

# GRAND ARMY SCOUT

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



*Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas,  
and Happy New Year to all our  
members and friends*

*From the President ....*

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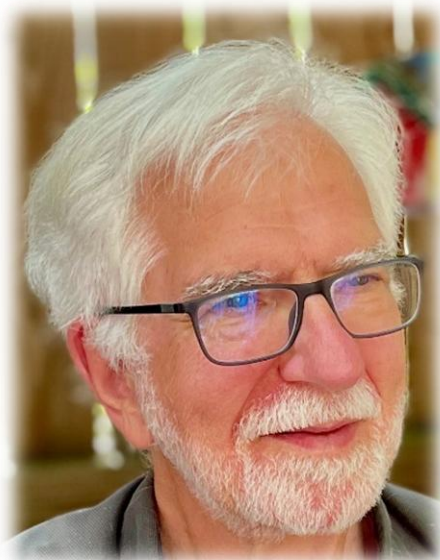
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"Any understanding of this nation has to be based, and I mean really based on, an understanding of the Civil War. I believe that firmly. It defines us. The Revolution did what it did. Our involvement in European wars, beginning with the First World War, did what it did. But the Civil War defined us as what we are, and it opened us to what we became, good and bad things. And it is very necessary, if you're going to understand the American character in the twentieth century, to learn about this enormous catastrophe of the nineteenth century. It was the

crossroads of our being, and it was a hell of a crossroads."

Shelby Foote in *The Civil War*, by Ken Burns.

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum depends on its members to survive. Their devotion to the Museum is important; it helps preserve our cultural heritage, telling stories that connect the past to our present. The Museum is the custodian of our history, preserving artifacts, documents, and narratives for future generations. By carefully curating these items, we can access reminders of the events, ideas, and cultures that shaped our world.

The Museum also provides educational opportunities for all ages through its exhibits and lectures. It acts as a community hub for engagement that sparks curiosity and a deeper understanding of Civil War history.

The Museum is a center of research with collections forming the basis for new knowledge and a deeper understanding of culture and historic change. It helps people understand who we are as a culture and what makes us what we are today. In a rapidly changing world, the Museum reminds us of their shared heritage. Ultimately, the GAR Civil War Museum is not just a storehouse of the past, it is a living institution that encourages reflection, dialogue and appreciation of those who preserved the Union.

Thank you to all our members for their continued support in 2026, our Nation's semiquincentennial year.

*Joe Perry*  
*President & Librarian*

### **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!**

**P.S. A Museum membership makes a great Hanukkah or Christmas gift!!**

## Recent Additions to the Grand Army of the Republic Museum Library

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

*War Stuff. The Struggle for Human and Environmental Resources in the American Civil War* by Joan E. Cashin. 2018

*A Great Sacrifice. Northern Black Soldiers, Their Families, and the Experience of Civil War* by James E. Mendez. 2019



*Bonnet Brigades. American Women and the Civil War* by Mary Elizabeth Massey. 1966

*Spies for the Blue and Gray. The Perilous World of Espionage During the Civil War* by Harnett T. Kane. 1954

*Religion and the American Civil War* by Randall M. Miller, Harry S. Stout and Charles Reagan Wilson editors. 1998

*Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients. A Complete Illustrated Record* by Robert P. Broadwater. 2007

*Roster and Gallery of Chicago's George H. Thomas GAR Post #5* by David C. Bailey. 2024

*Journal of the Fortieth National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Minneapolis, Minnesota. August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 1906.*

*One Gallant Rush: Robert Gould and His Brave Black Regiment/Movie Tie in to the Movie Glory* by Peter Burchard. 1990

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

From *Stories in Stone*:

A vacant chair can symbolize the death of young people as well as children.

A famous Civil War ballad eulogizes eighteen-year-old John William "Willie" Grout, who was killed at Balls Bluff, Virginia, in October 1861.

### ***The Vacant Chair***

*Words by H.S. Washburn. Music by George F. Root, (1861)*

*We shall meet but we shall miss him. / There will be one vacant chair.*

*We shall linger to caress him / While we breathe our ev'ning prayer.*

*When one year ago we gathered, / Joy was in his mind blue eye.*

*Now the golden cord is severed, / And our hopes in ruin lie.*

*Tara Revisited. Women, War, & the Plantation Legend* by Catherine Clinton. 1995

*The Sable Arm. Black Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865* by Dudley Taylor Cornish. 1987

*Battle Scars. Gender and Sexuality in the American Civil War* edited by Catherine Clinton and Nina Silber. 2006



## **New Programs Added to the GAR Museum's YouTube Channel**

"Philadelphia in the Civil War" presented by James Paradis

"George B. McClellan – Action and Hesitation" presented by Kathleen Sharaf

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



## **Recent Zoom Programs**

**Sunday, September 7, 2025**

**"Philadelphia in the Civil War"**

**Presented by Author/Historian James Paradis**

The program observed the city at the outbreak of the war. It examined key men and women on the home front and the battlefield. It also discussed some of the regiments and soldiers from Philadelphia, the hospitals, the naval contributions from Greater Philadelphia, and the famous Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloon.

