

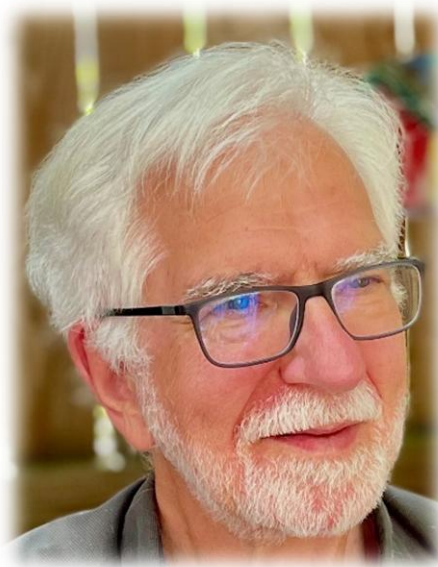


GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Newsletter of the Grand Army of the Republic
Civil War Museum & Archive Summer 2026



From the President



"When one is happy in forgetfulness, facts get forgotten."

The Legacy of the Civil War by Robert Penn Warren

"This war was not only the most destructive war in U.S. history but the most morally and emotionally charged, as well - a total war in every sense. As hostilities intensified, both armies soon abandoned the West Point code, which was rooted in just war tradition. The code's key principle was proportionality:

commanders were expected to keep their own and their enemy's casualties to a minimum consistent with limited battlefield objectives, and to avoid conflicting any damage on civilian population.

The principal proportionality was an early casualty of the war. Within a year after the firing at Fort Sumter, both sides had targeted civilians and sustained losses in the field that would previously have been unimaginable. Yet popular opinion, North and South, submitted to the slaughter. Both armies were cheered on by ideologues who were convinced of the sanctity of their cause and the impossibility of compromise. Only a handful of observers - most prominently, Abraham Lincoln, in his second inaugural address - saw the tragic complexity of the conflict. Most commentators preferred the simplicities of national melodrama. Romantic notions of nationhood flourished in pulpits and the press. Preachers and editors evoked visions of blood sacrifice, endowing mass death with an aura of the sacred. "

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

This piece originally appeared in the Notes and Comment section of the July 3, 1943, issue of The New Yorker.

“We received a letter from the Writers’ War Board the other day asking for a statement on *The Meaning of Democracy*. It presumably is our duty to comply with such a request, and it is certainly our pleasure. Surely the Board knows what democracy is. It is the line that forms on the right. It is the don’t in Don’t shove. It is the hole in the stuffed shirt through which the sawdust slowly trickles; it is the dent in the high hat. Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time. It is the feeling of privacy in the voting booths, the feeling of communion in the libraries, the feeling of vitality everywhere. Democracy is a letter to the editor. Democracy is the score at the beginning of the ninth. It is an idea which hasn’t been disproved yet, a song the words of which have not gone bad. It’s the mustard on the hot dog and the cream in the rationed coffee. Democracy is a request from a War Board, in the middle of a morning in the middle of a war, wanting to know what democracy is.”

—**E. B. White**

“If we are to have another contest in the near future of our national existence, I predict that the dividing line will not be Mason and Dixon’s but between patriotism and intelligence on one side, and superstition, ambition and ignorance on the other.” Ulysses S. Grant.

The Grand Army of Republic was a safeguard against resurgent rebellion. It worked against sedition, anarchy and internal disorder on the one hand, and the subversive and corrupting influence of enormous wealth and great corporations on the other.

Joe Perry
President & Librarian

Recent Zoom Programs

Sunday, May 3, 2026

"Battle of Ball's Bluff, October 21, 1861"

Presented by Mark Brewer

The war was still new. Soldiers on both sides had much to learn about fighting and killing. The Union soldiers who fought at Ball's Bluff had never "seen the elephant" – that is, they had never been in battle. They saw war as all glory and honor, and if death or wounds occurred, they would happen to someone else. Ball's Bluff taught them otherwise. It was a small battle that had little or no effect on the overall military picture. But its effects were far-reaching, causing profound grief to the residents of the White House and leading to the formation of the Committee on the Conduct of the War. That committee would decide who was to blame for the Union debacle at Ball's Bluff, and they would have a profound influence on the rest of the Union war effort.



