



Battle Cry of Freedom



The official publication of the Department of Pennsylvania
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - 2006

Remembering Heroes

One hundred years ago, on 7 December 1905, dedication ceremonies were conducted for the Pennsylvania memorial erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the National Cemetery at Andersonville, Georgia.

On 7 December 2005, the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of that historical event was held. The focus was on honoring all 4,987 of the Pennsylvania Civil War

Veterans who were imprisoned in the Andersonville Prison; of which 1,849 would die there. The rededication was organized by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Pennsylvania, Gettysburg Camp #112.

There was a "March of Honor," from Providence Spring, adjacent to the original North Gate entry to the

stockade and continued approximately 3/8 miles to the Pennsylvania Monument. Participants carried one or more small Pennsylvania state flags. Each flag carried the name of each of the approximately 200 Pennsylvania regiments represented.

As some of the participants gathered to make the march, the glimpse of their reflections could be seen on the surface of

the quiet pool of water originating from the spring. That same source would have sustained life for a number of our ancestors 141 years ago. According to record, perhaps by divine intervention, that water came to the surface during a lightning strike to that site on August 16, 1864.

At 1:00 p.m., under the command of 1st Lt. John Price
(Please turn to Page 9)

Anderson Medal commemorates history relived

On December 7, 1905 the Pennsylvania Department of the Grand Army of the Republic traveled to Andersonville, GA to dedicate a monument erected to their comrades who were imprisoned there during the bloodiest four years of this Nation's history.

On December 7, 2005, 100 years later, the Pennsylvania Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War along with the other Allied Orders from Pennsylvania rededicated this statue at the National Cemetery in Andersonville, GA.

To commemorate this venerable centennial occasion the Department of Pennsylvania Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War commissioned a limited strike badge and published a commemorative book that contains the names of all those from the Commonwealth known to be imprisoned there. These Badges and books are now available for

purchase by the members of the Sons and other Allied Orders and will be sold as a set.

The Badge is a .999 sterling silver drop suspended on a red Departmental ribbon. All badges are sequentially numbered and were limited to only 300 badges. There is a limited quantity still available. Badge number one was presented to the National Park at Andersonville, with two through nine available for silent bid at a future date.

Members interested in purchasing a commemorative set of the badge and book may now do so. **There is a limit of one badge per person.** The cost of the set is \$25.00 with an additional \$5.00 shipping and handling fee per badge. **Checks should be made payable to the Pennsylvania Department SUVCW.**

Please complete the form below and mail it to:

Charles E. Kuhn Jr., PDC
464 Lake Meade Dr.
East Berlin, PA 17316

If you are sending in an order for more than one person

be sure to include the names of those who will receive the other badges. Your names will be recorded with the records of the Department so that future generations will be able to determine who had what badge.

PENNSYLVANIA AT ANDERSONVILLE COMMEMORATIVE BADGE

Mail to: Charles E. Kuhn Jr., PDC
464 Lake Meade Dr. East Berlin, PA 17316

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

NAMES OF OTHER BADGE RECIPIENTS:



Appomattox Banquet to feature One Man Act GAR Remembrance Day in Scranton

Lt. Ezra Griffin Camp #8, SUVCW, Auxiliary #10 and the Delaney Delacy Guard, SVR, will observe its second annual GAR Remembrance Day Saturday, April 22, 2006 in Scranton.

A highlight of the day-long itinerary will be the annual Appomattox Luncheon at the Historic Radisson at Lackawanna Station at noon.

The day will get underway with a GAR Prayer Service by the Central Scranton Ministerium at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, located one half block from the hotel.

A feature of this year's Appomattox Luncheon will be a one-man play, "Witness at Appomattox" written by 1Lt. Alan Sweeney of the Delaney Delacy Guard.

The cost of the luncheon is \$25 per person. Checks should be mailed to Joseph Long Jr., U.S.M.C., Ret., 505 Marcy St. Duryea, PA 18642. Please mark Appomattox Day Luncheon on the check.

Immediately following the luncheon, a benefit Civil War band concert and Ballroom Dance Exhibition will be conducted by the SVR in the main theatre of the Scranton High School. The event will feature the 28th Pennsylvania Regimental Brass Band of

Philadelphia. Tickets will be \$5 and will benefit the Delaney Delacy Youth Fife and Drum Corps.

It will be back to the Radisson later that day, for a pre ball banquet. The banquet will begin at 6 p.m.

The second annual Grand Civil War Ball will commence at 8 p.m. in the Century Club, 612 Jefferson Avenue in Scranton. Music will be by the 28th Pennsylvania Regimental Brass Band of Philadelphia. The event was sold out last year. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Formal dress for both men and ladies is required. Period dress and dress blues greatly admired but not required. The cost is \$70 per couple. Visit the website listed below for more information on tickets.

The project is provided in part by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority with financial assistance from the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

The ball is sponsored

by the Delaney Delacy Guard, Sons of Veterans Reserve and the Lackawanna Historical Society.

