



The Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Department of Florida
S.U.V.C.W.

December Holiday Edition

Elected Department Officers

COMMANDER.... **Charles S. Reeves PDC**

Email - reevesoldfarm@msn.com

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER.... **James G. Ward PDC**

Email - jw.pdc.suvc@gmail.com

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER....**David R. Palmer PCC**

Email - davplm6@aol.com

SECRETARY / TREASURER....**Clair D. Whitlam PDC**

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COUNCIL # 1....**Harvey Linscott, PDC**

hkl36ov@peoplepc.com

COUNCIL # 2....**John Vaughn III, PDC**

suvsyankee1@aol.com

COUNCIL # 3.... **Daniel W. Hans PDC**

sdh1967@tampabay.rr.com

Appointed Department Officers

Assistant Secretary /Treasurer: Charles D. Custer PDC

Patriot Instructor: Edward Manak PCC

Chaplain: David Acheson, PCC

Graves Registration: Ronnie G. McCracken PDC

Eagle Scout Coordinator: John M. Vaughn III, PCC

JROTC Coordinator: Richard D. Shaffer, CC

Counselor: Robert M. Jones PDC

Aide: David Munson Chestnut CC

Color Bearer: Ronnie G. McCracken PDC

Guard: Larry Peck

Signals: Brian French Brian@EstateSettlement.com

Hello Brothers

It is with great honor that I accept the position of newsletter editor for "The Dispatch". I hope that you will enjoy the newsletters and will forward to me news and information to share with our fellow brothers.

Please forward to me any camp news to share at the following email address.

Doubledaves2@gmail.com

Thank You David Munson
Chestnut, CC Camp 1



MISSION STATEMENT

*Through Community Education and Service
to our Order
We Honor the Memory of the Grand Army of
the Republic
The men who fought to Preserve the Union
1861 - 1865*

On 1 Nov. 2015, Commander Charles Reeves called to order our Autumn Dept Meeting at Beef O'Brady's in Lakeland. This was an interesting meeting with a number of topics addressed. It was an easy-to-find location with good food to be enjoyed by the members in attendance. The minutes of the meeting are attached to this newsletter.



I hope all of you are enjoying the holiday season in whatever your faith may be.

May the blessings of the season abound in our hearts and families. May we all look forward to a happy and successful new year in 2016.

More info about the Department of Florida can be found in our Dept. web site.

<http://www.dofsuvcw.org>

Christmas during the war

It was during the Civil War that *Harper's Weekly* illustrator/cartoonist Thomas Nast became a contributor to the Union's war effort. Nast, who became known for his Christmas drawings and was generally credited with depicting Santa Claus as we know him today, had initially worked for Abraham Lincoln's 1860 election creating campaign posters. Nast's ability to stunningly depict Civil War battles and scenes prompted Lincoln to remark that Nast was "our best recruiting sergeant. His emblematic cartoons have never failed to arouse enthusiasm and patriotism."

Throughout the rest of 1861, the new president involved himself with the running of the war, forming an army, experiencing the disappointment of that army's loss at the Battle of Bull Run in July, and the naming of George B. McClellan as the General-in-Chief of all Union forces in November.

Although Christmas morning of 1861 was spent in an important cabinet meeting, the President and Mrs. Lincoln had time to have dinner guests to the White House that evening. It was the only Christmas that included the entire Lincoln family. White House Christmases after this first one were relatively sad occasions due to the death of their son, Willie, in February of the following year.

Commissioned by Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Nast illustrated the cover of *Harper's Weekly* in January of 1863, depicting Father Christmas (aka Santa Claus) as we imagine him today.

Read more about this at the following web site.

<http://www.whitehousechristmascards.com/abraham-lincoln-1861-1865/abraham-lincoln/>

Dept. of Florida has the following camps

Active Camps

[Winfield Scott Whitehurst Camp 01 - Tampa](#)

[General Thomas J. McKean Camp 03 - Lantana](#)

[Lucius L. Mitchell Camp No. 04 - St. Cloud](#)

