

-. THE NJ TELEGRAPH .--

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



CHRISTMAS, 1863.

Volume 4, Issue 4, December, 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

Poetry Corner	Page 2	Department News	Page 19-23
Commander's Message	Page 3-4	Honored Ancestor Bio	Page 24-31
Sr. Vice Message	Page 4-5	Final Muster	Page 31-33
Camp News	Page 6-17	Book Review	Page 34-35
National News	Page 17-19	Fun and Games	Page 36

The Snow at Fredericksburg - Anonymous

Drift over the sunrise land,
Oh, wonderful, wonderful snow!
Oh! pure as the breast of a virgin saint,
Drift tenderly, soft and slow.
Over the slopes of the sunrise land,
And into the haunted dells
Of the forest of pine, where the roving
winds
Are tuning their memory bells.

Into the forests of sighing pines,
And over those yellow slopes,
That show not the work of the cleaving
plow,
But cover so many hopes;
They are many indeed, and straightly
made,
Not shapen with loving care;
By the souls let out and the broken
blades,
May never be counted there!

Fall over those lonely hero graves,
Oh, delicate-dropping snow,
Like the blessing of God's unfaltering
love,
On the warrior heads below!

Like the tender sigh of a mother's soul
As she waiteth and watcheth for One
Who will never come back from the
sunrise land,
When this terrible war is done.

And here, where lieth the high of heart,
Drift - white as the bridal veil –

That will never be borne by the drooping
girl
Who waiteth afar, so pale.
Fall, that as the tears of the suffering
wife,
Who stretcheth despairing hands
Out to the blood-rich battlefields
That crimson the Eastern sands!

Fall in thy virgin tenderness,
Oh, delicate snow, and cover
The graves of our heroes, sanctified
Husband and son and lover.
Drift tenderly over those yellow slopes,
And mellow our deep distress,
And put us in mind of the shriven souls
And their mantles of righteousness.





FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER



Br. Jay Godin

jgcivilwar1@gmail.com



Brothers,

As the year comes to a close, Remembrance Day has once again come and gone. I was happy to see a significant amount of New Jersey Brothers at Gettysburg. It was a cold start to the day but turned out to be great weather for the cheering crowd and participants of the parade. I will once again urge all those who have not participated in the Remembrance Day event to please consider going in the future and head to Gettysburg.

Our holiday season is in full swing. Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty are our principles that we strive to follow throughout the whole year but especially during the holiday season. Those in need sometimes cannot or will not seek help for various reasons. Please continue to support local food banks and giving trees or volunteer in your community, as help is desperately needed to ensure that all have the chance to enjoy the holiday season.

I would like to wish all my New Jersey Brothers and Sisters, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Jay J. Godin

Brother Jay J. Godin

PCC Major General George A. Custer Camp #17

Commander

Department of New Jersey

SUVCW



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Newsletter Editor

Br. Frank Tomasello

njdeptnews@gmail.com



Brothers,

Foremost, I wish you and your loved ones all the best of this Holiday season. The new year is upon us. At the last National Encampment, it was noted that membership in the SUVCW was now under 6,000. An internet search revealed that membership in the SCV is 10 times that with at least half of their total number listed as “active.” Yet during the war the Union fielded more than 3 times the Confederacy. Is the SUVCW an endangered species? Should we yield the narrative

on the legacy of the Civil War to the vanquished foe? I, for one, shudder at the thought. So, this year, let's all make a New Year's resolution to further the cause of the SUVCW by any and all means. Remember May is GAR/SUVCW month in New Jersey (unique in the Nation). Thus far this has been under-utilized. It's time to change that.

