



DEPARTMENT OF
NEW JERSEY

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

*****OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER*****

- . THE "TELEGRAPH" . - - -

Volume 2, Issue 3, September, 2022





FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER



Commander Jay Godin

jgcivilwar1@gmail.com



Dear Brothers,

The 2022 Department Encampment was held on June 11th. I had the honor of being elected and installed as Department Commander and will serve my term in office to the best of my ability. In addition to being Department Commander I also serve as Scoutmaster of my Sons BSA Troop, having been involved with BSA for 9+ years. I am married with 3 sons, and hold 2 NJ state Licenses for locksmithing and electronic security.

I would like to congratulate and thank all newly appointed Department Officers for their continued support and service, it's what keeps us going strong for over 140 years! Attached below is the list of Department Officers for the 2022/2023 term.

Senior Vice C-in-C Bruce D. Frail attended our Department Encampment representing C-in-C Michael Paquette. Brother Bruce D. Frail was elected as Commander in Chief at the 2022 National Encampment. Congratulations to Brother Frail!

Senior Vice Commander Frank Tomasello

Junior Vice Commander Bruce Sirak

Secretary-Treasurer Dr. David Martin, PDC 1993-94

Council Fred Mossbrucker, PDC 2016-18

Council Robert Meyer, PDC 2018-20

Council Gary DeSiver, PDC 2020-22

Patriotic Instructor John Farley Scott

Chaplain Bruce Sirak

Graves registration Officer Frederick W. Otto

Historian Dr. David Martin, PDC 1993-94

GAR Records Officer Joseph F. Seliga, PDC 2004-06

Eagle Scout Coordinator Robert Meyer, PDC 2018-20

GAR Highway Officer Bruce Sirak

Civil War Memorials Officer Clark D. McCullough, PDC 2000-02

Camp Organizer Robert C. Meyer, PDC 2018-20

Color Bearer Cliff Laing

Assistant Secretary Charles F. Morgan, Jr

Recruiting Officer Bryan Sigmund

Signals Officer Gary DeSiver, PDC 2020-22

Assistant Treasurer C Jeffrey Heagy, PDC 2014-16

Assistant Eagle Scout Coordinator Charles F. Morgan, Jr.

Counselor David Hann, PDC 1995-97

Guide James J. Halloran Jr.

Guard Clifford Bebout

Editor Department of NJ newsletter Frank Tomasello

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
Jay J. Godin,
Commander Department of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

Sr. Vice Commander

Frank Tomasello

njdeptnews@gmail.com



Brothers,

I am humbled and grateful for the honor you have bestowed upon me by electing me to be your Department Senior Vice Commander. As you know, this position brings with it the awesome responsibility for the Department newsletter. My kepi is off to Department Commander Godin for getting the newsletter up and running. More than that, he created one fantastic newsletter. I plan to keep the spirit he has created while trying some new features. Some you may like, others not. Brothers, this is **your** newsletter. Letter me know what you like and what you don't. And remember to keep sending in your articles and photos so that all the Camps can work together to support the Fraternity we love so well.

This issue coincides with a "changing of the guard" within our Department as well as at the National level. Congratulations and good luck to all who have become Officers or have moved into new positions.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Frank Tomasello

Senior Vice Commander

Department of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER



Jr. Vice Commander Bruce Sirak

bruce.sirak@gmail.com

Congratulations Brother Bruce!



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 look forward to returning to in-person meetings soon.

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: Charles Morgan

Point of Contact: Dave Hann PDC



"Memorial Day was a very active day for the Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp. We had 14 Brothers present to march in the Hammonton Memorial Day Parade. After the parade, we presented the Hammonton Historical Society with a sign commemorating the founding of the D. A. Russell Post 68 Grand Army of the Republic. We also presented the Historical Society with a picture donated by Brother Dave Hann PDC showing the last 5 Civil War Veterans living in Hammonton. Since Memorial Day fell on May 30th this year the Camp conducted their annual traditional GAR/SUV Memorial Day service at Greenmount Cemetery, at the D.A Russell Post 68 monument, directly following the parade. The Camp has been conducting their annual Memorial Day service on May 30th, rain or shine, for the past 25 years. It is an honor to keep green the memory of the Boys in Blue."

At the 140th New Jersey Department Encampment, the Camp had a fantastic showing with 10 Brothers present. We were very honored to see our own Frank Tomasello elected and installed to the Office of Department Senior Vice

Commander and Fred Mossbrucker PDC, to serve on Department Council. Brother Fred also received the Department Good Citizenship award. Congratulations to all.

On July 4th the Camp had another great showing at the annual Hammonton July 4th Parade.

Department Senior Vice Commander Frank Tomasello and Past Department Commander David Hann recently attended the 141st National Encampment held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Among the activities on Thursday was a tour of the Frank Lloyd House, the Frank Meijer Gardens, which is a beautiful setting with over 100 sculptures and a large variety of plants from throughout the world, and a Civil War tombstone dedication for Pvt. Charles Ellet, the ancestor of PDC Dave Hann, at Greenwood Cemetery. The ceremony for Charles Ellet was very moving with the ceremonies conducted by the 14th Michigan SVR, the Irish Rifle. Friday and Saturday were filled with the business of the Order with Friday night being the Campfire program. Part of this program was a "Jeopardy " style contest with teams throughout the Order. Brothers Tomasello, Hann, Marty Higgins of Camp 10 and Sister Ellen Higgins PNP formed a team and prepared for battle. This quartet dubbed themselves the "Jersey Tomatoes" and in this contest tied for second place, which was a very respectable showing given the difficulty of the questions. Saturday was filled with more business of the Order, awards and election and installation of new National Officers. Congratulations to PDC Fred Mossbrucker on receiving a Meritorious Service Award for his work in getting May declared GAR/SUVCW Month.

