

# THE BANNER



THE NATIONAL JOURNAL OF THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

VOLUME 103

JUNE, 1999

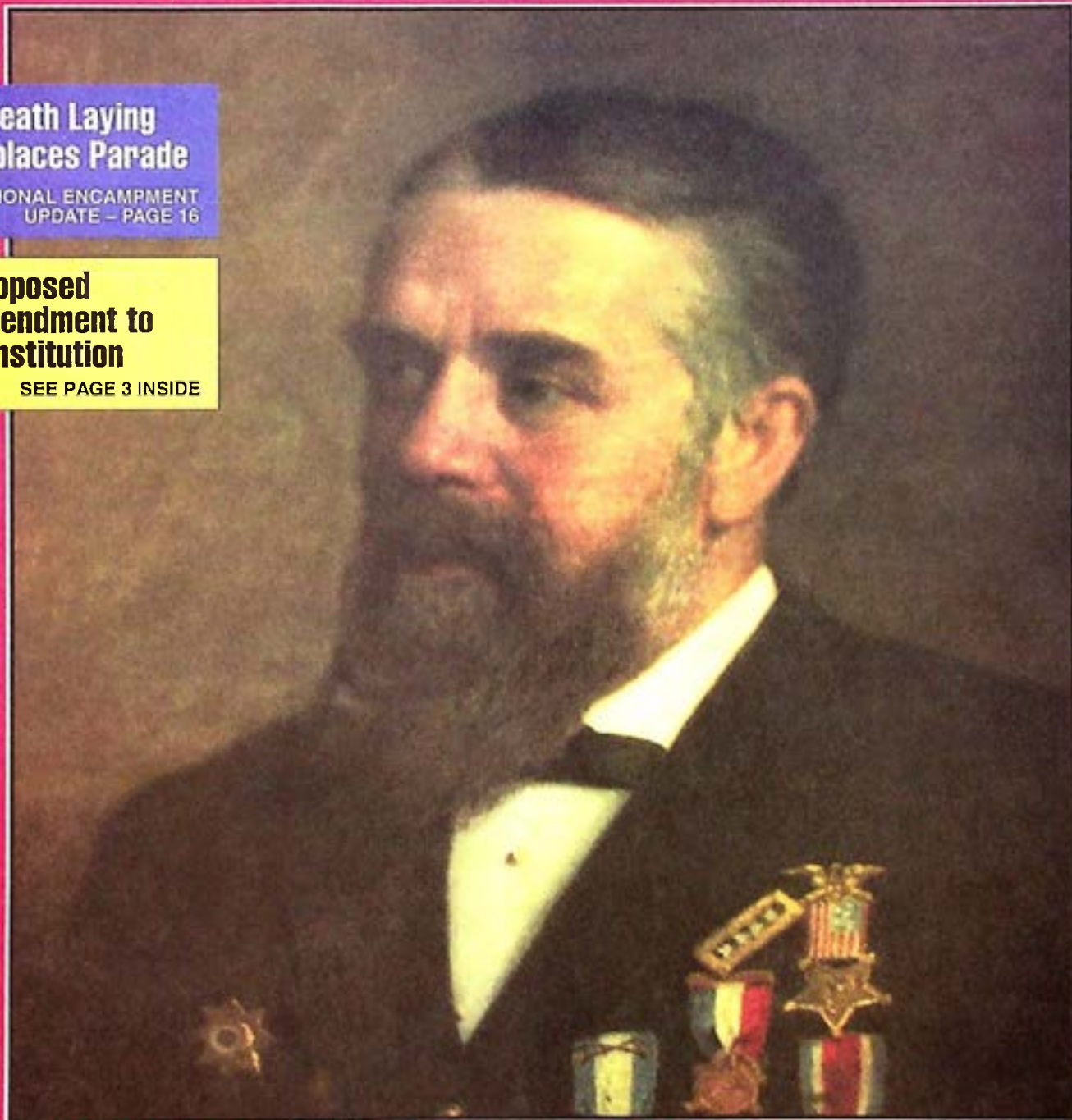
NUMBER 3

## Wreath Laying Replaces Parade

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT  
UPDATE - PAGE 16

## Proposed Amendment to Constitution

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**A. P. Davis: *Father/Founder***

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# THE BANNER

THE BANNER is published quarterly by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a congressionally chartered, non-profit corporation.

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OLD ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

THIS CHANGE IS:  
PERMANENT ☐ TEMPORARY ☐

## Publishing Schedule

### SUBJECT TO CHANGE

| ISSUE             |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Vol. 103, No. 4   | Summer/August       |
| Deadline July     | Mailed July 21      |
| Vol. 104, No. 1   | Fall/Nov. Edition   |
| Deadline Sept. 15 | Mailed Oct. 15      |
| Vol. 104, No. 2   | Winter/Feb. Edition |
| Deadline Dec. 15  | Mailed Jan. 15      |
| Vol. 104, No. 3   | Spring/May Edition  |
| Deadline March 15 | Mailed April 15     |
| Vol. 104, No. 4   | Summer/August       |
| Deadline June 15  | Mailed July 15      |

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List Coordinator



## From the Editor:

### 50th Anniversary

Our 118th National Encampment is but a handful of weeks away – marking the 50th anniversary of the last National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

If you have photos or newspaper clippings relating to the 1949 event that you are willing to share with your Brothers, please send them to The Banner immediately. There is still time, albeit very little time, to send that special memento. Be assured, whatever you send will be returned – insured!

Thanks!

### Cover “banner”

Brother Brian Peters of Stevens Point, Wis., is the only one of 6,300 readers that accepted the invitation to submit a design idea for a cover “banner.” To use Bro. Peters own – very modest – description, “the drawing is somewhat crude.” As much as I disagree with his self-assessment, the above black on white reproduction of the original color design idea certainly does not do it justice.

Brian outlined the symbolism in his design, “The eagle is from the soldier’s breastplate, a shield of honor, moving forward, but looking back to always remember. The blue of the letters stands for the ‘Boys in Blue,’ the red [shadow on the letters] for the blood that was spilled. Finally, the flag of our Union emblazoned with the principles and duties of our Order.”

### March cover ID’d – well, sort of

Through the deductive reasoning of Brother Jim Gordon, Lincoln-Cushing Camp 2, Dept. of Md., the Brother gracing the cover of our March issue has nearly been identified. After closely scrutinizing the original photo, it has been concluded that he was likely a second lieutenant in Granite Falls Camp 44, Division (i.e. Dept.) of Minnesota, during May of 1892. All that is needed now is for someone with a 1892 Camp 44 or Minn. Div. Roster to look up his name.

To the right, the complete, uncropped photo from the March cover, with original inscription from the back. Is this the Brother’s name?

Add to that the Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty that links us with our G.A.R. forefathers and binds us with our Allied Sisters. The flag is also a reminder of that which adorns the membership badge of the G.A.R.

The only other comments I received was from Brothers expressing their desire that the cover “banner” remain as it is or to return to the pre-1952 design (apparently consistent for several decades prior).

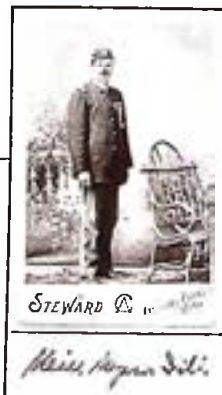
If you have other thoughts on this, we’re still listening.

### New format universally accepted

While the March issue was not without errors, not a single objection was made regarding the new format. At the low end, comments went from “well done” and “good” and rocketed skyward from there.

Giving credit where credit is due, it was my immediate predecessor, Brother Glenn Knight of Lititz, Pa., who planted the idea for the new format. Though we have yet to meet in person, I greatly appreciate Bro. Knight’s faith and confidence as I “apprenticed” at his urging.

Your faithful Brother and humble servant  
in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
Editor Ken Richmond



# GENERAL ORDERS

## SERIES 1998-1999

National Headquarters  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

### GENERAL ORDER NO. 6

1. March through June are the great months for department encampments. I have been delighted to attend, to date, encampments at California/Pacific, Iowa and Maryland. Michigan Department will have encamped before this order is published. Wherever I go, I find SUCVW and its Auxiliary active and full of good ideas. I have also been honored to speak at Lincoln’s Tomb on the anniversary of his death and at Grant’s Tomb on the occasion of his 177th birthday. I know of no greater honor for a descendant of a “Boy in Blue.” Both affairs are moments to be remembered. The Order thanks Tom Johnson and Bob Graham for their excellent work at the Lincoln activity and the Oliver Tilden Camp of New York City for its continuing sponsorship of the Grant’s Tomb ceremony.

2. I am pleased to announce the reactivation of Pennsylvania’s Corporal Henry Weaver Camp 71 at Freeport, Pa. Thanks to the brothers of Camp 43 for their cooperation and assistance and to PCinC Richard Orr for providing expert assistance.

3. You will read details of the National Encampment elsewhere in this issue. I urge all Brothers to be present. The commemoration of the last Encampment of the G.A.R. will be held in the very room they used and will be marked by a special commemorative medal available only to those who participate in the memorial events. The National Encampment will be conducted this year so that all delegates can vote for the incoming national officers. I intend to complete the election and business session on Saturday afternoon with installation to follow. This schedule will require the full cooperation of all delegates so we can prevent the “midnight plus” sessions sometimes needed in the past. The Encampment has its own very well designed commemorative badge for all delegates and alternates.

4. I intend to conduct “The CinC is in” sessions in my official quarters for those who wish to pass on good ideas or problems. Look for posted hours in the Encampment agenda and stop in.

By Order of:  
Andrew M. Johnson  
Commander-in-Chief

Attested:  
David Hann  
National Secretary

## Expense Reimbursement Policy Adopted For The National Organization

by Jim Pahl, National Treasurer

The office of National Treasurer has received requests for reimbursement of expenses from several who are not entitled to reimbursement. In order to clear up any misunderstandings, the National Treasurer asked the Council of Administration to formally adopt a policy concerning expense reimbursement. This policy has been in practice for the past several years and has been guiding the operations of the office. Any questions concerning this policy should be forwarded to the National Treasurer.

### POLICY – EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

The Commander-in-Chief, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and National Quartermaster receive quarterly allotments for expenses. This allotment is to cover all costs for

postage, telephone calls, travel and lodging to carry out the duties of office. (This does not include shipping costs to deliver orders from the National QM). It is understood that as the actual expenses of such National officers will exceed the allotment, no receipts need be presented to the National Treasurer. No other expenses will be reimbursed, except upon the express permission of the National Treasurer. In the case of extra expenses by the National Treasurer, the Commander-in-Chief’s approval is necessary for any such expense.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and voting members of the National Council of Administration: All postage costs and telephone expenses will be reimbursed upon presentation of original receipts or copies of telephone bills. Such expenses should be submitted upon the proper form. Travel and lodging expenses need to be approved in advance by the National Treasurer.

National appointed officers and non-voting members of the Council of Administration: Before incurring any expenses while on business for the Order, the officer must communicate with the National Treasurer and advise him as to the nature and extent of the anticipated expense(s). The National Treasurer must give advance approval to the scheme proposed and shall place a cap upon such expenses, which cap shall not be exceeded without additional approval. Upon receipt by the National Treasurer of request for reimbursement, which should be on the proper form and must be accompanied by original receipts, the National Treasurer shall reimburse such expense so long as this expense fits within the pre-approved scheme and is within the cap allowed for officer expenses.

National committees: Any expenses incurred by the Chair and members of any and

Continued on Page 7

## Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Article VI, Section 4

An amendment to the Constitution of the Sons of Union Veterans has been proposed, and will be brought up for action at the August National Encampment.

The current language of the first sentence of Article VI, Section 4 reads, “A Provisional Department may be created in states having three or more

Provisional Camps.” The proposed amendment would change that language by removing the word “Provisional,” in reference to a camp as the Order no longer charters provisional camps. Thus amended, the sentence would then read, “A Provisional Department may be created in states having three or more Camps.”



## Never Too Late To Honor Eagle Scouts

One evening in March 1999, the nephew of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Alan Peterson came to visit. Brother Alan was in the process of readying a number of Eagle Scout certificates for presentation the next night. His nephew indicated that in his new position as a auto technician he had four Eagle Scout co-workers. JVCinC Peterson asked his nephew to obtain their names and troop numbers. Although concerned about the length of time since they had been out of Scouting, The JVCinC's nephew was assured that this would not be a problem.

Two days later Brother Peterson went to the auto dealership, surprising three of the four with certificates and SUVCW brochures and applications. Photos taken at the "presentation" were given to the men a week later. A nicely framed 5x7 now hangs in the showroom of the dealership.

Of the four former Eagler Scouts, at least one application has been completed and research is being conducted on his relatives.



Left to right: Former Eagle Scouts Glen Carpenter, Glen Meade, Christopher Albro and New England Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator/Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Alan Peterson.

## Sergeant Major Christian Fleetwood Award

On February 13, 1999, the James A. Garfield Camp 1, Department of Maryland, presented the second "Sergeant Major Christian Fleetwood Award for Outstanding Color Guard Commander" to Cadet Captain Phillip Thompson of Baltimore's Frederick Douglass High School. The award is in the form of a perpetual plaque that is displayed at the winning color guard commander's school. The individual recipient's name and school are engraved on the plaque and a certificate and letter of commendation from the Camp are presented at the annual City-Wide Drill Meet.

Each of the requirements necessary to earn the award is reflected in its namesake. Born a freeman in Baltimore in 1840, Christian Fleetwood graduated at the top of his class at the Ashmun Institute (today's Lincoln University) in Pennsylvania and worked as a bookkeeper in Sierra Leone and Liberia for Baltimore sugar merchant John Brune. In 1863 he enlisted in the 4th Regiment United States Colored Troops being organized at Baltimore. Because of Fleetwood's ability, he was promoted in a short time to the rank of Sergeant Major, the highest rank then attainable by African-American soldiers.

On September 29, 1864, Sgt. Maj. Fleetwood earned the Medal of Honor. At the battle at Chapin's Farm, after seeing his regiment's colors fall from the hands of two color bearers and the color guard decimated by heavy fire, Sgt. Maj. Fleetwood seized the regimental colors and led his regiment through the remainder of the battle.



Camp 1 Captain Ed Johnston with Cadet Phillip Thompson, 1999 Fleetwood Award recipient.

Because of Sergeant Major Fleetwood's dedication to his education, his displayed leadership and his rallying his troops around our Nation's colors, Garfield Camp 1 presents this award in his memory to the JROTC Color Guard Commander with the highest combined grade point average, school attendance record and competition score in the Color Guard Competition at the City-Wide Drill Meet. This year's Color Guard Competition was among twenty-six area schools.



Standing, left to right: Dept. Sec. Chuck Davis, Corky Reed (behind flag), Camp Cmdr. Charles Christian, Jim Spencer, Don Van Auker, and Vern Lemke. Kneeling are Roger Fernwood and Lou Oiker.

## California/Pacific Charters New Camp

Col. E.E. Ellsworth Camp 23, Dept. of Calif. and the Pacific, received its charter at Santa Rosa, Calif., May 8. The charter was presented to the Camp Commander, Charles Christian, by the Dept. Sec. Chuck Davis. The Camp currently has 20 members and its prospects for growth appear good.

Following the presentation, the brothers proceeded to the nearby rural cemetery to survey its 120 Union veterans grave sites, to ascertain the condition of the markers with an eye towards replacing those so vandalized and/or weather beaten to make them unreadable. New VA markers will be ordered as needed and installed by the Camp.

## Colorado/Wyoming Places Stones

In January, Brother Charles E. Sharrock, Dept. of Colorado and Wyoming, ordered 25 government headstones for veterans buried at Riverside Cemetery in Denver, Colo. — for one Mexican War veteran, one World War I veteran and 23 Civil War veterans.

On March 10, a few good men from Centennial Camp 100, including Brother Sharrock and Riverside Cemetery Officer Manager Cliff Dougal, spent many hours setting these headstones at Riverside.

A headstone was also ordered for a Civil War Veteran buried in Longmont, Colo., 35 miles from Denver, and a Civil War Veteran buried in Manitou Springs, Colo., 70 miles from Denver.

Another stone was ordered and set for a Civil War Veteran in Lamar, Colo., 210 miles from Denver.

In each case, when the headstones arrived, they were checked to make sure that they are made right.

Brother Sharrock commented on his experience in ordering headstones, "I received a shipment of markers and 12 were made wrong, i.e. wrong dates and/or the shield was left off.

"I even had to re-order the Memorial headstone ordered for Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver."

Brother Charles E. Sharrock is a member of the National Graves Registration Committee, and is also National Graves Registration Officer for the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans.

## Santa Ana Grave Marker Dedication

On May 23, brothers of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, Dept. of Calif. and Pacific, were joined by the Orange County Civil War Round Table, representatives of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the City of Santa Ana at Fairhaven Memorial Park in Santa Ana, Calif. The occasion was the dedication of the headstone for Private Martin L. Osborn of the 2nd Kansas Battery. Pvt. Osborn's was the last unmarked grave of a Civil War veteran in the cemetery.

The president of the round table, the commander of the SCV camp, and a city councilwoman were followed by SUVCW Dept. Commander Gene Armistead. Cmdr. Armistead spoke on the importance of recognizing the veterans who served in obscurity out of duty to country.

Camp 21 Commander Bob Lowe and Auxiliary 21 President Rosemary Lowe unveiled the headstone for Pvt. Osborn. The unveiling was followed by a three volley salute by re-enactors of the 100th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

Brother Paul Gillette organized and coordinated the event.

## State of Michigan Civil War Photo Project

At their November 1998 meeting, the National Council of Administration approved a \$1,000 donation to the Michigan Historical Center Foundation. The purpose of the donation is to help Michigan's State Archives catalog and digitally scan over 1,300 photo-images of the state's volunteer soldiers and sailors who served the Union from 1861-1865. The scanned images will then be incorporated into an electronic database, available via the Internet.

