

Battle Cry of Freedom

The official publication of the Department of Pennsylvania
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - 2008

Department of Pennsylvania
2007-2008 Officers

Commander

Lee F. Walters, PCC

leesuvpcc@msn.com

Senior Vice Commander

John M. McNulty

jimm6@psu.edu

Junior Vice Commander

Howard Wolfe, PCC

hfwolfeco@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Robert Graves, PCC

Patriotic Instructor

Richard Essenwein, PCC

civilwarkittanning@yahoo.com

Chaplain

David R. Acheson

Council

Ivan E. Frantz Jr., PCC

musictrains@juno.com

Richard Essenwein, PCC

civilwarkittanning@yahoo.com

John S. Frantz

johnf2384@suscom.net

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Albert El

captusct@aol.com

Historian

Wayne Blattner, PCC

wblattner1@comcast.net

GAR Highway Officer

Victor Fox

sailorcofox@aol.com

Counselor

Joseph Long Jr., PCC

jmijlong@verizon.net

Graves Registrar

Raymond Sulger

martock999@yahoo.com

Memorials Officer

Kimber D. Smith, PCC

kdsmith@rcn.com

Signals Officer

Howard Wolfe, PCC

hfwolfeco@aol.com

Editor,

Battle Cry of Freedom

Robert C. Shaffer

rshaffer24@yahoo.com

From The Department Commander:

I wish for all my Brothers of the SUVCW a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. As we begin 2008, let us all strive to do all we can to advance the mission and purposes of our Order and to build membership in our Camps and Department.

I have enjoyed visiting the Camps, installing Officers, and attending social events, and I am impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of the Brothers of Pennsylvania. This Department is blessed to have a core of individuals and Camps who work tirelessly, and effectively, to advance our cause. I am both proud and humbled to be a part of it.

Brothers, it is not too soon to begin planning to attend our Department Encampment, to be held 19-21 June in Ligonier, PA. Every Camp in our Department should be represented. If you are unable to stay for the entire Encampment, at least plan to come for the business session on Saturday. We will be electing a new slate of Officers for 2008. Come and participate in directing the future of your Department.

Also, do not forget our National Encampment to be held in Boston, MA 07-10 August. Boston is a beautiful and historic city, with much to see and do, and I am sure this will be a really nice Encampment. Let's make sure the Department of Pennsylvania is well represented.

All Camp Commanders and Secretaries are reminded that Form 22 "Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers" must be completed and submitted to the Department Secretary-Treasurer before 15 Feb 08. Also, Camp Annual Report Form 27 must be received by the Department Secretary-Treasurer nlt 30 April 08, including Camp roster, new applications for the period 01 Jan-31 Mar, and appropriate dues and Per Capita. Please assist your Secretary-Treasurer by submitting reports that are timely, legible, and using current forms.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our SUVCW events this year, and working together for the good of our order.

In F, C, & L,
Lee F. Walters, Commander
Dept. of Pennsylvania SUVCW

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: If you would be willing to receive your copy of the Department Newsletter via e-mail in lieu of a hard copy by mail, please contact me at rshaffer24@yahoo.com so that a comprehensive list of e-mail addresses can be established and a final decision can be rendered on this subject. Thank you for your cooperation. In F, C & L,
Bob Shaffer, PA Dept. Newsletter Editor

Camp #8 – Scranton



1st Row: Douglas Teeters and Ray Sulger. 2nd Row: Scott Teeters, Russell Jones and Joseph Long. Back: Michael Grayson

Camp #8 Goes To “Jail”

For 104 years the building on the corner of Penn Avenue and Linden Street, Scranton, Pa., has been the home of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin, G.A.R Post 139 and Lt. Ezra S. Griffin, Camp #8, S.U.V.C.W. On December 31, 2007 that came to a sad end. First sold in 1982, the Sons had 1 small room that held the GAR Memorial Association Museum and the meeting for the Sons, Auxiliary, and recently the Daughters.

A new firm purchased the building in June of 2006 and they have been generous in allowing us to stay there at a reduced amount of rent. The rent they are asking is too high to pay so we have been forced to find a new home.

The last G.A.R. meeting held here was in 1938 with 2 members still living. The last member Joseph Chapman passed away on December 20, 1943. The building has 3 and a half stories, it had a large meeting room, a Ballroom, Armory, library, and an apartment for the caretaker. The only room left as it was is the Library and that became our meeting room and museum.

We have explored several possibilities for a new home and with the generosity of Scranton's mayor Chris Doherty and the city council, we moved into the city's former Police headquarters located on the bottom floor of City Hall. A much needed new "Comm" center and jail were built to replace the outdated one. Our new location will give us a separate room for the GAR Museum, as well as a meeting room for the Sons and the Ladies will now have a room of their own.

On November 15, 2007 the last meeting was held in the G.A.R. and officers were sworn in by Dept. JVC Howard Wolfe. The previous meeting was held on October 18, 2007 and we had the honor of hosting the PA Dept Commander the visit our camp meeting in the GAR building. We offer our sincere thanks to Dept. Commander Lee F. Walters and his wife Charlotte.

While we leave the GAR building for the last time with much sadness and many memories, we look to the future and our new home. A lot of work needs to be done to prepare our new location before we move in. It will have

more room to display our artifacts and have a meeting room set up properly.

