SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR





Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC IN MESA CO

Article by Gary E. Parrott, PDC Department of CO/WY

Mesa County just completed celebrating its 125th Anniversary. Many of the service and fraternal organizations active today in the Grand Valley can trace their roots back to the first days of Mesa County. One of the first such orders was the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the largest and most influential veteran service organization of its era.

The GAR was a national organization established on April 6, 1866 (just after the official end of the Civil War) in Decatur, Illinois. Its members were former soldiers, sailors and marines who had honorably served

this country during the Civil War.



The GAR was intended to be a fraternal and benevolence society. Its primary mission was to assist disabled and unemployed veterans and to provide welfare for the widows and orphans of military personnel killed in action (the predecessor to the Veterans Administration and the veteran service organizations of today).

As an organization, the GAR was a cooperative of local groups known as -"Posts". Posts within a single state, territory or geographic region were collectively known as a "Department". Representatives from each department comprised the national organization.

During its heyday, in the 1890s, the GAR consisted of 45 departments and had approximately ½ million members. In 1882, the first Posts were established in

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MICHAEL WEESE



Michael Weese (a great-great grandfather of Brother Gary Parrott) was the second of his ancestors to heed the "call to arms" to preserve the Union.

Michael Weese enlisted as a private on September 28, 1861, at the age of 47, from the Town of Sale Creek, Hamilton County, Tennessee, in the 2nd Regiment East Tennessee Volunteer Infantry (the company was later re-organized into Company I, 2nd Regiment Tennessee Volunteer Infantry – USA).

*Major Battles: Camp Wildcamp, KY (October 21, 1861), Mill Springs, KY (January 19-20, 1862), Big Creek, KY (March 14, 1862), Cumberland Ford, KY (March 21-23, 1862), Cumberland Gap, KY (August 27, 1862), Stones River, TN (January 2-3, 1863), Monticello, KY (June 9, 1863), pursuit of Morgan's Raiders (July 4-26, 1863), Cumberland Gap Campaign, TN (September 4-9, 1863), Blue Springs, TN (October 5-10, 1863), and the Knoxville Campaign, TN (November 4 to December 23, 1863).

*Note: he was captured on November 6, 1863 during the Battle of Rogersville (of the Knoxville Cam-

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GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC IN MESA CO (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

Colorado and soon thereafter in the Grand Valley.

On March 24, 1883, at 7:00 pm, a meeting was held at the home of Judge John W. Boulden in Grand Junction for the purposes of organizing a local GAR Post. Present during that historic meeting were several prominent businessmen and local leaders: John W. Boulden, Leon H. Eddy, Owen D. Russell, Newton N. Smith and George W. Thurston.

On April 28, 1883, it was announced that approval had been received from GAR Headquarters authorizing the creation of Post No. 35 in Grand Junction. The first "official" meeting was held on Wednesday, May 2, 1883 at McClure Hall.

Local newspapers reported that during an elaborate ceremony on Decoration Day (now known as Memorial Day) May 30, 1883, the Post charter was publicly displayed and all officers were installed. The first officers were:

James R. Elliott – Post Commander Richard D. Mobley – Sr. Vice Commander Carlton B. Cozens – Jr. Vice Commander George W. Thurston – Post Quartermaster William A. E. DeBeque – Post Surgeon John W. Boulden – Post Chaplin



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GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC IN MESA CO (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

Leon H. Eddy – Officer of the Day David H. Binkley – Officer of the Guard William P. Harbottle – Post Adjutant James A. Layton – Sergeant Major Eugene H. Dunning – Quartermaster Sergeant

Over the years, Mesa County became the home to over 500 former Civil War (Confederate and Union) soldiers, sailors, marines, and nurses, many of which became prominent citizens, businessmen and politicians. Note: military pension records indicate that during the years following the War, a total of seven female Civil War nurses had Colorado addresses and Mesa County was home for two (Serepta Patterson and Mary Jewett Telford).

The history of Mesa County includes seven decades of activities specifically designed to honor its Civil War Veterans. These included elaborate memorial services, dedication of monuments, hosting of conventions, and other special events until the last surviving local veteran and member of the GAR (David O. Wood) passed away in 1944.

One of the most memorable events occurred May 12-14, 1910, when Grand Junction was the host city of a GAR Convention. This would be the largest assembly of Civil War Veterans ever held on the Western Slope of Colorado. Over 700 veterans were in attendance. Local newspapers reported the great pride that the residents of the Grand Valley had for this event.

Another very special and unique event occurred on Sunday, May 30, 1926. This was the first Memorial Day service conducted by the GAR at the site of three, recently installed, "Unknown Civil War Veterans" headstones at the Orchard Mesa Cemetery. These three headstones marked the final resting places of 12 unknown Civil War soldiers. It should be noted, those markers are the only ones of their kind in Colorado outside of a Federal cemetery or preserve.

Another special event involving the GAR occurred on Memorial Day in 1935. During an elaborate memorial service at the Orchard Mesa Cemetery, a granite monument was unveiled dedicated to the local GAR Veterans (reportedly one of the largest of its kind on the Western Slope). At the time, this event was believed to be one of the last scheduled ceremonies to specifically honor Civil War veterans ... as their ranks were rapidly dwindling.