The Department of Michigan was able to donate an additional \$500. Both checks were presented to state officials at a special ceremony on February 12, commemorating Union Defenders' Day and the 190th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday.



Left to right: Sandra S. Clark, Director of the Michigan Historical Center; PDC James T. Lyons, Dept. of Mich. G.A.R. Records Officer; Francis R. Spaniola, Historical Center Board of Directors; PDC James B. Pahl, National Treasurer; Kent L. Armstrong, Dept. of Mich. Cmdr.

- Photo: C & B Photography

## ANTIETAM TREE PROJECT

On Saturday, March 20, brothers of James A. Garfield Camp 1, Baltimore, Dept. of Md., participated in the spring tree planting at Antietam National Battlefield. This ongoing effort by the National Park Service to make the battlefield more like the 1862 site involves the reforestation of the West, North and East Woods. Sister Audrey Soukup of the Garfield Camp Auxiliary has been instrumental in raising awareness and funds for the project in the Baltimore area.

This is the second visit by Garfield Camp 1 to plant trees in the North Woods. Of special interest on this visit was the participation by the oldest and youngest members of the Camp, Brother Charles Earp at age eighty-two and Junior Nathaniel Horgan at age eight.

Donations made as memorials or gifts to the project provide needed funding to purchase saplings and trees to restore the battlefield. For more information on how to support the project please contact Antietam National Battlefield at (301) 432-5124.



Garfield Camp Brothers at Antietam — Left to right, front: Nathan Horgan, Charles Earp; back: Brian Horgan, Peter Johnston, Don Macnemar, Ed Johnston.



## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

### Elected National Officers 1998-1999

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## Boy In Blue: George Wesley Bennett

Commander-in-Chief Andrew M. Johnson takes his membership in the SVA. When three great great uncles, two served in the east and one in the west. George Wesley Bennett survived the war despite wounds received at Gettysburg.

He was born in Lodi, N.Y. in 1841, the son of Daniel Bennett, a prisoner of war at the Revolution and a veteran of the War of 1812. His mother, Dinah Annis, was the daughter of John Annis, a Massachusetts veteran of the Revolution and also a veteran of the War of 1812.

Bennett mustered into Co. D, 11th N.Y. Vol. Infantry on August 12, 1861, at Auburn, N.Y. He was described in his enlistment papers as a farmer, 31 years of age, 5 foot, 5 inches in height, blond complexion, blue eyes and black hair. While born in New York State, he was living in western Michigan at the beginning of the war.

The 11th N.Y. went immediately to Harper's Ferry, W.V., and was on October 14/15 September 13-15, 1862, as the Confederate army approached Antietam. The 11th N.Y. was captured here and ordered to march to Fort Mifflin, Pa. The regiment was sent to the rear and was used as a guard of honor for the 11th N.Y. The 11th N.Y. was then sent to the rear and was used as a guard of honor for the 11th N.Y. The 11th N.Y. was then sent to the rear and was used as a guard of honor for the 11th N.Y.

The war ended on the 2nd of July at "the Battlefield." The situation was high and Captain Aaron Bennett, a former regimental commander, after the war, devoted their participation in the "Battlefield" battle.

At the end of the war, the regiment with the brigade, and the whole line, after a long and arduous march, they were ordered to march to the rear and were used as a guard of honor for the 11th N.Y.

## Byrd Shepherd takes Command of Illinois

Brother Dennis Kelly has stepped down as Commander of the Dept. of Ill.

PDC Kelly stated, "It was a pleasure working closely with many of you over this past year. I look forward to many more years to come, working just as closely with each of you as I have in the past (just in a different capacity)."

Brother Kelly continues to serve his Brothers in a different capacity - as a member of the Dept. Council.

Officers for the Department of Illinois is now:

**Dept. Commander**  
Byrd Shepherd  
417 Todd Lane  
Belleville, IL 62221  
618-235-5614

**Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdr.**  
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## April 15 Lincoln Tomb Ceremony



CinC Andrew M. Johnson and DNP Beatrice Greenwalt stand in the burial chamber in front of the red marble stone marked "Lincoln" and directly over the gravesite.

Despite wind and rain, the 43rd Annual Lincoln Tomb Observance commemorating the 134th anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln was held in Springfield, Ill., April 15. Because of weather conditions, the rites were moved inside the tomb and conducted in the burial chamber.

Ably representing our National Organization was Commander-in-Chief Andrew M. Johnson. The CinC Johnson spoke of Mr. Lincoln's association with Springfield and Illinois, and concluded his remarks with the traditional reading of "Lincoln's Farewell to Springfield."

The National Auxiliary was represented by Past National President Beatrice Greenwalt.

Timothy S. Good of the National Park Service was the featured speaker at the luncheon following the ceremony. The author of a recently published book which deals with eyewitness accounts of the assassination, Mr. Good described in vivid word pictures the events and circumstances that led to the tragic events of April 14 and 15, 1865.

Among more than 50 organizations that were represented with wreaths were the Department of Illinois and individual Camps from the Departments of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Three Past Commanders-in-Chief were in attendance - Richard Greenwalt, Charles Corfman, and Alan Loomis. In addition, National Chaplain Rev. Dr. Robert G. Cartoon was present.

Thomas L. W. Johnson, III, PDC, officiated at the rites and presided at the luncheon.



CinC Andrew M. Johnson addresses those assembled for the ceremony. The colors to his right are held by a member of the Korean War Veterans Association, Dept. of Illinois.

## Expense Reimbursement Policy

Continued from Page 3

all National committees will not be reimbursed, unless specific items for that committee are placed in the annual budget of the National Organization.

This policy requires some planning on the part of National committees. While the Chair and committee membership is subject to change each year, I would ask that each committee presume they would continue in the following year and anticipate what expenses they may have. Then submit this to the National Treasurer by July 1 of each year so that the item can be included in the annual budget. Then you (or your successors) will have funds to work with to accomplish the work of the committee.

## Did Your State Have Soldiers Imprisoned At Camp Ford, Texas?

The fastest way to find out is to check the 1868 *Roll of Honor*. You will find there a list of soldiers buried in the Camp Ford cemetery. These men were prisoners who died during the war. Each soldier has his state regiment identified, making it easy to find soldiers from your state.

The *Roll of Honor* has three separate listings for Camp Ford. These can be found in volumes six, 12 and 14.

Submitted by Brother Chris Czopek, Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 22, Dept. of Mich.

## Springfield's G.A.R.

The first organization in Massachusetts for veterans was formed in 1866 as G.A.R. Post 16. On August 9, 1867, a charter was given to the veterans of the Springfield area who had fought for the Union. They named the post in honor of Captain E.K. Wilcox, a local boy of the 27th Regiment who was killed in action at Cold Harbor. The 10 original charter members were: H.C. Lee, L.A. Tiffi, H.G. Gilmore, R.R. Swift, H.H. Pierce, J.W. Trafton, J.W. Holmes, G.H. Duncan, P.S. Bailey, and F.S. Bowley. Of these men, they chose former brevet Brigadier General Horace C. Lee of the 27th as the post's first commander.

One of post's first official acts was to attend a banquet in Hartford, Conn., in honor of Civil War General Philip Sheridan.

By 1871, membership was up to 300. A move to bigger quarters resulted in the loss of the early roll books and records in a fire. A novel plan of accepting "associate memberships" provided that their dues be placed in a fund intended for relief work as the men were getting older and facing illness.

Major Samuel B. Spooner, commander in 1878, used his influence to secure the National Encampment and a reunion of the surviving veterans. In 1893, with a membership of 632 men, Post 16 was the third largest G.A.R.

organization in Massachusetts. A new, permanent home, displaying a library with over 400 books, a collection of Civil War era publications (which included a complete file of Harper's Weekly from Fort Sumter to Appomattox), war relics, and memorabilia was dedicated on Dec. 27, 1899. These new quarters allowed for meetings and activities for the auxiliaries and other groups, including the Sons Of (Union) Veterans. A parade was held on the 4th of July, 1910, when 90 Confederate veterans were guests in the city.

The property of the post was conveyed to the city in trust on June 13, 1931, when 20 members met to turn over the keys of Memorial Hall. A farewell to the post, after 72 years, came in July 1939. The charter was surrendered by the post's four surviving members. The collection of historical documents, relics and memorabilia of E.K. Wilcox Post 16 was placed in the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum.

L.A. Tiffi Camp 15, Sons of Veterans USA, was chartered February 16, 1883. The camp was named for Captain Lewis A. Tiffi, who served in the 46th and 8th Regiments and died in Springfield on August 31, 1874, at the age 38. Camp 15 originally met in the same hall as the post.



# AUGUSTUS PLUMMER DAVIS

## FATHER AND FOUNDER OF THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

MAY 10, 1835 - MAY 21, 1899

by Richard D. Orr, PCinC

As the membership of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has grown in recent years, it has become apparent that the knowledge of the history of our Order is little known among a growing segment of our members. May 21 commemorated the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Augustus Plummer Davis, who was affectionately known as "Father Davis." These have been the impetus for the completion of this biography of Augustus Plummer Davis, which was initiated by my father.

Augustus Plummer Davis, son of Anthony and Mary Davis, was born into a family of distinguished American patriots on May 10, 1835, in the little town of Gardiner, Maine. The Davis family came to the New World from Wales in 1670 and settled in Massachusetts, soon becoming active in local politics.

In 1730, Isaac Davis, great-great grandfather of A. P. Davis, was born on the family farm outside of Acton, Mass. His son, Jacob, was born on the same farm in 1760. Both of these men were avid supporters of American independence and possessed an unrelenting distaste for British soldiers. The Acton Militia elected Isaac captain. Jacob also served in the same militia.

Early on the morning of April 19, 1775, Isaac received word that the British were moving towards Concord. He called out the Acton militia. Under Captain Davis these Minutemen rushed to Concord where they took a position in the center of the line at the North Bridge. Led by Captain Davis, the Acton Militia were the first onto the bridge. One man preceded Captain Davis. He fell wounded. Captain Davis was immediately struck by a British bullet and was mortally wounded — the first American casualty of the War for Independence.

Jacob followed in his father's footsteps and distinguished himself throughout the Revolutionary War.

During 1785, Jacob Davis II, son of Jacob, was born in Maine. Jacob, grandfather of

Augustus, answered his country's call and served in the War of 1812 as the captain of his company. In private life, he devoted his efforts to local politics and the family farm. His son, Anthony G. Davis, was born in 1810 in Gardiner, Maine, eventually marrying Mary H. Plummer.

Augustus P. Davis had an uneventful early life. Being an adventurous lad, in 1849, at the age of 14, he took a job as a sailor on a freighter

bound for San Francisco and the California gold rush. Once in California, he remained there for about a year. With less than spectacular success in the gold fields and a strong calling to the sea, he once again took to the oceans in 1850. For the next five years he sailed the seas as a deck hand on various freighters. Always intrigued with military life, Davis combined it with his love of the sea and volunteered for service in the English navy when the Crimean War erupted. For the next four years he served on man-of-wars. At the conclusion of his service with the Royal Navy, he returned to the United States and promptly joined the United States Navy. He mustered out of the Navy in 1860 as a petty officer and returned to the family farm in Gardiner, Maine.

*Answering his nation's call,  
as had his ancestors...  
Augustus volunteered for  
duty with the 11th Maine...*

Within a few months Fort Sumter was besieged by the South Carolina Militia. Answering his nation's call, as had his ancestors, at the age of 26, Augustus volunteered for duty with the 11th Maine Infantry on May 12, 1861. He was immediately elected captain of Company F. Davis and his company trained in Maine, then moved to Washington. Upon arrival in Wash-

ington, D.C., the regiment was assigned to General Casey's Division, Army of the James. The 11th Maine continued to train throughout the fall of 1861 and went into winter camp in Alexandria, Virginia.

On April 6, 1862, Captain Davis was unexpectedly detached from Company F, 11th Maine, and permanently detailed as Provost Marshal of Casey's Division.

The division soon became involved in the Peninsular Campaign. On May 31, 1862, Augustus was wounded in his left side and left leg at the Battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia. He spent the next several weeks at a field hospital. In the fall of 1862, he returned to the division near Suffolk, Virginia. Plagued by ill health, he tendered his resignation on February 4, 1863. The resignation was accompanied by a surgeon's certificate dated the same day and signed by Dr. D. W. Hand, surgeon and medical director for Peck's Division. It stated "...he has tubercular deposits in the right lung, with pleuritic adhesions on that side. In consequence, I believe the exposure incident to field service will very soon assuredly break down his health."

In Special Order 7, paragraph 8, Department of Virginia, dated February 7, 1863, A. P. Davis' resignation was officially accepted. However, it is clear that he did not follow through with the resignation, for upon returning to Maine, he was appointed Provost Marshal of the 3rd District of Maine. Affidavits in



his pension file confirm this service and his military records show his actual discharge date as August 15, 1865.

Davis was appointed to brevet Major in the volunteer forces, to be effective March 13, 1865, by General Order 65, War Department, dated June 22, 1867.

Following the war, Davis worked the family farm near Gardiner, Maine, and served as a timekeeper at a nearby quarry on Dix Island.

In 1866, Augustus married Mary Ann Gilpatrick. They had one son, Herbert Anthony Davis, born January 27, 1868, at Dix Island, Maine. Unexpectedly, Mary Ann died March 11, 1872, at Dix Island. Her death raised many suspicions. These were exacerbated when Davis married Lizzie E. Parks only three months later. Mary Ann is buried in Gardiner, Maine.

Davis' health had continued to decline and immediately after his marriage to Lizzie, he moved the family to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His doctor had advised him to move to a drier climate. Pittsburgh, not noted for being a dry climate, was an unusual choice and only added to the rumors surrounding Mary Ann's death.

### *Augustus and Lizzie had a tumultuous relationship.*

At Pittsburgh, Davis established himself in the insurance business, primarily providing insurance services to manufacturing concerns.

A year after their arrival in Pittsburgh, Charles K. Davis was born. Charles eventually moved to Estes, Colorado, and is buried there.

Augustus and Lizzie had a tumultuous relationship. Eventually Augustus sued Lizzie for divorce. The divorce was finalized June 9, 1876, by the Court of Common Pleas in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The divorce was exceptionally hard on the two boys. Lizzie was given custody of Charles and Herbert remained with Augustus, as Lizzie was not his natural mother. It is interesting that while A. P. Davis sued Lizzie for divorce on grounds of infidelity, on June 22, 1876, a scant two weeks later, he married Nancy E. Fulton.

Still suffering the effects of his maladies from the war, A. P. Davis filed a pension application, No. 102297, on September 28, 1869.

#### **AUTHOR'S NOTE:**

*Much of the information in this biography was gathered by David B. Orr, PDC and past National Historian prior to his death. During the ensuing years additional information has been gathered. The recent 100th anniversary of the death of Augustus Plummer Davis on May 21, 1999, was the impetus to compile the information and write this biography.*

Initially, the pension was granted. However, on June 5, 1876, the pension was suspended when several complaints were received from residents of Gardiner, Maine. A number of individuals from Maine came forth and submitted sworn statements that Davis had a respiratory affliction since early childhood and his mother had died of consumption.

The War Department and Interior Department launched an investigation into the allegations of ineligibility for his pension. Supporting documents in the pension file only speak of Augustus' medical conditions and not the other allegations. H.M. Plaisted, a member of Congress and late colonel of the 11th Maine Volunteers, in his affidavit stated that he believed that Davis acquired his illness as a result of his service during the Civil War.

In his statement to the Pension Board, dated Dec. 27, 1876, A. P. Davis explains at length how he contracted his illness while in the service and vehemently denies he had any related illness as a child:

"1st That I was not as has been alleged afflicted with disease of the throat — lung prior to enlistment, but on the contrary, I was a sound bodied man in good physical health and vigor. Also that prior to and at the date of my enlistment in 1861 I was not and had not ever been afflicted with either throat or lung disease or bronchitis - chronic diarrhea, rheumatism, paralysis, neuralgia or any other constitutional disease.

"In support of this assertion I would respectfully refer to the accompanying certificate of Drs. Hilduth (ex-surgeon), Small, Young and Whitmore and I hereby certify that these medical men are the sole and only living authorities that can speak adversely or positively or have any right to speak at all with a view to correctness of my physical condition prior to and at date of enlistment with the exception of one, Dr. Stephen Whitmore (brother of Dr. C. Whitmore above referred to) now a resident of Gardiner Maine. I have not been able to obtain the certificate of Dr. S. Whitmore and believe that it will be impossible for me to do so for reasons as follows. That on account of personal feelings and business difficulties with in the last (say five years or there about) the said Dr. S. Whitmore has become as I fully believe unfriendly to me and would be hostile (in my opinion) to my success. Some years ago Dr. S. Whitmore examined me and gave a favorable certificate.

"In the further support of my claim I would respectfully refer you to the accompanying certificate of Dr. W. Hand late Medical Director, now of St. Paul and I believe examining surgeon at that point. General H.M. Plaisted, M.C., late Col 11th Maine, Lt. Thomas Brann Late

11th Maine, Capt. Norchester Late 3rd Maine, Col Foster late ass't adj General, George B. Wilcox, Esq also a paper signed by the Mayor and other leading citizens of Gardiner, Maine. I would also offer to papers already on file with the Department. The certificate of Dr. [illegible] Brickett Barrows and Heldnet and Capts. Fulsome and Clark formerly of the 11th Maine.

