

# Camp Three Reveille

*A periodic publication of the Sons of the Union Veterans  
Camp Nelson-Garfield Memorial Camp#3  
([www.home.fuse.net/suvcw](http://www.home.fuse.net/suvcw))*

April 2002, Volume 2, Issue 2

## Volunteer Working on Graves Listing

The Camp has been very fortunate to have the benefit and appreciated efforts of Anna Howard, a Simon Kenton High School student, in compiling a listing of all Civil War veterans buried in Kentucky.

State/Camp Graves Registration Officer Steve Clifford gave Anna copies of all the burials of which he is aware in Kentucky. So far, Anna has typed in the names of 1288 Union veterans buried in many counties in Kentucky. Currently she has less than 100 more names to add.

The listing of burials is being created in a Microsoft Excel file and gives each veteran's name, rank, regiment, company, name of cemetery, the cemetery's city, and the cemetery's county. This file will made into a searchable index available on the Kenton County Public Library's website (<http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/genealogy.html>). Copies of the file will also be made available on the Camp Three website.

If you are aware of burials not listed in the completed project, please submit them to Steve Clifford for inclusion in the database. The project should be online in May/June 2002.

Camp Three and the Sons of the Union Veterans are very grateful to Anna for her perseverance in this monumental task. The Kenton County Public Library is also very appreciative of Anna and the Sons of the

Union Veterans for their joint contribution to their collection of local and state historical and genealogical records.

## Camp Meetings

The brothers have all met a few times since the last newsletter. Several brothers staffed a booth at Northern Kentucky University's History Day on March 9. This was a cold, windy day but turnout was generally judged to be good. Our presence at this event gives the organization a chance to recruit new members and to generate interest in the Sons of the Union Veterans' activities.

At our March 20 meeting, we had seven members present. This was a formal meeting that launched at the LaRosa's in Independence but landed at the Independence Branch Library.

- After the opening ceremonies, Camp Commander/Treasurer Martin Greene gave the treasurer's report. The financial situation of the camp is good but we still need to recruit more members. A few members have still not paid this year's dues.
- All brothers expressed concerns and well wishes for Brother Nick Funken who has been in the hospital.
- The Visiting Committee read a letter from State Commander Tim Downey recruiting members for the Special Volunteer Reserves and for the

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the US (MOLLUS).

- Brother Bernie O'Bryan on the Essay Committee talked to several colleges about guidelines for the essay. Brothers JC Morgan and Bryan Greene will be helping Bernie with this task. The topic we discussed for the essay was the Civil War in Kentucky.
- Brother Jim Kiger on the Camp Luncheon Committee discussed several possible locations for the event. DeFelice's and Colonial Cottage were two possible places. The camp will select and honor one individual for his/her contributions at the luncheon.
- Brother Kiger also reported on the activities of the Genealogy Committee. Dave Schroeder, Local History Librarian at the Kenton County Public Library, may be invited to speak to the camp.
- Brother Steve Clifford reported for the Sword and Book Raffle Committee. The raffle will be on November 19, 2002. The sword is a reproduction 1860 Light Cavalry saber. We collected \$42 at NKU's History Day. All brothers have been asked to sell five tickets. Please see Steve Clifford or Martin Greene for additional tickets if needed. Tickets are \$1 each.
- Badges have been ordered for the camp brothers. Cost is \$5 each.
- Brother Steve Clifford will be at the Independence Cemetery this year placing flags on the graves of veterans for Memorial Day.

Our meeting on 23 April was attended by five brothers. Russell Dickson, a Maysville native, presented a living history of one of our camp namesakes, General William "Bull" Nelson. General Nelson was

presented (as he most likely was) as hot tempered with a zest for organizational efficiency and control. General Nelson was shot and killed at the Galt House in Louisville by General Jefferson C. Davis (not the Confederate president). Davis, supported by political connections in Indiana, was never brought to trial. Two of Nelson's close friends who vowed vengeance met untimely deaths at Perryville and, thus, never fulfilled their vows.

The question and answer session following the presentation was informative and well received. All brothers thanked Mr. Dickson for sharing his knowledge of our camp namesake and for his time with us.

## **General John Finnell's Grave in Kenton County**

Brother Steve Clifford has been working for some time on a headstone for the only known grave of a Civil War general buried in Kenton County, KY. The grave is at Linden Grove Cemetery in Covington.

Steve is working hard to get the headstone erected in time for a commemoration ceremony during the National Encampment in 2003 in Cincinnati.

General Finnell was a native of Winchester, KY. His father (Nimrod) owned the *Lexington Observer* newspaper and the *Licking Valley Register*, the first major newspaper in Northern Kentucky.

Finnell graduated from Transylvania University, studying law there. He served as a state legislator from Nicholas County in 1845 and served as Secretary of State under Governor John Jordan Crittenden.

In 1852, Finnell opened a law office in Covington. Later he became a special commissioner to the Kenton and Campbell County circuit courts. In 1859, he was part

of a group that proposed a horse drawn streetcar system for Covington.

Finnell was visited by former governor John Crittenden and current Governor Magoffin in early 1861. At this meeting, Finnell expressed support for Crittenden's proposal that Kentucky should defend itself with arms against invasion by either Northern or Southern armies. Finnell suggested General Robert Anderson as the commander of the Kentucky forces.

General Robert Anderson was the commander at Fort Sumter when the Confederates began the war.

When efforts to defend Kentucky as a solo endeavor proved impractical, Governor Magoffin (siding with the Union) appointed Finnell adjutant general in charge of all state troops in October 1861.

