



DEPARTMENT OF

NEW JERSEY

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021



FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

Commander Gary DeSiver

webmaster@njdept-suvcw.org



Dear Brothers,

The 2021 Department Encampment was held virtually on 12 June. It was well attended. I thank the brothers of New Jersey for reelecting me as Commander. Senior Vice CinC Michael Paquette attended our encampment, representing Commander-in-Chief Brian Pierson. Michael Paquette was elected Commander-in-Chief at the National Encampment in August.

I look forward to seeing many of you in-person at the Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremonies (20 November 2021) and at the 140th New Jersey Department Encampment (11 June 2022).

I had the honor of attending the funeral of PDC Ron Brower on 2 September. Although it was a sad event, I was gratified that it was well attended by the SVR including 4 past Department Commanders.

In 2012, when Ron Brower was Department Commander and I was Lincoln Camp Junior Vice Commander, he invited me to attend a Department Officers meeting, telling me “You should get more involved with the Department”. When I got to the meeting, I looked at the agenda, and saw that the Department needed a new website.

I became the Department webmaster and have been active in the Department ever since. If Ron had not invited me to that meeting, I probably would not be Department Commander today. I urge all of you to encourage the brothers in your camp to get more involved in your Camp and our Department. The person you encourage and mentor might be a future Camp Commander or Department Commander. Ron was a friend and mentor to me as well as Brother. He will be missed.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Gary DeSiver,

Commander New Jersey Department

OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

Sr. Vice Commander Jay Godin

Jgcivilwar1@gmail.com



Hello, and welcome to the official Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of New Jersey Newsletter.

I'm Br. Jay Godin Department Sr. Vice Commander and Editor of the Newsletter. My Home Camp is Major General George. A Custer Camp #17. Which I am past Camp Commander.

I would like to say This is your newsletter. If you are My Brother in this organization then this Newsletter is open to you to send important updates and camp information you would like to share with the rest of the department. Don't hesitate to send along all the great things that your camp or yourself does for the SUVCW.

I hope to hear from all the camps as we plan to make this a Quarterly letter that will be sent out via email. Send pictures, stories, news, and updates and we will do our best to get everything included.

I can be reached at the above email address, and will get back to you as quick as I can. I hope we can make this newsletter a great resource for all our New Jersey Brothers.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Jay Godin

Senior Vice Commander

Department of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

Jr. Vice Commander Frank Tomasello

franktomsello2000@gmail.com

(609) 839-8059



Brothers,

Your Department wishes to recognize each and every brother who successfully recruits a new member by way of a letter of thanks from the Department. We all are, or should be, responsible for recruitment. The future of the SUVCW depends on it. This will NOT replace the Lambert-Combs and Kearney recruitment awards. Those awards will remain. However, those awards generally go to only one Brother, and one Camp per year. It is important to emphasize to every brother how important recruitment is and how grateful the Department is for their efforts. If every brother recruited one new member, our organization would double, and then grow exponentially. Camp Secretaries, kindly notify me when a new brother is initiated in your Camp and by whom he was recruited. This will include all recruitment since the 2021 Department Encampment. (At this time a recruiting brother will receive only one letter per year). I can be reached as per the above if you have any questions, problems or concerns.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Frank Tomasello,

Junior Vice Commander,

Department of New Jersey



!SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!



REMEMBRANCE DAY IN GETTYSBURG

By Dave Hann PDC

Dear Brothers,

Hello and greetings! For those that don't know me, I am Dave Hann and I serve as Provost Marshal for the Annual Remembrance Day. This year the parade is set for Saturday November 20th, in Gettysburg, PA. For those that have never attended the parade, it is something that you need to experience. For us in the SUVCW it is a chance for us to participate. For those of us that live in New Jersey, Gettysburg is only a few hours away. I know that there are questions about participation in the parade and whether you need to have a uniform or not.