Mark Brewer is a retired history teacher after 31 years. He taught at a public school, county college, and university. He has an M.A. in U.S. history from Temple University and was a re-enactor for seven years with the 4th Texas Infantry, a Philadelphia-based organization which provided a foe for local Union groups. The Civil War was his first love and he has written two books in that genre – *Swim, Surrender or Die: The Union Army at the Battle of Ball's Bluff* and *For Virginia: John Wilkes Booth, Thomas J. Jackson, Robert E. Lee, Edmund Ruffin, James Ewell Brown Stuart and the Civil War*. Both were self-published. His interest in Ball's Bluff is "because I had three ancestors there – one killed, one wounded, and one captured." He focused primarily on the Union army in the battle.

Sunday, June 7, 2026

“Almost a Disaster: Dan Sickles at Gettysburg”

Presented by James Hessler

No participant in the Battle of Gettysburg created more controversy than Union General Daniel E. Sickles. A political general who was best known prior to the Civil War for murdering his wife's lover on the streets of Washington, General Sickles nearly created disaster on July 2 at Gettysburg by advancing his Third Corps without orders from General George Meade. Sickles then spent the next 50 years of his life declaring himself the hero of Gettysburg and is lesser known for his later preservation role in creating Gettysburg National Military Park.



James Hessler is a historian, author, and Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park, where he has been interpreting the battle since 2003. He is the author or co-author of four books on the Gettysburg Campaign: *Sickles at Gettysburg* (2009), *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg* (2015, with Wayne Motts), *Gettysburg's Peach Orchard* (2019, with Britt Isenberg), and his most recent release, *The First Day at Gettysburg* (2025). His work has earned several distinguished book awards. He has also published articles in outlets such as *Gettysburg Magazine*.

Beyond his publications, Hessler co-created and hosts the popular *Battle of Gettysburg Podcast*, reaching a global audience of history enthusiasts. He has appeared as a public historian in major media such as the History Channel, NPR, Travel Channel, PCN-TV, and in programs and content development with the American Battlefield Trust.

Hessler is a frequent speaker at Civil War Round Tables and other historical organizations nationwide. His willingness to tackle controversial subjects continues to spark discussion and deepen understanding of Gettysburg's enduring story. Besides Gettysburg, Hessler has led battlefield tours at numerous sites across the country. He currently serves in a board or advisory capacity for Gettysburg History (Adams County Historical Society), Gettysburg Museum of History, and the Little Bighorn Associates.

New Programs Added to the GAR Museum's YouTube Channel

"Battle of Ball's Bluff, October 21, 1861" by Mark Brewer

"Almost a Disaster: Dan Sickles at Gettysburg" by James Hessler

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

Recent Additions to the GAR Museum Library

A Terrible Intimacy. Interracial Life in the Slaveholding South by Melvin Patrick Ely

Civil War Prisoners & Escapes. A Day-by-Day Chronicle by Robert E. Denney. Forward by Edwin C. Bearss. 1993

Civil War Wives. The Lives and Times of Angelina Grimke Weld, Varina Howell Davis, and Julia Dent Grant by Carol Berkin. 2009

Hidden in Plain View. A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad by Jacqueline L. Tobin and Raymond G. Dobard. 2000

Philly First by Charles Wiedemann. 2026

Fifty Years in Chains by Charles Ball. Reprint of the 1859 edition. 2014. Includes Interviews with Thirty Former Slaves.

Burning the Books. The History of the Deliberate Destruction of Knowledge. By Richard Overton. 2022

Page 4. This continued decline in resources has combined with the growth of technology companies, which have effectively privatized the storage and transmission of knowledge in digital form, taking some of the functions of public funded libraries and archives into the commercial realm.

Page 7. Storehouses of knowledge have been at the heart of the development of societies from their inception. Although the technologies of creating knowledge, and the techniques for preservation have altered radically, their core functions have changed surprisingly little. Firstly, libraries and archives collect organized and preserved knowledge.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Page 8. Archives are different from libraries. Libraries are accumulations of knowledge, build up one book at a time, often with great strategic purpose, while archives document directly the actions and decision-making process of institutions and administrations, even of governments.

