

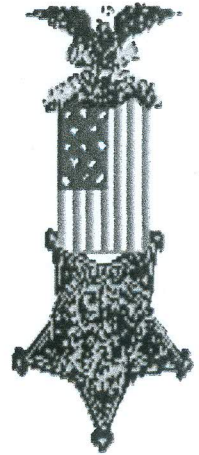
# **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

## **Pennsylvania Department**

### **Department Commander's Report to the 141<sup>st</sup> Department Encampment**

[gregsuvchw@yahoo.com](mailto:gregsuvchw@yahoo.com)

**717-571-6877**



Greetings Brothers!

Let me begin this report by thanking the Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department for allowing me the opportunity and the honor as serving as your Department Commander for the last two years. It was certainly a challenging time for all of us and I appreciate the efforts of all of you in maintaining some form of normalcy during an historic pandemic continuing to do the work of the Order.

The biggest significant influence on the normal activity of the Department over the past year has certainly been the COVID-19 pandemic. Most Camp and Department functions were curtailed due to pandemic related restrictions through 2020 and 2021 although we have seen some light at the end of the tunnel beginning in February. I am saddened to report the loss of PC-in-C Richard Orr of Davis \* Camp in August of 2020. Having lost PC-in-C Richard Partington of Anna Ross Camp 1 of Philadelphia and PDC Joe Long of Ezra Griffin Camp 8 the year before, it can certainly be said that the past two years have not been kind to the Pennsylvania Department. We will miss these gentlemen and they leave very big shoes to fill in the leadership of the Department.

Our 2020 Department Encampment was held virtually due to in person meeting restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to thank Senior Vice Commander John Gipson for conducting the meeting via ZOOM in my absence to allow me to attend to a family medical emergency. The meeting was understandably brief in nature relative to a normal Encampment business meeting but all of the normal Department business was able to be transacted.

I will attempt to summarize the activities that I was able to participate in on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department. The pandemic made this list shorter than I had hoped for but there were some accomplishments made nevertheless.

The Department held its first Mid-Year Meeting in several years at the GAR Hall in Gettysburg in October 2020. Several projects and events for 2021 were discussed and the

attendees enjoyed lunch together afterward. For many, this was the first gathering with a group of Brothers since the beginning of the pandemic.

I attended the Memorial Service for Sister Mandy Koenigsberg in Loretto in October which was hosted by DUVCW Clara Barton Tent 64 and included DUVCW and WRC memorial rituals.

The National Encampment was held virtually and there was a relatively good attendance by the Pennsylvania Department. The Encampment was slightly over 7 hours in length and this broke the record for any ZOOM meeting that I have attended by a long shot! C-in-C Ed Norris did a commendable job in keeping the meeting on point over such a long period.

In November, I once again joined the Brothers and Sisters of Gettysburg Camp 112 and Auxiliary in placing flags on graves in the Pennsylvania section of the National Cemetery for Remembrance Day. This was very well attended by members of the Allied Orders from across Pennsylvania and I hope this trend continues. The official Remembrance Day ceremony held each year at the Woolson Monument had been cancelled but the Department was able to lay wreaths and say a few words at the same time of day that the ceremony normally takes place. I want to thank the many Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders who attended and kept the tradition alive.

In December, in addition to my own Camp 503 Christmas party in Sunbury, I was able to attend the meeting and Christmas luncheon of Joel Searfoss Camp 273 of Bangor both of which were very enjoyable events.

I am happy to report that pandemic restrictions had been lifted enough for us to get back on track this year with both the Lincoln Luncheon and Appomattox Dinner. My thanks to JPS Gobin Camp 503 for hosting the Lincoln Luncheon in February and to Isaac Eaton Camp 504 of Mercer and Davis \* Camp of Pittsburgh for hosting the Appomattox Dinner. It was a pleasure attending both events.

In May, it was my pleasure to attend the Camp meeting of Mount Union Church Camp 502 in Rockwood. The Brothers and Auxiliary Sisters showed me the many local history artifacts in their collection and put out a terrific spread of food which we enjoyed after the meeting.

I participated in placing flags on veteran's graves in Sunbury and Harrisburg and was able to again march in the Sunbury and Gettysburg Memorial Day parades. I was honored to represent the Pennsylvania Department as a wreath presented during the 154<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg Memorial Day Observance at the National Cemetery.

