



The Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Department of Florida
S.U.V.C.W.

June 2016 Edition

Elected Department Officers

COMMANDER.... **Charles S. Reeves PDC**

Email - reevesoldfarm@msn.com

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER.... **David R. Palmer PCC**

Email - davplm6@aol.com

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER....**Edward J. Manak**

Email -

SECRETARY / TREASURER....**Clair D. Whitlam PDC**

Email - clairwhitlam@gmail.com

COUNCIL # 1....**Harvey Linscott, PDC**

hkl36ov@peoplepc.com

COUNCIL # 2....**John Vaughn III, PDC**

suvsyankee1@aol.com

COUNCIL # 3.... **Ronnie G. McCracken**

Appointed Department Officers

Patriotic Instructor: Roger L. Heiple

Chaplain: David Acheson, PCC

Graves Registration: Adam C. Klohr

Civil War Memorials Officer: Adam C. Klohr

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Robert M. Jones

JROTC Coordinator: Richard D. Shaffer, CC

Counselor: Robert M. Jones PDC

Appointed Chief of Staff, Michael E Urell

Signals Officer: Steven A. Williams

Hello Brothers

It is with great honor that I accept the position of newsletter editor for "The Dispatch". I hope that you will enjoy the newsletters and will forward to me news and information to share with our fellow brothers.



MISSION STATEMENT

*Through Community Education and Service
to our Order*

*We Honor the Memory of the Grand Army of
the Republic*

*The men who fought to Preserve the Union
1861 - 1865*

The hot days of Summer

May our members and friends enjoy a great summer and safe travels.

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Also lets look at our plans to attend this years Annual Encampment in Springfield Illinois.

More info about the Department of Florida can be found in our Department web site.

<http://www.dofsuvcw.org>

June 2016 Department of Florida Activity

Inverness is the county seat of Citrus County FL. The city was originally named Tompkinsville and dates back to 1868. It received its current name from a lonely Scotsman who gazed upon the Tsala Apopka Lake and thought the area looked like the headlands and lochs of Inverness in Scotland.



Dept. of Florida has the following camps

Active Camps

[Winfield Scott Whitehurst Camp 01 - Tampa](#)

[General Thomas J. McKean Camp 03 - Lantana](#)

[Lucius L. Mitchell Camp No. 04 - St. Cloud](#)

[General Eugene A. Carr Camp 05 - Ocala](#)

[Sergeant Frederick R. Jackson Camp 07 - Pembroke Pines](#)

[General John A. Logan Camp 09 - Jacksonville](#)

Department Membership-At-Large

[General William T. Sherman Camp 25](#)

Rededication of Replacement Headstone Service at Inverness

Please mark your Calendar for June 18. All members and friends are welcome to join us in this memorable and significant event.

Camp #1 will host a Rededication Headstone Service for Union Soldier Isaac Blackmun who enlisted in 1862 from Mooers Forks, New York.

The Service will be June 18th 11AM and we will be using the GAR 1917 Headstone Rededication Service. Camp # 5 will join with us. Please attend in 1860s dress if you have it.

At this moment, it appears that the American Legion will provide the rifle company for the (3) shot volley and also the bugler for taps.

Directions: to Orleans Cemetery within Withlacoochee State Forest

take 75 North from Tampa to exit # 314

West on Rt # 48, then right on rt. # 41 to **Inverness**

Left on Rt. # 44 (West out of Inverness)

Left (South) on Pleasant Grove Road

Drive about 2 miles then right on E. Trail 10 and continue on that road to where the Subdivision ends Cemetery is about 300 feet down dirt road on the left into the woods.

Commander Dave Munson Chestnut has suggested that we plan on eating lunch together after the Service. Note, Families are invited to this event.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Dave Palmer PCC

Isaac Blackmun enlisted with his brother in law Stephen K. Manning in 1862. Stephen K. died of Typhoid Fever a couple months after they enlisted.

