



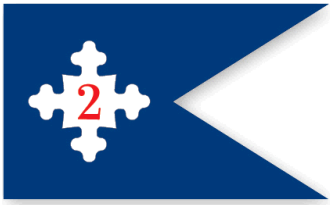
**DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE NEWSLETTER
THE CHESAPEAKE GAZETTE**



The Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.

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From the Desk of the Department Commander



Brothers of the Department of the Chesapeake:

With 2017 having drawn to a close and the new year ahead, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the commitment you have shown in furthering the principles we hold so dear - honoring the service of those who fought to preserve our blessed Union. Whether it be the wide array of public programs that help enlighten our fellow citizens, ceremonies to recognize newly-minted Eagle Scouts, or the day-to-day routine management of our camps, each of these tasks are critical links that form the chain of success and growth of our Order. Your dedication and outstanding performance of these duties speaks well of our Department not only locally but also on the national level.

With this in mind, I want to encourage each of you start the new year with a firm resolve to build on our past successes and expand our camp rolls even further. While seeking new members is certainly a year-round recruitment effort, make every effort to ensure each of our **current** Brothers renew their membership commitment. Retention is a telling reflection of an organization's vitality and as we begin our membership renewal period make sure you reach out personally to each Brother in your camps. Every single Brother brings value to our Order and January is a great time to thank them for their loyalty.

Speaking of our membership renewal period, we will again recognize our camps with the "Honor Roll" award. This accolade will be bestowed at our April encampment to those camps who accurately complete and submit their required reports on time. This year's award will also include a very special keepsake I am sure your camp will be proud to display. For complete details on the award criteria please see the article in this issue of the newsletter.

During our most recent Department officers' meeting the idea of honoring General John A. Logan in this, the 150th anniversary year of Memorial Day was enthusiastically embraced. Although still early in the year, please plan on setting aside time for an early morning wreath laying ceremony at Logan's tomb at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, DC. Plans are ongoing to ensure the event will not conflict with other scheduled ceremonies and programs. Stay tuned for further details!

Finally, kudos and a very special "*THANK YOU!*" are in order for our esteemed newsletter editor and PDC Ben Hawley. This will be Brother Ben's last issue as editor and he has done a wonderful job bringing to you our latest Department-wide happenings. Senior Vice Commander Wes Mumper will assume the editor's chair for the next issue and I encourage your continued support of this valuable medium. Please join me in thanking Ben for his dedication and many late-night hours in producing a top-flight publication.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as you Department Commander. As always, please feel free to contact me anytime with your questions or suggestions on how we can build our Order.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

W. Faron Taylor

W. Faron Taylor

Department Commander

Irish Brigade Camp No. 4

Yankees in Falmouth and Some Confederates Too

Submitted By Roger Leturno

Irish Brigade Camp

On the morning April 18, 1862 a Confederate cavalryman rode through the streets of Fredericksburg, VA, hollering "Yankees in Falmouth! Yankees in Falmouth!" From the Memoirs of John Washington, the first slave in the area to emancipate himself right in front of Conway House when the Union Army first entered Falmouth.

September 9 & 10, 2017 - The Irish Brigade Camp #4 set up and manned an information tent at the "Yankees in Falmouth and Some Confederates Too" living history event in Falmouth, VA.

For many, freedom started here. Yankees in Falmouth takes place at the Moncure Conway house, located at 305 King Street. This house was built in 1807 and has been listed as an historic site on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Moncure Conway came from a prominent Virginia family and disagreed with his father and brothers on the subject of slavery. He rose to prominence as an abolitionist and minister, helping 30 of his father's slaves make the dangerous journey across Maryland to freedom in Ohio. Falmouth was also the landing place for at least 10,000 slaves who sought freedom during the Union's occupation of Falmouth, often risking their lives to cross the Rappahannock River.

This year Yankees in Falmouth... celebrated its 10th anniversary with a theme of reconciliation. This is a wonderful event where Union, Confederate, and civilian reenactors congregate in a beautiful, historic setting to educate the public as to what life was like during the Civil War.

