business

The first order of business was a joint opening with the Ohio Department Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans after which the Sons retired to our meeting room for the first business session of the Encampment.

Department Commander Smyser, appointed the following to serve as Officers during the Encampment"

Senior Vice Commander – P.C.C. Charles Corfman, due to the death of Senior Vice Commander Thomas Hoffman

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

Chief of Staff – P.C.C. Charles Corfman due to the work schedule of Chief of Staff Richard Smyser II.

Guard – Robert Grim, due to the absence, due to his attending a required religious seminar of Guard Ralph Shadel.

Guide – Mike Trowbridge

Commander Smyser appointed the following committees:

Credentials – P.D.C. Forest Altland

Resolutions – Keith Ashley

Junior Vice Commander David R. Medert

Officers Reports – Edward Hogan

P.D.C. Larry K. Swogger

Roy Smith

Responses to Ladies of the Grand Army

Woman's Relief Corps

Auxiliary to the Sons - P.C.C. Charles Corfman

Officers in Attendance

The following Officers were in attendance:

Department Commander	Richard Smyser I, Canton, Ohio
Junior Vice Commander	David R. Medert, Chillicothe, Ohio
Department Council	
3 year	P.D.C. Forest Altland, Wooster, Ohio
2 year	Roy Smith, Warren, Ohio
1 year	P.D.C. Larry K. Swogger, North Canton
Secretary-Treasurer	P.C.C. Richard Greenwalt, Alliance, Ohio
Patriotic Instructor	Elmer Bennett, Mansfield, Ohio
Chaplain	P.D.C. Larry K. Swogger
Counselor	P.C.C. Charles Corfman, Holmesville, Ohio
Color Guard	P.C.C. Charles Corfman
Genealogist	P.D.C. Larry K. Swogger
Johnson Island Committee	Keith Ashley
Camp Organizer	Keith Ashley

Officers' Reports

Commander Smyser provided the following address:

7-4-90 Parade for 4th of July at Lisbon, Ohio

7-11-90 Completed new member plaque for Sons and sent same to winner

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

8-12-13-14-15-90 Attended National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Appointed to serve on National Military Affairs Committee. Attended and participated in Change of Command for Sons of Veterans Reserve. Appointed as Aide De Camp for Brig. General Charles Corfman.

10-5-6-7-90 Attended and participated in 2 re-enactments at the Atwood fall Festival

10-10-90 Visited Xenia Orphans Home. Took part in planning for Homes' Christmas Party.

11-10-90 Attend U.S. Marine Corps, 215th Anniversary Ball and spoke to the group. Attended in Uniform.

11-16-17-18-90 Attended Remembrance Day at Gettysburg and participated in program.

12-7-90 Gave lecture and demonstration to 7th and 8th grades at Our Lady of Peace School in Canton.

12-14-90 Attended McClellan Camp Christmas Party.

2-2-3-91 Attended Blue Gray Ball at Burr Oak State Park sponsored by Confederacy.

2-16-91 Attended Florida Department Ladies of the GAR Convention at Sarasota, Florida.

2-16-91 Had meeting with Commander of Florida Department of the Sons of Union Veterans, at request of Brig. Gen. Corfman. Discussed their problems and tried to resolve same.

6-9-91 Attended Ohio Department Convention of Daughter of Union Veterans at Mansfield, Ohio. Extended greetings and good wishes and invited anyone that would like to attend our campfire at Alliance on June 14th. Also said I hoped to see them at National in August at Indianapolis.

6-10-91 Attended the funeral services and service at cemetery for Margaret Orr, Past Department and National President of the Ladies of the GAR.

I issued 3 sets of General Orders during the year and traveled 6272 miles to attend functions. I also visited the following Civil War sites listed below:

3-11-91 Fort Zachary Taylor, Key West Florida

4-17-91 Fort Fredrica, Savannah, Georgia

4-18-91 Fort Pulaski, savannah, Georgia

4-20-91 Fort Jackson, Savannah, Georgia

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

Junior Vice Commander

Junior Vice Commander David R. Medert provided the following report:

June 24 thru June 29, 1990 – I was the Assistant Director and instructor for the Ohio University Elderhostel on the Civil War

July 4, 1990 - Marched in the 4th of July parade with Camp Dennison in Athens, Ohio. We had ten members and one artillery piece and a drummer and fifer in the parade.

