

Volume 121, Number 3 • The Journal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War • Spring, 2017



## **MOMENTS REMEMBERED**

# **ON THE ROAD WITH CINC DON**



## THE BANNER

The Banner is published quarterly and copyrighted by the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1 Lincoln Circle Suite 240, Harrisburg, Pa 17105-1865. Fourth class postage paid at Milwaukee, Wis.

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http://suvcw.org/bannerhome.htm

#### SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

Winter Deadline-December 15 Spring Deadline-March 15 Summer Deadline-May 31 Autumn Deadline-August 31

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KUDOS: "Thank you everyone who sent in articles. Special thanks to Dave Milawski for the wonderful work he does in laying out our Banner. His artistry makes this a first class publication. His patience with me is greatly appreciated." Jim Pahl

On The Cover: Tomb of Abraham Lincoln, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, IL. Photo credit Cher Petrovic.



## Obituary Elmer F. (Bud) Atkinson Past Commander-in-Chief 1924 - 2017

Past Commander-in-Chief Elmer F. (Bud) Atkinson passed away on March 11, 2017. Born on July 4, 1924, he resided in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania all his life. In 1938, he joined the Anna M. Ross Camp #1, SUVCW in Philadelphia and served as Commander-in-Chief from 1993-1994.

In the early 1980's Bud founded the 28th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) and eventually rose to the rank of Colonel commanding the SVR 2nd Military District. He retired from this post in 1997 and began service as Inspector General of the SVR.

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Bud enlisted in the Army, served for four years in an armored unit in the European theatre and remained in the Active Army Reserves for 20 additional years before retiring with the rank of Sergeant Major.

Employed as a professional firefighter by the city of Philadelphia, Bud retired after 24 years to become the Manager of an air conditioning company. He subsequently worked as the Assistant Building Supervisor for a large insurance company. His final retirement was in 1986.

He assumed the presidency of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Civil War Museum and Library in Philadelphia in 1982, under his guidance; the Board was eventually able to open the museum to the public for tours and lectures. He served for ten years on the Board of

Directors of the Frankford Historical Society in Philadelphia; was a Life member of the Disabled American Veterans; Life member of the National Rifle Association; and a member of the American Legion; Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor and Pennsylvania Hunter Safety Instructor.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret E. Poehler Atkinson, children Frank E. (Joanne), Margaret E "Peg" Kroger (Don) and Richard M. (Angela). Also survived by 10 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and his brother, John E. Predeceased by siblings, Clare Monahan and Frank C. Atkinson. Interment will take place at Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Donations in Bud's memory may be made to www.SUVCW.org or Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation, SUVCW-CF, is looking for one or two men to step forward. The foundation wants to expand and strengthen its knowledge to secure grants. They are looking for individuals with grant writing experience or with trademark and/or copyright experience. They would welcome your help to continue the growth and development of the organization. If you are not familiar with the organization you can read more about it and its mission at http://suvcw-cf.org/. If you have experience in grant writing or trademark and/or copyrighting and are interested in volunteering please contact Alan Teller: Phone 765.455.0484 or Email director3@suvcw-cf.org. These are non-paid volunteer positions.



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#### SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DONALD L. MARTIN

6025 State Route 772, Chillicothe, Ohio cinc@suvcw.org (SERIES 2016-2017)

Synopsis of General Orders issued by Commander-in-Chief Don Martin. The complete Order can be viewed on the Order's website.

#### **GENERAL ORDER #11**

Camp and Department Bylaws must have language as to guidelines for the monitoring of Brothers under the age of 18 years (including Members, Associates, Juniors and Junior Associates) while interacting within the SUVCW. PCinC Freshley's General Order #22 should be incorporated within these revisions.

## **GENERAL ORDER #12**

New Camps will be named for an honorably discharged Union Civil War veteran, or some other person making substantial contributions to the cause of preserving the Union during the years 1861 to 1865, a Camp previously in the community, a GAR Post previously in the community, a battle of the Civil War or the name of the community in which the Camp is based. The General Order also discusses items relating to Form 50, Instructions for forming a new Camp.

## **GENERAL ORDER #13**

Camp Patriotic Instructors must submit Form 40 to the Department Patriotic Instructors by April 1st. Department Patriotic Instructors must submit Form 41 to the National Patriotic Instructor by June 1st.

## **GENERAL ORDER #14**

Camps in the Order will be those as outlaid in the Constitution and Regulations and will not be on - line or "Virtual Camps".

#### **GENERAL ORDER #15**

Authorizes a replacement Charter for the General James B. McPherson Camp No. 1 of the Department of Missouri.

#### **GENERAL ORDER #16**

PCinC Kennedy's General Order #11 is nullified. The elective Department officers shall be entitled to voting privileges at a Department Encampment and elective National officers shall be entitled to voting privileges at the National Encampment.

#### **GENERAL ORDER #17**

Announces the passing of Real Daughter Rachel Perine of Parkersburg, W.Va. on Friday, September 9, 2016 at the

age of 100. Her father was a member of Company A, 14th (West) Virginia Volunteer Infantry.

#### **GENERAL ORDER #18**

Announces the passing of Past Commander-in-Chief Elmer F. (Bud) Atkinson. The National website, Charters of all Departments and Camps shall be draped in black, along with all brothers' member badges for thirty (30) days beginning March 17, 2017.

#### **GENERAL ORDER #19**

At least twice this year, Brothers have presented very controversial personal opinions under the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War name, emblem and included SUVCW Camp names. This is detrimental to the Order and punishable under our constitution and regulations.

We all enjoy the right of freedom of expression and may present personal opinions and views counter to SUVCW regulation and policy.