Special room rates have been secured at the Radisson at Lackawanna Station for those attending

the festivities. Room reservations may be made by calling 1-800-333-3333 or email at www.radisson.com/scranton.pa. Room rates are \$98 and please mention the Civil War Ball Orders when making reservations.

ATTENTION ALL CAMPS!

Each camp commander, secretary or designated member should check the Department Website and send the Camps Point of Contact, address, phone number and e-mail address (if applicable) to the webmaster so the page can be brought up to date. Email the information to suvcwrcs@att.net

JUST A REMINDER

Brothers, just a reminder that Department per capita is now \$6 per year. Below is a chart with the pro rated capita for National and the new amounts for our Department.

Jan. - Mar.	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
Apr.-Jun.	\$13.50	\$4.50	\$18.00
Jul. - Sep.	\$ 9.00	\$1.50	\$12.00
Oct.-Dec.	\$ 4.50	\$1.50	\$ 6.00

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Fraternally,
Robert E. Graves
Sec./Treas., PA Dept.
610-434-1075
graves827@juno.com

www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com

A Note from the Commander

Brothers,
I hope all of you and your families had a great holiday season and that the New Year has started well. Usually, this time of year tends to be some what slow for most people, now that the shopping and the wrapping is over with, not to mention all of the good edibles that we all have taken part of at various celebrations with friends and family.

Now is the time to start planning your events for Memorial Day, as it will be sneaking up on you and your Camp fast. Yes there will be much snow to clear before the green of Spring, but you all know how fast time comes and goes.

This year will prove to be a good one for the Department of Pennsylvania as we will have another New Camp in Albion with New Brothers. Also, we look forward to the Department Encampment in June this year, as it will be just outside of Philadelphia. The crown jewel for the Department is that of the National Encampment in Harrisburg. Your Department will be hosting the event this August and the committee has been hard at work to make sure that all who attend have a good time. This year the event celebrates two milestones. In Harrisburg, a tour of

the battlefield will be offered on Thursday for those who wish to go, culminating with a 50th Anniversary ceremony at the Albert Woolson Memorial in the Military Park. Friday evening will have great entertainment by the New Dawn Singers and Friday's banquet will be held at the National Civil War Museum. After dinner you can walk around the Museum at no extra cost to you. Of course you have the business meetings to attend as well, but we want everyone to have as much fun as possible!

So you ask, what about that other milestone? Well it is the 125th Anniversary of the "Sons"! You have an excellent opportunity to be part of not just what will be offered to you for your enjoyment, but most of all to be part of "Sons" history.

A special 125th Anniversary badge will be

offered for purchase that will show the images of our founders. This is beside the commemorative badge that all registered attendees will receive.

So I hope to see you all at all or any of the Days in Harrisburg. Even if you can only attend the business meeting on Saturday along with the festivities in the evening, come on out and bring your spouse and family as I am sure a good time will be had.

All of the information for Department Encampment will be in this edition of the Battle Cry and will posted on the Department Web site. The information for the National Encampment in Harrisburg will appear in the "Banner" and on the National Web site.

So come and enjoy yourself.

**Department of Pennsylvania
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Annual Encampment
PRE REGISTRATION FORM**

Camp No.: _____ Date: _____

Brother: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

I am a member in good standing in this camp and my rank in the Order is:

___ CinC ___ PCinC ___ DC

___ PDC ___ CC ___ PCC

Attending as ___ delegate ___ alternate

Pre Registration fee is \$7.00 by 6/10/06

\$10 at encampment.

Make check payable to: PA Dept., SUVCW
and send to: Robert Graves

827 S. Jefferson St., Apt.#4
Allentown, PA 18103

Credential Cards

If your intention is to make either the Department Encampment in June 2006 or the National Encampment in August 2006, please make sure you obtain a signed card before making either event.

The Credential Card for the Department Encampment can be obtained from your Camp Secretary and must be filled out fully so that you have the right to participate during the business meetings and vote.

The Credential Card for the National Encampment must be filled out fully and signed by the Department Secretary before you are able to participate. So please contact your Camp Secretary or Camp Commander who may obtain these for you from the Department.

The form for the Credential Card is located on the National web site under forms. This is a printable form right off of the site. The site is "http://www.sucvw.org"

Please make every effort to have these filled out correctly as it makes it easier for those who do the registration to help you.



The Camps Report . . . Camp #8, Scranton

Camp 8 enrollment tops the state in 2005

2005 saw much activity at the camp, including ceremonies to rededicate the refurbished Philip Sheridan Monument and a major increase in the camp compliment making it the largest camp in the commonwealth.

The Sheridan monument was refurbished with funding from the Sons of Union Veterans, the Lackawanna Historical Society and private contributions from the community.

