

# The BANNER

February 1997

Volume 101 • Number 2

*Sitting on our responsibilities*

## Abandonment

by Jim Pahl  
National Counselor

Our Order has a responsibility to do everything within our power to preserve the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic. I believe this includes preserving the various statues and memorials erected, including all the various markers in cemeteries, on court house lawns and other places.

As we locate and identify these objects, from time to time we discover items have been moved or sold. I have seen time after time reports of a cannon tube taken and sold, statues needing repair and a host of others. As we step in and attempt to halt sale or to force repairs, we run across the argument that we have neglected the item for so long, that we have abandoned our rights to it altogether.

In many cases, they are exactly right. If we neglect our obligation for too long, then we may lose altogether any ability we have to preserve that which we are charged to protect. This is a legal principal at times called *abandonment*. The time periods vary from state to state, but the principal holds true throughout the various states. *If you sit on your rights too long, you lose them. The actual holder of property may gain legal title when the true owner sits on his rights too long and does not assert himself.*

We have set on our rights far too long in many of these areas, so as we begin to assert ourselves again, we need to move cautiously and with tact. But move forward, we must.

We need to do all that we can now to try to re-assert ourselves and preserve these items for future generations. I call upon every camp in the Order to identify all such items located within their area, then to expand into areas not covered by other camps.

Do some research to determine when and how the item was placed originally and determine who the owner of the property is. Contact that owner and express the interest of the Order. Ask about the possibility of re-dedication ceremonies. Rotate this site into Memorial Day ceremonies. As you show regular interest, we again regain the right to have a say when a decision needs to be made. In many cases, we can even re-gain title to various items, most often in cemeteries.

The National organization has the committee on Save Outdoor Sculpture! that can be of assistance in this effort. Please contact your department and this committee and let us all get moving.



REMEMBERING—Pennsylvania Dept. Commander Ivan Frantz Jr., plays taps during the 1996 Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Woolson Monument on the National Battlefield at Gettysburg. See pages 4 and 5 for more on Remembrance Day activities.

## Commander in Chief Cites Inaction as Threat to our Historic Mission

by Glenn B. Knight, PCC  
The Banner Editor

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are the legal heirs to the Grand Army of the Republic—that fact is firmly established and legally recognized. But that legal fact may not be enough to allow the organization to bring suit on behalf of the G.A.R.

Commander in Chief Alan Loomis, speaking to the annual dinner meeting of the Past Commanders and Past Presidents Association of Southcentral Pennsylvania Nov. 16 at Gettysburg, told the audience that we have already abandoned our rights through inaction.

The legal principle is called abandonment. CinC Loomis related stories of G.A.R. locations and facilities which have been looted or sold off by greedy buyers and developers without concern for the rights or preferences of the original owners. When local and department officers of the SUVCW stepped in to stop the sale or reverse the sale of artifacts which once belonged to the G.A.R., the courts have said that despite our rights as legal heir, we still do not have standing.

"It is not enough simply to say, that property is ours because it belonged to the G.A.R. and the G.A.R. gave it to us," reported the National leader of the SUVCW, "we must show that we have been involved with the property recently." That means that we must lay claim to the graveyard plots, monuments and public artifacts well before they become involved in litigation. "At the very least we must cut the grass around the stones to show that we are going to be responsible for them," said Loomis.

Loomis went on to laud the Depts. of New York and Indiana for initiatives which would at least identify the property and objects that our right of ownership gives us a responsibility for maintenance upon. He pledged that his term as commander in chief would be spent finding ways to identify the property of the G.A.R. and encouraging units, at all levels, to lay claim to that property.

## Confederate Battle Flag Rejected by Md. D.M.V.

by Patrick J. Griffin, III  
Sons of Confederate Veterans Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief

"Unwise, unfair, divisive, and disappointing" is the reaction of the Sons of Confederate Veterans over the decision by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to recall specialty state automobile tags that feature the organization's trademark.

The decision to recall the tags was made by Ronald Freeland, Administrator, Md. Department of Motor Vehicles, following alleged complaints because the SCV trademark contains a Confederate Battle Flag.

"The Sons of Confederate Veterans in Maryland followed the state's procedures in having the special plate issued, but now the rules have been changed due to criticisms from a few individuals who are playing politics with history and the rights of our members," said Patrick J. Griffin, III, SCV Lieutenant Commander-In-Chief who lives in Darnestown, Md.

The one-hundred-year-old SCV is a 25,000-member historical and genealogical organization founded to preserve the history of the Confederate soldier and the 1861-1865 period. All SCV members have proven through genealogical work that one of their ancestors fought in the Confederate armed forces. The organization, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit group, has chapters across the United States, Europe, and Brazil.

"The critics who initiated the actions to have the license plate banned because our trademark features a Battle Flag denigrate the memory of the thousands of black soldiers who fought under that flag," stated Griffin.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

## The BANNER

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Guest Editorial

## Our Endangered Heritage

by George (Bud) Wilkinson  
James A. Garfield Camp

In late October I received some information via the Internet concerning future plans at the Smithsonian in Washington. Noted Civil War artist, Don Troiani, posted the message, which shocked me and many others.

The latest threat to our heritage involves the preservation of American military history at our National Museum. It seems that those in charge at the museum are planning to close down the military history displays and gradually eliminate the Military History Department. They are in the process of choosing a new curator whose skills will not include knowledge of military artifacts and their preservation and presentation to the public. The selection of a new curator requires that he or she should possess the following credentials:

1. "Knowledge of the relationships of American military history with American political, social and cultural history, especially in the 20th century
2. "Knowledge of 20th-century American political, social and cultural history"

Those of you that remember the "Enola Gay" debacle of 1995 can now see the direction in which the Smithsonian is headed. The message that the museum is sending is that American military history is no longer important. It is one more example of attempting to push another "political correctness" agenda onto the American public. As a veteran of the U. S. Navy, and a proud member of SUVCW, I am disgusted.

We must not let this happen. Each of us should write to our Senators and Congressmen to protest this latest attempt to re-define our history. The Sons of Union Veterans and other organizations such as the SCV, SAR, VFW and American Legion should also become involved in the fight to preserve our heritage. Let us raise a protest that will shake the walls of the Smithsonian, and possible shake some sense into those who would destroy much of what we hold dear.



Gen U.S. Grant

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## What is a G.A.R.?

All successful organizations have three things in common—identity, focus and dedication!

When the names Red Cross, Salvation Army, Procter and Gamble, Kellogg, National Football League, NAACP and, yes, even KKK are spoken you get a mental image of what they do or make or control. Now, under the same rules say Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War or Women's Relief Corps. What image came immediately to mind.

In the first group of names there was a clear and demonstrative identity recognized almost universally. American Legion is another one we could have added. When you say that name everyone thinks of veterans. Grand Army of the Republic, on the other hand, is almost universally forgotten. Even people with an interest in the Civil War will often place the G.A.R. in company with the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia. Where once, in the minds of America, stood a proud organization of veterans doing good in their community is now a faded identity taken over by the Legion and the VFW and others.

As Sons of Union Veterans it is our responsibility to understand who we are, who are ancestors were, and share that identity with the world. So, just exactly, who are we? Through the decades we have taken our identity and added appendages. A look at our National officers and committees shows a range of missions from Graves Registration to semi-pro wreath-laying to what appears to be highway maintenance. But what is our mission, who are we—and more importantly, what is, or should be, our public identity.