Page 10. These challenges have been amplified by the widespread adoption of online services provided by major technology companies, especially those in the world of social media for whom preservation of knowledge is purely a commercial consideration.

Annual Membership Meeting Recap

Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum Annual Membership Meeting,
February 22, 2026

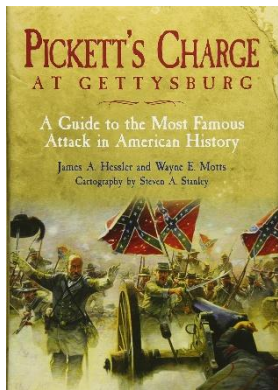
State of the Museum Report

1. The Museum Zoom programs are well attended. The yearly in-house Civil War Band concert was a success. The General Meade Society annual picnic was held in the Museum's garden.
2. The building attached to the Museum was sold and the new owner plans on using it as an office after renovation.
3. Our storage shed now holds the Museum GAR Post 2 furniture. The funds for the shed were donated by Life Time Member Gary Grove.
4. We added 8 recorded Zoom programs to our YouTube channel in 2025.
5. The Museum's Research Room was named the Atkinson Research Room to honor Bud and Margerat Atkinson.
6. The Museum now has a video monitor to show visitors our "Short Tour" of the Museum video.
7. Walt Lafty and Mary Wible visited several neighborhood organizations and talked about the Museum and its resources.
8. Vice-President Mike Peter was elected Commander of the Pennsylvania Department of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
9. Board Member Bill Sheffer completed the Civil Veterans' grave marker display in the Museum garden.
10. There were 1,100 visits to the Museum's website in past 30 days.
11. The Museum received another Philadelphia Activity Grant from City Council thanks to Life Member Councilman Michael Driscoll.
12. Board of Directors Election - Tom Donnelly and Bryan Sigmund were elected to another term as Board of Director members.

THE MUSEUM'S BOOK CORNER *by Bill Sheffer*

Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to the Most Famous Attack in American History

by James A. Hessler and Wayne E. Motts
Savas-Beatie, 2015, 320 pages



Much has been written and debated about the Confederate attack against Union forces on Cemetery Ridge on Day 3 of the Battle of Gettysburg. Prior to reading this book, I felt I had a reasonably good grasp of the Rebel assault. But then I read *“Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to the Most Famous Attack in American History”* by James A. Hessler and Wayne E. Motts.

Thanks to their fascinating book, and historians Hessler and Motts, the Director of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, I now have a much better understanding of the famous assault by 12,000 soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia. The authors (both licensed battlefield guides) take you through a brigade-by-brigade, step-by-step, minute-by-minute breakdown of the charge. In addition to interesting details of troop movements, the authors reveal that several troop monuments are in the wrong place. The book provides the perfect tour guide for anyone who wants to experience the *entire* attack – not just the one-mile hike from Seminary Ridge to Union troops on Cemetery Ridge.

MUSEUM PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS

Museum News

..... by Joe Perry

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, New Jersey Department

Congratulations to Bryan Sigmund on becoming the Department's Senior Vice Commander and the editor of the Department's newsletter *The Telegraph*. Bryan is the Past Commander of the Colonel R. Louis Francine Camp #7, Hammonton, New Jersey. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Civil War Museum and Archives Board of Directors.

Museum Visitors

JEMS Tours the G.A.R. Museum..... *by Mary Wible*



Pat Burke and Lauren Bucci, members of St. Jerome's Seniors also known as JEMS, had a private tour of the G.A.R. Museum by Walt Lafty and Mary Wible. Both women are Mary's friends from JEMS, and Pat is also Walt's neighbor. We believe that it really is a small world. At least here in Holmesburg. These Civil War enthusiasts did not just come to listen and learn, they also came to question, and good questions they had. I must admit that I had to Google a few. Lauren was the first to lift the musket and felt the true weight of this weapon that the soldiers had to carry, with Pat soon to follow. I wonder if they will return to try marching with it. What a great

day with friends who were quite impressed with this hidden gem of ours right here in our Holmesburg neighborhood.