The effort was spearheaded by First Lt. Alan Sweeney of the Delaney Delacy Guard, Sons of Veterans Reserve of Scranton. Lt. Sweeney is a member of Camp #8 and serves as president of the Historical Society as well.

Later that evening the SVR hosted what has become the annual Civil War Ball at the historic Century Club in Scranton's Hill Section. The affair was a sell-out and music was provided by the 28th Regimental Brass Band of Philadelphia.

The 105th annual observance of Memorial Day at the Dunmore Cemetery attracted larger crowds than usual with the appearance of Scranton native and present Pennsylvania Treasurer Bob Casey. Casey, who is running for the U.S. Senate this year, and is a member of Camp

#8 served as guest speaker at the observance. Also on Memorial Day, the SVR was successful in bringing back to life a 50-foot flag pole at the soldiers plot of Forest Hills Cemetery, also in Dunmore. With the assistance of the Dunmore Fire Bureau, new hardware was installed and Old Glory was once again flying above the graves of our ancestors.

Camp #8 in June had the honor of hosting the 125th Pennsylvania Encampment at the historic Radisson at Lackawanna Station Hotel. Members of the allied orders were treated to special tours of the Lackawanna Historical Society and the GAR Museum as well as a performance during the camp fire and banquet by the Delaney Delacy Cadet Fife and Drum Corps.

It was during the encampment that news was released that Lt. Sweeney had secured the necessary funding, some \$350,000 in all, to restore the massive Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Lackawanna County Courthouse Square. Work on the project is set to begin this year with a planned completion date of 2007.

Later in the month members of the camp, including former Camp Commander Howard Wolfe, Joseph Long Jr. and members of the SVR traveled to Towanda to assist in the rededication of GAR graves at the old Wyoming County Home site outside

Towanda. During the day, the Department also presented the charter to the Pvt. Silas Gore Camp #141 in Towanda.

That same day, on July 23rd, Camp #8, Auxiliary #10 and the Delaney Delacy Guard conducted a family picnic on the shore of Crystal Lake at Elkview Country Club in Carbondale. Guests of honor were Department Commander Eric Schmincke and Ross Camp Members John and John McNulty. A great cook-out was had by all.

Also during the summer representatives of the Camp, including Commander Wolf and Treasurer Long joined the Delaney Delacy Guard at the rededication ceremonies for two Civil War cannons returned to the park in Summit Hill.

Plymouth Pennsylvania 1869. The Civil War had been over for more than four years. Many of the soldiers who fought in that war returned to work in the coal fields of Northeastern PA. On Monday, September 6th, was the worst disaster in the history of Anthracite mining history. The breaker was built right over the shaft, the only way in or out of the mine. About 9:45 a fire broke out in the mine and it was swept up the shaft by the ventilating fan. The breaker, and all the

supports in the shaft were made of wood. They burned and fell into the shaft, trapping all the miners. One hundred and ten men and boys died in that mine. Many were veterans of the Civil War.

Today almost nothing of that mine still exists even though it was rebuilt and continued to operate until the early 20th century. In recent years citizens of the area have been trying to preserve the area. And on September 10, 2005, they held a remembrance/ memorial service for those who lost their lives there.

Members of Lt Ezra Griffin, Camp #8 and the Delany Delacy Guard were on hand to honor our the veterans who lost their lives there. A flag ceremony, a rifle salute and taps were played by members of the Guard.

Many of those who attended were surprised to learn that there were Civil War veterans that had worked in the mine. For many it was the first time they had seen a uniform from that time period.

To learn more about the ceremony and the Avondale disaster please visit www.avondale1869.org On Dec. 8, 2005 a Christmas party was held at the Moosic Dinner. In attendance were members of Lt Ezra Griffin, Camp # 8, Axillary # 10. Delany-Delacy guard, SVR and ladies from the new tent of Daughters, #59.

Camp #15 - Harrisburg



WAR GOVERNOR ANDREW CURTIN, PORTRAYED BY DAVID J. KLINEPETER, OF COLONIAL PARK, DISCUSSES HIS PLATFORM WITH MEMBERS OF CAMP #15, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

In the spring of '05, Harrisburg's Camp #15 waved campaign signs, cheered, and shouted as Pennsylvania Civil War Governor Andrew Curtin met with them at a [staged] political rally.



In the Fall of '05, on *Remembrance Day*, Camp #15 participated in the Parade and displayed their new Camp Banner carried by junior member Lynn Kyle Jr., and his father Lynn Kyle.

After some introductory biographical information, Governor Curtin, portrayed by Camp #15's GAR Historian, David J.

Klinepeter, conducted a question-and-answer session.

The Camp's goal was to have the war Governor

commit to a third term; even though the State Constitution allows only two. The war has ended and our nation will see many changes. Therefore, we can change our Constitution; but we could not change our governor's mind. He is ready to return home to Bellefonte and be with his family — **NO THIRD TERM.**

Rumor has it that President Grant will name him Ambassador to Russia. The Camp appreciated the Governor's ample time he provided to them. It was an honor to have him among us. The Camp also appreciated its junior member's John Paul and Josemaria Heil for making the campaign posters.