Get yourself a copy of the Constitution and Regulations of the order (available from the National Quartermaster), skip the three pages of charter members in the constitution and look at what our founders thought we were to be. Then skim through the regulations and decide—in 25 words or less—what our identity should be. Send them to The Banner and we will publish as many of them as we can. The winner of this exercise will receive a heightened level of identity and be on the way to re-claiming its public image. The winner will be the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Focus and dedication we will talk about later but for now lets concentrate on finding out what comes to mind when someone says Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

## "I owe something to this country..."

by Edward Knezer  
National Patriotic Instructor

Patriotism, like religion, is an option in this country. It is also optional as to how we show our patriotism as individuals and as groups. Is it enough to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at all our meetings and to show the flag on all national holidays in the proper manner? Are we doing enough to promote patriotism by talking to each other about how people should and shouldn't act and respond in regards to patriotic and non-patriotic deeds? Are we promoting patriotism by peacefully agreeing and disagreeing with our lawmakers? These are all questions that by the laws of our land is an individuals right to answer for themselves. There are always events in the eyes of the public that question patriotism, who is being patriotic and who is not. When I was 8 years old attending a public elementary school we had an assembly near the end of the school day on Fridays. The Principal would proudly lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, we would sing patriotic and fun songs and there would be someone talk on different subjects. There was this friend of mine who had a different religion than most of us. He wasn't supposed to give the Pledge or even put his hand over his heart. This caused a lot of problems. The Principal got very upset when this boy attended assemblies. There were times that the lad was publicly humiliated by the school staff in an effort to get him to cooperate. I met the boys parents, they didn't seem that different than anybody else. They would often want to know everything their boy and I did together and would

have talks with him about those things. They were concerned about my religion but did not try to force theirs on me. We graduated from different high schools, still managing to see each other occasionally. That was 1966, Vietnam was going on. I joined the Marines right out of high school. I told everyone I did it to avoid the draft. He was drafted two months later. He went against his parents by not claiming conscientious objector status which I'm sure he would have been able to prove legally. He told me, "I owe something to this country, though I don't know yet what it is." He was killed in Vietnam. I will never stand idle for anyone to say to me he was less a loyal, patriotic American than I am. I suppose I'll never know what made my young friend feel he owed something. I often hope it was some little brief moment during a history lesson or hearing someone talk about our freedoms not being free of charge.

This brings me to the point. The Grand Army of the Republic spent a lot of time educating young people about patriotism. Much of that teaching is being lost with each generation. We, as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are proud of our heritage, being the only male legal heir organization to the G.A.R. With the properties and holdings came a charge to continue the educational efforts they started by promoting the flying of the flag, teaching the meaning as well as the words of the Pledge of Allegiance and that all the freedoms we have had and will have do not come free of charge.

## Late Again!

This issue of The Banner is late again. That, in itself, is hardly news to those of us who have become accustomed to our national publication being late. What is news is the promise that future editions will come closer to a publishing schedule until—eventually—you will be able to plan on delivery of each issue.

The delay in getting this issue to you was caused by the change in editors, printers and post offices. Those problems have been overcome and the next issue stands a good chance of getting to you on time. At least it will be not as late—that's progress.

Here is the schedule that we are aiming for—you can judge our progress by how close we come to meeting them:

### Printing Schedule

- Fall Edition  
deadline Aug. 31  
mailed by Sept. 30
- Winter Edition  
deadline Dec. 15  
mailed by Jan. 15
- Spring Edition  
deadline March 31  
mailed by April 30
- Summer Edition  
deadline June 30  
mailed by July 31

## About This Issue ...

After years of erratic publication and changing layouts, *The Banner* enters another phase in its century old life.

"I have made two promises to the order," said Glenn B. Knight who was named editor on Nov. 17 by the Council of Administration. "Most importantly I have promised to publish the quarterly 'Journal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War' upon a strict schedule and I promised to give the members more news."

In addition, Knight, a retired community newspaper publisher, will be attempting to reduce or eliminate the cost of *The Banner* to the order. By changing to the less expensive newsprint paper, Knight hopes to save enough to employ the services of a media designer who will work to make the publication more readable and newsworthy.

The National Council of Administration voted unanimously to name Knight interim editor until a contract can be agreed upon which would make him publisher. As publisher he will attempt to further reduce the cost of the publication to the order by selling commercial advertising space in each issue. "We have a demographic to whom a lot of businesses would like to showcase their products," related Knight. As publisher, Knight, who now works as a freelance researcher and writer, will also be attempting to make a profit.

A national committee will set standards for the new publisher to follow but will not be involved in the on-going publication of the journal. PCinC Richard C. Schlenker commented at the meeting that the times in which *The Banner* operated most smoothly was when a commercial publisher was in charge. We are attempting to turn the clock back to a brighter future for *The Banner*.



Charcoal sketch by Lois Wish

New editor of *The Banner*, Glenn B. Knight in a charcoal sketch of him portraying Commander William Reynolds, USN. Reynolds was the older brother of Maj. Gen. John Fulton Reynolds and at the time of his death in 1879 was an admiral. All three—the Reynolds and Knight—are from Lancaster County, Pa.

# GENERAL ORDERS

National Headquarters  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
GENERAL ORDER NO. 2  
SERIES 1996-1997

1. I was informed by David V. Medert, Jr. in late November that Past Commander-in-Chief David R. Medert had triple by-pass surgery on Wednesday, Nov. 27. The latest word that I received was that he was to be released from the hospital Dec. 3. At this writing his recovery appears to be progressing at home. I would encourage members to send a get well card or word of encouragement to Dave at his home address: 16 Shawnee Drive, Chillicothe, OH 45601. Past Commander in Chief and present National Treasurer Charles Corfman underwent quadruple bypass surgery Dec. 26 at the Akron City Hospital in Ohio. At press time a report from his wife, Janice, indicated that the surgery went well and that he is at home recovering.

2. I was pleased to attend and present greetings from the SUVCW to the National Encampment, Woman's Relief Corps and National President Eileen Post in Ottumwa, Iowa on Aug. 19, 1996.

3. Sept. 9 I was honored to represent the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on the program of the African-American Civil War Freedom Foundation Ceremony in Statuary Hall, U. S. Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.

4. It was again my pleasure to attend and convey greetings on behalf of the SUVCW to National President Betty Baker, Auxiliary to SUVCW at a reception held in her honor Sept. 14 in Waterloo, NY.

5. On Oct. 5 and 6 I attended and participated in the Central Regions Conference, SUVCW and Auxiliary, held in Chesterton, Ind. and hosted by David D. Porter Camp, Dept. of Indiana. I wish to acknowledge and thank Brothers Ed Krieser and Ron Gill for arranging a delightful reception and banquet for me during the conference. I would like to thank all those who were able to attend and the thoughts and prayers of those unable to. The roast will be long remembered with affectionate reminiscence.

6. I attended the following camp meetings and activities during Oct. and Nov. of 1996.

a. Memorial and rededication of four Civil War veterans graves in Warrenville, Ill. on Oct. 12 sponsored by Sheridan Camp 2, Naperville, Ill.

b. Attended Somers Camp 1 meeting, Kokomo, Ind. on Oct. 19. and Ben Harrison Camp 356 meeting on Nov. 10 in Indianapolis.

c. Attended Chartering Ceremony for Frank Reed Camp 24 in Tuscola, Ill. on Oct. 26 and the Chartering Ceremony for Col. Friedrich Hecker Camp 443, Bellville, Ill. on Nov. 9.

7. On Nov. 15 I visited the U. S. Army History Institute and War College at Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pa. to present pictures of my maternal great grandfathers who fought with Company K, 39th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and Company B, 15th Illinois Cavalry to the U. S. Army History Institute. I was well received and was given extensive tours of both the institute facilities and the War College. I would encourage any member that wishes to donate copies of or the actual pictures or papers of ancestors that fought in any war the United States has participated in to the institute to do so.

