



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 III Issue 1

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

2011

**Sons of Union Veterans
Of The Civil War
Department of New York
Sickles Camp 3
2011 Officers**

Commander

Michael S. Bennett, PDC

Senior Vice Commander

Robert V. Comegys

Junior Vice Commander

Todd A. Shillington, PDC

Secretary/Treasurer

Charles R. Bennett

Camp Council

Douglas M. Harding

Waldron K. Post

John Shaud

Patriotic Instructor

Jonathan S. Bennett

Camp Chaplain

Francis C. Alexander

Camp Guide

Connor K. Killane

Camp Guard

Noah R. Bell

Camp 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) 509-6048

spangler@mindspring.com



Daniel Sickles' Funeral

May 8, 1914

At shortly after 10:00 am, the mahogany casket holding the earthly remains of General Daniel E. Sickles was placed upon a gun caisson by 15 of the 40 surviving GAR members of the Phil Kearney Post, to which Dan Sickles belonged and which had held a memorial service at the General's home the night before.

The funeral procession traveled up 5th Avenue to St. Patrick's Cathedral, escorted by the 12th Regiment of the New York National Guard, numerous Grand Army Posts, and a battalion of regular troops from Governor's Island. A *Requiem Mass* was celebrated at the cathedral, officiated by Monsignor J. J. Lavelle.

Following the services, General Sickles' casket was escorted back down 5th Avenue to 36th Street, then west on 36th Street to Seventh Avenue, and finally down 7th Avenue to Penn Station. It was taken on a special train, with the funeral party, to Washington D.C. where the body was received by a special guard of the regular army. In the morning, a military guard consisting of a firing squad and a chaplain, escorted the General and the funeral party to the National Cemetery at Arlington, VA where the General was buried among many of his old comrades of the Third Army Corps. His grave can be found in Plot 3, Grave 1906.



Sickles Camp 3 Dates to Remember

February 2011

February 5, 2011
Anniversary of
Teresa Sickles' Death
February 5, 1867
New York, NY
She would not be buried at
Brooklyn's Greenwood
Cemetery for 3 ½ years.

April 2011

April 24, 2011
Grant's Birthday
Observance at
Grant's Tomb
New York, NY

May 2011

May 3, 2011
97th Anniversary of
Daniel Sickles' Death
May 3, 1914
New York, NY

May 13-15, 2011
New York Department
Annual Encampment
Albany, NY

July 2011

July 2, 2011
147th Anniversary of
Sickles' July 2, 1863
Gettysburg Injury
Gettysburg, PA

August 2011

August 11-14, 2011
National Encampment
Reston, VA

October 2011

October 20, 2011
192nd 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, and we are delighted and honored to have them:

Alfred J. Fenzel of Eastchester, NY

Ancestor: Pvt. Patrick Murray, 163rd NYVI, Co. F and 73rd NYVI, Co. G

Alfred's Great-Grandfather, Pvt. Patrick Murray, served in General Sickles' Excelsior Brigade, in the 73rd New York or 2nd Fire Zouaves. Before being consolidated into the 73rd, Patrick and the 163rd New York (of the Empire Brigade) fought in several skirmishes and the Battle of Fredericksburg, in which 10 were killed, 46 wounded and 5 were missing.

In January of 1863, the 163rd joined the 73rd. Engaged at Chancellorsville, the 73rd's greatest losses were in the second day's fighting at Gettysburg, at which time the regiment suffered 50% casualties, with 51 killed, 103 wounded and 8 missing of the 324 engaged.

Patrick served in many more battles, including the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg and Appomattox, finally being discharged with the regiment in June of 1865.

(Right: Monument at Gettysburg to the 73rd NY)



Richard Red Davis of Delmar, NY

Associate Member: Red is known to many for his own impression of General Dan



Camp, General!

Sickles. Pictured at left with friend Brittney Morehouse as Laura Sickles, Red is also a lifetime member of The Lincoln Forum. One of Red's biggest undertakings (no pun intended) has been his efforts to have General Sickles disinterred from Arlington National Cemetery and reinterred at his beloved Gettysburg. Red believes that not only would this be most appropriate, but that it was also Dan's stated desire. While Sickles body remains at Arlington, at least for now, Red's movement has helped the General's name and memory to live on, and keeps the conversation about Sickles' life and experiences going strong. Welcome to the Sickles

Patrick R. Falci of Rosedale, NY

Associate Member: Best known to many for his study and impression of Confederate General Ambrose Powell Hill, Pat Falci also portrayed A.P. Hill in the film Gettysburg, for which he served as historical advisor. He also served as historical coordinator to Director Ron Maxwell in the production of Gods and Generals, advisor to actor Tom Berenger in Rough Riders (in which Pat also appears) and to author Jeff Shaara on several projects including Gods and Generals and The Last Full Measure. Pat is also the only four-time President of the Civil War Roundtable of New York. Welcome to the Union, Pat!