The Irish Brigade Camp has participated in Yankees in Falmouth for several years as it has always been an excellent opportunity to interact with our community. Brothers John Griffith, Andy Johnson, Roger Leturno, Mike Paquette and Ross Schwalm were on hand to answer questions about the SUVCW, our mission, and membership.



Participants in the Yankees in Falmouth living history pose in front of the historic Moncure Conway House.

Irish Brigade Camp No. 4



Irish Brigade Camp #4 Senior Vice Commander Andy Johnson explaining the SUVCW mission to a prospective member.

Antietam Staff Ride

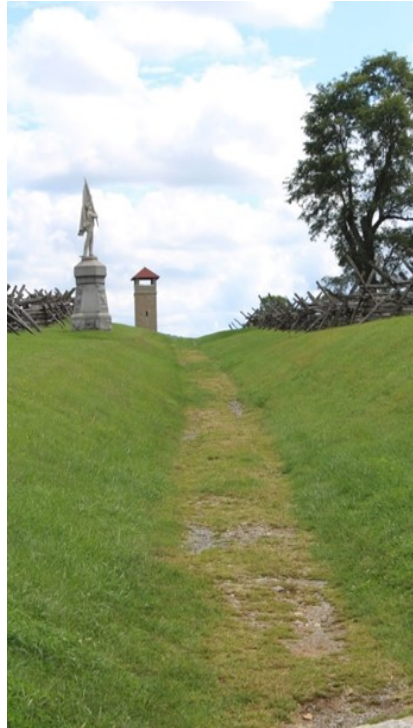
On September 14th, 2017, members and guests of the Irish Brigade Camp #4 from Fredericksburg, VA, visited and toured the Antietam Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Washington County, MD, just days short of the 155th anniversary of the battle.

With 22,720 casualties (3,650 dead) Antietam ranks to this day as the single bloodiest day in American history. Perhaps the most strategically and politically important outcome of the battle was that it gave Abraham Lincoln the victory he needed to publish the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, forestalling European intervention and forever changing the nature of the conflict. After a day taking an in-depth look at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, the Camp and guests had a lite dinner and refreshing adult beverages at the Bavarian Inn just across the Potomac River in nearby Shepherdstown, WV.



Brother Jay Rarick giving a presentation at Turner's Gap describing the Battle of South Mountain —155 years to-the-day after the battle

Irish Brigade Camp No. 4



This is Bloody Lane, looking east towards the century old War Department observation tower. Here Confederates fought a desperate action to hold the center of the line until flanked and overwhelmed by Federal forces. The Confederate dead lay 3-4 deep in this path prompting one officer to state “one could walk the length of the path without stepping on the ground.” It was here that Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North was stopped.



(L-R) Irish Brigade Camp No. 4 Brothers Jay Rarick, PCC, Roger Leturno, CC and James Standard, PCC at the Irish Brigade Memorial at the Blood

Irish Brigade Camp No. 4

Presentation at Irish Brigade Monument



December 17, 2017

Of the many Union charges at Fredericksburg, by far the most celebrated was that of the Irish Brigade. On December 11, 1862, the Irish Brigade's 1250 men moved out to do what four Union brigades had failed to do....take Marye's Heights. The unit advanced to within 50 yards of the rebel line. The brigade stood its ground for a few minutes, exchanging fire with the Confederates, then dissolved into the broken, bleeding sea of humanity lying at the foot of the heights. The next morning, just 230 men of the brigade rallied to the colors. Nearly half the brigade lay bleeding in front of Marye's Heights. In the final tally, the Irish Brigade lost 545 men at Fredericksburg, 45 percent of the men it took into the battle, including 14 of its 15 field officers. Today, a monument to the Irish Brigade stands at the City Dock Park in Fredericksburg, VA, where the brigade had bivouacked prior to the battle. It serves as a reminder of the exemplary courage shown by the Irish Brigade and, indeed, every Union soldier who charged Marye's Heights that day. Each year on the anniversary of Battle of Fredericksburg, Irish Brigade Camp #4 remembers these soldiers (most of whom weren't even born in the United States) by laying a wreath at the Irish Brigade monument. SUVCW CinC Mark Day and Camp Commander Roger Leturno made this year's presentation. We were honored to have SUVCW CinC Day and his wife, Barbara, attend the presentation and join us after the ceremony for food, drink, and conversation at the Sunken Well Tavern. We were honored to have SUVCW CinC Day and his wife, Barbara, attend the presentation and join us after the ceremony for food, drink and conversation at the Sunken Well Tavern.

