

THE BANNER

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D. H. Stephenson
**CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC**



THE BANNER

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Winter Deadline-December 15
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Summer Deadline-May 31
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KUDOS IN ORDER

I would like to thank the former Editor of the Banner, Jim Crabtree, for all of his work on the Winter issue. In assuming the mantle of Editor, I would like to thank brother Steve Michaels, PCinC, Bill Sallwasser (from the printer), layout man Dave Milawski, Cher Petrovic and Helen Granger. They have been wonderful to work with and I am sure they have been (and I hope will continue to be) very patient.

Jim Pahl, Editor

*On The Cover: Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.
Inside Front Cover: (Top) New England Civil War Museum, Rockville, Connecticut. (Lower left) GAR Hall and Museum, Eaton Rapids, MI.
(Lower right) Greenhut Memorial GAR Hall Peoria, IL.*



150 YEARS OF THE GAR

by Bob Wolz, National Historian

April 6, 2016 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the first post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Few could have ever imagined from that dozen veterans would grow one of the most important veterans' organizations in the history of America.

Most of the veterans were young men between 15 and 20. A couple dozen were actually younger than 10. They literally grew up in defense of their country. Some had shared a last morsel of food in a prison camp or a sip of water under noon day sun on the battlefield. The iconic theme of "we drank from the same canteen" was a constant reminder of this shared experience. As they became more mature, Grand Army officers stated the bond was as close as blood kinsman ship or marriage.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson was the sole organizer of this veterans group. While a number of veteran's organizations were created around length of service, corps affiliation, benefits or even political connections, the Grand Army of the Republic was unique in that it was intended to be all inclusive of all Union veterans. They were, in fact, the first national inter racial organization welcoming black veterans in a time of segregation.

Ten men in a community could organize a Post and over 7000 posts were chartered. Depending upon the size and location of the Post, its physical location might be a few rooms above a store front or might occupy a large commanding building known as a "Memorial Hall" with a prominent location on the village green. Their early efforts were to provide for the wounded and disabled. Medicine was often primitive and at the 50th anniversary of the Gettysburg battle in 1913 some would still have old wounds bleeding and unhealed. Soldier's Homes were created in sixteen states and orphanages in at least seven states. Auxiliaries were successful in raising millions of dollars for relief of these soldiers. Whenever possible, veterans were given preferred treatment in hiring. Eventually every veteran who served 90 days was given a small federal pension.

The Grand Army of the Republic was responsible for the American flag flying on public buildings. They presented tens of thousands of flags to our schools. They encouraged the singing of America or the Star Spangled Banner at public assemblies. They frequently held reunions to continue the comradeship of the war. As such they began buying large tracts of battlefields and became the first preservationists.

In 1868, they established Memorial Day as well as building the first amphitheater at Arlington Cemetery.

Five of their members were elected to the office of President of the United States: US Grant, James Garfield, Rutherford B Hayes, Chester Arthur, and William McKinley.

Some veterans joined and then dropped out for various reasons so their highest number of veterans enrolled at any one time was in 1890 with 409,489. In that membership could only be obtained by a Union veterans their number was forever fixed. By 1901, death had claimed nearly half with 269,507 enrolled. In 1912, membership was listed as 191,346. In 1924, membership was 65,382. Ten years later in 1934 it was down to 7,807. By the last national meeting in 1949, only 16 Union veterans remained and of these only 6 were able to gather in Indianapolis. The Last Grand Army man was Albert Woolson who died in 1956. Four women's orders and the Sons of Union Veterans remain to tell the story of these heroes of long ago. A more complete detailed history of the Grand Army is available from our Quartermaster Store.

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GENERAL ORDERS (SERIES 2015-2016)

Synopsis of General Orders – The full General Orders can be found on the Order's website:

GENERAL ORDER #2 - Allied Orders Leadership

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, the following is ordered:

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to the duly elected National Presidents of the Allied Orders:

Cindy Zerkowski of the Woman's Relief Corps;

Carolyn Agosto of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic;

Sally Redinger of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865

Linda Kronberg of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

I charge every Camp and Department (where possible) to make positive contact with our Sisters to plan some joint event(s) that will further our shared missions. Once done, please publicize the results in the media and especially sending articles to "The Banner."

Ordered this 30th day of August, 2015

GENERAL ORDER #3 - Last Real Sons

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, the following is ordered:

There are only six known living Real Sons and eight living Real Daughters. The sad day is approaching when there will no longer be any Real Sons and Daughters with us. Therefore, it is essential that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, in cooperation with the other Allied Orders, plan to properly honor these Brothers and Sisters in their remaining time with us, and to honor them at their passing.

To meet this objective, and fulfill our obligation to honor these last remaining Real Sons and Daughters, each department in whose territory a Real Son or Daughter resides, will ensure the following actions are taken as soon as possible:

a. Engage with the local Camp to make and maintain positive and productive contact with each Real Son or Daughter and their families and to ensure the families are aware of our desire to honor their Real Son or Daughter as a living link to the Civil War.

b. Prepare a biographical sketch of each Real Son and Daughter, including a recent photo.

The biographical sketch should also include details of

their father's service and a photo, if possible, of him. Provide these to the National Webmaster for posting on the National Website. This should be complete no later than Remembrance Day.

c. Offer each Real Son and Daughter and their respective families, Allied Order representation at funeral services if they so desire. If so, then prepare a plan to provide a visible, dignified, and prominent ceremony in accord with their wishes. It is recommended to coordinate with the local SVR for assistance and participation, as well as local, county and state governments, Veterans' organizations, and re-enactor groups. Be prepared to execute the plan.

d. Upon a Real Son or Daughter's passing away, immediately notify the National Organization. Proper prior planning is the key to success. Departments and Camps, which have the honor to have a living Real Son or Daughter, should take on this opportunity with enthusiasm and vigor.

Ordered this 14th day of September, 2015

GENERAL ORDER #4 –

Reinstates suspended Department of Connecticut

GENERAL ORDER #5 –

Notes the passing of James A. Getty, 80, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on September 26, 2015 in Gettysburg. Mr. Getty was a long time fixture at Remembrance Day ceremonies with his depiction of President Abraham Lincoln.

GENERAL ORDER #6 –

Resignation of John M. McNulty from the Council of Administration and appoints Brother Jonathan Davis, of Ohio to fill vacancy until the 2016th National Encampment.

GENERAL ORDER #7 -

Establishes of the Department of the Southwest with date of rank December 3, 2015, to be composed of the states of New Mexico and Arizona. The following Camps at Large are assigned to this Department:

- Picacho Peake Camp No. 1 of Phoenix, Arizona
- General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2 of Tucson, Arizona
- General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 of Flagstaff, Arizona

GENERAL ORDER #8 –

Notes the passing of Real Son Brother Charlie Brock of London, Kentucky, July 9, 2014 at age 100. He was a member of Fort Duffield Camp 1, of the Department of Kentucky.

(Continued on pg 6)



(Continued from pg 5)

GENERAL ORDER #9 – Rulings on Dual Membership

1a: A Brother can be elected as a delegate to a Department Encampment from other than his primary Camp.

1b: A Brother can be elected as a delegate to a Department Encampment from a dual Camp in a different Department than his primary Camp.

1c: A Brother can be elected as a delegate from his primary Camp in one Department, and as a delegate from his dual Camp, in another Department.