*[Photo source linkedin.com]*



Dr. Paradis has served for many years on the board of directors of Citizens for the Restoration of Historical La Mott, which preserves the site of Camp William Penn, the first and largest training camp for Black soldiers in the Civil War. He served as historical consultant and narrator for the

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documentary film, "Black Soldiers in Blue: The Story of Camp William Penn," released in 2009. In 2011 the NAACP of Cheltenham, PA awarded him a Certificate of Recognition for his contributions preserving African American history. Author of *Strike the Blow for Freedom: The 6th Regiment of US Colored Infantry* and *African Americans and the Gettysburg Campaign*.

**Sunday, October 12, 2025**

### **"War Stuff: The Struggle for Material Resources Between Soldiers and Civilians"**

**Presented by Author/Historian Joan E. Cashin**



The talk explored the struggle between armies and white civilians over the material resources necessary to wage war: food, timber, and housing. Early in the war, civilians were willing to share resources with the armies they supported, Union or Confederate, but the war took such a toll that civilians began to focus on their own survival. Both armies took whatever they needed from the material world, which destroyed the region's ability to wage war. This behavior by the Confederate army alienated so many pro-Confederate whites that they withdrew their support from the war effort, which contributed to the Union victory.

[Photo source <https://lincolninstitute.org>]

Professor Joan E. Cashin teaches at Ohio State University, and she has a doctorate from Harvard University. She is the author or editor of six books, her latest book, *War Stuff: The Struggle for Human and Environmental Resources in the American Civil War*, won three prizes.

**Sunday, November 2, 2025**

### **"Last Seen: The Enduring Search by Formerly Enslaved People to Find Their Lost Family"**

**Presented by Author/Historian Judith Giesberg**



Drawing from an archive of nearly five thousand letters and advertisements, the riveting, dramatic story of formerly enslaved people who spent years searching for family members stolen away during slavery. Of all the many horrors of slavery, the cruelest was the separation of families in slave auctions. Spouses and siblings were sold away from one other. Young children were separated from their mothers. Fathers were sent down river and never saw their families again.

[Photo source [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)]



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As soon as slavery ended in 1865, family members began to search for one another, in some cases persisting until as late as the 1920s. They took out “information wanted” advertisements in newspapers and sent letters to the editor. Pastors in churches across the country read these advertisements from the pulpit, expanding the search to those who had never learned to read or who did not have access to newspapers. These documents demonstrate that even as most white Americans – and even some younger Black Americans, too – wanted to put slavery in the past, many former slaves, members of the “Freedom Generation,” continued for years, and even decades, to search for one another. These letters and advertisements are testaments to formerly enslaved people’s enduring love for the families they lost in slavery, yet they spent many years buried in the storage of local historical societies or on microfilm reels that time forgot.

Judith Giesberg drew on the archive that she founded – containing almost five thousand letters and advertisements placed by members of the Freedom Generation – to compile these stories in a narrative form for the first time. Her in-depth research turned up additional information about the writers, their families, and their enslavers. With this critical context, she recounted the moving stories of the people who placed the advertisements, the loved ones they tried to find, and the outcome of their quests to reunite.

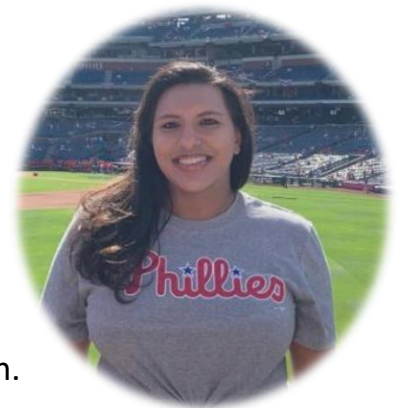
This story underscores the cruelest horror of slavery – the forced breakup of families – and the resilience and determination of the formerly enslaved. Thoughtful, heart-wrenching, and illuminating, *Last Seen* finally gives this lesser-known aspect of slavery the attention it deserves.

**December 7, 2025**

**“George B. McClellan – Action and Hesitation”**

**Presented by GAR Member Historian Kathleen Sharaf**

George B. McClellan – the controversial Union General who, some argue, prolonged the Civil War by years. Despite his reluctance to attack the enemy, McClellan was loved by the men who followed him. The presentation thoroughly examined George McClellan's actions and analyzed the consequences of his hesitation.



*[Photo source Kathleen Sharaf]*

Kathleen is a professor at LaSalle University whose historical research has centered on anti-heroes and villains. Kathleen is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum Board and a member of the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table where she has presented educational programs.

# ***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](mailto:garmuslib1866@gmail.com) or talk directly to one of our Board members.



## ***MUSEUM PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS***

### **Museum News**

..... by Joe Perry



#### **Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum** **Garden Grave Makers Display**

The first GAR grave marker/flag holder was pioneered by Meade Post #1, Philadelphia in 1878. Grave markers were placed by individual Posts designed with their logos, Post name and number on Union veterans' graves.

