Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department,

Happy New Year to all. I hope everyone is doing well and in good health. It has been an interesting time since I became Department Commander. The national news blew up with stories about the Confederate flag and Confederate monuments. Emotions ran high and people were killed or injured in protests. There were threats against our own SVR's Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg resulting in heavy police presence. Huzzah to those other men and women in blue! Everything went off without a hitch! Huzzah to the SVR for everything they had to do to make this happen! Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders and our Confederate Cousins marched in the pouring rain and cold to remember our ancestors. With all of the current events, the 2017 National Encampment approved a new Battlefield Flag and Monument Policy. This policy has caused some consternation among Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department as expressed to me by Camps and individuals in e-mails and phone calls. I'm sure that the issue will come up at this year's Department Encampment so if you have a problem with it please come to Williamsport in June to discuss and vote on it!

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the members of the Allied Orders that sent condolences to my family last year. My Uncle James E. Mason Jr. passed away last January, my Grandmother Arlene M. Carty passed away in August at age 99, and my Step-Father Harry K. Mertz Jr. passed away from pancreatic cancer in September.

In October I had to suspend five Camps that lost their tax status due to not filing their 990Ns with the IRS. This can be a long process to fix and it will cost the Camps a $400 fee to the IRS. Please make sure that your Camps are filing the 990N. It is so simple to do online, it only takes five minutes and prevents so much trouble for the Order. Likewise the Patriotic Instructor report is important. The IRS wants to know that we are doing what our Order is supposed to be doing. The Patriotic Instructor report creates a record of what the Camp has done in the past year. This data is tabulated and given to the IRS to prove that we are doing our job. When I was Department Patriotic Instructor I received reports from less than half of the Camps. That sort of thing can no longer happen, the IRS is watching. In government, if something hasn't been documented it hasn't been done. If your Camp does not have a Patriotic Instructor, appoint one and make sure that the report gets done and sent to our Department Patriotic Instructor Dane A. DiFebo, PCC.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alfred C. Carty

Pennsylvania Department Commander, SUVCW
FROM THE EDITOR:

Commander and Fellow Brothers:

I would like to thank all those who have made submissions to this year’s Battle Cry of Freedom. It is great to have your support, but we must try to get others to follow. Each year we have mostly the same Camps sending information and sometimes we may get a few new ones.

All events are important and we need to get the news out to everyone as to what your Camp has done during the year.

Please try to help me next year by submitting any articles, pictures, etc. There is nothing to small. My deadline is always January 15th of the new year.

Yours in F, C & L,

Robert C. Shaffer, Editor
It has been another long and eventful year for the Brothers and Sisters of Camp #8 and Auxiliary #10 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Not only did we add on a 2nd Open House for Research; but we held our monthly meetings followed by our regular Open House for most of the year.

We have raised money for our book binding project and many of our old books have been restored and placed in our Library. We have also worked with the Lackawanna County Library System and the Lackawanna County Historical Society with adding our books to their book library catalog, a venture that has long at last been completed.

On January 21st, 2017, the Sons held their Installation of Officers for the New Year. After the Installation of Officers, Ladies Auxiliary #10 was invited in to watch as Hal Myers was ushered in as Commander.

After the Installation of Commander Myers, an Award Presentation was held to honor Howard Wolfe for all his service in the Camp; followed by Plaques of Recognition that were given to Jerry O'Malley, Ireland Myers, Mark and Alana Zurinski and Dorothy Kelly for all their help with the Library project.

At the March 25th meeting, Commander Hal Myers gives awards to David Teeters and Giovan Lisi.
On that same day, Camp #8 member, Giovan Lisi donated a Confederate bumper cap to the Museum that he had gotten in Gettysburg in November.

After the meeting Camp #8 and Auxiliary #10 celebrated Commander Hal Myers 79th birthday with a cake made by Camp Secretary Shaffer’s youngest daughter, Mallory Shaffer, cake decorator at the Dunmore Price Chopper Bakery.

On  April 9th, both Camp #8 and Auxiliary #10 held a first fundraiser of the year at UNO Pizzeria in Dickson City, PA. Members and family came out to support our cause and came away with bellies full of delicious food.

On April 22nd, PCC Craig Kelly receives the Commander’s Award for his meritorious service.
On April 29th, Camp #8 and Auxiliary #10 held Lincoln Day at the Museum. The Scranton Library and approximately 40 children visited and toured the Museum. Susan Mertz dresses and portrayed Mary (Todd) Lincoln. Alana Zurinski talked about Mary (Todd) Lincoln after the assassination of President Lincoln, and woman’s clothing during the Civil War era.

On May 6th, Camp #8 and Ladies Auxiliary #10 spruced up both Forest Hill Cemetery and the Dunmore Cemetery in anticipation for Memorial Day weekend. Flags were replaced and old ones disposed of correctly.

