



DEPARTMENT OF

NEW JERSEY

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021





FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER



Commander Gary DeSiver

webmaster@njdept-suvcw.org



Brothers,

I am proud to see all camps have been meeting and continuing to do their good work throughout the pandemic. Camp and Department meetings were initially held virtually. Many camps have switched back to in-person meetings. I am confident that the other camps will return to in-person meetings soon.

I would like to thank Brother Bruce Sirak for volunteering to serve as Department Chaplain.

In the September newsletter, Brother Dave Hann said “For those that have never attended the Remembrance Day parade, it is something that you need to experience”. I couldn’t agree with him more. Spending Remembrance Day weekend in Gettysburg last month was a great experience for me. I marched in the Remembrance Day parade for the first time. I especially enjoyed meeting Brothers from several Departments at the SVR Breakfast and while attending the ceremony at the GAR Memorial (Woolson Monument). I would strongly encourage you to participate in Remembrance Day next year.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Gary DeSiver,

Commander New Jersey Department

OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

Sr. Vice Commander Jay Godin

Jgcivilwar1@gmail.com



Hello,

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



As your Junior Vice Department Commander, I am tasked with promoting recruitment. I suggest that the Holiday Season presents a golden opportunity for recruitment for the SUVCW. We all know the guy we have spoken to dozens of times, maybe even a relative, who has stated that he “is definitely going to join” but somehow it hasn’t happened yet. Why not send him a Holiday gift? Fill out a membership application (with as much information as you have) and send it to him in a Holiday card. If you are feeling generous, send a check for his use made payable to your Camp, in the amount of the application fee. If you don’t feel comfortable sending a personal check, you can let him know the application fee is covered and alert your Camp Secretary/Treasurer that you will take care of the application fee when this person submits his application. This simple gesture might finally “seal the deal.” Wishing the Joy of the Season to all of you and yours, and a healthy and prosperous 2022.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Frank Tomasello,

Junior Vice Commander,

Department of New Jersey



SEASON'S GREETINGS

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY SENDS FRATERNAL WARM WISHES TO OUR BROTHERS AND THEIR FAMILY'S DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. HAVE A JOYFUL 2022 NEW YEAR!





LEST WE FORGET



The grave of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Captain William E. Miller, of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at East Cavalry Field on July 3, 1863.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>





REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021



Dear Brothers,

Saturday November 20, marked the return of Remembrance Day to Gettysburg PA. This event is sponsored by the Sons of Veterans Reserve and was well attended by a number of Brothers, members of the Allied Orders and thousands of Civil War reenactors. The event now in its 65th year hosted a number of events including the annual Sons of Veterans Reserve Breakfast, ceremonies at the Woolson monument, the annual parade through town and the original Civil War Ball. For those that have never attended Remembrance Day, it is a great event and I would

highly recommend that you try to attend. You don't even need to wear a uniform to march. As long as you have a suit or a blazer with the Badge of the Order affixed, you are good to go. The 66th annual Remembrance Day is slated for Saturday November 19, 2022. On a personal note, it would be nice to see a larger delegation from the New Jersey Department. It is a great time and a chance to honor our ancestors.

Provost Marshal PDC Dave Hann







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. Our holiday meeting will be held virtually on December 4th. We are eagerly anticipating our Lincoln Day meeting which will be held in person on President Lincoln's birthday, February 12th. It will be our first in-person meeting since our 2019 Lincoln Day meeting.

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



It has been a busy time of year for the brothers, of Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp# 7. On Sunday October 17, the Camp participated in the annual Country Living Fair held at Historic Batsto Village. The annual fair draws an estimated 10,000 people each year and has a number of vendors and exhibitors. This event has always served as a great recruiting tool for the Camp and allows us to not only talk about our organization as well as talk about the life of the Union soldier. On Saturday November 6, the Camp held its last meeting for the year 2021. This has been only the second meeting in person meeting since the beginning of the pandemic and our first indoor meeting. The Camp held elections for Officers and the following Brothers were elected and will be installed at our next meeting in February.

Commander Charlie Morgan

Senior Vice Commander Bryan Sigmund

Junior Vice Commander Jeremy Lacey

Secretary Dave Hann PDC

Treasurer Scott Hann

From November 19 through the 20, the Camp took part in numerous events during Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, PA. On Friday the Camp participated in its

annual Remembrance ceremony at the monument to the 7th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. It was at this spot where the Camp's namesake Colonel Louis R. Francine was mortally wounded on July 2, 1863. At the ceremony we not only remember the Colonel but the members of the 7th New Jersey killed and mortally wounded during the battle as well as any Camp Brothers we have lost in the past year. At the event we remembered Brothers William Righter, Gene Costill and Past Department Commander John Makos.

On a brighter note, Camp JVC Bryan Sigmund purchased the SUVCW War medal for his father Gary Sigmund, a Naval Veteran and a veteran of the Iranian Hostage Crisis. The medal was presented by Camp Commander Wayne Grant who is also a veteran. On Saturday Brothers of the Camp attended a variety of events starting with the SVR Breakfast which was well attended. At the breakfast PDC Dave Hann, who serves as Provost Marshal was honored with a certificate for all of his work with the parade. During the parade a number of Camp Brothers serve in various capacities from Provost, to Deputy Provost, carrying the SVR parade Banner to carrying the SVR Commander's flag. On Saturday evening Brothers from our Camp's SVR unit, Company A, 7th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, stood guard in Gettysburg National Cemetery during the 19th Annual Luminaries sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation. Brothers from the Camp purchased 21 luminaries which helps to raise funds for Gettysburg National Military Park. At 8:00 PM at the Original Civil War Ball, music was provided by the Philadelphia Brigade Band. Among the members of the Band is our own Camp JVC Bryan Sigmund who plays the drums. It should also be noted that the Camp sponsored a cake for the "Cake Walk" during the Ball as well as a donation of \$100.00 to help offset costs incurred during the parade.

On behalf of the Officers and brothers of the Col. Francine Camp, we would like to wish our brothers and Sisters Happy Holidays and a Happy a Healthy New 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.

Dec 4, 2021 at 1 pm Ardena Baptist Church

At the last meeting on Saturday Oct 30th Custer Camp swore in 4 new members.

Michael A. Daly, Michael S. Daly, Andrew M. Megill and Jacob B. Rue. There would have been 5 new members to be sworn in but James B. Daly could not make the meeting.

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 TBA

Camp Commander Peter Lindsey swearing in 2 new members, Walter Krako, Robert Laurie during the Sept 11th Gen. Phil Kearny Camp #20 meeting.

Commander Peter Lindsey again swearing in 3 new members, Fredrick Dillman, Robert Caruso and Edward Dillman during the Nov 13th Gen. Phil Kearny Camp #20 meeting





Br. James J. Halloran Jr. Presenting Chief William G. Hunt of the Moonachie Fire Dept a Certificate from the SUVCW In Appreciation of his 50 years of service.

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

TBA

Scott Camp #73 was the 2020 recipient of the Abraham Lincoln Award for being the Best Camp in the United States. Congrats to All Brothers of the Camp. They received their award recently.



CAMP 82 - JAMES S. STRATTON CAMP

Commander: Bruce Lutz

Point of Contact: Scott West, Secretary



Camp 82, Stratton Camp, has been quite busy since summer.

Kicking off September, they performed two 9-11 ceremonies, the one in Doylestown, Pa. was to teach young people the 9-11 history and proper flag-lowering protocol. The other was to commemorate 9-11 and to celebrate the re-opening of an historical village in Washington Twp, NJ to the public. History was the sole lesson here, complete with the music from us to the old-time arts and crafts demonstrated. Many kids were in attendance and they hopefully came away with some respect for history and traditions.

Later in September, they once again performed in the very-delayed Memorial Day parade in Malvern, Pa., one of the oldest such in the nation. In mid-October, they performed the first concert for a local assisted living facility in over a year: needless to say, they very much appreciated both the music and the history lessons on uniforms, instruments, Civil War discussions, etc.

On October 24, they participated in the Glassboro, NJ Historical Society's annual Civil War Days, featuring an encampment, demonstrations of the importance of

railroads of the period, and their demonstrations of the music, uniforms, period instruments, and the history of Becks' Philadelphia Brigade Band in the area. This was for a nice crowd on a beautiful afternoon. The only regret of the Historical Society was that Abe Lincoln was unable to make his annual appearance this year.

RIP, Robert.

November was a Veterans Day ceremony locally and, of course, Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, where they performed 2 morning ceremonies, including the Woolson Monument at noon, and the parade to follow. they then played for the National SUV/SVR Ball that evening at the Wyndham. they will complete their 2021 by performing in Philadelphia for the George Meade birthday celebration at Laurel Hill Cemetery on December 31.

