



# PVT. LUCIUS L. MITCHELL CAMP 4

January 2017

## Camp Communicator

*Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War*



### A Message From the Commander

In thinking about leadership in the Civil War one is always impressed by those who led by example. There was a sense of fraternity on the battlefield that led to tremendous bravery by individuals and groups.

Additionally I came across a statement attributed to Mohammed Ali that I paraphrase as if it doesn't scare you, it probably isn't worth doing. I keep these thoughts in mind in my everyday work as Commander of L. L. Mitchell, Camp 4.

I am very impressed by the efforts of so many in our Camp and one very good example would be the author and compiler of other authors works, Steve Williams. This Newsletter of Camp 4 is not happening without him. From time to time I will mention other brothers and what they are doing to further the respectful memory of our Civil War ancestors.

Brothers, as I mentioned at the last meeting our Camp has a very bright future and with the help of our good-spirited neighbors and Almighty God will become a regional center for the study of Civil War related history and the continued honoring of the memory of its veterans.

Mike Urell, L. L. Mitchell Camp 4 Commander

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### NEXT CAMP MEETING

SATURDAY January 7, 2017

1 PM

St. Cloud Community Center

716 Indiana Avenue

St. Cloud, FL 34769



# November 5 th Camp Meeting Minutes\*

Cmdr. Urell opened the meeting at 1:00 PM. Chaplain McCracken gave the opening prayer. Cmdr. Urell lead the Camp in the Pledge of Allegiance

Cmdr. Urell call for a Roll call of the Officers of the Camp

Cmdr. Urell	Present
Svcmdr. Landry	Excused (Ill)
Jvcmdr. Iliff	Present
Sec./Trea. Whitlam	Present
Chaplain McCracken	Present
Patriotic Inst. Heiple	Present

Total of eight camp members in attendance.

Cmdr. Urell suspended the reading of the minutes

Cmdr. Urell call for the **Treasurers report**: Treasurer Whitlam gave the report, as of November 05. Brother Strobel made a motion to accept the report. Brother Heiple seconded the motion. The treasurers report was accepted as reported.

Secretary Whitlam reported that he was unable to contact new member candidates McGuire, Watson and Campbell and was unsure weather they were planning on membership in the camp or Department at Large.

### **Old Business:**

Cmdr. Urell gave a summary of the Camps activities for the past six months, and exhorted camp members to continue trying to sell Christmas Wreaths for the annual Wreaths Across America project. He also updated the progress on the Historical Marker which is to be placed on the street in front of the GAR Hall.

### **For the Good of the Order:**

Patriotic Instructor Heiple presented a one of a kind document, a copy of the first GAR recruiting poster. And shared some of the history of Benjamin F. Stephenson.

### **New Business:**

PDC Ward, share some to the items the National Committees are developing for the benefit of our Order and presented the Camp with some of the new recruiting brochures the National had produced. A discussion developed over how we could get our Camp information printed onto the trifold with attention to the same caliber of quality. Chaplain McCracken suggested that we have a stamp made with the Camps information to be used and offer to inquire regarding the cost to produce it.

There was also discussion regarding the requirements showing direct ancestry to your Civil War ancestor.

The Department of Florida Newsletter also received National Acknowledgment at a Fort Lauderdale presentation.

Brother Ward pointed out that his commission at Cmdr. Of Amzi B. Harmon SVR Unit expires in November and is calling for someone to step up for the position. Brother Ward also called for SVR dues for members who have not yet joined or a in need of dues payment.

Brother Ward is also comitted to writing a history of Camp #4, he also recommended the reading of "The Nine Nations of North American." Historical reading.

Brother Heiple questioned the Camp on who was the first Commander of the GAR Post at St. Cloud. - John Macelroy (sic), 1909, the head of the Seminole Land and investment Co. and the GAR Hall Memorial Association.

Cmdr. Urell gave a slide show presentation of the monuments he had visited on his trip up north. He called for member to be at the lake front at 8:00 Am for the Veterans Day Parade November 12th in St. Cloud. He also mentioned his meeting with Paula Stark of the Down Town Bussiness Association and their hopes to have two historical plaques place per year. Cmdr. Urell stated that he is seeking to apply for funds to assist in that project.

A Camp discussion took place regarding whether we should continue to meet in the Senior Center Buildings, pros and cons.

