



# The Dispatch

March 2025

*Newsletter of the Department of Florida S.U.V.C.W.*

## Commander's Corner

As I begin my third term as Department commander, I want to thank my brothers for their continued faith in my leadership. The past two years I have learned a great deal about the SUVCW. I attended the *Remembrance Day Parade* in Gettysburg and the *Gettysburg Ball*. I've worked to bring the Department together by Encampments around our great Department. Camp 4 in Saint Cloud offered us the opportunity to learn about the 'Soldier's City.' Camp 1 hosted last year doing a great job leading us to the National Cemetery for a Color Guard complete with the firing of Civil War period cannon. This year we learned about the battle of Fort Myers from Brother Hank Hendry. Brother Hendy cut his travel plans short just to be with us. Brother Jack Bovee and Camp 2 went above and beyond to present what many are telling me was the best Encampment they have ever attended. We already have a commitment from camp 9 Commander Steve to host the 2026 encampment in St. Augustine. I personally can't wait to see what camp 9 has in store for us. We also had the opportunity to honor Brother Larry Oppenheimer and Brother Dick Young for nine years of service as secretary and treasurer of our Department. We welcome Brother Larry Scovotto as our new secretary and Brother Bob Humker as our new treasurer. These men have the knowledge, experience and passion to help lead us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is the first year I have witnessed Brothers approaching me asking for the opportunity to serve as Department officers. I am



Hello Brothers,

It's an honor to follow in the footsteps of several 'giants' of the Department of Florida who ably served as editors of *The Dispatch* before us. We hope you will enjoy the newsletter and send us pictures, information, and news to share with your fellow brothers. Please send such to us at the following addresses. Thank you,

Forrest Myers, Camp 2 [civicarena@gmail.com](mailto:civicarena@gmail.com)

H.S. "Jack" Bovee, Camp 2 [jsbovee@aol.com](mailto:jsbovee@aol.com)



Through Community Education and Service to our Order we Honor the Memory of the Grand Army of the Republic – the men who Fought to Preserve the Union -- 1861-1865

### Mission Statement

and Jeff Garten stepping up to help the Department grow. Brother Jack is breathing new life into the department newsletter. Brother Jeff has offered to be our Graves Registration Officer. Our Brother Bob Kerr stepped up to serve on the council this year. Brothers Bob Humker, Jim Ward, and Nic Mihora opened Camp 10 in Melbourne. I cannot thank everyone enough for the enthusiasm they are bringing to the Department of Florida.

The future of our Department is bright. So far, we have three Brothers planning to attend the National Encampment in Houton this year. I would encourage everyone to consider joining us. Florida will now have a voice at national. Our new secretary will lead us forward with improved communication methods. Larry

## Elected Department Officers 2025 – 2026

- Commander . . . . . [Timothy Campaign](#), DC
- Senior Vice Commander . . [Edward J. Manek](#), PCC
- Junior Vice Commander . . . [Jeffery A. Garten](#), CC
- Secretary . . . . . [Larry Scovotto](#)
- Treasurer . . . . . [Robert Humker](#)
- Council 1 . . . . . [Richard D. Shaffer](#), PCC
- Council 2 . . . . . , , . . . . . [Robert Kerr](#)
- Council 3 . . . . . [Walter Richard Young](#), Sr.

## Appointed Department Officers

- Patriotic Instructor . . . . . [Edward J. Manek](#), PCC
- Chaplain . . . . . Hubert L. Williams
- Color Bearer . . . . . [Richard E. Wilder](#)
- Counselor . . . . . [Larry Oppenheimer](#), PCC
- Eagle Scout Coordinator . . . . . [H.S. 'Jack' Bovee](#)
- J/ROTC Coordinator . . . Richard D. Shaffer, PCC
- Signals Officer . . . . . [Jeffery A. Garten](#), CC
- Webmaster . . . . . [Larry Scovotto](#)

Newsletter Editors: 'Jack' Bovee & Forrest Myers  
[newsletter@dofsuvcw.org](mailto:newsletter@dofsuvcw.org)