It is NOT permitted to express personal opinions and views counter to SUVCW regulation and policy in conjunction with any SUVCW trade-marked emblem, Camp or Department name, SUVCW title or anything that implies connection or affiliation with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

This includes correspondence between Brothers. It is not applicable to Resolutions passed by a Camp or Department to be forwarded to National regarding changes to policy or the Constitution and Regulations of the Order. See the Constitution and Regulations concerning these issues.



## Ulysses S. Grant Portrayed by

E.C. Fields, Jr., Ph.D.

HQ: generalgrantbyhimself.com E-Telegraph: curtfields@hotmail.com Signal Corps: (901) 490-4511 Facebook@ Curt Fields Twitter@#ecfields 1





# ORIGINAL CIVIL WAR BALL

Music by the Philadelphia Brigade Band with dances led by the Victorian Dance Ensemble Period dress encouraged, but not required Door prizes, plus prizes for Ladies Cake Walk Cash Bar Time: 8PM, 18 November 2017 **Place:** Gettysburg Eisenhower Hotel 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA *Price: \$20 per person in advance* \$25 per person at the door Make check out to "SVR Remembrance Day Ball" Include stamped, self-addressed envelope for tickets Mail to: Brig. Gen. Henry E. Shaw, Jr. 27 Griswold Street Delaware, OH 43015-1716 740-369-3722, cell 740-815-3284 e-mail: hshaw@columbus.rr com Ticket orders received after 10 November will be distributed at the Ball

BALL PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO THE GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK FOR MONUMENT PRESERVATION

## WAS A MISSOURI G.A.R. POST NAMED AFTER 'THAT DIRTY LITTLE COWARD'?

By Walt Busch, PDC, Department of Missouri



**Robert** Newton Ford

Jesse James, infamous guerilla, bank robber and star of many legends died in April 1882, when he was shot in the back by one of his gang members, Robert Ford. Most Missourians and history buffs know that story. They may even know that the song 'Jesse James' that calls Robert Ford, 'that dirty little coward' was first recorded by Bascom Lamar Lunsford in 1924. Since then, it has been sung by many a folk singer and Rockers including Bob Seger and Bruce Springsteen. The song, which is on the list of the top 100 Western songs of all time, memorializes both Jesse and the man who shot him. In it. Robert Ford is remembered as a dirty coward and the song lauds Jesse as "...a friend to the poor, he'd never rob a mother or a child. there never was a man with the law in his hand, that could take Jesse James alive."

But in rural northwestern Missouri near both the boyhood homes of the James and the Fords, some Union men may have memorialized the man who became known as Jesse James' Assassin. In Davies County, in a town once known as Coffeyburg (now Coffey), the Grand Army of the Republic established Post 303 and named it the "Bob Ford" Post.

Created in 1887, the Ford Post's first commander was Cornelius Yost. Many of the G.A.R. posts in that county were gone by 1895, but the Ford Post was still going strong into the next century. Given the fame or infamy, depending on your point of view, connected to the name Bob Ford, one might think that if this Post would have wanted to avoid mistakes. They could have easily put the soldier's rank or middle initial in the Post's name to avoid the suggestion it was named for the coward.

Yes, the post could have been named after Robert Ford. Most likely it was. Apparently many Union-hearted men in that county took offense to the fact that 4 years earlier, a Davies county jury was picked by the state to try Frank James, the rebel guerilla turned criminal, of all his crimes. The jury returned a not guilty verdict and Frank was absolved of any crimes he may have committed. Are we sure that the post is named after him? Did some members of the G.A.R. consider him a hero? The origins of the post have yet to be found...



Ribbon owned by Doug Roussin, PCC, Gen. Thomas Fletcher Camp No. 47, MO.

Governor Thomas Crittenden, formerly the Colonel of the 7th Missouri State Militia, wanted to suppress the robberies and violence committed by the James Gang. He authorized a reward of \$5,000 (which was paid for by railroad corporations) for the capture of Jesse James and also for his brother Frank, dead or alive, which resulted in Robert Ford killing Jesse in 1882. Following Ford's conviction for the murder, Crittenden pardoned him. On October 5, 1882, Frank James surrendered in Jefferson City. His trial was moved to Davies County, as the only two crimes he ended up being tried for were a robbery in Gallatin, MO and murders in Winston, MO. Both are towns in Davies, County.

## **VOICES OF PATRIOTISM**

When the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was formed in 1866; it truly was the first integrated fraternal organization. We had the Boys in Blue, both whites and the United States Colored Troops (USCT), and women. Yes, Women who fought in Blue along side of the Boys in Blue. There were two known women in the G.A.R. and the third was given full G.A.R. funeral honors. Most of the time we discuss the men who fought in the Civil War. Now we will discuss three of these women, of many, so we can show even they were patriots of our great Country. The source is from a book written by Bonnie Tsui titled "She Went to the Field, Women Soldiers of the Civil War".

Sarah Emma Edmonds alias Franklin Thompson served in the Flint Union Greys, Company F of the 2nd Michigan Infantry. She was in the G.A.R. George B. McClellan post in Houston from 1987 to the time of her death in 1898. Later reburied in 1901at Houston's Washington Cemetery with full Military Honors.

Jennie Hodgers alias Albert D.J. Cashier joined in 1862 in the 95th Illinois Infantry Volunteers, Company G. She joined the G.A.R. but as Albert Cashier and not Jennie Hodgers in the G.A.R. Saunemin Chapter. In 1970, a group put a monument stating Albert Cashier was born Jennie Hodges so people would know that she was a woman. She has both markers at her grave at the Saunemin's Sunnyslope Cemetery. She was given full G.A.R. Funeral Honors.

