



# DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE



## THE CHESAPEAKE GAZETTE



History was made when the 133rd Encampment of the Department of the Chesapeake convened at 8:45A.M. on Saturday, May 9, 2020, using virtual ZOOM technology with Department Commander Timothy S. McCoy presiding. There were 60 members in attendance including members in California, New Mexico, and the Department Commander from Abidjan, Ivory Coast (Africa). The meeting was conducted according to the Ritual and Ceremony of the Order modified for the fact members were attending virtually.

**Issue #1**

**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

ROTC Coordinator - Roger Leturno

Aide de Camp - Andrew Johnson (Irish Brigade)

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

On behalf of the Department Commander, I am pleased to present this reboot of “The Chesapeake Gazette.” 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 2nd quarter edition be consolidated at camp level and forwarded to me no later than Dec 20, 2020, with the quarterly report. Recommendations for improving future issues would be greatly appreciated.

I hope you enjoy!

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Roger L. Leturno

Junior Vice Commander

Department of the Chesapeake

## Department of the Chesapeake



May 30, 2020 - Staunton National Cemetery – Department Commander Jay Rarick gathered together with representatives from Department of the Chesapeake, Auxiliary to the Department of the Chesapeake, American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and Joshua L. Chamberlain Camp #20 to celebrate Decoration Day with the reading of General John Logan’s General Order #11.

### **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War ROTC Awards Program**

I have had the pleasure of being Department of the Chesapeake ROTC Awards Coordinator for the past two years. The SUVCW ROTC Awards program is of great interest to me and I hope to you and your Camp as well. This program is an opportunity to further make our presence known in every community we serve. We can reach out to high schools and colleges with an ROTC program, tell them who we are, and offer an opportunity to recognize deserving cadets.

I’ve always considered it a privilege, as a representative of the Sons, to make these award presentations and recognize the good works of deserving cadets. The only investment is time. In return we are recognized by the cadet, his/her peers, faculty, parents, and friends.

The Department of the Chesapeake has done a good job with this program. But there is so much potential for expansion. There are many ROTC / JROTC schools in Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, and West Virginia that are missing out on this opportunity. In most cases, all you have to do is ask.

Last school year came to an abrupt end with the onslaught of COVID19. With schools closed, so was our window for coordinating for awards. This year will present different challenges. Classroom activities and after school events are being modified, postponed, or cancelled. To meet these challenges, I encourage camps to contact their schools between September and November. It’s never too early for establishing / re-establishing rapport with Senior Instructors.

I realize personal schedules and travel distances may preclude a Camp from personally presenting awards to every school. However, this should not deter us from contacting schools and providing assistance in acquiring the award. Feel free to contact me at [rreturno@msn.com](mailto:rreturno@msn.com) or 719-650-8135 if you have questions or concerns about this program.

## Army of the James Camp #1864

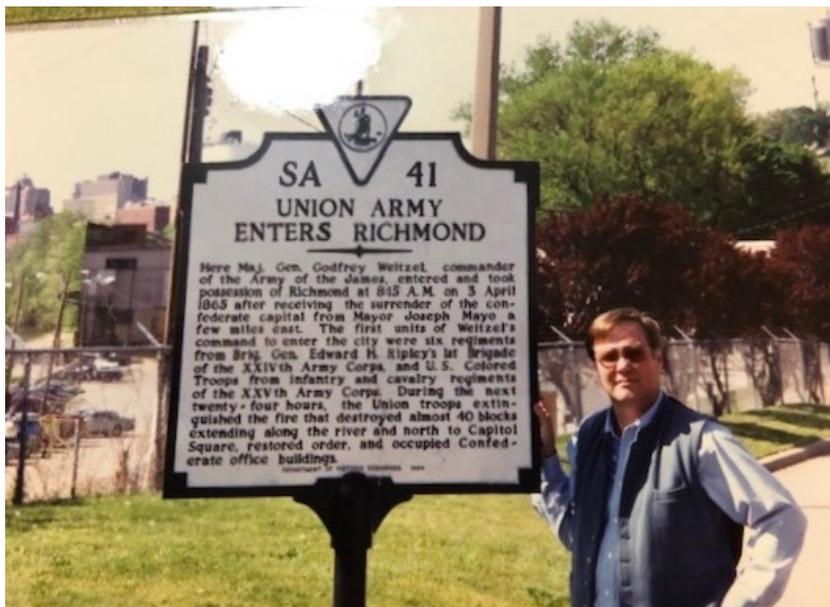
In recognition of Memorial Day, the Army of the James Camp #1864 conducted wreath laying ceremonies at Fort Harrison-Burnham National Cemetery; Varina, Virginia; and Richmond National Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.



