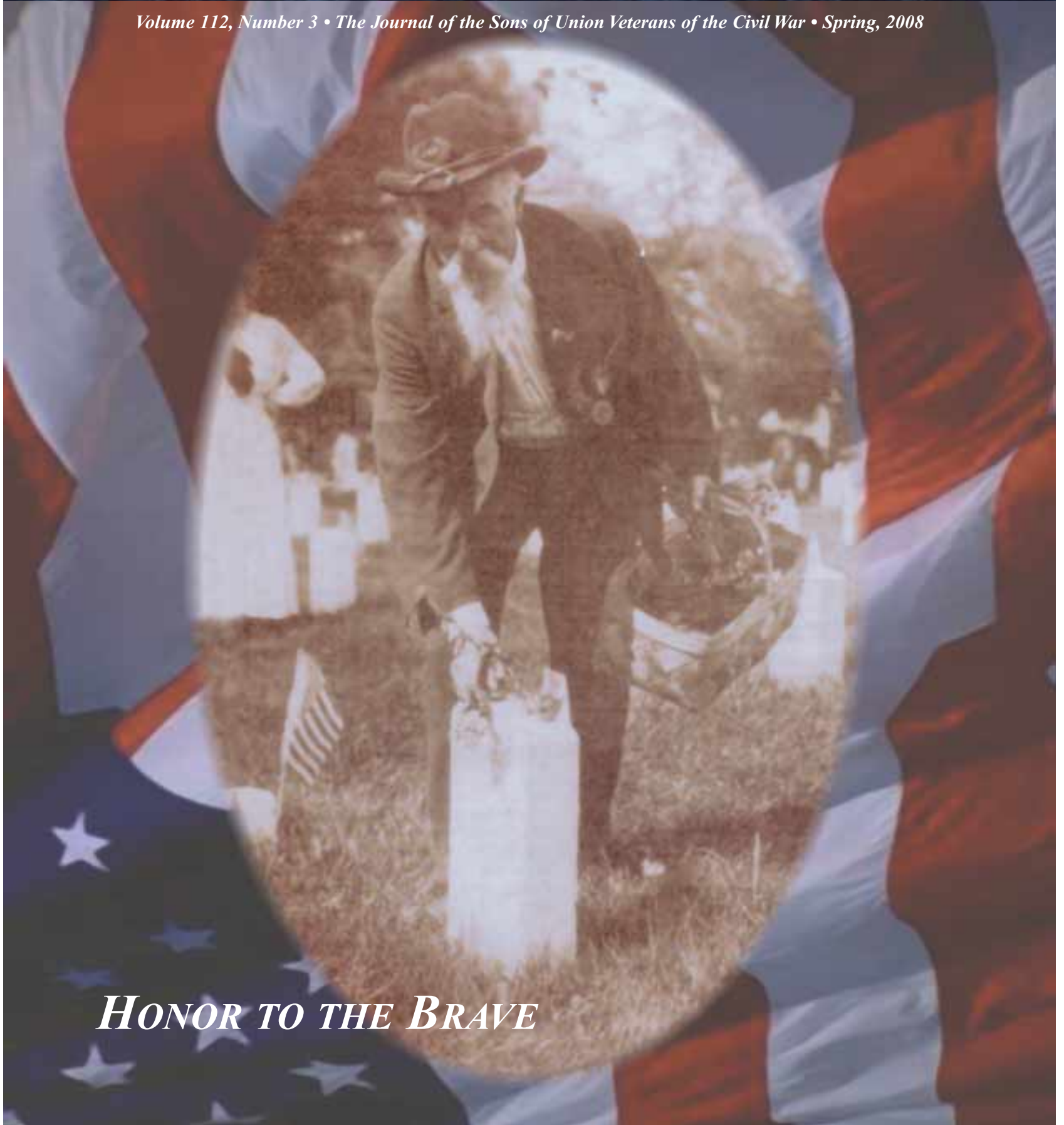


THE BANNER

Volume 112, Number 3 • The Journal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War • Spring, 2008



HONOR TO THE BRAVE

ON THE ROAD WITH CINC KUHN

CinC Kuhn's 2008 Travel Schedule



At the Lincoln Memorial with Nat. Color Bearer Br. Douglas McMillin, Junior Joshua McMillin and Br. Paul McMillin of the Gettysburg Blues.

12 January	James Garfield Camp 1 Installation Ceremony	Arlington, VA
19 January	Gen. Meade Camp 5 Installation Ceremony	Odenton, MD
26 January	Dept. of Tennessee Encampment	Montgomery, AL
3 February	Dept. of Wisconsin Mid-Winter Meeting	Wauwatosa, WI
9 February	President's Luncheon	Bethlehem, PA
12 February	Lincoln Memorial - Lincoln Birthday	Washington, DC
18 February	James A. Garfield Camp 1 Lincoln Dinner	Baltimore, MD
14-15 March	Dept. of California & Pacific Encampment	San Luis Obispo, CA
5 April	Dept. of Maryland Encampment	Baltimore, MD
12 April	Lincoln Tomb/GAR Founder's Ceremonies	Springfield & Petersburg, IL
19 April	Dept. of North Carolina Formation	Durham, NC
26 April	Dept. of Vermont Encampment	TBA, VT
27 April	U.S. Grant Tomb Ceremony	New York, NY
3 May	Dept. of Connecticut Encampment	TBA, CT
10 May	Dept. of Georgia Formation	Atlanta, GA
26 May	Memorial Day @ Gettysburg National Cemetery	Gettysburg, PA
30 May	Decoration Day @ Arlington Nat. Cemetery	Washington, DC
7 June	Dept. of New York Encampment	Waterloo, NY
14 June	Dept. of Ohio Encampment	Columbus, OH
19-21 June	Dept. of Pennsylvania Encampment	Ligonier, PA
19 July	SCV National Encampment	Concord, NC

Various National Officers will represent CinC Kuhn at the Encampments and events not listed.



Presenting Luray-Carlisle Camp with Best New Camp Award on Cedar Creek Battlefield.



Cutting MG James H. Wilson Camp 1's (TN) 10th Anniversary cake with Br. Tom Lauria.



Speaking at Lincoln Day Luncheon in Bethlehem, PA.



Photo at left: "The reports are greatly exaggerated." Who is it really? Turn to page 22 to find out.

Inside The Banner



THE BANNER

The Banner is published by the authority of the National Organization, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, a Congressionally Chartered organization.

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DISCUSSION WEBSITE CELEBRATES 1ST YEAR
 The SUVCW ListServ on rootsweb.com was established in January 2007 for discussion of the GAR, SUVCW, and issues of interest to the SUVCW's membership. After receiving the official approval of National last July, the list grew and now has members from several Departments. Subscribing is simple. Click on http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/Genealogical_Societies/SUVCW.html
 To View the message archives, visit <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/SUVCW/>
 The list is administered by CC Ernest E. Blevins, MFA.
 Email is blevins@alumni.cofc.edu
 The opinions expressed and information provided in messages are those of individuals and are not necessarily the official opinions, views or beliefs of any Camp, Department or National SUVCW

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Winter
Deadline—October 15
Spring
Deadline—January 15
Summer
Deadline—April 15
Autumn
Deadline—August 15

On the Cover: Union Veteran in GAR regalia decorates his comrades' graves on Memorial Day. Photo (ca. 1918) courtesy of Br. Gene Beals, Col. Friederick Hecker Camp 443, Dept. of IL



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
GENERAL ORDERS SERIES 2007-2008**

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

CHARLES E. KUHN JR.

464 Lake Meade Dr.

East Berlin, PA 17316

Charlie_kuhn@comcast.net

GENERAL ORDER NO. 10

1. With the formation of two Departments, there have been substantial questions over the standing of a Past Camp Commander concerning their right to voting credentials at a Department Encampment. In order to clarify this I am hereby publishing this General Order;

2. Past Camp Commanders in good standing are only entitled to credentials from the Camp that they Commanded.

3. Should a Past Camp Commander allow his dues to go into arrears and is no longer in good standing with the Camp that he had commanded, his voting status as a Past Camp Commander is forfeited.

4. If a Past Camp Commander should transfer to a new Camp, their voting status as a Past Camp Commander is forfeited.

5. If the Camp that a Past Camp Commander is a member of ceases to exist, their Past Camp Commander voting status is forfeited.

6. If the Past Camp Commander remains a member in good standing of the Camp that he Commanded and joins another Camp as a dual Member he still holds voting rights as a Past Camp Commander in the Camp that he commanded but doesn't have the voting rights as a Past Camp Commander in the Camp he has just joined.

7. Should a Past Camp Commander transfer from the Camp that he had commanded, then at a latter date rejoins the Camp he had commanded, he must request and be approved for the restoration of rank prior to him being issued a credentials card as being a Past Camp Commander. A credentials card can not be issued to him as a Past Camp Commander until his rank has been restored.

8. Past Camp Commanders that desire to have a credential card to the Department Encampment and for what ever reason no longer qualify for voting credentials as a Past Camp Commander may apply for the restoration of rank through the process described in the Constitution and Regulations. A credentials card for a Department Encampment as a Past Camp Commander can not be issued to him until the restoration of rank is approved.

So ordered this 20th day of January, 2008

GENERAL ORDER NO. 10 - ADDENDUM

1. While trying to cover all possible options in General Order #10 concerning the restoration of a Past Camp Commanders voting status within a Department it appears that I have missed one such option that is available to him.

2. A Past Camp Commander that transfers from the Camp that he has commanded to another Camp may make request in writing to that Camp of which he has just joined for the restoration of his rank as a Past Camp Commander. If acted upon favorably by the Camp in regular session, said request shall be forwarded to the Department Commander, setting forth the causes of loss of rank, and reasons for request or restoration. Upon approval of the Department Commander and the Department Encampment his rank as a Past Camp Commander shall be restored with all of the rights and privileges granted to him in the Constitution and Regulations of the Order.

So ordered this 20th day of January, 2008

GENERAL ORDER NO. 11

1. Upon the written request of Department Commander Hintze, and the suspension of the Charter more than two years ago I hereby revoke the Charter of Sanders Camp #1, Department of Tennessee.

2. Sanders Camp has been inactive for many years. Their Membership has fallen to less than the required numbers as prescribed in the National Constitution and Regulations. They have not filed their annual reports or paid per-capita for more than two years.