July 22, 1990 – Participated in the re-enactment at McConnelsville with my 4-pound siege gun.

August 25, 1990 – Took part in the 2nd Annual Cannon and Musket Shoot sponsored by Camp Dennison #125 for SUV members and families and prospective members.

August 5, 1990 – Participated in re-enactment at Keener Park in Cincinnati, Ohio with my 4-pound siege gun.

Sept. 5, 1990 – As President of the Chillicothe Civil War Roundtable, I sponsored an excursion on the Riverboat Lorena for members of the SUV, Roundtable members and Civil War buffs. We had a six-man band that played Civil War songs as we traveled on the river. Everyone sang and ate picnic lunches.

November 2, 1990 – Participated in a re-enactment at Guyandote, W.Va. with Camp Dennison #125 and Sons of the Confederate Veterans of Huntington, W.Va.

December 8 & 9, 1990 – Participated with Camp Dennison #125 in an American Heritage Gun Exposition at Ohio University in Athens. We had an elaborate display of Civil War artifacts and had a recruitment table and issued.

March 16, 1991 – Participated in an artillery demonstration at Huntington, W.Va. St. Patrick's Day celebration with Camp Dennison #125 at the request of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

May 24, 1991 – Participated in Memorial Day Service at Huntington, W.Va. along with Camp Dennison #125 and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I was on the program and brought greetings from the Depart. Of Ohio and laid a wreath on the Union soldiers graves buried there.

May 27, 1991 – Organized and participated in a Memorial Day celebration at Chillicothe along with the Roundtable and Camp Dennison #125. I conducted the SUV Memorial Day service and Camp Dennison #125 members furnished a 5-man firing squad in Civil

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

War Uniforms and muskets and salutes were fired over the grave of Brig. General Joshua Sill who was killed at Stones River.

June 9, 1991 – Participated in an artillery school sponsored by Camp Dennison #125 Reserve Unit 1st Ohio Light Artillery. Regt. Capt. C. Rogers was the instructor and was assisted by Senior Vice Commander John Barnes who hosted the school on his 40-acre farm.

I have also brought into Camp Dennison #125 five new members since the Department meeting last year.

Secretary's Report

Department Secretary Richard Greenwalt submitted the following report:

Again you afforded me the privilege of serving as your Department Secretary.

I attended the National Encampment in Des Moines, Iowa, The Central Region Conference, Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, November 1990; and have accompanied my wife, Bea, P.N.P. of the Auxiliary to several Patriotic Functions. Among which was the Parade in Waterloo, New York on May 30, 1991 commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Founding of Memorial Day and the Department Encampments of New Jersey, June 1991 and the Department Encampment of Iowa, June 1991.

I installed Officers of McClellan Camp #91, Alliance, Ohio; served as McClellan Camp Secretary; and served on the Memorial Day Committee, Alliance, Ohio, representing the Sons and continued as Commanding Officer of the 3rd Military District SVR.

Many of the Quarterly Reports have not been coming to me on time this year. Perhaps this is due to the increase in Per Capita as established by the National Organization. Hopefully this situation will improve.

In PDC Ralph Shadel's report as Camp Secretary of McLaughlin Camp #12 at Mansfield, Ohio, for the quarter of 1991, he reported a loss of 22 members for non-payment of dues. Due to the increase in Per Capita to the National Organization. This left the Camp with 6 members all of whom are Life Members. Since the death of PDC Thomas Hoffman, has reduced the membership of this long established Camp to 5 members.

The membership reported at last year's Encampment was 9 Camps with membership of 166.

The membership as of 31 May 1991 was 9 Camps with a membership of 164.

I am happy to report that Henry Banning Camp No. 207 of Mount Vernon, Ohio, which had been dormant for many years, reports new membership. The number of members in the Camp is 8.

