

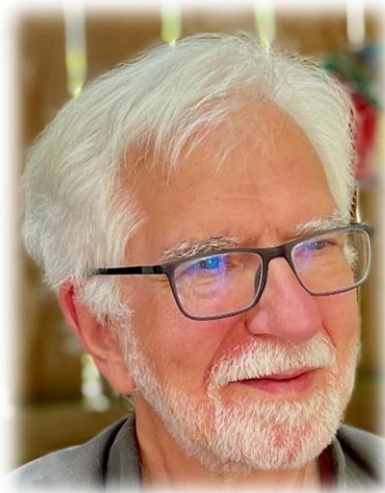


GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Newsletter of the Grand Army of the Republic
Civil War Museum & Archive Summer 2024



From the President



Connecting the Public Continues

The latest news:

The GAR Museum's new digital scanner is providing safe access to archival documents. Fragile post records, original source documents and file material will have an easy and fast way to view them without damage from light and physical handling.

Digital images will be added to our online catalog that will open the Museum's collections to a global audience. Invaluable resources now solely accessible in-house will soon be available to researchers in an electronic format.

Here are two more ways that the Museum is connecting to the public:

- Volunteers who visit organizations have a portable projector to show short videos to an audience who are unfamiliar with the Museum
- Public access to the Museum collections and programs are now available on our YouTube Channel.

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

The info-tech revolution has created an entire new world – a digital world, full of universally accessible knowledge. The Museum needs to be in this new world.

The Museum collection explores how Civil War soldiers understood Union victory and the downfall of the Confederacy. It also explores women's war

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Incorporated as: PHILADELPHIA
CAMP SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.garmuslib.org

experiences during the war, both at home and in the field caring for wounded Union servicemen.

The Museum volunteer staff are entrusted to safeguard the collection and building. As they work hard to do this, they will also continue to find ways to open the collection to a wider audience. They will continue to connect the public and look to the friends of the Museum for support in this endeavor.

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 2024. 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!

VISIT OUR NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL

**TAKE A SHORT TOUR OF THE MUSEUM AND LISTEN TO HISTORIAN
PRESENTATIONS**

www.youtube.com/@garmuseum

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

REGULAR PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 1:00PM

These are FREE virtual programs

***UPCOMING FREE COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS***



Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: Historian and Museum Research Administrator Walt Lafty

"Soldiers of Faith: The Chaplains of the Civil War"

In the American Civil War, the overwhelming numbers of soldiers (both Union and Confederate) looked to religion and faith as a great sustainer of morale. Providing the spiritual needs were the clergy of almost every Christian denomination, rabbis, and preachers of the Jewish faith, and even nontraditional ministers of the gospel. Many of those preachers of God and their various denominational leadership struggled with the issue of slavery in the years leading up to the war. Interpretations of scripture divided many. Yet, a few thousand of those "Soldiers of Faith" volunteered to serve as Hospital, Regimental, and Post Chaplains. Many suffered and died, both of disease and killed in combat. Some even took up arms when situations arose, and some earned high accolades in official reports as well as a few who earned the Medal of Honor. The focus will be on highlighting some of the instrumental Chaplains who served from many religious organizations.

Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: Author historian Allen Guelzo

"Our Ancient Faith: Lincoln, Democracy and the American Experiment"

Professor Allen Guelzo serves as the Thomas W. Smith Distinguished Research Scholar and Director of the Initiative on Politics and Statesmanship in the James Madison Program at Princeton University. Dr. Guelzo is "one of the Nation's foremost experts on Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Era" – Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer

This program will be broadcast through ZOOM. *****Please note that participation will be limited to the first 100 reservation requests.*****

Reservations for a seat at our virtual programs may be made by sending a request to garmuslib1866@gmail.com. Please make your reservation by the Saturday prior to the program. Email is not monitored on Sunday morning. For additional First Sunday Community programs from the Museum, please follow the Museum website <https://garmuslib.org/> for information as it becomes available.

MUSEUM PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS

Museum News

..... by Joe Perry

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.

YouTube Channel & Digitization

The Museum's YouTube Channel, "GAR Museum Philadelphia", contains recorded program lectures and other interesting presentations. Future lectures will be added.

The collection catalog is coming soon. It will contain the location of Archive material, unit histories, *GAR Encampment Journals*, biographical vertical files and artifacts in the Museum. It will be accessible from our website.

Digitizing our collection is an on-going process soon to be enhanced with the purchase of an overhead document and book digital scanner.

The Museum continues its commitment to public access and digitization. This is the best way to share and preserve our collections.

If you don't have a YouTube account, please consider making one and subscribing to the Museum's channel. It's free. All subscriptions help the Museum and allow you to always see our new videos pop up in your feed.

Here is a link to the latest addition to the Channel – "A Short Tour of the Museum."

www.youtube.com/@garmuseum

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.

"Research Requests", "Call for Volunteers", "YouTube Channel" and "Renew Membership".

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.

Museum People

In Memoriam

Dan Cashin

“Fair winds and following seas, dear friend!” by Pat Caldwell, Editor



The Civil War community was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of long-time member Dan Cashin on May 29, 2024. Dan passed away after a short illness.

Life-long Philadelphian and Delaware Countian, Dan was a naval aficionado, and was deeply involved in local organizations as a researcher and reenactor. He worked at the Philadelphia Navy Yard for many years, taught industrial crane safety and rigging for the Philadelphia College Consortium, and was a re-enactor with the USS *Lehigh* Union Navy group. Among his interests were Fort Delaware, Civil War POWs, including naval and marine POWs, and the 71st PA at Gettysburg. Dan was long-time member of the GAR Museum & Archive, the Delaware Valley CWRT, the Brandywine Valley CWRT, the General Meade Society, the Fort Delaware Society, and the SUVCW. Services were held privately by the family.

STAY HISTORIC by Mary Wible, Board Member

Dan Cashin's passing is just so totally heartbreaking and sudden, that it is hard to comprehend. He taught me so much about Union Naval history, and knew all of those personal stories about the sailors that made it so interesting. I can still picture Dan standing off to the side in his naval uniform with his canon which he fired at my Union Navy ancestor's Civil War memorial service in 2021. My family and I will be forever grateful to him.

Dan presented me with the opportunity to hold a piece of the history from the Merrimack and the Monitor. He also kindly gave me his book about Father Corby last Remembrance Day in Gettysburg where we attended Mass on the battlefield with so many others. He had just received a call that his mother-in-law was taken to the hospital, and he was anxious to get back home.

Across the street from the GAR Museum and to the left is a small, white house where Dan's 3x great grandparents lived during the time of the Civil War. They are buried down the street at the Emmanuel Resurrection Episcopal Church Cemetery. Little did they know that they would have a grandson who would bring such honor to so many Civil War naval heroes as he researched and brought forth their names and stories for all to know. It was Dan's final gift to the museum.

Dan often signed his emails with the closing - STAY HISTORIC. I promise you, Dan, that we will. Your history will always be a part us who are from the Civil War community that you so enlightened with your knowledge and friendship. Rest in peace, dear friend.

A Researcher and a Gentleman by Walt Lafty, Research Administrator

Many of us will remember Dan Cashin for his extensive knowledge of all things Navy. He was truly one of the most knowledgeable people I have ever known who not only knew the ships and the battles, but he remembered the people and tried to honor their individual service to this country. You name a ship, Civil War or even World War 2, and Dan could almost always tell you where the ship was built and served. But I believe his research passion was for the Navy men and women who sacrificed, whether wounded, killed, or as a prisoner of war. His work on the latter issue, especially in the Civil War, is comprehensive. I will always remember him as someone who researched tenaciously so those who sacrificed would not be forgotten. Beyond his knowledge of naval history, he was a gentleman in every sense treating others with courtesy and friendliness. May he rest in peace.

He will be missed!by Kathleen Smith, Membership & Special Events Coordinator

Dan was a very kind man and a great historian. I spoke with him at many of the GAR's events and I enjoyed our conversations. He pointed me in the direction of finding two of my CW ancestors who were imprisoned during the war, one in a Union prison and the other in a Confederate prison. His knowledge was boundless, and he will be missed.