"In explanation of my care and to bring it more understandingly to the consideration of the Dept. I will say that it will be noticed that in my original application for a pension I date my bronchial difficulties upon on or about Jan. 1st, 1862. I used that date as I remembered that in the early part of January 1862 — while on duty — I took a cold which had what I supposed would be called the usual bronchial accompaniment and for said cold the normal medical remedies were properly applied. At that time I did not believe said disability to be of a serious or permanent nature, still in my application I felt obliged from the form of blank used, to take said date as a starting point.

"I then endeavored to explain that my bronchial or lung or similar disease (as per proper medical term) was fastened upon my system and was aggravated by the exposures of a duty named [illegible] 'The Early Part of the Peninsular Campaign.'

*"In the spring of 1862...I was  
unexpectedly and permanently  
detached as Provost Marshall  
of Gen'l. Casey's Div."*

"During nearly all of the winter of 1861-62 I was on detached service (under orders from Brigade or Division Hq) such as Police and Patrol Duty - Guard Duty - and General Court Martial Services. For this reason it was not necessary convenient for me to apply to my Regt. Or its Surgeon for advice on treatment — also I had or I believed good reasons for thinking that I could get more skillful and desirable advice and treatment elsewhere. I cannot at this late date recall the names of the Medical Officers who gave me advice or treatment and if I could I know not where to find them. I have now done all that I can in this direction and will state as follows: That I can remember that I had some advice and a prescription. (One or more from the Medical Director at Gen. Silas Casey's Hq. I think that Dr. Warren was his name, but I am not certain. I can also clearly remember that in say February or March 1862 (possibly previous of these dates) I came under the more direct care and treatment of Dr. Samuel A. Fitch of Delhi, Delaware Co. N.Y. also of

*Continued on Page 12*



## FINAL MUSTER

These men from our rank and file have harkened the final bugle call – heeded the final muster – joining the Comrades and the Brothers who have gone before:

**Warren E. Carden** —

March 10, 1923-Jan. 29:  
U.S. Army Combat Medic.  
WWII, raising to Staff  
Sgt.; descendant of Cpl.  
Edward O'Brien, Co. A,  
9th Mich. Cav.

**Donald Cheney** — Phil

Sheridan Camp 4, Dept. of  
Calif. and Pacific PDC;  
March 29: San Jose, Calif.

**Williard G. Estridge** —

Lincoln/Cushing Camp 2,  
Washington, D.C.; passed  
away Sept. 17, 1998;  
resident of Alexandria, Va.;  
Cmdr., Camp 2, 1986;  
Cmdr., Dept. of Md., 1988.

**David P. Gage, M.D.** —

Wa-Bu-No Camp 53: April  
14, 1908-August 29, 1998;  
received medical degree  
from U. of Mich., 1935;  
married 1935, served in  
Pacific, WWII; survived by  
three daughters, six  
grandchildren and four  
great grandchildren.

**George Kammerer** — Life

member #120; descendant  
of Union veteran Frank W.  
Clark.

**Howard Nunemaker** —

Formerly a member of  
Robert Finch Camp 14;  
charter member/former  
SVC. Benjamin Pritchard  
Camp 20, Dept. of Mich.;  
Feb. 24, 1930-Jan. 5;  
Merchant Marines WWII;  
grandson of Daniel C.  
Nunemaker, Co. I, 9th Pa.  
Cav.

**Arnold Olsen** — Wm.

Colvill III Camp 56, Dept.  
of Wisc.; Real Son.

**William Tribble** — Fort

Donald Camp 62, Dept. of  
Tenn.; resident of  
Nashville; passed away  
Sept. 30.

## PNP Minnie E. Madeiros

Auxiliary Past National  
President Minnie Elizabeth  
(Sanford) Madeiros of New  
Bedford, Mass., age 91, died  
January 23 after an extended  
illness. She was the widow of  
Philip Madeiros.

A member of the Aux. to  
the SUVCW since 1923, she  
was elected president of the  
Dept. of Mass. in 1964 and  
also of the National organi-  
zation in 1976. She was the  
great granddaughter of Leverett  
Howell, who served as first  
sergeant, Company F, 14th  
Regiment of Connecticut  
Volunteers from 1862 to 1863.  
Mrs. Madeiros held several

positions in the organization,  
including secretary, patriotic  
instructor, personal aide, and  
council member.

A lifelong resident of  
New Bedford, Mrs. Madeiros  
was the daughter of the late  
Chester and Elsie R. (Taber)  
Sanford. She worked for many  
years as a waitress at the  
former M&K Restaurant, the  
New Bedford Hotel and the  
Skipper.

Mrs. Madeiros is survived  
by three sons: Philip Madeiros  
Jr. (Lake Worth, Fla.), Donald  
Madeiros (New Bedford) and  
Kenneth Madeiros (Agawam);  
three daughters: Dorothy



MINNIE E. MADEIROS, PNP

Linldewicz (West Palm Beach,  
Fla.), and Eleanor Hardin and  
Susan Valencia (both New  
Bedford); 23 grandchildren; 22  
great grandchildren; and 10  
great great grandchildren.

Remembrances may be  
made to the charity of one's  
choice.

## California 50-year Brother Passes

California Sons are much saddened by the death  
on March 29 of 88 year old Brother Don Cheney of  
San Jose.

Bro. Cheney joined **Phil Sheridan Camp 4** in  
1946 when recruited at the downtown San Jose book-  
store which he owned and operated until his retire-  
ment some years ago. During over 50 years of mem-  
bership in the SUVCW, he held virtually every Camp  
and Dept. office, including multiple terms as Camp  
Commander, Dept. Commander, and Dept. Secretary/  
Treasurer, the position he held at the time of his death.

Bro. Cheney had committed the Ritual of the  
SUVCW to memory early in his membership and  
never forgot it. His dedication to the SUVCW, his ever-  
cheerful nature, and his warm friendship made  
"Brother Don" well beloved by all the Brothers of his  
Camp and the Dept. PDC Cheney will be long-remem-  
bered and much missed.

## Chaplains:

### Submit Notices To THE BANNER

Death notices that are to appear in THE BAN-  
NER should be submitted by the chaplain of the camp  
in which the deceased was a member, or by the de-  
partment chaplain if the deceased was a member-at-  
large. Full obituaries are published for PCinCs, Aux.  
PNPs, and standing elected National officers.

Information should include name of the deceased,  
camp name and number, and dept. where deceased  
was a member; birth and death dates; city of residence  
at time of death; length of membership.

## Minnesota's Last Real Son 'Crosses The Bar'

On February 13, a Minnesota *Real Son*, and a  
member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil  
War, died at home of a heart attack. Arnold Olson,  
whose father, Amund Olsen, served in Company A,  
15th Wisconsin, was 87.

Brother Olsen grew up in Lakefield, Minnesota.  
He entered the U.S. Navy in April 1943 and served  
overseas in Saipan and Kwajalein. He received the  
Victory Medal and Pacific Theatre Campaign Ribbon.  
Following his discharge, he returned to Lakefield,  
marrying Nellie Fleeget on August 30, 1949. He op-  
erated a plumbing business, a Standard gas station and  
a Sears store, and was a fireman.

Olsen was an active member of the Bethlehem  
Lutheran Church, the Lakefield Commercial Club, and  
the American Legion. He was also a member of  
Kiwanis, from which he had recently received the  
George F. Hixon Award. The American Legion and  
the Veterans of Foreign Wars performed military rites  
at his funeral service.

Mark Thompson, great great nephew of Bro.  
Olsen, as well as church pastor, Army Reserve chap-  
lain and chaplain of Olsen's SUVCW camp, Wm.  
Colvill III Camp 56, participated in the service. He  
spoke of Bro. Olsen's membership in the Sons and  
his being Minnesota's last known *Real Son*.

Arnold Olsen enjoyed children, helping people,  
golfing and walking. He influenced many and will be  
missed by those friends and relatives.

Ohio's only Civil War battlefield – Buffington Island Battlefield – has been targeted  
for destruction by Shelly Materials, Inc., of Thornville, Ohio. The battlefield lies on  
farmland along the Ohio River at Portland, Ohio. It is the site of the struggle by  
Union forces with Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and his raiders on July 19, 1863.

Morgan's Raiders began a three state raid in June 1863, beginning in Kentucky, going  
into Indiana and finally Ohio. The longest continuous cavalry ride in world history occurred  
as the raiders road around the city of Cincinnati rather than through it.

The 1863 Ohio battle involved all four types of military of the time — infantry, cavalry,  
artillery, and three Union Navy gunboats on the Ohio River. About 8000 Union troops fought  
2200 Confederate troops in a "running battle" through this Ohio farmland. Union major  
Daniel McCook of the famous Ohio "Fighting McCooks" was mortally wounded in the  
battle. Today official records indicate that at least 54 Confederates were buried marked  
graves on the battlefield while other sources mention a small number of Union soldiers  
buried there, too. The locations of these graves are unknown to this day.

Buffington Island is only one of three battles occurring north of the Mason-Dixon Line;  
the other two being the Battle of Corydon, Indiana, and Gettysburg. It is the only U.S. battle  
where two future presidents fought. Both Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley fought  
in this battle.

## DEPT. FIGHTS TO SAVE OHIO'S ONLY CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD:

### The 2nd Battle of Buffington Island

The battlefield is nearly pristine to this  
day, but Shelly Materials owns a large section  
of it and plans to mine it for sand and gravel.

The Ohio Department, SUVCW, has been  
working in conjunction with Ohio's Meigs  
County Pioneer and Historical Society, as well  
as other groups – the Daughters of Union Vet-  
erans, the Ladies of the Grand Army of the  
Republic, the Military Order of the Loyal Le-  
gion, the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Vet-  
erans of the Civil War, the Sons of Confed-  
erate Veterans, and reenactment groups – to draw  
attention to the importance of the preservation  
of this battlefield.

Gov. George Voinovich, who recently va-  
cated the governorship, refused to do anything  
to save the site even though Ohio is in  
the throws of preparing for its statehood bi-  
centennial celebration in 2003. The new Ohio  
governor, Robert Taft III, has yet to indicate  
his support.

The Ohio Department is asking citizens  
to write to their respective Congressmen, Ohio  
Gov. Taft, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engi-  
neers to ask for federal assistance.

The Ohio Department gave testimony at  
a recent hearing held by the Army Corps of  
Engineers concerning the desire of Shelly Ma-  
terials to obtain a permit to build a loading  
dock. The proposed loading dock would be  
built on a battlefield site known as "the bloody  
ground." Shelly says it must have this dock to  
make it feasible to transport sand and gravel  
by river barge. The Corps failed to respond to  
several letters by Department Civil War Sites

Chairman Keith Ashley, asking that Brother  
Ashley be listed as an interested party. At the  
public hearing Brother Ashley questioned the  
integrity of the Corps in its dealings and de-  
manded recognition of the Ohio Department  
in the mediation negotiations. Since that hear-  
ing, it has been granted. He also pointed out  
that any issuance of a dock permit would make  
the Corps look callous toward its fellow veter-  
ans' final resting places and the sacrifice by  
the soldiers of their own army. PCC David R.  
Meder represented Commander-in-Chief An-  
drew M. Johnson in issuing his statement of  
support for the battlefield.

The local historical society has entered a  
law suit challenging the issuing of a permit by  
the Ohio Mining Commission based on the fact  
that Ohio law says that the land must be re-  
stored after mining "to its original purpose".  
The lawsuit insists that the "original purpose"  
is a battlefield, which cannot be restored after  
mining. The Ohio Department has been assist-  
ing in raising money to aid the society in this  
legal action, which is yet to be resolved. Des-  
ignated donations may be sent to Ohio Depart-  
ment Secretary Richard Greenwalt, 2449 Cen-  
ter Ave., Alliance, OH 44601.

Plans have been approved by the Ohio  
Department to hold commemorative ceremo-  
nies at the battlefield on July 17 in conjunc-  
tion with the annual Civil War reenactment  
there. All camps and departments, as well as  
Allied Orders, are invited to participate. Con-  
tact Keith Ashley, 34465 Crew Rd., Pomeroy,  
Ohio 45769; phone 740-992-7874.

## Los Angeles' Only Civil War Unit:

### CO. D, 1ST BATT'N, CALIF. NATIVE CAV.

by Gene Armistead

During the period of the Civil War, Los  
Angeles and its environs were principally pro-  
Southern in outlook. Militia companies did not  
furnish, as they did in other states, a nucleus  
around which volunteer units were formed.  
Companies loyal to the Union were inactive and  
one company – the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles  
– in June 1861, actually defected to the Con-  
federacy. Union authorities, both for want of  
southern Californians who would serve and  
from mistrust of southern California, garrisoned  
the area with volunteer units from northern Cali-  
fornia. It was not until late in the war that a  
company from Los Angeles was raised for the  
Union. This was the result of efforts to form a  
battalion of "native" Californians.

The concept of a cavalry battalion of "na-  
tive" Californians – as the Mexican-Americans  
were then referred to – had originated late in  
1862. In December of that year, Brig. Gen.  
George Wright, commanding the Department  
of the Pacific, requested authority from the War  
Department to recruit a battalion of Califor-  
nians. Authorization was granted the next  
month. In February 1863, Gen. Wright offered  
the company, and with rank of Major, to Don  
Andreas Pico. Brother of Mexican Governor Pio  
Pico and himself a state senator and brigadier  
general of the California Militia, it was antici-  
pated that Pico's stature would lead to the four  
planned companies' ranks being rapidly filled.  
Due to ill health, Pico declined the command.  
It was not until December that a commander  
for the proposed battalion was found – Salva-  
dor Vallejo.

Once a commander was found, organiza-  
tion of companies for the battalion finally com-  
menced. Company A was raised in San Jose  
and mustered-in during August 1863. Company  
B was recruited in San Francisco and not mus-  
tered until early 1864. This company was not  
so fully "native," having many men of French  
and American extraction. Company C was or-  
ganized in Santa Barbara by the de la Guerra  
family and mustered for service in June of that  
year. The final company, Company D would be-  
come the only unit from Los Angeles during  
the period of the Civil War.

The first enrollments in Company D were  
at Los Angeles on January 13, 1864 – Commis-  
sary Sgt. Lorenzo Camacho, Bugler Dolores  
Vernal and 26 privates. The company was mus-

Continued on Page 30



## FATHER/FOUNDER AUGUSTUS P. DAVIS

Gen. Casey's Headquarters and that he was acting under the direction of the Medical Director and went with Casey's Division into the field.

"In the spring of 1862 (at time army left Washington on move to the Peninsula) I was unexpectedly and permanently detached as Provost Marshall of Gen'l. Casey's Div. At this date our division moved over the river to the vicinity of Alexandria, Va. and I went with it. We were without tents and from this exposure that I incurred from laying out - say - two days and nights in a storm of snow - sleet and cold rain, awaiting shipment I date the rapid increase and firmly fastening on my system of all my bronchial and kindred afflictions. These difficulties were still further increased and aggravated by exposure incurred on arrival on the peninsula when I was some days without camp and garrison equipage and was engaged in duties (building roads) which exposed me to the weather and all its changes. At this time I can only remember of being under the medical care and treatment of Dr. Fitch with perhaps to him for my benefit of more or less advice from the Medical Director — Dr. Fitch attended me during the spring and early summer of 1862. I cannot remember the date when his treatment ceased. I think it was July 1862. I have been to great lengths to find him and his residence and I regret to say that I cannot present his certificate as his relatives have informed me that he died at Delhi, Delaware Co., N.Y. some six years ago. I can remember that just after our arrival on the peninsula (only a week or two) our Medical Director left the Division and the service and went North. His place was not filled for some time. When I made my original application I did not present that he had died in Mass. Some four — say six or more [years] ago.

"During the summer (June) 1862 and while my bronchial difficulties etc. were through the War [illegible] improving I contracted chronic diarrhea while on duty in he swamp of the Chicahominy — Va. — For this disability I was treated by Dr. Fitch and Hand. The certificate of Dr. Hand is submitted. Late in the Fall of 1862 I had some advice and treatment from Dr. R. D. Gall, Surgeon 13th Indiana Vol. At that date (I think) head medical officer of Ferry Brigade — Pecks Division — late Casey's Division. In searching for Dr. Gall I find that he is dead. I am credibly informed that he died at his home in Indianapolis, Ind. in 1867.

"During the late summer — from August — and fall and winter of 1862-3 my main — I might say all of my treatment was from Dr.

Hand whose certificate is presented.

"In the fall of 1862 I was ordered to Suffolk [Va.] and during the winter of 1862-3 the influence of the climate (being on the edge of the Dismal Swamp) and my duties and exposure has so told upon my health that Dr. Hand found me unfit for duty that 'he advised my discharge.'

*...a man of ungovernable passion, vindictive, wicked in his temperament, most abusive and quarrelsome...*

"As I have before asserted it is my feeling and belief that the information received by the Department which caused my name to be dropped from the [pension] rolls has its foundation and strength in the ill will and malice of those who desire to [illegible] and injure me and I have made this full point statement felling well assured that the Department and [illegible] will deal fairly and justly with me. I hereby again and earnestly and without reservation assert the entire, honesty, trusty and justness of my claim."

/s/ Augustus P. Davis  
Late Brevet Major & Captain  
CO F 11 Maine Vol.

Other statements alleging misdeeds were filed with the Pension Board. In his sworn statement, James E. Webb characterized Davis as "...a man of ungovernable passion, vindictive, wicked in his temperament, most abusive and quarrelsome, and did not hesitate to brutally abuse his wife and his own father." Webb further states that "...Davis bears an unenviable reputation amongst the people of Kennebec, and in the opinion of the affiant all statements, or allegations, made by him should be closely scrutinized."

In another affidavit, Joseph Williams echoes the same sentiment. "...Davis was a man of ungovernable temper, vindictive, and vicious in his whole temperament. This Affiant further says from his best information that Davis was in the habit of whipping and brutally abusing not only his wife, but his father and grandfather."

