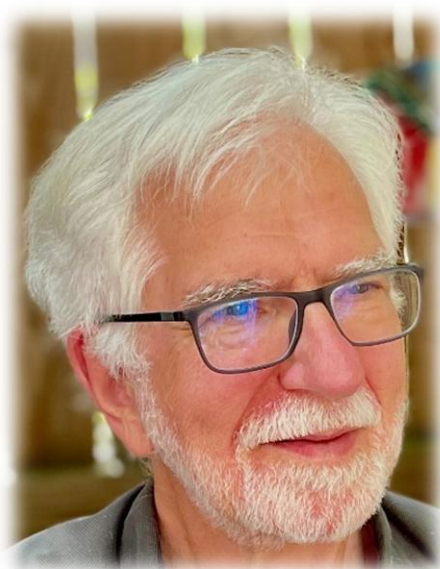


# GRAND ARMY SCOUT

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



## *From the President ....*



One hundred years ago on December 20, 1926, the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum was chartered in the City of Philadelphia.

Also in 1926, George Morgan's book, *The City of Firsts: A Complete History of the City of Philadelphia from Its Founding in 1682 to the present time* was published. It lists the many firsts that happen in Philadelphia. It is in the Museum's Library.

For more up-to-date list of firsts go to the Independence Hall Association's website:

<https://ushistory.org/philadelphia/philadelphiafirsts.html>

The Museum's Curator, Herb Kaufman, discovered another first that deserves recognition.

Philadelphian Lieutenant John Trout Greble (1834–1861) has a few firsts that make him a very important part of the American Civil War and Philadelphia history.

He was the first officer from Philadelphia killed in action at the battle of Big Bethel, Virginia on June 10, 1861. He was in command of a battery of the 2<sup>nd</sup> United States Regular Artillery. He was 27 years old and left behind a young wife and two children.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT & LIBRARIAN**  
JOE PERRY

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
MIKE PETER

**SECRETARY**  
KYLE PURCHASE

TOM DONNELLY  
KATHLEEN SHARAF  
WILLIAM SHEFFER  
BRYAN SIGMUND  
KATHLEEN M. SMITH  
ANTHONY WASKIE, Ph.D.

**CURATOR**  
HERB KAUFMAN

**RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR**  
WALT LAFTY

### BOARD OF ADVISORS

ALBERT EL  
GARY GROVE, Ph.D.  
ROBERT E. HANRAHAN, JR.  
MARY ANN HARTNER  
JAMES M. Mc PHERSON, Ph.D.  
RICHARD A. SAUERS, Ph.D.  
MARY WIBLE

**HISTORIC LEWIS-PATTISON  
HOUSE c1805  
8110 FRANKFORD AVENUE  
PHILA. PA 19136  
(215) 613-0350  
[garmuslib1866@gmail.com](mailto:garmuslib1866@gmail.com)**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
PATRICIA CALDWELL

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

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**  
[www.garmuslib.org](http://www.garmuslib.org)

He was the first graduate of Central High School killed in the war.

He was the first graduate of West Point killed in the war.

He was the first Regular Army officer killed in the war.

After the battle he was laid in state at Independence Hall.

He is buried at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, 225 Belmont Avenue,  
Bala Cynwyd, PA.

A fort defending Washington, DC was named in his honor.

The first battle death is more than a moment in time; it is a name, a face, and a life that once hoped and dreamed like the rest of us. In honoring a fallen Civil War veteran, we remember not just how he died, but how he lived – his courage under fire. His sacrifice marked a turning point, reminding us of the true cost of service and the weight of the uniform he wore.

*Joe Perry*  
*President & Librarian*

### **Please renew your Museum membership! Keep history alive!**

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive is the only museum in the Philadelphia area solely dedicated to preserving the history and telling the story of the Civil War. The collection is recognized for its historical importance and includes numerous artifacts of singular historical significance. We wish to thank you for your membership and financial support that has given us strength and encouragement as we move forward in our new and more accessible historic location.

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

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership for 2026. It is solely through your generous support that we can secure the future of the Museum's collection.

**To those who have already renewed, we thank you!**

## Recent Zoom Programs

**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

**“Civil War Band Concert”**

**Presented by Becks’ Philadelphia Brigade Band**

This program was held live in-person at the Holmesburg United Methodist Church Hall  
8112 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136



*[Photo by Kyle Purchase from January 2025 concert]*

Becks' Philadelphia Brigade Band is a Civil War era brass band portraying the brass band of the 2nd Division, 2nd Corps, 2nd Brigade of the Union Army of the Potomac in 1863. The Band played the music of the Victorian era for concerts, ceremonies, balls, parades and commemorations. The band wore authentically uniforms, playing music of the period on instruments that were correct for the time. The program featured tunes played during the Civil War era, including Christmas songs that date back to the 1850s, plus some vocal renditions from that period. Songs included "Cheer Boys Cheer," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Shenandoah," "Battle Cry of Freedom," and "Dixie" (a personal favorite of President Lincoln).

The music comes from manuscripts dating back to 1830, publications courtesy of the Library of Congress, and arrangements created for the band by its own members.

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**

**“Frederick Douglass”**

**Presented by Professor Nilgün Anadolu-Okur, Temple University**

Frederick Douglass rose to prominence as an eloquent author, intellectual and human rights advocate, as well as a women's rights leader. He was the first African American to hold high U.S. government ranks, as a diplomat in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and the first to be nominated for vice president. Professor Okur will highlight Douglass's lesser-known characteristics.



Dr. Nilgün Anadolu-Okur is the Presidential Professor of Africology and African American Studies at Temple University’s College of Liberal Arts. She holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in African American and American Studies. She has two Fulbright appointments internationally and she has received grants and national awards in humanities.

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Currently she serves as chair of the Faculty Senate Status of Women Committee and as the Graduate Director of her department. In 1990s as the Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) Commonwealth Speaker she toured Pennsylvania and lectured on Underground Railroad and Black Abolitionists. She is the co-founder of the “Annual Underground Railroad Conference at Temple University” since 2003. She has authored books on African American Studies, and her articles are published in peer-reviewed journals including *Journal of Black Studies*, *Gender Issues*, *Journal of Human and Society*. Her research has a broad spectrum ranging from theory and methodology in Africology and Afrocentricity, race and racism, women’s rights, abolition, Black Women authors (19th to 21st century), African American history, and motherhood in antiquity.

**March 1, 2026**

**“The Life and Struggles of Mary Edwards Walker: Doctor, Feminist, Medal of Honor Recipient”**

**Presented by Walt Lafty**

Many people know that Mary E. Walker served as a doctor during the Civil War. Some are also aware she was the recipient of the Medal of Honor. Walt’s presentation focused on her early family life, and her struggle to attain recognition as a doctor, prior to the war, as well as during and after the war. It also covered her lifelong commitment to fighting for the right to vote for women and many other issues regarding feminism. She has been described as unconventional and eccentric, but she was also graceful, understanding, compassionate, and committed. Mary was above all else, a patriot who was loyal to the flag of the United States. Her sacrifices throughout her life to remain true to herself were difficult but inspiring.



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

**Sunday, April 12, 2026**

**“Civil War Travels, Trails & Travails: Confessions of a Civil War Geek”**

**Presented by Bill Sheffer**

Bill shared humorous anecdotes, quirky incidents, and memorable encounters. He has spent 60+ years exploring and meeting other Civil War enthusiasts. His life-long study of the American Civil War began on a family trip to Gettysburg in 1963... and young Billy was hooked!



Bill is a retired bank Loan Officer who has brought his professional expertise and analytical reasoning to all his work at the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum. He is not only a member of the Museum’s Board of Directors but also a tour guide and Assistant Curator. Bill is carefully handling the many primary source documents in the Museum’s Archive. He is organizing records - arranging and describing them for inclusion into the Museum’s catalog. He also works with our researchers to answer the many reference questions the Museum receives.

**New Programs Added to the GAR Museum’s YouTube Channel**

Becks' Philadelphia Brigade Band Concert

“Frederick Douglass” presented by Prof. Nilgün Anadolu-Okur, Temple University

“Civil War Travels, Trails & Travails: Confessions of a Civil War Geek” by Bill Sheffer

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



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

*US Military Justice in the CW Court-Martial Practices and Administration*

By R. Gregory Lande

### **6 GAR Newhall Post 7 ledgers**

Members Residence Book

Dates vary. Some addresses, death dates and dropped dates

Rules, Regulations and Bylaws Book

List of 501 members' signatures

Roll of 107 members' certificates (alphabetical)

Meeting Minutes

Sept. 3, 1871 – Nov. 13, 1877

Meeting Minutes

Dec. 21, 1881 – March 16, 1886

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 1886 – Jan. 6, 1891

Meeting Minutes

Jan. 13, 1891 – Sept. 28, 1897

Meeting Minutes

Oct. 5, 1897 – Nov.3, 1904

Meeting Minutes

Nov. 29, 1904 – June 9, 1914

*Final Resting Places. Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves*

edited by Brain Matthew Jordan and Jonathan W. White. 2025

“Between 1861 and 1865, more than a half million soldiers succumbed to chronic diseases, enemy bullets or the effects of captivity. The war planted bodies on battlefields and in boneyards; beneath obedient rows of military headstones; and amid the crowded, anonymizing disorder of mass graves. Some bodies were lost at sea, while time eroded the

GRAND ARMY SCOUT

traces of men hastily deposited in makeshift graves.” “... Many of the essays reveal as much about the production of history as they do about the past.

