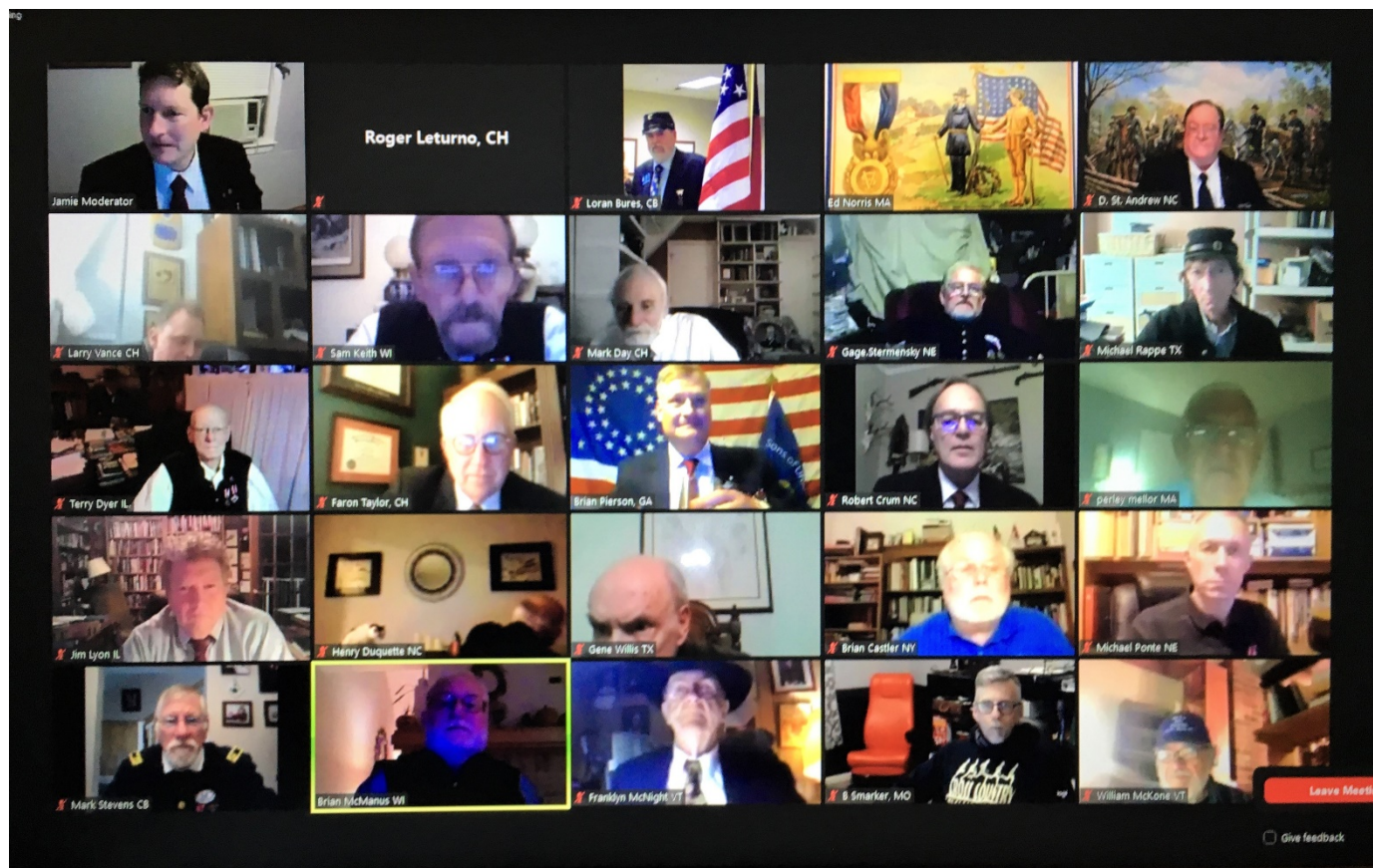




# DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE



## THE CHESAPEAKE GAZETTE



The 139th Annual National SUVCW Encampment was held virtually on October 24, 2020. Of the 286 participants, 25 were Brothers of the Department of the Chesapeake. Huzzah!