For the record, it should be noted that neither A. P. Davis or any other individual ever disputed the allegations of abuse. While the veracity of these statements cannot be verified, it is very clear that A.P. Davis was not well-liked in his home town.

The pension was eventually reinstated on March 9, 1886, with payments retroactive to February 22, 1877.

As he continued to press his case for a pension, Augustus built a life for himself, Nancy and Herbert in Pittsburgh. His insurance business flourished and as the business grew so did Augustus' social status. His membership in the G.A.R. provided him with numerous business and social contacts. Alexander Hays Post 3, Grand Army of the Republic, was dominated by the captains of industry, political leaders, judges, lawyers and doctors. Its members included every judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, the mayor of Pittsburgh, all of the county commissioners, state legislators and senators, congressmen and names such as Negley, Neville, Craig, Hays, and Melon, and a plethora of other important Pittsburgh families. The rejected applicants included Andrew Carnegie who had been ruled ineligible for membership. Carnegie had been responsible for the design, construction, implementation and command of the Union telegraph system and was under the direct control of the Signal Corps. The Pennsylvania Department Commander, relying on rulings of Commanders-in-Chief, ruled he was a civilian employee of the War Department, even though he possessed a discharge, and was thus not eligible for membership.

*...one of the founding members of the Union Veteran League...one of the first members of the Fort Pitt Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.*

Davis was active in other Civil War related veterans organizations. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Society of the Army of the James and the Society of the Army of the Potomac. He was one of the founding members of the Union Veteran League and a member of the Union Veteran Union. On January 14, 1880, he was elected to the Pennsylvania Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), Class 1, insignia number 1981. He was one of the first members of the Fort Pitt Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Davis was also a member of the Knights of Pythias and several Masonic Orders.

In July, 1877, Davis made his first proposal for an organization of sons of G.A.R. members. The proposal was resoundingly rejected by the members of Post 3. Over the next four years, Davis made at least three additional attempts to gain approval of the members of Post 3 to organize their sons. A drum and bugle

## Pennsylvania Town Bands in the Civil War Era



On March 15, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, awarded a \$640 planning grant to the 28th Pennsylvania Regimental Brass Band to carry out the initial stages of a long-term research, restoration and re-enactment project on "Pennsylvania Town Bands in the Civil War Era: The Beck Philadelphia Band, Philadelphia, Pa., and the Hazleton Liberty Band, Hazleton, Pa."

The planning grant focuses on four aspects of the long-term project:

1. to research the Beck Band's pre-Civil War role as a Philadelphia town band, its role as the 20th Pa. Volunteer Infantry Band, the 28th Pa. Volunteer Infantry Band, and the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps Band [the Philadelphia Brigade] during the Civil War, and the post-Civil War role of the Beck Band in honoring the memory of the men and women of Pennsylvania who so readily volunteered as civilian and military citizens to uphold individual freedom and to preserve the Union — giving their lives, in many cases, for that cause;

2. to research the Hazleton German Band's pre-Civil War role as a Hazleton town band, its role as the 11th Pa. Volunteer Infantry Band, the 198th Pa. Volunteer Infantry [6th Union League Regiment], and the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 5th Corps Band during the Civil War, and post-Civil War role of the Hazleton Liberty Band in honoring the people of Luzerne County who participated actively in the War, and who continue to remember the day of Lee's surrender and the homecoming of its town band;

3. to authenticate the recently discovered sixteen play books originally belonging to the Hazleton Liberty Band, and to arrange the 19th century Civil War era music for 20th century town band concert presentations; and

4. to re-enact both town bands in their Civil War concert band roles in Philadelphia and in Hazleton.

The Project is being made possible through the generous funding of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council for the town band historical research, and the planning, publicity and presentation of the two town band concerts at the Grand Army of the Republic Museum in Philadelphia, and at the Hazleton Performing Arts Center in Hazleton. The G.A.R. presentation was held April 11. The Hazleton concert was April 18. Both concerts were presented free to the public.

The project is an initial step towards long-term research work and publications, and towards tape and CD productions of the music of two town bands. The project intends to contribute to the little known but vitally important contributions made by Pennsylvania town bands to the 19th century American band movement through music and instrument restoration, public

concerts in the town band tradition, and the publication of print, tape and CD materials. It is firmly believed by both the Beck Band re-enactor musicians and the present Hazleton Liberty Band members that such information and materials will allow the public ready access to understanding the aspirations, values and daily lives of ordinary 19th century Pennsylvanians who lived and died in extraordinary ways in the Civil War era.

For further information about the "Pennsylvania Town Band in the Civil War Era" project, contact either Dr. Thomas M. Ricks, (610) 449-3015 in Havertown, or Dr. Glenn Ryer, (215) 822-2788 in Chalfont, Pa. For information about the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, call (215) 925-1005 or (800) 462-0442 in Philadelphia.

## Penna. Camp Teaches Future Generations

Recently, two members of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin Camp 8, Dept. of Pa., were guests of the Newton Ransom Elementary School in Clarks Summit, Pa. The elementary school has been conducting a full month of Civil War studies.

Auxiliary member and Civil War reenactress Julie Esty discussed the Battle of Gettysburg, and civilian and soldier life during that time.

Also during the presentations — to the Kindergarten, first and fourth grade classes — Mrs. Esty passed around artifacts, battlefield relics, period toys and other items relative to daily life during the 1860s for the children to hold and examine. This gave the children a better understanding of life during the Civil War.

Junior camp member and Newton Ransom Middle School student Frank Keenan spoke to the students about the Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg, and about the need for Civil War monument preservation. Brother Keenan has put forth many hours raising funds for monument preservation and has been very successful in his endeavors.

On Arbor Day, April 30, the Newton Ransom School students planted a tree in honor of Civil War veteran and Andersonville prisoner Ezra Ripple. Following the Civil War Ezra Ripple returned to his home in Scranton, Pa., serving as mayor of that town for many years. In addition to the students, the event was also attended by former Scranton Mayor and Vietnam veteran David Wenzel, the Lackawanna County Historical Society and members of the Lt. Ezra S. Griffin Camp 8.



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4692 West Donges Lane  
Brown Deer, WI 53223

#### DAMES OF THE LOYAL LEGION

**President**  
Florence Stanley  
4600 Reservoir Rd. NW  
Washington, DC 20007

*As we continue to observe the centennial of the Spanish American War and its residual effects, it is fitting that we should direct our attention to those Civil War veterans who, once again, answered the call - serving their country in its first overseas war.*

## Remembering Charles Sigsbee!

by James M. Gallen

Charles D. Sigsbee, career naval officer, was born in Albany, New York, on January 16, 1845. Upon graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1863 he began a career which would be remembered, primarily, for his service as the last Captain of the USS Maine. At the start of his career, he served under the two most famous Union naval commanders of the Civil War. He was first assigned to the West Gulf Blockade Squadron under Admiral David G. Farragut, serving on the USS Monogahela and USS Brooklyn. It was aboard the Brooklyn, the first of the wooden vessels to run past the guns of Fort Morgan, that Sigsbee took part in the Battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864.

Sigsbee was then transferred to the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron under Admiral David D. Porter. It was in service with the North Atlantic Squadron that Sigsbee participated in the largest naval action of the war - the attack on Fort Fisher, North Carolina in December, 1864 and January, 1865. Fort Fisher's significance was that it protected Wilmington as a haven for blockade runners. General Lee warned Colonel William Lamb, Confederate commander of Fort Fisher, that the fort must be held at all costs, for without the supplies from the blockade runners, his army could not be sustained and he would be forced to evacuate Richmond.

The assault of Fort Fisher took place in two attempts. The first, unsuccessful attempt took place on December 24-25, 1864. It was planned to consist of a naval bombardment, followed by a land assault. The initial attack took place when the former blockade runner Louisiana was loaded with two hundred thirty-five tons of gun powder and was run close to the fort where it exploded shortly after midnight on the morning of the twenty-fourth. The only damage done was to destroy the ship. At daylight, Porter's ships began an intense bombardment. Bombardment was recommenced on Christmas morning. Troops under the command of General Ben Butler were landed and reported that the fort was virtually undamaged by the naval fire. He then evacuated his troops and returned to Hampton Roads. General Grant then replaced Butler with Maj. Gen. A.J. Terry.

The second attack on Fort Fisher began with the landing of General Terry's troops on January 13, 1865. Admiral Porter employed different bombardment orders in the second attack. In the first attack, the Navy had conducted a general bombardment of the fort. In the second attack, each of the 44 ships was assigned specific targets and ordered to shell them until destroyed. A force of 1,600 sailors and 400 Marines were landed on the morning of January 15 for an assault on

the fort from the seaward. The Army attacked from the landward. Heavy naval bombardment was commenced until 3 p.m., when the troops were ready for the assault. The Confederates mistook the sailor and Marine attack as the main attack and concentrated their defenses upon it. This permitted the Army to succeed in taking the fort by 9 p.m. Fort Fisher was the most fortified position taken by amphibious assault during the Civil War. As he predicted, General Lee was able to hold out only three months after the fall of Fort Fisher.

During the years after the war, Sigsbee was assigned to duty in the Asiatic and European squadrons as well as an instructor at the Naval Academy. During his service with the Hydrographic Office, ships under his command discovered what would be called the Sigsbee Deep, the deepest spot in the Gulf of Mexico. He invented a number of deep-sea sounding and sampling devices. He commanded the USS Kearsarge (which had sunk the CSS Alabama) in 1885-86. In March, 1897 he was promoted to Captain and given the command of the USS Maine.

The Maine had been commissioned on September 17, 1895. With her four 10-inch guns and rated speed of 17 knots, she was considered a second-class battleship, but definitely heavier than any cruiser. Sigsbee and the Maine kept their rendezvous with destiny when they sailed into Havana Harbor on January 25, 1898. Although the visit was "friendly," the purpose was to pressure Spain to moderate its suppression in Cuba. All knew that the presence of the Maine could lead to an incident, but from whom, no one knew.

On February 15, 1898, the time for an incident to be remembered had arrived. The Maine had been in Havana for three weeks and was scheduled to leave shortly to celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans. Although Counsel General Fitzhugh Lee (former major general, CSA) initially considered the presence of the Maine a source for concern, he had grown complacent as time passed without incident. At 9:40 p.m. all complacency was shattered. Just as Sigsbee was finishing a letter to his wife, he was disturbed by two roaring explosions from port side forward. As smoke filled his cabin, he went to an outer deck where he gave orders to assemble a damage-control team and to flood the ship's magazines. The initial suspicion was that the Maine had been struck by a mine and was under attack from the neighboring Spanish vessel Alfonso XII. It was quickly determined that Alfonso was not involved in the explosion. The sinking of the Maine left 265 sailors dead or missing.

*Continued on Page 23*

## G.A.R. History

by Robert J. Wolz

As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the last National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, it seems fitting that we review some of the history of our relationship with the Grand Army.

During its heyday, the G.A.R. held huge encampments. The 1888 encampment, held in Columbus, Ohio, saw 55,000 members in attendance. 585 were actual G.A.R. delegates, while the rest of the veterans attended various reunion groups.

Their sons, the Sons of Veterans USA, held separate encampments, often at different times and sometimes on opposite sides of the country. A delegation of Sons would always participate in the Grand Review parade and attend the campfire program of the G.A.R.

The high point for the G.A.R. came in 1890 with 408,489 members on the rolls.

As the veterans marched in review, the parade at the 1892 National Encampment in Washington, D.C., lasted 12 hours. One entire section of that parade was comprised of Sons of Veterans companies. Sadly, this was the G.A.R.'s greatest moment.

By 1902 their membership had dropped to 263,745. Most veterans were now senior citizens. Now the Sons and Sons Auxiliary started meeting with the Grand Army and its Allied Orders. From 1913 on, the Sons met in the same location and at the same time as the G.A.R.

The Grand Army always loved their Sons. As their membership declined even more, they requested the Sons of Veterans Reserve to provide 100 uniformed soldiers as escorts and, of course, all the field music - the fife and drum corps - the Sons could provide. Often, two full units were present at national encampments - Major John Runkle's Pennsylvania Brigade Drum Corps from Harrisburg and Ohio's Mount Vernon Fife and Drum Corps. (David Klinepeter, still active in the Dept. of Pa., was a member of Major Runkle's corps.)

In 1948, Grand Rapids, Mich., was the National Encampment host city. That encampment saw six G.A.R. members present of the 28 total still enrolled. Those present were 99 year old Theodore Penland, the youngest of the group, of Portland, Ore.; 103 year old John Grate of Atwater, Ohio; 102 year old Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minn.; 105 year old William Osborne of Joplin, Mo.; 102 year old Charles Chapple of Long Beach, Calif.; and the senior of the six, at age 107, James Hard of Rochester, N.Y.

The Sons of Veterans Reserve once again had the honor of providing the uniformed escort for these six Comrades.

It was at this encampment that the G.A.R. passed the resolution to hold one final encampment in 1949. The place selected was Indianapolis, Indiana - the place where it all began. That first encampment, 83 years prior, had drawn 228 delegates from 11 departments.

August 28 to September 1, 1949, the Final Encampment was held in the Claypool Hotel. As in the year prior, six members were in attendance. Theodore Pentland as Commander-in-Chief at 100 years old, Albert Woolson as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief at 103, Charles Chappel at 102, James Hard at 108, Joseph Clovese of Michigan at 105, and Robert Barrett of Kentucky at 102 years of age.

On that Sunday, a memorial service was held in memory of the many hundreds of thousands of members who had gone before. Monday saw the issuance of the G.A.R. commemorative stamp. G.A.R. business sessions were held at the Indiana Ballroom.

It was at one of these business sessions that Miss Cora Gillis, G.A.R. National Secretary and a Daughters of Union Veterans Past National President, was instructed to close the affairs of the G.A.R. Miss Gillis

### George A. Custer Camp, No. 17 MIDDLETOWN, NEW JERSEY



Above, rightly proud charter members of George A. Custer Camp 17 at their 'Charter' meeting early last year

Shown left to right are: George Selover, Mike Horgan, Bob Frake, Bob Worth, Waldo Jones, Dept. Commander Joe Walsh, Dept. SVC Barry Clark, Scott McCullough, Camp Secretary Tom Burke (holding Charter), Jon McCullough, Dept. JVC Clark McCullough, George Brush, Camp Commander Marty Weisman, and Mark Catona (seated). Not shown is Harry Douglas, taking the picture.

Below, new camp members are being sworn in a subsequent meeting. Pictured are Camp Secretary Tom Burke, Peter Kennedy, Joe Henderson, Peter Sebring (holding the Colors), Waldo Jones, Camp Commander Marty Weisman (in back), and Bob Bowell. These Brothers are being sworn in by Department Commander Mike Horan.



turned over the flag, seal and journals of the G.A.R. to the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress.

During the Final Parade, all six veterans rode in cars, escorted one last time by the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

On Wednesday, August 31, the U.S. Marine Corps Band provided a concert at the Final Campfire at the Indiana Roof Ballroom. Sadly, after the physical and emotional drain of the prior days' events, the only G.A.R. veteran feeling well enough to attend was Commander-in-Chief Penland. Even so, approximately 1200 individual members of the Allied Orders were in attendance.

*This year you, too, have the opportunity to be a part of history by attending this special 50th anniversary commemoration of the Final Encampment of the G.A.R. Plan to join your Brothers in Indianapolis in August!*



# 1999 National Encampment

Thursday, August 19 through Sunday, August 22, 1999 • Indianapolis, Indiana

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 118th Encampment  
Auxiliary to the SUVCW 113th Encampment  
Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic 112th Encampment

## Adams Mark Hotel

2544 Executive Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46241  
(317) 248-2481 / Fax: (317) 381-6170

### HOTEL REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 22, 1999

The room rate is \$83.00 plus tax per night  
This is the same hotel we had in 1991  
Just across Interstate 465 from the Indianapolis Airport

**WE ARE ALL INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC**

**BECOME PART OF HISTORY  
ATTEND THIS SPECIAL  
ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT**

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

It was August 1949 when the G.A.R. held its last National Encampment in Indianapolis. The hotel they were at is gone, but the site of their last campfire has been fully restored to its original splendor. Just three blocks from the Soldiers and Sailors Monument downtown, it was, and still is, called the "Indiana Roof Ballroom."

On Thursday, August 19, 1999 we will have a wreath laying ceremony and banquet in memory of, and to the honor of, the Grand Army of the Republic. The banquet will be at the same ballroom.

We guarantee you will not be disappointed in the ceremony, the ballroom or the entertainment.

All members of all the Allied Orders are invited to attend and participate in the ceremony and the Commemoration Banquet. Preregistration is required for this banquet. Banquet facility limited to the first 1200 registered. There is a banquet charge of \$30 per person. All parade and banquet registrations must be in by July 22, 1999.

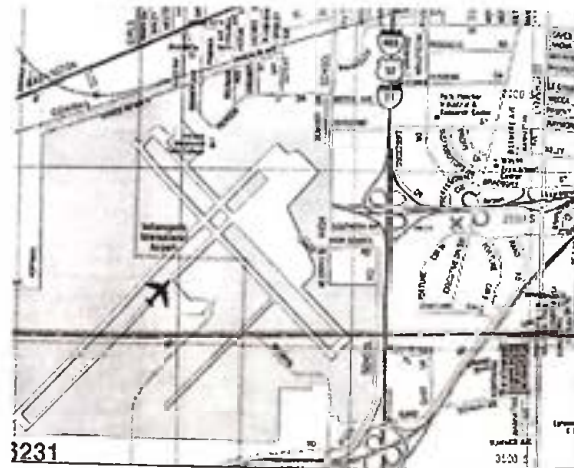
Note: This banquet is separate from the Saturday Allied Orders Encampment banquet.

