

THE *BANNER*

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FOR OUR SOLDIERS

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2016



THE BANNER

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SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

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

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CORRECTION:

The fall issue of the Banner reported the death of Michael C. Shklar of the Major McKinley Camp #9 (NH). Brother Shklar assures our Executive Director he is alive and kicking. My apologies for any confusion or consternation this may have caused.



OBITUARY

CHARLES E. KUHN, JR.
PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
1957 - 2016

Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., 59, passed away peacefully Friday, December 16, 2016 at his home following his courageous battle with cancer. He was the husband of Joanne (Redding) Kuhn for 37 years.

Born February 27, 1957 in Gettysburg, he was the son of the late Charles E. Kuhn, Sr. and Marie Sterner Kuhn. He is a 1975 graduate of Gettysburg High School. He was an Eagle Scout and received the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow in his youth.

Surviving in addition to his wife are a daughter, Michelle Brecht and her husband Douglas of East Berlin, two sisters Nancy Kuhn and husband Fred Mills, Cheryl Engley and husband Thomas Michael of Virginia, three grandchildren, Robert, Kaydence and Madyson and numerous nieces and nephews.

He joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Gettysburg Camp #112 more than 24 years ago and served in every office of the Camp. He became active in the Pennsylvania Department, SUVCW and served in every office of that organization with his service as Department Commander from 2001 – 2003. During this time he was elected to the National Council of Administration and in 2005 was elected to the office of Jr. Vice Commander in Chief and then was elected to the office of Sr. Vice Commander in Chief and then Commander-in-Chief at the

2007 National Encampment in St. Louis, Missouri, presiding over the 127th National Encampment in Peabody, Mass. In 2002 the National Organization SUVCW honored him with the Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award as the most outstanding Brother in the Nation. In 2003 he received a Meritorious Service Award from the National Organization SUVCW as well. He was active in the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the uniformed branch of the SUVCW, where he served on the General Staff as Provost Marshal. He was co-chairman of the Remembrance Day Committee for the SUVCW for 12 years.

Services were held December 23, 2016 at St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, the childhood church of Charlie. The service began with the SUVCW burial service from the Ritual. George Powell, PCinC, took the role of Commander, Jim Pahl, PCinC took the role of Senior Vice Commander, Gene Mortorff, PCinC took the role of Patriotic Instructor, National Chaplain Jerry Kowalski took the role of Chaplain and Senior Pennsylvania PDC John McNulty took the role of Junior Vice Commander. Eulogies were delivered by Gene Mortorff, PCinC and Jerry Kowalski. Both Gene Mortorff, PCinC and Perley Melor, PCinC, were pallbearers.



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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 #4

5 Sep 2016

The following action of the 2016 National Encampment is Ordered delayed until the 2017 National Encampment can review and act:

1. Established that the SUVCW will officially observe the weekend as that prescribed by the federal government as Memorial Day, in lieu of May 30th.
2. Created the National Special Committee on Decoration Day.

GENERAL ORDER #5

26 Sept 2016

Appoints Robert Grim, PCinC as commanding officer SVR, to expire in 2019.

GENERAL ORDER #6

12 Sept 2016

Departments and Camps to keep abreast of proposed legislation which may affect the welfare of the Order and to contact the National Legislation Officer for review and advice.

GENERAL ORDER #7

12 Oct 2016

Passing of Real Son Ernest John Pool on September 24, 2016, he was 97 years old. Brother John was recruited along with his brothers, Garland, and William into Col. John C. Bryner Camp 67, Department of Illinois and initiated in January, 2004.

GENERAL ORDER #8

13 Oct 2016

In lieu of paying the additional fee for delivery of a hard copy edition of the Banner, on top of the full National Per Capita, members of International Camps may elect in writing, including electronic communications, to only receive an electronic version of the Banner

GENERAL ORDER #9

8 November 2016

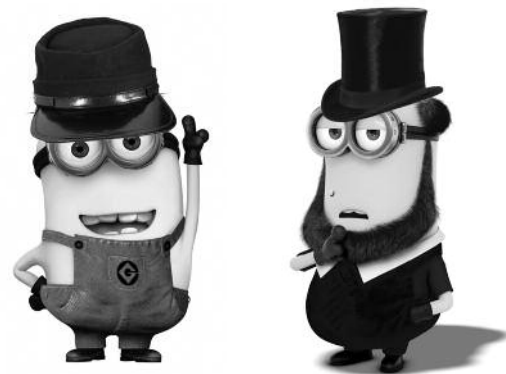
Brother Kenneth S. Tuma of the General George Wright Camp #1865, Department of Columbia, is hereby suspended from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil

War per Chapter IV, Article 17A of the Constitution and Regulations and with the unanimous vote of the Council of Administration. The suspension shall remain in effect pending the verdict of the Hearing Council appointed by the Senior Vice Commander in Chief.

GENERAL ORDER #10

16 December 2016

The passing of Past Commander in Chief Charles E. Kuhn early this morning. The National Website, Charters of all Departments and Camps be draped and all Brothers attach a black morning ribbon to their member badge for 30 days.



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We Invite you to join our ranks!

THE COMPANY OF MILITARY HISTORIANS

For a free sample issue of our journal, contact

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Rutland, MA 01543-0910

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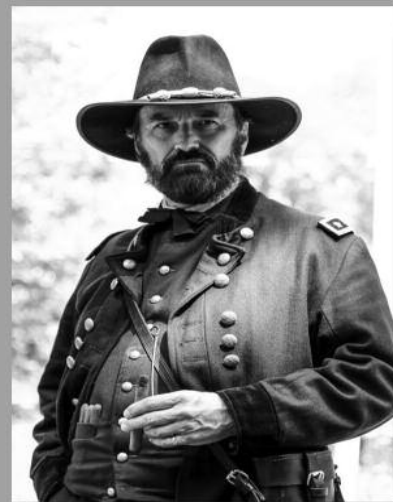
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10% of all SUVCW member purchases will be donated to the
SUVCW Monument / Memorial Fund

General Ulysses S. Grant

Portrayed by

Dr. E.C. Fields, Jr.



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**Thank God
For Michigan**

**136th National Encampment • 2017
August 10 - 13**



2017 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT TO BE HOSTED BY DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

The Department of Michigan will be hosting the 2017 National Encampment in Lansing, Michigan from August 10-13, 2017. The host hotel will be the Radisson located in downtown Lansing and just a few blocks away from the Capitol building.

The National Encampment Executive Host Committee and many of its task groups have been hard at work for several months now with planning and fund raising activities to ensure our Encampment attendees will have an enjoyable experience.

The 2017 National Encampment has a website located at:

<http://www.suvcwmi.org/2017NatEncampment/2017Encampment.html>

Please visit the site regularly during the months preceding the Encampment for details and the latest information. The site will contain information such as:

Hotel reservation information and the date when reservations will be accepted. Currently the hotel is not taking reservations yet. The hotel will have a dedicated system for taking reservations for the encampment and has encouraged people to not attempt to make reservations until they are ready to accept them.

