

- . THE "TELEGRAPH" . - - -

The Official Newsletter of the Department of New Jersey Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Christmas Boxes in Camp—Christmas, 1861.

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Volume 2, Issue 4, December, 2022

Christmas Night of '62

William Gordon McCabe (1841–1920)

The wintry blast goes wailing by,
The snow is falling overhead;
I hear the lonely sentry's tread
And distant watch fires light the sky.

Dim forms go flitting through the
gloom;
The soldiers cluster around the blaze
To talk of other Christmas days,
And softly speak of home and home.

My sabre swinging overhead
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,
While fiercely drives the blinding
snow,
And memory leads me to the dead.

My thoughts go wandering to and fro,
Vibrating 'twixt the Now and Then;
I see the low-browed home again,
The old hall wreathed with mistletoe.

And sweetly from the far-off years
Comes borne the laughter faint and
low,
The voices of long ago!
My eyes are wet with tender tears.

I feel again the mother-kiss,
I see again the glad surprise

That lightened up the tranquil eyes
And brimmed them o'er with tears of
bliss,

As, rushing from the old hall-door,
She fondly clasped her wayward boy
Her face all radiant with the joy
She felt to see him home once more.

My sabre swinging on the bough
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,
While fiercely drives the blinding
snow
Aslant upon my saddened brow.

Those cherished faces are all gone!
Asleep within the quiet graves
Where lies the snow in drifting waves,
And I am sitting here alone.

There's not a comrade here to-night
But knows that loved ones far away
On bended knees this night will pray:
"God bring our darling from the
fight."

But there are none to wish me back,
For me no yearning prayers arise.
The lips are mute and closed the eyes
My home is in the bivouac.



FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER



Commander Jay Godin

jgcivilwar1@gmail.com



Brothers,

Remembrance Day has once again come and gone. This was my first time attending and it was a wonderful experience. Starting at the SVR breakfast, to the GAR monument (Woolson monument) Memorial Service and of course the Parade. I highly recommend attending this in the future if you are able to, as it is truly something special to be a part of.

While attending Remembrance Day I thought a lot about fraternity, charity and loyalty, the principles we follow. During the holiday season our charity especially helps our communities and fellow Americans. Being a volunteer for a local organization, collecting food for local food banks, collecting clothes for the needy, or organizing a cemetery clean-up for our brothers gone before us are great ways to be of service. We should share our principles with those we share our lives with outside of the SUVCW, not just during the holiday season but year-round. These small contributions are appreciated and remembered.

I would like to wish all my brothers and sisters in the SUVCW and our allied orders a very Happy and Healthy Holiday season.

Brother Jay Godin

Commander

Department of New Jersey SUVCW



OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

Sr. Vice Commander

Frank Tomasello

njdeptnews@gmail.com



Brothers,

As the bugle is about to blow “taps” on 2022, I encourage you to take a moment and reflect on the year that was. We have, and continue to, face many challenges as a Nation and as a Department. Thus far each generation has met all of those challenges, overcame them, and found a way to thrive. The ball is now in our court. Thankfully, the New Jersey Department of the Sons of Union Veterans is an active one. Not only do we keep the memories of the past alive, but also provide hope for the future through our many charitable works. I am proud beyond words to be a part of this Department. As we look forward to the coming year, may we continue to be an organization that brings honor to ourselves and the SUVCW. But now is not the time to rest on our laurels brothers. We can always do more!

Since the next issue of the Telegraph will not be until Spring, it’s not too early to begin thinking about next year and the most sacred holiday of the year to the SUVCW - Memorial Day. The SUVCW in New Jersey has won a unique honor in the form of an enactment of the New Jersey Legislature declaring May as “GAR/SUVCW Recognition Month”. To my knowledge New Jersey is the only State to do this. Sadly, thus far, this has largely gone unnoticed. Let’s make a New Year’s resolution to correct that oversight and not squander the golden opportunity secured for us through the hard work of PDC Mossbrucker and others in earning us that recognition.