Cmdr. Urell also commented on the Anthony Frazier grave marker and a meeting with Shirly Meade.



## Officers 2016 - 2017

*Camp Commander : Michael Urell*

*SVC: Connie Landry*

*JVC: Timothy Kiff*

*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**

# Wreaths Across America

Their mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. They also organize a week of events including international veteran's tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long "Veteran's Parade" between Maine and Virginia where we stop along the way to spread a message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.

## What is Wreaths Across America?

501(c)3 non-profit organization formed in 2007 as an extension of The Arlington Wreath Project, with over 700 participating locations in all 50 states, and 24 national veteran cemeteries on foreign soil.

What began in 1992 with a trailer load of wreaths, decorated by volunteers and laid at the graves of fallen soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery has now become a national organization with over 900 participating locations - all focused on the mission to Remember - Honor - and Teach.

Wreaths Across America™ wreath sponsorships are \$15 per wreath. Funds are collected by each participating group. \$5 of each \$15 will be returned to the registered fundraising group on a 30 day reimbursement cycle.

Our Camp is registered for the Mt Peace Cemetery.

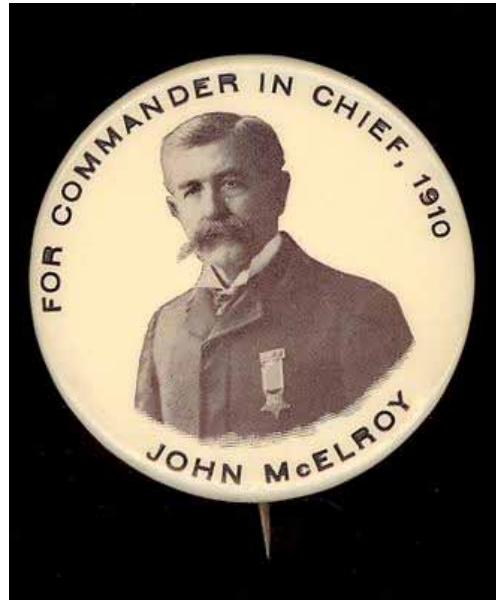


Seven Wreaths Across America had been sold. Cmdr. Urell asked Chaplain McCracken to deliver the closing prayer.

The meeting was declared closed. The next meeting will be December 3rd

Submitted by: Clair D. Whitlam, Sec. Camp 4 Lucius L. Mitchell  
Attested to by: Michael E. Urell, Commander

\* - Minutes were late to editor for the December Issue



## John McElroy

John McElroy (1846–1929) was an American printer, soldier, journalist and author, known mainly for writing the novel *The Red Acorn* and the four-volume *Andersonville: A Story of Rebel Military Prisons*, based upon his lengthy confinement in the Confederate Andersonville prison camp during the American Civil War.

McElroy was born to Robert and Mary Henderson McElroy in Greenup County, Kentucky. When his father died, he traveled to St. Louis to become an apprentice in the printing

business.

As a sixteen-year-old in 1863, McElroy enlisted with the Union Army as a private in Company L of the 16th Illinois Cavalry regiment, having earlier served with local Union troops in operations near St. Louis. In January 1864, he was among dozens of men captured in a skirmish near Jonesville, Virginia, by Confederate cavalrymen commanded by William E. Jones. According to his book, *Andersonville: A Story of Rebel Military Prisons*, McElroy was first sent to Richmond, then to Andersonville in February 1864. In October 1864 he was moved to Savannah and within about six weeks was sent to the new prison in Millen, Georgia (Camp Lawton); thence to several other camps before the war ended.

After the war ended, McElroy was released from captivity and transported back to the North. He settled in Chicago and resumed the printer's trade. He became a local reporter and newspaperman before relocating to Toledo, Ohio, to become an editor of the *Toledo Blade*. He married Elsie Pomeroy of Ottawa, Ohio, and raised a family. In 1879, he wrote *Andersonville: A Story of Rebel Military Prisons*, a non-fiction work based on his experiences during his fifteen-month incarceration. It quickly became a bestseller and remained popular for the next twenty years.