All in all, a terrific return to some semblance of normal!

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 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.



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



DEPARTMENT NEWS

On Oct 16th a Grave Clean Up at the Rahway Cemetery was done.

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.

30 graves were cleaned and encroaching grass cut back to make visible the stones for easy identification, and for flag placement.

Civil war soldiers and revolutionary soldiers were cleaned as well as a war of 1812 veteran.

An interesting grave was that of John Trembley. A man who fought on both sides.

Also, that of Abner Cory a revolutionary war Teamster in the NJ State Militia.

Pictured from left are Brothers, Ryan Godin, Conner Godin, John Frazia, DSVC Jay Godin, and JVC Kip Bebout of Custer camp.



JOHN TREMBLEY

1834 - 1907

UNION AND CONFEDERATE VETERAN OF THE CIVIL WAR
PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR MR TREMBLEY WORKED AT
THE DUNHAM CARRIAGE FACTORY IN RAHWAY
BY 1860 HE HAD TRANSFERRED TO GEORGIA
AND WAS DRAFTED INTO THE CONFEDERATE ARMY
UPON THE ONSET OF HOSTILITIES EARLY IN 1862
MR. TREMBLEY DESERTED THROUGH THE LINES AND
ENLISTED IN THE UNION ARMY COMPANY D 10TH
TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER INFANTRY SERVING UNTIL
HIS DISCHARGE IN JUNE 1865



THE NEW JERSEY STATE HOUSE FLAG COLLECTION



The New Jersey State House Flag Collection consists of 191 flags, 140 of which date from the Civil War and the Spanish-American War eras. By far the greatest portion of the collection (132 flags) consists of Civil War related flags. Just a small part (8 flags) consists of flags dating from 1865 to 1900 (primarily veterans groups and Spanish-American War period).

During the Civil War, New Jersey fielded a total of 37 infantry regiments, 3 cavalry regiments, 5 batteries of artillery, and a number of independent militia units. These units received their flags from three different sources: private donation, state issue, and federal issue. At the end of the war many units turned in their flags to the state, but numerous other flags were retained by individual soldiers or were torn apart into keepsake fragments. Those flags turned in by the various units as they disbanded formed the original nucleus of the present State House Collection. In 1871 the state legislature authorized the Quartermaster General to seek out and recover regimental flags that were not yet in his possession. The flags were then put on display after 1888 in a fireproof display room at the State House. The Civil War collection as it exists today was primarily complete around 1900, although a few flags were added after that date.

The typical Civil War infantry regiment was issued seven flags: a red, white and blue national flag; a blue state flag usually carrying the seal of New Jersey or the federal eagle; four smaller positional markers (2 flank markers and 2 camp colors); and a storm flag. The national and state flags were made of silk and were quite large (6 feet by 6 feet 6 inches), and required a pole 9 feet 10 inches long. They were mostly made by two companies in Philadelphia, Horstman Brothers and Evans & Hassell. National flags usually cost from \$50 to \$75 and state flags from \$75 to \$125, though special presentation flags could cost up to twice as much.

Cavalry units carried smaller flags, and individual companies often carried swallow-tailed red, white and blue flags known as guidons. Artillery batteries also carried guidons, which cost from \$10-\$12 each.

Many of the units raised in the first year of the war went through at least three sets of flags by 1865, while those raised in the last two years of the war usually went through only one or two issues. Of the approximately 140 national and state flags issued to the state's infantry regiments, today only about 100 survive today. The most complete set of flags belonging to any one unit are the national flag, state flag and 2 flank markers issued to the 38th Infantry in late 1864.

The collection consists of a number of elaborate presentation flags, as well as some unique militia flags and some quite interesting brigade flags from the 1st and 2nd New Jersey infantry brigades. Quite interestingly, there are also 6 captured Confederate flags in the collection. Originally New Jersey's troops captured about 20 enemy flags. Those that could be identified were returned South in the early 1900s; one other was transferred to the Chancellorsville Battlefield National Historic Site in 1963. The ones that remain could not be identified as to their origin.

Over the years many of the flags have deteriorated a great deal. An effort was made to preserve them in the 1930s by sewing most of the flags to cloth backings, but this process may have done as much harm as good. In 1985 the flags were removed from the State House Annex and were entrusted to the care of the New Jersey State Museum by the Joint Management State House Commission. The

Museum had conservation assessments made on the collection, and set up a climate-controlled storage area for them at a facility in downtown Trenton. Here they are preserved in specially designed individual horizontal storage trays.