2a: A Brother who is a dual member of a Camp, and has served as the Camp Commander of his dual Camp, holds the honor of Past Camp Commander, with voting rights at a Department Encampment from the dual Camp.

2b: A Brother who held the honor of Past Camp Commander, and subsequently transferred his primary Camp to another Department while obtaining “dual” status in his original Camp, is still a Past Camp Commander in his original Camp and cannot request reinstatement of his Past Camp Commander status in the original (now dual) camp for the purpose of voting at the Department Encampment of the dual Camp.

3a: A Brother who is a dual member of a Camp may be elected to, and hold, a Camp office in the Camp with which he is a dual member.

3b: A Brother who is a dual Member in a Camp that is not within the same Department as his primary Camp may be elected to, and hold, a Department Office in a Department other than the Department in which his primary Camp is located.

4: Encampment Credentials.

Our Regulations outline the responsibility of the Camps, and Departments, to vote on delegates to Department and National Encampments. It is their duty then to provide the delegates with credentials. Based on the foregoing rulings, individuals may find themselves in possession of multiple credentials for Department and/or the National Encampments. However, these Encampments, also by our Regulations, may only accept ONE credential card from any Brother thereby limiting any member, under any circumstances, from voting more than once on any action brought before an Encampment.

Ordered this 28th day of December, 2015,

GENERAL ORDER #10 –

Revokes the Charter of the Ellsworth Camp 32, Department of New Jersey. Ordered December 30, 2015.

GENERAL ORDER #11 –

Appointment of Dual Membership Review Special Committee, to consist of:

PCinC Brad Schall (Chairman)

PCinC Richard Orr (National Treasurer)

David Demmy (National Executive Director)

PCinC Ed Krieser

PCinC Perley Mellor – Ordered January 6, 2016.

GENERAL ORDER #12 –

Revokes the Charter of the Siegel Camp 624, Department of Missouri. Ordered February 3, 2016.

GENERAL ORDER #13 –

Appoints PCinC James B. Pahl Editor of the Banner. Ordered February 3, 2016.



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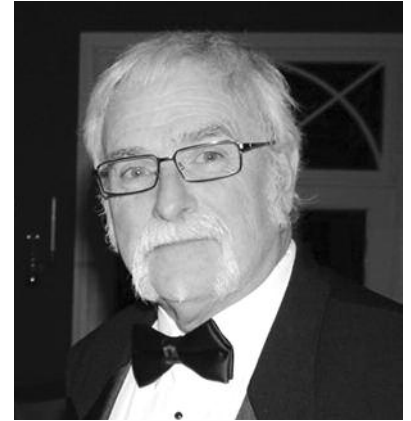


MARK DAY ELECTED JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

The 134th National Encampment elected brother Mark to the office of JVCinC. Mark is a retired Master Chief Operations Specialist (E9) from the United States Navy and is currently a high school history teacher.

Mark was Commander of the Taylor-Wilson Camp #10 of the Department of the Chesapeake and then Commander of the Department 2013-2014. Mark was awarded the Department of the Chesapeake Andrew Johnson Medal for contributions to the Department of the Chesapeake.

Mark chairs the National Committee on Promotions and Marketing and is also a member of the National Programs and Policy Committee. He is commander of the 2nd District and has been awarded the SVR Meritorious Service Medal Silver Star. He is also a Charitable Foundation Abraham Lincoln Fellow.



JONATHAN C. DAVIS APPOINTED TO FILL VACANCY TO THE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Jonathan C. Davis, PDC, Department of Ohio has been elected by the Council of Administration to replace John McNulty upon his resignation.

John was Commander of the Department of Ohio in 2013-2014 and currently serves as the Department Secretary/Treasurer and the Department Historian. John was Commander of the Governor William Dennison Camp #1 2008-2009 and is currently their Historian. John is also a member of the William McKinley Camp #21 where he is the Camp Treasurer.



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**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2015, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

Commander-in-Chief Tad D. Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM on August 20, 2015.

Present at the meeting were CinC Tad Campbell, SVCinC Eugene Mortorff, JVCinC Donald Martin, National Secretary Alan Russ, National Treasurer Richard Orr, National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler, CofA Member Steve Hammond, CofA Member Donald Shaw, CofA Member Ed Norris, CofA Member Walter Busch, CofA Member Brian Pierson, CofA Member PCinC Ken Freshley, PCinC and Banner Editor Stephen Michaels, Executive Director David Demmy Sr., the following PCinC's: Andrew M. Johnson, Edward J. Kreiser, George L. Powell, Robert E. Grim, Donald Darby, James B. Pahl, Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., Leo F. Kennedy, D. Brad Schall, Donald D. Palmer, Jr. and Perley E. Mellor.

Guests included: Dan Bunnell, Dept. of Calif. & Pacific, Loran Bures, PCC, Dept. of the Columbia, John M. McNulty, PDC, Dept. of Pennsylvania, Bill Fischer, PCC, Dept. of Kansas, Henry Shaw, PCC, Dept. of Ohio, Jim Houston, PDC, Dept. of Ohio, Jerry Kowalski, Dept. of Illinois, Robert J. Wolz, PDC, Dept. of Ohio, Kevin L. Martin, Dept. of the Chesapeake, Bob Petrovic, PDC, Dept. of Missouri, James Ward, PDC, Dept. of Florida, Kevin Tucker, PDC, Dept. of Massachusetts, Jim Crane, Dept. of Ohio, Frank Avila, PCC, Dept. of Calif. & Pacific

Secretary Russ reported that no communications for the Council of Administration were received which had not previously been distributed.

OFFICER, COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Recommendation from the Department of Georgia and South Carolina for Form 4 revision. CinCCampbell referred this to the Program and Policy Committee.

b. All other officer, committee and department report recommendations will be addressed by the National Encampment.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Encampment Proceedings. PCinC Ed Krieser reported that 2002 is yet to be done. The National Secretary is to print copies and get signatures, etc., for 2012, 2013, and 2014 proceedings.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Brian Pierson presented the proposed revision of the Ritual to be discussed at the National Encampment with the changes approved by previous encampments, along with a general clean up.

b. Ed Norris – Rhode Island camp 7 is to be putting up a new monument using government headstone. They will

wait to see what PCinC Kennedy comes up with in regard to this.

c. Brother Alan Russ was appointed as National Membership-at-Large Coordinator for three years by vote of the council with the term expiring in August 2018.

d. Brother Loran Bures was appointed as Camp at Large and Department Organizer appointed for one year by vote of the council with the term expiring in August 2016.

e. The Department of Connecticut is still under suspension until after the encampment. The department commander cannot be seated at the encampment per amendment passed last year.

f. Draft budget discussion by National Treasurer. It includes the recommendation to stop charging for ROTC medal. Monument preservation fund received almost \$12,775 and made grants of \$5,350.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. CofA Member Hammond – Remembrance day will have a ceremony on cemetery ridge to commemorate the Medal of Honor awarded to Alonzo Cushing.

b. JVCinC Martin – new members processed by the JVCinC is up to 283.

c. PCinC Kuhn – remarked on how great the project was that was approved for Gettysburg Unity Park Project.

d. SVCinC Mortorff – talked with Sons of Confederate Veterans a couple of weeks ago. Brother Mortorff hopes to keep the good relationship with them. Some discussion followed.

e. PCinC Darby – Remember First Amendment and person's right to fly a confederate flag.

f. Brother Bures – Update to report submitted. Grant camp will submit forms for being of third camp in Arizona.

g. PCinC Orr – Application for 501(c)(3) may be about to be declined because we do not give enough to charitable purposes.

h. PCinC Orr – There will be the previously announced silent auction during encampment. It will contain forty lots. The silent auction is open to SUVCW members, only.

i. PCinC Pahl – 2017 Encampment is August 10-13, 2017, at the Radison Hotel in Lansing, Michigan.

