

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO / WYOMING

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WESTERN

TRIBUNE



Sons of Union  
Veterans  
of the Civil  
War

Department of CO/WY  
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## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS:



By the time you read this, the turkey will be gone and we'll be well into preparing for the various holidays and Holy Days that follow. It might be a good time to review the first six months of the department's year.

Administratively, we've established an electronic meeting room where elected officers and council members can discuss and act on urgent matters between department encampments and developed two department level awards – for outstanding recruiter and outstanding camp. In August, I attended the National Encampment along with Commander Cheney and Brother Weart of Camp 100. We had a good time did our best to represent your interests. In November, I attended a Gettysburg Address Sesquicentennial event in Evergreen, CO where PDC Geoff Hunt participated with the 1<sup>st</sup> Colorado Volunteers. On Veterans Day, I rededicated the GAR monument in Idaho Falls along with PDC Richhart and Brother Brian Edgerton (Dept of RI). Also in November, Camp 7 participated in Civil War Sesquicentennial Event in Delta, CO, raising funds for the Delta County Historical Society Museum. Camp 100 has initiated five new brothers since June. I don't yet have recruiting data from the others camps. If Camp Commanders will send me a list of their new members since June, we'll print the names in the next issue.

And now a few observations on leadership from my eight years of military school and twenty years active duty:

**LEADERSHIP IS NOT ABOUT YOU.** This is the best advice concerning leadership I've ever received from a mentor. Leadership is about those you lead and

their performance is a direct reflection of your leadership.

**LEADERSHIP IS NOT A MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP.** It's a teacher-student relationship. Subordinates are not there just for you to wield power over; you serve them through mentoring, training and sharing your experience and knowledge to make them better and help them grow. A leader should treat every subordinate like a son or daughter, every peer like a brother or sister, every superior like a parent.

**LEADERSHIP IS NOT JUST ABOUT PRIVILEGES.** It's not just about sitting at the head of the table or wearing the red sash and carrying a sword. True, there are privileges that come with rank, but there is also great responsibility.

**LEADERSHIP IS NOT RANK AND/OR POSITION DEPENDENT.** It's a state of mind, a talent. Just because you achieve a certain rank does not mean you are automatically a leader.

**LEADERSHIP IS NOT A MATHEMATICAL FORMULA.** There is no precise formula that applies to each situation because every situation is different. Good leaders are adaptable. Each has his own style, but good leaders can make their style work under a variety of conditions.

**LEADERSHIP IS NOT AN END STATE.** It cannot be a stagnant condition; rather, it must constantly grow and evolve.

**LEADERS ARE NOT BORN.** Leaders are made. They are formed by experience and by learning from mistakes.



*Jim Barker*

Department Commander

### **Idaho Falls GAR Monument Rededicated**

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100) with Eric Richhart, PDC (Camp 1) and Elaine Johnson

On Memorial Day, 1911, the Joe Hooker Post No. 34 of the GAR dedicated a monument in Rose Hill Cemetery, Idaho Falls, Idaho to the memory of the veterans of the Civil War. While searching for her great-great grandfather's grave (Franklin A. Sanders, 10th Iowa Inf, Co I), Elaine Johnson noticed part of a stone buried in dense shrubbery. The cemetery was not aware it was there. Only after she pushed aside branches did she see the inscription and realize what it was.

On 13 August, the cemetery removed the tree. There was a second base hiding under ground. They moved the part they could see before pulling out the tree so it wouldn't be damaged. When they pulled the tree out, the bigger base came out of the ground with it. It was completely wrapped up in the roots. That tree really ate the monument!

Lot Smith Camp 1 raised funds to restore the monument. Department Commander Jim Barker rededicated the restored monument on Veterans' Day, 11 Nov 2013. The ceremony was attended by Idaho Falls Mayor-elect Rebecca Casper and State Rep. Janet

Trujillo. The Bonneville County American Legion Veterans Memorial Team provided the Color Guard and firing party.



More than 50 members of the community attended including classes from the Hope Lutheran School. After the ceremony, the students learned about the Civil War, the GAR and the sacrifices made by the “boys in blue” on their behalf. The new plaque on the base of the monument reads: “Rededicated by the Department of Colorado-Wyoming sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War November 2013”.



(L-R): Dept. Commander Jim Barker (Camp 100), PDC Eric Richhart (Camp 1), Elaine Johnson

**GAR Hall Alive and Well in Boise by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100) with Eric Richhart, PDC (Camp 1)**

The home of Phil Sheridan Post 4 is still soldiering on although on a different mission. The hall located at 714 W. State St. is just north of the Idaho state capital.