Dan pictured with Mike Comfort (l) and Jack Lieberman in photo provided by Andy Waskie



The GAR Museum & Archive Remembers Dan Cashinby Joe Perry, Museum President

Dan was a preeminent authority of naval history. His impromptu stories during his frequent visits to the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum were enjoyed by many. Dan was extremely dedicated to historical research and displayed a high degree of honesty, loyalty and integrity.

Dan has been a US Navy reenactor for over 16 years and has done living history aboard the USS *Constellation* in Baltimore, at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, and in New York for the USS *Monitor* dedications. Dan is on the Board of Directors of the Fort Delaware Society.

He was a long-time member of the Grand Army of Republic Civil War Museum and the General Meade Society of Philadelphia.

He was Junior Vice Commander of the Sgt. Jones Bradbury Camp, SUVCW.

His database "Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics", is a list of U.S. Naval and USMC POWS of the Civil War. It was donated to the GAR Museum.

Here are two articles about Dan.

From Marple Newtown, PA Local News, the "Patch"
Newtown Square Historical Society Presents: Lecture Series- "The U.S.S. *Alligator*"
Guest speaker, **Dan Cashin**,
Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 7:45 pm
Dunwoody Auditorium
3500 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA, 19073

The "*Alligator*" was the first submarine purchased by the US Government back in the 1800s. The Newtown Square Historical Society presents Guest speaker, Dan Cashin, at the Dunwoody Village Auditorium in Newtown Square, on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012. The program will begin at 8:00 P.M. There is no charge to attend this presentation and school children are welcome. Fifteen minutes prior to the program, the Society will have a brief general meeting open to the public. Come early to stay informed about what's new in historic Newtown Square.

Dan explains how The *Alligator* influenced the history of Marcus Hook. As a participant in many Civil War enactments, Dan is knowledgeable on many facets of the devastating war between the Union and the succeeding states of the south. His little-known story of the U.S.S. *Alligator* includes the ironclad USS *Monitor* and a Confederate submarine, CSS *Hunley*. This story appears to be directly out of Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Although the sub was launched from a Philadelphia shipyard in 1862, it had many components of modern submarines and ties to Delaware County.

From the *Grand Army Scout*
Spring 2022
Newsletter of the GAR Museum

Preserving an Artifact by Joe Perry

As we began our move to our new location, we had to make several difficult decisions concerning some of our furniture. For many years an old table sat in the back library room. The table had previously suffered water damage and was in seriously poor condition. The wood had dried out and the center was broken away. However, museum member Dan Cashin believed that this historic table could be saved.

On May 3, Dan and Henry Connor arrived at the new museum and brought with them a truly beautiful and fully restored gaming table. This table once probably sat in the library at the Post 2 Memorial Hall.

This is a tilt-top game (or center) table designed and patented by George Hunzinger (1835-1898) in 1894. It features his patented hinge that allows the top to tilt and lock into place. One top has an inlaid chess/checkerboard and the flip top is green felt for playing cards. The table sits on legs with animal claw feet.

George Hunzinger achieved numerous patents throughout his career and is known for incorporating mechanical innovations in his chairs and tables. His works are found in the permanent collections of many museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Dan and Henry for their outstanding efforts in preserving this fine piece of Civil War and G. A. R. history.

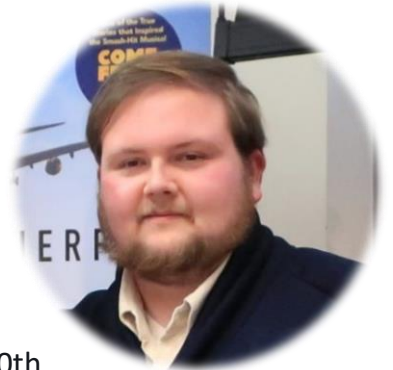


[Editor's Note – The Museum's Book Corner features a review that had been sent to us by Dan.]

Programs

Sunday, June 2, 2024

“The Legacy of the Left at Gettysburg: Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, Strong Vincent, and the Abrogation of Historical Truth”
Presented by Hans Myers



It is a story everyone thinks they know: Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the 20th Maine stood alone, against overwhelming odds, and saved the left flank of the Army of the Potomac at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, on Little Round Top. This story is a lie: the 20th Maine represented only one part of the total Federal defense of the left flank. How did myth come to dominate and suppress actual history? Based upon original primary source material and long-overlooked records, author Hans Myers explained how the history of Gettysburg was rewritten, and how it can still be saved.

Photo from <https://history.case.edu/student/hans-myers/>

Sunday, July 14, 2024



“The Civil War Soldiers’ Orphan Schools of Pennsylvania Est. 1864 – An Untold, Unforgettable Story of the Civil War”
Presented by William Peck and Martha Gold

Featuring research from the only modern investigation of Pennsylvania’s state system of social relief, the Soldiers’ Orphan Schools (SOS) provides a look at an important point in Civil War history and its aftermath. What began as a popular issue of the heart to care for the orphans of the Civil War, spearheaded by Gov. Andrew Curtin, became distorted by the politics of self-interest, the stubbornness of inertia, and even the simple but profoundly unexpected flukes of history. Rocked by “the Scandal of 1886,” accusations of child abuse as well as unspeakable acts of corruption turned the Nation against this philanthropic enterprise. Ultimately, Pennsylvania’s care of the soldiers’ orphans was unique, and one school, Scotland School, remained in existence until 2009. Today, little remains of the SOS original presence except the many graduates who are a living legacy of this benevolent state program who serve as a testament of the original vision of this program in which a grateful state fulfilled their commitment to care for the children of its veterans.

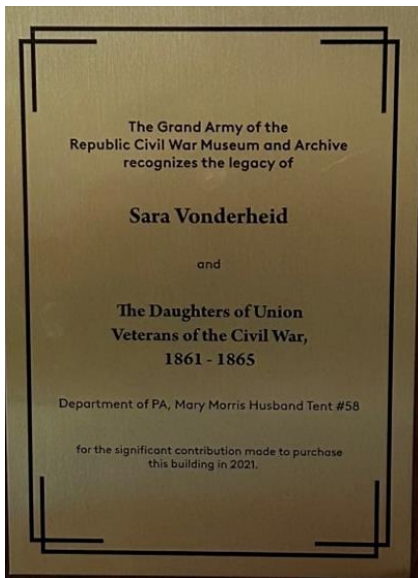
[Photo from Cape May County CWRT Facebook page]

Museum Visitors

G.A.R. Museum Honors Sara Vonderheid

On Sunday, June 23, 2024, the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive presented a plaque to the DUVCW, Dept. of PA, Mary Morris Husband, Tent 58, to honor the legacy of Sara Vonderheid for her generosity.

The sisters of Tent 58 made a significant contribution of \$50,000.00 in Sara's name to purchase the new museum in 2021.



Museum board member Mary Ann Hartner presented the plaque to Department President and Tent 58 member, Ellen Higgins. It will hang on the wall by the women's display case.

A tour of the museum and archive was given to the sisters by Mary Ann Hartner, John Hartner, Kathleen Smith and Walt Lafty.

It was a wonderful day of camaraderie exploring the museum, getting to know the museum representatives and honoring ancestors to **KEEP GREEN THE MEMORY**. Several of the sisters are already members of the G.A.R. Museum.

..... by Mary Wible



L - R - Tent 58 sisters Sharee Solow, Regina Kelly, Deb Grady, Michele Wallenta, Ellen Higgins, Mary Wible, Kathy Wible and Patti Offner.

A Family History Day at the GAR Museum

..... by Mary Wible

Mary Ellen Kane and Jake Keczely set out for a family day of Holmesburg history.

Jake, an eleven-year-old World War 2 enthusiast, was eager to learn more about the Civil War. So, like General George Washington, they headed along the King's Highway to visit the Lewis-Pattison House which was built in 1805 before the Civil War. In other words, they took Frankford Avenue to the Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Archive at 8110 Frankford Avenue.

They were amazed at the amount of incredible artifacts on display at this hidden, neighborhood, historical gem of a museum. Walt Lafty and Bill Sheffer taught Jake about the steps involved in loading and firing a rifle, and what the soldiers on the battlefield experienced in doing so. Both Mary Ellen and Jake were surprised at the heavy weight of it, but I'd say that Jake caught on quickly as you can see in the photo.



Consider a family history day in the neighborhood and stop by to visit us. We'd love to have you as our guests.

