

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

Monument with Sculpture without Sculpture with Cannon standalone Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)
Cannons recorded separately

Affiliation

GAR MOLLUS SUVCW WRC ASUVCW
 LGAR DUVCW Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

At least the section of the monument (a plaque) to the first defenders and Nick Biddle was dedicated in 1951, but the monument was dedicated by the citizens of the county in 1897

Original Dedication Date 11-9-1897 new section 1951 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the first dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is currently located at:

Street/Road address or site location Garfield Square: West Market Street (Pennsylvania Route 209) & No 5th St
GPS Coordinates N40° 41.04 W 76° 11.934
City/Village &/or Township Pottsville
County Schuylkill State PA Zip Code 17901

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name Pottsville Borough Council
Dept./Div. _____
Street Address 401 N Centre St
City Pottsville State PA Zip Code 17901
Contact Person _____ Telephone (570) 622-1234 ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places Yes No ID # if known _____

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Other
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Quincy Granite from Barre, Vermont

Material of the Sculpture Stone Concrete Metal Other Is it hollow or solid? _____
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Bronze

For Historic Marker or Plaque:

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = _____ Bronze _____ Iron _____ Type of Cannon (if known) _____

Rifled _____ YES _____ NO

Markings: Muzzle _____ Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? _____ Yes _____ No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] _____ Yes _____ No

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial [Contractor Richard C. Collins; August Zellers was the architect and artistic designer; John Rehnert,](#)**Complete for All Memorials****Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points60' Height 18' Width 18' Depth or _____ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

See description on [page 5](#) and attached photos & blog created by Dr Norman Gasbarro.

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

Cemetery Park Plaza/Courtyard "Town Square" Post Office
 School Municipal Building State Capitol Courthouse College Campus
 Traffic Circle Library Other: _____

General Vicinity

Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city) Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

Industrial Commercial Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors) Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor _____

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment.

Addendums attached to this electronic file are the *Monument's Condition* and the *Narrative* forms. Only the *Monument's Condition* form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Thank you.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 18 July 2022
Your Name Walt Busch
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone () _____ E-Mail _____

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

[US Grant Camp 68 MO SUVCW](#)

Please send this completed form to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair
1240 Konert Valley Dr.



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR – CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE.









APPOMATTOX



THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN OF THE NATIONAL
CAPITAL
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN W. HARRIS
A PART OF THE 530 PENNSYLVANIANS
WHO FIRST ARRIVED FOR THE DEFENSE
THE NATIONAL CAPITAL, APRIL 13, 1861.







ELLER

ERECTED BY THE
TOWN MEMORIALS COM. 1914
SQUADRON 10TH REGT. INF.
WISCONSIN 1898-1902
1914

FORT SUMTER



FORT SUMTER





ZELLER SCULPT. 1830

EVERY MAN WHOSE DEEDS IN
COUNTY DURING THE WAR
HAVE TO THE HONOR AND
GLORY OF THE UNION



THE 7,000 SOLDIERS WHO KILLED
THEY DURING THE WAR OF SECESSION
WENT TO THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE
UNION 13,000 WITHOUT FEAR



KELLER SCULPT 89

... OF THE ...
... OF THE ...
... OF THE ...

NEW YORK STATE OF 1800 SOLDIERS
UNITED DURING THE WAR OF 1812
WENT TO THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE
UNION 13,000 VOLUNTEERS

EVANGELISTI

GETTYSBURG



GETTYSBURG



THE GREAT SEAL OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1850



Postcard from the 1930's or 40's

War Memorial Monuments. Pottsville, Pa.

68641

PV 4



IN MEMORY OF
THE
FIRST DEFENDERS
AND
NICHOLAS BIDDLE
OF POTTSVILLE

FIRST MAN TO SHED BLOOD
IN THE CIVIL WAR
APRIL 18, 1861

.....
ERECTED BY
THE CITIZENS OF
POTTSVILLE
APRIL 18, 1951



So-Called Dollars

**CIVIL WAR MONUMENT
1890
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PA**



Photos courtesy of Jonathan Brecher

Obv. Monument; outside, around, *This monument is the tribute of Schuylkill Co. to her brave sons who served in defence; below monument, Of the Union, 1861-1865*

Rev. Three rifles stacked, within circle of dots; outside, around, *The Soldiers Monument Park Association of Schuylkill Co * 1890 **

HK-617a White Metal. 40mm.

