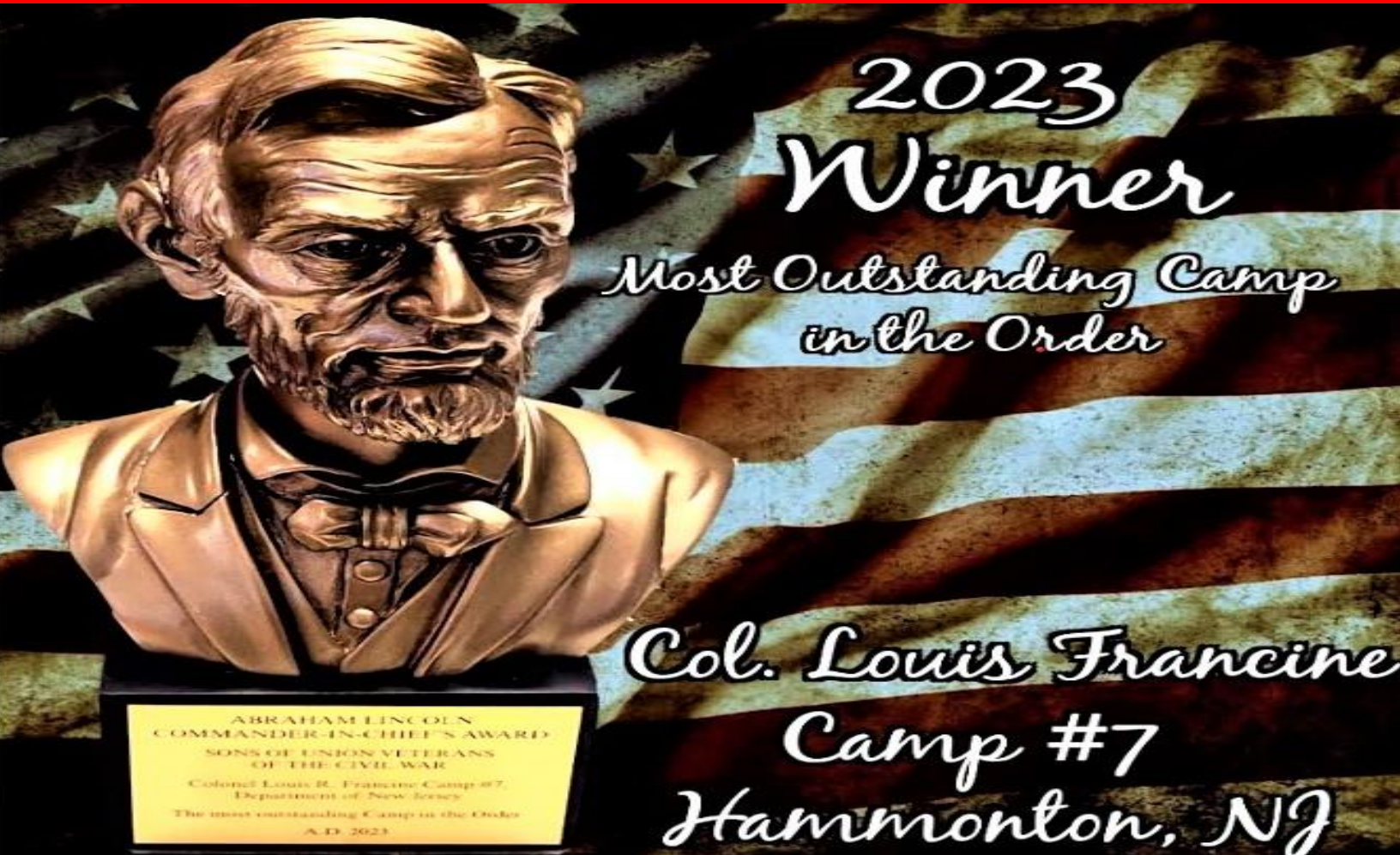


# *-. THE "TELEGRAPH" .--*

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



*Volume 4, Issue 3, September, 2023*

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## Was My Brother in the Battle – Stephen Foster 1826 - 1864

Tell me, tell me, weary soldier from the rude and stirring wars,  
Was my brother in the battle where you gained those noble scars?  
He was ever brave and valiant, and I know he never fled.  
Was his name among the wounded or numbered with the dead?  
Was my brother in the battle when the tide of war ran high?  
You would know him in a thousand by his dark and flashing eye.

Tell me, tell me, weary soldier, will he never come again,  
Did he suffer 'mid the wounded or die among the slain?

Was my brother in the battle when the noble Highland host  
Were so wrongfully outnumbered on the Carolina coast?  
Did he struggle for the Union 'mid the thunder and the rain,  
Till he fell among the brave on a bleak Virginia plain?  
Oh, I'm sure that he was dauntless and his courage ne'er would lag  
While contending for the honor of our dear and cherished flag.

Was my brother in the battle when the flag of Erin came  
To the rescue of our banner and protection of our fame,  
While the fleet from off the waters poured out terror and dismay  
Till the bold and erring foe fell like leaves on Autumn-day?  
When the bugle called to battle and the canon deeply roared,  
Oh! I wish I could have seen him draw his sharp and glittering sword."





## FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER



**Br. Jay Godin**

[jgcivilwar1@gmail.com](mailto:jgcivilwar1@gmail.com)



Hello,

I was pleased to see all those that attended the 141<sup>st</sup> Department Encampment. It was a productive meeting and a good fraternal luncheon. If you are a Brother, and have yet to attend a Department Encampment and would like to, see your Camp Commander or Camp Secretary to be included next year. We would like to see all of our Brothers participate.

Thank you to all the Department Officers that have accepted a position for the 2023-24 term. You are what makes our Department strong!

The new National website is up and running. Here is the link <https://suvvw.org/>.

The Department website has also changed and is now <http://www.njsuvvw.org/>. It can also be found on the National webpage.