Brother James Hopkins is to be commended for the re-activation of Henry Banning Camp No. 207, along with Brothers Stanton Dick and John Kost, who maintained their membership during the years of the Camp's inactivity.

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

The advertisement in the Civil War Times Illustrated has provided new members for Camps and our Membership-at-Large.

The Grim Reaper has struck again this year and the following Brothers have entered the Camp Eternal:

Paul Bosley – Member-at-Large
Donald Cline – McLaughlin Camp No. 12
Dennis Fennsee – Member-at-Large
William Hooker – Member-at-Large
Past Department Commander Thomas Hoffman – McLaughlin Camp #12 and Dennison Camp #1.

The Dedicated Service of these Brothers will be missed.

Treasurer's Report

Richard Greenwalt, Department Treasurer filed the following report:

Receipts

\$25.00	Love Gift from Auxiliary to the Sons
\$12.00	Registration 1990 Encampment
\$97.50	Chief of Staff Fund
\$142.50	Patriotic Instructor's Fund
\$133.54	Refund 1989 Encampment
\$20.00	Donation from PDC Hoffman- Christmas Funds
\$ 4.61	Per Capita from Camps
<u>\$230.00</u>	Members-at-Large
\$1,555.75	

At Last year's Encampment, I reported in our checking, savings and CD Accounts \$4,725.94

The total for this year June 1990 – June 1991 is \$4,191.88

At last year's 1990 Encampment I reported the Permanent Fund contained \$4,327.51

The total this year 1990-91 is \$5,297.55

Disbursements

\$126.00	1990 Encampment Expenses
\$ 50.00	National GAR Fund
\$25.00	National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief's fund
\$ 5.00	Pilot Dog Donation, in Memorial to Ralph Seeing Eye Dog
\$904.75	National Per Capita

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

\$ 5.00	Central Region Dues
\$199.02	Postage
\$25.00	Christmas Donation to Xenia
\$25.00	Christmas Donation to Sandusky
\$2.00	Supplies
\$61.00	Printing
\$10.00	125 th Step Plaque Fund Engraving
\$37.02	Department Flowers for Past Department Commander Thomas Hoffman
\$35.79	Service Charge on Bank Account
\$16.63	New Checks
<u>\$70.00</u>	Membership Application Fee to National
\$1,747.16	

Johnson's Island Report

Johnson's Island Committee Chairman, Keith Ashley reported:

Johnson's Island continues to be a source of major concern for the Historic Preservation. As one of only three major Civil War sites in Ohio, it deserves the attention and respect of Ohioans and its government.

I have been in contact with the Preservation Commission for Johnson's Island. They state that there are three pending lawsuits against the developer who threatens this Civil War Prison Site. Should he lose any of the three, it stops the development. Even with this hope of success, the preservation committee is adamantly fighting on.

The State of Ohio insists it has no money to purchase the disputed area. Therefore, the Commission is asking all interested citizens and groups to write a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Interior to purchase the site.

I recommend that the Commander of the Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War be authorized to write such a letter and issue a General Order for all Camps to do the same.

I took part in the 4th of July Parade, in Athens, Ohio

I took part in re-enactment at Guyandotte, West Virginia in November.

I took part in display at the Dairy Barn in Athens.

I took part in the Civil War Artillery display and parade at Huntington, West Virginia for St. Patrick's Day.

I participated in Memorial Day Ceremonies in Chester, Ohio while in uniform.

I participated in all meetings of Gov. Wm. Dennison Camp.

I attended the Blue and Gray Ball at Burr Oak Lodge in February.

I obtained 3 new members for Gov. Wm. Dennison Camp.

I participated as Fifer in Heritage Days at Pomeroy in early June.

Camp Organizer

Department Camp Organizer, Keith Ashley reports:

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

As Camp Organizer I am working with members in the Cincinnati area to reactivate U.S. Grant Camp #100, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This is progressing slowly.

I have a re-enactment group in Ironton, Ohio looking into forming a Camp, Sons of Union Veterans. This last individual was obtained through a membership table for the Ohio Society War of 1812.