## Issue #2

**Fiscal Year 2021 Department of the Chesapeake Officers**

Commander - Jay Rarick

Sr. Vice Commander - Roger Leturno

Jr. Vice Commander - Brian Horgan

Secretary-Treasurer - Michael Beard

Patriotic Instructor - Tommy Chapman

Council - Faron Taylor, Mark Day, Timothy McCoy

Counselor - Andrew Johnson (Lincoln Cushing)

Chaplain - Dr. Clifton Potter

Assistant Treasurer - Michael Paquette

Eagle Scout Coordinator - Robert Stine

Graves Registration - Steve Hammond

Guide and Guard - Wes Mumper

Signals Officer - Mark Day

Color Bearer - Bob Heath

ROTC Coordinator - Roger Leturno

Aide de Camp - Andrew Johnson (Irish Brigade)

**From the Editor in Chief (Senior Vice Commander)**

On behalf of the Department leadership, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I trust you found time over the holiday season to relax and spend time with family and friends. I pray 2021 becomes a happy and memorable year for you, your families, and our Country.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of the Chesapeake Gazette is smaller than I would have liked, but I do appreciate the support given by the camps who submitted their quarterly reports / articles. I hope you find their stories interesting. This is a quarterly publication of department and camp activities. The primary news source is derived from camp quarterly reports (see Department Advisory #1). This should not limit any brother from submitting articles of interest. I ask that submissions for the 3rd quarter edition be consolidated at camp level and forwarded to me no later than March 31, 2021, with the quarterly report. Recommendations for improving future issues would be greatly appreciated.

All the best!

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Roger L. Leturno

Senior Vice Commander

Department of the Chesapeake

## Issue #2

**From the Department Commander's Desk**

*"As Hancock met with his commanders, a mule broke loose from one of Barlow's New York regiments. The animal, which carried all the kitchen implements for the regiment, created such a racket that the men of the regiment ran it down and tackled it to the ground, holding it there until the assault column passed."<sup>1</sup>*

2020 seems to have been the year of the mule. Lots of commotion with the prospect of everything coming undone. We have, in our Camps and as individual Brothers, been 'wrestling with the mule' to try and keep everything together. It has been messy and it wasn't easy, but I am proud of how our Brothers have found innovative ways to continue to conduct the business of the Order and to provide assistance to one another as the year progressed.

I wish I could say that 2021 will be better, but it looks like we are in for another round of 'mule wrestling.' However, opportunities have presented themselves for Brothers far and wide to connect, virtually, as they have not been able to before. We hope to have our Department Encampment in person this year, in Harrisonburg, VA the weekend of the April 17<sup>th</sup>. If that turns out not to be possible, then we will conduct a virtual Encampment as was done last year.

The Department Officers are available to Camps to conduct the installation of officers via Zoom meetings or other means. Please let the Department know of your needs.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic lockdowns, Camps have found ways to advance projects and are discussing other possible cooperative efforts, some of which you will read about in this issue. Please, also look for opportunities to perform cooperative projects with others of the Allied Orders and with Patriotic and Community organizations such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (or to include them in our events, as may be appropriate). Whether it is participating in a Color Guard for a funeral, helping distribute relief supplies, or some other event, public projects can be done while adhering to recommended safety protocols and place the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War before the public in a positive light.

My best wishes to all of our Camps and Brothers. May God save and protect the United States of America.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

— Jay Rarick

Jay A. Rarick, P.C.C.

Com

Department of the Chesapeake

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**Department Calendar**

**April 16-18 2021** – 134th Encampment of the Department of the Chesapeake  
Location: Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA



## Department of the Chesapeake



October 10, 2020 – Nelson County - Department Commander Jay Rarick speaks at the ceremony held for Private Andrew Jackson Coffey. Coffey was the last Union Soldier buried in Nelson County.



## Taylor-Wilson Camp # 10

On October 10, 2020, Taylor-Wilson Camp #10 conducted a ceremony honoring Private Andrew Jackson Coffey with a military ceremony, which he most likely never received upon his own burial in 1911, and a marker at his family cemetery identifying him as the last Union soldier buried in Nelson County.



The cemetery sits on the Coffey family farm that dates back to the early 1800s. There five graves which includes Private Coffey and other family members.

Coffey was born in the Nash area of Nelson County on Oct. 11, 1835, and according to research done by Lynn Coffey, a local historian, and Department Commander Jay Rarick, Coffey married Rebecca Campbell and had 10 children.

Commander Rarick believes Private Coffey likely joined the local Confederate regiment out of peer pressure, but after a few months deserted and went north to join the 3rd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, a volunteer regiment.