The hall, built in 1892 now serves as offices for the Univer-

sity of Idaho. It was placed on the National Register of Historic places on January 21, 1974. This building was 1 of 34 original GAR buildings that were built throughout Idaho.



The GAR building was later remodeled in 1970 to accommodate a new commercial building style. In this remodel, the open features of the meeting hall that accommodated the top floor of the building were replaced by individual offices that would better suit commercial practices.

The building was also extended during this remodel. The extension of the building is in the back of the building and features bathrooms and a kitchen on the first and second floors. Commercial tenants vacated the building when most of the parking slots were removed after the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. Apparently, having so many cars parked near the capitol was deemed a security threat.

Later the University of Idaho leased the building from St. Michaels Cathedral who now owns the building. The cathedral is next door. How it obtained title to the building is not known.



## Corporal Eza Elijah Jaynes – Mesa County Pioneer

By Garry Brewer, PDC (Camp 7)

(This story originally appeared in the Grand Junction Free Press, 26 Jul 2013)

On Sunday morning, June 14, 1863, as Corporal Ezra E. Jaynes (sometimes spelled Janes) lay looking up at the sky in a pile of logs, blasted trees and dead men, outside the Confederate Fort Hudson in Louisiana. He might have wondered if he should have stayed in the hospital that morning to recover from the disease that killed 5,000 other Union soldiers. But he had told his comrades that he might as well die from a shot and not in a hospital from an illness.

Early in the year, Ezra had been shot in his right kneecap near the Salt Works outside of Alexandria, La. Now on June 14 while he and his fellow comrades of Company F of the 8th Vermont attacked the Confederates, a rebel sniper shot him from atop the walls of Fort Hudson, hitting Ezra in the right shoulder. The mini ball had gone down through his chest and out his lower back and he had fallen backward into a pile of dead men and was paralyzed. His comrades, thinking he was dead, retreated from the field leaving him behind. He lay there during the day and was struck by an exploding shell seriously mutilating his flesh.

Toward the evening, men from the Union Soldiers Band came by to check out the battlefield and discovered Ezra alive and recognized him. They made a stretcher to carry him back to a field hospital. Before they could get underway, the soldiers and Ezra were taken prisoners by the rebels. Fortunately for them, the rebels didn't want any prisoners and took the Union boys back to their lines and let them go.

Over a lifetime that spanned 82 years, Ezra Elijah Janes (Jaynes) was a farmer, postmaster, business owner, a member of the Masonic Lodge, Odd Fellows, and the Grand Army of the Republic and husband of three different wives, father of nine children and a pioneer of Mesa County, before his death in 1916.

### EARLY YEARS

Ezra was born June 25, 1834, in Georgia, Franklin County, Vt., the third son of Chester Janes and Eliza Dee. About 1851, at age 17, Ezra graduated from the Georgia Academy. After graduation he and Mary Lamb were married in Vermont and they moved to Delaware County, Ohio, where he had taken a teaching position. From 1851 through 1861, Ezra and Mary lived in many other places including Chicago where he clerked in a store; in St. Croix, Wis., where he again taught school; and New Richmond, Wis., where he went into business, was appointed postmaster and his son, Charles, was born. Around 1861, Ezra joined the Wisconsin Home Guard and when Fort Sumter was fired upon, the guard voted to join the federal army and became Company F, 1st Wisconsin Infantry. Assuming the war would be short, the enlistments were only for three months. Ezra and his fellow soldiers were sent to Harper's Ferry in Virginia where he was a guard. After three months, he was discharged and Ezra sold his business in Wisconsin and returned home to Vermont. Returning home he brought his son, Charles, with him, but not Mary. When asked about Mary, he was silent. Over the years he told his sister and brother that Mary had died.

In early 1862, leaving Charlie with family, Ezra joined Company F of the 8th Vermont as a corporal. The 8th Vermont was assigned to General Butler's command and embarked from New York on Jan. 17, 1862, to Ship Island off the coast of Mississippi. There were 3,500 men on board, and they were at sea for 31 days. During this time, six deaths occurred, and Ezra said the passage was rough and stormy most of the way. The regiment was transferred to New Orleans where they fought several battles against the Confederates. Ezra was active in the Red River Campaign, fighting at Natchez, Natchitoches, the Salt Works, Alexandria and Fort Hudson where Ezra was shot and left for dead.



