



GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Newsletter of the
GAR Civil War Museum & Library Fall 2020



From the President



Why our unfinished effort to honor those who died in the service of our country continues.

Lincoln said it best: "...for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live."

"...never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored

dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain..."

The GAR provided all veterans of the Union armed forces a channel to tell us why they fought and how they lived after the Civil War. The Grand Army of Republic Civil War Museum preserves and protects their collection of works worth reading and artifacts worth keeping.

We are looking for a new home for the Museum. The Philadelphia Camp Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War received its charter in 1926. This camp became the managers of the historic collection of Civil War relics, books, photographs, and memorabilia of Post 2 of the Grand Army of the Republic. This collection was originally housed in the Memorial Hall once located near 12th and Spring Garden Streets in Philadelphia.

Memorial Hall was sold and torn down in the late 1950s. Members of the corporation then purchased 4278 Griscom Street. The relics and memorabilia remaining from the original Post 2 G. A. R. collection form the basis of the collection of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum.

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.garmuslib.org

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Our building, the Ruan House, was built in 1796 by Dr. John Ruan and is on both the Philadelphia and National Registers of Historic Places. In 1985, through the efforts of Margaret and Bud Atkinson, the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum, a 501(c)(3) corporation was created. The museum is currently managed by a seven-member Board of Directors, all volunteers.

The museum contains an extensive library and archive that is available to the public for genealogical and historical research. The museum also has a singular collection of historic Civil War relics, artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia. We are the only museum in the Philadelphia area solely dedicated to the history of the Civil War. A visual tour of the Museum can be seen on our website: <https://garmuslib.org/>

The museum has an entire room dedicated to Abraham Lincoln that includes a bloodstained piece of pillowcase from the bed in the Petersen House on which Lincoln took his last breath. The Museum also possesses handcuffs that were found in the trunk owned by John Wilkes Booth, who was planning to use them to kidnap President Lincoln in March 1865.

In the room dedicated to General George G. Meade can be found Old Baldy, General Meade's war horse, along with numerous other memorabilia of this important general.

The Board of Directors are looking for a new home for the Museum. We have outgrown our buildings and the neighborhood. We have looked at several locations that include areas just outside of Philadelphia. Our 1926 Charter states that we must remain in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Here is what we are looking for:

1. Sources of additional funding.
2. Affordability.
3. Zoning for a Museum.
4. Sustainability – making secure agreements that will provide a permanent home.
5. A community that will support the Museum.
6. Pleasant surroundings that will not detract from the Museum's mission.
7. A Museum quality environment that is safe and climate controlled.
8. A building that is at least equal to our present 3,600 square feet.
9. Parking for visitors and staff.
10. Facilities that will accommodate personal needs.
11. ADA compliant.

We are seeking any suggestions or help in this endeavor. Please contact me at garmuslib1866@gmail.com.

Joe Perry



MY SCOUT

Grand Army of the Republic the Civil War Museum and Library

Dear Members and Friends,

An Appeal to Renew Your Museum Membership:

We cannot stand by and allow the stories of our ancestors and their remembrances of American history to simply disappear.

We all understand so well that the current uncertain times have taken a toll on us all. Nevertheless, we simply cannot allow our relics and artifacts of American history to just vanish into institutional vaults.

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library is the only museum in this area that is solely dedicated to preserving the history and telling the story of the Civil War. The collection is recognized for its historical significance and features numerous relics of singular historical importance.

Our home in the 1796 Georgian mansion of Dr. John Ruan is in need of extensive and expensive repairs. Also, due to many donations of relics and documents by concerned citizens, our collections have outgrown the space that we have.

As you are aware, in order to preserve the collection and the future of the museum, we have been actively seeking a new home. To accomplish this, we must maintain and increase our museum memberships.

The very existence of the Museum and public accessibility to the collection are at stake.

Would you please consider renewing your membership for 2021?

Our annual membership levels are Sponsor \$25.00, Patron \$50.00, and Guardian \$100.00, as well as a Lifetime Benefactor Membership for \$250.00.

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

Ruan House
4278 Griscom Street
Philadelphia PA 19124
Phone 215-289-6484

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.garmuslib.org
e-mail garmuslib1866@gmail.com

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

**JOIN US THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 1:00PM**



**REMAINING 2020 OPEN HOUSE PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO ONGOING
QUARANTINE AND STAY-AT-HOME REQUIREMENTS**

**November 1, 2020 – Herb Kaufman – “HISTORY’S MYSTERIES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY
WAR AND COLONIAL ERA - What they didn’t teach you in high school”**

Many people love to read historical fiction. But, this is historical reality. Legends and lore have become a significant part of American history of the Revolutionary War and the colonial era.

Among others, historical reality seeks to answer: “Who is Molly Pitcher and did she really fire a cannon at Monmouth” ... “Did George Washington honestly have wooden teeth?” ... “Where did Paul Revere actually ride?” ... “What really happened on the Fourth of July?” ... “What is the true story of the Liberty Bell?”

The history of the American Revolution and the colonial era are full of lore, myths, half-truths, and just plain inaccuracies that have become a part of American history.

Every day stories are repeated in schools, museums, and television programs because they are catchy, humorous, or entertaining; but we are going to separate fact from fiction.

This program focuses on these mysterious, misrepresented and often imagined incidents and events. You will learn the truth about the Revolutionary War and colonial myths, stories, and events that they never taught you in high school.

A FREE virtual program online - Please RSVP to garmuslib1866@gmail.com

December 6, 2020 – TBA



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THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
4278 GRISCOM STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19124

www.garmuslib.org garmuslib1866@gmail.com 215-289-6484

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Donation amount: _____

Checks to Sponsor A Speaker should be payable to GAR Museum

**Sponsor A Speaker
GAR Museum
4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124**

MUSEUM PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS

Programs

Due to the onset of COVID-19 and the imposed restrictions, our regularly planned First Sunday programs and open house events after March had to be cancelled. After several months of uncertainty, the GAR Museum & Library – as did many other historical organizations – opted for conducting virtual online events via the popular Zoom platform, beginning with a late June program and following up with September, after a summertime break.

Sunday, June 28, 2020

The GAR Museum presented the Zoom program “A Cemetery Hidden in Plain View - The Colored Soldiers buried at Philadelphia National Cemetery” with author/historian Ed McLaughlin as speaker.