The Camp is preparing for the "Fall Campaign" as we have a number of events to carry us through to November. Next meeting: 10:00 a.m., 1 October, 2022, at the Presbyterian Church Annex, 6001 Main Street, Mays Landing.

Batsto Country Living Fair, 16 October 2022, 09:00 a.m. to 03:00 p.m. 31 Batsto Road, Hammonton, New Jersey.

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. 2022 Meetings All Meeting Times are 1:00 pm at the Ardena Baptist Church

Final meeting of the year Dec 3rd 2022.

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

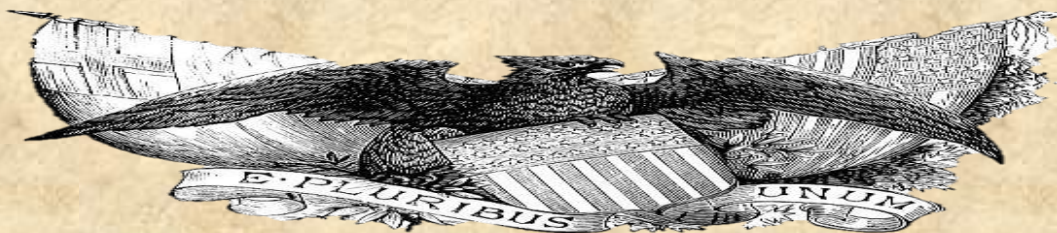
Nov 5th 2022

Brother Lt (Ret.) Chris Sands presented
SUVCW awards at Seton Hall University



and Linden High School June 2022.

Brother Jim Halloran presented an
Eagle Scout certificate to Ryan Hopson,
Troop 17, June 12, 2022.



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

2022 Meetings All Meeting Time are 1:30 pm

Nov. 19th. 2022.

CAMP 82 - JAMES S. STRATTON CAMP

Commander: Bruce Lutz

Point of Contact: Scott West, Secretary



Stratton Camp #82 and Becks' Band are preparing for a very busy Fall.

On October 15, we will be honored to play for the re-dedication of the grave of the ancestor of one of our own members, Bryan Sigmund. This grave site was recently identified and Bryan has made it a priority to get a headstone set and honor his ancestor with a proper ceremony.

We will perform on October 23 for Civil War Days at the Historic Glassboro Train Station, an annual event sponsored by the Glassboro Historical Society that aims to raise awareness of this part of our nation's history.

Through all this, we are also preparing for Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, where we will once again honor our dead as we play at several monuments and for the Woolson Monument ceremony. We will then parade through Gettysburg, and end the day playing for the SUV Ball at the Wyndham.

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



Updates are being planned for our Camp. Please visit our web site for details.

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

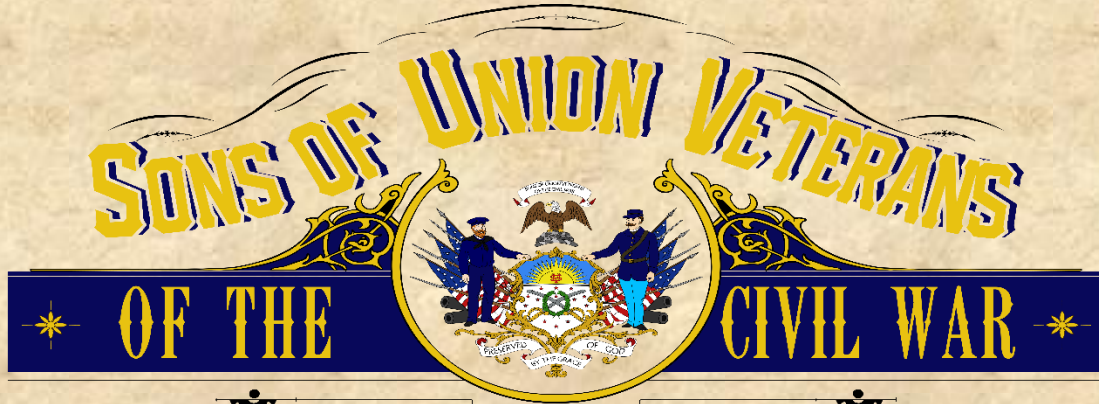
Sgt. Hiram W. Purcell, Camp #104



AUXILIARY TO THE NJ SUV/CW

Ladies Auxiliary Hancock Camp # 10 attached to Lyon Camp
10.





DEPARTMENT NEWS

The 140th New Jersey Department Encampment was held June 11, 2022, at the Clarion Hotel in Toms River, NJ. See Department Commanders Godin's report.

IMPORTANT EVENT !

November, 2022 (Date to be determined).

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 Department Commander Br. Jay Godin jgcivilwar1@gmail.com

NATIONAL NEWS

The National Encampment of the SUVCW has held August 11 – 14, 2022, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Department of New Jersey was represented by Brother David Hann, PDC, Brother Frank Tomasello, Senior Vice Department Commander and Brother Marty Higgins. Sister Ellen Higgins was in attendance with the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Brothers Hann and Tomasello arrived at the venue for the Encampment, the Grand Rapids Double Tree by Hilton, on the evening of 10 August 2022 and were warmly welcomed by the gracious hotel staff. We met with the early arriving Encampment attendees at the on-site restaurant “Ganders”, including National Senior Vice Commander in Chief, Bruce Frail (subsequently Commander in Chief). Brother Hann, ever in recruiting mode, took the opportunity to present an SUVCW wooden nickel to our waitress in an effort to recruit her husband as a Brother in the SUVCW.



On 11 August Brothers Hann and Tomasello availed themselves of the Encampment sponsored bus tour. The trip consisted at stops at three local venues: the Meyer S. May house; Greenwood Cemetery and the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, each to be discussed below.