Cape May County CWRT Visits the Museum



Cape May County CWRT President John Herr visited the Philadelphia GAR museum on Tuesday, July 9 and met with (from left to right) Tom Donnelly - GAR, Bill Peck - upcoming speaker at GAR on Sunday, July 14, Joe Perry - Museum curator and John Herr.

[Photo from CMCCWRT Facebook page]

Museum Members At Home, Out, and About

Community Outreach

On behalf of the GAR Museum on June 8, Mary Wible and Walt Lafty helped facilitate a tour of the nearby All Saints Church Graveyard. Mary assisted Debbie Klack, the church historian, with family info, and Walt talked about their military or GAR experience. About 85 people attended, including Museum members Andy Waskie, Kathleen Sharaf, and Tom Donnelly.



Regina Kelly joins Mary Wible on the tour. Both are members of DUVCW, Tent 58. Regina was also at the plaque presentation with Tent 58 (see page 12), and she recently brought two of her grandsons to the museum for a tour, where Walt Lafty and Herb Kaufman gave the boys a demonstration using the rifles and allowing them to try them out.

Civil War Education



On June 20, the Civil War Round Table of Cape May County enjoyed the presentation "Civil War Medicines and Practices" by Herb Kaufman, as seen in this photo published on the Cape May County CWRT Facebook page.

Decoration Day at Laurel Hill Cemeteryby Mary Wible

A number of our Museum members, along with the DUVCW Tent 58 recreated the original G.A.R. Decoration Day Service of the Grand Army Meade Post #1 of 1868 at Laurel Hill Cemetery on Saturday, May 26. Laurel Hill is the site of the first Memorial Day in Philadelphia in 1868.



Mike Peter and Walt Lafty join the reenactors at the commemoration.



(Upper Left) Michele Wallenta, Deb Grady, Mary Wible and Albert El at the Mary Morris Husband monument. Michele, Deb and Mary belong to the DUVCW Tent 58

(Right) Mary Wible, Michele Wallenta, Deb Grady strike a pose at the Meade Family



A Visit to Normandy

by Mary Wible

On May 13, 2024, I had the honor and privilege to visit the Caen Memorial Museum, Omaha Beach and the Normandy American Cemetery during this 80th anniversary year.

It is difficult to put into words the emotions you feel when standing on Omaha Beach, looking out over the tranquil water as you try to envision those brave, young American men as they stormed the beach under such deadly circumstances.



A memorial service by our Viking representative included a speech to thank our Americans for their freedom, a laying of a wreath in their honor, the playing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “Taps” which was followed by the American veterans in our group being recognized and thanked.

From there it was on to Normandy American Cemetery.

There was something about standing on that hallowed ground in another country that made such a huge impact. Our countrymen fought to save theirs, and the French are still forever grateful.

So many school children from elementary to high school were present. How wonderful it is to know that the French keep their history alive and appreciate the contributions of the United States. Something that they still pass down through the generations.



June 6, 2024 will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Some of our WW2 veterans will return to Normandy for special ceremonies. God bless these brave and admirable veterans of The Greatest Generation.



L-R Deb Grady and Mary Wible, both DUVCW, Tent 58, at Normandy American Cemetery



Curator's Corner ... by Herb Kaufman

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

A Tribute to Our Friend Dan Cashin

On hearing of the sudden and totally unexpected passing of our friend and member Dan Cashin, we organized this naval display as a tribute to Dan's memory



***Dan Cashin
December 27, 1948 – May 29, 2024***



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War
SUCVW*

The Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Honor, Tradition and Legacy

By Walt Lafty



*Daughters of Union
Veterans of the Civil War
DUVCW*



*Auxiliary to Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War
ASUVCW*



*Ladies of the Grand
Army of the Republic
LGAR*



*Woman's Relief
Corps
WRC*

From Thursday June 27 through Sunday June 30, 2024, the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) held their 144th Pennsylvania Department Annual Encampment. It was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia.

For anyone not familiar with an encampment, it's basically a conference. There are Departments (State) and National Encampments, and each holds one yearly. The attendees were all members of the various Allied Orders of the G.A.R. which are listed above with their respective badges. They remember and honor those who sacrificed during the Civil War. Most are descendants, but there are some associate members not having ancestry but who share an interest in the Civil War.

Thursday began with a bus tour of the entire perimeter of Valley Forge Park by local historian and guide, Mr. Ken Gavin. The tour included stops at the Muhlenberg Brigade Huts, Washington's Headquarters Complex at the Potts House, and the Grand Parade Overlook at the Von Steuben Statue. While traveling from stop to stop, a steady stream of substantive content was provided. Included was the complex and intricately connected set of military, political, social, and economic factors that led Washington to select Valley Forge as the location for the main Continental Army's winter encampment in 1777-1778. Additional stops included the National Memorial Arch and the Hospital Hut as well as a separate visit to Washington's Chapel.

Friday began with a Memorial Service to the 21 Sisters and Brothers who died since last year's encampment. Those included one woman from the ASUVCW, three women from the DUVCW, and 17 men of the SUCVW. In a beautiful tradition, a Sister carried a rose up to the Department Chaplain for each woman and rendered a salute. The same was done for each man of the SUCVW by one of the Brothers. GAR Museum members Albert El, Bob Louis, Rob Clare, and Walt Lafty were among those who carried a white rose up to honor four of the deceased brothers. Walt had the honor of carrying one for our late GAR member Dan Cashin.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

It was then a day full of business for each of the various groups followed by an evening Campfire. While not literally a campfire, but held indoors, the Master of Ceremonies was GAR Board member Mike Peter, who is also past Commander of Baker-Fisher Camp 101 SUVCW. The fun filled night included donations presented by the Allied Orders to various groups who have done charitable and/or volunteer work in the community, The highlight of the evening was the entertainment provided by the Fort Delaware Band. In period attire they played the music of the era and educated the audience to the history of many of the tunes, as well as discussions about the various period instruments. The reviews by those in attendance were astounding as everyone thoroughly enjoyed the concert.

Saturday was another day full of business which culminated in the election of officers in each of the various Allied Orders. Mike Peter was elected to the position of Pennsylvania Department Senior Vice Commander. Congratulations Mike. Ellen Higgins was congratulated and given a tremendous thank you for her many years as part of the Department Encampment committee. Her tireless work for more than a decade has made every Department Annual Encampment a success. The evening concluded with a banquet and presentation by GAR Museum member as well as Union League member, Jim Mundy. Jim provided an outstanding program, including a terrific power point program on the Great Sanitary Fair at Philadelphia in June 1864. That Fair was the encampment theme.

Baker-Fisher Camp 101 SUVCW performed the Honor Guard services at the Saturday evening banquet. Camp 101 has two namesakes, Colonel Edward Baker KIA at Balls Bluff in 1862, and Lt. John H. Fisher KIA at the Wilderness in 1864. The Camp has 12 brothers who are GAR Museum members. They are Craig Bird, Michael Borish, Rob Clare, Dave Daniel, Michael Gabriele, Brian Harris, Walt Lafty, Bob Louis, Gerry O'Neil, Joe Perry, Mike Peter, and Kyle Purchase.

GAR Museum members who are also active members in **Mary Morris Husband Tent 58 DUVCW** include: Mary Wible, Michele Wallenta, Ellen Higgins, Kathy Wible, Sharee Solow, Deb Grady, and Jackie Carter. Tent 58 was named for Mary Morris, the granddaughter of Robert Morris, Revolutionary War financier and signer of the Declaration of Independence. She married a prominent and wealthy Philadelphia attorney, J. I. Husband. Mary Morris Husband was a well-known Pennsylvania nurse. She worked for three years in field hospitals and traveled on hospital transports to Harrison's Landing, Baltimore, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. She also traveled with the Army to Gettysburg in June of 1863 and later served in a hospital in Port Royal.