In 1884, he relocated from Toledo to Washington, D.C. to become editor and co-owner of the newspaper *National Tribune*. He was active in the local Grand Army of the Republic, serving as commander of the Department of the Potomac during 1896. In 1908, McElroy published *The Economic Functions of Vice*. The next year, he published *Struggle for Missouri*, a history of the controversy concerning slavery that resulted in armed conflict in Missouri. In 1910, he published a Civil War novel entitled *Si Klegg: His Transformation from a Raw Recruit to a Veteran*.

# Civil War Time line

## January in the Civil War



1861 - **Jan 2**, President Buchanan received letter from So Carolina Commissioners demanding he remove Maj Anderson (Ft Sumter's commanding officer) which Buchanan refused to officially receive. **Jan 3 - 14**, Southern states (AL, GA, FL, MS, NC, LA) start seizing Federal installations. **Jan 9**, Mississippi became 2nd state to secede. First shots at Ft Sumter. **Jan 10**, Florida is 3rd state to secede. **Jan 11**, Alabama secedes. **Jan 19**, Georgia secedes. **Jan 21**, Southern Senators, Yulee & Mallory(FL), Clay & Franklin (AL), J Davis (MS) withdraw. **Jan 26**, Louisiana Secedes. **Jan 29**, Kansas admitted to the union.



1862 - **Jan 1**, Federal ships bombarded Ft Barrancas - Pensacola FL. **Jan 3 - 5**, Gen Stonewall Jackson forays into western VA. **Jan 14-16 & 22**, Federal gunboats operate on Mississippi and Tennessee rivers., **Jan 15**, Edwin Stanton confirmed as Sec of War. **Jan 19**, Battle of Mill Springs, KY. **Jan 27**, Pres. Lincoln issues General War Order #1 which orders land and Naval forces to begin aggressive actions. **Jan 30**, *USS Monitor* launched from Greenpoint L.I., NY. **Jan 31**, Pres Lincoln issues Special War Order specifically to the Army of the Potomac. Queen Victoria declares it her purpose to maintain neutrality in the American Civil War..



1863 - **Jan 1**, Emancipation Proclamation issued. Galveston TX surrenders to Federal forces. **Jan 2-5**, Battle of Murfreesboro continues. **Jan 6**, British blockade runner captured off Mobile. **Jan 11**, Confederate Ft Hinman AR captured. *CSS Alabama* defeated *USS Hatteras* off Galveston. **Jan 13** Federal officials suthorized the raising of Negro troops for the SC Voluntary Infantry. **Jan 22** Burnside's second attempt at Fredericksburg failed due to weather. **Jan 25** Gen Hooker replaces Gen Burnside. **Jan 27** Proprietor of Philadelphia's *Journal* arrested for printing anti-Northern material. **Jan 29**, Confederate Government borrowed \$15, 000, 000 from French financier Emile Erlanger. **Jan 31**, Confederate gunboats attack at Charleston SC.



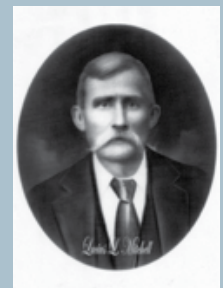
1864 - **Jan 1**, Extreme cold - below zero - as far south as Memphis and Cairo, IL. **Jan 6**, Federal troops under Kit Carson attack the Navajo in Canon De Chelly and send captured Navajo to Bosque Redondo. **Jan 10 -31**, Blockade runners continuously captured from NC to TX. **Jan 19**, Arkansas assed new Constitution with anti-slavery measure. **Jan - Throughout the month**, President Lincoln suspended many executions.



### Meeting Schedule

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.