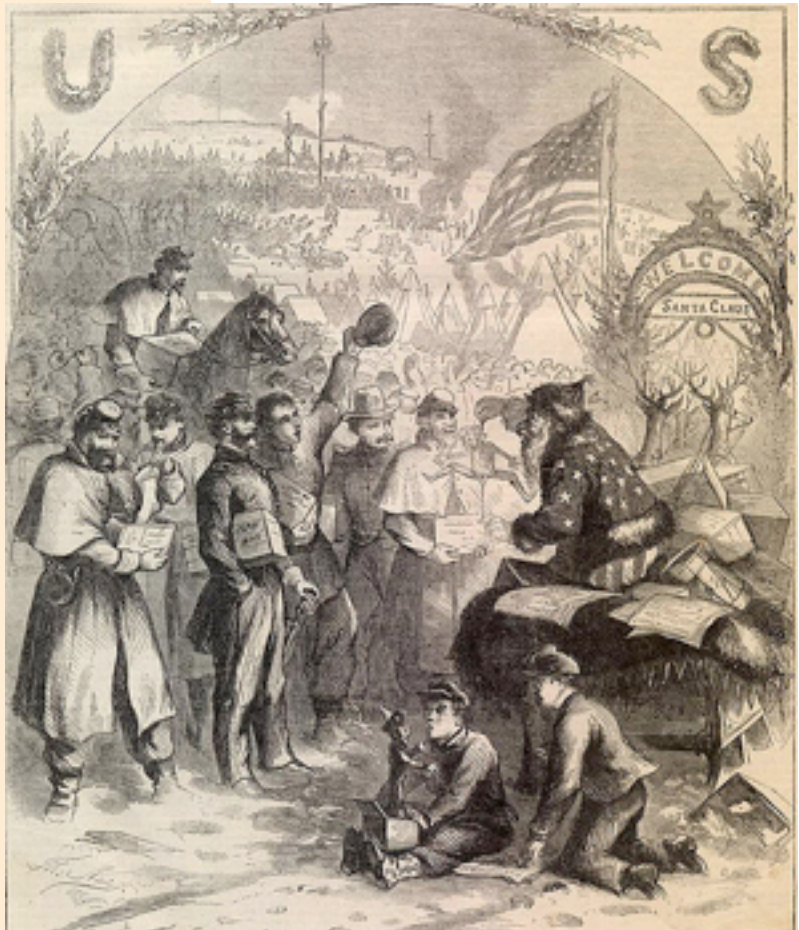
[General Eugene A. Carr Camp 05 - Ocala](#)

[Sergeant Frederick R. Jackson Camp 07 - Pembroke Pines](#)

[General John A. Logan Camp 09 - Jacksonville](#)

Department Membership-At-Large

[General William T. Sherman Camp 25](#)



"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"



The Story Behind

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

by *Tom Stewart*,
December 20, 2001

One of America's best known poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), contributed to the wealth of carols sung each Christmas season, when he composed the words to "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" on December 25th 1864. "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). The carol was originally a poem, "Christmas Bells," containing seven stanzas. Two stanzas were omitted, which contained references to the American Civil War, thus giving us the carol in its present form. The poem gave birth to the carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," and the remaining five stanzas were slightly rearranged in 1872 by John Baptiste Calkin (1827-1905), who also gave us the memorable tune. When Longfellow penned the words to his poem, America was still months away from Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9th 1865; and, his poem reflected the prior years of the war's despair, while ending with a confident hope of triumphant peace.

Read more at... http://www.whatsaiththescripture.com/Fellowship/Edit_I.Heard.the.Bells.html

"Christmas Bells"

(The original poem, complete with all seven stanzas)

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Military history of Jewish Americans during the Civil War.

Reflecting their pattern of long settlement in both northern and southern cities, Jews served and supported both the [Union Army](#) of the [Northern States](#) as well as the [Confederate States Army](#) of the Southern [Confederate States of America](#) during the [American Civil War](#). They had generally taken on regional loyalties according to residence. Jews were among the supporters of each side of the [American Civil War](#). Some 150,000 Jews lived in the United States at the time of the American Civil War, about 0.5 percent of the population.^[12] One academic estimate was that at least 8,000 Jewish soldiers fought for the [Union](#) and [Confederate](#) forces during the Civil War.^[13] Donald Altschiller estimates that at least 10,000 Jews served, about 7,000 for the Union and 3,000 for the Confederacy, with some 600 Jewish soldiers killed in battle.^[12]

Jews also played leadership roles on both sides, with nine Jewish generals and 21 Jewish colonels participating in the war. [Judah P. Benjamin](#), a non-observant Jew, served as Secretary of State and acting Secretary of War of the Confederacy.

