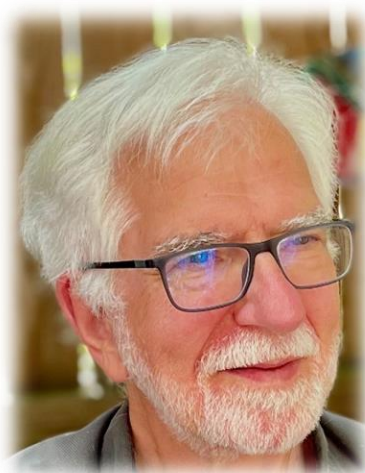


GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Newsletter of the Grand Army of the Republic
Civil War Museum & Archive Spring 2023



From the President . . .



Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive members will always be a community dedicated to “those who gave their lives that the nation might live.”

We share history, places, time together and similar experiences. Our members belong to a historic institution that is making a difference. Our community is our neighborhood, our city and the connections among people.

From the founding of the GAR in 1866 to today, we continue the work to maintain our community and to educate future generations of the importance of history. We will make decisions that will safeguard the information that has been preserved and make it available to the public.

We can all be thankful to those who came before us. They provided funds, time and hard work that resulted in the Museum we have today. Thank you to all those who continue with the same support and who helped us to establish our new home in Philadelphia’s Holmesburg neighborhood.

Joe Perry
President

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OF THE CIVIL WAR

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.garmuslib.org



Your support is essential to the continued survival of the only museum in the Philadelphia area solely dedicated to the history of the Civil War

I wish to express our most sincere gratitude to so many of our members and friends who have made such generous donations to support our museum. The museum cannot continue without your financial support, and so many wonderful people immediately stepped to the front and graciously made donations.

Thank you so very much to all of our members and friends who have so generously paid their annual membership dues. It is indeed very exciting and gratifying to note the many new members, especially those who have become Life Members of the museum. Our list of esteemed Life Members has continued to grow and we extend a gracious "Thank You" to those who have made this commitment.

Our monthly Zoom programs have been exceedingly successful and have attracted many new members and friends of the museum. We are averaging 45 registrants for each monthly program. This is so exciting and we are very pleased both with the response and the financial support from those who have been attending our Zoom programs.

I wish to express the sincerest appreciation of the museum board to all of our members for their continued generous support and interest in the museum. With your continued support we can assure that this historic collection remains as a central part of the Philadelphia area historical community.

Herb Kaufman
Treasurer & Curator



GRAND ARMY SCOUT

**GRAND ARMY OF THE
REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR
MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE
FIRST SUNDAY ZOOM
PROGRAMS**

**JOIN US THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH
REGULAR PROGRAMS BEGIN AT
1:00PM**



These are FREE virtual programs online - Please RSVP to garmuslib1866@gmail.com

Sunday, April 2, 2023

There will be no First Sunday program this month.

However, the General Meade Society is offering their annual symposium on April 2, and the Museum is recommending that all GAR Museum regulars plan to attend this event in the Conservatory at West Laurel Hill Cemetery. Please see the details in the flyer on page 40.

For additional First Sunday programs at the Museum, please follow the Museum website <https://garmuslib.org/> for information as it becomes available.

Please renew your Museum membership! Keep history alive!

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive is the only museum in the Philadelphia area solely dedicated to preserving the history and telling the story of the Civil War. The collection is recognized for its historical importance and includes numerous artifacts of singular historical significance. We wish to thank you for your membership and financial support that has given us strength and encouragement as we move forward in our new and more accessible historic location.

Your continued membership will help maintain the legacy that has been handed down to us by the veterans who gave their last full measure of devotion to our country.

Please renew your membership for 2023.

It is solely through your generous support that we can secure the future of the Museum's collection.

To those who have already renewed, we thank you!

MUSEUM PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS

Annual Membership Meeting by Joe Perry

January 15, 2023

President Joe Perry reported that the first full year at the Museum's new location was a success. We had our first in-person open house program in September. More artifacts were cleaned and reframed. The new first floor wheelchair accessible bathroom was added, and a front entrance ramp was almost installed. A PayPal option for membership dues was initiated. Reopening to the public with our regular Tuesday hours of 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. began on January 24.

Plans for 2023

1. Visits to nearby organizations and schools will enhance our volunteer recruitment efforts.
2. In-house open house programming will continue.

Treasurer Herb Kaufman's Report

1. Donations funded:
 - a. Archival preservation storage material and tools
 - b. Wheelchair accessible new first floor bathroom and a front entrance ramp.
1. Lifetime memberships increased.
2. Overhead expenses are 80% less than those at the previous 4278 Griscom Street location.
3. The Museum is financially healthy.

Tom Donnelly, Mary Ann Hartner and Bryan Sigmund were elected to the Board of Directors for a 3-year term by unanimous vote of the members present.

Museum News

Museum Reopening

The GAR Museum and Archive is once again open for visitors and tours following the completion of the construction of our new accessible first floor bathroom. Our regular hours are Tuesdays from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, and by appointment. Please visit the Museum website for more information about scheduling a visit for tours and research.

Call for Volunteers

One of the benefits the Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Archive provides is the opportunity to volunteer. Volunteers are a necessary and desirable part of the museum workforce. They are a distinct class of people who benefit from museums in deep and meaningful ways. They expand our ability to do good work that reaches others.

Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity.

Benefits of volunteering

- Provides you with a sense of purpose
 - Provides a sense of community
 - Helps you meet new friends
 - Improves self-esteem
 - Teaches you valuable skills
 - Provides job prospects
 - It's fun!

You can make a difference. If you are interested in volunteering at the Museum, 8110 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136, please contact us at garmuslib1866@gmail.com or talk directly to one of our Board members.

Research Requests

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum's extensive archival and library resources are highly sought-after by researchers.

To effectively meet the requests in the overwhelming number of emails we receive and to provide financial support for the Museum, our Volunteer Research Associates and Historians will work on GAR members' requests only. Non-members will be asked to become a member before the research work begins.

Research will be limited to information relevant to GAR Post records and histories, records related to the other Allied Orders of the GAR such as the Ladies of the GAR or Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, etc., and military records for Civil War veterans, when possible. We cannot conduct family/ancestral genealogy research.

Museum People

Herb Kaufman Receives Del Val CWRT “Frank Avato” Award

Since 1996 each year (except 2021, due to the Covid pandemic) the Delaware Valley CWRT has honored one member of the round table, at the President’s discretion, for outstanding contributions to the organization. Previously known as the President’s Award, it has been renamed the “Frank Avato Award” in memory of one of the Round Table’s founders, past vice-president, and “official godfather.”

Del Val President Jerry Carrier recently announced the 2022 recipient as Herb Kaufman, and the award was presented at the January Round Table meeting. In presenting the award, Carrier categorized Herb as “The Swiss Army Knife of the Round Table, and cited Herb’s duties as Vice President, Treasurer, and member of the Speakers and Education Committees as the “tip of the Herb Kaufman iceberg.”

Herb’s commitment to the GAR Museum & Archive put Herb over the top in awarding him this honor. Citing Herb’s work in the recent move of the Museum, GAR Museum & Archive Research Administrator (and Del Val Board Member) Walt Lafty spoke about Herb’s dedication and service as a “major force” in securing the successful move, and praised him as “the heart of the volunteers.”

We congratulate Herb on this award, and note that Herb is the only two-time recipient of this award, having also been so-honored in 2009.



Jerry Carrier and Walt Lafty flank “Frank Avato Award” recipient Herb Kaufman in this photo provided by Mary Wible.

In Memoriam

Dick Simpson



Dick Simpson, long-time member of the GAR Museum & Archive, passed away at the age of 88 years on December 15, 2022. In addition to his membership in the GAR, Dick was also a member of the Delaware Valley CWRT, the General Meade Society, the Lancaster County Historical Society and Round Table, and the American Battlefield Trust, among other organizations. He was well-recognized in his second



persona as Vermont's Civil War-time Governor, Frederick Holbrook. Dick and his wife Deborah divided their time between their seasonal homes in Lancaster, PA and Lake Willoughby, in Westmore, Vermont.

A memorial service for Dick was held on January 7, 2023 at the Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA. An obituary can be found at <https://obituaries.cremationofpennsylvania.com/obituaries/harrisburg-pa/richard-simpson-11065710>



GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Judy Folan

Judy Folan, a long-time member of the GAR Museum & Archive, passed away on December 15, 2022 at Milford Hospital in Massachusetts, after an extended illness. A 40-year resident of Willow Grove, Judy returned to Massachusetts in 2021 to be with her family. In addition to her membership in the GAR, Judy was also an active member of the



Delaware Valley CWRT and the General Meade Society. She loved travel, and frequently joined her fellow-members for trips and various events sponsored by these organizations. Judy volunteered each year at the Bensalem Reenactment at Neshaminy State Park and attended many history programs and seminars. Judy will always be remembered for her generosity, kindness, laughter and her warmth. Judy is survived by her daughter, a granddaughter, her siblings, and numerous family members and friends. A private service was held on

December 8, followed by burial in Highland Cemetery in Norwood. An obituary for Judy can be found at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/judith-folan-obituary?id=38320749>



Photos of Judy and Dick provided by Carol Ingald, Walt Lafty, and Pat Caldwell.

Programs

Due to the COVID-19 imposed restrictions, our regularly planned First Sunday programs have continued via the Zoom platform. They have proved to be very popular with high audience participation.

December 4, 2022

“A New Look at the Amazing Success of Philadelphia’s Founder William Penn” Presented by Author Jim Murphy

Far too many people still believe Ben Franklin stands atop Philadelphia’s City Hall. Many have no idea just how much William Penn contributed to our area and nation while living here only four years. This program was designed to help us discover what Philly was really like when William Penn got here in 1682. We found out "How William Penn turned a 'howling wilderness' into America’s fastest growing city that leapt right past both New York and Boston by 1770."