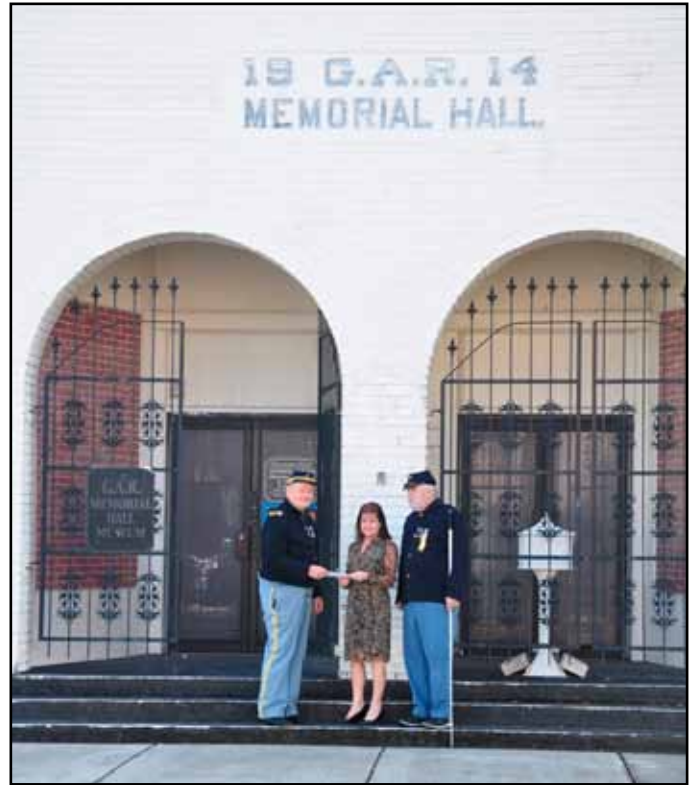


## Check Presentation

Commander Michael Urell and Patriotic Instructor Roger Heiple of L. L. Mitchell Camp 4 in St. Cloud, Florida present a check from the SUVCW Charitable Foundation to Paula Stark, Executive Director of St. Cloud Main Street, Inc. This event took place on December 13<sup>th</sup> in front of the old GAR Hall. The check will help defray expenses for a Florida State Historical Marker which should be in place this coming May. While the building is privately owned now, it is a Registered National Historic Landmark

1865 - **Jan**, Opened with little activity. **Jan 5**, Pres J Davis worrying over dissension over the draft, manpower problems, and supplies. **Jan 9**, Tennessee passed amendment to abolish Slavery. **Jan 11**, Missouri passed an ordinance abolishing slavery. **Jan 13-15**, Federal Attack on Ft Fisher (NC) begins. Gen Hood resigns. **Jan 19**, Gen Sherman orders march from Savannah through So Carolina. **Jan 23**, Confederate Congress creates General-in-Chief of the Confederate Armies. **Jan 25**, *CSS Shenandoah* reaches Melbourne Australia. **Jan 30**, Three Confederate Commissioners pass through lines for peace negotiations. **Jan 31**, US House passes the 13th Amendment 119-56 after a full month of debate. It became part of the Constitution on Dec 25th. Davis appoints Lee as General-in-Chief.

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



## Wreaths Across America Day

Saturday December 17th was Wreaths Across America Day and the Civil War Veterans were fondly remembered in St. Cloud Florida's Mount Peace Cemetery by Daughters and Sons Of Union Veterans Sandy Vogelpohl, Roger Heiple and Michael Urell. Early settler of St. Cloud and Comrade of Florida Camp 34, Grand Army of the Republic Henry Epple got his wreath and was remembered in a special way by having his picture placed in front of his tombstone. The picture was part of Roger Heiple's personal collection of early St. Cloud, Florida. Mount Peace Cemetery has close to 500 Union Veterans buried there.

# Upcoming Events

## National

Lincoln Tomb Observance April 14 & 15, 2017. President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center, Springfield IL 217-544-8800.

## Department

Annual Department Encampment February 18th, 2017

### Department Officers 2015-2016

**Commander:** Charles S Reeves, PCC - E-mail [reevesoldfarm@msn.com](mailto:reevesoldfarm@msn.com)

**Senior Vice Commander:** James G Ward, PDC - E-mail [nacheson1@att.net](mailto:nacheson1@att.net)

**Junior Vice Commander:** David Palmer, PCC - E-mail [Dayplm6@aol.com](mailto:Dayplm6@aol.com)

**Secretary:** Clair D Whitlam, PDC - E-mail [clairwhitlam@gmail.com](mailto:clairwhitlam@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Clair D Whitlam, PDC - E-mail [clairwhitlam@gmail.com](mailto:clairwhitlam@gmail.com)

**Councilor #1:** Harvey K. Linscott, PDC

**Councilor # 2:** John M. Vaughn, PDC

**Councilor # 3:** James G. Ward, PDC



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.

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.*



## 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>

## Camp Website

Be sure and visit our NEW Camp Website at <http://www.c4dofsuvcw.org/officers.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!