Other information will include items such as:

- Registration Forms
- Banquet Reservation Form
- Tour Information and Reservation Form
- Program Booklet Ad Sales Order Form
- Vendor and Display Table Reservation Form
- Souvenir Badge Order Form

The 2017 National Encampment Souvenir Badge is ready now for ordering. Only 200 of the Custer/Michigan Cavalry Brigade themed badges have been produced. The cost is \$25.00 plus shipping and handling for mail orders or \$25.00 for pick-up at the Encampment. The sale of these badges helps to defray some of the expenses of hosting the encampment. The Department of Michigan would appreciate your support by purchasing one of these badges.

The Badge Order Form is available on the wrap in this issue of the Banner.



THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR AND THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

by **Jim Pahl, PCinC**

Our National Treasurer announced at the November, 2016 CofA meeting, he is confident the IRS will grant our petition to change our tax exempt status to 501c3 in 90 to 180 days. If that happens, what does it mean to the individual brothers of the Order?

Let me review some of these possibilities. The per capita dues each Brother pays to his Camp are not tax deductible. You cannot take any type of deduction for your time in participating in activities of the Order, but you can deduct your out of pocket expenses (be sure to keep receipts to prove these expenses). The rules for out of pocket expenses include that these expenses must be unreimbursed, incurred because of direct connection with participating in an SUVCW activity, expenses you incurred only because of participating in an SUVCW activity, and not part of your personal living or family expenses. Purchasing and maintaining special clothing is deductible if the clothing is necessary so you can participate in an activity, it is not suitable for everyday use, and you must actually wear the clothing to participate in the activity (Sons of Veterans Reserve activities qualify here, as does Camp and/or Department guards).

You can also deduct the costs of gas and oil that are directly related to getting to and from Camp meetings and other activities of the Order, such as ceremonies and educational programs. If you don't want to figure your actual costs, 14 cents per mile for your travel to and from activities of the Order. Be sure to keep a specific log which includes the date, beginning mileage, ending mileage, number of miles, and a description of the activity you participate in. In addition, you can deduct costs of parking and tolls, whether you use your actual expenses or the standard mileage rate.

Any donation to a Camp, Department or any fund of the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, will be tax deductible. Your deduction for this and other charitable contributions generally can't be more than 50% of your adjusted gross income (AGI), but in some cases 20% and 30% limits may apply. In addition, the total of your charitable contribution deduction and certain other itemized deductions may be limited.

I encourage each Brother to obtain the advice of a tax specialist if you have specific questions. Many such questions can be answered by consulting IRS Publication 17. It is of great assistance in helping you prepare your tax return. It is full of useful information and surprisingly easy to read. Publication 17 is available on line and sometimes may be obtained in places where you can obtain tax forms.

(Jim is a licensed attorney in the State of Michigan. Prior to his term in the courts, he was a registered attorney with the IRS, including non-profit corporations and tax law)

2016 GRANTS AWARDED

DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED 6/30/16, THE SUVCW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AWARDED TEN GRANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

GAR monument in Kalida OH Cemetery, Union Township, Putnam County, OH. Replacement of 110 year old GAR monument. This is an Eagle Scout project which includes erection of a 25 foot flagpole and surrounding pavers.

Civil War Marker, Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee, WI. Placement of an historical marker at the entrance to Forest Home Cemetery noting that over 1,000 Civil War veterans are buried there.

GAR Flagpole, Ithaca, NY. Replacement of a broken cedar GAR flagpole in City of Ithaca, NY.

Civil War memorial bronze plaque, St. Louis Cemetery, Owensville, OH. Plaque contains the names of Union Civil War veterans buried in St. Louis Cemetery. This is an Eagle Scout project which includes placement of a replica Civil War cannon.

Col. Samuel Merrill Mausoleum, Des Moines, IA. Restoring damaged gravesite of Gov./Col. Samuel Merrill in Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines, IA

Civil War historical markers, Fort Fisher, NC. Placement of historical interpretive markers that convey, through images and text, the capture of Fort Fisher.

GAR monument, Riverside Cemetery, Towanda, NY. Funds to restore and protect the GAR monument that was originally placed in 1868.

High School living history presentations, Civil War Roundtable, Lynn, MA. Supports 4-day schedule of high school class lectures in City of Lynn public schools on Civil War topics.

Battery Park restoration project, Bay City, MI. Funds are specifically oriented to casting of Dahlgren cannons originally existing on the site which were melted down in 1942 for the WWII effort.

Harrods Creek Soldiers Home marker, Harrod's Creek, KY This marker recognizes the site of the former Soldier's Home for indigent Mexican and Civil War veterans at Harrod's Creek which was completed in 1891 by the Allied Orders of the GAR.

HISTORY, COMPETITION & CAMARADERIE



The N-SSA is America's oldest and largest Civil War shooting sports organization.

Competitors shoot original or approved reproduction firearms as 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://suvchw.org/mollus.htm>

OR

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

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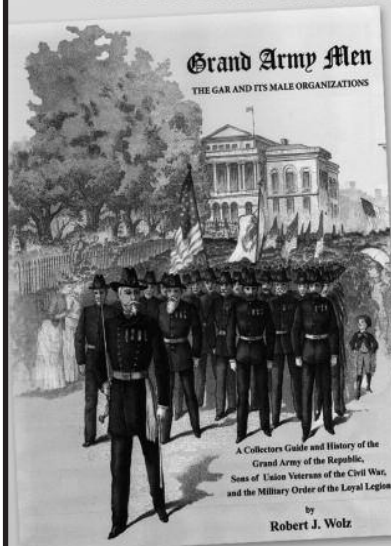
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ANNUAL LINCOLN TOMB CEREMONY

All are invited to participate in the 61th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, sponsored by the SUVCW and MOLLUS, commemorating the 152nd Anniversary of President Lincoln's death. It will be held at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL at 10 AM on Saturday, April 15, 2017.

Headquarters Hotel: President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701. The room rate is \$98.00 for single/quad. A 10% dining discount at Lindsay's Restaurant is included. Call 1-866-788-1860 for reservations and mention "Sons of Union Veterans". **Reserve your room by March 25, 2017.** After this, the remaining blocked rooms will be released.

Wreaths may be ordered from local Springfield florists. Instruct the florist to have the wreath delivered c/o the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, by 9 AM on Saturday, April 16th.

Luncheon will be held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel at 12:30PM. The luncheon program is yet to be determined. Luncheon cost is \$30 per person.

For event info, go to the SUVCW web site (suvchw.org) or contact Robert Petrovic at: rpetro7776@aol.com or 636-274-4567.

OBSERVANCE WREATH PRESENTATION

(please print clearly)

Organization name in full: _____

Name & title of wreath bearer: _____

e-mail address: _____

if no e-mail, home address: _____

City, State, & Zip code: _____

To insure being recognized in the program, this notice MUST be received no later than April 1st at the address shown below.

OBSERVANCE LUNCHEON

Please accept ____ luncheon reservation(s). Please list name, e-mail address, home address & phone number of person responsible for picking up tickets at the door. **PLEASE PRINT.**

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Abe's Ale Braised Short Rib _____ Signature Chicken Pizzalotte _____ Vegetarian _____

Include remittance of \$30.00 per person for each lunch reservation payable to **National Organization SUVCW.**

Reservations must be made by April 1st and cancellations by the same date in order to receive refund. There will be no extra tickets sold at the door. Make a copy of this form for your records and send original with remittance to:

SEND TO:

**ROBERT M. PETROVIC
6519 CHEROKEE LANE
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**For Military Parade Information, please contact:
Edward Krieser, Commander 4th Military Dist. SVR
597 Round Mountain Rd.
Walnut Shade, MO 65771
edjk@gmail.com**

SYNOPSIS OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2016 -
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

(Minutes are not yet approved and subject to amendment)

Commander-in-Chief Donald L. Martin called the meeting to order.

