

*The Dispatch*  
*August-September 2011*  
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*Department of Florida*

<http://www.dofsuvcw.org>



*Sons of Union Veterans*  
*Of the Civil War*

Commander Michael E. Farrell  
1952 Muirfield Way SE  
Palm Bay, FL., 32909  
321-676-8352

SVC & Editor: John M. Vaughn III

**Department Officers:**

Cmdr., Michael Farrell \_\_\_\_\_ 321-676-8352  
 SVC, John M. Vaughn III \_\_\_\_\_ 561-395-6844  
 JVC, David Hoover \_\_\_\_\_ 407-330-7907  
 Sec. / Treas., Buck Custer \_\_\_\_\_ 407-382-3937  
 Council1, Dan Hans \_\_\_\_\_ 352-560-0364  
 Council2, Harvey Linscott \_\_\_\_\_ 352-854-9510  
 Council3, Robert Jones \_\_\_\_\_ 954-961-9156  
 Chaplain, Skip Whitlam \_\_\_\_\_ 407-873-4322  
 Patriotic Instr., Richard Hardesty \_\_\_\_\_ 813-654-7032

**COMMANDERS CORNER:**

Well it's the end of Summer and the cooler days are ahead. I'm hoping all is well with our members and their families. Brothers it's time for a little reflection on who we are and what we're about. When asked why you became a member of the SUVCW what do you say? Is it to honor the boys in blue, or to honor my ancestor? Yet I would like to tell you that our organization's purpose is so much more. I would like to take this opportunity to go over the purposes and work of our Fraternal Order:

- 1 To Perpetuate the memory of the GAR and Union soldiers
- 2 To Preserve the documents and records of the GAR and Union soldiers
- 3 To Honor those who serve our country in war.
- 4 To Teach patriotism, citizenship, true history, love and honor of our flag.
- 5 To Oppose that which weakens loyalty, and that which destroys or impairs our constitutional union.
- 6 To Inculcate American principles of representative Government, Equal Rights, and Impartial Justice for all.

These purposes are the pillars upon which our Fraternal Order is built. However it is only through volunteerism that our brotherhood may accomplish these purposes. Charity is our foundation! Some of us donate our time and skills toward these purposes. Others donate money in support of our activities. And a few donate both. Brothers I invite you to be more active in our work. If you think these purposes are worthy, be Charitable with your time and recruit new members; be more active. You are needed!

M. FARRELL

## Sons of Union Veterans Of the Civil War

### SCHEDULED MEETING and EVENTS:

#### *National Encampment August 2012*

*Nat'l Web-Site* <http://www.suvcw.org>  
*(Check your Banner for Details)*

#### *Dept. Mid-Year Conference December 17<sup>th</sup> 2011*

*Dept. Web-Site* <http://www.dofsuvcw.org>  
*(Check your Dispatch for Details)*

#### *UNION DEFENDERS DAY February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

*Dept. Web-Site* <http://www.dofsuvcw.org>  
*(Check your Dispatch for Details)*

#### *Battle of Olustee February, 2012*

*Dept. Web-Site* <http://www.dofsuvcw.org>  
*(Check your Dispatch for Details)*

#### *Department Encampment June 16<sup>th</sup> 2012*

*Dept. Web-Site* <http://www.dofsuvcw.org>  
*(Check your Dispatch for Details)*



**Editor Note: Members Birthday's**

AUGUST and SEPTEMBER

Best wishes and Happy Birthday to:

*Brother Larry L. Oppenheimer, Camp # 1*  
*Brother Charles L. Day, Camp # 25*  
*Brother Brett D. Brown, Camp # 3*  
*Brother Scott N Sutherland, Camp # 3*  
*Brother Charles D. Custer, Camp # 4*  
*Brother Steve F. Owen, Camp # 4*  
*Brother Daniel J. Spellman, Camp # 4*  
*Brother Lance M. Woolrich, Camp # 4*  
*Brother Paul E. Pardee, Camp # 5*  
*Brother Donald E. Burris Sr., Camp # 7*  
*Brother Robert M. Jones, Camp # 7*  
*Brother John A. Sink, Camp # 8*

Information provided by the Dept. Secretary:

**Editor Note: New Members**

AUGUST and SEPTEMBER

Welcome to the Department of Florida:

*Brother Scott Kerns, Camp # 5*  
*Brother David Bahn, Camp # 5*

Information provided by the Dept. Junior Vice:

**Editor Note: Civil War Round Table**

MEMBERS or NOT: Honor those that preserved the Union. If you have time why not write an article about a battle, regiment, soldier or anything about the Civil War. We would love to read about it in the Camp Communicator. Also, if you have Civil War ancestors we would like to know. Send articles to:

Civil War Round Table  
 854 Hibiscus Street  
 Boca Raton, FL. 33486

Thanks!!!