Tent 58 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) from left to right:

Sharee Solow, Michele Wallenta, Sharon Cossaboon, Ellen Higgins, Donna Gerber, Mary Wible

GRAND ARMY SCOUT



Baker-Fisher Camp 101

*Front row sitting left to right: John McNulty, Reggie Wirth, Glenn Roedel, Walt Laffy
Back row standing left to right: Kyle Purchase, Jeff Heagy, Bob Louis, Steve Worthington, Gary Oswald,
Michael Borish, Rob Clare, Bill Massinger, Mike Peter.*



Memorial Service



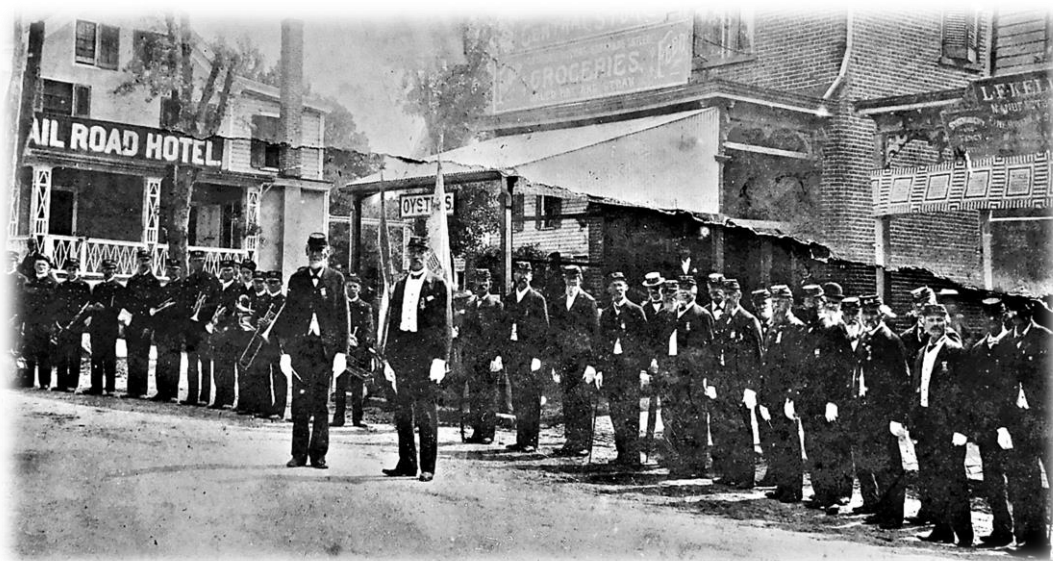
Fort Delaware Band

GRAND ARMY SCOUT
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

Lt. John H. Fisher G.A.R. Post 101 Hatboro, PA



Hatboro area Civil War Veterans form with town band for parade on York Rd. below Railroad House Hotel in 1900.

Courtesy of the Millbrook Society

Lt. Fisher G.A.R. Post 101 was organized in Hatboro, PA on April 28, 1884. The post was named in honor of Lieutenant John H. Fisher who was killed in action at the Wilderness on May 6, 1864. He was born February 23, 1843 in Centre County PA, one of eleven children of Reverend Peter S. Fisher and Frances Veronica Hecker. His father was a prominent clergyman of the Reformed Church and in 1857 took a pastorate in Sellersville, Pennsylvania. Reverend Fisher remained in that post until his death in 1873.

John enlisted in Sellersville as a 2nd LT. in Company "I" 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry on September 3, 1862. He served at Harpers Ferry, Brandy Station and Mine Run before the Wilderness Campaign. Between May 5th and May 7th, the 138th P.V.I. lost 27 KIA, 94 Wounded, and 35 missing with 26 of those later identified as prisoners.

Lt. Fisher was struck in the heart with a minnie ball and his last words were ***"tell mother.."***, as blood gushed from his mouth. Those were his last words to Private Osceola Lewis, also of Company "I" who was with Lt. Fisher as he died. Private Lewis was later promoted to Sergeant Major of the Regiment and then promoted to Captain of Company "I" in May 1865. Osceola Lewis wrote *"The History of the One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry"* in 1866. In his book, he described how ***"the strife continued for upwards of an hour, when orders came to the several regiments to retire, as there was no hope of further success...and in falling back many of the dead and a number of the severely wounded were unavoidably abandoned."*** Lt. John H. Fisher was one of those left and his body never recovered.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Not much is known of Fisher Post 101 as the Post records no longer exist. However, from various newspaper accounts and some scarce historical records, the Post met at Fluck's Hall in Hatboro. That hall was in the block of Old York Road just below Moreland Avenue near the Railroad Hotel which appears in the above photo. Their meetings were held on the 2nd and fourth Monday evenings of each month.

It is also known from one account in 1884, there were 30 members of Post 101 whose names appear in a history of Hatboro. Among those names was a man named William Henry Watson who served with Osceola Lewis and Lt. Fisher in Company "I". Private Watson enlisted on August 26, 1862 and mustered out with the Company on June 23, 1865. He survived the battle of the Wilderness as well as all the subsequent battles in which the 138th P.V.I. fought. Those included Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Monacacy, Opequan, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Mountain, and the Appomatox campaign.

After the war, he became a harness maker, married and raised a family. His wife was Elizabeth Beans Watson and together they had at least four children: Harry, Christian, Mary, and Elizabeth. Comrade Watson died on March 14, 1908 and is buried at Hatboro cemetery.



In addition to William H. Watson, other members of Post 101 who were also members of Company "I" 138th P.V.I. are buried at Hatboro Cemetery. They include Edward Sprogell, George Palmer, and Hiram M. Puff.

There are also members of Post 101 who served in the 138th P.V.I. but are buried at other locations. Those include Jonathan Rorer (Captain of Company "I"), Jonathan Iredell (Captain of Company K), and Charles H. Fitzgerald (Sgt. Company C).

On April 30, 1902 Fisher Post 101 celebrated their 18th anniversary in the Post Hall. Post 101 Commander William W. Warren welcomed Comrades from the Pennsylvania Department as well as those of Post 2 and Birney Post 63. Department Inspector Charles A. Suydam presided over the campfire which included a history of the Post by Adjutant William A. Barton. Refreshments and entertainment followed. Many songs and recitations were conducted by Comrade Nicholas of Post 2 and the misses Heckman, Lutz, and Patterson with the later singing "The Song That Reached My Heart", which she sang in a "sweet soprano voice". Ernest Stees sang the "Holy City", "Only Me", "Killed on the Firing Line", and "Engineers Signal". Professor Whiting presided over the organ and at the end of the evening, the entire assemblage sang "Auld Lang Syne".

The first Commander of Post 101 was Jonathan T. Rorer and it appears that the last may have been John M. Rulon. Comrade Rulon is listed in the 1926 PA Encampment as Commander and there does not seem to be any more entries for Post 101 in subsequent encampment records from 1927 through the 1940's. Commander Rulon died on May 27, 1929. As for total members of Post 101, the 1894 Encampment records show the Post had 66 members which appear to be the highest in any year the Post was in existence.

Like all G.A.R. Posts, Fisher Post 101 conducted cemetery services every year on May 30th Decoration (now Memorial) Day to honor their deceased comrades. In addition to conducting those services at Hatboro cemetery and Hatboro Baptist cemetery, on various years Post 101 also conducted services at the Richboro cemetery, Hartsville Presbyterian graveyard, Davisville Baptist cemetery, and Southampton burying grounds. That tradition continues today by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) who are descendants of those Comrades of the G.A.R and other Civil War veterans.

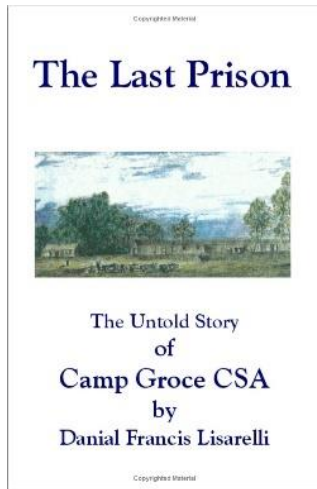
Baker-Fisher Camp 101 SUVCW, located in Hatboro, conducts services every year at Montgomery cemetery in Norristown. Over the Memorial Day weekend, Camp 101 also adds other cemetery services rotating those every year or two. Among the other cemeteries include Hatboro cemetery, Hatboro Baptist cemetery, Ivy Hill cemetery, and Sellersville cemetery.

THE MUSEUM'S BOOK CORNER..... by Dan Cashin

The Last Prison: The Untold Story of Camp Groce CSA

by Daniel Francis Lisarelli

Universal Publishers, 1999, 264 pages



It's hard to believe that, first of all, there is a subject not written about dealing with the Civil War, and secondly, there was a POW camp worse than Andersonville!