CONCLUSION

CinC Campbell provided closing comments, followed by Chaplain Bunnell giving the Benediction.

Meeting was officially adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Alan L. Russ, PDC - National Secretary

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MINUTES
AUGUST 23, 2015, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

Commander in Chief Eugene G. Mortorff called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM on August 23, 2015.

National Secretary Alan Russ called the roll of officers.

Present: CinC Eugene Mortorff, SVCinC Donald Martin, JVCinC Mark Day, National Secretary Alan Russ, National Treasurer Richard Orr, National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler, CofA Member Donald Shaw, CofA Member Ed Norris, CofA Member Walter Busch, CofA Member Brian Pierson, Executive Director David Demmy Sr., the following PCinC's: Andrew M. Johnson, James B. Pahl, D. Brad Schall, Perley E. Mellor.

Guests of the Council of Administration: Bob Wolz, Dept. of Ohio, Chuck Odell, Dept. of the Chesapeake, Loren Bures, Dept. of the Columbia, James Ward, Dept. of Florida, Mike Paquette, Dept. of the Chesapeake, Jerry Kowalski, Dept. of Illinois, Bill Fischer, Dept. of Kansas and James McGuire, Dept. of Rhode Island

Members of the CofA John McNulty and PCinC Tad Campbell were absent and excused.

Commander-in-Chief Mortorff gave a few brief remarks to the Council.

NATIONAL TREASURER

Treasurer Orr led a brief discussion on the proposed budget.

a. This included an increase in the CinC allocation to \$12,000; a commitment of \$1,000 to the Stephenson monument in Illinois; increasing the Remembrance Day expenditures from the GAR Fund to \$2,750, and the addition of \$500 for the Genealogy meeting.

b. Brother Orr moved, seconded by Brother Russ, to approve the budget, as modified. Motion passed.

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

The following actions items from the National Encampment were addressed:

a. The ROTC form be amended and posted on the website in the new form no later than 15 December 2015 deleting the information regarding the name of the cadet. No one is keeping this information and it often is not known when the badge is ordered. [ACTION: Program & Policy Committee]

b. An Aide to the National Quartermaster for the ROTC program be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief and all subsequent Commanders-in-Chief to be responsible for the ROTC program. Incoming CinC is to appoint an aide and refer this change to the C&R Committee to make it permanent. [ACTION: CinC/Committee on Constitution and Regulations]

c. Effective January 1, 2017, all ROTC award requests must be submitted electronically. [ACTION: Program &

Policy Committee]

d. The Aide to the National Quartermaster for the ROTC program be required to forward copies of all medal applications and postal receipts no less than monthly to the National Treasurer and provide an accurate inventory of all items in his possession as of the last business day of June of each year to the National Treasurer. [ACTION: Committee on Constitution and Regulations]

e. Motion that the ROTC medal be allowed to be presented by the primarily independent auxiliary. [ACTION: Program & Policy Committee, for the committee to come back with a recommendation to the next National Encampment.]

f. National ROTC/JROTC Census. At this time I believe that I am the only JROTC award recipient who is also a member of the Order. I recommend that a national census of JROTC award recipients be taken. Incoming CinC is to assign person to take the inventory. [ACTION: CinC]

g. National Committee on Americanization and Education. It was recommended the committee should be reconstructed. If it is reconstructed, it was recommend the committee be composed of the national patriotic instructor, the national Eagle Scout coordinator, a national ROTC award officer, the national chaplain and the national quartermaster, these individuals having a vested interest in the success of the committee and should therefore become the committee. [ACTION: Program & Policy Committee to determine if this committee should continue to exist, and, if not, return back to the 2016 National Encampment with language to the C&R committee to remove the committee.]

h. Recommendation that the web site be updated as soon as possible with instructions directing the grant applications to be sent to the new chairman and not Brother Don Martin, who left the committee in August of 2014. I also recommend that the revised Form 62 (see below) be updated to include the names of the chairman and the committee members and also placed on the web site. It is my understanding that this form has been approved, but it was never placed on the web site. [ACTION: CinC to direct it be done.]

i. Motion requiring action as directed by the 2014 encampment dealing with per capita for dual members: The incoming CinC shall appoint a committee to work this out for implementation and bring back to the Council of Administration by Springfield CofA, with the CinC authorized to forward this to the C&R committee and/or P&P Committee. The sentence, "Dual members shall not be counted toward the required number of members required to establish a new camp." shall be deleted. The special committee shall address the financial impact of the motion. [ACTION: CinC]

j. Department Permission to Sue. This item came about because of a Cannon Tube in a Cemetery resulting in a

(Continued on pg 10)



(Continued from pg 9)

Department entering in a lawsuit over the rightful owners of the tube. The question whether Departments may act individually in suing was given to the P&P for policy development. No action was taken. As this is a legal matter, it is believed that before a policy question can be answered, this needs vetting by legal professionals. It was recommended the CinC refer this to National Counselor to render a decision. If it is decided that Departments CAN, then it can come back to the P&P to development a policy. [ACTION: CinC]

k. The Special Committee on Hereditary Issues is to be continued and report back to the 2016 National Encampment. [ACTION: CinC to appoint committee]

l. Flag Certificate Program. The Department of GA & SC has instituted a program to award Certificates of Commendation to recognize exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America. The certificates are printed on high quality paper (e.g., parchment) and are suitable for framing and display. Any Brother can nominate persons, companies or agencies that proudly, conspicuously and properly fly or display the US Flag. This program has met with success in the Dept. Therefore, it is proposed that this program be adopted throughout the SUVCW as a formal program in order to ensure standardization and broad implementation. The program is recommended to be placed under the responsibility of the Patriotic Instructor. [ACTION: Program & Policy Committee to come back with a plan for implementation.]

m. Update transfer form (SUVCW Form 4) to include all information needed on Form 30. [ACTION: Program & Policy Committee]

n. Send to the appropriate committee for review to expand JROTC type program to CAP, US Navy Sea Cadet Corps, and Young Marines. [ACTION: Program & Policy Committee]

NEW BUSINESS

a. Expense Report. Motion by Brother Russ, seconded by Brother Orr, to approve the expense report, as submitted by previous Program & Policy Committee. Motion passed

b. Motion by Brother Norris, seconded by Brother Busch, to purchase at \$2,500 a bench for the Stephenson memorial from the special project fund. Motion passed. Brother Norris is to pick a committee to come up with the inscription for the bench.

c. Camps and departments can make a directed donation to National that would then be sent to the designated recipient.

d. The National Counselor and Treasurer are to bring to Gettysburg CofA meeting suggestions on the process for 501(c)(3).

e. Brother Orr moved, seconded by Brother Russ, that

Brother Crabtree, be appointed as editor of the Banner. Motion passed

f. Brother Russ moved, seconded by Brother Orr, the 2016 dues for NMAL be set at \$45.00. Motion passed.

g. Brother Orr moved, seconded by Brother Martin, that any brother with a mailing address outside the US Postal Service area be charged a \$5 surcharge.

h. Brother Orr moved, seconded by Brother Norris, that the Program and Policy Committee amend all necessary forms to include the annual foreign surcharge.

i. Brother Orr moved, seconded by Brother Norris, that the website application fee remain the same \$40.00.

j. Brother Orr moved, seconded by Brother Busch, that the Life Member reimbursement under the original program remain at \$4.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Brother Don Shaw is planning to run for JVCinC in 2016.

b. Brother Orr is running for re-election as National Treasurer next year.

c. Brother Wheeler is running for re-election as National Quartermaster next year.