The Memorial University is a great educational tool to help you get familiar with the inner workings of the Camp, Department and National level Officer positions. I highly recommended this for all those Brothers who wish to take on a bigger role in the organization. Officer positions are extremely important for all of us. It is a commitment, but a very rewarding one. Serving our organization and Brothers is a part of who we are. If you are interested here is the link

<https://suvchw.org/memorial-university>. Also, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

I look forward to another year as your Commander.

Yours in F.C.L. ,

Br. Jay J. Godin

Commander

Department of New Jersey

SUVCW



## **SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**

**Newsletter Editor**

**Br. Frank Tomasello**

[njdeptnews@gmail.com](mailto:njdeptnews@gmail.com)



Brothers,

It has been a very productive summer season for our Order. Thanks to all who have participated and submitted reports of your efforts for inclusion in “The Telegraph”.

There is still much to be done as evidenced by the full schedules the Camps have coming up this Fall.

2024 will be an election year in the Department and Camps. Consider running for an office, especially if you have never done so. Serving in an office will be an enriching experience. While we are indeed fortunate to have Brothers willing to serve in given positions for many years, most, I am sure, would be delighted to see some of those positions filled with fresh faces. We all benefit from new ideas and a fresh perspective.

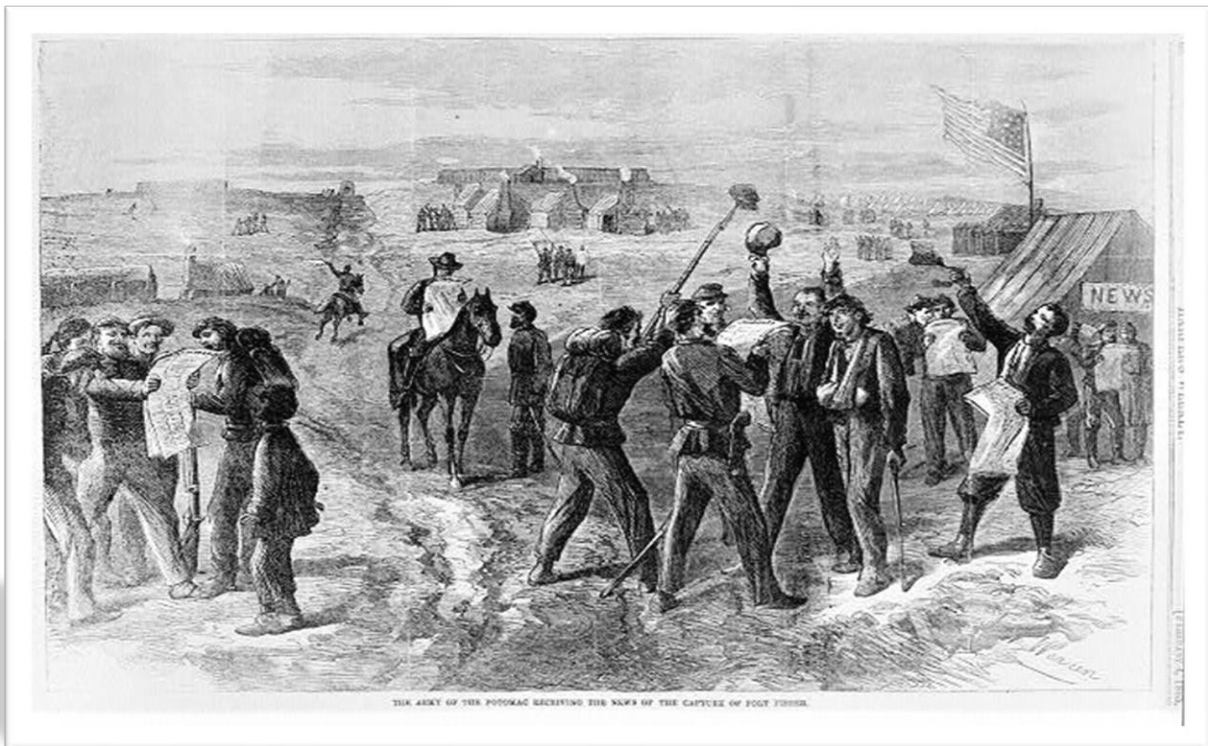
Hope to see you all in November at Remembrance Day in Gettysburg!

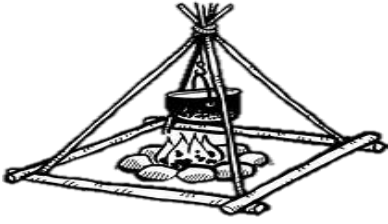
Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Frank Tomasello,

Senior Vice Department Commander,

Department of New Jersey





# CAMPFIRE NEWS

**CAMP 4 - PRESIDENT JAMES A. GARFIELD CAMP**

Serving the Trenton/Lawrenceville Area

Commander: Tim Murphy

**CAMP 7 - COLONEL LOUIS R. FRANCINE CAMP**



Serving Hammonton, Turnersville, and points East

Commander: Charles Morgan

Point of Contact: Dave Hann PDC

## ***Francine Camp and Elizabeth Thorn Auxiliary Restore Camp Stockton Monument***

By: Bryan Sigmund, SVC, Camp 7.

On a serene Sunday morning, members of the Francine Camp, gathered with the Elizabeth Thorn Auxiliary in Woodbury, NJ, to embark on a noble mission - the restoration of the Camp Stockton Monument. Erected in 2005, this memorial stands as a tribute to the valiant soldiers of the 12th New Jersey Regiment, who trained at Camp Stockton and fought in the Civil War. With unity and dedication, the Francine Camp and its Auxiliary reaffirmed their commitment to preserving the memory of our Civil War veterans.

*Camp Stockton: A Legacy of Valor* Woodbury, NJ, has always held a special place in the history of Gloucester County, serving as the county seat and a significant location during the Civil War. The hallowed ground of Camp Stockton, where the 12th New Jersey Regiment trained, once symbolized hope and valor.

*A Monument of Reverence* In a heartwarming display of cooperation, the cement factory agreed to the idea, leading to the construction of a beautiful monument, complete with a flagpole and a shrine dedicated to the brave soldiers who served in the Civil War. The Camp Stockton Monument became a testament to the enduring spirit of the soldiers who once stood on this very ground, prepared to defend their nation.