E-mail inquires to: [capted@crowne.net](mailto:capted@crowne.net)

Send registration to:

**1999 Encampment Committee  
P.O. Box 65  
Valparaiso, IN 46384-0065**

## Indianapolis Area Map Hotel Location



## National Encampment Official Program Book

Show your support of the 1999 National Encampment by purchasing an ad in the official encampment program book.

Express pride in your Civil War ancestor, your department or camp. Congratulate the Commander in Chief and the National Presidents or send greetings to the Allied Orders of this National Encampment.

Rates: Full page \$30; 1/2-pg. \$20; 1/4-pg. \$10; 1/8-pg. \$7.

Make check or money order payable to: **D.D. Porter Camp 116, SUVCW.**

Send ads for the program book to: **1999 Encampment Committee, P.O. Box 65, Valparaiso, IN 46384-0065.**

## 1999 Encampment Pre-Registration

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

CAMP NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT OR HIGHEST PAST OFFICE:**  
(check only one)

☐ Past Commander-in-Chief

☐ Dept. Commander

☐ Delegate

☐ Past Dept. Commander

☐ Alternate

Complete this form and send it with check or money order (no cash) for \$7.00 made out to:

**National Organization, SUVCW**

Send this to:

**1999 Encampment Committee  
P.O. Box 65, Valparaiso, IN 46384-0065**

## REGISTRATION FORMS

### Allied Orders Banquet

**Saturday, August 21, 1999**

**Pecan Crusted Chicken**

**Breast of Chicken Coated with Ground Pecans  
and Served with Rum Sauce**

or

**Grilled Pork Medallions  
with a Roquefort Garlic Sauce**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ **Chicken meals at \$24.00 each**

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ **Grilled Pork meals at \$24.00 each**

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Enclosed**

Make Check Payable to:

**D.D. Porter Camp 116, SUVCW**

Mail to:

**1999 Encampment Committee  
P.O. Box 65, Valparaiso, IN 46384-0065**

## 1999 G.A.R. Commemoration Banquet

**INDIANA ROOF BALLROOM**

**140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Ind.  
Thursday, August 19, 1999 / 6:00 p.m.**

**Entertainment: 97th Regimental String Band**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED \_\_\_\_\_

There is a \$30 (thirty dollar) per person banquet fee for this unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

NUMBER OF PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_

X \$30

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

**D.D. Porter Camp 116, SUVCW**

Return this form to:

**1999 Encampment Committee  
P.O. Box 65, Valparaiso, IN 46384-0065**

## Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Wreath Laying Ceremony

**Thursday, August 19, 1999 • Indianapolis, Indiana**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION) \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE YOU REGISTERING? \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL PEOPLE BEING REGISTERED - USE BACK AS NEEDED: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:

**1999 Encampment Committee  
P.O. Box 65, Valparaiso, IN 46384-0065**



# Suye Narita Gambino

U.S. GRANT COTTAGE CARETAKER

Suye Narita was born in Yokahoma, Japan, during the spring or autumn of 1903. She embarked with her family at Seattle in 1909, along with Dr. Adeline D.H. Kelsey of Westdale, N.Y., a Presbyterian medical missionary.

On May 15, 1914, Suye took up residence with Oliver P. and Martha Clark, caretakers of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage on Mt. McGregor, N.Y. Mrs. Clark and Dr. Kelsey were sisters.

This visit would last over 70 years. Suye came to Mt. McGregor as it was thought she had tuberculosis and "the cure" would help her.

The Clarks lived upstairs in the cottage with Suye while they maintained the rooms downstairs where Grant spent his last days, having died there July 23, 1885.

It was during this time that Suye became knowledgeable in the Civil War and the life of Gen. Grant. She met many of the famous people of the G.A.R. that came up to visit the shrine where their leader had died. On the last Sunday in May a ceremony would be held at Grant's Tomb in New York City, and on the first Sunday a ceremony would be held where he died.

Mr. Clark, having served in the 94th

N.Y.S.V., died May 13, 1917. He had been caretaker of the Grant Cottage for some 28 years. Martha Clark took over her husband's caretaking duties, remaining until her death in 1941.

Upon the death of Mrs. Clark, Suye assumed the role of caretaker. Not everyone, however, was willing to accept her. The U.S. was propelled into World War II, and there was a great anti-Japanese sentiment in the nation. Through the efforts of local residents and of a Mr. Merritt Doescher of Wilton, in particular, of the N.Y.S. Police, she was spared the fate of her family of going to an interment camp. She was, however, forbidden to leave the mountain for a year. In addition, the cottage was searched and her radio confiscated.

Even before the war, a concerted effort was made to obtain U.S. citizenship for her. Until this time, citizenship was denied to Japanese except by special acts of Congress.

In 1937, Mr. Theodore Knapp, National Counselor of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, an attorney of nearby Saratoga Springs, and Rep. Harold Cluett of Troy, N.Y., were able to introduce a bill to grant her citizenship.

She appeared before a Congressional committee on February 11, 1938. While there was no objection to her, it was thought that the door would be open to many objectionable aliens. The measure died in committee.

However, after the war, on February 9,

1953, she obtained her citizenship under the new Immigration Act of December 24, 1952.

She knew thousands of facts about Gen. Grant. What she did not know visitors would fill in.

She lived at the Grant Cottage until she died, October 2, 1984. Her husband, Tony Gambino, took over as caretaker, serving for several years after her death.

Less than a year before her death, she received a special award from Governor Mario Cuomo for her 40 years as the official caretaker of the Grant Cottage.

The U.S. Grant Cottage is the last remaining building of a 1880's resort that was built on Mt. McGregor. In the early years of the century, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company built a tuberculosis sanatorium near the cottage. The buildings are now a minimum-medium security prison, although the Grant Cottage is not within the inmate area. The Friends of the U.S. Grant Cottage (P.O. Box 990, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866) keep the historic site running on a daily basis. The N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites owns the site. It is opened Memorial Day week-end through Labor Day and then on week-ends until mid-October.

An excellent source on the history of the Grant Cottage is "The Captain Departs," by Thomas Pitkin, 1973, published by Southern Illinois University Press.

## NPS Gets Additional Funding To Preserve Museum Collection

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE — Gettysburg National Military Park has announced that it will receive special funding in the amount of \$150,000 in 1999 to care for its museum collection.

The federal funding will allow the park to re-house artifacts, catalog archeological materials from the Brian farm, and catalog additional objects in the archives.

The National Park Service has been working steadily to improve conditions in its museum collection at Gettysburg. Since 1993, the park has installed a fire suppression system, purchased shelving and cabinets, completed the backlog cataloging for the artifact collection, entered over 24,000 catalog records into a new, computerized catalog system, and made other improvements at a total cost of \$553,500.

While these improvements have been underway, the National Park Service has proposed building a new Visitor Center and Museum at Gettysburg. The present Visitor Center is inadequate, outdated, and its storage areas for artifacts do not have heat or humid-

ity controls. New facilities would solve serious preservation problems and allow the park to remove the Visitor and Cyclorama Centers, restoring the Union battle line at Cemetery ridge, the scene of heavy fighting during the battle.

"We are making slow and steady progress to ensure that the collection is cared for to the best of our ability," said park Superintendent John Latschar. "At this point, we can't do much more until we get a facility that can provide basic needs such as a stable, climate-controlled artifact storage area, wheelchair accessibility, research access for the public, and sufficient exhibit areas to allow us to tell the story of the battle of Gettysburg within the context of American history."

With funding provided in fiscal years 1996-1998, the following improvements have been made to care for the museum collections at Gettysburg National Military Park:

- Completion of all backlog cataloging for artifacts in the museum collection.
- Ongoing re-cataloging of manual catalog records to the automated national catalog

system. Currently 24,049 artifacts have been entered into the system, out of the total collection of 41,797 catalog records.

- Completion of the Collection Management Plan and Collection Storage Plan.
- Re-housing of artifacts and archival materials in the museum collection.
- Major purchases of museum storage cabinets and shelving and curatorial supplies, i.e., acid-free boxes, tissue paper, etc.
- Rehousing and inventory of artifacts in rooms 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 of the museum storage area.
- Rehousing of art and prints into storage cabinets and acid-free holders and backings.
- Archival re-housing is currently underway to improve housing and preservation of archival materials in the museum collection.
- Upgrade of museum storage intrusion alarm system.
- Expansion of museum storage area into an additional 1,600 square feet of space in the old Eisenhower tour center.

Continued from Page 12

## FATHER/FOUNDER AUGUSTUS P. DAVIS

corps of young boys was actually begun, only to be rejected by post members. Finally, in Sept. 1881, Post 3 members took a neutral position on Augustus' latest proposal. They would not endorse his plan, nor would they oppose it.

Davis had devised a plan to organize the sons of members of the G.A.R. into a military style organization whose purposes would mimic those of the G.A.R. and additionally be bound to provide assistance to the members of the G.A.R. Membership was limited to the eldest living son of a G.A.R. member.

The first organization meeting was held Nov. 12, 1881, in the Post 3 meeting room, third floor of the old City Hall. A group of eight boys met and adopted the constitution, rules, regulations, and ritual written by A. P. Davis, and formed the Sons of Veterans of Pennsylvania. They elected officers, and thus was born the organization today known as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

## On Oct. 18, 1882, the first National Encampment was held in Pittsburgh.

Articles of Incorporation were filed on Dec. 28, 1881, and approved by the Court of Common Pleas the same day. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approved the charter on Jan. 12, 1882. (A transcription of the Articles of Incorporation can be seen on the SUVCW website at [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org))

Augustus fervently devoted his time, energy and money to the proliferation of the Sons of Veterans of Pennsylvania. Camps were formed throughout Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and southern New York. By mid year it was apparent that there was a need for a formal organization within Pennsylvania. On July 4, 1882, the Division of Pennsylvania was created and the first Division Encampment held in Pittsburgh.

Throughout the summer of 1882 the organization grew geometrically. By fall, there was a pressing need for a national organization. On Oct. 18, 1882, the first National Encampment was held in Pittsburgh. The constitution, rules and regulations proposed by A. P. Davis were adopted and the name of the corporation changed to Sons of Veterans of the United States of America.

A. P. Davis' grandiose vision of organizing the sons of veterans had become a reality.

But the scope of his plan went far beyond simply organizing the sons. His plan is encapsulated in his own words:

"The Sons of Veterans is destined to become the great military organization of the country, that glory of its supremacy, that healing of the sense when its National hymn are sung that none other not thus reared can know or feel. Through this organization the declining days of the Union Veteran will be made pleasant, his record of service to his country preserved, his memory honored, patriotism promoted. While if the dire necessity of the Nation should dictate, the Sons of Veterans, uniformed, drilled and equipped would come at once to her defense with the glory of their fathers surrounding them, each heart pulsating in unison with the rising and falling of the Nation's emblem. And who would be powerful enough to prevail against such a host?"

For all his devotion to the Sons of Veterans, USA, Augustus P. Davis was declared a Past Commander-in-Chief and Past Grand Division Commander in August 1884. He was given the following letter to be deposited with the camp of his choice:

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This will certify that Major A. P. Davis of Pittsburg, Pa. Having been duly declared a Past Commander-in-Chief and a Past Grand Division Commander and having at the later meeting of the Second Grand Division and the Commander-in-Chief held in the City of Philadelphia in August last [1884] been granted full and complete membership in the order including the right to vote where ever he so desires. Therefore by the unanimous action of the above bodies the said Major A. P. Davis is legally entitled to have his name placed upon the rolls of any one camp in the order, of the division in which he may reside and when so placed he shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of other members of said camp.

H. W. Arnold  
Commander-in-Chief  
Attest:  
C. A. Marsh  
Adj. Gen'l.

On April 9, 1885, A. P. Davis deposited his membership with Davis Camp \* and was entered upon the rolls.

Final and complete acceptance by the Grand Army of the Republic came in 1888. In his report to the National Encampment of the G.A.R., Commander-in-Chief John P. Rea stated, "It will be but a short period until our ranks are so meager and the surviving Comrades so weighed down with the burden of years that our organization will have ceased to be an

active force in the work of loyal love and charity which it has ordained. The tender ceremonies of Memorial Day will then be performed

## ...wisdom to establish such relationship between our Order and the Sons of Veterans...

by others or not at all. It seems to me that it would be the part of wisdom for us while yet in our vigor to establish such relationship between our Order and the Sons of Veterans as to properly recognize the organization."

As a result of CinC Rea's presentation the G.A.R. adopted the following resolution:

"RESOLVED: That this encampment endorse the objects and purposes of the Order of Sons of Veterans of the United States of America and hereby give the Order the official recognition of the Grand Army of the Republic and recommend that Comrades aid and encourage the institution of Camps of the Sons of Veterans of the USA."

During the 1890 National Encampment in St. Joseph, Missouri, A. P. Davis recounted the early history of the SUVCW in an interview with a reporter from the St. Joe *Ballot* published on August 25, 1890:

"I had an idea that there should be some such an order as the Sons of Veterans for some time before its organization. A number of others shared the opinion with me, but when I would bring the matter before the Grand Army encampment, a majority would be found opposing it and the matter would be set aside. In the year of 1880, I organized a "junior marching band" composed of small boys and it was so much of a success Mrs. Davis and my son urged me to organize a permanent organization. The matter came before us strikingly by the events of Memorial Day. Who would strew flowers on the graves of heroes when the shattered fragment of the Grand Army was no more? I went to work on the prospectus, mapped out the constitution, and endeavored through that summer unsuccessful with my project.

"On November 12, 1881, I got together with eight boys, and the first camp of the Sons of Veterans was organized."

Davis continued:

"Two weeks later we met again and exemplified the ritual, and adopted it. In December of 1881, I mustered in a camp at Allegheny City. That was the second camp of the order... In January 1882, I mustered in a camp at McKeesport, Pa., and another camp in Pittsburgh, Pa.... the order was sufficiently advanced to form a division. The meeting was held in

Continued on Page 20



## FATHER/FOUNDER AUGUSTUS P. DAVIS

Pittsburgh and Division constitution and by laws were adopted. Officers elected.

"At about this time the Order began to spread to other states, by the aid of Comrades in the Grand Army of the Republic. I did not hesitate to urge every Comrade to lend the weight of his influence in its favor. And I soon found that sufficient interest had been aroused to flood me with letters and correspondence from every quarter. In July 1882, the movement had met such success and rapid progress that I decided in the absence of Col. Rowley, who was away for his health, to declare him provisional Commander-in-Chief. And erected a national organization. We also divided the United States into five Grand Divisions. Shortly after, acting Commander-in-Chief Rowley issued a call for the first national encampment to be held in Pittsburgh, Pa. October 18, 1882. This meeting was not a large one, but as successful as could be expected. At that encampment a regular national organization was made. A constitution, rules and by law that I had previously prepared were adopted and a set of national officer were elected."

Augustus concluded his remarks, "The Order is stronger, healthier and better conditioned today than ever and another year will show progress greater than any other year in the past. The Order will go on and increase until I am unable to see when the flood tide will be reached. There was a time when it was an experiment, and a good many did not agree with me. I had a great deal to discourage me and to cast me down, but I never had a fear for its ultimate success. Much credit for the success of the Order is due to the Grand Division officers, as well as hundreds of Comrades of the Grand Army all over the land, who were kind to me and my infant adventure."

A. P. Davis' "infant adventure" had indeed been successful. At the time of the 1890 National Encampment he reported the total membership at 145,000. The number would eventually reach its pinnacle of slightly more than 200,000 in 1904.

Throughout the remainder of his life A. P. Davis continued to foster the growth of his beloved Sons, and the Ladies Aid Society [later to change its name to Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War] which he had founded in 1884. He developed incentive programs for those who recruited new members and traveled extensively promoting the Order.

His health continuing to decline, A. P. Davis was confined to bed by his doctor in the fall of 1898. After a prolonged illness, he answered his final muster call at 6:00 a.m., May 21, 1899, at his home — 6335 Howe Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

On May 22, 1899, the following notice ap-

peared on Page 1 of the Pittsburgh Press. "A mass meeting of the Sons of Veterans of Pittsburgh, Allegheny and vicinity is called to meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Armory of COA, 14th Regiment, in Old City Hall to take suitable action regarding the death of Major Augustus P. Davis." The number of Sons attending the meeting was so great they could not all be accommodated.

On May 24, 1899, Major Augustus Plummer "Father" Davis was laid to rest in Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh. While we do not know the number of Sons who participated in his funeral, we do know it was estimated at several thousand. One report characterized the funeral procession as "...rivaling that of a President of the United States."

At the behest of Mrs. Davis, it was the Sons of Veterans burial service which was conducted. The pall bearers, honor guard, and firing squad were all from his beloved Sons. Even his Comrades of Post 3 conceded that it was more fitting that the Sons conduct the service than they.

Even in death Davis continued to provide for the Sons of Veterans. In his last will and testament he bequeathed \$500.00 to the National Organization, \$250.00 to the Ladies Aid Society and \$50.00 to Davis Camp. He also bequeathed the following personal property to the National Organization:

- 1st. The four swords (4) that I used at different times during the late Civil War.
- 2nd. The belts (2 in all) for the same which I desire shall be restored and put in order, also my military sash.
- 3rd. My spurs and field glasses.
- 4th. My commission from the Governor of the State of Maine and the President of the United States.
- 5th. My certificates of membership in the various Military and Civil Orders to which I belong.
- 6th. The coat and vest buttons used by me during the late Civil War.
- 7th. Any other articles that my wife Nancy E. Davis desires shall be included in this list."

On March 6, 1902, the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans of the United States declined to accept the \$500 legacy. The personal property was accepted.

