



The Dispatch

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

March 2016 Edition

Elected Department Officers

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

Email - reevesoldfarm@msn.com

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

Email - davplm6@aol.com

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER....**Edward J. Manak**

Email -

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

Email - clairwhitlam@gmail.com

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

hk136ov@peoplepc.com

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

suveyor1@aol.com

COUNCIL # 3.... **Ronnie G. McCracken**

Appointed Department Officers

Assistant Secretary /Treasurer: Charles D. Custer PDC

Patriotic Instructor: Roger L. Heiple

Chaplain: David Acheson, PCC

Graves Registration: Adam C. Klohr

Civil War Memorials Officer: Adam C. Klohr

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Robert M. Jones

JROTC Coordinator: Richard D. Shaffer, CC

Counselor: Robert M. Jones PDC

Appointed Chief of Staff, Michael E Urell

Signals Officer: Steven A. Williams

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*

Looks like Spring is in the air...

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice spring weather and not suffering from the pollen allergies like I am.

In this issue we look at the The Department of Florida as it enjoyed its 21st Annual Department of Florida Encampment on the 20th of February in St Cloud Florida. It was at this encampment that they held the annual election of officers. Let us extend congratulations to the new and continuing officers in the Department! You see them listed on the right of this page. I hope I have everyone's name correct.

Also lets look at our plans to attend this years Annual Encampment in Springfield Illinois.

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

<http://www.dofsucw.org>

2016 Department of Florida Encampment

The Department Annual Encampment was held 20 Feb 2016 at the St Cloud Community Center.



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](#)

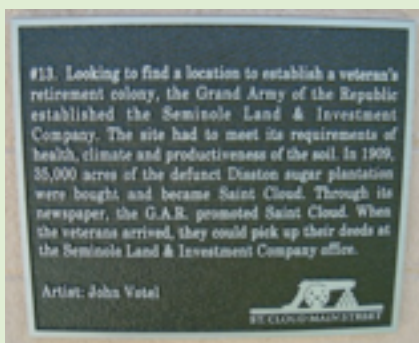
Department Membership-At-Large

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

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

In 1909, a development company bought 35,000 acres for the site of a Grand Army of the Republic veteran's colony. The Grand Army of the Republic was a huge fraternal organization formed in 1866 and composed of veterans of the Union Army who had served in the Civil War. The town was laid out on the south shore of East Lake Toho. Many of the north-south streets were named after the states from which the Union Army veterans had served. This heritage has been retained in the street names of today. St Cloud Florida was incorporated in 1915, and the downtown areas still features historic old buildings from that era. In addition to the interesting downtown section, St Cloud has developed a beautiful park on the south shore of Lake Toho. The park includes walking and biking trails and a nice marina.

The town has abundant large trees including many ancient oaks. There are all kinds of homes that date back to the boom days of the 1920s; many of them have been fixed up and are as charming as any homes in the State of Florida. - See more at: <http://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/st-cloud-florida.html#sthash.5LXLXCiw.dpuf>



2016 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S REPORT

Brothers, Thank you for your support in allowing me to lead the Department of Florida for a second and my last year. I am pleased to report every camp is represented in your elected and appointed officers for 2016. It has been my intention to appoint brothers who are new to Department Offices while also recruiting some brothers who have department experience. This to help; the newly elected and appointed brothers feel comfortable in their new responsibilities. As I said, every camp is represented at the Department level and this year we have a new elected officer and five new appointed officers.

Last year at our encampment I assigned territorial responsibility to each camp. This gave each camp specific counties that the camp would work to register the grave sites of our union ancestors as well as the areas to work for JROTC and Eagle Scout awards. Every camp then completed their list of appointed officer positions to work those areas. Let's talk about those appointed offices for a minute.

Patriotic instructor-This year Mr. GAR, Brother Roger Heiple, has agreed to take on that responsibility at the Department level. Now I've heard several times this year "We only get a few brothers showing up for our camp meetings" What happens at your camp meetings to attract your members? They don't come to hear your camp secretary or treasurer reports. Why did they join? Probably because of their interest in the Civil War and their ancestors participation. Does your camp meeting inform or educate about our Civil War ancestors or what happened during their service? Do you have an active Patriotic Instructor who makes an interesting and educational presentation each meeting? Members should attend your meetings because they expect to learn something or to want to participate in a camp activity like grave registration, JROTC and/or Eagle Scout awards or other camp activities. As I said last year, we are not a male bonding group. We are a lineage society organized to honor our Union Civil War ancestors. Yes I know, some of your members are physically unable to hike through cemeteries or attend night meetings or go to schools to present awards. Can they talk on the telephone? How about locating the Boy Scout Council in each of your counties and calling them to determine the time and place when their Court of Honor ceremonies are to be scheduled and then send a physically able brother to those ceremonies to award the Eagle Scout Certificate. Surely you have one. The same for the JROTC. Have those brothers who have trouble physically man the telephones. Call the High Schools in your counties and determine which have JROTC program and then get the name of the military person in charge of the program and ask to be part of their awards program. If you attend these ceremonies and trust me, if you do so, you will be proud of your participation. Don't mail it, present it.

This year I requested every Camp Commander and his afore mentioned camp appointed officers to send in a year to date report to the Department Secretary/Treasured and that the Department elected and appointed officers do the same. Why? I don't like to attend our National Encampments and have the national officers for Patriotic Instructor, JROTC and Eagle Scout say the Department of Florida does not submit reports on our activities. So this year we will submit reports on our activities.

I receive from national reminders of the necessity of my sending periodic reports on the happenings in the Department of Florida. My report in March 2016 to the Commander in Chief and the Council of Administration will also contain my displeasure with the national appointed officers. As far as I can determine the national officers for Patriotic Instructor, JROTC, Eagle Scout have not contacted their department of Florida brother officers for years. Maybe it is just Florida, I know we are not a big department but with your help we are going to be recognized! What we are looking for from those national officers is leadership, direction, guidance and encouragement.

Leadership, Direction, guidance and encouragement, that is the message I want our department officers to pass along to their counterparts at the camp level.

Remember an active camp is a successful camp.

Brothers let's make 2016 one of our Best Years Ever!!

Photos from Department of Florida Annual Encampment



Dept. Commander Charles Reeves presents certificate to Mayor Rebecca Border.



Dept. Commander Charles Reeves presents certificate to Larisa Roderick.



Larry Peck and Larry Oppenheimer from Camp #1



Highlights from the minutes of Dept. Encampment

Cmdr Reeves acknowledged the Guests present: National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski and asked him if he would join him at the docket. He also recognized St. Cloud Mayor Rebecca Borders and asked her to come forward. He presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and gift card for the Outback Restaurant for her recognition of the SUVCW in St. Cloud. Cmdr. Reeves gave her an opportunity to speak to the Department membership.

Cmdr Reeves asked the guard to escort Mrs. Larisa Roderick to the front. He then presented her with a Certificate of appreciation and a gift card for her also. Ms. Roderick was successful in locating the final resting place of 35 Union Soldiers in Mt. Peace, procuring and setting headstone for each. She acknowledged that the Presence of the SUVCW at the dedication ceremonies in Mt. Peace was so appropriate.

Chaplain Kowalski, expressed greetings from CinC Mortroff who was unable to come to the Encampment and is recuperating from a stroke. Chaplain Kowalski encouraged members to register and come to the National Encampment in Springfield, Illinois in August if at all possible. He also expresses some of the difficulties concerning the publication of the Banner, which has a new editor and it will be coming out shortly.

Encampment in Illinois. He then read to the Department Encampment a letter that had been sent to him and the Dept. Cmdr. From former member Michael Farrell concerning the Silver Anniversary of the Department of Florida and efforts which he and other members of the Department began over the years to write a book on the Florida Department as it began and developed over the years. Secretary Whitlam exhorted Camps to be sure and file the 990n e-cards with the IRS and send a copy of their acceptance email to him for filing, so he can fill out the form 11 for the Department and send it to National by March 13th. He also exhorted the Camps to work on the surrounding county high schools and Eagle Scout Offices to expand our efforts to honor those JROTC cadets and Eagle Scouts respectively.