Last was a spy named Pauline Cushman. Unfortunately she was caught by General Braxton Bragg and tried and sentenced to death by hanging. General Bragg was forced to leave by the arrival of Union Forces leaving Pauline behind and saving her from death. President Abraham Lincoln gave her a honorary commission to Major. In 1893 Pauline was buried with G.A.R. full Military Honors in the Officer's section of San Francisco National Park in the Presidio.

When we educate the public on the Civil War and the G.A.R.; we need to include the brave women who also fought by the side of the Boys in Blue. Patriotism was bravely displayed not only by the men but by the women as well. Let us continue to preserve the memory of the Boys in Blue, the G.A.R., and the women who fought in the Civil War and served in the G.A.R.

In Fraternity Charity, and Loyalty,

National Patriotic Instructor Jeffrey French HISTORY, COMPETITION & CAMARADERIE



well as artillery. All teams represent a specific Civil War regiment or unit and wears the uniform they wore over 150 years ago. N-SSA is dedicated to preserving our history, period firearms competition and the camaraderie of team sports with friends and family.

For more information visit WWW.n-SSa.org



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

#### Attention Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War: Help us honor the service and sacrifices of your Union Civil War Officer Ancestor

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) was founded on April 15, 1865. Currently, the MOLLUS has 19 State Commanderies nationwide. *Hereditary Membership* is available to direct male descendants (18 years and older) of a commissioned officer in the United States Army, Navy or Marines who served during the Civil War, or male descendants of a brother or sister of any such officer.

Many of the Original Companions of the MOLLUS also were members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Similarly, many the present day Hereditary Companions of the MOLLUS also are members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). As did the MOLLUS with the GAR, the MOLLUS and the SUVCW jointly sponsor patriotic and commemorative programs to honor President Abraham Lincoln and our Union soldier ancestors throughout the country.

For additional membership information, visit the MOLLUS Web Site at: http://suvcw.org/mollus.htm

Email Keith G. Harrison (SUVCW PCinC and MOLLUS PCinC) at: pcinc@prodigy.net

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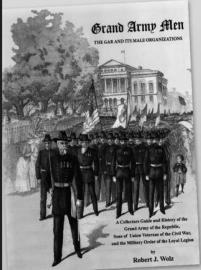
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GETTYSBURG, PA



# 61<sup>ST</sup>ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE NOVEMBER 18, 2017

Sponsored by the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the Military Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Parade briefing at the Eisenhower Hotel at 9:30AM on 18 November 2017

Units form up at Noon on Lefever Street between Baltimore Street and East Confederate Avenue

Parade will step off at 1:00 PM

For further information, please contact: Brig. Gen. Henry E. Shaw, Jr., Deputy Commander SVR Telephone: 740-369-3722, Cell: 740-815-3284 E-mail: hshaw@columbus.rr.com



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## Department of Michigan

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## National Order of the Blue and Gray

A LINEAGE SOCIETY WITH MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE TO MEN AND WOMEN WHO DESCEND FROM EITHER SIDE OF THE CIVIL WAR.

## **Information from**

NOBG, 2024 Greenway Crossing Drive, Haslet, TX 76052-2815 or e-mail: cheryldar@hotmail.com website: www.nobg.us



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10% of all SUVCW member purchases will be donated to the SUVCW Monument / Memorial Fund

## "Before Manassas, there was Mexico"



Many Civil War leaders like Grant, Sherman, McClellan and soldiers they commanded saw action in the Mexican War.

The Descendants of Mexican War Veterans is an organization of men and women who have an ancestor or interest in the Mexican War of 1846–1848.

Visit <u>www.dmwv.org</u> or send request SASE to: D.M.W.V. National Office, P.O. Box 461941. Garland, TX, 75046-1941

**Descendants of Mexican War Veterans** Several Mexican War service records are available on-line.

## 2017 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

#### Brothers and Sisters,

The Department of Michigan would like to invite you and your families to the 137th National Encampment. This Encampment in downtown Lansing, Michigan offers opportunities for several different interest levels.

Our Thursday morning tour will visit Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum, home to the former James Brainerd G.A.R. Post #111. This museum is solely dedicated to ensuring that the history and contributions of the G.A.R. are not forgotten. Built by the G.A.R. in 1886, the Italianate two-storied red brick structure houses over 3,000 artifacts and records. Thursday afternoon's tour goes of the Michigan History Museum to view Michigan's Civil War Battle Flag collection. The bullet-torn, blood-stained battle flags are all archivally preserved for all to see at the state's museum. As an added bonus, an opportunity will be provided to tour the excellent Civil War display at the state museum.



Thursday night offers an unprecedented opportunity to go to a baseball game! The Lansing Lugnuts is a class A minor league team, affiliated with the Toronto Blue Jays. The stadium is one block east of the Encampment hotel and promises to be a great time.

During the Encampment, families accompanying the delegates can enjoy many things to do in Lansing, including the Impressions 5 children's science museum and the Oldsmobile Museum, both within easy walking distance of the Encampment hotel.

Sunday has a tour to Sunfield and the Samuel W. Grinnell G.A.R. Post #283 building. Built in 1899, this building has been in continuous use by the G.A.R. and Allied Orders and appears much as it did when the boys in blue met there.

The host committee has designed a fantastic medal you will not want to miss at a very reasonable price. The program book will again be available along with display tables.

The Encampment hotel this year is the Radisson, located at 111 N. Grand Avenue in downtown Lansing is ready for reservations and there are limited rooms at \$109.95. Valet parking is also available. To make reservations by telephone, please call the hotel directly at 517-482-0188. Reservations can also be made on-line through the link provided on the Order's National Encampment web page.

Banquet reservations include two entre selections, steak or chicken. We are hoping that all in attendance will be able to enjoy the banquet and the entertainment.

The brothers of the Department of Michigan look forward to seeing you in Lansing!