CinC Don Martin mentioned that next year the Eisenhower Hotel will serve as Headquarters during Remembrance Day weekend. Cost will be \$129.00 a night; minimum two night stay required which includes breakfast and dinner on Friday. Dates are November 17th – 19th.

There have been active attacks taking place against our Graves Registration Database. The CofA will be working with the National Graves Registration Officer to explore tracking down those responsible and bring them to justice.

The National Signals Officer reported the National Organization is still hosting Department webpages and the National Webmaster has been taking care of some of them. Questions have been raised about how Camps get a webpage hosted under National. In the past, the fee for such hosting was \$60.00/year. There are so many resources available in 2016 to make each Camp or Department who desires to have a website for very little expense. For example, any Camp or Department can buy a domain name for less than \$20 on Wordpress and then build a very user-friendly site on the very same platform as the National website for free. There are other platforms out there as well. All of them have tutorials to help users, and are likely a cheaper option for Camps and Departments than National hosting would be if we did an audit. Many Camps simply use a Facebook page as their Camp page, and that's completely free. The National Signals officer has recommended we eliminate the policy of hosting Camps and Department websites under the National Website and phase it out according to a schedule in order to help those few Camps and Departments that are currently under the umbrella time to establish themselves on other platforms. A survey will be conducted to determine how many Camps, Departments and Allied Orders are riding on the SUVCW hosting agreement and what fees have and have not been paid. The CofA also directed he seek payment from Camps and Departments being hosted.

The National Signals officer also discussed a Social Media Policy for the Order. Social media is a powerful tool for web communications. Many of our Brothers are using Facebook and Twitter, possibly other platforms as well, to advance the Order. Facebook, Twitter, et al, has their own rules how to do things, and we need to respect those rules, but we also need to have a policy in place to

ensure that the SUVCW's rules and regulations are being upheld by local social media administrators. I have been contacted occasionally with a complaint about how a Camp here or there has posted something political that is forbidden by our C&R. This matter was referred to the National Committee on Communications and Technology to research and devise an SUVCW Social Media Policy and Best Practices, then to be submitted to be submitted to National Programs and Policies Committee. These Committees should report back to the March 2017 CofA meeting. The National Committee on Communications and Technology was also instructed to conduct a web presence census in to be completed by July 1, 2017 and presented to the National Encampment in August. In this way, we will have a complete picture of the Order's web presence from the top down.

The Program and Policy Committee is debating the possibility of bringing disparate programs (ROTC medal program; Eagle Scout patch; Flag Certificate) under one officer.

Glenn B. Knight, PDC, chair of the National Fund Raising Special Committee has recommended restricting the committee. They are also exploring a response packet to advise members how to include the Sons of Union Veterans in their last will and testament to include appropriate captioning, legal text, registration requirements and notice of intent. Also, to look into the creation of special funds and accounts that can be used for the management of special gifts if and when necessary. Such a review may result in the creation of an Assistant Treasurer for Major Gifts or a Development Officer under the National Treasurer. This planning is in anticipation of receiving IRS 501c3 status and a majority of this work will be deferred until then.

The National Program and Policy Committee were asked to consider descendants of SUVCW POW Program.

The Council of Administration appointed a special committee to review the year 2000 resolution supporting the display of Battle Flags of the Confederacy, to report their findings to the 2017 National Encampment. Committee members are: Brad Schall, PCinC; Don Darby, PCinC; Sam Gant, PDC (of the Department of Tennessee); Ed Krieser, PCinC and Leo Kennedy, PCinC.

The National Treasurer recommended several steps to revamp how the financial business of the National Organization is conducted. This includes: all requests for expense reimbursement should be submitted within 30 days of the event; perform reconciliation between the Executive Director's per capita receipts and the amounts deposited in the bank; bank reconciliations and bank statements to be reviewed and approved by a brother who is independent of the person doing the reconciliations; adopt a written disaster contingency plan for the

(continued on page 12)



information systems, including financial records; adopt a formal policy for the capitalization of fixed assets; adopt a formal whistleblower policy; assure a signed contract is always obtained with terms are changed; all National officers who receive an advance towards expenses should submit all receipts to support such advance or refund the unused portion in a timely manner.

A special Donation Request Committee (Non Monuments and Memorials) was formed with SVCinC Mark Day as chair and CofA members Paul Davis, Fred Lynch and Ed Norris as members. Items are to be forwarded to the committee chair from the CinC, National Treasurer, National Secretary or any other member that receives them. Committee to recommend approval or disapproval to CofA to include where funding would come from.

Discussed the possible reorganization of the Departments in the New England area.

Committee for the Preservation of Records, chaired by Don Darby with Leo Kennedy, Jim Pahl, Ex. Dir. David Demmy and Loren Bures. Loren is contacting the Church of Latter Day Saints, and other organizations for quotes to digitize all of our previous Encampment Proceedings into a searchable format.

Memorial Day Committee Report - Chair Keith Harrison, Gene Mortorff, Alan Russ, Walt Busch, Fredric Lynch, Paul Davis. Still working.

The CofA is working with our embassy in Panama towards the placing of a memorial plaque. The CofA approved up to \$5,000.00 towards this plaque, dependent upon communication of cost, description, and request on embassy letter head in advance of expenditure. (as of the date of this article, the letter from the embassy has been received – still awaiting cost and specific description)

Ensign John Davis Camp 10 (London, England) requested an exemption to hold elections in January for coming year; this is against the National Regulations Chapter 1, Art V, Section 2/3. Motion passed.

Banner Mailing to members outside U.S.: Executive Director David Demmy, Sr. reported that a USPS Customs Declaration Form (PS Form 2976-R) must be completed for the mailing of Banner for every member living overseas. General Order No. 8 now allows for any brother living overseas be given the option to receive the Banner electronically.

FORM 27 is again being revised.

The CofA discussed revamping the annual Patriotic Instructor reporting.

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.

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



“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 www.dmwv.org 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.

VOICES OF PATRIOTISM

My fellow Brothers; we are facing a great challenge that the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) has not faced in their existence. An assault on the American Flag has become more prevalent in the last few years. Examples include home owner associations denying home owners to fly the American Flag, universities now not flying the American Flag and the burning of the American Flag.

What can we do? We need to ensure at all levels of our organization, National, Departments, and Camps are doing what we are Chartered to do; educate the public about our American Flag and promote pride and patriotism in our Country. Every time we do an event in the school classrooms or living history events we need to educate on the meaning and symbolism of the American Flag.

It is critical that our organization step up on this effort to turn the tides of the lack of pride and patriotism in America. While we do this; on flag burning, we need to be aware that it is their 1st Amendment Rights. What we should educate the public is that with Freedoms come responsibilities. Show them that there are other alternatives to demonstrate your dissatisfactions such as a petition drive, peaceful protest without burning the American Flag, letters to the editor, or media coverage on the issues.