But the special recognition for the GAR in Colorado did not end with that event. In 1939, during the 32nd Session of the General Assembly, the Colorado State Legislature formally designated US-6 as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway (Senate Joint Resolution No. 13) to honor its Union Veterans. This highway was the main east-west roadway through Mesa County and Grand Junction for many, many years. One of the highway markers can be still seen today along the south shoulder of US-6 near the Town of Mack. During its heyday there were two GAR Posts in Mesa County with a total combined membership of over 300 former Union Veterans. The Grand Junction Post No. 35 was in existence from 1883-1920. A second post, the Phil Sheridan Post No. 18 held meetings from 1911-1920.

In 1920, the two posts consolidated (because of dwindling membership) into the John A. Logan Post No. 21 and it continued to operate until 1944.

Today, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the successor organization of the GAR (so designated by US Congress in 1954), continues the tradition of honoring the Civil War Veterans of Mesa County, started 125 years ago.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS:



Just a Charter?

Brethren;

Yesterday, 8th July 2009, as your Department Commander, I received items more precious that Gold from Past Commanders Gary Parrott, Doyle Brewer and William Hinkley. They were the Department Charter, dated 26th March 1929, a Leather Traveling Case with Red Department Cloth, the Department Commander's Gavel and the Department Seal.

When I think of the hands that have touched these items back through the founding of our Department to the Grand Army of the Republic and the Boys in Blue who fought for our nation, it was a humbling moment. During this 200th year of President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, these items bring our nations history into view and how lucky we are to be living in this country.

The other day while reading the minute book of G.A.R. John A. Logan Post 21 of Grand Junction, Colorado, I found an entry dated 6th July 1931. The G.A.R. Post was forming a committee of the Women's Relief Corp, Ladies of the G.A.R. and the Sons of Union Veterans to perform the Decoration Day at the local Cemetery. These men in their advanced age were still performing their duty to their deceased comrades through their Sons, Wives and Daughters.

They did not want the torch to fail to pass. The question is will we follow through also? We must stay the course that they put us on so long ago by recruiting new members and bring back those brethren who might for any reason have dropped their membership. This is not about us, but about the Boys in Blue. We would ask you to find your old comrades and ask them to please come back to the SUVCW.

In the minutes the members of the G.A.R. made a motion that the property of the Post mentioned above be kept until all members of the post were gone and then these precious items passed on to the Sons of Union Veterans.

Today in Mesa County, the records of this post lay in boxes in a back room of a museum, only seeing the light of day when some researcher of odd knowledge and light comes that way. After looking into one of those boxes and seeing the faces, names and makers of our nations history, together with their Bible, Flags, Camp Charter, and other items, it makes me sad to see this brave history boxed away.

Their Bible really makes me understand, that yes they were once here, swearing their oath upon the Bible now open in my hands. Would it not be right to return this Bible to our Department for use again? Thus placing our hands on their Bible, to swear on it to carry on their noble work.

Eighty years ago, the new charter of the Department of CO/WY was given to us in the hope we might move forward with their work. Let us not fail these Boys in Blue.

It was more than a Charter; it was a promise to these Boys.

Brethren, May God Bless the United States of America and all who serve & protect her.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty Garry W. Brewer, PCC Commander Department of CO/WY SUVCW Brewer62@bresnan.net

CAMP 7 COMMANDER BILL M°CURRY



Photo taken at the Lincoln Birthday celebration on February 12, 2009 in front of the Mesa County Courthouse where SUVCW Camp 7 presented a time capsule plaque to the county.

Bro. Bill McCurry (shown at podium in photo at left) passed away on April 19, 2009 after suffering a heart attack. Bill was Camp 7 Commander and a civic leader in Grand Junction for many years. He was a true gentleman and an avid Civil War history buff who enjoyed the opportunity to meet everyone and converse with them on topic of diverse origin.

The following is the obituary that appeared in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel on April 21, 2009:

"William Earnest "Bill" McCurry October 5, 1929 - April 19, 2009 Longtime Grand Junction resident William E. McCurry passed away April 19, 2009 at St. Mary's Hospital, he was 79. Bill was born on October 5, 1929 in Portola, CA from the union of William S. and Mildred Bishop-McCurry. Bill joined the Marines in 1948 and later the Navy where he served during the Korean Conflict. He was honorably discharged in 1952. He married Agnes (Andi) Anderson on April 1977 in Grand Junction. She survives. For roughly 56 years, Bill served Mesa County in various aspects. He worked for the Grand Junction Police Department as a dispatcher, as head jailer for the Mesa County Sheriff's Department and the Grand Junction Fire Department until retiring in 1972. He served on the Grand Junction City Council for eleven years total and as

Mayor of Grand Junction in 1991. During his time with the Fire Department he taught fireman training to the BLM and various neighboring volunteer fire departments. He was known by his friends in the fire department as "Bird Seed" because if you heard whistling, you knew it was Bill. In his time off Bill helped

build houses or mined for uranium. He loved to play golf, camp or go fishing in secret favorite spots on the Grand Mesa. He was well known for his love of history, Bill was a Civil War history buff and a member of the Sons of the Union Veterans and served as Camp Commander #7. Survivors include his wife of 31 years; Agnes (Andi) McCurry of Grand Junction, CO; a son, Matt W. (Marti) McCurry of Fruita, CO; a daughter, Sandy Crabtree of Lamar, CO; three brothers, Jess McCurry of Eugene, OR; Ron Phillips of Newport, OR and Bud Phillips of Anchorage, AL. Other survivors include six grand-children, Scott (Tammy) McCurry, Matt J. McCurry, Amy (Anthony) Trujillo, Jarrod Crabtree, Tiffany Crabtree and son, Hunter. Bill was preceded in death by his first wife, Caroline Lampshire; a brother, Joe McCurry and a son-in-law, Rick Crabtree. A memorial service will be held at 8:30 a.m., Friday, April 24, 2009 at Martin Mortuary with Military Honors at 10:00 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado. Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of Martin Mortuary."