Hartranft Camp had busy 2005

During the year 2005, John F. Hartranft Camp #15 of the Harrisburg area had a year-long project of printing the picture autobiographies of its brother and sister members in the monthly newsletter, *The Hartranft Herald*. This will continue through 2006.

In addition to the annual July picnic and the December party, the camp sponsored a field trip to the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum of Philadelphia plus the GAR Civil War

Library and Museum; conducted a tour of Civil War era graves in the Harrisburg Cemetery; organized an outing to a Harrisburg Senators baseball game; and arranged a pre-meeting buffet at a local American Legion.

To celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday, two junior members dressed the part and recited the Gettysburg Address. Our Patriotic Instructor and Historian, David Klinepeter, played the Honorable Civil War Governor of Pennsylvania, Andrew Curtin, at a political rally/meeting.

Members of the camp participated in the May Memorial Day and the November Remembrance Day parades in Gettysburg. In the latter, a father and son team carried the new SUVCW Camp #15 banner. The camp was represented at the State Encampment in Scranton.

Membership increased by nine brothers in 2005. And, adding to the sale of \$30 brass SUV belt buckles, the camp now sells \$15 metal SUV license plates. Please see our advertisements in this issue.



Camp #19 - Lancaster

The year for Camp #19 was generally good.. With January, jubilation came with new member Steven Heffner, but also sadness with the passing of life member Marriott B. Fasnacht.

Our officers for 2005 were Commander Douglas Eaby, Sr. Vice Commander Ronald Young, Jr. Vice Commander Arthur Williams, Council PCC John D. Jenkins, PCC Ed Milford and Howard Longacre, Treasurer John Heine, Secretary Raymond Longacre, Color Bearer PCC Ed Milford, Guide Steven Heffner, Chaplain Howard Longacre, Patriotic Instructor Richard Simpson, Guard PCC John D. Jenkins, Grave Registration PCC Donald Pentz, Momuments Officer PCC Ed Milford, Historian Ronald Young, and Co-signal Officers John Heine and Raymond Longacre.

In March, Brother Richard Simpson gave his multimedia public presentation "Gettysburg: The Civil War in Stone

and Bronze that never Ends" at the Lancaster County Historical Society, describing the artistic variations and the different media used in their construction. 80+ members of the public attended this event..

For the flag pole replacement project at the GAR plot in the Lancaster Cemetery, Treasurer John Heine made things happen, taking the reins of the project and getting it done. With the help of a few charitable organizations, the Garden Spot American Legion Post #56 in Lititz, a grant from the SUVCW, assistance from brothers John D. Jenkins and Walter Bosch, and the Snyder Funeral Home, John had this project completed and a new American flag flying for a dedication service held at the GAR plot on Memorial Day. John also was responsible for the straightening of the American flag at the GAR plot at Lancaster's Greenwood Cemetery.

In addition to new Brother Steven Heffner, we also welcomed young member Joshua Young, initiated by his father Sr



From left: Chapalin Howard Longacre, PCC Donald Pentz, Bob Roth of Camp 300, Commander Douglas Eaby, Secretary Raymond Longacre, Sr VC Ronald Young, Jr member Joshua Young, PDC Glenn B. Knight, Floyd Atkins Jr., PCC Walter Bosch, PCC Ed Milford, Treasurer John Heine.

Vice Ronald Young, filling in the Commander capacity of that meeting's temporary absence of Commander Doug Eaby; Robert Groff, Lesley Eugene Beam of Washington state, and Ronald L. Janick.

On May 30th, our Memorial Day Ceremony at the GAR plot at Lancaster Cemetery was attended by Lancaster Mayor Charles Smithgall and a gathering of the Brothers, in addition to the above mentioned flag pole and flag dedication.

Sr. Vice Ronald Young wrote a new book "Lancaster County Civil War Sites Revisited", published by Closson Press.

May and October (Nov) meetings were attended by PDC Glenn B. Knight. At the October (Nov) meeting, Glenn

presented John Heine with a citation for his work on the flag and flag pole project, from the office of Department Commander Eric Scmincke, who was unable to attend due to being under the weather.

Our year ends with the December meeting on the 22nd. Our website is

Http://
www.geocities.com/
camp_19_2000

Camp #19 was represented at the Pennsylvania Department Encampment held in June in Scranton by PDC Glenn B. Knight and Raymond Longacre.

Secretary Ray Longacre visited Kansas in April, attending a meeting of the Sgt Churchill Camp #4 and the 9th annual Department of Kansas Encampment, both in Lawrence.