The first stop of the tour was the Meyer S. May house. This was a home built for a wealthy grocer in 1908 and designed by world famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright in what is known as the “Prairie” style. The house underwent a recent complete restoration. We were provided a guided tour of this fascinating historical building and its well-maintained gardens.

Next, they traveled to the Grand Rapids Greenwood Cemetery to dedicate a tombstone for Charles Ellet, Civil War ancestor of Brother David Hann, PDC. The cemetery itself is beautiful and well maintained. The dedication ceremony was

performed with military precision by the brothers of Company A, 14th Michigan, Sons of Veterans Reserve. The ceremony included: posting of the Guard of Honor; Setting the Symbols of the Soldier; Prayer of Rededication; Three volleys of musketry; Taps; Removal of the Symbols of the Soldier; Benediction and Dismissal. Both Brothers Hann and Tomasello were afforded the honor of placing flowers at the grave as part of the ceremony and were each given a small gift from our Michigan brothers. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Michigan brethren, as they did a highly commendable job, all the more praiseworthy considering the size of the assembly that they were able to muster on a beautiful, late summer, weekday.

The final stop of the tour was the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Upon arrival we were afforded time for lunch before being whisked off to a guided tram tour of the sculpture gardens. The sculptures contained in the gardens are truly remarkable. They are larger than life and run the gamut from the whimsical to the deeply profound. After the guided tram tour we were able to stroll the sculpture gardens at leisure, as well as the arboretum full of beautiful and exotic plants, the limited time sculpture exhibit of the works of Yinka Shonibare entitled “Planets in My Head”, and the gift shop.

The bus tour was enjoyed by everyone who attended and was a great addition to the National Encampment. Those who arranged same are to be sincerely thanked and congratulated.

On 12 August, National began the business of the Encampment in earnest. The day began with registration and receiving of our voting card and welcome package. After the official SUVCW opening ceremony, reports and recommendations of the National Officers and then each of the Departments were read and discussed. Of particular interest to the New Jersey Department was our recommendation that National allow the Departments and Camps recognize and award certificates to the SCOUTS BSA ranks of Sea Scouts and Venture Scouts as is now permitted for Eagle Scouts. This was submitted to the National Policy and Promotions Committee.

Of interest to all Departments was a lengthy discussion concerning the National magazine, the “Banner”. It was noted that, due to inflationary pressures on paper, ink and likely future postage increase, the cost of producing the Banner was becoming untenable. Suggestions on what to do included moving to an all-digital format, allowing a hybrid of paper and electronic versions or increasing National dues by five to ten dollars. The editor of the Banner, Brother Pahl spoke

and indicated that a hybrid format was unworkable and that the Banner must be one format or the other. After much discussion a vote was called and the majority was in favor of keeping the paper version of the Banner and fund it by a ten dollar increase in National dues.

Later that evening, Brothers Hann, Tomasello and Higgins and Sister Higgins had an enjoyable time at the “Campfire” Civil War Jeopardy trivia contest. We formed a team which we dubbed, “The Jersey Tomatoes” and did the Department of New Jersey proud by finishing in second place. Kudos to Brother James Pahl for creating this entertaining event and for crafting some tough Civil War trivia questions.

On 13 August, Brothers Hann and Tomasello attended the SVR breakfast and enjoyed a fine meal and good fellowship. As per usual, we fell victim to National Chaplain Jerry Kowalski’s “scam” of selling us each a crisp new two-dollar bill and some raffle tickets in exchange for a run of the mill twenty dollar bill. This is all in good fun and for a worthy cause.

The morning session of the Encampment was taken up with committee reports of the recommendations submitted to them at the prior session. Election and installation of National officers took place in the afternoon. The results were as follows:

Commander in Chief: Brother Bruce Frail;
Senior Vice Commander in Chief: Brother Peter Hritsko;
Junior Vice Commander in Chief: Brother Kevin Martin;
National Secretary: Brother Daniel Murray;
National Council of Administration: Brothers Robert Payne and Chris Workman;
National Quartermaster: Brother Donald Shaw.

Of these there was but one contested election, that of National Secretary. In addition to Brother Murray, Brother Dale Crandell sought the office. After a thorough review of the resumes of both candidates and much discussion among ourselves, your New Jersey delegation felt that both Brothers would make excellent National Secretaries but that Brother Murray had an edge in a more extensive background in the works of the SUVCW and accordingly cast all of its votes for him.

That evening, your delegation enjoyed a lovely meal and good fellowship at the Allied Orders banquet.

Unfortunately, your delegation was unable to attend the final event of the Encampment, the Non-Denominational Religious Service held 14 August as the delegation needed to begin the long journey back to our beloved Garden State.



UPDATE: 11:00 A.M. OCTOBER 15, 2022



SUVCW BROTHERS FIND VETERAN ANCESTOR IN UNMARKED GRAVE

Two brothers of the Francine Camp, went to visit a shared Uncle one day to pay respects. They knew the exact location and thought it would be an ordinary Sunday outing to visit an old family Civil War veteran for the first time. That couldn't have been further from the truth. Much to their surprise, Uncle Charles Sigmund of the 20th PA Cavalry was buried in an unmarked grave. It had been 94 years since his death and it was hard for them to believe that no one made sure he received his military honors. Their disbelief was finally suspended when multiple confirmations by the cemetery records, VA burial records, and death certificate made the hard truth evident.

Charles Sigmund was a member of The Town Post 46 in South Philly where he was born, raised, made a family, and died. A piano tuner by trade he buried his only two children and wife. It became obvious that he fell through the cracks of time considering that he outlived so many close loved ones. His GAR Post never followed through for whatever reason but they were all invited to his service as stated in his obituary.