His leadership will be greatly missed by Camp 7. In Bro. Bill's absence Gary E. Parrott, PCC, PDC, will move into the Commander's slot to finish out Bill's term of office. Bro. Parrott is also now the Secretary/Treasurer for the Department of CO/WY.



Bro. Bill McCurry, PCC, stands beside the plaque presented by SUVCW Camp 7 to Mesa County.

MAJOR SULLIVAN BALLOU



Article by Bro. Rhy Paris

Many of us have heard the name Major Sullivan Ballou but some may have forgotten in what context they heard it. While you try to recall where let me fill you in on a bit of his history.

Sullivan Ballou was born in Smithfield, Rhode Island on March 28, 1829 the son of Hiram Balllou and his wife Emeline (Bowen). Sullivan lost both his parents at an early age and was them required to care for himself. He attended the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, about 25 miles from Boston. Upon graduation from Phillips Academy Sullivan attended Brown University, a private institution in Providence, Rhode Island and from there to the National Law School, in Ballston, New York where he graduated with a law degree. He was admitted to the Rhode Island bar in 1853 and began his law practice and spent most of his life devoted to public service.

Not long after being admitted to the Rhode Island bar he was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives and was a clerk there, later becoming the Speaker of the House. Being a staunch Republican Sullivan was also a strong supporter of Abraham Lincoln.

Sullivan Ballou married Sarah Hunt Shumway on October 15, 1855. Sarah bore him two sons, Edgar and William.

At the start of the Civil War Sullivan Ballou immediately ceased his political career, joined the Union Army and served with the 2nd Rhode Island Infantry. During his tenure in the service he was actively involved in a number of combat situations but also served as the judge advocate for the 2nd Rhode Island.

During the First Battle of Bull Run (July 21, 1861), Manassas for you Confederates reading this, Ballou took up a position in front of his men, mounted on his horse so that they could see him. A Canon ball from a Confederate 6-pounder hit Sullivan in the right leg completely severing it and killing the horse he was riding on. He was rushed into the field surgery hospital where the remainder of his leg was amputated. He survived for about a week and died fron his wounds on July 28, 1861. Sullivan Ballou was buried in the Sudley Church yard near where he died.

After the Union defeat at Bull Run the Confederacy took over the area and occupied it. During this time eye witness accounts indicate that Sullivan Ballou's body was dug up, decapitated and desecrated by some of the Confederate troops stationed there (This act was attributed to some of the members of the 21st Georgia regiment). Sullivan Ballou's body was never recovered and in its place charred ashes and bone fragments believed to have been his were taken to Providence, Rhode Island by his wife, Sarah, and buried in the Swan Point Cemetery there.

Sarah never remarried and later moved to New Jersey to live out her days with her son, William. She died in 1917 and was buried next to Sullivan.

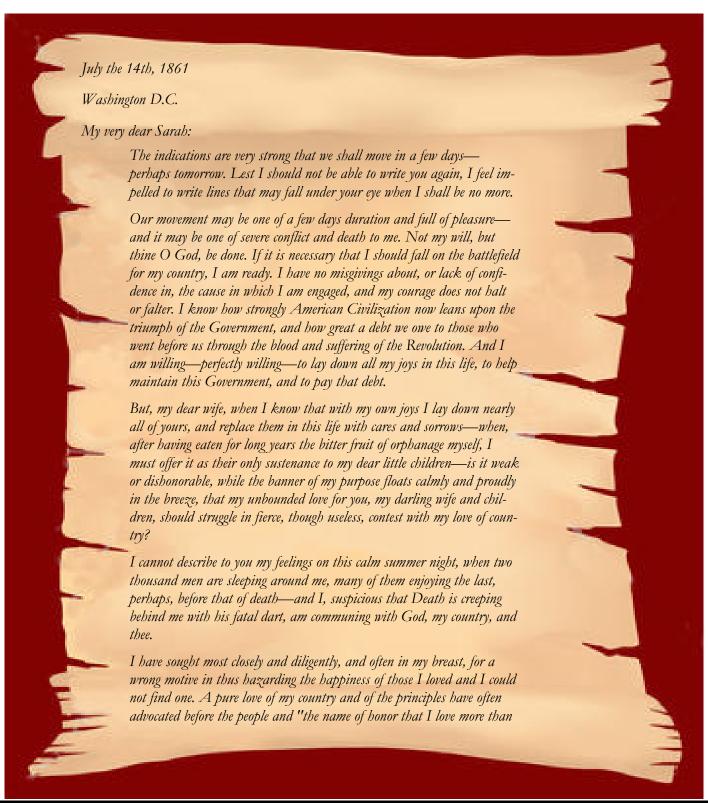
By now many of you have figured out where you first heard the name Sullivan Ballou. Yes, it was in association with the letter he wrote to his wife Sarah just before the First Battle of Bull Run, a letter that stands out as a perfect example of the desperation felt by soldiers just prior to going into battle and to their own

MAJOR SULLIVAN BALLOU (CONT.)