3. The Camp shall surrender their Charter, all material assets as well as all Camp records to the Department of Tennessee.

So ordered this 20th day of January, 2008

GENERAL ORDER NO. 12

Upon the written request of Department Commander Walters, I hereby revoke the Charter of General John W. McLane Camp #83, Department of Pennsylvania.

McLane Camp #83 has been inactive for two years. The Camp was suspended for a period of time in 2007 for failing to file reports. They have not held Elections or Officers installations as per the National Constitution and Regulations. Their Membership has fallen to less than the required numbers as prescribed in the National Constitution and Regulations. They have had a number of internal difficulties and the current Members are not willing to continue as a Camp of the Order.

The Camp shall immediately surrender their Charter, all material assets as well as all Camp records to the Department of Pennsylvania.

(Continued on page 22)

May 30, 2008 will mark the 140th anniversary of Memorial Day. In the second of a two part series by Br. Michael Jones, Col. Friederich K. Hecker Camp 443, Dept. of IL, and curator of Murphysboro's John A. Logan Museum, we focus on the holiday's main proponent.

LOGAN AND MEMORIAL DAY

On April 29, 1866, 219 Civil War veterans, their families, and friends gathered in a Memorial Day observance in Carbondale, Illinois' Woodlawn Cemetery. The day featured a parade, speeches, prayer and a picnic. The key note speaker, John A. Logan, reminded participants, "Every man's life belongs to his country and no man has a right to refuse it when his country calls for it." This event grew from an earlier, unplanned observance at Crab Orchard Christian Church located about four miles west of Carbondale.

In fact, it was one of many local Memorial Day observances that occurred across America in 1865 and 1866 as grieving communities sought to honor the thousands and thousands of men who died in the Civil War. Congress declared Waterloo, New York to have celebrated the first Memorial Day but Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and a host of other cities, North and South, also claim that honor.



It was not until May 5, 1868, that Logan as GAR Commander-in-Chief issued General Order No. 11. This order designated May 30th "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of our comrades who died in the defense of their country in the late rebellion..." What brought Logan to issue this famous order? In her autobiography, his wife, Mary, explained that during a trip to tour the battlefields in Virginia, she visited Petersburg's Blandford Cemetery. There she saw the "small bleached Confederate flags and faded flowers and wreaths that had been laid upon them ..." on their Decoration Day. When Mary told her husband how touched she had been by the "little flags and withered flowers," Logan replied that "it was a beautiful revival of the customs of the ancients" and that he would issue an order to the GAR that it should decorate the graves of Union soldiers.

In so doing, Logan created a national holiday from many diverse local memorial observances.

There are many historians who question Mary's explanation that Petersburg was the only inspiration for establishing the holiday. How could she leave Carbondale out of the story? Logan was there. How could Logan not have known about at least a few of the other local Memorial Day observances that had occurred to that point? The answers to these questions may never be found. Just one year before her death, Mary recounted her story for the last time and in closing, noted she was the last survivor of the creation of Memorial Day

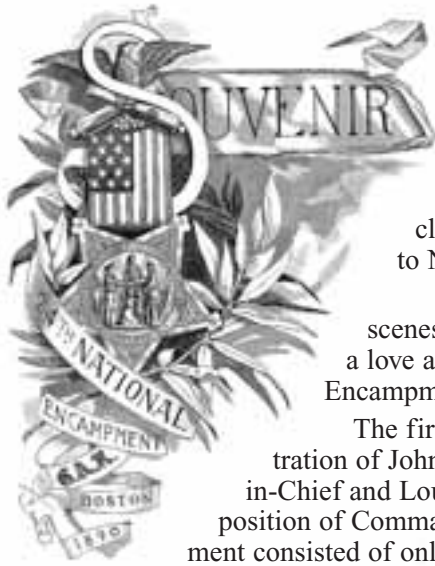
For many years the holiday was designated Decoration



This uncommon image of Mary Logan comes from an apothecary jar, dated to just post war. It is one of a pair, the other having a photograph of JAL.

Day, but is now almost universally known as Memorial Day. It was the Grand Army who, in 1882, urged this change. In 1873, New York was the first state to make it a holiday. In 1971, Congress moved Memorial Day from May 30th to the fourth Monday in May creating a three day weekend. Many Americans feel that this diminishes the meaning of the day, and there's a movement to move it back to May 30th-- a movement that both John A. Logan and Mary would surely embrace.

For information and the petition to return Memorial Day to May 30th, visit: www.usmemorialday.org/act



BOSTON'S 1890 NATIONAL

When Boston and the GAR's Dept. of Massachusetts formally invited the 1889 Encampment in Milwaukee to hold its 1890 session at the "Hub," the invitation met with general approval, not only with the delegates, but with the rank and file of the Grand Army. Many of the comrades in the central and western United States could claim New England either as their birthplace or that of their parents, and their coming to New England would be to them the return to the home of their childhood.

Boston, with its traditions and historical landmarks; Plymouth Rock, Bunker Hill, the scenes of the Indian and Revolutionary Wars, its fame for hospitality, and last, but not least, a love and appreciation of the veterans—all combined to give an assurance of a most successful Encampment and one which surpassed all others held in the past.

The first meeting of the National GAR Encampment in Boston was held during the administration of John A. Logan in May 1871. At that time, Lucius Fairchild was the Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief and Louis Wagner, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief. Both of these men afterward filled the position of Commander-in-Chief. The convention met in John A. Andrew Hall and the entire entertainment consisted of only a banquet in Faneuil Hall, a visit to the Bunker Hill Monument and an inspection of the forts in the harbor.

It was very unlike the Encampment of 1890, for that of 1871 was at the darkest period in the history of the Grand Army, while that of 1890 was held when the GAR was at the zenith of its power and influence throughout the country.



THE GRAND PARADE

Just before the start signal was given, CinC Alger and his staff rode along the line and were welcomed and cheered most enthusiastically. A grand ovation was given to President Harrison, who with the members of his cabinet and General Sherman entered carriages at the Hotel Vendone and proceeded to the reviewing stand. Then, amid the booming of cannon from the warships in the harbor and thunderous applause from the vast multitude present, the waving of countless banners, handkerchiefs and streamers, and martial music from thousands of instruments, the magnificent column began its march through the streets of Boston.

Source: *Souvenir-24th National Encampment GAR Boston 1890*, compiled by Jas. F. Meech, Chas. C. Coffin & Benj. N. Adams;

Published by E.B. Stillings & Co., Boston

Special thanks to PCC A. Dean Sargent for his research and his collection of Encampment memorabilia

Massachusetts National Encampment

Boston	1871
Springfield	1878
Boston	1890
Boston	1904*
Boston	1917*
Boston	1924*
Boston	1950**
Boston	1958**
Boston	1971**

*Joint Nat. Encampment with Sons
**SUVCW National Encampment



*The State House in Boston,
Decorated for the Encampment.*

ENCAMPMENT RECALLED

WORK OF THE DELEGATES

The 1890 National GAR Encampment heard reports of its officers and elected new leadership. A report on pensions revealed that two pension bills had been presented to Congress, resulting in a disability law, preserving the most important features of the proposals...the most liberal pension measure ever passed by the legislature.

The Encampment also adopted resolutions:

- + Asking Congress to pass an act to prohibit the display of Confederate flags on public occasions.
- + Making of Ford's Theatre in Washington a National Museum for war mementoes.
- + Favoring the passage of a law exempting veterans from examination in classified civil service.
- + Thanking Congress for the passage of the pension laws and the President for his prompt approval of the disability pension bill.

Additionally,

The old ritual was restored.

A representative of Post 45 of Honolulu presented the CinC with a gavel made of 12 different native woods.

A letter, received from the wife of Confederate Gen. H.T. Hays, offered to return the flag of a Union regiment, captured by the 8th Louisiana at Gettysburg. The Encampment extended its thanks.

A motion that the next Encampment be held in Detroit was unanimously adopted.



THE SONS OF VETERANS

"This organization, numbering over one hundred and twenty-five thousand members is growing rapidly and is reported in excellent condition. We should do everything in our power to aid them in their work. They are our boys and to them we must soon commit our trust.

"Whenever I have been in the different Departments, I have received marked courtesies from them, and am glad to be able in this public manner to acknowledge the same, and to say, God speed you, young men, in our patriotic work."

from GAR CinC Algiers' Encampment address August 13, 1890



USS KEARSAGE MAKES APPEARANCE

During the 1890 National GAR Encampment, the USS Kearsarge was moored in Boston harbor along with the Yorktown, Dolphin, Petrel and Cushing. The 7-gun Union sloop-of-war sank the 8-gun Confederate raider Alabama off Cherbourg, France, after a sea fight on June 19, 1864. The opponents were fairly evenly matched in size, speed and armament, but the better discipline of the Union gun crews eventually prevailed.

Due to its popularity, the New England sailors chose the Kearsarge as their Naval Association's namesake. The ship had made it back from tours in the West Indies and Central America in time for the Encampment. Less than four years later, she was wrecked on a reef in the Caribbean.

Survivors of the U.S.S. Kearsarge at a reunion, ca. 1890s. Those present are identified (as numbered) as: 1. Austin Quinby; 2. John Young; 3. Chas A. Poole; 4. Wm. B. Poole ("was QM - at the Con during battle w/CSS Alabama. Medal of Honor recipient); 5. Joel Sanborn; 6. Geo Remick; 7. John F. Bickford (Medal of Honor recipient); 8. Adoniram Littlefield; 9. Wm. Badlam (2nd Asst. Eng. in 1864); 10. Martin Hoyt; 11. Andrew J. Rowley; 12. John T. Stackpole; 13. Patrick McKeever; 14. Lyman P. Spinney; 15. Wm. Wainwright; 16. Lawrence T. Crowley; 17. True W. Priest; 18. J.O. Stone; and 19. John C. Woodberry. "The unmarked are not veterans." U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph.





FROM THE PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

PDC Brad Schall

I asked my grandson recently, "What is Patriotism?" And he quickly answered, "Love of your country." I wasn't quite ready with a follow-up question, but struggled to come up with, "What are the obvious signs of Patriotism?" and he said, "The flag, the pledge, soldiers, music," (I asked his or mine and I got the normal grandson look), "Parades, churches, statues, cannons, battlefields, teachers, libraries, sporting events, picnics, reenactments, our discussions, cemeteries" and a couple more that I don't remember. I thought a little more about that discussion and realized that in most of our daily lives there's a need for an opportunity for Patriotism. The question becomes how do we, as members of the SUVCW, accomplish our stated goals and obligation of teaching Patriotism.