# East Lake Historical Society

Commander Urell's Talk Before East Lake Historical Society December 16, 2016 About Our Mutual Concern-Honoring Anthony Frazier.



“There are many ways of looking at things and very often they all have some truth in them. One of the first newspaper stories about the Anthony Frazier Tombstone appeared in a Sanford, Florida Newspaper in 2013. A father of 2 veterans was outraged that the Government issued tombstone of a United States Army Veteran would lie overturned and abandoned in the area of the old Delk Plantation in Mount Plymouth. Then in July of 2013 reporter Dan Tracy of the Orlando Sentinel wrote a well researched article about Anthony Frazier the former slave, United States Civil War Soldier, husband, father and well thought of Citizen of the Sorrento area. This story caught the eyes of St. Cloud, Florida members of the Fraternal Organization of Sons of Union Veterans. The outrage was there but also a nagging feeling that there was a wrong

that needed to be rectified and we had a responsibility to do something about it. This is where another way of looking at things comes in. Connie Landry and Ron McCracken of the Sons discovered that there was a Sorrento, Florida based group that shared our interest in finding out more about Anthony Frazier and putting his final resting place in order again. It was as if Mr. Frazier had spoken to us and said “I would like to introduce you to friends of mine.”

This is the way I prefer to understand all of this.

It has been the recent pleasure of the Sons to meet and work with Shirley Meade, Stephanie Smith, Scott Amey as well as Wekiva's Ranger Brooks and botanist John Lamarto. Shirley tells me that there is a huge debt of gratitude owed to local residents Ray Lewis, Tony Moore, Margaret Jerome, John Zalhaus and many others who taught us so much about the area past and present.

This restoration project is moving ahead slowly but maybe even the fact that it is going slowly has a hidden reason. Lately a bike trail near the graveyard and talk of a Florida Historical marker have been added to our thoughts. that would remind our posterity of the struggles and victories of the people who lived near here.

And so here we are at a Christmas party talking about and sharing love and affection for an old friend who we only remember through researchers, local historians and a large piece of Granite. Uncle Pete And Aunt Mary Frazier, we applaud you.”

Monument & Memorial Project

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## Gravestone-mystery clues: Ex-slave, Civil War soldier returned to Central Florida to raise family

July 4, 2013|By Dan Tracy, Orlando Sentinel

Anthony Frazier, the former slave and Civil War veteran whose marble headstone lies on its back in a field of tall, wild grass in northwest Orange County, ran away from a Central Florida citrus plantation to join the Union Army in 1864.

Along with his fellow slave and half brother, Joseph Robards, Frazier signed up in Hilton Head, S.C., and fought not only for their freedom but to keep the country from being torn apart. They were privates and engaged in several skirmishes, including a battle in Jacksonville.

The two survived the ravages of war and were honorably discharged April 25, 1866. They then returned to Central Florida to start all over again.

But as free men, not slaves.

Such details of Frazier's life once appeared lost, much like the whereabouts of his remains.

But genealogists and history buffs from Florida to Maryland recently scoured obscure files online and at the National Archives in Washington seeking information about Frazier after reading an Orlando Sentinel report about his misplaced marker.

The documents they uncovered, plus research conducted by the Sentinel, now paint a fuller, if still incomplete, portrait of Frazier, who was born in Georgia but spent most of his life as a farmhand in and around north Orange and south Lake counties.

He was in his late 20s and bound to the groves of the Delk plantation in Rock Springs when the War Between the States broke out. According to a statement by Robards kept at the National Archives, Frazier “saw milled and carpentered and farmed and did general hard labor.”

Robards was testifying in 1910 on behalf of Frazier’s widow, Mary, who was seeking to have the \$8-a-month military pension of her just-deceased husband ceded to her.

Mary had met Frazier when he was camping as a soldier in Charleston, S.C. She was younger, possibly by as much as 15 years, but they were smitten with each other, according to Robards. They were married in Jacksonville when Frazier mustered out of the service. Records indicate they had as many as six children and settled near Lake Beauclair in the Tangerine area of Orange County.

He was granted 160 acres through the Homestead Act with the papers signed by President Ulysses S. Grant. When Mary Frazier died in 1925, the land was valued at \$600, records indicate.

Vivian Owens, a Mount Dora author who has written about black history in Lake County, said Frazier likely came back to the area because “he knew the land and its resources, and he knew the nature of people populating the area.”

Although he undoubtedly faced prejudice from many of the white people who had lost their source of free labor, he settled into an area where numerous former slaves had gathered. They were drawn by the woods — which could provide cover from disgruntled whites — and the rural setting.

“He could work directly for the white man, or he could create his own type of job. ... He could grow his own orange grove and sell to the white and black communities. He could raise vegetables and peddle them from house to house. He could fish in the nearby lakes and streams and sell his catch of the day,” said Owens, who wrote “The Mount Dorans: African American History Notes of a Florida Town.”

Frazier apparently got along with blacks and whites, said Angela Y. Walton-Raji, a genealogist who read numerous documents in Frazier’s pension file at the National Archives.

She pointed out that his widow, Mary, submitted a pension request written on her behalf by A.S. Matlock, an area merchant who described himself as one of the first white settlers in the area. Both Mary and Anthony Frazier were illiterate and signed their names with an X.

An entry on the Ancestry.com website said Anthony and Mary Frazier were known in the region as Uncle Pete and Aunt Mary, which were terms of respect and endearment back then, Walton-Raji said.

“They were sort of considered good citizens in the town,” she said.

It is not clear what Anthony Frazier or his wife died of. It also appears that their descendants no longer live in

Central Florida, though a black graveyard just outside Eustis holds the remains of Lula Frazier, who was born in 1881 and died in 1926.

Lula may have been Frazier’s second-youngest daughter, or the wife of his youngest son, Robert, who was born in 1879.

Shirley Meade, a trustee of Sorrento Cemetery, established in 1890, said her graveyard does not hold any Fraziers. But, she said, she has heard through the years that there was at least one black cemetery in the midst of the old Delk orange plantation.



ANTHONY FRAZIER was born in Liberty County, Georgia and in September 1864 was age 28. He enlisted at Hilton Head, South Carolina in the 21st US Colored Infantry, Company K. He applied for a Federal pension in Florida, 16 Apr 1890; his wife Mary’s pension is dated 12 May 1910.

Anthony received a Homestead Patent 20 Nov 1875 for 160 acres, the SW quarter of Section 12 T20-S, R26-E, signed by Ulysses S. Grant, President. The land was on the south side of Lake Beauclair, about ½ mile west of present Orange County line.

Mary Frazier, wife of Anthony, died 19 Dec 1924, Sorrento Precinct, and was buried in Sorrento. She was a midwife, about age 81, born Savannah, Georgia.

U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles Anthony Frazier Rank at enlistment: Private - State Served: U.S. Colored Troops Service Record: Enlisted in Company K, U.S. Colored Troops 21st Infantry Regiment.

U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1861-1865 - Name: Anthony Frazier Branch of Service: 21st United States Colored Infantry U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1861-1865 Name: Anthony Frazier Birth Location: Liberty, GA, Georgia Enlistment Date: 1864 Enlistment Location: Hilton Head, SC Branch of Service: 21st United States Colored Infantry

U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 Name: Anthony Frazier Issued: 20 Nov 1875 State of Record: FL Acres: 160 Accession Number: FL0680\_.252 Authority: May 20, 1862: Homestead Entry Original (12 Stat. 392) ; Document Number: 823 ; Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934 Name: Anthony Frazier State Filed: FL Widow: Mary Frazier







The headstone of Union soldier and former slave Anthony Frazier. (Warren V. Poplin, Wekiva Springs State Park)

No one is sure where the burial grounds are, but she said she would not be surprised if Frazier's grave is near his headstone, which lies on a slight rise, largely inaccessible to anyone without a four-wheel-drive vehicle and direct knowledge of where to look.

It is within eyesight of a major road-construction project called the Wekiva Parkway.

In addition to citrus groves, the land also served as pasture for cattle. Quite possibly, it is a place where Frazier labored.

The land is part of a 1,600-acre tract of scrub grass, cactus, oaks and pines that belongs to the state parks system. Wekiva Springs State Park officials learned of the marker several years ago and have been hesitant to move it.

Meade, of Sorrento Cemetery, said her graveyard would take the stone and place it upright, though she would prefer to see it reunited with Frazier's remains.

"It makes you wonder," she said of Frazier's marker, "if there are others out there."

dltracy@tribune.com or 407-420-5444

## National Graves Registration Project



The goal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVVCW) National Grave Registration Project is to locate the final resting places of all Union Civil War Veterans, and enter that information into the National Graves Registration Database. This undertaking is rather large and needs as many interested people to assist as possible.

As with any project such as this, considerable fieldwork will be needed to obtain the information that will eventually be placed into the National database. Individuals who wish to assist the SUVVCW may obtain a Grave Registration packet (consisting of a set of instructions, list of abbreviations and a Graves Registration form) at the end of this Web page. Each completed form will represent one Union soldier's grave. Upon completion of the form, it can then be mailed to the National Grave Registration Officer for inclusion in the National database.

For those individuals who wish to register a large number of grave sites, please contact the National Graves Registration Officer for assistance.

Updated or additional information for Civil War veterans previously registered should be marked "UPDATE" and sent to the above National Graves Registration Officer.

In order to complete this project, it will literally take an

army of volunteers. Within the SUVVCW, many Departments and Camps are currently working on the project. However, additional help is needed. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to assist in the project. For instance, individual descendants of Union veterans can register their ancestors' graves and organizations can adopt entire cemeteries for registry.

The key to the success of the project will be based on how well the data is collected and recorded. Incomplete Grave Registration Forms or databases (in the case of the entry databases) that contain incomplete information do neither the volunteer nor the veteran whose grave you are trying to register any service. It is important that you ensure that all the available information is obtained and recorded before you turn your work in to the National Graves Registration Officer.

## Monument & Memorial Project

As legal heir to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), preservation of GAR memorials is one of the most important purposes of the SUVVCW. The purpose of this program is to physically search out, inspect, and catalog each and every GAR memorial that can be found.



Our American tradition of Memorial Day, being founded by the GAR in 1868, has been celebrated each year with many communities focusing part of their ceremonies at or near a GAR monument. With proper care, these monuments will continue to stand in tribute to those who saved the Union from the conflict of 1861 to 1865.

With the help of our Departments across the country, and the local Camps within them, the SUVVCW will physically search out and inspect each and every memorial that can be found. We hope to identify any professional restoration work that may be necessary due to the effects of nature or vandalism. We also hope to regularly inspect memorials so that our data remains current. Occasionally public authorities and private property owners tied to the sites that these memorials stand on need to be informed of the GAR - SUVVCW Deed of Conveyance. Notice of the SUVVCW's legal interests should put an end to the removal and/or sale of Civil War memorials.

This is a very large project and we can use your assistance. If you know of a GAR monument or Civil War-related memorial (of any size/design) near you, we invite you to share this information with the SUVVCW. You can download and print a copy of the form for your use by accessing the following link: GAR Monuments / Civil War Memorials Assessment Form (CWM #61). Questions regarding the SUVVCW's GAR Monuments/Civil War Memorials program and assessment form may be directed to the National Civil War Memorials Committee Chairman:

Walt Busch  
1240 Konert Valley Dr  
Fenton, MO 63026  
314-630-8407 / webusch@hotmail.com

# PATRIOTIC RECOLLECTIONS

## **Just a Little Bit of History: Interview with J.O. Bingham, Company A, 56th Ohio, USA(a)**

J.O. Bingham was a member of the 56th Ohio, first of Company D and after when veteranised, of Company A. He was in the service 4 years and 7 months, which was as long as a fellow could get in. Colonel Kinney first commanded the regiment, and afterwards the noted Colonel Raynor. The REGISTER scribe scouted Mr. Bingham as he was sailing up Center Street, one day last week, and asked him to fish up a 'Narrow Escape' from his long experience in the army. *Well, said he, about the most interesting experience I had in the war took place during Bank's ill fated Red River expedition. I had just veteranised, and was promised a good long furlough home, when the expedition started, and as they ordered our regiment on the expedition, of course all the vets went; they didn't like to go home just as things getting romantic; so they joined in and kept themselves happy by thinking of the furlough they'd get when they returned. I'll not tell of the Bank's demonstration- you can read that in the history; only speak of our return from Alexandra on the Red River to New Orleans. Our regiment, 300 of us, started on the transport, John Warner, down river. Banks was falling back, and we were preceding him. There were with us, also, two little musketo gunboats. The rebs were thick along the river. When we got to Snaggy Point and were going around the bend, a masked battery opened on us and swept our boat badly-tore off the pilot house, severed pipes, mashed wheels; in fact, completely disabled us, so that we were swinging with the current. The rebs were on the right side of the river. They kept the fire hot on us with artillery and muskets. Colonel Raynor ordered a man to swim with a rope to the left shore, and the man succeeded in doing it. This brought our boat on the opposite side of the rebels.*