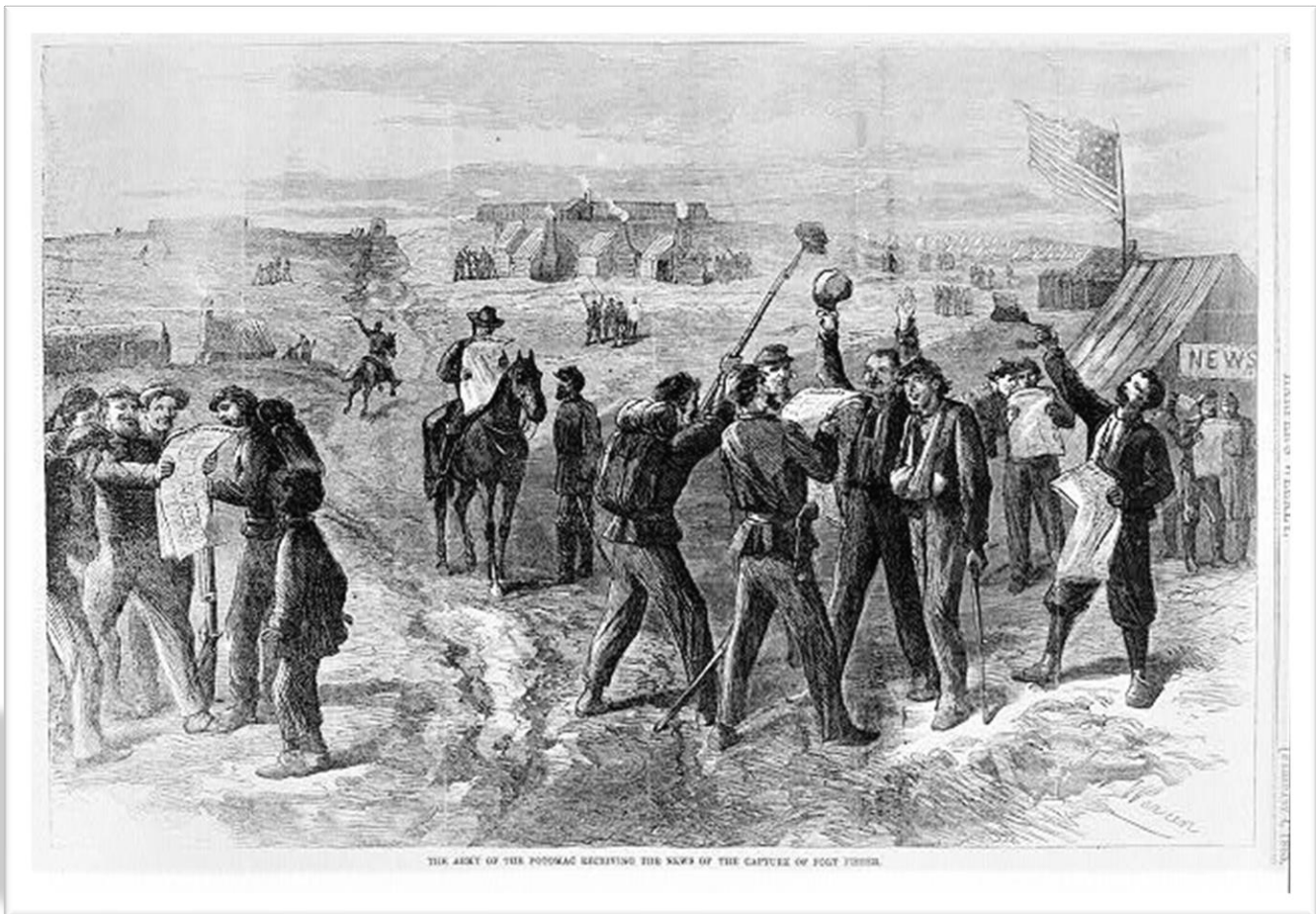
In the meantime, keep submitting your Camp's activities for inclusion in the N.J. Telegraph.

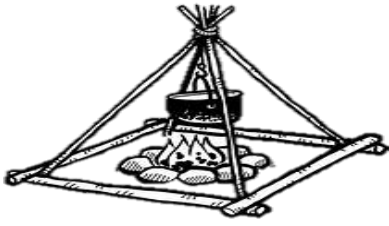
Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

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

Honoring the Past

By: Dave Hann PDC

On Saturday November 11, 2023 members of Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp #7, along with members of the family Peter Joseph Schwickerath, dedicated a GAR grave marker at his gravesite.

Peter Joseph Schwickerath was born in Germany in 1828 although his tombstone states that the year was 1827. He arrived in the United States in 1849 and married Elisabeth Simon on November 24, 1851, at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia and moved to the Egg Harbor City area between 1856-1858.

Joseph mustered in as a private in Company K, 23rd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry (the Jersey Yahoos) on September 13, 1862. He was promoted to Corporal on February 25, 1863. He was honorably discharged on June 27, 1863, two weeks past the original date because the unit volunteered to guard Harrisburg, PA due to reports of potential attack by Lee's army. Joseph indicated in his pension file that he was shot in the shoulder during the Battle of Salem Church and had to keep fighting without medical attention. This injury affected him for the rest of his life. In 1867, he bought farmland at Duerer and Zurich streets in Galloway Township, which he passed on to his sons when he retired to Egg Harbor. He died of nephritis, on January 20, 1913. Mr. Schwickerath was a member of General Stahl Post No. 62, G.A.R.

“Many interesting reminiscences have been revived among the old war comrades lately. Mr. Clark Hewitt relates the following, which may be of interest to many;

‘On this day September 23rd, it so happened that I met with an old comrade,

Joseph Schwickerath, a German, who came to this country about sixty years ago. In '62 we volunteered to serve together in the 23rd N.J. regiment and we were together during our term of enlistment. On May 3d, 1863 in the Battle of Chancellorsville at Salem church our color bearer was killed, and the staff of the flag was broken. Schwickerath grabbed up the flag and saved it. Forty-one years [sic] have passed since that day and we met in Atlantic City by chance.' ”
Pleasantville Weekly Press, October 1, 1910.



Toys for Tots

By: Dave Hann PDC

On Monday, December 4, members of the Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp dropped off a van load of toys to the Marine Toys for Tots in Gloucester County. We chose Gloucester County to donate to this year as we have several Brothers who live in that County. The donation was appreciated as donations are down 30% this year. Because of the generosity of our Brothers and Sisters a number of children will have a gift under their tree. Kudos to Brothers Paul Tucci and Scott Hann for spearheading this drive and to all of our Brothers and Sisters who donated toys and money.