The program discussed the unique history at the Philadelphia National Cemetery, 6909 Limekiln Pike, Philadelphia, where 1,000 black Civil War soldiers & sailors are buried, many from nearby Camp William Penn. Several hundred of those soldiers died from diseases while at the camp.

For future reading, books by Ed McLaughlin are:

The Cemetery Monument Hidden in Plain View

The Cemetery Monument Hidden in Plain View a Supplement

Where Have all of the Soldiers Gone

Slaves and Soldiers in the Cemetery

Sunday, September 6, 2020

“DAMN THE TORPEDOES! FULL SPEED AHEAD!’ Admiral David Farragut and the Battle of Mobile Bay” was presented by Paul Prentiss, Historian/Navy Veteran.

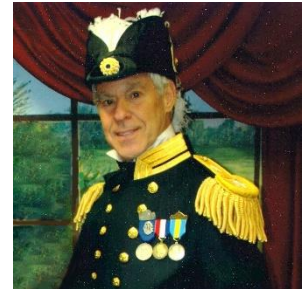


On August 5, 1864, at the Battle of Mobile Bay, Admiral David Farragut led his flotilla through the Confederate defenses at Mobile, Alabama, to seal one of the last major Southern ports. The fall of Mobile Bay was a major blow to the Confederacy, and the victory was the first in a series of Yankee successes that helped secure the re-election of President Abraham Lincoln later that year.

Paul Prentiss is a retired Navy Captain and Chief Scientist for a national science and technology company. He is a graduate of the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

Sunday, October 4, 2020

This Sunday Zoom program featured Captain Jack Lieberman (USN, retired) speaking on "Commodore Percival Drayton, Union Hero of the Civil War and Philadelphia".



Percival Drayton was the son of a wealthy South Carolina Congressman William Drayton. He entered the United States Navy as a midshipman in 1827, and served continuously up to the Civil War, being posted to stations that included the Mediterranean, the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of Brazil, Paraguay and at the Naval Observatory, Washington, DC. His older brother, Thomas Fenwick Drayton, was a West Point Graduate and a United States Army officer who remained loyal to the South and became a Confederate Brigadier General. When the Civil War began Percival was stationed at the Philadelphia Naval Yard but was soon given command of the warship "USS Pocahontas." He commanded the vessel in the successful Union Naval assault on Port Royal, South Carolina in November 1861. In that action, he fired upon troops and positions commanded by his brother Thomas who was commanding Confederate troops on shore in a literal, classic instance of the "**BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER**" phrase often used to describe the American Civil War.

He was promoted to Captain, US Navy in July 1862, and was assigned to Admiral David Farragut's West Gulf Squadron and commanded Farragut's flagship **USS Hartford** in the celebrated Naval assault and capture of Mobile Bay, Alabama in August 1864. The bay was heavily mined (tethered mines at that time were called **TORPEDOES**). Farragut ordered his fleet to charge the bay. When one of the Union Monitors struck a mine and sank, the other Union ships began to retreat. Farragut could see the ships pulling back from his high perch, where he was lashed to the rigging of his flagship. "What's the trouble?" he shouted through his megaphone to the forward lookout. "Torpedoes!" was shouted back. "**DAMN THE TORPEDOES**" said Farragut, "**FOUR BELLS - CAPTAIN DRAYTON, FULL SPEED AHEAD**" The bulk of the fleet then succeeded in entering the bay. Captain Drayton died August 4, 1865 and was buried in St John's Church in Washington, DC, however his remains were exhumed three months later and he was re-buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery, in Philadelphia, on November 18, 1865, next to his father, William Drayton.



Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum Archive

By Joe Perry

This **Philadelphia Area Archival Research Portal (PAARP)**, formerly the PACSCL Finding Aids Site, provides access to descriptions of more than 5,000 collections from over 200 regional institutions documenting the region's vital role in our collective history, from colonization to the present day, from the everyday citizen to some of America's best known thinkers and celebrated citizens. On this site, researchers will find catalog descriptions, or "finding aids" to collections relating to local, national, and world history; the natural and social sciences; medicine; literature; religion; art and architecture; business and industry; the performing arts; and other topics.

Searchable by creator, topic, repository, and keyword, this diverse and ever-growing group of finding aids is an ideal starting point for researchers to discover related collections across more than 200 regional repositories, large and small.

There are 114 hits searching the topic Grand Army of The Republic Civil War Museum that include a description of all of the items in the Museum's archives.

You can also search for specific items in our Archive and the other regional repositories, such as "Pardee Letters".

Here is the Portal's URL: <http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/pacscl/index.html>



DID YOU KNOW?????????

The Museum has a Facebook Page.

Visit it at Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library in Philadelphia.
<https://www.facebook.com/GrandArmyOfTheRepublicMuseumAndLibrary>

Obituarysubmitted by Andy Waskie

Edwin Cole Bearss (1923 - 2020)

Edwin (Ed) Cole Bearss passed away on September 15, 2020, in Mississippi, where he had recently moved after living over 50 years in Arlington, Virginia.

His wife Margie Riddle Bearss and his daughter Sara Beth Bearss predeceased him. He is survived by his brother Robert (Pat) Bearss, his son Edwin Cole Bearss, Jr. (Annika), and his daughter Mary Virginia (Ginny) Bearss, three grandsons, four great grandsons, and two nieces.

Ed was born in Billings, Montana, on June 26, 1923, and grew up on his family's ranch on Sarpy Creek. At age 18, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. On January 2, 1944, he was badly wounded in Cape Gloucester, New Britain. He spent two years convalescing in Navy hospitals. Using the GI Bill, Ed graduated from the foreign service program at Georgetown University in 1949 and obtained a master's in history from the University of Indiana in 1955.

Ed soon found his calling in the National Park Service. He was park historian at Vicksburg from 1955 to 1958 and then historian for the Southeast Region until 1966. In 1958, he married Margie Riddle, a schoolteacher whom Ed courted in an odd manner: on his second visit to Ms. Riddle, Ed brought her a cannonball!

While at Vicksburg, Ed was central to the discovery and raising of the USS Cairo, a Civil War ironclad sunk in the Yazoo River in December 1862. To help finance the recovery effort, Ed was a victorious contestant on "The \$64,000 Challenge." The vessel now resides in the Vicksburg National Military Park.