*While we were thus swinging around, a shell smashed through our boat, went under the floor, taking off the soles of one mans shoes, and the feet of the man next to him. The former was Thomas Cox and the latter, Sergeant Woods of Gallipolis (Ohio). Woods fell into the hands of the rebs and died a week after. When the shell exploded it wounded Jas. O'Dell and Esra Arther, and as I was standing right next to them But got off with a mere scratch.*

*Our company got behind some cotton bales on the right side of the boat, and so, when Colonel Raynor ordered the men from the craft, we didn't hear the order, and he got the rest of the regiment up the bank and into the woods before he missed us. Then he came back for us and while getting us off, was himself badly wounded in the leg; so in addition to getting ourselves out, we had to carry him up the bank, and we were under fire all the time, both cannon and musketry. However, we got out of that without further loss; and laid in the woods while the reb battery plugged at our little protecting gunboats. These soon were disabled too, and ran up the white flag and surrendered. After we got Raynor from the transport, he was taken back to one of the gunboats, thinking they would protect themselves, and when they surrendered they took him too. That was the second time he was made prisoner. The REGISTER some weeks ago told of the first time.*

*Well, when the rebs had taken the gunboats, and our regiment of 300 had to look out for themselves, Colonel Henry Jones, who had succeeded to the command, started down the river to Fort De Russe, about 30 miles away. He left the three wounded men whom we had, in the woods in care of myself and another man, scary for us, for we hadn't had a bit to eat, nothing to drink with or cook with, and very hungry and sleepy to begin with. I thought at first to surrender. We could hear the rebs on our boats, and at one time I crept through the woods to the edge of the bank intending to surrender, but when I got a good view of them, they looked so revengeful, that I concluded to sneak back; when I returned, I told the boys I couldn't muster up courage to surrender; so we would have to get out of there. Two of the wounded could be along well, but the other man, my associate, and I had to take turns in carrying; and thus, we started on our weary march through the woods and swamps toward Fort De Russe. You had better believe it was bitter work, going as we did without food or rest, and half the time carrying a man. We suffered very much for water; as we did not dare go to the bank of the river, for the rebs were all along the other side. We had no cups of canteens, and but one hat that would hold water. After we had been on the go two or three hours when it was about noon I took the hat to get some water for the wounded boys I crept through the underbrush at the edge of the riverbank and then made a rush to the water, but as bad luck would have it, just as I started, my foot caught on a rope and I tripped and went sprawling toward the water and couldn't stop until I went into the river headfirst. I got a good drink, and you had better believe, but by this time some musket balls started whizzing around so I got a hat full of water and skipped out of there.*

*Well, about the middle of the afternoon, we ran into a Frenchman living in the woods. He was a Union man and was hiding from the rebels, for fear of being conscripted. He was very kind to us, and warned us to be very quiet, for just then the rebs had a picket post right opposite them, on the other side of the Red River. We were very quiet and stayed there until dark and for a good reason too. The rebs at the picket post had a canoe, tied at the water's edge opposite us, and the Frenchman said he'd swim across after dark, steal the canoe, bring it over to us and in that and the cover of night we could float down the river to Fort De Russe. Now wasn't that a grand scheme? And the Frenchman carried out the program precisely. He swam the river, got the canoe, brought it over to us, and at 9 o'clock at night, we started down the river, it could only hold four. I got in there with the three wounded men because I was an expert at paddling; and my associate walked along the bank. Thus we proceeded during the long, weary, toilsome night, and at daybreak we caught site of the Union flag floating over Fort De Russe. Never in my life did I see such a glorious sight, and never was my heart so light as I paddled that canoe under the fort, and never has my body been so heavy. Tired was no name for it. I dragged myself to the fort; laid down under a cannon and went to sleep, and didn't wake till the middle of the afternoon, though the boys declared that the cannon fired four times while I was sleeping under it.*

*Well, that is the end of my narrow escape, or rather the succession of narrow escapes.*