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



General Sickles, The Lion Cub and the Princess

Princess Lwoff-Parlaghy was born in Hungary in the mid-1860s. She was married, for a very brief time, to a Russian Prince, giving her the royal title of Princess which she carried with her the remainder of her life. It was said that from her marriage she had an income of a million dollars a year (which she apparently consumed without difficulty).



The Princess had become a renowned portrait artist even before her marriage - she was awarded the Art Gold Medal from the Berlin Academy in 1894 - and her subjects would include royal figures in Europe and then military figures and celebrities here in the United States. An announcement was made noting that the Princess was returning to America in 1908, with her menagerie of pets, and would be staying at the Plaza Hotel in New York City where she would live in a suite with its own chapel, 14

rooms, a private physician, valet, Swedish nurse, maids, a cook, a footman, butlers, couriers, attachés and her animal companions, for five years. Her menagerie was said to have included dogs, cats, a guinea pig, and owl, two small alligators and a bear.

Apparently, in about 1911 or 1912, the Princess developed a desire to add a lion cub to her menagerie. This was likely a result of visiting the Ringling Brothers Circus where she offered to purchase a cub directly from Ringling. The circus politely declined, but that did not deter the Princess. Having recently completed a portrait of General Daniel E. Sickles, she solicited his help. And as was often the case, no one could turn down the great war hero - now in his 90s. And the lion cub, christened *General Sickles* (but called *Goldfleck*), came to live with the Princess at the Plaza, where he had his own private trainer, and his own separate room.

There was one reported incident involving a poorly timed flash-photograph frightening the lion, who then raced through an open door, down that hall and into the public corridors of the hotel, causing a bit of panic among guests and staff members, but a piece of raw meat lured him back to the suite, and all ended well - for a time. Despite receiving the best care available to a lion living in a hotel, *Goldfleck* became ill and died. The Princess held a formal wake, with *Goldfleck* reportedly lying in state, surrounded by flowers, his toys and dishes.

He was buried at the [Hartsdale Pet Cemetery](#), America's first official Cemetery exclusively for pets, established in 1896. The stone reads: **Beneath This Stone Is Buried the Beautiful Young Lion Goldfleck, Whose Death Was Sincerely Mourned By His Mistress Princess Lwoff Parlaghy New York 1912**



Happy 191st Birthday Dan Sickles!

More than 30 people attended the 2010 birthday party for Dan Sickles in Gettysburg, PA. New Sickles Camp member Red Davis was presented with the *Sickles at Gettysburg Lifetime Achievement Award* for all of his hard work in keeping the memory of Dan Sickles alive.



Author James Hessler with award recipient Red Davis



The highlight of the event was when, with very special permission, the party moved to the Trostle Farm to drink a toast and have a cigar or two in the General's memory.



Dan's 192nd birthday will be on October 20, 2011.

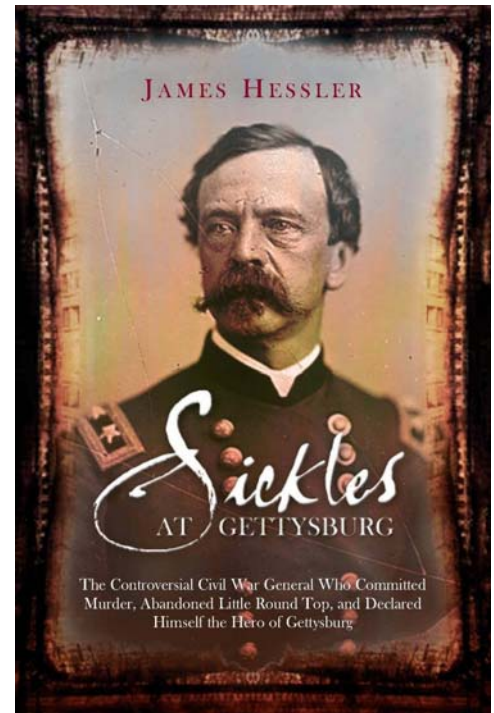
Sickles at Gettysburg **Now in Paperback!**

Winner of the 2009 *Bachelor-Coddington Award* for best Gettysburg book, **Sickles at Gettysburg** is now in paperback! Written by our own Sickles Camp historian James Hessler – Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide, this book addresses all of your Den Sickles questions – and offers lots of new information you likely never knew.

The life of Daniel E. Sickles is a story that never ends.

Order a copy directly from Jim, and I'll bet he'll even be happy to autograph it:

James A. Hessler
custer7@comcast.net



The Sickles Camp *Excelsior*
Daniel E. Sickles Camp 3, SUVCW
c/o Michael S. Bennett
PO Box 1824
White Plains, NY 10602