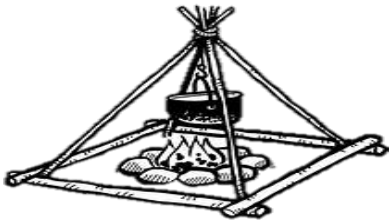
For now, have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and a better new year.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Frank Tomasello,

Senior Vice Department Commander,

Department of New Jersey



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

CAMP 7 - COLONEL LOUIS R. FRANCINE CAMP

Serving Hammonton, Turnersville, and points east

Commander: Charles Morgan

Point of Contact: Dave Hann PDC



The Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp has had quite a busy Fall picking up where the summer campaign left off.

On Saturday, September 10th, the Camp set up a recruiting booth at the Revolutionary/Civil War weekend at Historic Cold Spring Village in Cape May County. The event was well attended by both the general public and Camp Brothers who spoke to a number of interested individuals. Hopefully this will generate a few new members.

October proved to be a very busy month as we had a number of events. On Saturday, October 1st, we held a hybrid meeting at the Mays Landing Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in which we had a number of Brother attend in person as well on Zoom. At this meeting we initiated 4 new Brothers. Welcome to the Col. Francine Camp and the SUVCW.

On Saturday October 15th Honoring Pvt. Charles Sigmund. After much research our Camp Senior Vice Commander Bryan Sigmund found an ancestor that was buried in an unmarked grave at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, in Yeadon PA. Pvt. Charles Sigmund served in Company I, 20th Pennsylvania Cavalry. He had remained unmarked for 94 years until this discovery by Brother Bryan. A beautiful ceremony was held where Brother Bryan pulled out all the stops. Music was provided by the Philadelphia Brigade Band. A number of SUVCW Brothers as well as members of the SVR were in attendance as well as the general public with the finale the unveiling of a new military tombstone for Pvt. Sigmund. He is now marked and remembered and we are all grateful for his service to the Union.

Sunday, October 16th. The Camp participated in the annual Batsto Country Living Fair at Historic Batsto Village. This is something that the Camp has been participating in for the past 25 years. A number of questions were fielded by the Brothers from the Camp and we spoke to a number of interested individuals. Hopefully this will turn into new Brothers for the Camp.

Saturday, November 12th, we held another hybrid meeting at the Meeting Hammonton Library. We initiated one new Brother and made plans for Remembrance Day. This year the Camp is collecting for Toys for Tots and we plan to continue this drive until December 1.

Friday-Saturday, November 18th & 19th, the Camp participated in annual Remembrance Day ceremonies in Gettysburg, PA. We had one of the best showing to date with 16 Brothers and one Auxiliary Sister present. Over the next 2 days the Brothers participated in a number of events including: the annual SVR breakfast; the annual parade in which a number of Francine Camp Brothers perform duties to help with the parade; and that evening our SVR unit, Company A, 7th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, stood guard during the annual luminaries in the Gettysburg National Cemetery and helped out at the Original Civil War Ball. Of course, one of the highlights of the weekend is on Friday evening when we all get together in the bonds of fellowship over pizza.

There is not much planned for the Winter months at this time as a meeting is planned for February. From our Camp to all of our Brothers, our best wishes for a very Happy Holiday Season and a Happy and 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

Meetings are held at the Ardena Baptist Church in Freehold N.J.

All Meeting Times are 1:00 p.m.

Final meeting of the year Dec 3rd 2022.

Custer Camp and friends has collected \$400 in donations for the Menlo Park Veterans Nursing home in Edison NJ. Brand new slippers, warm pajamas, warm throw blankets and thick socks, both men's and women's will be given to the residents as holiday gifts. This has been a proud holiday tradition of the brothers of Custer Camp for nearly a decade.



