

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO / WYOMING

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WESTERN

TRIBUNE



Sons of Union
Veterans
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War

Department of CO/WY

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MARSHALL HOPE AWARD
Western Tribune Best Department Newsletter 2014

**Congratulations To The Newly
Formed Thomas D. Osborne Camp
43 and Capt. Francis E. Warren
Camp 44 in The Department Of
Colorado & Wyoming**



Camp 43



Camp 44



The GAR Monument & Veterans Memorial Walkway in Denver's Riverside Cemetery Dedicated – Finally! by Jim Barker, PDC (Camp 100)

In the 1880s the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) posts in Denver purchased section 27 at Riverside Cemetery to bury their Comrades and other Union veterans of the Civil War. This was a very common practice throughout the country as Civil War veterans began passing away in increasing numbers. Unlike other G.A.R. burial plots, the Denver G.A.R. erected a flagpole but did not build a memorial to their service. Evidence exists that they had planned monument but for whatever reason it was never built. Unknown to us at the time, the design of this memorial – a platform surrounding the flagpole and connected to the road by a brick walkway – mirrors almost exactly the design for the memorial the GAR had in mind.

Now, more than 150 years after the war they fought to preserve the Union, when most Americans know little of the G.A.R., Centennial Camp 100 has completed a monument to recognize that service. The project was begun as early as 2005, by Brother Cliff Dougal. His original concept was a simple platform around the flagpole and a narrow brick sidewalk to the road. Unfortunately, Brother Dougal died before much work could be done. The work was continued by Brother Craig Ayler as Project Officer. He revised the design, obtained architect's drawings, and contracted with vendors for the platform and the memorial bricks. The Camp raised funds for the project by selling memorial bricks, individual donations and grants from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) National Organization and the SUVCW Charitable Foundation. The platform was constructed by an outside vendor and the brick walkway was laid by Camp volunteers lead by Brother Art Gougen. Special thanks are due to Brother Robert Fullerton for using his good offices to secure permission from the Fairmount Cemetery Corporation to begin the work.



GAR section of Denver's Riverside Cemetery – in the beginning

After a long period of negotiation with the Fairmount Cemetery Company and many years of fundraising, the project was constructed in three phases. Phase I, a raised platform around the flagpole was completed on 14

Phase I – the platform around the base of the flagpole



Phase II – the Veterans walkway



June 2013. Phase II, the Veterans Memorial Walkway was started on 27 Apr 2014. This work was done by camp members and consisted of five 8 X * foot sections of paver bricks. The last brick was put in place on 8 Aug 2014.

Finally phase III, the GAR Monument was installed.



Then a series of schedule conflicts and inclement weather delayed the dedication again and again. Finally, the members of Centennial Camp 100 gathered at the cemetery and dedicated the monument on 7 Oct 2018.



The Honor guard takes their position.



PDC Barker dedicates the monument.



Led by CC Ray Sumner (L), Camp Members form up.



Led by CC Ray Sumner (L), Camp Members form up.



And we're done!

Capt. Francis E. Warren Camp 44 Chartered in Wyoming

by Jim Barker, PDC (Camp 100)

The first SUV Camp in Wyoming in many decades received its charter on 23 February 2019. PDC Jim Barker, Department Treasurer and PDC Gene Cheney, Department Patriotic Instructor representing Department Commander Bill Buvinger presented the charter to incoming Camp Commander Karl Falken and the brothers of the new camp. The new brothers had been temporarily assigned to Lot Smith Camp 1 in Salt Lake City and one brother transferred from Centennial Camp 100 in Denver. After the chartered presentation, PDC Barker installed the new Camp officers. CC Falken then took over the meeting and necessary camp business was conducted. The meeting took place at the Fort Caspar museum in Casper, WY. Current plans contemplate rotating the meeting sites to take advantage of local events. This will provide an interesting backdrop to the meetings and increase visibility of the SUVVCW



PDC Barker presents the Camp Charter to CC Falken and JVC Chuck Kenyon



New Officers installed (l-r) Coun Terry Grant, CC Karl Falken, JVC Chuck Kenyon, and Harry Whitlock (not pictured)

Thomas D. Osborne Camp 43 Chartered

by Eric Richhart, PDC (Camp 1)

On 9 February 2019 in Idaho Falls, Idaho PDC Eric Dan Richhart, Department Secretary and Department Camp Organizer, under the direction of Department Commander William Buvinger, convened the initial and first formal meeting of Thomas D. Osborne Camp # 43. While the Camp was being organized, the members of Camp # 43 were members of Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Brother Richhart opened the meeting and called the members present to order. Next the new members were sworn in to the Order. With that done the members were formally released from membership in Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1 and formally transferred with the formal Chartering and presentation of the new Camp Charter. The new Camp Commander and all

present Officers were then sworn in and then all members into the new camp. Upon this being done Brother Richhart offered welcome to all from the Department Commander and words of encouragement. Brother Richhart then relinquished the chair to the new Camp Commander Brian Edgerton to conduct camp business. The meeting started at 1200 hours at the VFW building in Idaho Falls Idaho and completed its first meeting at 1404 hours. The VFW building has on display a GAR flag. The new camp has since been invited to have all their future meeting at this location and to place a copy of their charter and will not have to pay for any future meetings.