In June I was able to join my fellow Department Education Committee members in hosting Brother Dave Klinepeter at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg where he was interviewed about his over 75 years of Membership in the SUVCW along with his experience as a living historian. My thanks to the committee and to Brothers Doug McMillin and Dane DiFebo in particular for making this happen.

Leading into this year's Pennsylvania Department Encampment, I am pleased to report that all Camps are in Good Standing and all are now in compliance with adding birth dates

to Camp rosters.

The last two years have certainly been a challenge for the Department navigating through the COVID pandemic as we tried to do the good work of the Order. I want to thank each and every Brother of the Pennsylvania Department for your assistance and cooperation in helping guide us through these difficult times.

I have three recommendations, two of which are for my successor as Department Commander.

First, I recommend that the Education Committee be re-appointed for the upcoming year and if possible made a permanent committee.

Second, I recommend that a committee be appointed to explore placing the GAR plaques from Reading which are in the Departments possession to an appropriate location in that city. This was discussed at the Mid-Year Meeting and hasn't gone further, largely due to limited meetings. I will be happy to work with the incoming Department Commander in providing information including possible committee volunteers for his consideration.

Third, I recommend that Department Encampment Proceedings be distributed via email to the Department Brothers no later than 60 days prior to the first day of the Encampment. I have had numerous Brothers indicate to me that they need more time to digest the proceedings and possibly discuss items at their Camp meetings prior to the Encampment.

Once again, I thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving as your Department Commander and I look forward to continue working with the Pennsylvania Department in the years to come!

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,



Gregory E. Kline  
Commander  
Pennsylvania Department  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

## SUVCW Department of Pennsylvania Senior Vice Commander's Report 2021

John R. Gipson

### Senior Vice Commander's Report:

My second year as Senior Vice started with unexpectedly being needed to officiate the department's first ever on-line encampment. Fortunately, all went well.

The Silent Sentinel program, conceived of by Brother Steven Johnston (Camp #504) was an excellent way to either publicly or privately support the organizations aim while maintaining "social distance". I participated in Sentinel at Allegheny Cemetery's Civil War Monument at the GAR plot / National Cemetery both this year and last.

I was pleased to attend the Mid-Year meeting, which occurred in a brief covid restriction lull.

Returning to the on-line/Zoom meeting concept. Our camp, like others got better at on-line meetings throughout the pandemic season. The allowances for on-line meetings at Camp, Department and National level are all limited in scope to end when at some point, as our current regulations do not allow for on-line meetings. I recommend that we reconsider this. Many of our members cannot always attend meetings that they would be able to contribute to. In addition, sickness or infirmity can temporarily limit a member who might be needed to have a quorum, or even to allow someone who made a proposal to be present and to vote on something they initiated. While in person meetings should always be a priority, there is no reason we could not make on-line attendance possible. This should be considered and I have no doubt a way to do this without adding to the confusion is possible.

With F, C & L  
John R. Gipson  
Pennsylvania SVC  
Davis \* Camp PCC  
pa142b@yahoo.com  
412-527-7185

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Pennsylvania Department  
Office of the Department Junior Vice Commander  
2021 PA Encampment Report

Greetings Brothers and Officers:

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your Junior Vice Commander for a second year!

Though it has been a challenging, and at times, a difficult past two years, I have participated in, witnessed, and been made aware of the great work done by the Department's Brothers in advancing our mission through both traditional and alternative means. I have directed a handful of new members applicants to camps in the Department. I have attended all meetings and events for my camp (Camp #273), as well as tried to attend meetings for Camp #15 in Harrisburg when my schedule permitted.

On March 7, 2020, I had the honor to be the keynote speaker for PA Department Commander Greg Kline's Testimonial Luncheon at The National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. I spoke about the fighting at Gettysburg's East Cemetery Hill.

On September 16, 2020, I participated in the Departed Brother Ceremony for the late Brother Ray Fraunfelter of Joel Searfoss Camp #273 in Ackermanville, PA. Brother Fraunfelter displayed untiring devotion to Camp #273 over his many years of membership and kept the camp active.

On October 17, 2020, I attended the Mid-Year Meeting at the GAR Hall in Gettysburg.