ANCESTRAL FOOTPRINTS – Camp #8

One of the latest generations of the Long family has yielded footprints for the Long ancestry. Brother Michael Long (20), enlisted in the US Marine Corps Reserves, entering Boot Camp in May 2007, at Parris Island, SC. After boot camp, Long completed additional Marine Combat Training (MCT) at Camp Geiger, NC. PFC Long continued his military training at Navy/Marine Intelligence Training Center (NMITC), Oceana Naval Base / Dam Neck Annex, Virginia Beach, VA, where Long graduated as an Intelligence Specialist. Long is attached to MAG-49 (Willow Grove, PA) as an Intelligence Specialist. Long's grandfather, the late Robert Long (SUVCW life member) had previously served as SNCOIC at MAG 49, Willow Grove, PA.

Michael Long will continue his education at Temple University (Philadelphia), seeking a degree in criminal justice..

LONG LINE OF ANCESTRAL FOOTPRINTS:

SUVCW life members of the Long family include (but not limited to):

- Steven Long (Father of Michael)
- Robert Long (deceased) (Grandfather of Michael)
- Richard Long (Uncle of Michael)
- Ricky Long (Cousin of Michael)
- Ryan Long (Cousin of Michael)
- Eugene Long (Grand-Uncle of Michael)
- Joseph Long (Grand-Uncle of Michael)

“Scranton Soldiers and Sailors Monument Restored”

As reported in the Banner many months ago, member Alan Sweeney secured funding for the restoration of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Courthouse Square in Scranton, Pennsylvania. As of this writing the monument is now fully restored, taking over six months to accomplish and \$300,000 in expenses.

Sweeney started inventorying all public art in the county in 1989 under Save Our Sculpture! initiative, funded in part by the Smithsonian and the Target Corporation. It was completed two years later with individual assessment by each piece of art. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument was at the top of the list for it needed to be restored, but funding that was needed could not be raised at the time.

During the planning stage of the Lackawanna Courthouse restoration, Sweeney asked the Majority County Commissioners Robert Cordaro and A.J. Munchack to include this memorial in the \$30 million dollar project. The monuments' restoration was the first finished section of the courthouse restoration.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument was awarded to the Harrison Granite Co. on November 11, 1899 to honor the memory of the soldiers who fought in the Civil War. The original contract price was \$50,000 but additional groundwork was needed that brought the cost to \$52,000. The monument designer is unknown, but is a typical Civil War monument 104 feet to the top of the 14 foot high bronze Statue of Victory. The Central Granite staff has the words

“Gettysburg” and “Antietam” midway and the colonnade cup carries the inscription “1860 – Soldiers and Sailors of Lackawanna County – 1865”, atop the cup are four bronzes: sailor, cavalryman, infantryman and artilleryman. Bronze plaques for the center shaft commemorate a battle scene and the victory march at Washington, D.C. Two cannons flank the monument in typical Civil War concept. It is thought the monument weighs over 150 tons.

All the bronze was removed from the monument, taken to the restoration shop and repaired and re-painted. Both cannons were also restored.

The monument looks very beautiful restored. We hope to have a rededication of this Civil War Treasure in the near future. I suggested the day of the Appomattox Day Luncheon would be a good day. Until it is decided, it is worth a trip to Scranton to see this beautiful memorial.

Camp 15 - Harrisburg

Geary Monument Dedication

August 11, 2007 By John Deppen, Camp 15, Harrisburg



FROM LEFT, GREG KLINE, SVC, JOHN DEPPEN, JVC AND DONNIE PRYE, COMMANDER, CAMP 15, HARRISBURG.

On Saturday, August 11, officers of General John F. Hartranft Camp #15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War participated in the dedication of the General John White Geary statue on Culp's Hill at Gettysburg National Military Park. Commander Donnie Prye, Senior Vice Commander Greg Kline, and Junior Vice Commander John Deppen laid a wreath at Geary's statue as indicated in photograph below.

The ceremony was planned and orchestrated by Mr. Sheldon Munn, President of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, and featured several notable speakers, including GOVERNOR EDWARD RENDELL, Dr. John Latschar, Superintendent of GNMP, Charles Fennell, Licensed Battlefield Guide, and Dr Richard Sommers. Additional photos appear on Camp 15 Website. <http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html>

In keeping with similar ceremonies that took place on the battlefield more than a century ago, the dedication of the Geary monument included musical selections and lasted close to two hours. Other participants in the ceremony included the General Meade Society of Philadelphia and the Freemasons. Commander Prye commented that the dedication was one of the highlights of his service as Camp Commander.

Camp #19, Lancaster

Camp #19 was busy in 2007. We welcomed new members Vince Slauch, Brian Remmey, Manfred Franz Georg Wiegand (Germany), Russel Dicks and transfer member Francis Friel Jr. Camp officers for 2007 were Commander Ronald Young, Sr. Vice Comm. Steven Heffner, Jr Vice Comm. Walter Bosch PCC, Council Doug Eaby PCC, Howard Longacre Jr., Don Pentz PCC, Treasurer John Heine, Secretary Raymond Longacre, Guard John D. Jenkins PCC, Color Bearer Edward Milford PCC, Chaplain Howard Longacre Jr., Guide Arthur Williams, Patriotic Instructor Richard Simpson, Historian and Asst. Patriotic Instructor Ronald Young, Grave Registration Donald Pentz PCC, Monuments Edward Milford PCC, Co-Signals Officers John Heine and Raymond Longacre.