I think this points out the importance of the Department of the Sons of Union Veterans to advertise through this and other meetings. I also see a severe need for a color brochure on the Sons of Union Veterans. It is important for the Ohio department to make some definite plans on membership if we are to grow.

I have been trying to work with Dennison Camp No. 1, but I cannot get the secretary to answer.

GAR Highway Officer

The GAR Highway Officer, Tim Park, reported that the condition of the Highway was much the same as it was last year and that the same was true for its markings.

Chief of Staff

Acting Chief of Staff reports donations of \$60.00

Patriotic Instructor

Patriotic Instructor Elmer Bennett reported receiving \$90.00 in donations.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed at the Ohio Department 109th Encampment June 14-16, 1991, with the Department Secretary ordered to send a copy of them to the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans for their consideration during the 1991 National Encampment.

Resolution 1:

Whereas, The National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, began an Application Fee of \$5.00 on January 1, 1991; and

Whereas, A S.U.V. Camp must collect

1. Dues for the Camp, Department and the National Organization
2. The cost of the membership badge and Membership Certificate, totaling in the neighborhood of \$38., without the Application Fee; and

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

Whereas, The addition of the application fee raises the amount needed to be collected from the new member at \$43.00, which will discourage members from joining; and

Whereas, the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil war, began receiving an additional \$5.00 per member per year in dues, which should cover any cost to the National Organization in handling the application of new members:

Therefore be it Resolved: That the Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War recommends that the present cost of membership application fee be reduced to \$2.00, in order to prevent the loss of potential new members.

Resolution 2:

Whereas, Much of the available space on the current SUV Application is wasted on unnecessary printing and repetitive questions; and

Whereas, more information of the Civil War Ancestor should be asked for, on the application such as:

- Birth date
- Birth Place
- Death Date
- Death Place
- Spouse's name
- Spouse's birth and death dates
- Marriage date and place
- Burial location of Civil War Ancestor

Whereas, the quarterly report does not have a place for reporting Life Members or Fees for New Members

Whereas, Blanks of the quarterly reports are confusing

Therefore let it be resolved, That the Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War that the Application and Quarterly Report Forms be updated.

Resolution 3:

Whereas, real estate developers are trying to eliminate portions of the area of Johnson's Island in Lake Erie where a prison area for Confederate prisoners was located; and

Whereas, the State of Ohio and its affiliate, the Ohio Historical Society have refused to purchase the property through right of eminent domain due to the lack of funds in the State budget; and

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

Whereas, Johnson's Island will not keep its historical integrity once real estate developers begin their destruction; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War supports the purchase of all the area once occupied by the Confederate prison on Johnson's Island by the U.S. Department of Interior as quickly as possible to prevent destruction by real estate developers.

Resolution 5: Amending By-Laws

Resolved, That Article 2, Section 2, Paragraph 1 be replaced by the flowing language: "Each camp shall be entitled to one delegate for every ten members in that camp of fraction thereof. The camp commander shall automatically be a delegate for his camp. Delegates shall be based on the membership certified by the camp secretary on June 1, for the Department Encampment meeting held that month or for any special department meetings held after that date. Each delegate shall have credentials and a paid up dues card to validate his votes at any Ohio Department meeting.

Action taken by Department Encampment

1. Encourage efforts by Camp Organizer, Keith Ashley, to get Camps organized in areas that contact him and encourage Members-at-Large to strive to get new Camps started.
2. Commended Henry Banning Camp No. 207 of Mount Vernon, Ohio for its re-activation.
3. Initiated Jerome Berl Young and Robert Grim.
4. Voted to invite the National Organization to hold its 1995, National Encampment in Ohio, after a committee consisting of P.D.C. Larry K. Swogger, Brother Edward Hogan, and P.C.C. Charles Corfman, had visited the Auxiliary and the Ladies of the GAR to see if they were in favor of the invitation, of which they were.
5. Approved the purchase of stationary for Officers of the Ohio Department.
6. Approved the donation of \$25.00 to the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Fund.
7. Approved the donation of \$50.00 to the National Patriotic Instructor's Fund.
8. Approved the donation of \$5.00 to have the Department in the Commemorative Book for President McKinley's Funeral, which will be re-enacted in September 1991.

