



THE BANNER

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*All the best for a blessed
and joyous holiday season*



THE BANNER

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ON THE COVER: SVR Brig. General David V. Medert takes a turn on the dance floor with Carol Walters of Mifflintown, PA., during the annual Blue and Grey Ball at the Eisenhower Inn in Gettysburg this past November. Proceeds from the annual event benefits monument restoration at Gettysburg National Military Park.

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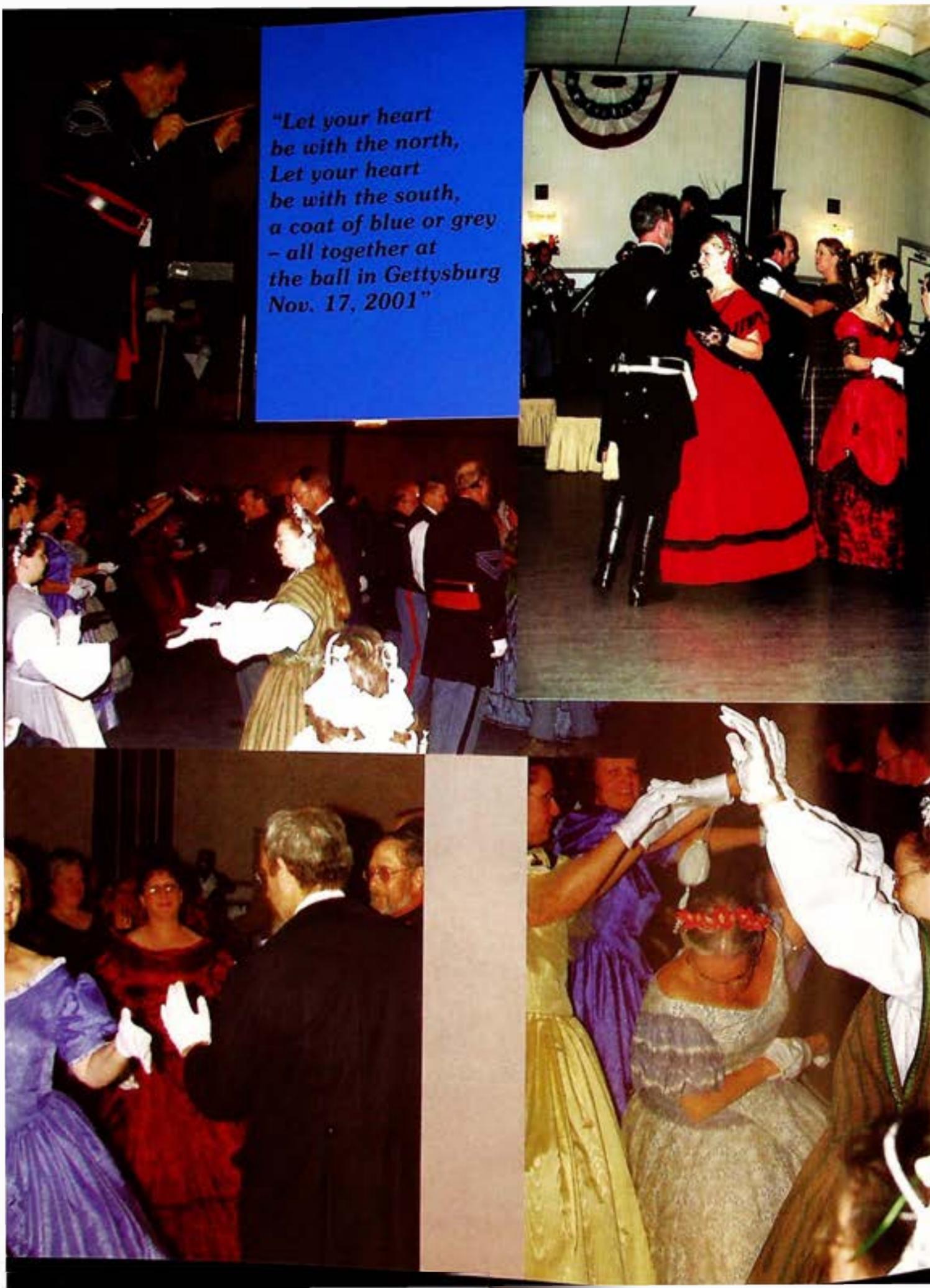
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*"Let your heart
be with the north,
Let your heart
be with the south,
a coat of blue or grey
- all together at
the ball in Gettysburg
Nov. 17, 2001"*

GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER: A Revisionist View

By Douglass R. Knight
Commander, William Tabor Camp 162
Dept. of Mass.

25 June 2001, mark the 125th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn – a battle in which George Armstrong Custer--hero or villain, depending upon one's knowledge of history--was killed-in-action with over 200 men of his 7th Cavalry Regiment, while fighting-thousands of hostile Indians in Montana.

Since the age of 10, when for Christmas 1968 he received a copy of Custer's Last Stand, by Quentin Reynolds (New York, NY: Random House/Landmark Books, 1951), the writer has been fascinated by George Armstrong Custer; and, since that time, he has devoured almost every book--both the good and the bad--he could find on the subject. To this day, the writer still finds the mere mention of the name, "George Armstrong Custer," to be utterly exhilarating.

But what of this Custer fellow? Ever since the publication of Frederic F. Van de Water's poorly-researched and openly-biased biography, Glory Hunter: A Life of General Custer (Indianapolis, Ind.: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1934, most accounts of the life of Custer--whether in print or on film--have been similarly biased, and have unfairly and erroneously portrayed him in a negative light.

One of the first things that unenlightened people will say against George Armstrong Custer is that he graduated 34th out of 34 in his West Point Class of June 1861. The fact of the matter is that out of an original class of 68 cadets, only 34 graduated; and, many of the non-graduating cadets (who were below Custer) were southerners who dropped-out in order to join the Confederate army. More importantly, the fact of the matter is that Custer did graduate from one of the world's most prestigious military academies-- something which he would not have done if it had not been merited.

Custer is frequently criticized and condemned for leading suicidal cavalry charges--in both the Civil War and in the Indian Wars thereafter--for no other reason than to propel himself to greater fame and glory as well as higher rank. The fact of the matter is that CUSTER LED BY PERSONAL EXAMPLE; and, where he led, his men followed: THAT is the hallmark of a true leader of men. Furthermore, Custer was not the only "Boy General" who served in the Union Army during the Civil War, nor was he the youngest general to have served in that conflict. Rather, he was one of a number of recent West Point

graduates-- young men who had proven themselves on the staffs of general officers, and who had also proven themselves on the field of battle--and who were rewarded with ranks commensurate to their merit.

In Monroe Michigan



The Statue is entitled "Sighting the Enemy". It depicts General Custer at Gettysburg on July 3rd, 1863. On that date Custer led the famed Michigan Brigade to victory over J.E.B. Stuart, despite Stuart's numerical superiority.

final day of that great battle.

Leading first his Michigan Cavalry Brigade and then the 3rd Cavalry Division (in which the 1st N.H. Cavalry Regiment formed a part), Custer was instrumental in assisting Union General Phil Sheridan in clearing Confederate troops out of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in 1864--and, thereby, putting an end to Confederate invasions of, and raids into, Maryland and Pennsylvania. That certainly justified his elevation from brigade to divisional command, and promotion from brigadier to major general. More than anyone else, Custer--at the head of his 3rd Cavalry Division--was instrumental in cutting-off the retreat of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, and forcing its surrender at Appomattox in 1865--and, thereby, bringing an end to four years of Civil War.

After the Civil War, during the re-organization of the U.S. Army, Custer became a lieutenant colonel and de

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of a great American hero

facto commander of the new 7th Cavalry Regiment (Col. Samuel Sturgis was the regimental commander, but he was on detached duty in St. Louis, MO). During his 10 years of service with the 7th Cavalry, one of the most important things that Custer had learned from experience by fighting hostile Indians was that if he divided his command and attacked from several different directions at once, the hostile Indians could not run, regroup, and counterattack--but, rather, they would be forced to stand and fight. . . in which case they were always either defeated or forced to surrender, and return to their reservations. It was precisely this tactic that Custer employed at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876; and it was precisely this tactic that Custer has been so severely criticized and condemned for using at the Battle of the Little Big Horn--a tactic which allegedly led to his destruction; but, it was also this same tactic that had always worked for Custer in the past, and which he quite rightly had every reason to believe would work for him again at the Little Big Horn.