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY, 2017**

The 61st Annual Remembrance Day Weekend, sponsored by the Sons of Veterans Reserve, will be held in Gettysburg, PA on November 17, 18 and 19, 2017. The Headquarters Hotel this year has been moved to the Eisenhower Hotel at 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA. The Eisenhower is currently taking reservations for the weekend, specifically for Friday, November 17, 2017 and Saturday, November 18, 2017. The phone number is 717-334-8121. Those calling should ask for reservations and mention being put in the SVR block of rooms to get the discounted rate of \$129.00 plus tax, per night.

The Hotel will provide at no cost to those who are staying at the Eisenhower during Remembrance Day Weekend, an evening meal on Friday, November 17, 2017, a breakfast on Saturday, November 18, 2017 (not the SVR Breakfast which is separate) and an evening meal on Saturday, November 18, 2017. The only requirement will be for the hotel guest to present a room key in order to partake of these complimentary meals.



4th Michigan dedication of their monument, June 12, 1889.

On Saturday morning, November 18, 2017 at 8:00 A.M., the SVR Breakfast will be held at the Eisenhower Hotel with the Parade briefing to immediately follow at 9:30 A.M. Later on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 11:00 A.M., the annual Woolson Ceremonies will be held in Zeigler's Grove in the Gettysburg National Military Park. The Parade will step off at 1:00 P.M. and the SVR Original Civil War Ball will commence at 8:00 P.M. on Saturday evening, November 18, 2017 in the Ball Room at the Eisenhower Hotel. Tickets for the Ball are presently on sale at \$20.00 per person for advance tickets and \$25.00 at the door. Tickets may be purchased from Brig. Gen. Henry E. Shaw, Jr., Deputy Commander, SVR, 27 Griswold Street, Delaware, and OH 43015-1716. Ticket purchasers should include a stamped and self-addressed envelope with their check and ticket order.



## CHESAPEAKE

## Appomattox Camp No. 2 Completes Research Project

The Department of the Chesapeake, Appomattox Camp No. 2, Wilmington, Delaware, recently announced the completion of research: "Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery, GAR Soldiers' Section, History, Relocation, and Soldiers' Biographies." The 99-page research report documented the history of the GAR cemetery as well as biographies on each of the 124 Civil War soldiers and veterans buried in the original indigent soldiers' section of the cemetery. The research was prompted by the fact that almost 30 percent of the current graves were unmarked or unknown and there was little or no information on who the soldiers were, their military record, and life biographies. The research, that took over one year to complete, identified all but 4 soldiers and documented detailed military history as well as genealogies including the pre-war and post-war lives and families of these soldiers and veterans. Brother Kenneth J. Finlayson Sr, Camp Guide and Grave Registrar for Appomattox Camp 2 conducted research. He was recognized for his work with the Albert McMullin Award at the 149th year Wilmington Memorial Day parade festivities. Appomattox Camp 2 dedicated this report to the memory of the soldiers and has submitted the report to the public record to memorialize their service and life in perpetuity. The report is archived and available at the Delaware Historical Society Research Library in Wilmington, Delaware.

The Wilmington, Delaware Memorial Day Parade is one of the oldest continuous Memorial Day commemorations in the United States. This year will be the 150th celebration. During the 1960s and 1970s, the parade was almost not held. Albert McMullin took over the parade coordination and made it possible to maintain the continuity to this day. The McMullin Award is given each year to someone in the greater Wilmington community who helps provide the spirit of Memorial Day to honor our nation's war dead.

#### **Torbert Camp**

The Torbert Camp held its annual dinner and officer induction on February 11. We were delighted to host Department officers Commander Ben Hawley and Junior Vice Commander Wes Mumper. Brother Ben inducted our 2017 officers: Commander Barry Famous, Senior Vice Commander David Pyne, Junior Vice Commander Gary Bunting, Secretary Greg Alexander, Treasurer Marvin Schelhouse, Chaplain Ray Harris, and Eagle Scout Coordinator Tom Chilton. The evening also included the installation of four new members: Nicholas Schimmel, Robert Graham, John Gumz, and Terry Ayers. Our guest speaker was Dr. Gary Wray, President of the Fort Miles Historical Association and Professor at Wilmington University, gave a lively talk on our namesake, General Torbert, and his ancestor, General Jubal Early. Much to everyone's delight, Dr. Wray brought with him Gen. Torbert's Civil War pistol which is part of his personal collection.



Department of the Chesapeake, Irish Brigade Camp #4 Fredericksburg, VA

On Tuesday January 17, 2017, Irish Brigade Camp #4 Camp Commander Roger Leturno and Past Camp Commander Jay Rarick presented Fort Belvoir Firemen Jerry Jett Jr and Jon Card SUVCW Certificates of Commendation before their peers and leadership, in recognition of their selfless act on Memorial Day 2016.

These two firemen arrived at White Oak Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in their dress uniform and placed GAR markers, flowers and American flags on the graves of three Union soldiers.



"This might be the first Memorial Day that these guys have gotten," Card said. "They've laid here for about 153 years, and have never been recognized, as far as I know. So it's just important to take 10 minutes and come down say thank you."

Fireman Card stumbled upon these graves while exploring White Oak. He immediately cleaned the site, uncovering two other graves in the process.

Card said, "It really upset me. As an Army veteran, it's important to me that no soldier lie buried with a bunch of leaves and trash. That's just not appropriate."

The white headstone marks the assumed final resting place of Peter Vanderhoof, 15th New Jersey Infantry Regiment. The other two graves are unmarked. Card, himself a New Jersey native, didn't consider this discovery a coincidence. Vanderhoof's regiment came from around Card's hometown and many of the unit's dead are buried in the local cemetery. Card said, "Of all the Regiments and units that it could have been, it was from home."



