

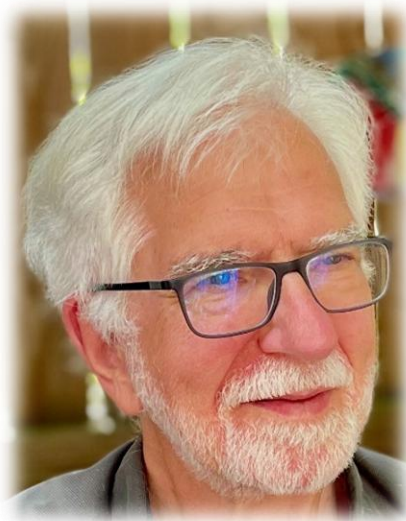
SCOUT

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Newsletter of the Grand Army of the Republic
Civil War Museum & Archive Summer 2025



From the President



***Margaret Atkinson, (April 14, 1928
– July 10, 2025) GAR Museum and
Archive Board Secretary and
Newsletter Editor***

On behalf of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive's Board of Directors and members, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for Margaret's vision, dedication and tireless efforts in bringing this remarkable institution to life.

Her commitment to preserving history, inspiring curiosity, and making culture and knowledge accessible to all has created a legacy. The Museum stands not only as a testament to her passion and perseverance, but also as a space that educates, enriches, and uplifts generations.

The Museum is a place where the past comes alive, the present is celebrated, and the future is inspired.

Margaret Atkinson passed away peacefully on July 10, 2025, at the age of 97. She was the beloved wife of the late Bud Atkinson, with whom she shared 68 years of marriage. A devoted mother, Margaret is survived by her children: Frank Atkinson (Joanne), Peg Kroger (Don), and Richard Atkinson (Angela). She was a loving grandmother to Jennifer, Andrew, Richard, Katie, Gretchen, Becky, Manda, Sarah, Krystilyn, and Jacob, and a proud great-grandmother of nine. She is also survived by her cherished brother, Adam Woltman. Margaret was predeceased by her brothers Herman Poehler and John Woltman.

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8110 FRANKFORD AVENUE
PHILA. PA 19136
(215) 613-0350
garmuslib1866@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
PATRICIA CALDWELL

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Born and raised in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, Margaret devoted her life to her family and community. She was a dedicated homemaker and worked as a bookkeeper at Mayo Nursing Home. A woman of deep faith, she was a lifelong member of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, where she served as an Elder, Sunday School teacher and choir member.

Margaret was deeply committed to honoring history and service. She was past National President of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. She also served her community as a Judge of Elections in Northeast Philadelphia. For the last nine years of her life, Margaret was a resident of Paul's Run, where she continued her legacy of leadership and service as President of the Resident Committee.

A Life Celebration was held in her honor on Saturday, July 19th.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Margaret's memory may be made to Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 808 Red Lion Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115 or the GAR Civil War Museum and Archive, 8110 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. 19136.

Margaret's life was a living testimony to the values of Romans 12:9–18—genuine love, selfless service, and peaceful conduct. She leaves behind a legacy of faith, dedication, and grace that will live on in all who knew and loved her.

From The Grand Army of Republic Civil War Museum's Newsletter *Grand Army Scout*, Spring 2012

Meet our Board of Directors.

Margaret Atkinson is a long serving and well-known volunteer of the GAR Civil War Museum and Archive. The Atkinson family have been the linchpin of our institution for many years. Margaret's husband of 63 years, Bud Atkinson, is the Museum's President Emeritus and Past Commander in Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Together they toiled for decades to keep the museum operating while also serving in leadership roles in various organizations of the Civil War community.

Margaret joined the GAR Civil War Museum as Secretary in 1984 when the charter was changed to allow female officers. She served as secretary for 20 years, wrote and distributed the Museum's newsletter, acted as a Museum guide, and presented historical talks to schools and community groups depicting life of women during Civil War era. Margaret developed a first-person impression of Anna M. Ross. To this day Margaret remains committed to this cause as she is a regularly contributor to the Museum's newsletter with her popular "Women of the Civil War" series. Margaret remains a vibrant, active member of our board.

While many of our members have ancestors who fought in the Civil War, Margaret's lineage is impressive. Three of her Great Grandfathers were Civil War veterans; Lt. John O'Hanlon, Co A, 88th PA Inf, Cpl Herman Poehler, Co A, 2nd PA Heavy Artillery, and Pvt. Conrad Schaffer, Co E, 44th PA Res./33rd Regiment. She is also the Great Great Granddaughter of Pvt. Henry Schramm, Co H, 98th PA Volunteers. Her Great Grandfather Herman Poehler was a member of Post 94 and was a charter member of Camp 1, SUVCW.

Some of her female ancestors were charter members of the Ross Auxiliary. During her 68-year membership in the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, she has served the Auxiliary as officers in the Pennsylvania and National Departments. She was National President from 1994 to 1996.

Her other activities included teaching Sunday school for 30 years, singing in church choirs for 60 years, and was ordained an Elder in the Presbyterian Church in 1986. She supported her children's Scouting activities as Den Mother and Neighborhood Chairman of Girl Scouts.

After her children were grown, she was employed as a manager of a nursing home regional billing office until retirement. Margaret and Bud now have three children, 10 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Joe Perry
President & Librarian

Programs

**The GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
CIVIL WAR MUSEUM & ARCHIVE
Offers Free First Sunday Community
Programs on the 1st Sunday of each
month. First Sunday programs
begin at 1:00pm.**



Recent programs are described below.

Sunday, May 4, 2025

**“Uncommon Warriors: Women Soldiers of the American Civil War”
Presented by Historian and GAR Research Administrator Walt Lafty**

Some 400-1,000 women served as soldiers during the Civil War. They cut their hair, donned male attire, fought battles, lived in germ-infested camps, and suffered wounds, death and imprisonment. At a time when men were being shamed for NOT serving, why would so many women run the risk of being shamed FOR serving? How did they pull it off? What happened to those who were caught? These are the brave women who will be discussed.



Walt Lafty is a historian with a focus on the American Civil War (1861-1865), but also World War 2, as well as the history of Ireland. He has been active in various Civil War groups for many years. Those include the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Museum where he serves as the research administrator and volunteer. He is also active in the Delaware Valley CWRT where he is a board member as well as a member of the preservation committee. Walt is also an active member of Baker-Fisher Camp 101 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Hatboro and currently serves as the camp secretary. In addition, he is a member of the Old Baldy CWRT and the General Meade Society.

Sunday, June 1, 2025

“The Guns of Maine”

Presented by Historian and Author Tom Huntington

The Program was derived from Tom’s 2018 book *Maine Roads to Gettysburg*. It included some of his research for his new book *Maine Roads to Appomattox*. As Joshua Chamberlain said in his famous speech at Gettysburg in October 1889, “[W]herever there was a front, the guns of Maine thundered and her colors stood.” In the program Tom talked about soldiers from the Pine Tree State and the various battles they fought. One of those soldiers was his own great grandfather, Daniel True Huntington, who fought with the 31st Maine.



[Photo from amazon.com]

Tom Huntington is the author of *Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg*, as well as *Guide to Gettysburg Battlefield Monuments*, *Pennsylvania Civil War Trails*, and *Ben Franklin’s Philadelphia*. His latest book is *Maine at 200: An Anecdotal History Celebrating Two Centuries of Statehood*. He is also the former editor of *American History*, *Historic Traveler*, *Aviation History* and *World War II* magazines, and his writing has appeared in many publications, including *Smithsonian*, *Air & Space*, *American Heritage*, *Civil War Times*, *America’s Civil War*, *Invention & Technology*, *British Heritage*, and *Yankee*. Although born and bred in Augusta, Maine, he now lives in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, not far from Gettysburg.

New Program Added to YouTube

Tom Huntington’s recent Zoom program “The Guns of Maine” has been added to the GAR Museum’s YouTube Channel.

It can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@garmuseum>

The full list of available programs can be found on pages 9-10 in this newsletter.

