

-. THE "TELEGRAPH" .--

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY SONS OF UNION
VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



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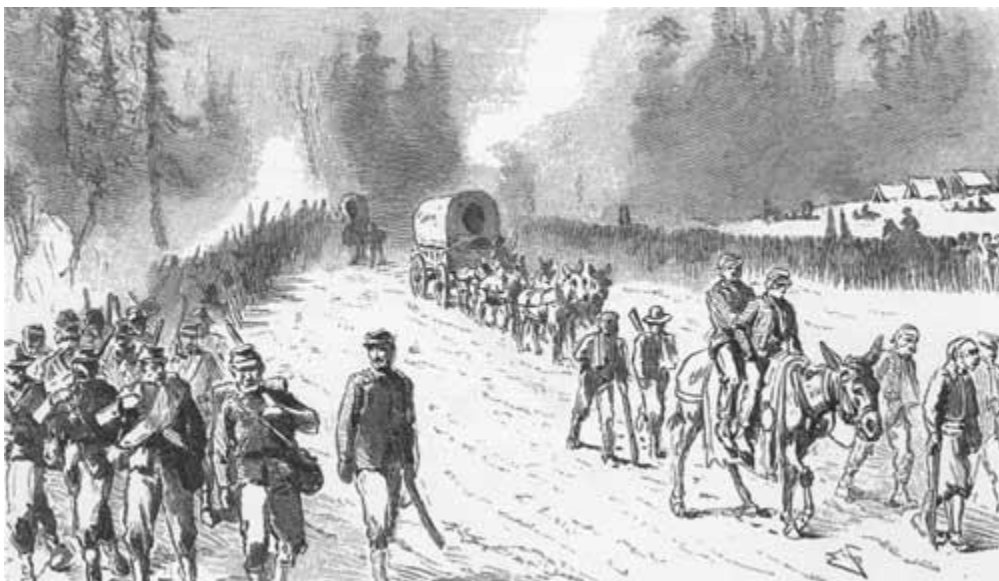
Volume 3, Issue 2, June, 2023



An Army Corps on The March

Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

With its cloud of skirmishers in advance,
With now the sound of a single shot snapping
 like a whip, and now an irregular volley,
The swarming ranks press on and on, the
 dense brigades press on,
Glittering dimly, toiling under the sun – the
 dust covered men,
In columns rise and fall to the undulations
 of the ground,
With artillery interspers'd – the wheels rumble,
 the horses sweat,
As the army corps advances.





FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

Br. Jay Godin

jgcivilwar1@gmail.com



This past year as Commander has been a good one. From being elected as commander at the 140th encampment to presiding over the 141st encampment and reaffirming my position as Department Commander for the next year. It's been quite the experience.

I would like to thank the department officers for their service throughout the past year and look forward to the upcoming year working with you.

Senior Vice Commander Francis A. Tomasello Jr.

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

Eagle Scout Coordinator Robert Meyer, PDC 2018-20

GAR Highway Officer Bruce Sirak

GAR Records Officer Andrew Megill

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

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

The Department of New Jersey camps had wonderful reports of great projects happening from all over the state at the yearly encampment and upcoming ones as well! As the summer months are now upon us and we are out and about let's remember to keep the SUVCW in mind and keep busy at our great work.

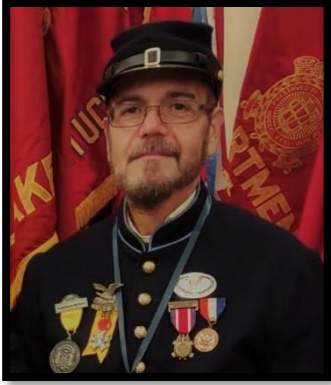
Yours in F.C.L

Br Jay J. Godin

Commander

Department of New Jersey





OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

Sr. Vice Commander

Br. Frank Tomasello

njdeptnews@gmail.com



Brothers,

I am looking forward to serving as your Department Senior Vice Commander for the coming year. It is both an honor and a privilege. Since the newsletter is one of the duties of the SVC, I will be editing “The Telegraph” for another year as well.