Firemen Jett, who has ancestors buried in White Oak, was touched by his friend's idea to honor these neglected soldiers and together they performed this Memorial Day ceremony in tribute to civil war soldiers.

#### COLUMBIA

Colonel Edward D. Baker Camp No. 6 had a fine Remembrance Day on November 19th at the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in Portland. The weather was very cooperative as we gathered at the Civil War soldier monument. The original statue had been stolen in the 1960's was replaced by the Baker Camp in 2009 thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the State of Oregon.

Also appearing was the Company B 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (SVR) and the 3rd Brigade Brass Band led by our own Rev. DH Shearer as Band Master. The band gave a mini-concert as prelude, then played an interlude and postlude afterward to complete the proceedings.



Our primary honored guest was Major Joseph Marti, commander of the 6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve who flew up from California to participate and deliver the keynote speech. In the process of his remarks Major Marti presented commissions to Captain Betschart as Inspector General and 1st Lt. Mark Stevens as Adjutant of the 6th Military District.

Mr. Steven Holgate, portraying President Abraham Lincoln, gave an excellent recitation of the Gettysburg Address.

## FLORIDA



The Department of Florida held its 2017 Encampment in St. Cloud, Florida. Brothers of the Department of Florida pose with Commander in Chief Donald Martin newly inducted Department of Florida Commander David Palmer.

#### ILLINOIS

On Saturday, September 10, 2016 George A. Custer Camp #1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Illinois paid homage to Corporal James Harvey, the last Union Civil War soldier to die from Cook County Illinois.

Born into slavery August 9, 1845, Corporal Harvey enlisted July 21, 1864 with the 12th U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Heavy Artillery, Battery B at age 19 and was discharged April 25, 1866.

Mr. Harvey was an active GAR member in Post 50 and later in George Thomas Post 5, Chicago, Illinois. He passed away on September 25, 1945 at age 100 years.

Brother Harvey's gravesite was without a headstone for 71 years until now. Through the efforts of Lincoln Cemetery, Chicago, a



large marble headstone with a bronze marker was installed. Custer Camp #1, SUVCW placed a special "Last Soldier" Bronze Marker at the gravesite as well. PDC Stuart Stefany sculpted a unique marker depicting a Union soldier and "Old Abe", the American Eagle mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

A special program was arranged through Lincoln Cemetery with the assistance of Cemetery Manager Diane Novak and her staff coordinator Josephine Molsen. Following the presentation of colors by Custer Camp #1 and Sheridan Camp #2, Brothers conducted the



G.A.R. service, including a wreath laying. Keynote Speaker Mr. Tyrone Haymore, Director of the Robbins Historical Society and Museum gave a brief history of Harvey's life before and after the war. Harvey was a founding father of the Village of Robbins.

The cannon salute was rendered by the 1st Illinois Volunteer Light Artillery, Battery L, SVR.

#### INDIANA

On November 6, 2016, with perfect fall afternoon weather, three camps and the SVR from two states joined forces for a gravestone dedication at Grace Lawn Cemetery, Elkhart, Indiana.

# DEPARTMENT NEWS



The Banner

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Anne Davis of the De La Fayette Chapter of the DAR in LaGrange County Indiana had ordered a VA headstone for her Civil War ancestor who was interred in Grace Lawn Cemetery in Elkhart, IN. Burton Albert Williams, fought with Co F, 38th Indiana Infantry. His headstone was placed in late August. Anne knew and had worked in the past with members of the March to the Sea Camp, #135 of Centerville Michigan, so when her own ancestor received a new headstone she knew where to go to dedicate it.



Brother Chuck Worley, PDC and member of Michigan's March to the Sea Camp #135, was contacted by Anne Davis and he in turn reached out to the Department of Indiana where the cemetery is located. David D. Porter Camp, 116 in Valparaiso Indiana was the closest Indiana Camp to Elkhart so they took over the coordination with the other Camps and the SVR. Champion Hill Camp, 17 of Huntington Indiana immediately signed up to help.

The family requested that the National Guard provide a flag folding ceremony. The SUVCW filled in the rest of the program by using the Headstone Dedication Ceremony suggested on the National Web Page.

The dedication ceremony was finishing with a combined SVR Rifle Squad firing a three volley salute and the playing of taps. Pre-dedication musical selections were provided by "The Thistle & Rose" Cello Duet. All members from the (3) Camps participated in the dedication ceremony. The SVR on this day was under the direction of 1st Lt. Bill Adams of the 27th Indiana Infantry SVR.

## Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

Members of the 27th SVR participated in the celebration at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial on February 12th – the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln. The 27th posted the colors at the beginning of the ceremony, and retrieved the colors after the Benediction.



The members of the 27th SVR were joined by members of the Department of Indiana SUVCW in leading the processional to the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln for the laying of wreaths and a Eulogy.

## MASSACHUSETTS Charter Returned

On the night of February 27, 2017, after many years of searching and negotiation, the Charter for the Willie Grout Camp #25 in Worcester Massachusetts was returned. This Charter was signed by Commander-in-Chief James L. Rake and issued to the Camp in 1897. After the Grand Army of the Republic Hall had closed in the City of Worcester, the contents were given to the Worcester Historical Museum for preservation and storage. When the hall was cleaned out, the Willie Grout Charter was removed along with all of the other items. After many years of negotiation, a copy of the Charter was made by the museum and the original Charter was placed back in storage. Over the years many attempts were made to retrieve the Charter from the museum, including those by PCinC Perley Mellor, a member of Camp 25, but they were unsuccessful.

In 2014, Department of Massachusetts Chaplain and Historian the Rev. Peter-Michael Preble, contacted the Museum Executive Director to, once again, work towards retrieving the Charter held by the museum. At first, the Museum Curator informed Rev. Preble that the Charter was not in possession of the Museum. After several months of inquiries, the Charter was located.