HK-617, 617b and 617c

HK-618 to HK-618a

The remaining pages are written in a blog by Norman Gasbarro (see below information)
They are presented for research purposes only. If printing them for personal gain, his
permission must be obtained.

Norman Gasbarro, Ph.D., is a genealogist, historical researcher and writer living in Philadelphia, PA. Norm taught history for over twenty-five years. He is a graduate of Muhlenberg College with a major in history and holds advanced degrees from Rowan University (NJ) and Columbia University (NY).

Civil War Blog



Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County - Design

Posted By [Norman Gasbarro](#) on September 10, 2011

Philadelphia Inquirer, 17 June 1891

§ A \$20,000 monument will be erected at Pottsville by the Schuylkill Monumental Association in commemoration of the soldiers of Schuylkill county.

This post is a continuation of the story of the Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County. From the **History of Pottsville and Schuylkill County** by Joseph H. Zerber:

Upon resolution... a committee... was named to consult with artists and report on a design for the monument and the material to be used for its construction. It was named the "Monumental Committee."

On 23 September 1887, Major Levi Huber, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a list of committees to work in various parts of the county to solicit funds to cover the expense of providing for the monument, a number of people subscribing for life memberships, receiving engraved certificates.

Decision was made at a meeting, held on 26 December 1887, to have Artist August Zellers submit the design and Richard C. Collins to erect the granite work. The figures for the monument, chosen were: An infantry soldier, in full dress uniform, at parade rest; A cavalryman and an artillery man with ramrod at rest, and a sailor in full uniform, also at rest, the whole to be surmounted by the figure of the Goddess of Liberty....

It was decided that the stone work of the monument be entirely of granite and the figures of bronze.



August Zellers

The monument was constructed by Contractor Richard C. Collins; August Zellers was the architect and artistic designer; John Rehnert, of Yorkville superintended the mountain foundation stone that was used.

August Zellers was a Bordentown, New Jersey, artist and sculptor. He was a student of the sculptor Rodin. The Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County is considered by many to be his best work.

News clippings are from the digital resources of the [**Free Library of Philadelphia**](#).
The story continues tomorrow.

Category: [Memorials](#), [Stories](#)

Tags: [Monument](#)

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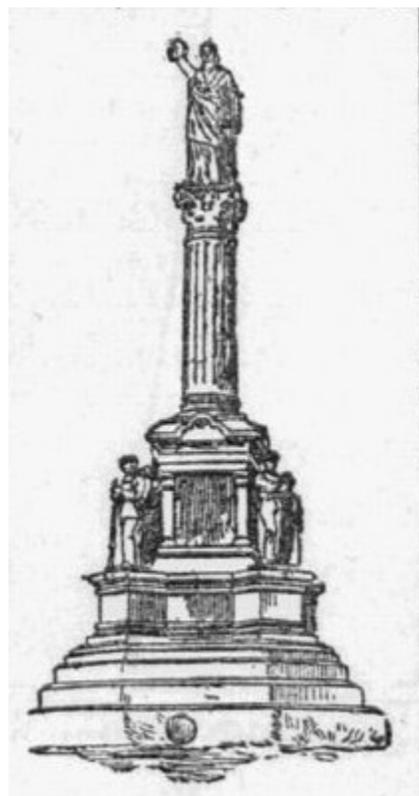
Civil War Blog

A project of PA Historian



Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County - Construction

Posted By Norman Gasbarro on September 11, 2011



The story of the Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County continues today. From Joseph H. Zerber's **History of Pottsville and Schuylkill County**:

The monumental pile begins about eight feet beneath the surface. The foundation is of heavy mountain stone laid in cement. Underneath is left an

aqueduct which will admit of sewer or water pipes that may be required at any time, so that its broad and deep foundation may not be disturbed on that account.

The monument, as the base, is 18 feet square of Quincy granite. It is finished, rock-faced, with margin drafts. All above is of Barre, Vermont, granite.