All persons participating in the annual Remembrance Day Parade will be dressed in American Civil War era attire or Grand Army of the Republic uniform. Military uniforms worn will be either Union or Confederate military originals or reproductions or Grand Army of the Republic originals or reproductions. Civilian attire of the mid 1800's is acceptable. Footwear must be appropriate for the Civil War era uniform or dress authorized by this Order. Parade participants may not wear sandals, sneakers and similar modern-day footwear. Only the following will be permitted to march in the annual Remembrance Day Parade in modern business suit or dress attire with the badge of their Order affixed. Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sisters of the daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sisters of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Sisters of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Members of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Simply stated if you are not a reenactor and you wish to march have a suit with the badge of the order affixed you are good to go. It would be great to see more and more of our brothers

participate. Always remember that your SUVCW Camp flags are welcome in the parade. Another small fact that many of our brothers may not know about and that is the SVR Breakfast. The SVR Breakfast is a great time and gives you the chance to meet Brothers from other Departments. The Breakfast is held at the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, Saturday 20 November 2021 8:00 AM There are no tickets sold at the door and you must order them. Tickets are \$20.00 and you can order them from Colonel Donald E. Darby Adjutant General, SVR 1382 Western Ave. Chillicothe, Ohio 45601. Make checks payable to TAG-SVR All tickets orders must be in no later than November 1, 2021. Remembrance Day is a great time for us in the SUVCW to honor our ancestors. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at IC1stMarylandES@aol.com or you can call me at 609-816-2012



CAMPFIRE NEWS

CAMP 100 - PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN CAMP

The State Camp of New Jersey, serving the entire state. Meets in Hightstown and Cranbury in the central area of the state.

Commander: David Potts

Point of Contact: Secretary-Treasurer Dr. David Martin PDC

In previous years, our meetings have included a business meeting, an educational presentation and a great lunch. This year, we've had to forgo the lunch and meet virtually. We hope to be meeting in person soon.

Recent educational presentations at Lincoln Camp meetings have included the 10th NJ Infantry, the presidential elections of 1860 and 1864 in New Jersey and Tyler Hering (the great uncle of PDC Ron Brower), who served in Company A of the 11th New Jersey Infantry and was mortally wounded at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863.

Brothers from other Camps are always welcome to attend our meetings.

CAMP 7 - COLONEL LOUIS R. FRANCINE CAMP

Serving Hammonton, Turnersville, and points east

Commander: Wayne Grant

Point of Contact: Dave Hann PDC

Several brothers are working independently to clean cemeteries and tombstones of deceased Civil War veterans. On an extremely hot August 7, Brothers Dave Hann, Frank Tomasello, Chuck Gordinier and Larry McDermott {pictured below} met at

the Greenmount cemetery in Hammonton, NJ (with the permission of the cemetery). Several Civil War veterans' stones were thoroughly cleaned with Orvus soap and D2 was then applied to remove biological staining. A noticeable difference resulted with further improvement expected over time.

Additionally, they received sponsorship from The Good Cemeterian to clean all of the tombstones (estimated 150) located in historic Wescott Free Burying Ground in Mays Landing, NJ. The cemetery dates back to the late 18th century and there are three known Civil War veterans buried there. They hope to complete before cold weather sets in this year.



CAMP 17 - MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER CAMP

Serving Ocean County and parts of Monmouth and Middlesex counties

Commander: John Farley Scott

Point of Contact: Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Clark D. McCullough PDC



Until future notice all meetings will be held at the Ardena Baptist Church in Freehold N.J.

Oct 30, 2021 at 1 pm Ardena Baptist Church

Dec 4, 2021 at 1 pm Ardena Baptist Church

Memorial Day service at the grave of PCinC Henry Martin Nevius.

Custer camp placed a new GAR marker for the PCinC of the GAR.