8. On Nov. 16 the Annual Remembrance Day parade and activities carried out by the SVR were held in Gettysburg. The impressive wreath laying ceremony following the parade was held at the Woolson Monument. Immediately after the wreath laying, the ceremony continued in the auditorium of the Cyclorama. The activities continued that evening with a banquet sponsored by the Dept. of Pa. and concluded with the Blue and Gray Ball. I was greatly honored to be a part of the Remembrance Day activities and encourage any members that have not attended to plan to attend at least one Remembrance Day in the future. I wish to thank members from the Depts. of Ind. and Minn. that formed the color guards for the Commander-in-Chief's and Dept. of Ind. Colors in the parade.

9. A vacancy on the National Staff occurred in October when Banner Editor Greg Hayes resigned. Greg did an exemplary job as Banner Editor and deserves the acclaim of the Order. The position was filled by the Council of Administration at its Gettysburg meeting on Nov. 17 when it accepted the proposal of Glenn B. Knight of the Dept. of Pa. All material to be submitted for inclusion in *The Banner* should be sent to Glenn by way of one of the following:

Glenn B. Knight, Banner Editor, 233 Conway Dr., Lititz, PA 17543-8689; or e mail: gknight@suvchw.org. Glenn's voice telephone number is: (717) 626-7066 and his fax number is: (717) 627-4096.

10. I regret to inform the membership of the SUVCW and SVR that Commanding Officer Charles Corfman was relieved of command by the Military Affairs Committee, with my concurrence, on Nov. 17. His replacement, Keith Harrison, was confirmed by the Military Affairs Committee, with my concurrence, on the same date.

11. Brothers are reminded of the indispensable part that the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief's Fund and G.A.R. Memorial Fund play in the operation of our Order. Donations to the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief's fund may be sent to Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard D. Orr, 153 Connie Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15214-1251. Donations to the G.A.R. Memorial Fund may be sent to National Patriotic Instructor Edward Krieser, 1354 Gilleevan Drive, Valparaiso, Ind. 46383. No donation is too small and checks for both funds should be made out to "National Organization, SUVCW." A copy may also be made of the form printed in recent issues of the Banner which can be used to designate donations to these two funds as well as other important funds. The copy of the form and the donation may be sent to the appropriate National Officer listed on the form.

12. The holiday season has arrived and will probably have passed by the time that you read these General Orders. I would still like to express my belated season's greetings to each and every brother of the SUVCW and sisters of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, Ladies of the G.A.R., Woman's Relief Corps, and Daughters of Union Veterans. We are all bound together in our dedication to the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and its motto of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

13. Departments are requested to forward their Encampment Dates to me as soon as possible if you wish the Commander-in-Chief to attend. I am now in the process of answering those that have already requested my attendance. I am sure there will be conflicting dates, but I will try to attend as many as possible.

14. A New Member Data Form for those brothers interested in becoming involved at the National or Department level has been published in the past. There has been outstanding response in the past from brothers who have expressed interest in serving at one or both of these levels. *The Banner* Editor has been requested to include the form again in this issue. Brothers with an expertise in one or more areas that would be useful to the order and are interested in serving in one or more capacities are urged to submit a completed copy of the form to the National Secretary.

By Order of:  
Alan R. Loomis  
Commander-in-Chief

Attest:  
David F. Wallace  
Natl. Secty.

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## Obituaries

National Headquarters  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
GENERAL ORDER NO. 3  
SERIES 1996-1997

Brothers:

It is my sad duty to report that Past Commander-in-Chief Fred H. Combs, Jr., a tried, true and faithful member of the Lincoln Camp No. 100, Dept. of N.J., Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was on Dec. 23, 1996, called by our great Commander to the Grand Army above. Wherefore, in testimony of his loyalty to his country and her glorious principles of freedom; of his private character as a citizen, and as a true and loyal Brother of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I hereby direct that all camp and department charters should be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days as an expression of our regard for our fallen Brother. Resolutions of respect may be forwarded to Brother Combs' family at the following address: 286 Calypso Court, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082-1203

By Order of: Alan R. Loomis  
Commander-in-Chief

Attest: David F. Wallace  
Natl. Secty.

Edward Freeman, Charter Member of Fort Donelson Camp 62, Tennessee, passed away on July 11, 1996.

Irma Mae Prosser Nicholson McCafferty, wife of Jim McCafferty, Commander, Lincoln-Cushing Camp 2, died at her home in Fort Washington, Md., on Nov. 8. Irma served as Patriotic Instructor for the ASUVCW Dept. of Md. in 1995/1996. Contributions in Irma's name may be made to: Lincoln-Cushing Camp 2 (SUVCW-Auxiliary), c/o Mrs. Richard Schlenker, Secretary/Treasurer, 4112 Heathfield Road, Rockville, MD 20853-20036.



## Burial Benefits Headstones and Markers from VA

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides headstones and markers for the graves of veterans anywhere in the world and for eligible dependents of veterans buried in national, state veteran or military post cemeteries. Flat bronze, flat granite, flat marble, upright granite and upright marble types are available to mark the grave in a style consistent with the cemetery. Niche markers also are available for urns. Headstones and markers are inscribed with the name of the deceased, the years of birth and death, and branch of service. Optional items that also may be inscribed at VA expense are: military grade, rank or rate; war service such as "World War II"; months and days of birth and death; an emblem reflecting one's beliefs; valor awards; and the Purple Heart. Additional items may be inscribed at private expense. When burial is in a national, state veteran or military post cemetery, the headstone or marker is ordered through the cemetery, which will place it on the grave. Information on

style, inscription, shipping and placement can be obtained from the cemetery.

When burial occurs in a cemetery other than a national, military post or state veterans cemetery, the headstone or marker must be applied for from VA. It is shipped at government expense. VA, however, does not pay the cost of placing the headstone or marker on the grave. To apply, complete VA Form 40-1330 and forward it to Director, Office of Memorial Programs (403A), National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC 20420. Forms and assistance are available at VA regional offices. For information regarding the status of an application, write to the Director, Office of Memorial Programs (403B3), or call 1-800-697-6947.

VA cannot issue a headstone or marker for a spouse or child buried in a private cemetery. However, Twenty-year reservists are eligible for a headstone or grave marker, if they are entitled to military retired pay at the time of death.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sons of Union Veterans

Harvard University is now near the completion of a multi-million dollar project, the restoration of Memorial Hall. This grand Gothic Revival building, located at the geographic center of the Harvard campus, was built in 1878 in order to enshrine the memory of the sons of Harvard who died in the Civil War. A vast central hallway with two enormous stained glass windows contains 28 marble tablets recording the names and places of death of Harvard's Union soldiers. These have been restored and the lighting has been upgraded. I believe you would find it a very moving and appropriate memorial.

So far the project is on target inside and out—except for the tower, without which the building is like a tall ship whose masts have been broken. Some additional contributions need to be made in order for this part of the restoration to be completed.

Having both contributed to and solicited contributions for this aspect of the work I have been concerned that we may not have turned to people who should be on record as having helped with this project—persons who like yourself are concerned with the memory of the Civil War and its dead.

Specifically, I would like to ask if there is any way to determine whether there are

Harvard graduates among the members of your organization? And if so, is it possible to obtain a list of them and their addresses so that they and their contributions, large or small, may be included as donors to this memorial?

I would very much appreciate any help you can give me. If you would prefer to communicate with some official of the University I would be very glad to help you do so.

Sincerely,  
George S. Richardson, M.D.  
58 Winter St., Nahant, MA 01908

Editor,

I am beginning a collection of all SVR materials in hopes of writing some type of work on the SVR. I wondered if it would be possible to publish some type of ad in *The Banner* to this effect. I am looking for stories, legends, myths, old and new rosters, copies of pictures, soldiers' journals, officers reports, whereabouts of any of this, etc. I would like information on the SVR and its members from incorporation to date. I would rather too much information than not enough.