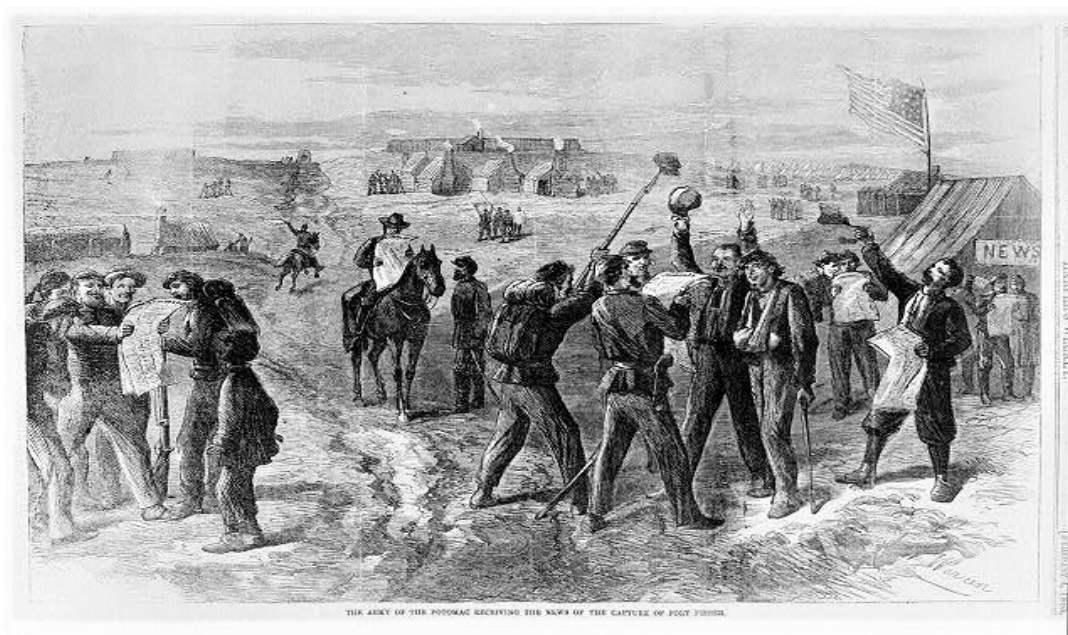
My sincere thanks to all who have submitted content in the past. I can only share your Camp’s good works with our Brothers if I know about it. So, keep it coming!

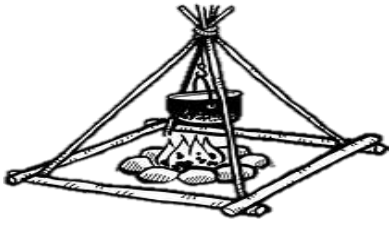
Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Br. 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

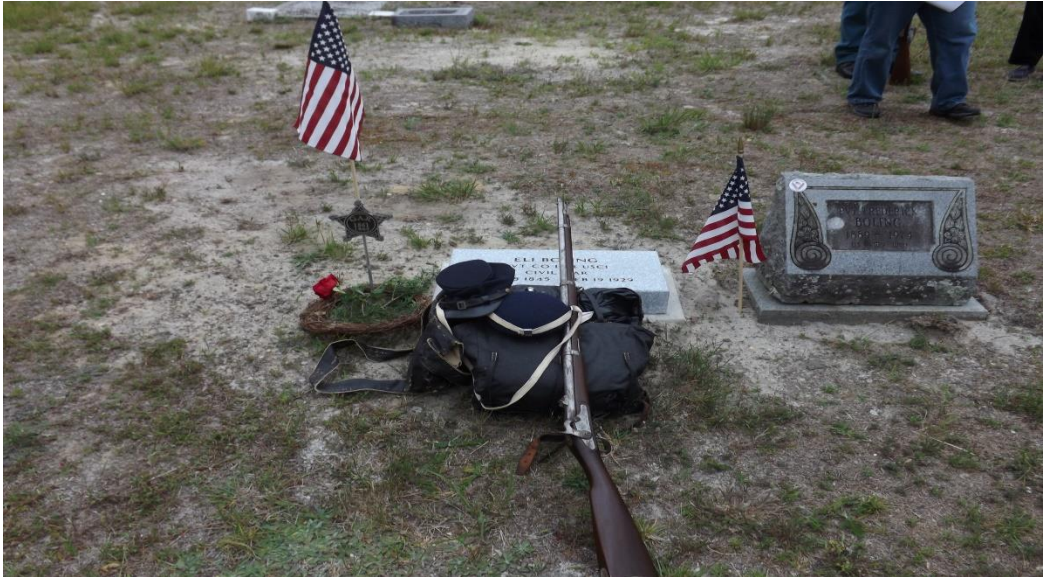
Brothers of Francine Camp marched in the Memorial Day Parade in Hammonton, New Jersey and fired a salute at the Memorial Day service.