In October of the year 2000, 50 of the flags were moved from storage to a newly established gallery on the ground floor of the old Department of State Building located at 225 West State Street in Trenton (the building where the State Archives is located). Funds for five specially designed display cases were provided by the State of New Jersey, each case holding ten flags. The New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association (NJCWhA) paid for display panels and battle maps that helped to interpret the exhibit, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) helped pay for interpretive brochures. The display flags remained there for 17 years until they were moved to the ground floor of the adjacent New Jersey State Museum at 205 West State Street, where they are today.

The fifty flags on display are divided into ten groups of five flags each.

Starting in December 2010 each group or “cycle” was put on display for approximately six months, with cycle changes happening basically every June and December. In July 2013 a special display was set up of New Jersey flags that were at the battle of Gettysburg.

The unveiling of new flag cycles was suspended two years ago because of the Covid-19 crisis. The next unveiling will be at 10 AM on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, and will feature the following flags from modified Cycle 10. Emphasis will be placed on the 11th New Jersey Infantry in order to feature a sword, belt plate, sash and gloves belonging to Col. Robert McAllister that were recently donated to the State Museum. More information is available from David Martin.

dmartin@peddie.org



- 7th Infantry National flag (CN 42)
- 11th Infantry National flag (CN 56)--
- 25th Infantry Regimental flag (CN 82)
- 28th Infantry National flag (CN 87)
- 2nd NJ Brigade marker (CN 16)

DMartin 11/20/21



HIGHLIGHTED MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF N.J.

AND THEIR ANCESTOR

Dr. David Martin

PDC Department Of New Jersey

PCC Abraham Lincoln Camp 100



Dr. David Martin, PDC, was born in Michigan in 1949 and grew up there. He has been a resident of New Jersey since 1971. He holds a BA from the University of Michigan and MA and PhD degrees from Princeton University in Ancient Greek and Classical Studies. He has also studied archaeology in Greece and in Rome, in addition to attending the University of Thessaloniki in Greece. He has been Instructor in Latin and administrator at The Peddie School, a private high school in Hightstown, NJ, since 1975.

His real love, though, is pre-1900 military history. He has written and lectured extensively on the Civil War and the Revolutionary War. He is the author of over twenty-five books on the Civil War and Revolution, including *A Molly Pitcher Sourcebook*, *Confederate Monuments at Gettysburg*, *Regimental Strengths and Losses at Gettysburg* (now in its fourth edition), and the award-winning *Gettysburg, July 1*, which was a primary selection of the Military Book Club in 1995. He has also written regimental histories of the 41st New York Infantry, 14th New Jersey Infantry, and Fluvanna (Va.) Artillery. His book "New Jersey at Gettysburg Guidebook" was named best New Jersey reference book of the year 2013 by the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance. His most recent book is *Stars Over New Jersey: New Jersey's Generals and Admirals of the Civil War Era* (2019), and his most recent published article is "Died at Gettysburg: The Saga of Major Benjamin Leigh" in *Gettysburg Magazine* No. 65 (July 2021).

Dr. Martin joined Abraham Lincoln Camp 100, The State Camp of New Jersey, in 1979 and served as their Commander in 1981-1982. Since then, he has been their Secretary-Treasurer. He served as Commander of the Department of New Jersey in 1993-1995, and has been their Secretary-Treasurer since then. He won the New Jersey Department's Good Citizenship Award in 1984 and 1996, and served as National Historian in 2000-2002. He is also 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant of Company A, 1st Battalion New Jersey Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Dr. Martin's other activities include President of the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield, and Vice President of the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association, besides having served on the state's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. He is consultant and docent on the New Jersey Civil War Flags Collection at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton. He is also head editor of Longstreet House Publishers.

He resides in East Windsor, New Jersey. His son and six-year-old grandson live in Salt Lake City, Utah.

ANCESTOR OF

Private George Martin

Dr. Martin's Civil War ancestor is his great-grandfather, Private George Martin, who served in Battery H, First Michigan Light Artillery (DeGolyer's Battery) from 1862-1865. Private Martin fought with distinction in the Vicksburg, Atlanta and Nashville campaigns. The first stop on the battlefield tour at Vicksburg National Military Park is a recreation of DeGolyer's battery position, where Private Martin fought.



FINAL MUSTER

PDC RONALD L. BROWER

PAST CAPTAIN

COMPANY A, 1ST 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.