Recent additions to the Grand Army of the Republic Museum Library

Our Onward March. The Grand Army of the Republic in the Progressive Era by Jonathan D. Neu. 2025

From Jonathan Neu's Book:

"Post comrades kept active by hosting musical and literary soirees at their headquarters, organizing educational public programs commemorating patriotic holidays, denouncing government plans to disband African American units in the US military and spearheading the town's recruitment efforts during the First World War." Jonathan Neu



"The object and aim of the Grand Army is not to indulge merely in personal recollections and dwell in a reminiscent mood - as some may seem to think - on the past, but to inculcate rather lessons of patriotism and love of country among the young and impress while yet we may upon the generation that has followed the cost and sacrifice by which the privileges we enjoy as the nations were purchased and thus stimulate to greater love, and, if possible, greater devotion to this our common country." James Whitehead, Union Veteran.

Artillery for the United States Land Service, as Devised and Arranged by the Ordnance Board by Alfred Mordecai. Washington, DC 1849.

Somewhere Toward Freedom. Sherman's March and the Story of America's Largest Emancipation
by Bennett Parten. 2025

Nurse and Spy in the Union Army. Comprising the Adventures and Experiences of a Woman in Hospitals, Camp, and Battle-Fields
by S. Emma E. Edmonds. 2012

Pathway to Hell. A Tragedy of the American Civil War
by Dennis W. Brandt. 2010

Freedom by the Sword. The U.S. Colored Troops, 1862-1867
by William A. Dobak. 2017

Ends of War. The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox
by Caroline E. Janney. 2021

Last Seen. The Enduring Search by Formerly Enslaved People to Find Lost Families
by Judith Giesberg. 2025

Beyond the River. The Untold Story of the Heroes of the Underground Railroad
by Ann Hagedorn. 2004

Grand Army of the Republic Encampment Journal
Cleveland, OH 1901

The Civil War in Popular Culture. A Reusable Past
by Jim Cullen. 1995

Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America, 1877-1920
by Jackson Lears. 2010

Black History in the Philadelphia Landscape. Deep Roots, Continuing Legacy
by Amy Jane Cohen. 2024

Spying on the South. An Odyssey Across the American Divide
by Tony Horwitz. 2019

Nurse and Spy in the Union Army. Comprising the Adventures and Experiences of a Woman in Hospitals, Camps, and Battle-Fields
By S. Emma E. Edmonds. 1865

Bodies in Blue. Disability in the Civil War North
by Sarah Handley-Cousins. 2021

Without Concealment, Without Compromise. The Courageous Lives of Black Civil War Surgeons
by Jill L. Newmark. 2023

Stories in Stone. A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography
by Douglas Keister. 2004

'Tis Not Our War. Avoiding Military Service in the Civil War
by Paul Taylor. 2024

MUSEUM PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS

Museum News

..... by Joe Perry

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 expand our ability to do good work that reaches others.



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.

"Visit Our YouTube Channel"

Take a short tour of the Museum and listen to historian presentations.

"The Guns of Maine" by Tom Huntington has recently been added to our ongoing list of presentations. See the full list of programs on pages 9-10 of this newsletter and at www.youtube.com/@garmuseum.

Museum Hours

The GAR Museum and Archive is 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.

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.



Zoom Programs on the GAR Museum's YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@garmuseum>

A tour of the Museum

Reporting of news during the Civil War: Legacy of Freedom: Highlighting the role of newspapers, especially the *Inquirer*

By Ed Colimore

Civil War Drums and the Common Soldier with a presentation of drummers and their instruments

By Bryan Sigmund

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Harriet Tubman, a Freedom Fighter
By Nilgun Anadolu-Okur

History of the Grand Army of the Republic and Auxiliary Organizations
By Kyle Purchase

Union Soldiers Navigate Post War Struggles: The Fight Against Jim Crow and the Grand Army of the Republic
By Stephen A. Goldman

Chamberlain lied about Gettysburg: The Legacy of the Left at Gettysburg; Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, Strong Vincent and the Abrogation of Historical Truth
By Hans Myers

An Untold Unforgettable Story of the Civil War: The Civil War Soldiers' Orphan Schools of Pennsylvania
By William Peck

Wounded for Life: The Post-War Journey of Two Soldiers
By Robert Hicks

Saving Democracy: Listening to Lincoln
By Allen Guelzo

Lincoln Comes to Gettysburg: Mysteries of His Immortal Visit
By Brad Gottfried

The Medal of Honor
By Kyle Purchase
The origins and heroic stories of the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor

The Guns of Maine
By Tom Huntington

Tracy Ebmeyer playing "Old Baldy Kicking Up" on his fiddle in front of Old Baldy

Museum People

Remembering Margaret Atkinson

..... by Mary Ann Hartner



I first started volunteering at the Museum back in the early 1990s.

I remember Margaret always being helpful and friendly in Museum affairs. I helped her with the newsletter at Bud's and her house, folding and putting on the labels when we used to mail the newsletters out.

We would clean up before the Open House Sundays. I also would do other office duties that Margaret would suggest or need to have done.

I remember all the articles she wrote for *The Scout* on her "Women in the Civil War Era" and the programs at the Museum on "Christmas on the Homefront" and other programs.

I remember her at the Neshaminy Reenactments with the Ladies Auxiliary, doing a program on Anna M Ross.

Margaret held the GAR Museum in her heart. I and all of us will forever be grateful to her and Bud for what they have given us.

Remembrances of Margaret Atkinson

..... by Kathy Smith

Margaret was a historian. Her knowledge of the GAR, and all of its past events was amazing.

When I first became aware of the GAR on Griscom St., they used to have events in the yard, and even a Civil War Wedding took place there. The open house was a big event with many people attending, and the building was so crowded, it was hard to move anywhere due to the crowds. Griscom Street was used by many groups for meetings even at night.

Eventually, many of the members passed away, and the neighborhood changed. It became dangerous and we were no longer wanted. The block had a lot of children and fights were taking place in the street outside. Often the sound of gunfire was heard at night. I used to host "Ghost Hunts" at night and that was sometimes scary because of the random gunfights outside.

Margaret was not able to come to the GAR anymore because of the stairs. And most activity took place during the daytime.

Margaret was a treasure, an antique, a keepsake, and all who were lucky to spend time with her will remember her and cherish the memories of her.

In Sympathy and Appreciation

..... by Andy Waskie

I was saddened to learn of the passing of a dear friend and colleague Margaret Atkinson in the history of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Museum and Sons of Union Veterans.

Margaret was a driving force behind the formation and maintenance of the G.A.R. Museum in Philadelphia. She and Husband Bud were tireless in the promotion of the Museum and its mission to preserve the memory of the old veterans of the Civil War.

It was really due to Bud and Margaret that I joined the Museum and eventually the Board of Directors in 1983 after a visit to the old museum in Frankford and continue as a life member and 40-year member of the Board, during which time I worked closely with Margaret and Bud.

Margaret was a kind, friendly and warm representative, ever active in preserving and enhancing the work of the Museum.

The GAR Museum we have today is in large part due to her great efforts and certainly also of Bud as well. Although we have not seen Margaret in a few years, she was always on our minds and in our hearts. I would like to share our collective condolences at her loss and our deep sympathy to the family and friends who loved her. With Sympathy.

In Memoriam – Larry Vogel

..... by Pat Caldwell



The local Civil War community was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of GAR Museum member Larry Vogel on June 25 at his home near Pittsburgh. After retiring from New Jersey Department of Transportation in 2022, Larry moved to Murrys ville in western Pennsylvania to be near his family. Larry had been very active in the community. He was also a member of the Delaware Valley CWRT, and he frequently attended GAR-sponsored events, such as the annual preservation luncheon, museum service days, various trips, and the Neshaminy reenactments.

..... by Andy Waskie

Terribly sad. What a great loss to his family and friends. He was a huge advocate for history and the preservation of historical sites and events. He was a long time member of the General Meade Society, the GAR Museum, and he loved our trips and tours to historic sites. He will be truly missed at our events and I can hardly think that he has left us. With deep sympathy and condolences.

GAR Museum Member Elected to Department Office

.....by Mary Wible



GAR Museum member, Michele Wallenta, was elected to Department Chaplain for the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

She is an active member of Tent 58, Mary Morris Husband, Philadelphia where she presently serves as the Press Correspondent.