Yours in F. C. & L.,  
Sean E. Ralston  
1775 Valley View  
Milford, MI 48381

## A Day to Remember

by Mike Smith—Times Staff Writer

The following article is reprinted, in part, from the Monday, Nov. 18, 1996 edition of the Gettysburg Times.

"Watch your left," the Union major called, waving his sword at the head of his marching troops. "Your left, boys. Your left. Right, Left. That's it."

The major was just one of the 6,000 men in blue and gray uniforms who marched through the streets of Gettysburg Saturday afternoon. They came as part of the Grand Army of the Republic's 40th annual Remembrance Day to participate in ceremonies honoring the men who fought and died on the Battlefield—and to re-examine the reasons why.

Most of them were members of organizations and auxiliaries whose constituents are lineal descendants of Civil War veterans.

Zouaves, Black Hats, the Irish Brigade and even some good ol' boys from Tennessee all marched in formation along Breckenridge and Baltimore Streets, and finally up Steinwehr Avenue, coming to a stop before the Woolson Monument outside the Visitors Center.

That monument honors Albert J. Woolson, who died Aug. 2, 1956. At 109, Woolson was the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic, the largest veterans organization ever chartered.

"We come to honor these men," said Charles Corfman, commanding general of the Sons of Veterans Reserve. "We honor their best, and we honor our history."

Officers from the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion then placed memorial wreaths before the Woolson Monument as part of a ceremony designed to honor past members of the Grand Army.

The program moved into the Visitors Center, where John Latschar, park superintendent, spoke about the National Park Service in general and the Gettysburg National Military Park in particular.

"We do not have the resources to fulfill our mission of historic preservation," he said, noting that less than one-tenth of one percent of the annual budget goes to the park service.

More disquieting, Latschar said, is the recent congressional proposal that would have eliminated government funding for parks not deemed "nationally significant."

"Fifty-four parks made the list" and were classified as significant, he said. "Not one of them was a military park. Not even Gettysburg."

That bill was struck down, he said, but the growing movement toward sweeping reductions in government still concerns him.

"Gettysburg National Military Park is broke. If it were a Fortune 500 company, the National Park Service itself would be bankrupt," he said, noting that thousands of Civil War artifacts currently in the care of the park service are deteriorating as a result of sparse funds.

"If the preservation of Civil War battlefields is important to you, you need to ask yourself if you're willing to pay more taxes or eliminate other services," he said.



Thousands of Civil War reenactors mass before the Woolson Monument for Remembrance Day ceremonies, Nov. 16. The event which is sponsored by the Sons of Veterans Reserve continues to grow each year.

### Comments by Gettysburg Superintendent

## Bankruptcy for National Park Service?

by Dr. John A. Latschar, Superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park

### Remembrance Day, 1996

Gettysburg National Military Park is broke. It cannot be stated more simply or more honestly than that. On a broader scale, all of our Civil War parks are broke, and the entire NPS is bankrupt. If the NPS was a Fortune 500 corporation, we would be filing for Chapter 11 protection right now. We do not have either the money or the people required to carry out the missions we were created to perform: (1) to preserve our historic resources and (2) to make them available to this and all future generations.

As you may guess, this is not a propitious time for a federal official to talk about being broke. There is a major debate currently in front of the American public, the results of which will inevitably affect our ability to preserve and interpret GNMP, but over which we have very little influence. You are all

aware of what I'm talking about—the wide-spread view that the Federal Government is too big, that it costs too much, and that it must be reduced in size and cost in order to leave our descendants with a balanced budget and a reduced national debt. This is a very real issue, which warrants our mutual informed debate, because the consequences of this national debate will inevitably affect our ability to preserve Gettysburg NMP, as well as all our other civil war parks.

Why? The answer is simple. When all the rhetoric is stripped away, the question facing the American public is rather simple—where do you want your tax dollars applied, and for what purpose? If the Federal deficit is to be reduced, or if the Federal budget is to be balanced, then we are faced with two serious questions: do we want less government services, or do we want to pay more taxes? There are no other choices. As I pursue this line of

thought, please understand that preserving the historic resources of GNMP and making them available to the American public is a government service which must be paid for to occur.

How does this affect Civil War parks such as Gettysburg? First, let's take a look at how it affects the National Park Service, by looking at the raw numbers. The President's budget for the entire Federal Government for 1997 is \$1,635,300,000. The President's budget for the entire National Park Service—all 369 parks (including our 24 Civil War parks)—is \$1,416,705. Therefore, simple division will tell us that the entire budget for the NPS is .087% of the entire Federal budget—less than one-tenth of one percent. Another way of calculating this is to state that for every \$1000 you pay in Federal taxes, the NPS (nation-wide) gets 87 cents to preserve this nation's natural wonders and cultural heritage for the benefit of you and your descendants.

If you want to calculate the percentage of the federal budget that we currently spend on all 24 Civil War parks in the NPS, the numbers become minuscule. The operating budget for all 24 Civil War parks is \$29,420,000, or 18/10,000th of 1% of the total Federal budget; which means that for every \$10,000 you pay in taxes, the NPS gets 18 cents for Civil War parks. How about Gettysburg NMP?—is your calculator this powerful? Gettysburg's budget for 1997 is \$3,513,000, which is 21/1,000,000 of 1% of the Federal budget, which means for every \$100,000 you pay in taxes, Gettysburg gets 21 cents. (And if you're paying that kind of taxes, I'd like the opportunity to privately discuss some significant tax advantages of charitable contributions.)

My point is, that the total \$1.4 billion budget of the NPS is inconsequential when compared to either the total \$109 billion Federal deficit, or the total \$1.6 trillion Federal budget. Our problems should be easy to fix. Yet despite these minuscule numbers, there can be no doubt that some of the recently-debated solutions for reducing the deficit and balancing the budget have the potential to cripple the NPS.

For one thing, the newspapers and journals of the past two years have car-



Commander in Chief Alan R. Loomis directs placement of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War wreath at the Woolson Monument in memory of the comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic.

# COA Minutes

Nov. 17, 1996, Gettysburg, Pa.

The National Council of Administration approved a motion directing that the National Secretary submit an article to The Banner suggesting that all departments and camps provide change of address updates for brothers to the national organization as soon as possible.

The Council approved a motion as amended to offer space on the SUVCW Home Page for Union Civil War related organizations and activities for the annual sum of \$1 plus associated costs. The cost for any other organization is set at \$50,000, subject to the prior review of the Council. The fee is waived for the G.A.R. Museum and Military Order of the Loyal Legion. The Webmaster will provide a quarterly update of requests and additions to the Council for review. The Council retains the right of refusal.

The Council approved a motion to repeal the suspension of the Depts. of Colo. & Wyo., the implementation of which had been previously postponed.

The Council approved a motion as amended to investigate whether the Ames Sword Company has the ability to procure and provide an "SUVCW" style sword to National Supply for purchase by members of the Order on a pre-paid basis only.

A question regarding Proxy Voting was referred to the Constitution and Regulations Committee for review and report to the National Encampment. A question regarding the definition of a member "in good standing" was referred to the Constitution and Regulations Committee for review and report to the National Encampment.

The Council approved a motion as amended to offer sponsorship of a page on the National Website for the fee of \$100 annually. In addition, the Home Page can be sponsored for the fee of \$1,000 annually. The Webmaster will provide a quarterly update to the Council for review. The Council retains the right of refusal.

The Council approved a motion appointing Brother Glenn B. Knight (Dept. of Pa.) as Managing Editor of The Banner under the structure consistent with the Constitution and Regulations for the remainder of the 1996/1997 term.

The Council approved a motion directing the National Legal Staff to draft a written contract consistent with a proposal presented by Brother Glenn Knight for publication of The Banner beginning with Volume 102, to be presented to the Council for review and approval.