Let's explore three areas:

First: Educating ourselves and then the public. Let's look at SUVCW.org. I'm only listing a few:

PDC Robert J. Wolz, National Historian Information, Handbook for Patriotic Instructor, Adopt a School Program, SUVCW programs such as Eagle Scout, ROTC, Graves Registration, Memorials, Last Soldiers Project to name a few, Photos from the Past, Dignified Flag Disposal Ceremony, Grand Army of the Republic History, Patriotic Recollections, SUVCW History, Sons of Veterans Reserve, Our Allied Orders, and the observances of holidays.

Second: Be a participant. Attend your Camp meetings, go to an Encampment, be in a parade, visit a school or civic club, do community work at a local cemetery, go to a ceremony proudly displaying your SUVCW badge on your chest, visit a Veterans facility, talk to people about this great country.

Third: Respect those that have come before us. It's easy for us to revert back to the past because our foundation as an organization is based on the GAR and the Boys in Blue. Patriotism is believing in who we are, what we stand for and love of our country. Well, grandson, you had it right. Love of your country.

One of the more enjoyable parts of being the Nat. Patriotic Instructor is communicating with our members. Br. Cathell of Delaware's Appomattox Camp 2 reminded me of National Medal of Honor Day, March 25th. (You are receiving this Banner after that date) and I wanted to use this opportunity to thank him for the email. There are many holidays that give us the opportunity to promote Patriotism and I urge each of you to develop a local list. I received a Camp newsletter that lists Union Generals' birthdays, another lists battle anniversaries and another lists their state's birthday. Thanks, Br. Cathell, I will put March 25th on my list to celebrate.

Last item for this quarter's Banner: Three dollars of your dues goes to Memorials. It's fairly simple to apply for a grant to restore a monument. Go on the internet and fill out a Grant Request Form 62, plus complete Form 61 and send to the Memorials Officer. We have money available and want to put it to good use.

If you have any questions or if I can be of assistance, please let me know. My email address is dschall@starstream.net

When you walk by a Civil War Memorial, a salute and prayer is O.K.



*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 established on April 20, 1865. Currently, the MOLLUS has 21 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.

For additional membership information, visit the MOLLUS Web Site at:

<http://suvchw.org/mollus.htm>

or

Email Keith G. Harrison (SUVCW PCinC and MOLLUS SVCinC) at:

pcinc@prodigy.net

THE HERITAGE LIVES ON

The living offspring of Union veterans is our link to that great conflict. Their relationships, their life experience, their memories are to be treasured. Most are in their 90s now and only occasionally make an appearance at a special event. We are fortunate to report two such occasions here. A complete list of the 67 Real Sons and Daughters appears at <http://suvcw.org/kids/CWkids.pdf>



Real Son George Williams celebrated his 96th birthday with family and members of U.S. Grant Camp 68 (Dept. of Missouri). PDC Mark Coplin organized the event. Among the nearly forty family and friends in attendance were DC Walt Busch, Council Member PDC Bob Petrovic, Sr. Cher Petrovic. Chaplain PCC John Avery, and Gary Scheel. Brothers Avery, Coplin and Scheel gave presentations on Civil War artifacts that they brought with them.

George's father, Henry Williams, was a private in Co. I, 37th KY Inf. (Mtd.) and later, Co. K, 4th KY Inf. (Mtd.)



CinC Kuhn receives a gift from Real Son William H. Upham, Jr.

Real Son William H. Upham, Jr., visited the Wisconsin Department Mid-Winter Meeting, held February 2nd. During the gathering, he autographed a gift to CinC Kuhn, a book detailing his and his brother Frederick's service in the Army during WWII and the life of their father. Wm. Upham Sr. served in Co. F, 2nd WI Inf. and met President Lincoln, who gave him an appointment to West Point. He later served in the 5th US Art. at Fortress Monroe, where he met the imprisoned Confederate chief.

Br. Bill later dined with over 110 members of the Sons, Auxiliary and various hereditary, patriotic and public service organizations at the 38th Patriotic Luncheon, hosted by C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4. He is a MOLLUS PCinC (1985-89) and a member of the SAR.

Learn more about Br. Bill and his father at <http://www.suvcw-wi.org/index2.html>

WV MOLLUS FORMING

An attempt to reactivate the West Virginia Commandery of MOLLUS is being undertaken. If you are a lineal or collateral descendant of a Union Commissioned Officer and reside in West Virginia, Southwestern Pennsylvania or South Eastern Ohio and wish to be a charter member of this Commandery, please contact Richard Orr, PCinC (suvcworr@aol.com) 153 Connie Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15214 for further information.



LAST GAR SECRETARY REMEMBERED

New York Sons recently helped the DUVCW and WRC pay homage to the GAR's Last National Secretary, 35 years after her death.

Cora Gillis, made her final report as the GAR's National Secretary in February 1957, following the death of Albert Woolsen the previous August. During her term as National GAR Secretary, GAR National Headquarters were maintained at New York Governor Reuben E. Fenton's home in Jamestown, now the Fenton Historical Center. A room is preserved there in honor of the GAR. In that room, Gillis, made the final entry in the register when she recorded the death of the last Union survivor, Albert Woolson, of Duluth, Minnesota on August 2, 1956.

Cora E. Gillis was born August 8, 1884, the youngest of four children. Her interest in Civil War veterans came from her grandfather, Rev. Daniel D. Lowell, a Baptist pastor, who had served in Co. A, 179th NY Infantry. He passed away in 1891.

Miss Gillis was working as a stenographer when she joined the DUVCW in 1917, elected New York Dept. President in 1923 and was National President in 1946, when she was elected National GAR Secretary. There were only 100 comrades left. Her predecessor, Katharine R.A. Flood, had held the post for more than 30 years, when she passed away. Cora cherished the many friendships she made in the Woman's Relief Corps, and the other Allied Orders. Her deepest interest was in keeping Memorial Day a sacred day. She saw to it that the supplies not wanted by the authorities in Washington, D.C., were turned over to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in accordance with the decree issued by the United States District Court.

Cora Gillis passed away September 3, 1972 and was buried with her family at the Macedon Village Cemetery.



PDC Jerry Orton, Prof. Jay S. Hoar, and the NY State Archives contributed to this article
Source: *Final Journal of the Grand Army of the Republic 1866 - 1956; U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1957.*



Paying tribute left to right were: DUVCW Srs. Nicolle Beyer, Kristina Braell, PDC Jerry Orton, Aux. Pres. Gloria Fisher, Aux. Sr. Diane Theetge, WRC PDP Lorraine Orton, Jim and Phyllis Schmeltzer., DUVCW PNP Shirley Boris, PDC Dale Theetge, Brs. Bruce Glaser and Mr. Braell and Chaplain Stewart Smith. Photo by PDP Nancy Karasinski.

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
2008 PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES**

(This List Supersedes All Previous Years)

Only Orders Received on Current Requisition Forms Will Be Honored

No.	Item	Unit	Price	Quantity	Color	Total Amt.
109	Promotion & Advertising Pamphlet	25	\$8.25			
114	SUVCW Letterhead Stationary	10	\$2.25			
115	Eagle Scout Certificate	each	\$0.40			
* 200	Membership Cards - Camp use only	48	\$7.50			
* 201	Membership Certificate – Blue	each	\$0.30			
* 202	Membership Certificate – Tri-Color	each	\$5.50			
* 205	Membership Certificate – White	each	\$0.30			
* 206	New Member Certificate – Camp use only	each	\$4.00			
* 256	Credentials – National & Department	25	\$3.00			
257	Certificates For Camp Officer	1	\$1.25			
* 302	Rituals & Ceremonies – Please specify Small Book or Large Book	each	\$5.00			
* 350	Life Membership Bar - Life Member use only	each	\$6.50			
* 351	Membership Rosette	each	\$10.00			
* 352	Member Badge	each	\$20.00			
* 353	Associate Badge	each	\$20.00			
* 354	Junior Badge	each	\$20.00			
* 355	Camp Commander Badge - Camp use only	each	\$25.00			
* 356	Past Camp Commander Badge - Camp use only	each	\$25.00			
* 357	Department Commander Badge - Dept use only	each	\$30.00			
* 358	Past Department Commander Badge - Dept. use	each	\$55.00			
378	ROTC Medal with Certificate (Camp Use Only)	Each	\$5.00			
359	50 Year Membership Badge	each	\$30.00			
* 360	Miniature Badge <i>(Member, Department Officer, National Officer, SVR)</i>	each	\$8.00			
* 361	War medal <i>(application must be included)</i>	each	\$23.00			
	Service Bars - Worn On War Medal Only					
362	World War II Service Bar	each	\$6.50			
363	Korean Conflict Service Bar	each	\$6.50			
364	Vietnam Action Service Bar	each	\$6.50			
365	Persian Gulf Service Bar	each	\$6.50			
366A	Iraq Service Bar -- NEW !	each	\$6.50			
366B	Afghanistan Service Bar -- NEW !	each	\$6.50			
366	Military Service Medal	each	\$25.00			
367	Replacement Ribbon for Badges	6 in.	\$1.50			
368	Replacement Ribbon for Miniature Badges	6 in.	\$1.50			
369	Service Numerals <i>(Attach to Badge - 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75)</i>	each	\$5.50			
* 370	Bronze Recognition Button	each	\$10.00			
* 371	SVR Insignia for Badge	each	\$5.50			
372	Decal - inside of window	each	\$5.50			
373	Decal - reflective	each	\$5.50			
	For Miniature Badges Only					
374	1/8" or 1/2" stars - bronze, silver or gold	each	\$5.25			
375	Silver Palm	each	\$1.75			
376	Neck Ribbon	36 in.	\$7.50			
500	Neck Tie - blue or red	each	\$20.00			
501	Tie Clasp with insignia	each	\$10.75			
502	Tie Tack - polished bronze	each	\$10.00			
503	Cuff Links with insignia	pair	\$15.00			
504	SVR Collar insignia 1/2"	pair	\$17.00			

Page #1 Total

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(This List Supersedes All Previous Years)

Only Orders Received on Current Requisition Forms Will Be Honored

No.	Item	Unit	Price	Quantity	Color	Total Amt.
504	SVR Collar insignia 3/8"	pair	\$17.00			
505	SVR Tie Clasp	each	\$10.50			
506	SVR Membership Badge	each	\$12.50			
507	GAR Commemorative Badge	each	\$11.00			
508	Black Belt with gold tip, 55" cut to size and gold son's belt buckle	both items	\$24.00			
509	Presentation Folder for Certificates Blue with Gold Sons Emblem	each	\$1.75			
510	SUVCW Note Cards	5	\$3.25			
511	SUVCW "From the desk of" notepad	50 shts.	\$2.50			
512	Mourning Ribbon	each	\$0.25			
513	American Flag – 3x5 polyester	each	\$8.00			
514	American Flag – 4x6 polyester	each	\$10.00			
515	White Gloves (Circle one) S M LG XL	each	\$4.00			
516	SUVCW Death Certificates	5	\$4.50			
517	Replacement Boxes for Medals	each	\$.40			
518	SUVCW Ames Sword (not engraved)	each	\$390.00			
519	SUVCW Ames Sword (engraved)	each	\$455.00			
520	SUVCW Challenge Coin - 3 color	each	\$12.00			
521	Coin Holder	each	\$2.50			
522	Coin Stand	each	\$2.50			
523	Pocket Medal Holder	each	\$3.50			

* Sales restricted to members with appropriate documentation.