Grave site of Medal of Honor Awardee George Buchanan, 148th NY Infantry.



Camp Commander Howard and Janet Bartholf.



A young Howard Bartholf stands with the marker when it was first erected.

The Army of the James Camp #1864 embarked on a project to replace the Commonwealth of Virginia Historic Highway Marker marking the point Union forces entered the City of Richmond on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1865. The original marker was damaged beyond repair and replacement will cost approximately \$1800. The camp has secured funding for the marker. Placement and unveiling will take place in early 2021.

## Irish Brigade Camp #4



The Irish Brigade Camp remained active from the onset of COVID Restrictions in March. Commander Timothy Willing established a virtual meeting, Zoom, to conduct business and coordinate activities during spring and early summer.

Past Camp Commander James Standard conducted a Memorial Day ceremony on May 26, 2020, at Spotsylvania Confederate Cemetery honoring the three Lufkin Brothers who served with the Maine Volunteers.

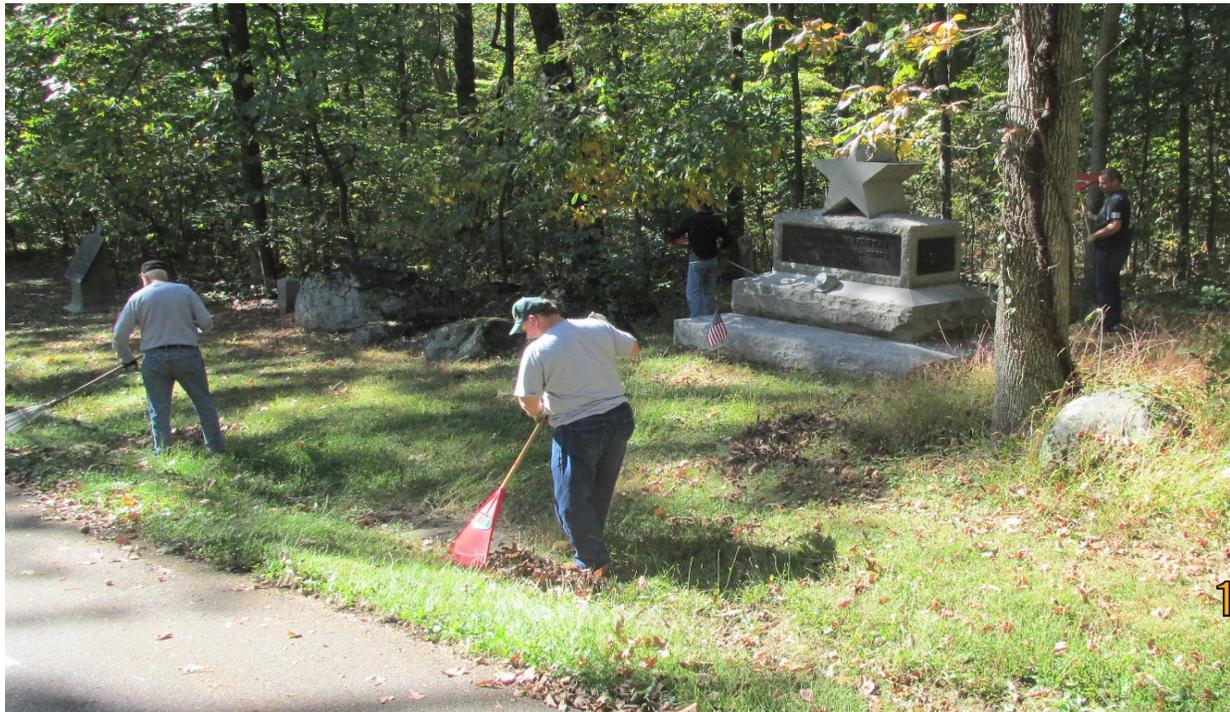


Irish Brigade Camp #4 brothers and family members met on May 30, 2020, at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery to celebrate Decoration Day and pay tribute to the Irish Brigade soldiers buried there.

Brothers attending included JVC-in-C Michael Paquette, National Secretary/Treasurer D. Michael Beard, and Department SVC Roger Leturno. The Camp's officers rallied to execute this event when Commander Willing was mobilized for duty with the Wash D. C. National Guard in support