In 1966, Ed joined other research historians at the headquarters of the National Park Service, responsible for historical sites of the 19th and 20th centuries, including the homes of Presidents Carter and Johnson. By 1981, Ed was named Chief Historian of the NPS, a position he held until 1994. While with NPS, he testified many times before Congress. He also served on the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, established by Congress to guide it on priorities for battlefield preservation.

In 1990, Ed achieved national and lasting fame as one of the commentators in Ken Burns' movie *The Civil War*. By this time, too, Ed had established a new career as teacher, lecturer, and tour guide, educating and leading literally thousands of people across battlefields of almost every American war. He continued leading tours until late 2019.

Ed leaves two extraordinary legacies. As a public historian, he is the author, editor, or contributor of more than 25 books, 100 scholarly papers, countless NPS monographs and oral histories. As a preservationist, he is responsible for the creation, expansion, and restoration of historic battlefields, houses, and other sites integral to American history.

For his contributions to the field, Ed was recognized numerous times, including receiving honorary



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degrees from Lincoln College and Gettysburg College, the Distinguished Service Award from the Department of the Interior, the Wailes Award (the highest historical award from the State of Mississippi), and awards from various Civil War Round Tables. In 2005, the Smithsonian Institution named Ed as one of 35 people "who made a difference: to our world. The National Park Service Edwin C. Bearss Fellowship Award and the American Battlefield trust Edwin C. Bearss Lifetime Achievement Award were established in his honor. He is a Fellow of the Company of Military Historians and a lifetime Trustee of the American Battlefield Trust. At the time of his death, a bipartisan coalition of members of the U.S. Congress had been sponsoring a resolution to award Ed the Congressional Gold Medal.

Private inurnment services will be held in the Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery, Brandon, Mississippi. Memorial services will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, his family requests that gifts be made to the American Battlefield Trust for preservation projects in Mississippi. www.battlefields.org/remembering-ed-bearss.

To share condolences, please visit baldwinleepearl.com.
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/clarionledger/obituary.aspx?pid=196819451>



Board Member Kathy Smith with Mr. Bearss at Cannstatters in October 2018
Photo by Walt Lafty





The Curator's Corner ... by Herb Kaufman

A Special Request!

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum cannot be allowed to become the real-life version of "Raiders of the Lost Ark"!

We cannot allow the artifacts and relics of American history to vanish into some distant storage vault.

We fully realize that the events related to these uncertain times have taken a toll on all of us.

However, your continued membership and support for the museum must transcend the current climate.



How quickly life changes! In the beginning of the year the museum was humming with activity. Now, just a few months later we are meeting on Zoom and hoping for a return to some semblance of normalcy.

In the interim we have not been idle. We have secured the building with a new roof and made other internal repairs. We are making every possible effort to assure that the museum is safe and secure.

Both Walt Lafty and Dr. Andy Waskie have continued to respond to requests for genealogical information and other research requests.

A large assemblage of documents and other items relating to the Sons of Union Veterans have been donated to the Pennsylvania Department of the Sons of Union Veterans. They have taken possession of these items, currently evaluating their relevance to their mission.

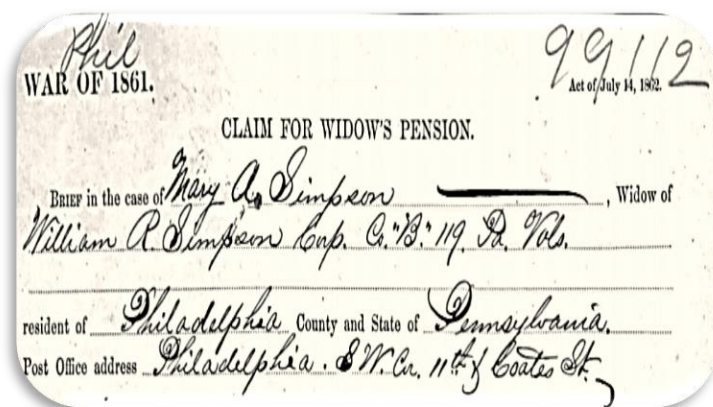
We also must act now so that the Museum's future will be secure.

We cannot allow this museum and its singularly historic collection to just disappear. We cannot be the real-life version of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" where our remarkable collection simply disappears into the storage vault of some distant institution, never to be seen again.

Please continue your membership. Your contributions are critical to maintaining the legacy that has been handed down to us from those veterans who gave their last full measure of devotion. Don't let their history be forgotten and their memorabilia disappear.

RESEARCHING CIVIL WAR "WIDOWS' PENSIONS"

By Walt Lafty



One of the many resources to help in family research are the many types of pension records available from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). In 2012, NARA entered a partnership with FOLD3 and began the project to digitize millions of images from the Civil War Widows' Pension files. FOLD3, owned by [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), is the arm of Ancestry which provides easy access to military records. That is of course for a subscription fee which can be monthly, semi-annually, or annually.

This article will only focus on the widows' pensions, including Navy Widows' Certificates, which is a separate set of records. Also provided below will be a few direct links to those digitized records on Fold3, as well as to the direct link to all Civil War Pension records at NARA.

The Civil War Widows' Pension records generally include more genealogical information than even the soldier's pension records. This can include information on the soldier's spouse, children, and even dependent parents. The widows' documentation normally includes a record or an affidavit of marriage. It could also include names and birth dates of minor children, and in some cases could include death dates of family members. In one pension record for this author, it gave the exact town, church, name of the officiating clergy, and date of marriage in Ireland. That then led to other family records in that church.

Initially, Union soldiers who were injured or suffered debilitating illness during the Civil War could apply for federal pension benefits. If a soldier was killed, his widow was also eligible to apply for a pension. After the Civil War ended, legislation was expanded to allow pensions for widows and dependents of soldiers who served, survived the war, and died later. Under this Dependent Pension Act, approved on June 27, 1890, widows of soldiers serving in the Union Army could apply for a pension by proving the following:

- that the soldier served the Union for at least ninety days during the Civil War;
- that he was honorably discharged;
- that the widow provide proof of death, but it need not have been the result of his army service;
- that the widow is without other means of support than her day labor;
- that she married the soldier prior to June 27, 1890, the date of the act.

The following are some links and information about the current status of the number of records digitized. The information is only as good as provided by the website of FOLD3 and NARA and appears to be updated as of the date of this newsletter.