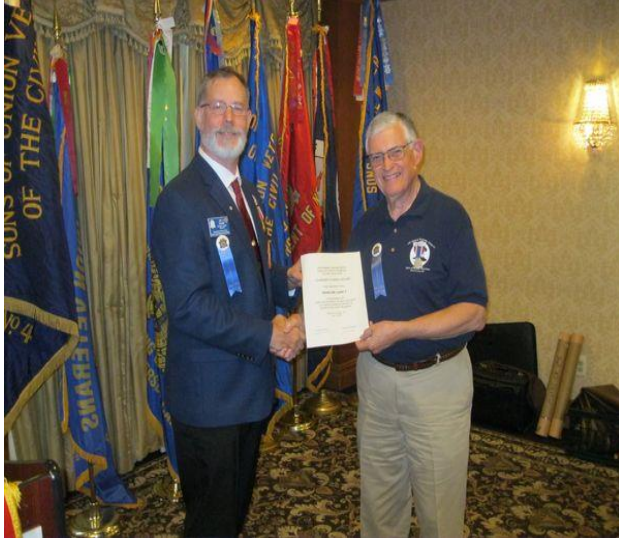
On May 30, Traditional Decoration/Memorial Day, the Brothers of the Camp conducted their annual service at the GAR section of Greenwood Cemetery in Hammonton, New Jersey.



On June 3, 2023, Brothers of the Camp dedicated a tombstone for Pvt. Eli Boling, Co I, 24 USCI. Private Boling’s grave had gone unmarked for nearly 100 years. He had been the Chaplain of the GAR Russel Post #68 for many years. He rests at the Egg Harbor City Cemetery. The Camp was honored to have Department Commander Jay Godin, Dr. Lisa Jiampeti, Mayor of Egg Harbor City and Debbie Dellanoce, from the Egg Harbor City Historical Society participate in the event.



At the Department Encampment, held June 10, 2023, the Francine Camp was honored to win the Lambert Coombs award and proud of our Brother Bryan Sigmund for winning the Kearny award for most newly recruited Brothers.



Commander Morgan accepts the Lambert Coombs Award on behalf of the Camp.



Brother Sigmund receives the Kearny Award.

CAMP 17-MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER CAMP



Serving Ocean County and parts of Monmouth and Middlesex counties

Commander: Cliff “Kip” Bebout

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.

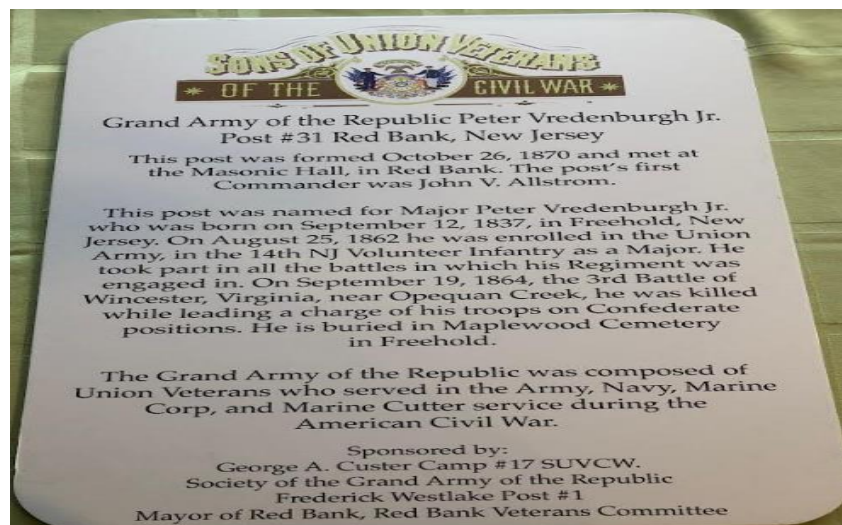
September 16, 2023

December 2, 2023

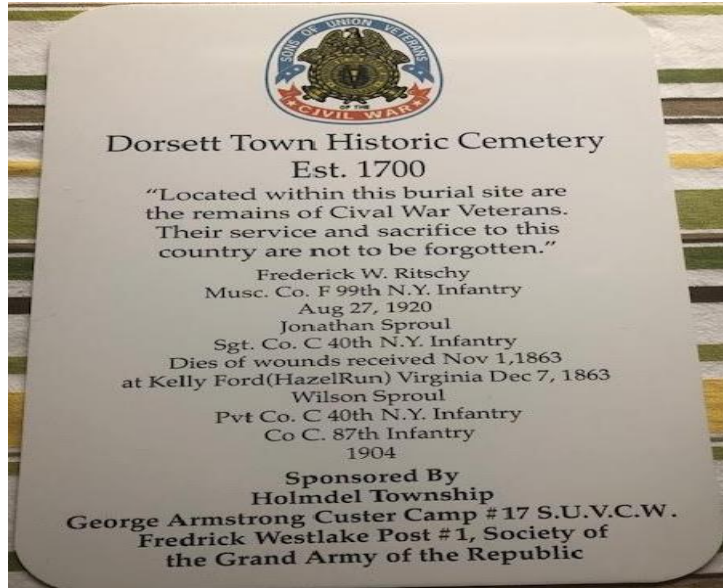
Members of Custer Camp join with the ladies of the Middletown DAR for a ceremony at the 29th New Jersey Monument in Fairview Cemetery, Middletown, New Jersey.



