

Camp Three Reveille

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

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Civil War Battlefields: Antietam

Antietam (17 September 1862) has many times been referred to as the bloodiest day of the Civil War. In eleven hours of fighting, a man was killed or wounded every two seconds. Union losses were 2108 dead, 9549 wounded, and 753 dead. Confederate losses were 2700 dead, 9024 wounded, and 2000 missing.

Union General George McClellan (with 75,000 troops), having taken back command of the Army of the Potomac just eleven days before, had a tremendous stroke of luck. Special Order 191, which detailed Confederate General Robert E. Lee's movements and troop strengths (40,000 troops), was found wrapped around three cigars.

Still, McClellan hesitates. McClellan always overestimated the size and strength of Lee's forces. Fearing the document false, McClellan gives Lee valuable time to regroup his forces and recall General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson from Harper's Ferry (which Jackson had captured along with valuable supplies on 15 September).

Lee's forces converged at the town of Sharpsburg (the Confederates called this the Battle of Sharpsburg). McClellan attacks hard on Lee's left flank in the morning with heavy losses. Still, only after the left was reinforced did Union forces return.

The afternoon brought a center attack. Confederate Colonel John B. Gordon, who held the line at the famous Bloody Lane swore to Lee he would hold the line until sunset. By the end of the day, he had been shot in the leg, in the arm, in the shoulder, and in the cheek. (Amazingly, he lived and continued fighting after recovery.)

The center of the Confederate lines continued to weaken and break as the Union troops turned their attention to the right flank. General Ambrose Burnside took heavy losses attacking the bridge, which now bears his name. His troops retreated back across it at the end of the day.

Confederate General A.P. Hill arriving from Harper's Ferry was able to save Lee's lines and push the Union forces back. Confusingly, many of Hill's troops were dressed in blue uniforms that they had looted at Harper's Ferry.

Both commanders allowed their troops to rest for a day before withdrawing from the battlefield. For Lee, it was a hard blow. His hopes for invasion northward were gone. His army was in shatters. A hard winter loomed.

For McClellan, the battle was counted as victory. On its strengths, Lincoln was sufficiently encouraged to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves in all of the seceded states. In reality, the Union had taken extreme losses despite advantages in numbers and intelligence.

Jim Kiger Goes To Missura

The National Meeting was held recently in Springfield, Missouri. Camp Commander Jim Kiger made the long hike to rub shoulders with the rest of our Sons of the Union Veterans brethren.

Brother Kiger reports that:

- George Powell from Philadelphia, PA will be the new Commander-in-chief
- Former Commander-in-chief Edward Krieser will be National Secretary
- Two new council members were elected: Ron Gill and Robert Petovic
- Next national meeting will be in Springfield, Illinois

Brother Kiger had a great time. He attended two campfires and toured the Wilson Creek Battlefield. He saw a presentation on Matthew Brady and attended a reading from a published account of a Union soldier who visited Camp King in Covington during the war.

There were two evenings of song. The first focused on Confederate music (*Dixie*, *Goober Peas*, *Bonnie Blue Flag*, etc). The second focused on Union (*Battle Hymn of the Republic*, etc).

A visit to the National Cemetery there in Springfield also proved interesting. The cemetery contained Confederate dead. Brother Kiger remarked that this was odd for a National Cemetery and that the Confederates were surrounded by a high brick wall. No chance of trouble that way, he guessed. A statue of Sterling Price, Confederate General, also graced this cemetery.

Brother Kiger attended meetings on how to recruit and retain members.

"It was really a good meeting," said Kiger. "I was especially proud that I was able to talk a man into running for National Treasurer. He was with General Motors and

had a strong ability with numbers. I was glad that he was able to get a role."

Many brothers, I'm sure, are familiar with Brother Kiger's powers of persuasion. Including the present newsletter editor.

Upcoming Events

22 Sep (Saturday) Battle of Cynthia re-enactment, Cynthiana, KY

25 Sep (Tuesday) 7p Camp Three meeting at Independence Branch Library, Independence, KY. Tim Moore will re-enact scenes from the life of William Bledsoe Moore who served under Breckenridge

6-7 Oct Battle of Perryville re-enactment, Perryville, KY

20-21 Oct Camp Wildcat re-enactment, Richmond, KY

24 Oct (Wednesday) Camp Three meeting

11 Nov (Sunday) Veteran's Day

13 Nov (Tuesday) 7:30p Camp Three meeting at Independence Branch Library, Independence, KY. Dave Schroeder, Local History Librarian, will illustrate Civil War Genealogy resources on the web.

New Member Amongst US

The Camp is very proud to welcome its newest member, Larry Walston, from Hopkinsville. Brother Walston is a college professor in that area of the state.

Brother Walston traces his lineage back to Corporal Edmund Taylor Frizzel, Company G, 20th Kentucky Infantry.

On the Web

Sometimes it's simple to find good solid information on the web. If you look at www.civilwar.com, you won't be disappointed.

You can get a chronological list of battles (unfortunately not complete, but with nice descriptions) or a list of battles divided up by state (much more complete than the chronological list...and still with descriptions). There's a list of forts (most entries are clickable...with some really nice pictures). And...more lists...a list of museums and cemeteries (both divided up by state).

The site includes an online bookstore, a list of sound recordings of civil war music, and a nice timeline of all events (not just the battles) during the war.

Civil War at the Library

The Library has recently acquired *Civil War for Dummies*. The *Dummies* books are well known for simple, concise introductions to many topics.

Major causes of the war are highlighted, all of the major battles are covered, aftermath of the war for both sides is taken into account. Nice maps help to illustrate troop movements and placements.

You'll find information about minority groups in the war as well as helpful tips on how to visit a battlefield. Special "Battle Captain's Reports" summarize the strategic maneuvers for major battles. All major battles have a section for "Heros" and "Goats". Top ten lists make for interesting head scratchers: the top ten what ifs of the war, the top ten battles, the top ten battle sites to visit.

This is a lot of information packed into a very user friendly format. If you know of someone who has had a hard time grasping the basic elements of the war, then this is a good place for that person to start. (*The Civil War for Dummies* by Keith D. Dickson, 973.7 D554c)

Camp Leaders

- Jim Kiger, *Camp Commander/State Junior Vice Commander*
- Jeff Hampton, *Senior Vice Commander*
- Martin Greene, *Junior Vice Commander*
- Bernie O'Bryan, *Secretary/Chaplain/State Secretary*
- Bryan Greene, *Signals Officer*
- Steve Clifford, *Camp Council/State Council/State Graves Registration Officer/State Monument Registration Officer*
- Earl Nichols, *Graves Registration Officer/Historian*
- William Summe, *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 jc_morgan@email.com

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