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mortality. A letter that expresses his deepest emotions and feelings, his anxiety, fear, disappointment, guilt and love along with his feeling of responsibility to his country.

Here then is his letter:



MAJOR SULLIVAN BALLOU (CONT.)

I fear death" have called upon me, and I have obeyed. Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me to you with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly on with all these chains to the battlefield. The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them so long. And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when God willing, we might still have lived and loved together and seen our sons grow up to honorable manhood around us. I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine Providence, but something whispers to me—perhaps it is the wafted prayer of my little Edgar that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed. If I do not, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name. Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have often been! How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness, and struggle with all the misfortune of this world, to shield you and my children from harm. But I cannot. I must watch you from the spirit land and hover near you, while you buffet the storms with your precious little freight, and wait with sad patience till we meet to part no more. But, O Sarah! If the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they loved, I shall always be near you; in the garish day and in the darkest night—amidst your happiest scenes and gloomiest hours always, always; and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath; or the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by. Sarah, do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for thee, for we shall meet again. As for my little boys, they will grow as I have done, and never know a father's love and care. Little Willie is too young to remember me long, and my blue-eyed Edgar will keep my frolics with him among the dimmest memories of his childhood. Sarah, I have unlimited confidence in your maternal care and your development of their characters. Tell my two mothers his and hers I call God's blessing upon them. O Sarah, I wait for you there! Come to me, and lead thither my children. Sullivan NOTE: It is likely that the letter was never mailed. Gov. Wm. Sprague obtained it, possibly when he traveled to Virginia to retrieved the effects of the dead Rhode Island soldiers, and returned it to Sarah after the war.



Department Commander Garry W. Brewer, PCC:

Garry W. Brewer was born 23 March 1945 in Santa Paula, California, he is the son of Grady W. Brewer and Esther E. Jackson. He married Barbara Ann Schmidt on 7 July 1962 in Santa Paula, California.

Garry's family, John Brewer, a Grocer from London first came to Jamestown in 1628. John is the son of William and Deanes Brewer. From that time on the family has been actively involved with American history from Bacon's Rebellion in Jamestown to the present day.

Garry's professional life has been in the field of public relations, title insurance and marketing. He is a licensed title insurance agent, title abstractor. Garry is also a certified researcher of National Archives and Records Administration and certified genealogist.

Garry Brewer has served in many volunteer positions including Past Chairman of the Mesa County Republican Party; 1997-99; presenter of How to Trace your Ancestors through Land Records; 1984-2009; Past President of the Sons of the American Revolution, 2005-2009, Grand Mesa Chapter; Sons of the American Revolution Elected Board of Managers, Colorado State Society, 2009; Past Charter Post Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans, Legion of the West, Camp #7, 1986-2009; Current Department Commander of the Department of Colorado/Wyoming, 2009-2010 of the Sons of Union Veterans; National Officer, Department at Large, Sons of Union Veterans Civil War (SUVCW) 2008-2009; Past Post Officer of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; 1986-2009; Military Order of Stars & Bars, 2009, Camp 297, Department of Colorado; War of 1812 Society; 2004-2009; Life Associate Member of the Vietnam Veterans; 1988-2009; Mexican War Veterans Association 2009; and Two Rivers Chautauqua committee member and speaker 2003-2009

Additionally, Garry Brewer is a public speaker and re-enactor of George Washington; a member of a number of historical committees within his community and honorary Colorado Governor's Aide de Camp and Honorary Colonel in

the Colorado National Guard, appointed by Governor Bill Owens; 2000 (Note: In the 8 years Gov. Owens was in office he made only 2 such appointments), and Mesa County Lincoln Bi-Centennial, Committee Co-Chairman. 2008-09.

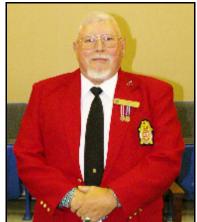
Garry is a Shriner, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Blue Lodge Mason. And he also received a National Lifesaving Award from a National Youth Organization in 1994.

Garry and his wife Barbara are active members in their church. They have four children, Mark, Auralea, Noel, Jennifer and 10 Grandchildren, Spenser, Jared, Rachel, Katie, Nick, Ethan, Jeremy, Maggie, Brianna and Jacob.

Garry is a dedicated historian and has been for all his adult life and is also the author of a book titled, Mesa County Assessors 1883-2009.



Department of CO/WY Commander Brewer at "Kids Camps" at the Museum of the West Living History Ranch at Cross Orchard Ranch in Grand Junction, Colorado on 06/22/2009.



Sr. Vice Commander, Rhy Paris, PCC:

Rhy was born and raised in Chillicothe, MO. He entered the United States Air Force in 1966 and served four years receiving an honorable discharge at the rank of sergeant.

Rhy has been in numerous positions in his professional life. Besides working as a clerk, department manager and assistant manager he has been a store manager for a large discount chain; a police officer for the city of Durango, Colorado; a co-owner of a sign business; installer, technician and design draftsman for a major cable TV company; and is currently the Assistant Director at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado in Grand Junction, Colorado.