There are 33 pieces in the massive structure weighing over 100 tons. The different parts are known as first, second and third bases, plinth for the first die, plinth for the second die, and polished columns to rest on.

The cap on the second die base receives the fluted column which is surmounted by a Corinthian cap elaborately carved. This piece, alone, required six months to finish and the whole is surmounted by a size-an-a-half bronze statue of the Goddess of Liberty, with extended right hand bearing the votive laurel wreath of fame, facing the east.

The drawing of the monument is from the ***Philadelphia Inquirer***, 2 October 1891 and can be found in the on-line resources of the **[Free Library of Philadelphia](#)**.



Category: [Memorials](#), [Stories](#)

Civil War Blog

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Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County - Proposal

Posted By [Norman Gasbarro](#) on September 9, 2011



Soldiers' Monument Park Association

The largest and most impressive monument recognizing the achievements and valor of the men who served in the Civil War from the western parts of Schuylkill County (in the areas adjacent to Upper Dauphin County), is the Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County, located in the Borough of Pottsville. Although Pottsville is located just outside the triangular area of study for the **Civil War Research Project**, many men from Gratz and the surrounding communities in the Lykens Valley area and the area across

the Mahantongo Mountain in Northumberland County enlisted in Pottsville and joined the regiments that were organized there. When the monument was dedicated, many of these same men and their families joined their comrades from Schuylkill County in the festivities that were held there in 1897.

Over the next few days, the posts on this blog will focus on the proposal for the monument and its construction and dedication. The story will be told through the words of Schuylkill County historian Joseph H. Zerber and the newspapers of the time.

On 15 June 1887, a meeting of the soldiers and sailors, of Schuylkill County, was held in Pottsville when the imposing monument, which occupies the center of Garfield Square, was proposed to perpetuate and keep green the memory of their heroic deeds for all generations to come....

It was decided to apply to Court for a charter for the new organization and Capt. S. R. Russel, Capt. John A. Schweers and Capt. John T. Boyle were named a committee to make proper acknowledgment before the County Recorder, under the Act of Assembly of 1874, and its supplement. The term of the Association was made perpetual. A constitution and bylaws were framed....

It was on 18 July 1887, that the next meeting of the Association was held. The charter, granted by the Court, was presented and accepted. The constitution and by-laws were formally adopted. A committee of ways and means to finance the monument proposition, was named....

Though several sites were proposed for the monument, some favoring the grounds surrounding the court house and others a location in one of the local cemeteries, it was finally decided to place it in Garfield Square. Permission to do this was procured from the Borough Council by a committee.

Information for this post was taken from Joseph H. Zerber, **History of Pottsville and Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania**, pages 97-104.

Civil War Blog

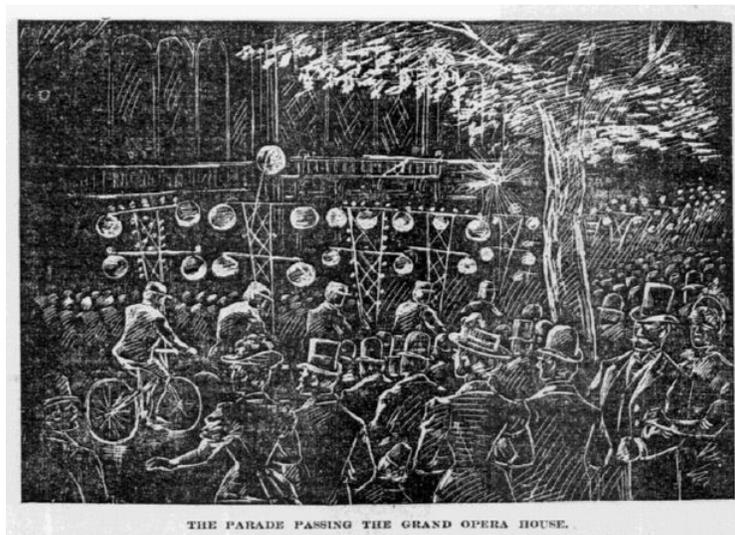
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[Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County - Parade](#)

Posted By [Norman Gasbarro](#) on September 13, 2011



This is a continuation of the history of the **Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County** as given by Joseph H. Zerbey in his **History of Pottsville and Schuylkill County Pennsylvania**.

