



# PVT. LUCIUS L. MITCHELL CAMP 4

February 2016

## A Message From the Commander

### THE LAST OF A GREAT IRISH SOLDIER.

General Urell's last letter to his cousin, Mrs. Burns of Cork who accompanied the remains to Nenagh, and was present with her husband and other friends at the interment in Kilkeary cemetery.

*"My Dear Cousin Kate*

*Your Killarney postal to hand this morning. Tis queer that I was dreaming of Nenagh last night. For more than a month I've been "under the weather" and came very near crossing over the Potomac River to Arlington Cemetery but the good old stock that's in me cheated the undertaker out of a job. The old wound of the war of the rebellion, 61-65, and the effects of the fever contracted in Cuba In the war with Spain is telling pretty heavily against this old cousin of yours.. Four weeks ago I had almost given up hopes of seeing dear old aunt Mary and her saucy daughter, but now I'm commencing to feel as though I might be able to stand the trip and will attempt it if any friends go along. You won't see the big strapping fellow of a few years ago, only a "skeleton of myself" but all the Urell is in the skeleton. Yet people say to me "how well you're looking." Tis nice to have remarks like those made to you even though they may not be true, but when a fellow passes the sixty-ninth mark he's no chicken and can't strut around like a gamecock. Mind you Kate, dear, I'm not complaining-far from it: the world owes me nothing except the trip to Ireland. I*

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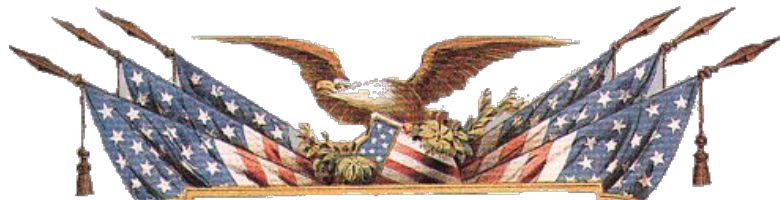
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## FEBRUARY CAMP MEETING

SATURDAY February 6, 2016

1 PM

St. Cloud Community Center  
716 Indiana Avenue  
St. Cloud, FL 34769

Camp Communicator

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War



# Meeting snapshots



## Officers 2015-2016

*Camp Commander : Michael Urell*

*SVC: Connie Landry*

*JVC: Timothy Wiff*

*Secretary : Clair D.  
"Skip" Whitlam*

*Treasurer : Clair D.  
"Skip" Whitlam*

*Council 1: Ronnie G. McCracken*

*Council 2: Roger L. Heiple*

*Council 3: James G. Ward*

*Patriotic Instructor : Roger Heiple*

*Chaplain : Ronnie G. McCracken*

*Graves & Memorials : Ron-  
nie G. McCracken*

*Historian: unseated*

*Eagle Scout Coordina-  
tor. : Unassigned*

*Signals Officer: Clair  
D. "Skip" Whitlam*

*JROTC contact: Michael Urell*

*Guide: Pending*

**Editor**  
**Steve Williams**  
swilliams16@cfl.rr.com

## Book Report

### Veterans in Politics- The Story of the G.A.R. By Mary Dearing

have lived more than a hundred years and have enjoyed nearly all of it, including wars, fun, frolic and sport. There was lots of sporting blood in the family. I can go back to the ass races in the field back of the barracks in Nenagh, with Tom Cooney riding our Tom's "Plunger"; then Arderoney races, stopping at Moylan's (I guess Aunt Mary remembers), and then I remembered when Brian Halloran and yours truly "slinged" school and walked or stole rides to Newcastle (near Limerick) races and was discovered and caught by father Denis Seery, Dr, Cahalan and other sports of the party attending the races. I can remember so well when I got home the next night the reception I got from mother, and if it hadn't been for dear old Mary Gleeson I don't think there would have been much of me left. So you see Kate, the sporting blood showed itself in me at an early age, and kept up to the present. I love athletics. Many years ago I was considered one of the best baseball players in the game. I am a lover of the game now. 'Tis great sport. Your English game of Cricket is milk and water compared to our national game. Our horse races are great, but I must acknowledge that your Irish jumpers beat our steeplechasers. Our jumps cannot be compared to yours-none over four feet high.

