



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS



Minutes of the Fifth Annual Encampment Held April 07, 2001 South Hutchinson, Kansas

The meeting, held at the Best Western Sundome Hotel in South Hutchinson, was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Department Commander Kenneth D. Strader with 7 members present.

Roll call of Officers showed the following Officers present: Commander, Kenneth D. Strader; Sr. Vice Commander, Randall M. Thies and Secretary/Treasurer/Historian, Dean K. Speaks, PDC.

Morning Session

There were activity reports from all 3 Camps and only one Officer Report. Department Secretary/Treasurer/Historian, Dean Speaks reported on the activities of the last year.

Camp Reports:

Camp # 1: Reported that the Avenue of Flags in Wellington this year features 834 Flags. DC Strader reported that the town of Argonia, with a population of around 600, has approximately 150 people participate in Memorial Day ceremonies.

Camp # 3: Reported that the Camp is involved in Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities by helping the VFW place flags as well as conducting Memorial Day ceremonies at the GAR monument.

Camp # 16: Reported that the Camp has been heavily involved in cleaning and resetting headstones as well as recording Civil War Soldier's gravesites for the database. They travel all around Shawnee County and the vicinity and do a project on a monthly basis.

Communications Received:

Department Secretary Speaks read several communications received by the Department during the year including various resolutions from other Departments and their Camps regarding nominees for National Offices and communications from National regarding Life Memberships, etc.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

PDC Dean Speaks presented the following proposal from the Joseph Gaston Camp to change a section of our Department Bylaws:

PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT BYLAWS

Article VI: MEETINGS

Section A. (rev.) *The Department shall meet in Annual Encampment. Said Annual Encampment shall be held on the 3rd weekend in April each year with the exception of any year in which said weekend is also Easter weekend. If Easter weekend is to fall on the 3rd weekend of April for any given year then the Annual Encampment shall then be held on the 4th weekend in April of that year. If, for any reason, the "Host Camp" (as defined in Article VI, Section F) determines that it needs the date(s) of the Annual Encampment to be changed on a "one-time" basis, then the Department Commander shall call for a Special meeting of the Department Encampment (as defined in Article VI, Section B), at a time and place of the Department Commander's choosing, by and with the consent of the Department Council, for the express purpose of changing the date(s) of the Annual Department Encampment.*

Section B. *Special meetings of the Department Encampment may be called by the Department Commander, by and with the consent of the Department Council; but no business shall be transacted at any special meeting other than that for which it was specifically called, which call shall state the purpose and object of said meeting.*

Section C. *A majority of the membership reported present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.*

Section D. *All meetings of the Department shall have a United States Flag and the Department Charter displayed.*

Section E. *All meetings of the Department shall be conducted via the guidelines of the Constitution and the Rules and Regulations of the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Ritual of the Order, and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, in that order.*

Section F. (rev.) *The "Host Camp" for the Annual Department Encampment shall rotate each year in order of Camp number with the "Host Camp" for the 2002 Annual Encampment being the Old Abe Camp #16 of Topeka. The "Host Camp" of the Annual Encampment shall determine the time(s) and location(s) of said Encampment and will be responsible for determining the program, if any, at said Encampment.*

Section G. (rev.) *In the event that the designated "Host Camp" for that year's Annual Encampment shall be unable, for any reason, to host that year's Encampment they shall notify the Department Commander, in writing, no later than January 1st of that year. In such case, the duties of "Host Camp" shall then fall on the next Camp in order by Camp Number, with that Camp then being allowed to name the location, time(s) and program, if any, of the Encampment. The new "Host Camp's" turn to host the Encampment is therefore advanced one year with all subsequent Camps rotating, in order, by Camp Number.*

Motion made by PDC Speaks to accept the changes as written. Alan Russ and Randy Thies seconded the motion.

Motion by Alan Russ to modify the proposed changes to correct the wording of Section A to make it the 4th weekend of April. This is because of a conflict with Easter coming up in the next 10 years. The modification to the motion reads as follows:

Section A: *The Department shall meet in Annual Encampment. Said Annual Encampment shall be held on the 4th weekend in April each year. If, for any reason, the "Host Camp" (as defined in Article VI, Section F) determines that it needs the date(s) of the Annual Encampment to be changed on a "one-time" basis, then the Department Commander shall call for a Special meeting of the Department Encampment (as defined in Article VI, Section B), at a time and place of the Department Commander's choosing, by and with the consent of the Department Council, for the express purpose of changing the date(s) of the Annual Department Encampment.*

Randy Thies seconded the modification to the original motion. The modification to the original motion passed unanimously.