Parade of Nine Divisions

Associated with the dedicatory ceremonies was a parade which moved, promptly, at noon, over the following route. Up Centre Street to Minersville Street, to Second, to Market, to 14th, to Mahantongo, to Centre, passing the reviewing stand, at Norwegian Street, where the Chief Marshal and distinguished visitors were stationed.

Gen. J. K. Sigfried was chief marshal, and Capt. D. C. Henning, chief-of-staff-

with aides: Maj. S. A. Losch, Capt. Frank Barnhart, Capt. W. Harry Boyd, Capt. Clay W. Evans, Capt. **Richard Budd**, Capt. P. D. Helms, Maj. James May, Hanson Atkins, Harry Halberstadt, William Madison, Marmaduke P. Fowler, William Buechley, Capt. William E. Jones, William Yeungling, George C. Clausen, Maj. Frank Day, George W. Kennedy, Richard E. Bergeman, Col. Thomas H. Rickert and Bugler Morgey.

First Division - Gen. J. P. S. Gobin, head of the Third Brigade of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, marshal, with aides, Maj. William H. Egle, brigade surgeon; Maj. H. P. Moyer, quartermaster; Maj. W. A. Coolbaugh, commissary; Capt. Seidel, commissary sergeant; Myer Strouse. The Eighth Infantry was represented by ten companies, the Schuylkill County commands being B, of Tamaqua, Capt. G. Warrington; E, of Mahanoy City, Capt. Andrew Comrey; F, of Girardville, Capt. E. C. Wagner; H, of Pottsville, Capt. George A. Harris; K, of St. Clair, Capt. W. H. Holmes; Third Brigade Band.

Among the regimental staff officers were: Lt. Col. T. F. Hoffman, of Shamokin, father of H. C. Hofman of the "republican"; Maj. Wallace Guss, of Tamaqua; Surgeon Dr. James S. Carpenter, of Pottsville; Quartermaster, W. T. Richardson, of Mahanoy City; Commissary Sergeant L. V. RAusch of Mahanoy City; Hospital Steward, F. R. Pershing, of Schuylkill Haven.

In the Fourth Infantry were eight companies, among whom were: E, of Hamburg, Capt. Charles F. Seaman; F, of Pottsville, Capt. E. D. Smith; G, of Pine Grove, Capt. J. W. Umbenhauer. The Pottsville Cadets, Capt. James S. Carpenter, 3rd, also marched with this regiment. Among the Fourth Infantry staff officers represented were: Maj. John P. Earnest, of Pine Grove; Surgeon, Maj. J. H. Potteiger, of Hamburg; Asst. Surgeon, Lt. G. H. Halberstadt, of Pottsville.

Col. O. C. Bosbyshell, a First Defender, was marshal of the second division which comprised all of the First Defender Commands, including Pottsville's National Light Infantry and the Washington Artilleriss.

John W. Conrad was marshal of the Third Division heading the Tremont and Pottsville Commanderies of the Knights of the Golden Eagle.

The Sixth Division, comprising Schuylkill County Tribes of Red Men, was marshalled by John R. Saylor.

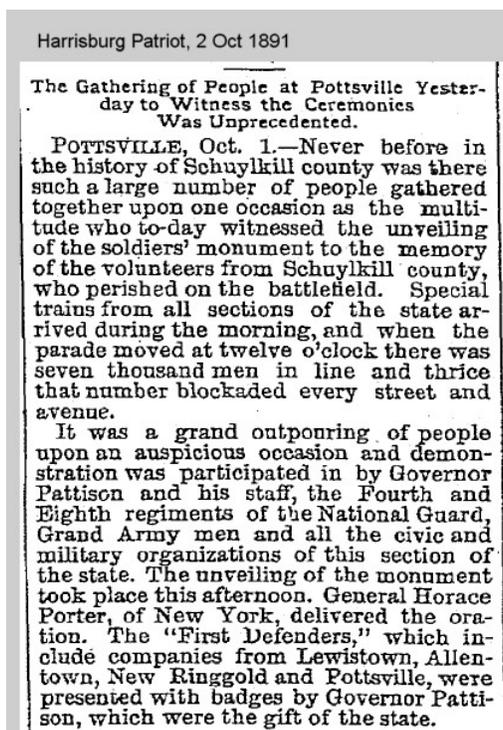
H. H. Seltzer was marshal of the Seventy Division, in which were the P.O.S.A. camps of the county, S. H. Zimmerman and G. H. Eckenrode rode officiating as aides. The county Sons of Veterans and members of the Bovine Association brought up the rear of the patriotic contingent.