*The Legacy of the Civil War* by Robert Penn Warren. 1961

*Post # 164 Beaver Falls, PA Minute Book*

*Don Troiani’s Black Soldiers in America’s Wars 1754 – 1865* by Don Troiani and John U. Rees. 2025

*Organizing Archival Records: A Guide for Both Physical and Digital Collections* (American Association for State and Local History) by David W. Carmichael. 2026

## **MEA CULPA**

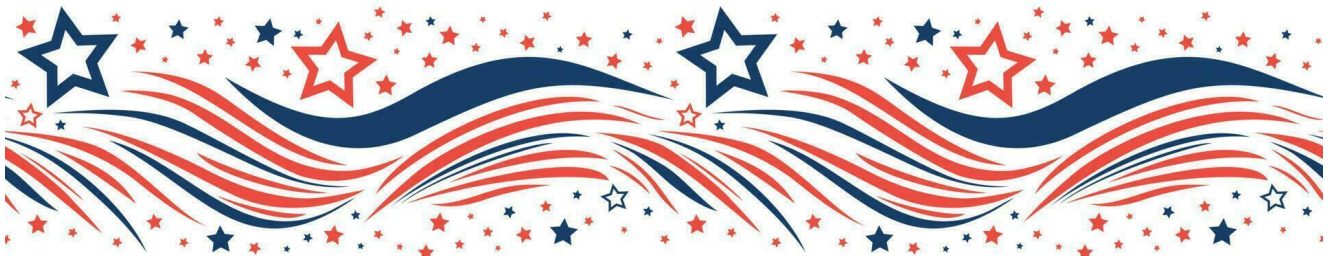
*CORRECTION from the Winter 2025 issue of The Scout.*

*Original - Gettysburg Annual Remembrance Weekend*

*Mary Wible’s Daughters of Union Veterans Tent and other women’s groups hosted a tea on Friday afternoon.*

*CORRECTION - The DUVCW, Salome M. Stewart Tent 55, Gettysburg, once again hosted a tea at the G. A. R. Hall. Mary Wible and others from Tent 58 attended and had a wonderful time. They send their thanks and look forward to 2026*

*The Editor sincerely regrets and apologizes for the misinformation.*



## ***Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Archive Membership***

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

These are the benefits of membership:

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

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

The collection is recognized for its historical importance and includes numerous artifacts of singular historical significance. Your membership will help maintain the legacy that has been handed down to us by the veterans who gave their last full measure of devotion to our country.

To those who are already members, we thank you!

A membership application is at the end of the newsletter. Please join us.



# *Call for Volunteers*



One of the benefits the Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Archive provides is the opportunity to volunteer. Volunteers are a necessary and desirable part of the museum workforce. They expand our ability to do good work that reaches others.

## **Benefits of volunteering**

- Provides you with a sense of purpose
  - Provides a sense of community
  - Helps you meet new friends
    - Improves self-esteem
  - Teaches you valuable skills
    - Provides job prospects
      - It's fun!
- ***You can make a difference.***

If you are interested in volunteering at the Museum, 8110 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136, please contact us at [garmuslib1866@gmail.com](mailto:garmuslib1866@gmail.com) or talk directly to one of our Board members.

## MUSEUM PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS

### Museum News

..... by Joe Perry



### Museum Hours

The GAR Museum and Archive is open for visitors and tours following the completion of the construction of our new accessible first floor bathroom. Our regular hours are Tuesdays from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, and by appointment. Please visit the Museum website for more information about scheduling a visit for tours and research.

### Research Requests

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum's extensive archival and library resources are highly sought-after by researchers.

To effectively meet the requests in the overwhelming number of emails we receive and to provide financial support for the Museum, our Volunteer Research Associates and Historians will work on GAR members' requests only. Non-members will be asked to become a member before the research work begins.

Research will be limited to information relevant to GAR Post records and histories, records related to the other Allied Orders of the GAR, such as the Ladies of the GAR or Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, etc., and military records for Civil War veterans, when possible. We cannot conduct family/ancestral genealogy research.



## Museum People – At Home, Out, and About

### Spreading the Word

..... by *Bill Sheffer*

On March 11th, board member Bill Sheffer gave a presentation about the GAR Museum to the Rotary Club of Newtown, Bucks County. More than 40 members of the service club heard him speak about the history of the GAR, the museum displays and educational programs as well as the benefits of being a museum member. Of particular interest to the audience was the story of Newtown native Sergeant Charles Duckworth who was the last Union veteran from Pennsylvania to die and is buried in Newtown Cemetery.



### Spreading the Word

..... by *Mary Wible*

Walt Lafty and I gave our GAR Museum Power Point presentation on Wednesday, January 21, at the Lower Southampton Library, AKA the Feasterville Library. We highlighted parts of the collection, sharing artifacts, and providing samples of records and documents of Civil War veterans and the interesting stories behind them.

### Remembering Our Veterans

On April 1, Walt Lafty offered a hybrid in-person and Zoom presentation for the Northeast Philadelphia History Network at the Pennepack Baptist Meetinghouse. His PowerPoint program was entitled “Lest We Forget: Civil War Veterans Buried in Northeast Philadelphia Cemeteries.”

In this program Walt discussed many of the Civil War veterans buried in various cemeteries in Northeast Philadelphia. There are many interesting stories about these men and their war experiences, including prisoners of war, men killed and wounded, and even a few Confederate soldiers buried in NE Philly. There are also a few whose homes are still standing. Many were fortunate to live to an old age, and some were members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

## History Institute at Manor College

GAR members Andy Waskie and Tom Donnelly offered a variety of Zoom programs for Manor College's History Institute. Andy's program on February 25 was "The Story of U.S. Veterans Organizations." Tom's programs, offered on March 18 and April 22, respectively, were "O'DONNELL ABÚ; The Last Stand of Gaelic Ireland" and "The Mexican-American War: The Overlooked Prelude to the Civil War." You can see how our GAR members "help keep history alive" by following these programs on [www.manor.edu](http://www.manor.edu).

## YouTube History of Old Baldy

..... *By Joe Perry*

### **"Union General Meade's Warhorse Old Baldy"**

History Professor Jennifer Murray of Shepherd University discusses the life, death, and legacy of Old Baldy, Civil War Union Major General George Meade's warhorse. The National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland hosted this event.

<https://www.c-span.org/program/the-civil-war/union-general-meades-warhorse-old-baldy/666388>

## Special Recognition for Mary Wible

..... *by Walt Lafty*



Mary Wible just received this certificate from the National Organization of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW). Congratulations, Mary!



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

by Walt Lafty

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

This issue features Frederick Boland who served in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.



Frederick Boland was born in 1838. While his GAR Post and some other records have him born in Philadelphia, his 1897 death certificate, 1850 census, and 1841 ship passenger records show him as born in England. His family arrived in Philadelphia on the Ship *Goodwin* on 13 Nov 1841. He would have been a young boy.

Fred first served in Company D, 19<sup>th</sup> PA Militia, a 3-month regiment from April through July 1861.

He then mustered in as a Pvt in Company K, 72<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania PVI on 10 August 1861.

On 1 May 1863, Fred was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in Company B, then promoted to 1st Lieutenant on 10 September 1863. Promoted to Captain on 30 June 1864, he later was honorably mustered out 24 August 1864. The 72<sup>nd</sup> PA was known as "Baxter's Fire Zouaves", "Third California Regiment", and the "Philadelphia Fire Zouaves". Ultimately the 72<sup>nd</sup> PVI, along with the 69<sup>th</sup> PVI, 71<sup>st</sup> PVI, and the 106<sup>th</sup> PVI formed what became known as "The Philadelphia Brigade".

With the 72<sup>nd</sup> PVI, Fred served in many major battles. They included: Fair Oaks (Seven Pines), Savage Station, Malvern Hill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Bristoe Station, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. He was wounded many times during his military service. A letter in his collection from Major General George G. Meade states that Captain Frederick Boland "**received no less than five wounds in battle.**" One of those wounds was at Gettysburg and later a severe wound at Cold Harbor. It was after Cold Harbor when his three-year enlistment ended that he mustered out.

After the war, Fred married Annie E. Young. They had at least four children: Frank, Fred, Ida, and Lillian. He also became a member of MOLLUS and the GAR as a member of Post 2. He was elected to GAR Post 2 on 14 June 1877 and was elected a member of MOLLUS on 2 November 1881.

For most of his life before and after the war his occupation was a gilder or merchant. His will lists him as a "*picture frame dealer*". In that will he left to his "**Beloved wife Annie**" his remaining estate for her and her heirs. She was to be his sole executrix.