Civil War "Widows' Pensions" FOLD3

Total Records: 2,137,078 · Complete: 21%

<https://www.fold3.com/title/24/civil-war-widows-pensions>

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Description: Approved pension applications of widows and other dependents of Civil War veterans who served between 1861 and 1910. The files are grouped under the soldier's name. The pensioner's name (typically the widow's) is searchable, often giving her maiden name as well. Children's names and other dependents' names are searchable as well. Case files include where and when a man served, details of his service, his life before the war, and his family, including information about his widow, children, and sometimes his parents.

If the pension file you are searching for has not been digitized yet, you can search the general index to all pension files. Everyone applying for pension benefits was required to fill out an application. An index of those application cards was kept by the Pension Office. ***This digitized index is 100% complete.** You can view those cards at: <https://www.fold3.com/title/57/civil-war-pensions-index>
To order those records not yet digitized from NARA (***see below**)

Navy Widows' Certificates FOLD3

Records: 19,805 · Complete: 100%

<https://www.fold3.com/title/121/navy-widows-certificates>

Description by Craig R. Scott, CG: This series of images consists of approximately 20,000 approved pension application files of widows and other dependents of US Navy veterans who served between 1861 and 1910. The applications are commonly referred to as "Navy Widows' Certificates." Applications prior to approval were termed "originals." When claims were approved, a new file number was issued, and they were then referred to as "certificates". The term "NWC" refers to Navy Widows' Certificates. This series is also known as the "Civil War and Later Navy Widows' Certificates." They are arranged numerically by certificate or file number, ranging between NWC 623 and NWC 21,617.

US Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards FOLD3

Records: 1,669,710 · Complete: 95%

<https://www.fold3.com/title/964/us-veterans-administration-pension-payment-cards>

Description

These payment cards document pension payments made to disabled veterans of the regular U.S. Army or Navy or their widows between 1907 and 1933. They include those Civil War veterans and widows who received payments during the above dates.

To learn about ALL records for the Civil War at NARA

National Archives-Military Records-Civil War

<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war>

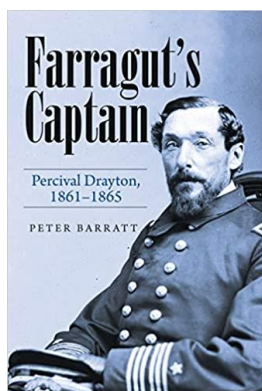
- ✓ Learn about resources at the NARA for those who served in the Civil War.
- ✓ ***Request copies of pension records** or download the form to mail in your request.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and FOLD 3

Farragut's Captain – Percival Drayton, 1861-1865

By Peter Barratt

Lulu Publishing Services, 2018, 190 pages



British historian, Peter Barratt has produced a fine biography of Civil War Naval officer and hero of a number of famous naval actions, Captain Percival Drayton, USN.

Drayton was an accomplished and experienced naval officer who was born in Charleston, South Carolina in August 1812 into a distinguished colonial family. His father, William Drayton, Jr. was a noted soldier, jurist, politician, US Congressman, and financier. William was a staunch Unionist who opposed John C. Calhoun in the infamous Nullification crisis. As a consequence, William moved his residence and family to Philadelphia where he was named president of the Second Bank of the United States. Percival Drayton had two brothers, Thomas Fenwick Drayton, the older brother, who was a West Point graduate (1828) and classmate of Jefferson Davis. Percival Drayton's younger brother was William Sidney Drayton who had served in the U.S. Navy, but who died before the Civil War in 1860. Thomas F. Drayton remained loyal to the South and became a General in the Confederate service. The two brothers faced each other as opponents in one of the first decisive engagements of the Civil War, the Battle of Port Royal Sound, November 7, 1861.

Percival Drayton entered the U.S. Navy in 1828 as a midshipman and served the rest of his life in the service. He served extensively on sea duty, but also served stints on shore at the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. and at the New York and Philadelphia Navy Yards. Drayton rose steadily in rank and in July 1862 was promoted to Captain. In December 1863, the USS *Hartford* arrived in Washington for a refit and Drayton renewed a friendship formed many years' before with her commander, Rear-Admiral David Farragut. By January 1864, the *Hartford* was ready for sea and Farragut had persuaded Drayton to accept the post of fleet-captain for the forthcoming expedition against Mobile Bay. In August of 1864, Farragut attacked and passed the forts guarding the entrance to Mobile Bay. With Drayton, who by now was the *Hartford's* captain, at his side during the attack, he uttered his immortal words presumably to Drayton 'Damn the torpedoes, go ahead' which earned him everlasting fame. Together, the courageous Drayton and Farragut had gained a resounding victory.

In early August of 1865, Percival took seriously ill, and died on August 4. On August 7, Drayton was given an elaborate funeral and was buried with full military honors, but temporarily in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington. In November, Drayton was moved to Laurel Hill Cemetery in his second home city of Philadelphia and interred next to his father, where he still rests today in quiet but honored glory.

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Peter Barratt has done a great deal of research in uncovering background information on a figure of Civil War history who contributed quietly and in an unassuming way to ultimate victory for the Union, despite the fact that he was a scion of a prominent slave holding family of Charleston, although he never held a slave, and even faced his own brother in one of the earliest actions of the conflict. This was Percival Drayton— navy captain and hero of a number of engagements that led to eventual Union victory. Peter Barratt used resources and personal contacts at the Union League of Philadelphia, personal insight of Captain Jack Lieberman, US Navy retired, a Drayton expert, and other troves of primary resource materials.

The book is concise, but well written, well sourced and informative, telling an exciting tale of devotion to duty by Percival Drayton, in spite of hardship, toil, family discord and danger.

In just 172 pages, Barratt was able to capture the essence of the character and determination of a remarkable patriot and to bring his life's story alive for the reader. Little has been written of Percival Drayton, and Barratt, using letters, correspondence, and other primary source material gathered over many long years of research to craft a very sympathetic, but realistic portrait of a model warrior of the sea.

I can recommend this quick read to all who wish to augment their knowledge of the Civil War at sea and of the Navy. They will come away with a much-improved view of one of the unsung heroes in a true conflict of 'brother against brother', whom, I hypothesize, lost his life due to his strenuous service in war, though having obtained peace.

Good Reading!