On May 9th, Ladies Auxiliary #10 member Barbara Strangfeld gave a talk at the Civil War Roundtable at the Lackawanna Historical Society.

At the May 20th meeting, Camp #8 along with Auxiliary #10 held their annual Departed Brothers Ceremony.

Those honored were: Henry Bodtke 1934; Frank W. Carey 1934; Samuel G. Cobb 1934; A.E. Curtis 1934; Joseph G. Cahoon 1935; Albert B. Mott 1935; John L. Vliet 1935; Howard W. Archer 1936; John S. Davis 1936; L.B. Fowler 1936; Benjamin Hughes 1936; H.T. Madden 1936; Samuel Dawson 1937; Joseph Fadden 1937; William B. Birtley 1938; William J. Jenkins 1938; W.J. Lewis Jr. 1938; John Reid 1938; Stephen A. Cahoon 1939; Charles A. Battenburg 1940.

On May 30th, Camp #8 along with Auxiliary #10 held their Memorial Day Service at the veterans plot in the Dunmore Cemetery. Guest Speaker was PA Senator John Blake. Greetings were done by Auxiliary President Susan Mertz, Mary Jo Long spoke about the Women’s Relief Corps, and Scott Teeters gave the opening prayer and benediction.

On June 4th, Camp members Jerry O’Malley and Mark Zurinski were at the Court of Honor for Scouts Trevor Sabian and Brandon Kelleher in Clarks Summit.
On June 17th, Commander Myers gave to longtime member and Camp Secretary Bob Shaffer the Commander’s Award for his dedication as Secretary. Shaffer is pictured with his family, daughter Danielle Shaffer, Past President of Auxiliary #10, Jr. Member and niece, Larissa Ellsworth, daughter Mallory Ellsworth and wife Jean Shaffer.

On June 17th, we had a special guest at the Museum, author Jim Rensen with his book “Em battled Freedom”. He later signed books for those interested.

On July 4th, members of the Camp and Auxiliary participated in the Mayor’s Flag Day at Nay Aug Park, Dunmore, PA. Members in attendance were Giovan Lisi, Mark Zurinski, David Teeters and Joe Long.
On September 2nd and 3rd, members of the Camp and Auxiliary participated at Railfest at the Steamtown National Park. Camp members on hand were Commander Hal Myers, Jerry O’Malley, Mark Zurinski, and Bob Shaffer; Auxiliary members were Alana Zurinski, Danielle Shaffer and Jr. member Larissa Ellsworth. The Shaffer family was visiting on Saturday and joined in helping for a few hours!

On October 1st and the 8th, members held a table loaded with materials at the Departed Players Tour at the Dunmore Cemetery hosted by Auxiliary member Julie Esty.

On October 5th, Alana Zurinski participated in Scranton Reads.

On October 14th, the GAR Museum and Library hosted members from the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Camp members in attendance were Joe Long, Mark Zurinski and Commander Hal Myers; Ladies Auxiliary members in attendance were Alana Zurinski and Roseann Martinetti.
On October 20th, Commander Hal Myers and Jerry O’Malley gave a lecture at the Museum entitled “War on the Homefront” to the Scranton Reads Committee. The presentation was about the Civil War on the homefront as seen in the book Gilead. Visitors were later able to explore the GAR Museum and Library.

On October 21st, Camp #8 held their Nominations of Officers for 2018. Nominees were: Commander – Mark Zurinski, SVC – Jim Jones, JVC – Jerry Skotleski, Secretary – Bob Shaffer, Treasurer – Joe Long.

On October 25th, Camp #8 and Auxiliary #10 members participated in a fundraiser held at the Friendly’s Restaurant in Dunmore, PA.

On October 28th, Scranton Reads had a program at the Museum to read and discuss letters and journals from the GAR Library.

November 12th, Lackawanna County Medal of Honor Recipients Dedication at McDade Park in Scranton was attended by Camp #8 and Auxiliary #10.

From November 17th to the 19th, members of Camp #8 and Auxiliary #10 participated in the Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg. Camp member Giovan Lisi carried the Camp flag.

On November 18th, after our monthly meeting, we held our Christmas Party. Fun was had by all. It has been a productive year and we hope to carry on our work for many years to come!
2017 was an active year for Camp 15!

The Camp continued its recruiting efforts at several admission free events held by the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg where our Camp holds its monthly meetings. These included the museum’s free admission day in February and the museum’s part in the Harrisburg Civil War Days events which took place from June 16-18. In both cases, the Camp staffed recruiting booths and the June event included participation of several Camp #15 Brothers along with their fellow members of Cooper’s Battery B in providing artillery demonstrations on the museum grounds.

