



THE EXCELSIOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE DANIEL E. SICKLES CAMP 3
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK ♦ SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Volume I, Issue 1

www.suvcw.org/ny/camps/sickles/home.htm

2009

**Sons of Union Veterans
Of The Civil War
Department of New York
Sickles Camp 3
2009 Officers**

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Francis C. Alexander

Camp Guide

Connor K. Killane

Camp Guard

Noah R. Bell

Color Bearer

Ian P. Killane

Camp Historian

James A. Hessler



Send submissions to:

SICKLES CAMP 3

EXCELSIOR

c/o Michael S. Bennett

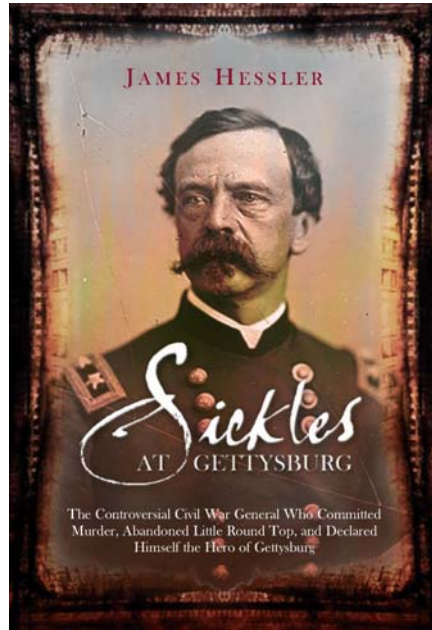
PO Box 1824

White Plains, NY 10602

Phone: (914) 949-4679

Fax: (914) 949-4777

spangler@mindspring.com



Sickles Camp Brother Authors Book Gettysburg, PA

Sickles Camp Brother, and Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide, James A. Hessler, has written a new book on Daniel E. Sickles. Published by Savas Beatie, LLC and slated for release this coming Spring, **Sickles At Gettysburg** promises new information and new insights on the Key Affair, the placement and performance of Sickles' Third Corps at Gettysburg, as well as the many other controversies in the life of Daniel E. Sickles.

This new biography includes commentary on Sickles' relationships with the Lincolns, Daniel Butterfield, Joseph Hooker, and even Confederate General James Longstreet. In addition to his thorough coverage of Sickles' involvement at

Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg and the seriously damaged relationship with George Meade, Hessler's book details Sickles' attempts to discredit Meade after the battle and to proclaim himself the true hero of Gettysburg. And, of course, we are treated to the real story of Sickles' substantial role in developing Gettysburg National Military Park - and his expulsion from the New York Monument Commission for misappropriation of funds.

Commander Bennett and his family had the great pleasure of touring the Gettysburg Battlefield with Brother Jim Hessler, LBG during the *Remembrance Day* weekend this past November. The weather was a bit chilly, but we still had a great time walking the fields where Sickles and his men stood their ground - even if not the ground Meade wanted him on - back on July 2, 1863. From Houck's Ridge and the Triangular Field, through the Wheatfield and Peach Orchard, Jim gave us the full Sickles/Third Corps tour.

Thanks Jim, and best of luck with the book!

www.SicklesatGettysburg.com

Sickles Camp 3 – 2009 Dues Notice

**For those of you who are not Life Members
or Juniors, please feel free to forward your
2009 Camp dues of \$30, payable to:**

**Sickles Camp 3, SUVCW
to the address at left.**



Licensed Battlefield Guide and author James Hessler, with Sickles Camp Junior Brother Jonathan S. Bennett

Sickles Camp 3 Dates to Remember

January 2009

January 17, 2009
New York Department
Mid-Year Meeting
Ithaca, NY

April 2009

April 26, 2009
187th Birthday
Observance at
Grant's Tomb
New York, NY

May 2009

May 3, 2009
95th Anniversary of
Daniel Sickles' Death
May 3, 1914
New York, NY

June 2009

June 5-7, 2009
New York Department
Annual Encampment
Binghamton, NY

July 2009

July 2, 2009
146th Anniversary of
Sickles' July 2, 1863
Gettysburg Injury
Gettysburg, PA

August 2009

August 13-16, 2009
SUCVW
National Encampment
Louisville, KY

October 2009

October 20, 2009
190th Anniversary of
Daniel Sickles' Birth
October 20, 1819
New York, NY



Welcome to New Sickles Camp 3 Brothers

During the last few months, several new Brothers have joined the Sickles Camp:

James Hessler of Gettysburg, PA

Associate Member: A *Licensed Battlefield Guide* and author, Brother Jim found the Sickles Camp, through our website. Having just completed his work on the new book, **Sickles at Gettysburg**, his research and knowledge of Sickles is obvious. His other 19th Century interests include George Armstrong Custer and the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Jim speaks at many Civil War Roundtables and leads tours on various aspects of the Battle of Gettysburg, especially Pickett's Charge and the actions of General Daniel E. Sickles and their motivations and consequences.

Connor K. Killane of Clifton Park, NY

Noah R. Bell of Peterborough, NH

Ian P. Killane of Clifton Park, NY

Ancestor: *Major General Philip Regis de Trobriand* of the 55th and 38th NYVI, Third Corps Brigade Commander and 2nd Corps Division Commander.

Connor, Noah and Ian are all descendants of General de Trobriand, who served as a Colonel in charge of a Brigade under Sickles in the Third Corps. His career led to his eventual promotion to Brevet Major General of Volunteers. As a Brigadier General in the Regular Army, de Trobriand served until his retirement in 1879. Connor, Noah and Ian are all grandsons of Sickles Camp 3 Charter Member Waldron K. Post.