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

Fred Boland died 15 March 1897. In the Post 2 meeting minutes for 18 March 1897, the Post Chaplain announced his death. It was then directed by the Post 2 Commander that **“A vacant chair be placed and the adjutant directed to inscribe upon a blank page in the journal the name, rank and date of the deceased.”** At his funeral, his comrades carried him to his final resting place. One of those was a fellow MOLLUS member, Lt. Edward H. Parry, 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Cavalry. Fred was initially buried at Monument Cemetery but in later years, reinterred to Lawnview Cemetery in Rockledge, Montgomery County, PA. He is buried alongside his wife and three of his children.

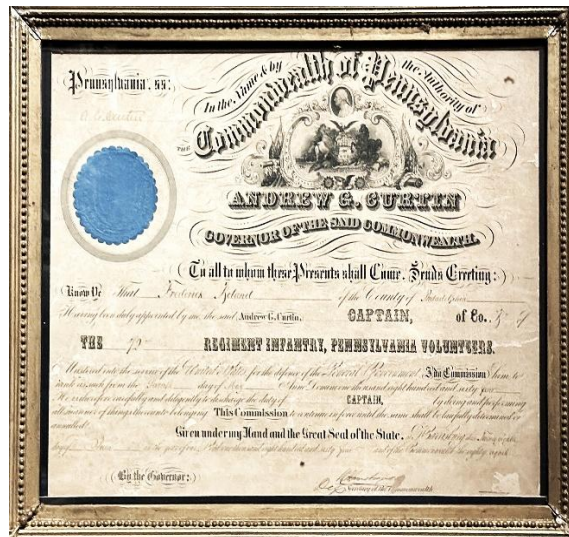


**Left: Part of his collection of artifacts and memorabilia is on display at the GAR Civil War Museum 8110 Frankford Avenue Phila. PA 19136.**

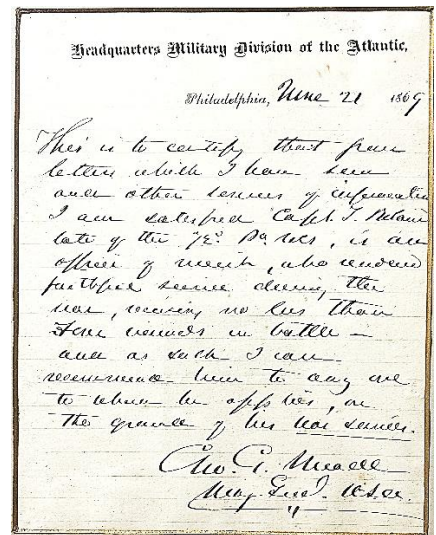
**The collection is extensive so some of his remaining items are stored away as some examples show below.**



**Presented by the Military Order of The Loyal Legion**



**Captain Boland's commission presented by Governor Andrew Curtin**



**Letter from Major General George G. Meade**

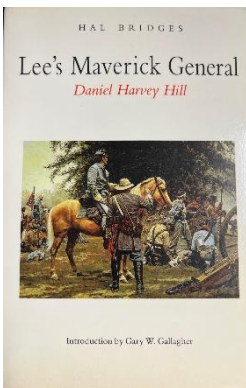
To learn more about MOLLUS, visit their website at:  
<https://loyallegion.org/>

## **THE MUSEUM'S BOOK CORNER** ..... by Bill Sheffer

### **Lee's Maverick General: Daniel Harvey Hill**

by Hal Bridges

McGraw-Hill, 1961 (hardback), Bison Books, 1991 (paperback), 325 pages



Confederate General Daniel Harvey Hill, or simply D.H. Hill, is the “other Hill.” He’s not to be confused with the more well-known Ambrose Powell “A.P.” Hill, hero of Antietam. Interestingly, author Bridges states that A.P. Hill would not have succeeded in his “save-the-day heroics” if not for the support of troops commanded by D.H. Hill.

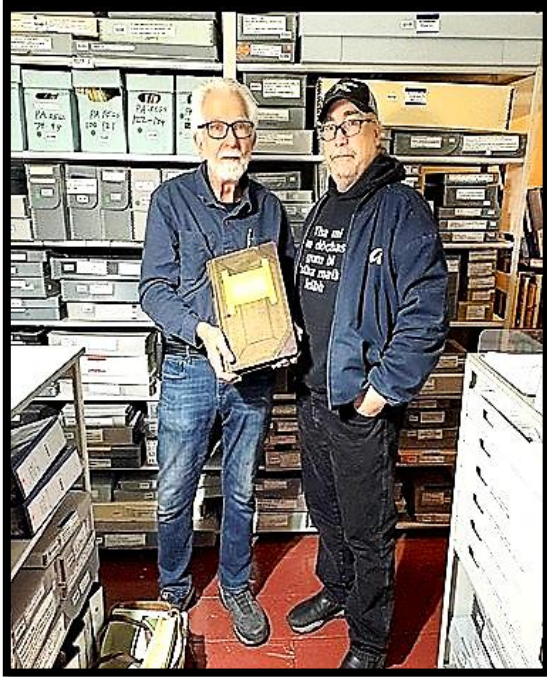
Known for his sharp wit and sarcastic tongue, D.H. Hill was a lightning rod throughout the Civil War and had no one to blame but himself for his clashes. Rebel Generals Robert E. Lee and Braxton Bragg labeled Hill a “croaker” (the contemporary term for complainer). Respected by all as a brave, hard fighter, Hill was opinionated and poor at politics.

In September 1962, D.H. Hill found himself mired in controversy when he was accused of losing a copy of “Special Order 191,” Lee’s secret plan for his Maryland invasion. The lost plans were found by Union soldiers and given to General George McClellan. Hill was adamant that he received only one copy of the order and not two as claimed by his accusers. There has never been a conclusive answer to the dispute.

Following the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863, Bragg blamed Hill for failing to pursue the retreating Federals. The author presents Hill’s side of the story and reminds us of Bragg’s habit of blaming others for *his* own failures. Underlying Bragg’s animosity towards Hill was Bragg’s belief that Hill penned the letter to President Davis (signed by most of Bragg’s generals) petitioning for Bragg’s removal from command. Bragg held onto his job and got his revenge by having Hill demoted from field command to a minor advisor’s post. Humiliated, Hill sent numerous letters to President Davis pleading to “restore his honor.” Davis stood firm and eventually gave Hill a minor role as a military advisor in the South. Hill finally won back a field command under Joseph Johnston. Whether that satisfied Hill’s quest for redemption is open for debate.

## ***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*



### ***Beaver Valley G.A.R. Post 164 Department of Pennsylvania***



*Left: Museum President Joe Perry receives a G.A.R. Post 164 donation from member Brian Harris. Both are also members of Baker-Fisher Camp 101 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil (SUVCW). Brian currently serves as the Junior Vice Commander.*

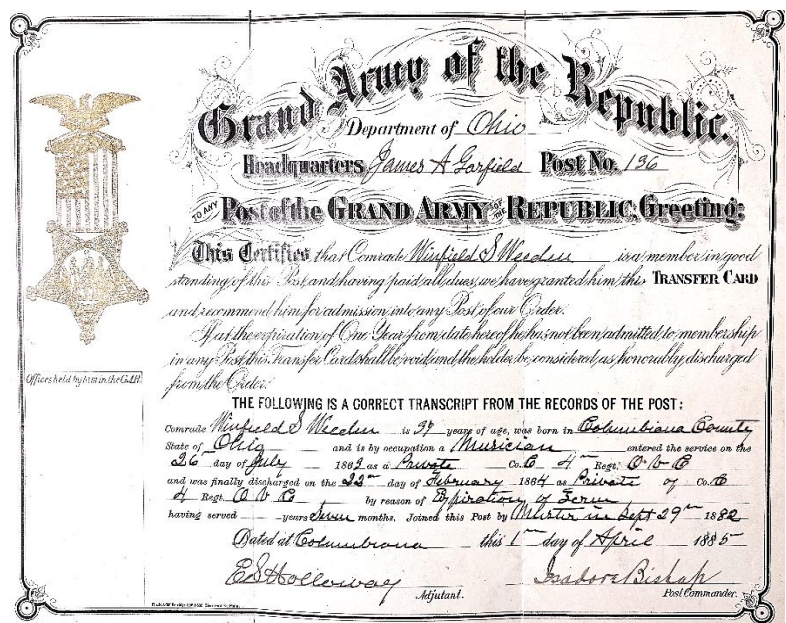
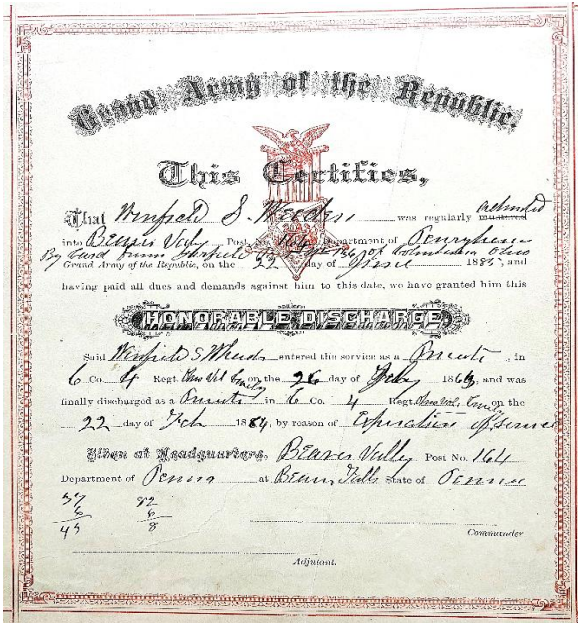
Always on the lookout for historic artifacts and records, museum member Brian Harris recently was able to purchase the above document on eBay. Recognizing the significance and importance to the Grand Army of the Republic, he knew he had to get it because it deserved a home where it belonged, in a museum, and specifically the G.A.R. Civil War Museum. He was happy to purchase it and donate it to the museum.