Auto License Plate in Aluminum

**\$15
inc.
S&H**



**Full
Color
Detail**

**Send to Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp #15
C/O Donald W. Prye II
RR 4, Box 4790, Mifflintown, PA 17059**

Camp #90 - Collegeville

At the end of 2005, the Jerome Gennari Camp #90, SUVCW completed its 7th year of existence. We meet the 4th Sunday of the month, 2:00 P.M., at the Spring-Ford Historical Society, on Main Street, in Royersford PA.

Under the direction of our Camp Commander Wayne Blattner, our small but active group of 20 pride ourselves in a couple of areas. Headed by Past Camp Commander Brother Fischer, and graves registration chairman, we are proud of the fact that we have continued with cemetery surveys. We carefully complete and submit the required forms, in the hope someday that this information will be shared with all our SUVCW brothers and Camps through a national database! Additional cemeteries are planned for the near future.

Recognizing and honoring our local Eagle Scouts is another area we are involved in. Wayne Blattner our Eagle Scout contact had the honor of attending three Eagle Court of Honor ceremonies. Those honored were scouts Daniel McCarthy, and Ross Dallas, Troop #4 Spring City, and Kenneth Minnick Troop #32 Ephrata. Camp #90 presents the official SUVCW Eagle Scout certificate to the honored scout, in addition to speaking to the friends and family in attendance all about our organization.

The Boy Scouts of America, Cradle of Liberty Council's, Class of 2004 Eagle Scout Banquet was held at the Union League in Philadelphia in the spring of 2005. Eagle Scout Bryan Garvin, Troop #406 of Royersford, was sponsored by Camp #90.

On Memorial Day our camp fulfilled a SUVCW obligation by attending a graveside service at Dismant's Private Burial Ground, Royersford, PA. Camp members gathered at the memorial of Corporal Andrew J. Grim. He was a member of Company "C", 51st Regiment P.V.I. He was wounded in action at the Battle of the Wilderness, and died as a result of those wounds. Former G.A.R. Post #640 in Spring City PA., is named for Corporal Grim

In 2005 brother Wayne N. Blattner continued as Pennsylvania Department SUVCW Historian.

In the Department of Pennsylvania's 120th Annual meeting in Scranton, our camp proudly ran an ad in the Encampment book listing our officers and our member's Civil War ancestors. We also made a monetary donation to the Department of Pennsylvania to use in their various missions.

Our chapter finances are in proper order through the direction of John Gennaria. Chapter Secretary Jack Ertell thoroughly completes all forms and correspondence required by the state, and keeps us informed on local activities.



Members of Camp #90 gather at the memorial stone for Civil War soldier Corporal Andrew J. Grim, member of the Company "C", 51st regiment P.V.I. From left to right Wayne Blattner Camp Commander, Junior Vice Commander George Sprenkle, Camp Secretary Jack Ertell, and past Camp Commander John Fischer. The location is Dismants private Burial Ground, Royersford, PA.

Photo by Wayne Blattner

Brothers Harold & Harvey Gennaria, two of our camp founders, are mainstays of our Camp.

Many of our brothers are involved in other Civil War & historical organizations,

which makes the discussions at our meetings informative and lively.

For information on our chapter, contact Wayne Blattner 610-948-6285 or email wblattner@erols.com

SOLID BRASS BUCKLES Fits up to 1-3/4" Belt



**Send \$26 + \$4 S&H to
Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15
523 S. 4th St., Newport, PA 17074**



Local Woman Donates Letters Telling Grandfather's Story of Civil War

Handwritten words of Oscar L. Severson call across the generations with touching substance:

Civil War era messages from Rev. Severson were donated by his granddaughter to the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Association of Scranton. Documents will be housed at the association's museum on the 2nd floor of the GAR building at Penn Avenue and Linden Street.

During an informal ceremony at her Lake Sheridan-area residence, Jane Spangenberg, 94, turned the documents over to Joseph Long, Jr. of Duryea, president of the GAR Memorial Association.

Rev. Severson enlisted in the 137th Regiment of the New York volunteers in August 1862 as a 17-year-old and saw action in the battles of Chancellorsville, VA in early May 1863,

Gettysburg, PA in July 1863 and Lookout Mountain, TN in November 1863.

He was wounded in the battle of Wauhatchie, TN in October 1863. After the war, he became a Methodist minister and lived in Scranton for a period when was pastor at Simpson Methodist Church. He died at age 78 in 1924 and is buried at the Dunmore Cemetery.

Documents will be the first Civil War-era letters

in the collection at the GAR museum.

The letters sat in an attic for decades before Fay King of South Abington Township, a daughter of Mrs. Spangenberg, discovered them about 40 years ago.

Approximate values of the letters are about \$100 a piece or more. The historical value of Rev. Severson's papers though is undisputed.

Camp #1- Philadelphia

This past November, Anna M. Ross Camp #1 SUVCW conducted its annual trek to Gettysburg for Remembrance Day. Since the majority of our members are also enrolled with Company C, 28th Pennsylvania Infantry, we conducted a series of ceremonies to honor the 28th.