We Discovered: Why the American Society of Civil Engineers added Penn’s plan to its List of Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks, what a group of Chinese students noticed about Philadelphia several years ago, and what a visitor found unique about Philadelphia in 1744. We learned what Philly streets name swept across the country, what landmark was the second most visited tourist spot after Niagara Falls and what some of our city’s top exports are. (A surprise!) And of course, we heard about Philly's extraordinary City Hall, its claim to fame over a British landmark and where we almost put it. Plus we got to see an out-of-this-world photo and learned an easy way to remember Philadelphia street names very few people know about. (Jim learned it from his mother.)

The Presenter: Jim Murphy, copywriter, former magazine editor for Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union, a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides, writer of over 55 articles on Philadelphia’s heroes and historic places and author of *Real Philly History, Real Fast*, Temple University Press.

You can learn more about Philly at his free blog, www.realphillyhistory.com If you sign up for it, you will get an e-newsletter with two blogs once a month. Photo from www.realphillyhistory.com.

January 8, 2023

“Meet General Gibbon, Hero of Gettysburg”
First Person Presentation by Robert Hanrahan

This program featured a first-person presentation of Major General John Gibbon, including an overview of his military career, focusing primarily on the Civil War year.

Biography: Aside from being one of the founding members of C.O.U.G. in 2002, Robert (Bob) E. Hanrahan, Jr. has a long history with Philadelphia civic and business communities. He received his undergraduate degree in marketing from La Salle University (Class of 1975). Bob is currently a retired consultant in the information technology field. In 1997 Bob served as a consultant to AbiliTech, now known as InspiriTec, whose services give assistance to the physically challenged.



In 1988, he pursued an opportunity with United Engineers and Constructors in Philadelphia, later known as Raytheon Engineers and Constructors. Bob worked on various projects at Raytheon, achieving the title of Information Systems Technical Specialist by 1993. In 1982, Bob joined LTI Consulting Company, which was soon acquired by General Electric. Bob continued with General Electric Consulting and earned the position of Senior Systems Analyst.

At an early age, Bob began working in the family’s construction related businesses, remaining active for several years after graduation. Upon receiving a programming certificate from Maxwell Institute in 1979, Bob joined the Pennwalt Corporation as a programmer, leading to a programmer/analyst position. While at Pennwalt, Bob became acquainted with a program to educate and offer job placement assistance to the physically challenged. This led him to pursue a consulting career he remains committed to with InspiriTec.

During the Civil War, Bob’s Great-Great Grandfather James Murphy, enlisted in the 23rd P.V.I. for 90 days in April 1961, and then enlisted in the 3rd U.S. Cavalry, later designated as the 6th U.S. Cavalry, where he became a Sergeant in A Company and was honorably discharged.

Bob’s other present interests include his involvement with La Salle University as a member of the Presidents Council, Investments Committee Member of The William Penn Foundation; InspiriTec, Board Member; Board of Advisors of G.A.R. Museum; Sons of the Union Veterans Camp 299; The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C., President’s Council Member; Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association; The Civil War Preservation Trust; and the General Meade Society of Philadelphia. Photo from *GAR Scout* archive.

February 5, 2023

“Hitherto Invincible: How Three Generations of Barkers Helped Build America”
Presented by Historian and Author Dr. Tom Wieckowski

Hitherto Invincible is the story of three generations of the Barker family, influential 19th century bankers, and their contributions to a growing 19th century America. Jacob of New York was the largest shipowner in the country, financier of the War of 1812, and banker before he was exiled to New Orleans. His daughter Anna, a friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson, was a notable figure in the Transcendentalist movement and engaged in an infamous love triangle that destroyed her best friend. Son Abraham moved to Philadelphia and revolutionized the stock exchange and co-founded the Union League and Camp William Penn. His son Wharton, a Union Army veteran who served at Camp William Penn with the 3rd United States Colored Troops, a Penn-trained economist, expanded Barker Brothers Bank to finance railroads, create successful presidential candidates, and engage in international exploits, leading eventually to the failure of the bank and the end of an era.



Dr. Tom Wieckowski is Chair of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission and Vice-President of the Old York Road Historical Society. He received his B.S. from Villanova University and Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He is retired from Drexel University in Philadelphia where he was a professor and Associate Dean of the LeBow College of Business among other positions. He currently devotes his time to his lifelong hobby, historical research and writing, and is the author of *Making Marathon*, published in 2009 by Infinity Press, a history of the village of Wyncote that was the first outpost of the Gilded Age, and *A Spectacle for Men and Angels*, a narrative documentary of Camp

William Penn, published in the fall of 2013. His just-published book, *Hitherto Invincible*, published by Palmetto Press, is the story of three generations of the Barker family, influential 19th century Philadelphia bankers, and their contributions to a growing 19th century Philadelphia and America. Photo from <https://tomwieck.com/>

If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy of Tom’s book, he will be happy to sign it and send it to you. Please send a \$25 check to Thomas Wieckowski, 332 Hewett Road, Wyncote, PA 19095. It can also be purchased on Amazon.

March 5, 2023 – Women’s History Month Program

“Lucretia Coffin Mott”

Presented by Prof. Nilgün Anadolu-Okur, Temple University

Born on January 3, 1793, in Nantucket, MA, Lucretia Coffin Mott was an American Quaker, an abolitionist, women's rights activist, and a social reformer. She came from a family of abolitionists. Her parents were Anna Folger and Thomas Coffin. She was a cousin of Benjamin Franklin.

She believed in reforming the status of women in society after she was excluded, with other women delegates, from the World Anti-Slavery Convention held in London in 1840. Mott was a firm supporter of African American rights, and she was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Female Antislavery Society. Mott’s legacy is connected to Camp William Penn, as her property was adjacent to the grounds where first African American soldiers were trained to join the Union forces in 1863. In this slide-illustrated talk Dr. Anadolu-Okur highlighted Lucretia Mott’s achievements, her contributions to the development of abolitionist discourse, women’s rights, and the alliances she established with Frederick Douglass and William L. Garrison during one of the most contentious eras of American history.

Dr. Nilgün Anadolu-Okur is the Presidential Professor of Africology and African American Studies at Temple University’s College of Liberal Arts. She holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in African American and American Studies. She has two Fulbright appointments internationally and she has received grants and national awards in humanities. Currently she serves as chair of the Faculty Senate Status of Women Committee and as the Graduate Director of her department. In the 1990s as the Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) Commonwealth Speaker she toured Pennsylvania and lectured on Underground Railroad and Black Abolitionists. She is the co-founder of the “Annual Underground Railroad Conference at Temple University,” since 2003. She has authored books on African American Studies and her articles are published in peer-reviewed journals including Journal of Black Studies, Gender Issues, Human and Society. Her research has a broad spectrum ranging from theory and methodology in Africology and Afrocentricity, race and racism, women’s rights, abolition, Black Women authors (19th to 21st century), African American history, and motherhood in antiquity.



Her recent book is titled: *Dismantling Slavery: Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Formation of the Abolitionist Discourse, 1841-1851.*

Photo from Temple University College of Liberal Arts

<https://liberalarts.temple.edu/academics/faculty/anadolu-okur-nilg-n>

Museum Visitors

Old Baldy Honored with Private Fiddle Concert

..... by Joe Perry

Tracy Ebmeyer, a talented fiddle player from Maine, recently paid tribute to one of the most iconic horses in American history, Old Baldy. The beloved horse of General George Meade was known for his outstanding service during the Civil War and his legacy is still celebrated at the GAR Museum and Archive in Philadelphia.

Ebmeyer learned a lively tune called "Old Baldy Kicking Up," which captures the humorous story of a new rider attempting to mount Old Baldy, only to be swiftly kicked off. The witnesses found the moment amusing, and the author of the tune was inspired to write this song. Although the song has no lyrics, the upbeat melody conveys the lighthearted spirit of the occasion.

During a recent visit to the Museum, Ebmeyer had the opportunity to perform this special tribute to Old Baldy in a private concert. Accompanied by historical artifacts and memorabilia from the Civil War era, Ebmeyer played the fiddle, sharing his love of music and passion for American history with the museum's guests and staff.

The GAR Museum and Archive is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in American history, and particularly the Civil War. The Museum's extensive collections of relics and artifacts offer a captivating glimpse into the past, and visitors can see Old Baldy's remains on display at the Museum.

In addition to its collections, the Museum's President Emeritus Hugh Boyle Historical Archive is open to the public. Visitors can use this resource to research their ancestors' post-Civil War activities and learn more about the period in general.

The Museum relies on the support of members and visitors to continue its essential work of preserving and sharing American history. If you're interested in becoming a member, please visit the Museum's website at www.garmuslib.org. And if you're in the Philadelphia area, we encourage you to visit the Museum, its collections of relics and artifacts, and to see Old Baldy for yourself. Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience!

To watch the video of Tracy Ebmeyer's special private concert for Old Baldy, please visit link <https://youtu.be/vvHcfuBNvwo>.

The link should be typed in or copied and pasted.



Museum Members At Home, Out, and About

Many of our members attend other events, always with the intention of spreading interest in the Civil War, the GAR, the SUV, American History in general, and the men and women they represent. We've been able to present ZOOM programs for other organizations and to attend events in-person.

Programs for Other Organizations

Andy Waskie, Walt Lafty, Paula Gidjunis, and Herb Kaufman presented programs for other historical organizations, and various round tables.

Walt Lafty, Herb Kaufman, Tom Donnelly, and Andy Waskie were among the instructors conducting classes for the Civil War Institute and History Institute offered by Manor College and the Delaware Valley CWRT.

Community Outreach

As noted in our Winter 2022 issue, Board Member Mary Wible and Research Administrator Walt Lafty have established a new community outreach program to promote the museum and its new location. Through this initiative Mary and Walt have been visiting Senior Citizens groups at local churches to promote the museum, and local schools to educate students on history and the museum. Since the beginning of 2023, Mary and Walt have visited Christ the King Seniors, St. Martha Seniors, St. Katherine of Siena Students, Maternity BVM Seniors, St William Seniors, Our Lady of Calvary, and St Hilary of Poitiers. On the upcoming schedule are Resurrection at the Catholic Historical Research Center on March 27, and St Albert the Great on April 25.