On June 12, 2021, I had the opportunity to interview Brother David J. Klinepeter (a member of the Sons since 1943) as a part of the work of the PA Department Educational Committee. I look forward to participating in more of the work of this committee in the future.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Dane DiFebo, PCC  
PA Department Junior Vice Commander

ANNUAL REPORT  
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT, S.U.V.C.W.  
SECRETARY/TREASURER  
2020-2021

May 15, 2021

Brothers of the PA Dept. SUVCW:

I would first like to thank Brothers, David Demmy, Department Commander, and Department Council for their assistance over the past year for answering all of my questions as well as their guidance. For the 2021 year, the department has:

23 Camps in good standing

605 Members, of whom are 53 Life members

57 Associate Members

8 Jr. Members

1 Jr. Associate

For a grand total of: 671 members. This is 26 fewer members than last year. And does not include the 45 members of Bradbury Camp that are currently suspended due to not filing Form 27 on time.

As of the writing of this report, the Department financial funds are as follows:

|              | 2020        | 2021        | Total Diff. |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Checking:    | \$44,210.45 | \$47,397.77 | +\$5,265.30 |
| Savings      | \$134.49    | \$134.49    | 0.00        |
| 6 Mo. CD     | \$22,587.65 | \$22,589.32 | +\$1.67     |
| 3 Mo. CD     | \$11,115.25 | \$11,128.03 | +\$12.78    |
| Money Market | \$1,813.20  | \$1,814.41  | +\$1.21     |
| Total of     | \$79,861.04 | \$83,064.02 | +\$3,202.98 |

In Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty,

Robert J. Koenigsberg

Secretary/Treasurer, PA. Dept. SUVCW

### Report from Department Council #3

#### To the 141st Pennsylvania Department Encampment.

Greetings Brothers of the 141st Pennsylvania Department Encampment. It has been a slow year on Council with the pandemic although a few things did come up. In August of 2020 Dept. Council authorized the expenditure of up to \$400 to move 36 boxes of artifacts from the G.A.R. Museum in Philadelphia to the G.A.R. Post 9 Hall in Gettysburg. Thanks to the Brothers and Sisters of Gettysburg Camp No. 112, J. P. Brindle Camp No. 50, Jennie Wade Auxiliary No. 27, and J. P. Brindle Auxiliary No. 50 for helping to get this done. We also voted to approve expenses for a Mid-Year meeting at the G.A.R. Hall in Gettysburg on October 17th, 2020. The 2020 National Encampment was a virtual event held on Oct. 24th, 2020 and I was in attendance. In January Brother Bob Shaffer of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin Camp No. 8 in Scranton sent us his resignation from the Department Newsletter after 20 years of service. A very big thank you to Brother Shaffer for his 20 years of service in that role and thank you to Brother William Fischer, Jr., also of Camp 8 for stepping up to take over the position.

Stay healthy and safe everyone!

I have no recommendations at this time.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alfred C. Carty, PDC

Department Council #3

Pennsylvania Department  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Consolidated Officers/Committee Reports for the 2021 Pennsylvania Department Encampment submitted by  
John M. McNulty PDC

May 27, 2021

### **Report of the Department Co-counselor**

It has been my pleasure to provide insight and discuss issues and ideas with Department Commander Greg Kline on several occasions. I have also had the pleasure of assisting the presumptive incoming Department Commander John Gipson with his preparations to assume command.

*No recommendations*

### **Report of the Department By Laws Committee**

It is with great sadness that the Department By Laws Committee notes the passing of long-time committee member and friend Richard D. Orr P C-in-C. His loss to our Order, this Department and this Committee is incalculable. The Committee soldiered on without him to complete several proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Department By Laws. These proposed amendments were then forwarded to Department Secretary-Treasurer Rob Koenigsberg who in mid-February 2021 forwarded them to the Camp Secretaries, Department Officers, Pennsylvania's PC-in-C and PDC's and other Brothers as required by our Department By Laws.

*The Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of all the proposed amendments to our Department By Laws.*

### **Report of the Fraternal Relations Committee**

The Fraternal Relations Committee has received no requests for assistance this year.

*The Committee respectfully recommends that we continue our traditional efforts to advance our work with our four Sister Orders to perpetuate the remembrance of the Boys in Blue and the Grand Army of the Republic as a united Pennsylvania Department.*

### **Report of the Long Range Planning Committee**

Due to the Nightmare, we have all endured for the past year and a half, the Long Range Planning Committee was assigned no goals, projects, or received any suggestions to work on from any qualified source in view of preparing and improving the Pennsylvania Department for the future. With the future seemingly so uncertain that is to be expected. We have discussed ideas informally but without any charge we feel that we cannot formally act. This committee always has its eyes looking to the future while keeping its feet firmly planted in the traditions of the past to help guide us into the future. The Committee feels strongly that we must embrace the future using our traditions as a guide or we will be condemning the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to the same fate that the Grand Army of the Republic purposely chose for itself.

*Recommendation: EXCELSIOR !*

Respectfully Submitted,

2021 Report to Pennsylvania Encampment at Altoona  
Asst Secretary, Dept of Pennsylvania  
Camp 300 the Memorial Camp-at-Large  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Headquarters at Colonial Park

June 19 2021

Brother Commander and Departmental Brothers:

This year following the heartaches and 2020 COVID disappointments and tragedies, Camp 300 continues to honor the boys in blue with 15 at-large members, including 5 Life Members. Three Brothers did not renew their membership for 2021 and were dropped from the rolls.

Due to COVID most suvcw activities were cancelled and meetings were provided via zoom. Of course, Camp 300 has no meetings being a members-at-large group, but the camp has a strong vibe of its brothers interested in the camp 300 newsletter and they keep up with activities with our quarter magazine, *The Banner*.

Since the late winter of 2020, I have participated in the following activities:

- March 2020 relocated National Headquarters to my residence
- June 2020 department zoom encampment
- August 2020 national encampment attendance was by zoom!
- December 2020 – Camp 15 held its annual holiday banquet
- December 2020 additional restrictions by Governor forced relocation of National headquarters to my residence again.
- Spring of 2021 participated in annual Springfield events via zoom meeting.
- Spring of 2021 participated in variety of national council meetings via zoom.
- April 2021 participated in Program and Policy committee meetings
- April 2021 participated in Nat'l Headquarters planning committee meetings
- May 2021 attended Hartranft Camp annual Memorial Day events at historic Harrisburg Cemetery to honor our fallen veterans. Also paid tribute to late Mary Jane Bannan's gravesite.
- Continue to prepare and issue ongoing newsletter-journal to members-at-large of Camp 300.
- Continue to publish monthly newsletter for Hartranft Camp 15, the 2010 recipient of the Marshall A. Hope award by Past Commander-in-Chief Brad Schall.
- On a national level, processed 114 deaths for year 2020; to date this year, 85 deaths have been processed.
- Life Memberships have totaled 33 this year. Greater number than all of year 2020. To become a National Life Member, visit [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org) forms, form 9.
- June 2021, camp 15 brothers participated in the annual Community Free Day and manned recruiting table at Nat'l Civil War Museum at Reservoir Park, Hbg.

Anything else, just ask! I have no suggestions or recommendations at this time!

In remembrance of my ancestors who served our country during the Civil War and other conflicts since the War of the Rebellion, it is an honor to serve the Department Commander and the *at-large* members of Camp 300.

Respectfully submitted!

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

David W. Demmy, Sr., Secretary, Camp 300

Colonial Park, Pennsylvania

National Executive Director SUVCW, [execdir@suvcw.org](mailto:execdir@suvcw.org)

Clark Roy Brocht, P.C.C  
Mt. Union Church Camp #502  
1428 Casselman Road  
Rockwood, PA 15557

June 1, 2021

Dear Brothers,

It has been two years since we were together. Many changes have taken place in our lives. Sometimes things are hard to understand.

As in the past, I know that many of you have been very busy placing flags on the numerous graves of our veterans for Memorial Day.

Our Pennsylvania Department "Thanks" all of you for remembering our veterans. A wise person once said, "No one is dead unless they are forgotten". To all Brothers I say, "Keep up the good work!"

I look forward to seeing you at the Encampment in Altoona.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Clark Roy Brocht  
Pennsylvania Department Chaplain



1861



1865



Sons of Union Veterans of the  
Civil War  
Eagle Scout Certificate Program  
Penna. Department Coordinator

124 Essex Lane  
Northumberland, PA 17857

June 18, 2021

Scott Debo  
144 Race Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801

Brother Scott:

I have decided to give up the position of Pennsylvania Department Eagle Scout Coordinator. Brother Don Houston, who is an active member of Joel Searfoss Camp #273 located in Bangor PA, has accepted the position. Brother Don has been assisting me since before the start of the pandemic and has been doing a very excellent and professional job.