Rev. Preble was told that ownership of the Charter had to be established as all of the contents of the former GAR Hall were the property of the City of Worcester. Many emails were exchanged, and it was determined that the Worcester Grand Army of the Republic Board would make the final call on ownership. Two



members of the Board, Brother George Maple, Jr., and Reynaldo Rodriguez ensured the ownership question



would be placed on the agenda for a meeting.

The meeting held on December 13, 2016, decided the fate of the Charter and it was unanimously voted to return the Charter, after many long years of absence, to the Willie Grout Camp. The Charter was retrieved by Rev. Preble shortly after that meeting and plans are now underway to ensure the preservation of the Charter for generations to come.

## MICHIGAN

## **Flushing City**

The Gov. Crapo Camp #145 applied for a grant from the National Organization for \$2,000 for the Veterans Memorial Restoration project in the Flushing City Cemetery, which was approved last year prior to the National Encampment. The American Legion Post No. 283 of Flushing had spear-headed the project announcing it at the 2016 Memorial Day ceremony. The cost for the project was \$10,000 and was completed in mid-October. The monument was originally constructed in 1906.



John Howe, Commander of the American Legion Post, contacted the Camp to see if we would be willing to take the lead in conducting a rededication ceremony. Using the SUVCW Memorial Dedication Service based on the 1917 G.A.R. Service of Dedication, the Camp, with the participation of the 14th Michigan, SVR, Department Chaplain Rev. Charles Buckhahn, and members of the American Legion Post No. 283 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 5666, rededicated the monument at 11 AM on 11 November 2016.

The whole idea for the Flushing Veterans Monument restoration started at the 2015 Memorial Day Ceremony when members of the Crapo Camp asked the city administrator and the VFW and American Legion commanders what could be done about the deteriorating condition of the memorial (knowing that the Camp could apply for funds). The American Legion commander took me up on the challenge in November 2015 and we both went to city council with a proposal to start a city wide fund drive. The city council approved it and the drive was launched during the 2016 Memorial Day Ceremony. **Purple Hearts** 

The General Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20 of Kalamazoo discovered in a local periodical that a Michigan Civil War soldier was a Purple Heart recipient. We had never heard that any Civil War Veteran had ever received that medal or that it was even available to them.

After some investigation with the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, it was learned that 18 Civil War soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart. It had to be applied for by the veteran and could not be awarded posthumously. In 1939 at 95 years of age, Lewis Sergeant received his Purple Heart. He died two years later at the age of 97.

Private Lewis Sergeant is the only known Purple Heart Recipient from Michigan. He was born in Kalamazoo, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Orcutt Post 79 in Kalamazoo and is interred in Mountain Home Cemetery, also in Kalamazoo.



The Purple Heart was established on February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. The Purple Heart was originally established by George Washington at Newburgh, August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution. It was revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements.

Sergeant mustered into Company H, 76th Illinois Infantry on August 6, 1862 at the age of 15. He mustered out on May 31, 1865 for disability. Private Sergeant was at the Siege of Vicksburg and other battles during the Civil War. He received a gunshot wound to his hip on April 9, 1865, the last day of the Battle of Fort Blakely, Alabama. His Purple Heart was awarded for this injury.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Thanks to a generous grant from the SUVCW Charitable Foundation, the Friends of Fort Fisher support group was able to add a new historical interpretive marker at Fort Fisher State Historical Site, Kure Beach, North Carolina.



The marker features some of the Medal of Honor winners at both battles of Fort Fisher (1864 & 1865), and the new marker was in place in time for the 152nd Fort Fisher Battle Anniversary event on January 14, 2017.

The Friends of Fort Fisher's mission is to preserve,

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enhance and interpret the Fort Fisher battleground, promoting an appreciation of Fort Fisher's importance in our nation's history.

#### OHIO

On December 4, the William H. Lytle Camp No. 10 (Cincinnati, OH) conducted a memorial Civil War dedication ceremony at the St. Louis Catholic Cemetery in Owensville, OH. The ceremony featured placement of a commemorative Civil War cannon and a memorial tablet memorializing the thirteen Union Civil War veterans buried in the Cemetery.



This ceremony recognized the completion of the Eagle Scout project of Will Scheffter of Troop No. 741 in Owensville. Will spent nearly two years constructing the cannon with the help of adult advisors. The SUVCW Charitable Foundation and the SUVCW Memorial Fund helped sponsor the project financially and the Lytle Camp assisted in researching those veterans buried in the Cemetery.

Sixty brothers, Auxiliary sisters, community guests, and family, plus President and Mrs. Lincoln living historians Jim Crabtree and Teena Baldrige as guest speakers, shared time and history Feb. 18 during the Greater Miami Valley Union Defenders Day Lincoln Dinner held in Miamisburg's historic Star City Brewery. Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman Camp #93 organized the 2017 dinner. The annual event rotates among Ohio's Sherman Camp #93 in Dayton, Gen. William H. Lytle Camp #10 in Cincinnati, Private Valentin Keller Camp #8 in Fairfield, and Nelson Garfield Memorial Camp #3, Department of Kentucky.

Among distinguished participants at the dinner were National Council of Administration member and PDC Fred Lynch, National ASUVCW Chaplain and Auxiliary Department of Ohio Vice President Wanda



Langdon, Ohio PDC's Jim Houston and Craig Keller, Kentucky PDC Bernie O'Brien, and Alabama-Tennessee PDC Al Howey. Special guests were Lt. Col. Roger Redwood (USAF Ret.) and Lincoln Society of Dayton directors Neil Webster and Barbara Lynch. The SUVCW Union Defenders Day tradition dates to 1890 as a camp activity specifically to honor President Lincoln and "the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the Army and the Navy of the United States 1861 - 1865".