*Restoring Glory: A Sunday of Dedication* July 30, 2023, marked a special day for the Francine Camp and the Elizabeth Thorn Auxiliary. Members from both organizations united in a common purpose - to revitalize the Camp Stockton Monument. With an enthusiastic spirit and a shared sense of history, they set out to clean up the site. Trash was diligently removed, weeds were uprooted, and moss and overgrown sections were cleared, restoring the monument to its original glory. Four brothers from the Francine Camp, accompanied by one sister from the Elizabeth Thorn Auxiliary and two other enthusiastic volunteers, worked tirelessly to honor the memory of the soldiers who once trained at Camp Stockton. Their

collective efforts breathed new life into the monument, ensuring that its significance would continue to be cherished by generations to come.

*Preserving Memories and Building Bonds* After a successful day of restoration, the members of both organizations reconvened at the Army Navy Union Garrison #52. There, amidst camaraderie, they enjoyed moments of relaxation, sharing stories and forging bonds. The presence of Army Navy Union Garrison #52 members further reinforced the common goal of preserving the memory of Civil War veterans, as they, too, honor the valor and sacrifice of those who served our nation.

*A Lasting Legacy* The efforts of the Francine Camp and the Elizabeth Thorn Auxiliary have not only restored a monument but also revived the spirit of remembrance for those who fought in the Civil War. Through their dedication, they ensure that the memory of Camp Stockton and the soldiers who trained there remains etched in the hearts of Woodbury's community and the nation.

*Conclusion* The restoration of the Camp Stockton Monument exemplifies the power of unity, dedication, and historical preservation. The Francine Camp and the Elizabeth Thorn Auxiliary, demonstrated their unwavering commitment to honoring the bravery of Civil War veterans. As the monument stands tall once again, it serves as a lasting tribute to the valor of those who served, reminding us all of the sacrifices made by our ancestors in shaping the course of our nation's history.





***A Heroic Homecoming: South Jersey's Role in Reuniting a Civil War Flag with its Home.*** -Submitted by Bryan Sigmund, SVC, Camp 7.

In the heart of South Jersey, a remarkable story unfolds, a story of dedication, history, and selfless generosity. It all began with Tom Corcoran, a man whose passion for history led him on a lifelong journey with a Civil War flag from the 9th Rhode Island Infantry. Thanks to the efforts of a South Jersey SUVCW Camp, Tom's treasured flag found its way back home, bridging the gap of time and reuniting with its counterpart for future generations to cherish.

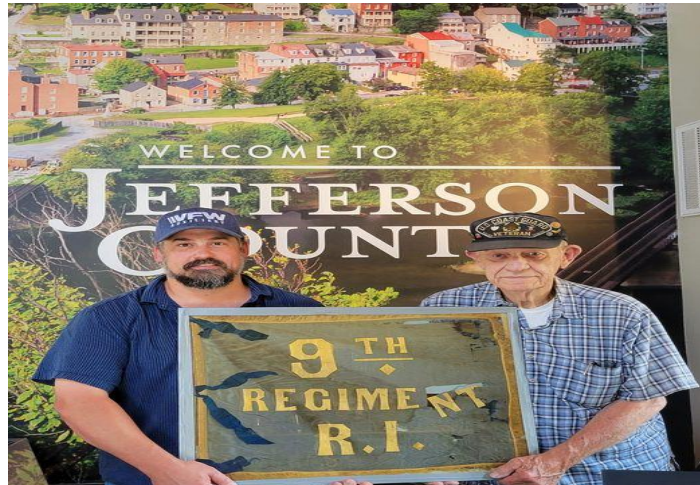
*Tom Corcoran: A Lifetime of Devotion to History* Tom Corcoran's love for history was ignited at the tender age of 15 when he walked into a Philadelphia junk shop in 1955. There, among an array of historical artifacts, an old Civil War guidon flag from the 9th Regiment of Rhode Island caught his eye. With determination, he saved every silver dollar he earned from mowing lawns throughout the summer until he could call the flag his own. Little did he know that this simple purchase would set in motion a lifetime dedicated to preserving our nation's past.

*The Journey of the Guidon Flag* Years passed, and Tom embarked on a career in the United States Coast Guard and later joined the NJ Highway Patrol. In 1991, he helped charter the Col. Louis R Francine Camp #7. Despite his deep attachment to the flag, Tom recently made the momentous decision to donate it back to its rightful home, the state of Rhode Island.

*A Selfless Contribution to Our Nation's History* Tom reached out to Bruce Frail, then Commander in Chief of SUVCW, who was actively involved in restoring old battle flags for Rhode Island. Here, Tom's selfless act of donating the flag takes center stage. He realized that this flag deserved to be in the care of those who understood its historical significance and who would ensure its preservation for future generations.

*South Jersey's Collective Effort* CinC Frail, upon receiving the news of Tom's generous contribution, sprang into action. He contacted Bryan Sigmund of the Francine Camp, to meet Tom in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Bryan accepted the

flag from Tom and presented him with a challenge coin, a symbol of honor and appreciation.



Brother Sigmund receiving the flag from Brother Corcoran

*The Journey Back Home* The baton was then passed to PDC Dave Hann, who took up the responsibility of transporting the precious guidon flag back home. Across state lines and miles of open road, Dave carried the flag with pride, knowing that he was playing a vital role in this historic reunion.

*Reuniting Two Inseparable Flags* As the guidon flag returned to its birthplace, it becomes one step closer in becoming reunited with the 9th Rhode Island Battle Flag. These two flags, once inseparable companions in service to the Union during the Civil War, are now coming together again, thanks to Tom's noble act and the collective efforts of South Jersey's SUVCW camp members.

*A Glorious Homecoming for the Ages* The final destination was reached as the two flags found their way back to Rhode Island. Generations of Rhode Islanders can now bear witness to the heroic story of their state's brave soldiers and the sacrifices they made to uphold the Union during a tumultuous period in history.