I thank the Department for allowing me handle the Eagle Scout Coordinator position for the past approximately eight years, however, I feel it is time for me to retire. I feel I am leaving the job in very capable hands with Brother Don Houston.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Anthony F. Kline  
Eagle Scout Coordinator  
Pennsylvania Department  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Eagle Scout Certificate Program

Donald B. Houston, PA Dept. Coordinator  
585 Summit Lane  
Riegelsville, PA 18077

June 2, 2021

Scott Debo, Chief of Staff  
144 Race Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801

Dear Bro. Scott:

I am attaching my yearly report as Eagle Scout Coordinator for the Department.

Anthony Kline asked me to fill in for him near the end of 2019 and I was happy to accept the position. I am a former scout leader in Bucks County. Our Eagle Scout program is a wonderful way to honor these talented scouts and to promote our organization. Bro. Tony was especially helpful to get me started and answered many questions regarding the documentation.

There were very few requests during the pandemic, but things have picked now that Courts of Honor are finally being scheduled.

Please contact me with any questions or comments about the spreadsheet. I do not expect to be able to attend this year's department meeting. I have received \$57.73 to cover some expenses for supplies and postage.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Donald B. Houston', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Donald B. Houston. Past Camp Commander  
Eagle Scout Coordinator  
Pennsylvania Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

CC: Gregory Kline; Anthony Kline; Albert El



## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Pennsylvania Department

Graves Registration Officer

2021 Encampment Report



Thank you, Commander Kline for allowing me to serve on your staff as the 2020-2021 Department Graves Registration Officer (GRO).

As of 1 June 2021, there are **42180** Civil War veterans' Pennsylvania gravesites listed in the national SUVCW Graves Database, **2408** more than one year ago. I use my PA GRO Administrator account for editing, corrections, and adding photographs, while I use my personal User account for input of new graves. As of the same date, I have personally cumulatively added to the database 5957 graves (660 added since last encampment) across many states.

In 2021, I completed input of soldiers' and sailors' graves found in Cameron and Union Counties PA based on a review of all graves listed in Find A Grave. Of course, not every burial is found in that online website, meaning that there are very likely some Civil War veteran burials that have not yet been identified and added to the SUVCW Graves Database. However, and I do not take credit for adding all the burials, there are now 887 Civil War veterans' graves in Union County and 199 graves in Cameron County that are now accounted for in our database. We must remain vigilant and continue to seek out our Boys in Blue, and catalog their final resting places across the Commonwealth.

Much of my GRO work is typically done during the winter via online research, but this year has been a challenge in so many ways. Although I retired from the National Park Service in December, the past year was mentally exhausting trying to master a new park position while, among many other NPS-related issues, working from home for months. Hence, my GRO efforts languished for months.

I continue to add missing information, such as birth/death dates and enlistment/discharge information, and make corrections to individual grave pages to provide a more complete record, and have done so for hundreds of our Boys in Blue. I continue to add headstone photos after trips to cemeteries (where social distancing has never been an issue).

Undoubtedly, the high point for my departmental GRO efforts this year has been growing the "Last Veteran" spreadsheet posted on the department website, thanks to PDC Howard Wolfe's assistance and input from camps and others. I created and

emailed fillable templates to camp contacts listed on the website so Brothers can update me with progress in identifying the last Union veteran in each Pennsylvania county. Thanks to those who have already provided such information! I have emailed all PA County Veteran Service Officers and have contacted some local and county historical societies across the Commonwealth to identify Last Veterans in counties where there is no SUVCW camp presence. Of course, this effort has been slowed by the pandemic. We are making progress but are well behind many other departments.

Issues have arisen regarding the Last Veteran of one county ending up being buried in another county or even another state. I asked for clarification from the National Council of Administration but the answer appears to be "last burial in a county." However, I recommend that we follow the practice of other departments which list a last buried veteran for each county, but also list the actual last living veteran from the same county who was ultimately buried outside that county.

I have also been working with several individuals to obtain replacement headstones from the VA for their Civil War ancestors.

I urge camps to continue their good work in helping maintain Civil War veterans' graves by scheduling work days, placing flags, and conducting ceremonies as health conditions allow.