Membership At Large . . [Larry Oppenheimer](#), PCC

## Department Committees

- By Laws Chairman . . . . [Larry Oppenheimer](#), PCC
- Legislative Chairman . . . . [Timothy Campaign](#), DC



*Commander's Message continued from pg. 1*

to bring the camps together with the ability to submit paperwork electronically rather than depending on the U.S. mail. Camp 4 pioneered a process of paying dues electronically and Larry is moving forward to create a process for all in the Department to send monies electronically rather than writing checks, purchasing stamps and envelopes like we have for decades. Richard Wilder in Camp 4 even developed a QR code that can be scanned with your phone to send funds directly to the Camp checking account.

The year 2025 proves to be a year of growth for our Department. I am proud to participate in the adventures ahead. Thank you all for your participation as the Department of Florida moves to lead the SUVCW nationwide in innovation and prosperity.

In F, C, & L,



Brother Timothy E. Campaign  
Commander, Department of Florida SUVCW



## DEPT. OF FLORIDA CAMPS

[Winfield Scott Whitehurst](#) Camp 01 – Tampa

[Col. Robert W. Barnard](#) Camp 02 – Ft. Myers

[General Thomas J. McKean](#) Camp 03 – Lantana

[Lucius L. Mitchell](#) Camp 04 – St. Cloud

Sanderlin & Stidum Camp 05 – Webster

[Sgt. Frederick R. Jackson](#) Camp 07 – Pembroke Pines

[General John A. Logan](#) Camp 09 – Jacksonville

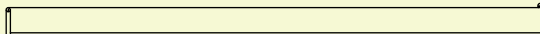
[Richard W. Goode](#) Camp 10 -- Melbourne

[Membership At Large](#) Gen. Wm. T. Sherman  
Camp



### **Civil War Timeline / Events of Jan. – Mar.**

- Jan. 1, 1863 – Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation
- Jan. 6, 1861 – Florida seizes Apalachicola Arsenal
- Jan. 10, 1861 – Florida adopts Secession Ordinance
- Jan. 12, 1865 – Francis Blair Sr. attempts to negotiate with Jefferson Davis
- Jan. 31, 1865 – U.S. House passes 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- Feb. 3, 1865 – Union & Confederate officials meet to discuss peace.
- Feb. 6, 1862 – Ft. Henry, TN, surrenders to U.S. Grant
- Feb. 9, 1861 – Jefferson Davis elected Confed. President
- Feb. 11, 1864 – Skirmish at Lake City, Florida
- Feb. 16, 1861 – Ft. Donelson surrenders to U.S. Grant
- Feb. 17, 1864 – CSA submarine *H.L. Hunley* sinks the *U.S.S. Housatonic*
- Feb. 20, 1864 – Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond), Florida
- Feb. 20, 1865 – Battle of Fort Myers
- Mar. 3, 1863 – Lincoln signs the "Conscription Act"
- Mar. 4, 1861 – Abraham Lincoln sworn in as President
- Mar. 6, 1862 – Lincoln asks Congress for funds for gradual abolition of slavery in South; no Southern state accepts
- Mar. 6, 1865 – Battle of Natural Bridge, FL
- Mar. 9, 1862 – Union captures New Bern, N.C.
- Mar. 13, 1865 – Jefferson Davis signs law authorizing Black troops in the Confederate Army
- Mar. 29, 1865 – Appomattox Campaign begins



### **Louis May Alcott Tent 11 DUVCW and the L.L. Mitchell Camp 4 SUVCW Present Donation Checks**



Sandy Vogelpohl      Kerul Kassel      Muffy Kelly

Members of the DUVCW, Louisa May Alcott Tent 11 and the SUVCW L.L. Mitchell Camp 4 of St. Cloud recently presented donations checks to the First Nature Foundation and the McCormick Research Institute for veteran assistance programs. Funds were collected from the proceeds of the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Settlers' Ball** held this past December. Checks in the amount of \$1400 and \$1250 were donated to the two groups. Both the DUVCW & SUVCW wish to thank everyone who attended the Ball or who donated to this very worthy cause. For further information contact Sandy Vogelpohl at [flynhi53@gmail.com](mailto:flynhi53@gmail.com).