Isaac's father Jude Blackmun died in 1863 and Isaac's daughter died in 1864. Isaac lost a lot while he was in service to our country. With the death of his father, the family also lost the farm and the sawmill business that Isaac and Stephen were going to take over after the war.

The Blackmun family moved away from Mooers Forks New York around 1870 to Minnesota. Isaac and his younger brother then moved to Dakota territory. From there he moved to Inverness Florida with his wife and children. There he passed away at age 57 leaving a wife, 3 grown children and 1 minor child.

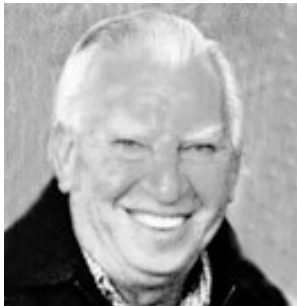
The Orleans Cemetery is less than a mile from his home in Inverness. On the right is his broken headstone as it was found.



Obituary for Brother, Leland Lloyd Smith.

Leland Lloyd Smith, passed away on May 14, 2016. Born in Syracuse, NY, in 1931 Leland spent the first half of life in Syracuse. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and served during the Korean War. In 1971 he moved to Florida with his first wife Marion who predeceased him in 1988. He worked as an electrician for the State of Florida Department of Transportation for 20 plus years until his retirement in 1992. He is survived by his wife Donna Smith (Fuller) whom he married in 1990. Two sons; Robert (Rita) of Syracuse, NY and Brian (Libby) of Doylestown, PA and four grandchildren Paul, Carey, Bryce and Reagan. A brother, Wesley and numerous nieces and nephews and his beloved cocker spaniel, Joshua. In retirement Leland developed a passion for U.S. history particularly the American Civil War. He co-founded the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Florida Chapter and was a member of the Palm Beach County Civil War Roundtable. Leland was also an original member of the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists which is a 501C3 dedicated to the education and preservation of a major Seminole Battlefield. He garnered great joy in talking to young kids about the Civil War and sharing interesting stories and artifacts during school visits. He and Donna also traveled extensively visiting almost all 50 states and numerous international destinations. Relatives and friends are invited to celebrate his life at the Boynton Memorial Chapel, 800 W Boynton Beach Blvd, Boynton Beach on Wednesday, May 18th from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. His Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, May 19th at 10:00AM. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationist, c/o Laurie Corry, 9296 SE River Terrace, Tequesta, FL 33469.

To express condolences and/or make donations: Visit PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries



Camps Give out JROTC Awards

From L. L. Mitchell Camp for Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War activities.

Pictured below is your intrepid Commander attending a JROTC ceremony at East Orange High School. I had the opportunity to speak to the filled auditorium and reminded people or informed people of the great role that the old GAR had in shaping our American culture and how we carry on that mission today. I was very impressed with an Air Force Officers Club Presenter's short speech about belonging to an organization that you believe in and working hard for it. She felt that you could really make a difference.

On May 20th I attended the official unveiling of a State of Florida Historical Marker at the Veteran's Heritage Museum in St. Cloud. I represented both the Sons and the old veterans that founded St. Cloud. What a privilege. On May 21st I was set up at the East Lake Historical Society Town Festival. The hours are 9-3 and the venue is the library grounds. It is really a great small town event. Would love to see you all there next year.

Commander Michael Emmet Urell



JROTC and Eagle Scout Awards

The Winfield Scott Whitehurst Camp #1 gave out 19 JROTC awards this year and one Eagle Scout award. Our members and officers have been very busy attending award ceremonies at all of these schools. At the last Camp #1 meeting Commander Munson-Chestnut presented awards of appreciation to Brothers David Palmer, Larry Peck, Dick Young and Chuck Reeves. We thank our brothers for their support and contribution to this worthy cause. It is always encouraging to attend the many JROTC awards ceremonies in our area and see these fine young people who will be our nations future.