J. M. Vaughn III

**AROUND THE DEPARTMENT**

On August 27, 2011, a special meeting of the Department of Florida was held. This occurred in the St. Cloud Veterans Library, in the Robert Fisk Room. This room was named of course for our recently departed Brother. This meeting was held first to see whether a Olustee Monument Commission should be formed. At present there are three monuments on the field...all Confederate. The department voted unanimously to establish the Olustee Monument Commission. Brother Lloyd Monroe has accepted the position of Commission President.. The Department also established a monument fund in which to collect donations. The Department will be accepting ideas for the monument. Please contact Brother Monroe.

The Department Commander was invited by the Tampa Bay Sesquicentennial Commission to speak on September 17<sup>th</sup> in downtown Tampa. His message to the crowd was one of patriotism and national unity in commemoration of the richness of our heritage.

Brother Marshall Polston continues his restoration project at Concord Cemetery in Casselberry.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> the Department of Florida held a Pancake Breakfast fund raiser in St. Cloud, Florida. \$211 in donations were collected and the money will be turned over to the Olustee Monument Fund. The Departemnt wishes to express their gratitude to PDC Robert Chandler and wife for the generosity. The Department would also like to thank all the members who helped make the event a success.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> the Department of New York issued a Department Order # 6 by Dept. Commander Jeffrey Albanese. The Order officially recognized the Olustee Monument Commission. In the Order he requested the adoption of a resolution for the Department of New York to support the Department of Florida regarding the placement of a monument to Union soldiers at the Olustee Battlefield.



***CAMPS Activity Report***

**CAMP 1:** Will hold next meeting the second Tuesday in October.

**CAMP 3:** Their August and September meetings were canceled. Their next meetings are scheduled for Oct 5, Nov 2 and Dec 7. They intend to march in the Veteran's Day parade in West Palm Beach. Stepping off time is 11 AM.

**CAMP 4:** Three members attended the National Encampment in Reston Virginia. Camp members attended the special August 27, meeting. On Sep 24, 2011, a Department Breakfast was held at Camp 4's usual meeting location. Next Camp meeting will be on November 5, 2011.

**CAMP 5:** Bro, Dan Hans attended the National Encampment. While there, he was recognized as a PDC. On August 27, members attended the special Department meeting. The camp held their regular Camp meeting on Sept 8.

**CAMP 7:** The Camp held their first regular Fall meeting on Sept 20, 2011.

**CAMP 8:** The Camp held their meeting on Sept 17. There were four members in attendance. Camp business was discussed.

Information provided by the Camp Commanders

**CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE:**

Brothers, September is a month that we will never forget the events of September 11, 2001 and how much we need divine intervention in the affairs of men that we might enjoy peace on earth. Our response is to give head to His leading that we might have that peace.

Please remember Dept. Secretary Charles "Buck" Custer as he continues to recuperate from heart surgery at his home. Speaking to him the other day he remark that he is feeling better than he expected to!

Camp #3 Let us pray for Brother Walter, PCC who met his final muster on September 11, 2011 (See next page)

Please remember Camp #4 Charter Camp Commander Ronald Criswell as he continues his rehabilitation and treatment for breathing complications.

Camp #4 member Daniel Spellman and his treatment for Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Camp #7, PCC, Richard H. Bickford, for health and restoration after several years of battling different ailments.

Camp #8, Chaplain, Right Rev. William Cavins as he recuperates from optical and prostrate surgery.

Dept. Chaplain, Whitlam as he goes in the VA Clinic on the 15th of September, for bladder inspection and examination.

If you are aware of members of the Department that are in need of support and pray, please inform you Camp Chaplain and or the Department Chaplain so we can inform other members of the Department via the Webpage to keep our brothers in prayer. The Dept. Chaplain's cell phone is always near by at 407-873-4322.



## LAST MUSTER, & FINAL ROLL CALL



It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of a Valued and Close Friend of all the Camp Members. Walter McGonegal died on Sunday September 11, 2011 at J. F. K. Hospital in Lantana. He was born in Jackson, Michigan November 5, 1940.

Walter joined the Sons on March 14, 2003 after he learned about the Sons in the local newspaper. Ever since he joined the Sons he has been a loyal member. Walter was elected to Camp Commander on May 1, 2007. Walter served as Commander until Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 2009. Walter McGonegal was always very active in the many events we participate in such as the Veterans Day Parades, Memorial Day Services, and the many events at the Loxahatchee Battlefield Park. He will be missed

Leland L. Smith PDC, PCC

## ANCESTOR S CORNER

Bro. John R. Bond of Jacksonville sent this biography of his grandfather in. Please send in a two paragraph bio of your ancestor. I'd like to make this a regular feature of the Dispatch, if possible.