John F. Bushar was marshal of the Eighth Division. His aides were: Walter Reinhart, Joseph Davis, John Alles, William Pyle, Larry Rosenberger, Joseph Hartzell, and Matthew Fox. The fire companies, of Pottsville and the county, were assigned to this division.

The Ninth Division, the last of the big parade, comprised G.A.R. Posts. It was marshalled by George L. Brown.

*Some of the guests, in carriages in the parade, were: Gov. Robert E. Pattison and staff; Gen. M. McGregg, of Reading; Col. Benson, of Philadelphia; Gen. Rusling, of New Jersey; Maj. James Ellis, of the **48th Pennsylvania Infantry**; Maj. Grant Weidman, of the 173rd [**173rd Pennsylvania Infantry**]; Gen. Horace Porter, Col. Henry Royer, Capt. John A. Schweers, Hon. Levi Maisch, Hon. C. L. Pershing, Hon. O. P. Bechtel, George G. Boyer, G.A.R. Department Commander; Thomas J. Stewart, Adjutant; Gen. Cowan, Capt. Caldwell, Hon. J. H. McClintock, Mifflin County; Capt. J. M. Cooper, Michael Fritz, 95 years old, of Friedensburg, veteran of the War of 1812; James C. Niece; 16 First Defenders in carriages; Judge D. B. Green, Col. Jacob G. Frick, A. W. Schalck, Dr. D. W. Bland, Hon. J. B. Reilly and S. B. Briscoe.*

From the **Harrisburg Patriot**, 2 October 1891:



The Gathering of People at Pottsville Yesterday to Witness the Ceremonies was Unprecedented

POTTSVILLE, Oct. 1 - Never before in the history of Schuylkill county was there such a large number of people gathered together upon one occasion as the multitude who to-day witnessed the unveiling of the soldiers' monument to the memory of the volunteers from Schuylkill county, who perished on the battlefield. Special trains from all sections of the state arrived during the morning, and when the parade moved at twelve o'clock there was seven thousand men in line and thrice that number blockaded every street and avenue.

It was a grand outpouring of people upon an auspicious occasion and demonstration was participated in by Governor Pattison and his staff, the Fourth and Eighth regiments of the National Guard, Grand Army men and all the civic and military organizations of this section of the state. The unveiling of the monument took place in the afternoon. General Horace Porter, of New York, delivered the oration. The "First Defenders," which include companies from Lewistown, Allentown, New Ringgold and Pottsville, were presented with badges by Governor Pattison, which were the gift of the state.

Parade cut from ***Philadelphia Inquirer***, 2 October 1891 and on-line resources of the **Free Library of Philadelphia**. Article from Harrisburg Patriot, 2 October 1891 also from the on-line resource of the **Free Library of Philadelphia**.

Civil War Blog

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Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County - Unveiling & Dedication

Posted By Norman Gasbarro on September 14, 2011

This is a continuation of the history of the **Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County** as originally given in the newspapers of the time and later by Joseph H. Zerbey in the **History of Pottsville and Schuylkill County Pennsylvania**.

In order to give Gen. Horace Porter, a brilliant commander of the Civil War, opportunity to attend the ceremonial and deliver the oration, unveiling... was fixed for not later than October 1....

Immediately after the parade, the unveiling ceremonies were conducted at the site of the monument. The program opened with a prayer, after a selection by the Third Brigade. The Rev. Dr. Jacob Belville, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, made a fervent invocation. Then the veil was pulled aside, disclosing the imposing pile of granite, the cords being placed in the hands of four wounded veterans of the Civil War, viz. William McElreath, William Burns, George Rose, and Caleb Kinzl. Then Hon. James B. Reilly proposed three cheers, which were given with a will.