Museum Outreach

A Visit to Assisi House with the Sisters of St. Francis

.....by Mary Wible

On May 7 Walt Lafty and I took our GAR Museum Outreach Program presentation to Aston, PA, for the retired Sisters of St. Francis who live at Assisi House.

This time we added a personal touch to introduce the program. My 1st cousin 2x removed was Sister Mary Rigoberta, O.S.F. She was born Mabel Beck in 1881. Her father Jacob Beck was in Co. C, 213th PA Infantry and a member of the GAR Anna M. Ross Post 94.



George and Regina Beck are our common ancestors. They are Sister Mary Rigoberta's grandparents and my great, great grandparents. Our Beck family worshipped at St. Peter the Apostle Church at 5th Street and Girard Avenue in Philadelphia for three generations beginning in 1843.

This is also the location of the St. John Neumann Shrine. It was he who founded the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in 1855.

They were a wonderful audience, and many are Philly girls who told us the parishes to which they belonged. It's a Catholic, Philly thing. A few of the sisters are from Ireland.

And if that's not enough of a personal connection, there is more. I had a chiropractor's appointment that morning with Dr. Stephen Marini, and I told him where I was going that afternoon. He informed me that his cousin was a Sister of St. Francis who had lived at Assisi House. Sister Anita Cattefesta died in 2022. She was fondly remembered by her fellow sisters.

Lauren Cintron, Activities Coordinator, took us in the golf cart on a tour of Our Lady of Angles Motherhouse grounds which included their cemetery, prayer garden and other buildings along with part of the campus of Neumann University.

We will be returning to Assisi House on August 27 when Walt presents his program "Angels in the Battlefield, Sister Nurses in the Civil War." Both of us are looking forward to being with these lovely women again.

Northeast History Fair

..... by *Walt Lafty*

Quite a number of GAR members attended and participated in the Northeast Philadelphia History Fair at the Cannstatter on Saturday, April 11. The GAR Museum, Delaware Valley CWRT, and Meade Society were all tabled next to each other. With most of the members wearing multiple hats in all three groups, it made it really easy to staff the tables. Then there were some who are also members of the Genealogical Society of PA, like Mary Wible, who wore four hats and helped everywhere. The Baker-Fisher Camp 101 SUVCW did not have a table, but as they also belonged to the GAR, Del Val, or the Meade Society, they hung out at our areas and helped wherever needed. Photos provided by Walt Lafty.



Left picture: (front row) John and Mary Ann Hartner, "unidentified participant", and Mike Borish, and (back row) Glenn Roedel (new Commander of Baker-Fisher Camp 101 SUVCW), Kyle Purchase, Kathleen Sharaf, and Joe Perry

Right picture: Andy Waskie, Kyle Purchase, Kathleen Sharaf, Joe Perry, Tom Donnelly, Paula Gidjunis, and John and Mary Ann Hartner

Crooked Billet History Fair

..... by Bill Sheffer

On Saturday, April 25th, GAR board members Kathleen Sharaf, Tom Donnelly and Bill Sheffer represented the museum at the 3rd annual Crooked Billet History Fair at the Keith Valley Middle School in Horsham, PA. Kathleen, Tom and Bill engaged with dozens of fair visitors, telling them about the museum's fascinating artifacts, and the history of the G.A.R., as well as raising funds through the sale of used books.

(Pictured are Kathleen Sharaf and Bill Sheffer)



Museum People – At Home, Out, and About

History Institute at Manor College

GAR members Andy Waskie and Tom Donnelly offered a variety of Zoom programs for Manor College's History Institute. Andy's program on February 25 was "The Story of U.S. Veterans Organizations." Tom's programs, offered on March 18 and April 22, respectively, were "O'DONNELL ABÚ; The Last Stand of Gaelic Ireland" and "The Mexican-American War: The Overlooked Prelude to the Civil War."

Tom and Andy will also be offering programs for Manor's 2026 Fall Semester. On September 16 Tom will offer "The Mexican-American War Part 2: Winfield Scott in the Valley of Mexico" and on October 7, "The Rise of Benedict Arnold and the Battle of Valcourt Island." Andy's programs will be on November 18, "General Meade and the Gettysburg Campaign" and on December 9, "Life, Death and Career of Octavius Valentine Catto, Professor, Activist, Soldier and Hero."