For any members of the GAR Museum who would want Mary and Walt to present to a church, synagogue, school, or any community group, please contact either of them directly.

Around Our Town

Andy Waskie has been featured as a “Veteran of Volunteering” in the Winter 2023 issue of *The Connection*, the newsletter of Laurel Hill Cemetery.

On December 17, Walt Lafty participated in the Wreaths Across America program at Washington's Crossing National Cemetery, while Andy Waskie participated in the program at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

The 2022 Annual General Meade Birthday Celebration was held on Saturday, December 31, at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. Attending the event organized by Andy Waskie and the General Meade Society were several hundred participants, many of whom are also members of the GAR Museum, who braved the damp and foggy weather to honor General George G. Meade, his veterans and those who serve and sacrifice for the Nation. Andy reported that “A large number of authentically attired Reenactors, Civilians and the Philadelphia Brigade Band added charm and pageantry to highlight the program. Many THANKS to all those who contributed to the grand success of the Celebration and to all attendees.” Photos are by Scott Sigman, Legion Post 405 at the Union League, and were provided courtesy of Andy Waskie.



Barnegat Lighthouse Program

... by Amy Hummel

On Saturday, January 7th my husband Dan & I made the drive to the north end of Long Beach Island. We went to the visitor center at the Barnegat Lighthouse to hear Dr. Anthony Waskie portray General George Gordon Meade. The lecture was called "The Man Behind the Lighthouse." It had been a few years since Andy had spoken there due to Covid-19 so it was great that the Friends of Barnegat Lighthouse State Park had restarted its popular lecture series.



Andy spoke as General George Gordon Meade discussing his life, letting us know he was born in Cadiz, Spain and had been a student at West Point graduating in 1835. We learned that General Meade did civil engineering work, survey work and that General Meade worked on the design of several lighthouses including 3 in New Jersey.

Andy explained in detail about General Meade's work in the US Army as a topographical engineer. We also learned about General Meade's military service during the Mexican War, his time in Florida during the campaign against the Seminole Indians and his service during the Civil War especially his role as the victor of Gettysburg.

Andy spoke to a packed audience and did a great job portraying General Meade. He answered questions about Meade's life and various accomplishments. When asked which lighthouse was General Meade's favorite we found out that it was the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.





Curator's Corner ... by Herb Kaufman

It's time! If you have not visited the new G. A. R. Museum and Archive, now is the time!

If you have not visited the museum for a while, please do come out and see all our exciting changes.

Many rare and wonderful relics were previously hidden away and are now on display for you to see:

- A wonderful exhibit of original ladies' apparel, a mourning dress, and memorabilia of the G.A.R. Auxiliary and Allied orders.
- Highlights from the collection of Captain Fred Boland of the 72nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment. This includes his MOLLUS Commission and his sword, among other prized relics.
- A medical exhibit that includes the original medical instrument case of Dr. Mary Walker.
- Photographs and documents from Civil War era medical facilities in the City of Philadelphia.
- An outstanding collection of President Abraham Lincoln memorabilia. Many fine statues donated by Rose Boyle from the Hugh Boyle collection.

We are now planning new and historic exhibitions for the coming year. More information about these new exhibitions will be forthcoming.

We are making considerable progress and look forward to continuing to make improvements.

***Please become a member or renew your membership and visit the museum
"Where history comes alive!"***

We hope that you will visit the museum and see these wonderful changes for yourself. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

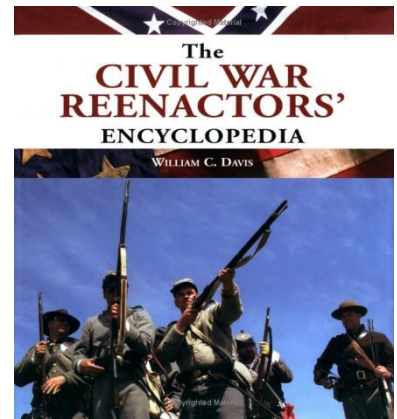


NEW AT THE MUSEUM by Joe Perry

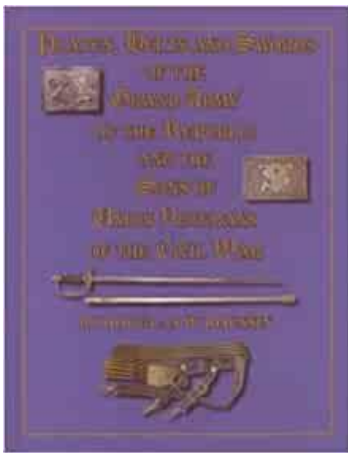
Recent additions to the GAR Museum collections include the following books.

The Civil War Reenactors' Encyclopedia by William C. Davis.

Guide to uniforms, flags, major battle, Union and Confederate units and more.



The following books by Douglas W. Roussin were recently donated to the Museum by the author.



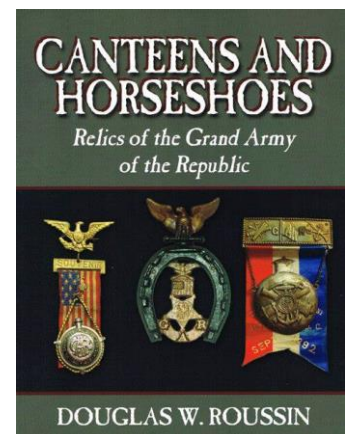
Plates, Belts and Swords of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The standard reference for swords, belts and plates of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Veterans, this work will help anyone who desires to collect or learn more about the equipment used by this most visible of Civil War veteran groups, as well as their S.O.V. heirs. Includes over 150 examples which have been photographed and documented, as well as an easy-to-use rarity scale and standardized numbering system.

Canteens and Horseshoes: Relics of the Grand Army of the Republic

In the 83 years following the American Civil War, a powerful organization known as the Grand Army of the Republic dominated the life of the Civil War veterans. Founded in 1866, the organization's membership peaked in the 1890s, with nearly 450,000 veterans. The organization was all but forgotten except by Civil War enthusiasts, historians and collectors of Grand Army of the Republic memorabilia. During its existence, the Grand Army produced souvenirs in the form of badges, canteens and good luck horseshoes.

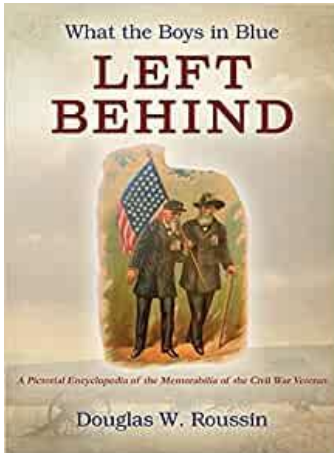
Canteens & Horseshoes is an in-depth study of what the veterans left behind. This volume contains approximately 280 colored photos of Veteran's badges, miniature canteens and canteens used to hold the veteran's liquid of choice, "whiskey." Their motto, "We Drank from the Same Canteen" had real meaning to the veteran. Along with canteens,



this study contains a large variety of little known, and often overlooked, decorative horseshoes which the Civil War veteran proudly displayed in his home. After nearly 60 years of collecting, researching information at numerous museums and conversing with other avid collectors, the author has compiled and cataloged this study on Grand Army canteens and horseshoes. This study will give the novice and advanced collector a better understanding of what can be found on the collecting market.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

The last remaining veterans never realized how fascinating their souvenirs would become to future generations.



What the Boys in Blue Left Behind: A Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Memorabilia of the Civil War Veteran

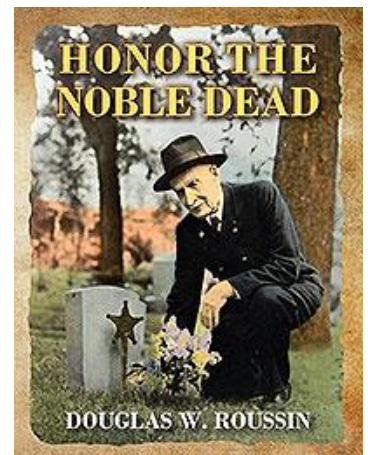
This book is a long overdue pictorial encyclopedia. This book reveals memorabilia which the Civil War veterans left to us. Organizations like The Grand Army of the Republic are all but forgotten today by the public. It is now left to historians, collectors, and Civil War enthusiasts to preserve this memory. ***What the Boys in Blue Left Behind*** covers a wide range of memorabilia. To produce this book, the author spent years traveling to museums, Grand Army Posts, and interviewing historians, collectors and dealers. The result is this "first ever" general collector's book. It covers the many facets of collecting veteran's relics from the past. This book is a

"Must Have" for collectors as well as students of history.

Captain James S. Colwell Post 201's cannon and caisson, which is in the GAR Museum, is pictured on page 33.

Honor the Noble Dead! Flag Holders of the Civil War Veteran

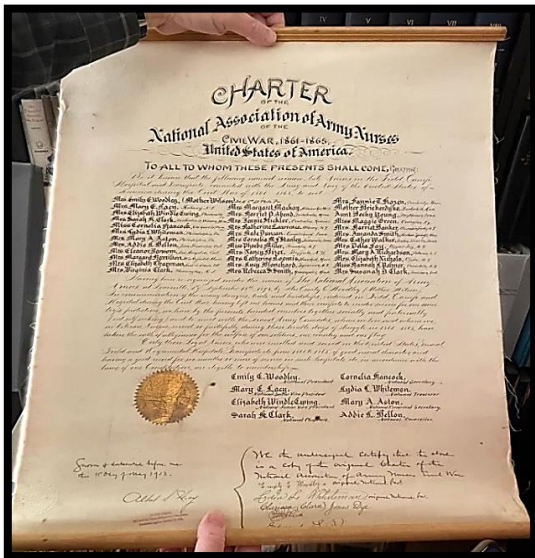
On May 5, 1868, General Order No. 11 was issued by the Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, John A. Logan. It says in part: The 30th day of May 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in the defense of their country. May 30, called Decoration Day, is today known as Memorial Day. ***Honor the Noble Dead*** is a comprehensive study of the many grave marker/flag holders that decorated the graves of thousands of Civil War veterans. The funeral of a Civil War veteran was a sad event not only for the family, but also for his comrades in the Grand Army of the Republic post to which he belonged. Grand Army posts wanted to mark the graves of their comrades with special markers, which would make the grave sites easy to locate and thus decorate. Companies like M. D. Jones and Balch Bros. & West began to supply special markers for this purpose. These markers were designed to hold a flag. This work studies the many types of markers that were made. It has been more than 60 years since the last veteran of the Civil War passed away. Due to the passage of time, many worn out markers have been removed from the graves and are now being collected. This book touches on the question of whether they should be collected and restored or is this considered grave robbing.



