

June Newsletter 2005
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Nelson-Garfield Memorial Camp #3
Department of Kentucky

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In Memorial

It is with the deepest regret that I inform the membership of our camp of the passing of our brother, Nicholas Funken. He died on May 25, 2005, at the age of 82.

Nicholas was a charter member of our camp and was very proud of his grandfather's Civil War service. His grandfather was John Stewart Fries, who enlisted in the Union Army on February 2, 1862, in Company B, 5th Regiment, Ohio Volunteers Cavalry. He was honorably discharged February 9, 1865.

Born in Bellevue, Kentucky, Nicholas Funken joined the Civilian Conservation Corps after graduating from Bellevue High School. When World War II came, he and his friends joined the Merchant Marines and Nicholas chose to make his service there his career. He served as the Junior Vice Commander of the Nelson Garfield Camp of SUV, was a member of the Wildlife Federation of Kentucky and the Kentucky Democratic Party.

Several members attended the visitation for Nicholas at the Dobbling Funeral Home in Bellevue. Bernie O'Bryan performed a brief ceremony at the casket and Camp Commander Jeffrey Hampton presented an SUV membership badge to Nicholas' niece, Joann Vickers. She gratefully accepted the badge and pinned it on her uncle's jacket to be buried along with his membership card in the casket. On display beside the casket beautifully framed was the Nelson Garfield Camp Charter which he proudly displayed in his home.

Rest in peace, Nicholas. You will not be forgotten.

Civil War Site Preservation Work

Andrew Lutes, our Camp Newsletter Editor, has been busily engaged lobbying our elected officials over preservation of our precious historical Civil War sites. He has written to Kentucky State Representative Jon Draud and Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher. He has also addressed similar appeals to U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell and to Vice President Richard Cheney. We salute your efforts and wish them success.

Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine and Nelson Garfield Camp
Work Together

Northern Kentucky Heritage is a local regional periodical of history and geography. Our camp is a participating organization to this publication and, as such, our newsletters are and will continue to be sent to them for use in their magazine. Issues of the newsletter from February 2004 to the current one have been forwarded to the magazine's Senior Editor, Karl Lietzenmayer. If any Nelson Garfield Camp member would care to submit an article of local or regional historical interest to this fine publication. This can be done by sending it to:

Northern Kentucky Heritage
Attn.: Senior Editor, Karl Lietzenmayer
P. O. Box 641
Covington, KY 41012

All speakers at our meetings will be informed of this opportunity to publish their work. I know some of our members are involved in research projects that would also be of interest to this magazine.

Events And Meeting Calendar

"The Battles Of Cynthiana" will take place August 19, 20, and 21, 2005, in Cynthiana, Kentucky. This living history weekend will recreate the 1862 skirmish in which John Hunt Morgan's Confederates drove the Federal garrison from the city and captured needed supplies. It will also present a period encampment of Civil War soldiers. Most events will take place at Elk's Lodge Farm on U.S. 62 East. Battles will be re-enacted on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Soldiers will perform marching and drills Saturday and Sunday morning. Originally, this event was scheduled for September as our meeting that month.

Instead, our September meeting will take place on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Covington Library. The speaker for our meeting will be Andrea Carroll and her topic will be "The Coast Guard In The Civil War." There are no meetings scheduled for July.

Department Of Kentucky Meeting in Frankfort

The Kentucky Department of the SUV met in Frankfort, Kentucky, on June 11, 2005. The day began with the Fort Hill Monument dedication ceremony to honor the men of Company A, 1st Regiment, Capital Guards who in June, 1864, successfully defended Frankfort from a rebel attack headed by John Hunt Morgan. Our camp member, Bernie O' Bryan, served as Chaplain during the ceremony.

Department Of Kentucky Meeting in Frankfort Cont'd.

The department meeting was held in the Capital Annex at 1:00 p.m. After Department Officer Reports and Camp Commander Reports, there was much discussion on the topic of a Department flag to display at National Encampments and other important Department occasions. The talk focused on whether to have a flag done professionally by a reputable company or done by volunteers to create an heirloom to be handed down. The discussion also included whether to buy a flagpole at the same time or purchase one at a later date and whether Department funds should be spent for this or Camps donate money to pay for the purchase of these items. Finally, a motion was made and passed to purchase a Departmental Flag from a professional company, buy a flagpole at the same time, and use Department money to pay for the purchase.

Nelson Garfield Camp attendees were very active participants. Camp Commander Jeffrey Hampton reviewed important events of the past year including the Monument dedication for Civil War soldier John Feldhaus in July 2004 in Mother Of God cemetery, a listing of speakers and their topics at our meetings, our participation in NKU's History Day in February, 2005, the tour in April of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center And Museum, the participation of our members on the Battery Hooper Civil War Committee and our members participation in Memorial Day Parades in Covington and Park Hills. Bernie O' Bryan promoted the Grand Opening of the Civil War Museum in Fort Wright, Kentucky, on August 20, 2004, and solicited contributions of Civil War memorabilia to be displayed at the museum. Steve Clifford reported on Civil War graves registration in Kentucky and was elected to the post of Senior Vice Commander for the Department Of Kentucky. The Nelson Garfield Camp invited the Department to hold their 2006 Encampment in northern Kentucky at either the new Civil War museum in Fort Wright or the Behringer Crawford Museum and our invitation was accepted.

The 100th anniversary of the Department Of Kentucky SUV is next year. A committee was established to put together a Memorial Book of the Department's History. Bernie O'Bryan will be serving on that committee and our membership will contribute the history of our Camp to be included.

The Department Of Kentucky is seeking to host the 2009 National Encampment of the SUV in Louisville, Kentucky. It was felt that this would be extremely appropriate since this would be the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, our most eminent and famous Kentuckian. Having broad experience in helping the Department Of Ohio host the 2003 National Encampment at the Drawbridge Inn in Fort Mitchell, the Nelson Garfield Camp will be heavily involved in the organization, planning, and execution of this event should Kentucky be chosen. A motion was made and approved for the Department Of Kentucky to actively seek to host the 2009 National Encampment.

“LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE!”