He has been married to his wife, Sharon, for over 42 years and has two grown children, Barry and Kristin, and two granddaughters, Reigan and Jalyn.

Mr. Paris has been active in many organizations and is currently the President of the Colorado State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America; President of Colorado Vietnam Veterans, Inc.; Past Camp Commander for Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and current Treasurer for Camp 7; present Adjutant for the Sons of Confederate Veterans; Treasurer for the Grand Valley Combined Honor Guard; and NRA certified instructor in personal protection and pistol to name a few of his past and present positions. He is a Life Member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) and the National Rifle Association (NRA).

In addition to being the Department Sr. Vice Mr. Paris also holds the position of Editor for the Department of CO/ WY.



r. Vice Commander, Eric Dan Richhart:

Eric was born in Lynwood California graduated from West Covina High School, went into the Navy right from high school during the Vietnam War. Went to Radioman School in San Diego. He served on the USS Mauna Kea, USS Ajax and the Island of Guam. Eric spent a semester at College and went on a LDS Church mission to England.

He got Married in 1978 to the former Marilyn Jensen and have two Children Jared (former PCC of Lot Smith Camp) and Heidi. Worked at various jobs.

Mr. Richhart retired from the Federal Government in Law Enforcement and Security.

Present day he is currently Semi-retired until a good job comes along. Past PCC of Lot Smith Camp # 1 and Sec/Treas of same Camp. Past Sec/Treas of Co/Wy Dept for 9 1/2 years and Web Master. Has been a member of the SUV since 1996 and has also been a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He has been the Vice President General of the SAR Intermountain District, National Trustee and Alternate Trustee for the Utah Society SAR. Eric served as State Society President, Vice President, Genealogist, Web Master and Sec/Treas. He also served as Chapter President and Sec/Treas. A quote from Eric, "I think we need to continue to teach Patriotism and our true history and teach others to remember what our ancestors fought and died for, because if we don't we are doomed to repeat history and many lives will be lost. So many youth as well as adults don't seem to understand how great this nation is and could be by showing tribute to our ancestors and the great document that formalize this great Country."

Secretary / Treasurer Gary E. Parrott, PCC, PDC



Gary was born at Westover AFB in Massachusetts, where his father, a fighter pilot in the USAF was stationed after the Korean War. For the first several years of his life, he was very "mobile", residing in several states before the family settled in California in the 1960s. After graduation from high school he attended California State University-Hayward, where he earned a BA Degree.

While in college, Gary entered the Air Force ROTC program and upon successful completion was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the USAFR, with duty stations at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas and Mather AFB in Rancho Cordova, California. He remained in the reserves, attained the rank of captain, and received an honorable discharged in 1989. His military training included basic training at Lackland AFB during the summer of 1973 and the US Army Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, during the summer of 1975. Upon release from full time active military duty, he began a civilian public safety career.

In 2004, Gary retired as a sergeant with the California Highway Patrol after more than 27 years in law enforcement during which he received numerous commendations and awards for superior job performance. Some of his most noteworthy accomplishments include his time as a commercial vehicle enforcement instructor, his uncanny ability to recover stolen vehicles and his ground breaking efforts in the area of identity theft investigations.

Just before he retired, Gary became interested in the Civil War by happenstance. Soon after his mother passed away he "inherited" many boxes of "family papers, photographs and official documents". Included in these records were items and references to several ancestors who had fought in the Civil War (unknown to him prior to this event!).

Wanting to honor and preserve the memory of his Civil War ancestors, Gary joined the SUVCW (William B. Keith Camp No. 12) in June 2002 and soon thereafter, assisted in the formation of the General William Passmore Carlin Camp No. 25 (chartered on August 23, 2003). He served as Camp Commander 2004-2005.

A Life Member of the SUVCW and Past Commander of the Department of Colorado & Wyoming, Gary is currently the National GAR Highway Officer, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Department of Colorado & Wyoming and the Commander of the Legion of the West Camp No. 7.

Gary's direct Union Civil War ancestors include: Private John E. Mitchell (Co. G, 6th NH Infantry and Co. A, 14th NH Infantry), Private Michael Weese (Co. I, 2nd Tennessee Infantry), and, Private Alonzo V. East (Co. G, 5th US Volunteer Infantry).

In addition to the above listed lineal ancestors, Gary has several co-lateral ancestors (great-great-great granduncles) who fought to preserve the Union. Ironically, he also has several ancestors who fought on the side of the *Confederate State of America* during the Civil War.

Gary is married (wife-Lori Ann) and has two grown children (Lane and Lera). He resides in Grand Junction where he enjoys the history, legend and lore of the Western Slope and conducting research on Colorado's involvement in the Civil War.



Department of Colorado/Wyoming Council (L-R):

Bro. Daniel Senjem, PCC, Bro. James Davenport, PCC, PDC and Bro. William Buvinger, PCC. Photo taken at 2009 Encampment.

Department Council:

Bro. William "Bill" Buvinger:

In 1993 Bill retired from Civil Service with the US Air Force after 32 1/2 years. I was a Logistics Manager with U.S. Space Command.

From 1993 to 2002 he volunteered with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department (Washington State) as a Crime Prevention Officer. Mr. Buvinger moved to Grand Junction, CO in April 2002, and volunteered for 6 years with the Mesa County Sheriff's Office (Records). Presently he is a volunteer with the Museum of Western Colorado. .Bill is an NRA Certified Firearms Instructor and NRA Training Counselor (trains instructors).

Bill joined the SUVCW in 2005 and has held the following offices: In Legion of the West Camp #7, Senior Vice Commander, and Commander. Presently Past Camp Commander and once again Senior Vice Commander. In Dept of CO/WY, he served as Junior Vice Commander and is presently a Council Member and the Dept Guide.

Mr. Buvinger is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (president of Grand Mesa Chapter); General Society of the War of 1812; Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Military Order of The Loyal Legion Of The United States (MOLLUS); and The Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Bro. James Davenport:

I was born in Merced, California on April 26, 1936. My Mom and Dad separated when I was about 1 1/2 years old and my Mom re-married to a career sailor prior to the start of WWII. We moved to Hawaii in mid 1941 and I had a ringside seat at the attack on Pearl Harbor as we lived in a Navy Housing area near the Army base. We moved back to the 'states' in June of 1942 and Mom started a dairy in the San Joaquin Valley just west of Fresno, CA. I went to school in Firebaugh, CA thru the 7th grade when my folks sold the dairy and we moved to Carmel Valley, CA. I joined the US Navy Reserve while in High School. I graduated from Carmel High School in 1954 and after an aborted try at college I went on active duty with the US Navy and was trained as a Navy Hospital Corpsman. I spent about 10 years as a Corpsman where I served at the Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, CA, and a couple of Navy hospitals, then went aboard the USS Hornet (CVA 12). Then went to submarine school at New London, CT. and spent the next 5 years on board diesel submarines before I ended up in a hospital on Okinawa and a medical retirement from the Navy.

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY BY FRANCIS MILES FINCH (1827-1907)

By the flow of the inland river,
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver,
Asleep are the ranks of the dead:
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Under the one, the Blue,
Under the other, the Gray

These in the robings of glory,
Those in the gloom of defeat,
All with the battle-blood gory,
In the dusk of eternity meet:
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day
Under the laurel, the Blue,
Under the willow, the Gray.

From the silence of sorrowful hours
The desolate mourners go,
Lovingly laden with flowers
Alike for the friend and the foe;
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Under the roses, the Blue,
Under the lilies, the Gray.

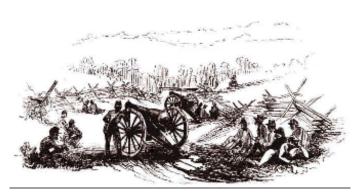
So with an equal splendor,
The morning sun-rays fall,
With a touch impartially tender,
On the blossoms blooming for all:
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Broidered with gold, the Blue,
Mellowed with gold, the Gray.



So, when the summer calleth,
On forest and field of grain,
With an equal murmur falleth
The cooling drip of the rain:
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment -day,
Wet with the rain, the Blue
Wet with the rain, the Gray.

Sadly, but not with upbraiding,
The generous deed was done,
In the storm of the years that are fading
No braver battle was won:
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Under the blossoms, the Blue,
Under the garlands, the Gray

No more shall the war cry sever,
Or the winding rivers be red;
They banish our anger forever
When they laurel the graves of our dead!
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day,
Love and tears for the Blue,
Tears and love for the Gray.





COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL DEPARTMENT OF CO/WY OFFICERS

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PHOTOS FROM THE ENCAMPMENT AND ELSEWHERE









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Then moved to Cortez, CO and several jobs as logging and Medical Lab Tech at the local hospital. One day I was contacted by the local Police Detective and asked if I wanted to be a Police Officer. Another career change. I spent the next 13 years with the Cortez Police Department as a Patrol Officer, Detective, and then as Chief of Police. Then I was hired by the local District Attorney as his Chief Investigator where I spent the next 19 1/2 years before retiring in 2001.

Then while I was photographing Civil War headstones in Durango one day in 2001, I was contacted by a fellow who introduced me to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. I joined Michigan camp 58 in January 2002. This was to honor the service of my Great Grandfather, PVT Adam Johns of the 13th OHIO Cavalry. There were several members who lived in Durango who belonged to that same camp and after a couple of years we decided to form our own camp. I was basically the Camp Organizer and we got enough members to start the Thomas E. Bowman Camp #12. I was awarded a Certificate of Merit on May 30, 2004 by the National Order for organizing the formation of Camp 12. The next year I attended the Department of Colorado & Wyoming Encampment and was elected as Jr. Vice Commander of the Department, The next year I was elected as Commander of Camp 12 in Durango and as Department Sr. Vice Commander. In 2007 I was elected as Department Commander of the Department of Colorado & Wyoming and served for a one year term. I have since been elected to the office of Department Council.

Early on in my membership with the SUVCW I began to document, on film and writing, all of the Civil War veterans gravesites I could find, and sent them in to the Grave Registration program. I had documented

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MICHAEL WEESE (CONT.)

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paign), confined at Richmond, Virginia, until February 18, 1864, when he was transferred to the Andersonville POW Camp in Georgia, where he died on April 4, 1864 (Andersonville National Cemetery, Grave No. 359).

Michael Weese was born circa 1823 in Tennessee. He was a farmer and first married (wife unknown) circa 1843 in Tennessee. They had at least one child - William Weese (born circa 1844).

William enlisted with his father in 1861 and they served side-by-side for the next 2 years. Both became POWs and were eventually sent to Andersonville. He died of disease a few weeks after the death of his father (Andersonville National Cemetery, Grave No. 12914).

Michael's first wife died sometime prior to 1849. He remarried, on June 30, 1849, in Hamilton County, Tennessee, to Jemima Bean. They had four children, one of which was America Jane Weese (Gary's great-great grandmother).

*Note: George Weese (Michael's brother and neighbor) also enlisted in the Union Army (Company F, 6th Tennessee Mounted Infantry Regiment) not long after he had learned of the death of his brother.



BITS AND PIECES

When the vote in the State of Tennessee to leave the Federal Union was taken in 1861, the people of Wayne County voted to stay in the Federal Union. But Wayne County was taken out with the Confederate States. Most of the men in Wayne County were Union Men and many of them went North to join the Union Regiments or became replacement for Union Regiments coming down from the Northern States, thus they were called "Home Grown Yankee". Many men stayed home to protect their families and keep the Confederates out of Wayne County, until the Battle of Shiloh, April 1862 in Hardin County west of Wayne County. After the Battle of Shiloh, General Grant placed his supply depot at Clifton, on the Tennessee River. Richard M. Brewer, his brother and cousins all joined Company E, 2nd Mounted Tennessee Infantry, along with some of my other ancestors, Willis D. Staggs and Samuel Murphy both of Company A. same regiment and George Oliver Hunt of Company A, 10th Tennessee Infantry.

The 2nd Mounted Tennessee was mustard into Federal Service to protect the supply deport at Clifton. When the 2nd Mounted Tennessee Infantry was first formed they were without tents, so they built "Shebang"s" or tree lean twos to sleep under, so the regiments got the name of the "Clifton Shebangers" and the name stuck. In 1864 while the 2nd Mounted Tennessee was out on patrol they were cut off when Nathan Bedford Forrest moved out of Florence, Alabama (Wayne County, Tennessee is across the river from Florence, Alabama). Forrest was on the move to capture Nashville, thus the unit report from the 2nd Mounted Tennessee will report "On Detached Scouting Service" or meaning they were cut off and could not get back to Clifton, Tennessee.

Richard M. Brewer's brother in law, Jasper P. Bromley was captured and sent south to a Confederate Prison Camp. Later in April 1865, Jasper was killed when the steamship Sultana blew up and killed over 2,200 POWs.

On my mother's side from the same county were Confederates. William J. Jackson, first of the 48th Tennessee Infantry and later the 19th Biffle Cavalry. He was captured the 24th of December 1864 in Pulaski, Tennessee after the Battle of Franklin. Sgt Jackson was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio and released in May 1865. The other family members were Lt C.S. Bowden, 54th Tennessee Infantry & 19th Biffle Cavalry, he died in late 1864, presumably during the Battle of Franklin.

George Oliver Hunt of the 23rd Tennessee Infantry was captured in 1863 and to get out of being a POW he joined the Union 10th Tennessee Infantry.

The 19th Biffle Cavalry was a tough unit under the command of Col Jacob Biffle. The Union Men called them "The Buttermilk Rangers" because when this unit raided a home they went after the buttermilk first because it will stop diarrhea or the "Tennessee Two Step".

One day the 19th Biffle Cavalry came upon a ridge in Wayne County, where they spotted the 2nd Mounted Tennessee Infantry killing hogs. The 19th Biffle waited until the hogs were killed and dressed, then they attacked the dismounted infantry, ran then off and took the hogs. It's a famous story in Wayne County, *called "a fine day for killing hogs and home grown Yankees."*

The 2nd Mounted Tennessee may have lost the "Battle of the Hogs", but in the long run, the Union Men won the War and the rest is history. After the war, most of the men from the 2nd Mounted Tennessee Infantry as former Union Soldiers and Republicans became the sheriffs, judges or other elected officials in Wayne County because they could vote.

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over 5000 of them when I was contacted to see if I might wish to be on the Grave Registration Committee. I accepted the invitation. Since then I have submitted another 13,781 new names into the Grave Registration database. I was appointed as SUVCW National Grave Registration Officer in May of 2008 when the serving NGRO, Brother Bob Lowe, became seriously ill.

On December 7th, 2004 I became a Life Member in the Order. One of the highlights of my 'career' in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was when I was awarded the Certificate of Meritorious Service with Gold Star by the Commander in Chief of the National Order in the Summer of 2008.

I have also discovered that I had two Confederate Ancestors on my Dad's side of the family, and two more Union ancestors, as well as two Revolutionary War ancestors. One of the Union ancestors served with the 3rd COLO CAV. He was a twin brother of one of the Confederate ancestors, my Great Grandfather, Thomas Wesley Davenport, 15th Texas Cavalry.

I may have forgotten a thing or two in the above life's story but it is probably enough.

James J. Davenport, PDC Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Daniel Emile Senjem

Brother Senjem was unavailable to provide his bio at the time we needed to go to press with this issue and we will include his bio in a later edition of the newsletter.