In conclusion, the journey of the Civil War guidon flag from the 9th Rhode Island Infantry showcases the immense power of selfless contributions and collective efforts. Bro. Corcoran's devotion to history and South Jersey's SUVCW members' commitment to preserving our nation's past have culminated in a glorious homecoming for these historic flags. This heartwarming tale serves as a testament

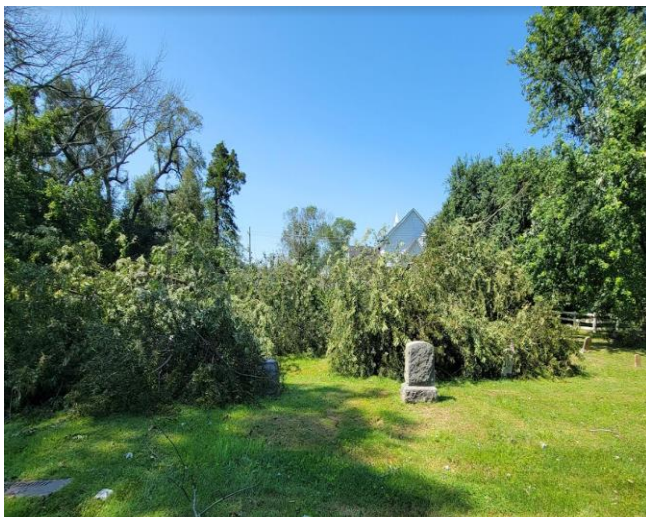
to the enduring spirit of unity and the indomitable will to preserve our heritage for generations to come.



Flag presented to PCinC Frail at the National Encampment

***Echoes of Valor Disturbed: Call for Aid to Restore Woodstown's Historic UAME Church Cemetery*** by SVC, Bryan Sigmund, Camp 7

On the stormy evening of July 29, 2023, the peaceful town of Woodstown, NJ, was violently awakened as Mother Nature unleashed her fury. The Spencer UAME Church on Bailey Street, a significant symbol of our heritage, bore the brunt of the devastation. Within its sacred grounds, laid to rest are the brave African-American soldiers of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) who valiantly served in the Civil War.



Unfortunately, the tempest had no respect for their heroic past. Monstrous uprooted trees wreaked havoc on the cemetery, toppling headstones and dislodging the final resting places of our honored Union veterans.

Responding swiftly, the Colonel Louis R Francine Camp #7, under the leadership of Commander Charlie Morgan, delegated Senior Vice Commander Bryan Sigmund and Past Department Commander Fred Mossbrucker to assess the damage. Upon witnessing the destruction, Mossbrucker was left overwhelmed, saying he was "stunned by the wreckage inflicted on these veterans' graves".

Despite the daunting task ahead, the team quickly strategized, recording the original locations of the unearthed stones, with an assurance to the church that they would work diligently to reset the headstones. In collaboration with the Veterans Affairs, they aim to replace any broken markers.

Yet, one significant hurdle remained - the removal of the fallen, poison ivy covered trees. Thankfully Gunar Bergholz of Bergholz Tree Service of Monroeville stepped in and handled the massive job free of charge. A hearty Huzzah to Gunar!



On September 16, 2003, members of Francine, Stratton and Lyon Camps returned to the cemetery and cleaned all of the Civil War veterans' stones (and a few others) as well as resetting several.



### **Honoring the Legacy of Edward Richardson**

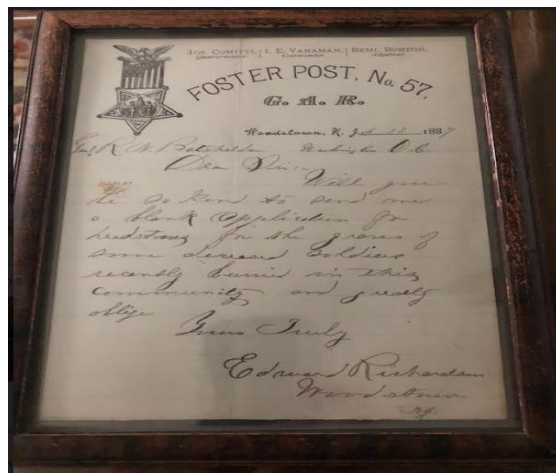
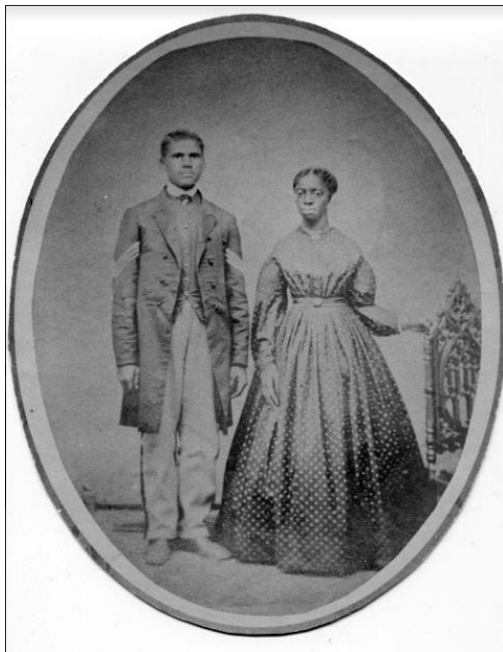
Among the casualties of the storm was the gravestone of Edward Richardson, a Union Army veteran with an extraordinary story.

Born a slave on a plantation in Cecilton, MD, Richardson's journey from bondage to freedom is a tale of resilience and determination. He found his way to liberty via the Underground Railroad, reaching the haven of Salem County, NJ, where Quakers aided him. In Woodstown, he built a new life, married Fannie Sturges in 1866, and raised a family in a home not far from his final resting place.