You can see how our GAR members "help keep history alive." You can register for any of these programs at <https://manor.edu/academics/adult-continuing-education/history-institute/>.

Jewish Veterans During the Civil War

On June 30 Walt Lafty offered a program on Philadelphia's Jewish Civil War Veterans to the Jewish War Veterans Post 697 in Levittown.

Remembering Memorial/Decoration Day

.....compiled from comments by Mary Wible and Andy Waskie

A number of GAR members participated in Decoration Day/Memorial Day ceremonies.



Participating at the Annual Memorial Day Service at Laurel Hill Cemetery on May 24, was Andy Waskie, M.C., portraying a G.A.R. Post #1 Commander (General Meade Post #1, Union League) at the 'Silent Sentry' monument guarding the graves of GAR Veterans in Meade Post #1 burial plot. The Silent Sentry was funded by the Loyal Legion



(MOLLUS) in 1884. [Photo above left shared by Andy Waskie. Other photos shared by Mary Wible.]





This monument is to Mary Morris Husband, Tent 58 namesake. The DUVCW of Tent 58, laid a wreath at her grave. Baker-Fisher Camp 101 was the honor guard.



Daughters of Union Veterans Tent 58 News by Mary Wible

Tent 58 Wins National Award

Congratulations to the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Mary Morris Husband, Tent 58, for receiving the George W. McVeigh Award at the National Convention for the **greatest increase in membership**. Nine of the Tent 58 sisters are also members of the GAR Museum.

A GOLDen Opportunity for DUVCW, Tent 58

The Daughters of Union Veterans the Civil War, 1861-1865, Mary Morris Husband, Tent 58, Philadelphia, PA, struck GOLD on May 2, 2026, with the initiation of six new members all from the same family.

Council Member **Deb Grady** is the great, great granddaughter of **Pvt. Lewis Franklin Gold**, Co. A, 153rd PA Infantry. She is also a lifetime member of the GAR Civil War Museum and Archive and a member of the General Meade Society.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

To celebrate America 250, her three daughters and each of their daughters joined Tent 58. The youngest girls, ages 9 and 10, are duvs whose age bracket is 8 to 18.

3x great granddaughters

Caitlin Grady Winfrey

Erin Grady Burlew

Gillian Grady Wible

4x great granddaughters

Norah Anne Winfrey

Eleanor Violet Burlew

Flannery Mae Wible

I think Lewis Franklin Gold would be quite proud of his seven “GOLDEN GIRLS” who honored him in a special way during this memorable year in our United States history.

A photograph of a piece of brown paper with a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature reads "Lewis F. Gold" in a cursive script. The paper has a horizontal line of small holes along the bottom edge.

Two Ancestor Stars for Flannery

Flannery Mae Wible, the newly initiated duv for the DUVCW, Mary Morris Husband, Tent 58, Philadelphia, PA, received her first ancestor star for her badge when she joined under her 4x great grandfather Pvt. Lewis Franklin Gold.

Her grandmother, Tent 58 Council Member Deb Grady, was already a member. Also joining with her on May 2, 2026, were Flannery's mom Gillian Grady Wible and her two aunts and two cousins.

She is also the grandniece of Mary Wible, the Historian and Patriotic Instructor of Tent 58. Their ancestor is Carpenter's Mate Thomas Kingston of the Union Navy who served on two ships, the USS *Susquehanna* and the USS *Princess Royal*.

It was for Thomas Kingston that Flannery received her second ancestor star for her badge.

Her two sisters will join her in a few years as they honor their 4x great grandfathers Lewis Franklin Gold and Thomas Kingston.



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 20 April 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 1st LT. (Brevet LTC) John Page Nicholson, 28th P.V.I., a member of MOLLUS. He was also a member of G.A.R. Post 2 Department of Pennsylvania



John P. Nicholson was born on 4 July 1842 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents were James B. Nicholson and Adalaide Broderick Nicholson.

On 20 July 1861 John enlisted as a Private in Company "K", 28th Pennsylvania Infantry. He was promoted through the ranks to 1st Lt. and Quartermaster on 10 September 1862, he was breveted Lt. Col. in March 1865 and mustered out on 18 July 1865

The 28th P.V.I served at: Second Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Ringgold Gap, Atlanta campaign, Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church. Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Sherman's March to the Sea, Carolina's campaign, and Bentonville.