The original motion to amend the Bylaws was then passed unanimously.

Alan Russ then read the following resolution and moved for its passage and support:

*A Resolution of Nomination and Endorsement of
Dean K. Speaks for National Council of Administration*

WITNESSETH, that Dean K. Speaks, has served our Order with a total dedication and honor at the Camp, Department and National levels since joining the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in 1994.

WHEREAS, Brother Speaks joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as a National Member-at-Large in February of 1994, transferring his membership to the Grenville M. Dodge Camp # 75 of Des Moines, Department of Iowa in April of that year. He was appointed to serve as the Iowa Department Chaplain for 1994. He continued to serve the Department of Iowa faithfully in the capacities of Department Jr. Vice Commander in 1995 and Sr. Vice Commander in 1996 and was awarded the "Wayne W. Moriarty Award" for "Excellence of Service" that year by the Department of Iowa, and

WHEREAS, in 1996 Dean served as the Department Organizer for the Department of Kansas, personally recruiting 30 new Members to the Order, organizing 4 new Camps along with the Department in a period of less than 6 months. Included in those 4 new Camps was his own home Camp, the Joseph Gaston Camp #3 of Beloit, which he has served faithfully since its inception, serving as the Camp Commander in 1996 and, since 1997, as the Camp Secretary/Treasurer. He was awarded the "Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award" by the Commander-in-Chief as "National Member of the Year" at the 1996 National Encampment for his efforts on behalf of the Order, and

WHEREAS, on August 3, 1996, Dean was elected by the Members present at a Special Encampment forming the Department, to serve as the First Department Commander for the re-organized Department of Kansas. Brother Speaks served this Department honorably for three consecutive terms from 1996 through 1999 as its Commander. Since then he has continued to serve the Department in various capacities including serving as its Memorials and Property Officer, Special Projects Officer, serving on the Council of Administration and is now serving as the Department Secretary/Treasurer, and

WHEREAS, Brother Speaks has served the Order faithfully on the National level in various capacities since 1996, serving as the National Membership-at-Large Coordinator for two consecutive terms, along with being an active member of several National Committees. He served three consecutive terms on the National Civil War Memorials Committee, two consecutive terms on the National G.A.R. Memorial Foundation Committee, one term on the National Fraternal Relations Committee and served as the Chairman of the National Committee on Legislation in 1997. In 1997, Brother Speaks served on three National Committees, chairing one, as well as being a National Officer along with his Camp and Department duties. He served the Order faithfully in each capacity, and

WHEREAS, during the 7 years that he has been a Member, Brother Speaks has volunteered well over 3,000 hours of his time, and driven many hundreds of miles for worthwhile projects that benefit the Order on the Camp, Department and National levels. He has served as a guest speaker, representing the Order, at many events throughout the Midwest helping raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, goods and services for monument restoration projects supported by the SUVCW as well as speaking at dedication ceremonies for several monuments in the State of Kansas. He personally raised over \$50,000 in cash, material and labor contributions in the restoration of Soldier's Square in his hometown. His contribution to this project alone amounted to over 2,000 hours of his time as well as many thousands of dollars in cash and materials. He continues to volunteer his time on this and many other projects to the benefit of our Order, and

WHEREAS, Brother Speaks has been, and continues to be, one of the driving forces behind the Kansas Department's efforts to locate, recover and save from extinction literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in property and countless records of the G.A.R. and its Posts in the State of Kansas. He has been involved in saving well over \$200,000 worth of cannon tubes alone in Kansas. The Department of Kansas, largely through his undaunted efforts, was able to convince the State of Kansas to return the cannon, which is an integral part of the monument itself, to a prominent place on the grounds of the "Memorial Building" in Topeka. Brother Speaks was also instrumental, through many hours of research, in allowing the "Wellington Guns" to remain in their proper place as a monument to the Civil War Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in Sumner County, Kansas. He continuously has a monument restoration project of some type underway somewhere in our State, and

WHEREAS, Dean has volunteered hundreds of hours of his time throughout the years to the efforts of locating and marking of Veterans' graves throughout the State of Kansas. He faithfully serves the Order on Memorial Day in ceremonies as well as throughout the year in his efforts to make sure that no Veteran's grave shall go unmarked.
NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Membership of the 5th Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War does hereby place in Nomination and Fully Recommend to the Members of the 2001 National Encampment in Springfield, Missouri the name of our Brother, Dean K. Speaks for a position on the National Council of Administration.