It is an original copy of the meeting minutes of Beaver Valley G.A.R. Post 164 located in Beaver County, PA near Pittsburgh. It is really an important find because there are no known records for this Post. While it only covers from 29 March 1886 thru 12 April 1897, the information in those 11 years provides names and activities for Post 164 which is a treasure trove of information.

Post 164 was organized 8 April 1880 with 23 charter members. By 1887 there were 77 members, a gain of four from the previous year. One of those four was Winfield S. Weeden who transferred from James Garfield Post 136 in Ohio. He transferred into Beaver Valley Post 164 on 22 June 1885. Private Weeden served in both the 51<sup>st</sup> Ohio and 140<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry Regiments.

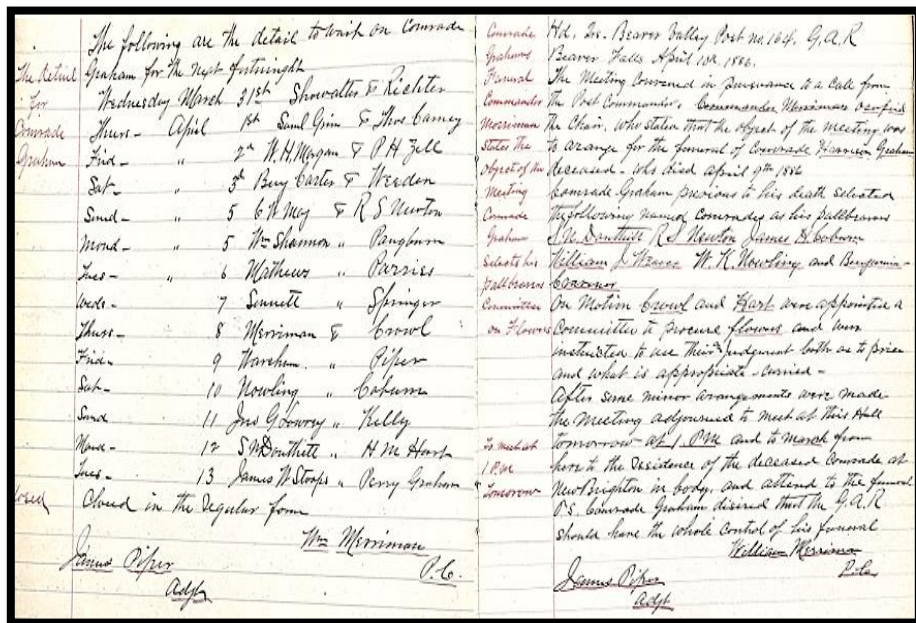
His original Ohio Post 136 discharge and Post 164 certificates were found inside the new minutes book. They are now part of the G.A.R. Post records collection in the archive room at the G.A.R. Museum in Philadelphia.

GRAND ARMY SCOUT



While Post 164 was located in the town of Beaver Falls, the surrounding townships and region was known as Beaver Valley and thus Post 164 was named for that general geographic location. It met at various times in a small stone house on Eleventh Street (1880) and around 1888 at the GAR Hall on Wallace block (it's not identified any clearer other than "Wallace Block"), and at Dawson's Hall (1904).

It appears from Pennsylvania G.A.R. Encampment records that Post 164 may have reached its highest membership of 101 men around 1895. By December of 1920 it was down to 18 members and by the mid 1920s only a few survived. One of the last survivors from Post 164 was Benjamin Carter. Born in Virginia in 1840, he moved to Pennsylvania and served in Ordinance from 26 January 1864 through 26 January 1867. As no other Post records exist and there are no entries for Post 164 in PA Encampment records after 1930, it is possible he was last member of that Post. Newspapers after 1929 have no accounts of the Post other than his obituary in 1929.



The first couple pages of the Post 164 minutes begin with funeral arrangements. Names, duties, and other arrangements are discussed about the death of their comrade Harrison Graham who died April 9, 1886.



## UPDATE ON RESEARCHING G.A.R. POST RECORDS



By Walt Lafty

In recent months this Museum has been blessed with donations of various G.A.R. Post records.

Seven of the eight boxes in the above photo were donated by Temple University. They contain various records of Newhall Post 7 which was located in the Fishtown section of Philadelphia. They include six boxes of meeting minutes which range from September 3, 1871 to June 9, 1914, Missing from that collection are the dates from November 14, 1877 through December 20, 1880. So basically they cover about 40 of the years between September 1871 and June 1914.

The seventh box includes an alphabetical list of certificates for 107 of the members of Post 7. Also in that box is a signature list of 501 of their members.

The contents of the eighth donated box in the above photo are meeting minutes from Beaver Valley G.A.R. Post 164 which was located in Beaver County, PA. The minutes from that Post are from March 12, 1886 through April 12, 1897, which amounts to 11 years of information. That donation was made by museum member Brian Harris and more details about those records are included in a separate article in this newsletter.

Another donation was recently made was by Eric Schminke Jr. He is the son of past G.A.R. Museum President Eric Schminke Sr. who died October 27, 2023. Eric Sr. had many military artifacts and records in his possession when he died. Those included copies of G.A.R. Post records and cover 20 various Pennsylvania G.A.R. posts.

None of the G.A.R. post records in his possession were originals, but all were photocopies. Some of those were copies of copies that we already have in our collection at the museum. For some posts, the record is simply a list of the members and their military affiliation. Others include copies of Personal War Sketches. Some were photocopies of Descriptive Books, both in our collection, and not in our collection. Here are just a few examples of the records we did not have but do now:

- Robinson Post 20 which was located in Hazleton. The copies of their Post Descriptive Book includes approximately 475 members.
- Copies of the Newhall Post 7 Descriptive Book with 784 members. This information was not part of the Post 7 records we received from Temple University mentioned above.
- Copies of the Grant Post 5 Descriptive Book. We currently have an abstract of names from Post 5 but not the Descriptive Book. It also includes a Post 5 burial plot list of 50 members.

All of the above donations will be valuable tools for researching Civil War veterans and any G.A.R. connections. The beneficiaries will certainly be our members as well as visitors to the museum.

## ***Philadelphia Civil War Nurse Heeds The Call To Duty***

*by Robert J Murphy*



Patriotic duty was certainly a “family affair” for Emily Wilson. Her ancestors served in the American Revolution and the War of 1812. As early as 14-years-old Emily nursed cholera-stricken patients during the Philadelphia epidemic of 1849. **(1)** At the start of the Civil War, Emily enlisted in the 1st Pennsylvania Nurse Corps and spent four years caring for sick and wounded soldiers on 33 battlefields. **(2)**

Emily Elizabeth Hansbury, born May 26, 1835 in Philadelphia, was the second child of Elizabeth Reed and Jeremiah Hansbury. **(1)** Her great-grandfather, Lt. Colonel Jacob Bergey Reed, commanded troops in the Battles of Whitehorse Tavern (Malvern, Pa.), Germantown, and Brandywine during the American Revolution. The Hansbury family

maintained farms in Chestnut Hill and Bucks County, Pa. during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. **(1)**

Emily married stonemason John Allen Wilson in 1854. He suffered a financial setback in a failed business venture during the Panic of 1857. Leaving his wife and infant child behind, Wilson went to the West in 1858 to recover his fortunes in Missouri. He never returned to his family. **(1)**

At the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861 Emily volunteered to become a nurse. In a 1903 newspaper article, Emily noted that she had received nurse training in 1858. Formal nurse training programs did not exist in the United States at that time. However, she may have received nurse midwife training at the Nurses Charity Lying-in Hospital located at 11<sup>th</sup> & Cherry Streets in Philadelphia. **(3)**

Through the efforts of the Rev. George Steward and the Nurse Charity Committee of Philadelphia, Governor Andrew Curtin authorized the “Keystone Daughters” as the First Corps, Pennsylvania Volunteer Nurses on May 15, 1861. **(2)(12)** Emily and 35 other nurses were selected to go to Washington to serve. On May 25, 1861, “the Daughters” boarded a train to Washington to be accepted as nurse recruits by the US Army Nurses Corps Superintendent, Ms. Dorothea Dix. **(3)**