The GAR Museum and Archive is acknowledged for allowing the author to photograph the Museum's large collection of grave markers.



National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War ***by Walt Lafty***



This charter (photo left) of the National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War 1861-1865 was recently uncovered in storage at the GAR Museum of Philadelphia. The Museum curator Herb Kaufman and other volunteers have been conducting a thorough inventory of all artifacts and records over the course of the recent move of the Museum to their new location at 8110 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19136.

Many of the women who signed this charter may be well known such as Cornelia Hancock, Emily E. Woodley, and Mary Ann “Mother” Bickerdyke.

Another woman who signed this charter and also had a connection with Philadelphia, was Margaret Hamilton. She was born Margaret Mahoney, the only child of Cornelius and Mary (née Sheehan) Mahoney.

In 1860 Margaret became Sister Angela Mahoney after entering the religious order of the Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland. She began serving as a sister-nurse at Satterlee General Military Hospital in West Philadelphia in 1862. Over the course of the war, approximately 91 sisters of her order served there as nurses at various times. The highest number at one time was 43. They served under the leadership of Sister Servant Mary Gonzaga Grace who was in charge from the opening of Satterlee in 1862 until the end of the war in 1865.

One of Sister Angela’s patients was under her care for many months, up to almost a year. He was Charles R. Hamilton, a member of the 19th Maine Infantry Volunteers who was seriously wounded at Gettysburg. She ended up falling in love with him and left the sisterhood to marry him in November of 1864. They were married in Philadelphia PA, had a few children while living there until about 1874. Then they moved to Massachusetts and ultimately raised eight children.

Margaret remained active in Civil War affairs for the rest of her life. She was elected chaplain of the H. M. Warren Relief Corps of Wakefield, Massachusetts for several years. In 1897 she was chosen secretary of the Massachusetts Army Nurse Association upon its formation. She was president of the National Army Nurse Association, elected at the 1902 national meeting. She was also a member of the Ladies Aid Association of the Massachusetts Soldiers' Home.

Mrs. Hamilton died on 11 January 1922 and is buried at Lakeside Cemetery in Wakefield, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles who died in April 1900.



GRAND ARMY SCOUT



Cornelia Hancock
Courtesy National Park Service



Emily E. Woodley
Courtesy Mike Serpa-- Find A Grave



Mary Ann "Mother" Bickerdyke
Courtesy Encyclopedia Britannica

The National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War 1861-1865, was formed in September 1892 in Washington D.C. The first President was Mrs. Addie L. Bayou of California. It was decided at the first meeting that the time and place of the annual meetings would be held at the National Grand Army of the Republic annual encampment each year.

At the National GAR Encampment in Louisville Kentucky in 1895, Mrs. Emily Woodley, of Philadelphia Pennsylvania was elected the second President of the Association. It was also at that meeting when the Nurses Association decided to authorize Mrs. Woodley to take out a charter and to adopt a constitution and By-Laws.

According to their constitution, *"The primary object of the Association is to band ourselves together socially and fraternally, to aid our fellow nurses in obtaining pensions and do all in our power for their welfare. It shall not be auxiliary to any other order-owing allegiance only to the Grand Army of the Republic"*.

Eligibility for membership was to have served not less than three months as a regularly enlisted or volunteer nurse during the Civil War.

Another requirement was that all applications for membership had to be endorsed by the Commander and Adjutant of the nearest Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.



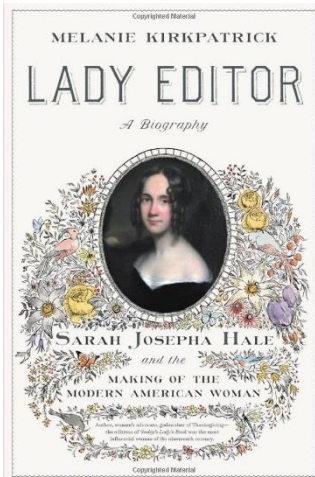
**Photo right courtesy of
National Library of Medicine**

FROM THE MUSEUM'S BOOKSHELF by Paula Gidjunis

Lady Editor: Sarah Josepha Hale and the Making of the Modern American Woman

By Melanie Kirkpatrick

Encounter Books, 2021, 299 pages



Sarah Josepha Hale is mainly known as the editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*, the author of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, and the person who pushed for the observance of Thanksgiving. But she was so much more, and she maintained a presence over the women of the United States during the 19th century. If she was alive today, she would be called an “influencer.”

A recently published book, *Lady Editor: Sarah Josepha Hale and the Making of the Modern American Woman* by Melanie Kirkpatrick will fill in the rest of what makes Hale a Modern American Woman. Kirkpatrick is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. She is a former deputy editor of the Wall Street Journal's editorial page. She has also authored *Thanksgiving: The Holiday at the Heart of the American Experience* and *Escape from*

North Korea: The Untold Story of Asia's Underground Railroad. Kirkpatrick has delved deep into Hale's life and with great research has written a work that shows us the entire person.

Sarah Josepha Buell was born in 1788 in Newport, NH to progressive parents. She had several siblings and both male and female were encouraged to be educated. In a letter to his sister near her twenty-first birthday, her older brother Horatio advised her to “maintain her ‘dignity’, to continue with her studies, and to wait for a man who will ‘soar above the worthless race of Poppin Jays’ and ‘pleasureseeking coxcombs’.” Sarah in fact did that. In 1813, at the age of 25, she married David Hale, a lawyer. It was a marriage of intellectual equals.

David encouraged Sarah to continue her writing with a “clear, forthright style of prose.” Besides her writing, she gave birth to four children, two boys and two girls. In 1822, with their fifth child on the way and heading towards their ninth wedding anniversary, tragedy struck. David died of pneumonia. Sarah was now a widow with five children. Initially supporting her family as a seamstress, she eventually turned to her writing skills.

Hale was a woman before her time. Twenty years before the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, Hale was writing and encouraging women to be educated. She used her position as editor of *The Ladies' Magazine* and later of the *Godey's Lady's Book* to “transform public perceptions about woman's abilities and potential.” She also pursued American writers and encouraged the publishing of their works. “In an era when most periodicals were cut-and-paste jobs, Hale

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

searched out the original works of Washington Irving, Edgar Allen Poe, James Fenimore Cooper among many others.”

When Hale could not find someone to take care of her youngest son Willie while she worked, she established an infant school for him and other women’s children. Infant schools were the forerunners of what we know today as kindergartens.

Hale also believed that women should learn a skill in order to support themselves. She especially became interested in helping sailors’ wives. Under her leadership, she changed the thinking of the Seaman’s Aid Society of Boston from giving aid to these women to training them to support themselves. For the rest of her life, she would address female poverty and fair wages for women.

In 1828, Hale started *The Ladies’ Magazine* in Boston. Due to her success and the influencer she was becoming, she came to the attention of Louis Godey. Godey was involved in the publishing field. He left New York City to live in Philadelphia, due to its thriving printing and publishing industry. He pursued her for the editorship of his new “*Lady’s Book*” Magazine.

At first Hale worked from Boston, while the publishing was in Philadelphia. Eventually, Hale moved to Philadelphia and the now *Godey’s Lady’s Book* became one of the most popular magazines in the country. Addressing a myriad of issues, Hale became a popular voice on ideas of the 19th century.

Coming as a surprise to me in this biography was that Hale did not support women’s suffrage. While she was a great proponent for other rights for women, such as paid work, property rights and education, her thoughts on suffrage were very much of her time. She believed that men and women had separate spheres of activity. She considered politics as a nasty business and believed that women should influence the men in their lives. While considering women as intellectual peers to men, she believed women were morally superior. She wanted women to train their sons to be better men. There is no written evidence that she ever changed her mind on suffrage. However, in the 1870s she did support women running for seats on school boards. Hale retired in 1877, having spent 50 years as an editor. She died in 1879 at the age of 90.

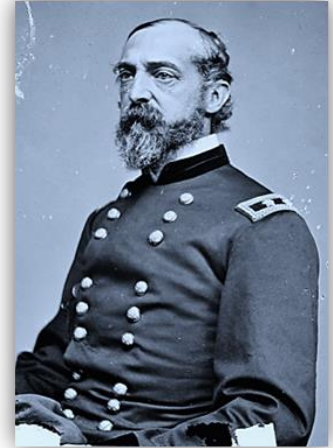


Stories of Posts of the Grand Army.....by Walt Lafty

At its heyday, there were thirty-six (36) Posts of the Grand Army in Philadelphia alone. This is part of a continuing series on GAR Posts and GAR History that will appear in the Grand Army Scout



General George G. Meade G.A.R. Post No. 1 Philadelphia, PA Department of Pennsylvania



Meade Post No. 1 was originally chartered by the National Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) on 16 October 1866. Its seniority was challenged by other Posts named No. 1 in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. It was found to be the ranking Post in the Department and retained its name as Post No. 1.

On 8 January 1873 it adopted General George G. Meade as its namesake after his death on 6 November 1872.

Post 1 first met at the Wetherill House at 607 Sansom Street in 1866. That location was the meeting place of many organizations in that time period. Those included military units like the 6th PA Cavalry Veteran Volunteers, the Washington Grays, and the Friends of the First City Troop. Many labor groups also met there such as the Cordwainers, Master Bricklayers, Painters, Paperhangers, and the Retail Coal Dealers. Other fraternal organizations such as the Welch Society and Sons of St. George, also met at the Wetherill House.

Among the many other meeting locations over the years for Meade Post 1 included the Home Labor League Rooms at 114 N. Third Street; NE corner Broad and Arch Streets; NE corner Tenth and Chestnut Streets; 12th & Filbert Street; SE Corner 11th & Chestnut; 809 & 811 Chestnut Street; and the Parkway Building.

While it is not possible in this short article to cover all the activities and programs associated with Post 1, a couple of interesting connections will be mentioned.

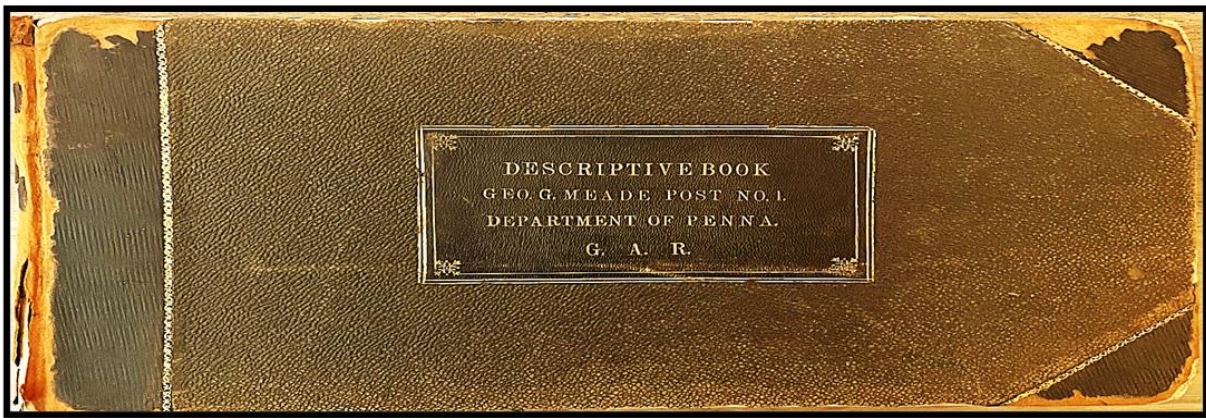
One of the more famous members of Meade Post 1 was General U.S. Grant. The General joined on 16 May 1877. General Grant remained a member until his death on 23 July 1885. Both his information and his own signature are in the descriptive book held in the archives of our museum.

(Note: Left and right pages of the book are below)

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No.	NAME.	Age.	Birthplace.	Residence.	Occupation.	ENTRY INTO THE SERVICE.				FINAL DISCHARGE.				
						Date.	Rank.	Co.	Regiment.	Date.	Rank.	Co.	Regiment.	
11	Wm. S. Grant	55	Clermont Co. Ohio	Washington	Bookkeeper	June 1st 1861	Colonel		1st Ill. Vols.					General U. S. Army

Length of Service.	Cause of Discharge.	Date of Muster into the G. A. R.	When honorably Discharged.	When Suspended.	When Deposed.	When Dismissed.	Nature of Wounds Received.	When and in what Engagements Wounded.	REMARKS.
11 Years	Reached the President of the Republic	May 22/87	1887	1887	July 23/87		Had wounds		Wm. S. Grant



The above Descriptive Book has the entries for 1153 members of Post 1 over its active history.

The first member of the Post was Captain Clayton McMichael, son of Philadelphia Mayor Morton McMichael. Captain McMichael was commissioned in the 9th U.S. Infantry and served on the Indian frontier. He later transferred to the Army of the Potomac serving at Gettysburg and later breveted Major for actions at Petersburg, Virginia. He died in 1906 and is buried at Laurel Hill in Philadelphia.

The last surviving member was Corporal Charles P. Sherman. He died on 17 July 1939 at age 92 in the Naval Home at Philadelphia. Comrade Sherman had enlisted in the 1st Connecticut Cavalry at age 17. He was an active member of Post 1 from 22 May 1887 until his death. Previously he had been a member of Post 10 in Brooklyn, New York before relocating and transferring to Philadelphia. Corporal Sherman is buried at Northwood Cemetery in Philadelphia.

In addition to the above Descriptive Book, other Meade Post records held at our museum include:

- Minutes as Post 1 from November 1866 to December 1866.
- Minutes as Post 2 from December 1866 to October 1867
- Minutes as Post 1 from 1916 to 1936
- Funeral Committee Meeting Minutes 1883 to 1888; 1892 to 1910
- Decoration Committee Meeting Minutes 1879-1889
- Miscellaneous donation letters from 1924 to 1936
- Miscellaneous photos

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- By-laws and roster for 1907
- Deed
- Post checks (1933-1929)
- A history of Meade Post

One of the more interesting items at the museum, as many members already know, is the head of “Old Baldy” – General Meade’s War Horse. Originally, Baldy was the horse of General David Hunter but was wounded at First Bull Run in 1861. He was sent to the Army Cavalry Depot in Washington, D.C. to recuperate and possibly returned to service. It was at that time that he was purchased by General Meade.

The General loved Old Baldy, and each time the horse was wounded, which were multiple times in many battles, including Gettysburg, General Meade made sure Old Baldy received good treatment. After 1864, the General sent Old Baldy back home to Philadelphia for better care. The horse spent the remainder of his years on a couple of farms owned by various friends of General Meade. At first, Old Baldy lived on a farm owned by Samuel Ringwalt, an old friend of the General. Later, he would live at a place called Meadow Bank farm, owned by another old friend, John J. Davis.

When General Meade died in 1872, Old Baldy marched in the funeral procession. Also, in the grand parade of 1879 in Philadelphia for General Grant, Old Baldy marched again.

The old war horse died on 16 December 1882 at the farm of John J. Davis. Mr. Davis allowed Post 1 to secure the head and neck of Old Baldy to preserve and become a relic of Post 1 in honor of their Post namesake. It was formally presented to the Post on 26 February 1883. The relic Old Baldy has remained in good hands ever since and currently resides in the G.A.R. Museum and Archives at 8110 Frankford Avenue Philadelphia PA 19136.

For a more detailed history of the life of this legendary horse, see the article [**“Old Baldy-General Meade’s’ War Horse.**](#) It was written by Andy Waskie, Ph.D., Vice President of the G.A.R. Museum. Copies are available at the museum.

On Monday 6 February 2023, the museum had a visitor to the museum. His name is Tracy Ebmeyer who was returning home to Maine from his recent Philadelphia area visit. Tracy is a fiddler by hobby, and he wanted to play his fiddle to the tune of **“Old Baldy Kicking Up.”** He told us the story as was passed down to him by other fiddlers. This tune is Civil War period music (no lyrics) and is about the horse kicking up when a man other than General Meade tried to ride him. Whether it is a true story told to Tracy or a myth, it is an enjoyable tune, played well by him. It adds another connection to the legend of Old Baldy, to General George Gordon Meade, and to the Meade G.A.R. Post No. 1 of Philadelphia.



“Search and Rescue, Round Three of What Are the Odds?” by Mary Wible

I promised you another article for “**What Are the Odds?**” in the piece called “Archive Ancestors” from our previous *Grand Army Scout* issue. Join me for part 1 as we **search** for an ancestor, then part 2 as we **rescue** him.

Let me introduce our Archive Ancestor, John Fitton Conaway, the great grandfather of Michele Wallenta who is a museum member and the Press Correspondent for the DUVCW Mary Morris Husband, Tent 58, PA.

Michelle is lucky to have some personal belongings and information about John F. Conaway who was a First Lieutenant in Co. B, 15th PA Cavalry. In 1891 he was the Post #2 GAR Commander.

Our museum holds the Post 2 records in our archive, so Walt Lafty and I figured we would come across some things for John once we began looking in the nearly 40 boxes. Yes, I said 40 boxes. But, I digress.

Part 1 - The Search

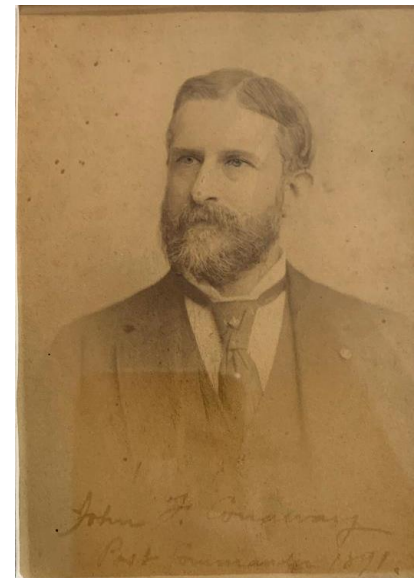
I told Michelle I would search for records, and so I began with the application binders for Post 2. My thanks to Walt who taught me that.

Before I opened the binder I told Tom Donnelly about Conaway and asked if he knew about the 15th Cavalry. Without looking at any book, Tom filled me in with great detail. I was truly impressed with his knowledge.

Tom then ventured into our research library and returned with a book about the 15th PA Cavalry called *Column South* by Suzanne Colton Wilson. It includes written descriptions by some of the men about the various campaigns. Lt. John F. Conaway wrote several entries. Wow! What a great find, and **what are the odds?**

There was also an entry from another soldier about meeting “the pretty Miss Conaway” who is John’s sister. Might love be in the air?

Next, I opened the binder and found the application for him. Fantastic! But, it gets even better. There was a personal letter from 1904 written by John to his comrades in Post 2, thanking them for their condolences on the loss of his wife. It is beautifully written with such respect and



**JOHN F. CONAWAY
POST #2 G.A.R.
COMMANDER, 1891**

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dignity that is reflective of that time period. What a treasure it is, and **what are the odds** of having that in the application folder?

Then, to top it off, a second letter was written by John's daughter Margaret thanking the Post 2 members for their tribute to her father upon his death in 1928. **What are the odds?** I could not wait to share these with Michelle and tell Walt, who was not at the museum that day.

