

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO / WYOMING

Special Issue

2013

WESTERN

TRIBUNE



**Sons of Union
Veterans
of the Civil
War**

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Department of Colorado & Wyoming, Eric Dan Richhart - DC

Greeting from the Department Commander

This is my final letter to the Brothers of the Colorado Wyoming Department as my term will expire on 8 Jun 2013. These are my final thoughts.

It has been my privilege to have lead this Department since June 2011. On 1 June 2013 I will meet with Brother Allan McKinney and the cemetery sextant and the local monument person to discuss a monument for 16 unmarked graves of Civil War graves. I am still working to establish a camp in Idaho. And hope to visit the 3 brothers there. They are currently members of the Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1. I will meet with the other Idaho members this summer. We as a Department have continued with scanning and coping the G.A.R. Records, forms, charters, roster books and collected books outside of the local museum for placement in the museum or College library as started by PDC Garry Brewer.

On March 23rd 2013 I met with and represented the Department and SUVCW at the formal formation of the fort Douglas chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the Union 1861-1865. I met their with their President General Ellen Stortz who was accompanied by Chaplain General Shirley Wolf and Organizing Secretary General Phyllis Lawson. The Chapter will be led by Brenda Reeder who is a friend from the Daughter of the American Revolution.

I have meet with State of Utah officials to press the matter of re-designating US 6 as The Grand Army of the Republic Highway. It lost this designation in 2009 with part of highway from Green River, Utah to Spanish Fork, Utah being designated the Mike Dmitrich Highway. I have called on the House, Senate and Governor to re-designate the "Grand Army of the Republic Federal Highway and also to allow that part to also be called the "Mike Dmitrich Scenic Byway" We the SUVCW request public involvement. Again I have been re-buffed, but will try again after the elections to try and get some movement. I have formed a letter to the press and the newspapers but they stated it was not their cup of tea and I can only have it in the newspapers if I pay for it and it would be a public announcement.

Also I have been involved in trying to get a Civil War Statue to be built on the State Capitol grounds. This is a Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1 project and I have worked with the Camp. I have been having discussions with Brother Bert Smith about alternate sites like "This is the Place State Park in Salt Lake City's Emigration Canyon area.

Due to health and personal needs I have for the most part have had to do the duties of the Department Secretary/Treasurer. I still give Brother's Robert LeMaster and William Simpson a well done for what they did accomplish.

My thanks to the Senior Vice Commander for his tireless efforts in developing an **Officer's Handbook** for each position as a resource of Camp/Department Officers. Also for putting together a **Member's Handbook** to acquaint new members with the Camp, Department and National organizations. He also continued work on a booklet documenting the G.A.R. Department of Colorado and Wyoming. Began research on the history of the Department and Camps. Also done was a roster of all past and present members of the Department from 1929 as records were available. and I hope to have it posted on the webpage shortly. This will allow for ease of access and future modification of the membership roster and as a tool to hopefully renew past members into membership. Thanks also for the tireless efforts over the years of PDC James Davenport as the Department Graves Registration Officer. His work was of great value to the Department and National SUVCW. We Now have a great new Grave Registration Officer named Brother Craig Ayler. He is full of excitement for this responsibility.

My many thanks to All Camp Commanders who invaluable work has made being Department Commander a pleasure. I also want to thank the Department Council and every appointee who has worked with me.

Many Thanks to Brother Wally Weart for his efforts on the Department newsletter. He has done a great job following in the footsteps of PDC Rhy Paris.

The Department's web site is constantly updated and many new features will continually be added (current contact links, newsletter link, upcoming events link, etc.) for use by members and potential members. I will continue to work on the webpage.

I hope with help from each Camp to locate and list each G.A.R. Post not currently known in each State of the Department and where their records are found; to locate each grave of the GAR, record them for the Department records and digitally list them for all on the web page; to copy roster books, post cemetery records and secure photos.

I hope every Brother is having a beautiful summer and are hard at work in their Camps and Department and don't forget you wives honeydo's. Until we see each other have an eventful 2013 as I turn over the stewardship of this great Department to Brother James Barker.

Faithfully Submitted

In Faith, Charity and Loyalty
Eric Dan Richhart Department Commander
Colorado/Wyoming Department

Department Elects New Officers

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming held its 85th Annual Encampment on 8 Jun 2013, at the Masonic Lodge in Midvale, UT. Lot Smith Camp 1 hosted the encampment in this Salt Lake City suburb. Presided over by Department Commander Eric Richhart (Camp 1), the encampment passed several resolutions after hearing reports of the officers and Camps.

The first action taken was to ratify a proposed amendment to the National Constitution passed at the 131st National Encampment in Los Angeles in August 2012. This amendment added “the Revenue Cutter Service” to the preamble to conform to the membership requirements of the GAR. The resolution passed unanimously.

The next resolution, introduced by Senior Vice Commander Barker proposed changing the National Regulations to eliminate a duplicated line in Chapter II, Article IV listing the officers of the Department. Also introduced by Brother Barker was a resolution asking the National Encampment to request the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue an exception to policy allowing cemetery managers, funeral home directors and members of veteran or lineage organization to sign the request for government headstones in lieu of the next of kin. Both also passed unanimously and will require action by the National Encampment.