### MORE BATTLE WOUNDS

After Ezra was found by the Union Soldiers Band, he was placed in a field hospital where the doctors thought there was little hope for him and left him to die. Later seeing he was still alive, they used a musket ramrod with a handkerchief as a swab to push through the wound to flush out maggots. The doctors did this for 10 days. He was then taken 14 miles over a rough road by Army wagon to a steamboat for transport to a New Orleans hospital. There, because of the large number of wounded soldiers, his treatment was limited and he nearly starved. His wound again became infected and according to Ezra it was "a nest of insects."

He said he was in the New Orleans hospital from late June to late fall. In November 1863, he was granted a furlough and made his way as best he could to his home in Vermont. He was scarcely able to walk even with the aid of a stick or help from a fellow man. Traveling up the Mississippi, without money and nearly naked, he finally made it home only to find his 6-year-old son, Charlie, had just died and was buried in the Georgia Plains cemetery in the family plot.

With family help he eventually recovered from his wounds and in 1864 took a boat from New York to New Orleans and reported back to the 8th Vermont for duty. Just four weeks later, Ezra was in a skirmish at the Opelousas Railroad and was shot a third time, receiving a flesh wound in the right thigh. He was transferred to 164th Company, 2nd Battalion Veterans Reserve Corps and sent to New York. Ezra, along with this unit, was sent to Petersburg, Va., where he was shot a fourth time in the right thigh, just about 2 inches above his right kneecap.

The 164th Company, Veterans Reserve Corps was organized at New Orleans, La., on March 19, 1864. They were a group of soldiers who by their wounds were unable to fight and did jobs such as hospital stewards and guards that freed other soldiers for combat. Because they were wounded in the line of duty, the Veterans Reserve Corps served as honor guards for President Abraham

Lincoln's funeral train and burial.

After Ezra's fourth wound, he received an honorable discharge from the Army on June 22, 1865, in Brattleboro, Vt., and at age 31 returned home. At this point in his life, he had lost a wife and son, saw a considerable amount of combat, was shot four times and left for dead. He was lucky to be alive.

### POST WAR

Ezra spent a short time in the comfort of home and friends, and in 1866, saying goodbye at the grave of his son, Charlie, he again moved west to Will County, Ill. There he rented a 240-acre farm until 1868 when he bought 160 acres of unbroken prairie and developed a fine farm. Seriously crippled from his war wounds, he was obliged to hire most of the labor but took pride in being able to do some plowing with a riding plow and some grain cutting and hay raking.

Also during this time, Ezra added a Y to his last name (Jaynes) and married Eliza Jane "Jennie" Rockwell Yates on Jan. 17, 1866. She was the widow of George W. Yates, a Union soldier who had died in the war.

Ezra had failed to tell Jennie about his first wife, Mary Lamb, and at the wedding dinner his new sister-in-law, Minerva Craig, mentioned to Jennie that Ezra had been married before. Jennie became so upset she ran out of the room. Ezra, of course, followed after her inquiring as to what had upset her. When she told him, Ezra said if she did not wish to live with him she would not have to and there would be no harm done.

Apparently, she forgave him because Ezra and Jennie had three children: Lottie, who died as an infant, and Estella and Arthur Jaynes. Jennie became ill in late 1869 and was cared for by her aunt at the aunt's home in Manhattan, Ill., while Ezra stayed home to maintain the farm. One of Jennie's visitors was her friend, Mary A. Klingler. She first met Ezra while helping take care of Jennie and after Jennie's death on July 10, 1870, a friendship developed between him and Mary Klingler. On March 12, 1871, Ezra and Mary were married at Elmwood, Ill. She was the daughter of Elias

Klingler and Sarah Moyer.

Ezra and Mary added to their small family of Estella and Arthur, five more children: four boys, Lester, Oscar, Chester and Alfred and a girl, Edith. Mary knew of Ezra's first wife and child Charlie, even though Ezra never told her. She wrote in a pension letter: "I never said anything to him about it. I felt bad about it that he did not tell me so I never mentioned it to him and he never mentioned the subject to me."

Because of his war wounds, it is assumed he wanted to move to drier climate. While he was traveling to check out drier areas, his oldest daughter Estella passed away in Illinois in 1880. Ezra, unable to enjoy physical recreation, turned to books and was active in the Masonic Lodge No. 40. He was also a Republican of the staunchest sort and was asked to run for office, but told them NO because of his crippled condition.