John Bond (1840-1910) of Lodi, Seneca County, New York enlisted on August 8, 1862, to serve three years. He was mustered in as a private in Company C of the 126th New York Volunteer Infantry on August 22, 1862. On September 14, the 126th came under fire in the defense of Maryland Heights at Harpers Ferry. It was said that some of these new recruits hardly knew how to load and fire their weapons. The regiment was surrendered along with the rest of the Harpers Ferry defenders to the Confederates under Stonewall Jackson on September 15. Upon parole, the regiment marched to Camp Parole, Maryland and was sent by rail to Camp Douglas in Illinois. After being exchanged in November, 1862, the 126th joined the forces protecting Washington. In June 1863, the regiment became part of the Second Army Corps under Winfield Scott Hancock and marched to Gettysburg. John was wounded in the right foot and leg by shell fragments on July 3rd. He was assigned to Summit House General Hospital in Philadelphia until April 1864. He rejoined the regiment on April 4, 1864 in time to participate in the Wilderness Campaign. On May 10th at the Po River he received a gunshot wound in the head. He was sent to Lincoln General Hospital in Washington and given furlough till June 30th. He rejoined the regiment in August 1864, in the trenches near Petersburg and remained to the end at Appomattox. He was mustered out with the regiment on June 3, 1865, near Alexandria, Virginia.

In 1890, John had to be committed to an asylum, the cause of which was attributed to his head wound. In a deposition his wife stated that his condition "was manifested by shutting himself up in a room or going to bed and permitting no one to see him or do anything for him. Except that he would take his food from me and would permit the children to see him. These spells would last 3 months sometimes, at an interval of one year and sometimes two years. The nature of these spells was always the same. He took no interest in anything or anybody. He often complained of having bad feeling (near his head wound) and would lie with his head covered up as though the noise hurt him.) After living through the horrors of Gettysburg, the Wilderness and trench warfare near Petersburg, it seems likely that he may have experienced flash backs and other traumas of that terrible fighting. He remained in the asylum at Williard, New York until his death in 1910. His funeral was conducted by the Smith Post of the GAR in Valois, New York. His obituary closed with the observation that "The 47 years of suffering endured by Mr. Bond shows something of what it cost the men who fought to save the Union." This John Bond was the grandfather of John R. Bond of Jacksonville, Florida.



## ARE THERE ANY LIVING DESCENDANTS OF THE LINCOLN'S ???

**Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln married in 1842, they had four sons, only one lived to maturity. No living direct descendants survive today**

### CHILDREN

Robert Todd Lincoln (b.1843 - d.1926) married Mary Eunice Harlan (b.1847 – d.1937) in 1868. They had three children, Mary, Abraham, and Jessie.

Edward Baker Lincoln (b. 1846 – d.1850) died at the age of 3 years and 11 months.

William Wallace Lincoln (b.1850 – d.1862) died at the age of 11 years.

Thomas "Tad" Lincoln (b.1853 – d.1871) died at the age of 18 years.

### GRAND CHILDREN BY ROBERT

Mary "Mamie" Lincoln (b.1869 – d.1938) became the wife of Charles Bradley Isham in 1891. They had one son, Lincoln Isham.

Abraham "Jack" Lincoln (b.1873 – d.1890) at the age of 16 years he died from infection.

Jessie Harlan Lincoln (b.1875 – d.1948) eloped with a college football player and sportsman from Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Warren Wallace Beckwith, in 1897. They had two children, Mary Lincoln Beckwith and Robert Lincoln Beckwith, before their divorce in 1907. Jessie then lived with her parents until she remarried in 1915. Jessie's second husband was an explorer and geographer named Frank Edward Johnson. The marriage was childless and ended in divorce in 1925. The next year she married Robert J. Randolph, by whom she had no children.

### GREAT GRAND CHILDREN BY MARY

Lincoln "Linc" Isham (b.1892 – d.1971) he married Leahalma Correa in 1919. She wrote children's stories and he was a talented amateur musician. They had no children. Abraham died in Dorset, Vermont in 1971. He left his estate to the Red Cross, Salvation Army and the American Cancer Society.

### GREAT GRAND CHILDREN BY JESSIE

Mary Lincoln Beckwith (b.1898 – d.1975), Abraham Lincoln's great-granddaughter, never married. She dabbled in oil painting and sculpture, led a quiet life on her estate in Vermont.

Robert Lincoln Beckwith born in 1904, twice married, first to Mrs. Hazel Holland Wilson and secondly to Annemarie Hoffman, but had no children either. Like most Lincoln descendents before him, he was wealthy, led a quiet life and avoided the public gaze. He died in 1985. **Robert Lincoln Beckwith was the last direct undisputed descendent of Abraham Lincoln.**

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

**ARE THERE ANY LIVING DESCENDANTS OF THE LINCOLN'S ???**

Timothy Lincoln Beckwith: Born in 1968 once thought to be the son of Robert Lincoln Beckwith.

Robert Lincoln Beckwith married Annemarie Hoffman in 1967. He received a letter telling him his wife was six months pregnant. Robert L. Beckwith had a vasectomy six years before Annemarie and he were wed. Robert was checked and was found to be sterile. They subsequently were divorced on the grounds of adultery. The paternity of Timothy was denied.

Source:

Michael Beschloss, Family Tree, "LAST OF THE LINCOLNS," The New Yorker Magazine, February 28, 1994 issue, p. 54.