After all other business was concluded, the encampment elected the following officers:

Department Commander	James M. Barker, PCC	(<i>Centennial Camp 100, Denver</i>)
Department Senior Vice Commander	Gene Cheney, CC	(<i>Centennial Camp 100, Denver</i>)
Department Junior Vice Commander	Robert LeMaster	(<i>Lot Smith Camp 1, Salt Lake City</i>)
Secretary/Treasurer	Eric D. Richhart, PDC	(<i>Lot Smith Camp 1, Salt Lake City</i>)
Council Member	Garry W. Brewer, PDC	(<i>Legion of the West Camp 7, Grand Junction</i>)
Council Member	Gary E. Parrott, PDC	(<i>Legion of the West Camp 7, Grand Junction</i>)
Council Member	James J. Davenport, PDC	(<i>Thomas E. Bowman Camp 12, Durango</i>)
Patriotic Instructor	Geoffrey R. Hunt, PDC	(<i>Centennial Camp 100, Denver</i>)
Chaplain	Willis S. Whittlesey III	(<i>Lot Smith Camp 1, Salt Lake City</i>)
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Gerald F. Mosley., PDC	(<i>Lot Smith Camp 1, Salt Lake City</i>)
Graves Registration Officer	Craig A. Ayler, PCC	(<i>Centennial Camp 100, Denver</i>)
Historian.....	James M. Barker, PCC	(<i>Centennial Camp 100, Denver</i>)
Civil War Memorials Officer	Willard F. Hinkley, PDC	(<i>Centennial Camp 100, Denver</i>)
GAR Highway Officer.....	Jon M. Franchino, PCC	(<i>Centennial Camp 100, Denver</i>)
Department Organizer.....	Eric D. Richhart, PDC	(<i>Lot Smith Camp 1, Salt Lake City</i>)
Department Newsletter Editor.....	Walter Weart	(<i>Centennial Camp 100, Denver</i>)

Additionally, all members of the Department in good standing not otherwise entitled to a seat at the national encampment by virtue of their position or past rank were designated as alternate delegates.

Edward Livingston Chatfield

Edward Chatfield was born 4 Aug 1842, in Middlefield, OH the first of seven children of Nathan S. Chatfield and Margaret P. Herrick. Still unmarried when the country became engulfed in the Civil War, Edward enlisted as a private in Co. B, 113 IL Inf.

Edward first saw action at Chickasaw Bayou during the Vicksburg campaign in Dec 1862. He described the battle in his diary:

“The heaviest of battles is raging, and the wounded are coming in very fast this afternoon. Our soldiers were all cut to pieces. It was the worst sight I ever have seen. Our boys are being slaughtered by the hundreds.”

He went on to fight with his regiment at Jackson, Champion Hill and during the siege of Vicksburg. After the battle of Brice’s Crossroads, Edward was captured on 11 Jun 1864. He spent ten months as a prisoner of war at Camp Sumter (better known as Andersonville), Camp Lawton, and Florence Prison before he managed to escape.



Chatfield in 1863

Years after the war, Edward married Anna E. Bates of Hartford, OH. The couple set up housekeeping at Kankakee, IL. In the Spring of 1874, Edward traveled to Littleton, CO in search of land for his family. His mother, suffering from asthma, was advised to move to the Rocky Mountains for her health. He was met at Chatfield Station by his 1st cousin Isaac W. Chatfield, a prominent cattle rancher, mining investor, entrepreneur, water broker and Civil War veteran. Edward purchased a parcel of land for his father in Jefferson County and also purchased a parcel for himself from his cousin in Arapahoe County along the South Platte. Cousin Isaac agreed to add to Edward’s holdings. His mission complete, Edward returned to Kankakee, it would not be until 1879 that Edward and his family returned to take up residence in Colorado. His 1400 foot portion of the South Platte River now forms the spillway for the Chatfield State Reservoir.

In addition to farming, Edward won an appointment as Arapahoe County Road Overseer. Later, he won a franchise to lay water pipes for the city of Littleton and run the water works. He became the area’s leading expert in Durham wheat and oversaw the operation of the Littleton Canning Company, responsible for the distribution of canned meat throughout the West. Expanding his water business, Edward became the principal stockholder and treasurer of the Last Chance Ditch Company No. 2, the successor to his cousin’s original company. A longtime GAR Member, Edward was elected Commander of John C. Fremont Post No. 83 in 1895.



Chatfield in the 1880s

Later in his life, Edward suffered a series of strokes that severely affected his mental abilities to the extent that he was declared to be not mentally competent in 1917. His daughter, Edaline attempted to keep his ranch going but mounting debt forced her to sell it in 1920. She moved Edward to the old Soldiers Home near her home in Los Angeles, CA where he died on 3 Dec 1924. He is buried next to his wife in the family plot at the Littleton Cemetery. In 1964 before she died, Edaline donated Edward's three Civil War diaries to the Littleton Historical Museum where it remains today. Edaline also gave many of Edward's Civil War letters to her cousin Margaret Chatfield McCarty who co-authored The Chatfield Story.

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