Many of these markers were lost, stolen, displaced or placed on the wrong grave after being moved during landscaping.

The GAR Museum has received many grave markers over the years. They are now permanently displayed in the Museum's Garden at 8110 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia.





## **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.



## **Museum People**

### **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

*..... by Mary Ann Hartner*

December 7, 2025, marks Remembrance Day, an annual occasion to reflect on the events of December 7, 1941. On this day, we pause to honor the memory of those affected by the attack on Pearl Harbor, which occurred eighty-four years ago.

My grandfather, George D. Frazier, was just eighteen years old when he was stationed at Schofield Barracks on that fateful day. Schofield Barracks, named after Civil War general John Schofield, was the largest U.S. Army barracks at the time and played a key role in the military's response to the attack. Schofield barracks was strafed by planes on that early Sunday Morning, and my grandfather told us that he remembered grabbing a machine gun from a

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locked cabinet and trying to fight back. He was wounded during the attack, but he was one of the survivors who would fight through years of war in the Pacific.

There are only 12 Pearl Harbor survivors alive today in the United States with one living in the Pittsburgh area. My husband John and I are members of a small group of descendants of the PHSA Liberty Bell Chapter 1. I am also a member of the SDPHS.

We gather each year to honor our family members who were there that day. We ask our fellow Americans to do the same.



## Museum Visitors

### GSP Returns for More Tours

.....by *Mary Wible*

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania returned to the GAR Civil War Museum and Archive for two tours on October 24. It was their third visit to the museum, each time bringing new members. Guests came in the morning and in the afternoon to view the extensive artifacts and discover how the museum came about obtaining them. They also learned about the history of the Grand Army of the Republic. Then, those genealogists headed to the archive and research library for some possible information about their Civil War ancestors. Two of our morning guests posed in front of Old Baldy, the star of the show. In the afternoon, Florence Gallagher found out firsthand just how large and heavy those muskets really are.

We were glad to have our friends from GSP join us again during Family History Month. Drop by anytime. When you're here, you're family.



*Mary Wible, Mary Ann Loss, Scott Gagnon, and Walt Lafty*



*Florence Gallagher*

## **Celebrating Members of the General Meade Society** .....by Mary Ann Hartner

What a beautiful August afternoon it was for the GMS Member Appreciation Day Picnic, held in the backyard of the GAR Museum. This year's event saw a greater turnout than last year, with more members joining in the festivities. Thanks to the thoughtful effort of Walt Lafty and John Hartner, there were enough tables and chairs for everyone to settle in comfortably, enjoy some food and engage in great conversations. Nancy Kelsey ordered enough good and varied pizzas for all to enjoy. Annette Wunsch made her delicious pasta salad again (yum!) and I contributed by baking some pumpkin cookies.



The pictures (by Nancy Kelsey) from the event showcase members of the Meade Society, the GAR, and MOLLUS standing in front of an impressive wall of GAR grave markers. This wall, which was completed by Joe Perry and Bill Sheffer of the Museum, stands as a testament to our shared heritage. It features grave markers from A. M. Ross Camp, Post 2 and many more from the area. Preserving the history of our ancestors.

*[photo left - Ellis Adams, Andy Waskie, Gary Grove, Blair Thron, and Mike Peter.]*

Thank you everyone who made this year's picnic a success and looking forward to next year's membership picnic again at the GAR Museum. Hope to see you there.



*From left to right, John Hartner, Kathleen Smith, Andy Waskie, Bill Linhart, Maryann Hartner, Mike Wunsch, Nancy Kelsey, Jerry McCormick, Linda Hauptmann, Gary Grove and Alex Palma*



## Museum Members At Home, Out, and About

### “Following in His Footsteps – Literally”

..... by Mary Wible

Four of the sisters from the DUVCW, Tent 58, Philadelphia, attended the annual Major Octavius V. Catto Ceremony on October 3, 2025, outside Philadelphia City Hall.

Deb Grady, Ellen Higgins, Michele Wallenta and Mary Wible, who are also members of the GAR Civil War Museum and Archive, later joined fellow General Meade Society members at the Union League on Broad Street for a luncheon and award ceremony. *[Photo right – Mary Wible, Michele Wallenta, Ellen Higgins and Deb Grady]*



Ellen and Michele were staying for the weekend to attend their DOLLUS meeting at the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States 140th National Congress. For Ellen, this was one of many. For Michele, it was her first event as a new member.

*[Photo left Michele Wallenta, Ellen Higgins, DOLLUS]*

While exploring the various rooms along the corridor after lunch, Michele happened upon an unexpected surprise in the Lincoln Memorial Room. The eight bronze panels list the men who were members of the Union

League who fought in the War of the Rebellion. There are four on each side of the impressive statue of Abraham Lincoln.

She was looking at the names when she spotted her great grandfather JOHN F. CONWAY, FIRST LIEUT. 15 PENN. CAV. Michele was so stunned and overcome with emotion as she had never known he was a Union League member.