For latest price change or new items check the SUVCW National Web Page at <http://suvchw.org/id.htm>

Sub Total		
1st Page Total		
Shipping & Handling: 1st \$99.99		\$3.00
Plus \$3.00 for orders \$100.00 - \$199.99		
Plus \$1.00 for each \$100.00 over \$200.00 or a fraction thereof		
All orders over \$100.00 will be insured for additional \$5.00		\$
TOTAL DUE		

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____
 Zip Code: _____
 Department: _____
 Camp: _____
 Telephone No.: _____
 E-Mail: _____

**MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUVCW**
Mail To: Danny L. Wheeler, PCinC
 SUVCW National Quartermaster
 501 Willow Avenue
 Ithaca, NY 14850-3554
 E-mail: QM@suvchw.org
 Telephone: (607) 272-7314

For Office Use Only			
Req. No.	Received: / /	Shipped: / /	Shipping Cost:

If purchasing either a Past Camp Commander or Past Department Commander Badge one of the following statements must be completed:

1) The _____ Department/Camp will present this Past Department/Camp Commander Badge to Brother _____ on _____, Department/Camp Secretary signature

2) I declare that I have served the _____ Department/Camp as Commander and I was awarded the honor of Past Department/Camp Commander for having completed the term of office for the year ending _____ (Signature)

CAMPS CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Buoyed by interest in the SUVCW's 1981 Centennial Anniversary, our Order's national membership hovered at 2,680 the following year. The lean years before and after the Sons Centennial were not kind to our membership. It was a struggle to retain previous membership levels, and to organize and retain new Camps. Yet three Camps...one in Indiana one in Missouri and the other in New Jersey...were chartered in 1982, bringing our total to 153.

Now, 25 years later, two of the three Camps celebrate their achievements...and their survival...with an eye to the future.

William T. Sherman Billy Yank Camp 65 (Dept. of MO) celebrated its 25th anniversary with a fellowship dinner at a St. Louis restaurant.



Shown are (back row, left to right): Camp organizer and charter member PCC Jack G. Grothe, Br. William S. Cureton, William L. Groth, CC Paul Leistriz, PCC Paul F. Winslow and Wilfred J. Sikorski. (Front row, left to right): PDC Charles Ed Funck III, PCC Thomas Rung and PCC Vernon W. von der Heydt.

In 1979, seven men formed the Camp and a year later, the National Order approved a Provisional charter. In those days, 15 brothers were required to form a Camp. The Camp had grown to 22 when CinC Harry E. Gibbons, Sr. issued a Camp-at-Large charter. Four of the charter members are still active.

Camp Organizer PCC Jack Grothe remembers, "The Camp was basically founded by SVR members, many of whom were re-enactors." This was before SVR members were required to belong to the SUVCW, although he and another member belonged to the Kansas City Camp. "William T. Sherman' was chosen as the Camp's namesake because of his ties to St. Louis and most had ancestors who served under him. 'Billy Yank' was chosen to represent those who filled the ranks of the GAR and '65' was chosen to represent 1865, covering the service of everyone's ancestor."

The Camp initiated the Sherman Birthday ceremony, was the first in modern times to march in the St. Louis Veterans Day Parade and participate in the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, IL, participate in the Jefferson Barracks Nat. Cemetery's Memorial Day service and become a member of the Inter-Vet Memorial Day Committee. Two of the Camp's brothers are serving in Southwest Asia.

Orlando A. Somers Camp 1 (Dept. of IN) met at a Kokomo restaurant for its annual "Show & Tell" meeting and to commemorate its 25th anniversary.

Camp organizer PCinC Allen Moore was a member of the Indianapolis Camp and a high school teacher when he formed Camp 1. "During a snowstorm, my school was closed for four days. I began calling colleagues, including the school principal, and members of a defunct round table." The Camp was named for a Kokomo public figure, who became Commander-in-Chief of the GAR in 1916. He was the ancestor of one Moore's neighbors, who eventually joined the Camp along with two other relatives.

PCinC Moore describes the Camp as "a vibrant group. There are students and doctors, ranging in age from 16 to 80. The present Camp Commander is a lawyer." Each month the Camp pays for an educational program given by a guest speaker.

During the meeting, PCinC Moore presented a gift to CC Matt Elkin in appreciation for his service during the year and initiated Todd Dwigans. The 2008 officers were installed by PDC J. Alan Teller. The 16 enjoyed an anniversary cake after the noon meal. The Camp is working on its third Last Soldier project and cleans the cannon in the city park monthly.



CC Matt Elkin (third from left) joins five of the Camp's charter members: Gary L. Sipes, Jonathan E. Ellers, (Elkin), organizer PCinC Allen W. Moore, R. Collin Craig, and Gayle A. Eikenberry.

Sadly, **Peter Vredenburg Camp 6** (Dept. of NJ) lost its membership and Camp Charter after 15 years.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

CALIFORNIA & PACIFIC

Recently, the Diocese of Santa Clara celebrated Calvary Cemetery's 125th Anniversary in San Jose. Officiating at the opening ceremony was Phil Sheridan 4's PCC Robert J. Kadlec and CC Steven J. Welch. Assisting in the Flag raising ceremony was Dr. Mary Walker Aux. 52. The rifle salute was performed by Co. C, 8th CA. Inf., SVR, commanded by 1st Lt. Frank Avila. Kate B. Sherwood DUVCW Tent 89 and Lincoln Camp 10 also participated.



Members of San Jose's Phil Sheridan Camp 4, Santa Cruz's Abe Lincoln Camp 10 and Co. C, 8th Calif. Inf., SVR.

While PDC Alan Peterson was serving as security officer at Helen Smith Elementary School in Las Vegas, he noticed the need for a flag in the 5th grade math classroom. Arrangements were soon made for the Flag purchase and both a flag and certificate from William B. Keith Camp 12 was presented to teacher Mr. Richard Ovan, with assistance from student David Duarte.

The Camp has adopted the school and is planning two essay contests for the 5th grade classes on Abraham Lincoln and Memorial Day. The top three winners will receive a \$50 savings bond and all participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.



Mr. Richard Ovan (left) is recognized by PDC Alan Peterson.

COLORADO & WYOMING

Members of Thomas E. Bowman Camp 12 recently marked the unmarked grave of Pvt. Oregon A. Smith, Co. D, 132nd IL Inf. The burial site is in the Hilltop Cemetery in Pagosa Springs, CO. Shown in front row, from left to right are: CC Daniel Senjem, PDC James Davenport, and American Legion member Ernie Garcia. Standing left to right are: Br. Tom Crites and Legion members Richard Girardin and Ron Willett.



Front Row (L to R): Camp 12 Co. Daniel Senjem, DC James Davenport and American Legion member Ernie Garcia. Back Row (L to R): Br. Tom Crites, American Legion members Richard Girardin and Ron Willett.

IOWA

Recently, members of the Iowa Dept. participated in a ceremony, placing the 9th Iowa Infantry battle flag on display in the State Capital Rotunda. Since the flags are fragile, they are regularly rotated from display. The flag underwent 16 months of conservation efforts. Shown left to right are:

Brs. Doug Jones, Ken Hackbart, Larry Brewer, John Keller, Collections Manager Sheila Hanke and Battle Flag Tech. Laura Lee Ramirez, Brs. Ken Lindblom, Ethan Nannega, Jim Wolf and DC Kevin Pearson.



Iowa Dept. of Iowa brothers recently participated in a ceremony to put the 9th Iowa Inf. on display in the Capitol Rotunda. Shown are: Brs. Doug Jones, Ken Hackbart, Larry Brewer, John Keller Collections Manager Sheila Hanke, Battle Flag Tech. Laura Lee Ramirez, Brs. Ken Lindblom, Ethan Nannega, Jim Wolf and DC Kevin Pearson.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

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MARYLAND

James D. Brady Camp 63 has been helping in the reclamation of Fort Alexander Hays in Petersburg, Virginia. Fort Hays is one of a series of key Union forts along Flank Road, which were crucial in breaking Confederate resistance at the opposing Defense Road fortifications during the siege of Petersburg in 1864-65.

With the permission of the City of Petersburg, a significant portion of the overgrown fort and adjacent premises has been successfully cleared by the Camp over the last few years. Members also raised \$2600 to join the Civil War Trails program. Gathered around the interpretive CWT sign from left to right are: Camp Chaplain Wayne Hill, CC Neil Hanlon, Br. Craig Hanlon, JVC Tom Grund and SVC Don Wells.



Left to Right: Camp 63 Chaplain Wayne Hill, CC Neil Hanlon, Craig Hanlon, JVC Tom Grund and SVC Don Wells.

The 7th. W.V. Infantry Camp 7 held their annual food drive for the local food pantry on Dec. 22 2007, benefiting the Petersburg, West Virginia area.