CONCLUSION

CinC Mortorff provided closing comments, followed by Chaplain Kowalski giving the Benediction.

Meeting was officially adjourned at 9:48 AM.

Alan L. Russ, PDC - National Secretary

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2016 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Brothers and Sisters,

The Department of Illinois would like to invite you, and your families to the sesquicentennial of the founding of the G.A. R. This encampment in Springfield Illinois will let you walk the places Mr. Lincoln and his wife Mary Todd started their climb to the presidency. Transportation available is available by plane, train, bus, and automobile. Rail service is the same station that President Lincoln used and is close to the event hotel.

Our Walking Tour will visit the Lincoln home, Lincoln Library, and Old State House. Lunch, admission fees/donations, and refreshments will be provided for all participants at the Old State House. The tour will be led by General U.S. Grant. If you require special accommodations for transportation please let us know and it will be provided.

Our bus tour will take you to the Lincoln Tomb which each year is where we have a ceremony during the Lincoln Death Days. Our next stop will be Petersburg at the gravesite of Dr. Stephenson the founder of the G. A. R. There will be a short ceremony rededicating Dr. Stephenson's memorial. You can support this effort with the purchase of a brick or bench for the plaza. The last stop will be New Salem where a young Mr. Lincoln worked as a store keeper and lived before coming to Springfield.

The host committee has designed a fantastic jewelry grade medal to celebrate our 150th year. The limited edition silver and gold medals are numbered from 1 to 150 and will be soon a collector's item. The medal is also available in bronze which is equally as striking with a lighter price.

Be sure to honor your ancestor by doing an ancestor memorial in the program book for a mere \$10. Other advertising options are available this is a great way to recognize your camps, department, and tents. We also have table displays available.

The Abraham Lincoln hotel is ready for reservations and there are limited rooms at \$106 which includes parking in the parking garage. The free parking is limited to one car per room purchase. They can be reached at 217-544-8800.

Dinner reservations include three entre selections including chicken, pork, and fish. We are hoping that all allied members in attendance will be able to enjoy the banquet and the band for entertainment.

Please notice we can accept payment via credit card with a small convenience fee of 3% and also cash and check.

Please note SVR Breakfast and National Registration will be a separate check as required by the National Committee.

The Department of Illinois hopes that you will take this opportunity to participate in this signature event and is truly a once in a lifetime event.

C/O Bro. Bill Johnson 3055 Freeport Road Rockton, Il. 61072 815.624.7885 mymymagic@yahoo.com
<http://suvcw2016il.wordpress.com/>

CENTRAL REGION

The Grand Army of the Republic Allied Orders Central Region Association (CRA) held its annual meeting Oct. 3, 2015 in Dundee, Michigan. Gathered here are some of the representatives of the Allied Orders in the lobby of the hotel where the meeting was held.

Officers were elected for the 2015-2016 term: Chaplain Walter Busch; Junior Vice-Commander Cindy Norton of Ohio; Senior Vice-Commander Ken Freshley of Ohio; Commander Don Palmer of Missouri; Secretary / Treasurer Judy Rock of Michigan; Historian Alan Teller of Indiana; Patriotic Instructor Linda Kronberg of Michigan; and, Color Bearer John Palmer of Missouri. Not pictured is Sarah Palmer Guide.



Special guests were ASUVCW National Secretary Tricia Bures of Washington state and her husband Loren Bures who is a member of the SUVCW. They were representing the Department of California and the Pacific to see how the CRA is structured and to start a similar meeting in their Department which covers much of the West Coast of the United States and Hawaii.

The Oct. 3, 2015 meeting marked the seventy-sixth (76) meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic Central Region Association. One of the purposes of the annual CRA is to provide training and networking opportunities for up and coming officers of the GAR Allied Orders. It also provides networking opportunities for those attending the meeting. *Photo by Helen A.*

CHESAPEAKE

James A. Garfield Camp #1 Gathers at Baltimore's Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard

Seventeen Brothers and guests of the James A. Garfield Camp 1 assembled on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Baltimore's Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard for an exclusive visit and Camp meeting. Camp Brother and PCC Bill Elliott coordinated the outing that featured on-board tours of the USCG Cutter Eagle and the Cutter James A. Rankin. Of note, The Eagle was built as the German sail training ship Horst Wessel in 1936 and served to train German sailors in sail techniques until decommissioned at the start of World War II. At the end of the war, Horst Wessel was taken by the U.S. as war reparations and commissioned into the United States Coast Guard as the Eagle in April, 1946.



CiinC Gene Mortorff at the wheel of the Coast Guard Eagle.

Following lunch in the Yard's galley, Camp 1 convened its meeting by welcoming Commander-in-Chief Gene Mortorff who provided an update on National happenings. The Department of the Chesapeake's Patriotic Instructor Wes Mumper also was in attendance and he brought greetings and news from the Sgt. James H. Harris Camp 38.

Founded on the shores of south Baltimore, the United States Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay has built, repaired and renovated ships for the U. S. Coast Guard since April, 1899. It is the service's sole shipbuilding and major repair facility. Several of Camp 1's Brothers are either current or retired "Coasties."

Lincoln Birthday Dinner

On Saturday, February 13, 2016, the members of Taylor-Wilson Camp #10, SUVCW, and their guests gathered in The Burton Private Dining Room in the Drysdale Student Center at Lynchburg College for their annual Lincoln Birthday Dinner, Camp Commander Ron Johnson presiding. Among those attending were Brother Mark Day, National Junior-Vice Commander and his wife Barbara Day, as well as Brother Kevin Martin, Commander of the Department of the Chesapeake and his wife Rosemary.



After dinner there were toasts and tributes to "Father Abraham" before the assembly moved to the Foyer of the Burton Room where they were entertained by "South Wind," a Lynchburg College ensemble composed of Tresa Scruggs on the violin and Ginny Coffman on the harp. They played a number of hymns and popular tunes from the Civil War era which was enjoyed by all.

CONNECTICUT

Former Chief Historian of the National Park Service Ed Bearss visited the New England Civil War Museum on February 12th and gave a talk to a packed audience titled “Vicksburg: Grant’s Military Masterpiece.” The museum is located in Rockville, Connecticut and is administered by the brothers of Alden Skinner Camp #45. Pictured from left to right are Museum President and Camp Commander Brian Motola, Museum Executive Director Matthew Reardon and Ed Bearss.