CAMP 10 - BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANIEL LYON CAMP



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

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.

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.

March 23, 2024

May 18, 2024

June 8, 2024 (Department Encampment)

September 21, 2024

October 19, 2024 (tentative)

November 9, 2024

On October 22, 2023, Brother Chris Sands represented the SUVCW at a Dedication Ceremony of a Civil War Headstone for Major (Brevet Colonel) Thomas Ward Osborn at Hillside Cemetery, North Adams, Massachusetts. Brevet Colonel Osborn raised an Artillery unit at the start of the Civil War in New York. He commanded the 11th Corps Artillery at the Battle of Gettysburg. He moved with the Corps to the Western Theater and served under General Sherman's Command until the end of the war.



On November 24, 2023 Brother Jim Halloran, Commander of Kearney Camp #20, presented a certificate to Eagle Scout Patrick J. Lambe, of Troop 17, Hasbrouck Heights, on behalf of the SUVCW.



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 Times are 1:30 pm

On November 4, 2023, Scott Camp #73, the Society of the Grand army of Republic and members of the SAR help a cemetery clean up at the Castner-Compton cemetery in Bridgeport, Sussex County.



CAMP 82 - JAMES S. STRATTON CAMP



Commander: Bruce Lutz

Point of Contact: Scott West, Secretary

Stratton Camp #82, along with our partner, Becks' Philadelphia Brigade Band, has been quite busy this fall.

- We performed the very first concert in our 30+ year existence that we organized, funded, and promoted ourselves. Named the “Honor and Remembrance Concert”, we featured selections from the newly-reconstructed band books of the 19th Virginia Heavy Artillery Band. We honored that band and we honored the sudden passing of one of our cornet players, a good friend and a fine musician, Joe Petruzzi. We recorded the full concert and now have a wonderful CD of this special concert. As always, no concert is played without historical education.
- We aided the Glassboro Historical Society in initiating their first Civil War-era ball to go along with their annual Civil War Days program held each October. Civil War Days features an encampment [12th NJ and USCT], demonstrating camp life for the public. The addition of a full period ball, the only one in South Jersey to our knowledge, enabled more of the public to see what the history was all about. As the band played, the Victorian Dance Company called the dances and

explained the social graces and manners required to properly socialize in the 19th century.

- We entertained the veterans at Vineland Veterans Home with a concert and pizza party, showing them the instruments and uniforms from the Civil War era and engaging them in discussion. A good time was had by all!
- We performed a Veterans' Day ceremony in Pittsgrove Twp, honoring veterans from all wars.
- We were honored to perform a concert to benefit a food drive and the Historical Society in Columbia, Pennsylvania. As always, our focus was on the history, but this time we were schooled by the speaker from the Historical Society on an event in Columbia that changed the course of the War, one that most of us had never even heard about before. The folks in that town along the Susquehanna River burned their pride and joy, the Columbia/Wrightsville Bridge, in order to prevent General Lee crossing over and heading for Harrisburg and then on to Philadelphia. Had they not done that, Gettysburg would never have happened! Great read here: <https://www.pacivilwartrails.com/stories/tales/burning-the-wrightsville-bridge>
- Remembrance Day in Gettysburg this year was truly the highlight of our year once again. We honored General George Meade at his monument, then marched down the street to the Woolson Monument, where we performed for the national dignitaries of the SVR and SUV, honoring the last Union survivor of the War, Mr. Woolson. That evening, we performed the music for the national Civil War Ball sponsored by the SVR. This ball, held once again at the beautifully renovated Eisenhower Hotel, is the only such Remembrance Day ball that dedicates all profits to monument preservation. In attendance were over 400 dancers, enthusiastically learning the steps under the guidance of the Victorian Dance Ensemble.
- The band was contacted by the GAR Museum in Philadelphia, asking if we could help them out with the December open house. Another band was scheduled to perform the entertainment and backed out at the last minute. This is always an

important event, giving the GAR exposure to a lot of people who may never have heard of it; this is a mission effort we are honored to support.

- We will once again take part in honoring the birthday of General George Meade, born on New Year's Eve. The festivities take place at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia, beginning with a concert at 11:15AM and then a short march to the graveside overlooking the Schuylkill River. The ceremony features speakers, wreath-laying, volleys, taps and music before returning to the gatehouse for refreshments. This is always a favorite way to end the year!

Submitted by Scott West, Secretary



Beck's Brigade Band Alto section at the Gettysburg Battlefield November 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: Bruce Sirak

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



SUVCW NATIONAL NEWS

To the Editor:

Dave Hann for Council of Administration: A Leader for the Future of SUVCW

In the spirit of camaraderie and commitment to preserving our heritage, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Department of New Jersey, should proudly endorse Dave Hann, PDC for the crucial role of Council of Administration at the upcoming National Encampment in Kentucky this August.

Why Dave Hann?