Pictured from left to right: Food Pantry coordinator Dan Donovan, CC Randy Ours, and Brothers Josh Ours, Jingles the Reindeer (Nick Korolev) and Santa (Richard Byrd).

MICHIGAN

Camp 17 Holds Re-dedication Ceremony by Paul David Arnold

Lansing/Sunfield's Curtenius Guard Camp 17 recently rededicated the graves of 48 soldiers and sailors, concluding a 5-month restoration project of the Civil War burial plot at Lansing's Mount Hope Cemetery. The project began immediately after Memorial Day 2007.

Camp 17 partnered with the Lansing Board of Water and Light, the local utility company in the Lansing area, to begin the needed work. Work crews volunteered their time and skill and the 75-foot flag pole was primed and painted restoring its original splendor. The 35-foot monument was power washed. Camp 17 raised, reset, and cleaned the majority of the 48 headstones. One particular headstone had a foundation of almost 6 feet and had to be raised with a power boom truck. A local turf grass organization worked throughout the summer to restore the grass in the Soldiers' Lot to its present lush green state. With the project completed, Camp 17 held the rededication on October 14, 2007. The Soldiers Lot was originally dedicated in May 1877.



Approximately 100 people attended with 40 Civil War attired soldiers and civilians in period dress, headed by PCinC Keith G. Harrison, marching to the burial site. Vehicle traffic on the adjacent roadway slowed to a snails pace as drivers watched as the formation made its way up to the Soldiers Lot, paced by a Civil War Fife and Drum unit.

A replica 34-star Civil War flag, donated by the American Legion, looked down from the 75-foot flag pole on the event as CC Ronald Shull introduced PCinC James B. Pahl, who conducted the ceremony patterned after the 1917 GAR memorial dedication program. Special Tributes were presented to the Camp by the Michigan House of Representatives and the Lansing Mayor's office. Wreaths were laid by representatives from the Michigan Commandery of MOLLUS, Michigan Dept. of the DUVCW, National Organization of the WRC, and Camp 17. The symbols of the Soldier were presented by Camp 17 as well as by representatives of the Michigan Departments of the American Legion and Veterans of

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

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Foreign Wars. The 44-page program contained biographical sketches of all the soldiers buried in the Soldiers Lot, including five indigent soldiers resting in heretofore unmarked graves. As time drew near for the combined firing squad guard consisting of members from Camp 17, 7th MI Vol. Inf., Co. B, 102nd USCT, and Lansing VFW Post 701, to fire their volleys, a light rain began to fall. Taps was then played by a period Civil War attired bugler from Jackson's Austin Blair Camp 7. After the ceremony, traditional Civil War music was played by the Civil War Fife and Drum as guests snacked on cake donated by Walmart. As the crowd began to thin and the hallowed ground grew quiet, you could almost hear faint voices whisper "*Well Done Comrades, Well Done.*"

Over 150 photographs of project may be found at <http://suvcw.org/mi/017/2007/2007mounthopeplot1.htm>.

Gen. Israel B. Richardson Camp 2 of Oakland & Macomb County recently recognized four U. S. Naval Sea Cadets with the presentation of the ROTC Award. The recognition came at a January 20th awards banquet held at Selfridge ANG Base near Mt. Clemens. Award winners included CPO Heather Coger, PO1 Class Christopher Cornwell, PO2 Daniel Davis, PO2 Tabatha Sanchagrin and PO2 Andrew Severini.



Back Row: Brs. David Hall, Gary Grout, William Nash. Front Row: Sea Cadets Heather Coger, Christopher Cornwell, Andrew Severini, Tabatha R. Sanchagrin. Not pictured: Cadet Daniel Davis

SUVCW Camps selectively present the award to deserving cadets that "show a high degree of patriotism to his/her Nation and has demonstrated a high degree of academic performance and leadership." The General Israel B. Richardson Camp surveyed five local high school level ROTC programs and made its award to members of the "TomCat Squadron" sea cadets based at Selfridge. It is the first ROTC Award made by the Camp and its new ROTC Committee Chairman Brother Gary Grout.

NEW YORK

PVT Harvey Welch Receives A New Headstone

In 1961, town historian Allen Burton produced: *SMALL FAMILY CEMETERIES IN THE TOWN OF WRIGHT, SCHOHARIE COUNTY - NEW YORK*. He noted a "cemetery on the John Kump Farm on Kump Road beside road - about 1/8 mile on same side as house." The cemetery contained but one grave...Civil War veteran Harvey Welch. Its condition: "One stone - off base - no care"

Harvey Welch was born December 5, 1843 in Albany, NY, and on November 26, 1861, just shy of his 18th birthday, he enlisted in Co. K, 89th NY Inf., the same unit his older brother Eseck had joined two months earlier.

The 89th saw action at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and was present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Of the 1321 men in the 89th, 159 died of disease or accident; 89 were killed or wounded. One of the 159 was Harvey, who died at 20 years old, unmarried, on July 17, 1864 from "ulceration of the bowels."

Some 143 years later, Br. Richard Sherman brought Harvey's plight to the attention of Camp 134. He and Br. Lawrence Eli Bradish embarked on what became known as the "Harvey Welch Project," culminating in a graveside ceremony, led by PCC Floyd DeWitt.



Rev. James Wolford provided a spiritually moving invocation, and Private Welch's biography was delivered by Dept. SVC Peter Lindemann. The Color Guard was brigaded with members of the recreated 77th NYV Reg., Schoharie Boy Scout Troop 4 and members of the Camp. The 77th fired the ceremonial volleys.

The ceremonial musket and bayonet was provided by Judith (Flint) Sherman, who's G-G Grandfather, carried in several battles.

A U.S. flag, flown over the Nation's Capital, was presented to the Mayne family by Camp JVC Lawrence Bradish and members of Troop 4 BSA in appreciation for their efforts to maintain the grave to the best of their ability. It is on their farm where Private Welch lays at rest.

Historian and author Eileen Patch presented a window into Pvt. Welch's young life and military service through letters penned by her ancestor George Magusta Englis, a Sergeant in Pvt. Welch's Company.

(Continued on page 17)

DEPARTMENT NEWS

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Brs. John Norray on harmonica and Richard Sherman on parlor guitar accompanied the singing of Amazing Grace and The Battle Hymn of the Republic and Br. Norray played Taps on harmonica. Rev. Bert Mayne delivered the benediction.

The Camp wishes to acknowledge PCC Charles A. Greenfield for his efforts in securing the new headstone.

Post script: On October 25th, Br. Bradish died in a car accident. Eli was instrumental in seeing the Harvey Welch Project to fruition and frequently reminded us, "When all this is over, this lad will have a new headstone, and that is the important thing. We can come up and look at it and take great satisfaction from that, but what is important is that veteran has a new stone."

G.L. Willard Camp 154 participated in the Veteran's Day dedication of a new headstone for Pvt. Thomas D. Smullen of Co. A, 192 NY Vols. in the St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands. Pvt. Smullen was born in Ireland and served from March 13th to August 28th, 1865. He died in Albany on April 26th, 1887.



Pictured left to right: Brs. Peter Bond, Robert Hensel, Edward Cooke, Gary Salmon, Thomas Capstraw, and CC Raymond LeMey III.

OHIO

Augustus Taylor Howell was a private in Co. "F", 29th OVI, serving as substitute for \$500 from October 15, 1864 to July 13, 1865. He was discharged at the age of 18 and returned to Putnam County, WV, to continue farming. Augustus could not have imagined that 142 years later three generations of his direct descendants would join Gov. Dennison Camp 1 in Columbus.

Last November 27th, Howell Kirtley, nearing the age of 90, his son Jim, and Jim's sons Timothy, Stephen, and John were initiated by CC Keith Krinn. Grandson Matthew, of Somerville, MA, and son Richard, of NYC have recently applied for membership too.

Howell was born and raised in the Huntington, WV area and spent much of his youth with family, where his grandfather Augustus Howell had settled after the war.

Not surprisingly, he takes his first name from his grandfather. He is in possession of several rare Howell family pictures from a 1910 reunion that show his grandfather with the remainder of the family. To reinforce the significance of the ceremony, CC Krinn presented each initiate with a picture of their grandfather, reproduced from a 1910 reunion photograph.



As to the future, Timothy has a six-year old son and Stephen a three-year old who will be applying for membership when they get old enough. Without a doubt the Gov. Dennison Camp will be well populated in the years to come. Many of the camp were present to welcome the new brothers.

PENNSYLVANIA

John T. Crawford Camp 43 and Sarah Crawford Auxiliary gathered at Kittanning Cemetery to rededicate the graves of their namesakes. The ceremony included bagpipe music, wreath and floral presentation, a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps. A 34-wstar flag was presented to the cemetery's superintendent and president while members of the community and AMVETS post 13 and Auxiliary looked on.



Sarah A. Crawford Auxiliary and John T. Crawford Camp 43 recently gathered at Kittanning, PA, Cemetery to rededicate the graves of their namesakes. Bagpipe music, wreath and floral presentations, a 21-gun salute and taps were included.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

CAMPS-AT-LARGE

NORTH CAROLINA

Last October 20th, the MG Thomas H. Ruger Camp# 1, Fayetteville, NC hosted the Robeson Rifle Guards Camp 216, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lumberton, NC, in a tour of Monroe's Crossroads Battlefield on the ranges of Fort Bragg, NC.

Early on 10 March 1865, Confederate Generals Wade Hampton, Joseph Wheeler and Matthew C. Butler's attacked Union MG Judson Kilpatrick's unsuspecting and overconfident Cavalry Division, encamped at Charles Monroe's farm. Union forces regrouped and recaptured the camp with estimated losses of 183 Union and 86 Confederate killed or missing. Most Union casualties were buried in shallow battlefield graves. Most Confederate casualties were interred in the Long Street Church cemetery a few miles away.



Front Row, Left to Right: Dennis St. Andrew, John France, Samuel Moore, Larry Blumatte. Back Row, Left to Right: Kent McCoury, Larry Jones, Bob Farrell

After the war, Union dead were re-interred in National Cemeteries in Salisbury, Raleigh, New Bern and Wilmington, NC and Florence, SC., except for those souls forgotten at Monroe's Crossroads. A total of 39 unknown U.S. Soldiers and an unknown number of Confederate Soldiers remain on the battlefield.