On February 27, 2017, Brother Jared Robinson of MG William T. Sherman Camp #93 in Dayton, Ohio, was presented with the Sons of Union Veterans of the



Civil War Eagle Scout Commendation. The presentation was made during his Court of Honor by Department of Ohio Patriotic Instructor Shane Milburn at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Xenia, Ohio.

Brother Robinson is currently a senior at Xenia High School, Ohio, where he holds a 4.42 GPA and should graduate with distinction. He has been on the National Honor Society for the past 2 years and has been accepted at three major Universities and also at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, the top-ranked Engineering College. Brother Robinson will major in Civil Engineering.

Brother Robinson has remained busy. In 2016, he participated in Buckeye Boys State (American Legion) and made two mission trips to Guatemala, where he helped to build schools. Recreationally, Brother Robinson has been on the Xenia High School Baseball team for 4 years, Soccer team for 3 years, Spanish club for 4 years and Chemistry club for 2 years.

Brother Robinson joined Sherman Camp #93 on January 19, 2013 and has participated in numerous events with the Camp as a member of the Sherman Camp Color Guard. He has also participated in Camp projects such as the Old Greencastle Cemetery restoration and Memorial Day activities like the Patriot Freedom Festival at the Dayton V. A. Brother Robinson is also a member of Co. C, 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Isaac Eaton Camp # 504 Historian Brother Don Inman presented a very interesting program at the Camps February meeting. Brother Inman was able to share the original office chair personally used by the Civil War time Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin.

Governor Curtin served during the Civil War from 1861 -1867 and was a close friend of President Lincoln. As Pennsylvania answered Lincoln's call for troops, Governor Curtin oversaw the construction of the first Union military camp for training more than 300,000 troops. Curtin was very active during the Gettysburg



Campaign and after the Battle of Gettysburg he was the principle force behind the establishment of the Soldiers' National Cemetery and was seated with President Lincoln when he delivered the Gettysburg address on November 19, 1863. This was a unique opportunity to personally see a piece of true Pennsylvania Civil War history.



#### TENNESSEE

On Saturday, February 18th, 2017, the 10th Regt Tennessee U.S. Volunteers, SVR, with members from Army of the Tennessee Camp 64 and Fort Donelson Camp 62, commemorated the 155th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Donelson. We were joined by members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for the memorial. General Grant (portrayed by Dr. Curt Fields) spoke about the hardships faced by the troops during the campaign and praised the courage and tenacity of those on both sides of the conflict.



A memorial wreath was laid, salute rendered and taps was sounded. Inclement weather required an indoor event but it did not dampen the spirit of the commemoration. The National Park Service was recognized for their outstanding support. In the spirit of unity members of the 10th Tennessee U.S. Volunteers, SVR, joined members of the SCV for their memorial later the same day.

#### WISCONSIN

A 1913 tombstone at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee has been replaced at the impetus of Tom Mueller, the Wisconsin Department Graves Registration Officer. Capping 15 months of research, Mueller had found while cross-checking entire rows of stones that Pvt. Michael Curran's name was not in the



VA's database. The discovery was made on Veterans Day.

Brother Virgil Matz did a reverse search for section 19, grave 65 and found the man actually was named Carroll. Carroll indeed was in the VA database for that grave. Mueller took the findings, including his record at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home, to Wood officials, and the historian for the National Cemetery Administration in Washington, D.C., confirmed their research. The stone was duly replaced in March.

## **City Weeds**

The picture with this article explains perfectly why Camp #15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Wind Lake, Wis., is campaigning to get the city of Muskego in southeastern Wisconsin to start mowing the city-owned Luther Parker Cemetery.



There are close to seventy graves in the cemetery, including the graves of two Civil War soldiers who died during the war fighting for our country. Under Wisconsin law, Muskego is required to provide "proper and decent care" for the graves of veterans. But with a straight face, city officials say the condition of the cemetery, with tall grass and weeds sometimes higher than the tombstones, does not violate that proper and decent care standard.

The Sons of Union Veterans vehemently disagrees. "There is nothing proper and decent about the weeds growing over the graves in Luther Parker Cemetery," says Bob Koenecke, commander of Camp #15. "This is a cemetery – it shouldn't look like an abandoned dump."

Muskego says there are wild flowers and native prairie grasses growing in the cemetery that would be harmed by mowing. Instead, the city conducts a spring burn every year that burns off the matted grass and weeds that accumulates during the year because the cemetery is not mowed. The burn-off eliminates the dead vegetation but the fire and heat from the burn is also damaging fragile, hundred-year-old tombstones, many made of limestone.

For the last four months, Camp #15 negotiated with the city, proposing a compromise in which Muskego mowed the graves but could use the borders and rear of the cemetery to grow the native plants it wants to protect. "That way, both sides get what they want," explained Camp Commander Koenecke.

But Muskego rejected that offer. Camp #15 is now preparing to file a lawsuit against the city to get the courts to order what Muskego refuses to do – maintain its cemetery properly and decently.

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# SVR Guidon





## SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

This month – we look at the Third Military District, Commanded by Maj. Alan Teller, assisted by Capt. L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., District Adjutant.

The Third Military District covers the four states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio. It has 11 SVR Units within its borders. One of the units is Naval; two are Artillery; and the balance are infantry. The 11 units and their commanders are: Bridgewater Scouts, 1st Lt. Timothy H. Downey; Battery I, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, 1st Lt. Donald L. Grant; Battery L, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, Pvt. Jim Spradlin; Company A, 1st Regiment Capital Guards, 2nd Lt. Keith G. Karcher; Company A, 14th Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Capt. L. Dean Lamphere, Jr.; Company A, 16th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Pvt. Richard H. Smyser, II; Company C, 20th



Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1st Lt. Shane L. Milburn; Company D, 27th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Capt. Bruce R. Kolb; Company G, 63rd Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1st Sgt. Michael D. Davis; Company H, 104th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1st Sgt. Kevin L. Sain; Ohio Naval Brigade, Lt. Tim Graham.