Dave Hann, a dedicated Charter member and Secretary of one of the country's healthiest Camps, embodies the principles and values that define the SUVCW. With a remarkable track record, including past roles as Commander, Department Commander, and National Secretary, Dave brings a wealth of experience to the table.

Proven Leadership

Dave's tireless efforts in fundraising and organizing the Remembrance Day Parade demonstrate his exceptional leadership skills and earned him the rank of Lt. Colonel in the SVR. The parade, under his guidance, operates seamlessly, a testament to his commitment to the SUVCW brotherhood.

Knowledgeable and Charitable

As one of the order's most knowledgeable and charitable figures, Dave Hann consistently exemplifies the principles that the SUVCW holds dear. His dedication to preserving our history and supporting charitable initiatives sets a standard for all members.

Guiding SUVCW into the 21st Century

In an era of rapid change, it's essential to have leaders who can navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Dave Hann is that leader. His forward-thinking approach and ability to recognize and embrace innovative ideas make him the ideal candidate to guide the SUVCW into the 21st century.

Your Vote Counts

As delegates from the Department of New Jersey prepare to attend the National Encampment, consider the impact your vote can have on the future of the SUVCW. Vote for Dave Hann for Council of Administration and ensure that our beloved organization continues to thrive and evolve under the guidance of a true patriot and dedicated leader.

Together, let's uphold the legacy of the SUVCW and entrust its future to someone who has consistently proven to be an asset to the order. Vote Dave Hann for Council of Administration – a vote for a stronger, more vibrant SUVCW.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Bryan Sigmund



SUVCW DEPARTMENT

OF

NEW JERSEY NEWS



Department of New Jersey Leads the Way!

By: Brother Fred Mossbrucker, PDC

On the 18th of November the Department of New Jersey, was integral to the coordination and working of the parade on Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, PA. Many camp representatives walked in the parade including our Department Commander, Brother Jay Godin and Brother Peter Lindsay, marching for the first time this year. Brother Rob Meyer, PDC, represented Camps Custer, Scott, and Kearny and served as a Deputy Provost Marshall.

Francine Camp was represented by 13 brothers all serving in various capacities. Brothers Frank Tomasello, recently promoted to 1st Lt SVR, and Dylan Wettstein (Francine Camp; Lyon Camp) carried the SVR Banner. Brothers Paul Tucci and Larry McDermott carried the SUV Banner. Brother Chuck Gordinier carried the Francine Camp Flag. Brother Bryan Sigmund (Francine Camp; Lyon Camp) played bass drum with the 46th PA. Brother Gary Sigmund represented the Camp marching with the other camp representatives honoring his Navy ancestor. Brother Charlie Morgan, Commander of Camp#7, served at the SUV Recruiting Table set up in front of the Gettysburg Heritage Center selling Remembrance Day Parade tee-shirts to help defray the cost of the parade. Brother David Hann, recently promoted to Lt. Col. SVR, served as the Parade Provost Marshall. Brothers Fred Mossbrucker, Shaun Kenny, Charlie Harlan, and Jeremy Lacy served as Deputy Provost Marshalls.

At 5:30 pm the Elite Co. A, 7th NJ SVR served Honor Guard at the National Cemetery. Every year Co. A takes extreme pride in being the only unit of eight units who are chosen to stand guard during the Luminaries, to show in parade dress, and perform in reverential silence. The officials in charge of the Luminary Project tell us we have a standing invitation to stand guard every year!

So, New Jersey was out in force this year at Remembrance Day, but it would look even better, dare I say more powerful, if more of us attended next year. Give it realconsideration, brothers. It is a lot of fun and a great deal of comradeship too. Maybe the Department can have a get-together on Saturday night after the parade

and Honor Guard duties are done! Think about it and make your room reservations early to make sure you have a room for next year if you plan on staying overnight.

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 A.M. on Thursday, December 28, 2023, at the New Jersey State Museum, West State Street, Trenton, N.J. and will feature the following flags: 5th and 11th Infantry National flags, 1st Infantry and 3rd Cavalry Regimental flags and a captured Confederate flag. More information is available from Brother David Martin, PDC dmartin@peddie.org



HIGHLIGHTED MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY AND THEIR ANCESTOR

PDC Robert J. Wilhelm & Nicholas B. Wilhelm

(Brother Robert J. Wilhem's biography appears in our last issue with the biography of his ancestor Elwood Fischer and will not be repeated here.)

Private Nicholas B. Wilhelm

Nicholas B. Wilhelm entered into service on January 1, 1863, by enlisting in the independent Crossley's Half Company Delaware Artillery. This unit was deployed guarding bridges between Wilmington and Baltimore.

On February 25, 1864 he mustered into the Second Regiment Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery from the Draft Rendezvous, Philadelphia, PA. and was assigned to Co. B.

In April, 1864, Robert was assigned to Co. I, Provisional Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery as per Special Orders No. 153, under the Command of Colonel Thomas Wilhelm, Captain Reese J. Millard, 1st Lieutenant Charles Mowrer, 2nd Lieutenant Stephen S. Begel, and First Sergeant C. N. Houseknecht. The Regiment remained at Camp of Instruction, where it drilled about 8 hours a day and did picket duty on Bailey's Cross Roads where Mosby's men would occasionally fire upon them.