CAMP 20 - MAJOR GENERAL PHILLIP KEARNY CAMP

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

Commander: Peter Lindsay/Jim Halloran

Point of Contact: Clark D. McCullough

Scheduled Meetings

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

The Brothers of Kearny Camp mourn the loss of Brother Eric Bal. The Camp was represented at the Remembrance Day parade by Brothers Commander Lindsay and

Greg Huntley and Bob Meyer. Congratulations to Brother Jim Halloran who was elected Camp Commander commencing January 2023.

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)

All Meeting Time are 1:30 pm

CAMP 82 - JAMES S. STRATTON CAMP

Commander: Bruce Lutz

Point of Contact: Scott West, Secretary



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.



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.

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

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

On October 20, 2022, members of Pursell Camp #104 met at the Civil War monument in Shappell Park, Philipsburg, New Jersey.



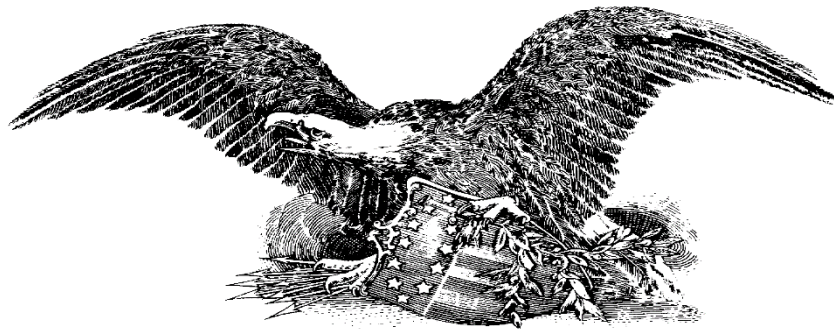
From there, they drove a short distance to the Old Philipsburg Cemetery. The Post 50 GAR burial plot is located near the back of the cemetery. Twenty comrades are interred there in front of a Federal 6" siege mortar. Nearby is the grave of Pvt. Joseph Bruch, Co. K, 54th PAVI. He was the last known Civil War veteran buried in Warren County, New Jersey. The brothers of Camp 104 recognized Pvt. Bruch in a formal SUVCW Last Soldier Ceremony.



The grave was marked with an official Last Soldier flag holder. Musician Sharif Sazzad, 28th PA Regimental Brass Band, rendered military honors.



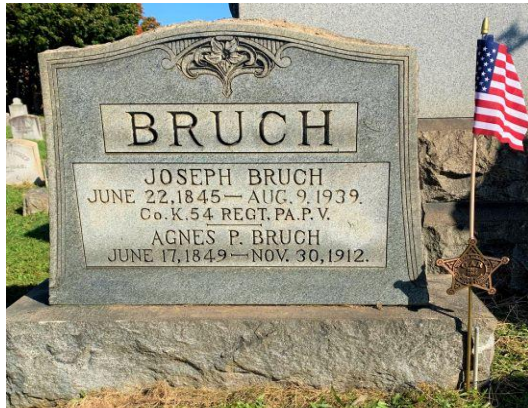
This was the Camp's second such ceremony and was delayed due to the pandemic. Prior to COVID, the irascible Pvt. Gus Dilts was honored in Clinton as the last Civil War veteran of Hunterdon County.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

The proverbial kepi of the Department of New Jersey is officially off to the Brothers of Pursell Camp in locating and marking their second Last Soldier. This is an on-going project of the National Organization and an important one. (It is with

an almost sense of shame we point out that the State of Wisconsin was recognized at the last National Encampment for finding and marking the last Civil War veteran in every county in the big state of Wisconsin. If a state that size can accomplish this, why can't relatively tiny New Jersey do so? Just sayin.)



On September 24, 2022, Brother Gary Sigmund of Col. Francine Camp #7, was honored by Gloucester County and the 4th U.S. Congressional District for his distinguished service to our Country in the United States Navy. Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ) presented Brother Sigmund with a Medal and certificate witnessed by hundreds of distinguished guests and attendees at the Riverwinds Community Center, West Deptford, New Jersey. Brother Sigmund served Honorably in the Navy most notably during the Iranian Hostage Crisis.