PDC Eric Richhart, Department Secretary presents CC the charter to CC Brian Edgerton



New officers sworn in (l-r): JVC Halverson,



L-R: PDC Richhart, CC Edgerton, Sec/Treas Tuma, JVC Halverson, Br Seal



, Post flag from the Joe Hooker Post 34, later used by American Legion Bonneville Post 55

Billings Cemetery Gets Renovated GAR Sign

by Fred J. Morganthaler, Sr. (Camp 2)

On April 9, 2016 (the 151st anniversary of General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court-house), eight members of Camp Chapman-Compliment #2 in Billings, Montana gathered together at Mountview Cemetery in Billings to rededicate a weather beaten GAR metal sign located at the McKinley Plot in the cemetery. The plot was originally purchased by the McKinley Post of the GAR in the early 1900's to serve as a final resting place for veterans. It contains the graves of at least 10 Civil War veterans. The sign was rusted and had the very faint remnants of GAR painted on it. The Camp worked for several months with the cemetery manager to get permission to remove and renovate it. Cemetery policy is that there are to be no signs located with the premises, with this one exception which was grandfathered in years ago when the then privately owned cemetery became the property of the City of Billings. Once the renovation project was approved the Camp removed the sign from its original mounting pole, cleaned it up and had the letters GAR plasma cut out to permanently reflect GAR.



Original Sign



After Renovation

During the rededication ceremony, Camp Commander Fred Morganthaler II gave an opening speech thanking everyone for their hard work on this project and all the work they are doing to perpetuate the memory of the GAR and all the effort being put into the National Graves Registration program. The Camp's senior member and also the Senior Vice Command, James Alcorn, and Graves Registration Officer, Al Page, had the honor of undrapping the memorial. In attendance of the ceremony were two folks (a man wearing a Civil War uniform with an original GAR metal and a lady in period dress) that were unknown to the Camp members. This was quite a pleasant surprise and added to the glory of the event.

In closing comments, Morganthaler thanked the cemetery staff and all those who participated and attended the ceremony. He vowed that the Camp will continue to do all in its power to pay respects and do all it can to maintain the memory of all those who have honorably served this county.

The Billings Gazette, the largest paper in the state, did a front page article on the memorial, Sons and Camp Chapman-Compliment #2 on April 8th. It was quite an honor for us to see the recognition our overall organization received. The article won the editor's pick for the day. Those interested in reading the article should Google our Camp name and go to the hit for *The Billings Gazette*.

an interesting side note, Mountview Cemetery contains the grave of Lewis Kenneth McClellan who died on February 12, 1941. Lewis was born on June 26, 1863 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. When Lewis was just a few days old his mother's sister, Jennie Wade, came to her sister's home to help with the baby. It was there that Jennie Wade was killed by a stray bullet during the Battle of Gettysburg. Jennie was the only civilian casualty of the Battle of Gettysburg.



Members of Chapman-Compliment Camp 2 at the rededication

Although no Civil War battles were ever fought in Montana, the state is rich in history from Civil War veterans. For many, Montana was the new frontier after the war. When gold was discovered in the state in the early 1860's there was a very large influx of veterans from both the North and the South. They were very instrumental in shaping the early history of the state. Some of the prominent leaders who wound up in the state were Generals Thomas F. Meagher and John Gibbons. Meagher, commander of the Irish Brigade, came to Montana Territory after his military service to become acting governor of Montana Territory. He met his untimely death in 1867 after falling off a steamship in the state. Gibbons, commander of the Iron Brigade, was assigned to Montana Territory after the war and led the battle against the Nez Perce in the famous Battle of the Big Hole. Probably one of the most famous Civil War veterans to make his way out West and ultimately die here was George Armstrong Custer. Custer met his fate at the Little Big Horn

An original GAR Post Flag

by Walter Weart, Centennial Camp 100

My great, great uncle, James Manners Weart, was the first man from New Jersey to volunteer for military service in the Civil War when the call went out for 75,000 soldiers. His regiment was raised and sent to Washington, D.C. and after his 3 month enlistment expired, James re-enlisted for 2 years.

James was a lieutenant on the staff of Gen. A. P. Howe, taking part in the battle of Fredericksburg where he was nearly captured. James also fought at Chancellorsville and while at Salem Church, he had command of the ambulance corps of his division.

Lieutenant Weart, after the expiration of his second enlistment and upon being discharged, completed his law studies. After that, James and his wife, Jeanne, moved to Independence, Iowa, where he practiced law. James died in 1874 as the result of a hunting accident. After his death, his wife, Jenny returned James to Philadelphia, where he is buried.

When a Grand Army of the Republic post was formed in James's hometown of Hopewell, N.J, it was posthumously named in his honor.

The Post was disbanded in 1932 as the last of the original Sons had passed away. It was thought that the Post flag disappeared and was lost.

An individual living in Hopewell located a box in their basement which contained the flag. It was donated to the Museum in Hopewell where other of Weart's Civil War items are on display including his original uniform jacket. The flag will be restored as quickly as possible depending on funds available.



A meeting ast the J.M. Weart Post.



The G.A. R flag for the J..M. Weart Postt



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

HOSTED BY Legion of the West Camp 7



Where
Grand Junction, CO
Masonic Family Center
2400 Consistory Court
Grand Junction, CO 8150

When
8 Jun 2018
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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