CAMP 20 - MAJOR GENERAL PHILLIP KEARNY CAMP

Serving Hudson, Bergen, Somerset and Essex counties and parts of Passaic and Middlesex counties

Commander: Peter Lindsay

Point of Contact: Clark D. McCullough or webmaster Eric Bal



Scheduled Meetings

Abraham Clark Memorial House, 101 W. 9th Ave, Roselle, NJ

Upcoming Meetings Sept 11th, 2021 1:00 PM Roselle, NJ

Nov 13th, 2021 1:00 PM Roselle, NJ

PROJECT REMEMBRANCE



The Brothers of General Philip Kearny Camp #20, in accordance with Article II of the Constitution of the SUVCW, are endeavoring to recognize and mark the places where the GAR met. We have located a number of places where the GAR posts

were located. The Camp has contacted local officials. We have been successful with this effort. The first town to work with us was Kearny, NJ, where GAR Post #36 met. We were hosted by the mayor, town council and the United Veterans Organizations of Kearny. The Camp was represented by Commander Peter Lindsey, Junior Vice-Commander James Halloran, Brother Clark McCullough PDC, and Brother Chris Sands. {pictured above} We have received a number commitments from other communities to honor the GAR.

CAMP 73 - GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT CAMP

Serving the South Plainfield area

Commander: Frank M. McGonigle

Point of Contact: Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Clark D. McCullough PDC



Meetings are at the Van Veghten House, Bridgewater, NJ (9 Van Veghten Dr, Bridgewater Township, NJ 08807).

Scheduled Meetings

Sept 18th 2021 at 1:30pm Van Veghten House

Nov 13th 2021 at 1:30pm Van Veghten House

Contact Frank McGonigle

Brothers of Scott camp have placed traditional G.A.R grave markers in southern New Jersey, upstate New York and Connecticut.

They have done over 12 markings total. Here are some of the photos.



CAMP 82 - JAMES S. STRATTON CAMP

Commander: Bruce Lutz

Point of Contact: Scott West, Secretary

After a year or more of public inactivity due to the pandemic, Stratton Camp and our performance arm, Becks' Philadelphia Brigade Band, have begun to get back to our mission. We literally spent all summer working on audio and video recordings, including a 75-minute virtual concert. This concert featured what we call Becks' Talks, wherein members discuss various aspects of Civil War history. These talks focused on such topics as:

Women in the Civil War

The evolution of the National Airs to the Star-Spangled Banner being named as our official Nation Anthem

The importance of honoring those who fought, along with the story of one brother's ancestor

The history of the Philadelphia Brigade and the band's role in the war

The role musicians played in everyday camp life and in battle, including entertainment to raise morale, and bugle and drum calls

Recruitment methods throughout the war, using bands as a way to draw crowds and foster a sense of patriotism

The period instruments and how they were used during the war

We plan to expand these “Talks” into the future. We use these talks at our band performances, all with the purpose of raising awareness and honoring our heroes.

As fall approaches, we begin to perform much more. Some of those coming up include:

9/2: A concert in Avalon, NJ in honor of VJ Day

9/10: A 9-11 concert in Doylestown, Pa. to promote education about that sad day.

9/11: A similar concert in Washington Twp. To honor our loss on 9-11 and to promote historical awareness

9/26: A long-delayed Memorial Day parade in Malvern, Pa.

10/13: An historical concert for an assisted living facility in Washington Twp., NJ

10/24: A Civil War Days concert in Glassboro, NJ, honoring the men and women who fought, especially those from this area of the state

11/13: A Veterans' Day ceremony in Pittsgrove, NJ, honoring all who fought from the area.

11/20: Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, what we call “The best day of the year”.

This is also our longest, beginning in early morning with several monument ceremonies, including Albert Woolson. The parade follows at 1 PM and we end the day by playing for the SVR National Ball until midnight. Great day!

12/31: We end the year with a ceremony honoring General George Meade on the occasion of his birthday. This is held every year in historic Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia.

During each and every one of these, our goal is to educate audiences about their history as it pertains to the Civil War and the effect that awful conflict has had on America to this day.

Much more information can be found on our website (www.becksband.com), including Becks' Talks, information regarding all performances, and many, many photos and videos.