Brother John Heine continued his hard work and dedication in keeping up the GAR plots in the Lancaster and Greenwood Cemeteries, replacing flags, and trying to procure a resolution in repairing the canon base in the Lancaster Cemetery

Brother Raymond Longacre attended a meeting of the Sgt. Churchill Camp #4 in Lawrence KS, Department of Kansas in April and the PA Department Encampment in June.

Brother Ron Young is working on the LANCASTER COUNTY CIVIL WAR SOLDIER BURIAL DATABASE. It will be found at <http://www.lancastercivilwar.com> it will be available in 2008. THE LANCASTER COUNTY CIVIL WAR SOLDIER BURIAL DATABASE will include nearly 8000 entries of soldiers buried in Lancaster County, Pa. Searchable by Name, Regiment, Cemetery, Township/Borough. It also includes birth and death dates, terms of service, service notations.

Brother Dick Simpson's speaking presentations are on the following subjects:

- 1.) The Forgotten Civil War Battle of Franklin, Tennessee Nov 30, 1864
- 2.) The monuments of Gettysburg, Pa

Other SUVCW Camp #19 2007 Events December 31, 2006

Camp 19 representatives Dick Simpson, Walter Bosch, Arthur Philips, and John Heine participated in the 191st General George G. Meade birthday celebration held at Laurel Hill cemetery, Philadelphia.

January 2007

Brothers Walter Bosch, John Heine, and Arthur Philips attended the Lee/Jackson Birthday Ceremony in Baltimore, MD. We represented SUVCW camp 19 in the ceremony to honor Generals Lee and Jackson on the anniversary of their births and to honor the thousands of Confederate soldiers, sailors, and marines. The event was hosted by the Maryland Division United Daughters of the Confederacy and Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp 1388 Sons of Confederate Veterans.

February 12, 2007

Annual Lincoln Birthday Parade & Memorial Service at the Union League

of Philadelphia, luncheon, parade to the Lincoln Monument by the Art Museum, and social. Camp #19 Brothers Walter Bosch, Doug Eaby, John Heine, Arthur Philips, Dick Simpson, and VRC re-enactor John Commero attended this event in Philadelphia.

Visit to a local SUVCW Camp

March 13, 2007

Ronald Young, Dick Simpson, Ed Milford, and John Heine attended the meeting of SUVCW Shays Camp No. 7 in Lebanon, Pa. Ron spoke about how Lancaster and Lebanon Counties are connected in history and soldiers from both counties fighting with some of the same regiments. We have invited Camp 7 members to attend our meeting.

March 25, 2007

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 30, Lancaster, PA

Three young men were accepted into the Eagle Scout Court of Honor on March 25, 2007. Six brothers of the SUVCW attended the ceremony at which time the Scouts were awarded the SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate of Commendation. Mr. Albert El was the guest speaker. He and Joe Becton represented the SUVCW, 3rd USCT's, and NPS Rangers from the Philadelphia Independence Hall. Jeff Heagy from Philadelphia, joint member of Camp 101, PCC of Camp #1 and Lex Nugent, SUVCW Baker/Fisher Camp #101 Secretary. John Heine, treasurer and signals office, and Walter Bosch PCC attended from Camp #19.

May 27, 2007

Memorial service at Historic Laurel Hill cemetery, Philadelphia, recreating the original G.A.R. Decoration Day Service of 1868: Speakers, ceremonies, pageant. Service at General Meade grave, music, honor guards, and refreshments.

May 30, 2007

Camp 19 held two Memorial services at the Lancaster GAR locations. Lancaster Cemetery, 205 E Lemon Street. Internment of 208 soldiers Greenwood Cemetery, 719 Highland, Avenue, internment of 76 soldiers.

August 11, 2007

Re-dedication of Major General John White Geary monument on Culp's Hill, Gettysburg. To honor General Geary for his outstanding service to the nation and Commonwealth as soldier, governor, educator, lawyer and engineer. The Geary Monument was erected by the Commonwealth of PA in 1915. This ceremony was planned by the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table. Present were members of Anna M. Ross Camp #1, SUVCW, Philadelphia. Music was supplied by the regimental Brass Band of the 28th Pennsylvania, Governor Ed Rendell, Camp 19 members John Heine, Walter Bosch, and Dick Simpson.

September 22, 2007

At Culp's Hill Gettysburg the 100th Anniversary - General G. S. Greene monument Rededication Ceremony. An invitation by the Greene Family and RI MOLLUS. U. S. Military, state and local government, National MOLLUS, SUVCW, and RI MOLLUS were present. John Heine and Walter Bosch attended from camp 19. Brother John Heine was also a member of the Color Guard and escorted the persons laying wreaths at the monument.

November 17, 2007

Remembrance Day Parade, Gettysburg, PA. Lancaster Camp 19 members Walter Bosch, Arthur Philips, Dick Simpson, Don Pentz, David Seville, and Ron Young attended the ceremonies in Gettysburg, PA.