The Council approved a motion commending the Remembrance Day Committee for planning the 1996 ceremony.

The Council approved a motion authorizing the Dept. of Wis. to use the emblem of the order on a city entrance sign that is to be offered for sale to all Camps. This authorization expires on June 30 1998, at which time the Department may apply for renewal of the approval.

The Council approved a motion to reestablish "The Digest", a publication which is to include the opinions and rulings of the Commander-in-Chief and National Counselor (note: this was a regularly published item by the SUVCW until shortly after the turn of the century). This will be input to the order's Home Page for the review of all members. In addition, a Special National Committee will be appointed to review all previous Proceedings for opinions and rulings. Finally, a National Aide will be appointed to continue annual updates, once the Committee's initial review is completed.

The Commander-in-Chief indicated his concurrence with the action of the Military Affairs Committee in relieving Charles Corfman as commanding officer of the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

A motion for the Council of Administration to set aside the action of the Military Affairs Committee until it can be appealed to the National Encampment died without second.

An appeal to the Council of Administration to set aside the action of the Military Affairs Committee was ruled out of order by the Commander-in-Chief.

The next meeting of the Council of Administration is tentatively scheduled for March 15 1997, at the Radisson Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Notice is hereby given that a recording device(s) will be in use.

ried suggestions to delete some parks from the system, as one means of reducing the deficit. Some (including two Governors) have even suggested turning the parks over to the states. When you read these articles, you will always note that everyone is careful to say that they would preserve the crown jewels of the system, such as Yosemite, Yellowstone and Grand Canyon, but that we should get rid of parks which have no national significance.

Unfortunately, there never has been and never will be consensus on what a crown jewel may be, or upon what national significance may be based. There is a very great likelihood that our definitions will not agree with someone



Dr. John A. Laischar

else's. For example, there was a bill actually debated in Congress last year, which proposed to set aside the 54 national parks of highest "national significance" and to subject all the remaining parks in the nation to a "parks closure commission" to see which ones were worth keeping and which ones were not. There were no Civil War parks—not even Gettysburg—included on the list of 54 parks of highest "national significance." Thankfully, that bill was defeated, but not by what I would consider to be a comfortable margin. We may see it again.

What's to be done?

Several things—and for most of them we need your help. The primary objective of this whole discussion is to get to my first point of the afternoon—the first thing which must be done. A few moments ago I mentioned the great debate which is taking place in this nation right now: how many taxes are too much, and what services do you want your government to provide? Battlefield preservation is a government service, and can only be paid for by your tax dollars. If you are interested in the civil war, and if you are interested in the preservation of our battlefields, then you had better take part in this debate. And you had better bring the debate down to your personal level. If preservation of civil war battlefields is important to you, then you need to ask yourself whether it's important enough that you are willing to pay increased taxes to fund that preservation, or if you are willing to take a reduction in other governmental services, such as your social security payments, to fund that preservation. It's as simple as that.

And it seems to me that if you're not participating in that debate—if your Congressman and your Senator do not know how you feel—then you can not really say that you are interested in battlefield preservation. You're either part of the problem, or part of the solution—there's no middle ground.



Auxiliary #1—Houston Texas—left to right, Back row: Janice Newton, Nancy Hooper, PNP Margaret Atkinson, Ann Julian. Front row: Charlene McCall, Robyn Julian, PNP Florence Jansson, Marjorie Henck, and JoAnn Petzold.

## Auxiliary Gains First Texas unit

On Dec. 7, the National Organization's first Auxiliary in the State of Texas was instituted by Past National President Margaret L. Atkinson with the assistance of Past National President Florence Jansson. The Auxiliary will be known as the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, U.S.N. Auxiliary 1 and will be under the jurisdiction of the National Organization. The ceremony was held in a meeting room of the Houston Public Library with members of the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, U.S.N. Camp 2, the sponsoring camp, in attendance. Following the institution of the Auxiliary and election of officers, the entire group gathered at a local restaurant for a celebra-

tory meal.

The National Auxiliary expresses their thanks to Brother Daniel Lissarelli, Commander of Lea Camp 2, who began the initial organization of this group. PNP Florence Jansson of the New Jersey Department, now residing in Houston, was delighted to be able to attend and looks forward to acting as a mentor for the fledgling Auxiliary. The new Auxiliary President, Nancy Hooper, graciously hosted PNP Margaret Atkinson over the weekend and took her to the Houston Space Center for a tour.

Congratulations and wishes for success are extended to Auxiliary 1, Houston, Texas!

## National Meeting to Save Outdoor Sculpture

by Bradley S. McGowan  
National SOS! Committee

Last month I had the honor to represent the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Washington D.C. at the Save Outdoor Sculpture Home Town Meeting. In fact I was also there as a representative of the Save Iowa's Civil War Monument Foundation an organization that I co-founded.

Sometime ago all of the Sons received a mailing about the Save Outdoor Sculpture project. As I have been actively involved in raising funds for the restoration of Iowa's Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument these past three years I immediately took advantage of the materials that SOS! had available.

The conference was held Nov. 15-19 and all I had to do was get out there. SOS! waived all registration fees and supplied my room and most of my meals. There were nearly 200 individuals in attendance.

The conference turned out to be an international affair with individuals in attendance from Australia, Italy, Puerto Rico and Romania. The top conserva-

tors from across the U.S. were also in attendance. Subject matter ranged from fund raising to discussion of various conservation methods.

One of the themes that was heavily stressed was how irreversible damage can occur through the use of an improperly trained conservator or well intentioned private individual. It is very important that we not do anything to our monuments without first consulting a qualified individual.

With SOS! we have at our fingertips the necessary information to do the right thing. They are there for us. SOS! can be reached at (800) 422-4612 to handle your questions.

There are several initiatives that the Sons, National Committee on Outdoor Sculpture are currently implementing. First and foremost is an inventory of all the Civil War plaques and sculptures in each state. The inventory should include a photo and a brief description of each plaque and monument, such as when erected, by whom, the condition of the monument and its location. This information should be collected and placed in an album. We are already doing this in the State of Iowa.

Secondly, you need to identify the sculptures and plaques that are in need of immediate attention. Rate each one and target those most in need of attention. Throughout the coming year our committee would like to hear from you in regards to your particular project. At next years National Encampment space will be provided for departments to showcase their efforts.

Our Civil War plaques and monuments were placed so that the coming generations would always remember what the Civil War soldier did and why he did it. What finer way to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic could there possibly be?



Bradley McGowan is pictured with Anita Overcash. Anita is with SOS and has been working with the Sons. Behind Bradley is the display that he set up in D.C. showcasing the Iowa monument and the materials that he has used during his fund raising. He feels that they have started a good program and looks forward to hearing from all of the departments.

## From the National Secretary

### Annual Appeal for Form 22's

As we celebrate the joys of this season, I wonder if, somewhere, there is a national secretary forlornly watching his mail box waiting for the Form 22 that never comes. As we gather with our Brothers in our camp meetings to discuss the mysteries of the season, have we forgotten to send the Form 22 that will gladden the heart of a forgotten department secretary waiting for the information that never comes? Don't let them be disappointed! Act now to ensure that every department secretary and the national secretary will also share in the joys of receiving required information about your camp. A moment of your time filling out your Form 22 today will bring happiness to these forgotten officers throughout the coming year. Forward copies of your Form 22 to department headquarters today!