As if that was not enough of a surprise, she later learned that he was also a member of the Military





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Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, also known as MOLLUS. In fact, he was an Original Companion with Insignia Number 03794 PA.

In addition, Michele was elected as the Registrar and Secretary of DOLLUS, Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

Talk about honor and pride. This was surely a weekend for that. Michele walked in that same Union League as her ancestor did. John F. Conaway sat in those rooms, attended meetings, read in the library, ate meals with his comrades and walked those very corridors which are now a part of his great granddaughter's history.

Paul Lader and Dr. Gary Grove were excited to learn of this also. They informed Michele that she needs to see the scrapbooks in the archives which should have more information about John and his comrades. So, I will join her in that visit to the Union League when she returns to this historic building where John walked, as she carries on his legacy one step at a time.

## The Annual Major Catto Honor Ceremony"

*..... by Andy Waskie*



The Major Catto Honor Ceremony was held on Friday, October 3rd, 2025 at the Catto Monument at City Hall and the Major Catto Medal of the PA National Guard at the luncheon at the Union League.

The General Meade Society is a co-sponsor and sponsored a table at the event. This was the 14th year of the Major Catto Medal Awarding, but the event

started (35 years ago!) in 1990 with the Meade Society honoring Major OV Catto at 6th & Lombard Starr Garden Rec Center.



## Spreading the Word

*..... by Walt Lafty*

Mary Wible and Walt Lafty spoke to the Golden Artisans at the Rhawnhurst Presbyterian Church on October 27 to discuss the history of the GAR and the GAR Museum. They discussed the other GAR Allied Orders such as the Sons of Union Veterans and the Daughters of Union Veterans, who still exist to remember the legacy of the GAR and the Civil War veterans. They highlighted and shared samples of the museum's artifacts and archival records. Mary and Walt did the same program on October 7 at the American Legion Post 366 in Fox Chase.

## Gettysburg Annual Remembrance Weekend

A number of members of the GAR Museum & Archive attended and participated in the ceremonies at the annual Gettysburg Remembrance Weekend on Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15. Mary Wible's Daughters of Union Veterans Tent and other women's groups hosted a tea on Friday afternoon. On Saturday, in addition to the annual parade through town, there were events including an honor ceremony at the General Meade Equestrian Monument, where the keynote speaker was Dr. Gary Grove (Recorder-in-Chief, MOLLUS). Andy Waskie was M.C. for the ceremony.

Thanks to Mary Wible for the photos below, and to Andy Waskie and Walt Lafty for supplying the information.







## 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 Major William Righter Longshore, M.D., 147<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was a member of MOLLUS and Robison G.A.R. Post 20 Department of Pennsylvania.



**Major W.R. Longshore, M.D.**

William, who went by W.R. Longshore, was born in Carbon County, Pennsylvania on 10 September 1838. His parents Ashbel B. Longshore and Maria (Righter) Longshore both came from Revolutionary families.

He was educated at Kingston Seminary and Lewisburg University then studied medicine with his father in Hazleton, PA. Later he attended Jefferson Medical College and then Pennsylvania College of Medicine where he graduated in 1860.

On 20 October 1862 he enlisted in the 147<sup>th</sup> PA Volunteers as an assistant surgeon. He was promoted surgeon (Major) on 7 December 1863 and mustered out with Reg't on 15 July 1865.

The 147<sup>th</sup> PA Volunteers took part in many major battles and campaigns. Among those included Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the pursuit of General Lee's army afterwards. They were later transferred to the Army of the Cumberland and Major Longshore would be acting brigade surgeon during Sherman's march from Chattanooga to Atlanta. He would also hold that position of acting brigade surgeon in the march to the sea and throughout the campaigns of the Carolinas.

After the surrender at Appomatax, Major Longshore was able to go home on leave. While home he married Matilda Ann Carter on 25 April 1865. They appear to have had at least two children, Henry and Jennie. He returned to the Army until mustering out with his regiment in July.

Dr. Longshore practiced medicine in Hazleton, PA after the war. He also was active in many organizations which included MOLLUS, the GAR, the Luzerne County Medical Society, the Carbon County Medical Society, the state Medical Society, the Lehigh Valley Medical Association, and the American Medical Association,

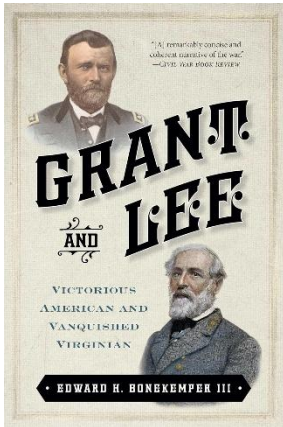
He died 1 December 1915 and is buried at Vine Cemetery in Hazleton with his wife Matilda and son Henry, both who preceeded him in death. Major W.R. Longshore, M.D. is the ancestor of Blair Kennerly Thron Jr., a current member of MOLLUS.