December 14-15, and 21-22, 2007

James Buchanan Historic Home at Wheatland, Lancaster, PA, camp 19 members represented the SUVCW and assisted with candle light tours of the estate. Walter Bosch portrayed Thomas Nast's Civil War Santa. Brent Musser, John Heine, Dick Simpson, Donald Pentz, Doug Eaby, and Arthur Philips portrayed Civil War soldiers and local period politicians.

Camp #43 - Kittanning



Oct. 14, 2007 members of the John T. and Sarah A. Crawford Camp and Auxiliary 43, SUVCW conducted a grave re-dedication ceremony at the John T. Crawford and Sarah Crawford's gravesite.

The heroic sacrifice of Union Army Major John T. Crawford is not forgotten, at least not by a local contingent of members of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Camp 43.

On Sunday, 15 members of John T. Crawford Camp 43 and 15 members of the Sarah A. Crawford Auxiliary rededicated the graves of Crawford and his wife at the Kittanning Cemetery.

Camp 43 Graves Registration officer, Richard Essenwein, said the camp is for the Armstrong County fallen Civil War Hero.

Essenwein said Crawford, who was reared in Leechburg, established a practice in 1851 in Kittanning. He became a popular physician and was one of the first professional men in the county to answer President Lincoln's call to arms. He volunteered for military service on Aug. 1, 1861, and was commissioned a major with the Pennsylvania 63rd Infantry. On Oct. 7, 1861, he was promoted from camp surgeon to brigade surgeon in the Army of the Potomac.

"We had a beautiful day on which to pay him and his wife the respect they so richly deserve," Essenwein said.

In those years a disease known as "camp fever" ran rampant through the army and often proved fatal. In early May 1862, Crawford diagnosed himself with the disease. Despite suffering from severe symptoms, he refused to take a recuperation leave.

Essenwein said that on May 26, Crawford collapsed and eventually was sent to Kittanning to recuperate.

However, the debilitating effects had taken their toll on the 37-year-old physician and he died June 7, 1862, leaving his wife, Sarah (Colwell) Crawford, and two children, Alexander and Margaret.

The grave rededication ceremony included selections by a bagpiper, prayers and remarks by Essenwein and Camp 43 commander Robert Bowser. After wreaths and flowers were laid at the Crawfords' graves, Camp 43 honor guard fired a 21-gun salute and taps was played.

The "Sons" have a long tradition of finding and rededicating the graves of Civil War veterans.

"It is important for us to remember the sacrifices these men and women made to preserve our country and the freedoms we enjoy today," Essenwein said. "Our camp is dedicated to honoring the memory of the 'boys in blue.'"

Camp #90 - Trappe



Attending the grave side ceremony, Memorial Day 2007, SUVCW Camp #90. Location was William Howe's grave. Left to right, Mike Burkheimer, Jack Ertell, Harold Gennaria, Charles Evans, and Wayne Blattner.

At the end of 2007, the Jerome Gennari Camp #90, SUVCW completed its 9th year of existence. We meet the 4th Sunday of the month, 2:00 P.M., at the Spring-Ford Historical Society, on Main Street, in Royersford Pa.

Under the direction of our Camp Commander Wayne Blattner, our small but active group of 15 pride ourselves in a couple of areas. In 2007 we welcomed Mike Burkheimer into our camp. We hope to continue our graves registration survey headed by Past Camp Commander Brother Fischer, when his health improves. We are keeping John in our prayers. Additional cemetery surveys are planned for the future.

Recognizing and honoring our local Eagle Scouts is another area we are involved in. Camp Commander Wayne Blattner, our Eagle Scout contact had the honor of attending three Eagle Court of Honor ceremonies. Those honored were scouts Mark Ferris, David Motsek, and Kyle Garvin from Troop #406 Royersford. Camp #90 presented the official SUVCW Eagle Scout certificate to the honored scout, and speaks to the friends and family in attendance all about our organization. The Boy Scouts of America, Cradle of Liberty Council's, Class of 2006 Eagle Scout Banquet was held at the Union League in Philadelphia in the spring of 2007. Camp Commander Wayne Blattner and Eagle Scout Chad Miller from Troop #230 of Limerick, who was sponsored by Camp #90, attended this event.

On Memorial Day our camp fulfilled a SUVCW obligation by participating at a graveside service for a Civil War Veteran. This year we selected a remote gravesite in northwest Montgomery County. Past Camp Commander Harold Gennaria led camp brothers Mike Burkheimer, Wayne Blattner Jack Ertell, and Charles Evans deep into the woods to union soldier William H. Howe's grave. Howe, who was wounded at Fredericksburg in 1862, returned home to Montgomery County to recuperate during the war. Due to some unfortunate events and circumstances, he was charged with a murder when home on leave, and sentenced to death. He was hung at Fort Mifflin, and buried in Montgomery County. Camp #90 has an interest in this veteran, and his fascinating life

In 2007, Brother Wayne N. Blattner continued as Pennsylvania Department SUVCW Historian.

At the Department of Pennsylvania's 127th Annual Encampment in Bethlehem PA, our camp proudly ran an advertisement in the Encampment book listing our officers. Brothers Wayne Blattner, John Ertell, and Harold Gennaria attended the yearly meeting.