In postwar newspaper accounts Emily spoke of her duties in Washington: “I well remember the time when the Post Office, Senate Chamber, and all the churches of Washington were filled with the wounded and the dying” ... “What terrible days they were. It would be a terrible thing to live them over again.” **(4)**

National Archives (1862-64) payroll records show Emily Wilson served at Georgetown College, Harewood and Fairfax Seminary USA general hospitals. **(5)** Hospital nurses were dispatched to the battlefields and assigned to divisional field hospitals by an army corps Medical Director. The nurse

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

teams would be led by a matron who would report directly to a Surgeon-in-Charge. **(6)** Emily cared for wounded soldiers at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Harrison Landing, and Fredericksburg. The hospital building at Harrison Landing was hit with artillery fire while she was treating wounds. Her final tour of duty was in the Western Theatre at the USA Hospital, Paducah, Kentucky from October 20, 1864 to April 30, 1865. **(7)**

After the war Emily returned to Philadelphia and married William Woodley in 1867. **(1)** She became an advocate to former Keystone Daughter nurses who became chronically ill and destitute because of the war. In May 1895 Emily organized the Andrew G. Curtin Army Nurse Association of Philadelphia to support this cause. **(8)**

In 1881 Emily Woodley joined the Ex-Nurses Association of the District of Columbia founded by Dorothea Dix. In the next decade, both the Women's Relief Corps (WRC) and "Ex-Nurses Association" worked in tandem to secure pension rights for former Civil War nurses.

In 1884, the WRC petitioned Congress to grant pensions to female army nurses who served during the Civil War. The proposal became known as the Army Nurses Pension Act. Qualified Civil War nurses would receive \$12 per month in pension benefits. In the Summer of 1892, a compromise bill passed the House and Senate and was approved by President Harrison. **(11)**

Membership in the Ex-Nurse's Association of the District of Columbia declined significantly with the death of Dorothea Dix in 1887. During the 1892 GAR National Encampment a new organization was created, called the National Association of Army Nurses of the Late War. Thirty-five members joined, including Emily Woodley. Ms. Adie Ballou was elected President. Ms. Ballou was unable to attend GAR encampments for the next two years. At the 1895 GAR encampment at Louisville, Kentucky, Emily Woodley "seized the moment" and formally established the National Association of Army Nurses of the Late War. Based on her demonstrated skills in staff and committee member responsibilities with the Ex- Nurse's Association, she quickly established a charter and a set of by-laws to govern the new organization. Emily was elected president by unanimous vote of the members. **(5)**

Although she was unsuccessful, Emily Woodley advocated to GAR leadership in Pennsylvania and national GAR encampments **(12)** to provide a convalescent home for destitute nurse veterans. Emily noted the new home "is to have Pennsylvania contribute something to the support.... of the old women surviving the noble army of nurses who marched with the soldiers of this state...endured all hardships and braved ever danger during the Civil War." While no nursing home specifically for Civil War nurses was established in Pennsylvania, a GAR convalescent home for Union veterans and their wives was founded in West Philadelphia in 1903. **(12)(13)**

Emily served as president of the National Association of Army Nurses of the Late War from 1895 to 1898. In 1901 the association again revised their name to become The National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War. In 1897, estimated membership of this organization was 500 nurses. Annual meetings were scheduled concurrent to dates and sites of GAR national encampments. In

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

2023 the General Meade Post #1 GAR Museum located in Philadelphia reported the discovery of the original association charter. **(5)(15)**

Concurrent to her role as a national leader of Civil War nurse causes, Emily also founded a local organization of Army nurses in Philadelphia in May 1895, called the Andrew G. Curtin Association of Army Nurses (AGCANAP). The group remained active from May 1, 1895 to May 1, 1903 (eight years).

Average number of member attendance at meetings suggested by the minutes appears to range between five to 15 members over the eight-year period of existence. All of the meetings were held at Emily's home at 30 N. Fifth St. in Philadelphia. **(10)**

The May 1895 minutes mentioned Anne Wittenmeyer's work to pass the Army Nurse Pension bill in the US Congress in 1892. There is no mention in the 1895-1903 minutes (eight years) of any specific actions taken by Emily Woodley, either through the NACWN (National Association of Civil War Nurses) or the Andrew G. Curtin Association, to testify before state or Federal government committees for pension rights or nursing home assistance to disabled ACW nurses. Elizabeth Ewing, a Civil War nurse from Valley Forge, Pa, an executive member of Emily's leadership team in the NACWN, was a Pennsylvania delegate for the Women's Relief Corps (1894 Women's Relief Corps Bulletin). Elizabeth may have served as a conduit to support WRC pension advocacy on behalf of the NACWN. **(10)**

At the December 22, 1895 meeting Anne Wittenmeyer was elected as an honorary member of the AGCANAP. There is no mention in meeting minutes of Anne's attendance at any of their meetings (1895-1900). Prominent Civil War nurses Cornelia Hancock, Susanna Krips, and Mary Aston attended most of the meetings. Two, possibly three nurses, were given monetary support from the organization.

Many of the meetings focused on strategies about soliciting support from the GAR and local businesses and government agencies to pay for lodging and travel expenses to attend the GAR meetings. There was discussion concerning AGCANAP to solicit cemeteries to donate land for burial plots to deceased Civil War nurses who did not have the means to purchase them.

In the March 16, 1900 minutes, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Philadelphia sent notice to the AGCANAP of Anne Wittenmeter's memorial service. The church asked the attendance of the nurse association members (as a group) to attend a memorial service at her death on April 1, 1900 at the Methodist Episcopal Church located at Broad & Arch Streets. The AGCANAP spent \$5.45 for flowers to be sent for the service (roughly \$200 in today's money). **(10)**

The only public initiative briefly mentioned in the meeting minutes during the eight-year period of existence of the organization (9-1-1899) regarded the Army Nurses Memorial Monument to be erected in the Fernwood Cemetery in Delaware County, Pa. **(10)**

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

The meeting minutes of November 27, 1895 mentioned a letter from Anne Wittenmeyer recognizing the work of the AGCANAP. No specific details of the letter were mentioned in the minutes. Cornelia Hancock, Emily Woodley, Mary Aston and Rebecca Donnelly (non-nurse Emily's daughter-in-law) attended most of the meetings. Two, possibly three nurses, were mentioned to have received monetary support from the organization.

Many of the meetings focused on strategies about soliciting support from the GAR and local businesses and government agencies to pay for lodging and travel expenses to attend the GAR meetings. GAR policies recognized former Civil War nurses for membership in the Ladies GAR.

As the last surviving Keystone Daughter, Emily Woodley spent her remaining years in a modest home in Center City Philadelphia. She died on May 15, 1908. Her death certificate indicated that she died from an acute respiratory condition. It is interesting to note that in the 1890 census Emily listed her occupation as a manufacturer of disinfectants. Her skill in preparing these products was most likely due to nurse training. Disinfectant compounds contained phenols and carbolic acids. If she prepared products in a poorly ventilated location, significant lung damage could have occurred. In 1861 Emily could have easily lived a quiet life as nurse midwife and mother. **(14)** However, her family legacy of service to this country inspired her to serve on the battlefield. **(14)**

An excerpt from a local Philadelphia newspaper described Emily's grave site ceremony "Tottering blue uniformed army veterans from a dozen posts joined with the representatives of several patriotic societies in rendering full military honors to the memory of Emily Woodley. Just as though one of their own comrades was about to be laid to rest, the veterans stood at salute before the casket, followed it in full military order as it was carried out of the house, lined up at the grave in Fernwood and stood at attention while the firing squad of Camp #5 Sons of Veterans fired a volley over the open grave and the bugler sounded taps."

Citations:

**(1), (2)** Reed, Henry Willoughby. *Reed Genealogy*. Norristown, Press, 1929. 0598993991, 780598993991 pp 135-136

**(3)** Warrington, Joseph. *The Nurse's Guide*. Thomas Cowperthwait, Philadelphia. 1839,1846(updated)

**(4)** "Philadelphia Nurses Corps": *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Saturday April 20, 1861 Retrieved September 2, 2019 – via *Newspapers.com*.

**(5)** Grand Army of the Republic. National Encampment. 44th, Atlantic City (1910). <https://archive.org/details/inhonorofnationa00grand3> Retrieved August 31, 2019

**(6)** "[Army Nurses Seek Pensions](#)". *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. March 5, 1903. p. 2. Retrieved September 2, 2019 – via *Newspapers.com*.