As adjutant general, Finnell ordered that all sewing for state troops' uniforms be done in Covington. He also prohibited sale of alcohol to state troops and began consolidating remnants of state troops into home guard units. He traveled to Tennessee to visit Kentucky troops involved in the Battle of Shiloh. Correspondence exists between Finnell and Horatio Wright (namesake of Fort Wright), Ormsby Mitchell (namesake of Fort Mitchell), Green Clay Smith (who represented Covington/Newport in Congress during the war), and Lew Wallace (namesake of Covington's Wallace Woods and author of *Ben-Hur*).

He was praised by the *Louisville Journal* as a person of "zeal, judgement, energy, vigilance, and tact", serving "his country well and eminently".

Finnell set up a training camp for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Kentucky Volunteer Infantry in Jamestown, KY (present day Dayton, KY).

In 1863, Magoffin's term ended as governor and in September that year, Finnell resigned as adjutant general, returning to his law practice in Covington.

Still, Finnell remained active politically, especially on the issue of temperance. He was a main speaker (along with John C. Breckenridge, former vice-president and general in the Confederate States of America) at the funeral of Robert E. Lee. In later years, Finnell moved to Louisville then back to Northern Kentucky, hosting an annual Raspberry Festival at his home near Visalia along the Kentucky Central Railroad tracks. In 1881, he was appointed as a collector of internal revenue in Covington. In 1883, he was the guest speaker for a reunion of Mexican War veterans in Covington, Newport, and Cincinnati.

General John W. Finnell died while on a business trip to Helena, Montana, in 1888. His funeral took place at the First Presbyterian Church in Covington.

The Camp thanks Steve Clifford for his hard work in honoring this man's contributions to Northern Kentucky, the state of Kentucky, and to our United States.

Special thanks and credit to Jim Reis and the *Kentucky Post* for the historical information about General Finnell contained in this article.

## Upcoming Events

**4 Jun (Tue) 7p** *A discussion of Confederates in the Attic (Tony Horwitz) at the Kenton County Public Library, Independence Branch. This book talks about the many re-enactors who carry on the history of the Civil War and the war's current impact. Books can be reserved in advance by calling 859-363-0200.*

**19 Jun (Wed) 6:30p** *Camp Three meeting at Golden Corral on Hwy 17 in Fort Wright.*

**8-10 Aug (Thu-Sat)** *121<sup>st</sup> Annual National Encampment at Springfield, IL at Springfield Renaissance Hotel (1-217-544-8800). Visits will be made to Lincoln's Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Questions about the encampment can be directed to Bill Kooser*

at 1-630-668-4882 or email-wise  
[signalsofficer@illinoisvucw.org](mailto:signalsofficer@illinoisvucw.org)

**31 Aug-1 Sep (Sat/Sun)** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Re-enactment for the Battle of Richmond on part of the actual battlefield near Mt. Zion Christian Church on US Hwy 421 South, seven miles south of Richmond and six miles north of Berea. For information, contact Kenny Rowlette at 804-525-7040 or email-wise [kgrowlet@liberty.edu](mailto:kgrowlet@liberty.edu) Information is also available on the website <http://www.geocities.com/battleofrichmond/>

**20-22 Sep (Sat/Sun)** Battle of Cynthiana anniversary, Cynthiana, KY.

**24 Sep (Tue) 7p** Camp Three meeting (tentative) at the Independence Branch Library. This will be a formal meeting.

**4-6 Oct (Sat/Sun)** Battle of Perryville re-enactment held at the Battle of Perryville State Historical Site north of Perryville, between Springfield and Danville, KY. 7000 re-enactors are expected. Information about the event, lodging, and a schedule of activities may be obtained at [www.perryville2002.com](http://www.perryville2002.com) Volunteers are needed for the event. Admission is \$10. Brothers wishing to attend/carpool should contact Camp Commander Martin Greene.

## Did you know?

Ulysses S. Grant was born on 27 April, 1822 in Point Pleasant, Ohio, with the given name of Hiram Ulysses Grant. Grant's father (who later lived in Covington, KY) asked his congressman for Grant's appointment to the US Military Academy. The congressman misspelled the name on Grant's application. Grant never corrected the mistake as his true initials "H.U.G." were always a source of concern to him. Ever after, Grant was known as Ulysses Simpson Grant. The "Simpson" was actually Grant's mother's maiden name. Grant's family called him "Ulysses" or "Lyss".

Source: *World Book Encyclopedia*, 2001 edition

## Camp Leaders

- Martin Greene, *Camp Commander/Treasurer*
- Bryan Greene, *Senior Vice Commander/Signals Officer*
- Ross J. Amos, *Junior Vice Commander*
- Bernie O'Bryan, *Chaplain/State Secretary*
- Steve Clifford, *Secretary/Camp Council/State Council/State Graves Registration Officer/State Monument Registration Officer*
- Earl Nichols, *Graves Registration Officer/Historian*
- Jim Kiger, *Camp Council/State Junior Vice Commander*
- Luke Clifford, *Camp Guard*
- JC Morgan, *Newsletter Editor*

## Want to Join?

Membership in the Sons of the Union Veterans is very affordable and entitles you to attend all state and national meetings. Regular Camp meetings are held every month except during the summer. Plus you get a complimentary subscription (US postage mostly paid) to the *Camp Three Reveille*.

To join, simply fill out this short application:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

And send \$30 (first year membership and enrollment fee) to:

SUVCW Membership  
C/O Martin Greene  
PO Box 6721  
Florence, KY 41022-6721

If you're already a member, feel free to pass this along to a friend.

## Want to Get Published?

The *Reveille* is always looking for information about events or articles of interest to Camp members. If you have something you think would be good and fitting to print, contact JC Morgan at (859) 431-5415 or email-wise at [jcmorganky@yahoo.com](mailto:jcmorganky@yahoo.com)

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