During 2007, our camp had two meetings off site. In February, Brother Charlie Evans welcomed us into his home to see his Civil War items. In July members visited a Civil War merchandise and artifact establishment, called "The Limber Chest", located in Spring City, PA. Owner Mr. Ron Stonelake gave us a tour of his facility.

On December 31, 2007, Wayne Blattner and Mike Burkheimer attended the annual General George G. Meade birthday ceremony at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. Camp #90 laid a wreath at General Meade's grave, and also at John and William Dutton graves. John and William were father and son Civil War Veterans

Our chapter finances are in proper order through the direction of John Gennaria. Camp Secretary, Jack Ertell thoroughly completes all forms and correspondence required by the state, and keeps us informed on local activities. Brothers Harold & Harvey Gennaria, two of our camp founders, are the mainstay of our Camp.

Many of our brothers are involved in other Civil War & historical organizations, which makes the discussions at our meetings informative and lively.

For information on Camp #90, contact Camp Commander Wayne Blattner 610-948-6285 or email wblattner1@comcast.net

ATTENTION ALL CAMPS!

Please keep your e-mail addresses up to date. Notify the individuals listed below if you plan to change your e-mail address. Each Camp Commander, Secretary or designated member should check the Department Website and send the Camps' Point of Contact, address, phone number and e-mail address (if applicable) to the webmaster so the page can be brought up to date. Also, send updated roster including e-mail addresses of all members to: Bob Shaffer, Dept. Newsletter Editor (rshaffer24@yahoo.com) and the Dept. Secretary, Robert E. Graves (robbiegraves@msn.com) to keep our mailing list up to date.

Camp #120 - Washington



During 2007 the brothers of Washington camp 120 have been concentrating on the cleanup and maintenance of the Salem Methodist church cemetery. There are several civil war soldiers who fought on both sides buried in this cemetery. While the church associated with the cemetery has been closed for a number of years there is an active effort to restore and maintain the cemetery. Our last act of the year was to initiate a request to the veterans administration for a marker for the last Civil War soldier in the cemetery who was walking one.

It is our plan to install and dedicate this marker at the camps annual memorial service which will be held at the Salem cemetery. A number of brothers from Camp 120 have spent many hours over several weekends cleaning up and maintaining the cemetery. After upcoming moral service all of those who served in the civil war and are interred in the cemetery will have markers indicating their service and marking their grades.

I have enclosed a photo of how the cemetery looked at the conclusion of one of our work sessions in the spring.

During the regular meetings of the camp we review research into the history of the civil war ancestors of the brothers and discuss the history of the battles in which they were engaged.

Camp 141 – Bradford County



PVT Silas Gore Camp 141 from Bradford County has been pretty busy this past year despite our small size. Earlier in the year we had been approached concerning the condition of two small family cemeteries in the county, both very much overgrown and in sad shape. Contained in the

first were three civil war graves, one almost unreadable and another that was unmarked. We were not able to do anything this year with that cemetery, but do plan on attacking it this spring. The other cemetery was taken on by member Phil Herman of Towanda and cleared of brush in a couple of days of hard work, resulting in quite a transformation!

Just prior to Memorial Day we were able to dedicate five new gravestones in three other local cemeteries. These graves had been identified earlier in the grave registration program. These included four civil war veterans as well as an unmarked grave of an 1812 vet. Of particular note, the first grave dedicated was for William Chamberlain from the Wysox area. William had died of wounds after Gettysburg and a local man who had traveled to the battlefield a few days before accidentally found William. He had known the boy's family and brought the body home. This was even more special in the fact that we had several family descendants on hand.

We were invited to participate in the Owego, NY Memorial Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery. We were the only local unit not already committed to a service and we were able to provide a little support in the form of Commander Hall and his son Ethan as SUV representatives. The previous year 40 of 80 civil war gravestones had been vandalized in the cemetery. A local Vietnam veteran and his wife had stepped forward and offered to repair the damage. In the months before the service they had repaired all the damaged stones as well as straightening the 40 remaining stones. Though space and time is limited in this forum for the whole telling of the story, one comment is needed. When asked why he did it, the man simply replied "it was the right thing to do".

In October, member Ethan Hall started his Eagle Scout project of registering the civil war veterans in the LeRaysville Cemetery and identifying those in need of replacement gravestones. Four were located, including two whom had died in service, one in Washington DC and the other being killed at Second Bull Run. The latter stone was knocked over and covered by layers of dirt and leaves. It had also been broken. This stone will be placed in the spring. The stones were placed and three others repaired as well as many dead trees taken down and brush cut and cleaned up. We plan on a dedication /Eagle Scout ceremony in the spring.

Camp 141 is a small unit and as with most rural camps has a hard time recruiting members. However, Bradford County has rich Civil War history and we hope we can remember it in our small way by ensuring that all Civil War vets here have a gravestone. The local members here have replaced many damaged and/or illegible stones over the last few years, but more importantly, we have placed new stones on 18 unmarked graves, with several more identified.

Camp 273 – Bangor

The year 2007 is now in the past and, under the leadership of Camp Commander Kimber Smith, it will be

remembered as a very productive year for Camp 273. Our members are continuing to vigorously represent the Sons at most annual activities. Several members serve as state and national officers while remaining active on the local level.