You can also find Michele at events to support the General Meade Society, Wreaths Across America and Remembrance Day at Gettysburg.

Congratulations, Michele.

Museum Visitors

Descendants of Post 2 Commander, John F. Conaway, visit the GAR Museum

..... by Mary Wible

Imagine visiting a museum to find a photo of your ancestor on display, his GAR Post application, a letter written by him, a group photo with his Post 2 comrades and even a published book with some of his written reports.

Lifetime GAR Museum member Michele Wallenta and her grandchildren took a tour to learn more about their ancestor John F. Conaway who was a Post 2 Commander in Philadelphia. 1st Lt. Conaway served with Co. B, 15th Pa Cavalry.



Both Michele and her granddaughter Cadence belong to the DUVCW, Mary Morris Husband Tent 58, Philadelphia. Grandson Derek is a history buff who asked terrific questions.

(Right) Walt Lafty showed Derek and Cadence how to load a rifle. They were intrigued by the process and surprised by the height and weight of it.



Great, great, great grandfather Conaway, can be found in this Post 2 photo among his comrades (below).



It was a rewarding day for these proud descendants who have visited Gettysburg and even attended the Civil War Ball a few years ago. They even learned that they have an Uncle James Conaway and saw his Post 2 application. John and his brother James both served in the same regiment.

Patriotism for the United States runs deep in this family. I have no doubt that Grandfather Conaway would be proud of them.

Sharing With Our Youngest Generations

..... by Mary Ann Hartner

During the summer school vacation, we brought our grandson John C. down to the Museum one Tuesday. He was happy to tour and see all the artifacts of the GAR. He got to hold a reproduction of a Springfield rifle, saw "Old Baldy" and all the interesting artifacts we have on display. JC knows that his 4th great-grandfather served with the 104th PA, but did not survive the war, and so was not a member of the GAR.

One of the artifacts he was shown, by Mary Wible (at right), is a one-line drawing of Abraham Lincoln. Mary explained to JC about the signification of the drawing.

The one-line drawing starts at the tip of the nose, down in a single line, continuously incorporating the name of the artist and some text. In our drawing, it is the Gettysburg Address and Lincoln's signature, all continuations of the single line.

This rare portrait was donated to the Museum by Alan and Heather Silverman. It was drawn by Philadelphia born Tom Fleming, political cartoonist and author.



Mary Ann and John with young JC



Heather Silverman presents the Lincoln portrait for the GAR Museum to Hugh Boyle and Andy Waskie at the 2013 GAR Preservation Luncheon

Lewis Franklin Gold's Descendants – Such a GREAT Familyby Mary Wible

Deb Grady is a lifetime member of the GAR Civil War Museum and Archive and a Daughter of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Mary Morris Husband, Tent 58, Philadelphia, PA.

Her great, great grandfather, Lewis Franklin Gold was in Co. A, 153rd PA Infantry. He also belonged to the J. K. Taylor GAR Post 182, Bethlehem, PA. The GAR Museum has those records in its archive, and you can find Lewis in several of them.

Deb is holding the framed Historian Record for Lewis Gold that hangs in a place of honor at the museum. Pictured with her are daughters Gillian Wible, Erin Burlew and Caitlin Winfrey. Those young, smiling faces belong to her five granddaughters and three grandsons.



I think Lewis Franklin Gold is smiling himself looking down on his family. But wait. This isn't all of them as they all couldn't be here for the photo. There are Deb's sons Colin, Galen and Nolan; three more grandsons and a new granddaughter.

Whew! Did you get all of that? Let me recap. Lewis F. Gold's descendants include:

- 1 2x great granddaughter - Deb Grady
- 6 3x great grandchildren - 3 boys, 3 girls
- 12 4x great grandchildren - 6 boys, 6 girls

Talk about a GREAT family with a heart of GOLD.

Oh, one more thing. Gillian is married to my nephew John Wible, so three of those young ladies are my grandnieces. Yep, it's a small world full of GREAT connections - and family.

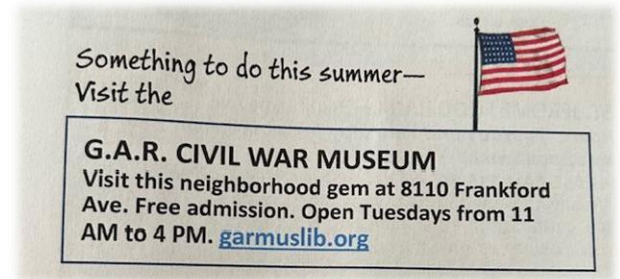
Museum Members At Home, Out, and About

Spreading the Museum Word

..... by Mary Wible and Walt Lafty

On August 14, Mary Wible and Walt Lafty spoke to the Old Baldy CWRT on the History of the GAR Museum and Archive, sharing samples of the artifacts, documents, and records for those in attendance.

And once again, a nice surprise to see this free advertisement in the Saint Jerome Catholic Church bulletin.



Mary Morris Husband honored at 2025 Decoration Dayby Mary Wible

The annual Decoration Day at Laurel Hill Cemetery was attended by many from the Civil War community including members of some of the Allied Orders, GAR Museum, Del Val CWRT, the General Meade Society and the Old Baldy CWRT.



The DUVCW, Tent 58, Mary Morris Husband, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, honored its namesake with a wreath made by Treasurer Ellen Higgins. She was joined by six other sisters. The SUVWCW Baker-Fisher, Camp 101, stood as the Honor Guard

for the presentation. It was a wonderful camaraderie shared by all to **KEEP GREEN THE MEMORY** of those who served our nation during the Civil War.

Other Memorial Day Weekend Celebrations

.....info from Mary Wible and Andy Waskie

On May 24, Mary Wible attended the ceremonies at Montgomery County Historical Society's Memorial Day Observance at Montgomery Cemetery, along with other Museum members.



From the left, Mike Peter, Walt Lafty, and Kyle Purchase. Then to the right of the stone the second reenactor (actually in the back row) is Craig Bird, then Brian Harris, Michael Borish (holding flag) and on the far right Rob Clare.



GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Attending the 2025 Memorial/Decoration Day Observance on Sunday, May 25th at Laurel Hill Cemetery were several members, including Andy and Carol Waskie, Mike Peter, Albert El, and Walt Lafty to honor General Meade and the veterans of all wars. Photos from Andy Waskie/Scott Sigman.



On May 26, several GAR Museum members, joined “Ben Franklin” for the Memorial Day event at Christ Church Burial Ground in Old City. The ceremony was sponsored by Benjamin Franklin Post (Legion Post 405). Benjamin Franklin and the many early veterans of the US Military buried there were honored with an appropriate solemn ceremony. Thanks to Mary Wible and Andy Waskie/Scott Sigman (USCG) for the photos.



Kerry Bryan, Michele Wallenta, Ellen Higgins, Andy Waskie and Mary Wible

Our Multi-Talented Members

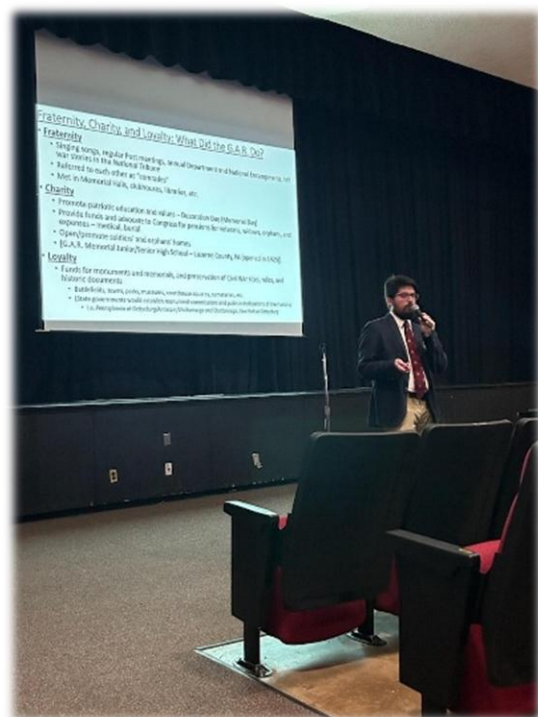
.....by Walt Lafty



GAR Museum Board Member Bill Sheffer (3rd from left) playing guitar. Bill is playing with “The Bunker Band” outside on State Street, Newtown, Bucks County, PA, August 28, 2025.

Crooked Billet History Fair

..... by Kyle Purchase



On April 26 at the Third Annual Crooked Billet History Fair held in Horsham, I was honored to present about the history of the GAR, SUVCW, and its Auxiliaries. The talk highlighted the local impact of the GAR, including G.A.R. Post 101 in Hatboro, and the Museum and Archive in Philadelphia, which continue to preserve its history.

Annual Pennepack Day

.... by Walt Lafty

On June 6, Mary Wible and I took part in the annual Pennepack Day held at the Pennepack Baptist Church on Krewstown Road in Northeast Philly

Fred Moore, also a GAR Museum member put this together a year ago to help with this year's theme to honor seven Civil War Veterans buried at that church cemetery. He did so in his role working at the Church as well as heading the Northeast Philadelphia History Network. He had asked Mary and me last year to help with this initiative with military records and any possible GAR connections. Two of those men were members of Post 2.

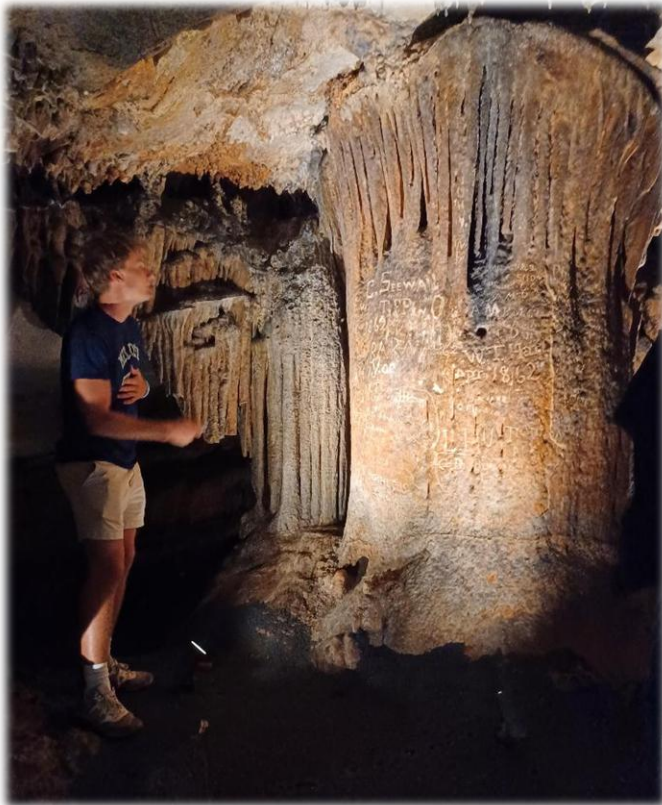


Fred also had a contingent from Beck's Philadelphia Band in attendance. GAR Museum members Mike Peter and Brian Harris attended as members of the SUVCW Baker-Fisher Camp 101 and provided services as sentries at each of the seven graves. Fred, Mary, and I gave family and military information on each veteran. In addition, Tom Donnelly was in attendance with his support, so the museum was well represented. Overall, it was a great success for the museum.

A Shenandoah Vacation

.....by *Mary Ann Hartner*

The beginning of June, we went on vacation to the Shenandoah Valley. We visited the National Park and drove on the Skyline Drive among other sites. One of the places we visited was Melrose Caverns. Located in Harrisonburg, Va, Melrose Caverns not only has stalactites and stalagmites, but also the names of Union soldiers that were stationed there during the early years of the Civil War.



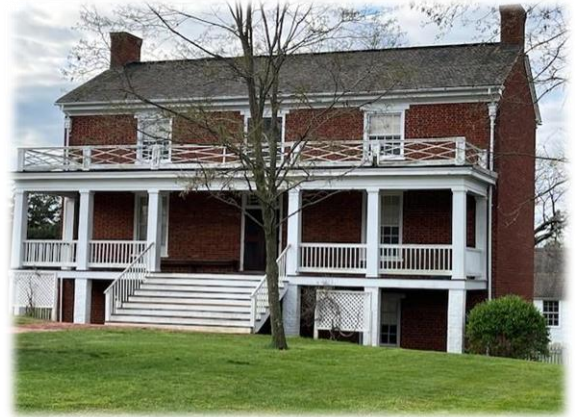
The story goes that the 4th regt. of the Ohio infantry was stationed in the valley and used the cave as a shelter and storage area during the early years of the war. (I hope you can see their names inscribed on the wall.) They also burned names using irons. After the Battle of Gettysburg, the Confederates used the cavern and you can see they tried to cross out the Union names. It has been historically documented that the Confederates were part of the Virginia Flaggers.



Appomattox 160 Event

.....by *Bill Sheffer*

The 160th anniversary of Lee's surrender to Grant on April 9, 1865 took place during a week-long series of events at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. The sights of countless Union and Confederate re-enactors and sounds of muskets and cannon fire along with outstanding lectures by historians and noted authors made for a memorable experience when I visited the 1,700-acre site in Virginia on April 12th.



Several Confederate light artillery units galloping to an open field, unlimbering and firing that Saturday thrilled the crowd.



That evening, volunteers and park staff members lit 4,600 paper bag luminaries along the Stage Coach Road - one each to signify each enslaved person in Appomattox County freed as a result the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.



If you've never been to Appomattox Court House, I highly recommend you make the drive. The park is pristine and recreates the look and feel of the small village as it looked in spring 1865.

Margaret Atkinson Memorial Service

..... by Mary Wible

Civil War icon Margaret Atkinson passed away on July 10, 2025. Her Celebration of Life was held at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Her family, friends, church members, Reverend Matthew Martin and some of the Allied Orders were there to honor and remember Margaret.

A presentation began the service by the Auxiliary of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War of which Margaret was a member for 81 years. They carried flowers and conducted a funeral service according to the ASUVCW ritual at her casket, while the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War carried flags and stood as an honor guard on either side of it. Finally, "Taps" was played.

Margaret requested that "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" be sung by her fellow choir members. As they faced the congregation to sing, the Allied Orders in the back pews stood to join them in song.

Some other music was played by family and friends. Her son Frank gave the eulogy and filled us in on the busy life of his Donna Reed-type mom.

Michele Wallenta and I represented the DUVCW, Tent 58, as well as the GAR Museum. Mike Peter was there to carry the flag in the procession with the Auxiliary of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and as the Vice President of the GAR Museum. Before the service ended, the family asked if anyone wanted to say or share anything about her. I spoke on behalf of the GAR Museum to let her family and friends know how grateful we are to both Bud and Margaret, for without them, there would be no museum.

Margaret and her husband Bud were the founders of the GAR Museum in Philadelphia. We will be forever grateful to them for their generosity and dedication to the Civil War community, the museum and for **"keeping green the memory"** of our ancestors who fought to save our Union.



Congratulations to G.A.R. Museum Board Member Mike Peter

Elected Commander Pennsylvania Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)

By Walt Lafty

In the above photo, Ellen Higgins (center) and Barbara Indan (right), both members of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW) are about to pin the Commander's Badge on newly elected SUVCW Commander Mike Peter. Mike was unanimously elected at the recent annual Pennsylvania Department Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). The event was held in Cranberry, Pennsylvania outside of Pittsburgh on June 19-22, 2025. Other G.A.R. Museum members in attendance included Michele Wallenta, Mary Wible, Linda Kao, Jeff Heagy, Brian and Denise Harris, Ellen Higgins, Rob Clare, and Walt Lafty. You may also like to know that there are approximately 27 of our G.A.R. Museum members who are also members of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.

During its existence, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was aided in its work by five organizations, which are now referred to as the Allied Orders of the GAR. They include the Women's Relief Corps (WRC), Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR), Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW), Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), and the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW). All these organizations were formed at various times in the 1880s and today they still exist to support the legacy of the Union soldiers, sailors, marines, and cutter revenue service (later Coast Guard), who helped to preserve the Union.

Membership requirements for the five Allied Orders vary. The DUVCW and LGAR are lineage based. The SUVCW is also lineage based but a small percentage of associate members is allowed in each camp who do not have lineage but simply have an interest in Civil War history. The ASUVCW also has lineage based and associate member (non-lineage) requirements. The WRC is the only group where no lineage at all is required.

The groups were busy during the day sessions both Friday and Saturday conducting business and electing new officers each in their respective conference rooms. But meals and evening entertainment were attended together and all shared the Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty which is the mantra of all the Allied Orders.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT



Ellen Higgins and Sharon Harcum receiving the Dr. Mary E. Walker award.



D.U.V.C.W. presenting a gift to outgoing Commander Bill Fischer. Mary Wible and Michele Wallenta on left.



Final cast bow at Friday night play "The Assassination of President Lincoln" and days that followed. Mike Peter was a participant arresting Mary Surratt on the right as well as playing a part as soldier guard to Mary Todd Lincoln.



Franklin High School Band performing at the Saturday night banquet. This tune was Glenn Miiller's "In the Mood."

Note: The school band will be participating in Philadelphia for the "250th Salute to Independence Parade" in 2026.





The Men of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)

by Walt Lafty

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) is a Fraternal Organization founded on April 20, 1865. It was established by and for former Civil War Officers who honorably served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service. Male descendants of those Civil War Officers are eligible for membership as Hereditary or Associate Companions.

This issue features Lt. John Oppel Foering, a member of MOLLUS and the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).



John Oppel Foering was born in Philadelphia PA on August 10, 1843. His parents were Abraham Foering and Sarah Oppel. On June 6, 1861 he enlisted in the 28th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment and mustered into Company D at Philadelphia as Corporal on July 6, 1861. Among the battles he served included Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. Later the 28th was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland in the Western Theatre. He was at the battle of Wauhatchie, Tennessee (where he was promoted to Sergeant), Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge. The 28th then was in the Atlanta campaign, and Kennesaw Mountain where he was wounded then commissioned as 1st Lieutenant on October 1, 1864.

He and the regiment were then in the Atlanta campaign, the March to the Sea, the Carolinas Campaign, Bentonville, and the Bennet House. Lt. Foering was brevetted Captain, US Volunteers on March 13, 1865, and was honorably mustered out on July 18, 1865.

After the war he worked from 1867 until his retirement as a grain inspector in 1902. Also after the war, he married Annie P. Lippincott on September 21, 1871.

From around 1880 through his death in 1933, he was active with MOLLUS. He was Chancellor in Chief as well as Recorder in Chief of MOLLUS. He was also active in Meade GAR Post 1.

John and Annie Foering remained married until his death and her subsequent death in 1937. Both are buried at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bryn Mawr Section, in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.



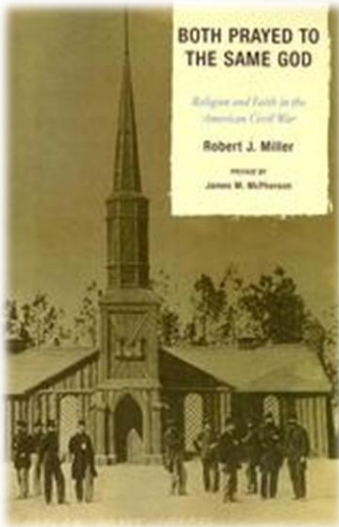
To learn more about MOLLUS, visit their website at: <https://loyallegion.org/>

THE MUSEUM'S BOOK CORNER *by Pat Caldwell*

Both Prayed to the Same God: Religion and Faith in the American Civil War

by Robert J. Miller

Lexington Books, Lanham, MD, 2007, 260 pages



Read any letters that the average Civil War soldier sent home and you're sure to find a theme running through a significant number of them. Yes, you'll sometimes find humor, and sometimes pathos, along with details of everyday life in camp. But what you'll also find is what author Robert J. Miller refers to as the "elephant in the Civil War living room" – the pervasive subject of God, faith and religion that seemed to be a natural part of the soldier's life. But it's not a motif that was restricted to the fighting man – no, when there are corresponding letters from the folks at home you'll find the same attention on the religious that was as natural as breathing in the Victorian Era.

So, why is it that religion or faith has been so routinely neglected in Civil War studies – the elephant in the room as Miller has so aptly phrased it? In his preface to *Both Prayed to the Same God* historian James McPherson writes, "*The Civil War was not a war of religion; it did not pit one faith against another ...But religion permeated the war effort on the battlefield and the home front...Of the thousands of books written about the American Civil War, few have focused on its crucial religious dimensions. Robert Miller has done much to remedy that deficiency...*"

To be perfectly honest, I was a little taken aback when my friend, the late Hugh Boyle presented me with this book and asked me to review it. Let's face it – religion and faith in the Civil War has not been a topic that ever grabbed my attention. But I figured I'd at least give it a read. Well, I found the book intriguing – easy to read and hard to put down.

What I particularly liked about the format of the book are the commuter-friendly chapters – for one reader who did much of her reading riding to and from work on the train and the bus. Each chapter is relatively short and to the point. Sprinkled in each chapter are parenthetical quotes from original letters, diaries, political documents and modern books that illustrate the various points that Miller is making. The amount of research that Miller did is obvious. I also liked the "further reading recommendations" and notes that follow each chapter. The text is capped with an appendix that reveals the religious affiliation of over a hundred personalities of the day – sometimes just a short sentence statement, more often a descriptive paragraph.

Author Miller is a Catholic priest and member of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, so he knows his stuff. But Miller is able to separate his vocation from his avocation – you won't find any preachiness in this book.

Miller himself in his introduction names his intended audience as “*academics, historians, popular readers, and Civil War aficionados*.” He also states that this volume is intended to be an “overview,” a summary of the themes that make up religion, faith and morality in a time that sometimes seems so different from a more cynical, sometimes anti-religious society in which we live today.

Both Prayed to the Same God is divided into four sections which discuss the distinctions between organized religion and personal faith in a pre-Civil War society, secession and the splits that secession precipitated in several major churches, religion during the war on both sides – including soldier support systems, chaplains and religious revivals, and churches and religion in the post-war society, along with the religion of the Lost Cause.

In summary, *Both Prayed to the Same God* is an important addition to the field of study of the common soldier and it should be of interest to anyone who wants to go beyond the study of battles and military tactics. It may not be the definitive work on religion during the Civil War, but it is a grand start, and sure to spark discussion and, hopefully, more intense research and discovery on this topic. As to why religion has been so neglected, well, that question isn't answered. Perhaps it can't be. Is it because both did indeed pray to the same God? I don't know. But I thank Hugh Boyle for sharing this book with me. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

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.

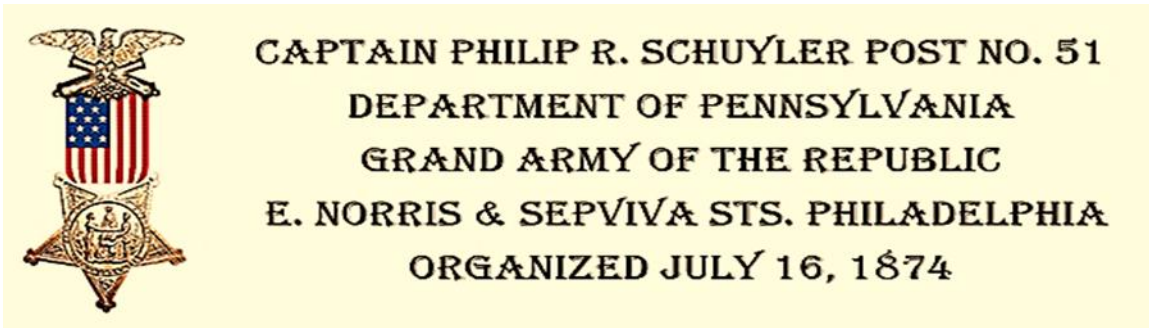
Your continued membership will help maintain the legacy that has been handed down to us by the veterans who gave their last full measure of devotion to our country.

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership for 2026. 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!