TAKE NOTE

**DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS AND QUARANTINE RECOMMENDATIONS,
THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

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



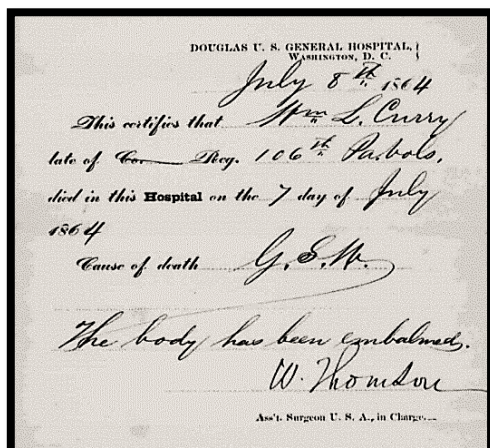
Colonel William L. Curry GAR Post 18 Department of Pennsylvania



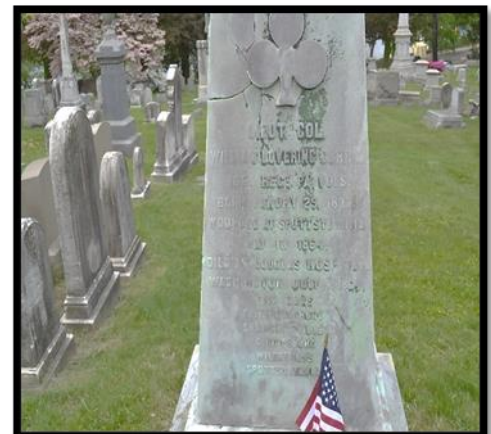
William Lovering Curry was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 29 January 1833. He was one of five children of Mary and William L. Curry, a successful paper manufacturer.

As soon as the war began, he volunteered for the Union Army and was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel of the 22nd Pennsylvania (Three Month) Volunteer Infantry on 23 April 1861. He served with that regiment through First Bull Run in July of 1861 and was mustered out on August 7, 1861.

On 1 October 1861, William enlisted again and was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel of the 106th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, part of the famous "*Philadelphia Brigade*". Some of the battles/engagements in which the 106th PA Infantry was engaged included: Ball's Bluff, Fair Oaks/Seven Pines, Savages Station, Glendale, Malvern Hill, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. It was at Spotsylvania on 11 May 1864 where Lt. Colonel Curry received gun shot wounds which would ultimately prove fatal. Initially he was taken to Douglas Hospital in Washington D.C. He languished until 7 July 1864 when he died.



His body was embalmed, and he was transported home to his family. His funeral was handled by Philadelphia undertaker A.J. Bair and then he was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery



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Lt. Colonel Curry's name is inscribed on the 106th Pennsylvania's Monument that now stands at their Emmitsburg Road position in the Gettysburg National Military Park. But another tribute to him was when local veterans named a GAR Post after him.

It's not clear exactly when the Post formed but from various newspaper accounts, city directories, and one remaining Post Descriptive book of the names of members, it appears Post 18 was organized in 1875. The first member was Charles McKnight of the 88th PA Infantry. He became member #1 on 19 July 1875. The last member (#532) was admitted in 1913 and the last surviving member of Post 18 died on 30 September 1933. His name was Herman Schlaefer. Mr. Schlaefer is buried at Northwood cemetery in Philadelphia.

According to Philadelphia City directories, the Post first met at a few locations prior to their final headquarters. Those locations included 17th & Callowhill, 2217 Callowhill, and 20th & Wood. But from around 1884 up thru the mid 1920's, a period of almost 40 years, Curry Post 18 was located at 317 N. 20th street. While that building no longer exists, the location of where it was located for all those years can be seen in the following photograph which sits behind the Parkway Central Library at 20th & the Parkway.



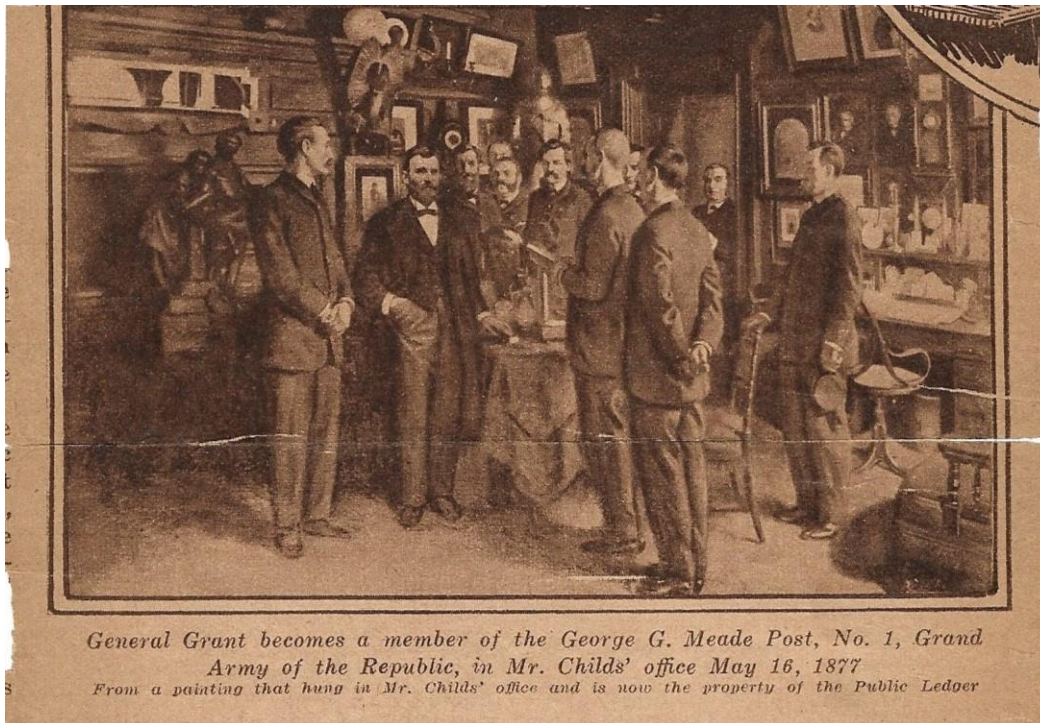
One of the many interesting stories connected with Curry Post 18 involves Confederate General Fitzhugh Lee. As a guest of the Post, the General was scheduled to give the Memorial Day oration in May of 1905. During April of that year, there were many newspaper accounts and notices of the upcoming event. It was stated that *"this will be the first time in the history of the Grand Army in Pennsylvania that a Confederate General has delivered a Memorial day oration under the auspices of a Grand Army Post"*. Well on 28 April 1905, General Fitzhugh Lee died and Post #18 needed to get another speaker for their Memorial Day oration.