A week prior to that, Walt gathered some artifacts to bring to our first meeting with a group of seniors to show them, and I returned them to the museum when he was at home. One of those items was a framed photo of a GAR veteran which he **randomly** chose, and which neither of us looked at closely. Hmmm.

Our curator Herb Kaufman took the photo to return it to its proper place, looked at it, asked me to repeat the name of the man I was researching, then showed it to me. It was a photo of the Post 2 Commander from 1891, THE John F. Conaway! I was shocked. Here, we had this for our exhibit display without even realizing who it was. **What are those crazy odds?**

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
Post No. 2. Dep't of Pennsylvania, G. A. R.

I have the honor to make application for membership in Post No. 2 of Grand Army of the Republic, basing my application on the following facts:
I am 58 years of age, and was born in Philadelphia State of Pennsylvania, now residing at Philadelphia State of Pennsylvania, am by occupation a Salesman

I served in the late rebellion as follows:
First enlisted August 15th 1862, as Private in Co. E., 15th Regiment Penna. Vol. Cavalry for the period of 3 years, and was discharged therefrom as 1st Lieut. Col. at Nashville Tenn. on the Twenty first day of June, 1865, by reason of — Muster out of Regiment

I also re-enlisted 18 , as in Co. Regiment and was discharged therefrom as day of 18 , by reason of

I have never borne arms against the United States, and have never been convicted by Court-Martial of Desertion, nor of any other infamous crime.

I have not made previous application for membership to the Grand Army of the Republic, and filed the same with Post, No. Department of , on the day of

(Signature,) John F. Conaway
Residence, No. 1850 7th, 12th Street.

I on honor recommend John F. Conaway to the favorable consideration of the Post, believing the foregoing statements to be true in every respect.

Enclosed is proposition fee, \$ 5=

(To be Signed by a Comrade of the Post.)

NOTE.—If any details herein required are omitted, they must be furnished before being reported on by the Committee.
1 If other enlistments, they are to be added.
2 If this is the first application, write the word "not" in this space.

(OVER)

The application

I left the museum on cloud 9 and returned home filled with information and stories to share with Michelle about her great grandfather. Little did I know what would happen next.

Part 2 - The Rescue

The following week, Walt and I returned to the museum archive to continue our work of going through all of the post records to list what we have. Those Post 2 boxes are still looming on the shelves waiting for their turn which we will finally begin in February. Can you imagine what else is in there about the Post Commander, Lt. Conaway?

Visitors arrived that day and Walt gave them a tour while I continued to work in the archive. He brought them upstairs, and I asked him to hand me the Post 2 binder so I could show our visitors the **THREE** John F. Conaway pieces and tell them the story behind them.

Walt to the rescue! Remember, he took a *random* framed photo of a *random* GAR member which just so happened to be John F. Conaway to our meeting. The first step in their bonding.

He then *randomly* opened the binder to that exact same photo of, drumroll please, our guy John. Of course, you had to have guessed that by now. **What are the odds?**

Speaking of odd, I did not see that photo in the binder when I originally found the THREE items, and Walt could not find them in the binder now. That is because he accidentally grabbed the binder for Post 1 not Post 2.

We checked the Post 2 binder and the THREE documents were there. Somehow, John's photo appeared in the wrong binder. We are happy to say that Lt. Conaway was rescued by Walt, and returned to the Post 2 binder where he belonged making it FOUR items. Now those are **some wild odds!**

We now bring that binder to our senior group presentations and share the story and documents of John F. Conaway with them as an example of some of our exciting ancestor archival finds. They are in awe as are we.

Did I mention that Walt *randomly* opened the binder to John's picture AGAIN when we were at the next senior meeting? You know that I am going to ask you **what the odds are**, don't you? I mean who didn't see that coming?

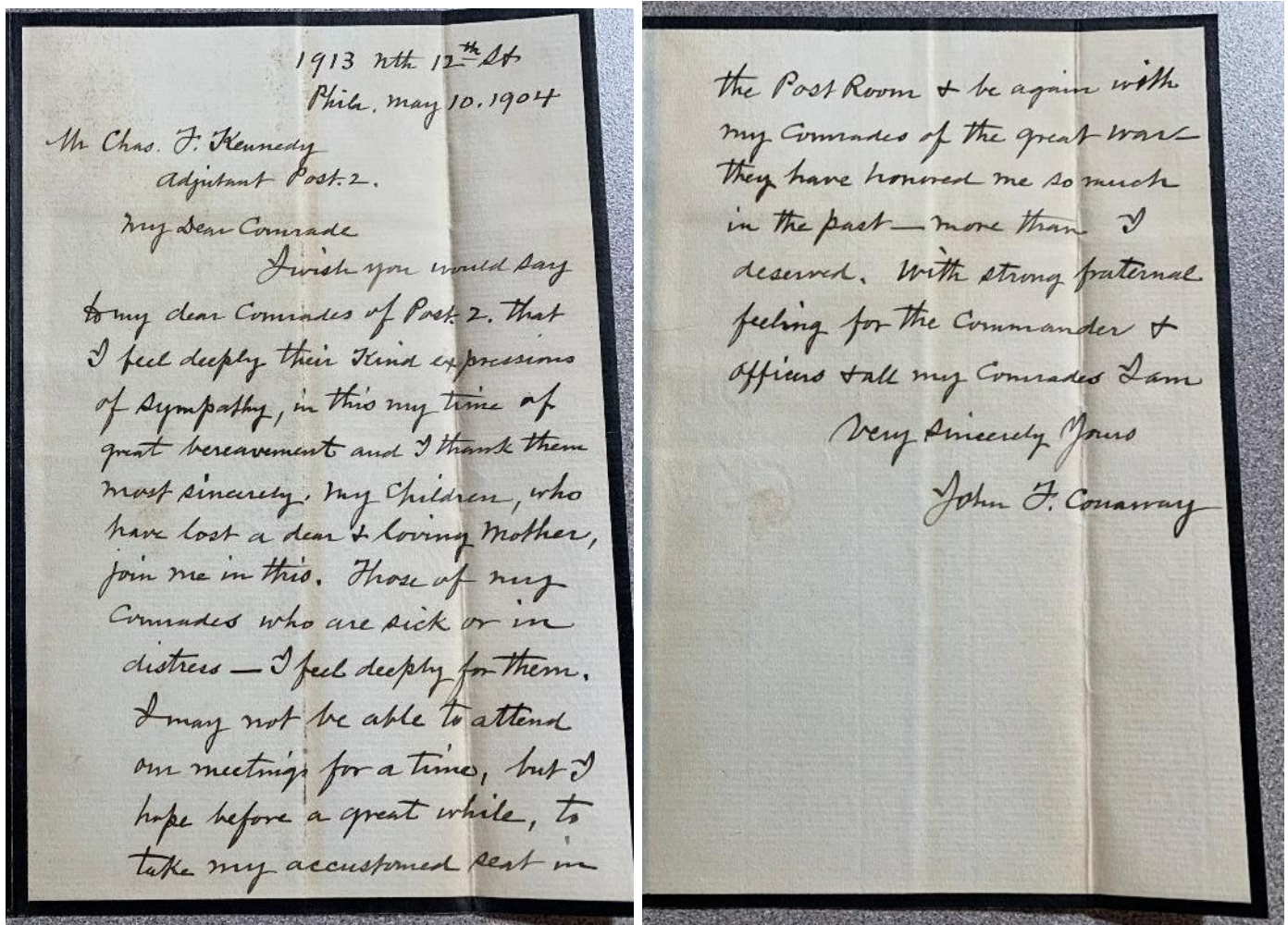
On a serious note, finding documents about ancestors is exciting, but it is more than just that. It is the connection that you make with these extraordinary people from our past that is so significant. There is a personal closeness that develops in our search for them.

I felt that closeness to Lewis Franklin Gold as if he sought me out in my discoveries of him. It seems that John F. Conaway has made sure that Walt Lafty found him as well. Thus, the bonds are created between us. Just imagine how their descendants will feel when they visit the

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museum and meet their ancestors in the archives for the first time. It is an emotional experience which can move one to tears. Don't worry. We have tissues on hand.

I told you that I am not a gambler, but a casino trip may soon be in the works. After all, the odds just keep getting better and better. My money is on the ancestors.



Sides 1 and 2 of the Conaway letter



A Blast From the Past

Women of the Civil War Series By Margaret Atkinson Elizabeth Van Lew, Yankee Spy in the South



Elizabeth Van Lew was born in 1818, the eldest daughter of John Van Lew of Long Island, New York, and Elizabeth Baker of Philadelphia. Her parents made their home on Richmond Hill in Richmond, Virginia, where her father was a prominent businessman. Despite their northern upbringing, her family owned slaves. However, Elizabeth opposed slavery and eventually, when the war started, she conducted one of the most productive espionage operations of the war. To do this, she defied old friends, civil and military authorities. During the four full years of the war, she gained the reputation among some Northern Generals as being the best spy inside the Confederate capital. And at the close of the war, she was considered one of the “big five” female spies of the war.

She established a network of about a dozen white and black men and women to assist her in passing information to the North. Her home was only six blocks from Libby Prison.

Although she never gained entry to the prison, using her personal fortune, she was bribing Confederate guards to deliver desperately needed supplies for the Union prisoners at Libby Prison. On occasion, she was able to help in prisoner escapes. There is speculation that she was involved in a large escape of 109 prisoners who tunneled out of the prison. She also gleaned valuable information from newly arrived Union prisoners who would recount the strength and location of Confederate troops they had seen on their way to Richmond. Of even more use was information carelessly conveyed by Confederate guards and the prison’s Confederate commandant, Lt. David H. Todd (Mary Todd Lincoln’s half-brother). Van Lew would provide medicine, food, and clothing to Union soldiers and assisted in spiriting them back to the North.

After her father’s death, her mother freed some of the household slaves. Mary Elizabeth Bowser was a former slave, whose education in Philadelphia at the Quaker Negro College was financed by Elizabeth. Mary returned to Richmond and Elizabeth helped her gain employment in the Confederate White House. Mary, pretending to be unable to read and act intelligently, was ignored as she served meals and overheard conversations. Bowser passed what she learned to fellow slaves, and eventually this valuable information, through Elizabeth’s efforts, was forwarded to General Grant.