After the war, he worked as a bookbinder and was active in military affairs. In 1879, he became Recorder-in-Chief of MOLLUS. He was also the Chairman of the United States Gettysburg National Park Commission, President of the Valley Forge Park Commission, and the Vice President of the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie, Pennsylvania. In 1910, John received a degree of Doctor of Letters from Pennsylvania College (now Gettysburg College).

On 8 March 1922, John Page Nicholson died on of stomach cancer and was buried at Mount Peace Cemetery. He was survived by his widow Gertrude, daughter Mrs. Eleanor Nicholson Stull, and two grandchildren: Eleanor C. Stull and John Nicholson Stull.

To learn more about MOLLUS, visit their website at:

<https://loyallegion.org/>

***Ross Rush G.A.R. Post 361
Ursina, Somerset County
Pennsylvania***



The Post was also active in attending Department and National Encampments. Up to the 1920s, members who attended those encampments included men such as Norman Scott, H. Younkin, Issac Van Hyde, W.S. Mountain, William Kessler, J.T. Rush, James F. Gowen, Adam Nicholson, and Hiram Frantz. In a 1922 newspaper article, twelve members of Post 361 are listed as riding in automobiles attending memorial services. men were: William Keslar (Kessler), Samuel M. James, David H. Fields, James K. Johnson, Jacob T. Rush, Silas Younkin, Samuel Tressler, Issac L. Hall, T.B. Dean, W.F. Critchfield, Hiram Frantz, and Leroy Forquer.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

By 1932 there were only three or four members still alive from Post 361. Leroy Foquer was one of those and he died 26 October 1932. He was one of the original 24 charter members and had served during the war as a corporal in Company I, 4th West Virginia Cavalry. According to the Meyersdale Republic newspaper the following year (1933), there were three surviving members. Andrew J. Colborn was one of those and he died on 15 May 1935, possibly the last member.

Another comrade of Rush Post 361 was the 3rd Great Grandfather of Philadelphia G.A.R. Civil War Museum member Brian Harris. His ancestor was Francis May who served between 1861 and 1865 with the 85th and 148th P.V.I. regiments. Private May was discharged from a hospital in Philadelphia July 1865 after recovering from gunshot wounds. His application to join Ross Post 361 is one of many post records that still exist (photo below left).



Francis May 1830-1892

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
Ross Rush Post No. 361 Dept of Penna. G. A. R.

I have the honor to acknowledge the application for membership in *Ross Rush Post No. 361* of *Pennsylvania* Grand Army of the Republic, having my application on the following facts:
Age 54 years of age, and was born in Pennsylvania State of *Pennsylvania*
now residing at *Bridge*
State of *Pennsylvania*
I served during the late rebellion as follows
Rank enlisted *Sergeant* *1861-1862* *Private* *in Co. No*
85th *148th* *Regiment* *P.V.I.* *for the period of 3 years, and*
was discharged therefrom as *Private* *at Philadelphia Hospital*
on *25th day of July* *1865* *reason of* *disability*
(Rheumatism)

I also re-enlisted *Sgt.* *1863* *Private* *in Co. F*
118th *Regiment* *P.V.I.* *and was discharged therefrom as* *Private*
at *Pittsburgh* *on the* *1st*
day of *July* *1864* *reason of* *disability*

I have never borne arms against the United States, and have never been convicted by Court Martial of Disgrace, nor of any other delinquent crime.
 I have not made previous application for membership in the Grand Army of the Republic and filed the same with _____ Post No. _____ Department of _____ on the _____ day of _____ 18____.

Residence, No. _____ Street _____

I am honorably discharged *Francis May* to the favorable consideration of the Post, believing the foregoing statements to be true in every respect.
 Declared in preparation for S. R. O. O. *B. J. Snyder*

"Remember," if these facts are not as stated, they may be furnished before being signed on by the Post.
 If they are not as stated, they may be furnished before being signed on by the Post.
 If they are not as stated, they may be furnished before being signed on by the Post.