Nevertheless, we enjoy our races. Our (your) athletes beat the world. Sheridan, McGrath (Nenagh man), Crowley, Hayes (father Nenagh man), Sullivan, Walsh, and lots more with similar French names. "Tis a great race," sure enough, and I for one am awfully proud of that race. Cousin Molly Baldwin in Tioga, Pa. was and is in a quandary to know why you never wrote her a line since the death of uncle William. She says she wrote you giving an account of his passing away.

All our Yankee cousins are well, including the New York contingent. Brother James is as happy as a king, with his wife and boy. I wonder if aunt Mary remembers that old picture "Happy as a King", we brought from home (Nenagh) with us. Father thought a great deal of it. Jimmy has it in Brooklyn. Talking of pictures, Kate, many moon ago you promised to send me one of yourself. Is it coming? I won't tell you I'm going over.

I'm not sure, but I will tell you 'Tis the height of my ambition, and don't be surprised if you see me in Cork someday in July or first part in August. If my doctors say my physical condition will allow me to go I'll try hard to do so. Can I stand it when I go there? My heart is as tender as a child's. Can I see aunt Mary and go to the old homes in Nenagh, Rathnaleen and the Mill? The strain will be great, I know. I'm awfully sensitive foolishly so. Well Kate, dear, give my young and old love to aunt Mary. I'm thinking now, with tears in my eyes, of the music of the acordeon, flute and bugle that I often heard at Rathnaleen. Who were the players?

Kindest regards to Mr. Pune, glad to hear that his heart is good. I will now close this scribble with best love and kisses to my Irish cousin of pro-English proclivities. You see I remember you're not a Home Ruler. "He who is not with us is against us."

Your affectionate cousin,  
M. EMMET URELL"

An old soldier looks back over his life. Next month I'll discuss the letter a bit and give you, the reader, some more information about my dear Uncle Mike.

Michael Urell, L. L. Mitchell Camp 4 Commander

As a member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I have some knowledge of the Grand Army of the Republic. It greatly interests me and one can readily find material reminders of this wonderful old organization. I have visited the Civil War Museum in Rockville, Connecticut and have entered a meeting hall that has been beautifully preserved. In Peekskill, New York there is a statue of a lone "boy in blue" overlooking the town saying: "I was here." At Mount Peace Cemetery in St. Cloud, Florida I can visit over 400 saviors of our Union in their silent rows. All this stirs my soul and sometimes I salute with a feeling of loss.

Roger Heiple, my Sons guru, recommended I read Mary Dearing's 1952 book about the old G.A.R. "Veterans in Politics, the Story of the G.A.R.". At the time of her writing there were only a few of the old veterans left and their great influence was gone.

At the time of her writing there were only a few of the old veterans left and their great influence was gone. Mary Dearing relied heavily on the Manuscript Department of the Library of Congress as well as State Libraries and files of Washington's National Tribune Newspaper.

The book highlights the veterans great effect on the course of American history during and after the Civil War. Elections of Presidents, starting pre-G.A.R. in the election of 1864 and through the rest of the 19th century, were greatly influenced by the veteran's vote.

During most of this time period the G.A.R. would not associate itself with a political party but made its wishes known and the Republicans, more often than not, supported them.

The G.A.R. had many wishes. What seemed to be an organization based on fond memories and a desire for comradeship, from the beginning it had its eyes on the give and take of politics. Those who excelled at this soon gained control.

And what did the veterans petition for? At first, preference in job hiring, pensions that became more, and more inclusive and overall a national consciousness that, because much had been given, much was deserved. Memorial Day's introduction gave America a celebration of Civil War bravery and also reminded America of a debt. Of course we are familiar with Grant but what about Sickles, Sherman, Hancock and McClellan. Their later lives and the lives of other Civil War notables after the war are given light. Other fascinating personalities are introduced including John Tanner, George Lemon, and Lucius Fairchild.