Richard Wilder      Carlton Davidson,      Huebert L. Williams  
Camp 4 SUVCW      Dir. Of Operations      Camp 4 SUVCW  
McCormick Research

# The "Chaplain Sayeth"

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the opportunity to wish our brothers secretary Larry Oppenheimer and treasurer Dick Young on their retirement. We want to thank them for their time and service with us. We pray that our great creator continued to BLESS them and have continued success in their future endeavors.

We also want to congratulate and pray for our new officers that they will bring continued inspiration to our brothers. Looking forward to the future encampments of 2025. Be the best we can be in the future. Pray BLESSINGS upon each of you that we may grow together as one. I am proud to be the Department Chaplain.

H L Williams



## Chaplain's Handbook Sons of Union Veterans

### FORWARD

Brothers:

It is hoped through the use of this Handbook, that our Chaplains will have a handy reference in carrying out all of the duties of their office, along with materials to provide guidance in the various services and ceremonies a Chaplain may be called upon to perform or assist in.

It is very important that we give honor to our God in all that we do; in leading our brethren in prayer, thanksgiving, remembrance and dedication. This is at the center of our Order, as illustrated by the open Bible on our altar and calling upon our Creator's blessing in all of our ceremonies. For this reason, I asked our current National Chaplain, Jerome Kowalski to prepare such a work. I hope you find it useful.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

James B. Pahl  
Commander in Chief

### PREFACE

It seems to this chaplain that the main purpose of his ministry is to pray to the Lord for the living and deceased members, for their families, and for the success of the endeavors of our Camps, Departments and National Order. We are simply responding to the Gospel message that we "pray according", (1 Thess. 5:17) and that if we do, our Heavenly Father will answer our prayers (Matt. 7:7).

Jews, Catholics and every branch of the Protestant Denominations served in the Union Army. To set one course of theology for all would be to denigrate what they fought for. Rather, we encourage each chaplain to use the version of scripture with which he is comfortable. We may be firm believers in Christ Jesus as our Savior, but when conducting a service in a Jewish cemetery, or in a place where a large number of Jews are present - it might be better to quote the psalms and the stories and lessons of the Old Testament. We are not saying that all religions are equal, or that one (mine) is better than another. When everyone stands before the throne of God on Judgment Day they will have greater weight in God's eyes than knowledge of philosophy and theology. As a steadfast, contrary religious writer put it, "In the evening of life we will be judged on love." If there is any message that comes through in the scriptures - it is that the Almighty loves us, and wants us to love Him back, and to love our fellow men as we love ourselves. To forgive our enemies, and then to be happy with Him in paradise for all eternity.

It is not our intention in this book to glorify the fine men who served as chaplains in the Union Army from 1861 to 1865. Their achievements and glories can be found in other works. Nor do we seek to recreate the atmosphere of hate, oppression and ill will that existed at that time between the people of the North and the folks in the South. Rather, we seek to present a handy guide that can be used by chaplains to help them in their current ministry. Something to read, something to preach, something to supplement the wealth of materials that are available to everyone - on religion.



## THE BATTLE OF FORT MYERS – FEBRUARY 20, 1865

Left: Sketch of the main blockhouse for Fort Myers as published in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, October 28, 1858.