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



On July 16, 1874 G.A.R. Post 51 Department of Pennsylvania was organized. It was named in honor of Philip R. Schuyler. He was born in 1840 in Philadelphia. His parents were John Schuyler and Hannah Maria Johnson who were married on April 11, 1839 at the Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church. They had at least six children, Philip and his five sisters.

On August 28, 1861 Philip enlisted as Captain of Company C, 81st Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. During his time with the 81st, they were involved in the battles of Fair Oaks (Seven Pines), Savage Station, Malvern Hill, then the Maryland Campaign. It was during that campaign at Antietam that he was mortally wounded on September 17th, 1862. It was reported that he was helping a wounded fellow officer from the field when he was wounded himself. It was further reported that his final words before he died were ***"Tell my dear allected mother that I gave myself to my country, but first of all given myself to God. Tell the Sabbath School that I have much to say to them: oh! how I love them: tell them to meet me in heaven"***.

He died four days later of his wounds. With his body returned home to Philadelphia he was initially buried at Monument Cemetery, but on August 1, 1956 he was reinterred at Lawnview Cemetery in Rockledge, Montgomery County. He is buried with his father and two sisters who died as children.

On October 6, 1862 his widowed mother Hannah applied for a pension. She qualified because Philip was not married and left no dependent children. Her pension was approved on May 26, 1863 at the rate of \$20 per month and back dated to September 21, 1862, the date of his death. She received a pension until her death in 1887 while living with a daughter in Yardley, Bucks County, PA. Mrs. Hannah Schuyler is buried at St. Andrews Church Cemetery in Yardley.

Post 51 was always located in the lower Kensington/Fishtown area of Philadelphia. Their first location was Frankford Avenue and Sergeant Street from 1874 until 1877. In 1878 it changed location to Frankford and Adams (today Hazzard Street). This was a different Adams Street than the one in the Frankford section of the city. Around 1888 Post 51 moved to its permanent and final location at E. Norris and Sepviva streets.

The Post was active in all G.A.R events over their years in existence. They were regular participants in all Memorial Day services usually posted at Franklin Cemetery in Kensington.

One unique story about Post 51 involved the burial of one of their members and the Catholic Church refusing to allow the Post to enter the cemetery since they were a secret society. Michael Ward, a member of Post 51 and a Catholic, wanted to be buried with G.A.R. Honors. He died in August of 1879. The Post was denied entering the cemetery which was conveyed to them by the Vicar General Reverend Father

Walsh. He made the decision and told the Post that only Archbishop Wood could reverse the order, but the archbishop was away on Church business. In the interim the Post did not attend their comrade's funeral at New Cathedral Cemetery. But they wanted clarification from the archbishop for the future. Weeks later upon his return, Archbishop Wood said that the Post could not enter the church as an organization with their paraphernalia. However, they could march from the church to the place of burial and can even fire a volley, but they could not perform any other observances.

In 1929 the Post still had 16 surviving members. That year all those members helped a group of 48 students from Kensington High School for Girls by participating in a ceremony carrying the second largest flag in Pennsylvania. By 1934 after the death of past Post 51 commander John Valentine Meckert, only four members survived. One of those was Luke Walsh who attended his last PA Department Encampment in 1936 then later that year died on December 8, 1936. He was the last commander of Post 51, and it appears the Post ceased to exist after that date.



*Lawnview Cemetery
Rockledge,
Montgomery County
Pennsylvania*

The following records for Schuyler Post 51 are held at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Box 1: Folder 1, Applications for membership 1875-1882; Folders 2-3, Applications to the Citizens' Corps 1894; Applications to the Citizens' Corps 1890-1917; Ballots 1904-1911; Bills and receipts 1891-1897.

Box 2: Folders 1-2, Bills and receipts 1897-1920; Folder 3, blank forms, undated; Folder 4, Correspondence 1896-1919; Folders 5-9, PA Dept. Orders 1893-1915; Folder 10, GAR Assoc. of Philadelphia and vicinity 1898-1908; Folder 11, Membership information, including death lists 1897-1922; Folder 12, Misc. committee reports 1897-1908; Folder 13, Misc. printed matter 1893-1917; Folder 14, Muster rolls and membership certificates 1890-1897.

Box 3: Folders 1-4, Orders & Circulars, GAR HQ 1892-1920; Folder 5, Ordinance designating Philip R. Schuyler Post Park; Folder 6, Poems, 1903; Folder 7, Post 51 Memorial services and circulars 1897-1917; Folder 8, Post 51 Orders 1893-1913; Folder 9, Proceedings, findings & sentence, John F. Bechter 1894; Folder 10, P. R. Schuyler Aux. No. 4, notes and receipts 1908-1927; Folder 11, Quarterly reports of 1st Sgt. 1887-1888; Folders 12-14, Quartermaster's monthly reports 1891-1920. Folder 15, SUVCW Constitution 1920; Folder 16, Union Defender's service and family record.

Oversize: Flat File 1, "The Banner" 1914. Volume 1, Address book, undated; Vols 2-3, Post 51 Black Books 1875-1896; Vol. 4, Cash ledger 1897-1908; Vol. 5, Constitution and By-Laws 1877; Vols 6-20, Dues ledger 1881-1920; Vol. 21, Membership list, undated; Vols 22-23, Post 51 minutes 1874-1879; Vols 24-33, Post 51 minutes 1884-1922; Vols. 34-35, Ladies Aid/ASUVCW dues ledgers 1892-1928; Vol. 36, Ladies Aid Society expense ledger 1906-1928; Vols 37-40, Ladies Aid/ASUVCW minutes 1892-1924; Vol. 41, ASUVCW National Orders 1924-1931; Vol. 42, ASUVCW Dept. Orders 1924-1931; Vols 43-44, Ladies Aid/ASUVCW receipt books 1893-1923.

[Description: Grand Army of the Republic. Philip R. Schuyler Post, No. 51 records :: Library Catalog](#)

**From the *Public Spirit* published weekly in the Boroughs of
Hatboro and Jenkintown, Pennsylvania
Saturday, December 23, 1882**

..... submitted by Joe Perry

Gen. Meade's War Horse

The Veteran Charger Killed by a Dose of Poison.

***After Gallantly Bearing His Master Through Many a Battle in Which he Received
Honorable Wounds, the Old Horse Meets His Death.***

Brave old Baldy breathed his last on Saturday. He had attained a ripe old age, but with autumn of his days came infirmities, the unfailing inheritance of horseflesh as a poor humanity. No roll of musketry peeled forth over his newly made grave, no clang of arms or roll of cannon announced that the brave old war horse had been laid to rest beneath the gnarled apple tree that stands mute sentinel alongside his place of sepulchre. After playing a prominent part in a score of deadly frays, oft wounded by bullets aimed at an even nobler mark, the veteran lived to survive his heroic master a full decade, and on Saturday a dose of poison from a friendly hand laid General Meade's favorite charger to rest.



It was in the rear of the blacksmith forge of John J. Davis, who plies his trade alongside his comfortable homestead near the old Abbington Meeting House, that the curtain fell on the last scene of Baldy's notable career. Before General Meade's death he gave his old charger to the blacksmith on the condition that he would never sell him into servitude, and that when he was no longer able to perform the light duties that Davis imposed upon him, a friendly bullet or dose of poison should lay him to rest.

Baldy decorated.

The gift was the outcome of a flattering incident in Baldy's career. General Meade often occupied during the summer months a house just outside of Jenkintown, and his old favorite was always stabled there. One day a groom took the horse to Davis's forge to be shod. The blacksmith's daughters, hearing of the distinguished visitor to the smithy, deftly twined a garland of flowers for the warrior horse, and decorated with a wreath he returned to the general's home. When returning to the city, he sought a home for his favorite charger, and as Davis had said he should be proud to take care of Baldy if ever his master parted with him, the old fellow found a home at Abington. He lived to be more than thirty years old, and but that of late an affection of the forelegs has increased to such an extent that he could no longer get up without assistance, he

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

would have been welcome to this comfortable stall until in the natural order of things he departed for the happy hunting grounds. A few days ago, however, it was decided that the kindest act that could be performed for Baldy was to put him quietly out of the way. The services of Doctor Ben Davis, the well-known veterinary surgeon of Jenkintown, were called for and Saturday at midday the old horse was led out of the stable for the last time. There was grief in the Davis household as Baldy stood shivering in the cold, peering curiously at Dr. Davis as he placed a halter around his head and proceeded to lead him to the place of execution. Mrs. Davis could not stand by and see the death struggles of the brave old fellow, and as the mournful cortege composed of the veterinary surgeon, a well-known physician and a representative of the *Press*, accompanied Baldy across a field to the rear of the forge to the foot of the apple tree beneath which a deep hole had been dug to receive his body. Not a word was spoken. True, it was only a dumb animal that was about to stagger, fall and die beneath the deadly action of the potent drug. Yet the mind would conjure up a widely different scene in which Baldy, gay in the trappings of war, with proudly arched neck, heaving flanks and panting nostrils, bore amid the clashing of sabres and the hot fire musketry, the hero of Gettysburg – Pennsylvania's noblest son.