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In the beginning, Van Lew mailed the information in letters posted to Federal authorities. As her work continued, but as her sympathies for the North and the slaves became known in Richmond, she had to avoid detection and so devised more sophisticated methods to send information. She devised a code involving words and letters, sometimes tearing the messages into pieces and sending them through multiple couriers and relay stations. Elizabeth used her household servants, who, although she had freed them, chose to stay with her, sending them on journeys north carrying baskets of farm produce. Some held eggs, one of which contained encoded messages that were sent directly to Benjamin Butler and General Grant. It was said to be so fast and efficient that General Grant often received flowers still fresh from her garden. Several times, she used a custard dish with a secret compartment to hold the messages. Later, General Grant told her she had sent the most valuable information received from Richmond during the war.

In March 1864, Union raiders attempted to enter Richmond and free some of the prisoners. During the ensuing fighting, Col. Ulrich Dahlgren, 21, son of the Union Rear Admiral, was killed and his corpse handled disrespectfully. Van Lew was enraged and risked exposing her spy operations to have his body exhumed and properly reburied. She managed to deflect the suspicions of her neighbors and friends by acting in an eccentric and mentally ill manner, thus earning the title of “Crazy Bet,” although some historians feel that this part of her story is a myth.



Ulrich Dahlgren

In 1865 the first Union flag to wave over Richmond in four years was flown by Elizabeth. After the victorious Union army arrived in Richmond, one of Grant’s first visits was to Elizabeth’s home where she received him for tea. President Grant appointed her as Postmaster of Richmond, and she became active in Republican politics and women’s suffrage movements. In 1876, she sponsored a library for African Americans. Now treated as a pariah by the citizens of Richmond, she died in 1900. At her death, her money was gone, and her funeral expenses were borne by friends. Shortly after, the City of Richmond acquired her mansion, demolished it, and built a school on the site, apparently wanting to erase all memory of her. The verse on her tombstone reads as such:



“She risked everything that is dear to man – friends, fortune, comfort, health, life itself, all for one absorbing desire of her heart – that slavery might be abolished and the Union preserved.”

[Originally published in the July 2009 issue of the GAR Scout, thanks to Mary Ann Hartner for sharing.]

Brotherly Love During Wartime by Joe Perry

A Soldier Boy's Letter

Washington, June 1, 1863

"DEAR PARENTS: I will endeavor to give you a faint description of our reception in Philadelphia, but I know that my pen cannot half do justice to the subject, but I do know that the remembrance of it will live in the hearts of our brave artillery boys as long as they are able to train a gun or draw a sword in the defence of their country. As soon as we reached the city we marched to the dining saloon, about ten or fifteen rods from the ferry. As soon as we got there we entered the wash-room, a room large enough to accommodate sixty or seventy men to wash at a time. Then we were marched into a splendid hall, with room enough to feed five hundred men at a time. There were gentlemen to wait on us, and they would come around and ask if we had plenty and urge us to eat more. We had nice white bread, beautiful butter, cold boiled ham, cheese, coffee, with plenty of milk and sugar. After we had eaten our fill, which was considerable, for we had eaten nothing since morning, we returned to the streets. Our knapsacks on the sidewalk were left without a guard, but they were almost covered with little children who were watching to see that no one disturbed them. One little fellow found a tin canister and he was hunting around from rank to rank until he found the owner. We were allowed a little time to rest, during which little girls in white went all around through the ranks giving the men flowers and saying kind things to them. It seemed that the people could not do us enough honor. One little girl, about ten years old, came up to me and gave me a half-blown rose, and stayed and talked with me until we started, and then she put her little face up for a kiss with as much confidence as she would to a brother. I never saw so many handsome girls in my life. We had nearly a mile and a half to march, and of all the sights I ever saw, that march beats them all. The sidewalk on each side was lined with old men and matrons, young men and maidens, girls and boys, and every one was trying to see who could shake the most soldiers by the hand. It was the very best class of people who were out to meet us. In some places the streets were completely blocked with them. It was like so many people bidding good-bye to their own sons and brothers. Anyone who thinks there is any lack of support for the war has only to march through Philadelphia.

(Signed) FOSTER, Company B."

Philadelphia in the Civil War, 1861-1864 by Frank H. Taylor. Pages 212-213.



New Traveling Exhibit at Chester County History Center

.....By Ann Kauffman

This exhibit, “Seventeen Men – Portraits of African American Civil War Soldiers” may be of general interest to the members of the GAR Museum and Archive. The focus of the exhibit, Capt. William A. Prickitt’s photos of seventeen men of Co. G of the 25th USCT, is also of particular interest because the Chester County museum holds a headstone fragment of a member of Co. G of the 25th USCT, Pvt. Charles Waples. Pvt. Waples’ image is not among those displayed in the exhibit but even if it is not, he may have known one or more of the seventeen whose photos were in Capt. Prickitt’s album. Six of the soldiers in the photographs were from Delaware including two who were enslaved when they enlisted, as was Pvt. Waples.



Photo from Chester County History Center

Shayne Davidson, a professional illustrator, created enlarged color versions of these black and white photos and compiled bibliographic information.

The exhibit opened February 10, and is on view through July 1, 2023.

DID YOU KNOW????????

The Museum has a Facebook Page.

Visit it at Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Archive in Philadelphia.

<https://www.facebook.com/GrandArmyOfTheRepublicMuseumAndLibrary>

**THE CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE & HISTORY INSTITUTE
AT MANOR COLLEGE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE DELAWARE VALLEY CWRT**

***Don't Know Much About History?
Don't Worry – We Can Fix That!***

The Spring 2023 semester of the Civil War Institute and its spinoff, the History Institute, is well underway. This is a joint effort by Manor College and the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table. The following classes, all of them new, are offered in a virtual (i.e., Zoom) format. To register, log on at <https://manor.edu/academics/adult-continuing-education/history-institute/>

You will be sent a link with a password that will enable you to access the program. A reminder email will be sent again within 24 hours of the start of the class.

CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE CLASSES

Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures: Stories Hidden in the Vaults of Civil War History – NEW – 1 night (2 hrs) – Civil War history classes usually focus on major battles and important persons. However, the Civil War era is full of extraordinary occurrences and strange personalities that are rarely taught or discussed. This class concentrates on those controversial people, strange occurrences, and unusual events from before, during, and after the war.

Instructor: Herb Kaufman

Fee: \$30

Date: Thursday, March 23

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Antietam of the West: The Battle of Perryville – NEW – 1 night (2 hrs) – The similarities between the Sept. 17, 1862, bloodbath in Maryland and Kentucky's largest Civil War battle three weeks later are striking. Both were failed Confederate attempts to make headway in a border state, both were tactical stalemates, and the Union commander in each battle missed a golden opportunity for a complete victory. Consequently, President Lincoln fired both George B. McClellan and Don Carlos Buell shortly after the two engagements.

Instructor: Jerry Carrier

Fee: \$30

Date: Monday, April 3

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Tragic April: Two Forgotten 1865 Disasters – NEW – 1 day (2 hrs) – Four days after Robert E. Lee’s surrender, the nation was rocked by the assassination of President Lincoln. In the following weeks, the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth and his co-conspirators dominated the headlines. Lost in the glare of those epochal events were the tragic sinking of two rivercraft – *Sultana* and *Black Diamond* – with a death toll never before seen in U.S. maritime history.

Instructor: Mike Jesberger

Fee: \$30

Date: Thursday, April 20

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Boys in Blue and Gray: Civil War Baseball – NEW – 1 night (2 hrs) – Long considered America’s National Pastime, and much more than a typical sporting event, baseball has evolved to become a significant part of the American experience. During the Civil War, Americans from the home front to the battlefield, Union and Confederate, played this wonderful game while great armies fought each other to decide the country’s fate.

Instructor: Mike Jesberger

Fee: \$30

Date: Thursday, May 18

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

HISTORY INSTITUTE CLASSES

Caligula & Nero: “Mad Emperors” or “Victims of History”? – NEW – 1 night (2 hrs) – We’ve heard the stories: Caligula named his horse a senator and/or a consul, and Nero “fiddled” while Rome burned in a fire he had orchestrated. Could it be that these stories aren’t exactly true, that these events may have been exaggerated to disparage the two rulers? This class will examine how the ancient writers recorded history and what these emperors were *really* like.

Instructor: Pat Caldwell

Fee: \$30

Date: Thursday, April 27

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Forgotten War: Espionage and Terrorism in World War I – NEW – 1 night (2 hrs) – The United States entered World War I in April 1917, and the war ended 19 months later. Many elements of that war have been excluded from popular history – espionage and terrorism, both in Europe and on U.S. soil. We’ll examine bomb plots, pencil bombs, an explosion that shook the Statue of Liberty, assassination, secret agents, German infiltration, and extraordinary people and events from the legend of Mata Hari, the sinking of the RMS *Lusitania*, and the man who became the “Father of American Cryptology.”

Instructor: Herb Kaufman

Fee: \$30

Date: Wednesday, May 10

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**BEFORE ATTENDING ANY EVENT,
PLEASE CHECK WITH ORGANIZERS TO MAKE SURE THE EVENT IS STILL ON!!!**

Exhibit – “Seventeen Men – Portraits of African American Civil War Soldiers”

Now through July 1, 2023

Chester County History Center, 225 North High Street, West Chester, PA 19380

The focus of the exhibit, Capt. William A. Prickitt’s photos of seventeen men of Co. G of the 25th USCT. The museum also holds a headstone fragment of a member of Co. G of the 25th USCT, Pvt. Charles Waples.

For more info <https://mycchc.org/exhibits/changing-exhibits/>

Exhibit – “Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia”

Now through November 26, 2023

The Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Born a free person of color, James Forten became one of the wealthiest men in the city. He became a successful businessman, philanthropist, and abolitionist. His granddaughter, Charlotte Forten was a teacher who taught freed slaves after the Civil War in South Carolina.