Read more at... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Jewish_Americans



Camp News

Camp 1, The Winfield Scott Whitehurst Camp had its meeting on 13 Dec at the Pinellas Park Library. At this meeting we welcomed a new member and held induction ceremony for new Brother Bill Swain. We also held election of officers and Dept. Commander Charles Reeves installed the following officers for 2016.

Camp Commander: David Munson Chestnut
SVC: David Palmer
JVC: Brian French
Secretary: Larry Oppenheimer
Treasurer: Larry Oppenheimer
Patriotic Instructor:
Chaplain: Richard Beyer Sr.
Graves Registration: Bill Kuhn
C. W. Memorials:
Eagle Scout Coord.: James Thielen

Council 1 David Palmer
Council 2 Dick Young
Council 3 Bill Kuhn

Photo from meeting



DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA AUTUMN MEETING



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Florida



November 1, 2015

Florida Department Staff Meeting

Beef O'Brady's, Lakeland, FL.

11:00 AM

Commander Charles Reeves Present

Senior Vice Cmdr James G. Ward Present

Junior Vice Cmdr. David Palmer	Present
Council No. 1. Harvey Linscott	Absent
Council No. 2 John M. Vaughn	Absent
Council No. 3 Daniel Hans	Absent
Sec./Trea. Clair D. Whitlam	Present
Patriotic Inst. Edward Manak	Absent
Graves Registration Ronnie McCracken	Present
Civil War Memorial " "	Present
Chaplain David Acheson	Absent
Eagle Scout Coordinator Robert Jones	Absent
Counselor Robert M. Jones	Absent
Guard Larry Peck	Absent
Color Bearer Ron McCracken	Present
Office Aide David Chestnut	Present
Signals Officer Brian French	Absent
Cmdr. Camp No. 1 Larry Oppenhimer	Absent
Cmdr. Camp No. 2 Brice Scalley	Absent
Cmdr. Camp No. 4 Michael Urell	Present
Cmdr. Camp No. 5 John Horrighs	Present
Cmdr. Camp No. 7 Robert M. Jones	Absent
Cmdr. Camp No. 9 David Acheson	Absent
Camp No. 4 Patriotic Inst. Roger Heiple	Present

Cmdr. Reeves opened the meeting at 11:00 AM with the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of America. He voiced his disappointment regarding the poor turn out for the meeting. He recapped the National Encampment which also had only three members of the Florida Department in attendance and expressed his hope for a better turn out for the Sesquicentennial of the GAR to be recognized at the 2016 National Encampment to be held in Springfield, Ill. Cmdr. Reeves reported that the Department of Florida has been lax on making periodic reports to National Officers, regarding Eagle Scout and JROTC Awards as well as Camp Reports, we need to work on that! He also exhorted attendees to pass on to their camps, our need to work more with the Allied Orders in our community functions and events. Utilizing the Daughters of Sons of Union Veterans and Woman's Auxiliary units where they exist.

Cmdr. Reeves had contacted Executive Director David Demmy and requested a copy of the Florida Department Roster of all Camps and provided a copy of those rosters to be given to Camp Secretaries to check and verify that they are correct. Dept. Cmdr. Reeves also reported that Dept. Council

No. 3, Daniel W. Hans was going through some personal and family physical and medical problems and he felt that he could no longer perform his duties as Dept. Council member and he resigned his position.

Cmdr. Reeves also reported that Eagle Scout Coordinator, PDC Vaughn, reported to him that National had no sent any requests for Eagle Scout Awards for the last year.

NOV. MEETING CONT.

The Senior Vice Commander James Ward reports that he is working on any changes needed for the by-Laws, particularly since we have now changed our Annual Department Encampment from occurring in June to February to accommodate more of our snow birds who hold various offices in our Camps. He asked that and recommendations for changes should be sent to him by December 20, 2015, so that can be examined and worked out prior to our February 20th Department Encampment. Brother Ward also reported on the changes that he is working on through the National Policy Changes Committee which he is chairman, that the Sons are going to be asked for proofs of your connections to the ancestor whom you use when you applied to become a regular member of the SUVCW. Brother Ward would like to see some camp take on the responsibility of developing a data base which could contain our ancestors and any other members of his family who also served in the Civil War. In doing so we would have an example which we could present to National Officers and say this is what we did and what it cost. Making it easier for perspective members, to locate possible, Civil War Veterans who would qualify them as regular members of our Order. What about those Union Veterans who didn't die in the conflict but returned to normal life and die and are buried somewhere without fanfare and need to be placed in the veterans data base?