Click on “About” for Becks' Talks” and more information about us. If you click on “Links”, you will see other groups with similar interests. If your camp would like to cross-link, please let me know?

becksband@gmail.com

For those unaware of the symbiotic relationship between Becks' Band and Stratton Camp, we consider all members as one entity. We have the maximum number of SUVCW members we can claim within our ranks and can only hope to be able to add everyone else in the future.



CAMP 10 - BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANIEL LYON CAMP

Serving Vineland and Cumberland counties

Commander: Morrel Wolf

Point of Contact: Secretary-Treasurer Robert Wilhelm PDC



Attached is a photo of Lyons Camp Memorial Day salute.

Every year they participate in the Vineland Memorial Day Parade and fire a salute and perform a ceremony at the Lyon Post 10 GAR monument in the center of town.

All Lyons camp activities for last year were cancelled yet They still managed to gain 2 new members and 2 Junior members!!
planned activities for this year are as follows:

Mullica Hill Oct. TBA

Lyon Camp mtg 7:30 PM Vineland Hist. Society. Nov.TBA

Gettysburg Remembrance Day Nov.20th

Mullica Hill Candle light tour Dec.TBA

Possible Display at Millville Historical Society TBA

Possible Display at Vineland Women's Club TBA

Updates are being planned for our Camp web site www.lyoncamp.org.

CAMP 4 - PRESIDENT JAMES A. GARFIELD CAMP

Serving the Trenton/Lawrenceville Area

Commander: Tim Murphy

Point of Contact: Joseph F. Seliga PDC

A new location for the Museum is still underway. Contact Joseph F. Seliga PDC for more information.

CAMP 104 - SERGEANT HIRAM W. PURSELL CAMP

Serving the Northwest Quadrant of New Jersey consisting of the following counties: Hunterdon, Morris (partial), Passaic (partial), Sussex, and Warren.

Commander and Point of Contact: Cliff Laing



Due to the pandemic Camp 104 has not met in person since it's onset... they however have been meeting every other month via Zoom.

Camp 104 did a last soldier ceremony in July,2019. The above is a Camp group picture from that ceremony. They plan on more when the restrictions are lifted.

Br. John St. Peter and PDC Jeff Heagy performed period music at Fort Delaware State Park on July 31. Brother St. Peter gave historical commentary as the formal spokesman for the Fort Delaware Cornet Band.



Pictured are Brothers Albert El (in uniform) and Dave Perretti representing Camp # 104 at the Easton Pa Heritage Day in July.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

PDC Ronald L. Brower




Our esteemed Brother Ronald L. Brower passed away on August 27, 2021. He was born on July 28, 1934 in Philadelphia, PA. His great-grandfather, Joel Brower, served in Companies F and M of the 2nd New Jersey Cavalry from September 19, 1864 to June 29, 1865. He joined Abraham Lincoln Camp 100, The State Camp of New Jersey, on April 10, 1993. He served as Commander of Lincoln Camp 100 (2008-2010), and was Commander of the New Jersey Department, SUVCW, from (2012-2014). He also served as Captain of Company A, 1st New Jersey Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve (2013-2018). At the time of his passing, he was long-time Chaplain of the New Jersey Department and of Lincoln Camp 100, as well as Senior Vice Commander of Camp 100. His sons Charles L. Brower, Curt Brower and Ronald G. Brower, and his grandson Matthew Brower, are also members of the SUVCW. He was a proud supporter of his country, participating in the National Guard, and also a dedicated parishioner of Pinelands Reformed Church in Toms River, NJ where he was also a Visitation Pastor. Our sincere condolences to his wife Jeanne and their family.

SQUIRRELTOWN HISTORICAL CEMETERY


OLD MONMOUTH ROAD, FREEHOLD
(NEXT TO ST. ROSE CEMETERY)
ROUTE 522-FREEHOLD-ENGLISHTOWN ROAD

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, FREEHOLD, NJ HAS SCHEDULED A
"CLEAN-UP DAY" SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021,
9:00AM-3:00PM. RAIN DATE: AUGUST 21, 2021.
WE ARE IN NEED OF COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE WILLING TO COME
OUT TO HELP US REJUVENATE AND BEAUTIFY
THIS SITE WHERE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL
WAR VETERANS WERE LAID TO REST.