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

- (7) NAID 28277783.Record Group 112, Records of the Office of the Surgeon General (Army) Series: List of Female Nurses, Cooks, and List of Female Nurses, Cooks, and Laundresses employed in Army Hospitals during the Civil War. [https://catalog.archives.gov/id/76014506Retrieved 12/15/24](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/76014506Retrieved%2012/15/24)
- (8) Adams, George W. *Doctors in Blue: the Medical History of the Union Army in the Civil War* H. Schuman, New York,1952. ISBN: 0-8071-2105-3 pp. 176-181.
- (9) OR Series: XIX/1(S#27) Operations in Northern Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania-9/3/62 to 11/14/62.
- (10) The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa, University of Iowa Press Digital Editions. Retrieved February 2, 2025 @ <https://uiopress.lib.uiowa.edu/bdi/DetailsPage.aspx?id=415>
- (10) (a)Andrew G. Curtin Association of Army Nurses Files 1861-1903.University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. MC19
- (11) Metheny, Hannah. *The Pension Campaign For a Woman: The Fight for Pensions for Civil War Army Nurses*. Retrieved : 12/16/24 *The Pension Campaign For a Woman: The Fight for Pensions for Civil War Army Nurses*. Retrieved 4/26/23: <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/honorstheses/573>
- (12) *"Daughters of Veterans"*. *Buffalo Evening News*. August 26, 1897. p. 14. Retrieved September 2, 2019 – via *Newspapers.com*.
- (12a) GAR Encampment". *Scranton Tribune*. August 16,1899. p.1
- (13) *"Military Honors Accorded GAR Encampment the Famous Army Nurse"*. *The Greenville Advocate*. June 24, 1908. p.7. Retrieved September 2, 2019 – via *Newspapers.com*.
- (14) <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74228167/emily-e-woodley>
- (15) Philadelphia GAR Post 1 Newsletter 2023

### Author:

Robert J Murphy, BS, MBA, Ed.D. served in various clinical laboratory and hospital supply chain positions in the Philadelphia, Pa. area. He served as an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate Health Care Administration Program at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia for 34 years.



## ***Tragedy at the Ballpark: The Abrupt End to Cpl. Edward Williamson and Pvt. Alfred Rodgers***

..... By Kyle Grant Purchase

Despite the debunked myth of General Abner Doubleday inventing the game of baseball, the Civil War and the “nation’s past time” do indeed have connections. I wrote an article discussing the late great Connie Mack’s Civil War connection for a previous edition of the *Swamp Angel*. This story of another connection is unfortunately a grim one. It involves two veterans who died on the same day and place on a summer’s day in 1903 in Philadelphia.

Edward Williamson served in Co. H of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry as a private, first enlisting August 19, 1861. He was eventually transferred to Co. H where he was promoted to Corporal.

Cpl. Williamsons’ unit, the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry, was recruited from Bucks, Lycoming, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill counties. The unit saw action in many Eastern Theater battles and has a handsome monument on the Gettysburg battlefield, near the Pennsylvania State Memorial. The unit also featured Medal of Honor recipients including Commissary Sgt. John Galloway and Pvt. John M. Vanderslice. (Vanderslice after the war would be heavily involved with the Grand Army of the Republic and helped expand its membership in Pennsylvania. He also was involved with the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, an organization dedicated to preserving the battlefield and placing the first few monuments on the battlefield. He also wrote a history entitled, *Gettysburg Then and Now*, and was initially published in 1897.)

Cpl. Williamson would be wounded at the Battle of Antietam, in which he had to leave his unit to recover from his injuries. He returned to his service and took part in the unit’s role in General William T. Sherman’s famous “March to the Sea.”

At one point during the journey, he was captured and sent to the notorious Andersonville prison camp in Georgia. Astonishingly, he made his escape from Andersonville by hiding in wooden crates that were to be shipped out of the prison by a cart. Once outside, he revealed himself to the driver of the cart, and with a pistol he obtained, forced him to drive further until Williamson made a run for it into the Georgian countryside. Confederate forces pursued him with bloodhounds for sixteen days, but he reached safety in the city of Atlanta, which was controlled by Union forces. Williamson would eventually muster out with his unit on October 10, 1864, but would reenlist with Co. H of the 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Veteran Volunteers, a role he would be in until the war’s conclusion.

Alfred B. Rodgers enlisted as a private with Co. I of the 121<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers on August 18, 1862 and was discharged in May 1865.

The 121<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers, were recruited from Philadelphia and Venango Counties. The 121<sup>st</sup> also saw action in the Eastern Theater including (though not limited to) Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and the Overland Campaign. The 121<sup>st</sup> were part of the Doubleday’s Division of the I Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

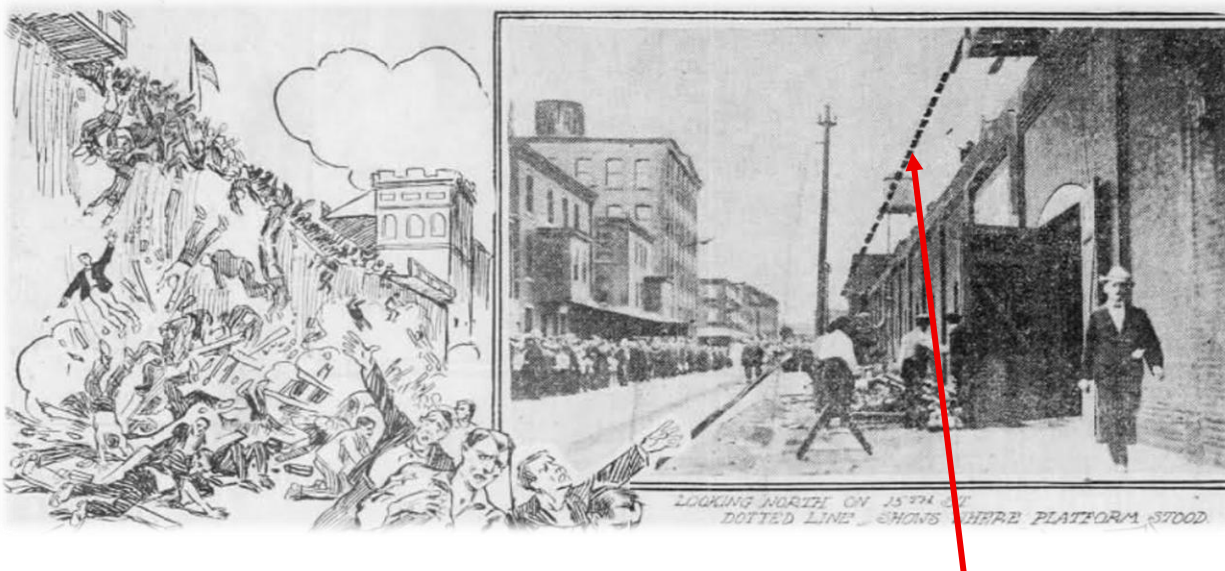
## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

After their careers in military service, Williamson and Rodgers would return to Philadelphia to continue with their lives, where Rodgers would work as a bricklayer. (Little information is known as to what Williamson did as an occupation.)

Unfortunately for these two men, their lives would end tragically at the same time and place on August 8, 1903. Both were in attendance at the Baker Bowl in Philadelphia. The Bowl at the time was home of the Philadelphia Phillies, a precursor to both Veterans Stadium and Citizens Bank Park. The tragedy occurred for the men and other spectators while during a double-header baseball game between the Phillies and Boston Braves (precursor to the Milwaukee Braves who then became the Atlanta Braves in 1966), when one of the balconies on the third base line collapsed due to an overcrowding of spectators attempting to view an incident outside the stadium below. The alleged incident involved two drunken men being mocked by a group of children and one of the men grabbed one of the children, a thirteen-year-old girl, and fell on top of her. The girl's screams for help caused enough noise for hundreds of spectators to look and see for themselves what was causing it. At some point, the wooden support pillars for the balcony detached from the stadium, thus plummeting approximately 30 feet to the street below, taking the spectators with it. Over 200 fans were injured and 12 were killed. Both Williamson and Rogers were two of the 12 victims who died in the accident.

The tragedy became known as "Black Saturday," and is to date believed to be the worst disaster in the history of American sports spectating.

According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, all the deceased were "enthusiastic followers of the game." The newspapers also detailed the injuries, with Williamson suffering a "fractured spine and crashed thorax," while Rogers suffered a "crushed head and a fractured arm and leg."



(The *Philadelphia Inquirer's* depiction of the balcony collapse. The dotted line in the right image shows where the balcony was.)

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

The Phillies would continue to use the Baker Bowl as their home until 1938 when they moved into Shibe Park (eventually renamed Connie Mack Stadium), the stadium of their inner-city rivals, the Philadelphia Athletics. Many people filed lawsuits against the owners of the Phillies and the stadium to claim for damages, but after years of litigation, the owners were absolved of blame. The U.S. Supreme Court favored the owners' claim where they ruled that the cause of the tragedy was "the extraordinary rush of people to an area not designed to hold such a crowd and where they should not have been."

As a result of the tragedy, enhancements to safety and regulations for major league ballparks were made such as using steel and cement instead of wooden beams. In addition, the practice of inspecting buildings where large crowds would gather and displaying a certificate that the building passed inspection, became the new standard. The Pennsylvania Fire and Panic Act of 1927, numerous state and local building codes and other legislative changes, could be traced, one may argue, to an incident like Black Saturday.