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

***Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian***

by Edward H. Bonekemper III

Regnery History, Washington, DC, 2012, 325 pages



Following the Civil War, ex-Confederate proponents of the “Lost Cause” painted Union commanding General Ulysses S. Grant as a butcher who coldly sacrificed his Federal troops through suicidal charges against Rebel forces.

However, in recent decades historians have begun to sing a different tune. Among them was Edward H. Bonekemper III. In his book *Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian*, historian/attorney Bonekemper builds a compelling case that the label “butcher” better suits Rebel General *Robert E. Lee*, rather than Grant.

The author methodically argues that Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia (ANV) suffered a greater percentage of casualties than Grant throughout the war. Lee’s frontal assaults at Malvern Hill in 1862 and Gettysburg in 1863 are just two examples of disasters that led to losses of high-ranking officers and fighting troops – losses Lee could not afford to lose. A detailed appendix of casualty statistics strongly supports the author’s case. Bonekemper declares that by steadily depleting his fighting force, Lee caused the South to lose the war. Lee, according to Bonekemper, was overly aggressive and should have fought a defensive war until the North became war-weary and sued for a negotiated peace.

Furthermore, Bonekemper points out that Grant commanded *all* Union armies and was a better “Big Picture” strategist. On the other hand, he writes Lee had a “myopic” focus on the war in Virginia and did not have command of all Confederate forces until very late in the war. In resigning his Federal commission, Lee declared his loyalty to his *state* and made no mention of any commitment to the Confederacy. Bonekemper poses that Lee might have prevented the fall of Vicksburg and Atlanta had he agreed to send ANV troops to those war theaters. Although Lee briefly loaned ANV troops to the Rebel army in Tennessee, more often Lee requested troops be pulled from other fronts to reinforce his forces.

Postscript: In his book, *The Myth of the Lost Cause*, Bonekemper debunks many arguments by Southern apologists including that the South fought for “states’ rights.” He points out that all but one Rebel state specified in their secession document that the right to maintain slavery was the key motive for seceding from the Union. Additionally, the Confederate Constitution prohibited states from outlawing slavery.



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

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



### ***General Robert L. Bodine Post 306 Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Department of Pennsylvania Doylestown, PA***

***Photo left courtesy of Bucks County Herald***

Robert Lewis Bodine was born May 30, 1832 in Northampton, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His parents were John R. Bodine and Sarah (Lewis) Bodine. He enlisted as a private in the 26th PA. Infantry (3 year regiment), on May 05, 1861. Robert rose through the ranks quickly being promoted from Private to Commissary Sergeant, June 4, 1861; to 2d Lt. Company K, August 21, 1861; to Captain, January 14, 1862; to Major, July 15, 1862; to Lt. Colonel, October 12, 1863; to Colonel, February 20, 1864; to Brevet Brigadier General, March 14, 1864. He mustered out with Regiment, June 18, 1864.

The 26<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry Regiment was organized in Philadelphia on April 20, 1861. It saw action in many of the major campaigns of the Civil War. Some of those were: The Peninsula Campaign which included the battles of Williamsburg and Fair Oaks (Seven Pines), Savage Station, and Malvern Hill. They also served at Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas), Chantilly, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House. They finished their three year enlistment after the battle of North Anna River and on May 28, 1864, left the front and mustered out in Philadelphia on June 18, 1864.

After the war, Robert returned to his wife Kate (Burn) Bodine whom he married years earlier on July 10, 1856. They appear to have had at least four children: Sallie, Fannie, Nettie, and Robert. He worked as a Flour Inspector and died on January 12, 1874. As a member of G.A.R. Post 2, his comrades were among those in attendance at his funeral. Brevet General Robert L. Bodine is buried at Doylestown Cemetery in Bucks County.

Nine years after his death, a G.A.R Post was formed and named in his honor. General Robert L. Bodine Post 306 mustered in on January 23, 1883 in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA. Newspapers covered the event and reported that Post 2 in Philadelphia sent 115 members including 30 members of the Post 2 Guard to support the new Post. The original 28 charter members included: Charles A. Cuffel who was the first commander of Post 306, Isaiah J. Sellers, Robert Conrad, James Bissey, C.K. Frankenfield, J.F. Atkinson, John Townsend, Thomas P. Miller, John Hargrave, Andrew Connard, James Garis, Miles

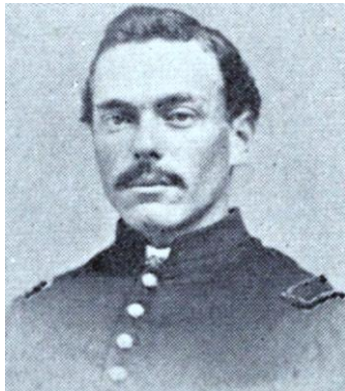
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Williams, William S. Radcliff, Evan Stover, Samuel Silvey, Dr. Frank Swartzlander, Joseph M. Fulton, Lewis K. Bryan, D.W.C. Callender, Samuel S. Ely, Rudolph Meyer, James Gilkyson, Joseph S. Hawk, C. Howard Magill, John Flack, Jacob Clemens, Patrick Harford, and Richard Watson.