After the Ringgold Band, of Reading, played an appropriate selection, the orator of the day, Gen. Horace Porter, made a ringing speech of patriotic eloquence, in which he referred to the great service which Schuylkill County soldiery had given the Union cause during the War of the Rebellion; the signal part the citizenship played in that long internecine strife, not only associated with furnishing men, but in looking after their families and relatives who were left at home. He especially praised the stupendous task entailed, involving finances, time and labor, in successfully procuring and placing the monument.



The Third Brigade Band rendered a medley of war melodies, and then Gov. Robert E. Pattison, Pennsylvania, formally presented medals to the First Defenders present, on behalf of the Commonwealth, in recognition of their timely service at Washington, D.C., their prompt arrival in saving the nation's valuable archives from pillage by the Rebel hordes assembled on the other side of the Potomac, waiting to being northern invasion.



Gen. David McMurtie Gregg
(1833-1916)

Gen. David McM. Gregg, soldier hero of the famous "Peninsular Campaign" of the Civil War, made an able and pertinent response on behalf of the Firsts Defenders. The Ringgold Band played again, and the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. William A. Duffy, rector of St. Rattrick's Catholic Church. Accompanied by the Third Brigade Band, the program was brought to a close with community singing of the national anthem, "America." Later the Ringgold Band serenaded Father Duffy at the parochial residence.

From the **Harrisburg Patriot**, 6 October 1891:

Harrisburg Patriot, 6 Oct 1891

WILLIAMSTOWN, Oct. 5.—A large number of people from this town attended the unveiling of the soldiers' monument at Pottsville on the 1st, some of them remaining there till Saturday.

WILLIAMSTOWN, Oct 5 - A large number of people from this town attended the unveiling of the soldiers' monument at Pottsville on the 1st, some of them remaining there until Saturday.



On 18 June 1892, through Congressman James B. Reilly, two 12 pound howitzers with field carriages were loaned from the United States League Island Navy Yard, Philadelphia, to the Monument Park Association. These pointed one to the east and the other to the west. The cannon were placed in the park on 30 November 1893.

Drawings of the medals were published in the ***Philadelphia Inquirer***, 2 October 1891, and were found in the on-line resources of the **Free Library of Philadelphia**.

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Civil War Blog

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Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County - Inscriptions

Posted By Norman Gasbarro on September 12, 2011

Today's post continues the history of the **Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County** as told by Joseph H. Zerber in his **History of Pottsville and Schuylkill County**.

On the four polished sides of the second die are inscribed: "Fort Sumter," "Emancipation," "Gettysburg," "Appomattox," in raised letters.



Fort Sumter



Emancipation



Gettysburg



Appomattox

On the four corners of the third base are life-size bronze statues of the four armies of the service at parade rest. The infantry is represented on the southeast corner; the navy on the northeast; artillery on the southwest; and the cavalry on the northwest.