The staff of the district salutes these 252 men that don their uniforms to represent their SVR Units in a wide range of activities. With their local events, these men extend the legacy and keep green the memory of "the boys in blue". They become walking, talking billboards in their respective communities and states for the promotion of the SVR and the SUVCW.

The district attempts to keep the membership updated and informed via our newsletter; the soon to be new webpage; and a Facebook page. Our newsletter, The Sentinel, http://suvcw.org/svr/forms/threenews.pdf, is edited and published by our Public information Officer, 2nd Lt. William Morris.

## **FINAL MUSTER**

Recently I went on a retreat, and one of the exercises was to write my own obituary. The way my passing into the next life would be spread to family, friends and the world. The idea was to get us all to think about what we would want the final analysis of our life to contain. Brief or lengthily? Filled with facts and statistics or just generalities? Strong points and weak points - or just the good stuff. The purpose was to get us to think about what we are doing now, so that when the time comes and we are no longer able to do anything - we will have done something. Even in old age - it is not too late to do good to others, to help out, to go to Church, and to be a "nice guy." Life it too short. I'll bet the men listed in this muster wish they could have had a few more days to do things, and say things that they never got a chance to finish. Don't let this happen to you. Say something to the people you love, make up with the "enemy" from long ago, and apologize for the mistakes you have made.

John T. Lenahan O'Connell, Esq, PCC Bay State Camp #61 (Massachusetts) January 5, 2014

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Gerald a. Christinsen General John A. Logan Camp #1 (Michigan) October 7, 2016

Bradford Halloway Miter Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman Camp #93 (Ohio) November 8, 2016

John E. Archer Appomattox Camp #2 (Chesapeake)

William Hager Curtenius Guard Camp #17 (Michigan) January 4, 2017

John A. Riggs Gen. Wm. Passmore Carlin Camp #25 (California & Pacific) January 12, 2016 Dana G. Cobb Haskell-Marston Camp #56 (Maine) November 18, 2016

Randall D. Scallan Lt. Cmdr Edward Lea USN Camp #2 (Texas & Louisiana) January 15, 2017

**Donald r. Van Auker** Col. Elmer Elsworth Camp #23 (California & Pacific) December 1, 2016

William Poulton, Jr, PhD, PCC Life Member 837 Abraham Lincoln Camp #6 (New York) February 11, 2017

Leslie "Wheeling" Salsbury Sgt. Hiram W. Prusell Camp #104 (New Jersey) January 10, 2017 Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, Chaplain Jerry

Robert R. Roy Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20 (Michigan) February 23, 2017

**Chandler Haight, PCC** Gov. Isaac Stevens Camp #1 (Columbia) August 25, 2016

Robert L. Haynes Fort Walla Walla Camp #3 (Columbia) August 11, 2016

Robert Steven Brower Fort Walla Walla Camp #3 (Columbia) July 14, 2016

Ned Allen Miller Col. Edward D. Baker Camp #6 (Columbia) October 16, 2016

Elmer F. Atkinson, PCinC Life Member 164 Anna M. Ross Camp #1 (Pennsylvania) March 11, 2017

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

My Dad loved coconut, especially coconut candy. My mother hated coconut - in any form. How could two people so diametrically opposed still love one another? As a five year old child, I could not understand this. One of my earliest memories is of a neighbor giving me an Almond Joy candy bar, and it was the first time that I was ever allowed to eat the whole candy bar (Dad was at work, and Mom just picked off the almonds). Later in life when I was dating, I made sure that the girl I wanted to marry - liked coconut. I don't know any man who loved his wife as much as my Dad loved my Mom - and when I grow up, I want to be just like him. The Latin phrase for this is De Gustibus non disputandum (concerning taste - there is no dispute.) Small things can make an impact - or not. Politics, religion, food, the use of time, entertainment and a host of other things make up our lives. We can work together, or fight and suffer the consequences. The ball (decision) is always in our court. We have a guide on how to react in sticky situations, His name is Jesus. He tells us how to treat one another, even those we don't like. Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty is a good start, but treating others the way we want to be treated - is even better.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, Chaplain Jerry

## HISTORY OF THE SONS BY BOB WOLTZ, NATIONAL HISTORIAN

## SILVER SOUVENIR SPOONS

The Grand Army of the Republic had a huge economic impact on the city selected for their national encampment. Besides the official delegate badges, there were souvenir badges and jewelry and silver spoons. From the early 1890s until the 1920s spoon collecting was a popular pastime. Here are some examples of G.A.R., Woman's Relief Corps and Sons of Veterans souvenir spoons.

Here are examples from the 1890s through 1922. The same design might be used year after year. St Clair Fechner Jewelers of Washington, DC described their product like this: "Every WRC lady and member of the G.A.R. should see this spoon. The handle being the old Army musket of 1861 to 1865, with the bowl of the spoon resting on the extended bayonet and conceded by experts and G.A.R. men to be the most appropriate souvenir for the occasion." And a bargain at 50 cents for silver or oxidized. 75 cents with a gilt bowl or \$1 for all gold. For sale at newsstands, fancy goods and jewelry stores or shipped free by mail.

Today many spoons are still available in the \$25 to \$35 range should you wish to add it to your Sons or G.A.R. collection. In addition to G.A.R. Encampments, other available designs include famous generals and G.A.R. monument dedications.



Detroit 114



#### Pittsburgh 1894



Des Moines 1922





Louisville







# ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC NIGHT!



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