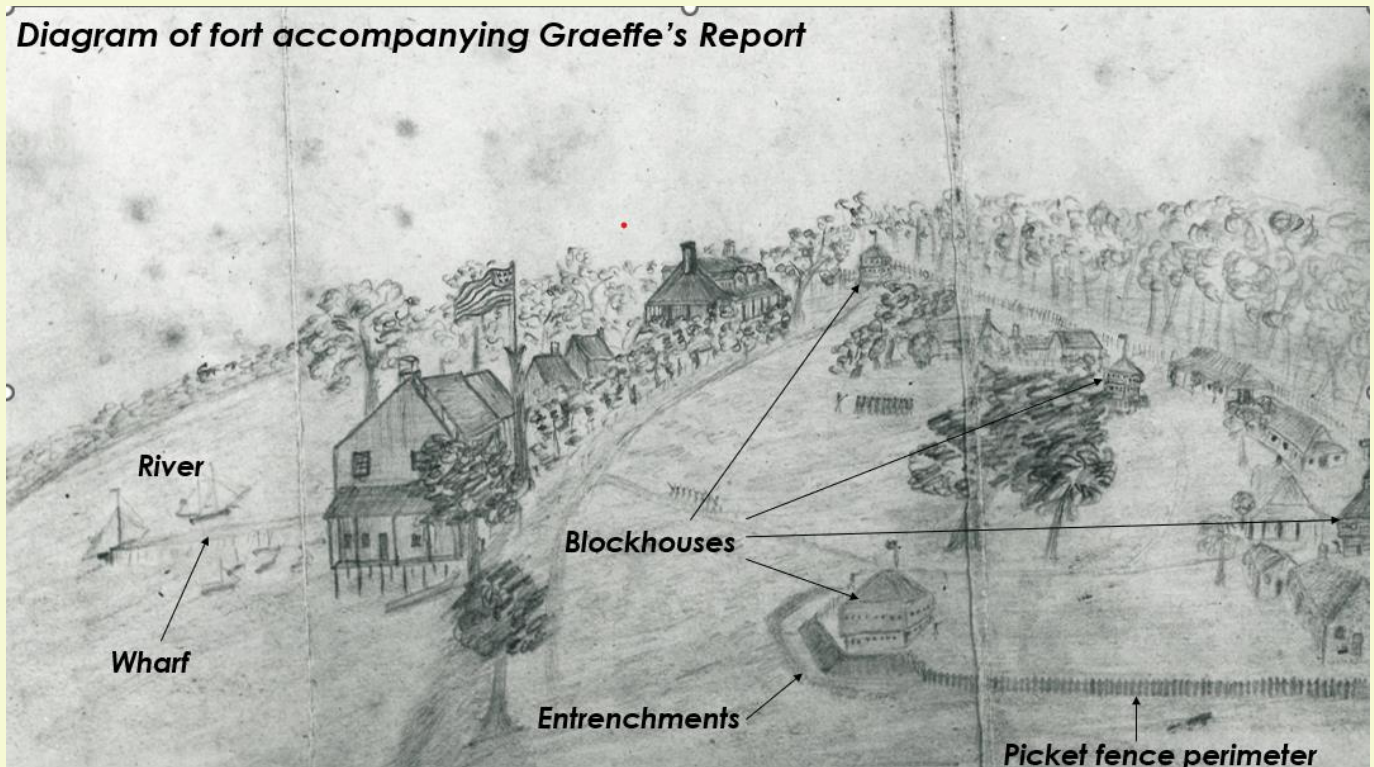
The Colonel Robert W. Barnard Camp DOFSUVCW is proud to host this year's Florida Department Encampment at the site where 160 years ago an important, but little known, Civil War engagement took place. Here is an overview of the events of this encounter.

February 20, 1865, began like any other day in Southwest Florida. The Union soldiers at the army post were enjoying the cooler, less humid winter weather at this time of year—just as the many residents of area do today. The United States army had kept a fort at this location since the Seminole Wars—a generation earlier. The original fort had been built in 1850 and was named for Capt. Abraham C. Myers, the son-in-law of Major General David E. Twiggs, who ordered the fort built. (Myers was engaged to the General's daughter, Marion Isabelle Twiggs, and named the fort for his future son-in-law.) Supplies were brought in from Pensacola, and before long the fort consisted of many fine buildings. These included officers' quarters, barracks for the men and stables for horses, administrative buildings, a 2-story hospital, warehouses, a guardhouse, shops for blacksmiths and carpenters, a bakery, laundry, sutlers' stores, and several piers jutting out into the river. One such pier that included a railed tram for unloading supplies stretched 700' from the shoreline. The fort boasted a fine bowling alley and a bathing pavilion. So many lavish facilities were built that the fort became the subject of an official investigation into how so much taxpayer's money could be spent on such a remote facility. Regardless, during the Third Seminole War (1856-1858) the fort played an important role when the last band of 'hostile' Seminoles under Billy Bowlegs and were shipped from here to a reservation west of the Mississippi River. Following this, the fort was abandoned in June 1858.