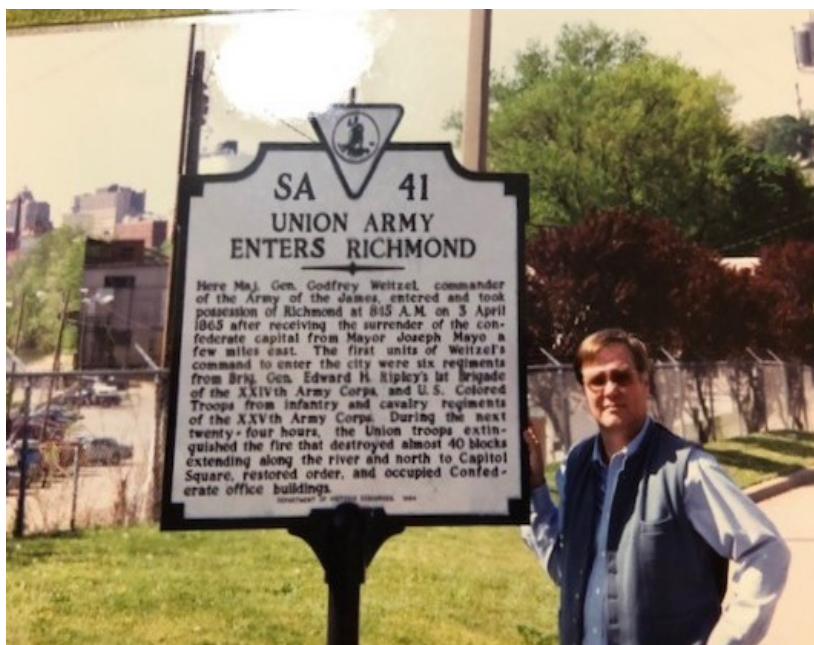
He was stationed with the unit at Fortress Monroe through most of the war. In 1865, Coffey was transferred out west to the Dakota Territory, as it was known at the time, and stationed at Fort Sully where he fought Sioux Indians instead of Confederates. Later that year he was discharged and returned home where he became a farmer. In the mid-1880s he received a soldier's pension. After Coffey died in 1911, his wife received a widow's pension which gave his family \$30 per month — equivalent to \$800 today.

Lynn Coffey and Betsy Coffey-Chaudet, descendants of the Private Coffey, were there for the ceremony. Also in attendance were representatives of the Rev. E. Clarence Purdue Sr. American Legion Post 17 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 17 from Shipman, Virginia.



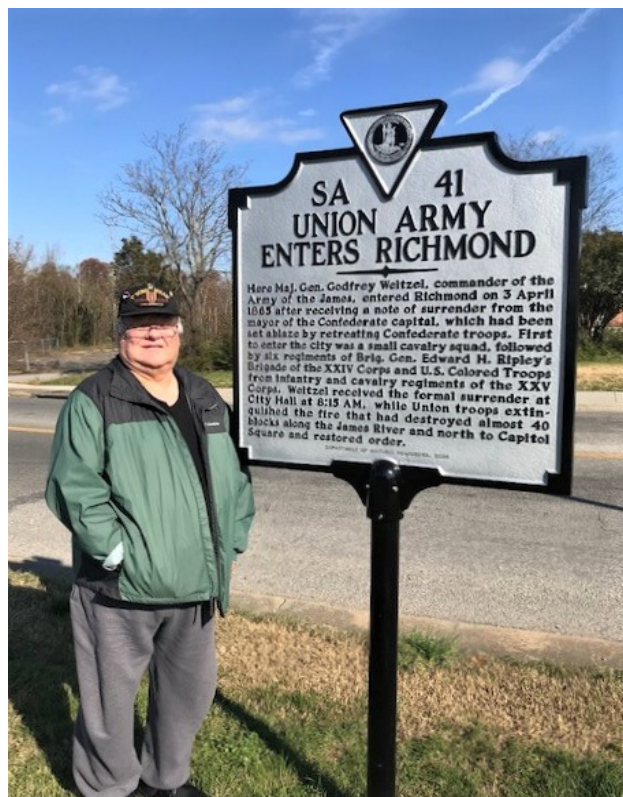
## Issue #2

## Army of the James Camp #1864



1995 photo of original marker with Camp Commander Bartholf

The Army of the James Camp #1864 embarked on a project to replace the Commonwealth of Virginia Historic Highway Marker destroyed by accident or vandals. The original marker was erected and dedicated in 1995 following the 130th Anniversary “Blue Coats in a Gray City” event commemorating the advance of Union Forces into Richmond in April 1865.



New marker.....vintage Camp Commander

The camp successfully raised the required \$1700 to fabricate and erect a replacement marker. Members of the camp made financial contributions toward this project as did the national organization's Civil War Memorial Fund and the SUVCW Charitable Foundation.

The marker program is administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The marker itself was crafted by the Sewah Studios of Marietta, Ohio. The text, prepared by Richmond National Battlefield Park staff, was approved by Camp Commander Howard Bartholf. The City of Richmond Department of Public Works arranged for its placement.