In 1996, the U. S. Army erected a monument at the battlefield and made several improvements to the site, which adjoins Artillery and small arms impact areas. One of the single US Soldier's graves is located inside the impact area and is unsafe to visit. The battlefield is in a controlled access area and not open to the public for visitation without prior approval. A memorial service and joint wreath laying was conducted as part of the battlefield tour.

Both SCV and SUVCW camps adopted the battlefield as an on going project for improvements and annual memorial services.

WASHINGTON

Br. R. Bruce Smith of Gov. Isaac Stevens Camp 1 recently obtained a headstone and organized a dedication ceremony, recognizing the service of Pvt. Seneca Phillis, Co. K, 11th IN Inf. Phillis, who moved his family by wagon train to eastern Washington Territory in 1879, was buried in Woodinville Memorial Park outside Seattle.

Br. Smith and Washington Civil War Association members joined Pvt. Phillis' granddaughters Alta Mae Kann, 91, Harriet Gomez, 93, and Myrtle Umback, 86, for the dedication.



Granddaughters of Civil War veteran Seneca Phillis with Br. R. Bruce Smith and members of the Washington Civil War Association.

OREGON

Members of Col. Edward D. Baker Camp 6 and Co. B, 71st PA Vol. Inf., SVR marked Remembrance Day with a Ceremony at the GAR Circle of City View Cemetery in Salem. The event was held on November 17th and featured patriotic music; presentation of the Colors by the SVR; remarks by Vance Day, Chairman of the Oregon Republican Party; and a recitation of the Gettysburg Address by President Lincoln portrayed by Alan Edwards. The ceremony was the second annual Remembrance Day event in Oregon and was organized by Br. Steve Betschart.



Pictured with Camp brothers are Northwest Civil War Council President Erik Wood, (in Naval officer's uniform), Alan Edwards as Mr. Lincoln, and Vance Day.

Father and son, Andrew and Randy Fletcher, brothers of the Col. Edward D. Baker Camp 6 in Eugene, Oregon, installed a new headstone on the unmarked grave of BG Thomas J. Thorp, 1st NY Dragoons. The grave had gone unmarked for 92 years and is one of seven new headstones placed on unmarked Civil War veterans' graves at Crystal Lake Cemetery in Corvallis, Oregon.

AUXILIARY NEWS

THE BANNER • PAGE 19

SPEAKING TO A BASHA

PDP Jan Harding recently spoke to members of the Free State BASHA (Veterans of the Burma-China-India campaign of WWII). Their local chapters are called BASHAs, taken from the straw and mud huts that the men lived in.



PDP Jan Harding accepts Certificate of Appreciation from Commander Mac McCrea, Free State BASHA.

She spoke on the GAR's formation, the need the men had to band together for economic, medical and social reasons, and the hardships that families suffered with a husband unable to support them. She was surprised that many of the ladies present knew of the battlefield nursing of Clara Barton. When you consider the plight of the Union Soldier and their shortened lives, it was amazing to see these Veterans in advanced years still active and meeting together.

TAKING THE PILGRIMAGE

Auxiliary sisters Eileen Tisch, Brenda Boucher Poole (Aux. 128, MA) & Angie Daley (MAL) and Janice Hicks (a MAL hopeful) carried the banner for Company G, 5th Cal. Inf., SVR, in the mile-long Boy Scout sponsored Lincoln Pilgrimage Parade. The parade in Redlands, CA, ends at the Lincoln Shrine, which houses the largest collection of Lincoln memorabilia west of the Mississippi.



Photo by Sr. Rosemary Lowe

COLD MARS LINCOLN CEREMONY

by Nat. VP Jan Harding

The day was bitter cold and damp. NP Judy Trepanier, Personal Aide Joyce Norman, Nat. COS Diane Mellor and her husband were already waiting in the Memorial's alcove when Sr. Carol LaRue and I arrived. Shortly, we were joined by DP Millie Ames, Nat. Washington, D.C. Rep. and sisters from the other Allied Orders. It was the beginning of a beautiful day of remembering the man who saved this nation.

Sadly, the weather grew colder and this affected the U.S. Navy Band. It was too cold for the men to play the wonderful Musical Prelude and so, a lone trumpet played an introduction with the drummers of the unit. The color bearers marched to the base of the Memorial and presented arms. The Pledge and the singing of the National Anthem echoed thru the marble monument. The invocation was read by the U.S. House of Representatives Chaplain. Then came the reading of President George W. Bush's letter, the Gettysburg Address and the presentation of a scholarship to Andrew John Bruning of The Severn School, Severna Park, MD.

During the Presentation of the Wreaths, our Nat. Pres. proudly represented the Auxiliary. As escort, I carried the standard of our Auxiliary. Sr. LaRue carried the WRC Flag, while escorting NP Marcia Butgereit. Soon, Taps were being played and another celebration of Abraham Lincoln's Birthday was over.

A dinner followed, hosted by Lincoln Birthday Nat. Commemorative Comm. Chair Br. Peter Dixon. Many officers and friends in the Civil War community enjoyed meeting and sharing dinner together. A wonderful talk on "Gen. Lew Wallace and the Battle of Shiloh" was presented by Retired U.S. Park Ranger Gail Stephens.

PROUD TO SERVE

Sr. Kathleen Connelly of New Jersey's Cornelia Hancock Aux. 10 graduated from Marine Boot Camp, Parris Island, on January 11th.

Pvt. Connelly is the daughter of PDP Viola and PDC Clarence "Buzz" Smithcors.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by **Nat. Chap. Jerry Kowalski**

Why is God doing this to me? Why has the person I love died? Why has my child gotten this disease? Why have I lost my job? Why don't I have enough money? Why are there fires, and floods, and earthquakes, and wars? Is God mad at me? What kind of a God would do these things to me if He really loved me? Why can't He just let me be happy?

Well Pilgrim, folks have been asking questions like this since man began to think. First, God loves you. He does not love anyone more than He loves you. There is nothing you can do to make Him love you any more or any less. He loves you unconditionally. He wants you to be happy with Him in this life, but more importantly in the next. You were not made for here (earth), but rather for there (heaven). For all eternity God wants you to be happy with Him. This mortal coil is but a brief stop on our way to Him. It is therefore important that we pay attention to what He told us to do while we are here - love God with your whole heart and soul and love your neighbor as you love yourself. If you don't love yourself, get some help. It really feels pretty good to do so. The payback is so worthwhile too. Happy for all eternity.



Chaplain Jerry



A THANK YOU

To the Past Commanders-in-Chief:

Words could not express my surprise and gratitude when I was presented with a Past Commander In Chief's badge at the SVR Breakfast in Gettysburg on Remembrance Day. I had lost my original one in the hotel during the Annual Encampment last August. My sincere thanks to all of you, who in the spirit of the brotherhood of the Sons, chipped in to replace it. It is an honor to be a member of the Order.

**In F, C, and L,
Bud Atkinson**

FINAL MUSTER

John S. Sering

Wilson Camp 1 (TN)
March 19, 2006

Karl E. Mehl

Abraham Lincoln Camp 100 (NJ)
November 5, 2007

Gary L. Hudgens

Elias Moon Camp 2 (GA)
May 2, 2007

Louis C. Grimmnitz

Lincoln Cushing Camp 2 (MD)
December 6, 2007

David R. Curfman

Lincoln Cushing Camp 2 (MD)
July 24, 2007



"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. Membership Dept., Box 830482, Richardson, TX, 75083

Descendants of Mexican War Veterans



SVR GUIDON

THE BANNER • PAGE 21

THIRD SALUTES LINCOLN'S HOOSIER ROOTS

On February 10th, members of the 3rd Military District participated in the annual Lincoln Day program at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Lincoln City, IN. Lincoln lived on a farmstead there from age of 7 to 21.

During the ceremony, which included period music, the Sons provided a color guard and laid wreaths at the grave of Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who died a couple of years after the family moved to Indiana from Kentucky.



Gathering at Memorial Hall - photo by Sr. L.A. Teller

The Symposium, Reception and evening program the following day was a great success. 3rd MD COS Cpt. Krieser presented several of the ALBC Commissioners with the Charitable Foundation's medallions (coins). Both he and PCinC Al Loomis discussed the SUVCW's work and the role of the Charitable Foundation.

The bicentennial of Lincoln's birth began that week in Louisville and will run into 2009

ARTILLERY SAFETY SCHOOL SLATED

The 4th Military District will host an Artillery Safety School on 17-18 May 2008, at the Sportsman's Club in Boscobel, Wisconsin. NCWAA qualifiers will provide instruction. Crews and guns from all muzzle-loading periods (Civil War and earlier) and under all flags are welcome and encouraged to attend. The safety qualification, which each student receives upon successful completion of the course, is valid for two years. Onsite camping and hotel billeting are available. Registration fee is \$15 per person, payable to "HQ 4th Military District SVR." Fees and registration need to be sent by Unit Commander before April 30th to Cpt. Steve Michaels at:

6623 S. North Cape Rd.
Franklin, WI 53132-1227

If you need further information, please don't hesitate to call (414) 425-4648 or email banner@suvcw.org.

SVR PERSONNEL ACTIONS

The following are commissioned and appointed as indicated:

Col. Henry E. Shaw, Jr.	Deputy Commander
Col. David R. Medert	Chief of Staff
Col. Elmer F. Atkinson	Inspector General
Col. Andrew M. Johnson	Washington, D.C. Liaison
Lt. Col. Donald E. Darby	Adjutant General
Lt. Col. Larry D. Freed	National SVR Chaplain
Maj. Charles E. Kuhn, Jr.	Provost Marshal
Maj. James B. Pahl	Judge Advocate General
Cpt. Leo F. Kennedy	Public Information Officer
Maj. Peter N. Rotando	1st Mil. Dist. Co.
Maj. Todd A. Shillington	2nd Mil. Dist. Co.
Maj. Donald E. Darby	3rd Mil. Dist. Co.
Maj. Jack G. Grothe	4th Mil. Dist. Co.
Maj. David E. Allyn	6th Mil. Dist. Co.
Cpt. Kenneth V. Early	7th Mil. Dist. Co.
Sgt. Maj. Ivan E. Frantz	Musician

The following are promoted to:

1st Military District

2Lt. Richard P. Lufkin, Public Information Officer is re-commissioned.