We started our day down at Spangler's Spring where we formed the company.

We marched from there down around the base of Culp's Hill to an infrequently visited monument along Rock Creek. It is in the shape of a knapsack and honors the 28th's role as skirmishers for the 12th

Corps during most of July 2nd. The Camp held an honor ceremony around the monument which included a benediction, music by the 28th Pennsylvania Brass Band and reading of the history of the 28th in the Gettysburg campaign.

Following our morning ceremony, the company took place in the parade at the head of the Mifflin Guard battalion. At the conclusion of the parade, the battalion formed around the Meade Monument on Cemetery Ridge for a short ceremony. Each unit of the battalion, including the 28th, read off a list of gone, but not forgotten, members.

Once the battalion broke up, the 28th marched over to the John Page Nicholson Monument (also on Cemetery Ridge) for one last ceremony.

Nicholson was not only one of the first commissioners for the Gettysburg Battlefield Park Commission, but he was also the quartermaster sergeant for the 28th during the Gettysburg Campaign. We held a brief monument of silence at the monument.

It was a busy day for Camp #1 and Co. C, 28th PVI, but as always, we persevered and honored those who went before us.

– Cpt. Mike Harris

**Annual General Meade
Birthday Celebration**

Philadelphia, PA: Saturday, December 31, 2005 marked the 190th anniversary of the birth of General George G.

Meade, heroic commander of the victorious Union army at the Battle of Gettysburg.

The General Meade Society of Philadelphia celebrated his birthday at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, where the noble hero is interred.

A champagne toast and reception followed the program.

**8th Annual Meade
Society Seminar:
"General Meade & His
Staff": the Army of the
Potomac 1863-1865
(Please turn to Page 12**



Camp #43 - Kittanning

ANCESTOR CLAIMS MEDAL FOR LOCAL CIVIL WAR VET

Robert Trowbridge of White Township claimed a bronze medal engraved with the name Cincinnatus B. Blake. For 139 years it had been left unclaimed in West Virginia, sharing space with thousands of other awards that never found their owners.

In October 2005, Blake's medal recognizing him for services during the Civil War found a home with Trowbridge, Blake's first cousin, four times removed.

In 1866, West Virginia minted 26,099 medals to honor soldiers who fought for the state during the war. Many of the medals never made it to the owners because the state couldn't establish contact with many of the soldiers.

Blake was born on January 8, 1830 in Gallia County, Ohio to Anselm and Hannah (Trowbridge) Blake. Blake crossed state lines to enlist in the 4th West Virginia

Volunteer infantry in July 1861.

He advanced in the ranks to first lieutenant and fought in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and

Louisiana. After being discharged on account of disability in 1863, Blake became sheriff of Gallia County and died in 1918 as one of the oldest men in the county.

Camp #120 - Washington

Slovan Welcomes Home

Army Staff Sgt. Chris Sedlak

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Chris Sedlak of the 600 Transportation Company Reserve was greeted by friends and family in Slovan after spending a year in Iraq. He is a 12-year veteran and Reservist of the 600 Transportation Company which was based 30 miles north of Baghdad and hauled more than 24 million gallons of bulk fuel throughout the Theater of Operations from LSA Anaconda in Balad.

Many of his comrades paid the price in Iraq and more than 20 received the Purple Heart. At his homecoming reception, he was surrounded by friends and family at the Slovan Veterans of Foreign Wars building. The honored guests of the reception included WW2 Veteran Joe Lanczak, Veteran and Persian Gulf War veterans, Iraq veterans from the 600th including Bronze star recipient SSG Anthony Critser.

Sedlak received the Army Commendation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals along with other decorations and seven commander's coins.

Sedlak will be returning to his civilian occupation in July as a Pittsburgh police officer.

THOMAS SYLVANUS GRAVE REDEDICATION

The John T. Crawford Camp #43 conducted a grave dedication in Indiana, PA on July 10, 2005. The ceremony rededicated the final resting place of Thomas Sylvanus and two of his comrades. Sylvanus, who was born in China with the name Ching Li, is the only known Chinese veteran listed on U.S. pension rolls and "believed to be the only Chinaman regularly enlisted in the Army during the Rebellion", according to Stephenson's *Indiana County 175th Anniversary History*. We also honored John Harvey who was with the USCT and Frank Donahugh of the 61st PA Infantry. The PA Dept. Commander of the GAR was present during Sylvanus's muster in services nearly one hundred years ago and the Pennsylvania Dept. Commander of the SUVCW, the recognized successor to the G.A.R., Eric J. Schmincke attended this rededication and made the keynote address. A 34 star Flag was presented to the PA Dept. Commander recognizing Sylvanus' term of service.

The ceremony received coverage in the local newspapers as well as the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. The PG article was distributed by the AP and was picked up by news organizations in Los Angeles, California. Commander Richard Essenwein as well as Sec./Treas. Will Radell and Patriotic Instructor Rich Hoover were interviewed by the Fox Network affiliate in Los Angeles.

