



DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE NEWSLETTER THE CHESAPEAKE GAZETTE

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From the Desk of the Department Commander



Brothers and Sisters, Welcome to the New Year 2017. It is my pleasure to offer another issue of the Chesapeake Gazette. The format has changed a bit and hope you like it. Someone wrote in and commented on how much ink it took to print our newsletter. I think that in future issues we will restrict each Camp to one or two pages for submission. I am very proud to have been elected to this office and want to encourage each of you to do what you can to make 2017 a banner year for The Department of the Chesapeake. I have had the opportunity to visit several camps and extremely proud of the accomplishments and projects you have undertaken. I am delighted in the different Camps' interest in Dedication Ceremonies held in different cemeteries. This is what we're about and a hearty congratulations to those Camps for promoting this effort. Get involved. There is no better way to get to know your Brothers and Sisters than by serving as an officer, or on a committee, or project. Not happy with the way something is run? Be the change that you want to see happen.

Charles (Ben) Hawley
Department of Chesapeake
Commander

The passing of Charles E. Kuhn, Jr.



Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., 59, passed away peacefully Friday, December 16, 2016 at his home following his courageous battle with cancer. He was the husband of Joanne (Redding) Kuhn for 37 years.

Born February 27, 1957 in Gettysburg, he was the son of the late Charles E. Kuhn, Sr. and Marie Sterner Kuhn.

Charlie had worked for County Line Quarry in Wrightsville. He graduated Gettysburg High School in 1975 and was a member of Upper Bermudian Lutheran Church in Gardners for more than 20 years

Surviving in addition to his wife are a daughter, Michelle Brecht and her husband Douglas of East Berlin, two sisters Nancy Kuhn and husband Fred Mills, Cheryl Engley and husband Thomas Michael of Virginia, three grandchildren, Robert, Kaydence and Madyson and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was involved with the Cub/Boy Scouts for several years. He received his Eagle Scout Award in 1972, he was a Vigil Honor member of Tuckahoe Lodge 386 and was Cub Master for Pack 88 in Lake Meade for several years, Treasurer of Upper Bermudian Lutheran Church for 13 years, Treasurer of the Parish for 12 years, Commander of Gettysburg Camp 112 for the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War for 2 years, served as Department Commander for the State of Pennsylvania for 2 years, Commander in Chief for the National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for a year. He oversaw the Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade for 13 years and the Remembrance Day Committee for 12 years, President of Lincoln Fellowship for a year, member of Sons of Veterans Reserve and a member of the Good Samaritan Lodge #336 in Gettysburg.

Services were held on Friday, December 23, 2016 at 11:00 AM from St. James Lutheran Church, York Street, Gettysburg with Pastor Dave Clark as celebrant. Brother Kuhn was then laid to rest in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Contributions in memory of Charlie can be made to Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, Boy Scouts of America or Upper Bermudian Lutheran Church.

Antietam Camp No. 3, Frederick, Maryland

On Saturday, November 12th, Antietam Camp #3 held their Annual Camp dinner at "Bulls and Bears Restaurant" in Hagerstown, Maryland. The guest speaker was Dr. James Broomall, of the Tyler-Moore Center for Civil War Study at Shepherd University. Dr. Broomall gave an informative and interesting presentation about the mission and capabilities of the center, as well as its role within the local community. Thirty five members, spouses, and members of the Antietam Camp Auxiliary were in attendance.

Also among the attendees were: Past National Commander **Eugene Mortorff**, Department Commander **Charles Benjamin Hawley**, and Department Junior Vice Commander **Wes Mumper**, of the Sgt. J.H. Harris Camp #38.



Colonel James D. Brady Camp #63

Department of the Chesapeake

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The Colonel James D. Brady Camp #63 covers the area from Petersburg to Virginia Beach, VA. Our namesake, James Dennis Brady, likewise started his life at one end of our camp boundary and ended his life at the other end.