After the Ceremony he and his family attended a reception at the Army Navy Union, Garrison #52 for lunch, drinks, horseshoes, and billiards. The Army Navy Union is a supporter of the SUVCW and its charitable endeavors, most recently as a major sponsor of the Charles Sigmund Headstone Unveiling held October 15th, 2022 at Mt Moriah Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Congratulations Brother Sigmund and thank you for your unwavering loyalty to our Nation for over 45 years!



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 next unveiling will be at 10 AM on Wednesday, December 28, 2022, and will feature the following flags: 7th, 8th, 33rd regiments, 4th battery, 1st NJ brigade HQ. More information is available from David Martin.

dmartin@peddie.org



FINAL MUSTER

SUVCW National

Brigadier General Henry E. Shaw Jr. (SVR) 10/16/2022

David V. Medert PCinC 11/4/2022

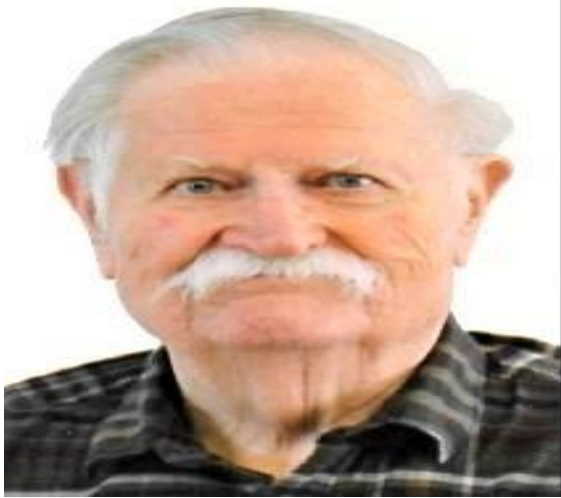
President Garfield Camp #4

Joseph Seliga, PDC 12/1/2022

Major General Kearny Camp #20

Eric Joseph Bal 9/2/2022





Brothers: It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Brother Joseph Seliga, PDC on Thursday, December 1, 2022. Born on June 6, 1936, in Scranton, PA, Joe spent the majority of his life in Robbinsville, NJ, with his wife and family. Preceded by his son, Joseph E. Seliga; Joe is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Patricia Seliga; his brother, Roger Seliga; his son, James Seliga and wife, Kelly; his daughter-in-law, Michele Seliga; his grandchildren, Shelby Seliga, Morgan Hartman and her husband, Kyle and James and Kyle Seliga; and his great-granddaughter, Sophia. Joe served in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1962. He then went on to the Milwaukee School of Engineering and received a BS degree in Electrical Engineering, after he earned his MS degree in Electrical Engineering from Drexel Institute of Engineering. Joe began his career in 1962 as an Aerospace Engineer at RCA Corporation designing satellites and he retired as a Program Manager at Lockheed Martin in Hightstown, NJ. Joe was a parishioner of Our Savior Polish National Catholic Church located in Lawrenceville, NJ. He served 8 years on the Washington Township Committee as Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Planning Board Chairman. Joe was a member of Mercer Lodge #50 F&AM. He was the founder of the Washington Crossing American Revolutionary War Round Table in 2004, Past Camp Commander of Lincoln Camp #100 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 2002-2004), Past New Jersey Department Commander (2004-2006), a Member of Camp Olden Civil War Roundtable,

President Garfield Civil War Museum Board, a member of the Civil War Heritage Association Board, a member of the Swan Historical Foundation, Author of The Search for Camp Olden, Hamilton Township as well as A Tribute To New Jersey Veterans, a Member of the Banner of Jasna Gora 17th Century Polish Living History Group Board, a member of the Trenton Polish American Democratic Club, and a member of Trenton Polish American Businessmen's Club. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Savior Polish National Catholic Church, 2300 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ. Cremation will be held privately. Visitation for family and friends will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Saul Colonial Home, 3795 Nottingham Way, Hamilton Square, NJ. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Joseph's honor to Our Savior P.N.C. Church, 2300 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. www.saulfuneralhomes.com Saul Colonial Home 3795 Nottingham Way Hamilton Square, NJ 08690 609-587-0170