The New England Civil War Museum was originally initiated by the Civil War veterans who made up Rockville’s Grand Army of the Republic Burpee Post #71 in 1896 who sought “to perpetuate the memory of its dead for all time.” Our collection started to build that year when each post member was encouraged to donate their personal wartime relics to the building up of a museum.

ILLINOIS

Gen. George A. Custer Camp #1, with support from SVR Battery L, hosted the Glenview History Center’s Civil War Days for the fifth consecutive year. The program featured a period fashion show by the ladies of the Camp. It showed men’s, women’s, and children’s fashions, jewelry and accessories, both military and civilian.



Battery L provided the artillery demonstration and had Boy Scouts participate in the drill to let them experience being in a Civil War artillery unit. There was also a museum with artifacts and weapons from other branches to complete the picture of Civil War military life.

Members of Signal Corps, cavalry, and infantry units were also present to talk about their branches.

Downers Grove, IL — Over 150 people gathered Saturday, September 19 in Downers Grove, Illinois’ historic Oak Hill Cemetery to dedicate new grave markers for three Civil War veterans buried there. An additional 43 Civil War veterans also buried in Oak Hill and the adjacent Oak Crest Memorial Cemetery were recognized. The dedication ceremony, jointly sponsored by Philip H. Sheridan Camp # 2, Illinois Department, SUVCW and the Oak Hill / Oak Crest Cemeteries Foundation, was the culmination of a year-long project undertaken by Sheridan Camp # 2 to rigorously identify and document all the Civil War veterans buried in the Cemeteries, procure and install new grave markers on those graves needing them and straighten and clean the markers on the other Civil War veterans’ graves. The project was undertaken with the support of Downers Grove Township.

Sheridan Camp # 2 also worked with local Boy Scouts from Naperville Illinois’s Troop # 889 to clean the headstones of the 43 Civil War veterans who already had markers.



Members of Philip H. Sheridan Camp #2

After a welcome and introductory remarks by Mr. David C. Bailey, Sr., PDC IL SUVCW and PCC of Sheridan Camp # 2, the dedication ceremony opened with an invocation by Jerome Kowalski, the National Chaplain of the SUVCW. The colors were presented by a combined color guard composed of members from Boy Scout Troop #889, Century VFW Post # 503, the 8th Veteran Reserve Corps and IL SUVCW. Local historian Lois Sterba discussed the military and post-war experiences of the veterans receiving new markers. Remarks on the significance of the day’s event were provided by Sheridan Camp Commander Gary Gunderson, Illinois SUVCW Department Commander James Locke Lyon, Downers Grove Township Supervisor Frank Wurster, Illinois State Representative Patricia Bellock and Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs Assistant Director Frank Sawyer.

Attendees joined in the singing of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”. Rifle and artillery salutes were provided respectively by the 8th Veteran Reserve Corps and

Mulligan's Battery (an IL SUVCW SVR unit). Memorial wreaths were placed on the graves of those receiving new markers by their descendants. Before the benediction and retiring of the colors, Taps was played by Mr. Richard Wacker of Bugles Across America. The formal dedication was completed with the singing of the Doxology by vocalist Michael Zafran.

INDIANA

The SUVCW attended the Lincoln Day Program at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Southwestern Indiana, organized by Co. D 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, SVR, on Sunday, February 7, 2016. It was probably the warmest it has ever been, with temperatures in the 50s. All 15 of the men in the photo are SUVCW members while 10 are SVR members. (The majority of those present drove 200-250 miles one way to get there.) SUVCW members presented and retired the colors for the program and then led the procession with flags flying to the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham's mother. They then stood sentinel like for the eulogy and presentation of the memorial wreaths. The lady in the group photo, Sue Ellspermann was the featured speaker for the program celebrating the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. She was very cordial, engaging and made herself available to all in attendance. Jim Mehling, a local school principal, gave the eulogy.



SUVCW members attending with Sue Ellspermann (center), Lt. Governor of the State of Indiana

The Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial park itself contains the site of the original home of Thomas Lincoln, and his family. Abraham lived here with his family for 14 years. The original cabin no longer stands. You can see the outline of where the original cabin stood. They do a living history at the site of a newer cabin each summer. The grave of Abraham's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, is also on this property. Across the road is the Abraham Lincoln State Park. It has a small church on the location of the original Pigeon Creek Baptist Church. The state park also contains the grave of Sarah Lincoln Grisby, Abraham sister, and a large amphitheater, which presents plays about the life of Abraham Lincoln in the summer.

The John Foster Camp No. 2 in Newburgh, Indiana, will host a reenactment of the Newburgh Raid on Saturday, July 16, 2016. Newburgh was the first town taken north of the Mason-Dixon line in the Civil War and this

skirmish will pay homage to that historic event.

As Confederate raiders advanced on Newburgh from the Ohio River, Union soldiers guarding the town are duped into giving up valuable firearms. Spectators can learn about Newburgh's historic Raid and watch a full scale Civil War skirmish.

To participate with the local SUVCW camp please email jclaybourn@gmail.com or visit: <http://www.newburghmuseum.com/newburgh-remembers/>

MAINE



In 2014 Brother Paul Zebiak, owner of a business in Bangor, Maine, was approached in his store by a young couple looking to sell Civil War, WWI, and WWII memorabilia allegedly passed down to them from a grandmother. Since they could not provide positive personal identification, Paul said he was unable to purchase the items, but he was suspicious of the source of such a collection, much of it local in nature. After checking around, he found out the items had been stolen from the Bangor Public Library unbeknownst to them until his call. Just days later, the woman returned to the store with these same items, and Paul was able to alert the authorities without tipping the woman off.

The collection was returned. Brother Zebiak is a Charter Member of Daniel Chaplin Camp No. 3, Bangor, and the Brothers of his Camp recognized his actions with the presentation of a plaque in January. The plaque reads; "This award is presented to Brother Paul M. Zebiak in appreciation for his work in safeguarding the historical artifacts of our community, and for exemplifying the principles and objects of our Order during his 20 year membership. Presented by the Brothers of Daniel Chaplin Camp No. 3, Bangor, Department of Maine, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War".

Elsie Bonney, President of the Maine DUVCW accepts a check for \$500. From Maine SUVCW Commander, Scott Mairs, the check to used towards the goal of refurbishing two cannons in the GAR lot at Evergreen Cemetery in Portland, Maine. The cannons were recently acquired by the Maine DUVCW and had not been receiving any care for some years and were in sad shape.

It is going to take several thousand dollars to repair and bring them back to their original state.



MISSOURI

The William T. Sherman/Billy Yank Camp #65, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held their annual Sherman Day Ceremony on Sunday, February 28, 2016, at the Sherman gravesite in Calvary Cemetery in north St. Louis. The ceremony began at 2:00 p.m., following a parade from the main gate area to the Sherman family gravesite. The ceremony included a brief address by Timothy S. Good, superintendent at the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis County, and concluded with a military firing salute by both muskets and artillery.



Following the ceremony, Camp members and other participants joined in fellowship at the Ferguson Brewing Company for a meal.

Vicksburg Monument Repairs Underway

Thanks to federal grant money, repair work has now started on the magnificent Missouri monument at Vicksburg National Military Park. Our thanks to Kip Lindberg, who visited the park earlier this month and took this photo.

It is one of two state memorials anywhere and the only one at Vicksburg dedicated to soldiers of both armies. The height is symbolic of the forty-two Missouri units, 27 Union, 15 Confederate. It stands where two opposing Missouri regiments clashed in battle.