PLEASE CALL 732-616-9601 OR 732-462-0826
FOR DETAILS



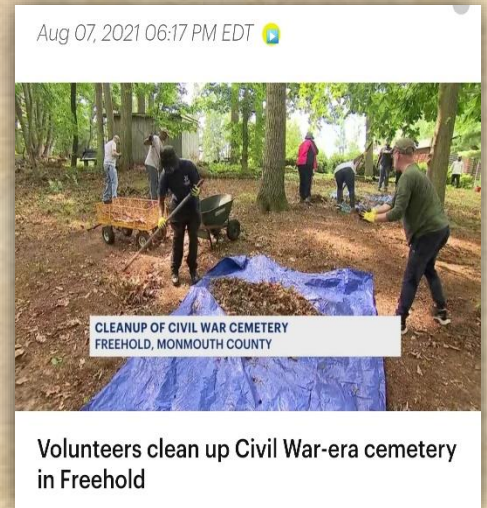
BETHEL AME CHURCH
3 WATERWORKS ROAD
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728
REVEREND RONALD L. SPARKS, PASTOR



The Squirrel town cemetery clean up on June 26th 2021 and August 7 2021
Was quite impressive. The Department of New Jersey was present and ready for
action! Placing New Gar Markers for the USCT Union Veterans Buired there.

Great Effort by all

Even made the news on channel 12!



October 16th 9am Sharp!

Rahway Cemetery, Rahway N.J.

1583 high street Rahway N.J. 07065

Exit 135 off GSP, easy to get to.

Grave Clean Up, and flower bulbs to be planted for our GAR Ancestors.

Third year event open to all camps. over 300 men that fought for the Union are buried here.

Around 80 Revolutionary war Veterans and Abraham Clark Signer of the declaration of Independence.

Date is subject to change for weather etc. contact for event Br. Jay Godin

Jgcivilwar1@gmail.com.



1ST LT. JOHN JAMES TOFFEY N.J. MOH

B: June 1, 1844 Pawling, New York

D: March 13, 1911 Pawling, New York

Enrolled in Co C 21st NJ Infantry on August 28, 1862 ,Mustered in September 15, 1862 in Hudson, NJ and served as a private for the nine month's duration of the regiment's service

He mustered out on June 19, 1863

On August 23, 1863, he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in Co F, 33rd NJ Infantry and was mustered in August 29, 1863

The Medal of Honor was awarded to Lieutenant John James Toffey on September 10, 1897 for his act of bravery at the Battle of Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, TN on November 22, 1863

CITATION: Although excused from duty on account of sickness, went to the front in command of a storming party and with conspicuous gallantry participated in the assault of Missionary Ridge: was here wounded and permanently disabled.

He was discharged from the 33rd NJ on June 2, 1864 because of his hip wound and served as a Lieutenant in the Veteran Reserve Corps until June 1866

Lt. Toffey was present at Ford's Theater when President Lincoln was assassinated. He participated in the search for the conspirators, testified at their trial and witnessed their executions. After the war, Lt. Toffey led a life of extensive public service in New Jersey

2 terms as Hudson County Sheriff, State Treasurer from 1875 to 1891, served in the State Legislature and was an Alderman in Jersey City. He is buried in the Pawling Cemetery, Pawling, NY

Submitted by Br Kip Bebout

1ST LT. JOHN JAMES TOFFEY



HIGHLIGHTED MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF N.J.

AND THEIR ANCESTOR



James J. Halloran jr.

Jr. Vice Commander

General Phillip Kearny Camp 20



Br. James found out about the "Sons" while attending New Jersey Day at Gettysburg, in 2013. This event was hosted by Brother Dr. David Martin. Br. James looked into the SUVCW and applied for membership. Br. James is currently the Junior Vice Commander of General Phillip Kearny Camp 20 Department of New Jersey.