We had four members attend the Lincoln Luncheon in Gettysburg and several more attend the Appomattox Luncheon in Williamsport. Our Memorial Day observance, at the Slate Belt Heritage Center in Bangor, took place in front of the Civil War Monument, erected a few years ago by Brother and newly elected 2008 Camp Commander, Dane DiFebo.

The Department of Pennsylvania's 127th Encampment was attended by Brothers Smith, DiFebo, the McNulty's, Graves, Houston, Carty, Correll, and Schmincke. The Campfire program was MC'd by CC Kimber Smith. Kim was also instrumental in arranging the wonderful performance by the team of "Night & Day", the evening's entertainment of dance and song.

Several camp members proudly attended the Gettysburg Remembrance Day celebration including the dedication at our Pennsylvania monument, parade and dinner when John T. McNulty served as Master of Ceremonies. Our newest member, Bro. Tom Cadmus, attended Remembrance Day as his first camp activity. Speaking of membership, Searfoss Camp's roll was increased by five this year; two new members and three transfers.

A local Eagle Scout project to enhance the Veteran's Memorial at St. John's Cemetery in Bangor was eagerly supported by Camp members, Billy Webb, a local Boy Scout, made a presentation to our camp earlier in the year when we decided to support his efforts to add a 30' walkway, granite monument and flags to the memorial mausoleum at the same cemetery our own Joel Searfoss is buried. The mausoleum contains the tomb of the last surviving Civil War veteran from the Slate Belt area, Isaac Shimer, a member of the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry. A GAR plaque was also installed at the site in honor of the Camp's support. An Eagle Scout Ceremony was held in Roseto, PA on January 19 where Camp 273 was very well represented.

Joel Searfoss Camp ended 2007 with our traditional holiday dinner meeting at the Galley Restaurant in Wind Gap. Camp Commander Kimber D. Smith officiated during an installation of new officers including our new commander for 2008, Bro. Dane DiFebo. Dane is currently a History Major at Ursinus College and a member of Phi Alpha Theta International History Honor Society. He has some new Camp projects in mind for 2008 and we're looking forward to continued enthusiastic leadership in the coming year. One of the activities already being planned is hosting the Lincoln

Luncheon at the Best Western in Bethlehem on Saturday, February 9th (same place as PA 2007 encampment).

Brothers, Your Department Needs YOUR Help

Brothers, your Department needs YOUR help. While we are not in the throes of financial ruin, the financial work of our mission is almost entirely dependent upon the payment of per capita, which is only six dollars per member. We do a lot with what we receive, from monument preservation to educational programs. Imagine however, what we can do if every brother contributed just five more dollars. At roughly 800 members, that five dollars would turn into \$4,000! More monuments could be preserved, more programs could be presented, and the public could be better informed about our Nation's history and the glorious contributions of the men of the Grand Army of the Republic. Our history and traditions will have a better chance of being preserved for generations to come.

If you would like to make a *tax-deductible* contribution in any amount to help YOUR Department fulfill its mission to protect and preserve the memory of the G.A.R., please make a check payable to **PA Department, SUVCW** and send to:

**Robert E. Graves, PCC
Sec./Treas., PA Dept.
827 S. Jefferson St., Apt. 4
Allentown, PA 18103**

Your cancelled check will be your receipt, but if you would like a receipt from the Department for your tax records, enclose a brief note with your check and I will send you one.

Brothers, thank you for reading this letter and your Department thanks you for your help.

Auto License Plate in Aluminum

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S&H**



**Full
Color
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**Send to: Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15
C/O Donald W. Prye II
RR 4, Box 4790, Mifflintown, PA 17059-9663**

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Due to monetary constraints, only one copy of the Department Newsletter will be sent per member address.

Registration Graves Project

As Department Graves Registration Officer, I am asking for your help. Entering names into the database must be done one at a time. One person cannot do this for the entire state, it would take years! So I am asking all camps to appoint a Graves registration officer and anyone within the camp that has internet access to help him. Starting with camp records, enter those names in the database.

Any visit to a cemetery you can find head stones sunk, broken and worn away. Add to that many cemeteries' are going out of business and have been abandoned, their records lost. Indeed, many such records have already been lost to fires, floods, and just plain neglect. So, we must act now to preserve as much of this information as possible.

Many of our counties have this information at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Please join me in this effort to "preserve the memory of those who fought to preserve the Union"

In F.C. & L

Ray Sulger, Dept. of PA G.R.O.

martock999@yahoo.com (570) 346-8016

All Brothers:

As Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a patriotic and educational organization, we are obligated by our very membership to show respect for the flag of our country and to encourage others to do the same. However, I have noticed an appalling lack of respect for our flag in various segments of our society. People of all ages and demographics fail to render honors to the flag as it passes by during parades. During one parade in which our Camp participated, I observed Policemen, ROTC uniformed members, Firemen, EMS personnel and other citizens fail to recognize the colors as they passed by. One older gentleman did place his hand over his heart, quickly looked around, saw no one else doing so, and dropped his hand as if embarrassed.