The
Department of Florida

Congratulates

Eugene G. Mortorff



Above, The men of the USS Narcissus, a civil war tugboat used as a Union blockade ship which sunk of coast of Tampa Florida in 1866

*Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

*On a successful year of leadership in
preserving the memory of the
Grand Army of the Republic
and the men who saved the Union
1867-1868*

Genealogy booth pictures at Fort Lauderdale convention center



Right to left--Chuck Reeves Department Commander, Bob Jones Past Department Commander and Bob Kerr member Camp 7. Table has an exhibit of Union Civil War items including two Sharps rifles.

At our 2015 National Encampment in Richmond VA, it was proposed that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War exhibit at the 2016 National Genealogy Society's Conference to be held in May 2016 in Ft Lauderdale Florida. Florida Department Commander Chuck Reeves advised the Encampment that if it was decided to participate, the Department of Florida would provide the manpower. Brothers from four of Florida's Camps did man the SUVCW booth. The conference had 1600 attendees and everyone noticed and commented on our booth signs and our display of Union Civil War items including the two Sharps rifles. Newly printed SUVCW literature and applications were distributed to the conference attendees.

For the newsletter, add Camps #1, #3, #4 and #7 were the Camps who manned the booth.

Chuck

Sharps rifles are a series of large-bore single-shot rifles, beginning with a design by Christian Sharps in 1848, and ceasing production in 1881. They are renowned for long-range accuracy. By 1874 the rifle was available in a variety of calibers and had been adopted by the armies of a number of nations and was one of the few successful designs to transition to metallic cartridge use.

Reproductions of the Sharps rifle are currently made by different rifle companies and the rifle has become an icon of the Old West due to its use in a number of movies and books in the Western genre.

From Wikipedia



From the Munson Family Record

In 1926, Mr. Samuel L Munson was asked to recall his opportunity to meet **Abraham Lincoln**. He wrote as follows:

"I was one of the fortunate ones who walked through the well knee-deep Washington mud, on the morning of March 4th, 1865, and with trousers tucked in the boots which we wore at the time, stood under these disagreeable conditions in front of Mr. Lincoln while he delivered his world famous second inaugural address.

"I remember that he wore one of the very tall hats of the period, which while he was speaking was held by an eminent war Democrat who was sitting near him. This address, coming as it did about the close of the war will be associated in the minds of all patriotic Americans with the Gettysburg address, imperishable in connection with this great man.

"At the close of the exercises, a friend and myself waded back through Pennsylvania Avenue to Willard's Hotel. The only way we could cross the bisecting streets was by stepping upon spiles as there were no walks at those places. In the evening, I joined the great crowd which formed in front of the White House, and in due time stood in front of the President. He had a number of gentlemen surrounding him and just as I approached he turned to one of them to make a remark which gave me an opportunity to get a good look at him. I remember that he wore kid gloves which had once been white, but after shaking hands with thousands of people had become black. As he turned back from the gentlemen with whom he had spoken, he gave me a handshake and a kindly 'how-do-you-do'. As I passed on, I could not appreciate that only a little more than a month would elapse before the whole nation would be in mourning for his death.

"I was in Chicago the night that he was murdered and when I came out of my hotel about 10 o'clock the following morning, the business houses were already being largely draped. I expected also that business would allow me to be present in Springfield at his funeral, but an accident on the train which I traveled prevented my getting there until the morning after the funeral, when I visited the places which had known him at the time he was elected president. His house was on a side street and of very ordinary construction, made of wood; and another interesting exhibit was the horse which he owned when he left home to make his journey to the White House.

"My recollection of these events which occurred 61 years ago is not as complete in many details which have passed from my memory, as I would like."



**"WITH MALICE TOWARD
NONE, WITH CHARITY
FOR ALL, WITH FIRMNESS
IN THE RIGHT AS GOD
GIVES US TO SEE THE
RIGHT, LET US STRIVE
ON TO FINISH THE
WORK WE ARE IN."**

**-ABRAHAM LINCOLN
SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS**



G.A.R. reunion on Decoration Day, May 30, 1912 - Kissimmee, Florida

from State of Florida Library & Archives <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/142952>