Camp #43 also conducted Grave Re-dedication services in Punxsutawney, PA this summer. Our headstone replacement project, under the command of GRO Richard Essenwein, has aided in the restoration of two local cemeteries in Armstrong County. This year saw the replacement of twenty Civil War headstones along with the accompanying publicity in local newspapers.

Camp #273 - Bangor

Joel Searfoss Camp #273 in Bangor continued to grow and expand our presence in the community in 2005. A Camp Guard has been formed. Our Memorial Day service on May 29th at the grave of Joel Searfoss in Bangor was again well attended by members of the community, including the local Boy Scouts, American Legion and VFW.

We are immensely proud of Brother Eric Schmincke, who at the Department Encampment in Scranton was elected to another term as our Department Commander. Brother John M. McNulty was re-elected as our Department Junior-Vice Commander, Brother John T. McNulty continues as Department Guide and Brother Robert Graves was elected to a two year term as Department Secretary/Treasurer.

The Camp is looking into a project that we are particularly excited about: identifying, locating and memorializing the Slate Belt region's last surviving Union Army veteran.

The first Joel Searfoss Camp Christmas party in recent years was held at the Galley Restaurant in Wind Gap on Dec. 4th.



Entire Text of Remembering Heroes

Editor's note: You will notice on Page One of Battlecry of Freedom that this story indicates a continuation onto Page 9. As we had extended camp news to report this edition, we were forced to create a Page 9A for this story. While the beginning of the story is contained on Page One, it is reprinted in its entirety. We regret any confusion.

One hundred years ago, on 7 December 1905, dedication ceremonies were conducted for the Pennsylvania memorial erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the National Cemetery at Andersonville, Georgia.

On 7 December 2005, the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of that historical event was held. The focus was on honoring all 4,987 of the Pennsylvania Civil War Veterans who were imprisoned in the Andersonville Prison; of which 1,849 would die there. The rededication was organized by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Pennsylvania, Gettysburg Camp # 112.

There was a "March of Honor," from Providence Spring, adjacent to the original North Gate entry to the stockade and continued approximately 3/8 miles to the Pennsylvania Monument. Participants carried one or more small Pennsylvania state flags. Each flag carried the name of each of the approximately 200 Pennsylvania regiments represented.

As some of the participants gathered to make the march, the glimpse of their reflections could be seen on the surface of the quiet pool of water originating from the spring. That same source would have sustained life for a number of our ancestors 141 years ago. According to record, perhaps by divine intervention, that water came to the surface during a lightning strike to that site on August 16, 1864.

At 1:00 p.m., under the command of 1st Lt. John Price II, the Sons of Veteran Reserve, "Gettysburg Blues," stepped off leading the procession. Their steps in unison echoed from the pavement of Cemetery Road. Continuous stiff breezes forced the color bearers to lean forward, applying force to the staff as the flags proudly displayed their honor of the occasion.

Arrival at the Pennsylvania Monument was such to provide time to make updated announcements and acknowledgements and to permit the "Ceremony" to begin at 2:00 p.m.; as exactly 100 years before. All in attendance were given a red ribbon depicting the event and an informational 100th Anniversary booklet compiled by Brother Dave Sosnowski, Patriotic Instructor of Gettysburg Camp # 112, S.U.V.C.W.

The initial portion of the ceremonial agenda included the Presentation of the Colors, singing of the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, and Invocation. Opening comments were delivered by National Park Superintendent, Fred Boyles and Lead Park Ranger, Joan Stibitz of the NPS. The Pennsylvania Monument was then presented by Superintendent Boyles back to the people of Pennsylvania for re-dedication.

Remarks of Commander Eric Schminke, Department of Pennsylvania, unable to attend, were read by Brother Dave Sosnowski, also Patriotic Instructor of the Pennsylvania Department, S.U.V.C.W. It noted, "Today you are here to honor

the men of Pennsylvania and in a greater sense, all those who perished within the prison walls."

The Department of Pennsylvania, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War had special commemorative .999 silver medal badges struck, numbered 1 through 300 for this prestigious event. Mr. Fred Boyles was then called to the podium. On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department, S.U.V.C.W., Commander William Mock, from Bedford County, Pennsylvania presented the Andersonville medal badge (No. 001) to the Superintendent for the National Park Service.

Immediately following, were two very moving and personal speeches from William Mock, Commander and James Michaels, Treasurer, also of Gettysburg Camp # 112. Both had ancestors along with Camp member, Charles George, and others present who were imprisoned at Andersonville.

Commander Mock remarked, "that the sight of the "Colors" being carried from the stockade to the Pennsylvania Monument without one word being sounded would speak louder and more eloquently than anything I could possibly pen or say!"