On April 26, 1864, the Regiment marched to Alexandria, Va. at this time without a Surgeon, medical stores, ambulances, or a Chaplin. They were assigned to General Stevenson's Division of the 9th Army Corps, General Ambrose Burnside Commanding. They were principally engaged in guarding trains to Brandy Station and lost 3 men killed.

On May 4, 1864, the Regiment marched to "Soldiers Rest" and to Brandy Station and were assigned to Colonel Marshall's Provisional Brigade of General Stephenson's Division. They marched to Richmond, reaching Mine Run in the Wilderness about 8:00 a.m. and was brought into line of battle. After advancing, the enemy retreated without resistance. They continued their advanced with occasional skirmishing with the enemy. Nearly one-third of the Regiment was reported missing, straggling, killed or wounded by May 8. They then marched to Spotsylvania, continually skirmishing with the enemy. Marching on without food or water skirmishing with the enemy continually, they reached Spotsylvania on the evening of May 12. They were assigned to defend a provision train and captured some prisoners and received rations, the first since the three-day supply they were issued May 8. Rainy weather continued; at times in torrents. The Regiment was marched to defend another wagon train resulting in slight losses. They then retired to the breastworks.

On May 20, they repelled an attack after withstanding a cannonade.

On May 24, 1864, The Regiment marched to North Anna River and crossed over a corduroy bridge destroying the bridge after crossing. Recrossing the river resembled a retreat every man being urged to do his utmost to get across so as to prevent capture. They then marched to Cold Harbor.

On May 28, 1864, the Regiment crossed the Pamunkey River and repelled an attack by Confederate Cavalry.

On May 31, 1864, at approximately 1:00 p.m., the Regiment took position on the left of Crittenden's Division on Mechanicsburg Road under heavy fire, losing several men. They resumed marching about 5:00 and marched until midnight when Cold Harbor was reached.

On June 1, 1864, at 7:00 am, the Confederates advanced under cover of terrific fire of cannon and mortar but were repulsed. A second assault was made about 3:00 with no better success. Regimental losses from May 22 to

June 1, 1864 were Captain Samuel H. Davis and 1 enlisted man killed, 6 men wounded and 2 captured.

June 2, 1864 a third Confederate assault made with overwhelming numbers causing the Regiment to fall back with the loss of about 60 men killed, wounded, and missing. Colonel Wilhelm was wounded in the foot. Rallying again they charged the enemy regaining lost ground, reestablishing the picket line, recovering its killed and wounded as well as inflicting severe punishment on the enemy and capturing many prisoners. After the 2nd of June, Col. Wilhelm retired to the hospital and was reassigned to command forts Eathen Allen and Marcy.

On June 4, 1864, the Regiment advanced and drove the enemy from its position engaging in a running fight until about 3:00 This fight continued on and off until June 8. Thereafter, the Regiment retired to camp until June 11.

On June 12, 1864, the Regiment returned to the fight and then, along with the 9th Corps., they marched toward Petersburg acting as rear guard.

On June 14, 1864, the Regiment crossed the Chickahominy river near Pleasant Grove. Many men suffered fatigue and sunstroke and the Regiment had many stragglers resembling a small Battalion rather than a Regiment.

On June 15, 1864, the Regiment crossed the river at Westover landing about 9:00 and continued to march toward Petersburg. From June 2 to June 15, 1864 casualties were 3 men killed, 17 wounded, 4 officers and 81 men captured or missing.

On June 17, 1864, General Mead ordered an attack by Ledlie's and Potters' Divisions of the 9th Corps. (The Provisional 2nd Heavy Artillery belonging to Ledlie's 1st Division, 3rd Brigade.) The Provisional 2nd formed a line of battle and advanced to behind a hill being shelled by Confederates. After dark they advanced to a ravine. About 8:00 the Regiment charged through heavy fire of grape, canister, and musket shot and drove the Confederates from their

breastworks taking many prisoners. The unit held under heavy fire until relieved about 2:00 the next day.

July 30, 1864 the Regiment entered the pits at Petersburg immediately in front of the fort that Col. Pleasants' 48th Penn. Vol. Regiment had undermined and charged with 8 tons of powder. The mine was about to be detonated and the Provisional 2nd Penn., along with a few hundred men of the 179th N.Y. composing the 2nd Brigade of Col. Ledlie's Division were to lead the assault. Pleasants' men ignited the fuse a few minutes before the break of day, but the explosion did not follow. In consequence of this one of the 48th men crawled into the mine and remedied the defect.

At 4:45 the explosion took place and the Brigade was ordered to charge. Lt. Col. Barney shouted "forward, Second Heavy" and every man was pressing forward on the heels of the 14th N.Y. which faltered as it approached the crater seeing which Barney again cried "Forward Second Heavy" and pressing through the New Yorkers, the Prov. Regiment charged into the crater.