Custer Camp continues with its ongoing project of placing signs at the location of former GAR posts. Next to be placed are: Post 31, Redbank; Post 41 Asbury Park and Post 95, Redbank.



Custer Camp recently placed a sign honoring Civil War dead at rest in the Old Dorsett Town Historic Cemetery, Holmdel, New Jersey.



Custer Camp conducts Memorial Day ceremonies at the 29th New Jersey Monument, the Lt. Col Arrowsmith GAR plot and the GAR Commander Nevius grave at Fairview Cemetery, Middletown, New Jersey.



In June, Custer Camp placed this sign at Old Bethel AME Historic Cemetery, the final resting place of several USCI veterans and their families.



CAMP 20 - MAJOR GENERAL PHILLIP KEARNY CAMP

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

Commander: James J. Halloran

Point of Contact: Clark D. McCullough

Scheduled Meetings

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

All Meeting Times are 1:00 p.m.

September 9, 2023

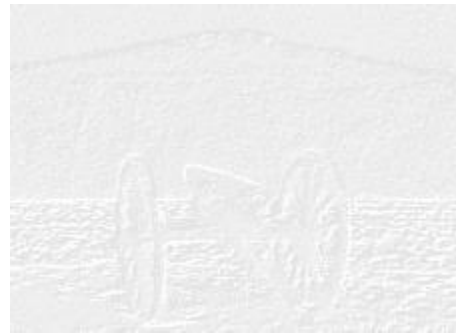
October 28, 2023

November 11, 2023 {Veterans Day Celebration}

At a recent meeting, Kearny Camp awarded Brother Dr. Richard Riva the Kearny Cross Certificate for his outstanding work and dedication to the Kearny Camp #20 in making presentations to various organizations and schools in the Kearny Camp #20 area.



At its March meeting, Kearny Camp Brother Peter Lindsay, was given his Past Camp Commander Certificate.

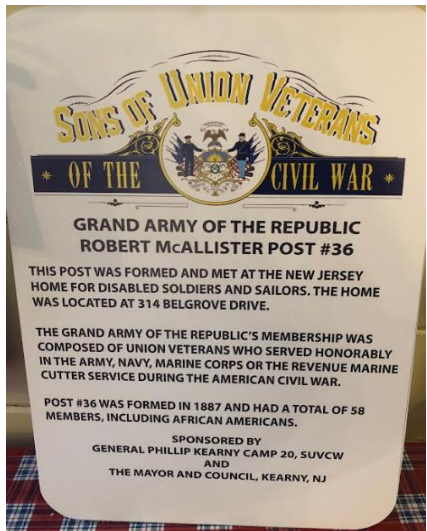


Brother Greg Huntley, was given the Kearny Cross Certificate for his outstanding work in organization of the Kearny Camp #20 Roster and updating the Camp's Past Membership Roster.



Brother Michael Woomer Past Camp Commander also received the Kearny Cross Certificate for his outstanding work and dedication to the Kearny Camp #20 in his work with the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Kearny Camp placed a GAR Post sign in Kearny, New Jersey, memorializing Robert McAllister Post #36.



Kearny Camp #20 has participated in the Fairmount Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony for the last 11 years. The 2020 pandemic, no flags were placed on the over 1000 graves. That changed this year as Boy Scouts from Troop 75 and 80 of Cranford and Troop 506 from Newark, American Legion Post #328 Clark, and Post #251 Montclair, Sons of the American Revolution West Fields and First Mountain Chapters helped place the flags and took part in a wreath laying Ceremony. The vast majority are Civil War Soldiers.



Also on Memorial Day, the Archdiocese of Newark (NJ) honored the nation's fallen soldiers with public Memorial Day Masses at several of its Catholic cemeteries. Masses were "honor the memory of fallen heroes, acknowledge the service of veterans and active-duty military personnel, and include prayers for all those interred in archdiocesan cemeteries and mausoleums." Dr Richard D. Riva, Senior Vice Commander of General Philip Kearny Camp #20, participated in the ceremonies at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in East Orange.