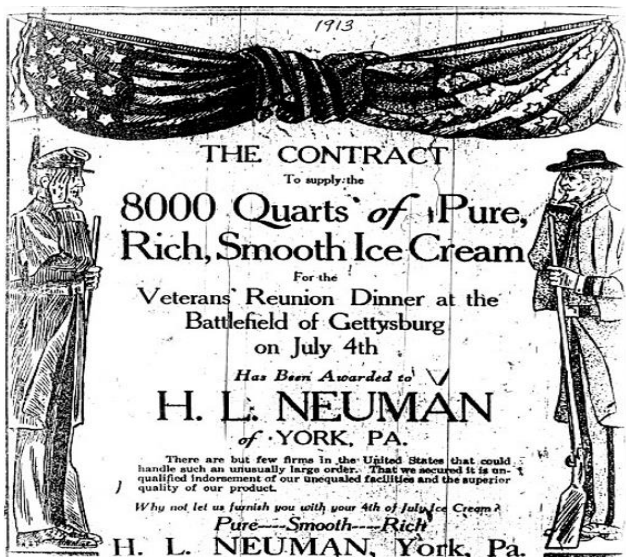
But it is Richardson's wartime service that stands out. A valiant soldier in the Civil War, he was part of the 22nd USCI, a regiment renowned for their exceptional service. As the Color-bearer, he held the prestigious position of carrying the flag, and notably bore the flag during Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession, an honor bestowed upon few.

After the war, Richardson's dedication to his fellow soldiers never waned. Serving the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Foster Post #57 in Woodstown, NJ, he even penned a handwritten letter requesting headstone applications for soldiers who lie beside him today.

It was this same dedication to history that drove three brothers, Fred Mossbrucker, Chuck Gordinier, and Bryan Sigmund, from the Col. Louis R. Francine Camp #7, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to restore Richardson's storm-tossed gravestone. With respect and reverence, they ensured that this local hero's legacy remains intact for future generations.



On July 20, 2023, Brother Frank Tomasello attended the annual convention of the Icecreamers ice cream memorabilia collectors in York, PA. This year's convention had a special Civil War connection in that Beth Neuman Snyder, descendant of H.L. Neuman was an honored guest. H.L. Neuman served as a Private in the 87<sup>th</sup> PA Volunteer Infantry and sustained a serious leg wound on June 23, 1864, outside of Petersburg, VA. After the war he went into the business of making Ice Cream and served 8,000 quarts of his wares at the Veteran's reunion held at Gettysburg on July 4, 1913. Brother Tomasello, in the character of his great great grandfather, William B. Michael of the 99<sup>th</sup> PA spoke to the group in grateful remembrance of Neuman. Ms. Snyder was surprised and grateful for the gesture.



## CAMP 10 - BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANIEL LYON CAMP



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](http://www.lyoncamp.org).

## CAMP 17-MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER CAMP



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.

December 2, 2023



**Special Event Memorializing Veterans of the  
Winfield Scott Post No. 73 of the G.A.R.  
Saturday, September 16, 2023  
Plainfield Public Library  
Anne Louise Davis Room**

This special event featured Vito Mazzola's Eagle Scout project with B.S.A. Troop 73. Vito and his team created a documentary memorializing the Civil War Veterans who are buried in The Soldiers' Burial Plot of the Winfield Scott Post No. 73 of the G.A.R. located in Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains. The Hillside Cemetery Association donated the area of the Memorial Plot in 1899.

Working closely with the Historical Society of Plainfield, the Scouts researched and captured events that occurred in these soldiers' lives and tell their stories. Some were taken prisoners or were wounded, and many suffered during their final years.

Organizations and individuals involved with this project included the Hillside Cemetery Association in Plainfield (situated in Scotch Plains), the North Jersey Civil War Round Table, Phil and Lauri Berg from the 33<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment of the Mifflin Guard, and Tom D'Amico, Harry Hudson, Anthony Salaro, and Frank McGonigle from the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. Vito also interviewed some of the local descendants of these soldiers, including Bernice Shultz, Nancy Jordan, Al Smith, and Richard Suon.

The Winfield Scott Post 73 of the Grand Army of the Republic used the Drake House as their meeting place from the 1920's until the 1940's when the last Plainfield area Civil War Veteran passed away. In the Historical Society's collection, there are Civil War artifacts including the Farragut Cannon and the Julian Scott paintings.

## 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

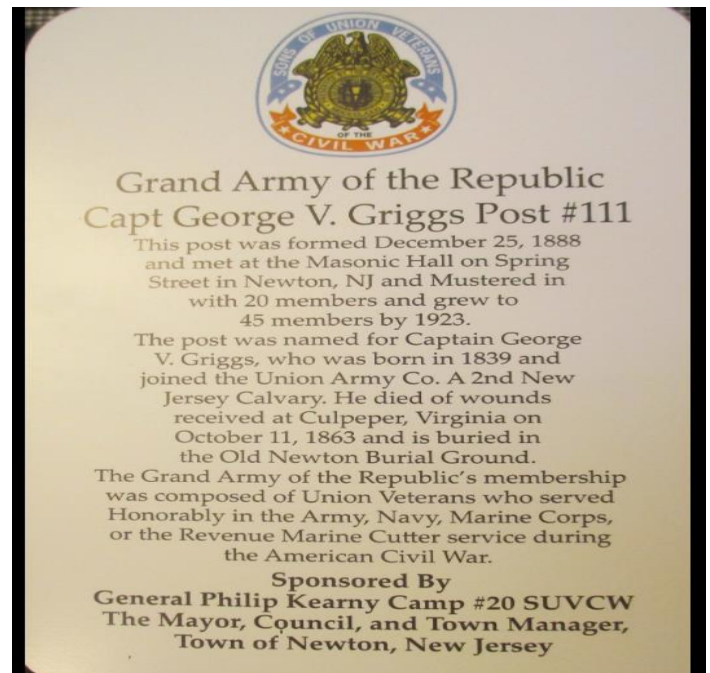
Abraham Clark Memorial House, 101 W. 9th Ave, Roselle, NJ

All Meeting Times are 1:00 p.m.