Post 306 quickly grew in membership. It appears that it reached its highest membership from 1888 to 1890 where Pennsylvania G.A.R. Annual Encampment records show 73 members in good standing. But then with the aging of its membership, by the end of World War 1, the membership had decreased to 31 and then dramatically dropped over the next ten years.

Among the last surviving members of Post 306 included the following: James S. Rich (died 1921), J. Howard Kohl who died in the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie, PA (died 1924), Charles D. Bigley (died 1925), Samuel W. Brunner (died 1929), George W. Conard (died 1929), and John H. Bishop (died 1935). Comrade Bishop was the last surviving member and last Post Commander of Bodine Post 306. His funeral was in charge of the Atkinson American Legion Post 210. John Bishop had served in Company F, 31st PA Infantry, and then in Company E., 196<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry. He is buried in Carversville Cemetery Bucks County, PA.

Some of the locations where Post 306 met over the years included: Doylestown Public Library, Lenape building; James S. Mann's bakery, 3rd floor; James Kane's building, 2nd floor, Donaldson Street; Thompson Building, Main Street; Mannerchoir Hall (1905).



**Lt. Charles A. Cuffel**

**1843-1907**

**First Commander Bodine Post 306**

*Photo courtesy of Jessicado*

*Find A Grave*



**Dr. John H. Bishop**

**1847-1935**

**Last Commander Bodine Post 306**

*Photo courtesy of Patrick Frederick*

*Ancestry.com*

No known G.A.R. Post records exist for Bodine Post 306. However, in the absence of such, this author conducted research identifying 72 members of Post 306. Utilizing G.A.R. Pennsylvania Department Encampment records, newspaper accounts, 1890 Veterans census records as well as other records from Ancestry.com, FOLD 3, PA State Archives, and other sources, a Bodine Post 306 record is now available at both the Bucks County Civil War Museum in Doylestown, PA, as well as the G.A.R. Civil War Museum in Northeast Philadelphia, PA. It is a list of the 72 members, their military unit, the connection to Post 306, and death and burial dates and location. While the highest membership for any one year was reached in 1888-1890, the actual number of members over the life of the post is undetermined but could be more than 73.

## *Will the Real, Steven Kelly, Please Stand Up? The Strange Case of Pvt. Steven Kelly*

*By Kyle Grant Purchase*

Twenty years after the Battle of Gettysburg, the memories of the battle were still fresh in the veterans' minds. Monuments, markers and tablets were placed all over the battlefield with assistance from the Gettysburg Park Commission, a precursor organization managing the park before it was operated by the National Park Service. The veterans of the 91<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry were no different. In the summer of 1883, the veterans returned to the hallowed ground at Gettysburg to dedicate their monument at the summit of Little Round Top. The regiment would also receive a much larger monument in 1889, with the availability of state funds, and the original placed near the Hazlett's Battery D, 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Artillery marker a few yards away.



Members of the 91<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania dedicating their original monument on Little Round Top, August 1883. The veteran with his right hand on the monument is Joseph Hill Sinex, who was Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment at Gettysburg. Lt. Col. Sinex would serve in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1883-1884. He served on Philadelphia City Council prior to the war and is buried at Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Joseph's brother, Sgt. Robert Sinex, also a veteran of the 91<sup>st</sup>, is to the left of the monument with his left hand on the monument. Robert is buried at Vine Street Cemetery in Hazleton.



The 91<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania monument sitting alone with the backdrop of the battlefield. The much larger "castle tower" monument would take its' place on this spot in 1889.

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

After the dedication in August 1883, the veterans then journeyed over to the Soldiers' National Cemetery to pay respects to their fallen comrades. One of those buried comrades was Pvt. Steven Kelly of Co. E, buried in Section A, Grave #88 of the Pennsylvania Plot. That was when something seemed a bit odd - Pvt. Steven Kelly was among the veterans of the 91<sup>st</sup> who returned to Gettysburg in 1883! So how could Pvt. Kelly be dead and have a headstone in the cemetery where he was alive and breathing, and putting flowers on it with his comrades?

There is an explanation. When the 91<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania were making their way to Gettysburg in the summer of 1863 with the rest of the V Corps, Pvt. Kelly became ill and could not continue the march and was taken to a hospital. At some point and for some reason, he had lost his water canteen, which had his name scratched into it. Pvt. Kelly had done this to multiple articles of his equipment in case if he were to be killed in battle and there could be something of use to identify him for burial and recordkeeping purposes.

The 91<sup>st</sup> PA were part of Brigadier General Stephen Weed's brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, of the V Corps of the Army of the Potomac, brigaded together with the 140<sup>th</sup> and 146<sup>th</sup> New York Infantries, and the 155<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 91<sup>st</sup> along with the rest of the brigade were ordered on the double quick to advance and assist the defense of the summit of Little Round Top.

During the battle, the brigade would lose Gen. Weed after he was shot in the chest while standing next to Lt. Charles E. Hazlett of Hazlett's Battery D, 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Artillery. Lt. Hazlett himself would be killed after being shot in the head and falling on top of Gen. Weed's body. Gen. Weed would die later in the day from his wounds. The 140<sup>th</sup> New York's Colonel Patrick Henry O'Rourke, 1861 West Point graduate and first in his class, would also be killed during the fight. In the end of the three days, the brigade lost about 200 casualties or 13.4% total strength.

While the Union dead were in the process of being collected after the fight, it was noticed that a canteen with Pvt. Kelly's inscription lay near a dead soldier, thus assuming the dead soldier was Pvt. Kelly himself.

Pvt. Steven Kelly served in the 91<sup>st</sup> PA, Co. E, enlisting as 'Stephen Kelly,' and would serve with the regiment, first mustering in on August 21, 1861, and mustering out on September 8, 1864. The regiment fought in major battles of the Eastern Theater including Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and the Overland Campaign of 1864. Pvt. Kelly's name does not appear on the 91<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania's bronze roster tablet at the base of the Pennsylvania State Monument in Gettysburg.

After the war, Pvt. Kelly became a member of E.D. Baker Post #8, Pennsylvania Department, of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) in August 1874 and participated with fellow comrades in returning to Gettysburg with the survivors of the regiment where he discovered his "grave." According to a Gettysburg battlefield guide, Pvt. Kelly was quoted saying, "Each Decoration Day I go up there and strew some flowers on the tomb of the man who is substituting for me."

Pvt. Kelly had attempted to correct the mistake with the War Department and apply for a pension, but he was unable to convince the government he was alive and was unfortunately denied. In addition, when he eventually passed away in early 1889, his request being buried in the Soldiers



## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

National Cemetery with the rest of the 91<sup>st</sup>'s dead of Gettysburg was also denied and was instead laid to rest at Philadelphia National Cemetery in Section F, where he is today. Despite the bizarre story of Pvt. Kelly, his service and the rest of the 91<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania will never be forgotten.

The fallen soldiers of the 91<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania at Gettysburg were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. John. W. Molyneux, Co. B (B-83 Pennsylvania Plot); killed on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and initially buried opposite Little Round Top
- Pvt. Patrick J. O'Conner, Co. D (C-51 Pennsylvania Plot); wounded in the head and killed on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and initially buried on the south side of Little Round Top
- Pvt. James Rae, Co. E (A-84 Pennsylvania Plot); wounded in the thigh on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, died on July 4<sup>th</sup> and initially buried east of Michael Fiscel's house
- Cpl. Samuel N. Selah, Co. G; shot in the intestines and died July 3<sup>rd</sup>, buried at Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, Plot A-140

*“On Fame’s eternal camping ground  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And Glory guards, with solemn round,  
The bivouac of the dead.”*

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- RootsWeb. “Stephen Kelly’s Death.”  
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(Much special thanks to Walt Lafty of the G.A.R. Museum in Philadelphia for providing additional details of Pvt. Kelly's involvement with E.D. Baker Post #8.)



The “castle tower” monument today. The original foundation for the 1883 monument is just behind this monument.

*Philadelphia Inquirer* article from 1889 detailing Pvt. Kelly’s story. He was temporarily held in a vault at Monument Cemetery (a now defunct cemetery and currently part of Temple University’s campus) before being moved to Section F of Philadelphia National Cemetery. He is grave #29 in that section.



Pvt. Kelly’s headstone at Philadelphia National Cemetery

## THE TWICE-BURIED SOLDIER.

**The Remains of Stephen Kelly Temporarily Placed in a Vault at Monument Cemetery.**

The remains of Stephen Kelly, an old Pennsylvania volunteer soldier, who, according to the official records of the War Department at Washington, has been dead and buried for twenty-five years, but who really died at his home, 949 South Ninth street, on Tuesday last, were yesterday temporarily deposited in a receiving vault at Monument Cemetery. The curious facts in connection with the deceased are that he will have two graves, one at the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, and the other at the Soldiers' Cemetery, Germantown. The late Mr. Kelly, who had served throughout the war in Company E Ninety-first Pennsylvania Volunteers, took up his residence in this city at its close and joined E. D. Baker Post, No. 8, G. A. R.

While at Gettysburg attending a summer encampment he came across an inscription on a grave stating that underneath lay the body of Stephen Kelly, Company E, Ninety-first Regiment, P. V. This was his first intimation of his own death and burial. Of course he took steps to have the mistake rectified, but nothing was done at headquarters, and the matter was suffered to lapse. The mistake had originated through a canteen with Kelly's name on it being found alongside of a dead soldier, and it was supposed the body was that of Kelly. Deceased, although a Roman Catholic, had requested that his obsequies should be conducted according to Grand Army rites, and accordingly Baker Post No. 8 took charge of the arrangements. The services at the rooms of the post, corner of Broad street and Columbia avenue, commencing shortly after 2 o'clock, Rev. John W. Sayers, department chaplain, officiating.