The tragedy of Custer is not merely his death and that of over 200 of his men at the Battle of the Little Big Horn; the tragedy is that Custer has been so savagely slandered and maligned--and that so few people (his most severe critics) have taken the time to read little or anything about this truly great man above and beyond the abominable, anti-historical works of Frederic Van de Water and other such like writers.

Van de Water's chief criticisms of Custer, and the supposed reasons for his defeat and complete destruction at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, were as follows:

- that Custer refused a battalion of cavalry from another regiment to reinforce his own regiment, arrogantly believing that he and the 7th Cavalry could defeat all the hostile Indians on the Plains all by themselves;
- that Custer refused a battery of Gatling (i.e., machine) Guns to reinforce his own regiment for the same reason;
- that Custer quite foolishly and recklessly divided his regiment in the face of vastly superior numbers of hostile Indians; and,
- that Custer did not wait until the prescribed day (June 26th) to attack, but instead attacked a day early in a selfish attempt to reap all the glory for himself--and, in so doing, to catapult himself into the Presidency of the United States.

The true facts of the matter are as follows:

a. the cavalry battalion that was offered to Custer to reinforce the 7th Cavalry Regiment was commanded by an officer (Maj. James Brisbin) who was notorious for being so openly hostile to Custer that he (Brisbin) refused to take orders from him (Custer); consequently, Custer was most certainly justified in declining the services of such an officer (reason being that the success or failure of a mission depends upon TEAMWORK-- and this Maj. Brisbin was definitely not a team-player, but, he could be counted upon to jeopardize the success of Custer's mission);

b. the Gatling Gun Battery that was offered to Custer to reinforce the 7th Cavalry Regiment at first glance sounds like it would have made an excellent addition--but, in actuality, that battery was drawn by CONDEMNED cavalry horses; such horses would most surely have broken down on the march to the Little Big Horn, thereby ensuring that the Gatling Guns would have had to have been either abandoned or man-handled over miles of rough terrain; since the essence of cavalry is rapid movement to and thru an objective, and since the 7th Cavalry would have been deprived of rapid movement by taking the Gatling Guns along, Custer was fully justified in declining such an encumbrance;

c. that Custer divided his forces to attack the hostile Indians from several directions at once, he did so because that tactic had always worked before in forcing the hostile Indians to stand and fight, and he quite rightly had every reason to believe and expect that tactic would work again; that Custer did so in the face of overwhelmingly superior numbers, he--and the entire U.S. Army--was operating on the FALSE REPORT that only 500-800 warriors had left their reservations to go on the warpath (corrupt, Federally-appointed Indian Agents under-reported the actual numbers of Indians who left their reservations--so that they [the Indian Agents] could collect the food that the U.S. Government had allotted to feed the Indians. . . and then sell that food on the Black Market, pocketing the profits); based upon the faulty intelligence that the U.S. Army received, Custer was absolutely right in believing that the 7th Cavalry Regiment could be divided, yet still defeat any force of hostile Indians it came up against; and,

d. that Custer moved to attack the hostile Indians on 25 June rather than on 26 June was due both to the discretionary orders that he had received from his superiors (and which allowed him to exercise his own judgement), and-- more importantly--because of the changing tactical situation in the field: Custer's own Indian scouts had reported that hostile Indians had the 7th Cavalry under observation; with the element of surprise thus lost, it was

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Not everyone was allowed to serve

Dy Duane R. Gettings

Gen. James B. McPhearson Camp 66

Ohio

Sometime in the early Autumn of 1864, the "official" letter arrived at the small impoverished farmhouse of Philip Sain in Fairfield County, Ohio.

It was addressed to the eldest son of the family, Ezra, who had been entrusted with the care of the family farm while he, Philip, went off to serve his country in the Ohio Infantry.

Opening the letter, Ezra was amazed, elated, and delighted. The letter stated: "By order of George R. Roby, Provost Marshal of the Twelfth Ohio District at Circleville, you will appear in Circleville, September 24, 1864 for induction into the Federal Army, or be deemed a deserter, and subject to the penalty prescribed therefore by the rules and articles of war."

It was not out of fear of the penalty that led Ezra to appear before the examiners, and enlist if possible, for he wanted to get into the United States service in the worst way "to see the country, if nothing else."

His friends and neighbors laughed at his paying any attention to the papers, urging that there must have been some mistake. Indeed, there was, for his name had been incorrectly copied from the poll books. The Federal Government had just issued a draft notice to the smallest man ever drafted into military service.

Ezra Sein had been born on Thanksgiving Day, 1834, the first of a set of twins. His sister Mary matched him in height, and the Sein twins were known throughout the area (in an era when P.T. Barnum was "hawking" Gen. Tom Thumb,) as the Circleville dwarfs. Nonetheless, Ezra Sain, mustered all the massive strength of his 76 pound, 3 foot six inch tall body, and proceeded to make plans to travel the fifty-two miles to Circleville, Ohio.

Thus, at the age of 30, Ezra embarked on the arduous trip to Circleville, knowing that there were two options: that of traveling by canal boat to Lancaster, Ohio, and then riding by train to Circleville. The second option, and the one selected due to his inability to pay for the required tickets was to ride his 11 month old pony the fifty-two miles to his point of "swearing into the army." On the way, Ezra set numerous traps along the banks of streams and creeks to harvest muskrats for fur.

Upon arrival at Circleville, he navigated the long flight of stairs up to the induction office for his physical, no small task considering that he had been on crutches since the age of three.

Opening the recruiters office door, he announced that he had arrived: "to get my blue suit and bacon with the rest of the boys." Unfortunately, the men in the front of the offices burst out in laughter. This only hardened Ezra's resolve. He demanded to see a physician and receive a physical, which was begrudgingly rendered. One big

strapping lad next to him, about to be examined in the office asked Ezra if he would be interested in going in his place as a substitute. More laughter. After a half hour the examining physician told Ezra that he was disqualified for service due to "disabilities."

Now, he had to make the long trip home riding his pony, and collecting his pelts along the way. He later stated: "I had quite an experience fording one of the streams that had become swollen, but I finally got home and on the way picked up a lot of pelts and skins that netted me fifteen dollars."

Upon the conclusion of the war, Ezra and his sister Mary moved north to Toledo, Ohio. He and his sister became familiar and loved figures in East Toledo. For many years Ezra drove his goat cart around the town, holding the only permit ever issued by the City of Toledo to drive a Goat Cart on city sidewalks.

He earned his living for the next 44 years operating a newsstand at the old Pennsylvania railroad station on Main Street. Here he sold papers, candy, as well as school supplies.

Neither Ezra nor his sister Mary ever married, and the couple lived together in a tiny house built to scale, and erected by the nearby Methodist Church. A small barn to house his goat was attached to the house. As Lincoln said: "The better angel of our nature is often displayed towards those most deserving."

Ezra died in 1908, at the age of 74, and up until his last years was engaged in labor to earn a living, that occupation being traveling about the streets of East Toledo with his goat cart and buckets of white paint, whitewashing trees.

His twin sister Mary, died at the age of 81.

They were ever together in life, and now rest side by side in Willow Cemetery, Oregon, Ohio.

SUVCW donates to 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund

The SUVCW Council of Administration voted to donate a total of five thousand dollars to help the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. A donation of \$2500 was made to the New York City Police and Fire Fighters Relief Fund and \$2500 was donated to the Salvation Army to help with relief efforts. This follows a tradition started when the SUVCW made a donation to the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Leo F. Kennedy, senior vice commander of the Department of Rhode Island, and a firefighter, spent 15 days in New York City assisting with disaster relief. The SUVCW wishes to recognize this effort on behalf of Brother Kennedy.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Series 2001 - 2002

George L. Powell, Commander-in-Chief

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General Orders No. 2

1. A request has been received from Clark McCullough, Commander, Department of New Jersey to revoke the charter of the Vredenburg Camp #6.
2. Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution Article VI, Formation and Disbandment, Section 2. "The Commander-in-Chief upon recommendation of the Department Commander shall have the power to revoke the charter of any camp which does not conform to the Constitution and Regulations of the Order," the charter of Vredenburg Camp #6, Department of New Jersey, is hereby revoked effective immediately.
3. All past and present camp officers of above said camp are to turn over to the Department of New Jersey any and all properties of said camp including but not limited to the camp charter and all funds, bank accounts and holdings belonging to aforementioned camp.
4. All Brothers of the aforementioned camp are to be notified of this revocation and transfer forms are to be sent with the notice.