Admission included with the regular museum admission.

For more info <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/>

“Philadelphia Military Hospitals – Then and Now” – In-person and ZOOM hybrid meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 7:00 pm

Presented by Walt Lafty, Research Administrator for the GAR Museum and Archive

Delaware Valley CWRT Meeting, Radisson Hotel, Route 1 at Old Lincoln Highway, Treose, PA

By the beginning of the Civil War, Philadelphia had already become the leading center of medical education and practice in the country. It would also become one of the largest and most influential military hospital departments in the Union. This program will discuss many of the two dozen military hospitals that treated over 157,000 soldiers from 1861 through 1865. Some military hospitals were known for their specialties, some known for other reasons. Learn about the locations of where they provided services then and what those locations look like today, and the organization and transportation system which helped provide support to those military hospitals.

To access the ZOOM meeting, contact Walt Lafty wlafty51@verizon.net and request the link to join the meeting.

“A Class of Vultures: General Meade & the Committee on the Conduct of the War”

Thursday, March 23, 2023, 6:56 pm, ZOOM Program

Part of the North Jersey Civil War Round Table “Winter of General Meade Lecture Series.”

Presented by Dr. Jennifer Murray, professor, Oklahoma State University.

Please request link at NJCivilWarRT@aol.com

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

General Meade Society Spring Symposium

"The War with Mexico - Training Ground of Civil War Commanders"

Sunday, April 2, 2023, 12:00 noon to 5 pm (Doors open at 11:00 am)

Conservatory at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, 215 Belmont Ave., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Cost: \$50.00 per person (includes refreshments, lunch, and free parking).

Jim Schmick's traveling book fair will be there.

To register contact Jerry McCormick (215) 848-7753 or gedwinmc@msn.com. Make checks payable to the General Meade Society and send to PO Box 45556, Phila.PA 19149, or go to the website www.generalmeadesociety.org to pay by credit or debit card.

Reservations should be made by March 28. **See the flyer on page 40 for full details.**

Glen Foerd-Holy Family University Speaker Series

Andrew Diemer, author of *Vigilance: The Life of William Still, Father of the Underground Railroad*

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 7:00 pm – LIVE EVENT

ETC Auditorium of Holy Family University, 9801 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia

Free and open to the public. Simulcast via Zoom. Contact HFC for access to the ZOOM program.

William Still was born free in New Jersey in 1821 to parents who had escaped from slavery. Moving to Philadelphia in 1844, he became head of a Vigilance Committee that aided escaped slaves. Still documented the stories of those he assisted in hopes of reuniting them with family. Among them were the parents of Harriet Tubman, and Ellen and William Craft, who disguised themselves as a young white man and his slave in order to free themselves. Copies of *Vigilance* will be available.

For info: Mary Carroll Johansen MJohansen@holysfamily.edu or <https://www.holysfamily.edu/events>

Tour with Jane Peters Estes - Norfolk and NATO Fest Featuring the Virginia International Tattoo Thursday to Sunday, April 20-23, 2023

Itinerary includes *Nauticus* and The Battleship *Wisconsin* and Naval Base cruise on the *Victory Rover*, Reserved seating for the Parade at Norfolk's NATO Festival, Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Virginia International Tattoo located in Scope Arena. Three overnights at Holiday Inn Express & Suites.

\$849.00 PP/DO– Includes 3 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner. For more info

<https://www.starrtours.com/bus-tours/index.php/norfolk-and-nato-fest-featuring-the-virginia-international-tattoo/tour-detail/4582>

Crooked Billet History Fair

Saturday, April 29, 2023, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Held at the (former) Pennypack Elementary School Auditorium, 130 Spring Avenue, Hatboro, PA

Exhibit with local historical societies and organizations. Organized by the Millbrook Society of Hatboro. The Millbrook Society, Hatboro's Historical Society, will host its first-ever Crooked Billet History Fair, as part of Hatboro's Crooked Billet Weekend. And it's free! Historical societies and community organizations from all around the area will display artifacts, show maps and photos, deliver research presentations, tell stories, and talk history. It's a great opportunity to learn more about our area's past and what local historical societies are doing to preserve and promote that rich heritage. Educational programs scheduled. Food vendors on site.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/956320795335253/>

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Civil War Saturday @ the Fort (Fort Mifflin)

Saturday, April 29, 2023, 10:00 am

Fort Mifflin & Hog Island Roads, Philadelphia

Explore Fort Mifflin's years as a federal prison as the Mifflin Guard becomes our Garrison for the weekend! Watch the soldiers drill and prepare their camp meals over an open fire. "Enlist" and learn to drill with wooden muskets, enjoy Civil War Soldier Life and Medicine programs. Discover the untold story of the prisoners of the Fishing Creek Confederacy, imprisoned at the Fort in 1864.

<http://www.fortmifflin.us/event/cwsat/>

Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Archive Sunday Program via Zoom

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 1:00 pm

A FREE Virtual Online Program – Speaker and Topic to be announced

Please follow <https://garmuslib.org/> for program updates. When the program is announced, please send a request to reserve a virtual seat for this presentation to garmuslib1866@gmail.com. You will be sent a link and password to access the program within 24 hours of the start of the presentation.

History Camp Valley Forge – Freedoms Foundation on the Edge of Valley Forge National Park

Saturday, May 20, 2023

History Camp is a casual conference for adults who are passionate about history. There's no theme so there are a variety of sessions, and all are welcome. People from all walks of life come together to learn, connect, and engage with history. The call for presentations is open. Please spread the word to your friends and associates who might be interested as well – as presenters or just simply to attend and enjoy a day of history. For more information, see www.HistoryCamp.org/valleyforge.

Revolutionary War Encampment – "Patriots Along the Perkiomen: The Continental Army at Pennypacker Mills"

Saturday & Sunday, May 20 & 21, 2023, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Pennypacker Mills, 5 Haldeman Rd, Schwenksville, PA 19473

George Washington and his troops encamped on the site before and after the battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777. The event is free and there will be many activities for the entire family to enjoy.

The Del Val CWRT Preservation Committee will have an informational table and will be selling books.

Info: <https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/37285/Calendar-of-Events-2023>.

Annual Memorial Day Observed at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery

Sunday, May 28, 2023, 12:00 noon

3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia

Recreating the original G.A.R. Decoration Day Service of the Grand Army Meade Post #1 of 1868. All are welcome to attend and participate. Special veterans' markers will be dedicated at the graves of previously unmarked veterans. Speakers, ceremonies, and pageant will highlight the ceremony.

Wreath-laying, speeches, music, and honor guards. Historical groups, veterans, and citizens are urged to participate. Refreshments served after the ceremony. For information, call: 215-228-8200.





THE GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA SPRING SYMPOSIUM

**THE WAR WITH MEXICO;
TRAINING GROUND OF CIVIL WAR COMMANDERS**

**CONSERVATORY AT WEST LAUREL HILL CEMETERY,
215 Belmont Ave, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004**

**DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023
12 NOON - 5PM
DOORS OPEN AT 11:00 AM**



**COST: \$50
Includes
REFRESHMENTS,
LUNCH
& FREE PARKING**



Civil War & History books and souvenirs from
Jim Schmick's Travelling Book Fair on sale at the event;

PROGRAM

- *Overview of the Mexican - American War.* (Prof. John Selby)
- *Commanders Engaged in the Mexican War Who Became Noted Commanders in the Civil War.* (Prof. Rick Kimball)
- *The Service of George Gordon Meade in the Mexican War.* (Dr. Andy Waskie)
- Q&A Panel to follow

To register, contact Jerry McCormick (215) 848-7753 or gedwinmc@msn.com
Make checks payable to: The General Meade Society
and send to PO Box 45556, Phila.PA 19149

To pay by credit/debit card, or for additional information
about this event, go to <https://generalmeadesociety.org>

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 28th

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum
Invites you to
SPONSOR A SPEAKER

Since 1985, The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum has proudly presented lectures given by locally and nationally recognized historians and authors. These outstanding presentations are a significant feature of each first Sunday Open House and the annual Preservation Luncheon. This lecture series has been a hallmark of the museum.

The cost of these lectures has increased over the years to the point that we now need to ask for your help to continue bringing speakers to our museum and luncheon. A requested donation of \$100.00 is an essential part of the support that enables The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive to function as a strong resource that brings informative and engaging speakers to our community.

The museum is a 501(c)3 registered non-profit and all donations to its lecture series are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

If you are an employee of, or a retiree from, a company that has a matching gift program, please consider maximizing your donation by requesting that your company match your gift to The GAR Civil War Museum and Archive.

The museum's Board of Directors thanks you for your support in helping the museum continue to fulfill its mission of preserving the heritage and history of the Civil War era through informative programs that are open to the public.

Each sponsor will receive special recognition at a museum function, a full year's membership to the museum, and a Certificate of Recognition.

GAR Civil War Museum and Archive "SPONSOR A SPEAKER" Donation

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Donation amount: _____

Checks to Sponsor A Speaker should be payable to
GAR Museum Sponsor A Speaker
GAR Museum and Archive
8110 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136

2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AND & ARCHIVE

Lewis-Pattison House

8110 FRANKFORD AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum is a registered non-profit 501c3 corporation.

All donations are tax deductible in accordance with the law

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

INDIVIDUAL \$25.00 _____

FAMILY \$35.00 _____

SPONSOR \$50.00 _____

PATRON \$75.00 _____

GUARDIAN \$100.00 _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

BENEFACTOR LIFE MEMBER \$250.00 _____

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL FOR 2023 _____

Please either mail this application to the Museum with your membership check payable to "GAR Museum"

OR

Become a member through PayPal

Go to our website www.garmuslib.org

Select "MEMBERSHIP" then scroll down to PAYPAL "Donate Now".

Select the membership from the above list and pay that amount.

It is very important to us that we acknowledge your membership.

If you use PayPal, please email or mail the completed application to the Museum and indicate below the amount paid.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E- Mail Address _____ **Your Privacy is Protected**

I paid PayPal the amount of _____