My fellow Brothers, I pray that you all will join me in this effort to turn the tide of the lack of Patriotism and the respect of our Flag in our Country. Let us write a new chapter in the history of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on this issue. Most importantly, let us continue the vision that the GAR had for us.

In Fraternity Charity, and Loyalty,

National Patriotic Instructor
Jeffrey French

CHESAPEAKE

Brothers from Baltimore's James A. Garfield Camp No. 1 commemorated the service of their ancestors on the 154th anniversary of the battle of Antietam with a visit and Camp meeting on the storied battlefield in Washington County. Convening at the Maryland Monument, Brothers unanimously approved a donation of five-hundred-dollars to support the Civil War Trust's "Save the Maryland Campaign" to help preserve three separate tracts of land that played important roles in the 1862 action.

On August 8, members of the General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp #1862 of Milford, DE toured the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. The museum also serves as the national headquarters for the SUVCW and the Order's executive director, David Demmy, has offices in this building.

The camp completed its semi-annual cleanup of its three Adopt-a-Position sites at Gettysburg National Battlefield and the Union Cemetery in Milford, DE. Several camp members also participated in the annual Remembrance Day parade in Gettysburg.

Finally, camp members travelled to Philadelphia to tour the GAR Museum and Library. The museum is unique in that it is really a GAR post headquarters and the artifact collection has been accumulating from the time of the Civil War to the present.

COLORADO / WYOMING

The Officers of the Legion of the West, Camp 7 held their election for a new Camp Commander, and elected David Haake, at their meeting on September 3rd, 2016 in Grand Junction, Colorado. Camp Commander Haake was sworn in by Senior Vice Commander of the Department of CO/WY Garry Brewer, PDC. Present were Danny Agajanian, Camp SVC; William Buvinger, PCC and current Sec/Treas; Bennett Young, PCC; and Gary Parrott, PDC.

A great time was had by all. Among the issues discussed were helping the Museum of Western Colorado and marking the grave with a GAR marking for 2nd Lieutenant, Joseph J. Putney of the 3rd United States



Left to Right: Standing, Garry Brewer, Danny Agajanian, Bennett Young, Gary Parrott, Sitting L to R. William Buvinger, David Haake

Colored Cavalry, who died in 1930 and is buried in Collbran, Colorado cemetery.

COLUMBIA

On Nov 11th 2016, members of the Ft Walla Walla Camp # 3, Department of the Columbia, submitted a float in the Yakima, WA Veterans day parade. This is the first year Camp 3 has ever represented itself in a parade. It was a beautiful 55 degree day and it is estimated near 6,000 people came out for the parade.



Four local Camp Brothers worked on the planning and construction. Also joining the float was Jr Camp member Preston Scott and his mother Jessica Wurdman. Other Camp Brothers riding were Don Jameson, Brian Teagarden, Art Kelly, and Civil War re-enactor guest Joe Howell.

FLORIDA



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 13th 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.

Department of Florida conducts Replacement Headstone Service.

In March of this year PCC Dave Palmer was contacted by Jill Stephenson of Michigan who had researched her family's roots and discovered a Civil War ancestor, Isaac

Blackmun. It was discovered that Sgt Blackmun was buried in the Orleans Cemetery near Inverness Florida. This cemetery is small and closed in 1912, located in the Withlacoochee State Forest. The family decided to replace the headstone for Isaac Blackmun since his original is in many pieces.



Jill requested if the SUVCW could help with a little service after the new stone is placed and conduct a ceremony. Commander David Munson Chestnut of Camp #1 stated that this would be a great honor and it was agreed that this is the sort of event that really gives meaning to being a member of the SUVCW. Using the 1917 GAR Headstone Rededication Ceremony, the dedication was conducted on June 18th 2016.

Participating were brothers of Camps 1, 5 and 9 along with Florida Dept. Commander Reeves. The American Legion VFW Post Citrus County Honor Guard provided a 3 shot volley and 2 buglers for taps. Ms Ann Barnes Baron was our widow in black and placed a rose on the grave.

When the family arrived they surely were amazed at the number of people including some town's people and local press were there to see our ceremony. It was a great honor to perform this service and give honor and respect to Isaac Blackmun and his family. They enjoyed seeing many of us in period dress or uniform. Our thanks and great appreciation goes out to all those who contributed and attended.

GEORGIA

On Saturday, September 10, 2016 at 11:00 a.m., Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3 and other Brothers of the Department of GA & SC, SUVCW joined in a historic event along with the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1860, the Blue Ridge Rifles of Dahlonega, Georgia. A grave rededication for Corporal Issac Rucker of Company G, 1st United States Colored Troops Heavy Artillery took place and an Iron Cross service for Confederate Corporal Franklin Boyd of the 52 Georgia Volunteer Infantry (killed in action) took place. Both are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Dahlonega. Sisters from the DUVCW and LGAR also took part in the ceremony. National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Mark Day addressed those in attendance as a part of the ceremony and his wife presented a carnation in the ceremony.



The Department of Georgia & South Carolina and Department of Georgia, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War met on November 12th, 2016 to dedicate the placement of the Georgia Historical Society's Sherman's March to the Sea historical marker.

The marker was placed in Freedom Park in Atlanta at the corner of Moreland Avenue and North Avenue by Brothers of the SUVCW.



Left to Right: Kenneth Griffiths (Georgia Civil War Commission), James Yancey (Georgia Civil War Commission), Sarah Meyer (President of the Department of GA, DUVCW), Beth Findley (Clara Barton Tent, DUVCW), Linda Hartung (Clara Barton Tent, DUVCW) and David Beam (Senior Vice Commander, Department of GA & SC, SUVCW).

On Saturday, the 29th Day of October 2016, The Department of Georgia and South Carolina had the honor of opening a new SUVCW Camp in Beaufort South Carolina. What makes this camp unique to our organization is that it is comprised of all descendants of United States Colored Troops that proudly served during the Civil War.

After the war in 1888 these former slaves turned veterans still resided along the coast line of South Carolina and Georgia when they came together and founded the David Hunter Post of the GAR, as part of the Department of Virginia.

In 1898, the active members of The David Hunter Post constructed a building in Beaufort to host their regular meetings appropriately named Grand Army of the Republic Hall. This building still stands today and will be the meeting location of the new Edward Wallace Camp Number 21. Wallace was the original founder of the David Hunter Post. It is theorized that Edward Wallace's grave is on the grounds of the GAR Meeting Hall which he was instrumental in constructing.



The SUVCW Edward Wallace Camp, has eighteen active members, who elected the Rev. Elijah Washington, MD as the first Camp Commander. Attending the ceremony, there were 14 outstanding young ladies, all descendants of Union soldiers, who are proud members of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Their Chapter was formed on 22 July 1933 and The Woman's Relief Corps.

ILLINOIS

On Saturday, September 17, over 110 attendees gathered together to dedicate seven new headstones on the previously unmarked graves of Civil War veterans buried in the historic Maple Hill Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois. This was the capstone of the 16th Civil War grave marker project undertaken by the Philip H. Sheridan Camp # 2 of the Civil War (SUVCW). Many of those soldiers served in units raised locally in Will County, including the 20th and 100th Illinois Infantries. In addition three veterans who served in Ohio units, one from New York and a solitary Confederate from Virginia are buried in the Cemetery.