OUR DEPARTMENT WEBSITE



All of the Department of CO/WY officers have been working hard to put together a Department website that all of you can be proud of. The hardest working officer has been Brother Eric Richhart who accepted the position of webmaster and has been adding to and maintaining the Department website. We have added many new areas and items and will continue to add even more as we go along. Commander Brewer and Secretary/Treasurer Parrott have been working on the complete list of past Department Commanders. They have received much help for a few of the brothers out there but if any of you have something to add please contact one of them and give them whatever information you might have that will help.

When you get a chance take a look at the Department of CO/WY website and let us know what you think of it. Your comments are important and may just give use that additional idea or thought that will improve it even more.

To see the Department website goto: http://suvcw.org/co/deptcowy.html

RECORD KEEPING

We all get busy with our jobs, our family and our friends and often fine that the deadline for a certain report was a week ago or a month ago. In order to help us all stay on track the following information is provided to the Camps and Department personnel responsible for filing of timely reports:

DEPARTMENT OF CO/WY

Camp Reports:

Camps are responsible for filing the following reports at the appropriate time:

Form 4: Transfer Form – used anytime that you have a transfer of personnel

Form 5: War Medal Application - Authorized for any Brother who has served honorably in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States during a period of war or military

conflict as defined by the Council of Administration, and received one or more Campaign Ribbon/Medal as defined by the Council of Administration. A Form DD214 or a Form DD4, or DD215 must accompany any application for the War Medal. Entitlement is determined by the Brother's Camp at a regular meeting of that Camp. A gold bar naming the war or conflict in which the Brother served may be attached to the ribbon of the medal. This bar may not be attached to any other Badge of the Order.

Form 6: Honorable Discharge – a certificate of voluntary separation from membership granted to a Brother in good standing upon his request

Form 7: R.O.T.C. Award Application

Form 8: Military Service Medal Application - Authorized for any Brother who has served honorably in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States. If a Brother is qualified for this medal and the War Medal, the Brother may purchase both, but may only wear one or the other at any one time.

Form 9: Life Member Application

Form 10: Life Member Reimbursement form

Form 22; Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers

Form 27A: Camp Annual Report – deadline for getting this to the Department is April 30

Form 30: Camp Status Report - Effective April 30, 2003 the Camp Secretary must submit by the 15th day of the following month to the Department Secretary, two copies of a Camp Status Report form when one of the following changes occur:

- (1) A new Brother joins the Camp
- (2) A Brother is reinstated after being dropped for non payment of dues
- (3) A Brother dies
- (4) A Brother has a change of address
- (5) A Brother transfers in or out of the Camp.

Department Reports:

Form 30: Camp Status Report Effective May 30, 2003 the Department Secretary must submit a copy of all Camp Status Report Forms to the Executive Director by the 15th day of the month following the submission, along with a check for the proper amount of money due the National Organization for a new Brother or a reinstated Brother as provided for in the Constitution and Regula-

Form 35: Department Annual Report -Due at National Headquarters on or before May 31 of each year -Retain duplicate for Department Records

Form 49: Certification of Election and Installation of Department Officers

There are a number of other reports or applications but the above cover the main needs.

RECORD KEEPING

RECORD RETENTION:

- (a). All records are the property of the National Organization regardless of the point of origin. As with all real intellectual and other property, Camps and Departments hold records in trust for the National Organization through the authority granted by the corresponding charter from the National Organization.
- (b). The United States Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Director of the Congressional Budget Officer and the Comptroller General of the United States through the Federal Accounting Standard Advisory Board (FASAB) issue the Statement of Federal Accounting Standards (SFAS). The IRS requires non-profit organization among others to adhere to these standards.
- (c). To comply with the requirement referenced in paragraph (b) of this section the following Records Retention Schedule is hereby adopted and to be followed by all Camps, Departments and the National Order.
 - (1) Grants Records MUST be retained for a minimum of three (3) years after the grant closes with final report to the grantor.
 - (2) Cash Receipts Records MUST be retained for a minimum of five (5) years after the close of the fiscal year.
 - (3) Accounts Receivable Records MUST be retained for a minimum of five (5) years after the close of the fiscal year.
 - (4) Canceled Checks MUST be retained for a minimum of seven (7) years after the close of the fiscal year.
 - (5) Bank Account Statements MUST be retained for a minimum of seven (7) years after the close of the fiscal year. This includes: Checking, Savings, CD's, and any other form of investments.
 - (6) Records of Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds MUST be retained Permanently.
 - (7) Fixed Assets MUST be retained permanently.



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

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RECRUITMENT



The Department officers have set a lofty goal for the upcoming year in recruitment. The current strength of the Department is 68 members our goal will be to increase that number by 50%. Is it doable? Yes, if everyone will make a concerted effort to make it happen. Each camp would need to increase its size by 50% and while on the surface this seems a bit much the reality of it is that the breakdown would be like this:

Lot Smith—Camp 1:	Current membership: 8	Increase: 4	New Total: 12
Chapman Compliment—Camp 2:	Current membership: 7	Increase: 4	New Total: 10
Legion of the West—Camp 7:	Current membership: 16	Increase: 8	New Total: 24
Thomas E. Bowman—Camp 12:	Current membership: 15	Increase: 8	New Total: 23
Centennial Camp—Camp 100	Current membership: 22	Increase: 11	New Total: 33

The Department of CO/WY officers stand ready to help the camps in any way they can to achieve this goal.