Antietam Camp No. 3



2017 Annual Antietam Camp Dinner

On Saturday, November 11th, Antietam Camp #3 met at "Monocacy Crossing restaurant" in Frederick, Maryland for their annual dinner. Commander in Chief Mark Day and his wife Barbara, were in attendance, as well as PCinC Eugene Mortorff, his wife Linda, and Department Commander Faron Taylor, with his wife Holly. Several members of the Antietam Camp Auxiliary, including President Rosemary Martin, were present as well.

Following dinner, camp members listened to a presentation by local author, Bob O'Connor, on the US Colored Troops (USCT) during the Civil War.

Although fellowship and good food were the order of the day, a tentative slate of officers for the 2018 year was proffered by PDC Kevin Martin and will be voted on at the next regular meeting scheduled in January.

General Alfred T.A. Torbet, Camp No. 1862



On October 2, 2017, members of the General A. T. A. Torbet Camp # 1862, completed its semi-annual adopt-a-position fall clean up. The work crew included, CC Barry Famous, PCC David Pyne, Brothers JB Gumz, Tom Chilton, and Bobby Graham. After completing the clean- up, the work crew had some lunch downtown, and ended the day by visiting sites on the battlefield, including Spangler's Spring (Kolbe Rock), Evergreen Cemetery and Power Hill.



On November 4, 2017, Eagle Scout Coordinator Tom Chilton, attended the Milford Boy Scout Eagle Scout Ceremony and presented the SUCVW Eagle Scout Certificate and Patch to Joseph Favoroso.

Members also completed the semi-annual clean-up of the Union Cemetery in Milford, DE. The clean-up is made with assistance from the Milford Lion's club. Several members also participated in the 2017 Remembrance Day parade, in spite, of the inclement weather and threats made by unknown individuals.

Camp Commander Barry Famous represented the Torbet Camp at the Harris Camp Medal of Honor Ceremony held September 30th, near Patuxent, MD.

A Civil War Christmas

Soldiers not actively campaigning celebrated Christmas in several ways. Union soldiers would use salt pork and hardtack to decorate Christmas trees. Others were treated to special meals; a captain from Massachusetts treated his soldiers to foods such as turkey, oysters, pies, and apples. However, many soldiers received no special treats or privileges. In one incident on December 25, 1864, 90 Union soldiers from Michigan, led by their captain, dispensed "food and supplies" to poor Georgians, with the mules pulling the carts decorated to resemble reindeer by having tree branches tied to their heads. In some units, celebrating Christmas was not allowed. On December 25, 1862, soldiers of one unit were punished for celebratory gunfire for the holiday, when the gunfire was for a funeral salute.



A silk Christmas Card, ca. 1860

Carols, hymns, and seasonal songs were sung during the period, with some, such as "Deck the Halls", "Oh Come All Ye Faithful", and Mendelssohn's "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (1840), still sung today. American musical contributions to the season include "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (1850), "Jingle Bells" (1857), "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (1857) and "Up on the Housetop" (1860). Although popular in Europe at the time, Christmas cards were scarce in the United States, and would not enjoy widespread use until the 1870s.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote his pacifist poem, "Christmas Bells" on Christmas Day 1864 at the news of his son Lieutenant Charles Appleton Longfellow having suffered severe wounds in November during the Mine Run Campaign. The poem was set to the tune "Waltham" by John Baptiste Calkin sometime after 1872 and has since been received into the established library of Christmas carols. The carol does not include two stanzas from the original poem that focused on the war.