These two SUV brothers immediately went to work and secured a permit from the cemetery, hired a monument company, and applied to the VA for his stone. They also enlisted the help of multiple NJ Camps to produce a ceremony second to none. There will be historical speakers, honor guard, The Philadelphia Brigade Band, and other representatives. We ask the entire Department to show their support so we can represent the SUVCW in a big way. Bring your camp flags and fly them proudly. Everyone is invited and any historical speakers within the SUVCW community are

encouraged to step up to add a few words for the visitors and press. Can we count on your Camp to be included in the program? It will be a celebration to remember!

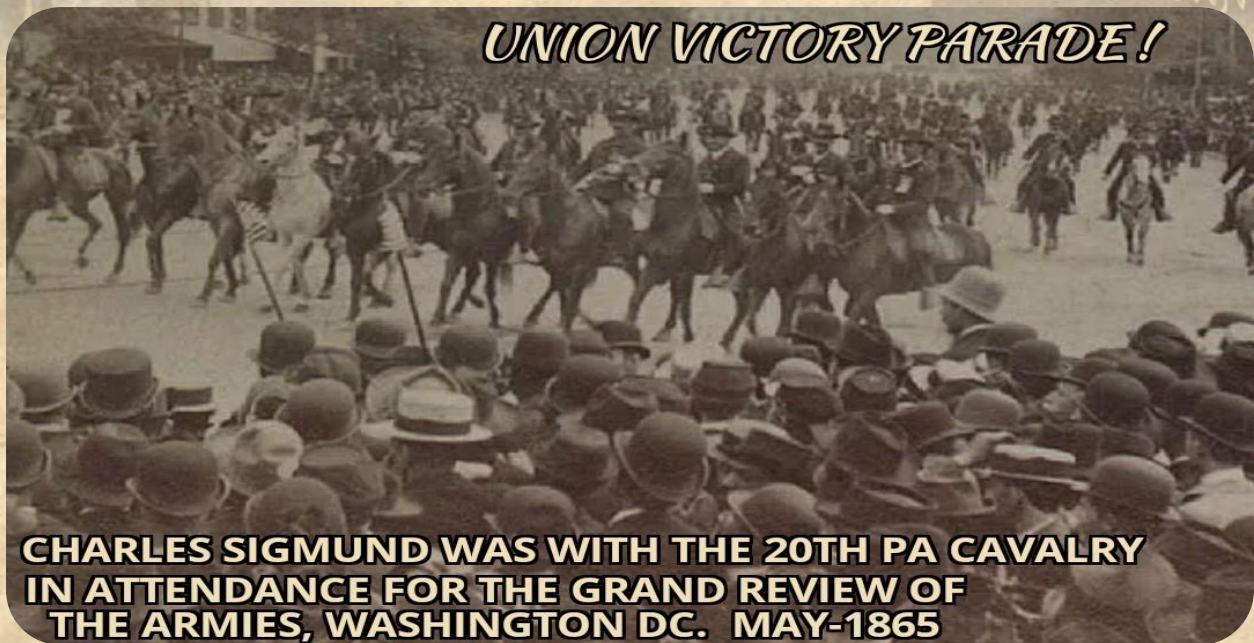
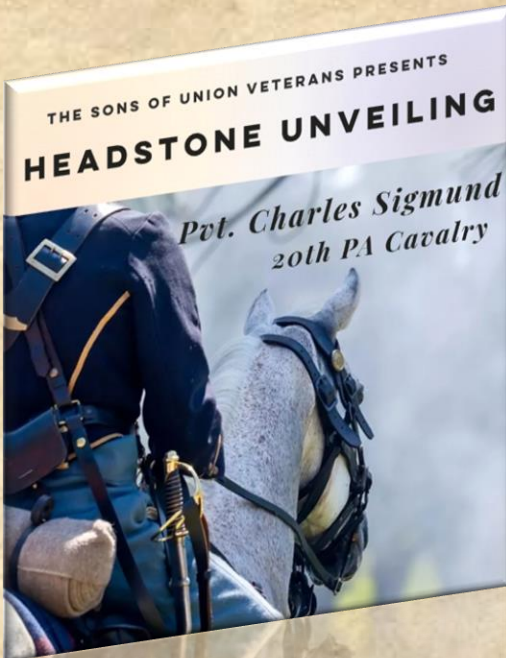
Please contact: Bryan Sigmund sonsofunionveterans@gmail.com

Location: Mount Moriah Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

Date: October 15, 2022 **Time:** 11:00 a.m.

Donors & Sponsors: Visit website for details

Website: Honoringcharles.com



CHARLES SIGMUND WAS WITH THE 20TH PA CAVALRY IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE GRAND REVIEW OF THE ARMIES, WASHINGTON DC. MAY-1865

THE ARMIES' WASHINGTON DC. MAY-1865
IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE GRAND REVIEW OF
CHARLES SIGMUND WAS WITH THE 20TH PA CAVALRY



REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Saturday November 19th, the SVR will host the 66th Annual Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg, PA. This event is open to all as long as the following criteria are met. "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 Women's Relief Corps; Sisters of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic; Sisters of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; 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; Members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; Members of the Order of Stars and Bars; and Members of the Order of Confederate Rose."

As always we hope to see a good showing from the Department of New Jersey.



HIGHLIGHTED MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY AND THEIR ANCESTOR



PDC MARK HORGAN

Brother Mark Horgan, of Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, graduated from South Brunswick High School, Monmouth Junction in 1962 and went on to earn his degree in Printing Management from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1969 and was on the Dean's list there.