As the G.A.R. veterans got older they became concerned with the education of the youth. They started a program to be sure the American flag flew over schools and they tried to ensure that textbooks reflected the righteousness of the Union cause. Also, they encouraged military training in schools and they continued to make youth a big part of the yearly Memorial Day services.

I'll let you discover other facets of this study of the Grand Army of the Republic. For example, relations with the ex-Confederates. What about the return of the captured flags? Were blue and grey reunions looked on in favour? Were Confederate battle flags allowed at the 75th anniversary of Gettysburg?

I hope this brief report will make you consider learning more about the grand men of the G.A.R.



# February in the Civil War

1861 - **Feb 1** Texas Convention votes for Secession. **Feb 4** Convention of Seceded states meets in Montgomery Alabama. Electoral vote for President was: Abraham Lincoln - 180, John C Breckinridge - 72, John Bell - 39, Stephen A Douglas - 12. **Feb 8** Confederate Constitution Adopted. **Feb 9** Jefferson Davis elected as Provisional President of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens named Vice-President. **Feb 13** Results of election made official - Lincoln elected. **Feb 18** Jefferson Davis Inaugurated President of Confederacy. **Feb 23** President-elect Lincoln arrives in Washington.

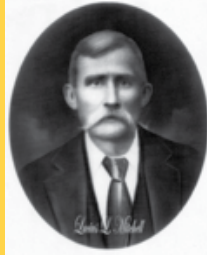


1862 - Various Skirmishes throughout the month **Feb 3**. President Lincoln declined the offer of War Elephants from the King of Siam.



War Elephants

**Feb 6** Surrender of Ft Henry, Tennessee. **Feb 8** Battle of Roanoke Isl., NC. **Feb 13-16** Attack on eventual surrender of Ft Donelson on Tennessee river. Victory by US Grant. **Feb 20** Willie Lincoln Dies. **Feb 21** Engagement at Valverde, NM. **Feb 22** Jefferson Davis Inaugurated President of Confederate States of America. **Feb 25** Union troops under Gen Don Carlos Buell occupy Nashville.



## Meeting Schedule

February 6,  
2016 at 1 p.m.

February 20, 2016  
[Department Encampment]

March 5, 2016  
at 1 p.m.

April 2, 2016  
at 1 p.m.

July 9, 2016  
at 1 p.m.

Our meeting schedule is six consecutive months between November through April meeting on the first Saturday of every month except in January, then we will meet on the second Saturday. At 1:00 PM.

Community Center - 702 Indiana Ave in St. Cloud.



Ft Donelson



1863 - **Feb 2-13** Union gunboats prepare for Vicksburg campaign. **Feb 16** U.S. Sen-

Photo # NH 63376 - USS Carondelet (1862-1865)



Federal Gunboat

ate passed the Conscription Act. **Feb 22** At Sacramento CA Ground broken for Central Pacific railroad. **Feb 24** Arizona Territory organized out of New Mexico Territory. **Feb 26** The Cherokee Indian National Council repealed its ordinance of secession, abolished slavery, and vigorously proclaimed for the Union.



.1864 - **Feb 1** President Lincoln under the conscription act ordered the draft of 500,000 men on March 10 for 3 years or duration of war. **Feb 3** Sherman's Meridian MS campaign begins. **Feb 7** Jacksonville FL occupied by Maj Gen Gilmore. **Feb 9** The largest escape of the war was accomplished by 109 Federal Officers (59 reached Federal lines,



**Libby Prison - Richmond VA**

48 recaptured and 2 drowned) from Libby Prison in Richmond VA. Led by Col Thomas E Rose of PA. **Feb 14** Federals capture Meridian MS. **Feb 17** Confederate Submarine sinks *U.S.S. Housatonic* off Charleston SC. **Feb 20** Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond FL. **Feb 22** Federals defeated by Forrest at Okolona MS. **Feb 24** Gen Braxton



**Battle for Olustee**

Bragg named chief of staff for Armies of the Confederacy despite his conflicts with other generals. **Feb 27** Federal prisoners begin arriving at camp near Americus GA - Later known



**Andersonville Prison Camp, Americus GA**

as Andersonville. **Feb 29** Lincoln approved the congressional act reviving the grade of Lt. General - With Grant in mind.