Those



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp #502 Commander Ronald Musser presents Meyersdale Public Library Archivist Jennifer Hurl (left) and Archives Assistant Carolyn McKinney with the Ross Rush GAR Post #361 collection of Ursina record books, now on permanent loan to our library.

Rush Post 361 records are currently on loan to the Meyersdale Public Library from Mt. Union Church Camp #502, SUVCW, and Auxiliary.

The records include: "Membership approvals, monies for soldiers' headstones, monies to support orphans of deceased soldiers, Memorial Day orations, soldier reunions, pen & ink "tombstone" memorials to deceased soldiers with service records, memorial services for recently deceased members and who attended; plus, separate documents of the Ross Rush Post by-laws."

Offered for sale at an online auction, the records were acquired through the efforts of Mt. Union Church Camp #502, SUVCW, in partnership with other donors, from Dennis Holzman Antiques, Cohoes, NY. Digitized, with the originals placed on loan with the Meyersdale Public Library in 2018.

This writer would like to express thanks for the help from Brian Harris of Baker-Fisher Camp 101 and Mt. Union Church Camp 502 SUVCW, and to Jennifer Hurl, archivist at the Meyersdale Public Library.

CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS AND ON THE WEB

..... submitted by Andy Waskie

Group honors role Buffalo Soldiers played in California history following Civil War

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article316678960.html>

Historic Civil War train station reopens in Gettysburg

<https://www.abc27.com/local-news/historic-civil-war-train-station-reopens-in-gettysburg/>

Changes coming to Gettysburg battlefield

<https://www.abc27.com/news/top-stories/changes-coming-to-gettysburg-battlefield/>

How Harriet Tubman and Philadelphia abolitionists coordinated dangerous journeys to freedom

<https://theconversation.com/how-harriet-tubman-and-philadelphia-abolitionists-coordinated-dangerous-journeys-to-freedom-281105>

Retired Lebanon teacher donates great-grandfather's Civil War letters* ***He served in Co. A, 93rd P.V. Vols. (Lebanon Regiment) ***(My ancestor's unit - Co. H (Columbia County) - George Slusser*****

<https://www.wgal.com/article/civil-war-letters-lebanon-county-pa-historical-society/73536967>

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.

Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive Membership

As an all-volunteer non-profit museum, it is essential that we have members who contribute to the preservation, conservation and protection of the documents and artifacts that once belonged to the Union veterans.

These are the benefits of membership:

- Invitations to the monthly historical Zoom programs.
- Expert assistance when doing genealogical and historical research.
- Access to the Museum catalog when visiting.
- Museum library borrowing privileges.
- Access to the Archives.
- Guided tours of the Museum.
- Free refreshments when visiting the Museum.

Keep history alive. Support The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive. It is the only museum in Philadelphia solely dedicated to preserving the history and telling the story of the Civil War era.

The collection is recognized for its historical importance and includes numerous artifacts of singular historical significance. Your 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.

To those who are already members, we thank you!

**GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY /
AMERICAN LEGION POST 405**



**THE MEADE SOCIETY
HONORS THE HISTORY OF
AMERICA'S 250TH
ANNIVERSARY**



Fall Trip * FALL TRIP * Fall Trip

Saturday October 17th – Monday October 19th

Tours of Fort McHenry, the Bull Run Battlefield, Alexandria, Virginia and Washington, DC. Depart from **The Union League Golf Club** at Torresdale, 3801 Grant Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19114.

Trip includes: Deluxe hotel accommodations at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Herndon, VA; full hot breakfast each day; motor coach with Perkiomen Tours; admissions; an expert on board guide; a river cruise on the Potomac River; buffet dinner on Saturday at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern in Herndon, VA; a Sunday pizza party and sight-seeing in Washington, DC on Monday.

Cost: \$460.00 per person, double occupancy (\$472.00 if paying by credit or with debit card in the payment form below). There is also a \$100.00 supplement charge if you want a single room. To register, please contact us by sending a message on this contact page of our website: [Contact | General Meade Society](#)

**A \$50.00 per person deposit is required immediately to confirm. Please send it to: General Meade Society
PO box 394, Abington, PA 19001**

Final payment is due no later than September 15th.