CAMP 73 - GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT CAMP



Serving the South Plainfield area

Commander: Robert C. Meyer, PDC

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

Meetings are at the Van Veghten House

9 Van Veghten Dr., Bridgewater Township, Bridgewater, NJ

All Meeting Time are 1:30 pm

September 30, 2023

December 10, 2023



Scott Camp. Memorial Day 2023.



Brother Sands presenting Cadet Sokolwski with the SUVCW Medal for Gen Scott Camp #73 at the North Plainfield Naval JROTC Awards Ceremony, June 2023.



CAMP 82 - JAMES S. STRATTON CAMP



Commander: Bruce Lutz

Point of Contact: Scott West, Secretary

Upcoming Events

July 1, 2023 – Saturday – 1:00 p.m.

Parade - Cape May, New Jersey

July 4, 2023 – Tuesday 11:00 a.m.

Parade - Marlton, New Jersey

Stratton Camp, is a partner of Becks' Philadelphia Brigade Band. For more information about Becks' and Stratton Camp, please go to their website: www.becksband.com and browse the different tabs for more content.



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 the Camp. Please visit their 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: Jeff Heagy, PDC

Scheduled Meetings

All meetings are held at the Raritan Township Police Department

2 Municipal Drive, Flemington, New Jersey

Upcoming Meetings and Events

October 12, 2023

December 4, 2023

TBD William Housel Grave Re-dedication – Glen Gardner, N.J.

April 13, 2023, following their regularly scheduled camp meeting, brothers of Camp 104 installed a special Last Soldier SUV flag holder at the Clinton gravesite of Gus Dilts. His Last Soldier Ceremony for Hunterdon County had been

previously conducted in 2019, but they wanted to replace the standard GAR marker with the newer special one.



On May 22, 2023, Pursell Camp dedicated the Last Soldier marker for Sussex County. Last Soldier: Private George Dallas Garris, Co. F, 2nd NJ Cav. Stillwater Cemetery, Sussex County.



Also on May 22, the brothers of Camp 104 visited the gravesite of Pvt. David N. Chidester in the Newton Cemetery. There the assembled brothers performed the traditional SUV Memorial Day Service and bestrewed floral petals upon the veteran's grave.



Brothers Jeff Heagy, PDC and Andrew Carr, PCC of Pursell Camp, were participants with Anna M. Ross Camp #1 of Philadelphia, at the Memorial Day Ceremony in Philadelphia.

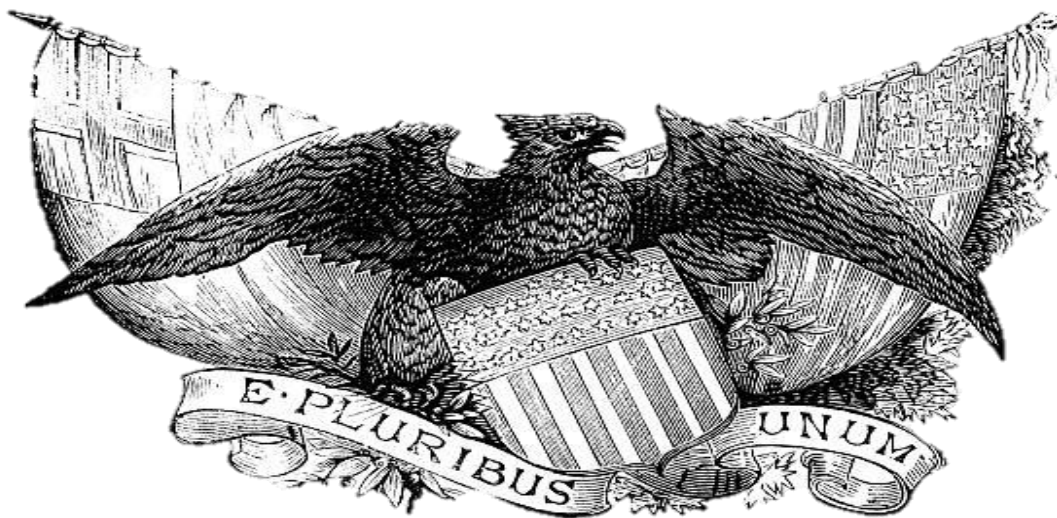




SUVCW NATIONAL NEWS

[The Department of New Hampshire is proud to host the 2023 National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, August 3 – 6, 2023, Nashua, New Hampshire. Follow this Link for more information](#)