Members of P. H. Sheridan Camp # 2, IL SUVCW

Among those receiving new grave markers were: James F. Branch (20th Illinois Infantry), George R. Clark (20th Illinois Infantry), Thomas F. Francis (2nd Illinois Light Artillery), Joseph Hedge (8th Illinois Infantry), James Kinney (12th and 17th Illinois Cavalries), Ralph Nye (86th Ohio Infantry) and Stephen J. Roke (100th Illinois Infantry).

Materially aiding in the project was Anthony Hernandez of Aurora's Boy Scout Troop #28 as his Eagle Scout project. Anthony as well as many other members and friends of Troop #28 set the seven new markers, cleaned and reset the existing markers on those other Civil War

veterans buried in the cemetery and participated in the dedication ceremony by laying flower sprays on each of the graves receiving a new headstone.

After opening remarks and posting of the Colors, an address was delivered by local historian Ray Hemphill. In addition to brothers of the Sheridan Camp, also participating were representatives of the Village of Elwood, the Frederick A. Bartleson Chapter NSDU, the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and the Illinois National Guard. Rifle and artillery salutes were provided by the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery Honor Guard and Mulligan's Battery, SVR respectively.



In late October, the Philip H. Sheridan Camp # 2, in conjunction with the Montgomery Historic Preservation Commission, dedicated 17 new headstones on the previously unmarked graves of Civil War veterans buried in historic Riverside Cemetery in Montgomery, Illinois. Fifty-four Civil War veterans are buried in Riverside Cemetery. Many of them were active members of Aurora Illinois' GAR Post # 20.

Materially aiding in the successful completion of the project were Alan Morrow from Boy Scout Troop #41 in Sugar Grove and Cole Butler and Justin Huberty from Aurora's Troop #11. These three Eagle Scout candidates and others set the 17 new markers and cleaned and reset 30 existing markers on those other Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery.

National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski provided the invocation and an inspirational message. Norma Fiedler of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) and Susan Ollis of the National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865 (NSDU) reflected on the significance of the occasion. Also speaking were Congressman Bill Foster, Command Sergeant Major Mark Bowman of the Illinois National Guard and Anthony Vaughn from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. A rifle salute was given by the 10th Illinois Infantry and a period artillery salute by Mulligan's Battery, SVR. Taps was played by Sheridan Camp Bugler Richard Stanczak. Colors were posted and recovered by Montgomery's Memorial VFW Post # 7452.

KENTUCKY

Ft. Duffield Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held a rededication ceremony on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016 at the Rostrum located at Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery. The Union Veteran Legion originally dedicated the Rostrum in 1898. The structure's podium, which can accommodate up to 150 people, is made of stone and cement, 36' by 22' and 15' high, and is surmounted by 12 Tuscan-order columns in three rows of four. At one time it was topped by beams supporting a pergola-like trellis roof, which was removed sometime after 1947. Entrance to the podium is via a flight of six steps, and along the steps and the podium runs an iron handrail, now in need of paint. The Camp is sponsoring a project to repaid the iron railings and replace the trellis roof.



The ceremony began at 4:00. Officers of the camp provided a history of the structure, followed by a musket volley. Among the attendees: from KY Governor Matt Bevin's office, Isaac Myers, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer's office, and Chaplain, 11th Aviation Command Fort Knox, KY, LTC John Callihan., National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865, members of the SVR and 9th MI Volunteer Infantry Fort Duffield. Male High School girls' choir led by Alexis Paxton sang exactly what was sung at the 1898 ceremony: 2 stanzas of "America" and one stanza of "Nearer, My God, to Thee." WAVE3 a local News Station was also present.

MAINE

On the 24th of September 2016, the Department of Maine SUVCW participated in the burial ceremony of Pvt Jewett B. Williams, who had served with the 20th Maine in Company H during the Civil War. He had been drafted in 1864 and had been present at the surrender at Appomattox. Williams died in Oregon in 1922, and his cremains were put into a copper container, but never interred. In 2004, the cremains were discovered.

Arrangements were made to bring Pvt Williams cremains back to Maine for burial. Morris Berry, PDC arraigned for the Department to perform the GAR burial ceremony, which was held on September 24th.

The Patriot Guard transported the cremains of Williams to Hodgdon, Maine for burial in the family plot. The cremains were handed off to Department of Maine member Morris Berry PDC and taken into the Hodgdon

United Methodist Church, where they were put into a wooden urn. Berry then carried the urn out of the church and placed them in a black horse-drawn carriage that was transporting family members to the nearby cemetery. The carriage was followed by the 20th Maine Co. B reenactment unit, six brothers of the SUVCW and the Patriot Guard. Upon arriving at the cemetery, Berry placed the urn on the funeral service table.



Brothers participating included Eric Boothroyd, PDC, Charles McGillicuddy PDC, Steve Morgan PDC, Peter Redman and Paul Berry, Jr.

MASSACHUSETTS

On October 9th, 2016, the Department held a dinner at the Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center in Groton, Mass, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Massachusetts by the Grand Army of the Republic.

A program, emceed by Department Commander Dexter Bishop, was held, with the history of the G.A.R. in Massachusetts being presented by Department Chaplain Rev. Peter Preble. Honored guest speakers included Commander-in-Chief Donald L. Martin, along with Al Smith of the Round Tables of Massachusetts, Department Senior Vice Commander of the American Legion, Michael Davis, the founder and CEO of Project New Hope, William Moore, and Cheryl Poppe, Commandant of the Chelsea Soldiers Home, a state run facility founded by the G.A.R.



To honor the spirit and mission of the G.A.R., the Department held the dinner as a fundraiser, with proceeds going to Project New Hope, a charity helping veterans transition to civilian life and create mutual support among

service-members, Veterans, Gold Star and Survivors, and their families. Project New Hope's programs provide healing retreats and therapy, especially for those afflicted with PTSD, alcoholism and substance abuse, and other disorders related to their service. The Department raised \$3000 for Project New Hope, from this event.

MICHIGAN

This year's Gettysburg Remembrance Day was especially memorable. Michigan brothers, sisters of the Auxiliary and members of the 14th Michigan, SVR provided 19 participants who attended the weekend events.

Our journey began with a tour of South Mountain and the Battle of Antietam. We were treated to a visit to the Shafer House. Built in 1830, the house was used as General Franklin's Headquarters on September 14, 1862 during the battle of South Mountain at Crampton's Gap. Burkittsville.

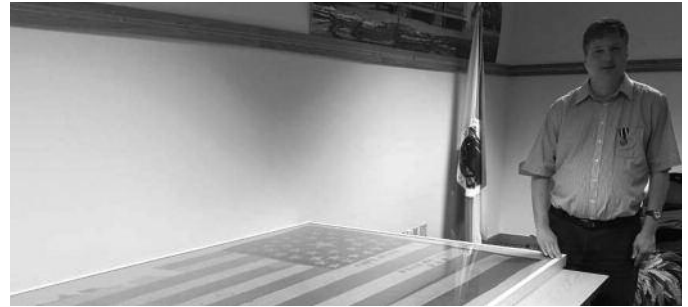


The 14th Michigan and volunteers from the Auxiliary of the Department of Michigan placed National and State flags on the headstones of Michigan soldiers at the Gettysburg Cemetery. New this year was the reading of the names by several participants for those men buried there. We will rotate the reading of names by rows each year. Thanks go out to Auxiliary Sisters Connie Horning and Michigan Auxiliary President Jan Davis for their participation. And also a special thanks to Connie who provided two wreaths for the ceremonies.