For anyone needing to research the records of Curry Post #18, they are located at the Pennsylvania State Archives, 350 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0090; phone 717-783-3281; website www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/phmc_home/1426

Also, the collection has been scanned and is available on Familysearch.org <https://www.Familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L96L-RZJB?i=1&cc=2207723>

General Grant Joins Meade Post #1by Andy Waskie

Below is a copy of a print that I found, depicting Ulysses S. Grant being sworn into membership in Meade Post #1, G. A. R. on May 16, 1877 in the office of George Childs, owner and publisher of the *Public Ledger* newspaper (now *Philadelphia Inquirer*) and who was a close friend of Grant and wrote a biography of him and published it.



Childs was also a very close friend of President Ulysses S. Grant, and they owned adjacent summer homes in Long Branch, New Jersey. When the dying Grant was struggling to complete his war memoirs to support his family after his death, he asked Childs to decide which firm should publish the work. Childs chose Charles L. Webster & Co., in which Mark Twain was a principal owner. In 1887 a movement arose to draft Childs himself for the presidency, but on January 25, 1888, he announced in the *New York Times*, "I am not a candidate and neither would I accept the (Republican) nomination for President."

George Childs died in 1894 and is buried in the Childs Mausoleum on Millionaires' Row at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Meade Post #1 was originally founded at the Union League by members who were veterans of the Civil War Union armed services. The present Benjamin Franklin American Legion Post 405 at the Union League traces its legacy to Meade Post #1.

[Supplemental info for this article from Wikipedia.]



*Mary Morris Husband Tent 58
Philadelphia, PA
Daughters of Union Veterans
of the Civil War 1861-1865*

by Walt Lafty



Mary Morris was born on July 3, 1820 to her parents Henry Morris and Elizabeth Jane Smith. She was the granddaughter of Robert Morris, Revolutionary War financier and signer of the Declaration of Independence. On January 11, 1841, she married a prominent and wealthy Philadelphia attorney, Joshua Leonard Husband. Mary and Joshua lived in Philadelphia and raised their two sons, Henry Morris Husband born in 1842, and John Leonard Husband born in 1844.

During the entire Civil War years and for a couple of years after, the family lived at 618 Sansom Street. When the war began, both her sons enlisted in the military. Henry joined the 114th PA Infantry then transferred to the 99th PA Infantry. John joined the 72nd PA Infantry. Both her sons survived the war.

But the family patriotism did not end with the sons going off to serve as soldiers. In the first year of the war, Mary became a volunteer with the Philadelphia Ladies Aid Society working in Philadelphia military hospitals. She spent much of her time at the military hospital located at 22nd and Woods streets.

Over the next three years of the war, Mary served as nurse and matron in various Division and Corps field hospitals in different theatres of war. She also served as Lady Superintendent of nurses on one of the hospital transports which took wounded from Virginia to New York.

Her nursing experience took her to Harrison's Landing, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, where she arrived on the morning of July 4, 1863. She got there by travelling in General Meade's mail wagon. Most of her nursing work there was in Camp Letterman. In 1864, after the Wilderness Campaign, she served in hospitals at White House Landing and City Point. The soldiers all loved her, and she gained their affectionate name of "Mother Husband".

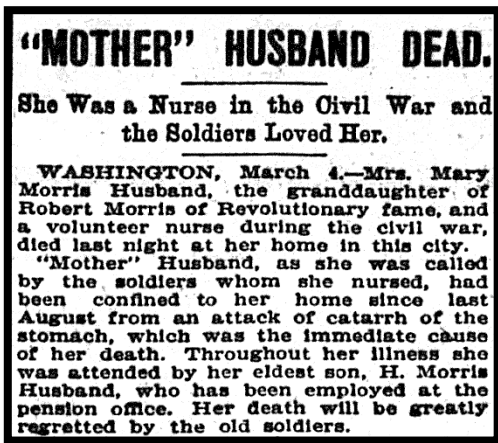
Throughout all the war years, Mary did not receive compensation from the government nor the U.S. Sanitary Commission. There is no indication she requested such and probably did not need to be compensated since her necessities were met from her own means. She even paid for, and solicited help from friends, to purchase supplies for the sick and wounded. Mary herself became sick with fever during her stay at Gettysburg. She was confined to her tent for about three weeks until she recovered.

During the last year or two of the war, Mary also became an advocate for soldiers she felt were wrongly convicted in military trials by summary court martial.

After the war, Mary as well as both of her sons, worked for a time in Washington D.C. as clerks in the pension office. When her husband died in 1881, it appears Mary tried to maintain her own financial

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independence. But in 1884, she applied for and received a pension in her own name and for her own service as a nurse.



Mary Morris Husband died on March 3, 1894 and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Nine years before her death, "*The National Alliance of the Daughters of Veterans of the United States of America*" was formed and incorporated on December 12, 1885. The name changed a couple of times over the years and today it is known as the "*Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865*".

The organization, locally called "Tents", are made up of women who are daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters of any generation of honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who served in the Union Army, Navy, or Marine Corps and Revenue Cutter Service during the Rebellion of 1861 – 1865. They invite all daughters who descend from one or more Union Veteran, to honor their Veteran ancestor by applying for membership. Tent 58 of Philadelphia, in the Department of Pennsylvania, was named in honor of Mary Morris Husband. To learn more about this fraternal organization, please visit their website at: <http://www.duvcw.org/eligibility.html>



The Exeter Train Wreck of '99by Mary Ann Hartner

When John and I moved up to the Reading area, we were given a book about the township in which we now live. I had put it aside and occasionally looked thru it. However, during this stay at home period, I got to read some of the stories one of which hit home with me, it was about GAR men.

It was one of the most devastating train wrecks in the History of the once mighty Reading Railroad. It was Friday night May 12, 1899. Just before 9:00 p.m. a train rumbled on the rails from Reading to Philadelphia. The "down express" was made up of express and baggage cars, day coaches and a Pullman Dubbed the "Cannon Ball Express". It was 10 minutes late.