Camp #15 Members participated in Department and National activities in 2017, sending 2 delegates to the Department Encampment near Pittsburgh and 1 delegate to the National Encampment in Lansing, Michigan. We continued to actively remember the memory of the Boys in Blue by marching in both the Gettysburg Memorial Day parade and the Remembrance Day parade, in both cases for our 14th consecutive year. We again decorated veteran’s graves for Memorial Day at the Old Harrisburg City Cemetery which is a long standing Camp #15 tradition.

Camp #15 began its participation in the Gettysburg National Military Park’s Adopt-A-Position program in 2015 and continued with it again this year. We adopted the Knapp’s Battery position on Culp’s Hill and had an even larger turn out for the work day this year fall than last. Camp Brothers continued their efforts to maintain the area not just around the main monument but also the general area surrounding it. A spring 2018 trip is currently being planned.

Camp #15 rounded out its year with our annual Camp Christmas party, held at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg and everyone enjoyed a fine day of fellowship. The catered meal was fantastic as usual and the bingo prizes were excellent. Installation of officers took place and Logan Swanger was installed as our new Camp Commander. 2017 marked another productive year for Camp #15 and we look forward to continuing our mission in 2018!

At the time of this submission, Camp #15 is in the process of planning a catered luncheon in May to honor Brother Dave Klinepeter, PCC on the occasion of his 75th anniversary as a Member of the SUVCW and Camp 15. Brother Dave has served our Camp faithfully as a Past Camp Commander and for many years as our Patriotic Instructor. He is a founding member of the Victorian Dance Ensemble and Knapp’s Battery reenacting group as well as many other historical and living history organizations. Congratulations on 75 years of service to the SUVCW, Dave, and we wish you many more!
GENERAL GEORGE H. THOMAS – CAMP #19 - LANCASTER

In February 2017, the grave of Major General John F. Reynolds, Lancaster native and hero of the Civil War, was vandalized with one of the artillery shells flanking his grave marker being stolen. The members of Camp #19, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) in cooperation with the staff of Lancaster Cemetery have spearheaded the replacement of the artillery shell and effected repairs and upgrades designed to maintain the dignity of the gravesite and prevent future theft.

A replacement cannonball has been procured and new bases for the display of both shells on either side of the monument will be delivered in the coming weeks. Once the new bases are obtained, the members of Camp #19 will do the work of removing the old, deteriorating bases and install the new ones. We anticipate this work being done in late April or early May so that the gravesite will be restored for the Memorial Day ceremony on May 29th.

Memorial Day Services were held on May 29th at the Lancaster Cemetery with members of Camp #19 along with the American Legion Post #34 and flowers were done by Paulette. Remarks were made by a U.S. Congressman, a Lancaster County Commissioner, and Camp brother Glenn B. Knight, PDC, CIG. The theme was “One Rose for Every Headstone” and over 1000 roses were placed on veterans headstones throughout the cemetery. There was a 21-gun salute, honor guard, the singing of the National Anthem, a bugler played taps, flag ceremony and bagpipe music.

Services were also held at the General F. Reynolds family burial grounds.
Captain E.M. Ruhl Camp #33 of York now participates in the Gettysburg NMP “Adopt a Position” program. The largest GAR Post in York County was General John Sedgwick Post #37, so Camp #33 adopted the monument of General Sedgwick and the 6th Army Corps headquarters marker area.

On Saturday, October 28th, six members worked to clean up the position for the fall, and to get the park ready for Remembrance Day. Camp members’ cut grass, trimmed undergrowth in the surrounding area, picked up trash and tree limbs, and cleaned up fallen leaves. The NPS provided all of the equipment to do the work, including gas for the mower, weed whackers, and a leaf blower. It took about two hours to accomplish all of the work to make the 6th Corps area look good to present a nice appearance for Remembrance Day. Camp #33 will again do this in the spring of 2018 to get the battlefield ready for the 2018 tourist season at Gettysburg.

Several members of Camp #33 also participated in York County Veterans Day services, with PDC Ivan Frantz, Jr. sounding TAPS for the Military Honors that were rendered by the Honor Guard.

Several members of Camp #33 also participated in several of the events for Remembrance Day, with PDC Ivan Frantz, Jr. sounding TAPS at the ceremony that was held at the Memorial to the Grand Army of the Republic (more commonly known as the Woolson Monument). This ceremony is the real reason for Remembrance Day, which started in 1956 when this monument was dedicated only one month after Comrad Woolson died.
GENERAL JAMES A. GARFIELD CAMP #34 – MOUNT CARMEL

Keeping fresh the memory of the Boys in Blue, Garfield Camp was active during the Memorial Day holiday. On Sunday, May 28th, Mount Carmel’s monthly (Changing of the Colors” flag ceremony was held in memory and honor of Henry Golder who served as a Private in Company B, 103rd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th, the Camp held its Memorial Service at the Grave of George Washington Raudenbush in Mount Carmel Cemetery. A former Northumberland County Commissioner, Raudenbush served as a Corporal in Company E, 55th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

The Camp also decorated the graves of nearly 200 Civil War and Spanish American War Veterans with American flags in six local cemeteries in Northumberland and Columbia Counties.