For children, Christmas was altered during the war. Presents were fewer, especially in the devastated South. In *We Were Marching on Christmas Day*, author Kevin Rawlings notes that some southern children worried about the Union blockade, and one little girl, Sallie Brock Putnam, plotted the course Santa Claus would have to take to avoid it. Sometimes fathers on both sides were allowed furlough, and children were said to react to their fathers as if seeing "near strangers". Excuses for a lack of Santa included Yankees having shot him.



Thomas Nast, who used his editorial cartoons to issue Union propaganda, made several illustrations reflecting the war. The one for Christmas Eve 1862, which ran in the January 1863 issue of Harper's Weekly shows a wife on one side praying through a window in one circle, and in another circle, shows her husband on the battlefield, also in prayer. The same issue's cover started how Santa Claus would be perceived by future Americans, as a white-bearded Santa hands such gifts as socks to Union soldiers, while also holding a Jefferson Davis dancing puppet with a rope tied around its neck to perfectly insinuate a lynching. The Christmas 1863 issue showed the couple back together.

Even though the war was over, Nast had a drawing in the Christmas 1865 issue of Harper's Weekly depicting the heads of several Confederate generals at Ulysses S. Grant's feet in an image that centered on Santa. After the war Nast purposely made the North Pole the home of Saint Nick so that no one else could use him for nationalistic propaganda like Nast himself did.

**My Civil War Ancestor
Submitted by David Craig
James A. Garfield Camp #1**

Robert Craig, my great-grandfather, was a member of Battery B, Maryland Light Artillery, USA. He was born in Cecil County, Maryland on October 4, 1842, the son of John and Catherine Jackson Craig. He was the fourth of their seven children.

In the 1860 election Abraham Lincoln came in a distant last place in Cecil County but when the Civil War started many Cecilians wanted the USA to continue to be united. On August 30, 1861 Battery B was organized and Robert Craig quickly enlisted even though he was only 19 years old. The unit was usually called "Snow's Battery" and it was heavily financed by Jacob Tome, a great businessman in Port Deposit.

The Battery trained in late 1861 and early 1862 and then was sent to Virginia where it took part in the Seven Day Campaign. At Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862 Robert Craig was wounded when a musket ball hit the calf of a leg. He was listed as "severely wounded."

A surprising fact is that even though he was severely wounded less than three months later he was still with Battery B when it was assigned to the artillery section of the 2nd Division of the VI Corps. The day was September 17, 1862 and the place was the Mumma Farm Field area at the Battle of Antietam. It played a large role at the Corn Field and Dunker Church firing over 300 rounds. They did so well that a monument was erected to the unit there. Robert also took a personal role. He and Edward Gehr donated a Bible to the Dunker Church after it had been on fire.

Robert was not alone in his unit. His younger brothers, Francis and Joel both enlisted in the same unit. He could have left after two years of service but on January 26, 1864 he re-enlisted. Luckily for me, he wrote letters during the war to his cousin, Kate Jackson. He stated in one "I want to see this thing over before I leave the United States service and to see them glories old stars (sic) and strips . . . it is one of the best countries that was ever on the face of God's earth."

If he had not re-enlisted, the most tragic aspect of his would not have occurred. Battery B fought at the Battle of New Market on June 21, 1864. After the battle they moved from Salem to Mason's Creek where they were attacked, the infantry regiment retreated, and Robert along with 23 others were captured. They were sent to Anderson, GA where one-third of them died. In October he was relocated to Florence, SC, and finally released in February, 1865. He did not get home until July, 1865.