The 67th Annual Remembrance Day Parade will be held November 18, 2023, in Gettysburg, PA. [Parade Information is located here.](#) [Host Hotel and ORIGINAL Civil War Ball Information](#)



SUVCW DEPARTMENT

OF

NEW JERSEY NEWS



**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

The Department has a new web
address: www.njsuvcw.org



On June 10, 2023, the Department of New Jersey held its annual encampment in Toms River, New Jersey to great success. The 2022 officers were unanimously re-elected for another one-year term and were sworn in to office by National Junior Vice Commander in Chief, Kevin L. Martin, who attended the encampment with his charming wife.



Brother James Halloran, Commander of Kearny Camp #20 was awarded the Department Good Citizenship award. Francine Camp # 7 received the Lambert/Combs award for most new members recruited. Brother Bryan Sigmund of the Francine Camp won the Kearny award for most new Brothers recruited. Congratulations Brothers on your excellent work!



Brother Halloran receives the Good Citizenship award from Commander Godin.

HIGHLIGHTED MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY AND THEIR ANCESTOR

PDC Jeff Heagy and Patrick Gallagher

Past Department Commander Jeff Heagy was born and raised in the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He attended Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School during the Civil War Centennial where he developed a growing interest in the Great Rebellion. At John F. Reynolds Junior High School, Jeff was honored as the Most Valuable Bandsman. He still wears his pewter award pin on his forage cap.



As an English major at Penn State University, Jeff met the lasting love of his life, Debra Shaw. They were married in 1979 and raised 3 Penn State graduates.

In September, 1994, Jeff was initiated into Anna M. Ross Camp #1, SUVCW being sponsored by then Commander in Chief Elmer “Bud” Atkinson. At the same time, he joined Co. C 28th PVI (SVR) and the 28th Pennsylvania Regimental Brass Band. In January 1996, his company promoted him and transferred his family to Baltimore, when he joined Garfield Camp #1 as a Dual Member. Jeff was elected Junior Vice Commander which was his first office in the SUVCW. In the summer of '97, he returned to the Philly suburbs and served as Camp Council filling a sudden vacancy in Camp 1. Jeff was subsequently elected to the Board of Directors of the GAR Civil War Museum and served for 8 years. In 2001, he was elected Commander of Ross Camp and served two terms. A few years later, in 2005, he joined the newly formed Baker-Fisher Camp #101 as a Dual Member and served as Patriotic Instructor.

In 2007, Jeff assisted Past Camp Commander Les Salsbury in forming New Jersey’s Sgt. Hiram W. Pursell Camp 104. He served 3 terms as the initial

Commander and in December 2020, he was again returned to the Camp Commander's chair which he now holds.

The success of Camp 104 inspired the Department of New Jersey to nominate Jeff to serve through the elected chairs of office.

In September 2015, Jeff retired from many years of sales and management in the private sector. He now devotes his time to his passions of music, civil war history, Penn State football, and his two granddaughters: Scarlett (4-1/2) and Ellie (1-1/2).

Jeff proudly traces his Civil War ancestry to his maternal great great grandfather, Patrick Gallagher.



Private PATRICK GALLAGHER

Patrick Gallagher was born in Carrick, County Donegal, Ireland in 1840, the son of William Gallagher and Jane Clark. He emigrated to the United States shortly before the Civil War and resided in East in Township, near Downingtown, Pennsylvania, and worked as a laborer for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

On September 25, 1861 Patrick enlisted as a Private in Co B., of the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteers of Chester County, for a term of one year. The Regiment took a prominent part in the engagement with the Confederates in Fair Oaks, Virginia on June 1, 1862. The Regiment was also under fire at Malvern Hill and thence to a fierce battle at Antietam, where the 53rd was chosen to drive the enemy from their strong position at the "Sunken Road". The mission was accomplished. After resting at Bolivar Heights, the Regiment then proceeded to drive the enemy from Charlestown, W. Va.

Patrick was honorably discharged from the 53rd on October 23, 1862, at Harper's Ferry and immediately enlisted in the regular service on October 24, 1862 for a two-year term and was paid a bounty of \$100. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Regiment, U. S. Cavalry, 5th Corps, Army of the Potomac. Up until this time, the Federal cavalry was very ineffective against the rebels and had to reorganized with experience horsemen.