The motion was seconded by Randy Thies and passed unanimously. PDC Speaks thanked the Encampment for its support and pledged to do his best to live up to the trust placed in him and to bring honor to Kansas if elected.

The Department Secretary will forward the resolution to National and to the other Departments.

Motion made by Randy Thies following some discussion on the subject to draft a letter and a resolution from the Department Encampment to the City of Hutchinson. The letter and resolution to state our objection, as an interested party, to the proposed "deal" with the Army National Guard to move the Hutchinson Cannons from the monument site where they presently sit to the Armory, or any other location, for any length of time during the year. The resolution, to be written by the Department Secretary, shall include the following paragraph or a version of same and be sent to the City Landmarks Commission, Planning Commission, City Council, City Manager, the Hutchinson News and any other news outlets which should receive it. The letter should also request that the Department be notified of any meetings concerning the cannons.

RESOLVED, that the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War firmly opposes the proposed separation from the monument of the Hutchinson Cannons for any reason other than "actual restoration work".

The motion was seconded by PDC Dean Speaks and passed unanimously following more discussion. During the discussion Brother John Hartford pointed out that his grandfather was one of the GAR members who actually put that monument there and he would consider it a dishonor to his grandfather's memory along with all the other GAR members if the cannons were removed from the monument.

Motion made by Alan Russ that the Department Secretary forward a letter to the National Secretary indicating our support for the following nominees for National Office. Copies of the letter to be distributed to the appropriate Departments.

Kent Armstrong of Michigan for Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief
George Powell of Pennsylvania for Commander-in-Chief
Elmer F. "Bud" Atkinson of Pennsylvania for National Quartermaster
Dean K. Speaks of Kansas for National Council of Administration

The lunch hour being at hand the Encampment adjourned at 12:00 p.m. for a buffet lunch.

Afternoon Session

The Encampment then re-convened at 1:15 p.m. and immediately proceeded into the meeting room where the Daughters of Union Veterans were holding their Annual Convention. There we held a Charter Draping ceremony in memory of the last Real Son of a Civil War Soldier in Kansas, Victor E. Tullar of Beloit, who passed away on April 2, 2001.

Following the Charter Draping ceremony the Encampment then re-convened in our Department Commander's room at the hotel to conclude our meeting. All members present except Doug Smith and John Hartford who had to both leave at noon for other engagements.

Nomination, Election & Installation of Officers

The following Officers of the Department were nominated and elected to serve during the 2001-2002 term:

Commander	Randall M. Thies
Sr. Vice Commander	Alan L. Russ
Jr. Vice Commander	Douglas G. Smith
Secretary/Treasurer	Dean K. Speaks, PDC
Department Council	Blair D. Tarr
	Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC
	Kim L. Nelson

(Appointed Department Officers will be listed in the first Department Order.)

Past Department Commander Kenneth D. Strader installed the officers.

Following the installation of Officers there was a short discussion about having the Fall Conference. It was decided by the Encampment to hold the Fall Conference in Larned and to try and reinstate the Pawnee Camp during the meeting. The meeting will be in October and details will be worked out by the Department Commander and announced in Department Orders.

There being no further business to come before it, the Encampment closed per the Ritual at 2:00 p.m.



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Mr. Kenneth D. Strader
Commander
Department of Kansas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Sir,

I have the honor of presenting this report on my activities as Department Secretary/Treasurer for the term 2000-2001.

I was elected by the Delegates to the 4th Annual Department Encampment to the office of Department Secretary/Treasurer for this term on April 29, 2000.

On May 17, 2000 I read an article in the Salina Journal concerning the Hutchinson Cannons and the possibility of the City of Hutch selling them. I was assigned by the Commander-in-Chief along with the Department Commander to handle this matter on behalf of both the Department and National Organizations. I wrote a letter to the City Manager on behalf of the Department, once again reiterating that the SUVCW are joint "stewards" of these guns and by the authority of the Commander-in-Chief will not relinquish that right. I received no reply to my letter, yet the cannons were not sold.

General Order Number 8 was issued on May 21, 2000 by Commander-in-Chief Wheeler, thereby closing the matter (for now) on the Wellington Cannon issue. The General Order, in effect, ordered the Capt. David L. Payne Camp #2 of Stillwater, Oklahoma to immediately cease and desist any efforts to cause the cannons to be removed from the City of Wellington, Kansas.