Robert married Leah Ann Patterson on June 24, 1875 at the Port Deposit Presbyterian Church. They had seven children the first of which they named Robert "Bruce" Craig. He is my grandfather. Robert died on March 17, 1919 when his grandson, Joseph "Emerson" Craig, my father, was 23 months old. He was buried at the Asbury Methodist Church in an area called Craigtown. If he had not survived the war, I would not be here but if Robert Craig had not served in the war this country grandfather. Robert died on March 17, 1919 when his grandson, Joseph "Emerson" Craig, my father, was 23 months old. He was buried at the Asbury Methodist Church in an area called Craigtown. If he had not survived the war, I would not be here but if Robert Craig had not served in the war this country might not have continued to be united.

My Civil War Ancestor
Submitted by Thomas J. Chilton
General Alfred T.A. Torbet Camp #1862

The American Civil War was fought between 1861 and 1865. The secessionist, a group of eleven southern states known as the Confederate States of America, fought the Union forces in the bloodiest war in United States history. The Union won, and the country returned to being the United States of America. Although this book is basically about the descendants of Forrest S. Chilton, Sr. and Alice Arvilla Fulton Chilton, I have added the father and uncles of Forrest, Sr. who fought in the Civil War. Although we know little about these men, I have put in all the information I was able to obtain.

Corporal James R. Chilton 69

Corporal James Chilton 7, 1861 – May 24, 1864) **Tom's Great Uncle (Died in Georgia**

Military Occupation: Infantry

(uncle of Forrest S. Chilton, Sr. / brother of Thomas, Spencer and William

James Chilton was born in 1840 – the fifth child of Alexander and Philema Chilton. He enlisted as a Private in the Army at Hermon/Heuvelton, NY in Sept. of 1861 when he was twenty one years old. He was part of the 6th NY State Volunteers, U.S. Army, CoF, 60th INF Regiment, Civil War – known as the Ogdensburg Regiment. The Regiment Code was number 164, and his Soldier ID number was 434080.

James was wounded in action at Chancellorsville, VA on May 3, 1863. The following December 14th he was promoted to Corporal in Wauhatchie, TN. James also fought in Gettysburg, PA, and was one of the troops who fought at Culp's Hill.

The following information was given to my aunt, Donna (Chilton) Manrodt, by her grandfather, Spencer Chilton. According to Sergeant of the Guard, Sgt. Fairbanks, the following report was given. It took place during "Sherman's March to the Sea" (the report, not the deed):

"A certain Union soldier had lost his hearing. He was supposed to be sent home for being partially deaf, but he did not want to leave his unit. So, all the members of the unit volunteered to take his picket duty so he could stay. One day, having just completed his own duty, Jimmy (James) took the deaf boy's duty. While there he heard a wounded boy crying out and screaming for help. Despite the risk, Jimmy felt he had to go and try to save the boy. During the act of picking the injured boy up, Jimmy was shot through the chest. He was able to successfully retrieve the boy, but then went and sat against an apple tree and died. He, himself, had been killed by enemy troops".

Sherman's "March to the Sea" was also known as the Savannah Campaign. It took place between Nov. 15th and Dec. 21st, 1864. After leaving the captured city of Atlanta, GA, General Sherman marched his Union troops to the port city of Savannah. On their way they destroyed many military targets such as industries, infrastructures, and transportation hubs, as well as civilian property. This disrupted the Confederate economy and aided in the Union's campaign to win this terrible war.

James was killed near Atlanta, GA on May 24, 1864. He is buried in Marietta, GA (Cobb County), Section G, Plot 6946. The burial may be at the New Hope Church, but this information may be incorrect. We do know his name is not spelled correctly on the stone, but I am not sure how it is spelled. It may just say "CHILL, J.R.". 70

Private Spencer Erastus Chilton: Private Spencer Erastus Chilton

United States Army (1863 – 1865) **Tom's Great Grandfather**

Military Occupation: Infantry

(father of Forrest Spencer Chilton, Sr. / brother of James, William, and Thomas)

Spencer Chilton was born in Russell, NY on Oct. 13, 1847. He was the eighth child of Alexander Chilton and Philema Mead Brewster Chilton.