James D. Brady was born in Portsmouth, Virginia on April 3, 1843, the son of Irish immigrants. His parents died in the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1855 (along with 10% of the city's inhabitants), and James was sent to live with relatives in New York City.

At the outbreak of war he enlisted as a private in the 37th NY "Irish Rifles," then transferred to the 63rd NY as a 1st lieutenant and adjutant on December 7, 1861. He was wounded in the leg at Fair Oaks, and received a slight wound in the mouth at Malvern Hill during the Seven Days Battles. At Fredericksburg he was wounded in the head while leading the color company in the charge up Marye's Heights, for which he was commended by Gen. Meagher for heroism and gallantry and promoted to captain. He then held various brigade and corps level staff jobs. At Cold Harbor on June 3, 1864, while riding perilously close to Confederate lines a bullet traversed through Brady's arm, chest, and abdomen. It continued a path into the back of the commander of Irish Brigade, Col. Byrnes, and lodged in his spine. Brady survived, but Byrnes was not as fortunate. On May 26, 1865 James D. Brady was promoted to colonel of the 63rd NY; and was at the head of his regiment for the Grand Review in Washington D.C.

Following the war, Col. James D. Brady decided to remain in Virginia and live in Petersburg. He started a short-lived grocery store in this city, but removed to Portsmouth after being appointed Naval Storekeeper, then later as Chief Accountant at the Norfolk Navy Yard. A year later he was appointed Clerk of the Courts for Portsmouth. In 1875 he received the Republican nomination to senate, but lost the election due to fraud.

In 1875 he assumed command of the Department of Virginia, GAR, with the rank of Major General issued by President Garfield. In 1877 he was appointed by President Hayes to Collector, Internal Revenue Service for the Eastern Division of Virginia, a position he held under the administrations of Garfield, Arthur, Harrison, and McKinley. At the start of this new position he moved to Petersburg, where he remained the rest of his life.

In 1884 Brady was nominated by the Republican Party as Congressman for the 4th District of Virginia. Besides the support of Blacks, he was also supported by many former Confederates, and he was elected to Congress, serving for two terms.

Brady devoted his final years in the affairs of the old veterans and attended reunions of the Irish Brigade, also as President of the 2nd Corps Association. Through all these years following the war, at the request of the men of the 63rd NY, Col. Brady was given the safekeeping of their 2nd Irish Brigade flag. In 1896 Brady was assured by the former Chaplain of the Irish Brigade, Father.

Father Corby, that the flag would be kept safe and be a cherished relic at Notre Dame, where it remains today, treasured and restored.

James Dennis Brady died at his home in Petersburg on Nov. 30, 1900 and is buried at St. Joseph Cemetery.

Col. James Brady Camp No. 63

Col. James D. Brady Camp #63 at the gravesite of their namesake, Col. James Dennis Brady, final commander of the 63rd Regiment, NY Volunteer Infantry, of the famed “Irish Brigade.”

In March, 2016, after a tour of the eastern front of the Petersburg line, the Brady Camp paid their respects to their namesake at St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Over the past six months the Brady Camp has remained active. In July, our own Brother Albert Burckard led a tour of the Confederate Fort Huger on the James River. This fort was abandoned to the Union forces as they moved up the river during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862. The tour of the fort was followed by Brother Burckard’s presentation on the Battle of Smithfield, held in the Smithfield Museum where he is a docent. The Camp then enjoyed a great lunch and libations down the street at the Wharf Hill craft brewery.

In September, the Brady Camp held its quarterly business meeting, hosted by Brother Steve Von Hitritz at the Two Drummers Smokehouse in Toano. The October event, however, was postponed one month due to a little weather event called “Hurricane Matthew.”

In November, the Camp was back at work. The Brady Brothers gathered on Veteran’s Day weekend at Fort Alexander Hays on the Petersburg line, where they have a running service project, maintaining the fort for the City of Petersburg. Having sprayed herbicide on the overgrowth a few months earlier, the Camp hacked, sawed, clipped, raked and cleared brush from the earthworks. A few of the happy helpers are pictured below with their “implements of destruction.” Following the work, the Camp was led on an excellent tour of the western part of the Petersburg line by Brother Doug Blake.