Small in numbers (18 members and 2 junior members), Garfield is a member of the Mount Carmel Area Joint Veterans Committee where Commander David Berezovske serves as its secretary. The Camp is also the oldest Veteran affiliated organization in Mount Carmel. Commander Berezovske also attended the 134th Encampment in Cranberry Township.

Commander David Berezovske presented SUVCW Eagle Scout Commendation Certificates and Patches to four Eagle Scouts of BSA Troop #625 at their Court of Honor on Sunday, April 2, 2017, at Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Schuylkill Haven. In the photograph are (L to R) Connor Raymond, Joseph Ebling, Berezovske, Nathan Bates and Ryan Potts.
The Baker-Fisher Camp #101 had a very busy year. After gaining 3 new Brothers the previous year, namely Bill Meehan, Robert Clare and Glenn Roedel, we processed applications for 3 more in 2017. In the spring, we welcomed a father and son team - William and Ander Massinger - and shortly thereafter we added Keith Moylan to our ranks.

Initiation of William and Ander Massinger to Baker-Fisher Camp #101. Pete Romeika (Chaplain), Walt Lafty (PI), Ander Massinger, Wm. Massinger, and Brother Dave O’Daniel (left to right in foreground.)

Initiation of Keith Moylan to Baker-Fisher Camp#101. Left to right – Brother Keith Moylan, Walt Lafty (PI), Dan Gargel (Secretary), Mike Peter (CC), Pete Romeika (Chaplain), and Reg Wirth (Treasurer).

In March, a few of our members attended a luncheon to benefit the GAR Museum & Library in Philadelphia, which is held annually at the Cannstatter German Club, and later that month, we were represented at the Gun Show in Audubon, PA. In late April, a number of our Brothers supported the 28th Annual Neshaminy State Park Civil War Reenactment held on the weekend of April 28th, 2017 in Bensalem, PA.

28th Annual Neshaminy State Park Civil War Reenactment. Left to Right, Brothers Dave Ashcroft, Ander Massinger, and Dave O’Daniel.
The strongest turnout however was evident when the Camp participated in several Memorial Day events over the course of that weekend. On Saturday, May 27th, the camp went to the Hatboro Baptist church to honor original post member Benjamin Propert (photo), who was a member of Company I, 114th Pennsylvania, Collis Zouaves. We were joined by Mr. Paul Lader, Esq., whose wife is a descendant of Propert. Baker-Fisher Camp also supported Memorial Day events at the Montgomery Cemetery in West Norriton and the Hatboro Cemetery on the same day; and on Monday the 29th, we were able to support the Langhorne, PA Memorial Day parade.

Memorial Day Weekend ceremony at the Hatboro Baptist Church. Left to right, Front - Mike Peter, Walt Lafty. Middle – Steve Worthington, Wm. Massinger, Ander Massinger, Glenn Roedel, John McNulty, Jeff Heagy. Rear – Paul Lader, Robert Clare, Dave Ashcroft, Dave O’Daniel, Dan Gargel, Al Farr, and Bill Burkhimer.

Memorial Day Weekend ceremony at the Montgomery County Cemetery. Left to right, Front – Pete Romeika, Dave O’Daniel, Dave Ashcroft, Steve Worthington, Walt Lafty, Mike Ciotti & Mike Ciotti Jr., and Mike Peter(CC). Middle – Bill Burkhimer Al, Farr, Robert Clare, Wm. Massinger, and Ander Massinger. Back row – Keith Moylan, Glenn Roedel, and Dan Gargel.

During the summer, the Camp was represented again this year at the Department Encampment by Brothers John McNulty (PDC) and Camp Commander Mike Peter. In September, the Camp had the honor to participate in the headstone dedication for Sergeant Richard A. Moylan of the 53rd PA Volunteer Infantry, held at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Richard Moylan is the ancestor of Brother Keith Moylan, and Keith did an excellent job of coordinating a fine ceremony attended by family, members of the Wyndmoor VFW, the American Legion Glenside Post, and the 53rd PA Volunteer Infantry (Re-enactors).

Headstone dedication for Sergeant Richard A. Moylan. Left to right- Br. Gary Oswald, Br. Al Farr, and Br. Dave O’Daniel along with two members of the 53rd PA Volunteer Infantry (Re-enactors) who participated in the ceremony.
As the fall and winter rolled in, Baker-Fisher Camp 101 supported the Langhorne Harvest day community event in late October, which was a great opportunity to reach out to the public and spread the word about the SUVCW mission. Finally, on December 31st, a few Brothers supported the annual Birthday ceremony for General George Meade along with other organizations at the Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Brothers Glenn Roedel (left) and Bill Burkheimer (JVC) in front of the Baker-Fisher Camp #101 table at the Langhorne Harvest Day Event in October.