### Life Member Reimbursement Forms

Life Member Reimbursement Forms have been forwarded to the department secretaries for distribution to the Camps. As with previous years, these forms should be certified by the camp and returned to the National Treasurer. Failure to file for reimbursement as described will only result in a delay in the Camp receiving its reimbursement. forms should be sent to:

Charles Corfman, PC in C  
National Treasurer  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
9057 State Route 83N  
Holmesville, OH 44633

### OOPS!

In the last issue of *The Banner* (Fall 1996, Volume 101, Number 1), on page 4 of the Summary of Actions by the 115th National Encampment, Number 13—Badges and Decorations, there is an error in the "new Section 13". Please strike the phrase "... up to three Badges of the Order.", and replace it with "... all Badges of the Order. ..." to reflect the approved amendment offered from the floor.

### Medal of Honor Ceremony

The Medal of Honor Historical Society held a dedication ceremony at Beech Grove Cemetery, Muncy, Ind., Oct. 27 in recognition of Pvt. William J. Carson, Musician, Co. E, 15th Regt. U.S. Infantry. He was awarded the Medal of Honor Jan. 27, 1894 for his actions at the Battle of Chicamauga. Carson was also a survivor of both Pemberton and Libby Prisons.

Past Commander-in-Chief Allen W. Moore, Past Indiana Department Commander Stephen Jackson and Brothers Albert Morris, Jack K. Carmichael, Stephen Bauer, Charles Hughes, Mark Kreps, Scott F. Sosier Jr. and Michael Reddin represented the SUVCW.

## Honor Roll

### In Memory of:

**Col. Thomas Shea**  
22nd Ind. Vol. Inf.

**Dr. Samuel L. Mantel**

**John Greaves**  
7th PA Cav., Co. H

**Wilbur T. Lanphier**  
10th Michigan, Co. I

## Wisconsin Junior

The Wisconsin Department recently welcomed its first Junior member to the Order. Andrew Michaels was initiated at C. K. Pier Badger Camp 1's meeting on Sept. 5. His 8th birthday was the day before.

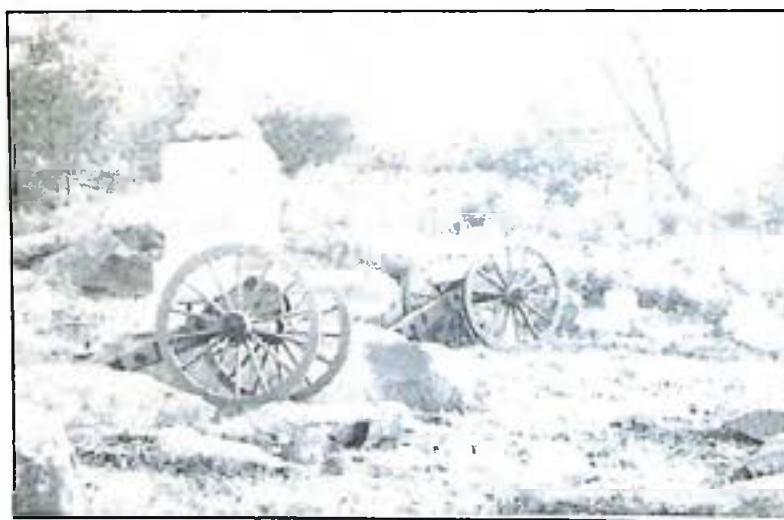
Andrew, who is the son of Camp Commander and Dept. Senior Vice Commander Steve Michaels, has helped set up camp displays and presentations. This past summer, he also pitched in with a local cemetery cleanup project that the camp has sponsored.

Both Michaels are descended from William Howard Wilson, who enlisted in the 48th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and fought at Shiloh. Eight great, great, great uncles also fought for the Union in the Civil War.

Andrew is a second grader at Hales Corners Elementary School. Hales Corners is a suburb of Milwaukee.



## Battery Battles Berry Bushes and Blisters



Fifteen members of the First Ohio Light Artillery, Battery I., along with some wives and children, traveled from Portsmouth, Ohio, to Gettysburg (a round trip of 900 miles) on a three-day weekend in September to participate in the National Park Service's "Adopt-a-Position" program.

The monument to Battery I. sits on the north slope of Little Round Top, and is dedicated to the men from Ohio who arrived on the battlefield at 4:30 p.m. on July 2 as the Third Corps was retreating over Devil's Den and crossing Plum Run, heading toward the Taneytown Road. Battery I. arrived

and unlimbered their six Napoleon cannons on both sides of the Wheatfield Road and began firing with canister and double canister. Soldiers from the Third Corps and reserves arriving from the Fifth Corps then regrouped behind these guns and counter-charged against the Confederate advance.

As members of the Sons of Union Veterans Camp Vienna 26, the men of Battery I. spent Saturday, Sept. 21, fighting an enemy of ground ivy, overgrown berry bushes (stickers included), and numerous forms of trees, both small and large. The

twenty-five workers, ranging in age from 2 to 62, used chain saws, weed eaters, grass whips, rakes, and other "weapons" that could be carried in their vehicles.

Charles H. "Chip" Horr, Commander of Battery L said that "when we first arrived on Friday afternoon, several of us went directly to the monument and were really depressed. It looked like our monument was in the middle of a jungle. It had been four years since anyone had cleared brush in this area. Some weeds were over our heads and shrubs were growing wild everywhere.

We all worked about seven hours Saturday, then came back late in the afternoon in our uniforms to take pictures. After we took our pictures, most people just didn't want to leave. Although we were really worn out, we just stood around and talked and absorbed the atmosphere around us. We knew we had completed something special that day."

Thomas Holbrook of the National Park Service stopped by to congratulate the members of Battery I. "The work you are doing looks fantastic, and will help the visiting public to see your monument on the battlefield. These monuments are so instrumental in understanding the history and the functioning of the units here in Gettysburg. We are very pleased you have adopted your position." f

## Cemetery Clean-up

C. K. Pier Badger Camp 1, its auxiliary and Boy Scout Troop 61 have completed three cleanup sessions at Oak Hill Cemetery in Wauwatosa, a Milwaukee suburb. The three organizations cleared overgrown areas, pruned trees and shrubs, and straightened monuments.

Interest in the cleanup project began last summer when two Civil War soldiers' graves were discovered at Oak Hill: Private Joahann Bahler, a Swiss immigrant farmer who came to Wauwatosa in 1857, and served in the 17th Wisconsin Infantry, and Dr. Levi Halsted, an area physician who enlisted in the 1st Wisconsin at the outbreak of the Civil War. After his 100-day service expired, he accepted appointment as physician of the 7th Wisconsin Light Artillery.

Research revealed a third Civil War veteran buried at the cemetery: Lt. David H. Dexter, drafted into the 34th Wisconsin, died of typhoid fever at Fort Halleck, Columbus, Ky.

After selecting the project, the camp contacted the Scout troop for assistance. 15-year-old Scout Joshua Ecklund helped organize the troop's participation as part of the requirements for the Eagle Scout Award. Boy Scout Troop 61, affiliated with Milwaukee's Mother of Good Counsel Parish, has agreed to help with cleanup efforts again next year.



L. A. Tift Camp 15 of Springfield, Mass. was recently honored by having one of its members, Paul John Hutchinson, receive a \$1,000 G.A.R. Scholarship for this current year. Paul is 21 years old and is a junior at Gettysburg College. He works at the Civil War Institute as his work study job, and hopes to teach history after graduation. He is a native of Adams, Mass., where his father is the town clerk. Paul is shown with his father and mother, Paul and Doris Hutchinson, and the check is being presented to him by the Camp Commander, Robert H. Knight.



Kerry Chartkoff, chair of the Michigan Capitol Battle Flags Task Force, and Tom Manzik, president of the Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table display certificates from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the monument to the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters on the lawn of the State Capitol in Lansing, MI. The occasion was the adoption of the battle flag of the 1st Sharpshooters by the groups. The roundtable raised \$1,000 to pay the cost of preserving the unit flag.