James M. Scanlon of Hinsdale, NY

Thomas C. Scanlon, III of Olean, NY

Ancestor: *Pvt. Jacob Miller, 26th New York Light Artillery, Battery*

While the Sickles Camp is somewhat unique in that it doesn't serve a specific geographic area, Brothers Scanlon have joined the Sickles Camp in order to become members of the SUCVW while waiting for a new Camp to be formed in their region of Western New York.. The now-forming Cpl. John Starks Camp 105 will be headquartered in Machias, NY and will serve that area. While their stay with us will not be permanent, we offer them a hearty welcome!

Welcome to all of our new Brothers! Thank you for joining us, and for supporting our most worthwhile and honorable work to honor the brave men who saved the Union.

Sickles Camp Brother Receives War Medal

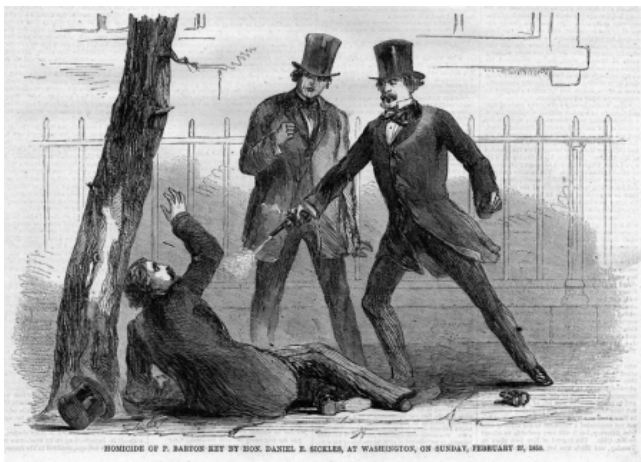
Daniel Sickles Camp 3 is pleased to announced that Brother Thomas C. Scanlon, III has been recognized for his patriotic service to our country with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's War Medal. Brother Scanlon served with the US Army Engineers between 1966 and 1969. Congratulations on the award, and thank you for your service!

The SUCVW War Medal is authorized for any Brother who has served honorably in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States during a period of war or military conflict as defined by the Council of Administration. Entitlement is determined by the Brother's Camp at a regular meeting of that Camp. A gold bar naming the war or conflict in which the Brother served may be attached to the ribbon of the medal.



From the Commander: Gettysburg Daily website creates Sickles Award For DUMB actions!

I was surfing through the internet recently, in search of some information about the iron fence which separates Gettysburg's National Cemetery from the adjacent civilian Evergreen Cemetery. For those who might be unaware of this bit of Sickles trivia, the fence was originally located at Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C. Based upon the recommendations of former (and future) Congressman Sickles, Congress passed a joint-resolution giving this fence to the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association. The fence, ever since the backdrop of the National Cemetery, had previously served as the 1859 backdrop for Sickles' shooting of Philip Barton Key in Lafayette Park. The rumor was that Sickles, referencing the non-guilty verdict he received based on a plea of temporary insanity, wanted to be able to show everyone visiting Gettysburg how and where he had gotten away with murder. That whole incident caused Sickles a lifetime of trouble (not that it did Key much good either). I doubt Dan would be quite so glib. But that's the legend. In any event, I learned from the *Gettysburg Daily* website, which I had never heard of previously, that the fence was damaged this past year when a large portion of a witness tree in the National Cemetery broke away from its trunk and came crashing down on the fence, bending and breaking some of the ornate iron work (much more ornate than the Harper's Weekly drawing below).



In perusing the website, I discovered that they have created an award to, apparently, be given for carelessness or negligence in connection with the Gettysburg National Military Park. Examples of recent nominations include the debacle at the new Visitors Center/Museum involving the sale of tickets for the films shown, the slathering of asphalt along several park roads which actually cover natural features and touch flank markers, and the possible

cutting down of a live witness tree by the National Park Service. The name of the award, given for dumb actions, is *The Sickles*. My very polite criticism on their choice of names, and my defense of Dan Sickles, met with firm resistance. The Editor of the site, Bobby Housch, told me he had his reasons and that he felt justified in his selection. I guess we'll have to unveil our Camp's newest award for closed-mindedness and obtuse thinking: *The Housch*. It's not a bad website, however. Decide for yourselves:



www.GettysburgDaily.com & www.TheSickles.com

de Trobriand Descendants Place Wreath



On October 18, 2008, Brother Waldron K. Post and his grandson, Brother Connor K. Killane, participated in a ceremony at Gettysburg during their visit to attend the annual meeting of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion (MOLLUS). Seen above, Connor placed a wreath at the plaque honoring the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Third Corps, and its Commander, Brigadier General de Trobriand. Connor is a fourth grandson of the General.



SICKLES
EXCELSIOR BRIGADE!
 HEADQUARTERS, CITY HALL PARK.



YORKTOWN

WILLIAMSBURG, MAY 5th.
 FAIR OAKS, JUNE 1st.
 WILLIAMSBURG ROAD, JUNE 25th.
 SAVAGE STATION, JUNE 29th.
 WHITE OAK SWAMP, JULIE 30th.
 CHARLES CITY CROSS-ROADS, JUNE 30th.
 MATHEW HILL, JULY 1st.

BRIG. Gen. D. E. SICKLES
 RECEIPTS RECEIVED HERE FROM 8 A M TO 6 P. M.
BOUNTIES!

FROM STATE GOVERNMENT, \$25 FROM CITY GOVERNMENT, \$10
 FROM GENERAL GOVERNMENT, \$25 FROM CITY GOVERNMENT, \$10
 FROM STATE GOVERNMENT, \$25 FROM CITY GOVERNMENT, \$10
 FROM GENERAL GOVERNMENT, \$25 FROM CITY GOVERNMENT, \$10
TOTAL \$135

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