The Charger's Death.

The horse looked up at the puzzled air as Dr. Davis clambered up into the tree and made the halter fast to one of the branches, securing his head high up in the air. Baldy in life was as trustful as brave, and he swallowed with all confidence the two ounces of cyanide of potash that was poured down his throat. He took just the readily half a pint of vinegar. The later liquid instantly freed the prussic acid in the first potion. Baldy braced himself fore and aft, shudder twice convulsively, and then as the doctor loosened the halter he fell to the ground. A few more struggles and the old war-horse stertorously breathed his gallant life away.

Baldy was bred in the ranks. He was a handsome brown horse with four white feet and a white braid blaze on his face. He was deep in the brisket, had a grand forearm, a rare set of legs and a small well shaped head neatly set on an arched neck. If there was a fault in his conformation it was his unusual length of barrel, but his truly formed legs were in the best days well able to carry him to victory and glory. The horse was originally the property of General Baker, who rode him in the engagements at Drainsville, Va, and in the first Battle Bull Run. General Meade bought him for \$150 at Washington, and bestrode him on two days of the seven-days battle that began in Mechanicsville. He carried the general in the second battle of Bull Run and received a bullet in the near hind leg. At Antietam he again carried his master bravely in the fight until felled by bullet that passed clean through the neck. The general dismounted and left his charger, as he thought, dead upon the field. Later on, however, he again traversing the ground near the spot where the horse fell, the horse was found by John Marley, Meade's body servant, quietly browsing on the field of battle. At Gettysburg both Baldy and his rider were wounded. A bullet pierced the saddle flap and lodged in the horse, passing between two of his ribs. An unsuccessful search was made for this bullet. The rib where the bullet had deflected was visibly chipped, and Dr. Davis gave it as his opinion that the missile had subsequently worked its way out through a saddle sore.

The Father of a Philadelphia Legend: Pvt. Michael McGillicuddy and a Civil War Connection to Baseball

.....by Kyle Grant Purchase

Many soldiers in the Union army were immigrants from numerous countries, Germany and Ireland being two of the biggest contributors. Michael McGillicuddy was one of those immigrants.

Initially working as a wheelwright to support his family, McGillicuddy enlisted in Brookfield, Massachusetts, with the 51st Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Co. B. The unit was in service for ten months serving from September 25, 1862 to July 27, 1863 and mainly saw action in North Carolina in late 1862 until the summer of 1863. The unit at one point occupied Harper's Ferry and was briefly attached to the I Corps of the Army of the Potomac, as part of their pursuit of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia after the battle of Gettysburg. By the time the unit mustered out, the 51st would lose men to disease, but none in battle.

After the war, McGillicuddy suffered from poor health due to his service in the war and for his service, McGillicuddy was able to receive a disability pension. His widow would also eventually receive a widow's pension from the government. (Pension card is pictured below.)

NAME OF SOLDIER:		<i>McGillicuddy, Michael</i>		
NAME OF DEPENDENT:		Widow, <i>McGillicuddy, Mary.</i> Minor,		
SERVICE:		<i>Co. B, 51 Mass. Inf.</i>		
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
<i>1879 Jul 28</i>	<i>Invalid,</i>	<i>269821</i>	<i>195151</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
<i>1891 Oct 22</i>	<i>Widow,</i>	<i>562519</i>	<i>360711</i>	
	<i>Minor,</i>			
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS:				

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Michael and his wife, Mary McKilop, would bear children before, during and after the war.

Michael McGillicuddy would die on September 10, 1892, and is buried in Saint John's Cemetery in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mary would die on February 1, 1912, in Philadelphia, in the home of one of her sons and would be buried with her husband.

While Michael and Mary McGillicuddy's lineage lives on through their descendants, it was one of their sons who left his mark in a different arena – American sports. Their son, Cornelius Alexander, born in December 1862, was known by his nickname, Connie Mack. Prior to his fame in baseball, Connie would play baseball himself, but he also assisted in taking care of his ill father, working as a young child to bring money into the McGillicuddy household.

Mack would first serve as manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, but it was his tenure with the Philadelphia Athletics where he established his fame. He served as manager for 50 years as the manager of the Philadelphia Athletics baseball team (a sport not invented by General Abner Doubleday), winning five World Series championships during his tenure in 1910, 1911, 1913, 1929 and 1930. They were only second to the New York Yankees for most titles by an American League team. One of Mack's most reliable pitchers in the early years of his managerial career, was lefthander "Gettysburg" Eddie Plank, whose uncle's farm was used to treat Confederate General John Bell Hood for his injuries at Gettysburg. Also, after winning the World Series in 1913, Plank took Mack and others for a tour of the Gettysburg battlefield in a car called an "Oakland." Plank ranks third all-time in wins for left-handed pitchers in Major League Baseball.

The stadium where the Athletics played before their relocation to Kansas City (then eventually Oakland and Sacramento) was Shibe Park but was renamed to Connie Mack Stadium in honor of Mack. The Philadelphia Phillies also played there before moving to Veterans Stadium in 1971. While the stadium is no longer standing, a marker placed by the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission (PMHC) is there, detailing the story and success of the Athletics. Between 1978-2003, the Philadelphia Phillies also honored Mack and other Athletics with some of them being enshrined into the Philadelphia Phillies Wall of Fame at Citizens Bank Park. A statue of Mack also stands outside the stadium across the street between the third base and left field gates. As of this writing, only one surviving member of the Philadelphia Athletics who played under Mack is still alive, pitcher Bobby Shantz, who is also an inductee of the Phillies Wall of Fame.

While the myth of Abner Doubleday "inventing" baseball has been debunked, there is no debunking the connection between the game of baseball and the Civil War. Connie Mack is one of those connections.



Connie Mack, “Gettysburg” Eddie and friends, taking a tour of Devil’s Den on the Gettysburg battlefield in 1913. The pennant hanging over the car door shows the Athletics mascot, a white elephant, followed by the word, “Champions.”

Sources:

Ancestry.com

Adams County Historical Society. “Connie Mack, Eddie Plank, and party in Medel 43, 1914 Oakland at Devil's Den, Gettysburg, Nov 6th, 1913.”

<https://achspa.catalogaccess.com/photos/18647>

Fold3.com

National Baseball Hall of Fame. “Connie Mack.” <https://baseballhall.org/hall-of-famers/mack-connie>

National Park Service

Kuttler, Hillel. (2013) “Eddie Plank – A Favorite Son of Gettysburg.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/30/sports/baseball/eddie-plank-a-favorite-son-of-gettysburg.html?_r=1

CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS AND ON THE WEB

..... articles submitted by Andy Waskie

Got \$1700 lying around?

<https://www.thedogfacesoldier.com/online-store/CIVIL-WAR-ARMY-OF-POTOMAC-MEDAL-GROUP-TO-23rd-PENNA-OFFICER-WIA-COLD-HARBOR-p760999675>

Civil War Army of the Potomac Medal Group to 2nd Lieutenant Frank A. Lynch, 23rd Pennsylvania Volunteers, wounded at Cold Harbor that remains in excellent condition. The group consists of Lt. Lynch's Gold Army of the Potomac Medal, a gold G.A.R. Post 2 Philadelphia membership badge, an 1882 Past President of Post 2 medal, a cardboard cutout of the GAR Department of Pennsylvania Post 2 Guards shield insignia.