HIGHLIGHTED MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY AND THEIR ANCESTOR



BROTHER GREGORY HUNTLEY, KEARNEY CAMP

#20

Brother Huntley is the proud father to daughter Kendall (19) and twin sons Gordon and Reagan age 16. He has been the Superintendent of High Bridge School District for the past ten year and a dedicated educator for twenty-five. He was a member of the Pennsylvania (college) and New Jersey National Guard for eight years, serving as a cannon crew member. While serving with the Army he earned the parachutist badge. Brother Huntley proudly traces his roots to 1640 when his ancestors arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, from Scotland. The Huntleys were among the founding settlers of Lyme, Connecticut. He is the 3rd great grandson of Russell Huntley. He is a member of the Jockey Hollow Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Colonial Prospect Masonic Lodge in Chester. He is an avid traveler having visited six continents and lived in South Korea. We thank Brother Huntley for his service.

Brother Huntley's Ancestor

PRIVATE RUSSELL HUNTLEY

Russell Huntley was born in 1821 in Jefferson (Coos County) New Hampshire. He moved to Illinois and settled in Rock Island. Russell enlisted as a private at the age

of 41, in Company F, 89th Illinois V. I. at a time when life expectancy was 46. His entry service date was August 2, 1862 at Rock Island, Illinois, he was mustered in at Chicago, Illinois on October 13, 1862 for a period three years. The 89th Illinois was known as the “Railroad Regiment” with a motto of “Clear the Tracks.” The name came from the majority of Companies in the Regiment being made up of former railroad workers from Chicago. Russell and the 89th saw action in the Western Theater during the American Civil War.

Russell’s first major engagement was at Stones River, Tennessee also known as Murfreesboro. The battle was fought from December 31, 1862 through January 2, 1863. The Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro) had the highest percentage of casualties on both sides than another battle of the war, making this one of the most dangerous battles of the war (casualties and losses Union 12,906; Confederate 11,739). Even though this battle was a Union victory Russell was captured during the intense fighting and later paroled, enabling him to rejoin his regiment.

His second major engagement was the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. This battle took place on September 18th through 20th, 1863. Chickamauga was the largest battle in the Western Theater and has the second highest casualties of the war, after the Battle of Gettysburg. Casualties and losses for this battle were 16,170 for the Union and 18,454 for the Confederacy. Russell was captured for the second time during this Confederate victory. Unfortunately for Russell and other captured Union soldiers, the prisoner of war parole exchange system had broken down in 1863. The exchange system stopped after the Confederate Government’s treatment of Black Union Soldiers, and the developmeny of Union strategy toward a war of attrition with the Union advantage of the larger population. Union Generals came to realize that Confederate Soldiers who were paroled would only make them available to fight another day.

Sadly, Russell was sent to Andersonville Prison in Georgia with other survivors of the battle. Andersonville (Camp Sumter) was hastily built after the parole exchange system broke down. The site was picked for its remoteness from Northern lines and a small stream which ran through the proposed location.



Andersonville was known for its notoriously bad conditions. In only fourteen months of operations nearly 13,000 prisoners died there. No shelter was constructed for prisoners and with a successful Union blockade of the coast and a tightening of control of the Mississippi River made limited supplies even harder to get. With little to no food and medicine prisoners suffered greatly during cold Georgia winters and hot summers. Andersonville provided us with the term “deadline”, lawlessness within the camp, the execution of Camp’s Commandant and the establishment of a National Cemetery started by Clara Barton after the war. If you have an opportunity to learn more please do so. Russell died at Andersonville Prison, Georgia on August 18, 1864 of Anasarca. He is buried at Andersonville National Cemetery, Georgia (Grave #6085). Russell Huntley’s Great Grandfather Samuel Huntley fought in the American Revolution and his ancestor John Huntley was a founder of Lyme, Connecticut.