As a recent example, I have noticed at local high school football games, during the playing of the National Anthem, most people stand and remove their hats as requested, but continue to talk among themselves or continue to conduct business at the concession stand. I have noticed teachers talking to students, students talking and carrying on with their friends and people ignoring basic flag etiquette. Many other sporting events do not even play the Anthem prior to the event. I have noticed flag patches on one high school hockey team affixed to half the player's right side of their jersey while the other half wore them on the left side. Recently, a situation developed in Pittsburgh involving the Steelers and the NFL. Because of the downpour before November 26, 2007 game, the plug was pulled on the performance of the National Anthem.

One must wonder why a nationally broadcast football game began without the traditional singing of the National Anthem. The National Anthem led off every NFL football game in memory. Officials with the NFL took full responsibility for the decision. They said it was, based on their, "priority to get the game going after its initial delay."

Apparently were concerns that setting up a microphone and other electrical gear on a swamped field might take much longer than normal and be hazardous. The alternative would have been to play a recording of the anthem; it's not certain if the league considered this option.

While ESPN was worried about losing numerous TV viewers who might tune in for the game, only to flip channels during the delay and not return, ESPN spokesman Bill Hofheimer said it was the league's call to bypass the anthem.

The Steelers said they received no complaints Monday night about the skipped anthem. This, I find is totally unacceptable.

The anthem's absence would not have been noticed by TV viewers. With the exception of the Super Bowl, National anthems are rarely televised during NFL games.

The NFL's decision to bypass the anthem was surprising if only because American soldiers continue to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan and the league often have embraced patriotic themes.

Prior to this no other known instance of the anthem being skipped before a major American pro sports league game of recent vintage, except for mechanical or electronic problems. But the NFL is not alone in its choice of failing to honor our Nation's Flag and Anthem. In a related incident, more than 74,000 hockey fans spent New Year's Day 2008 braving wintry conditions to watch the first outdoor NHL game played in the United States, at Ralph Wilson Stadium, home of NFL team the Buffalo Bills. Ralph Wilson Stadium is a football stadium located in the town of Orchard Park, a suburb of Buffalo, New York. Prior to the start of this game, The Canadian National Anthem was sung, followed by, not the American Anthem, but God Bless America. Again, no complaints were raised and apparently no one noticed. I contacted the Pittsburgh Penguins and the NHL via email questioning this decision, but have received no response back as January 13, 2008.

I call on all Brothers of the SUVCW as well as all members of the Allied Orders to set the example and pay closer attention to what is occurring. Do not be afraid or embarrassed to call attention to the fact that the flag is approaching. I for one, have been in contact with several local school districts advising them that members of our Camp would be available to speak to their students on flag etiquette. So far, one school has accepted. I urge all Camps to contact your local schools and civic organizations. Do not become discouraged by lack of responses, keep trying. Together, we can stop this slide toward apathy.

Yours in FC&L

Richard Essenwein

Department of PA, Patriotic Instructor

Credential Cards

If your intention is to make either the Department Encampment in June 2008 or the National Encampment in August 2008, please make sure you obtain a signed card before making either event.

The Credential Card for the Department Encampment can be obtained from your Camp Secretary and must be filled out fully so that you have the right to participate during the business meetings and vote.

The Credential Card for the National Encampment must be filled out fully and signed by the Department Secretary before you are able to participate. So please contact your Camp Secretary or Camp Commander and he obtain these for you from the Department.

The form for the Credential Card is located on the National web site under forms. This is a printable form right off of the site. The site is www.sucvw.org

Please make every effort to have these filled out correctly as it makes it easier for those who do the registration to help you.....

SOLID BRASS BUCKLES

Fits up to 1 - 3/4 inch Belt



Send \$26 + \$4 S&H to:
Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15
C/O Larry C. Sheibley

523 S. Fourth St., Newport, PA 17074-1316

**Department of Pennsylvania
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Annual Encampment
PRE REGISTRATION FORM**

Camp No: _____ Date: _____

Brother: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I am a member in good standing in this camp and my rank in the Order is:

___ CinC ___ PCinC ___ DC

___ PDC ___ CC ___ PCC

Attending as ___ delegate ___ alternate
Pre Registration fee is \$7.00 by 6/10/08
\$10.00 at encampment

Make check payable to: **PA Dept., SUVCW**

And send to: Secretary/Treasurer:

Robert Graves
827 S. Jefferson St., Apt. 4
Allentown, PA. 18103

ITEM #1	ITEM #2	ITEM #3
MAGNETIC RIBBONS		

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:		ORDER FORM
Lt. Ezra Oriffin Camp #8		SEND ORDERS TO:
NAME _____		H.F. WOLFE CO.
ADDRESS _____		P.O. BOX 65
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____		DALTON, PA. 18414
\$5.00 EACH PLUS \$2.00 SHIPPING		COST (TOTAL) \$ _____
QUANTITY	ITEM #1	ITEM #2
_____	_____	_____
	ITEM #3	SHIPPING \$ _____
	_____	TOTAL DUE \$ _____

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT**

**SHIRTS ON SALE WITH EMBROIDERED
LOGO OR CREST**

\$25.00



INDIGO DENIM
LONG SLEEVE
SHIRT ABOVE
LEFT POCKET

\$20.00



NAVY SHORT
SLEEVE SHIRT
ON RIGHT SIDE

A PORTION OF ALL SHIRT SALES WILL GO TO BENEFIT THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT

ORDER FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Golf Shirt	\$20.00	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	Total
Denim Shirt	\$25.00	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	