The monument features a bronze figure which represents "The Spirit of the Republic," as well as bronze

reliefs depicting both Union and Confederate soldiers. The sculptor was Victor S. Holm. The memorial was erected at a cost of \$40,000 and dedicated on October 17, 1917.

The Department of Missouri Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War attempted and succeeded in getting state funds for this

project. We were originally told that it was low on the priority list by National Parks for repair despite the estimated \$375,000 it would take to successfully and completely repair it. The legislature passed the appropriations for the funds and assigned them to Missouri State Parks. Unfortunately, parks took the position that they could not expend money outside the state. Short of a legal battle there wasn't much we could do.

During our attempts to get the funding, controversies over Confederate monuments flared up, which led to a few stories that the state of Missouri was getting ready to expend funds on yet another Confederate monument. This untrue news article did not help our efforts and it was particularly maddening as we couldn't get Missouri Sons of Confederate Veterans support for this project!

Finally, as we were getting ready for another round of legislative letters, the National Park Service was given funds to repair the monument. While no source will indicate that our efforts brought the repairs to the forefront, this author thinks we can take at least a little credit. At the March meeting of the department, we learned the monument should be finished by this Memorial Day. After some discussion, the department is shooting for a 2017 date to rededicate the monument just before the 100th Anniversary of its original dedication.

NEW JERSEY

Brothers of the Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp #7, of Hammonton, NJ recently took part in annual Remembrance Day ceremonies in Gettysburg, PA. Among the activities that Camp participated in were, an honor ceremony and wreath laying at the monument to the 7 New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. The monument marks the spot where the Camp's namesake Colonel Francine was mortally wounded on July 2. The Camp placed a wreaths at the New Jersey section in the National Cemetery to honor all New Jersey soldiers killed in the battle, as well as at the monument to Elizabeth Thorn in Evergreen cemetery, the namesake for the Camp's Auxiliary. The Camp along with its SVR contingent took



Photo by Kip Lindberg



part in annual ceremonies at the Woolson monument and marched in the annual parade. One of the unique activities that our SVR unit, the 7 New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, is involved in is standing honor guard at the Soldiers National Monument in the National Cemetery during the annual Remembrance Illumination. Standing guard during this ceremony shows the cost of the battle as candles illuminate the graves of each soldier killed in the battle. As always it is an honor to take part in the Annual Remembrance Day ceremonies to honor our Boys in Blue.

NEW YORK

Pvt. Elisha Woodcock Reinternment

By PDC Jeffrey French

Pvt. Elisha Woodcock and his wife Mary were buried on their family farm in 1905 and 1898 respectively. They would not have contemplated that their graves would be in a middle of a cow pasture with one of the headstone being damage and trampled on by the cows. The Talcottville Cemetery Association and the Lewis County Historical Society organized to relocate the brave Civil War Veteran and his wife to Talcottville Cemetery where their graves will be maintained and cared for. The Association President Steven Fox contacted the Walter H. French Camp #17 to help with the grant and donations to get them relocated. The SUVCW National Memorial Funds donated \$500 and the French Camp \$200 to make this event a reality.

Pvt. Elisha Woodcock at age 35 years from Lewis County enlisted at Boonville, NY to serve three years, and mustered in as private, Co. B, 97th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment on March 15, 1862. The 97th NY was quartered at Fort Corcoran as part of Gen. Wadsworth's command, Military District of Washington, from March, 1862 until May 1862, when it was assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Department of the Rappahannock and moved into Virginia, where it occupied various posts in the neighborhood of the Rappahannock river. In late June 1862, the 97th NY was assigned to the 1st Brigade under BG Abram Duryee, 2nd Division (BG James Ricketts), 3rd Corps of MG John Pope's Army of Virginia. The 97th NY was under fire for

the first time at Cedar Mountain as Rickett's Division arrived late in the day, and suffered just one man slightly wounded. In the subsequent Second Manassas campaign, 16 August – 2 September 1862, the 97th NY lost 111 in killed, wounded and missing. On 12 September 1862, the regiment, as part of Duryee's 1st Brigade, Rickett's 2nd Division was assigned to the 1st Corps, Army of the Potomac and fought at South Mountain and Antietam, suffering in the latter battle the most severe loss of any battle of its service—24 killed, 74 wounded and 9 missing. Here, more than one half of the Regiment were killed and wounded in less than an hour after the engagement commenced; yet men never displayed more coolness and determination. Not a man was captured; and, when relieved, though under a galling fire, the Regiment retired in good order. Pvt. Woodcock was discharged for disability, December 10, 1862, at hospital, Washington, DC.



On July 11, 2015, the SUVCW New York Department Commander Raymond LeMay III, Walter H. French Camp #17, Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Homer-Searle Camp #114, NY DUVCW, NY ASUVCW, Talcottville Cemetery Association, Lewis County Historical Society, and the Society of 1812 performed the burial ritual for Pvt. Elisha Woodcock and his wife Mary. The Great-Great Nephew Leonard Woodcock received the American Flag from DC Raymond LeMay III during the burial ceremony. The Sons of Union Veterans performed the burial from the Service book printed by the Grand Army of the Republic published in 1899. French Camp #17 CC Bob Roshia II escorted the descendents to the grave to place the wreaths and rose. Willard Camp #154 CC Leo McGuire played the bugle for TAPS bringing the ceremony to an end. Homer-Searle Camp #114 Chad Miller read the service of Pvt. Elisha Woodcock. PDP Dorothy Prentiss from the DUVCW led their ceremonial portion and DP Hope Parker from the ASUVCW led their ceremonial portion. It took the efforts of the Allied Order to successfully perform the reburial this Civil War Veteran and his wife. It was a great day to pay homage to a brave soldier who is now laid to rest. The Allied Order was humbled and honored to have been part of this once in a life time event living our motto Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Dedication of Gen. Thomas Signage at Oakwood Cemetery

On Saturday May 23, as part of the Memorial Day events at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, New York the Colonel George L. Willard Camp 154, Dept. of NY, dedicated new signs directing visitors to the General Thomas gravesite on the Kellogg Family plot. The dedication took place immediately after the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at Veterans' Circle by the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery and the Veterans of Lansingburgh.



At the Thomas gravesite Mr. Michael Barrett, Director of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, presented introductory comments on the life and career of Gen. Thomas. Willard Camp Commander Leo McGuire offered the opening to original Order #11 describing Decoration Day. Department of New York Commander Ray LeMay III, PCC added remarks recognizing the Willard Camp's work as well as the Dept. of NY's history of involvement with the project.

Finally project liaison, Brother Dziejewski, PCC, made dedicatory comments at the newly installed site marker that included a brief reiteration of the relationship between the Oakwood Cemetery and the SUVCW. Initially the Dept. of NY adopted the gravesite. However, work began in earnest when Willard Camp also was able to adopt the site with the support of Department Order #6, by then Dept. of NY Commander Albanese (2012), and the completion of a Memorandum of Understanding among the Cemetery, Friends of Oakwood Cemetery and Willard Camp in 2013. Attendees were escorted by the U.S. Marine veterans of the Leathernecks Revolution Motorcycle Club and the 125th NY Volunteer Infantry reenacting group closed the ceremony with a musket salute.

