

# PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Office of the Commander

622 N. Pitt St

Carlisle, PA 17013

(717) 462-9012

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



Department Order # 15

Series 2014 -2015

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**(To be read in camps and retained in camp records)**

Brothers of the PA Department,

A serious issue has been brought to our attention. Grand Army Post records and artifacts frequently wound up in the possession of local historic societies or other local museums if they were not lost altogether in the closing of the posts. This is not new news, but what has been brought up recently is that in some places we know where the records are, they are not being stored in ways that protect them for future access. A recent survey of 18 boxes of GAR records in one facility discovered that the entire collection in a state of near disintegration due to storage conditions and lack of preservation.

We have been in luck in this case as the local camp is able to raise the money to preserve the records and have them properly conserved. This set will be saved. It does beg the question however of the condition of the other records around the State. I am calling on the camp historians across the PA Department to please locate the records in your areas and assess the condition of them as soon as possible.

Camps are encouraged to try and raise funds or to assist in any practical way the conservation of the local G.A.R. records. Per the **Federal Charter** of the SUVCW part of our duty as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is ***“to assist in every practicable way in preserving, and making available for research, documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members”***. With this concern over the condition of local records coming to

light, please help make certain that the records in your camp's jurisdiction are safe, preserved, and available for research.

So ordered this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015

Douglas P. McMillin Commanding

Pennsylvania Department

Sons of union veterans of the Civil War

Attest Charles Kuhn, PCnC

PA Dept, Secretary/ Treasurer