Captain John Norris Commanding the 2nd Battalion was first to enter the enemy's works and lead his men over one-hundred yards beyond the crater, when, seeing he was not supported, fell back to the crater, fighting all the way.

The Confederates then rallied and poured shot and shell into the crater, but the 2nd Prov. held its position until about 10:00. Some-time after, the Regiment fell back and the 9th Corps Colored Troops were sent forward and advanced a short distance beyond the crater when halted. A body of Confederates charged them with a yell, causing the 9th Corps to break for the rear with fixed bayonets compelling many of the Provisional boys to fall back with them many remaining until they were compelled to surrender. Official records list the losses for the Provisional 2nd Heavy Artillery as 11 men

killed, 2 officers and 55 men wounded, 6 officers and 112 men captured or missing.

July 31, 1864, the remnant of the Regiment was taken to the rear by Captain James W. Haig laying in camp until August 6th when it began to do duty in the trenches on alternate days.

Aug. 20-24, 1864, the Regiment did picket duty and supported an attack by the 5th Corps. at the Weldon Railroad. Losses for Aug. 18-21 were 2 men killed, 10 men wounded 50 men captured or missing.

On Aug. 30, 1864, the Regiment was ordered to report to the mother Regiment 2nd Penn. Heavy Artillery at the Bermuda Hundred front between the Appomattox and the James Rivers near Point of Rocks.

On Sept. 5, 1864, Per Special Order #282. Nicholas B. Wilhelm was assigned to Co. F, 2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery.

On Sept. 28, 1864, at midnight, the Regiment formed into line and marched to Aikens Landing on the James River, in light marching order, without knapsacks, shelter tents, blankets, etc. After crossing the James, they formed into line of battle. Under command of Major James L. Anderson, and with the 89th N.Y., comprised the 3rd Brigade of the 2nd Division, 18th Corps., Commanded by General Heckman. As soon as the battle line was formed the brigade advanced to a hastily vacated Confederate camp, and supported General Burnham who was charging Battery Harrison, located about 5 miles south of Richmond.

The 2nd Penn. HA was ordered forward in an assault on Fort Gilmer. After sending the Colors to the rear at the request of the men the Regiment formed a line of battle and advanced under fire from guns of the fort and of gun boats on the James River.

Major Anderson was killed, Captains Bages and Jones and Lieutenant Cannon wounded. Major Sadler ordered the 2nd and 3rd Battalions to halt and cover and sprang forward to the 1st battalion which was wavering under terrific fire, and led it forward into the redoubt where it was overpowered and taken prisoner.

In the assault, the Regiment lost over 300 men killed, wounded, and taken prisoner. The 2nd Battalion, which was ordered to cover, escaped after nightfall. They were well scattered after being repulsed but fully reassembled the next morning and began building earthworks around Fort Burnham.

Losses for the 2nd Penn. for Sept. 29-30, 1864 were: killed 2 officers and 12 men. Wounded: 2 officers and 83 men. Captured and missing: 5 officers and 133 men. Total 237.

Nov. 18, 1864, until this time nothing but routine duty was performed. With other troops the Battalion advanced on the enemy and after a short but stubborn resistance, the enemy was driven back and the lost works recaptured. At sundown the enemy tried without success to retake the works. About dusk a heavy cold rain storm set in continuing two days, during which the men suffered severely, the second day the rain freezing as it reached the ground. The men were required to stand against the breastworks, without any shelter, in almost a foot of water, their tents, blankets, and knapsacks having been left at an earlier engagement.

Dec. 4, 1864 Heavy cannonading was again heard toward the Bermuda Hundred fronts and the Regiment was marched there and took up positions in the rear of the breastworks midway between the James and the Appomattox Rivers. Brisk cannonading ensued for about one hour-causing no casualties. Colonel McClure was assigned to command the Provisional Brigade composed of the 2nd PA Heavy Artillery, under Captain Strawbridge, The 115th N.Y. and the 62nd Ohio. This Brigade was designated as the 1st

Brigade Infantry Division, Army of the James. The Brigade now faced the 11th Virginia Confederates.

Jan. 2, 1865, the Regiment was formed behind Redoubt Dutton to witness an execution of two men: one formerly of Battery D, Penn. HA who was convicted of allowing bounty jumpers to escape; the other, a bounty jumper.

Feb. 16, 1865, until this day the usual picket duty was performed until another attack was made on the picket line the enemy being repulsed with considerable loss. The attack was made by 500 men of Mahone's Confederates, 100 of whom were taken prisoner and many killed. The Redoubts McConihe, Carpenter, and Dutton were garrisoned alternately by several Batteries of the 2nd Penn. Vet. HA, each Battery remaining a week at a time.

On April 2, 1865, the Regiment supported an advance made by 2 Battalions of the 10th NYHA but soon fell back with a loss of about 100 men killed, wounded, and missing between the two regiments. A flag of truce was sent out in the afternoon to bury the dead, which was accepted and done, after which the Regiment, resumed its old position on the picket line.