Brother Mike enjoyed a 43 year distinguished career in the newspaper publishing industry, beginning as a Printer's Apprentice in 1962, with a focus on

computerizing the production process. He spent most of his career with the Star-Ledger, Newark, New Jersey, until he retired as Systems Director in 2007. Not one to “rest on his laurels”, went on in 2009, to co-author “A Tribute to New Jersey Veterans” a collaborative venture between the Star-Ledger and the New Jersey National Guard Militia Museum. In 2015 he became a licensed real estate sale person.

Brother Mike has had an equally distinguished career in the SUVCW. He became a member of the Francine Camp in 1992. He served as Junior and Senior Vice and ultimately Camp Commander. He also rose through the ranks to Department Commander 1997-1999. He is a past president of the New Jersey Civil War History Association and has been a board member of the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association since 2001. And finally, Brother Horgan has been a companion member of the Pennsylvania Commandery of MOLLUS since 1998.

Brother Mike is a member of Saint Augustine of Canterbury Church, Kendall Park, where he has served as Lector for over 25 years and more recently as Extraordinary Minister.

Brother Mike sadly lost his first wife Ellen, and second wife Patricia, but is the proud father of 5 (son Mike earning his Eagle Scout badge) and grandfather of 9. Brother Mike spent 25 years with the Scouting Organization and earned the District Award of Merit.

Brother Horgan's Ancestor

LANDSMAN JOHN MAXWELL

John S. Maxwell was born February 4, 1845, in Cohoes, New York and died in May of 1929, at the age of 85. His parents came to the United States from

Harwick, Scotland in 1840. John Maxwell was a pioneer knitting mill operator in Amsterdam, New York and was married there on May 16, 1867 to Frances Vedder. After she passed away on June 24, 1910, he later married Helen M. Francis.

John enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Landsman and served on the U.S.S. Vermont; A.D. Vance; North Carolina; Genessee; Baltic and the Morgan.

While serving aboard the A.D. Vance, he saw action at the Battle of Fort Fisher.

After the war he was elected as Commander, Department of New York, Grand Army of the Republic, in 1906.



John S. Maxwell – Age 17– Civil War Letters

Sept. 9, 1864 – The “Vermont” at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Several thousand men on board. First supper was hard tack and coffee. A week to go before hammocks arrive. Sleeping on the floor. Baggage from home is stolen from many of the ‘boys’. Referred to an \$800 bounty for joining.

Sept. 19, 1864 – The “Vermont” at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Not much happening yet and boredom experienced by most. His mother must have expressed concern in her letters to him. He says: “I put my trust in an “Over-Ruling Providence”. Commits to writing a daily log of his ship board experiences.

Sept. 30, 1864 – The “Vermont” at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

More sailors (some draftees) still coming on board. Tomorrow some fresh meat and soup. He reflects on “mother’s tea and pumpkin pie”.

Oct. 6, 1864 — The “Vermont” at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Wrote to Edward (who recently joined the infantry). “We have music every night on deck: banjo, fiddle, and accordion, with songs such as “Home Sweet Home” and “Do They Think of me at Home”. Daily routine: “4:30 a.m rise, wash the deck

and pump the ship, till seven when we eat our tack and drink coffee. Roll call at eight. After roll call, the sailors do what they please until six and then standby their hammocks. "Every night some of the men try to escape. Most are caught by little Police boats. "I find many kind hearted, good "moral" young men – although the most of them are the opposite."

Oct. 13, 1864 – The "Vermont" at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Wrote to Edward. Spoke to the Captain's Clerk this forenoon about getting drafted (assigned). He says he will try and get us all together in the next draft for the "Blockade" We have to give him something for doing it – ten dollars apiece. I would rather do it than stay here a month longer.

Oct. 16, 1864 – The "Vermont" at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

In the service for six weeks. Having pork and beans for dinner today and hard tack for "dessert". "I am getting to understand sailor' phrases pretty well now. To his mother, he says "This Cruel War" will be over and we (his brother too) will come home again."

Oct. 24, 1864 – The "Vermont" at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

"The "Augusta", a gunboat, is just starting. She is going to Wilmington.

Nov. 6, 1864 – on board the "A.D. Vance" at sea.

Sailed last Sunday. Hauled into Sandy Hook until morning. Set off for Fortress Monroe. Wednesday night off Hattress, "didn't the old hop rock some!" A great mountainous wave would sweep clean over the bow of the ship. We are on the South Carolina coast somewhere. Tomorrow to Port Royal to take on coal and provisions. A lot of sea sickness and "throwing up" throughout the ship. I can't account for it, but I haven't been sick at all – and I am now in tip top health.

"This is one of the neatest crafts: long and narrow – two masts, carries five guns – 24 lb. Brass howitzers and she has two large engines and is considered one of the fastest ships in the navy. Dried apples every day or two. It is a perfect home little home – if one can only think so.

Nov. 9, 1864 — on board the "A.D. Vance", Beaufort, NC

Day before yesterday the 'look out' spied a vessel which was supposed to be a blockade runner. She proved to be one of our own ships. They were looking for the blockade runner "Talahassee".

"I suppose Edward has gone to the front and by this time next year – God protect us – we will both return home. He hopes that "the Union is restored and the old flag flying all over the country".

Nov. 16, 1864 — on board the "A.D. Vance", Off Wilmington, NC

"I can see the rebel flag flying over the fort at the entrance to Wilmington".

Nov. 19, 1864 — on board the "A.D. Vance", Off Wilmington, NC

At about 7 p.m. the Captain hailed a steamer. She immediately put her lights out and scut off. We fired four rounds at her and then went after her, but lost sight of her in the dark. We got the steam up and were traveling at 17 ½ knots.

"Since I wrote you, our ship has been made a 'flag ship'. We are on the south side of Wilmington and there are thirteen vessels in the fleet and I do not know how many on the north side." I am starving for news. I suppose "Abe" is our next president and Fenton our (NY) governor.