On Oct. 2, 1863, when Spencer was fifteen years old, he ran away from home and enlisted in the Army to fight for the North in the Civil War. He enlisted in Buffalo, NY. Spencer had lied about his age because he was only fifteen years old, and not old enough to enlist. Years later his grandson, Forrest Spencer Chilton, Jr., would do the same thing during World War I when he attempted to join the Army. Fortunately, when his mother found out that he had gone to enlist, and she went to the recruiting station, grabbed him by the ear, and took him home!

Spencer joined Company L, 2nd Regiment, NY9th Heavy Artillery. Even though he had joined this heavy artillery unit, there were not enough cannons, so he was given a musket and fought as an infantryman during his time in service. We do not know where it happened, but we do know that Spencer was wounded in the jaw.

After his discharge in 1865, Spencer returned home and became a blaster in the Herman, NY mines. My Aunt Donna (Manrodt) told me that her grandfather, Spencer Chilton, told her about a lady who wanted a rock blown out of her cellar. She had so much confidence in Spencer that she did not remove her newborn baby from the room above while he was blasting the rock. Baby and house were fine after the blasting!

On Jan. 2, 1871 Spencer married Ella Ethalinda Burlingame in Edwards, NY. They had five children – Forrest Spencer, Ernest, Fred A., Donna, and an infant son that apparently died as a baby.

Spencer Chilton died in Herman, NY on Jan. 13, 1913. He and his wife are buried in the cemetery in Herman, NY. Interesting, but the same grandson mentioned above, Forrest S. Chilton, Jr., also died on Jan. 13th, as did his brother, Devere.

Private Thomas B. Chilton **Tom's Great Uncle**

United States Army (Oct. 19, 1861 – Aug. 1, 1862)

(uncle of Forrest S. Chilton, Sr. / brother of Spencer, William and James)

U.S. Army, Company G, 16th Regiment, NY

Thomas was born on Sept. 16, 1845 in Herman, NY, and was one of the 10 children of Alexander and Philema Chilton.

On Oct. 19, 1861 Thomas enlisted in the U.S. Army at Herman, NY. He was in Company G, 16th Regiment, NY, and fought in the Civil War until he was discharged for disability on Aug. 1, 1862 at Harrison's Landing, VA. He had been wounded in the mouth. We do not know where that occurred.

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: virtsmichael@yahoo.com

News of Interest

Camp Secretaries. This year Chesapeake Department will award Department Camps with an Achievement Award for timely and accurate submission of key reports. On December 20, 2017, Department Secretary published a listing of reports and the due dates for each. This will be a great time to have your camp recognized. If you did not receive the Department Secretary Memo, drop him an email deptchsec@gmail.com

Point of Rocks Monument Update

At the last encampment the Department set aside \$500 for a monument at the Point of Rocks. We held off sending a check to make sure the project seemed viable.

The Chesterfield Historical Society has informed me they now have \$4,225 of the \$6,800 budgeted for the monument. This includes \$1,000 from National.

The county is going to start working on the site in March. The County has approval from the Department of Historical Architecture to proceed with restoring the onsite building to its appearance in 1864. This was problem because the building was on the historic register and additions made in the 1930s were considered important. But now the will be history (pun intended). This was the last major hurdle for the project. Once the Historical Society gets closer to the \$6,800 goal, they will order the monument. They are hoping to have a dedication ceremony in April.

Given the promising status, I think it appropriate the Department now send the \$500 to the Chesterfield Historical Society, 10111 Iron Bridge Road, Chesterfield Virginia, 23832. An accompanying letter from the Department should note the \$500 is for the Point of Rocks Monument.

I will also contact all our Department Camps advising them of the project and asking if they are willing to contribute to the project.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Michael Beard, PDC
Irish Brigade Camp #4
Department of the Chesapeake
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Congratulations to Brother Michael Beard for his dedication to this project.



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE**

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