Floral offerings in many pretty designs were profusely strewn around the casket. At the conclusion of the services the funeral cortege formed on Broad street, headed by the Athletic Cornet Band, Commander J. LeSnow. About 250 old warriors were in line, consisting of Ninety-first Pennsylvania Union Veterans' Legion, Camp No. 2, under the command of William A. Witherup. Along the route of the procession crowds had gathered, and numbers followed all the way to the cemetery. Additional services were held on arrival at the vault by Rev. J. W. Ferguson. The remains will be interred to-day in the Soldiers' Cemetery at Germantown.

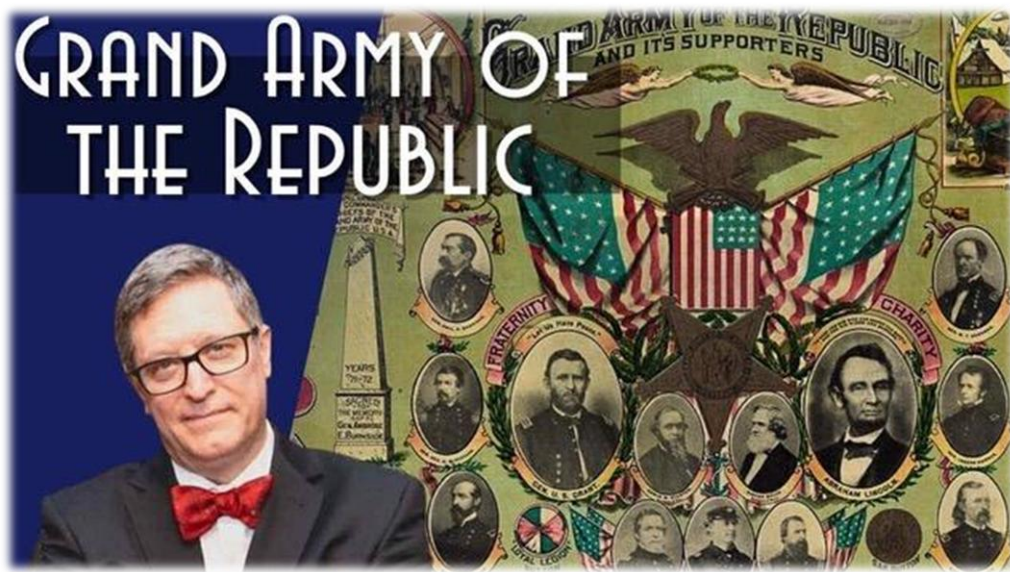
## **CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS AND ON THE WEB**

*..... articles submitted by Andy Waskie*

### **About the GAR – with a local twist**

Lance Geiger “The History Guy” has just released an episode on YouTube on the Grand Army of the Republic. He quotes a well-known Philadelphia professor (I wonder who it is?) a few times. Worth a viewing, some photos not seen before, plus a few familiar ones.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Myzzj2OcVt4>



### **US Civil War veterans honoured with new headstones in Derby, UK**

Two veterans of the American Civil War have been honoured with new gravestones at their cemetery in Derby.

Samuel Hough, who served with the 2nd New Jersey Cavalry, and Henry McGuinness, of the 65th New York Infantry, were moved to the US for a time but returned to Britain after the war. They were buried in Nottingham Road Cemetery, Chaddesden, but never received official recognition for their time with the Union (northern army).

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cdx27q1xgelo?app-referrer=deep-link>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Annual General Meade Birthday Celebration with Meade Society at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery  
Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 11:30 am**

**3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia**

This year will mark the 210<sup>th</sup> annual anniversary of the birth of General George G. Meade, heroic commander of the victorious Union army at the Battle of Gettysburg. The General Meade Society of Philadelphia will celebrate his birthday at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Ave. at noon. A champagne toast and reception will follow the program.

Military and civilian living historians are encouraged to participate!

For info/registration: Andy Waskie [awaski01@gmail.com](mailto:awaski01@gmail.com) or Laurel Hill Cemetery at 215-228-8200

**Annual Benjamin Franklin Birthday Celebration Parade and Honor Ceremony**

**Friday, January 16, 2026, 11:30 am**

Meet at 11:30 am at 5<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut St. next to Library Hall. All are welcome to attend and participate!

SPEAKER: Maj Gen Wesley E. Craig, PA National Guard, *'Franklin's Associators, PANG and the 28th Infantry Division: Three Centuries of Service'*

<https://www.franklincelebration.org/>

Please RSVP to [awaski01@gmail.com](mailto:awaski01@gmail.com)

**McCormick Civil War Institute Spring 2026 Conference**

**"Quenching The... Embers" – Victory, Defeat, and Challenges After Appomattox**

**Saturday, April 18, 2026, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia.

Featuring presentations by historians Jeffrey Boutwell, William C. "Jack" Davis, Caroline Janney, and Jonathan Noyalas. For details <https://www.su.edu/mcwi/upcoming-mccormick-civil-war-institute-events/mccormick-civil-war-institute-spring-conference/>





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