A topic never covered, until Mr. Lisarelli's book, is the experience of Naval POWs. He focuses on a small overflow camp from Camp Ford in Tyler, Texas named Camp Groce. This pit had a deliberate death rate of over 40% and most of the victims were sailors from the two battles of Galveston, Texas.

Written in 1999 with current updates in the data available on the author's Friends of Camp Groce Facebook page, this book turns a light on a story most folks down there wanted to keep forgotten. This short, easy to read but

thoroughly depressing book will shed light on a forgotten theater of the war where the rules of civilized behavior were few and far between.

“Ancestor Book Club” Number 2

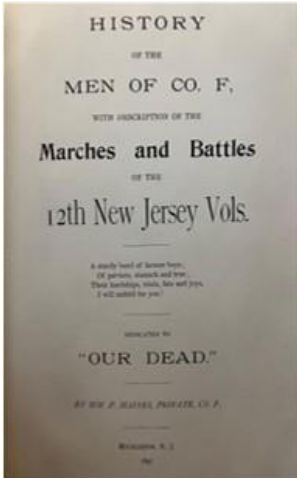
By Mary Wible and Patti Offner

Patti Offner became a Tent 58 Daughter of the Union Veterans of the Civil War in February of 2024. She shares with us her family connection to the patriotic Stratton family from New Jersey.

I had the honor and privilege of researching my ancestors who were in the Civil War, and I stumbled upon a collateral relative that had an interesting connection to the Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg. My second great grandfather, John W. Borradaile, was a corporal in the Civil War, but I could find very little about his involvement other than what was listed on muster rolls and that he was assigned to the 186th Regiment in Philadelphia.

John's sister, Mary Helen Borradaile, who was my 2nd great-grand aunt, married **William Henry Harrison Stratton** of Swedesboro, New Jersey. The book, **History of the Men of Co. F. with**

Description of the Marches and Battles of the 12th New Jersey Vols, by Wm. P. Haines, Private, Co. F., describes in detail and with first-hand accounts the formation of Company F, the daily trials and tribulations of war and detailed profiles of the men. Letters home describe the details of war as seen through the eyes of the soldiers.



I was fascinated by this book because it so adequately humanized these volunteer soldiers. The author knew these men, fought alongside these men, and then, some thirty years after the war ended, chronicled their journey. Most intriguing to me was the story within the story, that of the Stratton boys. Six of the volunteer soldiers of Company F were brothers and cousins, four from one family and two from another. My uncle William H.H. Stratton was the second oldest of four brothers who fought and died in the Civil War. All went off together once the company was formed.

Only two would come home, one paralyzed. Of the two Stratton cousins, only one survived the War. Of the six cousins, only three survived.

When President Lincoln called on the nation for volunteers, Edward Stratton, cousin of William, posted an ad for volunteers in Mullica Hill, NJ. A meeting was held at an old schoolhouse, passionate speeches were made, and the townsmen came out in full force to sign up. Within days the Company was approved and formed. Edward was appointed Captain. Included in this group of volunteers was Edward's brother, James, my uncle William, and William's three brothers -- Emmanuel, Azariah and 16-year-old Charles.

The book describes the farewell to the men by the community. Emmanuel Sr., father of the four Stratton brothers and proudly patriotic, approached his nephew and stated that if any of his boys should fall, he would come and take their place. Emmanuel, the oldest, was paralyzed by a bullet that passed through his shoulder and spine in the battle of Chancellorsville. William was killed at Gettysburg in the famous run on Bliss Farm. Azariah, who filled every office from private to captain, is quoted throughout the book. He returned home at the end of the war and lived a relatively normal life. Young Charles was killed at the battle at Spotsylvania. His body was never recovered. Cousin, Lieutenant James Stratton, was killed in the battle at Reams Station. Of the six cousins who enlisted, only three returned home – Edward, Emmanuel, and Azariah.

Azaria recounted in great detail the run on Bliss barn, and how he was aware that William had been wounded but had to continue to run towards the barn to complete the Company's mission. When he was able, he ran back and helped his brother to the medics but learned that his brother had died on the way to the hospital. William, age twenty-six, left behind his wife, Mary Helen, and 2 little girls, Lillie and Elizabeth.



As this book has a bit of a *Saving Private Ryan* feel for me, I could very well imagine it being the subject of a documentary or basis for a movie.

Let us **Keep Green the Memory** of Cpl. William H. H. Stratton and his family.

“Ancestor Book Club” Number 3 By Mary Wible

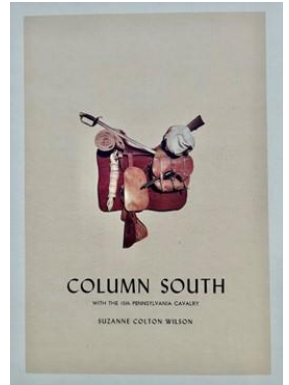
DUVCW Tent 58 sister Michele Wallenta is a life time member of the G.A.R. Civil War Museum and Archive in Philadelphia.

Her great grandfather, **Lt. John Fitton Conaway**, was in Co. B, 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and he later became the Commander of G.A.R. Post 2 in Philadelphia.

He left many of his personal letters which Michele has and which she loaned to the G.A.R. Museum to be digitized. The museum also has several documents for John.

While doing research for Michele at the museum, I discovered a book in the library entitled ***Column South With the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry***.

Suzanne Colton Wilson, the author, bases her book on the diaries of two Union soldiers of the 15th PA Cavalry. These aren't just any two men. They are her uncles, Private Matthias Baldwin Colton and Captain William Francis Colton, otherwise known to her as Uncle Ball and Uncle Will.



Through the words of her uncles and other men, Lt. John F. Conaway being one of them, she presents their lives on a personal level interacting on a daily basis with their comrades as they enlisted, trained, camped, fought, and got to know one another.

The first mention of Conaway is not John, but his sister. On Thursday, 4 September, 1862, Will Colton writes in part, “Met the pretty Miss Conaway this afternoon, the same lady I met at Miss Westervelt’s in 5th st. Philada.”

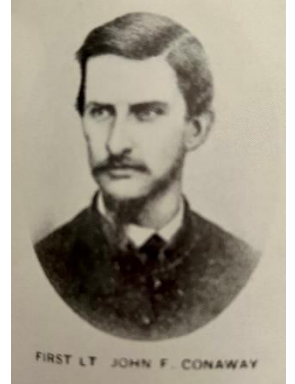
Lt. John F. Conaway made several entries about troop movements and their encounters with the enemy, and seeing his name in connection with these brings a true sense of pride to Michele as she says, “After reading about the battles the 15th PA Cavalry fought, I could not be prouder to be the

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

great granddaughter of John Fitton Conaway. I will continue to teach his legacy. Michele Conaway Bitting Wallenta.”

In the Afterword, the author tells of the postwar lives of several Philadelphians. She states, “Lt. John F. Conaway was Secretary and Treasurer of the National Umbrellas Frame Co., and faithful Secretary of the Survivors’ Ass’n. He was the one who compiled and valued banquet bulletins.”

But I saved the best for last - a photo of the man himself. Michele did not just find her great grandfather “mentioned” in this book. She was gifted with his personal writings, a family business, a grandaunt and a photo of her great grandfather. For Michele, ***Column South With the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry*** is the gift that keeps on giving.



Keep Green the Memory and look for it on <https://search.worldcat.org/>.

GAR MUSEUM GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Looking for the ideal gift for someone who has everything? How about giving the gift of history? A membership in the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive is something that is special.

The Museum is the only Civil War research institution in Philadelphia and a treasure house of information found nowhere else.

The Museum’s artifacts, library, archives and open house presentations provide an historical understanding of the Civil War era. Only members can get answers to their research questions that are submitted via email free of charge.

Membership will help us to preserve the heritage of the men and women who sacrificed their lives and fortunes to preserve the Union.

So much of our future lies in preserving our past.

See our website www.garmuslib.org to get a look at the Museum and to find a link to PayPal. We have also attached our membership application.

.....Joe Perry



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 Reverend Albert St. John Chambre, D.D., Chaplain 1st New Jersey Militia and 8th New Jersey Infantry. He was a member of MOLLUS



Albert St. John Chambre was born in London, England in 1834. He emigrated to Massachusetts with his parents in 1845 and eventually became a Universalist Minister. When the Civil War commenced, Albert was serving in Newark, New Jersey as a minister.