As for our two Civil War heroes who lost their lives that day, Cpl. Williamson was laid to rest at Mt. Peace Cemetery, which is next to Mt. Vernon Cemetery, and just down the road from Laurel Hill Cemetery. Veterans of the 8<sup>th</sup> PA Cavalry were in attendance for his funeral. A month after the tragedy, his widow, Henrietta, filed for and received a widow's pension. Pvt. Rodgers on the other hand, is buried at Hillside Cemetery and Memorial Gardens in Roslyn. Veterans of the 121<sup>st</sup> were in attendance for his services as were members of the Bricklayers Association of Philadelphia, Mt. Vernon Castle No. 148 Knights of the Golden Eagle (K.G.E.) and the Jefferson Club.

The Baker Bowl was demolished in 1950, and a state historical marker indicates where the stadium once stood.

### Sources:

Ancestry.com

Baseball Reference. "Baker Bowl." [https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Baker\\_Bowl](https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Baker_Bowl)

Bob McNulty's Stories of Philadelphia Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/share/18XEmNS7Kq/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Find-A-Grave.com "Edward Williamson." <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/40418496/edward-williamson>

Kastel, Matthew. "Baseball's Deadliest Day: Black Saturday – The tragedy that changed ballpark construction forever." (2022) <https://www.baseballhistorycomesalive.com/baseballs-deadliest-day-black-saturday-the-tragedy-that-changed-ballpark-construction-forever/amp/>

Newspapers.com

Warrington, Robert D. "Baseball's Deadliest Disaster: 'Black Saturday' in Philadelphia." (2013) <https://sabr.org/journal/article/baseballs-deadliest-disaster-black-saturday-in-philadelphia/>

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

..... articles submitted by Andy Waskie

### **Construction beginning for Gettysburg Welcome Center**

<https://www.abc27.com/local-news/construction-beginning-for-gettysburg-welcome-center/>

It is the old Gettysburg Foundation HQ

<https://gettysburgconnection.org/historic-gettysburg-house-demolished-for-1-5-million-welcome-center/>

Demolition crews demolished a historic house at 340 Baltimore Street in Gettysburg today to make room for a new \$1.3 million welcome center in the heart of the tourist district. The two-story brick structure, known locally as the “Brown House” for its dark exterior, has stood since 1885 on a street rich in Civil War history. But after years of vacancy and structural decline, officials and preservationists agreed the building was no longer viable for modern public use. The home’s original framing, narrow stairways, and outdated utilities made compliance with modern building codes impossible.

### **Crash damages monument at Gettysburg National Military Park**

<https://www.wgal.com/article/pa-gettysburg-crash-damages-monument/70051459>



**Monuments vandalized at Gettysburg National Military Park**

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/monuments-defaced-oil-gettysburg-national-211750347.html>

On January 9 the Gettysburg National Military Park reported that several monuments and markers were recently defaced with oil-based substances, While possibly intended as symbolic or ritualistic, the damage is real and lasting. Porous stone absorbs oil deeply, making stains nearly impossible to remove. Restoration takes months and costs taxpayers thousands of dollars per monument. These memorials honor brave soldiers, many of whom died on the very ground where these monuments/markers now stand. If you witness any suspicious activity, report it to park staff immediately.



***Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and MOLLUS Veterans speak at the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg***

Civil War Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Telling War Stories in 1938: 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Veterans Reunion

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=QbT\\_Uq\\_WHjs&t=7s](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=QbT_Uq_WHjs&t=7s)

***“WHAT DO YOU THINK?” – Quora.com***

***If Grant rather than Meade had commanded the Union troops at Gettysburg, how would the battle and its aftermath have occurred differently?***

While it is tempting to argue that Grant would have pursued Lee's beaten army, and either captured or destroyed it, I'm not entirely convinced that would have been the result. The Army of Northern Virginia was a badly wounded animal after Gettysburg, but it would have been a very dangerous one if cornered. And the Army of the Potomac had suffered heavily as well. I don't think Meade had large numbers of fresh reserves to draw on, unlike McClellan had after Antietam. And Lee would have been fighting on the defensive and his men would have been fighting for their very survival. There is only one instance of a Civil War field army being effectively destroyed after losing a battle and that was the Confederate Army of Tennessee after the Battle of Nashville. It was a very difficult thing to accomplish.

***In the US Civil War, how well did General Grant get along with General Meade when Grant was promoted to the overall commander?***

Grant exhibited a great deal of empathy for the position Meade found himself in, in 1864. Meade accepted a role, under Grant, similar to the situation that Grant got stuck with when he was subordinate to Halleck. Sherman had to talk Grant into staying.

The Army of the Potomac had been sick and damaged since Gettysburg. The 9th Corps had been taken from it after Fredericksburg. (The 9th Corps returned to the east coast in early 1864 but was attached to Grant as an independent command. Seems everyone was afraid Burnside would pull rank if assigned to Meade. After The Wilderness battle they informed Burnside his Corps would be subordinate to Meade. Typical Burnside, his response was something to the effect of, “Of course. I didn't see why you didn't do that sooner.”) In the Chickamauga crisis the 11th and 12th Corps were sent to Chattanooga where they did such a good job that Sherman kept them close at his side for the rest of the war. Meade had to put up with this while still being looked upon as the principal army of the Union tasked with the destruction of Lee and Richmond.

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

The ops tempo of the overland campaign combined with the first month of Petersburg. Physically wore the AoP threadbare. Grant placed one of Butler's Corps at Meade's disposal. Winfield Scott Hancock, never fully recovered from Gettysburg, reviled Grant for the burn out of his command, and was transferred to a job in command of the Garrison of Washington and to recruit veterans.

General Meade made no exception whom he took on. That included Grant. As Grant's staff's duties grew when the Atlantic theaters got closed together, disgruntled AoP officers tried to jump ship to the City Point HQ. Meade would storm over to City Point and raise hell. There was an afternoon staff social when news of the fall of Atlanta was announced with a reading of Sherman's message, which made fun of the lack of progress in Petersburg. Meade was furious.

During winter 64 to spring 65, Sherman made it to Savannah and proceeded up the east coast, hemming in Joe Johnston and looking to join Grant in Virginia. Meade spoke up. The AoP had endured more of the War than any other Union Army. Lee was finished. It was a matter of honor and justice to the soldiers of the AoP that they be given the right to finish their task - by themselves.

(Not familiar with the below ensign; it was briefly used as the Headquarters flag of the Commander of the Army of the Potomac flag 1863 - 1864)



## ***INTERESTING GAR ARTIFACTS ..... by Andy Waskie***

(1) GAR Post 7 Newhall Post in Fishtown kepi – shared by Sean Protas who wrote:

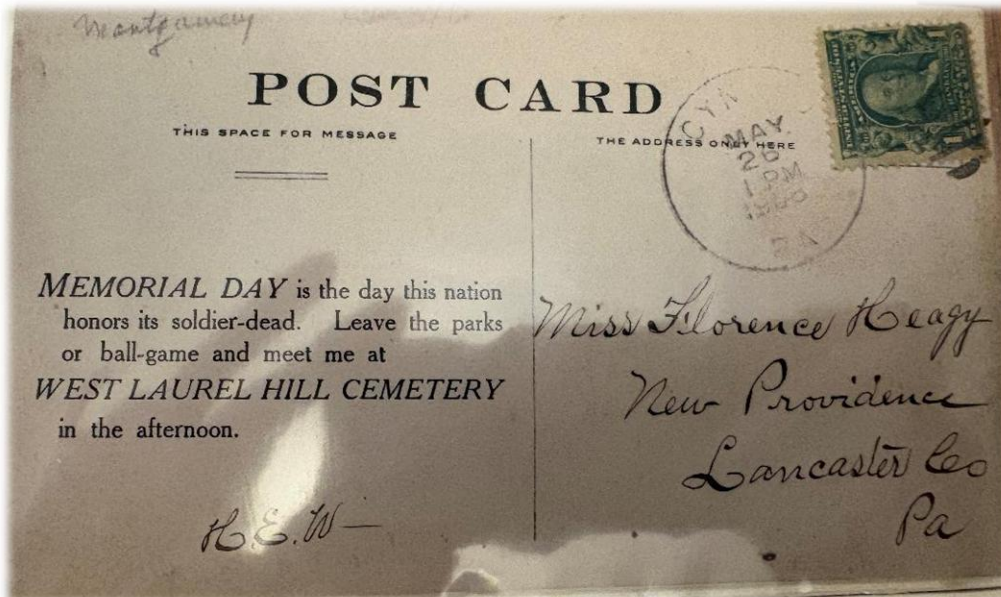
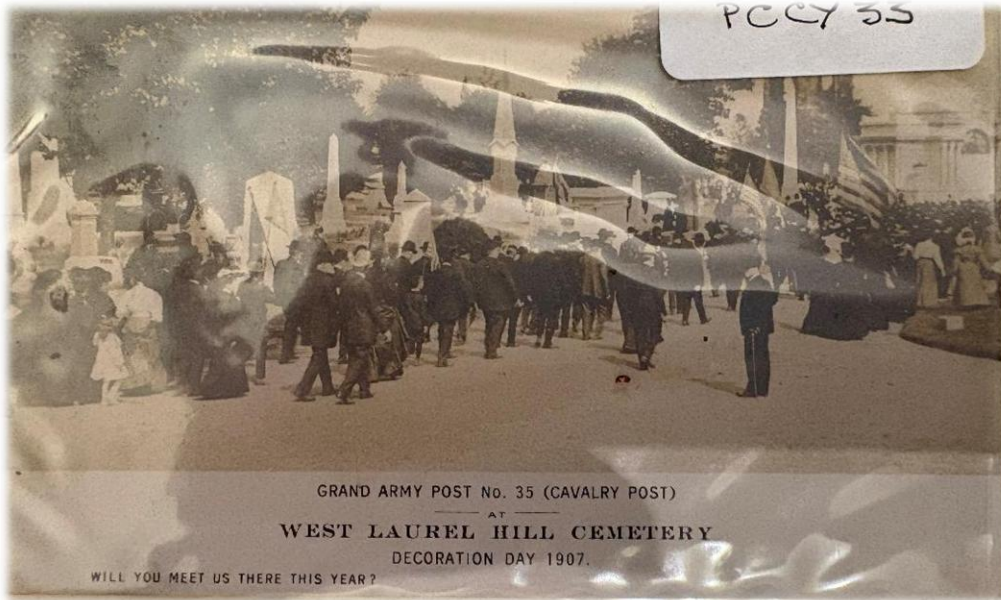
“I have a coworker whose ancestor was in the 2nd PA Heavy artillery. He got a picture of a GAR kepi. It looks like he was a member of Newhall Post 7. The badge on the top looks to be from the unit survivors association. Found it on the title page of a history of the regiment.”