#### SETTLES IN MESA COUNTY

In 1891, when Grand Junction was about 10 years old, the Jaynes family came to town. Ezra rented his farm in Illinois to a tenant, and with \$12,000 in his pocket he purchased 10 acres of land on Fruit Ridge in Mesa County. He had orchard trees and made other improvements and later sold this property to one of his sons. He eventually sold his Illinois property and by 1902, Ezra retired, owning more than 1,000 acres of land in Mesa County. This area agreed with him and his family and Ezra was at peace here in Happy Valley.

During his time here, he was a member of the John A. Logan Post 35 and the Phil Sheridan Post 18 of the Grand Army of the Republic. During the reunion of the Department of CO/WY in May 1910, where over 800 Union veterans came to town, he drove all the injured war veterans in a wagon down Main Street in the G.A.R. parade. Pain was always his companion and in 1916, his right foot became gangrenous and affected his toes. The newspaper reported that while under the blinding pain of many operations, he insisted on no anesthetic and watched the surgeon remove

his toes from his right leg, one by one over a few months. Ezra was quoted as saying "the suffering was unimportant." Around the middle of May the doctors said his right foot needed to be amputated. Ezra thought about it and decided to have the operation and this time used anesthetic. He came through the operation without pain, but the next morning the man who with his comrades had fought for our country and suffering from illness and wounds answered the final bugle call and retired from the picket line.

Ezra Jaynes died May 30, 1916, and was buried by the members of the Masonic Lodge and Grand Army of the Republic in his little tent of green (grave) as his comrades called it, in the



Orchard Mesa Cemetery. He was survived by his son, Arthur, by Jennie Rockwell and his five children by Mary Klingler. He died a brave and earnest defender of the United States of America. Apparently, there was a plan for this man who was left for dead so many years before.

#### POSTSCRIPT

Mary Klingler Jaynes lived on in Grand Junction until Dec. 23, 1928, when she died and was buried next to Ezra. About a month before her death, she insisted on having her 10 family members living in Grand Junction as her guests for Thanksgiving dinner, where she cooked and served it herself. According to her family, a few days after Thanksgiving she became ill with a cold, and a few days before Christmas it turned into bronchial trouble and she was hospitalized. When Mary realized she was not going to get better, she insisted on being brought home to die in her own bed. With a clear mind, she walked from the car into her home. She was survived by all her five children: Lester, Oscar, Chester, Alfred and Edith.

One of their grandchildren, Bryson Jaynes, wrote: "My grandparents strongly remembered the Civil War; the family generally had a gathering at their house for Memorial Day, which originated after

the Civil War. The home at 347 White Ave. was only a couple of blocks to Main Street where we could watch the Veterans Parade and then go back to the house for dinner and to spend the afternoon and evening."

The Jaynes home on White is the current location of the Grand Junction Post Office. Interestingly, Ezra served twice as a postmaster back east.

Ezra and Mary loved family and the place where they had such wonderful memories. Mary cooked that last Thanksgiving dinner for her family, imparting a lasting memory of love. They believed love is a gift better than gold and those memories bring warmth and smiles years after loved ones are gone.

Garry Brewer is storyteller of the tribe; finder of odd knowledge and uninteresting items; a bore to his grandchildren; a pain to his wife on spelling; but a locator of golden nuggets, truths and pearls of wisdom. Email Garry at [brewer62@bresnan.net](mailto:brewer62@bresnan.net).

*SOURCES & PHOTOS: Museum of Western Colorado, Loyd Files Room, Michael Menard, Wanda Allen, Snap Photo, Grand Junction News Records, Daily Sentinel Records, Grand Army of the Republic, John A. Logan Post 35 and Phil Sheridan Post 18, Department of CO/WY, Pension Records of Ezra E. Janes (Jaynes) Dennis M. Edelin Chief, Forms Reference Section, Archival Operations - Washington, DC, Vermont, Vital Records, Wisconsin Union Volunteers, Shawna Hilton, Will County, Illinois Biographies, Progressive Men of Western Colorado, Siege of Port Hudson, Services of the Grand Army of the Republic 1893 and Ritual Book, Grand Army of the Republic 1903, Vicki Beltran, City of Grand Junction, Bullet and Shell, the Civil War As the Soldier Saw it, by George F. Williams, 1882.*



A West Allen photo of our "Boys and Girl in Blue" in front of the Museum of Western Colorado before museum trip our trip to Delta. With Legion of the West, Camp 7, Sons of Union Veterans, we attended the showing of the movie "Copperhead"

L to R: Mark Brewer, Spenser Brewer, Cecil Wilkenson, Bennett Young, Camp Commander, Celia Fournier, Michael Menard, Frank Nemanich, Chess Neff, Rob Elliott, Danny Agajanian Camp Senior Vice Commander, Garry Brewer Past Department Commander.

Missing from photo is Alan Lambert, Past Camp Commander who was changing into his uniform. Note on the drum, a little hard to read, but the wording is "Second Mounted Tennessee Infantry, Company E"

**Joshua Chamberlain's Medal of Honor Found in a Book** by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100) [*Compiled from various news accounts*]

Thirty years after the fact, Brevet Major General Joshua Chamberlain was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg, 2 Jul 1863. President Grover Cleveland bestowed the medal on Chamberlain on 11 Aug 1893.



One hundred and twenty years after he received it, Chamberlain's medal turned up at the Pejepscot Historical Society in Brunswick, ME. After Chamberlain's death in 1914, the medal passed through the family to his last living relative - granddaughter Rosamond Allen. When she died in 2000, her estate was donated to the First Parish Church of Duxbury. Imagine his surprise when the finder discovered the medal between the pages of one of her books that he purchased at the Church's fundraising sale. The anonymous finder donated the medal to the historical society.

The society was skeptical of the medal's authenticity as Chamberlain's Medal of Honor is on display in the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections and Archives at Bowdoin College. However, historians, the Smithsonian, Library of Congress, and the U.S Army all pronounced it genuine.

The confusion resulted from the fact that Chamberlain received two different versions of the Medal of Honor. The medal presented by President Cleveland was the typical Civil War version (type I) with the ribbon consisting of a blue chief with vertical red & white stripes. In 1896, due to a change in the law which provided for wearing a rosette or ribbon in lieu of the medal itself, the medal was redesigned by changing the ribbon to red with blue & white stripes. It was too difficult to manufacture rosette & ribbons using the original style ribbon. Chamberlain's medal was re-ribboned with the new ribbon effectively converting it to a type II medal. News reports state that the new ribbon was wrapped around the original ribbon although it's not apparent in the photo. In 1904, the medal was again redesigned largely to avoid being confused with the GAR membership badge. The new design, the so-called Gillespie or type III medal, resulted in the now familiar wreathed star with the star filled light blue ribbon. Recipients of earlier versions of the medal were allowed to exchange their medal for the new design. This Chamberlain did in 1907. This is the medal that is displayed at Bowdoin College. According to the regulations at the time, recipients could elect to keep their old medal if they promised not to wear both at same time. This Chamberlain elected to keep the original medal.

**Joshua Chamberlain's Medals**



Original Medal with 1896 Ribbon



1904 Medal



### Medal of Honor Citation

Rank and organization: Colonel, 20th Maine Infantry. Place and date: At Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863. Entered service at: Brunswick, Maine. Born: September 8, 1828, Brewer, Maine. Date of issue: August 11, 1893.

### Citation:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 2 July 1863, while serving with 20th Maine Infantry, in action at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, for daring heroism and great tenacity in holding his position on the Little Round Top against repeated assaults, and carrying the advance position on the Great Round Top.

There is no indication at this time that the FBI will pursue the church for selling the medal or the donor for using the mails to ship the medal all violations of the Stolen Valor Act.

### Sesquicentennial of the Gettysburg Address Observed at Hiwan Homestead by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)



John Voehl portrays President Lincoln

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was celebrated 2 Nov 2013 at Hiwan Homestead Museum in Evergreen, CO. John Voehl appeared in his persona of President Lincoln to recite the Gettysburg Address and explain its genesis.

The commemoration the speech's anniversary has long been celebrated by the Sons of Union Veterans. Originally called Veteran's Night, 19 November was observed by Camps in memory of

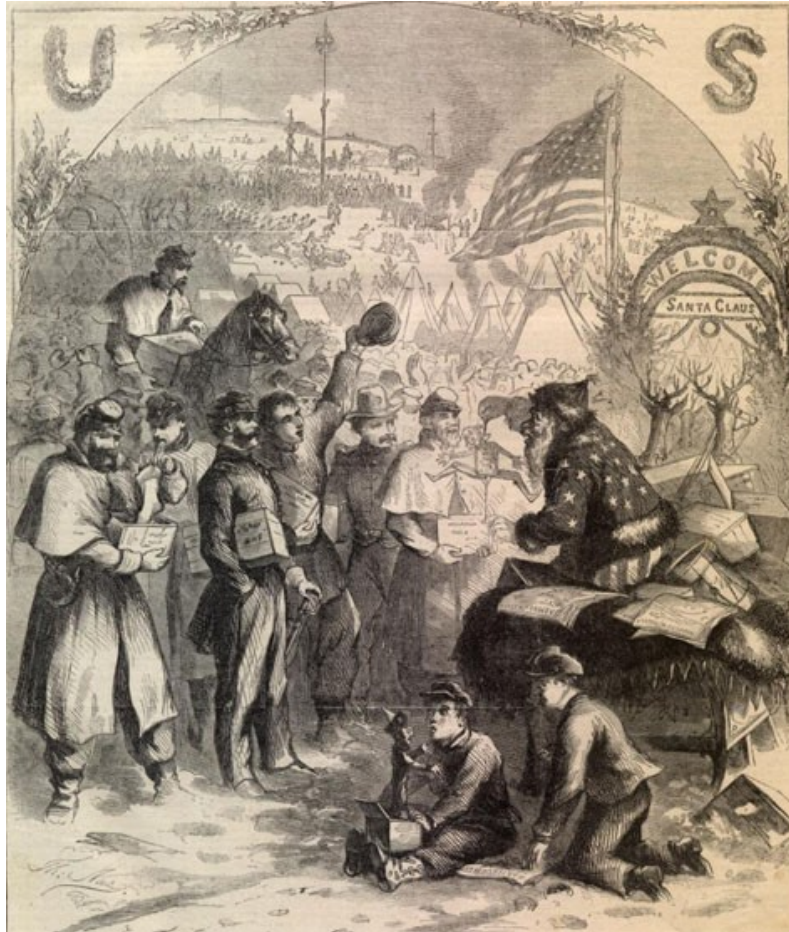
Lincoln and the soldiers, sailors and marines of 1861-65. With the death of Comrade Albert Woolson in 1956, and the passing of the Grand Army of the Republic, the commemoration was later became known as "Remembrance Day", and a parade and ceremony has continued to be observed in Gettysburg on the Saturday closest to November 19th ever since. Many Camps and Department hold similar celebrations.

Hiwan Homestead Museum is a 17 room log home and an outstanding example of rustic architecture. It was originally a single room cabin converted into a summer home for Civil War widow Mary Neosho Williams and her daughter Josepha. Many additions were added starting in 1890 and lasting over twenty years. To accommodate many overnight guests, Mrs. Williams had several semi-permanent tents constructed on the property. The property was later owned by Darst Buchanan in 1938. Mrs. Buchanan named it Hiwan Ranch and the family raised prized Hereford cattle. Jefferson County Open Space purchased the house in 1974. It is interesting to note that Dr. F. J. Bancroft, the first Commander of the GAR Dept. of Colorado had a summer home just down the road.



Dept. Commander Jim Barker (1) talks with President Lincoln while PDC Geoff Hunt (2d from right) regales members of the 1st CO Vols with war stories.

The event also included a Civil War encampment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Colorado Volunteers and a rally by the Abolitionist Society.



Thomas Nast's illustration of Santa Claus visiting Union troops near Fredericksburg at the end of 1862, published by Harper's Weekly. One soldier seems to think that Santa's bag needed to have more than socks! Thanks to Don Bishop



**I WANT YOU**

## **WRITE AN ARTICLE!**

We need your articles for publication in  
the Western Tribune.

Photographs, etc., accompanying articles are much  
appreciated.

Send your articles & photos to the Editor at: [wlg@nilenet.com](mailto:wlg@nilenet.com)

**Department Commanders Gather**



Past Department Commanders gather for the GAR Department of CO & WY Annual Encampment. L-R (with years of their command): O. S. Reed (1914-15), James E. Jewel, PCinC (1921-22), Richard H. Hoffman (1936-37), George R. Metz (1943-45), J. H. Pearce (1937-38), Charles H. Pridmore (1934-35), Lewis H. Easterly (1938-41), Robert T. Bryan (1946-48). The date of the photo is unknown. Not all of these Comrades had been elected Commander at the time of the photo was taken. Comrade Bryan was the final Department Commander, the last member of the GAR in the Department and the last Union Civil War soldier in Colorado.

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