This dedication was supposed to have occurred in the September 2014, shortly after the emplacement of the signs, but a busy Fall and horrible Winter prevented the ceremony from occurring. With a little patience and careful planning, much like "Ol' Slow Trot" himself - - a nickname for Thomas because of his extensive preparation and deliberate actions - - we finally came to the point of completion for this project.

With the permission of Oakwood Cemetery, Willard Camp also announced that the next project for the

gravesite will be the assessment of the beech tree that has threatened the grave markers of the Kellogg plot, the Thomas monument itself and the cast iron fence surrounding the plot. It will likely be removed.

PENNSYLVANIA

On February 21, 2016, Camp #112 gratefully accepted the donation from Brother Gary Casteel of a brass relief of Capt. David Culp, Company F of the 87th Pennsylvania Infantry that he had sculpted. Brother Casteel is a noted artist/sculptor of numerous monuments, including the Longstreet Monument, the 6th Maryland Infantry Monument, the Culp Brothers Memorial at Gettysburg, and the 13th North Carolina Monument at Antietam, Brother Casteel is a member of Taylor-Wilson Camp #10 in Lynchburg, VA.



L to R, Brother Gary Casteel, Gettysburg Camp #112 Commander Andrew Etman, & Gettysburg Camp #112 Secretary/Treasurer Paul McMillin.

TENNESSEE

Department Encampment Held in Memphis



The 21st Annual Encampment of the Department of Tennessee was held 20 February 2016 in Memphis. We had a great turnout with Sons from five of the seven camps and all three states (Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama) in the Department. The membership met at the Tennessee Genealogical Society building in Germantown. Two committees were formed; the first to look at the possibility of changing the name of the Department and the second to look at the feasibility of hosting a National Encampment at an appropriate future date. Representing SUVCW National was Mark Day, JVC-in-C who performed the Installation of Officers at the end of the Encampment.

McTeer Commander Named Tennessee Colonel

At the Department of Tennessee Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held on February 20th in Germantown, David McReynolds, Commander of the Major William A. McTeer Camp No. 39, was awarded the highest honor the State of Tennessee can bestow upon an individual. That award is the commissioned title of Colonel – Aide de Camp, Governor's Staff. It may be awarded to a Tennessee citizen for outstanding achievement. The honor is only awarded at the request of a member of the Tennessee General Assembly. Individuals who receive this award are recorded by the Secretary of State of Tennessee with those who have been commissioned into the State Guard and Tennessee National Guard. This award is considered equivalent to actual military commissions and the recipient is commissioned as full Colonel. The award was presented by David's wife Cindy McReynolds, President of the Polly Toole Auxiliary No. 17, on behalf of Senator Overbey and Governor Haslam.

McTeer Camp in Christmas Parade

The Major William A. McTeer Camp No. 39, SUVCW participated in the Blount County, TN Jaycees Christmas Parade on 12 December 2015. Our "float" was a beautiful red antique tractor provided by Brother Roy Gamble pulling a trailer with hay bales to sit on. The theme was a "Red, White and Blue Christmas." Descendants of our camp namesake, A.B and Jason McTeer, had a great time waving to the large crowd as we proceeded through town.

Officers' Council Meeting

On 28 January 2016, the Major William A. McTeer Camp No. 39 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War based Maryville, TN held its first Camp Officers' Council of 2016. Attending the meeting were Sec/Tres Doug Fidler, PDC, SVC Max Renfro, Department Commander and Camp Council Member Mike Downs, PCC, JVC Richard Holmes, United Kingdom associate Allan Nicholls, Bob Wallace and Camp Commander David McReynolds. Allan Nicholls lives in Kent, England and it marked the first time a brother from the McTeer Camp from England has participated in an event in Tennessee. Brother Doug Fidler and Brother Nicholls have organized several McTeer meetings and ceremonies in the greater London area for British Brothers.

WISCONSIN

Abraham Lincoln stands watch over Burlington, Wis., again, returning to action under an escort from the SUVCW.

The 8-foot bronze statue of Lincoln, which had stood since 1913, was shamefully pulled to the ground by the driver of a pickup truck in the early hours of Jan. 30. A 22-year-old man was arrested and charged three days later with felony criminal damage to property.

The statue needed only modest repairs and was unveiled two days after Lincoln's 207th birthday and one day before Presidents Day. The ceremony was conducted with the help of several members of the Col. Hans Heg Camp 15, based in nearby Wind Lake / Norway, and PCinC Steve Michaels of C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 of Milwaukee. About 100 townspeople attended the event in a snow squall.

Camp 15 CC Jeff Graf had spearheaded work by the Sons in reaction to the vandalism, working with Mayor Robert Miller, other city officials and the Burlington Historical Society to organize the event.



"It was awesome," Graf said after the ceremony. "It showed the resiliency of a people and how everyone comes together to make good out of bad. I know that I felt honored and privileged to be there."

Michaels said he was struck by "Two things: that no community, no matter what the size or location, is immune from vandalism and criminal mischief. And that it's up to the community's citizens to come together to police itself and put things right. ... I was very pleased and proud to be part of this very important event in this very conscientious and civic-minded community."

David Daley, JVC of Camp 15, added: "I felt pride, awe and gratitude as the face of Abraham Lincoln came into view (when the tarp over it was removed). And I felt a little anger that someone would desecrate the statue of the greatest president in the history of our country; a man who held the Union together and ended the horrid institution of slavery."

Burlington can take great pride in how quickly the statue was restored and reinstalled, Mayor Miller said.

"You can be proud – I am proud," Miller told the crowd.

Another speaker, Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave, said the repairs are covered by insurance, but that if the accused man is convicted, the county will seek restitution. Repairs are estimated at \$5,000, and there are additional costs – such as for a crane that was needed to hoist the statue back onto its pedestal, and for city time spent removing and returning the statue.

The statue fell on its face onto a layer of snow and a thick bush, preventing serious damage, city officials said. There were scrape marks on the statue and a two-foot-thick granite slab that Lincoln was bolted to was ripped off its base.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

FLAGS of the United States of America and corresponding State flags and luminaries were placed on the graves of Civil War soldiers Nov. 20 and Nov. 21 at the Gettysburg National Cemetery as part of the observance of the 2015 Gettysburg Remembrance Day. This photo shows (from left): Ron Perisho; SUCVW National Commander in Chief Eugene Mortorff of Pennsylvania; SUCVW Past National Commander in Chief Brad Schall of California; ASUVCW National President Linda Kronberg of Tecumseh, Michigan; SUCVW Department of Michigan Patriotic Instructor Gary Granger of Corunna who served as President Kronberg's chauffeur/guard; and, Vicki Weiss, ASUVCW Michigan Treasurer. Granger is a member of SUCVW Michigan Henry F. Wallace Camp 160, Corunna, Mich. Missing from the photo is ASUVCW Michigan Secretary and Newsletter Editor who took the photograph Helen Granger.



ASUVCW NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Sister Linda Kronberg of Tecumseh, Mich., was unanimously elected ASUVCW National President at the August 2015 National Convention held in Richmond, Virginia.

She has held several ASUVCW National offices and appointed positions (Inside Guard 2009; National Chaplain 2010; National Patriotic Instructor 2011; National Council member 2012; and appointed to several committees and served as 2014-2015 National Vice-President.