2nd Military District

1st Lieutenant Sean W. Shillington	Chief of Staff
1st Lieutenant Bruce N. Glaser	Dist. Adjutant
1st Lieutenant James R. Hanby, Sr.	Public Info Officer
1st Lieutenant William S. Poulton, Jr.	Inspector General
1st Lieutenant Michael A. Paquette	Chaplain

3rd Military District

Captain Edward J. Krieser	Chief of Staff
Captain Martin W. Lowery, Jr.	Dist. Ad.t/PIO
2nd Lieutenant Timothy H. Downey	Chaplain

4th Military District

Captain Stephen A. Michaels	Chief of Staff
Captain Robert D. Champlin	Dist. Adjutant
Captain Emmett P. Taylor, III	Inspector General
2nd Lieutenant Randel O. Baehr	Public Info Officer
2nd Lieutenant Jerome W. Kowalski	Chaplain

6th Military District

Captain Bob Lowe	Dist. Adj./Chief of Staff
2nd Lieutenant Carl M. Taylor	Chaplain
2nd Lieutenant William E. Tisch	Public Info Officer

7th Military District

1st Lieutenant Eric B. Peterson	Chaplain
2nd Lieutenant Phillip B. Hinman	Dist. Adjutant



(Continued from page 4)

All remaining Members shall be assigned to the Department Membership at Large or a Camp of their choosing within the boundaries of the Department of Pennsylvania.

So ordered this 20th day of January, 2008

GENERAL ORDER 13

We are fortunate to have been blessed with the lives of many Past Commanders in Chiefs that have given many years of service to the Order. Three of these esteemed Brethren have reached landmark birthdays this year. They have joined an exclusive club that few have the opportunity to join. It is a small club since many never reach this goal on the road of life and sometimes ever shrinking since the boatman visits it frequently.

PCinC Lowell Hammer, PCinC Richard Greenwalt and PCinC David Medert all reached the milestone birthday of 80 years of age this year. They are certainly not alone in this neighborhood. PCinC Bud Atkinson and PCinC Richard Partington have passed this milestone a while back.

On behalf of the entire National Order I extend a hearty and healthy happy birthday to these three Past Commanders in Chief on their milestone birthdays and the same wish to all of the members of that exclusive club. It certainly is a mile marker on the road of life.

So ordered this 20th day of January, 2008;

Attest:

Charles E. Kuhn, Jr.
Commander in Chief

PDC Donald Palmer
National Secretary

NOMINEES FOR NATIONAL AWARDS SOUGHT

The Commander-in-Chief is seeking recipients for the following awards to be given at this year's Nat. Encampment:

U.S. Grant Cup (est. 1939)--presented to the Department with the greatest percentage growth in membership during the last year.

Augustus P. Davis-Conrad Linder Award (est. 1969)--presented to the Department with the greatest numerical growth in membership during the last year.

Founders Award (est. 1998)--presented to non-Allied Orders group or individual, who performs outstanding service in memory of Union soldiers, sailors and marines. Concurrence of the Council of Administration required.

Marshall Hope Award (est. 1992)--presented to the Camp and Department with the most outstanding newsletter.

Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief Award (est. 1994)--presented to the CinC's choice for the most outstanding Camp during the last year.

Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award (est. 1994)--presented to the CinC's choice for the most outstanding brother during the last year.

B.F. Stephenson Award (est. 1996)--presented to the brother, who is the top recruiter during the last year.

Joseph S. Rippey New Camp Award (est. 2003)--presented to the most successful new Camp.

Meritorious Service Award-with Gold Star--presented to a brother or brothers, who served the Order for an extended period of time in an outstanding and exemplary manner. Concurrence of the Council of Admin. required.

Nominees may be submitted to the CinC Charles E. Kuhn, Jr. via email at cinc@suvcw.org

HONOR ROLL

In Honor of **2Lt. Marshall Samuel Root**
Co. K, 103rd Ohio Vol. Infantry
by Br. William R. King

In Honor of **Pvt. Joseph King**
Co. G, 103rd Ohio Vol. Infantry
by Br. William R. King

In Honor of **Sgt. Benjamin J. Bond**
23rd NYV and Lt. in 50th NY Eng.
by Br. John R. Bond

In Memory of **Pvt. Charles Wilkinson**
Co. E, 195th Regiment Ohio Infantry
by the Br. William E. Little Trust

PDC D. Bradley Schall
Dept. of California & Pacific
by Kristina Kammerer

In Honor of **1Sgt. Pardon T. Locke**
Co. K, 12th Rhode Island Infantry
by Br. Richard D. Locke

In Honor of **Pvt. James Beggs**
5th Wisconsin Infantry (Reorg.)
by Br. Richard K. Beggs

In Honor of **Cpl. William Blake**
Co. E, 81st Indiana Vol. Infantry
by Br. Robert B. Reid

A tribute is placed when a contribution (\$10 min.) is made to the SUVCW Permanent Fund.

WHO IS IT REALLY? (FROM PAGE 3)

This Charles Kuhn was born in 1875, the oldest of five children born to Louis and Augusta Kuhn. He served in Co. L, of the 1st Wis. Inf. from April 28 to October 19, 1898. After the war, he married Emma Louisa Gysin and had one son and two daughters. He died in 1919 at the age of 43 and was buried in Milwaukee's Calvary Cemetery.

COLLECTING THE SONS

by National Historian PDC Robert J. Wolz



*Grand Division
Commander Badge, Type I*



*Grand Division
Commander Badge, Type II*



*Past Dept.
Commander's Badge*



*Presentation Past
CinC Badge*

This article features some of the rarest of the Sons badges. The short-lived Past Grand Division Commanders badge that later became our Meritorious Service Award and custom made presentation badges issued to both the Commanders-in- Chief and Division Commanders until they were outlawed by the National Encampment.

Past Grand Division Commander's Badge- the Golden Cross and Meritorious Service Award

Maj. A.P. Davis appointed influential GAR members as regional Commanders of the Sons of Veterans, USA. [i] This position was short lived and only existed for 3 years. Divisions were then required to report directly to National Headquarters.

The Golden Cross consisted of a transparent red and opaque white enameled cross with four gold eagles facing right between the enameled cross. A small gold wreath frames an opaque blue enameled center. The words "Filii Veteranorum MDCCCLXXXI" surround the letters "USA" in center. There is no visible pin bar. The Grand Division ribbon was a white ribbon with blue, white, red edging and was used until it ran out. Later, badges had the Commandery-in-Chief gold ribbon. After Grand Division Commanders were eliminated in 1886, the Commandery-in-Chief continued to be award the badge for Meritorious Service [ii] (1886 - 1912). The first were made by Bailey, Banks & Biddle; the last were probably made by Robbins Co. It's likely that these were hand made like the Past Commander -in -Chief's Gold Star, so all would be slightly different and very rare. Most of our badges are now struck from dies. Correspondence from the Post system's PCinC George Marks states his Gold Cross was copied from Past Grand Division Commander Raphael Tobias, but "different" from the official pattern at Headquarters.

Presentation Badges

Although the official badges are described in national regulations, some Divisions and even the National organization had custom badges made and presented to a beloved commander as a sign of love and respect. The addition of diamonds, sapphires and rubies to embellish the badge was condemned by the National Encampment in 1914 "That Divisions be instructed that the Past Division Commanders' badge presented by them must not be adored with precious stones and further, that in the future, the badge presented to the Past Commander-in-Chief shall be strictly in accordance with that prescribed by the Constitution and Regulations"[iii]. All presentation badges would be unique and hand-made.

Shown is a 14kt gold Past Division Commanders badge, based on the Silver Cross design with the addition of six diamonds (one on each eagle's breast) and two on the wreath plus one ruby and one sapphire. This example came from the Division of Rhode Island, was manufactured by E. L Louee & Company, Providence, and is engraved on the reverse "Presented to Commander Orray T. Mason, by the members, RI Division, Sons of Veterans, USA, July 2, 1904." Similar ones have been found for other Rhode Island Past Division Commanders.

The Presentation Past Commander in Chief badge was made for PCinC Joseph Maccabe of Massachusetts in 1893. It is made of 14 kt gold with eight rubies and eight diamonds.

[i] Sons of Veterans USA Constitutions, Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Sons of Veterans, USA Edition of 1882 Grand Divisions p. 42

[ii] Sons of Veterans USA Constitution and Laws Governing The Sons of Veterans Edition of 1912 p.59

iii. Sons of Veterans USA Proceedings of the Thirty Third Encampment of the Commandery In Chief 1914 Dwight,IL, Banner Print p.34

THE ALLIED ORDERS ARE COMING!

TO VISIT AMERICA'S HOME TOWN



2008 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

AUGUST 7TH THROUGH 10TH, 2008
Boston Marriott Peabody on the Boston North Shore

Reserve now at <http://cwp.marriott.com/bospb/aogar> or call 1-800-228-9290

Rooms available at \$99/night for three days prior and three days following the Encampment. Reservation deadline for a guaranteed room is July 15th, 2008.

The 2008 National Encampment will include:

- ✧ A trolley tour of Boston's "Freedom Trail", with its many Revolutionary and Civil War historic sites, including Bunker Hill, the Old North Church, the Boston Massacre site, and the Col. Shaw's 54th Mass. Inf. Memorial.
- ✧ A guided tour of Massachusetts State House, with its Civil War sculptures, murals and memorial halls..
- ✧ Encampment Memorial Service at Mount Auburn Cemetery, the first garden cemetery in the U.S., and the resting place for Charles Sumner, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Winslow Homer, Julia Ward Howe, Henry Cabot Lodge, Dorothea Dix, Mary Baker Eddy, and Edwin Land, as well as nine Civil War generals. Mount Auburn Cemetery is also home to the most unique Civil War monument in the country, Martin Milmore's "American Sphinx".

Additional information in this Banner and at www.suvcw.org.

BOSTON: WHERE AMERICA BEGAN

2008 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC BOSTON, AUGUST 7 – 10, 2008

The Boston Marriott Peabody will be the venue for the 2008 National Encampment of the Allied Orders. Situated on Boston's North Shore, the Boston Marriott Peabody is close to famous historic sites, fine restaurants, world class shopping and great entertainment. These include: Downtown Boston, with its Freedom Trail of Revolutionary War sites and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library; Salem, America's Witch City; and Lexington and Concord's Minuteman National Historic Park. The North Shore Mall, Liberty Tree Mall, and Burlington Mall are nearby the hotel, and Boston's famous Newbury Street shopping area is just 30 minutes away. The hotel is just sixteen miles from Logan International Airport.