The Captain has ordered us to put white tape on our collars – we are on the flag ship you know.

We can see the rebel flag flying from the fort. It may come down soon!

Nov. 22, 1864 — on board the "A.D. Vance", Off Wilmington, NC

"Night before last we went within two miles or three of the fort entrance. Two or three shells were thrown at us but did not hit us. Yesterday we went on sort of a reconnoiter along the coast. We had the British flag hoisted so the rebs might think us a blockade runner. We went within a ½ mile of shore. Our Captain returned a wave from the rebs.

Dec. 4, 1864 — on board the "A.D. Vance", Off Wilmington, NC

Realized "Abe" had been elected. Had and "oinon stew" for Thanksgiving dinner.

Dec. 6, 1864 — on board the "A.D. Vance", In Port Beaufort, SC

” I am off my watch and am sitting up the forecastle – one of the loveliest days I ever saw”. Little boats “bam boats” come along the side of the ship with apples, cakes, bread, sweet potatoes.

Dec. 13, 1864 — on board the “A.D. Vance”, In Port Beaufort, SC
page 26 – storm letter.

Dec. 18, 1864 — on board the “A.D. Vance”, Off Wilmington, NC

“I understand that we are to carry dispatches from the flagship to the other vessels. There are a total of seventy vessels that will be included in the engagement.

Dec. 31, 1864 — on board the “A.D. Vance”, Port Royal Harbor, SC

Our captain has been fattening up a turkey on the ship for New Years. The turkey has been sea sick.. We can see Hilton Head. We are near the hotbed of the rebellion – Charleston.

Jan . 17, 1865 — on board the “A.D. Vance”, Off Wilmington, NC

You will have read about the fight by the time this letter reaches you. The AD Vance with half dozen other ships have been laying along the beach to protect the landing of troops and to protect the ammunition stores.

It was a grand sight to see the troops after they had landed fall into line and march up towards the fort. The fleet kept up shelling the fort. I don’t see how the rebs stood it. At about 4 p.m. yesterday, a party of rebs made a charge out of the woods on the troops left to protect the ammunition. They charged with a yell. The troops on the beach fell into line and charged right into them. We were called to quarters and with the other gun boats, gave a few shells. It was too hot for the Johnys and they retired.

The fort surrendered night before. The Admiral’s flagship was illuminated. The sun rose this morning to shine on many dead and bleeding forms that wer no more. It has been an awful weeks work, but the old flag floats on the fort where one week ago the rebel flag flaunted defiantly.

There were two or three thousand rebel prisoners on the beach yesterday.

The wounded men and prisoners are being brought over on the transports. They hoist the wounded men up the side of the ship as they would boxes. Oh it is awful!

Jan . 19, 1865 — on board the “A.D. Vance”, Cape Fear River.

This has been a terrible blow to the rebellion. The rebs must have meant that his place should not be taken – evidenced by the small torpedo boats. The rebel cause looks hopeless. Down with the traitors, up with the stars. Three cheers for the Army and Navy – Hallaleuia.

The rebel prisoners looked like beggars, old men and little boys with dirty blankets and no two dressed alike.

I was talking with one of the engineers who was ashore in the fort and dying all around. He said a young rebel soldier only sixteen lay with both legs blow off. He sat beside him until he died. He told the engineer he was forced to go into the army. His last words were: I will never see my mother again”.

March 22, 1865. U.S. North Carolina, Brooklyn Navy Yard.

When I think of Sherman’s brave boys have gone through and what our prisoners suffer in prison, I can’t complain.

We drill every day with muskets or single sticks.

June 15, 1865. U.S. steamer Baltic, Mobile

I was ashore several times. The buildings nearest the explosion were completely demolished. I went through four forts. The guns have all been taken out. Steamers are coming and going laden with freight. The mosquitoes. They are here by the million.

July 31, 1865. U.S. steamer Morgan, Mobile

Home soon.

JOHN S. MAXWELL ANSWERS DEATH’S SUMMONS

Veteran of Civil War and Citizen of Amsterdam Whom All Honor, Dies at Hospital in Fullness of Years—Widely Known and Loved

Judge John S. Maxwell died 3 o’clock Sunday afternoon in the Amsterdam City hospital in the eighty-fifth year of his age. Judge Maxwell was the oldest lawyer in

the city and also enjoyed the distinction of having been admitted to the bar at a more advanced age than any other, for it was in middle age that he decided to abandon business and enter the legal profession. He was one whom his fellow men delighted to honor. The latter part of his life was marked by four successive elections to the office of Amsterdam City Judge, which office he still held when he died. He was three times elected Recorder of the City of Amsterdam, District Attorney of the county, and at one time might well have been the candidate of the Republican party for Secretary of State had he cared to press the effort further. As a member of the G. A. R. he held every office that both the local posts and the state organization could confer and was at one time Postmaster in Stittville (a town founded by his family).

All of these public positions came to him during a period of 36 years, and in all that time there was never a question as to his honesty and ability. Scorn and suspicion, rightfully or otherwise, were almost invariably the lot of men in public office, but such was the dignity and fine loyalty to the highest ideals of John S. Maxwell that no ill word from any quarter was ever directed against this life, public or private. Leaders of all political parties endorsed him, and all men approved. A life so filled with good works, ended so gracefully in the fullness of years, must have built something into the municipal structure of the city that will be felt when the name of John S. Maxwell is but a dim memory.

Judge Maxwell was born in Cohoes February 4, 1845, being the second son of John Maxwell and Elizabeth Davidson, who came to the United States from Hawick, Scotland, in 1840. The Maxwell family moved in 1857 to Rock City, now the eighth ward of Amsterdam, John S. Maxwell being then 12 years of age. His father entered the knit goods business in a partnership with the late Adam Kline.