Patrick was engaged with the Regiment in Virginia during cavalry skirmishes in Kelly's Raid - March 17, 1863, and Stoneman's Raid, May 1863, and Beverly Ford - June 9th, 1863. Patrick was captured at Shelby's Gap on June 21st, 1863 and confined at Richmond, Va. He was exchanged for Confederates prisoners on July 5th 1863.

The Regiment was engaged again at Manassas Junction and Catlett's Station November 5, 1863. There were a number of skirmishes around Richmond before the battle of Cold Harbor on May 31st, and June 1st, 1864, where Captain Samuel McKee of Company B was mortally wounded.

Besides the battles mentioned above, Patrick shared the fortunes of the Regiment in Sheridan's First Raid - May 25th to June 1st, 1864; the Wilderness - May 7th and 8th 1864; Sheridan's Second Raid - June 10th to 25th 1864; Deep Bottom - July 27th 1864; Rockville - July 10th to 13th, 1864; and Suckers Gap - July 17th 1864. He was honorably discharged at camp near Middletown, Virginia on October 24, 1864 at the conclusion of the Battle of Cedar Creek.

He married Annie Sheehy, a native of Thurles, County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1866 at West Chester and they resided in Downingtown, Pa. He had eleven children.

Patrick worked on the Pennsylvania railroad after the war and died at a very young age in 1892 of illness incurred during his war service, He was mustered into the Hancock Post #255, GAR, on June 15, 1882. In 1887 he served a term as Quartermaster.



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

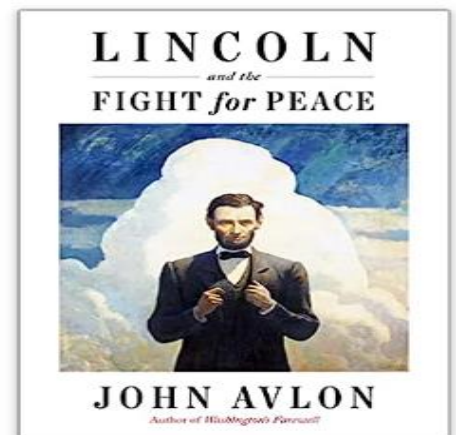


Lincoln and the Fight for Peace by John Avlon

In this book, the author examines the well-known, yet surprisingly little discussed, two-week trip President Lincoln took to Virginia after the fall of Richmond.

It is often discussed that Lincoln met with Grant and Sherman and others, to discuss bringing the war to a close

and the handling of the post war South, but little is mentioned of the sheer joy Lincoln felt at that time that the terrible war would soon be over and how he enjoyed just simply walking around Richmond (ignoring the danger this placed him in). The book later focuses on Lincoln's "Let 'em up easy" approach to future reconstruction. While acknowledging that an assassin's bullet prevented that approach from coming to fruition, the author extrapolates that philosophy in later wars involving the United States. Quite validly, the author makes the point that the harsh treatment of Germany after WWI led, in part, to WWII. By contrast, things like the Marshall Plan led to peace in Europe since. Quoting General Lucius Clay,



architect of the post-WWII German occupation, when asked what guided his decisions: “I tried to think of the kind of occupation the South would have had if Abraham Lincoln had lived.”

Unfortunately, the book contains several factual errors such as presenting as fact, the thoroughly disproven myth, that Lincoln prophesied his imminent death by way of a dream the night before his assassination, among others. This is inexcusable poor research and fact checking which tarnishes an otherwise useful work. Worth reading for the treatment of Lincoln’s happiest moments at the end of the war which has not be so extensively examined elsewhere.



Fun & Games



Last Issue’s puzzle:

**XATH LHEQAPHZ LSDY CJ, RICFICH, IC JTDBLCLQT XLD QI ST
LQQTQBQTJ, QAT PCPDA SCPZLJT XLD WLFFTJ YBIH. ZTICZT
LFRCTJ QIXHDTHJ.**

And the solution is:

“WHEN ANYTHING ABSURD, FORLORN, OR DESPARATE WAS TO BE ATTEMPTED, THE IRISH BRIGADE WAS CALLED UPON.” GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND.

In this issue we have something different. This quotation about Gettysburg by a Union General is encrypted using the “rail fence” method, which was used during the Civil War. In a rail fence cipher, the message is written downwards diagonally on successive "rails" of an imaginary fence, then moving up when the bottom rail is reached, down again when the top rail is reached, and so on until the whole message is written out. The coded message is then read off in rows. The code can be varied by the number of rails employed.