Col. James Brady Camp No. 63

Brady Camp Brothers pose after a morning clearing brush at Fort Alexander Hays.

In January, the Brady Camp will hold its business meeting to elect a new slate of officers and plan out their activities for 2017. In store for the new year are a visit to the North Anna battlefield, a tour of the Bermuda Hundred Campaign sites, and continued support for the proposed Point of Rocks Memorial (an effort headed by Brother Clayton Shepherd), among many other activities. You will continue to hear great things from the Brady Camp in the following year(s).

Faugh-a-Ballagh! ["Clear the Way!"—the Irish Brigade's rallying cry]

--By Brother Louis Mosier, Camp Commander.

General Alfred T.A. Torbert Camp No. 1862 of Milford, DE

Gettysburg Obscure Tour

Think you know all there is to know about the Gettysburg battlefield? Think again. Several members of the Torbert Camp travelled to Gettysburg in October to tour the battlefield. This tour was not focused so much on the battle, but more about the battlefield itself. The tour was led by two licensed battlefield guides, Tim Smith and Garry Adelman, with proceeds going to the Civil War Trust. It's hard to describe how well these two interacted and spoke to the group, but it's safe to say that there wasn't a boring minute all day.

This all day event started on the Round Tops, then went to McPherson Ridge, and ended on east Cemetery Hill. The guides described (using lots of period photographs) how the battlefield looked in 1863, and then described how the battlefield was both preserved and used somewhat as a tourist mecca. For example, in the late 1800s, the area where the Wheatfield Road intersects with Sykes Avenue (near Little Round Top) contained a hotel and casino complex. We also saw where tour roads were originally positioned and how the changes have affected some of the historical aspects of the battle. In addition, the guides pointed out some of the rocks with original carvings where veterans made the first markings of where events took place.

If you are interested, the next tour is planned for April 2017. Look for information on a Facebook group called Obscure Gettysburg with Tim Smith and Garry Adelman. This is a walking tour but not a strenuous hike.



“Hands Across the Wall” ceremony originally done by the veterans themselves.

The General Alfred T. A. Torbert Camp #1862 located in Milford, DE participated in the following activities: In August, we sadly paid our final respects to PCC George Contant. George was an author and historian who loved Delaware history, especially the Civil War years. Brother George played an instrumental role in the restoration of Ft. Delaware a few years ago and was currently involved with the restoration of Ft. Miles, a WWII installation providing for the defense of the Delaware River and Bay. The Camp made a donation to the Fort Miles Historical Society in Brother Contant’s memory.

The camp held its quarterly meeting and 2017 officer elections in October. Installation ceremonies will be performed in February. The 2017 officers are:

Barry Famous – Commander
David Pyne – Senior Vice Commander
Gary Bunting – Junior Vice Commander
Greg Alexander – Secretary
Marvin Schelhouse – Treasurer
Ray Harris – Chaplain, ROTC Award Coordinator
Tom Chilton – Eagle Scout Award Coordinator.

- In October, we performed our semi-annual Adopt-a-Position clean-up activities at Gettysburg Battlefield. The camp maintains areas around three monuments that have significance to the camp.
- The camp also performed its semi-annual clean-up activities at the Union Cemetery in Milford, DE. The camp does this jointly with the Lions Club. In addition, the Boy Scouts lend a hand, most recently painting the fence in the front of the property.
- Several camp members marched in the Remembrance Day parade in Gettysburg, PA. The camp's new American and camp flags were proudly carried for the first time. Camp members (pictured) also re-enacted the 'Hands Across the Wall' ceremony originally done by the veterans themselves.
- In December, camp members made a trip to the Philadelphia GAR Museum and Library. This is a really interesting place with one of a kind artifacts, and a huge research library.
- Also in December, Camp Commander Famous met with a New Castle County Historical Coordinator concerning headstone replacement project for a USCT soldier. Four Civil War soldiers are buried at a former African American church that pre-dates the Revolutionary War and is now being restored as a historical building. Assuming we are successful in obtaining a replacement headstone, we intend to have an all-Delaware ceremony to honor the soldier.