The little red schoolhouse on the hill and later the Amsterdam academy gave John S. Maxwell the fundamentals of education, and he also attended college at Poughkeepsie, NY. At age 19 years he enlisted in the United States Navy. After the war he worked at his father's mill and then entered business life on his own account. He operated knitting mills in Amsterdam, Stittville, Oneida, St. Johnsville and Toronto, Canada. It was while he was in Stittville that his appointment as postmaster came from President Grant. It was in the year 1889 that Judge Maxwell decided to abandon business and study law, and on February 4, 1892, the forty-

seventh anniversary of his birth, he was admitted to the bar. The following year he was the candidate of the Republican party for Recorder and was elected by a majority of 550, the term being for three years. He was re-nominated at the expiration of that term and again endorsed by the voters by an increased majority, and there was no opposition to his election for the third term. One year following the completion of his third term as recorder he was elected District Attorney, and upon the completion of the three-year term he declined re-nomination.

It was during his service as Recorder and as District Attorney that Judge Maxwell demonstrated those fine attributes of human character, kindly understanding, toleration and mercy. It was his conception of his duty that society was to be protected by law rather than that revenge be administered for wrongdoing. He was reluctant to punish or prosecute bitterly when he felt that justice to all might be better served by leniency. Those associated with him know that many a man has been spared the shame of public disgrace and prison record, to go clean and straight afterward. Yet his clarity of vision and sense of true justice were always with him. He could carry on with quiet insistence to stern culmination when convinced that the facts warranted such a course.

It was not long after the expiration of Judge Maxwell's term as District Attorney that the office of City Judge was created, and to this office he was elected in the year 1916, having at one time (the year of 1908) been prominently mentioned as the candidate for Secretary of State. No one knows of anyone of his own party that desired to oppose him at any primary, nor did any other party wish to enter a candidate against him. It was in the administration of this office, perhaps, that the human understanding and sturdy common sense of Judge Maxwell showed to better advantage than during any other part of his career. He knew the law well enough, he understood the precedents, but he did not allow verbiage and technicalities to blur the clean-cut outlines of right and wrong as they stood before him. More than once he has said before contesting attorneys and witnesses, "I do not care what the law says, in this instance it is not right," and his decisions were rendered in accordance with right as it was given him to see the right. He did it so gently, yet with such utter finality, that very few of his decisions were appealed, and those most disgruntled at the moment would say after a time, "I guess the old judge was right after all."

There must yet linger in the memory of Amsterdam that period of housing shortage when action after action came before the court of Judge Maxwell to evict tenants. How many may well hold this time in grateful recollection, for no family ever went into the street by order of City Judge John S. Maxwell, let law and lawyers say what they would.

The honors bestowed upon John S. Maxwell by the Grand Army of the Republic were as numerous as those accorded him in political life. He was elected State Commander of the G.A.R. about 22 years ago, the state convention being held in Saratoga. It was almost entirely through his influence as New York State Commander that the national convention of the G.A.R. was held in Saratoga the summer following his election. He was elected Trustee of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Bath in 1915, and shortly after his election was made president of the Board of Trustees. He was twice Commander of Post E. S. Young, No. 33, G. A. R., and four times Commander of A. H. Terry Post, which disbanded in 1909. He was Senior Vice Commander of the State Department of the G.A.R., being chosen for this office after the expiration of his term as Commander and was also a member of the Council of Administration for three terms and chairman of the legislative committee for three years. He was twice President of the Tri-County Veterans' Association and for the past four years had been Judge Advocate of the State Department of the G. A. R.

The physical life of John S. Maxwell was in keeping with the high plane of his mental and moral attributes. Not large in body, he was possessed of a toughness of fiber and a fine organism which, coupled with moderation in all things, enabled him to attain advanced age with no visible signs of approaching dissolution and to grow old so gracefully that every appearance, During the ten weeks that he was at the hospital Judge Maxwell suffered little, or if he did, he concealed the fact with the quiet courage the strong man who does not wish others to suffer because of his pain. He would ride about the city during such days of his hospital confinement as the weather permitted and was alert in recognizing and greeting friends, although it could be seen that he did this by pure power of mind. He wished to himself completely to the very end and he had often expressed the belief that a sudden end to any man in full power of mind and body while at his work or pastime, was the best end and hoped such might be his. This wish was not quite granted to him, but those who knew and loved him may rest in the solemn satisfaction that to the last

he seemed to believe that his illness was but transient and that his soul departed in painless peace.

He was a member of Amsterdam lodge, No. 101, B. P. O. E., Artis lodge, No. 84, F. and A. M., the Odd Fellows and the Amsterdam Bar association.



Brothers, I'm researching an ancestor, Charles W. Guice, who served in Co. D, 7th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. In Samuel Toombs' "New Jersey Troops in the Gettysburg Campaign", Guice is one of 3 soldiers in his company listed as "Missing". This corroborates the stories passed down in the family that Charles Guice was captured at Gettysburg and then spent time in the South as a prisoner of war. Other anecdotal stories passed down in the family lead me to believe that he might have been captured early in the campaign before the battle itself. According to John Hayward's regimental history of the 7th NJVI, the regiment mustered for inspection and pay on June 30, 1863; I would love to find a copy of that so I could see whether Charles Guice was with the regiment the day before the Battle of Gettysburg began. If so, he would likely have been captured when the regiment was engaged on July 2, 1863, during the action when Col. Louis Francine was mortally wounded.