**WE IN JUST ENTERED THE IN GETTYSBURG AFTERNOON TIME TO
ENEMY TOWN MEET ENTERING AND THE THE IN GOOD DRIVE
BEFORE SEASON HIM HIS TO BACK GETTING A JOHN FOOT BUFORD
HOLD**

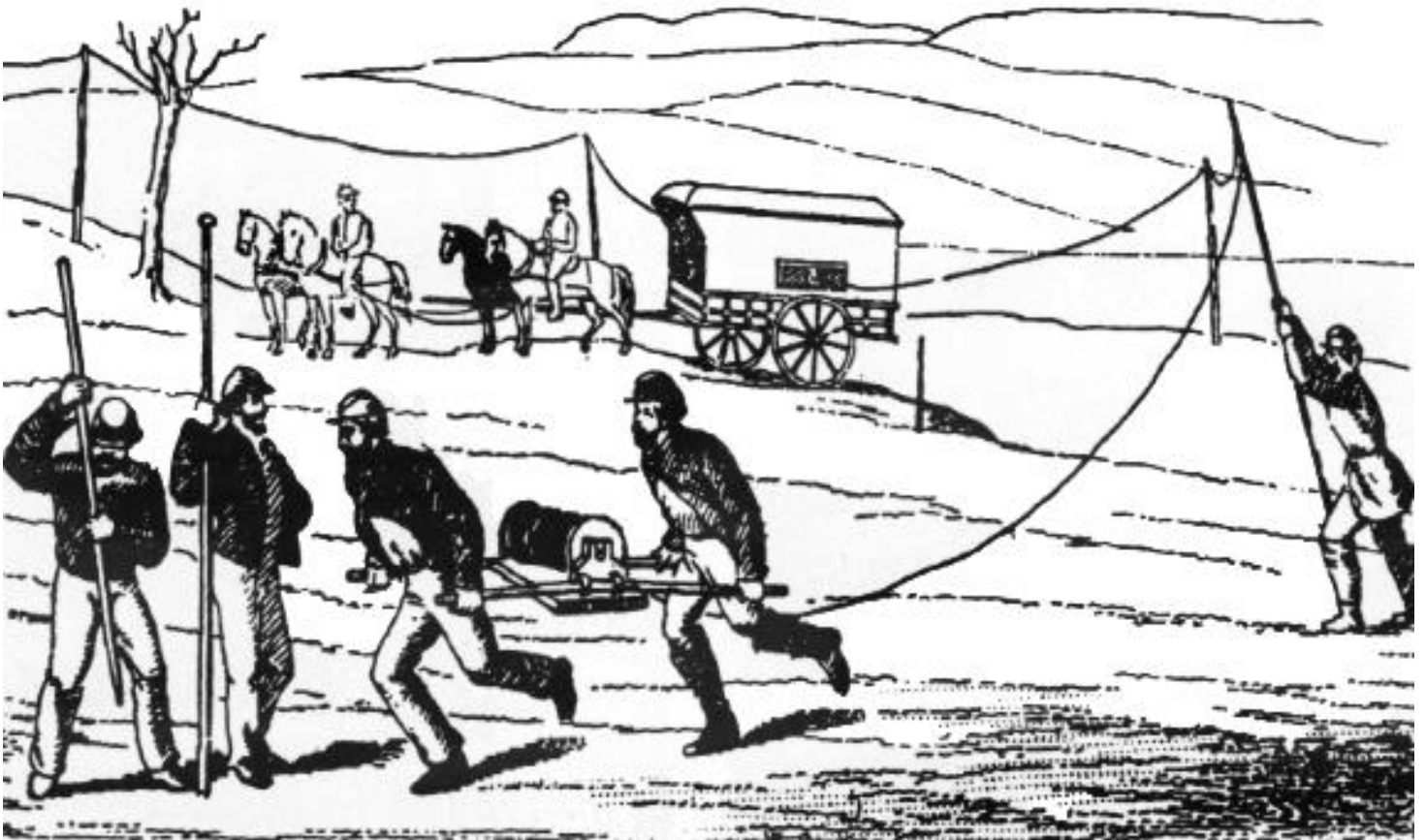
THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT PRAYER

Our Father Abraham, who art in Washington,
hallowed be thy Presidency;
thy taxes come, thy war be won,
in Virginia as in all other parts of the South.
Give us this day our daily ration of hardtack;
and forgive us some of our deserters,
just as we forgive those who take up arms against us.

Lead us not with McClellan and Pope,
but with Grant and Sherman and Sheridan,
and deliver our brothers out of Andersonville,
for thine is the blockade, and the draft, and the greenbacks,
until the slaves be freed
and our country be reunited as one.

Amen

Adapted by Dr. David Martin, Hightstown, NJ March 1994



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