Treasurer Whitlam gave the treasurers Report for the period of November 21 to February 16th. Treasurer Whitlam spoke to National Chaplain to verify the amount of funds that he contributed to the Olustee Monument Fund that he would like returned to him.

Chaplain Acheson gave a written and oral report on the members that we had lost during the balance of the year, Camp #7 Brother Richard Bickford August 4, 2015 and Camp #4 Brother Charles "Buck" Custer December 19, 2015, Camp #5 Brother Ron Irons, January 21, 2016, MAL Brother Bruce W. Beeson Jr. February 10, 2016, Camp #1, headstone dedication for Brother Jim Hayward on February 15, 2016. Chaplain Acheson also reported on the activities of Brother Martin Swartz as Chaplain and Rabbi at the Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville.

Councilor Robert Jones, asked what was the exact amount that remained with the Florida Department as an allocation for the Olustee Monument. Treasurer Whitlam referred to the previous Treasurer's Report where the allocation was \$640.00 remained after the settlement of all of those whom request a change in their donation and would be now minus \$25.00 to be returned to Chaplain Kowalski.

(A complete copy of the minutes have previously been sent out. If you request a complete copy please ask the Dept. Secretary)

Things to see in Springfield Illinois

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is the, 98,000-square-foot building is the new home of the Illinois State Historical Library and its world-renown Henry Horner Lincoln Collection. It houses 12 million books, documents and artifacts, 47,000 of which are artifacts from the Lincoln Collection, the world's largest. This collection includes, among other artifacts, an original copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th amendment outlawing slavery, the Gettysburg Address, and Lincoln's presidential briefcase, all of which had been stored in a vault for more than 100 years. These, as well as other items, will be on rotating display at the museum. Occupying an entire city block in downtown Springfield, Illinois, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum is the largest Presidential Museum. With over 50,000 square feet devoted to state-of-the-art full-immersion exhibits, special effects theaters and displays of original artifacts, it is also the first major Experience Museum of its kind. Read more at <http://www.lincolnlbraryandmuseum.com/index.htm>

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Located in a historic neighborhood, the Lincoln Home features actual Lincoln family furnishings and period artifacts in an authentically reproduced setting, revealing an intimate glimpse of Lincoln as a husband, father, neighbor and politician.

Old State Capitol

The Old State Capitol is a reconstruction of Illinois' fifth statehouse, the first to be located in Springfield. The building served as the seat of state government and a center of Illinois political life from 1839 to 1876. Lincoln visited the building frequently, both as a lawyer and a politician.

Lincoln Tomb & War Memorials

Final resting place of President Abraham Lincoln, his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and three of their four sons. It is located in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois.

Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices State Historic Site

A historic brick building built in 184. The law office has been restored and is operated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency as a state historic site. Lawyer Abraham Lincoln and his partner Stephen T. Logan moved their partnership law offices to a third-floor office in the Tinsley Block in 1843. The firm of Logan & Lincoln broke up in 1844. Lincoln continued to practice law in the Tinsley Block office and accepted a younger lawyer, William H. Herndon, as his junior partner. The firm of Lincoln and Herndon practiced from the Tinsley Block office from 1844 until about 1852.



From around the Camp

Camp #1 had its February meeting at the Pinellas Park Library. Dept Cmdr Reeves initiated new member Houston Tucker who has also agreed to be our Patriotic Instructor. Houston is very knowledgeable and will surely be a great asset to the camp.

The Department has decided that those Brothers with the appropriately long service in the Order should have service bars to wear on their membership badges. Brothers Young and Reeves were awarded 10 year bars and Brother Beyer, an original member of Camp #1, received a 20 year bar.



**Life is a Story.
Make yours the Best Seller.**