A scant six minutes after the express chugged out of the Outer Station another train was dispatched from Reading. It was the second section of Train No. 12 that include the Cannon Ball Express. That 2nd section of Train No. 12 was a special run, filled with passengers returning to Norristown after their participation in the dedication of a monument in Harrisburg. They were mostly veterans, firemen, musicians, and dignitaries returning from a happy day in the capital.

They were in Harrisburg for the unveiling of a monument to Civil War General (and one-time governor) John Hartranft. Many of them were members of the Zook G.A.R. post #11 in Norristown, The Montgomery Hose Co and the 51st Regiment Band. Several had served under General Hartranft in the war.

As the regularly scheduled train coasted past the Exeter Station, it came to a stop. A northbound coal train was experiencing problems with its brake rigging farther down the line near Birdsboro. The Express was in the process of backing up to the station siding.

About a mile up the tracks, the special train was speeding south at what one observer felt was nearly 50 miles per hour. There was a party atmosphere on board as the revelers were just minutes away from their homes.

The tracks were dark that Friday night but all seemed well as Engine 574 sped south and passed through a long straightaway and around a gentle curve toward Exeter Station. As the signal lantern at Exeter came into view, Engineer Harry Orrell knew tragedy was about to strike. Orrell later told a reporter that he instantly reversed the lever, but before he could stop the train, the engine went into the rear of the train ahead of them with a terrible crash.

He was one of the lucky ones to survive, despite being imprisoned among twisted trees, splintered wood, and broken glass. The engine had ploughed through the day coach which in turn crashed halfway through the Pullman Porter car and the other car in front of it.

The roar of the crash was deafening, said a resident whose house was more than a mile away along the Perkiomen Turnpike (now Route 422).

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Two residents of the township were milling about the station that night when they noticed the unusual but not unheard of stopping of the first sections of Train No 12. They ambled unto the platform of the station, only to witness with great aguish the second section, pulled by Engine 574 rounding the curve to their right. "We waited for the crash which we knew must come and saw sparks fly from the wheels of the second train as the air brakes were applied. I saw the hind trainman of the first section run back with his lantern at the top of his speed. He continued swinging it until the second section was within 15 feet of him."

Luckily, the train wreck did not have an explosion of fire, only small flames broke out, but were quickly subdued. If there were an explosion or fire the human and property toll from the accident would have been greater.

While the Exeter wreck can be called the township's darkest hour, on the other hand it could also be remembered as one of Exeter's finest hours, since many citizens came to help with rescue missions that would have them in constant action for the next two exhausting days.



Within 30 minutes of the collision, help came in slowly as the news reached Reading and the citizens of Exeter township. Doctors, nurses, druggists, emergency crews and undertakers rushed to the Station. So did private wagons, teams and barouches called to serve as impromptu ambulances. The

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rooms on the first floor of the station hotel were filled with the dead and wounded. Every ounce of food, drink and medical supplies was gone within two hours of the accident.

The *Reading Eagle* reporters also scrambled to the scene quickly. It was about 3 a.m. and the newspaper pulled no punches in its descriptions of the injuries which led to the deaths of 29 and the serious injuries of more than four dozen more passengers.

When the dust settled after the crash, more incredible tales of both death and salvation emerged in the Reading press. It was discovered that U.S. Senator Boles Penrose was aboard the "Cannon Ball Express" and his survival hinged on a fortuitous move made in Reading. He had gotten off the train to obtain some lunch in Reading and when he got back on board, he took a seat in the smoking car instead. He would have undoubtedly received some sort of injury if he had gone back to his original seat.





For the survivors, May 12, 1899 was a date they would never forget. George Lewis, who had been in a party mood as the special train rumbled from Reading toward his Norristown home, lamented to a reporter the day after the crash: "This is a sorry ending for a demonstration which we enjoyed so much. All the Norristown men who were in the party had fought with Hartranft's 51st Regiment, and had a most delightful day, meeting their old comrades again. I was riding on the third car from the rear of the special when the collision occurred. I was pushed by the shock and saw the passengers in the car thrown every way."

A simple testimonial to the force of the crash was the big, bass drum of the 51st Regiment Band. It was found several hours after the crash, in a field some 50 yards away from the railroad tracks.

Twelve days after the accident, the Berks County Coroner's Jury reached a decision that the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad Trainmaster in Philadelphia "used very bad judgement in equipping a special train with a crew unfamiliar with the main line division." He was held responsible for the incident. The Dispatcher, Engineer of the first section of Train No. 12, Engineer of the second section and the Conductor of the second section were all charged with negligence, willful misconduct and failing to observe necessary precautions.

The jury also recommended that the railroad tighten its procedures. There was a rule which kept trains dispatched at no less than five-minute intervals, now it would be ten minutes, because of

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night and increased traffic. The jury also recommended that the entire signal system south of Reading be examined and revised.

Because of the concern of the stigma of “the Wreck” by citizenry of Exeter township, the train station was renamed Lorane. Today the station building stills stands, but it is forlorn and overgrown. The tracks are no longer in use and there is no physical sight of the ghastly night of May 12, 1899.

Excerpted from The Exeter Wreck by Charles J Adams III

Photos from <https://morrisonfamilyconnections.wordpress.com/2018/03/16/alfred-charles-bray-exeter-train-crash-2/>



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

Even though the campus at Manor College has been closed due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, Manor has worked with the Education Committee of the Delaware Valley CWRT to offer the following courses for the Civil War Institute and History Institute through ZOOM sessions.

You can register for the following Fall Session ZOOM classes on the Manor College Continuing Education website <http://manor.edu/academics/adult-continuing-education/civil-war-institute/>.

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

CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE CLASSES

“Atlanta Is Ours”: The Last Turning Point – 1 day (2 hrs) – When William Tecumseh Sherman forced John Bell Hood out of Atlanta in September 1864, capturing a key rail and industrial center, the victory was as much political as it was military. Abraham Lincoln’s presidency was saved, and so was the Union.

Instructor: Jerry Carrier

Fee: \$30

Date: Saturday, November 7

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Desperate Measures: Unusual Incidents and Strange Adventures in the Civil War – 3 nights (6 hrs) – “Strange but true.” This axiom was never more relevant than describing many of the unusual and extraordinary occurrences during the Civil War. This course concentrates on a significant number of controversial personalities, occurrences and events, and strange and highly unusual incidents that occurred prior to and during the four years of the Civil War.