## From the Adjutant General

by Lt. Col. David V. Medert—The Adjutant General

Each District Commander received a "newsletter" which is to be passed down to all units. This newsletter contains information which will aid all units and districts on reporting criteria and communications with the National Headquarters. Also included in the newsletter are new annual/semi-annual report forms and enlistment contracts. If you unit has not received a copy of the newsletter or if the information is not passed down, please contact me and I will ensure you get the information.

The Sons of Veterans Reserve is growing each month. As of this writing, we now have 610 members, up from 502 in August. Let's all keep up the good work in recruiting.

New units have joined the SVR. They are:

- Company C, 1st Kansas Volunteer Infantry; headquartered in Wichita, Kan. and commanded by QMSgt Jerry A. Seery.

- 1st Regiment North Carolina Union Volunteers; headquartered in Salter Path, N.C. and commanded by Sgt William Davis.

- The Gettysburg Blues; headquartered in Gettysburg, Pa. and commanded by Sgt John Price.

- Company I, 83rd New York Volunteer Infantry; headquartered in Lynbrook, N.Y. and commanded by Capt. James Grismer.

Congratulations to all the above units! With the issuance of General Order 1996-15, the Public Information Officer position is now vacant. Until a new job description for the position can be written, forward all your SVR news to me for inclusion into *The Banner*.

All units should be thinking of establishing a unit historian. Normally this will be the function of the adjutant. The function of the historian will be to keep an accurate history of your unit's activities. These will be forwarded to me for inclusion into the SVR history report. More is in the newsletter.

If you need to contact me, you can reach me at:

Lt. Col. David V. Medert  
Adjutant General, SVR  
489 Caroline Dr.  
Chillicothe, OH 45601  
(614) 773-7646  
email: MCCHI:VY@BRIGHT.NET

Make sure you info your district commander when contacting the National Headquarters. Many times your questions will be answered by them.



## Field Report from the Commanding General

Past Commander in Chief Keith G. Harrison of Holt, Mich. was elected commanding officer of the Sons of Veterans Reserve by the National Military Affairs Committee, Nov. 17 at Gettysburg. Harrison replaced Brigadier General Charles W. Corfman, PCinC.

The new SVR commander served as Commander in Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in 1994-1995. Under his guidance the order continued a steady growth in membership and became computer literate. He has served in numerous department and national offices including commander of the Department of Michigan, charter member of Curtenius Guard Camp 17 and life member.

Brother Harrison traces his ancestry to 28 Michigan Civil War soldiers, including one great-great-great grandfather (Capt. Joseph Harper, 12th Michigan Volunteer Infantry), three great-great grandfathers, eight great-great granduncles and 16 cousins. He has been a reenactor since 1981 and has risen through the ranks. He is a member and former captain of the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company B and was a major serving in the Cumberland Guard as well as a major in the SVR and deputy commander of the National Military Department prior to his recent election as commander.

He belongs to a number of historical, patriotic and civic organizations, including the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States in which he has been commander of the Michigan Commandery since 1986; Sons of the Revolution; Society of the War of 1812; Society of Colonial Wars; Society of Mayflower Descendants; and Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. A Mason, he is a member of Lodge No. 252, Okemos, Mich and Civil War Research Lodge No. 1865, Highland Springs, Va. He is also a member of the Civil War Masonic Association.



Harrison is Director of the Environmental Administration Division for the Michigan Department of Management and Budget and holds an appointment from Michigan Governor John Engler as executive director of the Michigan Environmental Science Board.

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## GENERAL ORDERS

### GENERAL ORDER 1996-11

1. Effective Nov. 16, 1996, Captain David V. Medert is promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel, said promotion is for a period of three years to expire Nov. 15, 1999.
2. Effective Nov. 16, 1996, Lt. Colonel David V. Medert is re-appointed Adjutant General, Sons of Veterans Reserve. This appointment is for a period of three years or until relieved of duty by the Commanding Officer, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Terry McKinnch  
Chairman, NMAC

Charles W. Corfman  
Brigadier General, SVR  
Commanding Officer

### SPECIAL ORDER 1996-2

1. Effective Nov. 17, 1996, BG Charles W. Corfman is relieved of duty as Commanding Officer, Sons of Veterans Reserve.
2. Effective Nov. 17, 1996, Major Keith G. Harrison is promoted to the rank of brigadier general and appointed to Commanding Officer, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Terry McKinnch  
Chairman, NMAC

Allan R. Loomis  
Commander-in-Chief, SUVCW

### GENERAL ORDER 1996-12

1. Effective Nov. 17 1996, Eric B. Peterson is promoted to the rank of Captain and appointed Commanding Officer, Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery. This appointment and promotion is for a period of three years to expire Nov. 16, 1999.

David V. Medert  
Lt. Colonel, SVR  
Adjutant General

Keith G. Harrison  
Brigadier General, SVR  
Commanding Officer

### GENERAL ORDER 1996-13

1. Pursuant to Article II, para 2, of the National Military Department, Sons of Veterans Reserve, SOP, Major David R. Medert is promoted to the rank of Colonel and re-appointed Inspector General effective Nov. 17, 1996. This appointment and promotion is for a period of three years to expire Nov. 16, 1999.

David V. Medert  
Lt. Colonel, SVR  
Adjutant General

Keith G. Harrison  
Brigadier General, SVR  
Commanding Officer

### GENERAL ORDER 1996-14

1. Pursuant to Article II, para 2, of the National Military Department, Sons of Veterans Reserve, SOP, Major Andrew M. Johnson is promoted to the rank of Colonel and re-appointed Washington D.C. Liaison Officer effective Nov. 17, 1996. This appointment is for a period of three years to expire Nov. 16, 1999.

David V. Medert  
Lt. Colonel, SVR  
Adjutant General

Keith G. Harrison  
Brigadier General, SVR  
Commanding Officer

### GENERAL ORDER 1996-16

1. Effective Dec. 2, 1996, Reverend Gene R. Stuckey Sr. is promoted to First Lieutenant and appointed Chaplain, 2nd Military District. This promotion and appointment is for a period of three years to expire Dec. 1, 1999.

David V. Medert  
Lt. Colonel, SVR  
Adjutant General

Keith G. Harrison  
Brigadier General, SVR  
Commanding Officer



National Park Service Internet Project

**Listing 230,000 African-Americans in Civil War**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—National Park Service (NPS) Director Roger Kennedy, announced that the service has completed the first phase of the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors (CWSS) project, and that more than 230,000 names of African-American soldiers who fought in the Civil War are being turned over this week to the African American Civil War Memorial for use on its monument to those soldiers.

The Park Service also today placed these names on the World Wide Web. The Internet address is: <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>. The names can also be reached through NPS' home page at <http://www.nps.gov>. In the future, NPS will place the names of all the soldiers who fought in the Civil War on the Internet.

"Technology has now caught up with history—specifically with the history of brave Americans fighting for their own freedom," Kennedy said.

"The glorious story unfolds—from Port Hudson and Fort Wagner to Appomattox."

The Internet presentation shown today allows anyone using the Internet to look up a soldier from the list of 230,000 names, and find out what regiment or unit he served in, read a brief history of that unit, and also find information about some of the battles in which they fought. Many of these battlefields are managed by the National Park Service.

The database was compiled from military history information held at the National Archives in the form of General Index Cards. The CWSS project, which will include all 3.5 million men who served in the Civil War, has been divided into three phases: first, United States Colored Troops (USCT) files presented today; second, Confederate Troops; and third, the remainder of the Union Troops.

The USCT was chosen as the first

phase due in part to the construction of the first African American Civil War Memorial, located at 10th and U Streets NW, Washington D.C. The Memorial is scheduled to be dedicated in the spring of 1997.

The CWSS Names Index project began three years ago in a joint project with the National Park Service, the National Archives, the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), and the Genealogical Society of Utah (Mormon Church). Entering the names on computers is now going on in over 30 states with thousands of volunteers. The United Daughters of the Confederacy last year joined the partnership. The project is supported by the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program and the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program.