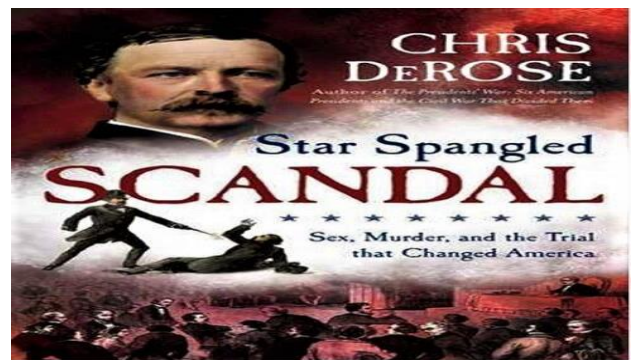


READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?



Star Spangled Scandal
Sex, Murder and the Trial that Changed America
By Chris DeRose

As an amateur Civil War historian of over two decades, I thought I knew all there was to know about a pre- Civil War scandal involving Major General Daniel E. Sickles. Conventional history records that Sickles' beautiful young wife Theresa had affair with U.S. Attorney General, Philip Barton Key, son of Francis Scott Key of Anthem fame, which lead to then New York Congressman, Sickles shooting Key in broad day light, on a public street, in Washington, D.C., who was then acquitted at trial in one of the earliest successful insanity defenses, represented by future Secretary of War under Abraham Lincoln, Edward Stanton. In this book, author DeRose has exhaustively reviewed newspaper accounts, personal diaries and letters, and trial testimony, to paint a truer picture of the events of the early spring of 1859. What emerges is a record that is so similar



to today's 24-hour news cycle that it beggars' belief. It had it all: a sex scandal involving high society elites/celebrities; homicide; press leaks; trial by media; anonymous letters; accusations of evidence tampering; show boating attorneys; political intrigue; and the list goes on.

The facts were never in dispute. The affair was admitted, as well as the shooting of Key by Sickles. The incident quickly evolved into a trial that would focus the attention of the world. In 1859, the telegraph was cutting edge technology. Newspapers at the time felt that its expense was not justified since there could never be any news that people would not be content in waiting a few days to learn. The Sickles trial shattered that notion and the press became ravenous for news from the young Nation's capital. Sordid details about the affair, the brazen way it was conducted and the "roguish" character of Key filled columns of the newspapers of the day. Sickles was seen sympathetically as a victim and yet clearly culpable as a murderer. After a trial that lasted nearly two weeks, he was acquitted. His legal team, of which Edwin Stanton was but one member, had indeed argued "temporary insanity" but the verdict would more accurately be labeled as "Justifiable Homicide" or what today is known as "Jury Nullification".

DeRose is not wrong when he says that the Sickles trial changed America. It single handedly created what we now call the aforementioned 24-hour news cycle, and also the "Unwritten Law" which would acquit homicidal jealous lovers for decades thereafter. It is an excellent work that sheds much light on a largely misunderstood event of much historical importance.



Fun & Games



Last Issue's puzzle:

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

Solution: The moment for action has arrived, and I know that I can trust in you to save our country. George B. McClellan.

Congratulations to Brother Jim Halloran the first to solve last issue's puzzle and report his finding to the Telegraph. His prize? Nothing but glory.

Here's another. This quote is from a Major General about his actions at a December 1862 battle.

EZQLZQT XYCX Z YCL PRJX CJ BCQK BHQ CY BK RW LHWJ
WHASZHL BH XR PRRJH Z JSJEHLHL XYHCXXXVL. SRJHEY YRRLHW

Hint Z=I (What, you want I should give it away? 😊)



OOPS

The Telegraph sincerely apologizes to Brother Mike Horgan. We erroneously referred to him as “Mark” in portions of the article about him in the last issue. The editing staff (a/k/a your’s truly) regrets the error. Court martial is pending.