Brothers Glenn Roedel (left) and Mike Peter (CC) are prepared for the wreath-laying as part of the General Meade Birthday graveside ceremony, along with other participants and spectators. Other Brothers in attendance but not shown are Dave Ashcroft, Dave O’Daniel, Walt Lafty, Bill Burkheimer, William Massinger and Ander Massinger.

The Brothers of Baker-Fisher Camp look forward to another productive year, and would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year.
The Private Silas Gore Camp #141 of the Sons of Union Veterans again participated in a Senior Day Expo in Athens, PA. Each year this Camp assists interested parties in learning of their local Civil War ancestors. The work of the Camp is facilitated by an author from the later 1800’s, Clement Heverly, who compiled information about the over 5000 soldiers from Bradford County who participated in our Civil War.

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HISTORY’S SENTINELS
By Kurt D. Lafy

Almost immediately following America’s great Civil War, the country was awash with a sense of wanting to commemorate that which the nation had endured. For Bradford County, situated in northeast Pennsylvania, a patriotic fervor resonated deeply within the populace. While surely their bent was not uncommon across the breadth of our land, they would rival all with a willingness to commemorate the American Civil War. Commencing in 1868, the county began and continued erecting monuments into the 20th century.

Following the National Commander of the GAR, General John A. Logan’s General Order #11, the local Watkins Post #68 of the GAR placed a tablet to commemorate the very first Decoration Day, May 30, 1868. Upon it was chiseled the reason for it creation, “to keep alive in the memory of their descendants, the good deeds of their companions in arms who fell during the great rebellion.

A scant three years later, the berg of East Smithfield, who had sacrificed 54 souls to the war, raised the princely sum of $1000.00 to have their marble, obelisk style marker installed. Upon it were forever inscribed the names of these brave and never-to-be-forgotten citizens.

In 1898, the town of Ulster, whose local cemetery was fast filling with the burials of Civil War veterans, chose to continue the honors. The Gilmour Post #227 of the GAR, named for a perished soldier, Thomas M. Gilmour, spearhead this project. They too raised the $1000 necessary to have their want come to fruition. The town festooned itself in grand style and, on Saturday, May 14, the Gilmour Post hosted the dedication.

Late in the 19th century plans had been hatched for a county wide monument. It was destined to be erected in Towanda, the county seat, and still stands in front of the court house. The grand scheme included 5 statues, 4 depicting the branches of the service while the top most was fashioned after a color bearer. Also were two bronze reliefs depicting the Battles of Antietam and Gettysburg.

The monument was to stand 34 feet tall and measure 20 feet across its circular base. The cost was a staggering $18,000. It would take several years to raise the money and have the monument erected. Dedication took place on an icy cold November day in 1901. The number of participants, of which over 300 were Civil War veterans, was enormous. Coupled with the throng of spectators, it was a spectacle never before seen in this rural town. Due to the weather’s harshness, as soon as the monument was unveiled, the assemblage retired into the rotunda of the court house. Unfortunately for many, the space was limited and many could not enter. They prudently went home. What they missed was notable. Major General Dan Sickles, who, as past commander of the 3rd Corp, under which many of the assemblage had served, was a speaker. As he had lost a leg at Gettysburg, one can envision how he surely hobbled up the steps to the top of the rotunda. He placed his crutch on the banister and began his oration. He stated that he was not there to speak. Rather, he was there to greet old friends. His old soldiers erupted in cheers and gave him 3 resounding HUZZAHS!
The county was not finished. The town of Athens erected their “Soldiers Monument” in 1902. Adorning its top was a bronze statue of a soldier who held a rifle in one hand and the flag and a drummer boy in the other. *Pro Patria et Gloria (and glory for their country)* was inscribed. This magnificent structure was dedicated to the “soldiers who fought in defense of the flag.”

In addition, there are two church, stained glass windows, The Grand Army of the Republic Highway, US Route 6, which courses through the county and, lastly, a monument to Henry J. Madill, “the old colonel,” of the 141st PVI. In total, Bradford County holds nine monuments to the Civil War.

One would think the story ends here. While there are no new Civil War monuments planned, a branch of the Sons of Union Veterans, the Silas Gore Camp #141, has taken up the gauntlet of “taking care of all things Civil War related.” Monuments have been cleaned and, the very first one, the Watkins Post #68, is undergoing an extensive preservation effort. These efforts will ensure Bradford County’s Civil War monuments will continue to be the “Sentinels of History.”

*For more information: SilasGoreCamp.org*
Sgt. Jones Bradbury Camp #149 members held their annual remembrance ceremony for their Camp's namesake, Jones Bradbury. The ceremony is held at the Calvary Episcopal Church, on the anniversary of his death. Sgt. Bradbury was killed just days prior to the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House.

L-R: George Roccas, Tom Herman, PCC Steve Parsons, Mike O’Neal, Chaplain Joe Boyce, Brian Lefko, PCC Reed Howard, Lonny Pacana, PCC Richard Brooks, PCC Jim Lawler, Auxillary Member Aldeth Pacana, PCC John O’Neal, Commander Don Stow, Bill Ogden, PCC Andy Lefko
2017 was a productive year for the brothers of Joel Searfoss Camp #273. The brothers made some positive headway on two long-term projects that they have been trying to complete for several years—getting a replacement military headstone for the Camp’s namesake (a veteran of the 50th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry) and putting up a marker for the last Union veteran from Pennsylvania’s Slate Belt region to pass away (Isaac Shimer, a veteran of the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry and Civil War prisoner of war).

In March, Brothers Don Houston, Edwin Hart III, and Edwin Hart IV presented new Eagle Scout Nicholas LaRoza, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania’s Troop 318, a Sons certificate of award. At that month’s meeting new Brothers Stephen Lance and Ronald Paff were initiated.

A Memorial Day program and meeting was held on May 28th at the Slate Belt Heritage Center in Bangor, PA. The Heritage Center is an ethnic history, industrial history, and fire museum in Bangor. The new temporary exhibit in the room where the camp held their meeting features a display of the community’s response to and participation in World War II. This meeting was follow by the placing of a wreath at the grave of Camp #273’s namesake, Joel Searfoss in the Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery in Bangor.

At the Department Encampment in June, Brother Chris Carty, Camp #273’s Secretary was elected Department Commander. His mother, Susan Mertz, was also re-elected Pennsylvania Department President of the Auxiliary to the Sons. Brother Chris is the third active and current member of Camp #273 to be elected to the office of Pennsylvania Department Commander.
Brother Carty and Sister Mertz also represented the Allied Orders at a Veteran’s Day Ceremony that honored four Wilson Borough War Memorials along the community’s Washington Boulevard. The members of several veterans’ organizations as well as school students from Wilson School District were in attendance. The monument that Brother Carty and Sister Mertz placed a wreath at recognizes Camp Washington, a rendezvous camp used by the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Pennsylvania Reserve Regiments from June-July 1861.

Brother Carty and current Camp Commander Dane DiFebo attended the November Remembrance Day Ceremony and Parade. In the following photo, they posed with Camps #8’s Color Bearer Giovan Lisi and Camp#15/503’s Color Bearer and Department Senior Vice Commander Greg Kline. It was a rainy day, but the Brothers’ spirits were not dampened.

The year was closed out with a holiday luncheon and meeting on December 9, 2017 at TK’s Bar and Grill in Mount Bethel, PA. The Brothers in attendance (from Left to Right are: Edwin Hart III, Chris Carty, Dane DiFebo, Thomas Cadmus, and Stephen Lance and son, Brother Don Houston is seated).
Our Camp started off the 2017 New Year with our annual Movie Day meeting, when we show a historical interest film with snacks and refreshments.

In late March our Camp assisted as volunteers at the annual Maple Festival in Meyersdale, PA and marched in the Maple Parade on April 1st, 2017.

On April 8th, our Camp, Auxiliary and Susanna Cook Tent #61 of Somerset hosted the Appomattox Luncheon at the Oakhurst Grill near Somerset. The event was well attended and our speaker, Pastor Roland Maust, presented a program on The Battle of High Bridge, VA.

The following day our Camp meeting included a special program on wet plate glass photography of the civil war era. Members and guests had the opportunity to have a wet plate photo taken in their period attire.

Over a several months period, our Camp was fortunate to acquire the historical records of the former GAR Ross Rush Post #361 which was located in Ursina, PA near our Mt Union Church Camp meeting location. This post was formed in 1883 and was active until 1921. The original documents were digitized and additional paper copies made for use by our Camp, Auxiliary and the local community. A few months later the original GAR Post #361 charter was located in an American Legion Post and that Legion then donated the charter to our camp.

Our Camp and Auxiliary held a Memorial Service on May 21st at Jersey Church and Cemetery in Ursina to commemorate the veterans of this GAR Post, many of whom are buried in this cemetery. The service was attended by almost 100 including, Camp, Auxiliary, DUV Tents #56 and #61, local historical societies, Post descendants and the community.

A well known local historian, Mark Miner, provided history and stories on several of the GAR Post members followed by a wreath lying at the grave of Ross Rush, the Post namesake with a reception follow.
Our camp was represented at the Annual Encampment in June in Pittsburgh and in July we participated in Allegiance Sunday, a joint service, with other patriotic and civic groups, including DUV, DAR, SAR, Grange and Odd Fellows Lodges.

In August, our Camp and Auxiliary held a Memorial Service and Stone Dedication at Union Cemetery in Meyersdale for James Carter, a U.S. Colored Troops veteran who never had a stone placed after his burial years ago.

