The Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War is based in Springfield, Greene County, MO. We are a volunteer group of ladies whose members actively participate in the objects of the organization, including genealogical, historical, patriotic, and service projects. Although we are part of a State and National Society, and membership is a lineage-based society of women who are descended from a Union Veteran involved in the 1861-1865 War of the Rebellion, we also provide amenities to the local communities.

The Tent is named for Mary Whitney Phelps, a loyal woman of the Civil War era, who is known for her kind compassionate care of soldiers during the war and for establishing an orphanage for both Union and Confederate orphans post war. Mrs. Phelps and her husband John Smith Phelps, who later became a Governor of Missouri, resided in Springfield during the Civil War. They are both buried in Hazelwood Cemetery in Springfield.

In October of 1999, 35 members signed the charter for the Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22. The following are organizing members: Maxine Allen, Rosemary Bane, Dee Biggers, Dani Black, Frances Black, Donna Bond, Laura Bond, Ann Brashears, Edna Breshears, Sally Bueno, Carolyn Bunch, Valerie Chipman, Jody Clifton, Mary Courtney, Willene Dernehl, Lucille Dreier, Fannie Frank, Barbara Grantham, Gene Hendricks, Nancy Ingrisano, Constance
Irby, Jerri Irby, Marilyn Ison, Laura Johnson, Margaret Maulin, Jane Napier, Elizabeth Riggs, Carmelita Robertson, Paula Schoebelen, Martha Scott, Opal Skinner, Dortheta Stracke, Cindy Tolbert, Linda Turner, and Andrea Ummel.

Charter Members of Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22
Sitting L-R, Maxine Allen, Valerie Chipman, Willene Dernehl, Donna Bond, Elizabeth Riggs, Marilyn Ison, Dortheta Stracke, Margaret Maulin.
Standing L-R, Dani Black, Edna Breshears, Mary Courtney, Laura Black-Johnson, Connie Irby, Fran Black, Cindy Tolbert, Jody Clifton, Fannie Frank, Andrea Ummel, Rosemary Bane, Lucille Dreier, Jane Napier, Sally Napier Bueno and Gene Hendricks.
Over the past 10 years, Tent No. 22 has placed five historical markers in the area. In 2009, the Tent raised a marker in Webster County, MO, near the site of Fort Sand Springs. Located at the corner of Highway 38 and Timber Ridge Road, the marker tells the significance of Fort Sand Springs during the Civil War and has a partial listing of the names of men who were stationed there.

In 2011, a marker was placed on the grounds of Sunshine Elementary School, Springfield, MO. The black granite stone, positioned on the northeast corner of Sunshine St. and Jefferson Ave, recognizes the work of Mary Whitney Phelps in establishing the Civil War Orphans’ Home that was previously on the property. The public was invited and the students at Sunshine School assisted in the unveiling and the dedication. Many members wore period dresses.

The following year the Tent established a marker on the northeast corner of Virginia Ave and Brookside Dr. in Phelps Grove Park honoring Mary Whitney Phelps. The wording tells of Mrs. Phelps’ commitment to caring for the soldiers after the Battles of Wilson’s Creek and Pea Ridge; her concerned attention to the body of Union General Nathaniel Lyon after he was killed; her efforts with orphaned children from the war; and her association with the Confederate Burial Association as well as with the National Women’s Suffrage Association. Phelps descendants from across the United States joined the Tent in the celebration of this dedication ceremony.
On November 3, 2019, the Tent unveiled yet another marker in Webster Country, MO near the site of Warden’s Station in Conway. This one stands at 6161 Long Highway Y on the farm of Janet and Wayne Whitehead close to the original post. In July of 1863, Company K, 8th Missouri State Militia Cavalry Regiment was ordered to the location for the primary purpose of scouting the adjacent countryside for bushwhackers. In 1864, Company M of the 6th Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia Regiment was at Warden’s Station with the mission to escort supply trains and stages back and forth along the Rolla Road between Warden’s Station and Sand Springs Station.
Then on August 9, 2020, the Tent placed a new marker between the original grave stones of John A and Roxanna Ray in the Lindsey Cemetery. On August 10, 1861, the Ray’s home was converted to a field hospital after the Battle at Wilson’s Creek that was fought on their property.

To help preserve the Civil War history of Southwest Missouri, the tent published a book in 2010 that highlights Civil War markers and monuments in the Ozarks. This book, *Marking Civil War History in the Ozarks* is a *Guide to Civil War Markers and Monuments in the Twenty-Four Southwest Missouri Counties*. In 2015, the tent published *Union True*, which is a collection of *stories and photos of the ancestors of Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865, Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22*.

Some of the ongoing tent projects include; promoting patriotism in the United States of America by sponsoring patriotic flag instruction for elementary school children in the area; giving porch flags to residents of new homes for Habitat for Humanity; and an Adopt-a-Veteran program at the Missouri Vernon Veterans’ Home to fulfill their Christmas wishes.
The Tent is also a member of the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield Foundation. They support their annual Anniversary of the Battle of Wilson’s Creek ceremony and the moonlight tours. Each year in December, volunteers set luminaries in preparation for the drive through the battlefield on the luminary commemorative circuit.

Although the chapter does much more, it is for the reasons described above that I would like our chapter to be counted in the “snapshot” of Missouri Legacy Organizations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pat Haas
President 2020-2021