Abraham Lincoln's gloves from Ford's Theatre fetch highest bid at presidential auction

(Thanks to Ed Zongolowicz)

<https://www.foxnews.com/travel/abraham-lincolns-posessions-sell-millions-bloodstained-gloves-top-auction>

'Buddy Poppy'

Poppy makers reflect on importance of carrying on tradition

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Poppy-makers-reflect-on-importance-of-carrying-on>

'Died at Gettysburg' No prouder epitaph need any man covet.

The tragedy of Captain Richard Wistar Davids of the 118th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

Visitors to the Gettysburg National Military Park encounter stone sentinels of all shapes and sizes. One of them, an austere granite marker on the north side of the Wheatfield Rd. can be missed by tourists, Those who stop will read a simple label without interpretation:

"Second position of the 118th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Corn Exchange Regiment, July 2nd, 1863. First Brigade, First Division, Fifth Corps"

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

About 120 miles away in Philadelphia, strollers among the stately grounds of historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, a fine example of the rural garden Victorian cemetery movement that graces the landscape, can easily miss a small marble tombstone located near the edge of the sprawling burial ground in the South section, adjacent to the NewFalls section of the city of Philadelphia, the inscription denoting whose remains lie beneath it has been utterly effaced by over 150 years of acid rain and deterioration.

Both monuments are connected to the death of an officer who hailed from one of Philadelphia's most famous families – the Wistars, a man of wealth, education and leisure: **Richard Wistar Davids**. Captain Richard Wistar Davids of the 118th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was killed in action at Gettysburg on July 2nd 1863, bravely leading his men in battle.

The Military Images magazine (Summer 2025, pages 50-59 by Charles T. Jones, MI magazine senior editor) features an article on Capt. Davids, his life and career and heroic death at Gettysburg.

After the National Cemetery at Gettysburg and Arlington, no cemetery contains as many graves of veterans of the great Battle of Gettysburg as Historic Laurel Hill in Philadelphia.
by Charles T. Jones, MI magazine Senior editor

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Delaware Valley CWRT Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 7:00 pm

**Virtual via ZOOM and in-person at Radisson Hotel, Route 1 @ Old Lincoln Highway, Trevose, PA
“Atlanta is Ours: The Last Turning Point”**

Speaker – Del Val President Jerry Carrier

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

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Camp William Penn and Historic LaMott Day

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

LaMott Community Center, 7240 Sycamore Avenue, Elkins Park, PA.

This event will honor Camp William Penn and the establishment of the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War in present day La Mott. The opening ceremony will take place at Camp William Penn gate at 10:00 followed by a day of programs honoring our soldiers and celebrating the history of our community. Camp William Penn Museum will be open, and local organizations will be present in the community with displays to discuss their histories and contributions to the area. The Del Val CWRT Preservation Committee will be there to sell books and discuss the Round Table. The event is on the site of CWP, which was the largest training facility for Black Soldiers during the Civil War. The event is located in the LaMott neighborhood of Cheltenham Township on Sycamore St. For information, regarding the event as well as inquiries re volunteering, contact: Citizens for the Restoration of Historical La Mott, 1618 Willow Ave., La Mott, PA 19027 pt@usct.org or by phone: 215 885-2258

[https:// www.usct.org/2025/08/04/camp-william-penn-and-historic-la-mott-day-2025/](https://www.usct.org/2025/08/04/camp-william-penn-and-historic-la-mott-day-2025/)

Annual Major Octavius V. Catto Honor Ceremony

Friday, October 3, 2025, 11:00 am

Catto Memorial, SW corner of City Hall, Philadelphia.

Honor ceremony; wreath laying; military salute at the Catto Monument at City Hall in Philadelphia at 11 a.m. Honoring the great Black equal rights and military leader. Wreath-Laying ceremony. All military units, period civilians, veterans and heritage groups are welcome. Colors, wreaths, and music encouraged. Following the City Hall Ceremony, PA National Guard Medal Ceremony at 12:30 p.m. in the Union League for the Major Catto Medal.

For Information: awaski01@gmail.com

Annual Meade Society Annual Fall Excursion

"General Meade in Maryland & Pennsylvania 1862-1863"

Saturday to Monday, October 11-13, 2025

Trip price includes deluxe motor coach via Perkiomen Tours; driver tip; free parking; snacks & beverages on board; tour of James Buchanan's estate (Wheatland); lunch at the Lancaster Brewing Company; and wreath laying at Lancaster Cemetery for General Reynolds on Saturday; tours of the Monocacy, Antietam, and South Mountain battlefields with on board guide Rich Condon on Sunday. Monday tour of the Adams County museum in Gettysburg PA and an afternoon tour of lesser-known facts about General Meade with Licensed Battlefield Guide Larry Korczyk.

Two-night accommodations at the Country Inn & Suites in Hagerstown MD (breakfast included). Saturday lunch, evening Pizza Party, Sunday lunch, and Sunday night dinner INCLUDED in the package price. (Monday lunch in Gettysburg will be on your own).

Price is \$455.00 per person, double occupancy (\$468.00 if paying by cc). There is an additional \$125.00 charge for a single room)

E mail Jerry McCormick (gedwinmc@msn.com) to register and for info. A \$50.00 per person deposit is required to register, send to the General Meade Society ,P.O. Box 394, Abington, PA 19001.

**Starr Tours with Jane Peters Estes – “Land of Lincoln: St. Louis, MO & Springfield, IL
Saturday to Friday, October 11-17, 2025**

Trip highlights include St. Louis Gateway Arch including tram ride to the top*; Gateway Arch Museum, Missouri Civil War Museum, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, sightseeing tour of Springfield, IL, New Salem State Historic Site, Lincoln's home, the Old State Capitol Historic Site, Lincoln's Tomb, a visit from (professional reenactors) Abraham Lincoln and Ward Hill Lamon (Lincoln's former law partner and close friend). *The top of the Gateway Arch is not fully accessible to visitors with mobility impairments.

Trip Includes: 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners

Overnight accommodations, Deluxe motorcoach transportation, Baggage handling and related gratuities, Taxes. Cost per person - \$1,799 (double occupancy), \$2,399 (single room), \$1,599 (trip occupancy). For more information or to make a reservation: <https://tours.starrtours.com/Tour/Land-of-Lincoln-Springfield-IL-2025>

Delaware Valley CWRT Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 7:00 pm

Virtual via ZOOM and in-person at Radisson Hotel, Route 1 @ Old Lincoln Highway, Trevoise, PA

Fourth Annual Hugh Boyle Memorial Lincoln Lecture

“The Laughing Lincoln: The Wit and Wisdom of Our 16th President”

Speaker – Historian and Member of the Brandywine Valley CWRT Roger Arthur

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

US Marine Corps Birthday Observance

Monday, November 10, 2025, 11:00 am

Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia

Observance at the grave of General Jacob Zeilin, 7th Commandant of the Marine Corps during the Civil War. A special 'Veterans' Day tour of heroes 'killed in action' and buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery will follow. Call 215-228-8200 for details. www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org

Co-sponsored by: The Legion Post 405; MOLLUS; General Meade Society. Dr. Andy Waskie awaski01@gmail.com or 267-240-3659

Delaware Valley CWRT Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 7:00 pm

Virtual via ZOOM and in-person at Radisson Hotel, Route 1 @ Old Lincoln Highway, Trevoise, PA

Annual Award Night Meeting

“The Life of Benjamin Franklin Butler: Was He Really the Beast of New Orleans?”

Speaker – Historian and GAR Research Administrator Walt Lafty

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

2026 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR MUSEUM, LIBRARY & 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

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BENEFACTOR LIFE MEMBER \$250.00 _____

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL FOR 2025 _____

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.

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OUR MISSION



The mission of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum & Archive is to preserve the heritage and history of the Civil War era through the presentation of historical programs, forums and exhibitions designed to promote a better understanding of American history.

WE ARE THE ONLY MUSEUM IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA DEDICATED TO THE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR. THE G. A. R. MUSEUM IS ALSO A 501(c)3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

GARMUSLIB1866@GMAIL.COM