In October we joined with Camp brothers and Auxiliary and attended a Joint Camp Meeting in Ebensburg with Campbell Camp #14 and Crowther Camp #89.

A Civil War Gala was held in November at the social hall at Somerset Church of the Brethren which included the Victorian Dance Ensemble and those attending in period attire.

Several camp members traveled to Remembrance Day weekend in Gettysburg and despite the rainy weather and security threat were able to participate in some of the activities.

Our year ended on December 17 with our Annual Christmas meeting and lunch at Hoss's in Somerset and a visit from our own Civil War Santa.
Isaac Eaton Camp #504 welcomed two new Brothers during the fall of 2017, Brothers Bill Rider and Gerald M. Stumpff II who were initiated into the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Brother Bill Rider is the descendant whose Civil War ancestor fought with the 6th PA Heavy Artillery and Brother Gerald M. Stumpff II is the son of Brother Gerald Stumpff who is also a member of Isaac Eaton Camp #504 and both are the descendants of Private John Stumpff who served with the 4th PA Cavalry during 1861 - 1865. We would like to congratulate both new Brothers into the Sons of Union Veterans.

Brothers of Isaac Eaton Camp #504 traveled to Gettysburg National Cemetery on Remembrance Day November 19th, 2017 to perform the Sons of Union Veterans Memorial Ceremony over the grave of the Camps namesake Private Isaac Eaton, Co. ‘B’ 10th PA Reserve Infantry who had died from his wounds that he received on July 2nd, 1863 near Devils Den and is buried in the Pennsylvania section of the Gettysburg National Cemetery. Private Eaton is buried alongside his comrade, Private Alonzo McCall also of Co. ‘B’ 10th PA Reserve who was killed during the same action on July 2nd, 1863.

Brothers who performed the Ceremony pictured below: Front row (L to R); Richard Grossman, David Robinson Jr., Steven Johnston, John Tenney, Timothy Bennett (Isaac Eaton Camp No 504) Back row; (L - R) Harry Dillon III (Col James Crowther Camp No. 89) Who sounded Taps to conclude the ceremony, and three members of 150th Pa. Bucktails who were present to observe.
PRE REGISTRATION FORM

Department of Pennsylvania
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Annual Encampment

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 6/14/2018
$10.00 at Encampment
Make check payable to: PA Dept., SUVCW
And send to: Secretary/Treasurer:

Rob Koenigsberg
322 A-Frame Rd.
Ebensburg, PA 15931
814-244-0899
rkoenigsberg3@gmail.com

Credential Cards

If your intention is to make either the Department Encampment in June 2018 or the
National Encampment in August 2018, 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 can 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.........
LINCOLN LUNCHEON

Our Annual Lincoln Luncheon will be hosted by Joel Searfoss Camp #273 of Bangor and Auxiliary #10 of Scranton. The luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 10th, 2018 at the Williams Family Restaurant at 3630 William Penn HWY in Easton. Directions can be found on their website. From RTEs 78, 22 and 80 exit onto RT 33 and take the William Penn HWY exit.

We will gather at 12:00 and will eat at 12:30. Our luncheon will be a buffet with a menu of Virginia Ham, Roast Turkey, Baked Penne Pasta with marinara sauce and mozzarella, Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Bread and Butter, Soda, Coffee or Hot Tea and Dessert.

The price will be $26.00 per person.

Our lecture will be given by PDP Ann McMillin and is entitled, “AN EXTRODINARY FRIENDSHIP: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND ELMER EPHRAIM ELLSWORTH” - This seldom explored topic will add to our deeper understanding of President Lincoln.

The Past Camp Commanders and Past Presidents Association of Pennsylvania will hold a brief meeting after lunch.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO JOEL SEARFOSS CAMP #273, SUVCW AND SEND TO:
SUSAN MERTZ, 2721 JOHN ST., EASTON, PA 18045-2614

NAME_____________________________________________________________
ADDRESS___________________________________________________________
PHONE NUMBER___________________________________________
NUMBER OF GUESTS_________________X $26.00 pp
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED______________________________________
APPOMATTOX LUNCHEON

Annual Appomattox Luncheon to be held Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 12 Noon

Oakhurst Grill
2400 Glades Pike (Route 31)
Somerset, PA 15501

Hosted by Mt Union Church Camp #502
& Auxiliary & Susanna Cook Tent 61

Lunch buffet with chicken, turkey, ham, assorted potatoes and vegetables, salad, rolls, desserts with beverages included. Price of the luncheon will be $22.00 per person.