On May 10, 1861 he enlisted in the 1st New Jersey Militia for three months. Attached to the 1st Brigade, Runyon's Reserve Division, McDowell's Army of Northeastern Virginia, the regiment remained in reserve at the First battle of Bull Run. The regiment mustered out on July 31, 1861.

Only six weeks later, Albert enlisted as Chaplain in the 8th New Jersey Infantry Regiment on September 14, 1861. During his time with the 8th N.J., he served in the Peninsula campaign, siege of Yorktown, the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Savage Station, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Groveton, 2nd Bull Run, Chantilly, and Fredericksburg. While the 8th continued in other campaigns, including Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the Overland campaign, he mustered out on March 19, 1863. It was not until two weeks before the surrender of Robert E. Lee that Albert became a naturalized citizen. His naturalization was on March 27, 1865 in the U.S. District Court of Boston.

After the war he served in many capacities in Massachusetts including president of the trustees of Dean Academy and was for a time lecturer on ecclesiastical history at Tufts College. He was ordained an Episcopalian Clergyman in 1881, and his first mission was St. Matthew's Church in South Boston.

He was active in the Grand Army of the Republic and was at one time Commander of Chambre G.A.R. Post 72 Department of Massachusetts. Post 72 was instituted December 10, 1868 in Stoughton and was named in his honor.

Reverend Albert St. John Chambre died on December 7, 1911 and is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. He was survived by his wife Harriet.

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

History of Post #2 of the GAR at the 50th Anniversary of the GAR

This article was read to the Post assembled on November 9, 1916 by Comrade: General James Latta. ***Edited by Joe Perry and Andy Waskie.***

To attempt a recital of the history of Post 2 would be an interminable task. I will therefore confine our efforts to a few of the more important features in connection with the 50 years of Grand Army life.

The records of the Post, read, namely:

At a preliminary meeting of Post 1, GAR, District of Pennsylvania, held October 29th, 1866, Colonel R.B. Beath was elected temporary chairman and Colonel James Given, secretary. Colonel S. B. Wiley Mitchell was at that this meeting elected Post Commander. Mitchell continued in that position until June 30th, 1870. The charter was signed by 29 comrades. Currently none survive.

Of the charter members, Comrades Beath withdrew to organize Grant, Post 5; Wagner, Ellis Post 6 Mackey, E.D. Baker Post 8, Given Hetty Jones Post 12.

The Grand Army of the Republic started on its career in the city of Philadelphia. The Post secured quarters at 505 Chestnut St. The Post lost the number 1 and became Post 2, the honor given to the George G Meade Post 1. However, there was no jealous rivalry.

Post 1 and Post 2 acting harmoniously during these many years. From October 7, 1867 to December 31, 1869, it appears that no record was kept in that interval.

New quarters were now in a room selected at the southwest corner 12th and Filbert streets, where the first muster in the new quarter was held on Thursday, January 20, 1870. As an incentive to furthering the work, all back dues were dropped and several comrades returned.

To add to the interest, Comrades were requested to prepare essays or incidents in their army life to be read at musters, several of which were of much interest. Entertainments were given with a view to helping the Treasury, which was at a low ebb.

Preparations were made for the observance of Memorial Day, May 30, 1870, and was well supported by the patriotic citizens in furnishing flowers, etcetera. At this time, uniforms had not been adopted. The Post officers appeared in swallow tailed coats, white vests and military fatigue caps rather and in military costume. Monument Cemetery was selected as the place for Memorial services. Thousands of people flocked to Monument Cemetery. The Post has continued to visit Monument Cemetery annually.

In 1870, there were, as far as we know, the graves of 84 soldiers in Monument Cemetery. On Memorial Day 1916 there were about 700.

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Post 2 membership desired to obtain permanent quarters to secure quarters on June 25, 1874. The Committee on the Hall reported favorably the selection of the second floor of Spring Garden Hall. The first meeting at the new headquarters occurred on August 27, 1874. And from that time forward, Post 2 determined to do all possible to advance the interests of the Grand Army of the Republic and to make this the banner post of the organization.

During this year a fair was held in the Post Hall which proved a great success financially. The net result was the placing of the Post on its road to success. This was followed by another fair, equally successful. With the approach of the Centennial year (1876), extraordinary interest was manifested by the Comrades. Comrades visited the Post daily and visiting comrades and friends in large numbers were entertained. Scenes and incidents of the time still live in memory. The year closing with increased membership.

With the closing of the Centennial, we looked for a quiet rest in 1877. But it was destined to be otherwise. The presenting of the General Hartranft painting, the gift of friends, was a night long to be remembered.

The Post, by invitation of the Adjutant General of the Grand Army of the Republic, visited the National Encampment at Providence, RI and there exemplify the ritual work to a large assemblage. This was really the beginning of the growth of the Grand Army of the Republic. During our visit, the Post was handsomely entertained by Prescott Post 1 Grand Army of the Republic of that city. From this time forward, with few exceptions, the post attended national encampments for many years.

In 1877 the labor troubles reached such a point that the Pennsylvania National Guard was ordered to Pittsburgh, leaving Philadelphia practically uncovered. Excitement ran high. The commander of Post 2 called a meeting of comrades who offered their services to the city as soldiers. The Mayor, Mr. Stokley, recognized the importance of this action, but was strenuously opposed to armed bodies marching through the city. A wise conclusion. However, a battalion of four companies was organized and accepted by the governor and comrades sworn into the state service as the P.N.G. 20th Regiment. The necessary paraphernalia, arms and equipment were supplied, the headquarters, reminding one of the days of 1861. Orders were received to proceed to Bloomsburg but later countermanded. The moral effect produced aided much in keeping down disturbances in the city. The battalion was commanded by Colonel Robert L Orr as Major; Captains: Peddle, Smith, and Vanderslice.

One of the pleasing and valuable additions to the Post at this time was the organization of a Post orchestra. Beginning with an organ and a violin. It soon grows into a large group. From March 1877 to the present, 41 comrades became active members of the Post Orchestra. To Comrade Ellis Pugh is due to the success of this adjunct. His work began in 1877 and continues to this day. And tonight, notwithstanding his physical condition, he is here with his instrument. Death has removed 36 of the orchestra's members. With the decline of the membership, the orchestra must soon cease its labors, but its services can never be forgotten.

One important and sad event during the year was the discovery of a soldier's orphan living on a farm in New Jersey being ill-treated and brutally abused. The Post, by its Soldiers Orphans Committee, determined to prosecute the miscreant – Von Neida. A reward of \$500 was offered for his capture and

prosecution. It was successfully accomplished by the Post. Von Neida was convicted is serving a term in the state prison of New Jersey.

This action prompted an investigation of the Soldiers Orphans Schools. Some of the conditions found were deplorable, but through the active energy of the Committee many changes were made in the care of the orphans.

In 1877, The Post continued to progress. 122 comrades were added to the roles. The year closed with great success, following in 1878 with a further addition to the membership of 128 Comrades.

We had settled down to the fact that our home was permanent and so continued until about 1891 when it was rumored that Old Spring Garden Hall was to be demolished, the site to be used for the State Normal School.

A committee was appointed to purchase a Hall, the present building being selected. The condition necessitated many improvements, notably the placing of a new front and other alterations at a cost of \$6000. Much of the expense was by voluntary contributions from friends.

On May 19, 1891, goodbye was sent to the Old Hall and a royal night it was, a banquet at which over 300 participated.

This building, formally a Church of the Disciples after alterations had been made was dedicated on May 26th, 1892 and since that time has been our home. The doors are always open to visitors. Our efforts have always been to make it a pleasure for comrades and friends to visit us. Comrades from all over the United States have availed themselves of the privilege.

Smoking - One of the social features of the Post was the privilege of smoking, but as you cannot please everyone, objections were made, one of the reasons set forth being that men's wives complained because their hair smelled of smoke and smoking was therefore discontinued. The enforcement of such a rule made a marked difference in the attendance at musters. It wasn't long before it was agreed that smoking be permitted after formal business and that the attendees quickly increased.