James has the honor of presenting Scouts with the SUVCW certificate upon attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. A long-held tradition of the SUVCW. Br. James has been part of scout trips to Gettysburg. The scouts are eager to learn. Currently Br. James is part of Project Remembrance. The Brothers of Kearny Camp are attempting to locate and mark where GAR Posts met in New Jersey. Sadly, there are no pictures of Patrick. They were destroyed in a fire at a family member's house many years ago. Artist Illustrations show us what Patrick and the United States Marines and Navy looked like during the civil war.

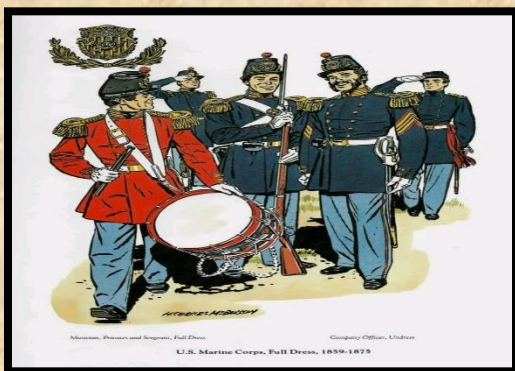
ANCESTOR OF

James J. Halloran jr.

Marine Corp Pvt. Patrick Halloran

Br. James Great Grandfather Patrick Halloran enlisted on January 7, 1862 in Company D, 1st NY Marine Artillery. He was three months shy of his fifteenth birthday. They served on Union gunboats. On February 7, 1863, the unit was in action as part of Burnside's expedition to capture Roanoke Island, Elizabeth City, Newburn and Beaufort, North Carolina. After the capture of these places, the Marine Artillery was used to patrol Roanoke and Albemarle Sounds. They also used horses to make raids on Rebel guerrillas. They picked up the nickname as "Horse Marines." The unit was disbanded in early 1863. Patrick was at Beaufort, at that time. He enlisted in the US Navy as a Landsman. There is a report in the NOR of a Patrick Halloran, Landsman, missing in action after a boat attack on Fort Sumter. He was discharged on February 7, 1864. Patrick took a short rest and then enlisted at the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a Coal Heaver aboard The USS Berberry, an armed steam tug. The Berberry was on blockade station off of Fort Fisher, NC, on October 5, 1864, when her sister ship USS Aster chased a blockade runner. Both ships ran aground. Aster requested a tow. Berberry passed over a tow line but it parted. The Berberry took the crew off the Aster and she was set on fire. The Fort started firing As the Berberry churned for deep water, it was found out that the tow rope was now wrapped around the propeller! Every bit of canvas and sheets were spread in the rigging as sails. It worked! Patrick was discharged on June 12, 1865. He joined Edward G. Brown Post #44, GAR, in Hoboken.

Pictured are the United States Marine corps during the civil war, and a steam powered tugboat similar to the USS Berberry, Artist Illustration.



FINAL MUSTER

PDC RONALD L. BROWER

PAST CAPTAIN

COMPANY A, 1 ST NEW JERSEY INFANTRY, SVR

Abraham Lincoln Camp 100,

The State Camp of New Jersey

b. 07/28/1934

d. 08/27/2021

FREDERICK WILLIAM COLE

Camp 10 - Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon Camp

b. 01/04/1945

d. 05/04/2020

GENE COSTILL

Camp 7 - Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp

b. 02/06/1926

d. 04/21/2021

PDC JOHN MAKOS JR.

Camp 7 - Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp

b. 02.27/1950

d. 04/15/2021

WILLIAM RIGHTER

Camp 7 - Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp

b.06/25/42

d. 08/29/2020

WILLIAM J. VOLONTE

Camp 20 - Major General Phillip Kearny Camp

b. 03/07/1954 d. 02/05/2021

West New York, NJ 07903



AUXILIARY TO THE NJ SUVCW

Attached to Lyon Camp 10 is our Ladies Auxiliary "Hancock
Auxiliary # 10.