Beyond GRO-specific responsibilities and camp meetings, since the last encampment I have participated in the following:

Jun 17 – Attended webinar on working with local communities to preserve Civil War battlefields

Jun 22 – Participated in NPS virtual meeting discussing locations of Contraband camps during the Civil War

Jun 25 – Reviewed and provided comment on draft NPS historic resource study on the pre-Civil War Quartermaster Complex at Fort Scott National Historic Site KS

Aug 13 – Attended virtual US/ICOMOS discussion about Confederate monuments

Oct 7 – Attended virtual American Battlefield Protection Program discussion on grants available for battlefield preservation planning documents

Oct 24 – Attended virtual National SUVCW Encampment

Nov 24 – Attended virtual presentation on Native American participation as conductors and station masters on the Underground Railroad

Jan 9 – Attended virtual Dept of Kansas Encampment (as dual mbr, Humboldt Camp 9)

Jan 26 – Attended virtual presentation hosted by PA Historical and Museums Commission on “Documenting and Preserving Community Cemeteries” with one presenter speaking about the PA Hallowed Grounds Project which is recording USCT buried in PA. I have followed up with her in hopes of adding their burial research to our SUVCW Graves database.

Feb 12 – Attended virtual presentation on “Mayhew: The Forgotten Cemetery,” about an African American cemetery in Fort Scott KS (where I used to live) that was plowed over and destroyed decades ago. There is at least one USCT soldier buried there.

Feb 20 – Attended Gobin Camp 503’s Lincoln Luncheon in Northumberland PA

Mar 7 – Attended virtual discussion with Professor Edward Ayers on his book, *The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America*

Mar 18 – Attended virtual presentation highlighting the Civil War diary of William Woodlin, a musician in the 8<sup>th</sup> USCT who was born enslaved

Mar 21 – Attended Hartranft Camp 15’s banquet, Mechanicsburg PA

Mar 21 – Commander Kline accepted my offer to temporarily serve as the *Battle Cry of Freedom* department newsletter editor for 2021 while continuing to seek a permanent editor

Apr 10 – Attended Isaac Eaton Camp 504’s and Davis \*(Star) Camp’s Appomattox Dinner, Grove City PA

Apr 18 – Participated in an on-site inspection of space offered at the former Scranton School for the Deaf for relocating Scranton’s GAR Civil War Museum and Library, with follow up museum board meeting to discuss museum relocation from Scranton City Hall

May 8 – With other Camp 8 Brothers, placed flags on graves in two cemetery GAR sections in preparation for Memorial Day

May 12 – Attended PA Archives Historical and Archival Records Care Grant webinar for info on submitting a grant request for the GAR Civil War Museum and Library

May 30 – Participated in Camp 8’s annual Memorial Day service in Dunmore Cemetery

Throughout the year, assisted the Waverly Community Center in Waverly PA with their application for the National Park Service’s Underground Railroad Network to Freedom certification for their UGRR walking tour of the village, which had an important UGRR network supporting formerly enslaved freedom seekers on their movement north.

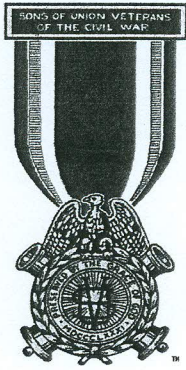
Next month, I will be presenting at the virtual American Battlefield Trust Teacher Institute on a Civil War census project I developed for Bourbon County KS (the in-residence

meeting planned for Baltimore MD was changed to virtual due to pandemic restrictions)

I remain committed to work with Brothers on Civil War graves-related projects. Having retired, I look forward to having more time to further the aims of our Order.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.

William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC  
Graves Registration Officer



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Pennsylvania Department  
GAR Memorials Officer  
2021 PA Encampment Report



Brothers, Due to the pandemic and the inability of any work to be done on memorials, there were no reports from the camps on memorials that need attention within the Department. With the opening up of the state, I am sure our brothers throughout the department will once again be able to report on the conditions of the GAR memorials across the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.  
Theodore J. Zeman, PCC  
GAR Memorials Officer (#2)

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Pennsylvania Department  
Office of the Department GAR Highway Officer  
2021 PA Encampment Report

Greetings Brothers and Officers:

I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve a fourth year as your GAR Highway Officer. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (610) 751-1483 or email at [difebo.dane7@gmail.com](mailto:difebo.dane7@gmail.com) to report on the need for the repair and replacement of GAR Highway signage or on events sponsored in the Route 6 corridor in which Camps or Members intend to participate or may be interested in attending.