The Post has entertained the national and department commanders annually. The national encampment held in this city in 1899, will long be remembered. The Post prepared for the maintaining and entertaining of visitors and during the week more than 5000 visitors enjoyed our hospitality.

The organization of the Sons of Veterans had taken hold of the young lads, the sons of their soldier or sailor fathers, and Posts 2's Camp 299 was organized. The Post is largely indebted to this Camp for the assistance rendered the Post on Memorial Day and as time rolls on we feel the need of their good work, especially on Memorial Day. I feel sometimes we do not fully appreciate their worth.

On February 22nd, 1861, Abraham Lincoln standing on a small platform in front of Independence Hall raised our flag above the edifice and then made a stirring address to the vast assemblage who had gathered that crisp morning. The thought that the spot should be held sacred prompted one of our

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comrades, now living and present tonight, to suggest the planting of a bronze tablet on the pavement about where Mr. Lincoln stood. This was accomplished and thousands stop and read the inscription and pause a moment in memory of our great captain.

Time, with its ravages, is fast telling upon our great organization.

During our Post life, 1429 comrades joined Post 2; 647 have joined the Grand Army beyond. The largest membership at any one time was December 31st, 1891, at 679. Present membership is 218.

Recently, an organization known as the 'Citizens Corps' of Post 2 was created, composed of patriotic friends of the Grand Army of the Republic. We welcome these gentlemen here tonight and are proud of their encouragement. The door is open to all good citizens who desire to enroll.

Postscript

Post 2 went on to charter an institution in 1926 to preserve the Post records, relics, Hall and most importantly, their memories. At first it was named Memorial Hall, later Philadelphia Camp, Sons of Union Veterans. This effort developed into the present Museum and Archives. In 1984, the charter was revised and updated and at that time, the name was changed to The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Civil War Museum and Archive which is our present identification located at 8110 Frankford Ave. Philadelphia.



GRAND ARMY SCOUT
CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS AND ON THE WEB

..... articles submitted by Andy Waskie

From Philadelphia Press, February 3, 1942

Civil War veteran dies in hospital, Age 94

F. J. McWade saw Lincoln risk his life at Fort Stevens

Frederick J. McQuade one of three surviving Civil War veterans of Philadelphia died last night (February 2, 1942) in Hahnemann Hospital after an illness of several weeks. He was 94.

Mr. McWade who lived at the Union League during the winter spent the summer months in a trim little cottage at 4403 Decatur Street, Holmesburg where he cooked his own meals and rested in the shade of elm trees which he planted in 1881. As a boy of 16 he enlisted in the 150th Ohio Volunteers in his hometown of Oberlin, Ohio. He served in the forts that guarded Washington and often spoke of the time that Lincoln, wearing the famous stovepipe hat stood on the breastworks at Ft. Stevens while bullets whistled past his head.

For 40 years after the war he was employed as the general baggage agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad and retired on pension about 30 years ago. He was a former vestryman of the Emanuel Protestant Episcopal Church, Holmesburg. Surviving is a niece. A funeral service was held from the funeral establishment of Emerson Titus, 4009 Decatur Street. His took place in the burial grounds of the Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church in Holmesburg. Mr. McWade was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)

Overgrown Philadelphia cemetery filled with 33K dead tenants, creepy stuffed animals up for sale By Patrick Reilly, Published Aug. 3, 2024, 6:44 p.m.

Mt Vernon contains the graves of many US Veterans from the Revolution to WWI & WWII, including a Medal of Honor recipient:

Major Alfred Sellers (Bvt Colonel) , 90th Pennsylvania Volunteers for service at the Battle of Gettysburg. After the Civil War, he served as GAR Meade Post #1; MOLLUS, and was a member of the Union League.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7208401/alfred-jacob-sellers>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_J._Sellers

<https://nypost.com/2024/08/03/real-estate/overgrown-philadelphia-cemetery-filled-with-33k-dead-tenants-creepy-stuffed-animals-up-for-sale-for-1m/>

Andrew's Raiders Civil War soldiers awarded Medal of Honor for Confederate train raid

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2024/07/03/civil-war-soldiers-awarded-medal-of-honor-for-confederate-train-raid/>

A Blast From the Past

***Women of the Civil War Series By Margaret Atkinson
(Originally published in the GAR Scout in Summer 2013)***

Mary Ann (Mother) Bickerdyke

Many women during the Civil War and the post war era worked for the good of the soldiers, but no one gave more of herself at great personal sacrifice than Mary Ann Bickerdyke. Born on July 15, 1817 on a farm in Mount Vernon, Ohio to Hiram and Annie Ball, Mary Ann was orphaned at an early age. She went to live with her grandparents and upon their deaths, an Uncle Henry Rodgers. She appears to have had only a very basic education.



Little more is known of her life until at the age of 30, on April 27, 1847, she married a widower named Robert Bickerdyke. Robert was a sign painter by trade and a musician who had three children from his previous marriage. Two boys were subsequently born to the couple and then a daughter Martha, who died at the age of two just a year after Robert passed away.

Now a widow with two sons to support, Mary Ann used her farming background to study growing herbs for medicinal purposes then used this knowledge to begin her care for the sick. She stressed the benefits of botanical medicine along with wet compresses, herbal teas, healthy soups, fruits and vegetables, and above all cleanliness. She is credited with saving more lives than inept physicians working in filthy conditions although she had no knowledge of the concept of germs causing illness.

During the summer of 1861, Edward Beecher, brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe, spoke at her Congregational Church about the 500 Galesburg volunteers stationed in Cairo, Illinois and living in bad conditions with disease rampant, many dying without ever having gone to the battlefield. The town took a collection of supplies and Mary Ann, despite having two half-grown sons, volunteered to take the supplies to Cairo by train. Her luggage consisted of a couple of dresses for herself and all the donated supplies.

She found terrible conditions, the "hospital" consisting of several tents with ten men in each and the other sick lying on dirt covered with straw. Urine, excrement, and vomit were everywhere and Mary knew this was unacceptable for the soldiers. She had no official standing and could not give orders, so cajoled healthy soldiers to help her by cooking homemade chicken dinners for them. Using the donated lye soap, she washed the soldiers and their uniforms, had them shaved and given very short haircuts to eliminate the lice. Then they were given clean clothing. Thus began a full effort throughout the remainder of the war to do what she could for other soldiers and to help other mother's sons. Later during the war, she obtained sufficient supplies to wash and reuse uniforms from the wounded, thus saving the Army money as they had previously discarded them.

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Mary had the ability to organize and to win over the senior ranks of the military. This often gave her the freedom to do what needed to be done and to deal severely with those who stood in her way. At Vicksburg she developed strong relationships with General William T. Sherman, Commander of the Army of the Tennessee and General John (Black Jack) Logan, of the 15th Army Corps. Travelling with the Army of the Tennessee, she 7 GRAND ARMY SCOUT continued attending to the sick and wounded. Late in the war, Mary Ann was shipboard, heading to Savannah to meet General Sherman when the ship stopped at Wilmington, North Carolina. She went ashore and nursed some of the recently released prisoners from Andersonville.



No one is certain how she gained the name of “Mother Bickerdyke” but many dying men would call for their mothers and she became that for them in their final moments. To the men she was tender and compassionate, but would brook no nonsense from officers who would question her methods. It is said that when the staff of General Sherman complained about this outspoken female nurse who disregarded Army red tape and procedures, Union General Wm. T. Sherman threw up his hands and exclaimed, “She outranks me. I can’t do a thing!”

At war’s end, the veterans had one more task. The 15th Corps, under command of “Black Jack Logan” was to march in review in Washington, DC. Leading them was General Logan and beside him riding sidesaddle was Mother Bickerdyke. The troops had given her a velvet riding dress, but she chose to wear a more practical dress.

Mary Ann resigned from the Army on March 21, 1866, and went to Kansas for two years helping fifty families to move there, then went to New York where she was asked to help clean up some slums. In the meantime, her sons started a farm in Great Bend, Kansas and she moved back. She continued in her work for others, raising funds for 200 carloads of grain, food and clothing for settlers when locusts destroyed their crops. All this traveling caused her to become ill, even while she was trying to get pensions for the soldiers, often paying the costs out of her own pocket.