October 28, 2023

November 11, 2023 {Veterans Day Celebration}

July 10, 2023. Unveiling of the Captain George V. Griggs GAR Post 111 memorial sign in downtown Newton, NJ. L-R; Kearny Camp #20 Commander Jim Halloran, PCC Peter Lindsay, Newton Town Manager Thomas Russo, and Newton Mayor Michelle Teets. Post meeting location was in the old Masonic Hall at 110 Spring Street in front of which the sign is now located.



On August 19, 2023, Camp Commander Halloran recognized EMT John Riordan for his many years of service to the communities of Hasbrouck Heights and Carlstadt, in Bergen County with the Commander's Community Service Award. John is also a Scout Leader and currently Drum Sergeant of the Bergen County Firefighters Pipe and Drum Band. The presentation was made at the joint picnic of both the Hasbrouck Heights and Wood-Ridge Volunteer Fire Departments.

### **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

December 10, 2023

## CAMP 82 - JAMES S. STRATTON CAMP



Commander: Bruce Lutz

Point of Contact: Scott West, Secretary

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](http://www.becksband.com) and browse the different tabs for more content.



## **Upcoming Events:**

Civil War History Weekend - Glassboro, NJ - 10/28-29/2023

Veteran's Day Ceremony, Pittsgrove, NJ - 11/11/2023

Benefit Concert, Columbia, PA - 11/17/2023

Gettysburg Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Gettysburg, PA - 11/18/2023

### **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 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.



# SUVCW NATIONAL

## NEWS

Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, PA is scheduled for Saturday November 18, 2023.

**This year the SVR headquarters hotel has changed.**

This year it will be at the Eisenhower/Aspire Hotel, located at 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325. Phone: 717-334-8121

For a reservation, please use the following links:

Eisenhower <https://bit.ly/3Xl37Ee>

Aspire <https://bit.ly/3IUjmnP>

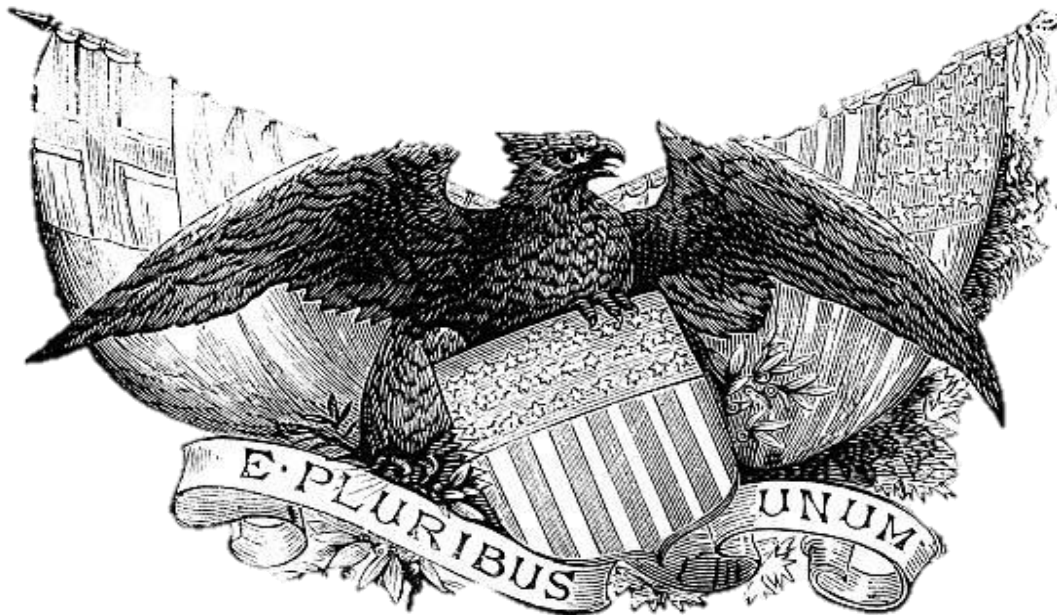
The Eisenhower will be also the location of the Original Military Ball that will take place later on the evening on Saturday November 18, 2023. Tickets are \$20/person in advance, \$25/person at the door and are available by sending stamped, self-addressed envelope and check payable to "SVR Ball" to: Col. Steve Michaels, SVR 6623 S. North Cape Road, Franklin, WI 53132-1227. Cell: (414) 712-4655 email - [Lt.col.sm@gmail.com](mailto:Lt.col.sm@gmail.com)

The Eisenhower/Aspire Hotel complex has been totally renovated since the last time we used it as our headquarters. The special room rate for the Sons of Veterans Reserve Group is \$139.00 per night at the Eisenhower and \$149.00 per night at the Aspire (plus taxes). A free breakfast is provided at both locations for all hotel guests.

At the 142<sup>nd</sup> National Encampment held  
In Nashua, New Hampshire, August 3-6,  
Brother Peter Hritsko was elected  
Commander in Chief.

Brother Kevin Martin was elected Senior  
Vice C in C, and Brother Kevin Tucker was  
elected Junior Vice C in C. In the only  
contested election of the Encampment,

Brother Rodrick Fraser Jr. was elected to the Council of Administration. Brother  
Robert Welch became the new National Quartermaster and has recently re-opened  
the Quartermaster store.



# SUVCW DEPARTMENT

OF

# NEW JERSEY NEWS



[www.njsuvcw.org](http://www.njsuvcw.org)

The Department of New Jersey was well represented at the 142<sup>nd</sup> National Encampment, held in Nashua, New Hampshire, August 3-6, 2023. Attending were Brothers: Marty Higgins and Dylan Wettstein (Lyon Camp), Peter Lindsay and Chris Sands (Kearney Camp) and David Hann, Charlie Morgan and Frank Tomasello (Francine Camp).

New Jersey received multiple honors at this National Encampment. Brothers Rob Meyer was recognized for his work as Assistant Eagle Scout Coordinator and Brian Sygmund received commendations for recruitment. Francine Camp received



the Commander in Chief's Lincoln award as the Most Outstanding Camp of the Order. Congratulations Brothers all! Well done.



Bros Tomasello, Morgan, Hann and  
and Wettstein with the Lincoln Award.



At the Friday night Campfire and Courtesy Hour, attendees were entertained by the music of the "Swamptones" and out- going CinC Frail was presented gifts from New Jersey. Here Brother Morgan present him with a Francine Camp Tee-Shirt.



**From R.W. Ron Murad, PDDGM, and Br. & Lt. Col. Chris Sands,  
both of Atlas Pythagoras Lodge No. 10, Westfield, NJ:**

**SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023**

**1:30 PM, Hillside Cemetery, North Adams, Massachusetts**

**For the**

**Dedication Ceremony of the Civil War Headstone  
and**

**Masonic Memorial Service for**

**COLONEL AND BROTHER THOMAS WARD OSBORN**

**Native of Scotch Plains, NJ**

**Commander of the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps Union Artillery:**

**Gettysburg to end of the Civil War**

**United States Senator from Florida**

**Freemason from Ivanhoe Lodge No. 610 (later Alma Tabernacle  
Lodge 598), Grand Lodge of NY**



Participants are expected to include Representatives of:

- Freemasons: the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey, Lafayette-Greylock Lodge (North Adams, MA), and members of the Masonic National Sojourners
- Sons of the Union of the Civil War
- American Legion
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Historical Societies of Scotch Plains – Fanwood, NJ, and of North Adams, MA

This event is open to the public. For anyone interested in joining, we recommend trying to carpool; some of us will be carpooling from Atlas Pythagoras Lodge No. 10 in Westfield, NJ. We will meet at Lafayette-Greylock Lodge at 59 Summer St., North Adams, MA, about 1 mile from Hillside Cemetery, and carpool to the cemetery. Refreshments will be available at the lodge after the ceremony.

For more information, contact R.W. Ron Murad at 908-499-1749.

# HIGHLIGHTED MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY AND THEIR ANCESTOR

## *PDC Robert J. Wilhelm & Elwood Fisher*

Robert John Wilhelm, PDC, was born on January 20, 1955. He grew up with one brother and five sisters. He attended Sacred Heart Grammar and Sacred Heart High Schools then went on to graduate from Cumberland County College with an Associate Science Degree before earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Glassboro State College.

Brother Wilhelm married Patricia Elizabeth Johnson on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1978, and have two sons and a daughter, as well as three grandsons.

He was with Precision Electronic Glass in Vineland for 43 years, eventually becoming Quality Manager for the company. He is a member of the American Glassblowers Society and the American Society for Quality. He retired in January 2023.

Brother Wilhelm has two great-grandfathers who served with the Union Army during the Civil War: Nicholas B. Wilhelm joined Co. I of the Provisional 2nd PA Heavy Artillery as a private; Elwood Fisher was a private in Co. G of the 3rd NJ Cavalry (Butterflies).

His interest in the Civil War prompted him to get involved with several Civil War re-enactment groups. He is currently a Line Sergeant with the 35th NJ.

Brother Wilhelm has served as Commander of Baxter Camp 72 and Lyon Camp 10 SUVCW, and Commander of the Department of New Jersey from 2006 to 2008. He is the current Secretary / Treasurer of Lyon Camp 10.

He also served as Commander of Company A, 1st NJ Battalion Sons of Veterans Reserve.

During his work with the SUVCW, he became associated with the Vineland Historical Society and was elected a member of the Board of Trustees in 1995, serving as Treasurer in 1997, then as Board Secretary in 1998, retiring from the Society in 2013.

### *Private Elwood Fisher*

Elwood Fisher was born on December 24, 1826, in Salem County, New Jersey. His occupation was that of shoemaker.

On Dec. 23, 1863, one day shy of his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday, he volunteered for 3 years' service in Co. G, 3rd N.J. Cavalry, also known as the 1st Regiment, United States Hussars. Its members were known as "The Butterflies". Their uniform was modeled after a troop of Austrian Army Hussars. Privates wore pantaloons of sky-blue cloth with yellow stripes and jackets were of dark blue, with a profusion of yellow cords across the breast and on the front of the collar on an orange-colored ground. Three rows of large, burnished bell buttons adorned the breast with a braiding of cord. The seams of the back and on the sleeves, there was an elegant braiding of cord.

On April 5, 1864, the 3rd left New Jersey, marched to Annapolis, Maryland and was assigned to the 9th Army Corps. It then proceeded to Alexandria Virginia and joined the Army of the Potomac, becoming part of the 3rd Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Cavalry Corps. under General Phil Sheridan.

April, 1864 the 3<sup>rd</sup> NJ Cav first engaged in guard duty and scouting along the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

On May 5, 1864 the 3rd was ordered forward to participate in operations that had commenced in the Wilderness, Virginia. Its duty consisted chiefly in scouting, patrolling, watching fords, bearing dispatches, and the like. As the enemy fell back the 3rd advanced with its brigade and participated in the Cavalry operations at various points. In the vicinity of City Point it engaged in picket duty for more than a month.

On May 10, 1864 the 3<sup>rd</sup> was engaged in battle on the Plank Road in Virginia. Elwood Fisher was disabled by chronic diarrhea at that time. From May through July of 1864, the 3<sup>rd</sup> saw action at the following battles in Virginia: United States Ford; Ashland Station; North Anna River; Hawes Shop; Bottoms Bridge; Whitehouse; White Oak Swamp; Smiths Store; Petersburg and Lee's Mill. Va.

In early August, the 3<sup>rd</sup> was dispatched to the Shenandoah Valley, arriving at Winchester on the 17<sup>th</sup> and went straight into action becoming fiercely engaged, suffering a loss of 130. After this action it was engaged in operations in the vicinity of Charlestown and Harpers Ferry, Virginia seeing action at: Summit Point; Kearneysville; Berryville (where the 3<sup>rd</sup> played an active role in the battle); Opequan; Front Royal; Fishers Hill; Winchester (where the 3<sup>rd</sup> clashed with General Jubal Early's forces, captured 2,500 prisoners, 5 guns and 9 Battle Flags. 5,000 Confederate dead and wounded were left on the field); Waynesboro; Bridgewater; Toms Brook; Cupps Mill; Cedar Creek; Back Road (near Cedar Creek Va.); Mount Jackson and Lacey's Spring.