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

9. Incoming Commander is to appoint a committee to update the Department By-Laws.
10. Endorsed Lowell Hammer, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, for the office of Commander-in-Chief, 1991-92.
11. Endorsed Elmer Atkinson, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.
12. Approved donation of \$25.00 for Christmas at the Ohio Veterans Home.
13. Conditionally approved the donation of \$25.00 for Christmas use at Xenia Children Home, Xenia, Ohio.
14. Approved possible use of ribbons at next year's Encampment at a price not to exceed \$25.00
15. Approved dates for next year's Encampment as June 19-21, 1992

Banquet

The Saturday evening Banquet, found Presiding Department heads, recognizing their Department Officers for their service on behalf of the Allied Organizations in attendance. Greeting from the National were given by the National Chaplain Tucker Mayhew, representing our Commander-in-Chief George Long. Mrs. Lois Mayhew, National President of the Ladies of the GAR, gave greetings from her Organization and her own person greetings.

The speaker for the Banquet was DeFrance Thomas. She gave a very educational and stirring program about flags. The flags that she displayed are a collection of hers. Her program went along with Flag Day and the Desert Storm celebration contributed to making this a very timely program.

Memorial Service

The joint Memorial Service was held on Sunday morning with P.D.C. Larry Swogger, Department Chaplain in charge. He had a fitting program in tribute to our 5 Brothers who entered Camp Eternal, since last year's Encampment.

P.D.C. Forest Altland gave a fine and inspiring tribute to the memory of P.D.C. Thomas E. Hoffman and his faithful Guide Dog Ralph. The Sons lost a true friend, who did many things for the Organization through the years.

Past National President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Margaret Orr, who passed away in June 1991, will be greatly missed by all who knew her and who had the opportunity to work with her on Patriotic endeavors.

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

Audit

The Audit Committee has examined the Department records and in our opinion, presents fairly the financial condition of the Ohio Department S.U.V. Our examination of the records was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards applied on a basis consistent with that of preceding years.

The Treasurer is commended for a job well done.

Committee: Forest Altland, Larry K. Swogger, Roy Smith, David R. Medert, and Charles Corfman,

Elected Officers

The following officers were elected to serve the Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for 1991-1992:

Department Commander	David R. Medert 16 Shawnee Drive Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
Senior Vice Commander	Elmer Bennett 1180 Harwood Dr. Apt. E Mansfield, Ohio 44906
Junior Vice Commander	Edward Hogan 4404 Vinal Ave. N.W. Canton, Ohio 44709
Department Council 3 years	P.D.C. Richard Smyser I 1201 Suffield N.W. Canton, Ohio 44709
2 years	P.D.C. Larry K. Smyser 205 Pershing Ave. N.E. North Canton, Ohio 44720
1 year	Roy Smith 42 S. Bentley Ave. Apt 304 Niles, Ohio 44446
Secretary-Treasurer	P.C.C. Richard Greenwalt 616 W. Summit Alliance, Ohio 44601

Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proceedings of 1991 Encampment

Appointed Officers

The following officers were appointed to serve the Ohio Department for 1991-1992:

Chief of Staff	Richard Smyser II
Patriotic Instructor	Robert Grim
Chaplain	Michael Colligan
Counselor	P.C.C. Charles Corfman
Guide	Michael Trowbridge
Guard	Roy Smith
Personal Aide	Chip Rogers
Camp Organizer	Keith Ashley
GAR Highway Chairman	Tim Park
Color Guard	P.C.C. Charles Corfman
Johnson Island Chairman	Keith Ashley
Camp Chase Chairman	Jim Hilton
Encampment Representative	P.C.C. Richard Greenwalt
Genealogist	Larry Swogger
Trial Commission	Larry Swogger

The officers were installed by P.D.C. Forest Altland with P.D.C. Larry K. Swogger serving as Guided and Keith Ashley serving as Chaplain.