The Boston Marriott Peabody offers 253 spacious guest rooms, an on site restaurant, featuring American cuisine, two fitness centers, an indoor pool, a full service business center, high speed internet access, and photocopy and fax services. Reserve your room now by visiting Marriott's 2008 National Encampment web page at <http://cwp.marriott.com/bospb/aogar>, or by calling 1-800-228-9290 and mentioning the Allied Orders of the GAR. Rate is \$99/night plus tax.

Those flying into Boston can take the Logan Express to Peabody, (1-800-23-LOGAN) leaving Logan Airport at 15 minutes past the hour, every hour. A complementary shuttle will be available to take passengers from the Logan Express Terminal in Peabody to the hotel. The Shuttle will be provided by the Host Committee. For shuttle reservations, please call ahead - 617-678-6003.

2008 National Encampment Pre-Registration Form

Name _____
Street _____
City/ State/ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Department _____ Camp No. _____

Current/Highest Past Office Held (Check only one)

CinC PCinC Dept. Cmdr.
 PDC Delegate Alternate

Complete and mail with check or money order (Do not send cash!) for \$7.00, payable to National Organization, S.U.V.C.W., to:

2008 National Encampment
Credentials Committee
6114 Gillespie Street
Philadelphia, PA 19135

This form does NOT replace a completed Credentials Card (Form 2), which is required to complete your registration at the National Encampment.

You will not be able to register at the National Encampment without a completed and signed Credentials Card from your Department Secretary.

Pre-registrations will be acknowledged by email only.

Pre-registrations must be received no later than July 22, 2008

2008 Allied Orders Banquet Reservation Form Saturday, August 9th, 2008

Name _____
Street _____
City/ State/ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Organization _____

All meals will include: ♦ **Spinach Salad**, (with fresh mushrooms, crispy bacon, and sweet and tangy mandarin orange slices) ♦ **Chef's selection** of accompaniments, ♦ **Chef's choice** of fresh vegetable, ♦ **Deep Dish Very Berry Torte**, (blueberries and cranberries with a layer of cream cheese and a butter lattice topped crust) ♦ **freshly brewed Gourmet Bean** coffee, decaffeinated coffee and assorted traditional and herbal teas, served with honey and lemon

Reserve _____ **Chicken Champagne Dinners @ \$35 each**
Sautéed boneless breast of chicken with creamy champagne sauce garnished with julienne of vegetables

Reserve _____ **Boston Baked Scrod Dinners @ \$35 each**
Dipped in butter and encrusted with rich Ritz Cracker crumbs

Reserve _____ **New York Sirloin Dinners @ \$39 each.**
Grilled to perfection and finished with Marriott's own butter sauce

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks or money orders payable to
Department of Massachusetts, SUVCW

Return this form and payment to
2008 Allied Orders Banquet
c/o Perley Mellor
16 Norma Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Seating is limited, so please make reservations as soon as possible.
Reservations must be made by August 1, 2008

2008 Allied Orders National Encampment Program Book Booster Ads

Help to defray the cost of holding the 2008 National Encampment. Express pride in your ancestors. Send greetings from your Dept., Camp, Auxiliary, or Circle. Congratulate the C-in-C and National Presidents.

Name _____
Street _____
City/ State/ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Organization _____

Note: Program Books are 8.5" X 11"

Full Page @ \$40 ea. Half Page @ \$25 ea.
 One Line @ \$5 ea. Qtr Page @ \$15 ea.
 Eighth Page @ \$10 ea.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks or money orders payable to
Department of Massachusetts, S.U.V.C.W.

Return this form, your copy and payment by July 3, 2008, to:

2008 National Encampment Program Book
c/o Ed Norris
91 Kelley Drive
Lancaster, MA 01523

Trolley Tour of Boston Historic Sites, Massachusetts State House Tour, and Memorial Ceremony at Mt. Auburn Cemetery Thursday, August 7th, 2008 from Noon until 5:00 PM

Name _____
Street _____
City/ State/ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Organization _____

Cost is \$20 per person. Includes roundtrip trolley transportation from the Boston Marriott Peabody, a driving tour of Boston historic sites, a guided tour of the Massachusetts State House, and the Memorial Service at Mount Auburn Cemetery. No meal is included on the tour. (Water will be provided.)

RESERVE _____ SEATS @ \$20 each.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks or money orders payable to
Department of Massachusetts, SUVCW

Return this form and payment to
2008 National Encampment Historic Tour
c/o Perley Mellor
16 Norma Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Seating is limited, so please make reservations as soon as possible.
Reservations must be made by August 1, 2008

2008 Allied Orders National Encampment Vendor / Display Tables

Name _____
Street _____
City/ State/ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Organization _____
Reserve _____ Tables @ \$25 ea. (A.O. Members)
Reserve _____ Tables @ \$40 ea. (non-Members)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks or money orders payable to
Department of Massachusetts, SUVCW

Return this form and payment to:

2008 National Encampment Vendor/Display Tables
c/o Perley Mellor
16 Norma Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Availability is limited, so please make reservations as
soon as possible.

Table reservations must be made by August 1, 2008

2008 National Encampment Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) Breakfast 7:00 AM, Saturday, August 9, 2008

Name _____
Street _____
City/ State/ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Unit _____

ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Reservations must be made by August 1, 2008.
Tickets at the door will be \$15 per person.

Reserve _____ Seats @ \$10 each

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks or money orders payable to
TAG-SVR

Return this form and payment to
2008 National Encampment SVR Breakfast
c/o Lt. Col. Donald E. Darby
Adjutant General, SVR
1382 Western Avenue
Chillicothe, OH 45601

The First Decoration Day

by John May, Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, Dept. of Cal. & Pac.

Waterloo, New York is recognized as the “Birthplace of Memorial Day”, but we know that there were memorial activities that occurred before Waterloo’s May 5, 1866, event. First Memorial Day claims have been examined by historians for more than a century. One such observance took place in Charleston, South Carolina, and its circumstances tell an interesting tale. 1

In early 1865, much of Charleston lay in ruins; the “lower” town, from the tip of the peninsula north to Calhoun Street was desolate. One citizen called the area “a city of the dead.” Most white residents had fled into the “upper” town or had left the city.

Here a series of events, culminated in the very first Decoration Day. The first was the surrender of the city and the arrival of Union occupation troops, including the 23rd USCT. The local black citizens, most of whom were newly freed slaves, stood in amazement and jubilation to see black soldiers wearing the Union blue. Then, on April 14th, a celebration took place at Fort Sumter, where Gen. Robert Anderson raised the flag over the bastion he had been forced to surrender four years earlier. As Old Glory reached the top of the flagpole, cannon salutes reverberated around the harbor and the assembled crowd cheered wildly. Just hours before Pres. Lincoln was murdered, the crowd listened attentively as speaker Rev. Henry Ward Beecher praised the government and the Union forces for eliminating the stain of slavery from the Nation. The next day, when the sensational news from Washington, D.C. reached the area, the great loss, coupled with gratitude towards the liberating forces, led several leading blacks to recognize the need to both commemorate the end of slavery and the sacrifices of the Union dead.

The Charleston Race Course,² had been a cramped, disease-ridden Confederate prisoner of war camp. At least 257 had died of disease and exposure, and had been hastily buried in unmarked graves.³ Many of Charleston’s blacks had witnessed the prisoners’ suffering and, after the city’s fall, wanted to see the dead treated with reverence and respect. To this end, several civic leaders planned a May Day ceremony that, according to the New York Tribune, was “a procession of friends and mourners as South Carolina and the United States never saw before.”

A group of local churchmen immediately built a fence and landscaped the abandoned racetrack graveyard. In ten days, they had the fence painted, arranged the graves into neat rows, and erected an archway over the entrance. The sign above the archway identified the final resting place of the “Martyrs of the Race Course.”⁴ On May 1st, 3,000 black school children and their teachers carried armloads of spring blossoms and sang “John Brown’s Body” as they led the way around the Race Course. The children were followed by about 300 black women of the Patriotic Association, who carried baskets of flowers, garlands and crosses. The women were followed by black men of the Mutual Aid Society and large crowds of citizens. Upon entering the Race Course cemetery, participants dropped their flowers on the newly landscaped graves, and it was noted that “. . .the holy mounds—the tops, the sides and spaces between them—were one mass of flowers, not a speck of earth could be seen.” The crowd sang patriotic songs and then the dedication ceremony began, presided over by the Rev. James Redpath. More than 30 speeches were delivered. . .ministers, Union officers, officials of the occupation government, and abolitionist missionaries all took their turn. At their conclusion, participants strolled the grounds and ate picnic lunches among the graves. Later, Union troops marched on to the Race Course and held drill on the infield. Participating were the famed 54th Massachusetts and the 35th and 104th U.S. Colored Troops.

This celebration marked the beginning of the Decoration Day observance. Why then, has it been almost forgotten? Was it because it took place in the South? Was it because most of the organizers and participants were black? Perhaps some Charleston citizens did not wish to take credit for what soon became a “Yankee” holiday. In 1916, the president of the Ladies Memorial Association of Charleston received an inquiry from a UDC official wanting to know if it was true that local whites had joined with blacks in a memorial display in May 1865. She pointedly responded, “I was unable to gather any official information.” And so, this first Decoration Day was almost lost to history. The words of the correspondent for the New York Tribune, however, have been preserved, capturing the flavor of the event dramatically when he reported that, “There were few eyes among those who knew the meaning of the ceremony that were not dim with tears of joy.”

¹ Further details of this first Decoration Day can be found in David Blight’s, Race and Reunion, The Belknap Press, 2001. Additional sources include Robert Rosen’s Confederate Charleston, University of South Carolina Press, 1994, and “The Origin of Memorial Day”, New England Magazine 32, June, 1905.

² The site of the Race Course is on the present-day campus of The Citadel University.

³ After the war, the Union dead were moved to the Beaufort National Cemetery where a marble tablet now stands to memorialize their sacrifice.

⁴ The Library of Congress has photos of both the Race Course and the Union graves in their Prints and Photographs On-Line Collection.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Organized in 1881
Chartered by Congress in 1954
Legal successor to the
Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)

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TIME-DATED MATERIAL

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