GRAND ARMY SCOUT

(2) Attached is the Post Card (front & back) from Memorial/Decoration Day at West Laurel Hill Cemetery. West Laurel Hill was taken care of by Philadelphia GAR Post 35 the 'Cavalry' Post.

The postcard was addressed to FLORENCE HEAGY of Lancaster, PA. She must have been a relative of Jeff Heagy.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### **Annual Revolutionary War Weekend at Pennypacker Mills**

**Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17, 2026 , Saturday (10 am-5 pm) and Sunday (10 am-4 pm)**

**Pennypacker Mills, 5 Haldeman Rd, Schwenksville, PA 19473**

Experience a Revolutionary War encampment at the Mills! This weekend of history and excitement will feature dozens of reenactors showcasing military and civilian life. See live demonstrations, musicians, speakers, and much more. There will be activities for the whole family.

For more info: <https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/4333/Revolutionary-War-Weekend>

### **Legion Post 405 Annual Gravesite Placement of Veterans' Flags at Laurel Hill East Cemetery**

**Sunday, May 17, 2026, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon**

**3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia**

Meet at the Gatehouse. The group assembled will place US flags on the graves of veterans of all wars. As time and manpower permit, the cemeteries to be covered include Laurel Hill, Mt. Peace & St. James the Less. Refreshments provided.

Laurel Hill Cemetery contains the graves of thousands of Civil War veterans. Many of those who engaged in battle, fighting on the sides of both the Union and Confederacy or on the home front now rest at Laurel Hill. The site also holds sacred the remains of many prominent Civil War-era Philadelphians, including volunteer nurses, surgeons, and supporters of the war effort. All welcome! Open to the Public.

For info (215) 228-8200 or online at <https://laurelhillphl.com/event/volunteer-flag-placement-2/>

### **Annual Memorial Day Observed at Historic Laurel Hill East Cemetery with the Meade Society**

**Sunday, May 24, 2026, 12:00 noon**

**3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia**

Recreating the original G.A.R. Decoration Day Service of 1868. Laurel Hill is the site of the first Memorial Day in Philadelphia in 1868. Special veterans' markers will be dedicated at the graves of previously unmarked veterans. Two (2) previously unmarked veterans will be given new gravestones which will be dedicated at the Memorial Day Service:

(1) Captain Henry Charles Augustus Korn Jr. (1831 – 1920) Co. G, 88th Pennsylvania Volunteers and  
(2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cadwallader Smith, (1843 – 1862) Co. H, 63<sup>rd</sup> New York Volunteers of the Irish Brigade. Killed in Action at the Battle of Antietam.

Speakers, ceremonies, and pageant will highlight the ceremony. Wreath-laying, speeches, music, and honor guards. Historical groups, veterans, and citizens are urged to participate. Wreaths, military contingents, color guards, music and period civilians are encouraged to participate.

Refreshments served after the ceremony.

For information, call 215-228-8200 or see <https://laurelhillphl.com/event/memorial-day/>

### **Special Memorial Day Observance for the National Holiday at Christ Church Burial Ground**

**Monday, May 25, 2026, 1:00 pm**

**Christ Church Burial Ground, at 5<sup>th</sup> & Arch St., Philadelphia**

The final resting place of five (5) Signers of the Declaration of Independence, including Benjamin Franklin and many military veterans of all eras! The Benjamin Franklin American Legion Post #405 of

## GRAND ARMY SCOUT

the Union League will place wreaths representing the American Legion Post, commemorating the services of all veterans at the grave of Major Charles I. Maceuen, Major, 198<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers (6<sup>th</sup> Union League Regiment), KIA at the Battle of Lewis Farm, Va. March 29, 1865; a special ceremony honoring Maj. Gen. George Cadwalader a veteran of the US Army in the Mexican War and Civil War as well as the Pennsylvania National Guard. Parking along Arch St. along the cemetery. Representing all veterans!

### **Civil War Institute (CWI) of Gettysburg College Summer Conference Friday to Wednesday, June 12-17, 2026**

Museum members can request a 15% discount.

With Dennis Frye, Jennifer Murray, Andrew Lawler, Jim Broomall, Lesley Gordon, Timothy Orr, Jim Hessler, *and more!*

Featuring lectures and interactive small-group discussions on:

- The American Revolution and the Civil War Generation
- Antietam Re-Assessed
- The 1869 Gettysburg Reunion
- The Battle of Chickamauga
- The Civil War in Indian Country
- Cowardice and Courage on Civil War Battlefields
- The Post-War Lives of 20<sup>th</sup> Maine Veterans
- Electing Civil War: Constitutional Democracy and the Election of 1860
- U.S. Grant and the Ku Klux Klan
- The Emancipations of 1775 and 1863 ...*and more!*

*and* interactive battlefield experiences exploring:

- Medical Aid Stations and Nursing at Gettysburg
- The Battle of Cedar Creek
- Gettysburg's Lost Avenue
- The Photographic Footsteps of Alexander Gardner
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Corps Attack at Antietam
- The Philadelphia Brigade at Gettysburg
- George Armstrong Custer, East Cavalry Field, and the Road to Little Bighorn
- The July 2<sup>nd</sup> Actions of the Union 5<sup>th</sup> Corps (\*Active Track tour option!) ...*and more!*

Customizable packages and paid livestream access available! Contact [civilwar@gettysburg.edu](mailto:civilwar@gettysburg.edu) or 717-337-6590 <https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2026-cwi-conference>

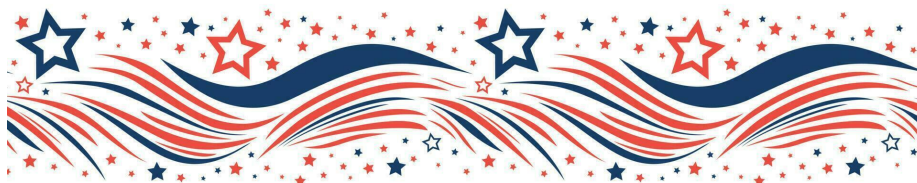
### **Annual Little Big Horn Association Conference**

**Thursday to Saturday, June 18-20, 2026**

**Sheridan, Wyoming**

This coincides with the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Little Big Horn, near present-day Hardin, MT. If you would like more information, please contact Sheldon Liss at 267-257-7258

or [sheldonliss@comcast.net](mailto:sheldonliss@comcast.net)



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR MUSEUM, LIBRARY & ARCHIVE  
Lewis-Pattison House c1805

8110 FRANKFORD AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum is a registered non-profit 509(a)(2) corporation.  
All memberships and donations are tax deductible.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

*INDIVIDUAL* \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*FAMILY* \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*SPONSOR* \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*PATRON* \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*GUARDIAN* \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

*BENEFACTOR LIFE MEMBER* \$250.00 \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E- Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Your Privacy is Protected

# OUR MISSION



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

**WE ARE THE ONLY MUSEUM IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA DEDICATED TO THE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR.**

**THE G. A. R. MUSEUM IS ALSO A 509(a)(2) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. ALL MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

**[GARMUSLIB1866@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GARMUSLIB1866@GMAIL.COM)**