## Issue #2

Worthy of praise is Commander Bartholf's significant amount of time in personally researching and reporting the grave locations of over 700 members of his great-great-great-grandfather's Civil War Regiment, 1st New York Volunteer Engineers.



The commander's son and fellow camp member, Scott Varian Bartholf, just returned last month from a two year naval deployment to Atsugi Naval Air Station in Japan. Scott is career Navy enlisted. His next duty station is in San Diego, California, with assignment on aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln.

## Joshua L. Chamberlain Camp # 20

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year 2020, the Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Camp # 20 SUVCW, Roanoke, Virginia, fulfilled its plan to recognize the service and sacrifices of World War II Veteran Edwin Cole Bearss and Civil War Veteran Captain Robert Henry Day. Day is the only known Union Veteran interred at Evergreen Burial Park where the program was conducted.



After two minutes of silence, the Senior Vice Commander delivered an obituary on Edwin “Ed” Bearss, titled Civil War Historian, Veterans Day Advocate, and Trustee. He noted that Ed was an honorary Department of the Chesapeake Camp member who never confused Memorial Day with Veterans Day. The Patriotic Instructor then led the assemblage in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed with a reading of the poem “Patriots Among Us.”

Before transitioning to the next event, camp members representing the blue, white, and red stations recited the Sons of Veterans’ Creed, adopted on September 13, 1919, by the 38th

National Encampment, Sons of Veterans in Columbus, Ohio. Sentiment for the creed endures to this day and links us to the Grand Army of the Republic.

Camp Secretary Robert Lee Hadden next read Major Robert H. Day’s obituary, published by the Roanoke Times on January 12, 1929. “Major Robert H. Day, 94, died yesterday in a local hospital following a brief illness. He was one of Roanoke’s oldest citizens, having resided here for nearly fifty years. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, having served with distinction during the Civil War, and received several citations for gallantry. Major Day was the last surviving member of the Federal prisoners that tunneled their way from the Libby Prison at Richmond in 1865.”





## Issue #2



Doug Camper, dressed in Union soldier attire, unveiled the GAR Veteran stake marker. The Patriotic Instructor presented a US National Flag to Camp Commander Al Linton who placed it in the stake holder. The program concluded in prayer.



**Issue #2****General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp # 1862**

Last November, the General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp #1862 conducted a local field trip to Fort Miles Museum, located on Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes, Delaware. Their museum tour was led by Brother Gary Wray. Brother Wray provided a behind the scene look at the World War II artifacts from Fort Miles and the coastal defense near the Delaware River and bay entrance. Pieces on display included a 16-inch gun barrel from the USS Missouri located outside the museum entrance.

A meeting was conducted after the tour and the camp's newest brother, George Jones, was initiated. The camp received two additional member applications in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Both were accepted for membership.

General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp #1862 officers will remain the same for 2021. Although 2021 activities are uncertain, camp leadership is hopeful this will change once people receive their COVID vaccination.

**James A. Garfield Camp #1**

On October 17, 2020, James A. Garfield Camp members gathered at Fairview Lutheran Cemetery in Bolivar, WV, for a Grand Army of the Republic gravesite dedication at the resting place of Brother Bill Elliott's ancestor, Private George Tacey. Following the ceremony, the camp held a ritual meeting on the Bolivar Heights battlefield where the camp members elected their 2021 officers.

Installation of officers was conducted via Zoom during the camp's November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Installed were Camp Commander Clay Matthews, Senior Vice Commander Tim Sedmak, Junior Vice Commander Brad Sharpless, Secretary/Treasurer John Aymold, and Camp Counselors PCC/PDC Faron Taylor, PCC/PDC Tim McCoy, and PCC Brian Horgan. After the meeting adjourned, brothers enjoyed a virtual lunch and fellowship.

**Appomattox Camp #2**

Appomattox Camp #2 is currently working with the Delaware Genealogical Society to produce a list of Delaware African-American veterans who served with the USCT during the Civil War.

The initial product will list USCT veterans categorized by name, company, and regiment with links to actual military records. This list identifies Delaware native born African-American veterans and includes those who filed for pensions in Delaware and their application status. The camp anticipates an initial list of approximately 2,200 USCT veterans.

This list will form a base for further support of research for additional names and biographies. Access to biographies can be used in support of education activities and public recognition such as grave ceremonies with descendants and uniformed reenactors.

For the past two years Appomattox Camp #2 has worked with Fred Minus and other USCT reenactors to provide a uniformed color guard for the Wilmington Memorial Day parade. The camp has also done extensive work to identify and provide biographies on several GAR grave sections in New Castle County, including Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery.