

# 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

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## MARSHALL HOPE AWARD

Western Tribune Best Department Newsletter 2014



Brothers,

T. E. Bowman Camp 12 has voted to disband. The Department will hold their charter for one year while efforts are made to repopulate the

Camp. Department Order # 2 addresses this.

The Department Encampment will be Sunday 5 June 2016 at The Academy Hotel. Senior Vice CIC Martin will be attendance. Any members seeking Office please advise me. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The National Encampment, 11- 14 August 2016, will be at The Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield Illinois. Any members that wish to attend may get their Credentials from the Department Secretary. A Credential Card will be needed. All Camps please select your delegates.

Memorial Day will soon be upon us. I hope that all Camps and members will be involved in an activity.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

L. E. Cheney, Commander  
Dept. Colorado & Wyoming



## Colorado's Newest GAR Monument Finally Completed by Jim Barker, PDC (Camp 100)

Colorado's newest GAR monument was finally completed 24 February with the setting of the monumental stone on the site of the GAR Monument and Veterans Memorial Walkway at Denver's historic Riverside Cemetery. Centennial Camp 100 has been working on this project since as far back as 2005. The project was originally conceived by late Brother Cliff Dougal who was instrumental in raising the seed money for it. It took several years to refine the design and produce a plan that would meet the requirement of the cemetery company. Approval to begin work was finally granted through the good offices of Brother Robert Fullerton, Chairman of the Fairmount Cemetery Company. The work was done in three phases.

Phase I was the construction of a raised concrete platform and sidewalk around the existing flag pole. This was completed by the contractor in June 2013. Phase II was the laying of an eight by forty foot brick walkway from the platform to the roadway. The walkway honors all veterans by means of engraved memorial bricks. The sale of the bricks was a big part of the fundraising for the project.

The Camp purchased bricks honoring each of the GAR posts from the Denver area and they form the top rows of the walkway. The bricks were laid by members of the Camp under the directions of Project Officer PCC Craig Ayler and Brother Art Goguen. It was completed last fall. Phase III was the purchase and installation of the GAR memorial stone. The stone was made and installed by the Wilhelm Monument Co. of Colorado Springs.



The inscription on the stone reads:

DEDICATED TO THE VETERANS OF THE  
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
LET US NOT FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES  
TO OUR NATION AND IN SO DOING,  
CONTINUE TO TENDERLY CHERISH THEIR MEMORIES

Centennial Camp 100 – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The Denver area GAR posts purchased section 27 at Riverside Cemetery in the late 1880s. It was such a common practice in those days to erect a monument – either by them or one of their auxiliaries - in testament to their service that we wondered why it was not done in this case. The mystery was solved by Brother Ayler when he was recently researching the cemetery records. It seems the GAR did plan a memorial but for whatever reason they were denied permission to build it. But the most fascinating aspect is that the design they originally proposed is mirrored almost exactly by the design their fraternal descendants chose for them 130 years later!

If anyone is interested in honoring a veterans with a memorial brick, they are still available. The cost is \$30. If interested please contact Brother Craig Ayler. His contact information is listed on the last page of this newsletter under Department Graves Registration Officer

The Camp plans a dedication ceremony later this Spring

### **Thomas Evans Bowman - Namesake of C a m p 1 2**

Submitted by Jim Barker, PDC (Camp 100)

*[The following information was written by late Brother William T. Wiseman, the Grandson of Thomas E. Bowman and is reprinted in its entirety]*

Thomas Evans Bowman was born Thomas Merritt Dibley in Black Earth, Dane County, Wisconsin, on February 20, 1847, to Elizabeth Evans and Thomas Dibley. His parents died when he was very young leaving him and a younger half-brother, John Abraham

“Abe” Roberts, who later became a well-known newspaperman in western Colorado. Thomas went to live with his aunt and uncle William and Mary Bowman and became known as Thomas Evans Bowman though he was not legally adopted until after his service in the Civil War.



On May 24, 1864, Thomas Bowman enlisted in Company K, 40<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry from Berry, Wisconsin. He was mustered out on September 16, 1864, and, on October 26, of the same year he enlisted in Company G, 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Heavy Artillery also from Berry, Wisconsin. During this tour of duty he served at Fort

Lyon, Alexandria, Virginia, on the outskirts of Washington, DC. He was finally discharged on June 26, 1865.

Following his service in the Civil War Thomas Bowman graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. In 1874 he came over Stoney Pass into Baker's Park, present day Silverton, Colorado, bring the first smelting equipment to the booming mining camp. He ha come west to teach at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, but was lured to the San Juans by the burgeoning mining industry.

On February 24, 1876, Thomas Bowman married Helen Josephine Standish at Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Following their marriage they moved to Silverton where he worked as a metallurgist for the Greene & Company Smelter and served on the Silverton Town Board while Mrs. Bowman taught school. She died of scarlet fever in Denver, Colorado on December 23, 1888.

Thomas Bowman later moved to Durango, Colorado, where in 1890, he married Etta Louisa Summers and built a home at 760 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Three children were born to this union, William Evans, Lena Elizabeth and Margaret Summers. Thomas Bowman ran an office supply, stationery and curio store at 764 Main Avenue in Durango up until the time of his death in 1923. As one of the leading citizens of turn-of-the-century Durango he was, among other things, a member and Master of the local Masonic Lodge and a charter member of GAR Sedgwick Post No. 12. He is buried in Greenmount Cemetery in Durango.

*While serving in the 40 WI Inf, Thomas Bowman participated in the defense of Memphis, TN during Forrest's attack on the town. The 40<sup>th</sup> WI Inf was disbanded 16 Sep 1864, following the expiration of it's term of service.*



HEAVY ARTILLERY-1865  
BATTERY G FIRST WISC.



"OLD ABE"



INFANTRY-1864  
CO. K FORTIETH WISC.

PVT. THOMAS E. BOWMAN - WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS  
A4E 15-16

FATHER OF MARGARET S. BOWMAN WILCOX, GRANDFATHER OF WILLIAM THOMAS WILCOX.  
GREAT GRANDFATHER OF GRETCHEN E. GERMER, LORETTA J. LANCASTER AND  
WILLIAM LAWRENCE WILCOX II  
GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER OF JENNIFER AND BRANDON GERMER AND  
TIFFANY AND MATTHEW LANCASTER

8-26-2000 W



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



February 2016

Dear Brothers of the Order:

I would like to take this moment to request that each of you currently and past members to please renew their membership in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

I write this letter to each of you because I feel impressed that this moment in our American Republic we need to stand up and be counted in something that is bigger than each of US. We in this Nation are in crisis and at a crossroads. This Nation was established upon high principles and many in our Nation have forgotten this. In my youth I remember hearing President John F. Kennedy stating "Ask Not what your Country can do for you, But what we can do for our Country". This statement has always meant something to me and it does not matter what nationality, creed, color or political party. I am a proud American and proud of my heritage.

I am proud in my membership in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Union Army. My ancestor that I used for membership was a Private Jacob Rubart of the 101 Illinois Infantry. His grandfather was a soldier fifer in the American Revolution. I have been a member of the SUVCW since 1996 and have held many offices. My great grandfather was in the Spanish American War and father served under Gen George Patton in WWII, and I served in the Vietnam War in the Navy. Why do I tell you all of this? It is because I feel a great need to serve and I do so now. This organization is committed to teach every American their Heritage. How can we do this? We can go into schools and teach them the Constitution and true facts about the War of 1812 and Civil War. We honor them by remembrances on holidays and Memorial Day. We do so by keeping sacred the graves, statues and items of these wars like cannons. We can teach our families.

We in the SUVCW have an opportunity to help by being ambassadors of the high principles that Our founding fathers and forefathers worked so hard to develop and in some instances died for. We can do so by our actions into going into our communities and schools and teach them about the true history of the American Civil War that was primary about preserving this Nation.



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: [wq@nilenet.com](mailto:wq@nilenet.com)

Spring 2015

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We need your support in the areas where you live We in the past have had Camps in Colorado Springs, Canon City. We recently lost our Camp in Durango. We need your zest for progress in re-establishing these Camps. We need help with the Eagle Scout Program, JROTC/ROTC programs in schools and colleges. We need your help in celebrating Lincoln's Birthday, Memorial Day and Veterans Day and to search your communities and surrounding areas for relics of the Civil War and documents form the GAR and old Camps of the SUVCW. Also we need help in locating Civil War graves and check the status of the gravestones and if needed.

I would like to develop a re-enactor/Color Guard for our Camps for schools teaching moments and parades. We also need our wives to be able to assist and that mean we need to establish a women auxiliary. We need to have more regular meeting to learn more about our Heritage but have well versed speakers. I ask now that each of you commits to renewing your membership.

In reality WE NEED YOU!!! We need your help and participation. We understand that you have many commitments with family, job and other community activities and acknowledge that as an organization we can only survive with embers working for a great cause. Please contact us about your feelings and if you can help. Also let us know what you feel would help you to renew you membership. Please contact us either way.

In Faith, Charity, and Loyalty

Eric Dan Richhart  
Department Secre-  
tary and  
Department Camp  
Organizer

"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."

*(Editor's note: I thought Brother Richhart so well expressed some important thoughts that I wanted to share it the Department)*



**Welcome new members**

By Walter Weart, Editor Western Tribune

We want to welcome the following new Brothers and look forward to their active participation their Camps. A hearty Huzzah to our new members!

**Capt Lot Smith Camp - Salt Lake City**

Jeffrey Alan Mansfield CW Ancestor: Corp. Curnell Horry Mansfield Co. A 8th Calif Infantry Regt.

Tyler Jay Smith CW Ancestor: PVT. Samuel Weeks Leighton Co. H 4th Vermont Infantry EGT.

**Centennial Camp 100-Denver**

Ray Sumner: Cpl John Cotton Sumner, Co. E, 32 IA Inf

Christopher Waalkes: Pvt Abraham Landis, Co F, 97 IN Inf

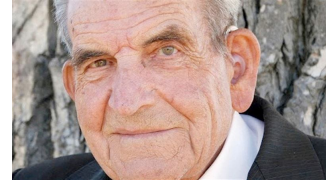
**Camp Chapman-Compliment #2 Billings**

Rex Lewis – CW Ancestor: Captain Frederick Molzner of the 9th Wisconsin Infantry.

David Haake – CW Ancestor: Private Jacob Fletcher Waddill of the 50th Missouri Militia,.

**Brother Bert Smith, a member of the Capt. Lot Smith Camp # 1 Passes**

Brother Bert Smith, a member of the Capt. Lot Smith Camp # 1, died peacefully at home on March 31, 2016. He joined in the Camp in 2009 and supported the start of the Civil War statue project. Bert was also the War Memorial/Monument Officer.



Bert was born April 29, 1920 to Arminta Willie and George Albert Smith in Holbrook, Idaho. At 16, he went off on his own and started a trucking business which was interrupted by World War II.

Bert was a World War II veteran, serving in the Marine Corps from June 14, 1944, serving in the South Pacific until being discharged in September of 1945. After the War, Bert and his brother became ranchers and while running the ranch in 1947, Bert, who learned the store business in his parents' Smith General Store, founded Smith and Edward The Country Boy's Store in 1947 which continues under the leadership of his grandson, Craig Smith.

He met his first wife, Amelia Shaw in high school and they were married in January of 1941 in Liberty, Utah and had six children. After Amelia passed 2004, Bert married Kathy Hyde in 2006.

Bert's love of country and the Constitution are evident the minute customers walk in the door and a visit with him always meant a lesson in freedom and liberty. Bert was still working, buying and selling, going places and keeping in touch with friends and family even though he was nearly 96.

Members of Centennial Camp 100 march in Colorado Springs Veterans Day parade. PCC Gary Mitchell I (3d from left) in a Mexican War uniform and PCC Frank Watrous (6th from left) in a Spanish-American War uniform. Both Brothers participated as members of the Colorado Living History Association.



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