Regardless of the unsubstantiated allegation about Augustus P. Davis character made by those opposed to his pension, his later life did not give any indication of such behavior. The readers are left to decide for themselves the true character of the man.

*Epitaph*  
Securely laid in his last retreat  
Unheeded o'er his silent dust  
the storms of life shall beat

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The assistance of many people was required to assemble all the information needed to write this biography. In addition to David R. Orr, PDC, the author is indebted to Brothers George Randall and John Douglas. Also to Davis Camp \* PCC Joseph Pulgini (former Director, Department of Veterans Services, Allegheny County, Pa.), Bruno Krsul (former Director, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, Pittsburgh, Pa.) and Rozenne Bucher (former Librarian, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall) for their invaluable assistance, and to Rebecca Pratt for critically reviewing the manuscript.

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## Where Is The Banner?

In December 1992, PCinC R.C. Schlenker inquired of the Library of Congress, through his Representative in the House, what issues of *The Banner* might be shelved there.

*The Banner* had been published from 1897 thru 1951 by Dustin and Holbrook of Dwight, Ill., and was declared the official organ of the Sons of Veterans USA at the 1903 National Encampment held in Providence, R.I.

The report of the Library of Congress revealed a scattered collection beginning in 1907, with many volumes missing.

Thinking it might be a good project to fill in the missing items, Bro. Schlenker appealed to our members for assistance.

From April 1993 thru June 1995 Bro. Joseph Long, Dept. of Pa., made many contributions of scattered issues covering the periods 1917-1923, 1930, 1935, and 1941-1942. In May 1993 Bro. Albert W. Lambert, Dept. of N.J., submitted issues from 1956-1980. In July 1993 Bro. Don Cheney, Dept. of Calif. and Pacific, sent two bound volumes covering 1952-1960 and 1961-1974. In March 1994 Sr. and PNP Margaret Schroeder, Dept. of N.J., sent many issues covering 1946-1978. Bro. Ivan Frantz Sr., Dept. of Pa., sent many issues covering 1937-1953 and 1967-1974.

In 1996 an inventory was made of *The Banners* on file at the G.A.R. Museum and Library in Philadelphia which held scattered volumes and pages from 1925-1934 and many issues 1940-1951.

With the dwindling of contributions, it was felt that the holdings should be accessible for research. Thus they were transferred to the G.A.R. Library on Lincoln's Birthday 1999, the Library of Congress showed no interest in accession.

## California & Pacific Auxiliary Recover Auctioned Seal

In February Sgt. William Pittenger Aux. 21 President Rosemary Lowe was contacted by Betty Baker, National Auxiliary President, and Chuck Davis, SUVCW Department Secretary, concerning a "G.A.R.-type department seal" that was up for bid on the eBay Internet auction site.



In checking, it was found that it was in fact an Auxiliary seal embosser and it was "on the auction block." In an effort to have the embossing device removed from auction, Mrs. Lowe and a number of National and Department officers contacted the seller, a Mr. William Musso, via e-mail, explaining that the device was ASUVCW Department property and that it should not have been sold as private property.

To the surprise of all, Mr. Musso replied immediately saying he had removed it from the auction prior to final sale.

Mr. Musso had purchased it, along with other items, at a garage sale in Nevada. He had not realized its value to the Order or its ownership. At Mr. Musso's request, a letter of verification was sent on Auxiliary stationery. An effort was made to reimburse him for his cost and postage was made. However, Mr. Musso would accept only reimbursement for postage to return the embosser to its rightful owners.

Another combined effort was made, expressing the Department's thanks for Mr. Musso's sense of honesty and consideration.

The seal embosser is now safely in the possession of Department President Betty Woerner.

## Who Was William Tabor?

by Douglass R. Knight

William L.S. Tabor was born June 2, 1843, in Methuen, Massachusetts. He is one of the very few, very brave local men to be awarded America's highest honor — the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In September 1862, during General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North, William Tabor travelled from Derry, New Hampshire, where he lived and worked at the outbreak of the Civil War, to the nearby town of Hampstead. There he enlisted as a private in Company K of the newly formed 15th N.H. Vols.

The 1000 men and ten companies of the 15th N.H. assembled at Concord. From there they went by train, first to Boston and then to New York. From New York, they shipped out to New Orleans, Louisiana. Once in Louisiana — a hell-hole of alligators, poisonous snakes, and tropical disease (from which 130 of Tabor's comrades died) — the 15th N.H. was assigned to duty in trenches opposite Confederate fortifications at Port Hudson, Louisiana, on the

Mississippi River.

It was in these trenches, in July 1863, that 20 year old Pvt. Tabor distinguished himself in the service of his country. As Tabor wrote after the war, "One of their [i.e., the Confederates'] contrivances for throwing [explosive] shells amongst our men was to place short fuse shells into a trough constructed of planks, lift up one end of it, thus lowering the other end over our works, and drop shells into our ranks.

"The first time that they attempted this," wrote Tabor, "they succeeded in killing and wounding 125 men. . . Just as they were putting a second shell in the trough, I jumped up on the sandbags which formed our breastworks, slipped a noosed rope around the trough, and jerked it into our lines. This resulted in throwing the shell the other way, falling among the rebels and exploding there. While slipping the rope around the trough, I was necessarily exposed to the full view of the rebel sharpshooters. . ."

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty," William Tabor was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Tabor is the only man born in Methuen, the only Derry resident, and the only man credited to Hampstead to be so honored. William Tabor's name appears on the Civil War monument in Hampstead.

William Tabor died December 15, 1921, and buried in East Derry, N.H.

In 1993, William Tabor Camp 162 was formed in Methuen, Mass., and named in honor of this local Medal of Honor recipient. The camp's official color guard is Co. B, 26th Massachusetts Vol. Inf.

*Douglass Knight is Commander of Camp 162, Methuen, Dept. of Mass. Brother Knight can be reached at 603-898-4286 (Salem, N.H.) for more information.*



# Griswold Memorial Cannon Situation

Sons from thirteen different departments have responded to the call for funds to wage a legal battle against the American Legion in Griswold, Iowa.

More than \$3000 has been raised and an additional \$2000 from an anonymous source is also available as needed.

Articles generated in Iowa newspapers have drawn considerable outside interest to this situation — including the attention of the Chicago Tribune, USA TODAY and the Los Angeles Times.

In December, Dept. of Iowa Commander Brad McGowan traveled to Griswold to meet

Brother Dennis Sasse. Sasse alerted DC McGowan to the peril that the Griswold memorial cannon was in. It was also an opportunity for DC McGowan and Brother Sasse to be interviewed for an article that has appeared in a January issue of the Los Angeles Times. The interview took place with Stephanie Simon, a St. Louis reporter for the Times.

According to DC McGowan, "The most disappointing aspect to this sad affair is the response thus far from both the department and national levels of the American Legion."

McGowan went on to say, "God forbid some judge rule against us in this matter — we

are prepared to immediately appeal. We are dedicated to tying this memorial cannon up in the courts until we win.

"Brothers, one thing that we cannot stress enough is how we present information to the media. Misinformation is worse than no information at all. Words must be carefully measured. We must get away from putting any kind of price tag on these memorials. We must make the public see a "memorial cannon," not just a cannon — and not just a quick buck to be made. Please join me in this effort."

# VETERANS' MEMORIAL LEGISLATION

by Kent Armstrong, National Civil War Memorials Officer

The National Civil War Memorials Committee is requesting all departments to actively encourage their respective state lawmakers to create legislation for the protection and preservation of memorials. Additionally, an effort should be made to evaluate and improve existing veterans' memorial statutes.

A number of departments have recently reported an increase in interest and involvement within the states they represent. Memorials Officer Kent Armstrong urges, "we should move ahead to promote protective legislation in each state. By broadening the scope to include all veterans' memorials of all eras, the support of other veterans' groups will come into play. Anything and everything that honors our country's veterans should be identified — especially memorials that include armaments, i.e. 'memorial Cannon.'"

To help in assuring consistency, National Counselor James B. Pahl has appointed Judge

Henry E. Shaw Jr. to evaluate proposed legislation. Brother Shaw has volunteered his time and expertise to evaluate, and offer advice for, proposed legislation.

Brother Shaw has offered to compare existing state statutes related to veterans' memorials, and advise how these laws may be improved or expanded on to address a specific issue or to include more concerns.

An example is a Michigan law protecting veterans' grave markers/flag holders. That law dates from 1915. A few years ago, the Sons were able to improve this statute by making it illegal for anyone to even possess one of these (without permission of a cemetery — for repair work).

This took away the excuses of how a person offering a marker for sale came in possession of it. There are obvious exceptions, such as markers in a museum or recently purchased new markers not yet installed. Penalties were also updated.

Similar legislation exists in other states. If such laws could be in place nationwide, the number of markers being sold as "collectibles" might end.

Another existing law found helpful was an Ohio public act dating back to the 19th Century. That act requires any county having jurisdiction over a veterans' cemetery (or a cemetery containing a veterans' memorial) to "care for and properly preserve such monuments or memorials" — and pay associated expenses.

Occasionally, public acts from one state are adopted by others. There may be similar provisions waiting to be found in the compiled laws of your state.

Department commanders and/or counselors are asked to send copies of any proposed legislation and existing statutes to the Honorable Henry E. Shaw Jr., 27 Griswold Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015-1716.

## St. Cloud, Florida, G.A.R. Memorial Hall

When in central Florida, be sure to visit the G.A.R. Memorial Hall museum in St. Cloud. The museum is housed in the hall of Lucius L. Mitchell Post 34, G.A.R. Here is the story of the hall and the museum, courtesy of Beverly Groshek, Museum Curator:

First notice of the St. Cloud veterans colony appeared in the *National Tribune*, February 25, 1909.

On April 16, 1909, the *Kissimmee Valley Gazette* announced the "New Town of St. Cloud," a soldiers' colony that was to be located near Kissimmee. The newspaper described the purchase by the Seminole Land and Investment Company as "one of the most important real estate deals ever made in the State of Florida."

Tracts of land in the city were laid out at 25 feet by 125 feet, with an accompanying five acre plot outside the city. For \$50 a veteran got a share in the Colony Company, a city lot, and a five acre plot outside the city limits. The sale of property showed over 4,000 deeds notarized in just one month. *National Tribune* Editor John McElroy assured the veterans that the land was most productive and the climate very healthful.

The St. Cloud G.A.R. Post was formed December 20, 1909, and received its charter in 1910.

1913 brought the construction of the permanent G.A.R. Memorial Hall. Lucius L. Mitchell Post No. 34, G.A.R., was named in honor of the first deceased veteran of the St. Cloud Colony. It was to become one of the largest posts in the country.

The significance of the hall lies in its direct association with the organization and its membership, serving as a memorial to the Union veterans of the Civil War and as the center for G.A.R. activities of St. Cloud and for the entire state. The hall also functioned for many years as the social center for St. Cloud, providing not only the enter-



tainment but political rallies and educational facilities for stage productions, motion pictures and public speaking. It was also the meeting place for other organizations such as the Masons.

When the hall was built, two panels of bricks were placed on either side of the front doors. Each of the bricks has a veterans name and regiment inscribed on it. These bricks were open to subscription to help pay for the building. They paid \$1.25 to \$2.00 for a name brick.

On December 3, 1915, the G.A.R. installed new officers in "one of the finest buildings in the South, costing considerably over ten thousand dollars." The lower floor was widely viewed as St. Cloud's "opera house," an accolade at that time for the showcase of a city. The stage retains its original curtain and the original footlights.

The building's cornerstone was laid February 12, 1916, the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. The cornerstone's time capsule was opened in a ceremony March 1, 1995. The contents are on display in the Memorial Hall.

February 21, 1997 the hall was officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Memorial Hall, located at 1101 Massachusetts Ave. in St. Cloud, is now opened to the public. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

## Adopt-A-Position Program A Success After 3 Years

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE — Gettysburg National Military Park's Adopt-a-Position program has just finished its third year and is growing tremendously, park officials have announced.

Participation in fiscal year 1998 was higher than ever before and fund-raising by groups for monument restoration and care totaled \$127,627 — more than five times the amount raised in 1997. A high point of the year was in August, when Columbia Gas signed on as the park's first corporation to participate. The utility company donated \$65,000 to the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg to restore the 60 year old Peace Light monument. Columbia Gas employees completed their first work day at the Peace Light in November.

As of now, 192 groups have adopted 316 positions on the Gettysburg battlefield. The total number of participants in fiscal year 1998 is 1,757 people, donating 8,128 hours of volunteer time. Since 1996, when the program was launched, groups have cleared brush, repaired stone and wooden fencing, repainted fences, improved and maintained trails, and painted historic structures. Participants include civil war round tables, re-enactment units, school and university groups, businesses, service organizations, scout groups, military units, families and individuals.

To find out how you can get involved, contact the Adopt-a-Position Coordinator, Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325, telephone (717) 334-5533.

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## Remembering Charles Sigsbee!

The explosion was the subject of a naval court of inquiry, sitting in Key West. Sigsbee maintained that his ship had been destroyed by a Spanish mine. The Court's conclusion was that all safety procedures had been observed and that no fault or negligence on the part of the crew was involved. The court felt the disaster was caused by "the explosion of a mine situated under the bottom of the ship at about frame 18 and somewhat on the port side of the ship." This was believed to have caused the explosion of the two forward magazines. The Spanish report on the explosion noted the absence of a visible geyser of water at the time of the explosion, or dead fish with ruptured bladders on the surface afterward. The Spanish concluded that the explosion was internal, probably caused by spontaneous combustion, a common problem among ships of that era.

The destruction of Sigsbee's ship gave rise to "Remember the Maine," the battle cry of the yellow journalists clamoring for war and for the warriors who followed. Sigsbee was called as a witness before hearings of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in which he testified to his belief that a mine had destroyed the ship.

The American press was quick to assess blame against the Spanish government, while speculation against the Cuban insurgents was also aired. The weak point in the charge against the Spanish was that it did not have any reason to want American involvement in a war against the insurgents in which the Spanish already had the upper hand. The insurgents had a stronger motive to destroy the Maine in the hopes that the American press would blame the Spanish and thereby encourage American intervention. The proposition that the insurgents had the ability to

carry off a successful attack on the Maine was, however, questionable. The Maine disaster has been the subject of several studies, a more recent one being that by Admiral Hyman Rickover in 1974. He concluded that the explosion occurred in the 6-inch reserve magazine, caused, probably, by a fire in bunker A-16. Rickover wrote, "There is no evidence that a mine destroyed the Maine. . . There is no evidence he (Sigsbee) took more than routine measures in Havana to safeguard his ship from an accident. . . Perhaps it is also significant that the Kearsarge and Texas, while under his command, were inspected and found dirty."

After the conclusion of the court of inquiry, Sigsbee was given command of the cruiser USS St. Paul with which he participated in blockade duty off Cuba. On May 25 St. Paul captured a British collier heading for Santiago and spotted the Spanish fleet in port. Sigsbee's last major operation in the Spanish American War occurred on June 22 when St. Paul destroyed the destroyer Terror and cruiser Isabella II off San Juan, Puerto Rico.

After the Spanish American War Sigsbee served as chief intelligence officer of the Navy from 1900-03. He was promoted to rear admiral in August 1903 and commanded the League Island navy yard at Philadelphia in 1903-04, the South Atlantic Squadron in 1904-05 and the 2nd Division of the North Atlantic Fleet in 1905-06. In June-July 1905 he commanded a special squadron detailed to carry the remains of John Paul Jones from Cherbourg, France, to the Naval Academy aboard the Brooklyn. He retired in January 1907. Among his retirement writings was "The Maine, an Account of Her Destruction in Havana Harbor," 1899. He died in New York on July 13, 1923.

James M. Gallen is a member of the William T. Sherman-Billy Yank Camp 65, Dept. of Mo., and an attorney practicing in St. Louis, Mo.





## Third Military District



Left to right: Lt. Col. Robert E. Grim, Corporal Ronnie Cox, 1st Sgt. Bill Radabaugh and Quartermaster Sgt. Marvin Seymore.

Company C, 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry members conducted a living history program for fifth grade students in the gifted and talented classes from Fayette, Clinton and Highland County, Ohio, schools. The students are planning a trip to the Gettysburg Battlefield over the Memorial Day weekend and are trying to learn as much about the Civil War as possible before making the trip. The 20th Ohio set up a Civil War camp site outside the Corwin Nixon Aviation Center at the Laurel Oaks Career Center in Wilmington, Ohio.

It was a cold March day with the temperature at 36 degrees. "I learned from experiencing it how cold it could be and how hungry you could get if you didn't eat the rations they had," said Elizabeth Wilson of East Clinton School.

Jennifer Geyer of Clinton-Massie was impressed by the fact that more people were killed during the Civil war by disease than in battles.

"I learned a lot from this experience," said Tyler Carr of Clinton-Massie, "because I felt like I was actually in the Civil War."

Nathan Blanton of Blanchester said of the experience, "I liked to learn how to cook and eat what they had."

Chelesa Bowling of Blanchester added, "I liked this better than the classroom because you could feel how it really was instead of just imagining it."

Matthew Hakes of Blanchester said, "These activities have helped me better understand the Civil War and what it was all about."

Members of the 20th Ohio were also impressed when they received a personal thank you note from each of the 110 students who visited their camp site.

## Fifth Military District

The 1st Lone Star Infantry (Union) will participate in the Memorial Day Observance at McKinney, Texas. This will consist of a parade and memorial service. Several members will par-

## From the Adjutant General

SVR Lt. Colonel Robert E. Grim, Adjutant General

Please don't forget to file reports of Memorial Day programs and activities with your District Public Information Officer (PIO). If you have photos feel free to include them.