Our Program will be: General Grant at Appomattox presented by Ken Serfass a living historian who provides a first person impression of the General. Ken has traveled extensively in providing these appearances at National Parks, Civil War roundtables, the General Grant National Memorial in New York and has presented to the Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide Association to develop a broader civil war study among the guides. He tells the tale of Grant's life and the honorable service of his armies, as well as debunking myths of his career as a soldier and as the president. Ken is a Retired Gunnery Sgt, USMC, who served twenty years, with his final tour with the First Marine Division Band during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Please make reservations and remit payment no later than Monday, April 2, 2018.

Payment payable to: Mt Union Church Camp #502
Mail payment with form below to: Tim Bell, Camp #502 Secretary/Treasurer
174 Bellview Lane
Somerset, PA 15501-7241

Directions to Oakhurst Grill, Somerset, Pa
From East: Exit Pa Turnpike, Exit 110 (Rt 219 Somerset/Johnstown). Access road to 3rd right on to N. Center Ave. then right on West Main St (Pa 31/281). Continue on Pa 31 West for about 6 miles to Oakhurst Grill on left.
From West: Exit Pa Turnpike Exit 91 (Pa 711, Donegal) then take left merge to Pa 31 East; continue on Route 31 for 12.8 miles to Oakhurst Grill on right.

If questions, please contact Bob Wrigley at 717-725-2513 or email rwrigley@frontiernet.net

Mail form and check payable to Mt Union Church Camp #502 and send to Tim Bell, 174 Bellview Lane, Somerset, Pa 15501-7241

NAME(S)_______________________________________________________________________

Number attending_________x $22.00  Check # _______________Phone__________________

Total payment enclosed________________
Department Encampment  
June 22-23, 2018  
Genetti Hotel and Suites  
200 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701  
(570) 326-6600

Mark your calendar with these dates now. If you wish to make reservations, contact the Hotel at the above number and reference the Allied Orders of the SUVCW.

More information will be forthcoming sometime in February and the membership will be notified.
Please support the 2018 Pennsylvania Encampment/Convention by purchasing an AD in the Encampment Program Booklet. Your support helps to ensure that the Site Committee will be able to provide a wonderful experience for all to enjoy.

Suggestions for your AD can be to honor your Civil War ancestor, honor a Department or National Officer, or best wishes to a friend or fellow Allied Order member.

An order for an AD with a check, payable to “PA SUVCW” and artwork are to be sent to:

Ellen Higgins
1731 Shore Road Unit 42
Seaville, NJ 08230-1383
SquirrelOCNJ@aol.com

Deadline for submission is May 20, 2018

AD orders can be sent by USPS mail or email (preferred method). If emailing please send in word doc (please no pdf’s) and photos or artwork in jpg format. If you would like a booklet sent to you in the mail, after the Encampment, please include $2.00 for shipping.

Cost of AD’s
Full Page - $40.00
Half Page - $25.00
Quarter Page - $15.00
Eight Page - $10.00
Patron – one line - $5.00
137th Annual National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic

When
August 9th - 12th, 2018

Where
Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center
1657 Worcester Road • Framingham • Massachusetts

Featuring
Encampment Tour • Narrated Cruise of Historic Boston Harbor • Dock at George’s Island • Guided Tour of Fort Warren • Picnic Lunch

Additional Evening Tour • Lynn G.A.R. Museum • Dinner at the General F.W. Lander Post 5 G.A.R. Hall

Camp Fire Entertainment • Salem Zouaves Precision Drill Exhibition • Boston Comedian Singer and Master Musical Impressionist “Joey Voices”

Lodging
Allied Orders Rate at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center is $109 per night

Reservations Web Site: https://goo.gl/wU3tEp or Call Sheraton National Reservations at 800-325-3535

Group Code: Sons of Union Veterans

Events Include
Encampment Tours
Allied Orders Campfire
Memorial Service
Joint Opening
Business Sessions
SVR Breakfast
Encampment Banquet
Sunday Prayer Services

Amenities Include
Free Parking
Free WiFi in Lobby and Function Space
Fitness and Business Centers
Indoor and Outdoor Pools
SUVCW Belt buckle

Solid Brass

SUVCW BELT BUCKLE

$30.00 ($26 + $4 S&H each)

Lifetime Guarantee
Fits up to 1 - 3/4 inch Belt
Shipped Priority Mail

Make check or money order payable to: Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15

Send order and payment to:

Scott Debo
144 Race St.
Sunbury, PA 17801

Support this worthwhile fund-raising project by Camp 15. Make great Father’s Day; Graduation Day; and anytime gifts.
Purchase a brass belt buckle for your grandkids too!
These Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War belt buckles are sold nationwide by Camp 15 of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
Please place your order today for your SUVCW belt buckles!

SUVCW License Plate

Auto License Plate
Aluminum - Full Color SUVCW Badge. Blue Lettering on White Background with Red Border
Send check or money order for $15 (includes S&H) payable to:

Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15
Mail to
Greg Kline
205 N. 40th St. Apt. 203
Harrisburg, PA 17111-2271