On May 29, 2000 I attended the Memorial Day ceremonies in my hometown of Beloit. This marked the first year in many that I was able to attend my own hometown's services as I had spent the last several years representing the Department in other cities around the State on Memorial Day. Needless to say, I was deeply saddened to find that the ceremonies in Beloit, which for well over 100 years were among some of the largest in the State, had shrunk to the point that you could have fit everyone present on an average size school bus and still had seating left. At the same time the crowds attending the party at the local lake, sponsored by a local beer distributor, numbered into the tens of thousands. I spent most of Memorial Day weekend helping the local VFW Post place flags on the Veterans gravesites thorough-out the County because they couldn't even muster up more than about a dozen of their 300+ members to help place them. To me this is a sad state of affairs and one in which I believe we must do our utmost to correct immediately!

We, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, were given a charge by the Grand Army of the Republic, to carry forth the tradition of Memorial Day and to promote patriotism in this country. It makes me feel like we have let them down in these regards, and we had better darned well get with the program and fast.

On June 24, 2000 I was contacted via e-mail by the National Webmaster, PCinC Keith Harrison, forwarding an e-mail inquiry from Sgt. John Luerding of Ft. Riley, Kansas concerning the locating of the gravesite of a long lost Medal of Honor Recipient, John H. Callahan. I immediately informed the Department Commander, Department Officers and the Council of Administration along with answering Sgt. Luerding. He, Major Scott Price of the Public Affairs Office from Ft. Riley, and myself have been working on this ever since then. In January of this year I was informed that Major Price had been ordered by his superiors to cease with the planning of the event and so I was asked if we could take over the planning. I've been working closely with Sgt. Luerding since then trying to get a ceremony planned for this Memorial Day. We have obtained Private Callahan's tombstone and will be setting it in place shortly. I would appreciate any and all help from the membership on this as well as on the ceremony. President Bush, Governor Graves, Senator's Brownback and Roberts, and Congressman Ryan have been invited to attend. I have yet to hear from any of them to this date.

August 9, 2000 I received an e-mail from John Rutherford, Commander of the Department of Missouri concerning the 2001 National Encampment. This e-mail detailed the expenses of the Encampment and wanted the Department of Kansas to split these costs with Missouri. The only problem was that, while members from Kansas had driven several times to Missouri for meetings, not one member from Missouri attended the one meeting to be held in Kansas. Kansas was never given any input into the planning of the event yet were being asked to split the expenses. I e-mailed the information to the members in Kansas whose e-mail addresses I knew and received similar responses from all, to withdraw our Department from co-hosting this event. I wrote a letter to the National Organization, as well as to the Department of Missouri, concerning our withdrawal from co-hosting this event on August 9, 2000.

On November 11, 2000, I represented the Department as a speaker at the dedication ceremonies for the new Veterans Monument in Osborne, Kansas. This impressive monument was built using only donated funds and cost over \$24,000 to construct. It sits right in front of the Osborne County courthouse. The ceremonies had to be moved inside the courthouse due to inclement weather and were very well attended. The courtroom was standing room only and there were over 125 people lining the halls outside the courtroom and down the stairways. I seriously believe that you could not have shoehorned another person into that courthouse during this event. The sight of all these patriotic Americans in such a small community made me truly believe that patriotism in America is not totally dead, it just needs less competition like it has on Memorial Day. On a side note I might add that the fundraiser for this monument began on January 22, 2000 and between that date and early November this small County of only about 5,000 people raised the entire \$24,600 that it took to construct this monument plus enough extra to provide 24 hour a day lighting for it and the flagpole next to it.

Recently the issue of the Hutchinson Cannons has arisen again. This time it seems there is a supposed "contract" of some sort between the City and the National Guard unit there in reference to restoring these cannons. Part of this "contract" is supposed to contain a clause that states to the effect that these cannons will be displayed at the Guard Armory for 7 months of the year and at the monument on 1st Street for 5 months of the year. This issue has just come up in the past couple of weeks and we will be discussing it during this Encampment at length, I'm sure. I have taken the liberty to contact the Commander-in-Chief once again as well as the National Council of Administration concerning this and we have their permission to do whatever it takes to ensure that the cannons remain at the monument in perpetuity, as our forefather's intended them to be.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Department as its Secretary/Treasurer this year and I look forward to being able to serve for many years to come in whatever fashion the members want me to. I promise that I will serve this Department to my utmost ability and with true allegiance and I never, ever break my promises.

I remain your Humble Servant in F.C. & L.,

Dean K. Speaks, PDC