On April 3, 1865, the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment advanced leaving the balance of the Regiment at the Bermuda front. After a successful advance against the enemy, they returned to the Bermuda front where they remained overnight. The following morning, the entire Regiment was ordered to Petersburg. The 2nd Penn. HA at this time was in Gen. Feurero's Provisional Division.

On April 9, 1865 Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant and the whole Army and Navy rejoiced. The Regiment was ordered to duty in the Freedmens Bureau.

On April 14, 1865, every available man was put on duty to intercept John Wilkes Booth. The Regiment was doing duty over a 65-mile area, being assigned where necessary.

Aug. 25, 1865, in Petersburg Virginia, Nicholas B. Wilhelm mustered out of service as a Private, Co. F Second Pennsylvania Veteran Heavy Artillery, as per Special Order #423 War Dept. Adjutant Generals Office Washington dated Aug. 7, 1865.

The Second Pennsylvania Veteran Heavy Artillery was the largest Regiment in the Union Army during the war for the Union. There were 5,104 assigned, and 211 unassigned men in the Regiment for a total of 5,315.

The total number of deaths over the 4 years of service of the Regiment was 748 men.

FINAL MUSTER

Stratton Camp #82

Joseph Petruzzi



5/1/68 7/16/23



Joe played B \flat Cornet in Beck's Band from May 2017 to July 2023. He was asked to fill in as a sub when another member was away on vacation and had enjoyed playing with the group on a regular basis.

Joe had been playing the trumpet, as a hobby, since the 4th grade. He had been a member of his elementary, junior high, high school, and college bands. Joe was also an active member in the Bethel Baptist Church (Cherry Hill, NJ) music ministry, the Tri-County Symphonic Band, and performed in various smaller ensembles from time to time.

Joe held a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Rowan University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Eastern University. Joe was the Information Technology Director for the Port of Philadelphia.

When not performing, Joe enjoyed boating, house projects, gardening, model trains, and spending time with his family and friends. Joe also maintained the Beck's Band website and social media accounts.

On October 26, 2023, Joe posthumously received the "Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society Person of the Year Award."

Hanraft # 15 (PA) (80 year member)

Past Department Commander (PA)

David James Klinepeter



4/19/26 10/9/23

Provost

Eric J. Schminke PDC



9/30/59 10/27/23



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?



BROTHERS OF WAR

The Iron Brigade at Gettysburg

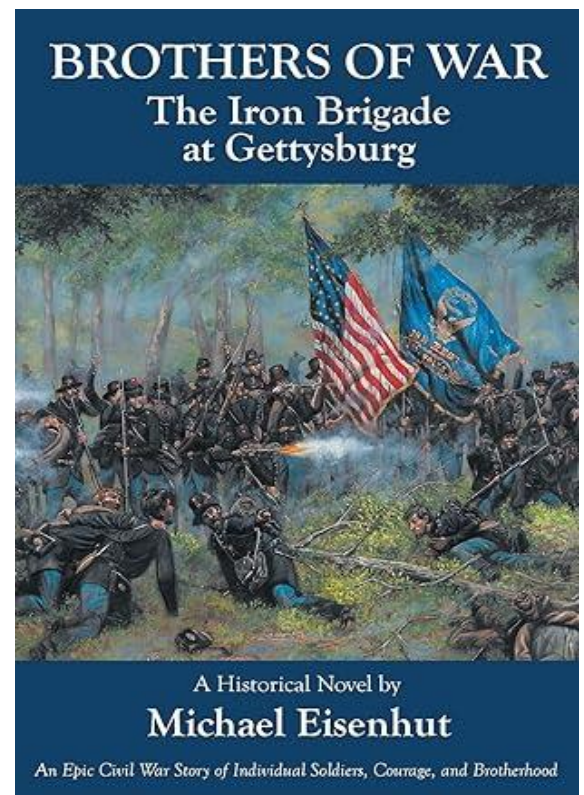
A Historical novel by Michael Eisenhut

Reviewed by Bro. Fred Mossbrucker, PDC

As a general rule I do not care to read historical novels. Killer Angels was great and Red Badge of Courage was awesome but my interest ends there.

It's just not my kind of "thing." However, my daughter, Lindsay, bought a book for me last Remembrance Day at Gettysburg for an early Christmas present entitled, Brothers of War.

She had it autographed by the author that included



a very nice personal message and "Merry Christmas" greetings. I figured, "What the heck!"

So, I pitched in figuring that I'd read about 50 pages, get bored and put it away. Well, after 150 pages I was hooked! The story follows two historical brothers, Pvts. James and King Solomon Whitlow, from the 19th Indiana regiment. Some friends and characters are fictitious but others such as the Lt. Schlagel, Lt. Col. Dudley and Colonel Williams and many others of the regiment are historically real. Not to give anything away but James Whitlow is buried in the Indiana section of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg.

The story begins at 10:30 pm in the Herbst Woods but then takes you all the way back to Herndon Station, VA on June 18, 1863. From there it follows the 19th Indiana to the battle and its aftermath. The battle scenes and the detritus of battle are graphic and spell binding. Civilians are also part of the story and the battle's effect on them too. It was very hard to put the book down. It is 429 pages and I had it read in one month!