A summary of the recent study for preserving and commemorating the Underground Railroad is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/undergroundrr/>.



**Cyber Connection**

The piece of the Internet which is owned by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is for sale—sort of.

Internet page sponsorships were authorized Nov. 17 by the National Council of Administration meeting at Gettysburg, PA. The COA authorized the Webmaster to offer page sponsorships to individuals and companies for \$100 per year.

Under the plan, sponsors would receive a mention on the selected page of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War web site. The phrase, "This space sponsored by XYZ Corporation" would be a link to the sponsor's own Internet page, if they have one, or to a simple page which would be written, using the sponsor's information, by the Webmaster.

"This is a great opportunity for a business to gain access to the Internet while at the same time supporting the activities of the Sons of Union Veterans," noted Webmaster Glenn B. Knight. Complete information is available on the Internet at <http://suvcw.org/sponsor.htm>.

The only exception to the sponsorship rate is the Home Page of the web site which will cost \$1,000 per year. Sponsorships will help to pay the cost of operating the web site and making it available to the World Wide Web.

The web site of the SUVCW is visited an average of 2,000 times each month. Since Nov. 10, 1995, when the site was first launched, nearly 30,000 electronic visits have been made to the service. Brother Richard Orr, as Junior Vice Commander in Chief, reported that the Internet web site was the Order's single largest source of new member leads.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a page on the web site should email [Webmaster@suvcw.org](mailto:Webmaster@suvcw.org) or surface mail to: P.O. Box 77, Lititz, PA 17543.

**Civil War Soldier and Sailors Project Aided by Hundreds of Volunteers**

The Utah Army Corps is assisting with the computerization of index cards for all veterans of the Civil War, both Union and Confederate. This is a joint project of the National Park Service and the LDS Church, which donated the software. All data will be available through both the National Park Service and the LDS Church's network of Family History Centers. Other groups are also involved, most notably the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Volunteers of all religious faiths in California, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Maryland, and other states. Work has been completed for the following states/groups as of Oct. 31, 1996: Alabama (Union), California, Louisiana (Union), Tennessee (Confederate), United States Colored Troops (USCT)—see associated story on this page, Utah Territory, and Washington Territory.

We are very nearly finished with Minnesota, North Carolina (Union), District of Columbia, New Hampshire, Delaware, Kansas, Maryland (Confederate), and Texas (Union). We're within a couple of months of being finished with Wisconsin, North Carolina (Confederate), and Maine. Presently, we are focusing our efforts on several Confederate states.

The Utah Army Corps is comprised of about 250 typists (soldiers) organized into about 30 teams (regiments). One of our regiments is a correspondence unit, made up entirely of people from outside Utah in areas where no regularly organized teams now exist.

At this point, 33.3% of the Union index cards have been entered, verified, and audited. 27.8% of the Confederate cards are done.

The index cards were prepared after the Civil War by an army of clerks hired specifically for their good penmanship. The original index cards are in the National Archives. The paper copies we use are "blown back" from microfilms of the original cards. Each

veteran's individual personnel records were filed by regiment and state, so it was sometimes slow and cumbersome to find the records when a veteran of his widow applied for a pension because they had to know the veteran's regiment and state. The index cards didn't contain a lot of information, but they made it possible for War Department people to quickly locate a veteran's records. Sample index card:

- Soldier: . . . . . William L. Moyer
- Company . . . . . K
- Regiment . . . . . 149th Penna Inf.
- Rank in . . . . . Pvt.
- Rank out . . . . . Pvt.
- See also . . . . . Veterans' Reserve Corps

This veteran might have another card for a misspelled name. Most veterans had only one card, but some veterans might have half a dozen cards. But each veteran had only ONE personnel folder, and that's where you find the GOOD stuff: enlistment paper, height, weight, eye color, hair color, home address, parent's or wife's name(s), pay cards (one for each 14 days), promotions, letters pertinent to injury or death, furloughs, discharge papers, marriage certificate, etc. This personnel folder is a treasure of historic genealogical information.

Some day you'll be able to walk into a visitors' center at Gettysburg or Antietam or Shiloh (or into any LDS Family History Center), type the name of an ancestor into the computer, and up on the screen will come all veterans with that name. See examples in the box at right.

Or, you hit "F1," and get: "If you would like photocopies of all the papers in this veteran's personnel folder, hit "Print Screen," and the computer will provide you with a form. Fill out the form and send it with you check to the National Archives, address, state, zip.

Or, you hit "F2," and get a concise history of the 145th Pennsylvania:

We need LOTS of enthusiastic typists with access to IBM-compatible computers. If you'd like to volunteer or need more information, contact Terry Moyer at (801) 943-5475, or fax (801) 240-1265 or email at [TJMoyer@chq.byu.edu](mailto:TJMoyer@chq.byu.edu).

**DEPARTMENT NEWS**

Dept. of Tennessee

On Nov. 16, the Brothers of Fort Donelson Camp 62 conducted their 2nd Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony at the site of Federal Fort Granger, Franklin, Tenn. Patriotic Instructor Trent Johnson conducted a walking tour.

Working under the National Park Service Volunteers in the Parks Program, members of Fort Donelson Camp 62 spent the summer serving as volunteers at the historic Dover Hotel (Surrender House), where Confederate General Simon Buckner surrendered approximately 13,000 troops to General Ulysses S. Grant after the Battle of Fort Donelson. Brothers of the Camp who are Civil War reenactors and SVR members conducted living history programs and firing demonstrations at Fort Donelson National Battlefield.

On Memorial Day, the Brothers of Memphis Camp 1 held a joint Memorial Day ceremony with the Hetty M. McEwen Tent 1 of Tenn., Daughters of Union Veterans, at the historic Front Street site of the defenses of Memphis known as Confederate Park and Jefferson Davis Park. Also remembered during the ceremony was the Sultana Disaster which occurred 7 miles north of Memphis, April 27, 1865.

Members of Farragut Camp 6 have been busy searching for Civil War soldiers' grave sites in Wayne and Hardin County, Tenn. Brothers have been successful in locating and documenting more than 130 graves so far, both Federal and Confederate.

Dept. of Indiana

At the regular meeting of Ben Harrison Camp 356, Indianapolis, held Nov. 10, we were privileged to have in attendance Commander-in-Chief Allen Loomis and Dept. of Ind. Commander Ronald Gill. During the meeting we had election of officers with Department Commander Gill as installing officer.

The following men were elected for the 1997 year: Commander McClelland B. Crawford; Senior Vice Commander Gerald G. Jones; Junior Vice Commander Carter C. Keith; Treasurer Thomas G. Ayer; Secretary Stephen B. Bauer.

Dept. of Iowa

Two new Camps are up and running in the Hawkeye State. The V. P. Twombly Camp 2 in Iowa City and the W. D. Allen Camp 96.

On May 10-12 the Sons hosted an encampment on the grounds of the State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa. The event was organized by Brother Bradley S. McGowan Department Patriotic Instructor. As this was the year of Iowa's Sesquicentennial the event was a reunion of the descendants of Iowa's Civil War Veterans. The Governor issued a proclamation recognizing this event as "Sesquicentennial Civil War Weekend Encampment." The weekend also served as a chance to share with the general public the plight of Iowa's nearly 100 year old Soldiers and Sailors Monument. More than 20 direct descendants of individuals that are listed on the Monument attended a special service that honored our Iowa veterans, and over \$1700 was raised for the restoration of the monument.

**Stats...**

Members: 4,931	Future Encampments:
Departments: 24	1997 Utica, N.Y., Aug. 8-10
Camps: 171	1998 Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 7-9
	1999 Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 20-22