Infantry



Navy

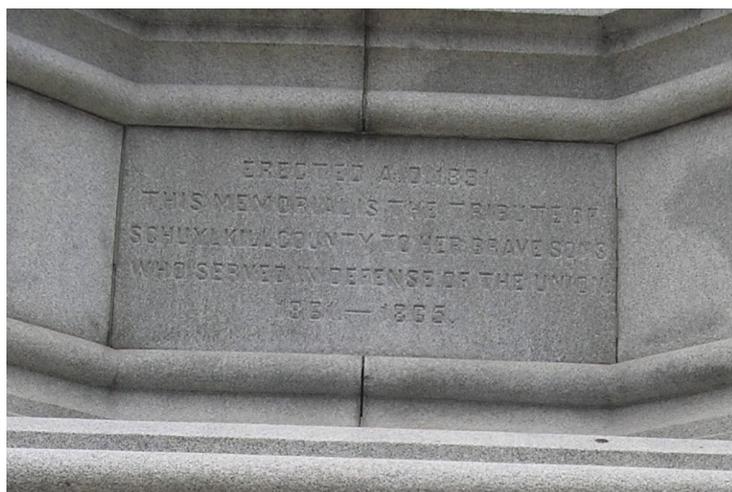


Artillery



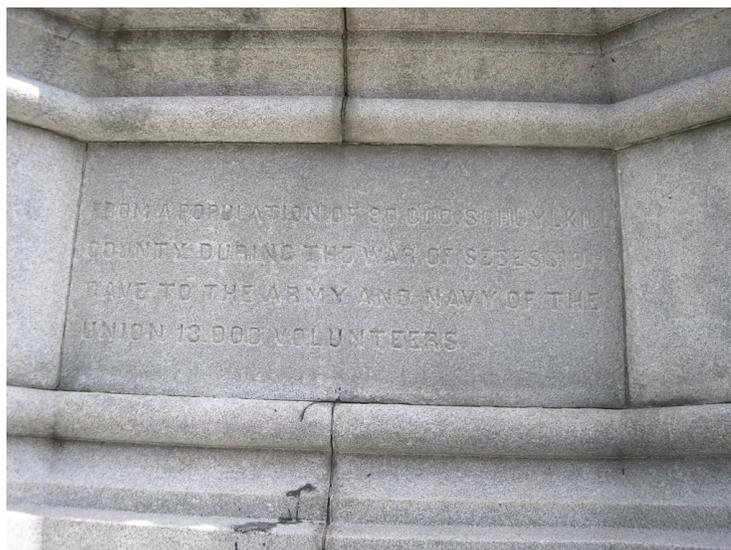
Cavalry

The inscriptions on the monument are: East side: "Erected A.D. 1891. This memorial is the tribute of Schuylkill County to her brave sons who served in defense of the Union, 1861-1865";



East Side

North side: "from a population of 90,00, Schuylkill County, during the War of Secession, gave the army and navy of the Union 13,000 volunteers";



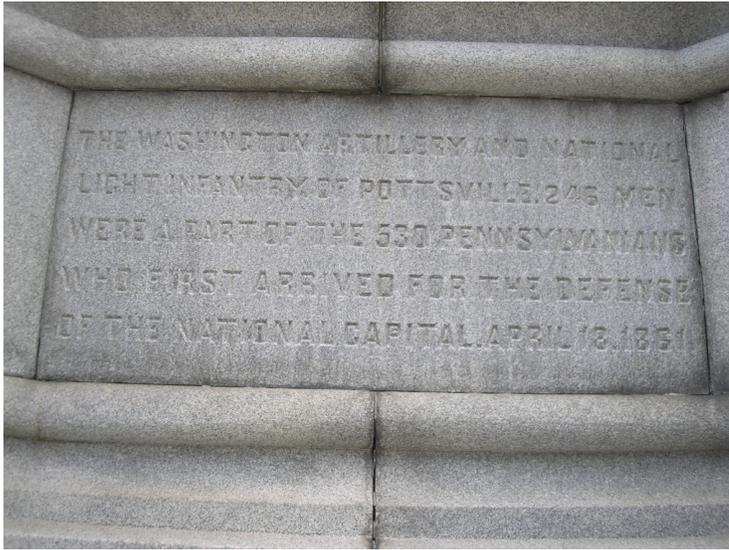
North Side

West side: "Love, Honor, Renown and lasting remembrance for those who fought for freedom and in imperiled country. May posterity profit by their example. Dulce et decorum est pro patri mori";



West Side

South side: "The Washington Artillery and National Light Artillery, of Pottsville, 246 men, were a part of the 530 Pennsylvanians who first arrived for the defense of the national capital, April 18, 1861."



South Side

Category: [Memorials](#), [Stories](#)

Tags: [Monument](#)

Civil War Blog

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Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County - Transfer to the Borough of Pottsville

Posted By Norman Gasbarro on September 15, 2011



This post is a continuation of the history of the **Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County** as reported in newspapers of the time and later by Joseph H. Zerbey in his **History of Pottsville and Schuylkill County Pennsylvania**.

Thronged to capacity was Academy of Music, on Tuesday night 9 November 1897, when the property of the Monument Park Association was formally turned over to the keeping of the Pottsville Borough Council. This was done at a mass meeting which tested the capacity of the building.

Prof. Frederick Gerhard's full orchestra was present and discoursed selections while people were assembling, just prior to the opening of the

program, and, also during the ceremonies.