If any Brother has a copy of the June 30, 1863 muster roll of the 7th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, or even just the muster roll of Co. D of that regiment, please contact me by email at ammegill@hotmail.com

Yours in F., C. & L.,

Andrew Megill

General George Armstrong Custer Camp #17

Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp #7



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?*



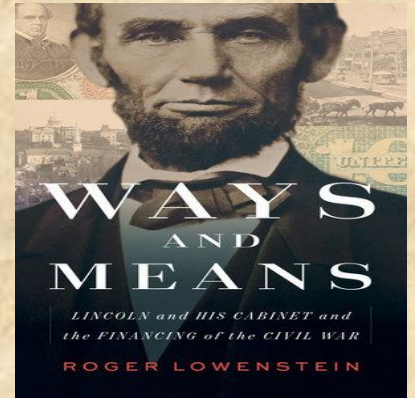
Ways And Means

Lincoln and His Cabinet and the Financing of the Civil War

Roger Lowenstein

Penguin Random House (March 8, 2022)

ISBN 9780735223554



Submitted by: Frank Tomasello, Senior Vice Department Commander

In this excellent work, Roger Lowenstein examines an inexplicably overlooked facet of Civil War history: finances. In the “lame duck” period from Abraham Lincoln’s election in November of 1860, until his inauguration in March of 1861, the then sitting Secretary of the Treasury, Georgia Confederate, Howell Cobb, sought to sabotage the Lincoln administration by racking up the enormous sum of \$65,000,000.00 in short term debt (over \$202,000,000.00 adjusted for inflation). This added immeasurably to the myriad of challenges this relatively inexperienced politician, Abraham Lincoln, faced from the first day of his Administration. He realized that he would need the right person for his Treasury Secretary. His own party had sought to place the incompetent, but politically connected, Simon Cameron in that office. Lincoln held firm for his choice: his rival to the 1860 Presidential nomination; more fervent anti-slavery “radical” and hard money leaning; Salmon P. Chase.

The problems Lincoln and Chase confronted seemed insurmountable. The Union began the Civil War mired in debt, which needed to be serviced, along with the need to build and provision an army from the 16,000-man army that existed at the time on top of running the country’s normal functions. Tying the administration’s hands was the Constitution which limited the Federal power to “coining” money, which had been held to mean that paper money was unconstitutional. Since there was only so much gold and silver to go around, this created a problem. Paper money did circulate at the time but was controlled by the states consistent with the prevailing view that the states were paramount to a central Federal government. The only option seemed to be borrowing by selling bonds. That meant that they

would then have to find willing investors for these bonds. The problem was that the interest of potential investors seemed to ebb and flow with the successes and failures of the Union Army, which too often were failures for most of the war. Eventually, a new and unexpected pool of investors was cultivated, the taboo over paper money was overcome, a new national banking system was instituted, taxes and tariffs were fine-tuned and the salesmanship of the future scoundrel Jay Cooke, all contributed to the Union's financial victory in the Civil War. As noted in the book, the Union's most successful Generals, Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman, had said that Chase had done more to win the war than any General.

The contrast between the Union and Confederate approach to financing could not be more pronounced. As the Union came out of the war in better economic health than it entered it, the Confederacy experienced 9,000 per cent hyperinflation, the likes of which would not be seen again until the German Weimar Republic of the 1920s, and was utterly devastated. The end result was a remaking of America as a united whole, no longer a mere confederation of states, and thus on the path to becoming a modern Nation, thanks in no small part to Abraham Lincoln and his political rival Salmon P. Chase. Highly recommended.

* (The sheer number of books published each year concerning a war that ended almost 160 years ago is staggering and nothing short of astounding. Therefore, I would like to make book reviews a regular feature of the newsletter for the benefit of our brothers. Let me know if you agree. Please submit your reviews, good and bad, for publication. Please keep reviews to fairly recently published works.)



Fun & Games



You probably weren't expecting to see Kevin Bacon in this newsletter, huh?



But wait ...

What about this World War I flyer? (Wrong war???)



And now...



THIS ?

No, we haven't gone mad (at least not yet). In an homage to Mr. "Degrees of Separation" Bacon, we would like to illustrate how to keep the discussion of the Civil War current by linking it to modern events. We can do this in three degrees.

1. In 2019, a new branch of the U.S. military was established: **The Space Force**. On June 4, 2021, a Space Force Base was dedicated and began operations in Colorado. That base was named
2. **Buckley Space Force Base**. This particular base outside Aurora, Colorado began operations as a demolition/bombing range in January of 1938. It was named Buckley Air National Guard base April 18, 1960 in honor of a Colorado native and hero John Buckley pictured above. 1st Lt. John Harold Buckley was born on July 8, 1895. On September 27, 1918, he was killed in action when his plane collided with another American plane at 10,000 feet over France in heavy clouds.
3. John H. Buckley was the Grandson of John A. Buckley, who served in the **Civil War** with the 21st Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and was the last veteran of Colorado's McPherson Post 6 G.A.R.



And there you have it! The most modern Space Force base has a connection to a G.A.R. "last soldier".



Although George Washington understood the value of spying in war, spy-craft was largely forgotten by the time of the Civil War, especially in the Confederacy. Although both sides utilized spies, little attention was paid to codes and cyphers. The Union employed a slightly more sophisticated code system known as a “Route Cypher”. (Hopefully, this will be explored in more detail in a future newsletter). The Confederacy used a simple “Substitution Cypher” whereby one letter is consistently substituted for another. For example, if the letter A is written as B in the coded message, it will be encoded that way throughout the message. Allan Pinkerton served as Gen. McClellan’s chief spy so, channel your inner Pinkerton and decode the following quote from a famous Union Civil War General:

ENQ JHJQIE PHG USEMHI NUF UGGMQR,UIR M LIHB ENUEMSUI EGDPE
AHD EHFUCQ HDG SHDIEGA. OQHGOQ T. JSSKQKKUI.

(Hint T = B)



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