Send Orders & Check to:
H.F. Wolfe Co.
P.O. Box 65
Dalton, Pa. 18414

Shipping & Handling \$5.00 up to 3 Shirts

Shirt Cost _____
Shipping _____
Total Due _____

Brothers and Sisters

You are cordially invited to attend the 2008 Department Encampment/Convention of the Allied Orders, which includes the Sons of Union Veterans, Auxiliary to the Sons and the Daughters of Union Veterans. The Encampment/Convention will be held on:

June 19, 20 & 21, 2008

At the
Ramada Inn Historic Ligonier
216 West Loyal Hanna St., Ligonier, PA 15658
(Walking distance to over sixty (60) specialty shops and Fort Ligonier)

Room Rates are:
One queen bed (\$89.00 plus tax); two double beds (\$94.00 plus tax)
Check-in time: 4:00 P.M.

Reservations are to be made under
“GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC”

Please contact the Ramada Inn directly at 724-238-9545
Internet address: www.ramadainnligonier.com
(Please call by **May 25, 2008** to reserve your room within the block)
Meeting facilities are located on the Lobby Level of the hotel.

Driving directions are as follows:

From Points South:

PA Turnpike to Exit 9 (Donegal). Follow Route 711 to Ligonier (12 miles).

From Points North and East:

Route 80 to Route 220 to Route 99 to Route 30; or Route 80 to Route 220 to Route 99, to Route 22 to Route 219 to Route 30 W.

From Points West:

PA Turnpike to Exit 9 (Donegal). Follow Route 711 to Ligonier (12 miles) or Route 30 from Greensburg.

From Points East:

PA Turnpike to Exit 9 (Donegal). Follow Route 711 to Ligonier (12 miles).

We need and would greatly appreciate your support for our upcoming Encampment by your purchase of an ad in the Program Book. Please use the information below to order your ad and send checks made out to:

**Joseph Long Jr.
Encampment Committee
505 Marcy St.
Duryea, PA 18642**

Deadline for receipt of ad/ads is May 22, 2008. Rates are as follows:

Full Page	\$45.00
Half Page	\$25.00
1/4 Page	\$15.00
1/8 page	\$10.00
Name & Title	\$ 3.00
Name	\$ 2.00

If you are not attending the Encampment, but would like an Encampment Booklet sent to you, please indicate:

Yes: _____ No: _____

Please be advised that the Hotel has suggested we have a buffet luncheon on Friday and Saturday. The Hotel has another guest and other events at the same time as our Encampment. The dining room and its staff can only accommodate a certain amount of space and patrons at lunch time; therefore, by agreeing to a buffet would insure us getting back to our afternoon meetings on time. Prior to the Encampment, we will need to know the number of persons who will use the buffet on the above mentioned days. Kindly let us know at the same time you advise us of your joint banquet reservations. Your prompt response to these requests will be greatly appreciated and will insure that the Site Committee has ample time to do a good job!

Lunch Buffet on Friday – Wrap and Soup, \$10.00 per person;
Lunch Buffet on Saturday – Sandwich and Soup, \$10.00 per person.
(coffee, tea, soda is included and is to be paid in advance)

Lunch buffets start at 11:30 A.M.

Friday _____ Name _____
 Friday _____ Name _____
 Saturday _____ Name _____
 Saturday _____ Name _____

Banquet: **Stuffed Pork Chop (\$24.00)** _____ **Carved Breast of Turkey (\$24.00)** _____

_____	_____
NAME	NAME
_____	_____
NAME	NAME

All reservations are to be sent to: **Joseph Long Jr., 505 Marcy St., Duryea, PA 18642** with checks made payable to: **Encampment Committee**. The final date for reservations to be received is **June 03, 2008**.

The Encampment Committee will strive to provide an enjoyable encampment for everyone. We look forward to seeing you in June!

The annual **Appomattox** luncheon will be held on **April 12, 2008** at **1:30 P.M.** at:

The Clarion Hotel
300 Meadow Ave.
Scranton, PA 18505
570-344-9811 or 1-800-804-6835

Menu selections are **Chicken Cordon Bleu** and **Sliced Top Round of Beef**. Cost is \$20.00 per person.
Kindly make your reservation(s) and luncheon selection(s) and remit payment no later than March 20, 2008 to:

Joseph Long Jr.
505 Marcy Street
Duryea, PA 18642-1625
Phone: (570) 457-8438

_____	_____
NAME	SELECTION
_____	_____
NAME	SELECTION
_____	_____
NAME	SELECTION
_____	_____
NAME	SELECTION

If you would like to stay overnight, room rates at the Clarion Hotel are \$75.00 (plus tax).
If registering, please tell the hotel that you will be attending the luncheon on April 12, 2008.
The hotel phone number is 570-344-9811.

NOTE: The Past Commanders and Past Presidents of Pennsylvania will hold a meeting at the
Clarion Hotel on April 12, 2008 at 12:00 A.M.
We hope to see you at the meeting and luncheon.



Robert C. Shaffer
PA Dept. Newsletter Editor
128 Wallace Road
Lake Ariel, PA 18436-9343