In a spiritual gesture, Bill took a packet of Pennsylvania soil that had been taken from the grave sites of his ancestors which were imprisoned at Andersonville and spread it at the base of the Pennsylvania Monument. In effect, all would be reunited and become one with their home land.

Brother Michaels said. "It's about the remembering and the caring." "We take things for granted that we shouldn't," he said. "We wouldn't be what we are today without them."

Jim, whose great-grandfather died at Andersonville, is credited as the originator of the idea several years ago to conduct a re-dedication ceremony.

A proclamation signed by the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania was read by Brother Jim Lawler of Bradbury Camp # 149. The closing paragraph stated,

"On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I join with the members of Gettysburg Camp # 112, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to honor the native sons from Pennsylvania who fought in the Civil War. May we always remember the brave and selfless deeds of these soldiers and veterans and be thankful for the countless contributions they have made, and continue to make, to ensure our fundamental principles of liberty, security, and justice."

After the proclamation was read, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sons of Veteran Reserve, Auxiliary to the S.U.V.C.W., Women's Relief Corps, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Daughters of Union Veterans and the local Alexander H. Stevens Camp # 78, Sons of Confederate Veterans laid wreaths at the monument.

The atmosphere of tribute to the "spirits of the dust" could be felt throughout the singing of "Amazing Grace." The hymn was followed by the Middle Georgia Honor Guard providing the "firing," and the playing of "Taps." The benediction was held and the "once in a life time" ceremony was concluded.

- William Roy Mock, PCC, Camp # 112, S.U.V.C.W.



Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic
Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War
1861-1864**

**We would greatly appreciate your support of this 2006 Encampment
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If you are not planning on attending the Encampment but you would like an Encampment Booklet including your printed ad sent to you, please indicate below. Include your full mailing address.

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Plan now to attend the
The Pennsylvania
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June 22-24, 2006 at the
Holiday Inn Fort Washington
432 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Washington, PA

Reservations must be made under

"Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic"

Please send your request for room reservations directly to the hotel.

432 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Washington, PA (215) 643-3000

Reservation deadline: May 31, 2006.

Room rates are \$89 per night plus 8% tax.

Meeting rooms are reserved for the Sons of Union Veterans
Auxiliary to the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans.

The encampment is sponsored by
Anna M. Ross Camp and Auxiliary #1 of Philadelphia

The banquet, on June 24, 2005, costs \$30 per person

Dinner selections are Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken with Supreme Sauce
or Sliced London Broil.

**Joint Banquet of the Allied Orders, Saturday, June 24, 2006
Holiday Inn Fort Washington**

Name: _____ Dinner Selection _____

Name: _____ Dinner Selection _____

All dinner reservations must be made by June 3, 2006. Kindly mail your check to:
Encampment Committee, C/O Bud Atkinson, 1016 Gorman St., Philadelphia, PA 19116-3719



Sunday, February 12, 2006

Featuring speakers on the trusted men who served Meade as his advisers.

West Laurel Hill Cemetery Solarium

12 noon - 5PM

Cost: \$30 per person including luncheon & refreshments

Contact:
andy.waskie@temple.edu
215-204-5452

Union League of Philadelphia Lincoln Birthday Events 2006 Saturday, February 11, 2006 Union League of Philadelphia Annual Lincoln Birthday Ball

All welcome. Period dress encouraged or modern formal attire with miniatures.

Music by the 28th Penna. Regimental Brass Band; dancer master: Phillip Troll; Troubadour Charlie Zahm.

Dinner & Dancing in the Lincoln Ballroom of the 1865 League House.

Dinner & Dancing: Cost \$75 per person.

Accommodations at the Inn of the Union League are available.

Information: Jim Mundy 215-587-5592
e-mail: mundyj@unionleague.org
www.unionleague.org

Monday, February 13

Annual Lincoln Birthday Parade and Memorial Service

sponsored by the Union League of Philadelphia.

Participants conducted a noon ceremony and parade to the Lincoln Monument in Fairmont Park.

Anna Marie Ross Camp #1 Co-sponsors Medal of Honor Ceremonies†at Rosedale Cemetery on November 5, 2005 in Bensalem, PA

Members of Camp #1 & the 28th PA Vol Infantry of the Sons of Veterans Reserve joined with the 98th PA Vol Infantry under the command of Camp #1 Brother Capt. George Wright, along with the

Bensalem Memorial VFW Post #9765 (Mr. Jim LONG, Post Commander), the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter were made by Mr. Fred Hems, the Robert W. Bracken Post #382, Hugh B. Eastburn 3rd Detachment, Marine Corps League, as well as a 'bagpipe dirge' by Mr. Andrew Rosen, Superintendent of Rosedale. Following the services, there were refreshments at the Bensalem Memorial VFW Post 9765, which were enjoyed by all.

Faithfully submitted & yours with Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Andrew CARR
Cmdr., Camp #1

Robert Shaffer
Newsletter Editor
128 Wallace Road
Lake Ariel, PA 18436