It is an awesome book and would make a great stocking stuffer or a gift at any time of the year. I highly recommend it whether you consider yourself a Civil War novice or a "veteran" of Civil War studies. PS: The 19th Indiana, part of the Iron Brigade, brought 308 men into the battle at Herbst Woods and suffered 210 casualties for a little over 68% loss.



Fun & Games



Last Issue's puzzle:

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

And the solution is:

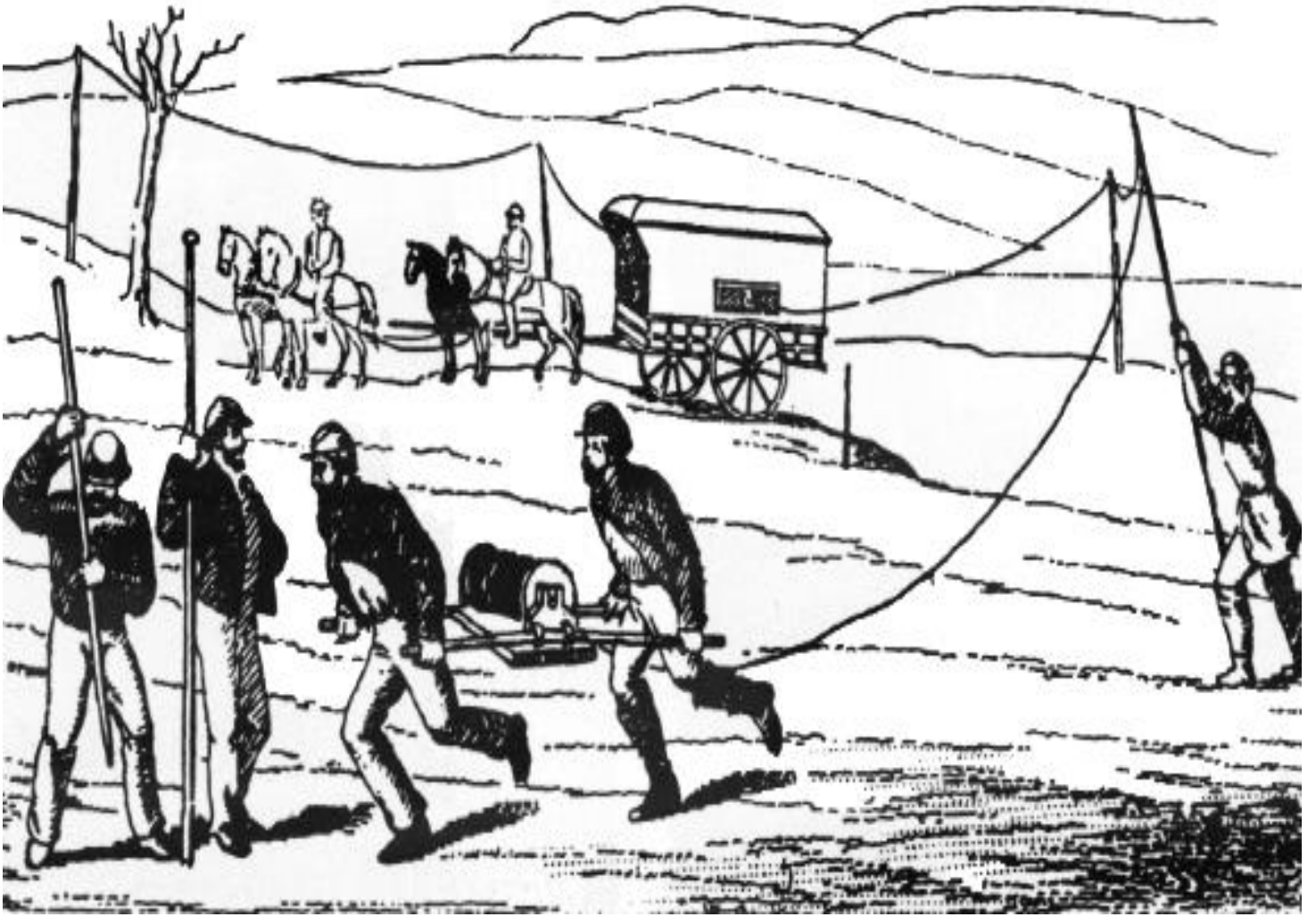
“General McClellan and myself are to be photographed if we can be still long enough I feel General McClellan should have no problem” (Of course, Abraham Lincoln).

Once again Brother Jim Halloran was first to solve the puzzle. Huzzah Brother!

In this issue we have a quote from a cantankerous Union General with a particular pet peeve. Good luck!

P SNPWO P CWVXBDSQWV KNQS LPFPSQBI JQLX PD; SE GX OPFFXV
EW SNX JPXFV EJ GQSSFV QWV NQHIX IECB WQLX LPDDUXFFXV PW
SNX WVKDUQUXBD. KPFFPQL SXACLDXN DNXBLQW

J = F



The NJ Telegraph © 2023 Department of New Jersey, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War