While living at her son James’ home in Bunker Hill, Kansas, July 9, 1887 a statewide celebration was planned and at the age of 80, was enjoyed by Mary. She had a slight stroke in November 1901 and passed away peacefully on November 8. A statue was erected in Galesburg, Illinois, depicting Mary Ann kneeling beside a wounded soldier holding a cup to his lips. She is buried there with a government-issue headstone near the stone for her husband Robert.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Last Veteran Ceremony

Saturday, September 14, 2024, 11:00 am

Newtown Cemetery, 600 Newtown Yardley Road, Newtown, PA

The Baker-Fisher Camp No. 101, Hatboro, Pennsylvania, and other Camps of the Department of Pennsylvania of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War invite you to a last veteran ceremony to honor Private Charles H. Duckworth, who was the last Union veteran to die in Bucks County and in the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The public is cordially invited and a special welcome is extended to all members of the SUVCW and the allied Orders. For more info contact Mike Peter mpete118@gmail.com

Delaware Valley CWRT Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 7:00 pm

Virtual via ZOOM ONLY

“History of Photography: Not Throwing Away My Shot”

Speaker – Local historian & GAR Member Paula Gidjunis

The Civil War was the first conflict in history to be extensively recorded. But how has photography changed over time, what are some of the original uses, and who were involved? These and other topics will be discussed. Contact Walt Lafty at wlafty51@verizon.net for ZOOM access.

Monthly Meeting of the CW Roundtable of Cape May County

Thursday, September 19, 2024, 7:00 pm

Stone Harbor American Legion Post 331, 11617 2nd Avenue, Stone Harbor, NJ

“The Grand Army of the Republic and the GAR Museum”

Speaker – Local historian and Museum Research Administrator Walt Lafty

For those vacationing at the Jersey shore, for details see www.cmccwrt.com

Camp William Penn and Historic LaMott Day

Saturday, September 21, 2024, 10:00 am to 4:00 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.

Opening ceremony will take place at Camp William Penn gate at 10:00 (7320 Sycamore Ave.) 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. USCT re-enactors will have an encampment on CWP ground and there will be Civil War era medical demonstrations in our barn. Music and walking tours will also be part of the day. Closing ceremony will be at 3:00 at the Flagpole (corner Sycamore and Willow).

For information, , contact: Email: pt@usct.org or by phone: 215 885-2258

Citizens for the Restoration of Historical La Mott, 1618 Willow Ave., La Mott, PA 19027

Annual Major Octavius V. Catto Honor Ceremony

Saturday, October 5, 2024, 11:00 am

Catto Monument, SW corner of City Hall, Philadelphia

Honor ceremony, wreath laying, military salute for the anniversary of the assassination of Major Catto. Following the City Hall ceremony, PA National Guard Award Luncheon & Medal Ceremony at 12:30 pm in the Union League. For information, contact Dr. Andy Waskie awaski01@gmail.com

GAR Museum, Library & Archive Community ZOOM Program

Sunday, October 6, 2024, 1:00 pm

A FREE Virtual Online Program via ZOOM

“Soldiers of Faith: The Chaplains of the Civil War”

Speaker: Local historian and Museum Research Administrator Walt Lafty

In the American Civil War, the overwhelming numbers of soldiers (both Union and Confederate) looked to religion and faith as a great sustainer of morale. Providing the spiritual needs were the clergy of almost every Christian denomination, rabbis, and preachers of the Jewish faith, and even nontraditional ministers of the gospel. Many of those preachers of God and their various denominational leadership struggled with the issue of slavery in the years leading up to the war. Interpretations of scripture divided many. Yet, a few thousand of those “Soldiers of Faith” volunteered to serve as Hospital, Regimental, and Post Chaplains. Many suffered and died, both of disease and killed in combat. Some even took up arms when situations arose, and some earned high accolades in official reports as well as a few who earned the Medal of Honor. The focus will be on highlighting some of the instrumental Chaplains who served from many religious organizations. Please send a request to reserve a virtual seat to garmuslib1866@gmail.com. You will be sent a link with a password that will enable you to access the program within 24 hours of the start of the program.

Delaware Valley CWRT Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 7:00 pm

In-Person and simulcast via ZOOM

“Wounded for Life: The Post-War Journey of Two Union Soldiers”

Speaker – Local historian author Dr. Robert Hicks

Radisson Hotel, Route 1 @ Old Lincoln Highway, Trevoise, PA

Many Civil War books discuss the mortality due to bullets and diseases but very few explore the postwar lives of wounded warriors. Based on his new book, *Wounded for Life: Seven Union Veterans of the Civil War*, Dr. Robert Hicks examines two Union veterans, Presley Dawson and Henry Huidekoper. Dawson, an African American private, was lamed by collapsed earthworks under fire and contracted malaria. Huidekoper, a lieutenant colonel, was shot twice at Gettysburg and suffered an amputated arm. Both men worked, married, and had children, yet the war changed their bodies. Dr. Robert Hicks looks at how they constructed new identities after the trauma of the battlefield.

Contact Walt Lafty at wlafty51@verizon.net for ZOOM access.

Annual Meade Society/American Legion Post 405 Annual Fall Excursion

Friday to Sunday, October 18-20, 2024

This year the Meade Society will travel to Connecticut and Rhode Island, visiting Mystic Village; tentative visits to the Groton Submarine Museum and the US Coast Guard Academy in CT; the Naval War College and museum in Newport, RI; two fabulous Newport mansions and the historic Touro Synagogue; and the Essex Train/Boat excursion in Old Saybrook, CT. Reservations are available NOW.

Price is \$490.00* per person, double occupancy (additional \$150.00 supplemental charge for a single room). * \$505.00 if paying by credit card. Installment payments accepted if paying by check". Price includes deluxe motor coach via Perkiomen Tours; snacks & beverages on board; 2 nights lodging at the Holiday Inn in Saunderstown, RI; Friday lunch at Mystic Village in CT; pizza party at the hotel; Saturday buffet dinner at Busker's Irish Pub in Newport, RI. Plus, all tours and admissions. Please call or e mail Jerry McCormick at (215) 848-7753, or gedwinmc@msn.com to register and send a \$50.00 per person deposit to the GMS PO Box ASAP. (Note- last year's Hudson Valley excursion SOLD OUT !!) Please note – this trip will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday this year. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER SEPTEMBER 12TH.**

GAR Museum, Library & Archive Community ZOOM Program

Sunday, November 9, 2024, 1:00 pm

A FREE Virtual Online Program via ZOOM

"Our Ancient Faith: Lincoln, Democracy and the American Experiment"

Speaker: Professor and author Allen Guelzo

Professor Allen Guelzo serves as the Thomas W. Smith Distinguished Research Scholar and Director of the Initiative on Politics and Statesmanship in the James Madison Program at Princeton University. Dr. Guelzo is "one of the Nation's foremost experts on Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Era" – Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer. This program will be broadcast through ZOOM.

*****Please note that participation will be limited to the first 100 reservation requests.*****

Delaware Valley CWRT Monthly Meeting and Annual Awards Meeting Night

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 7:00 pm

In-Person and simulcast via ZOOM

"The Bridge on the River Kwai: The Movie and the Real Story"

Speaker – Local historian and Museum Research Administer Walt Lafty

Radisson Hotel, Route 1 @ Old Lincoln Highway, Trevoze, PA

The movie "The Bridge on the River Kwai" won seven Academy Awards in 1958. The real "bridge" was only one of more than 600 bridges built along the 258-mile "death railway." The entire railway was constructed using more than 61,000 Allied prisoners of war and approximately 250,000 Asian forced laborers. This program will discuss the real stories of their capture in Malaya, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and Burma, the horrendous experiences, the deaths and murders, and inspiring stories of endurance by those who survived. Walt suggests that before attending this program, you could rewatch the movie you haven't seen it in years. For those who never saw the movie it would be a good idea to watch. Many local libraries, especially here in Philly, have it free on DVD to borrow like a book.

Contact Walt Lafty at wlafty51@verizon.net for ZOOM access.

2025 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

INDIVIDUAL \$25.00 _____

FAMILY \$35.00 _____

SPONSOR \$50.00 _____

PATRON \$75.00 _____

GUARDIAN \$100.00 _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

BENEFACTOR LIFE MEMBER \$250.00 _____

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL FOR 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.

If you use PayPal, please email or mail the completed application to the Museum
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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