Looking forward, I hope to continue to promote Route 6 in Pennsylvania for its historical and scenic significance (among members of the Allied Orders of the GAR and the public at-large), attend more functions in the Route 6 corridor, and to inspire people to continue to use the highway as an avenue for tourism, heritage, and community service.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Dane DiFebo, PCC  
PA Department GAR Highway Officer

**Pennsylvania Department  
Education Committee Report  
Term June, 2020 thru June, 2021**

It is a pleasure to report that in spite of the restrictions placed upon us by lock downs, social distancing, and the risks of gathering, we have managed to make some positive steps this past year.

**Just prior to lock down we had the stated goals as follows:**

- Restructure the PA Department You Tube Channel.
- Devise a list of "How To" subjects for training videos.
- Produce the first training videos.
- Assemble a list of brothers and sisters of the Allied Orders to do interview videos about the G.A.R as they knew them or the history of the Order.
- Write a list of questions to ask the interview subjects.
- Schedule and video record interviews with the oldest living members of the list right away.
- Video record Department events.
- Meet regularly to check progress and plan further work.

Since the restrictions on group meetings only just recently have been relaxed, the committee has not met in person at all this year. This did not prevent the committee from reaching some of the stated goals. It did, however, cost us the opportunity to interview Joe Long, PDC who past during this period. As we are now able to meet in person, we have activities planned for June 12<sup>th</sup> just prior to encampment.

**What we have gotten done is as follows:**

- Pulled outdated videos from the old YouTube Channel that was under PDC McMillin's name.
- Closed the old YouTube Channel.
- Opened a PA Department You Tube that is free and clear of any individual brother's account.
- Transferred videos from the old channel to the new one.
- Come up with a list of brothers and sisters to interview.
- Developed interview questions.
- Attended the "unofficial Remembrance Day ceremonies" to record the events.
- Posted the videos.
- Interview of David Klinepeter at National Civil War Museum scheduled for June 12, 2021 at the time of reporting.

The members of the committee have been very enthusiastic about getting active again. It is our hope that the committee will be reappointed under the 2021-2022 term so we may get into the much larger projects that were impossible to do last year.

**Recommendations:**

1. **The annual budget of \$1000 should be restored** so that the committee can acquire or lease needed equipment that would allow teams to work in opposite ends of the state simultaneously thereby increasing productivity.
2. **Have the committee changed from an annually appointed committee to a standing committee.** The committee cannot meet or function if not reappointed. In the last four years our work has been hampered and even halted waiting for incoming commanders to reappoint the committee. In order to emphasize the importance of preventing these delays, one catastrophic example stands out. In one case, the committee sat two entire years waiting for multiple requests for reappointment to be granted. This simple oversight has cost us all dearly. During that period, the failure to permit the committee to work cost us the interviews of Bud Atkinson, PCnC, Rich Orr, PCnC, and Rev. Dick Partington, PCnC. We can never recover what we lost there and must not allow petty personal politics or a simple oversight to cost us these opportunities again.

Respectfully submitted,  
Douglas McMillin, PDC, Chairman

Brother Debo,

When the call for reports came out last year, I contacted Department leaders to let them know my status. That status has not changed.

I live in Leesburg, Virginia, spending a fair amount of time in Duluth, Georgia, where my wife and I have property. Meantime, I've completed my 74th year on earth, and I'm getting tired.

I am and intend to remain a (dual) member in good standing of Ezra Griffin Camp 8, Dept of Pennsylvania. My home Camp and Dept are Lincoln-Cushing Camp 2, Dept of the Chesapeake.

Till last year's discussion about reports, I was not aware I was on the Committee for National Parks and the Committee for Legislative Relations in the Dept of Pennsylvania. No activity had been requested of me from those committees, nor has there been activity in the year since then.

I said last year that I had no objection to filling those committee posts if it was a mere matter of filling a slot with a name. However, it might be better for the Penna Dept to reassign those roles to someone more likely to be active in said roles. This also has not changed. I assume that my name was left on the committees because no one else wanted those positions.

That said, I have the following report to make:

As a member of the Committee for National Parks and the Committee for Legislative Relations in the Department of Pennsylvania, I have nothing to report.

Recommendation: For both committees, the Department leadership might usefully consider replacing me with another member of the Department more likely to be or become active in those roles.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Lee D Stone, PDC (Chesapeake), Ezra Griffin Camp 8