Following a few tense moments of silence, during which the orchestra impressively rendered the "reveille", President Snyder, as head of the Borough Council, called upon the Rev. Dr. A. R. Bartholomew, father of Mrs. U. H. Nuss, pastor of Trinity Reformed Church, who made the invocation which was replete with patriotic fervor.

Then Col. Henry Royer, president of the Pottsville Monument Association, was introduced who, in a ringing speech, formally turned over the title to the monument property, in Garfield Square, to President Snyder, as the representative head of the Borough of Pottsville.

In his eloquent and patriotic address, Col. Royer referred to the precipitation of the Civil War by the firing on Fort Sumter and its capitulation on 13 April 1861; Pres. Abraham Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers, on 15 April; and the response of the First Defenders; represented by five companies, two of which, the National Light Infantry, and the Washington Artillerists, were from Pottsville. He called attention to the fact that the Battalion of Pennsylvania Militia, the first troops to reach the national capital, in its defense, arrived there on 18 April. It was Co. Royer's proud statement that, within a week, 20 more companies, from the great Commonwealth, had responded. He said that Pennsylvania could have furnished 70,000 of the 75,000 men, asked of the entire nation by the President, had the emergency demanded it.

In speaking about the part in which Schuylkill County paid in furnishing men to put down the Army of the rebellion, the orator stated that, of the 530 men, who constituted the Battalion of the First Defenders, Pottsville furnished nearly half.

Showing the rare patriotism, evidenced by the people of this county, Col. Royer went on to say that, after sending two full regiments, there was organized a third regiment for service covering a three-year period. A fourth followed until 13,000 men had been furnished. They gave service, in the Regular Army and Navy, scattered among 102 regiments, organized from every state in Union, from Maine to California.

Col. Royer was greeted, at the finish of his address, by prolonged applause that shook the house. Then Capt. D. C. Henning, solicitor of the municipal body, in a dignified manner, formally accepted the monument and park on behalf of the Borough of Pottsville, promising its perpetual care.

The exercises ended with the Benediction, pronounced by the Rev. Dr. John Huse Eastman, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The orchestra closed the program with the "Trumpet Call" and "Taps."



Epilogue:

In 1951, an additional plaque was added to the Soldiers' Monument, to honor African American, **Nicholas Biddle:**



The First Defenders and Nicholas Biddle of Pottsville. First man to shed blood in the Civil War, 18 April 1861. Erected by the Citizens of Pottsville, 18 April 1951.

The following information is from the
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission:

Pottsville, Schuylkill County, resident Nicholas Biddle (circa 1796-1876) was immortalized by a carte de visite for being “the first man wounded in the Great American Rebellion, Baltimore, April 18, 1861.” This type of “visiting card”-mounted with a small photographic portrait-was popular from the 1860s through the 1880s. The rare carte de visite was acquired in 2008 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for the collections of The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. Museum curators believe

this card was produced upon a suggestion by Pottsville newspaper publisher Benjamin Bannan (1807-1875), who proposed that copies be sold during Biddle's appearance at the Great Central Fair in Philadelphia in 1864. The fair raised money to purchase necessities and medical supplies for Union soldiers. [The State Museum of Pennsylvania].

Harrisburg Patriot, 28 Sep 1891

A Swindle in Bricks.

POTTSVILLE, Sept. 27.—Schuylkill county dupes have actually been buying bricks with the promise that their names shall be carved thereon and shown in the face of the First Defenders' monument, to be unveiled at Pottsville on Thursday. Yet the monument, already completed, has no brick exterior.

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City to Repair Sword on Military Monument

*BY STEPHEN J. PYTAK (STAFF WRITER spytak@republicanherald.com)
Published: May 5, 2010*

*The City of Pottsville's Garfield Square Committee will spend \$3,200 to
replace a sword on the square's Soldiers and Sailors Monument.*

*"It will be done this summer, but I don't have an exact date," City
Administrator Thomas A. Palamar said last week.*

*A.R.T. Research Enterprises Inc., Lancaster, will be doing the work, Palamar
said.*

[Complete story...](#)

This completes the history of the Soldiers' Monument of Schuylkill County. Any readers who would like to contribute anecdotes or other information about the monument are welcome to do so!

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