In December, the 3<sup>rd</sup> went into winter quarters, and remained there until the latter part of February, 1865 when it rejoined the Army of the Potomac in front of Petersburg. There it was engaged in the ordinary duty of cavalry until early in April.

It is worthy of note that in November-December, while present for duty, Elwood Fishers feet were frozen due to exposure.

In February of 1865, the 3<sup>rd</sup> was engaged at: Morefield, Virginia, and in March, at Waynesboro; Dinwiddie Court House.

In April, the 3<sup>rd</sup> was engaged at Five Forks where these well-seasoned veterans who had swept General Early clean out of the Shenandoah, "displayed conspicuous gallantry, sharing in all the perils as well as the splendid achievements of that Memorable and glorious day, on which the power of the rebellion was finally and forever broken." That April the 3<sup>rd</sup> saw action at: Petersburg; Deep Creek; Sailor's Creek and Appomattox Station, Virginia, witnessing Lee's surrender.

On May 23, 1865 the 3<sup>rd</sup> took part in the Grand Review Washington D.C. The Army of the Potomac was 7 hours passing in review, its line extended for 21 miles. Sheridan's thousands of Cavalry men passing in review with steeds tightly reined and sabers at the shoulder.

Finally, on Aug. 1, 1865, Elwood Fisher was mustered out at Trenton New Jersey, with his regiment.

Elwood Fisher died at Port Norris, Cumberland County, New Jersey, on October 24, 1905, age 78. He is buried at Port Norris Cemetery.



(Guidon, 3<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Cavalry)

# FINAL MUSTER

## Kearny and Scott Camps

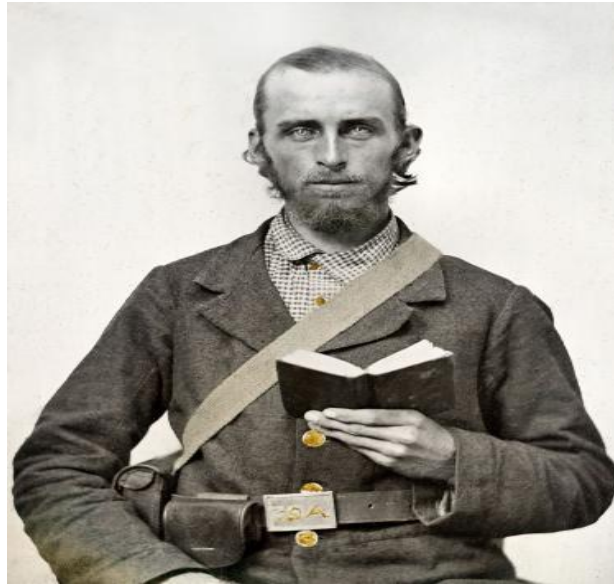
Patrick Reilly



1941-2023



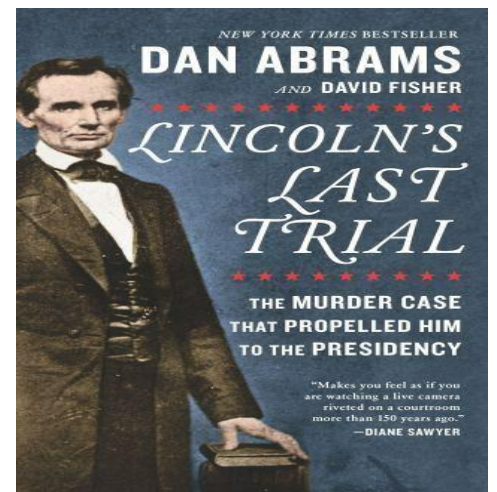
# READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?



## Lincoln's Last Trial

by Dan Abrams and David Fisher

Most of us are aware that Abraham Lincoln, was an attorney before becoming President. Basically self-taught, with a practice limited to the then frontier of Illinois, little is made of his remarkable legal career. One of the last cases Lincoln tried before moving on to running for President is the subject of this work. By a fortunate twist of fate, a transcript of the 1859 murder trial of Quinn “Peachey” Harrison was found in the garage of one of his descendants in 1989. (Transcripts were rare at that time.) The book focuses extensively on the stenographer Robert



Hitt who created the transcript. He had been a Chicago courtroom stenographer whom Lincoln befriended. Lincoln was so impressed with Hitt that he hired him to transcribe all of his now well-known debates with Stephen Douglas. It should be noted that the steno machine we associate with court trials was many years in the



future and transcripts were at that time done by hand. It was Lincoln himself who hired Hitt for this case anticipating the possible need of an appeal.

Defendant Harrison was accused of murder after stabbing Greek Crafton (who ironically had been studying Law under Lincoln and his partner Herndon). Quinn had been heard to make insulting remarks about his brother-in-law, William Crafton, Greek's brother. Greek Crafton had vowed to punish Harrison physically to uphold the Crafton family honor. Harrison, a much smaller and weaker person made it known he did not wish to fight Greek and began carrying a knife for protection. Inevitably, a confrontation occurred and Harrison stabbed Greek Crafton, who lingered a short time until succumbing to the injury.

In defending Harrison, any lawyer would need the greatest of skill as the events all took place in a small town where everyone knew one another and emotions were running high. Harrison's fate would be decided by Lincoln's skill in presenting a somewhat dubious claim of self-defense.

This book is a fascinating look at Abraham Lincoln the lawyer as well as a riveting true life courtroom drama.



# Fun & Games



Last Issue's puzzle:

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

*And the solution is:*

“We entered Gettysburg in the afternoon, just in time to meet the enemy entering the town, and in good season to drive him back before his getting a foot hold. John Buford”.

In this issue we return to the substitution cipher.

JLELHRA UZZALAARE REW UIOLAX RHL NB GL KTB NB JHRKTLW QX  
SL ZRE GL ABEJ LEBFJT Q XLLA JLELHRA UZZALAARE OTBFAW  
TRML EB KHBGALU

W = D



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