Following the parade we conducted a memorial service at the 3rd Michigan Infantry monument. Before we could get the ceremony completed the weather made a significant change that resulted in gale force winds and a significant drop in the temperature. The Sons and Auxiliary members read the names in honor of the 3rd Michigan men who were killed or wounded during the battle.

MISSOURI

On November 12, 2016, Phelps Camp #66 members celebrated the return of the flag of Mack Post No. 319, G.A.R. to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. The flag underwent museum conservation in New York. Camp Secretary Michael Price delivered remarks about the Mack family of Greene County, Missouri and Post 319.



NEBRASKA

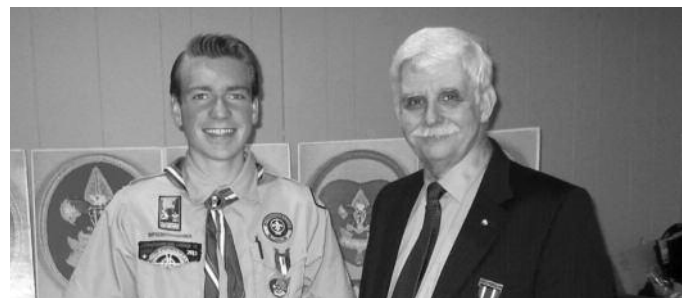
Nebraska held a Gettysburg Address Remembrance ceremony at the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln on November 19th. Gathered to observe this historical event were members of the Department of Nebraska SUVCW and sisters from the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 186-1865, and the SUVCW Auxiliary. The address was read by Jr. SUVCW Member Ttistin Shonholz. History of Abraham Lincoln and his trip to Gettysburg for the address was given by Carol Cisco, PDP of the Nebraska Daughters of Union Veterans. Also in attendance was a Cub Scout Pack from Lincoln.

NEW JERSEY

On October 9, an SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate was awarded to Collin Dignam of Troop 390 - Denville, NJ at the American Legion Hall Post 344 in Rockaway, NJ. by brother Patrick Reilly of the General Philip Kearny Camp #20.



Jim Halloran of the General Philip Kearny, Camp # 20, presented a Eagle Scout Achievement Certificate to Eagle Scout Timothy Victori.



The Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp # 7, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, recently celebrated its

25 Anniversary during recent Remembrance ceremonies in Gettysburg, PA. The Camp was founded by Thomas Corcoran PCC, John Makos PDC and David Hann, PDC in early 1990 and was chartered in Hammonton, NJ on November 19, 1991. The Camp currently has a membership of over 50 Brothers throughout Atlantic and Gloucester County. Throughout its short history the Camp has produced three Past Department Commanders, the current New Jersey Department Commander, and a number of brothers who have served in both Department and National positions. The Camp was instrumental in erecting and dedicating the Camp Stockton monument in Woodbury, New Jersey, refurbishing and rededicating the Soldier's monument in Woodbury, and raising funds and dedicating a plaque at the Absecon Light House commemorating the 44 National Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, held in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1910.



Photo credit: Victorian Photography Studio

NEW YORK

The Col. John Weber Camp #44 supported Chapter 268 of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) when their members rededicated the monument honoring the military service and ultimate sacrifices of Private George Harrison Whitcher and Corporal Orville Bailey Whitcher. The rededication ceremony was held in the Glenwood Cemetery on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, 2016. The brothers of Weber Camp took the lead to co-ordinate the formal service in support of Chapter 268's rededication program. Chapter 268's leadership fulfilled Weber Camp's objective to honor the service and sacrifice of these Civil War veterans.

During the Summer, Chapter 268 launched a campaign to raise approximately \$2,100.00 to renovate the monument, which was in seven pieces. Their goal was easily attained through total community contribution. Although it was rededicated on Veterans Day, the monument still needs to be cleaned and sealed. This is planned for 2017 once the monument has "dried out" after the many decades of neglect.

Inscriptions on the obelisk honor the sacrifices of brothers George Whitcher (7th Michigan Infantry),

Orville Whitcher (8th New York Heavy Artillery) and their brother-in-law Charles Hoag (1st Wisconsin Cav).



OHIO

Brothers of the William T. Sherman Camp #93, Lincoln Society of Dayton members, Montgomery County and City of Dayton officials, and more than 500 people dedicated Dayton's statue of Abraham Lincoln on Old Courthouse Plaza during a community celebration and ceremony Sept. 17. The 12-foot monumental bronze statue honors Abraham Lincoln's Sept. 17, 1859 visit and anti-slavery speech in the city. Both Sherman Camp and the Ohio Auxiliary SUVCW are contributors towards funding the statue and are listed upon a plaque mounted on the statue's base.

Sherman Camp 93's Color Guard presented and retired the National and SUV flags at the beginning and finish of the ceremony. Lincoln Society of Dayton member and SUVCW brother Fred Lynch orchestrated the ceremony. ASUVCW Sister Barbara Lynch, LSOD treasurer, was a key participant in their five-year campaign to raise the \$250,000 statue cost. Nationally prominent sculptor Mike Major designed the statue.



Commander in Chief Don Martin, accompanied by Mrs. Sherry Martin, represented the National Organization. Sherman Camp participants in the ceremony were: Brothers Fred Lynch, Mike Spaulding, Al Howey, Del Steiner, Doug Osgood, Dennis Carter, Steve Flickinger, Greg Hedgorth, Jared Robinson, Grant Bates, Shane Milburn, Brent Davidson, Bryan Lambert, and Dan Miller.

PENNSYLVANIA

Brothers of Isaac Eaton Camp No. 504 traveled to Gettysburg National Cemetery on Remembrance Day Nov. 19th, 2016 to perform the Sons of Union Veterans memorial ceremony over the grave of the Camps namesake Prvt. Isaac Eaton, Co. 'B' 10th Pa. Reserve

Infantry who had died from his wounds that he received on July 2nd, 1863 near Devils Den and is buried in the Pennsylvania section of the Gettysburg National Cemetery. Prvt. Eaton is buried alongside his comrade, Prvt.



Alanzo McCall also of Co. 'B' 10th Pa. Reserve who was killed during the same action on July 2nd 1863.

Brothers who performed the ceremony pictured below L to R in front row; Richard Grossman, David Robinson Jr., Steven Johnston, John Tenney, Timothy Bennett (Isaac Eaton Camp No 504) Back row; (L - R) Harry Dillon III (Col James Crowther Camp No. 89) Who sounded Taps to conclude the ceremony, and three members of 150th Pa. Bucktails who were present to observe.



Isaac Eaton Camp No. 504 welcomed two new Brothers during the fall of 2016, Brothers Bill Rider and Gerald M. Stumpff II who were initiated into the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Brother Bill Rider is the descendant whose Civil War ancestor fought with the 6th Pa Heavy Artillery and Brother Gerald M. Stumpff II is the son of Brother Gerald Stumpff who is also a member of Isaac Eaton Camp No. 504 and both are the descendants of Prvt. John Stumpff who served with the 4th Pa. Cavalry during 1861 - 1865. We would like to congratulate both new Brothers into the Sons of Union Veterans.

