



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865**



**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**

MINUTES OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE  
Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Held at The Cat Fish Place, 2624 13<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Cloud, Florida

OPENING THE MEETING

At 12:00PM, Brother Roger Heiple, Committee Chair requested a roll call of those present.

Committee Chair .....	Roger Heiple	Present
Dept. Commander.....	Robert V. Chandler	Present
Committee Member.....	Charles D. "Buck" Custer	Present
Committee Member.....	Ronnie McCracken	Absent
Committee Member.....	Michael E. Farrell	Present
Committee Member.....	David Hoover	Present

Brother Heiple provided a Civil War history book about land and naval battles, engagements & skirmishes fought in the State of Florida.

Reading from a list, by year, of the locations of actual Florida Civil War engagements, Brother Custer called out each name on the list in-turn of those engagements in Florida during 1861. It was noted that most of the 1861 engagements had taken place in January and were already pasted the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Brother Heiple asked if there were any, which had not already occurred.

An engagement dated October 9<sup>th</sup> 1861 on Santa Rosa Island at Fort Pickens looked promising. Brother Farrell looked up the battle in the history book and read aloud the account of the military action, for consideration by the committee. Some discussion of other events of 1861 were considered but found lacking.

Brother Farrell made a motion that the action upon Fort Pickens be considered as the Sesquicentennial Signature event for the year 2011. Brother Custer seconded the motion. Brother Heiple called for a vote. The Fort Pickens event was unanimously accepted for consideration as the 2011 Sesquicentennial event. Brother Heiple then stated that an application to National would be forthcoming following further research by the committee members on Fort Pickens as a possible Sesquicentennial site.

At 12:35PM we were informed that the room we occupied was to be used for another party and that we needed to move. Brother Heiple declared the meeting adjourned to be reconvened in the next room.

12:45PM Once reseated the Department Commander, Brother Robert Chandler, asked the Chairman to review those Sesquicentennial Applications already on the table. Brother Heiple called the attention of the committee to the sesquicentennial applications, which Brother Chandler wished to present.

The first was an application for the battle of Olustee, Florida. The Olustee Sesquicentennial Signature event was for February of 2014. Upon review by the committee Brother Farrell made a motion to accept the application, Brother Custer seconded the motion and Brother Heiple called for a vote. The Olustee Battle application was unanimously approved. The application was then turned over to the Department Commander for his signature. The application would then be sent on to the National Sesquicentennial Committee for review.

## MINUTES OF DEPARTMENT SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Next Brother Chandler presented to the committee an application submitted by Camp 5 for a Sesquicentennial Memorial Service of the Civil War Veteran Edmond C. Weeks. Brother Custer raised the question of how the application was related to a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event? Rather it seemed to be more of a Department Memorial Dedication Service. Brother Hoover then requested a clarification on the definition of what is considered to be a National Sesquicentennial Signature Event. Brother Farrell produced an application form, which provided instructions. Brother Hoover then read aloud the criteria for a Sesquicentennial Signature Event from the National application form. The words, "Direct Connection with the Civil War Sesquicentennial", were interpreted by the sesquicentennial committee to mean "a military action, or incident, that occurred between the years 1861 to 1865". It was clear under this interpretation that the application did not qualify under steps 3b and 3c. It was agreed that this should be a Department event rather than a National Sesquicentennial Signature Event. It was also agreed that the committee would select only one event per year over the Sesquicentennial of 2011 through 2015.

Reading from the list, by year, of the locations of actual Florida Civil War engagements, Brother Custer continued to call out each name on the list in-turn of those engagements in Florida during 1862. Discussion ensued and a small gunboat action at mosquito inlet (Now Pone De Leon Inlet) in the New Smyrna area seemed to be a likely candidate for March of 2012. It was thought this event could highlight the service of the U.S. Navy. Brother Farrell made a motion to consider this military action as a Sesquicentennial Signature Event. Brother Hoover seconded the motion. Brother Heiple called for a vote. The New Smyrna event was unanimously accepted for consideration as the 2012 Sesquicentennial Signature Event. Brother Heiple then stated that an application to National would be forthcoming following further research by the committee members on New Smyrna as a possible Sesquicentennial site.

While reviewing the list of Civil War Events in Florida for the year of 1863 nothing seemed to jump out right away. Brother Custer skipped to the year 1865 and continued to call out each name on the list in-turn of those engagements in Florida during 1865. Discussion ensued regarding Natural Bridge. This area seemed to be a likely candidate for March of 2015. It was thought that Don Johnson's Artillery group would attend a sesquicentennial commemoration ceremony of the SUVCW. Brother Farrell made a motion to consider this military action as a Sesquicentennial Signature Event. Brother Custer seconded the motion. Brother Heiple called for a vote. The Natural Bridge event was unanimously accepted for consideration as the 2015 Sesquicentennial Signature Event. Brother Heiple then stated that an application to National would be forthcoming as the battle of Natural Bridge is very well documented and attended by re-enactors. Therefore further research by the committee members would not be necessary.


Finally the committee returned to the year 1863. The committee was interested in any actions along the Gulf Coast of Florida. A military action in the Tampa area at Fort Brook seemed promising. Brother Hoover informed the committee that the site of the skirmish was now a parking lot. Although this is a drawback Ft. Brook seemed the best candidate for the year 1863. Brother Hoover made a motion to consider this military action as a Sesquicentennial Signature Event. Brother Custer seconded the motion. Brother Heiple called for a vote. The Fort Brook event was unanimously accepted for consideration as the 2013 Sesquicentennial Signature Event. Brother Heiple then stated that an application to National would be forthcoming following further research by the committee members on Ft. Brook as a possible Sesquicentennial site.

MINUTES OF DEPARTMENT SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

At 2:00PM Brother Farrell then summarized the business items the committee had reviewed and ruled on. Brother Heiple felt that the committee had addressed many issues and that we should begin the research stage of our proceedings. All the members likewise felt that much had been done.

2:05PM The Committee Chairman then concluded that he would now close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Farrell  
Committee Member



Date

ATTESTED

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Roger Heiple  
Committee Chairman

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Date