of the Metropolitan P.D. during protests in the nation's capital. Camp SVC Ross Schwalm began the event by reading General Logan's General Order #11. Sons of Veterans Reserve Irish Rifles Commander Robert Heath led the group to each grave and read the profile of each veteran.

## General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp # 1862

General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp # 1862 activities have been limited and no physical meetings are being held during this COVID19 pandemic.



June 2020 – Brothers from General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp # 1862 perform their semi-annual Adopt-A-Position cleanup at Gettysburg National Battlefield.

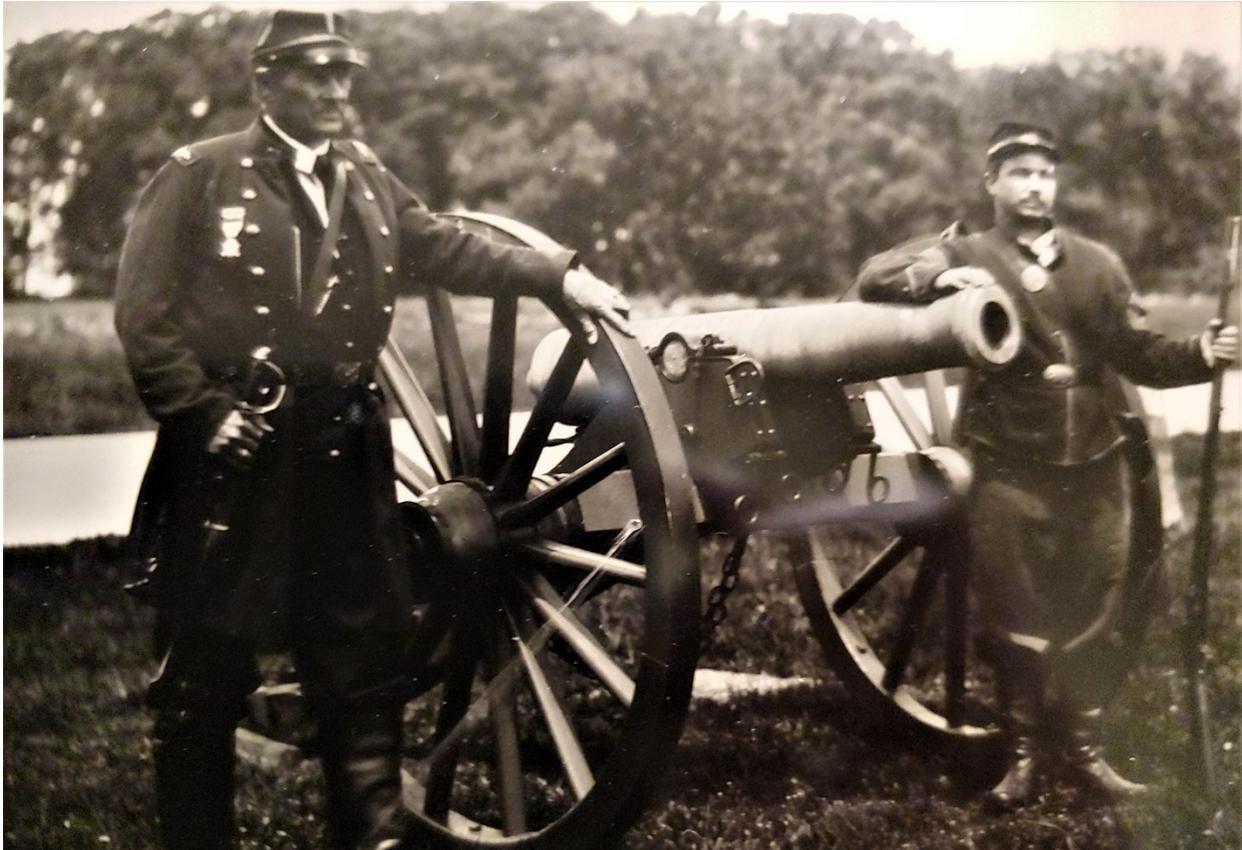
The Adopt-A-Position program engages volunteers in helping meet park goals to maintain the historic setting of the battlefield. Volunteers help by performing field maintenance and labor that otherwise would not be completed due to budget and/or staffing restraints. The General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp #1862 has adopted three positions. The 3rd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery position on Hancock Avenue (Brother Famous' ancestor, Sergeant John Famous, served with this unit) and two positions on Culp's Hill, held by the 28th Pennsylvania. Brothers David Pyne, Barry Famous, Gary Bunting, and Greg Alexander met on a June day for cleanup. After the hard work, they enjoyed a delicious lunch at O'Rourke's, before visiting Benner's Hill and Lady Farm. The Camp will schedule another trip to Gettysburg for this fall.

Torbert Camp has been following two monument removal stories. Easton, MD, has a monument for Confederate soldiers from Talbot County. The statue is located on the County Courthouse property and there is a movement for its removal. The county council voted to keep the monument in place for now. The Marvel Museum in Georgetown, DE, has a monument for Confederate Soldiers from Delaware. The monument flies a Confederate battle flag, resulting in calls for its removal. The museum grounds are private property and the owners have decided to keep the flag up. This decision resulted in the museum losing a State grant which helped fund operating costs.

Commander David Pyne noted the General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp #1862 has three individuals expressing interest in joining the camp and their applications are expected soon.

## General George G. Meade Camp #5

Many of the General George G. Meade Camp #5 events scheduled in 2020 were postponed or cancelled in response to COVID19 restrictions implemented by Maryland Governor, Larry Hogan. However, the camp's brothers remained available to support virtual or physical events.



June 1, 2020 - Commander Eddie Roberts (left) participated in a photo shoot by Victorian Studio at Spangler Spring, Gettysburg PA.

General George G. Meade Camp #5 reports on July 11 2020, the Dr. Mudd Farm board members voted to remove the presence of and all items related to the American Civil War. Request for these actions was submitted at an unofficial meeting without Board President, Vice President, and Head Docent present. Separate notifications of this hostile vote were sent to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, and other civil war participants to the Dr. Mudd Farm. The camp is in the process of removing and donating much of their collection to various museums. These include the Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg, PA, and the Maryland Veterans Museum in New Burg, MD.

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August 21-23, 2020, Commander Roberts volunteered at the Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg, PA, for the 157th Battle of Gettysburg Reenactment.

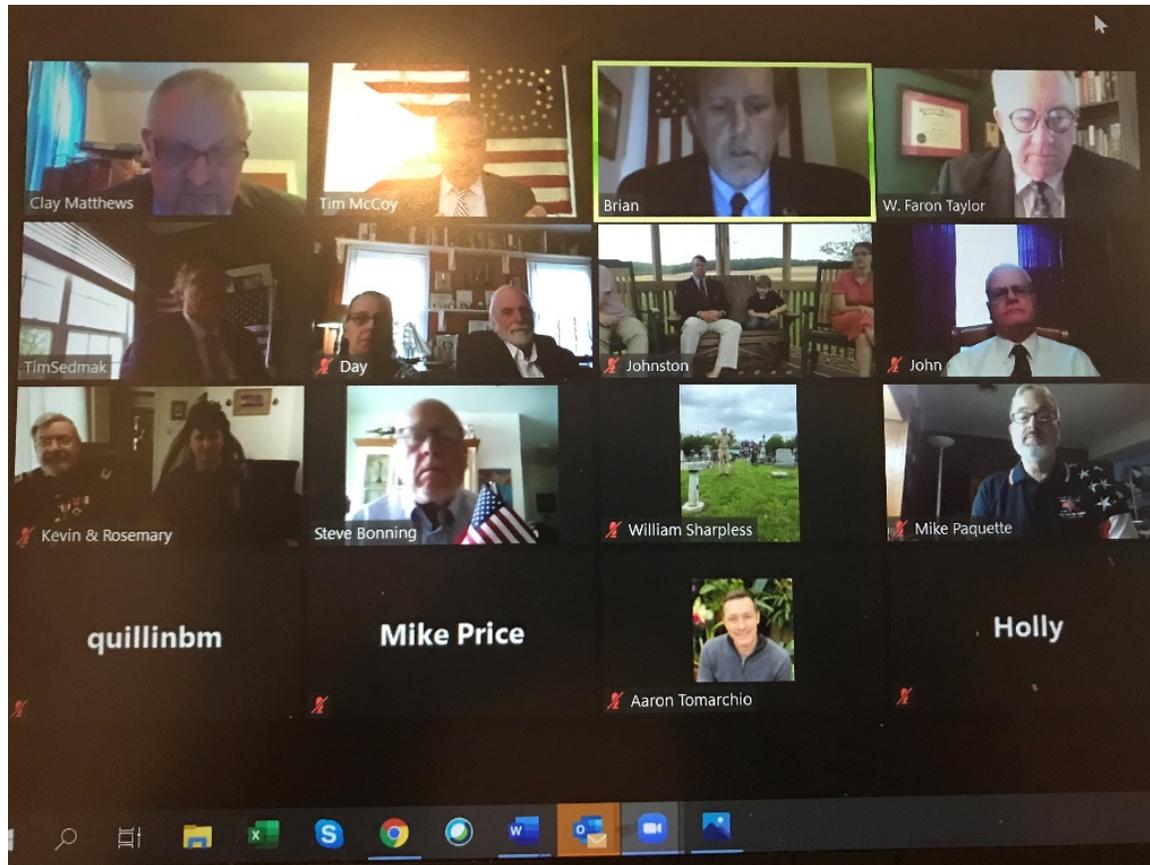


August 21-23, 2020 - Camp Commander Roberts has a busy weekend. He participated in the Footsteps Program, assisted in the Presentation of Ladies in the Civil War, and led activities for the children in attendance. Photo taken at the Daniel Lady Farm.

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**James A. Garfield Camp #1**

Due to restrictions on public gatherings due to the COVID 19 pandemic, on May 25, 2020, James A. Garfield Camp # 1 held a virtual Memorial Day service that allowed Brothers and special guests to safely gather across the miles.

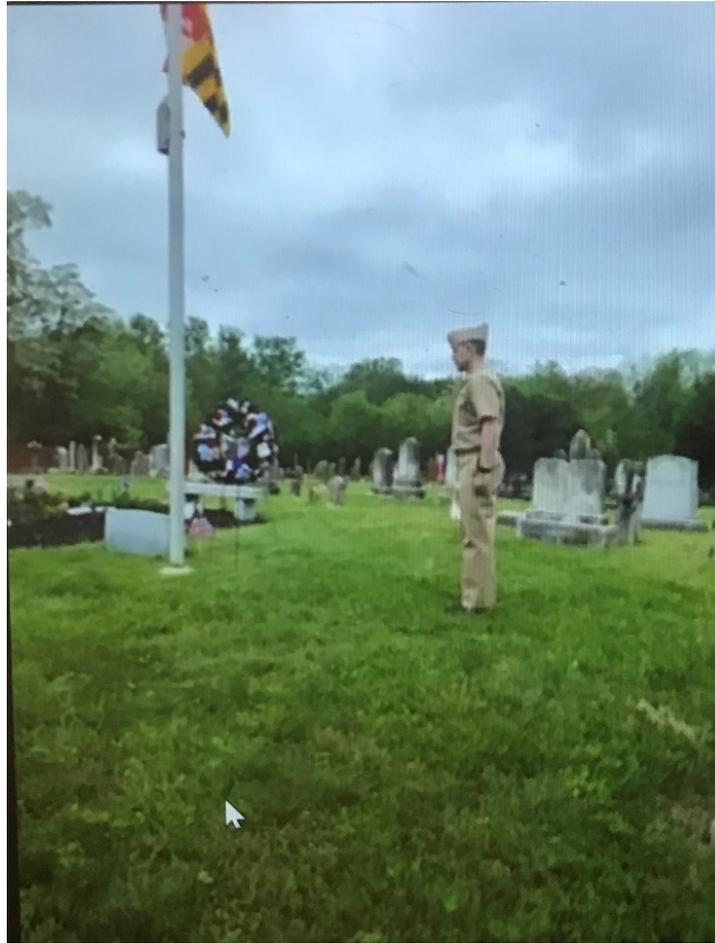


Some of Garfield Camp's virtual 2020 Memorial Day Ceremony attendees.

The service featured readings, poetry, and vignettes from America's conflicts at home and abroad. Also included was a live broadcast of Camp Junior Vice Commander and Naval Reserve Commander Brad Sharpless placing a memorial wreath in historic Reisterstown Cemetery, the final resting place of veterans dating back to the American Revolution. A long-time friend of Garfield Camp and well-known local musician, Mr. Scott Bowers, performed a live rendition of taps.

James A. Garfield Camp #1 was honored to welcome several guest attendees, including PC-in-C Mark Day, JVC-in-C Michael Paquette, Council of Administration member Kevin Martin, Department of the Chesapeake Auxiliary President Barbara Day, and Past President Rosemary Martin. Following the ceremony, attendees took advantage of the virtual format to share fraternal time before heading out to their local cemeteries to offer individual remembrances.

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Garfield Camp JVC and Naval Reserve Commander Brad Sharpless place a wreath at Reisterstown Memorial Cemetery.

On August 1, 2020, Garfield Camp leadership held a virtual staff ride leadership training. Organized by Commander Brian Horgan and hosted via Zoom by PDC Timothy McCoy, Garfield leaders explored leadership by studying the leadership styles of various commanders who led troops during the Battle of Antietam. As part of the training workshop, plans were made for future camp meetings, both virtual and in-person, as the pandemic restrictions may allow. Discussion was also held regarding camp leaders participation in the Memorial University program sponsored by the order.

## Joshua L. Chamberlain Camp # 20



Brother Wayne Miesen and Commander Al Linton

The Joshua L. Chamberlain Camp # 20 conducted a Memorial Day service at the Nofsinger Cemetery, Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia gravesite of Private George William Newman Fulton (1834 – 1894). Private Fulton enlisted July 23, 1862, at Meadows Buff, Greenbrier County, Virginia with Company E, 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment Virginia – West Virginia Infantry. He transferred in November 1864 to Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment VA -WV Infantry and was discharged June 14, 1865, at Parkersburg, West Virginia. Family tradition holds that Fulton escaped to Alleghany County, Virginia, after being taken prisoner near White Sulfur Springs by the Confederate Army. While making his way back to his regiment, he discovered large deposits of valuable clay in a Potts Creek cave. Recognizing its quality, he laid out plans to return to the area. Applying his pottery-making skills, he established a thriving business which supported his family and friends as well as furnished the community with needed utilitarian vessels of “good stone body.”



Camp Council members each placed a shining Lincoln penny, heads up, at the footstone which reads late 19<sup>th</sup> century “Potter” of Potts Creek. Camp Commander Al Linton, placed his coin in the center, Camp Secretary Robert Lee Hadden placed his coin to the left of center, and the Camp Treasurer placed his coin to the right of center.

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Brother Wayne Miesen also revisited the East Hill North Cemetery Salem, VA, gravesite of Private Burwell Larkin (1846 – 1923) Company A, 127<sup>th</sup> US Colored Troops, and Corporal William Keaton Company G, 43<sup>rd</sup> US Colored Troops.

Camp Vice Commander Phil Sheridan promoted an awareness of the Department of the Chesapeake sponsored Decoration Day event at Staunton National Cemetery. Three of the camp's brothers attended.

The Camp implemented a masked-face to masked-face brief and concise business meeting Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. The agenda included a ZOOM overview by Patriotic Instructor Jim Tate who outlined the pros and cons of the virtual application for conducting a future membership meeting if deemed necessary by a prevalent pandemic surge. A test run follow-up was completed Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, with four members becoming actively engaged.

## Appomattox Camp #2

On May 31, 2020, Appomattox Camp #2 participated in the 153<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Wilmington Memorial Day Parade in Delaware. This year's parade was particularly difficult due to restrictions implemented in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Parade participation was extremely limited. The Wilmington Planning Committee had to eliminate traditional involvement of bands and other contributors as well as citizenry watching the parade. These measures threatened to interrupt the city's legacy of having the longest consecutive Memorial Day parade in the United States. In answer, the Appomattox Camp #2 enlisted the help of uniformed descendant re-enactors of the U.S.C.T., as well as their own uniformed members, to provide color guard participation and thus help maintain the designation of parade for the Memorial Day ceremony.

At the Wilmington Soldiers and Sailors Monument, U.S. Senator Christopher Coons and Wilmington Mayor Michael Purzycki, along with other city and state officials, dedicated a state historical marker, presented awards, and enjoyed a 21-gun salute by VFW Post 475.



Front row center are Wilmington Mayor Michael Purzycki and U.S. Senator Christopher Coons.

## A Review of History Channel's Docudrama Miniseries: Grant

Contributed by Brother Brian Withrow

When reading some time ago of Leonardo DiCaprio and Steven Spielberg's acquisition of film rights to Ron Chernow's 2017 best seller biography of Ulysses S. Grant, I was intrigued, but also a bit leery. Ever since watching HBO's John Adams, and many other of their well-done historical miniseries productions, I had longed for the possibility of a similar treatment for Grant. When news appeared that The History Channel would be doing DiCaprio's bidding on Grant, I thought, oh my no, not that! Before diving into a review, full disclosure of perspective and bias is appropriate. I'm a Civil War reenactor in my 21st year of the hobby, but there occurred a most unexpected blessing beginning six years ago (which is a story itself), that of portraying Ulysses S. Grant as a Historical Impressionist. So my take on the series is likely more critical regarding authenticity details than reviews by entertainment professionals. I'll breeze over a dominant critique found on the Web. Yes, I DVR'd the series for a number of reasons, but was grateful to bypass the throng of long commercial interruptions that disturbed program continuity, particularly when paired with preview/recap segments common to the format. I found the documentary element of the "docudrama" format agreeably presented. The expert commentary by historians, academics, military, and author Ron Chernow, who along with DiCaprio and others served as executive producer, is well interwoven with historic photos, modern graphics, and live action "drama" to tell Grant's life story. The shows template flows from Chernow's well researched book, and likewise the commentary and much of the drama's dialog is recited "pull quotes" direct from various historical sources referenced including official records, contemporary writings in letters, diaries, books, etc., and of course from Grant's own memoirs. In that regard I have little to criticize. Where I find fault is in the shows completeness of coverage along with the authenticity and context of many of the dramatic scenes. The pre/postwar years of Grant's life seemed rushed and disproportionately represented, but at least they were covered in some detail for a change. Regrettably, this "6-hour" show blazed through the first 39 years of Grant's life in just over half an hour. I'll note, Chernow's coverage isn't as all-inclusive as Lloyd Lewis's famed 1950 "pre-war" focused work, Captain Sam Grant, but Chernow did tell it in greater detail than shown. Though presenting incidents from boyhood, West Point, Mexican War, courting of Julia, Army resignation, and "prewar" status, whole periods equating to years of key formative events were entirely skipped without even a mention. Even in events depicted, the context of why it mattered later in life was often vague or lost. Squandered with it, an earnest comprehension of why Grant was the man he was during the Civil War and in the years afterward. From first episode lead-in, it felt like a quickening pace to get to what was really wanted... Shiloh and other gritty battle depictions. But for many viewers I'm sure the prolonged focus on wartime Grant scratched a military history buff itch, and hey, I get that. It's a core theme of what Grant is known for, however, many key moments that would have better illuminated his character were sadly missed. As for the 20 post-war years including two term Presidency, I thought the series again gave disproportionate attention compared to the "war" years, but the coverage done was well. Dramatic recreations, the "drama" part of the series, is where I found most shortcomings. It would take an essay to document them all. Though a profoundly American story, I was disheartened to learn it was filmed in South Africa with a mostly foreign cast. British actor Justin Salinger as adult Ulysses presents a fair portrayal in appearance and manor, with some notable exceptions. However, many others cast as historic figures I found poor in resemblance (Lincoln and Lee for example), a

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distraction to believability. As for Salinger, some of Ulysses quiet and reserved nature came through in the performance, so he didn't entirely act like a verbose "General Patton" which is often how Grant's been portrayed by other actors and impressionists. However, the visual essence of Grant's Civil War period appearance was shown stagnant, though in reality it changed through the war. In Salinger's portrayal, Grant always appears as the "late war" inspired caricature. Right off he's donning a Major General's frock coat even though lower in rank, puffing away on cigars though he infrequently did until a news report following Ft. Donelson's surrender brought copious gifts of fine tobacco. Never a change of hair and beard length as evident in historic images. At war's outbreak, Grant's beard was nearly down to his chest until sometime following his promotion to Brigadier General... would have made ZZ Top proud. Early photos have him wearing a Hardee style hat, the famous slouch hat look appeared later. And a detail that will continue to be an irritant when I do the role is once again Ulysses wrongly depicted with dark black hair and beard... the true color was light chestnut brown! But images of the period are black and white, so... I guess everyone had black or white hair? There are some good period paintings and color chromolithographs (I own one printed in 1868), or some good modern colorizations that represent his true life-like appearance. Many details of historical wardrobe, equipment, personal conduct, and depictions of battle were wildly inaccurate. Whoever was in charge of wardrobe and battle choreography should be taken to the woodshed. Also, some scenes took "poetic license" by merging events, changing setting, or depicting events out of context of how they actually occurred to tell the story. It's likely some of this is due to a variety of production reasons such as time, story flow, cost, etc. Hey, they had to pay for those dramatic bullet impact effects after all. Admittedly, a majority of the public audience doesn't know any better and thus didn't notice, but for knowledgeable reenactors, impressionists, Civil War enthusiasts and historians, some are pulling their hair out over the abundance of inaccuracies. But ultimately I have to say the core story prevailed, the unauthenticity transparent to the broad audience. Overall, it was the most comprehensive and best (though the bar was low) coverage of Ulysses Grant done yet, and it was long overdue. Much good about him was covered beating down unfair stereotypes and myths... failure, drunk, butcher, lucky General, mediocre President. A review in the Daily Beast I thought summed it up well, "...the context it provides about Grant's life, both as a young man and as an eight-year resident of the Oval Office, deepens its argument about the titanic nature of his achievements, and the greatness of his character—both of which make him, no matter the vantage point, one of the true, indispensable founders of the American republic." I think DiCaprio got what he wanted, to bring Grant out of the shadow so he is better known, laying the groundwork for his opportunity to play Grant in a Spielberg "Lincoln" like movie. 8 Yes, to my eyes the series "drama" has some authenticity and believability warts, but I still recommend it as worth the watch.