Senior Vice Cmdr. Ward also stated that he would volunteer to serve as Council No. 3 to fill Daniel Hans, vacant seat until another member could be selected to fill that chair.

Cmdr Reeves, encouraged attendees to put the word out to the camps for members to take the time to take pad and pencil and go out into the cemeteries and actually take down data from tombstones to get the feel of what is really needed to do the job of finding Civil War Veterans who might not be listed in the National Registrar, and in doing so we can report to National on here is what we have done and this is what it cost.

Junior Vice Commander David Palmer, reported that he has contacted the National Officers regarding the changing of our Departments Name to include the Caribbean Islands and GTMO Bay Cuba. They stipulated that we did not need to change our name if we so desired. A motion was made that we do not change our name, seconded and voted unanimously to keep it as the Department of Florida. Brother Palmer also mentioned that his connections with National JVC-in-Chief Martin provided him with a contact for Puerto Rico Council BSA and encourages our Department Eagle Scout Coordinator to contact him. Brother Palmer was also given contact information for [4] JROTC Puerto Rico Units. JVC Palmer also reported that he has not received an requests for membership in the SUVCW from 5/15 through 11/15 which is highly unusual. A copy of his report was given to Dept. Sec./Trea. Whitlam so that contact information can be disseminated to the proper officers.

Department Sec./Treas. Read the Treasurer's Report for attendees and made the same available for their examination, signed and filed. He also expounded that the changes that have been made on various forms from National on Camp Status Changes, Transfers, New Member Applications and others are primarily directed towards adding an additional charge for members who have mailing addresses outside of the United States, or A.P.O. for military members. Of which we have only one in our department who is in the Members At Large Camp No. 25.

Department Sec. reported on the Mal Camp No. 25, and will verify and correct the rosters as needed. Only one member who has and APO address. Brother Peisen, who had paid his dues last year, for two years prior to the implementation of an addition 5.00 surcharge. Cmdr. Reeves made a motion that the Department of Florida covers the addition surcharge for the dues which he has already paid. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Secretary Whitlam also apologized for the failure of have a recording device to accurately record the meeting to be able to produce satisfactory minutes. Cmdr. Reeves, stated that he would authorize him to purchase a digital recorder.

Department Cmdr. Reeves questioned attendees, "What was the departments policy regarding a gift to the National Officers who attended our Department Encampments in the past to assist them in covering their expenses to come to Florida, and that he would entertain a motion to make such a gift possible. A discussion was held and a motion was made and seconded to give the visiting National Representative a two hundred dollar gift to assist in covering their expenses. It was unanimously passed.

DEPT MEETING CONT.

Department Sec. read the Dept. Chaplain's report which was emailed to him prior to the meeting.

Department Graves and Memorials officer, Ronnie G. McCracken gave his report on his efforts to acquire and provide need information for Camp Graves and Memorials officers to correctly register and record in our Orders files those graves and monuments that we discover and uncover in our respect counties that Department Cmdr. Reeves has assigned to each Camp to really be effective in our tasks and fulfill our duties in remembering and registering those who served our nation. It was truly unfortunate that not all of our Camps had members in attendance to receive his efforts.

Shortly, after three pm, Dept. Cmdr. Reeves, having covered all that was on the agenda for the meeting, reminded everyone of our Department Encampment coming up on February 20th and closed the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, to the best of my ability;

Clair D. Whitlam PDC
Florida Dept. Secretary

Attested to by

Charles S. Reeves
Florida Dept. Commander

Wreaths Across America

On 12 December, Wreaths Across America events were held all around the United States with ceremonies and the laying of wreaths at veterans graves from all wars. At one such event in Tampa at the Veterans Cemetery at American Legion Post #5 on Kenney Blvd. Dick Young and David Munson Chestnut inspected the grave of our camp name sake Winfield Scott Whitehurst and family.



Wreaths Across America



Civil War Soldiers graves

Left, Winfield Scott Whitehurst

Right, Sgt Sidney S. Fletcher, 44 IL Inf.

Below, Wm. Mote Co G. 118 IN Inf.

These graves are found in the old section in the back under the oak trees.