All members of the Sons of Veterans Reserve should take notice of the following personal and unit awards that are available:

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL:** A Silver Star worn on the SVR membership badge. Awarded to those members who demonstrate outstanding meritorious service specifically on behalf of the SVR. It may also be awarded to those members who recruit a minimum of ten (10) new members into the SVR in a calendar year.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL:** A Gold Star worn on the SVR membership badge. Awarded to those members who demonstrate exceptional service of duty that reflects upon the accomplishments and prestige of the SUVCW and SVR on a national scale. Recognition shall be for extremely difficult duty which clearly aids the SVR in furthering the SUVCW mission objectives.

**SVR UNIT CITATION:** Awarded to those units for exceptionally meritorious service in promoting the goals and objectives of the SVR and the SUVCW which clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units. The SVR Unit Citation is a ribbon which is worn over the right breast of the wearer. Subsequent awards to the same unit will be awarded a Bronze Star for placement on the ribbon.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:** Nominations for these awards must be submitted in writing to your District Adjutant

no later than August 1st. Nominations should include a narrative justifying the member's or unit's achievements. The narratives submitted should be specific as to inclusive dates, places, and facts relating to achievement or service. The narrative must clearly portray how the unit's or individual's achievements meet or exceed the criteria established for the award. Any SUVCW member having knowledge of an act or service meriting recognition may initiate a recommendation for an award.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY:** All awards will be presented November 20th at the annual Remembrance Day SVR Breakfast in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. All SVR members and units are encouraged to attend this event.

**NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT:** All units and SVR members are encouraged to attend the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to be held August 19 through August 22, 1999 at Indianapolis, Indiana. Bring your uniform and flags.

**UNIT ADJUTANT'S:** The semi-annual strength report should be sent to the District Adjutant by June 15th. This should include a current roster of members with correct addresses.

**DISTRICT ADJUTANT'S:** The semi-annual strength reports (with membership rosters) from all units in your district are due in my office by July 1st. Please note the address on the forms you have are incorrect. These reports should be mailed to: Lt. Colonel Robert E. Grimm, SVR, Adjutant General, State Route 72 South, Sabina, Ohio 45169-9425.

participate in a brief re-enactment after the ceremonies. A lunch will be provided for both the SVR and Union re-enactors.

Members of the 1st Lone Star will participate in 4th of July parades in Arlington and Irving, Texas. Since these parades happen within a short time of each other, it will be necessary to provide individual color guards for each. For the past three years, the SVR/SUVCW contingent, along with several other historical organizations, has taken top honors in the Arlington parade, one of the state's largest parades.

The 1st Lone Star has provided members for living history demonstrations in the north Texas area during the past few months. Many of these were at public and private elementary and junior high schools in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Members of the 1st Lone Star will also provide a color guard at the Department of the Southwest encampment to be held in Ardmore, Oklahoma, on June 5. This will mark the third year that the SVR has been present at this encampment.



## From the Commanding Officer

SVR Brigadier General David V. Medert, Commanding

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Brother Ken Richmond for the fine production of The Banner. He has really put out a superb magazine for the SUVCW. I have heard nothing but good comments from Brothers about the new style. Thanks Ken.

I would like to welcome to our ranks Company F, 97th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (National Guards), who have recently joined the SVR. Welcome!

The National Encampment is rapidly approaching. I encourage all SVR members to make plans to attend. The Encampment Committee has put together a busy agenda, with many activities focusing around the 50th anniversary of the last G.A.R. Encampment. The parade has been canceled due to difficulty in obtaining parade permits and the time we would have been permitted to have the parade would make it difficult for many to attend. Instead, there will be a wreath laying ceremony on Thursday at 2 p.m., with a banquet that evening. Medals that would have been issued to parade attendees will now be given to those that attend the banquet. For more information contact Captain Ed Kriesser, Provost Marshal for the National Encampment.

All units are reminded that the deadline for submission of award nominations is August 1. Those selected for the awards by the awards committee will receive them at the SVR Breakfast on Remembrance Day. If you know of a Brother that is deserving of an award, submit the nomination to your Military District Commander. The same applies for the Commanding Officer, SVR Unit Citation.

Speaking of Remembrance Day, I hope many of you are making plans to attend. We will follow the same format we did last year, with the SVR Breakfast being at 8 a.m. on November 20. The parade commanders meeting will be held at 10 a.m. and parade line up will commence at 12:30 p.m. The parade will start at exactly 1 p.m. and follow the same route as last year. This is a great event and hope to see many of you there.

In closing, let us not only honor our Civil War ancestors, but all veterans from all wars who made many sacrifices that this great country we call home, remain free and United.

*In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty*  
BG David V. Medert, SVR  
Commanding

## SVR SPECIAL ORDERS

### SPECIAL ORDER NO. 1999-1

April 26, 1999

Effective 18 August 1999, Private Edward J. Krieser is commissioned Captain, Sons of Veterans Reserve, and is appointed Provost Marshal for the 118th National Encampment, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This commission and appointment expires at 2400 hours 22 August 1999.

The duties of Provost Marshal for the 118th National Encampment is to ensure order is maintained when the Commandery is in session. The Provost Marshal will report directly to the Commanding Officer, Sons of Veterans Reserve, or his designee.

David V. Medert  
Brigadier General, SVR  
Commanding

Robert E. Grim  
Lt. Colonel, SVR  
Adjutant General

### SPECIAL ORDER NO. 1999-2

April 26, 1999

Effective 1 May 1999, Captain Anthony Waskie is commissioned Major, Sons of Veterans Reserve, and is appointed Provost Marshal for the 43rd Remembrance Day weekend. This commission and appointment expires 21 November 1999.

The duties of Provost Marshal for the Remembrance Day is to handle parade registration and provide information to parade participants, oversee the line up and superintend parade activities, and act as liaison between the SVR and the Remembrance Day committee. The Provost Marshal will report directly to the Commanding Officer, Sons of Veterans Reserve, or his designee.

David V. Medert  
Brigadier General, SVR  
Commanding

Robert E. Grim  
Lt. Colonel, SVR  
Adjutant General



# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## California & Pacific

Including Nevada

The department held its 113th Annual Encampment March 20 at San Luis Obispo. All camps of the dept. were represented by delegates. The presence and participation of CinC Andrew M. Johnson, the first National officer to visit the dept. in many years, was particularly encouraging to the Brothers. Among actions taken by the Encampment were a rewrite of the dept. bylaws and a vote to increase the dept. per capita tax to \$3. The annual historical program was presented by Dr. Laurence F. Talbott of the Calif. Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Talbott related interesting and little known information regarding Confederate partisan activities within the state during the Civil War.

Dept. officers elected by the Encampment were: Gene Armistead (Camp 21) – Cmdr.; Bob Lowe (Camp 21) – SVC; Brad Schall (Camp 4) – JVC; Chuck Davis (Camp 22) – Sec./Treas.; and Charles Christian (Camp 23). John Pollard St. (Camp 21), and Mike Schooling (Camp 21) – Dept. Council. Five delegates were also elected to the National Encampment in Indianapolis. Appointed Dept. Officers were: Ed Strobridge (Camp 21) – Chaplain; Roger Knox (Camp 4) – Patriotic Instructor; Patrick Lennon (Camp 4) – Guide; Joel Robbins (Camp 21) – Guard; and Dave Allyn (Camp 21) – Color Bearer. Chuck Davis was reappointed Dept. Graves Registrar.



Keeping *Their* memory alive in Hawaii. Brother Billy Ogan of Honolulu, a distant member of **Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21**, may be one of a very few SUVCW members in that state. Nevertheless, he actively promotes the Order's work there. Bro. Ogan has been active with the Civil War cannon inquiry project, as well as graves registration. He is pictured above in the G.A.R. plot of Oahu Cemetery. The plot was dedicated on Memorial Day 1884 by the George W. DeLong Post 45 – the first G.A.R. post established in a foreign nation.

**Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 and Auxiliary** gathered February 6 at the ranch home of William Pittenger in Fallbrook, Calif., to present the Fallbrook Historical Society with a copy of the Camp Charter for display. The Pittenger home is now operated as a museum by the society. Making the presentation to Society President Don Rivers was Camp Cmdr. Bob Lowe assisted by JVC Dave Allyn and Aux. President Rosemary Lowe. Afterwards, Brothers of the camp enjoyed a tour of the home and viewing memorabilia of Pittenger's residence in Fallbrook.



**Gen. George Wright Camp 22 JVC** Steve Von Bima, along with Cmdr. Chuck Davis and SVC Bob Bundy spent the morning of April 9 working on the Grand Army Monument. Much of the mortar between the sections of the monument was in need of repair. The three members donated their time to the project, with JVC Von Bima donating the materials to do the job. Over the past three years, JVC Von Bima has donated many hours of time in caring for the 110 year old monument. Thanks to his efforts, the monument is in excellent shape!

Camp 22 has thus far had an active year of events in Sacramento. Cmdr. Davis has been working with members of the state legislature to revise the state's cemetery law. The revision will provide for the care of veterans graves. Action on the revision is expected soon.

Cmdr. Davis, SVC Bundy and Jacque Bundy of the Elk Grove Civil War Round Table have begun leading guided tours of Sacramento's Old City Cemetery on the last Sunday of each month. The cemetery contains the remains of the camp's namesake, General George Wright. Also at the cemetery are the remains of over 250 Union soldiers, and the first G.A.R. monument in the state, as well as C.S.A. General George Cosby, several Confederate soldiers and Union nurse Jenny Hall. A Memorial Day program followed the May 30 tour. The SVR provided the Honor Guard, while the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution providing Color Guard.

Work continues in the cemetery on the Civil War Memorial Tree Project. The project began in November 1997 with the planting of four seedlings from Civil War battlefields and surround the graves of Union soldiers buried in G.A.R. Plot No. 3. This past year, eight more trees have been added, including the latest addition, a cedar tree from the Cedar Creek battlefield.

## Colorado & Wyoming

Including Montana & Utah

On February 13, brothers from **Centennial Camp 100** honored Sadie Likens for her service to the Woman's Relief Corps in a long overdue memorial service at Denver's historic Riverside Cemetery. Over 400 Union veterans lie in the cemetery's G.A.R. section. Brothers in attendance were Camp Cmdr. Robert Conklin, Geoff Hunt, Frank Waterous, Charles Counts, Charles Sharrock, James Alcorn, John Franchino, Jack Buschmann, and Dept. Cmdr. Stephen Turbot. Six of these men, in circa 1861 dress Federal infantry uniforms, joined others similarly clad, to fire a three-volley salute. The event was well covered by local news stations. The resulting news stories, aired that evening, were reportedly quite lengthy.

## Maine

The Allied Orders of the G.A.R., Department of Maine, held their 1999 Annual Encampment in Waterville June 24-26. The encampment serves the SUVCW, ASUVCW, and DUVCW of Maine. Local Civil War author and publisher Peter Dalton was the featured speaker.

## Maryland

Including Del., Va., W.Va., & Wash., D.C.

Department Brothers and Sisters met in annual session April 24 at the Frederick, Md., Holiday Inn. During this 112th Annual Dept. Encampment of the SUVCW much spirited debate, on a variety of subjects, was kept moving by presiding Dept. Cmdr. Robert Bateman. The dept. hopes to assist Virginia camps in forming a new dept. in the next year or two. Newly elected Dept. officers are: Cmdr. – Robert Eck; SVC – Kendall Chew; JVC – Peter Johnston.

The 105th Annual Dept. Encampment of the Auxiliary was ably conducted by President Florence Foight of Harper's Ferry, W.Va. National VP Mary Jo Long of Scranton, Pa., installed the new Dept. officers: Pres. – Mrs. Helen Geppi, Baltimore; Vice – Mrs. Eileen Naulty, Wheaton. A complete slate of others were elected and appointed. The evening banquet honored retiring Cmdr. Bateman and Pres. Foight. Guest speaker was historian Charles A.

Harper of Baltimore who related little known facts about Md. Artillery and Cavalry during the Civil War.

Arrangements for this great occasion were handled by Sons Sec. PC James Friedline of Baltimore.



On May 20, Ricardo T. Johnson was initiated into **Lincoln-Cushing Camp 2** (see photo). Brother Johnson is the grandson of Alonzo Johnson, mentioned on Page 20 of the December issue of THE BANNER as the father of Cora Jackson and John Johnson, both of Washington, D.C. Alonzo Johnson served in Co. F, 45th U.S. Colored Troops.

## Massachusetts

The department encampment was held April 23 and 24 in Westborough, Mass.

For the seventh year in a row, the Color Guard of **William Tabor Camp 162** marched March 21 in the annual Greater Lawrence Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Lawrence, Mass. Camp Guard Sgt. Thomas Hillery of Sudbury and Pvt. David Getchell of Salem, N.H., were awarded Letters of Commendation for their exemplary service. Pvt. David Getchell, also of Salem, N.H., was promoted to the rank of corporal.

## Michigan



**MICHIGAN CAMP PRESENTS FLAG – George W. Anderson Camp 58**, Department of Michigan, presented a 4x6 foot U.S. flag to the newly dedicated 224,000 sq. ft. high school at DeWitt, Michigan. Pictured below are High School Principal James Watts, left, accepting our nation's flag from Camp Commander Douglas Armstrong at the new school's recent dedication ceremony. Camp 58, by name and number, honors the memory of DeWitt's G.A.R. Post.

Recently, Brother Chris Czopek of **Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 9** of Marshall was doing some research in the Library of Michigan. It was during this research that Bro. Czopek came across a long forgotten document titled "Burial Records of Michigan Soldiers in the Indian, Mexican, Spanish-American, Civil Wars and World War I." This document was the result of a graves registration project begun by the Dept. of Mich., SUVCW, in the 1920s. The official title of the project was "Mark the Graves" and the dept. set up a committee by that name. Camps would send to the committee information of the graves they decorated on Memorial Day. This information was then transferred to a file card "data base."

The entry of this data was for the most part done by one person, Francis Hall of Grand Rapids. By 1938, Hall had over 12,000 cards. That year he gave a report on Michigan's "Mark the Graves" program to the National Encampment at Des Moines, Iowa. At the time of Brother Hall's death in 1939, he had over 15,000 cards in the file. Soon after, World War II's gas rationing began, putting a damper on nonessential driving. Work on the data base came to a halt.

The file cards were packed away and forgotten until 1971, when a Lois Fohl transcribed the information on the file cards onto 8 1/2 x 11 sheets and had them bound into books. Only two copies of these books are known to exist – the copy discovered by Brother Czopek and another copy found recently in the Grand Rapids Public Library. The original file card data base was taken to a landfill in 1989, the owners figuring no one was interested.

The dept. held its 110th annual encampment in Lansing May 1. Featured speaker for the program was noted author Lance Herdegen. Herdegen spoke on "The Iron Brigade of the West." Among the guests at the encampment and dinner was CinC Andrew M. Johnson.

The dept. publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Michigan's Messenger*, subscriptions to which are available to non-dept. members for \$8 per year. The newsletter, in an 8 1/2 x 11 format, averages 20 pages per issue and is mailed in January, April, July and October. Anyone wishing to subscribe may send a check, made out to the 'Dept. of Michigan, SUVCW,' and mail it to Editor John Mann, Michigan's Messenger, 2495 South Washington Rd., Lansing, MI 48911-7216.

## New Jersey

**Lyon Camp 10** held its regularly scheduled meeting March 26 at the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society. Members of the camp were honored to have Dept. Cmdr. Brother Mike Horgan as their special guest. Camp

Cmdr. Buzz Smithcors conducted the meeting in the reconstructed Lyon Post 10 G.A.R. Hall. Proper ritual format was adhered to with all camp members attending in uniform for this auspicious occasion. For the "Good of the Order" Cmdr. Horgan gave a few brief comments on upcoming events at the state and national levels. Brother Horgan also spoke on his accomplishments during his term of office and what his goals are for the Sons in the future.

Lyon Camp is also very pleased to announce that five new members were initiated into the camp during ritual ceremonies. The members inducted into the camp were Chris Meyers of Bridgeton, Chris Tirrell of Bridgeton, Louis Bishop of North Wildwood, John Burke of Cape May Court House and junior member Brian Wilhelm to full member. During the past two months Lyon Camp 10 was privileged to keep in its possession "The Grant Trophy," awarded to the Dept. of N.J. for the highest percentage of membership during the last year (see photo page 28).

At the end of the evening's meeting, Brother Horgan and the membership were treated to refreshments served by the Ladies of Lyon Camp 10 – Viola Smithcors, Bonnie Meyers and Cherie Wilhelm. During the festivities a special award certificate was presented the Bro. Bill Cole for his superb and continuing efforts as the Camp Web Master.

## Ohio



**Camp 91** member Tony Fazzini stands beside one of two cannons outside the Soldiers and Sailors Building in Hamilton, Butler County. The cannon, 3" Parrott rifle number 148, mounted on a G.A.R. "carriage," along with another Parrott, number 93, stand "guard" outside the monument building. The pieces stand on either side of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Photo by Assistant Curator Bill Craig.

### CORRECTION

William Tabor Camp 162 was incorrectly identified as being a part the Department of New Hampshire in the March issue of The Banner.

Camp 162, formed in Methuen, Massachusetts, in 1993, is a part of the Department of Massachusetts.



## Pennsylvania

**Lt. Ezra S. Griffin Camp 8** of Scranton has just gone over the 100 member mark – actually 108 members – for the first time since 1943. Camp 8 is the second largest in Pa. Annual Memorial Day ceremonies were held in the Civil War Plot of Dunmore Cemetery, Dunmore. Ceremonies have been held there since 1900.