General Orders No. 3

1. A request has been received from Clark McCullough, Commander, Department of New Jersey to revoke the charter of the Edward Fowler Camp #14.
2. Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution Article VI, Formation and Disbandment, Section 2. "The Commander-in-Chief upon recommendation of the Department Commander shall have the power to revoke the charter of any camp which does not conform to the Constitution and Regulations of the Order," the charter of Edward Fowler Camp #14, Department of New Jersey, is hereby revoked effective immediately.
3. All past and present camp officers of above said camp are to turn over to the Department of New Jersey any and all properties of said camp including but not limited to the camp charter and all funds, bank accounts and holdings belonging to aforementioned camp.
4. All Brothers of the aforementioned camp are to be notified of this revocation and transfer forms are to be sent with the notice.

General Orders No. 4

On behalf of the National Organization of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War I want to offer the condolences of our membership to the victims and to the families of the victims involved and to express the outrage of all the members of our Order to the attack today on the

World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. At this time we must come together as an Order and a Nation. I hereby urge all Brothers to:

1. Fly the flag of our Country as a sign of solidarity with the innocent victims.
 2. Attend the church of their choice and offer their own prayers for those involved in this terrible tragedy.
 3. Those Brothers who are able to please donate blood.
- I hereby order that all Camp and Department Charters be draped and all members are to drape their membership badge for the next 30 days in memory of the victims and their families.

General Orders No. 5

1. On behalf of the National Order may each and every Brother and Sister in all of the Allied Orders and their families have a happy and safe Holiday Season. May the year 2002 be prosperous, productive and fraternal throughout the Organization.
2. The 45th Annual Remembrance Day activities were held at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on 17 November 2001. The parade returned to its old format with all Union troops marching together followed by all of the Confederate troops. The Combined Service at the High Water Mark was followed by the annual SVR ceremony at the Woolson Memorial and both ceremonies were well attended. A special thank you and congratulations are extended to the Remembrance Day Committee for another job well done. Thank you to the Gettysburg merchants for once again covering the cost of the parade permit.
3. The G.A.R. Memorial Scholarship Applications can be obtained by computer from our web site (<http://suvchw.org>). Completed forms are to be sent to this office. All applications received will be forwarded to the Scholarship Committee. Please keep in mind that we award two \$1000 scholarships each year.
4. Brother Don Denison has resigned his position as National Camp and Department Organizer. I want to thank him for his service to our Order.
5. I am pleased to announce the appointment of PDC Gary Gibson as the new National Camp and Department Organizer. Brother Gary has served our Order in many capacities in the past, including as a member of the Council of Administration.
6. Departments desiring the attendance of the Commandery-in-Chief at their encampment or a special event are encouraged to submit invitations as soon

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SUVCW donates \$5,000 to Gettysburg Monument Restoration

Dr. John A. Latschar, Superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park, at podium, accepts a check in the amount of \$5,000 on behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The donation was from the proceeds of the Remembrance Day Civil War Ball held in November of 2000. The funds from the Civil War Ball held at the Eisenhower Inn this year will be donated to the Gettysburg National Military Park at Remembrance Day next year.

Dr. Latschar, in remarks at a ceremony near the High Water Mark, welcomed the Sons to the military park for the annual Remembrance Day celebration and praised the work they do in helping to preserve America's premier military park. He noted that the funds donated last year were used to restore several Con-



federate tablets and that the donation this year will be used to help restore the monuments in the Park dedicated to 111th New York Regiment and the 1st Pennsylvania Cavalry.

Making the presentation on behalf of the Sons is Elmer "Bud" Atkinson. Following the presentation, both Union and Confederate troops lined the wall to shake hands and lay wreaths.

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as possible. Conflicting dates do occur and invitations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

7. We have a new National Executive Director. He is Brother Lee Walters. P.O. Box 1865, Harrisburg, PA 17105, (717) 766-6341 LEESUVPCC@msn.com.

Brother Walters will be setting up the office at the National Headquarters located in the new National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. As Brother Walters gets the National Headquarters up and running all correspondence and reports are to continue to be directed to the National Secretary, PCinC Ed Krieser. All January quarterly reports are to be sent to the National Secretary.

8. All Camp and Department Secretaries are reminded that a full and complete roster is required to be submitted with the January reports. This roster is to include the current Name, Address, Phone Number and Email address for each brother and are to be submitted as a typed or computer generated report. Hand written reports that are illegible will be deemed as a non submission. Any camp or Department that fails to submit the required roster will be submitting an incomplete report and will NOT be in good standing. This means that your delegations will NOT be seated at your Department Encampment or the National Encampment until the rosters have been received.

9. Last year the National Organization in an attempt to provide a Remembrance Day event for the brothers who are unable to attend the November event in Gettysburg commissioned the SVR to create an event in the central part of the country. The Seventh Military District Commander Major Frank Harned and his committee designated the burial of the unknown soldier in Chattanooga as this event. Brother Harned is working on this years event which will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2002. Details will be forth coming. Please put this date on your calendars and plan to attend.

10. Brothers are reminded to support the National Patriotic Instructor's Fund, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief's Fund, the National Headquarters Fund and the Permanent Fund. As the events of September 11 are burned into our National psyche let us keep the memory of these victims and the heroes who are today fighting the cowards responsible for the attacks fresh in our hearts and prayers.

11. Deepest sympathies are extended to all Brothers and Sisters who lost a loved one, are ill or are suffering in any manner.

By Order of:
George L. Powell
Commander-in-Chief

Attest:
Edward Krieser, PCinC
National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Special Council of Administration Meeting November 16, 2001 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

This special meeting was for the purpose of meeting with prospective Executive Director Lee F. Walters of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. The Council of Administration (CoA) was called to order by Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) George L. Powell at 8:00 P.M.

Voting members of the CoA present were C-in-C Powell, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief (SVC-in-C) Robert Grim, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief (JVC-in-C) Kent Armstrong, National Secretary Edward J. Krieser, National Treasurer Max L. Newman, National Quartermaster Elmer F. Atkinson, CoA members Donald Darby, Ron Gill and Robert Petrovic.

Non-voting CoA members present were PC-in-C's Andrew M. Johnson, Richard D. Orr, Charles W. Corfman, Richard C. Schlenker, David R. Medert, and National Counselor James B. Pahl.

C-in-C George Powell introduced Brother Lee F. Walters who then gave information about himself to the group. Questions and answers ensued as well as reviewing the proposed contract.

It was voted unanimously by the Council of Administration to offer the contract to Brother Walters. He was asked to review the contract himself and return to this same place on Sunday, November 18, 2001 to render his decision whether to accept the contract agreement.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Edward J. Krieser, PC-in-C
National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Council of Administration Meeting November 18, 2001 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

The meeting of the Council of Administration (CoA) was called to order by Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) George L. Powell. Past Commander-in-Chief (PC-in-C) Richard Schlenker gave opening prayer.

Brother Lee Walters being present was asked by Commander-in-Chief George Powell if he was still willing to be Executive Director for the Order after reviewing the contract. Brother Walters agreed.

Voting members of the CoA present were C-in-C Powell, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief (SVC-in-C) Robert

Grim, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief (JVC-in-C) Kent Armstrong, National Secretary; Edward J. Krieser, National Treasurer Max L. Newman, National Quartermaster Elmer F. Atkinson, CoA members Donald Darby, Ron Gill and Robert Petrovic. Non-voting CoA members present were PC-in-C's Andrew M. Johnson, Richard D. Orr, Charles W. Corfman, Richard C. Schlenker, David R. Medert, and National Counselor James B. Pahl.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 12 August 2001 were approved with one typographical error corrected in paragraph 5.

Treasurer's report was given. There was some discussion on investment. Moved by National Quartermaster Elmer F. Atkinson to accept, second by JVC-in-C Kent Armstrong. It was then voted unanimously to accept.