SEATS ARE GOING FAST!!

THIS WILL BE OUR 21ST 3-DAY FALL EXCURSION!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Camp William Penn and Historic LaMott Day

Saturday, September 19, 2026 – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

7322 Sycamore Avenue, Elkins Park, PA

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; Living History Demonstrations; Civil War Medical and Surgical Instrument Show and Tell; Book signings, lectures, period music, films; Displays of local history; Civil War games & activities; Food trucks; and more! The event is on the site of CWP, which was the largest training facility for Black Soldiers during the Civil War. For updates,

<https://www.cheltenhamtownship.org/calendarview.aspx?cid=84839#gsc.tab=0>

Porch Performance: Montco Concert Band

Saturday, September 19, 2026 – 4:00 pm

Pennypacker Mills, 5 Haldeman Rd, Schwenksville, PA 19473

Enjoy a summer concert presented by the Montgomery County Concert Band. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on at this outdoor performance for all ages. Sponsored by Friends of Pennypacker Mills.

<https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/explore-county/historic-sites/pennypacker-mills/upcoming-events>

Annual Meade Society/American Legion Post 405 Annual Fall Excursion

Saturday to Monday, October 17-19, 2026

Observing America's 250th anniversary with tours of Fort McHenry, the Bull Run battlefield, Alexandria VA and Washington DC. Trip includes deluxe hotel accommodations at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Herndon VA with full hot breakfast each day, and motor coach via Perkiomen Tours, admissions, and an expert on board guide, river cruise on the Potomac River, Saturday buffet dinner at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern in Herndon VA, Sunday Pizza Party, and sight-seeing in Washington DC on Monday. Price is \$460.00 per person, double occupancy (\$472.00 if paying by credit or debit card). There is also a \$100.00 supplement charge if you want a single room.

To register, please contact us by sending a message on the contact page of our website

- www.generalmeade.society.org . A \$50.00 per person deposit is required immediately to confirm, please send it to: The General Meade Society, P.O. Box 394, Abington, PA 19001. Final payment is due no later than September 15th. SEATS ARE GOING FAST !!

This year will be our 21st three day Fall Excursion !

See flyer on page 20 for full information.

Richard Wall House Community Fair & Open House

Sunday, October 18, 2026 – 1:00 to 4:00 pm

1 Wallpark Drive, Elkins Park, PA 19027

The Richard Wall House Museum will host its annual Grand Community Fair and Open House.

Celebrate what makes Cheltenham special with history exhibits in our oldest building (1682) and a day of connection and fun, including demonstrations and more from local historical organizations. Bring the family for hands-on activities, good food, and live music. This year's event is part of the "Cheltenham Celebrates America 250", our official Semiquincentennial events.



The Battle of Turtle Gut Inlet
.....by Tom Donnelly

June 29 was the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Turtle Gut Inlet. Not as well-known as the Battle of Little Big Horn, it is a lot closer to home. The islet is where Wildwood Crest is today. It was filled in in 1921. On June 29, 1776 British warships pursued the American ship *Nancy* into the inlet. It ran aground. The ship's cargo included over 300 barrels of badly needed gunpowder.

American forces, under command of Irish John Barry (the father of the U. S. Navy), held off the British while the Americans unloaded most of the gunpowder. When the British attempted to board the ship, the Americans blew it up taking the boarding party with it. This was one of the first actions by American Naval forces.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR MUSEUM, LIBRARY & ARCHIVE

Lewis-Pattison House c1805

8110 FRANKFORD AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum is a registered non-profit 509(a)(2) corporation.

All memberships and donations are tax deductible.

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 _____

- Mail this application to the Museum with a check payable to "GAR Museum"
- Become a member through PayPal
- Go to our website www.garmuslib.org. Select "MEMBERSHIP" then scroll down to "TO RENEW OR BECOME A MUSEUM MEMBER THROUGH PAYPAL"
- Select "DONATE NOW". Select the membership from the above list and pay that amount.
- If you use PayPal we will acknowledge your membership via email.

Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E- Mail Address _____ Your Privacy is Protected

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 509(a)(2) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.
ALL MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

GARMUSLIB1866@GMAIL.COM