1865 - **Feb 1** Carolina Campaign in full Operation/Sherman begins march into SC. **Feb 3** Hampton Roads Conference between Lincoln and Seward/Alexander Stephens, John Campbell, R M Hunter. **Feb 5 - 7** Battle of Hatcher's



**Hatcher's Run - Confederate Battery**

Run VA. **Feb 6** Lee named Commander of Confederate Armies. **Feb 17** Federals capture Columbia SC, city in



**Columbia SC - February 15-17, 1865**

Flames, Charleston SC evacuated by Confederates. **Feb 22** Fall of Wilmington NC; Joseph Johnston restored to command. **Feb 27** Sheridan begins Shenandoah Valley campaign.

Source: *The Civil War Day by Day, An Almanac 1861-1865*, E B Long, 1971, Doubleday.



# Upcoming Events

## Department

Department Encampment will be February 20, 2015 at the  
Saint Cloud Senior Center on 17th Street

## National

60<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony commemorating the 151<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of President Lincoln's death. It will be held at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL at 10 AM on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

2016 National Encampment will be in Springfield, IL. from August 11-14.

Remembrance Day Weekend and Parade: November 18-20

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## Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

Hereditary membership in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) is open to men who are descendants (e.g., great great grandson, great grand nephew, etc.) of commissioned officers of the Union forces during the Civil War. Web site - <http://suvcw.org/mollus/mbrfrm.htm>

*Please Note: Non-hereditary membership (Associate Companion) may be available in some (but not all) of the Commanderies. Associate affiliation is based on a percentage of the number of hereditary members in each Commandery. Consequently, movement to elect Associates may be delayed until such time as there are enough hereditary Companions present in the particular Commandery.*

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The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the members of Lucius L Mitchell Camp of activities and events related to the mission of the SUVCW and its interests.

If you wish to place a civil war article or SUVCW item please submit to the Editor at [swilliams16@cfl.rr.com](mailto:swilliams16@cfl.rr.com)

*The Editor reserves the right to censor and/or edit all material submitted for publication to the Camp Communicator newsletter without notice to the submitter.*

## Camp Website

Be sure and visit our Camp Website at <http://c4dof-suvcw.org/camp4officers.html>. There is a page with a complete Calendar of Events that is updated regularly. Check back often for news of changes in time or place!



The SVR roots date back to 1881 with the "Cadet Corps" of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – the largest Union Veterans organization which formed in 1866 after the Civil War. The members of the GAR encouraged the formation of their sons as the SUVCW in 1881. These units eventually became known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve, when the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War moved toward a more patriotic and educational organization in design.

Many of the Sons of Union Veterans Camps (local organizations) formed reserve military units which volunteered their services during the Spanish – American War, World War I, and with the National Guard. Just prior to World War I, over 5,000 men wore the blue uniform of the SVR. As late as the 1930's, several states regarded their local SVR units as a military training component. Since World War II, the SVR has evolved into a ceremonial and commemorative organization. In 1962, the National Military Department was created by the SUVCW and consolidated the SVR units under national regulations and command. Since 1962, there have been five SUVCW Brothers that have held the SVR rank of Brigadier General and have had the honor to serve as the Commanding Officer of the SVR.



## Sutler Links

Link to list of vendors for any items to fill out your uniform and re-enactor accessories.

<http://www.fighting69th.org/sutler.html>

<http://www.ccsutlery.com/>

<http://www.crescentcity-sutler.com/index.html>