TENNESSEE

On Sunday, September 18th, the Major William A. McTeer Camp No. 39 had the honor to initiate "real son" John Wilson Oliver Jr. of Morristown, TN and Junior Member Steven Kenneth Jolley of Harriman, TN. Also attending were members of the Lucinda Heatherly Tent of the Daughters of Union Veterans including President

Becky Jolley and members of the Polly Toole Auxiliary No. 17 including President Cindy McReynolds.

The ceremony was also special in that it included representatives from generations far apart in time. New Brother John Oliver Jr. was born in La Grande, OR in 1924 and is now 91 years old. New Junior Member Steven Jolley was born in Cumberland County, TN in 2006 and is now 10 years old. Born 81 years apart, but both were honoring the memory of their Union ancestors. Attending with Brother Oliver were Wayne Roberts and close friend Jim Claborn, while Junior Member Steven Jolley was accompanied by his aunt, Audra Morton.



McTeer Camp Commander and National Treasurer David McReynolds led the ceremony per the Ritual, along with Tennessee Department Commander Michael Downs and McTeer Chaplain George Lane. Mike Downs presented Brother Oliver with a specially engraved membership badge to honor the special occasion. David McReynolds joined with Mike to present Brother Oliver with both a framed Camp Membership Certificate as well as a National Life Member certificate confirming his status as a "real son".

Brother Oliver brought pictures of his father wearing his GAR medals, which he wore to the McTeer meeting to honor his father. He stated many times that his father would be very proud to know that he had joined the SUVCW.

John Wilson Oliver Sr. was a member of the 4th Tennessee (US) Infantry. He was a Commander and an Adjutant for the Oliver P. Morton Post of the GAR in Oregon and was an Aide-de-Camp to GAR Commander-in-Chief Elbridge Lafayette Hawk during his term in office from 1927 to 1928.

TEXAS

On October 8, 2016, members of the General James J. Byrne Camp of the SUVCW (Department of Texas - Fort Worth), held a graveside memorial commemoration for the camp's Civil War era namesake General James J. Byrne at Pioneer's Rest Cemetery, Fort Worth. Camp Commander Don Brannon led the camp in remembrance of the life of General Byrne.

General James J. Byrne was born in Ireland in 1841 and moved to New York City as a youth with his family. On

(continued on bottom of page 21)

SVR GUIDON



THE 1ST MILITARY DISTRICT

The 1st Military District encompasses the five Departments located in New England. After a number of years of dedicated service Major Peter A. Rotando, Past Commander of the 1st Military District, requested to be placed in the SVR Inactive Reserve. As of July 1, 2016, Captain Edward J. Norris assumed command of the District. Brother Norris is also a member of the Council of Administration and Chief of Staff to Commander-in-Chief Donald L. Martin.

The District currently has five active units - Co. K, 14 Connecticut Infantry; Co. F, 11th Maine Infantry; Co. E, 15th Massachusetts Infantry; Co. A, 12th New Hampshire Infantry; and 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. Brother Kevin Tucker is in the process of forming the 11th Massachusetts Infantry and has already recruited six new members for that unit. We hope to have that unit fully active by about the first of the year. The Department of Vermont does not have a unit, and establishing one in that Department is a goal for 2017.

The District doesn't have a lot of members, just 47. Another goal for 2017 is to increase our membership. Adding the 11th Massachusetts Infantry will provide us with a 13% increase, and we are certain we can do better than that.

The units are lead by 1st Sgts. Robert G. Carron (CT), Eric Boothroyd (ME), Maurice Healy (MA), Daniel Murray (NH), and David Duggan (RI). All have been instrumental in coordinating events in their Departments.

Some recent events which the District has participated in include: the burial ceremonies that took place in all five New England states for Civil War Veteran Pvt. Jewett Williams, whose ashes were transported from Oregon to Maine, the rededication of the Worcester (MA) Civil War monument (a photo from that event appeared in the Autumn 2016 edition of The Banner), and the birthday ceremony for Major General Benjamin F. Butler.

The dedication of all the Brothers who belong to the 1st Military District will be an inspiration to others who wish to join the SVR. I urge the Brothers who reside in New England to contact one of us and join our ranks.



July 24th, 1862, he was commissioned a first lieutenant and adjutant of the 163rd New York Volunteer Infantry. On December 11th, 1864, he was appointed colonel of the 18th New York Cavalry.

While serving in General Nathaniel Bank's Army of the Gulf, he saw extensive action in Louisiana during the Red River Campaign of 1864. Byrne was brevetted to brigadier general for gallantry at the battle of Pleasant Hill and then brevetted to major general for gallantry at the battle of Moore's Plantation (May 5th and 6th, 1864)

and Yellow Bayou (May 18th, 1864). Both brevets were awarded on March 13th, 1865.

According to a report in the Fort Worth Democrat (Fort Worth Star-Telegram), he was the youngest major general in the United States Army. He was 23 at the time of his promotion. He was mustered out of Federal service on May 3rd, 1866. He was killed (August 14th, 1880) in an attack led by the Apache leader Victorio and buried near Fort Quitman. Charlie West the telegraph operator at Fort Quitman wrote of General Byrne's passing, "During all that time he was as cool as a cucumber. I never saw a man die braver in my life."

The Fort Worth Democrat editorialized on August 17th, 1880, "General Byrne's death at any time would cause regret." General Byrne's friend Pat Dowling traveled from Fort Worth to Fort Quitman and returned the body to Fort Worth. General Byrne was re-interred with full military honors at Pioneer's Rest Cemetery on November 21st, 1880.

FINAL MUSTER

I attended a boarding school in a small mid-western town. Recently I went back. The buildings where I attended high school had been torn down. I went to a cemetery to see if I could find any of my old teachers - and I did. The folks who shaped my life, my thinking, my love of history, and my love of God were all in the same area. They were giants. Now I ask myself why? Was it what they said, was it their technique, was it the way they lived their lives? The answer to all of these questions is yes. Right now - ask yourself, how will I be remembered. Will I have done all that I can to love my family, my friends, my Nation, this Order? No matter your age, you still have time. You have the ability to improve what you say and what you do, so that like the men in this Final Muster, your Brothers will someday happily say about you, "He was a really good man, and left very large shoes to fill." This was, indeed, what we had to say at PCinC Charlie Kuhn's funeral service.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Chaplain Jerry

Contant, George W., PCC

Gen A.T.A. Torbert Camp #1862 (Chesapeake)
August 12, 2016

Williams, Larry Alan, PDC

Haskell-Marston Camp #56, (Maine)
August 5, 2016

Levi Jr, Leo A

Jacob M. Campbell Camp #14 (Pennsylvania)
September 22, 2016

Marts, William A.

Maj Gen Thomas H Ruger Camp #1 (North Carolina)
September 11, 2016

Pool, Ernest John (real son)

Col. John Bryner Camp # 67 (Illinois)
September 24, 2016

Hoye, John

Admiral John L. Warden Camp #150 (New York)
August 4, 2016

Akers, Harold W.