Sister Kronberg is an ASUVCW Department of Michigan Past Department President and held numerous offices at the Department level and with Nash-Hodges Auxiliary #43 and Austin Blair Auxiliary #7 (2006, Jackson, MI).

She helped re-establish the ASUVCW-MI in 2004, and served as ASUVCW-MI President for seven years following Dorothy Lowe.

She serves as Michigan President of the Allied Orders Encampment and Conventions Committee (AOECC).

Sister Kronberg fosters co-operation between all five Allied Orders of the GAR at local, state and national levels.

HISTORY, COMPETITION & COMARADERIE



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SVR GUIDON



Photo Members of the 14th Michigan on the Potomac River at the site of the Falling Waters pontoon bridge.

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN ATTENDS GETTYSBURG REMEMBRANCE DAY

The 14th Michigan, SVR, consisting of members of several Camps within the Department of Michigan, as has been its custom for several consecutive years, attended the Gettysburg Remembrance Event in November. The boys from Michigan served as the Honor Guard and displayed the colors for the Department and several Michigan Camps during the Albert Woolson memorial service at the Woolson Monument.

In a combined effort with the SUVCW and the Allied Orders, the 14th Michigan placed National and State Flags on the graves of Michigan soldiers at Gettysburg. This is an annual activity for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Allied Orders of Michigan. Following the parade, the Michigan boys participated in the Dedication Service for Alonzo Cushing located near the Copse of Trees. As per long standing tradition, members of the 14th Michigan performed a Memorial Service at one of the Gettysburg monuments representing Michigan men, The monument selected this year was the 24th Michigan, a member of the Iron Brigade.

Each year during the Remembrance Day activities, the delegation from Michigan tries to plan an extraordinary educational experience for its members. This year was no exception. Our Battlefield Guide with 46 years of experience and more than 13, 000 tours conducted during that time, took us on the trail of Lee's retreat from Gettysburg. This was the first time ever during his career that he or anyone else had done this trip. Our trek included: Fairfield, Monterey Pass, Leitersburg, Smithsburg, Hagerstown, Funkstown, Williamsport and Falling Waters. The guide told us that the trip covered about 130 miles.

To close out the weekend, the 14th Michigan, Company A, was treated to a special battle field tour conducted over private property owned by the property owner. This site covered the area between the Baltimore Pike and Culp's Hill along Rock Creek and the extreme flank of the Federal Army at Gettysburg. The Michigan delegation then rounded out their activities with a family style dinner at the Hickory Bridge Farm, while wearing their Civil War uniforms in remembrance of all the Union soldiers who fought and those who died at Gettysburg.



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

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@gmail.com

website: www.nobg.us



NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

VA Final Rule on Applicants for VA Memorialization Benefits

On March 2, 2016, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a final rule in the Federal Register. A copy of the final rule is accessible at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-02/pdf/2016-04553.pdf>. In this rulemaking, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) amends its regulations defining who may apply for a headstone or marker. The rule expands the types of individuals who may request headstones and markers on behalf of decedents. This amendment addresses concerns that the existing applicant definition was too restrictive resulting in identified Veteran gravesites going unmarked.

Congressman Steve Stivers (Ohio 15th District) strongly encouraged the VA-NCA to change the “next if kin only” rule. Early on, he proposed federal legislation to override the policy. In response to VA assurances they would broaden eligibility to request grave markers, Cong. Stivers sustained pressure on them until they did so.

In summary, VA may accept applications for burial headstones and markers that will mark the gravesite or burial site of an eligible deceased individual from 1) a decedent’s family member; 2) a personal representative; 3) a representative of a Congressionally-chartered Veterans Service Organization; 4) an employee of a state or local government whose official responsibilities include serving Veterans; 5) any individual who is responsible, under the laws of a state or locality, for the disposition and memorialization of the unclaimed remains of the decedent; or 6) any individual, if the dates of service of the veteran ended prior to April 6, 1917. For a memorial headstone or marker, which is used to commemorate the memory of an eligible individual, the applicant must be a member of the decedent’s family. Please refer to the specific language in the final rule for more detailed description of each of these categories.

In response to the proposed rule that was published on October 1, 2014, VA received a total of 387 comments from members of Congress, state and local officials, as well as members of genealogical, historical, and veterans service organizations. The final rule provides responses to the comments received, the majority of which were supportive of the proposed changes. For additional information regarding NCA’s memorialization programs please refer to the following link: <http://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/>.

Several brothers from several Departments across the Order participated in contacting the VA and helped get this application rule changed, so the Order can continue the work to help keep green the memory. Thank you to all who participated – job well done!

FINAL MUSTER

Donald Braden Schall, III

Gen. Alfred A. Pleasonton Camp 24 (CA)
February 4, 2016

Mark Lowell Breckner

Gen. George Wright Camp 22 (CA)
February 10, 2016

Jericho Alexander Mullen

Lincoln Camp 10 (CA)
February 10, 2016

Flinton P. Cordell

James A. Garfield Camp 1 in Maryland (Ches)
February 16, 2016

Lonnie L. Dover, PCC

John H. McNeil Camp 62 (MO)
February 16, 2016

Wilson C. Monk, Jr.

Lincoln-Cushing Washington DC Camp 2 (Ches)
February 16, 2016

Earl Edward Anderson

Lincoln-Cushing Washington DC Camp 2 (Ches)
February 16, 2016

William N. Wallace, PCC (Life Member)

L. A. Tift Camp 15 (MA)
March 2, 2016

Vern Alan Damgaard, CC

Col. William Kinsman Camp 23 (IA)
March 6, 2016

Bernard Wes Koentz (Life Member)

Gov Isaac Stevens Camp 1, (Columbia)
March 15, 2016

VOICES OF PATRIOTISM

**By: Jeff French, PDC
National Patriotic Instructor**

Since the conception of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR); the main mission of patriotism is to educate the public on correct history and Americanism. As we enter the coming year of the GAR sesquicentennial; we will learn the importance of patriotic service displayed by our ancestors who served so valiantly.

One of the GAR most important ways to educate was to be involved in schools to exemplify the meaning of patriotism. This was to set an example for the country and teach a comprehensive, constitutional, and Union-loving patriotism in the classrooms. The American Flag flying at all our schools are the result of George Balch's efforts and the support of the 1889 National Commander William Warner call for veterans to purchase flags with their own money for schools that could not afford one. The Commander echoed the words that the sight of the American Flag "will be a kindling of the fire of patriotism that will cause the dying embers of treason to go out in an eternal darkness. It will be adding an additional guaranty that our fallen heroes shall not have died in vain."

The GAR Patriotic Service Manual instilled patriotism by the following three ritual question and answers:

- 1. Why do we honor the flag? Answer: Because it stands for liberty, justice, and equal opportunities in life for all those who live under its folds.**
- 2. Who are the enemies of the flag? Answer: All persons who strike at our flag by force of arms or by breaking the laws that have been made to preserve our liberties.**
- 3. What are our duties as citizens? Answer: Always to defend the honor of the flag at the ballot box, always to remember that first of all we are American citizens whose duty it is to place the welfare of our country above selfish greed or personal ambition.**

In the coming year we will hear the GAR Voices of Patriotism during the sesquicentennial to inspire us all not only to talk about patriotism; but to inspire us to act.

“Nor shall
their story
be forgot.”



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