The James A. Garfield Camp No. 1

GARFIELD CAMP CONDUCTS DECEMBER CEREMONY IN REISTERSTOWN



L-R Brothers Rick Knoepfler, Faron Taylor, CC Tim McCoy, Peter Johnston, Sister Virginia Johnston, along with Brothers Nathaniel and Elias Johnston stand behind the grave of Sgt. John Neel. (Photo courtesy of Br. Brian Quillin, II)

REISTERSTOWN, MD (DECEMBER 10, 2016) – A contingent of Brothers from James A. Garfield Camp No. 1 gathered on Saturday, December 10 to honor Union soldiers with a ceremony at the historic Reisterstown Community Cemetery in Baltimore county. The observance featured uniformed musical accompaniments and a wreath laying at the grave of John Neel, a sergeant with the 8th Maryland Volunteer Infantry.

In addition to the wreath laying, Brothers delivered poignant readings and sang songs in reminiscence of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century observances. The December date exemplifies the Camp's commitment, even in the cold of winter, to honor the noble service of 'ordinary' Union soldiers who defended our country; common men who did uncommon things.

The Reisterstown Community Cemetery was established several years before the American Revolution. It is the final resting place of local citizens and veterans who served in America's conflicts from the Revolution through World War II.

**GARFIELD CAMP COMMEMORATES THE BATTLE OF
ANTIETAM WITH DONATION TO THE
CIVIL WAR TRUST**

SHARPSBURG, MD (September 17, 2016) – Brothers from Baltimore’s James A. Garfield Camp No. 1 commemorated the service of their ancestors on the 154th anniversary of the battle of Antietam with a visit and Camp meeting on the storied battlefield in Washington County. Convening at the Maryland Monument, Brothers unanimously approved a donation of five-hundred-dollars to support the Civil War Trust’s *Save the Maryland Campaign* to help preserve three separate tracts of land that played important roles in the 1862 action.

Now in the third year of its battlefield preservation program, Camp 1 has made sizeable donations to the Civil War Trust to help safeguard local battlefields from development. Additionally, the Camp provides substantial financial support annually for the Trust’s general operating fund.

For more information about the CWT and its current *Save the Maryland Campaign* please visit: <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/antietam/antietam-2016/>

James A. Garfield Camp No. 1 is a member camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), serving Baltimore and areas within the Central Maryland region. The SUVCW is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of heroes who fought and worked to save the Union. Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, we are the legal successor to the Grand Army of the Republic.

Irish Brigade Camp #4 Newsletter Article by Brother Ross H. Schwalm

The Irish Brigade Camp #4 participated in several events during the Fall Campaign. Two highlights were Remembrance Day parade in Gettysburg, PA on Nov 19 and the 154th anniversary of the Irish Brigade Attack during the Battle of Fredericksburg at City Point Dock in Fredericksburg, VA on Dec 11. Led by Camp Commander James Standard, Camp Brothers performed ceremonial and color guard duties at both events.



CC James Standard (L) and Brother Ross Schwalm at Remembrance Day Nov 19, 2016.



Brothers Michael Paquette (L), Ross Schwalm (C) and Brian Withrow at Irish Brigade Wreath Laying Dec 11, 2016.



Irish Brigade Camp #4 Brothers in Arms with President Lincoln (Don Mullin)

Highlighting the Winter Campaign is the Camp Sponsored Annual Lincoln Dinner at the Fredericksburg Country Club at 6:00 PM Feb 11, 2017. This year's speaker is NPS Historian Becky Oakes who will talk about Abraham Lincoln in American Myth and Memory. Check our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/IrishBrigadeCamp/> for event details.

