



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO AND WYOMING

Office of Department Commander

Garry W. Brewer, PCC

PO Box 3035

Grand Junction, CO 81502-3035

brewer62@bresnan.net

07 May 2017



Department Commanders Report to the 89th Department Encampment;

1. DC Salmon stated; **Having been elected at the 88th Annual Encampment of the Department of Colorado and Wyoming held 5 June, 2016 at Colorado Springs, Colorado, I hereby assume command.**
2. **DC Salmon in one of his first duties submitted the following, after a vote from the 88th Colorado Wyoming Department Encampment**

Proposal to Amend the Rituals and Ceremonies Book

The establishment of Memorial Day as a nationwide observance is due in large measure to the publication of Gen. Logan's General Order No. 11. Yet, the Rituals and Ceremonies do not include this document among its Memorial Day guidance. Many patriotic organizations include Gen. Logan's order in their ceremonial handbooks. It is fitting, therefore, that we as the heir to the organization that established Memorial Day do likewise.

The Department of Colorado & Wyoming proposes that the Rituals and Ceremonies be amended to include Gen. Logan's General Order No. 11 among the Memorial Day guidance thus providing a ready reference for those Camps and Departments that wish to incorporate it in their Memorial Day ceremonies.

We recognize that the Rituals and Ceremonies having been recently revised and reprinted, that it might not be practicable to implement this amendment until the Rituals are reprinted. Therefore it is further proposed that General Order No. 11 be included in the electronic version of the Rituals and Ceremonies posted on the national website.

Passed unanimously by the Department of Colorado & Wyoming in Annual Encampment assembled, 6 Jun 2016

3. **As of 12 July 2016 DC Salmon reported for his Camp Captain Lot Smith Camp 1 the following;** I have been working to finish the first edition of my Camp (Lot Smith #1) newsletter, a project initiated prior to my election as Department Commander. The newsletter has now been submitted for distribution to the members of the Camp.
4. **A report from Capt. Lot Smith Camp # 1 show that the following 4-8** Book of Honor and Remembrance & Ceremony has been started which in camp meeting members share a picture and history of their Civil War Ancestor.

“To perpetuate the memory of the *Grand Army of the Republic* (G.A.R.) and the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865.”

Supplementals and cost was spoken about as member are considering additional ancestors.

Camp member are working on a new camp newsletter

- 5. GAR Highway:** *The Utah Legislature, 8 years ago, took a chunk of the highway, from Spanish Fork, UT to Green River, UT and named it the Mike Dmitrich Highway, after a retired politician. They took down some existing GAR Highway signs, but did not replace them with the “new name”. Currently, there are only 2 known signs that correctly label Highway 6, the GAR Highway. One is in Western Utah near the Nevada state line. One is in the east, near Colorado state line on I-70. Currently PDC Richhart was able to establish contact with a new State Legislature, who is a distant cousin of his wife and there will be some meeting to correct this in justice.
- 6. Camp Webpage:** Changes at National are occurring that the process for a Camp webpage will possibly be done through GoDaddy.com and it is estimated to cost \$ 80.00.
- 7. Mt Olivet Wooden Cannon:** discussion included replacing the current wooden cannon with an aluminum one. It would cost about \$2000. The current wooden one was done as an Eagle Scout project many years ago. A new prospect has mentioned he might be able to assist in a new brass cannon at low cost
- 8. Teleconferencing:** Capt. Lot Smith is investigating the possibility this as a way to get more membership involvement at meeting. Looking for the right tech savvy member.
- 9. The following are Centennial Camp 100’s activities since last Fall;**
 - A Presentation to Rocky Mountain Civil War Roundtable and participation in the RMCWRT Study Group.**
 - B Brothers participated in Fort D. A. Russell Living History event.**
 - C 5 Nov 2016: Brothers participated in Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade.**
 - D 5 Nov 2016: Brothers participated in Denver Veterans Day Parade.**
 - E Dec 2016: Manned booth at Banes & Noble Gift wrapping event. Primarily a fund raising event, but also had displays and passed out literature on the GAR & SUVCW.**
 - F Dec 2016: Presented wreath at GAR Monument in Evergreen Cemetery, Colorado Springs.**

Recommendation: The Camp & Department Patriotic Instructor’s report form on the National Website should be converted to a “fill-in” form
- 10. On 17 September 2016, Legion of the West Camp 7 Brothers Gary Parrott PDC, Garry Brewer PDC, David Haake CC, Danny Agajanian provided Civil War era uniformed honor guards for the participants in the Evening Historical Debate event: “Meet Abe Lincoln and Jeff Davis at the Museum of Western Colorado’s Two Rivers Chautauqua “. This was a significant event in that it was participated in and enjoyed by area school children and adults alike.**
- 11. On the 9th of February DC William Salmon sent this out to all Camps of the Department and to the CinC; After much consideration I have decided that for personal reasons I must tender my resignation as Commander of the Department of Colorado and Wyoming SUVCW effective immediately. Because of this the Department Council was contacted and it was their vote to immediately elevate DSVC Brewer to take over leadership of the Department. The new Department Commander sent this out.**

A. Effective immediately, I assume command and control of the Colorado Wyoming Department William Buvinger will fill out the term of Sr Vice Commander and approved by the Department Council. All appointed Officers are to be currently retained until the 89th Annual Encampment.

B. The 89th Annual Encampment will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on 17 June 2017. All Brothers wanting to be elected please contact me to have their names enter on the record for the upcoming Encampment.

C. We thank William Salmon for his service to the Colorado Wyoming Department and wish him well.

12. On President's Day 20 February 2017, Legion of the West Camp 7 dedicated a new GAR Highway sign. This was done by the Camp and was represented by DC Garry Brewer and assisted by local historian and Department GAR Highway Officer Gary Parrott. The Camp members and local public came together at the Point of Historical Interest site at mile post 12 in Mesa County Colorado near Town of Mack. The Camp members were all dressed in Civil War uniforms.

13. From Chapman-Compliment Camp 2 we report; Last year we worked on renovating a dilapidated GAR sign in a local cemetery in Billings, MT. As to what we are currently working on. There is a grave in the same cemetery (Mountview) as the GAR sign was in that had the inscriptions chiseled in by hand on a large chunk of sandstone. The inscription is weak and there are some serious misspellings. We are currently working with the National Archives in Denver and local sources trying to positively identify this veteran. Once this is done, we will order and dedicate a new VA tombstone on his grave. Our plan is to once again have the event publicized in our local newspaper. This will help promote our organization and get the word out on who we are and what we do.

14. Tuesday, May 30th 2017, the City of Rifle Colorado, The Department of CO/WY and Legion of the West, Camp No. 7 Sons of Union Veterans Civil War rededicated the 100 year old G.A.R. Monument that was first dedicated on May 30th 1917. One hundred years to date.

Those also involved in the rededication were the American Legion Post Kelly-Hansen Post 78, Legion of the West, Camp 7, David Haake, Camp Commander, Garry Brewer, Department Commander, Sons of Union Veterans, Judy Crook Historian, Maryhannah Hansen Throm, Randy Winkler, Mayor, City of Rifle, and Taps played by Brad Swart. Camp members were Bill Buvinger PCC, Danny Agajanin and Alan Lambert PCC.

The City of Rifle issued a proclamation about the G.A.R. History in the area, and a new name was added to the monument honoring the Legion of the West, Camp 7, and Sons of Union Veterans.

15. This is what was reported to me by PDC Eric Dan Richhart.

“When I became Dept Commander, the CinC at the time asked our Dept if we would be willing to accept Idaho into our Dept. This was voted upon at that encampment in the positive. At that time there was 5 members at large. They became members of Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1. Their information was sent by Brother Russ the Nat'l Secretary at the time. I communicated with them

“To perpetuate the memory of the *Grand Army of the Republic* (G.A.R.) and the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865.”

and welcomed them. I met with a Brother McKinney, in Boise, Idaho and worked with him on Grave Registration and getting headstones. I also went to Idaho Falls, Idaho and worked with an Elaine Johnson who contacted me about a monument that was being destroyed by a large bush. The monument was repaired, with Camp 1 funds and a grant from Nat'l. The press was there for the formal rededication and Commander Barker the DC at the time was officiated. There was newspaper and TV coverage. At that time I also recruited a new member that lives in Idaho Falls.

Next I hear from a Loran Bures from Oregon. He was establishing the new Dept of Columbia which would include Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. I told him that Idaho belonged to Colorado Wyoming Dept and we wanted to keep it. I was informed that the CinC at the time had already given permission to include Idaho in the new Department of Columbia and that the Colorado Wyoming Department had no recourse could not do anything about it. I contacted Brother Barker and both of us contacted the leadership at national to no avail. I was required to submit to Brother Loran Bures the names of all members in Idaho. He promised that if members wanted to keep with our camp they could. What I was told by several that they had to join the new Department of Columbia. All did join the new Department of Columbia, except the one I recruited and he is still in our camp.

These Idaho members were the basis I was working on to be the roots of 2 camps one in eastern Idaho centered in Idaho Falls, Idaho and one in western Idaho centered in Boise, Idaho”.

At this time I have not heard of any Camps being organized in Idaho.

What was done by Loran Bures and accepted by the CinC at the time was underhanded and in our view illegal. What was brought to light at the 89th Department of Colorado Wyoming Encampment was the following below.

RESOLUTION #1 TO THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

The Department of CO/WY voted on June 17, 2017 the following Resolution:

Whereas, The State of Idaho was granted as a part of the Colorado Wyoming in 2012 by the request of the CinC as these Brothers had no Camp and were members-at-large.

Whereas, These Brethren were gladly accepted by the Department and assigned to Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1 for organizational proposes.

Whereas, These brothers were being visited by Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1 and efforts were being conducted to form 2 separate Camps in Idaho.

Whereas, Grave Registration work was being conducted by members in Boise, Idaho with support of Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1 and the Colorado Wyoming Department Secretary Eric Dan Richhart PDC.

Whereas, there was a monument restored in Idaho Falls, Idaho and effort made to recruit membership for a new camp

Whereas, The C&R states: Chapter II Departments Article 1 Formation, Section 5

"Departments may petition to divide themselves into more than one Department provided that a superior majority (two-thirds) of the Camps within the Department consent to the reorganization and no resulting Department shall have less than the requisite number of Camps for a Department

“To perpetuate the memory of the *Grand Army of the Republic* (G.A.R.) and the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865.”

and the remnant of the original Department shall not have less than the requisite number of Camps for a permanent status Department.

If the Department does not concur, those Camps wishing to organize themselves into a new Department, may appeal to the Commander in Chief. The Commander in Chief shall deny such request if he believes it is not in the best interest of the Order."

SECTION 6 of the same Article states "IN NO CASE MAY A CAMP SECEDE FROM A DEPARTMENT."

Whereas, the National Organization informed us that they were establishing the new Dept. of Columbia which would include Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho and when told that we wanted to keep Idaho we were informed that the CinC had already given permission to include Idaho in the new Department of Columbia. The Colorado Wyoming Department had no recourse and could not do anything about it.

Therefore, the Department of CO/WY contends that the removal of Idaho from the Department was in violation of the C&R and requests that the 136th National Encampment held in Lansing Michigan 10th to 13th August 2017 return the State of Idaho to the Colorado Wyoming Department and all Brethren be reassigned back to Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1 for accounting and further efforts to form 2 Camps in Idaho.

In Faith, Charity, and Loyalty
Garry W. Brewer PDC

Commander
Department of CO/WY
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Eric Dan Richhart, PDC
Department Secretary



DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 – Department File**
- 1 – Each Department Officer**
- 1 – Each Camp**
- 1 – CinC, SUVCW**

“To perpetuate the memory of the *Grand Army of the Republic* (G.A.R.) and the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865.”