**John T. Crawford Camp 43** in Kittanning has over 1,400 names and locations of Civil War veterans buried in Armstrong County. The list is not yet complete, continuing to grow with each passing month. They have completed only about 80% of the county's cemeteries. The names have served as an invaluable recruitment tool as people stop by exhibits and find their ancestor listed. It is hoped that everyone will get as excited over this project. Camp 43 has already replaced approximately 100 headstones in their area and have more planned. They recently placed three stones in the Atwood Cemetery in northeastern Armstrong County. A church service was attended by camp members April 18, immediately followed by the rededication of the cemetery. Camp 43 Chaplain/Grave Registration Officer Richard Essenwein and Brother R.F. Dougan led the service honoring the fallen heroes of the Civil War.

## Tennessee

Chattanooga was the site of the department's annual meeting. The weekend [date not specified] was kicked off with a reception at the new Civil War Museum Friday evening. A Southern theme introduced in the dept. meeting with tours of the museum and refreshments of Moon Pies and cold drinks.

The next day's activities began with a tour of the Chickamauga Battlefield. The tour was guided by park historian Jim Ogden, who led the group through the last day of battle and the

withdrawal of federal troops from the battlefield.

The meeting convened for the transaction of business, and the election and installation of officers for the coming year. After the meeting a dinner was held at the Old County Buffet.

The culmination of the weekend came with a memorial service at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. Honored at the cemetery were the men who gave their lives as members of Andrew Raiders (see photo below).



Turnout was good for the fourth annual department meeting.

Dover's **Fort Donelson Camp 62** recently elected its officers for 1999: Cmdr. – Edward J. Duffel (PDC, Clarksville); SVC – Donald G. Smith (Greenbriar); JVC – Allen F. Smith (Cross Plains); Council – Ronald C. Powell (Union City), Allen F. Smith and Donald G. Smith; Sec./Treas. – Andrew J. Duffel (Clarksville).

In addition, Cmdr. Duffel appointed the following positions: Patriotic Instructor – Dennis E. Yost (Clarksville); Chaplain – Ronald C. Powell Jr. (Union City); Color Bearer – Michael M. Farnsley (Nashville); Guide – Martin Young (Owensboro, Ky.); and Guard – Daniel Hill (Cadiz, Ky.).

The camp was activated in August 1995 and currently has active members in the mid-Tennessee/western Kentucky region. The camp can be reached by contacting JVC Allen F. Smith at (615) 654-2711.

## Wisconsin

The Saukville/Port Washington area will be home to the state's newest camp. Dept. Sec. and Camp Organizer Ronald Aronis called the first meeting of the camp in Port Washington. Members of Cushing's Battery, who are already members of the Order, and several potential members attended. The new camp will be called **Alonzo Cushing Camp 5**, after the young Wisconsin officer

*Proud members of Lyon Camp 10, Dept. of N.J., "guard" the Grant Trophy, awarded to the state for the highest percentage of members.*

of the 4th U.S. Artillery Battery who died defending the angle at Gettysburg.

Temporary officers were elected by the camp and installed by Wisconsin Dept. Cmdr. Stephen Michaels: Camp Cmdr. – Ronald Aronis, Saukville; SVC – Richard Young, Port Washington; JVC – William Teshner, Milwaukee; Sec./Treas. – Richard Rohan, Muskego; Council – Gary Pyle of Wauwatosa, Michael Drzewiecki of Port Washington, Michael Aronis of Saukville. Appointed were: Patriotic Instructor – Lyman Elliott, Hartford; Chaplain – James Ungart, West Bend; Historian – Michael Drzewiecki, Port Washington; Counselor – Gary Pyle, Wauwatosa; Guide – Scott Seifert, Sheboygan Falls; Guard – Ryan Zunker, Two Rivers; Color Guard – Anthony Stabo, Milwaukee; Graves Registration – William Teshner, Milwaukee.

New members Richard Young of Port Washington and Christopher Kissinger of Belgium, Wis., were initiated at the meeting.

The new camp will take an active role in the National Graves Registration and Civil War Memorial Survey programs. A monument to the camp's namesake and his brothers in Delafield will be the first memorial surveyed. A bronze plaque stolen from the monument last summer was recovered with the help of several members.

The new camp will hold meetings every other month. Members are making plans to gather for their next meeting in the same building in which Winfield Scott Hancock Post 244, the only G.A.R. post in the county, once met.

## Regional News

### New England Regional Association

The NERA will hold its annual meeting Saturday, July 17, at the New Hampshire Veterans Association Hall. The historic building, a former G.A.R. hall, is located at Weirs Beach in Laconia, N.H.

## Auxiliary News

### California & Pacific

On February 13, a new auxiliary was added to the department with the chartering of **Sgt. William Pittenger Auxiliary 21** of San Diego County. The new auxiliary was instituted by Aux. Dept. President Betty Woerner (PNP) during a special session of **Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21** in the old Santa Fe Railroad Depot in Escondido. The first new Auxiliary in the dept. in many years, Aux. 21 begins with high expectations, determination and a hope to be a credit to its sponsoring camp and the SUVCW. Aux. 21 began with 10 members and has added two more since its institution. (see photo Page 29 above)



*New Auxiliary Chartered: Aux. Dept. President Betty Hoerner (left) presented the charter to Aux. President Rosemary Lowe (center), assisted by SUVCW Dept. of Calif. & Pacific Cmdr. Gene Armistead (right).*

## Maryland

**Lincoln/Cushing Auxiliary 3**, Washington, D.C., installed officers in a delayed ceremony by PCinC Schlenker. They are: President – Mrs. Eileen Naulty; Vice Pres. – Mrs. Mildred Ames; Sec./Treas. – Ms. Gale Morris; Chaplain – Mrs. Patricia Gebhart; Patriotic Instructor – Mrs. Lisa Gold.

## Michigan

The severe winter storms relented enough for the **Nash-Hodges Auxiliary**, sponsored by Nash-Hodges Camp 43, of Blissfield, to be instituted on February 7 by National President Betty Baker. Michelle Langely, National Chief of Staff assisted in the ceremony. Also present were members of the **Austin Blair Auxiliary** from Jackson, Mich., and Sons from the Hodges and Blair camps.

The Nash-Hodges Auxiliary was organized by Nancy Findley with 17 members. Sister Nancy was also elected as their first president and they immediately embarked on scheduling their event.



*Nash-Hodges Auxiliary – Left to right, back row: Treas. Jackie Findley, Diana Pape, Pam MacBeth, Charlene Stachnik, Patty Gross, Sue Gross, Aux. 43 President Nancy Findley, National Chief of Staff Michelle Langley, National President Betty Baker. Front row: Yvonne McNicol, Channon MacBeth, Aux. 43 Vice President Linda Kronberg, Patriotic Instructor Linda Betz.*

The Hodges Auxiliary has now entered into discussions with the Blair Auxiliary on procedures to use in reorganizing the Auxiliary Department of Michigan.

To organize an Auxiliary in Michigan, contact Nancy Findley, 805 Blood Road, Tecumseh, MI 49286.

## Pennsylvania



**Anna M. Ross Auxiliary 1**, meeting at the G.A.R. Museum in Philadelphia March 20, was pleased to receive their first two Junior members. Pictured above, Catherine Iannitto, daughter of National Chaplain Anne Iannitto, and Sara Indan, daughter of Past Auxiliary President Barbara Indan, were initiated and presented with red, white and blue cockades to wear as an emblem of their association with the Auxiliary.

Department President Catherine Hartman also made her official visit at this time. The afternoon ended with the Auxiliary and visiting Sons enjoying a buffet meal together.



The **Jennie Wade Auxiliary 27** is very interested in historic preservation. The guest speaker at their April 11 meeting was Superintendent Brian Kennel of Evergreen Cemetery. Mr. Kennel gave a wonderful talk on the cemetery's history, as well as 31 of Gettysburg's prominent citizens who rest with its borders. At the conclusion of Mr. Kennel's talk, Aux. 27 President Carolyn S. Billups presented him a check in the amount of \$250, on behalf of the Auxiliary, for that purpose (see photo above).

## Wisconsin

Dept. Aux. members have begun assisting the SUVCW with its Graves Registration Project.

They are first recording the grave sites of their ancestors and noting the condition of their headstones. Efforts will be made to replace any broken or worn headstones. Then, the ladies will submit the necessary forms to the camps.



*Aux. 4 Junior Member Anne Michaels and Member Allison Michaels assist Dept. President Danielle Michaels register their ancestor, Jos Friedl, 35th Wis. Inf.*

The National President and her Chief of Staff recently came to Milwaukee to attend the local organization's Patriotic Luncheon, honoring U.S. Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley. Mrs. Betty J. Baker of Interlachen, N.Y., a small business owner, was elected to her post last August. President Baker was accompanied by Ms. Michelle Langley, also of New York.

The Patriotic Luncheon, hosted by C.K. Pier Badger Aux. 4 and Camp 1, has been a Milwaukee tradition for nearly 100 years. This year's luncheon was held at the Ramada Inn West. Union-uniformed members of the SUVCW presented the American flag to the assembled guests.

The luncheon included a talk by Marquette University history professor and Civil War book author James Marten. His remarks focused on children's memories of Abraham Lincoln.

Afterwards, a raffle was held to raise money for support of school and community patriotic presentations, gifts to disabled veterans, and Civil War battlefield and monument preservation.

At least ten other patriotic organizations sponsored the event, including the Sons of the Revolution, The Society of 1812, the Order of the Descendants of Ancient Planters, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Sons of the American Revolution.





## Illinois Cemetery Union Honor Roll

Earlier this year, Brother Eugene T. Beals released a 35 page "list" of Union Veterans, including descriptive information, buried in the Glenwood Cemetery in Collinsville, Illinois. The effort is entitled *Union Honor Roll/ Glenwood Cemetery/Collinsville, Illinois*.

Dedicated to the memory of Beals' great-great-grandfather, Farrier Jeremiah H. Beals, Co. M, 9th Penn. Cav., the book gives considerable information on each Union veteran buried at the cemetery.

Many of the veterans' markers were in poor condition. Other graves were never marked. Brother Beals had the old markers replaced and placed markers where none had existed prior.

A ceremony honoring the Boys in Blue was held May 15 at the cemetery.

## Additions & Corrections to the Quartermaster's Price List

- SOLD OUT Item #206** - *History of the Sons of Union Veterans*. There is a chance that more may be available at a later date.
- Item #106** - Statement of Account (Form 12), should read 100 for \$3.50
- Item #302** - Rituals & Ceremonies should read \$5 each. Specify 8 1/2" by 11" or 4 1/2" x 6"
- ADD item #116** - Son's Notecards w/envelopes, specify blue or cream, 10 for \$4
- ADD item #257** - Certificate for Camp Officers, \$1 each
- ADD item #359** - 50 year Badge, \$20
- ADD Shipping & Handling** - \$3 per order

For latest prices or new items, check the Son's Web page (<http://suvchw.org/id.htm>).

**Note:** All orders not received on the 1999 Price List will be returned. Only those orders on the current year (1999) requisition will be honored.

Elmer F. Atkinson PCinC  
National Quartermaster

Continued from Page 11

## COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION CALIFORNIA CAVALRY

tered into service on March 3, for three years with two officers, 13 NCOs, a farrier, and 67 privates. The commanding officer was Capt. Jose Antonio Sanchez. He was assisted by 1st Lt. Jose Redona. The initial complement of officers would be completed on April 6 with the commissioning of J. Clement Cox as second lieutenant.

Company D was truly a "native" company. Of the enlisted ranks, only three did not have a Spanish surname - but they did have Spanish given names. The most common surname was Garcia - four of them. Fully 20 percent of all those who served in Company D were called by the given name of Jose. The next most common name was Francisco, closely followed by Jesus. There were only three Juans - but four named Dolores!

By May, orders came for the company to be moved a relatively short distance away to Drum Barracks at Wilmington on the coast. Though the actual reasons are unknown, Capt. Sanchez resigned on May 31. This was followed by the resignation on June 15 of 1st Lt. Redona. Until June 27, 2nd Lieutenant Cox was the senior - and only - officer of the company. On June 28, 1st Lt. Edward Bale of Company B was promoted to Captain and given command of Company D.

Was it proximity to their homes in Los Angeles, Anglo officers, or just the monotony of garrison life at Drum Barracks? Whatever the reason, Company D was soon plagued by desertions. In all, 20 men deserted the company while it was stationed at Drum Barracks - three in June and eight in July alone. After these initial desertions, the remainder were scattered over the next five months. During this period, the only "mass" desertion was three men just before Christmas on December 22. Five men died at Drum Barracks and another five were discharged due to disability. Pvt. Feliciano Verdugo was shot on November 19, 1864, for some crime which he had committed. All in all, the company's stay at Drum Barracks was not particularly distinguished.

Finally, in May 1865, the company received orders for more active service, being ordered to the Arizona Territory. Capt. Bale resigned on May 20 and John F. Qualey was offered the command but declined. J. Clement Cox, who had been promoted to 1st Lt. the prior September 19, 1864 - the only promotion from within the company - was again left in command. Thomas A. Young, another outsider, was commissioned Captain on May 29 and assumed the command. Apparently dissatisfied over being passed over for command of the company three times, Lt. Cox resigned on July 22.

Under command of Capt. Young, Com-

pany D marched east over the Southern or Butterfield Overland Trail. They reached Carrizo Creek by July 31 and Tucson on August 31. Along the way, three more privates had deserted while passing through Fort Yuma. From Tucson, they rode south to Fort Mason. This fort had only been recently established (August 21) to guard the route to Guaymas, Sonora. It was located about seven miles north of present-day Nogales on the western edge of the town of Calabasas (which no longer exists). Also stationed at Fort Mason were Company B of the Native Battalion and a battalion of the 7th California Infantry. Fort Mason was not the most pleasant duty station. Supplies were often late in reaching the outpost and the weather not near so salubrious as it had been at Wilmington. Disease became prevalent. An epidemic swept the post in December. Among the thirty soldiers and civilians who died was one member of Company D - Capt. Young.

Though there had been additional recruits added at Drum Barracks, disability discharges, deaths, and - mostly - desertions had kept the company strength at less than the authorized and required level. Consequently, no new captain was commissioned to replace Young. 1st Lt. Edward W. Coddington, having joined the company the preceding August from Company C, succeeded to the command on December 3. He would command the company for the remainder of its existence.

Duty at Fort Mason was no more glorious for Company D than its year at Drum Barracks had been. Their time was occupied with details about the fort, drill, and some patrols in the countryside. There were no casualties from any encounters with Indians. Aside from Capt. Young's death by disease, the only losses while the company was at Fort Mason were the October 23 firing squad execution of Pvt. Francisco Duarte and the December 23 desertion of Pvt. Jesus Bujanda.

At the end of 1865, Company D was ordered "home" to Drum Barracks to be mustered out. The end of January 1866 found them in Tucson and early March back at Drum Barracks. There they were mustered out of service on March 20 - 64 officers and men, including one returned deserter. There was yet remaining one member of the company still in service - Pvt. Tomas Aramento, confined for murder at Drum Barracks. He was discharged in dishonor on July 2, and the company was no more.

Despite its rather undistinguished service in garrison posts far from the action of the Civil War - or even against Indians - some 60 Angeleno "natives" completed their full enlistment in the Union Army. That itself their principal achievement.



**BEN HARRISON  
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Roger W. Vaughn, Treasurer  
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This fine full-color postcard is available from James A. Garfield Camp 1, Dept. of Maryland.

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Ulysses S. Grant Camp No. 68, Dept. of Mo., has the following items with the Sons insignia available to the members.

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**Address Labels**

For information and a current price list please contact: Bob Petrovic, Dept. Sec./Treas., 4729 Mehl Ave., St. Louis, MO 63129, (314) 892-2158, fax (314) 892-8779, e-mail RPETRO7776@aol.com.

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## FREE RESEARCH

To help honor our forefathers who fought to preserve the Union and free the slaves, Douglass R. Knight, Publicity Director for the New England Regional Association, SUVCW, is offering to research the military service of your Union Civil War ancestor. This research is conducted free of charge for those who apply for membership in the SUVCW. Brother D. Knight can be reached by calling (603) 898-4286 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. or writing him at P.O. Box 955, Salem, NH 03079.

699



## SUVCW & GAR MOUSE PADS

**SUVCW PAD** - "Eagle & Cannon" emblem, with name of the organization, centered on your choice of blue, red, or gold pad.

**G.A.R. PAD** - G.A.R. Membership Badge in color, centered on a red, white, and blue striped pad.

**\$10.00 PLUS \$2.50 EA. FOR S&H**

Make check or money-order payable to: Department of Michigan - SUVCW. Mail order and payment to: Cmdr. Kent Armstrong, P.O. Box 618, DeWitt, MI 48820-0618.

Please specify G.A.R. or SUVCW pad and background color

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**Coat-of-Arms  
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The Department of Michigan still has a limited quantity of pocket patches, both coat-of-arms and Insignia, and SUV hat badges. We also have, for an additional \$5.00, a plastic holder for each pocket patch. No shipping cost for the pocket patches. Kepi not included with hat badge.

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## Personal Ads

Personal Ads may be permitted on a space available basis for personal and research purposes only. Only non-commercial ads can be accepted. Acceptance is at the discretion of the Editor.

**Book Wanted:** Cushman, Frederick E. *The History of the 58th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers*. Washington, DC: Gibson Brothers, Printers, 1865. Contact Douglass Knight, 603-898-4286.

**Book Wanted:** Wilson, John. *Seven Months in a Rebel Prison*. (John Wilson served in Co. A of the 58th Mass.) [n.p., n.d.]. Contact Douglass Knight, 603-898-4286.

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## Attention Quartermasters

Advertise your Camp's or Department's Civil War, G.A.R. or Nationally-approved SUVCW merchandise in The Banner.

Ad space is free but limited.

Ads will continue to run until you advise otherwise or until newer ad submissions exceed available space.

Ads should not exceed 2 5/16" x 2 5/16".





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