The Irish Brigade Camp approached the 31 high schools with Junior ROTC programs in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon, Prince William, Caroline, Culpepper, Fauquier, Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George and Warren counties. All have committed to participate in the SUVCW Awards Program and will recognize a cadet from their school with the SUVCW certificate and medal. Planning and coordination will occur during the Winter Campaign for successful execution in the Spring Campaign.



Camp Commander Dick Griffin places the American Flag on Private Phillips Grave.

Lincoln Cushing Camp #2 Headstone

Rededication Ceremony

Story by Eric Atkisson, Camp Patriotic Instructor

On the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 4, volunteers from Lincoln-Cushing Camp No. 2 gathered at the Alexandria National Cemetery in Alexandria, Va. to dedicate a new headstone for Pvt. William L. Phillips, who died on May 21, 1865, shortly after the War of the Rebellion ended.

A farmer and native of Greenville County, S.C., Phillips was born about 1829. In August 1862, he left his wife and three young children and risked his life traveling to Huntsville, Ala., where he enlisted in Co. K, 1st Ala. Cavalry (Union) for three years. He was one of more than 100,000 Southerners who fought for the Union during the war, with every Southern state except South Carolina raising at least a battalion for the Union Army.

In May 1863, during Streight's Raid toward Rome, Ga, Phillips' unit was surrounded by Confederate forces and surrendered at Cedar Bluff, Ala. Phillips was sent to Libby Prison in Richmond, Va., where suffered the effects of poor diet and unsanitary conditions. After being paroled the following year, he rejoined his company and served in Gen. William T. Sherman's summer campaign on Atlanta.

Phillips spent time in and out of the hospital, still suffering the effects of his imprisonment, but by January 1865 he was able to rejoin his unit again and serve with them through Sherman's march into North Carolina. He was present for the surrender of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's army of 89,000 Confederates on April 25, which effectively ended the war.

The 1st Ala. Cavalry returned to Huntsville to be mustered out, but Phillips was sent to Slough General Hospital in Alexandria for medical treatment. Three days after he arrived, on May 21, he received an overdose of cyanate potassium (used for parasitic diseases at the time) and died within three hours. The following day he was buried in the Alexandria National Military Cemetery.

In the chaotic days and weeks that followed his name was misspelled in the death records as William H. Philips, with one "L" and an incorrect middle initial, and he became lost to future generations. At the request of a descendant, Brother Bart Smith--who is also the descendant of loyal Southern Unionists--agreed to search the cemetery. By a strange twist of fate, the very first gravesite he examined after arriving at the cemetery was Phillips', and the date was May 21, 2015--the 150th anniversary of Phillips' passing.

"I'm not so sure Private Phillips didn't find me," said Brother Smith during his remarks at the rededication ceremony, recalling how he instantly recognized the misspelling as the source of the confusion. He immediately contacted the Veterans Administration to begin the process of having a new, correct headstone installed.



Also participating in the rededication ceremony were Lincoln-Cushing Camp No. 2 Commander Dick Griffin, Senior Vice Commander and Camp Chaplain John Higgins, Junior Vice Commander Steve Bohling, Department Commander Ben Hawley, Brothers James Perry, PDC Lee Stone, Thomas Bohling, and Patriotic Instructor Eric Atkisson. Cliff Jordãno, a volunteer from Bugles Across America, played Taps.

First known as “Soldiers’ Cemetery,” the Alexandria National Cemetery is one of the original 14 national cemeteries established in 1862. It is also the final resting place of the four civilians who died in pursuit of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassin, John Wilkes Booth.

During this past year, brothers of Lincoln-Cushing Camp No. 2 have started an interesting project. Of course, we all know that we belong to the SUVVCW because we descend from Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who fought to save the Union and to destroy slavery. So, as part of our camp history project, we decided to try to document all our direct and collateral ancestors who served honorably in the Civil War. So far, 79 ancestors have been entered into a spreadsheet. Ultimately, we plan to convert the spreadsheet to a database and to provide a link to it in our camp website.

Some very interesting facts have come to light. Most of our ancestors served in state-supplied regiments, although one served in a U. S. Sharpshooters regiment (albeit in a company recruited in Michigan), two served in U. S. Colored Troops regiments and one in a Veterans’ Reserve Corps regiment. Eight ancestors served in cavalry regiments, 58 in infantry regiments, two in Heavy Artillery regiments, and three in Field Artillery batteries.

Two of one brother’s ancestors served in the same regiment as one of the reported ancestors of two other brothers.

Four of our ancestors served in the U. S. Navy. One of those ancestors transferred to the Navy from a Maine infantry regiment just before the Overland Campaign got started. One of the Navy men, the ancestor of PDC Rob Pollock, served in the Navy for almost 50 years. He joined the Navy in 1812 and finally retired at the rank of Captain at the end of 1861.

So far, no one has reported ancestors who served in the U. S. Marine Corps or in the Revenue Cutter Service.

Most of our ancestors served as private soldiers, although there was a sprinkling of non-commissioned officers (Corporal and Sergeant), Navy petty officers (2nd Class Fireman, 2nd Gunner, and Coxswain), and a few commissioned officers. The highest-ranking officer was the Navy Captain.

Taken together, our ancestors participated in many of the major battles and campaigns of the Civil War. These include the Eastern Theater battles of the Peninsula Campaign, Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Mine Run, Rappahannock Station, The Overland Campaign, Petersburg, the 1864 Valley Campaign (including Third Winchester, Tom’s Brook, and Cedar Creek), the Battle of the Crater, and the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. In the Western Theater, the battles and campaigns of Chickamauga, Franklin, Rich Mountain, Vicksburg, Stones River, the Atlanta Campaign, Sherman’s March to the Sea and the Carolina Campaign, the Red River Campaign, the battles of New Madrid, Island Number Ten, Expedition to Fort Pillow, Perryville, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Nashville, and the Siege of Corinth.

One ancestor participated in anti-guerilla operations in Missouri. The Navy men participated in the Gulf Blockading Squadron, Mississippi River Operations, and the Navy Captain commanded the receiving ship USS North Carolina.

Of the reported ancestors, 16 were wounded in action, 3 were killed in action, 13 died of diseases (tuberculosis, typhoid fever, bronchitis, etc.) and 3 were captured. Of the 3 who were captured, 1 returned to his regiment, and 2 were incarcerated in Andersonville prison camp. One of the Andersonville prisoners died in captivity and the other survived. This constitutes a casualty rate for the reported camp ancestors of nearly 50%, a very high number compared to an overall Union casualty rate of approximately 24%.

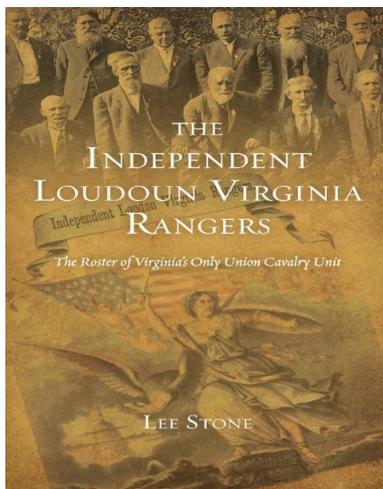
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This is a remarkable story that is emerging. Just think of what might be discovered as more brothers of Lincoln-Cushing Camp report their ancestors! Even more, what if the project were to spread through the Department of the Chesapeake, or even eventually went national? I do not doubt that we would have a magnificent database of great use to our Order, historians, and to members of the public.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Richard Griffin

Camp Commander



A small, unique cavalry unit called the Loudoun Rangers, though raised in Virginia, served in Union Blue during the Civil War. The unit was formally known as the Independent Battalion of Virginia Volunteer Cavalry. Their history was published by Briscoe Goodhart, a Ranger veteran, in 1896, though his book has long been out of print.

I have recently published a unit roster of the Loudoun Rangers. Though it does present a quick narrative sketch of the unit's experiences, most of the book is simply a listing of every man known to have served in that unit, and a synopsis of each man's service data. The listing is organized in alphabetical order by surname, then by given name. Most of the information in this roster was gleaned from Compiled Military Service Records and pension records held by the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. In presenting data about each man's military service—enlistment, rank, length of service, and so forth—I wanted to memorialize all the members of

the unit. A few entries offer data about men who later claimed to be Loudoun Rangers, but probably were not.

In addition to military details, whenever I found information about a Ranger's family—mother, father, siblings, wife, children—at least the names of those family members have been included. Some information from the US Census, before and after the Civil War, is also included. Burial sites of the remains of all of the Loudoun Rangers I could track down—more than 60% of the total—are listed as well. The book also includes some thoughts about the difficulties and anomalies encountered in compiling the information.

This unit roster cannot be considered complete, but rather should be seen as a work in progress. I am fully aware that this book will be found to contain some errors, and to lack some available information, despite the best efforts of myself and several others to reduce errors and gaps to a minimum. If anyone who reads this work can show evidence of an error, or can fill a gap, the Waterford Foundation and I would very much like to hear from that person.

You may obtain this book through the Waterford Foundation (www.waterfordfoundation.org). It is available in print form and as an e-book.

It has seemed to me that the men of the Loudoun Rangers, serving the United States Government from a state in rebellion against that government, should be introduced—or better said, re-introduced—to the world. They have a most unusual story.

Harris Camp Holds Ceremony to Remember Southern Maryland Medal of Honor Recipients



On Sunday September 18th, 2016 members of the Sgt. James H. Harris Camp #38 came together at the USCT Monument at John Lancaster Park in Lexington Park, MD to remember 3 Medal of Honor Recipients from St. Mary's County. Sgt. James H. Harris, the Camp's namesake, along with Pvt. William H. Barnes and Quartermaster Joseph B. Hayden were honored for their deeds more than 150 years ago. The Camp was honored to have a number of distinguished guests that were in attendance to provide remarks and show their gratitude for deeds that went above and beyond the call of duty.

Speakers in attendance were:



State Senator Steve Waugh (R-MD-29) offered remarks on behalf of the State Senate and presented 3 General Assembly Citations to each Medal of Honor Recipient to CC Wes Mumper.

Commissioner Gary Knight offers remarks on behalf of Governor Larry Hogan and his cabinet and presented a Governor's Citation to CC Wes Mumper marking the commemoration event.



State Delegate Deb Rey (R-MD-29C) offered remarks on behalf of the House of Delegates and for the event.



Other Speakers included: **LtCol Michael L'Hereux USMC (Ret)** offered remarks on behalf of the Navy and Marine Corps Team at NAS Patuxent River, **Ms. Rachel Jones** offered remarks on behalf of US Senator Barbara Mikulski and presented a letter to CC Wes Mumper from the Senator commemorating the event, National SV CinC **Mark Day** offered remarks on behalf of the National Organization of the SUVCW Department Commander **Ben Hawley** offered remarks on behalf of the Department of the Chesapeake, Camp Commander **Wes Mumper** offered remarks on behalf of the Sgt. James H. Harris Camp #38.

Colonel David L. Stricker Camp No. 64, Wyoming, Delaware



**Honoring the heroes:
Civil War historians look to mark Union graves in Delaware**

Delaware was a Civil War oddity. Although slavery was legal and Southern sympathy was strong, particularly in the lower counties, it remained in the Union. About 2,000 Delawareans joined the Confederates and an estimated 12,300 signed up to fight for the Union.

Today, more than 150 years after the war ended, two men are working to find and mark the grave of every Union veteran in Delaware. Wyoming's Glenn Layton and Middletown resident Dan Cowgill have been searching old records and walking through cemeteries in their quest for the past two years. Cowgill became interested when he took up his mother's genealogy project after her death. He found 16 ancestors who fought, taking up arms for both sides.

"That just overwhelmed me and created a passion for learning about the Civil War," he said.

Working separately on his family history, Layton found several ancestors who served. None had markers on their graves for their military service, he said. "That opened my eyes to the fact that there must be many more veterans not recognized," Layton said.

As members of the Col. David L. Stricker Camp 64 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War the two decided to take up the project together. "The bottom line is we decided to do this out of respect and duty to honor the Civil War veteran," Layton said



Commander George Balog, Stricker Camp

The two occasionally found themselves stymied because some of the cemeteries they were looking for have been covered over and no longer exist. If Confederate graves are located, that information is turned over to a group representing Confederate descendants.

Cowgill and Layton get permission from cemetery owners before marking the graves, and from any descendants, if they can be found. "Sometimes finding the families is almost impossible," Cowgill said. "It can be harder than finding the soldier's records."

In some cases, descendants of soldiers have contacted Layton and Cowgill to request a marker. "We've had the pleasure of meeting several descendants and placing the marker at the grave," Layton said. They'll remove a medallion if family members turn up and do not want their ancestor's grave marked, Cowgill said. So far, their efforts have been mostly in Kent County.

"Our goal is to complete Kent, and move on to Sussex and then to New Castle County," Cowgill said. A volunteer has identified some veterans' graves in the northern part of the state, he added. Cowgill and Layton estimate the Stricker Camp and volunteers have placed at least 150 markers at a cost of about \$15 apiece. They're able to buy them through a grant from the Delaware Preservation Fund, and have raised some money on their own; Cowgill has sold some Civil War bullets from his personal collection. Layton estimates that although they've made a good beginning, the statewide project will take years to complete. "The research may be done long before we have the funds to purchase enough markers," Layton said. "We've determined a need to map grave sites within a cemetery so we can locate them more readily when we return. We're presently considering using GPS technology for this purpose."

Anyone wanting to share information or family histories can email desoldiergraves@yahoo.com. Additional information is at Stricker Camp 64 on Facebook, [facebook.com/Stricker SUVCW](https://www.facebook.com/StrickerSUVCW) and there's a GoFundMe page at [gofundme.com/25a25fgb](https://www.gofundme.com/25a25fgb).

Need a speaker?

Our Brothers can speak to several topics including:

- **50th PA Infantry**
- **54th Mass.**
- **210th PA Infantry**
- **Battle of Balls Bluff**
- **Battle of Chancellorsville**
- **Battle of Fort Stevens**
- **Battle of Fredericksburg**
- **Civil War 101**
- **Civil War Artillery**
- **Civil War Cavalry**
- **General Phil Sheridan**
- **General U. S. Grant**
- **Loudoun Rangers**
- **Montgomery County, Maryland, during the Civil War**
- **Overland Campaign**
- **Reconciliation - Healing the Wounds of War**
- **United States Colored Troops**

Send inquiries to: Commander@IrishBrigadeCamp.com

News of Interest

- **Point of Rocks Monument - The National has donated a check in the amount of \$1 ,000 representing the funding of a grant on behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc. to partially fund the new monument to be placed at the entrance of Point of Rocks Park. We commend Brother Michael Beard for his dedication and efforts in making this monument something we can all be proud of.**
- **Talbot County Memorial - The Torbet Camp held a special meeting with Mr. Terry Ayers who made a presentation regarding a proposed monument to Union soldiers from Talbot County, MD. A discussion was held regarding the formation of a Department committee with the probability that any future activities would be led by either department or national level leaders. Should the project be approved, it could be staffed at the local level, but I do not believe that we have sufficient knowledgeable resources to complete this on our own. We do, however, believe that the project has merit and that further discussions are warranted. The Department will shortly form a committee to further discuss this matter. Brother Barry Famous is the point of contact for this project.**
- **Camp Commanders: Please forward results of your Camp Elections to the Department Secretary and the Department Commander. Send all updates so they can be posted on the Department Website. Updates should be forwarded to Brother Mark Day @**
oscmbb64@msn.com

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