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Iowa's charging to preserve its battleflags

In 1998, while working on the restoration of the Soldiers and Sailors monument at the state capital of Des Moines, then Dept Commander Brad McGowan noticed the sad shape of the state's collection of battleflags and asked for volunteers to see what could be done to save them from neglect. Brothers Steve Sprague and C.R. Stephen took up the challenge and ran with it. Inviting other interested groups such as the State Historical Society, Veterans groups and other concerned citizens, they formed the Iowa Battleflags Preservation Committee. Three years later after numerous press conferences, public awareness campaigns, newspaper articles, television presentations and meetings with legislators and two governors, the project is well under-way.

After an initial feasibility study involving Fonda Thompson, a leading flag conservation expert, the Governor's Advisory Board issued a report on the state of the flags and their recommendations on how to proceed. Through lobbying efforts of the Iowa Battleflags Preservation Committee, nearly a half a million dollars in public and private funding has been secured.

Two staff positions have been added to the Iowa State Historical Society. Sheila Hanke, formerly of the Putnam Museum of Davenport, now serves as curator of the flags. She is responsible for the stabilization and preliminary treatment of each flag as it is prepared for the preservation process. She also records the physical evidence discovered with each flag.

Mr. David Holmgren is the Battleflag Research Specialist. David is researching the history of each flag for future publication and for scholarly research. He has been collecting stories of the battleflags from published resources and historical anecdotes. He is also compiling a complete list of color bearers from the original Iowa Unit Rosters.

In the fall of 2000, flags stored at the Centennial Building of the Historical Society in Iowa City were

carefully packed and transferred to the Society Museum in Des Moines. In January of 2001, Fonda Thomsen trained several members of the museum staff and two volunteers, Brothers Jeff and Dave Stephen of the SUVCW in safe handling and treatment practices. Special environment-controlled cases for flat storage of the flags were purchased.

As time permits, cloth from earlier restoration efforts is painstakingly removed to reveal only the original flag material from the period the flag was actually used. The flags are then micro-vacuumed and samples from that procedure are saved for future analysis in identifying which flags were actually carried in battle due to powder residue and pollen or mold spores that became trapped in the cloth and fringe of the flag.

It should be stressed that only the flags on the Historical Society are currently being treated and stabilized. None of the flags in the Capital Rotunda cases have been moved. These will involve delicate work of unfurling the flags, removal from their staffs and flattening. Starting in January of 2002, the flags of one of four cases in the Capital Rotunda will be securely moved to the Historical Society and stabilized as outlined above.

While progress is being made on stabilizing these flags, that is only the first step in the preservation effort. Currently only three flags have been selected to undergo the preservation process provided by Fonda Thomsen of Textile Preservation Associates in Keedysville MD. The first one selected is the 19th Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment National Colors, which saw action at Prairie Grove, Arkansas. The other two are the 31st Iowa Volunteer Infantry and the 7th Iowa Volunteer Cavalry Regiment.

While much has been done and much is planned for the preservation of these priceless relics, we cannot rest on our laurels. With the economy tightening, state budgets are being constrained. We cannot allow this worthy project to be under funded nor shall we rest until all of the

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Central Region Conference highlights

Brothers and Sisters of the SUVCW and ASUVCW from the Departments of: Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin gathered in Glenview, Illinois on October 13th for this year's conference and annual business meeting of the Central Region Association.

The day began with a tour of the Civil War exhibits at the Chicago Historical Society followed by a visit to Chicago's Rosehill Cemetery, where respects were paid to the many Union veterans who rest there. Conference attendees were impressed and proud to witness the progress being made by Brothers of the Department of Illinois in the effort to replace worn & damaged military headstones in the large "Civil War section" at Rosehill.

(Although the new military-stones are furnished free by the Veterans Administration, local stipulations require that the stones be installed by certain personnel who charge for their services. Some financial aide is available but the balance of approximately \$50 per stone has had to be raised by our Brothers in Illinois.)

The group traveled on to a luncheon at one of Metro-Chicago's famous Hackney's restaurants. Afterwards, attendees took an active part in a program conducted by Bro. Steve Michaels, PDC of Wisconsin, who chairs the conference's Steering and Training Committee. This year's topic dealt with ways to attract & motivate volunteers plus ideas toward working better together to maintain the memory of the G.A.R. and all others who honorably served the Union.

During the course of the CRC business meeting, a unique design was adopted for a "Past Regional Commander Badge" (as authorized by the SUVCW's Constitution &



"The Rock of Chickamauga" 2001 Central Region Conference attendees gather in Chicago's Rosehill Cemetery, at the G.A.R. Memorial dedicated by the George H. Thomas Post No. 5, Department of Illinois, Grand Army of the Republic. The monument, consisting of two cannon flanking the unique granite stone, was erected in 1894 when the Post's membership numbered 1,272. Proper care and upkeep of the memorial is monitored by our Illinois Brothers.

Regulations). The design chosen has 5 sides - a characteristic that Jack Grothe (CRC Secretary-Treasurer) of Missouri, observed to be fitting and respectful toward the five Allied Orders of the G.A.R.

Annual contributions from the supporting Departments of the Central Region Association and registration fees from conference attendees allow an annual donation of approximately \$100 toward a worthwhile "local project" that honors the memory of Union soldiers & sailors. Unanimous support was given to a motion made by Past Central Region Association Commander Danielle Michaels for this year's donation to go toward the costs incurred to install new grave-stones for Civil War veterans at Rosehill Cemetery.

Outgoing Region Commander Kent Armstrong expressed his

thanks to all attendees for their contribution to this year's conference. He also presented formal Certificates of Appreciation to Brothers Steve Michaels and Kent Peterson of Wisconsin (for their contributions and promotion of the conference) and to Illinois Brothers Dan Hans (Department Commander) and Nick Kaup, PDC for their logistical planning and hosting of the conference.

The incoming elected officers are: Commander Russell Kirchner, Indiana; Senior Vice Commander Tom Crawford, Indiana; Junior Vice Commander Margaret Grothe, Missouri; Secretary-Treasurer Jack Grothe, Missouri.

The Department of Missouri, SUVCW will be hosting the 2002 Central Region Conference (date & other details to follow).

Remembrances Of Remembrance Day 2001





SPECIAL ORDER 2001-7
16 November 2001

1. Effective 17 November 2001, the Sixth Military District Sons of Veterans Reserve is reactivated.
2. Pursuant to SVR SOP Article I Section 1 (f) the Sixth Military District shall be composed of the following geographical area: Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

GENERAL ORDER 2001-19
16 November 2001

1. Effective 17 November 2001, First Sergeant Charles Reed, Commander of Company G, 1st California Volunteer Infantry, SVR, is commissioned a Captain, SVR, and appointed Commander of the Sixth Military District.
2. This commission and appointment will expire on 28 July 2003 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

GENERAL ORDER 2001-20
16 November 2001

1. Effective 17 November 2001, Colonel Robert J. Bateman, Deputy Commander, Sons of Veterans Reserve, at his request, is relieved of command and transferred to the SVR Inactive Reserve.

GENERAL ORDER 2001-21
16 November 2001

1. Effective 17 November 2001, Colonel Robert E. Grim, Adjutant General, Sons of Veterans Reserve, is relieved of duty as Adjutant General and appointed Deputy Commander Sons of Veterans Reserve.
2. This appointment and commission will expire on 28 July 2003 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

GENERAL ORDER 22
16 November 2001

1. Effective 17 November 2001, Major Henry E. Shaw, Jr., Judge Advocate General, Sons of Veterans Reserve, is appointed Adjutant General Sons of Veterans Reserve. He will serve as both Judge Advocate General and Adjutant General.
2. Effective 17 November 2001, Major Henry E. Shaw, Jr., is commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Sons of Veterans Reserve.
3. This appointment and commission will expire on 28 July 2003 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

David V. Medert
Brigadier General, SVR
Commanding

Attest:
Robert E. Grim
Colonel, SVR
Adjutant General

Capt. Baker receives book award

The efforts of Captain H. Scott Baker, SVR National Public Relations Officer, to help preserve our Civil War heritage by transcribing burial records has resulted in the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) awarding him its prestigious Simon Kenton book award.

Captain Baker was recognized in April by the OGS at its state convention. Several individuals were recognized by the OGS for making outstanding contributions in the field of Ohio genealogy. The Simon Kenton award is given to the best book of transcriptions of Ohio records. Captain Baker's winning book is *Civil War Soldiers Buried in Wyandot County, Ohio*.

Captain Baker is a past President of the Ohio Society of the War of 1812, and the Hancock Chapter Sons of the American Revolution. This is his third book. According to one of the judges, Baker's book is "Very well done and user friendly, a valuable addition to any military history of the State of Ohio."



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New SVR Deputy Commander

Col. Bateman retires, succeeded by Col. Grim

During the annual Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) Remembrance Day breakfast held at the Eisenhower Inn at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Brigadier General David V. Medert announced the retirement of Colonel Robert J. Bateman as Deputy Commander of the SVR and the appointment of Colonel Robert E. Grim.

Brig. Gen. Medert praised Colonel Bateman for his long and devoted service to the SVR at the unit and district level as well as the national level and presented him with the SVR Distinguished Service Medal. Colonel Bateman served as Commander of the SVR 2nd Military District before his appointment as Deputy Commander.

Colonel Grim was also awarded the SVR Distinguished Service Medal for his exceptionally distinguished service and sustained outstanding performance of duty. Colonel Grim served as Commander of the SVR 3rd Military District before his appointment as Adjutant General three years ago.

Brig. General Medert presented the SVR Meritorious Service Medal to Major Jack G. Grothe, Commander of the SVR 4th Military District; Captain Stephen A. Michaels Chief of Staff of the SVR 4th Military District and Captain Timothy H. Downey, Commander of Company A, Frankfurt Bnl., First Regiment, Capital Guards, in the Third Military District.



From left: Retiring Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) Deputy Commander, Colonel Robert J. Bateman; SVR Commander, Brigadier General David V. Medert; and SVR Adjutant General, Colonel Robert E. Grim, who is the new Deputy Commander of the SVR.

**Lt. Col. Henry E. Shaw, Jr.
new SVR Adjutant General**

Among the SVR General Staff changes announced by Brig. General David V. Medert on Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was the appointment of Major Henry E. Shaw, Jr. to the post of Adjutant General, to replace Colonel Robert E. Grim who was moved to the post of SVR Deputy Commander. Also, Major Shaw was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In addition to his new duties as Adjutant General, Lt. Colonel Shaw, a member of Battery I, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, will continue to serve on the General Staff as Judge Advocate General, a post he has held for the past two years.

Lt. Col. Shaw, a common pleas court judge in Delaware County, Ohio, was born in Latrobe, PA and earned a bachelor of arts degree from St. Vincent's College in Latrobe before receiving a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Ohio Northern University College of Law, Ada, Ohio.

In 1965 he was admitted to practice law before the Superior Court as well as the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He practiced law in Greensburg, Pennsylvania from 1965 to 1967. In 1967 he was admitted to the

(Please turn to Page 15)



Highest ranking union officer killed in action

By H. Scott Baker II

Gen. James B. McPherson Camp 66
Department of Ohio

Maj. General James B. McPherson was born in the town of Clyde, Sandusky County, Ohio on November 14, 1828; the eldest of four children.

He secured an appointment to West Point and graduated first in his class in 1853. Among the fifty two classmates of his were some who would later become high ranking officers in the Civil War: Sheridan, Scholfield, Hood, Sill and Tyler.

After leaving the US Military Academy, McPherson was engaged as an engineer at New York Harbor and later was in charge of fortifications in the harbor at San Francisco.

With the start of the Civil War he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel November 21, 1861; Colonel May 1, 1862 and Brigadier General of Volunteers May 15, 1862. After transferring to the staff of Ulysses S. Grant, he was Chief Engineer at Fort Henry, Fort Donnellson, Shiloh and at the sieges of Corinth and Iuka. In 1863 he was given command of the 17th Army Corps, where at the siege of Vicksburg his Corps had the center.

After Grant left to assume command of the Army of the Potomac, Sherman replaced Grant and McPherson replaced Sherman as head of the Army of Tennessee.

While on the left flank at the Battle of Atlanta, McPherson came upon a skirmish line of Confederates on July 22, 1864 and was mortally wounded. He is the highest ranking officer in the Union Army to be killed in battle. His body was moved to Clyde where it was buried in the McPherson Cemetery.

On July 22, 1881 a statue of General McPherson was unveiled at the cemetery as a monument to the distinguished soldier. An oration was given by his good friend General Sherman before a concourse of 15,000.

Comments about James B. McPherson:

"We looked upon him as one among the ablest men sent forth from the institution, being remarkable for the clearness and prompt working of his mental powers. His conduct was of an exceptional character. These endowments he carried with him in the performance of his duties as an engineer officer, winning the confidence of his superiors as a most reliable man. His brilliant after career in the

field surprised no one who had known him intimately."

West Point Professor Mahan

"General McPherson fell booted and spurred as the gallant and heroic gentleman should wish; not his loss alone but the country's, and the army will mourn his death and cherish his memory as that of one who, through comparatively young, had risen by his merit and ability to the command of one the best armies which the Nation had called into existence to vindicate her honor."

General William Tecumseh Sherman

"A nation grieves at the loss of one so dear to our nation's cause. It is a selfish grief, because the Nation had more to expect from him than from almost anyone living. I join in this grief, and to add the grief of personal love for the departed.

He formed, for some time, one of my military family. I knew him well; to know him was to love. It may be some consolation to you, his aged grandmother, to know that every officer and every soldier who served under your grandson felt the highest reverence for his patriotism, his zeal, his great, almost unequaled ability, his amiability and all the manly virtues that can adorn a commander.

Your bereavement is great, but cannot exceed mine."

General Ulysses Simpson Grant

NH Granite State Camp No. 5 chartered

Former Commander-in-Chief Edward J. Krieser was on hand July 21, 2001 to present the Charter for Granite State Camp No. 5 which meets in Rochester, New Hampshire. Accepting the Charter were Camp Commander Don Meehan and Senior Vice Commander Jim Feindel. Other camp officers are: Junior Vice Commander Jim Blake, Secretary-Treasurer Lance Robicheau and Chaplain Hal Hoffner.

Rochester's original Sons of Veterans Canney Camp No. 29 was organized in the 1880s and worked with Rochester's Grand Army of the Republic Sampson Post No. 22. By 1928 both Rochester organizations had folded and Rochester's last Civil War veteran died in 1937.

Granite Camp No. 5 hopes to pick up where the previous organizations left off in promoting the Civil War veterans.

Battleflags

(Continued from Page 8)

battleflags have been saved. But the good news brothers is that it can be done!

What are the conditions of the battleflags in your state? What has or has not been done to preserve them?

Tell the story of these flags whenever you can. People need to understand the sacrifice and historical importance they represent.

Look for opportunities for speakers and presentations. If you find the audience, others can help tell their story.

Consider a contribution to your state's battleflag preservation fund.

Visit your state's battleflag collections and speak to their curators about what they would like to do and how you can help.

– Jeff Stephen

Steve Sprague

John Q Wilds Camp #235

Department of Iowa

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Reed to command 6th District



The National Military Affairs Committee has approved the reactivation of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) 6th Military District. Brigadier General David V. Medert Commanding Officer of the SVR, has placed Captain Charles Corky Reed in command, effective November 17, 2001, to coincide with his appointment as district commander, Reed was commissioned a captain in the SVR.

The SVR 6th Military District is composed of the following geographical area: Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

Reed, holding the rank of 1st Sergeant, has been serving as commander of SVR Company G, 1st California Volunteer Infantry

New England Regional Association Meeting

The New England Regional Association (The Departments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island) held their annual meeting at the New Hampshire Veteran's Association Hall at Weirs Beach in Laconia, New Hampshire on July 21, 2001.

SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Edward J. Krieser attended the meeting. It was noted that this was the first time a Commander-in-Chief has attended a meeting of the Association since it was started in 1935. The following officers were elected and installed for the year 2001-2002:

Commander Richard L. Woodbury (NH); Vice Commander William T. Ryerson, Sr. (MA); Secretary Edward W. Parks (MA); Treasurer Joseph A. Plante (RI); and Publicity Director Douglass R. Knight (NH).

Lt. Col. Shaw new SVR Adjutant General

(Continued from page 13)

practice of law before the Ohio Supreme Court and worked in the Ohio Attorney general's Division of Criminal Activity. Between 1968 and 1976 he was in general practice in Delaware, Ohio. he served as assistant prosecuting attorney of Delaware County, Ohio. from 1968 to 1970 and was Prosecuting Attorney of Delaware County from 1970-76.

Since 1976 he has served as a Common Pleas Judge in Delaware County, Ohio.

He married Sharon K. Trout in 1964 and they have one daughter, Jennifer who is an assistant city attorney in Columbus, Ohio. Her husband Mark Gams is a partner in a Columbus law firm.

In addition to his SVR activities Judge Shaw is serving as Commander of the Sgt. Richard Enderlin Camp No. 73 Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Notice to Camps:

Send articles and photographs of interest for publication in The Banner to:

Editor Robert E. Grim,
5367 St., Rt. 72 South, Sabina, OH 45169
e-mail: robertgrim@dragonbbs.com

Sons mark 120th year with World War II Memorial Aid

Pictured left to right: David La Forest, Commander of Michigan VFW Post #5666 & SVC of Camp #145; Ron Amend, VFW Past State Commander (MI); Kent Armstrong, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief; Max Newman, National Treasurer & Commander of Camp #145. The BANNER in the center of the photo states, "Welcome G.A.R. / V.F.W. and Allied Groups." The VFW was formed 101 years ago and often held state level Encampments with the Grand Army of the Republic. This Welcome-Banner symbolizes a special bond between our organization (legal heir of the G.A.R.) and the VFW.



The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War marks its 120th Anniversary on November 12th this year and throughout a proud history, our fraternal and patriotic Order has worked with other organizations to honor America's veterans of all wars. Thus, approval was given at this year's National Encampment for a \$5,000 donation to the World War II Memorial planned for construction in Washington, DC.

As the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has a Memorial Funding Program established to add 50 cents to every dollar that is donated to the WWII Memorial through their organization, newly elected National Treasurer Max Newman was authorized to make arrangements for the SUVCW's donation to be channeled through a VFW Post near his home. A unique circumstance exists in the fact that the Commander of VFW Post No. 5666 in Flushing, Michigan (David La Forest) is also the Senior Vice Commander of the SUVCW's Governor Henry Crapo (pronounced Cray'-po) Camp #145 in Flint, MI.

Thus, Brother Newman (who is also Commander of Camp #145) invited officers and members of the VFW, SUVCW, DUVCW, the Flint area Civil War Roundtable and the public to witness VFW Past

State Commander Ron Amend accept the contribution from our national organization at Post 5666.

Additional donations were also accepted at this function. A check in the amount of \$500 from Camp #145 was presented by their Secretary, David F. Wallace (who has served as a National Secretary for the SUVCW and is a Michigan Past Department Commander). The nearby local chapter of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War also helped the effort. President Carol Hilliker presented a \$50 check from the membership of the Juliet E. Stevens Tent 14. Thus, with the VFW's added contribution, the WWII Memorial will be receiving \$8,325.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong presented the National Organization donation to the World War II Memorial Fund on behalf of Commander-in-Chief George L. Powell. Armstrong's father served in the 5th Army Air Corp during World War II.

Our brothers in the Department of Pennsylvania also deserve mention and our thanks for their direct contribution of \$1,000 to the World War II Memorial Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
Kent Armstrong, JVCinC

In Oregon, Ohio GAR Monument at Willow Cemetery

Civil War monument restoration is one of the important challenges facing the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Jeff Eversman is spearheading an effort by members of the Gen. James B. McPherson Camp No. 66 to Restore The Glory of the GAR monument in Willow Cemetery in Oregon, Ohio.

The Toledo Blade's May, 1882 issue reported the wonderful news of the dedication of the Ford Post Civil War
(Please turn to 0page 18)

Council Meeting Minutes of Nov. 18

(Continued from Page 7)

Regular Order of Business was put on hold while we listened to Brother John Hart, printer of the BANNER talk about the publication.

Back to regular order of business. Reports of Officers and committees were reviewed. It was reported that George Hicks of the National Civil War Museum requested Officer to submit another proposal for office furniture to C-in-C Powell. C-in-C Powell subsequently ordered the furniture.

C.of A. Member Don Darby moved to transfer \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) from the Reserve Fund to the Headquarters Fund for future expenses. Second by PC-in-C Atkinson. Passed unanimously.

Moved by PC-in-C Atkinson to purchase two 4 drawer vertical file cabinets for the National Headquarters. Second by JVC-in-C Armstrong. Passed unanimously.

Proposed Awards Policy as submitted by PC-in-C Richard Orr was reviewed and modifications made. Brother Darby moved to limit the Founders' Award to non-members of the Order and non-members of any of the Allied Orders, numerous seconds and accepted unanimously.

PC-in-C Atkinson moved, second by Ron Gill to award the Founders' Award to Mr. Gene Platt of California.

C-in-C Powell suggested one of the first two Saturday's in March for the next Council of Administration meeting. Council members are asked to look at their schedules and pick one of the two dates in the electronic boardroom.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted in
Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Edward J. Krieser, PC-in-C
National Secretary

The capture of Savannah . . . A Christmas Gift for Mr. Lincoln

On Christmas Eve 1864, the following message was received by President Abraham Lincoln from General William T. Sherman:

"I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with 150 guns, plenty of ammunition and also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

The rejoicing of the people of the North was profound. The feeling toward Sherman and his army one of deep gratitude. President Lincoln responded as follows:

Executive Mansion,
Washington, D.C.
December 26, 1864

MY DEAR GENERAL SHERMAN:

Many, many thanks for your Christmas gift - the capture of Savannah. When you were about to leave Atlanta for the Atlantic coast, I was anxious, if not fearful; but, feeling that you were the better judge, and now remembering that nothing risked, nothing gained. I did not interfere. Now, the undertaking being a success, the honor is all yours, for I believe none of us went further than to acquiesce. And, taking the work of General Thomas into consideration, as it should be taken, it is indeed a great success.

Not only does it afford the obvious and immediate advantages, but in showing to the world that your army could be divided, putting the stronger part to an important new service, and yet leaving enough to vanquish the old opposing forces of the whole - Hood's army - it brings those who sat in the darkness to see great light.

Please make my grateful acknowledgments to your whole army, officers and men.

Yours very truly,
A. Lincoln

SUVCW names Lee Franklin Walters executive director; will operate from Harrisburg national headquarters

Brother Lee Franklin Walters has been selected by the SUVCW Council of Administration for the position of Executive Director. In his new role as Executive Director Brother Walters will operate on a part time basis from the SUVCW National Headquarters located at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA.



He will perform many of the duties associated with a national chief of staff and take over some of the duties of the national secretary relating to membership and quarterly reports. His specific duties are outlined in a written contract negotiated with the Council of Administration.

Lee was born in Chambersburg, PA and developed an interest in the Civil War as a child as a result of constant exposure to the many Civil War historical sites in and around the area. His ancestor, Edgar Albert Walters served in Co. E (later C) of the 195th PVI.

The majority of Lee's work experience has been in the areas of military packaging and facilities engineering and the operation of his own maintenance/remodeling business. He is currently employed at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, PA.

Lee and his wife Charlotte reside in York County, PA, and have 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. They currently share their home with a German Shepherd and an Akita mix.

He is Patriotic Instructor for the Dept. of Pennsylvania for the year 2001-2002. He served as Commander of Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp No. 15 in Harrisburg, PA in 1999 and is currently Treasurer of the Camp. He is a member of Gettysburg Camp No. 112, First Sergeant of the Gettysburg Blues SVR unit and a member of Battery B 3rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Light Artillery, Boalsburg, PA. He is a member of Lowther Manor Lodge #781 F&AM and since 1978 has been active in Harrisburg Consistory, Zembo Shrine and Tall Cedars of Lebanon.

He looks forward to serving the SUVCW and working with all his dedicated Brothers to help the Order grow and prosper.

GAR Monument in Willow Cemetery

(Continued from Page 17)

Memorial monument at Willow Cemetery. Thousands of veterans and local dignitaries crowded into the cemetery to witness the unveiling of the new monument capped by a statue of a white zinc Civil War infantry soldier.

As years passed, the Ford Post dissolved with the passing of all its veteran members. Their veteran memorial continued on, but the statue eroded away and was eventually removed from atop the monument.

The Restore The Glory Committee was formed in May, 2000 for the purpose of reerecting the Civil War soldier atop the monument.

With the help of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park and their Vermont granite artist, the Committee is in the process of commissioning a replacement sculpture of the Civil War soldier removed over a half century ago. The replacement soldier will be sculpted from gray granite, and stand 5' 6" in height. The total cost of the project is \$32,000.

In an effort to raise the necessary funds a public tour of Willow Cemetery was organized in September, 2000. It drew over 500 visitors. A second tour was held this past

September, again attracting a large crowd. The guided tours take visitors to the grave sites of some of the more prominent Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery, of which there are 176. According to a recent article in the Toledo Blade, "On these Willow Walk days, Chad Albert, a descendant of a Civil War soldier, climbs onto the 12-foot granite marker in his Civil War uniform and strikes a pose similar to the original metallic inhabitant. He stands still for hours in spite of heat, bees, and bugs. When the new granite soldier is carved, it will have his face."

A confederate ceremony was added to the Willow Walk this year to honor Confederate veteran John E. Moser who served as a private in Wise's Legion of the Virginia Artillery during the Civil War. It attracted several dignitaries from the Ohio United Daughters of the Confederacy, the West Virginia United Daughters of the Confederacy the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Brother Jeff Eversman, who is also president of the East Toledo Historical Society, said, "If we forget our past, what kind of future can we look forward to?"

Custer

(Continued from page 3)

imperative that Custer attack immediately--so that he could force them to stand and fight, and compel them to return to their reservations. Custer's actions were based solely upon sound military considerations; that he had any political aspirations is preposterous.

Consequently, Custer divided his regiment into three battalions, commanded by himself, Maj. Marcus Reno, and Capt. Frederick Benteen--and the 7th Cavalry moved to attack the hostile Indian village simultaneously from three directions. As soon as Maj. Reno saw the extent of the Indian village and saw hundreds of warriors riding out to intercept him, Reno (a Civil War veteran with no experience fighting Indians)--instead of pressing the attack as he had been ordered to--abruptly aborted his attack, dismounted his men, and assumed a defensive position thereby surrendering the initiative to the hostile Indians.

When Custer's battalion encountered the Indian village and he saw the full extent of it (it was the largest Indian village in the history of North America), Custer immediately ordered Capt. Benteen and his battalion to his support. In the meantime, Maj. Reno's battalion was being assailed by hordes of hostile Indians--but they were holding their own, and with a minimum of casualties. Inexplicably, though, Maj. Reno appears to have panicked, and then to have ordered a retreat (a retreat in which not all his men got the word to pull-out). Reno's retreat quickly became a rout, because he lost control of his men when he lost control of himself; in this frantic retreat, Reno lost one-third of his men, killed by the hostile Indians as if they were on a "buffalo-hunt."

Coming upon Maj. Reno and the survivors of his battalion in their new defensive position on a hilltop, Capt. Benteen chose to ignore Custer's orders rather than march to his support as he had been ordered to (a centuries-old military maxim held that one should MARCH TO THE SOUND OF THE GUNS; both Reno and Benteen could hear the sounds of heavy gunfire coming from the direction in which Custer and his battalion had marched), but Benteen decided to fall-in with Maj. Reno and the survivors of his battalion. While Benteen and Reno sat in comparative safety on their hilltop with 70% of the regiment busy digging defensive positions--and in disobedience to orders--all of the hostile Indians (depending on one's source, there were anywhere from 2,000 to 10,000 [but probably 6,000] hostile Indians) were free to concentrate all their forces against Custer and his 200-man battalion.

In probably less time than it took to read this account, thousands of hostile Indians surrounded, overwhelmed, and annihilated Custer and his 200-man battalion with both

numbers and firepower. For while they had been living peaceably on their reservations, the Indians had all been supplied with brand new Winchester repeating rifles--supplied by the U.S. Government (ostensibly for hunting purposes); paid for by the U.S. Taxpayer; and, used against the U.S. Army. In fact, the average hostile Indian was armed with one Winchester repeating rifle, two six-shot repeating pistols, and 275 rounds of ammunition--while Custer's men were armed with one single-shot carbine (which, when fired repeatedly, was prone to over-heating; and, when over-heated, was prone to jamming), one six-shot pistol, and 124 rounds of ammunition. Clearly, the 7th Cavalry was out-gunned by the hostile Indians--who were armed and equipped by a Federal bureaucracy that supplied the Indians with better weapons and more ammunition than its own army. That the Indians were armed with spears and bows & arrows is a myth that has been perpetuated by Hollywood.

Custer and all of his 200-man battalion were killed at the Battle of the Little Big Horn; those men who were wounded and unable to fight were tortured and killed along with all the rest; the dead were all butchered--and not always before they were dead. Such were the horrors of Indian warfare. Meanwhile, Maj. Reno and Capt. Benteen hunkered down on their hilltop with 70 percent of the regiment, leaving Custer to his fate, and awaiting the arrival of the relief column that was expected the next day.

Although Custer and his 200+ men had been killed in the Battle of the Little Big Horn on 25 June 1876, the news did not reach the East Coast until 04 July 1876--while the country was in the midst of celebrating its Centennial. The entire nation was plunged into mourning over the loss of a national hero--General George Armstrong Custer--and over 200 of his men; none had greater cause for mourning than the Custer family, for they lost FIVE members that day: 36 year old George Armstrong Custer, 31 year old Thomas Ward Custer, 27 year old Boston Custer, 30 year old James Calhoun (who was married to Custer's sister, Margaret), and 18 year old nephew Harry Armstrong Reed.

From the 1870s thru the 1930s (and the publication of Frederic Van de Water's Glory Hunter), George Armstrong Custer was almost universally regarded as the quintessential American hero. Unfortunately, with the publication of Van de Water's Glory Hunter and several other poorly-researched and openly-biased accounts--and a Hollywood that is more interested in making money by entertaining an under-educated public with its own version of political correctness regardless of historical accuracy--a genuine American hero. . . GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER. . . has all but been lost to the American people.

Harrison, Pahl share in Most Outstanding Brother Award

Former Commander-in-Chief Edward J. Krieser presented several awards during the 120th National Encampment. The Pvt. Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award for the most outstanding brother was shared by Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison (right) and the Honorable James B. Pahl. Both are members of the Department of Michigan.

Brother Leo Kennedy (Department of Rhode Island) was awarded the Meritorious Gold Star Award.

The Commander-in-Chief's Meritorious Service Award was presented to Brother Doug Armstrong (Department of Michigan).

The August Davis Conrad Linder Award for the most new members went to the Department of Nebraska.

The Grant Trophy Award for the highest percentage of new members went to the Department of Indiana.

The Marshal Hope Award for the year's best newsletter went to the C. K. Pier Badger Camp #1 Department of Wisconsin.

The Abraham Lincoln Award for the most outstanding camp went to the Major General James H. Wilson Camp # 1 Department of Tennessee.



Jim Pahl & Keith Harrison, right, with Eagle trophies

Camp No 8 and local historical society join forces to dedicate Medal of Honor Marker for Payne



On October 27, 2001, the Lackawanna Historical Society and Camp 8, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Scranton, PA, dedicated a Medal of Honor Marker to Irwin C. Payne.

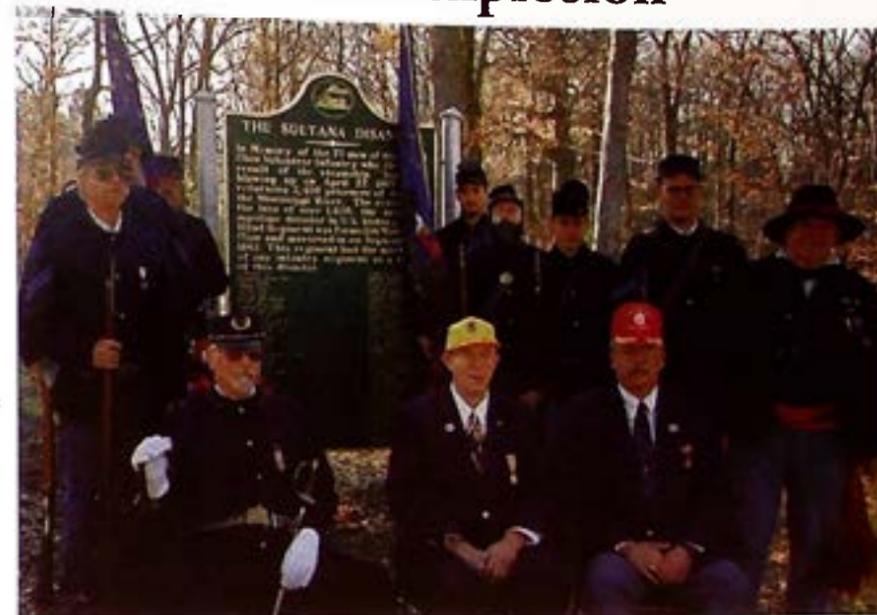
The project to honor Payne began when Society Member and former Dunmore Cemetery Caretaker, Charles Moffat received a telephone call from J. Donald Morfe, whose hobby was photographing the gravesites of Civil War Medal of Honor recipients, asking if Payne was buried in Dunmore Cemetery. After Moffat verified that Payne was indeed buried in the Dunmore Cemetery, he contacted the Society to find out if any additional information could be found on the Civil War Medal of Honor recipient. It was at this time, that he also suggested that the Society try to secure an official marker to designate the gravesite.

Historical Society President Alan Sweeney, who is also a member of Camp 8, contacted the county veteran's affairs office and obtained the necessary paperwork from Jane Wichel, who informed him that a copy of Payne's discharge papers would also be required with the marker application.

Mr. Sweeney completed the necessary form to acquire Payne's discharge papers and waited nine months to receive them. Once the marker application was completed, plans were initiated for an appropriate marker dedication ceremony. Thanks to Committee members Sweeney, Joseph Long, Jr., John M. Hart, Jr. and Julie Esty.

Monument dedicated to Sultana explosion

Commander-in-Chief George L. Powell (center) participated in a ceremony at Mansfield, Ohio on November 10, 2001, dedicating a monument honoring Civil War soldiers who died in the explosion of the Sultana. He was joined by Ohio Department Commander Don Darby (seated right) and Past Commander-in-Chief David R. Medert (seated left) and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Robert E. Grim (not pictured). They are flanked by members of SVR Company C, 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.



The Sultana was a 260 foot, wooden-hulled steamboat. On April 27, 1865 the Sultana exploded, burned, and sank near Memphis. About 2,400 people were on board. This was six times the ship's legal limit. More than 1,700 people died. Most were Union soldiers on their way home from Confederate prison camps. Among the 338 Ohioans lost, 101 were from Richland County, Ohio. Richard Troup, of McConnellsville, Ohio, a member of Henry Casey Camp No. 92 SUVCW Department of Ohio, and the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends, led the effort to erect a large plaque listing the names of the 71 men from the 102nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry who died when the Sultana exploded.

Troup is a descendent of Private Manuel Harnly of the 102nd, one of the Sultana victims.

Troup served as master of ceremonies during the impressive Veterans Day weekend program. The large crowd gathered at Mansfield's South Park enjoyed musical selections from the Mansfield Senior High School Band and Janet Grogaza, along with a welcome from Mansfield Mayor Lydia J. Reid.

Troup related the history of the Sultana and the events leading up to what is considered the greatest maritime disaster in U.S. history, much greater than the Titanic. The story of the Sultana has mostly gone untold due to the assassination of President Lincoln at the same time.

There is no national monument to their memory and their bones lie at the bottom of the Mississippi River or in unmarked graves in Memphis, Tenn.

According to Troup, "The ship had boilers which were heated to produce steam to power the paddle wheels on each side of the ship. One of the boilers had a leak and a patch was placed over it, which proved to be inadequate which events later showed. The boat's capacity was 400

but over 2,400 were placed on board, including some civilian passengers, which greatly overloaded the boat. "The drawing of the ship on the monument was made from the only picture taken of the boat, with the passengers lining all decks of the ship."

Commander-in-Chief George L. Powell gave a brief address about GAR and the SUVCW and the important role our organization plays in promoting our Civil War heritage. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Robert E. Grim called the Roll of the 71 men listed on the plaque. As the names were read a bell was tolled after each name and if any descendants of that veteran were present they were recognized.

Following the unveiling of the plaque, a memorial wreath was placed by Commander-in-Chief Powell, Ohio Department Commander Don Darby and Past Commander-in-Chief David R. Medert, representing the GAR. Following taps and the benediction the guests were treated to refreshments.

Spring Memorial at Chattanooga

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27, 2002. The 2nd Annual SVR Spring Memorial will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Raddison Road House will again be our hotel at a special rate of \$79.00 per night if you identify yourself as a member of the SUVCW. The affair will include a steam engine train ride from North Chattanooga to LaFayette, Georgia. This will be a Civil War interpreted ride. You will see Billy Goat Hill National Cemetery and many other places of Civil War interest.

We will leave the train outside LaFayette for a march through town and a ceremony. We will then reboard the train for the trip back to Chattanooga, arriving in time for the evening Civil War ball at the hotel.

**The Angle at Dawn,
November 18, 2001
Remembrance Day Remembered**



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Same as above, short sleeve
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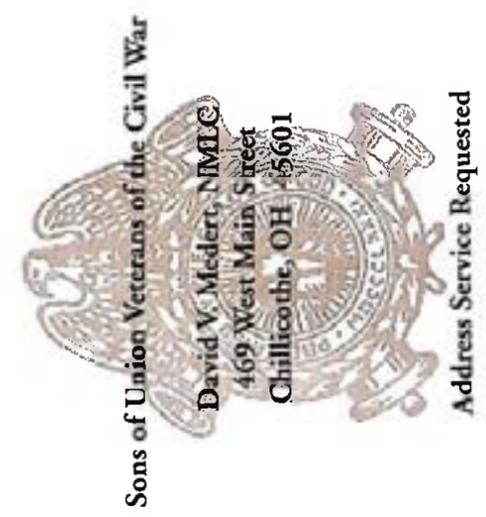
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**QUARTERLY JOURNAL
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Keep Their Memory Alive
Invite a "future" Brother to join you in the Sons of Union Veterans!

SUVCW Awards and Recognitions

Member Awards Established by SUVCW Regulations:

1. Meritorious Service Award: Certificate from the Commander-in-Chief to a member for exceptional service to the Order or society.
2. Meritorious Service Award: with Gold Star: Certificate and 1/2 inch Gold Star applique worn on the ribbon of the membership badge. Presented by the Commander-in-Chief with approval of the Council of Administration. It is given to a member who has served the Order for an extended period of time in an outstanding and exemplary manner or for an extraordinary action by a member.

Member Awards Established by SUVCW National Encampments and/or Commanders-in-Chief

1. Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief's Award: Presented to the most outstanding camp at the sole discretion of the Commander-in-Chief.
2. Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award: Presented to the most outstanding member of the Order at the sole discretion of the Commander-in-Chief.
3. B. F. Stephenson Award: Presented to the member who recruits the greatest number of new members during the fiscal year of the Order; and is based upon information provided with quarterly reports to the National Secretary.
4. Augustus P. Davis - Conrad Linder Award: Presented to the Department with the greatest number of new members during the fiscal year of the Order; and is based upon information provided with quarterly reports to the National Secretary.
5. U. S. Grant Cup: Presented to the Department with the greatest percentage increase in membership during the fiscal year of the Order; and is based upon information provided with quarterly reports to the National Secretary.
6. Under Forty Award: Presented to the Department with the greatest number of new members under age 40 during the fiscal year of the Order; and is based upon information provided with quarterly reports to the National Secretary.
7. Marshall Hope Award: Presented to a Department or Camp by the Commander-in-Chief for the best newsletter during his term of office.
8. National Aide: presented by the Commander-in-Chief to any member who recruits five or more members during the Commander-in-Chief's term of office. Recipients are recognized in General Orders and may wear the National Ribbon behind their respective membership badge until the awarding Commander-in-Chief leaves office.
9. Founders Award, presented to a non-member of the SUVCW or any of the allied orders by COA for outstanding service in memory of Union soldiers.