Col Augustus Van Horne Ellis Camp #124 (New York)
October 21, 2015

McKnight, Robert, PDC

Gen George A Custer Camp #17 (New Jersey)
December 9, 2015

Wilcox, Chuck Eugene

Robert Mitchell Camp #206 (Iowa)
January 21, 2016

Goodwin Jr, Albert J (life member)

Col George L Willard Camp #154 (New York)

Dennis, Michael C., PCC

Robert Anderson Camp #33 (Iowa)
October 1, 2016

Allen, Earl E., PDC (life member)

Homer Searle Camp #114 & Stewart-Hope
Camp #126 (New York)
October 22, 2016

Haynes, Robert L (life member)

Fort Walla Walla Camp #3 (Columbia)
August 11, 2016

Woolley, John Austin

C K. Pier Badger Camp #1 (Wisconsin)
October 27, 2016

Davis, John Brooks, PDC

George Armstrong Custer Camp #1 (Illinois)
October 29, 2016

Gosling, David Christopher Lee

March to the Sea Camp #135 (Michigan)
September 12, 2016

Kuhn, Jr., Charles E, PCinC

Gettysburg Camp #112 (Pennsylvania)
December 16, 2016

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

All of us have talents. Some of us can work with wood, or write intelligently; others have accounting or leadership qualities. The list of what we are skilled at goes on and on, and differs from person to person. Let's call these facets of our lives our "Resume Virtues." We also have gifts. The ability to make others feel comfortable, happy to have spent time with us, generous in spirit and in coin. These we call "Eulogy Virtues." They are the things the preachers say about us at the end of our tour of duty. Today, please think about your Talents and Gifts. Are you doing all that you can, or are you a minimalist? Are people happy to see you, or do they turn the other way? Do folks feel welcomed in your home? Do you support the efforts of our Order, or are you just a member in name only?

These are questions only you can answer. If we are The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - we should be attracting people by what we do and what we say. Are you ready for this challenge? If you are, then do what only you yourself know you should - and just say to yourself - AMEN.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Chaplain Jerry

HISTORY OF THE SONS

BY BOB WOLTZ, NATIONAL HISTORIAN

HISTORY OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC FOUNDING OF AN ORDER

A recent letter to our Executive Director stirred some controversy recently. A descendant of Rev. William J. Rutledge was questioning the lack of any credit in our published web pages, for his role in the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In her communication, she cited *The History of the Grand Army of the Republic* (New York: Bryan, Taylor, 1889) by Robert Burns Beath, who was himself Commander in Chief of the Grand Army in 1883.

Beath gives a short biography of Rutledge on pp. 33-34 in which he credits Rutledge with the original idea of the organization.

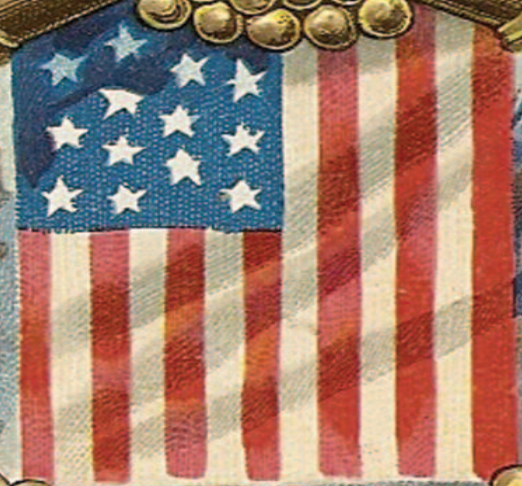
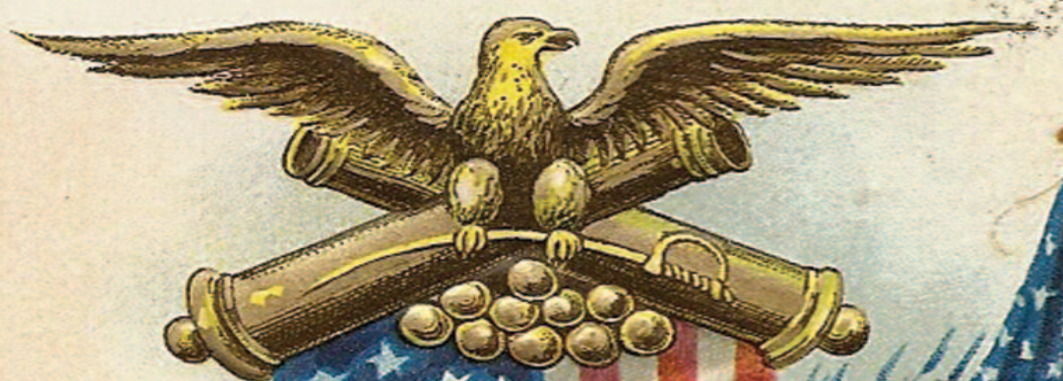
“Chaplain Rutledge was the tent mate and bosom companion of Dr Stephenson after the latter joined the regiment in 1862. Their regiment formed part of Sherman’s expedition to Meridian in February 1864 and while upon this campaign Chaplain Rutledge suggested to Major Stephenson that the soldiers so closely allied in the fellowship of suffering would when mustered out of the service, naturally desire some form of association that would preserve the friendships and the memories of their common trials and dangers. As they talked together on the march or in bivouac this thought expanded into the widest fields of conjecture as to the capacity for good in such an organization of veterans and they agreed that if spared they would together work out some such project. After the close of their army service this subject formed the basis of their correspondence until March 1866 when Chaplain Rutledge met Dr Stephenson by appointment in Springfield Illinois and spent some time with him in arranging a ritual for the proposed organization”

Our National Historian, Bob Woltz, responded to this as follows: Here are my thoughts, if you wish to disagree I am happy to hear your thoughts. Rev. Rutledge’s great grand daughter is quoting Beath. Later research proved Beath was wrong. By repeating the Rutledge story now it does not make the story right or correct. I don’t think we should change the statement as it is based upon sound current research. The Civil War Collectors Society published Stephen’s papers a couple of years ago. These were not available for research in 1888 and it may be Mary Stephenson’s release of some of them that changed GAR opinion by 1909 when the national monument was erected.

While the *History of the GAR* published in 1888 credits Rev Rutledge as being a tent mate of Benjamin Stephenson and a co-founder of the GAR later research including Stephenson original papers and his diary, have proven that Rutledge was not a co-founder and that Stephenson alone conceived the idea and spent almost all his time in 1865-1866 promoting it. Why Comdr-in-Chief Beath told that story remains unknown...perhaps Rev. Rutledge was a personal friend or was involved in GAR politics. Stephenson had died in 1871 so was not around to dispute it. The 1888 history is the only source for crediting Rutledge involvement. There were numerous veterans reunion organizations founded with various membership requirements. Perhaps as the plan developed Dr. Stephenson’s plan eliminated sections that Rutledge originally proposed. I wish we had greater access, but if they ever existed they are lost to history.

In 1909 the official GAR monument in Washington, DC dedicated by the GAR and purchased by the US Congress is the Dr. Benjamin J. Stephenson monument and makes no mention of a co-founder of the GAR.

It was based upon the most recent research that the Sons statement was developed as was the book *Grand Army Men*.



*"Flag of Freedom, grand and glorious,
'Neath the flag we march victorious"*

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