Instructor: Herb Kaufman

Fee: \$79

Dates: Mondays, November 16, 23 and 30

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Bringing the Conflict Home: Photography in the Civil War – NEW – 1 day (2 hrs) – This class will cover the invention of photography and the history of its development through the Civil War. It will encompass the pioneer photographers who expanded and commercialized this new science, explore the usage of photography in everyday life, and – most important – how it brought the war directly to the people.

Instructor: Paula Gidjunis

Fee: \$30

Date: Saturday, December 12

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

HISTORY INSTITUTE CLASS

“Remember Pearl Harbor” – 1 night (2 hrs) – “General Quarters” rang throughout the fleet. A historian once wrote that the command at Pearl Harbor was “swatting at mice, while a tiger jumped through the window”. Explore the history of the acquisition of Pearl Harbor, the political background, eyewitness accounts and historical analysis of the attack that brought the United States into World War II.

Instructor: Herb Kaufman

Fee: \$30

Date: Monday, December 7

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm



UPCOMING EVENTS

MANY ORGANIZATIONS AND VENUES ARE STILL CANCELLING SOME EVENTS.

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

GAR Museum & Library ZOOM First Sunday Program – A FREE Virtual Program online

Sunday, November 1, 2020 – 1:30 pm

Historian and Educator Herb Kaufman – “History’s Mysteries of the Revolutionary and Colonial Era – What They Didn’t Teach You in High School”

In a Cemetery Hidden in Plain View – The Colored Soldiers Buried in Philadelphia National Cemetery”

Please RSVP to garmuslib1866@gmail.com

A link to join the program will be emailed to you before the presentation.

US Marine Corps Birthday Observance, Laurel Hill Cemetery

Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 11:00 am

Ceremony will be held at the grave of General Jacob Zeilin, 7th Commandant of the Marine Corps Honor guards, flags and wreaths welcome. Call [215.228.8200](tel:215.228.8200) for details.

Still scheduled, but there may be restrictions.

Check <https://thelaurehillcemetery.org/events> for cancellation or restrictions.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Revolutionary War Siege Weekend Reenactment

Saturday & Sunday, November 14-15 – 10 am to 4 pm

Fort Mifflin on the Delaware

Experience the battle that defined the Fort at our annual flagship event! Four full scripted battles tell the story of the greatest bombardment of the Revolutionary War. Guided tours, living history activities and demonstrations, musket drills, weapons demonstrations and so much more! For info -

<http://www.fortmifflin.us/event/siege-weekend/>

Remembrance Day in Gettysburg

Unofficial Honor/Dedication Ceremonies

Saturday, November 21, 2020, starts 11:00 am

OFFICIAL EVENT IS CANCELLED

Honoring General Meade & his Generals and the veterans of the Battle of Gettysburg

Please meet at the General Meade Equestrian Monument at 11:00 am

Contact Jerry McCormick at gedwinmc@msn.com for info.

Starr Tours – Cape May Christmas – with Jane Peters Estes

Saturday, November 28, 2020

Tour #14318.

Includes an evening trolley ride past the historic homes and a guided tour of the Emlen Physick estate.

For more information or to make a reservation: <http://www.starrtours.com> or call 609-782-7703

World War II – The Battle of the Bulge

Saturday, December 5, 2020 – 10 am to 4 pm

Fort Mifflin on the Delaware

Explore the Western Front of World War II and visit with Axis and Allied armies. Two exciting battles, living history, vintage gear, live medical demonstrations on “wounded” soldiers at the Red Cross Field Hospital, weapons, and vehicles.

Tactical demonstrations at 11 AM and 3 PM. Guided Tours at noon and 2 PM.

For info - <http://www.fortmifflin.us/event/world-war-ii/>

Annual General Meade Birthday Celebration with Meade Society at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery

Thursday, December 31, 2020 at 11:30 am

3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia

Parade and ceremony to mark the anniversary of his birth will begin at 12 noon at General Meade’s gravesite.

All are asked to gather at the Gatehouse at 11:30 AM. A champagne toast and reception will follow the program. For info contact Dr. Andy Waskie at awaski01@gmail.com

For directions call Laurel Hill Cemetery at 215-228-8200

Program is still scheduled but there may be restrictions.



CAMPAIGN TO SAVE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library is currently the only museum in this area that is solely dedicated to preserving the history and telling the story of the Civil War.

The museum's holdings were formed from the historic relics, artifacts, documents and photographs from the Memorial Hall collection of Philadelphia's Post 2 of the Grand Army of the Republic. The collection is recognized for its historical significance and features numerous relics of singular historical importance.

Our home in the 1796 Georgian mansion of Dr. John Ruan is in need of extensive and expensive repairs. The number of visitors and volunteers continues to decline due to our remote location that has very limited off-street parking. Additionally, due to many donations of museum items and documents by concerned citizens, our collections have outgrown the space that we have.

In order to preserve the collection and the future of the museum, it is critical that we find a new home. To accomplish this, we need to create an endowment that will help finance our relocation. The very existence of the Museum and public accessibility to the collection is at stake.

We need to take action now so that the Museum's future will be secure. Your contribution will help maintain the legacy that has been handed down to us from those veterans who gave their last full measure of devotion to save the country. Don't let their history be forgotten and their memorabilia disappear.

Please help us save the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum. The museum is a non-profit organization under the Federal income tax section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

DONATION: _____ (Payable to the GAR Museum)

Please mail your donation to the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum, 4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124

In grateful appreciation,

The GAR Civil War Museum & Library Board of Directors

2021 Membership & Support Application

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

4278 GRISCOM STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19124

www.garmuslib.org garmuslib1866@gmail.com 215-289-6484

The only museum and research library in Philadelphia exclusively dedicated to veterans and history of the Civil War. Your membership and support keeps the Museum and Library open to the public and provides the funds to continue the conservation and preservation of our collection of documents, photographs, artifacts – Old Baldy, General Meade’s horse; Lincoln’s blood stained linen and John Wilkes Booth’s handcuffs that he intended to use to kidnap Abraham Lincoln.

The Museum is a 501©3 non-profit and all donations are tax deductible.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership _____ \$25.00

Family Membership _____ \$35.00

Support Donation _____

Lifetime Individual Membership _____ \$250.00

Make checks payable to the GAR Museum

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Receive newsletter, announcements. Your privacy is protected.