The Civil War and the need to stop Confederate blockade runners would change things. In December 1863 the fort was re-occupied by Union troops of the 47<sup>th</sup> PA Volunteers under the command of Capt. Richard A. Graeffe. The men had been sent from Fort Taylor (Key West) to rebuild the facility—the only Union fort in Southwest Florida. Graeffe constructed three large blockhouses with entrenchments surrounding each. No stockade was in place, but a light picket fence was constructed around the perimeter of the fort, with guardhouses stationed strategically at various places to maintain surveillance and to control of the surrounding area.

Following the construction of a new fort, additional troops were sent to the area from Key West to strengthen the blockade around the Confederacy, to launch raids against Southern strongholds along the entire west coast of Florida, and to also disrupt the massive round ups of free ranging Florida cattle now being sent north to feed Southern armies. Florida, with an estimated 650,000 head of cattle in 1862, quickly replaced Texas as the main source of beef following the fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. Union raids from Fort Myers into the interior of southwest and central Florida, however, were becoming so successful that Confederate units known as the "Cow Cavalry" (also called the Confederate Cattle Guard) were assigned duty to protect the herds. That Fort Myers also served as a refuge for a small handful of escaped slaves and a larger group of white Union sympathizers led to Confederate plans to destroy the Union outpost on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River.

**Diagram of fort accompanying Graeffe's Report**



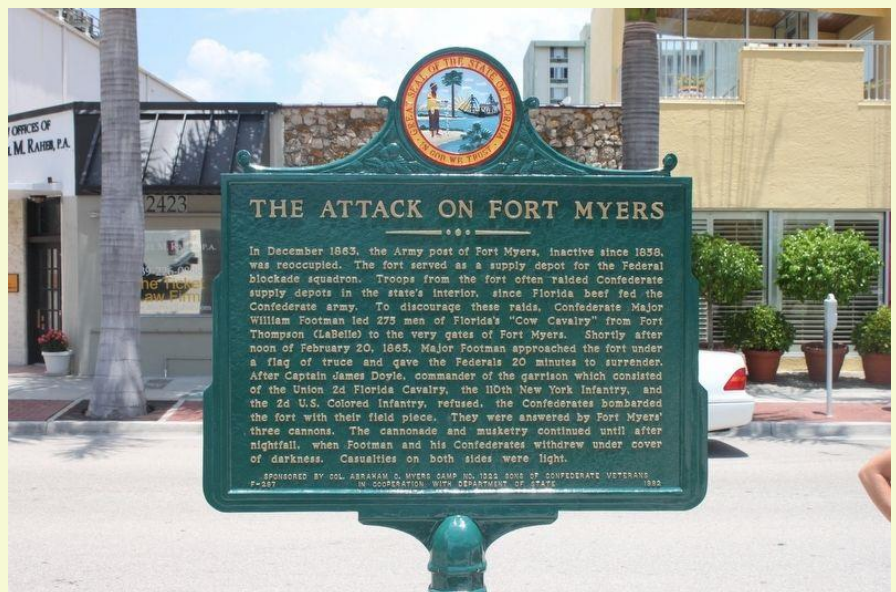
The union troops stationed at Fort Myers consisted of three groups of soldiers under the command of Captain James Doyle. These were two companies of his own 110<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry, two companies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> United States Colored Troops (USCT), and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Florida Cavalry—comprised of white Union loyalists from South Florida. The 2<sup>nd</sup> USCT were 900 African-American soldiers recruited from Maryland who had been sent to Key West to relieve the 47<sup>th</sup> PA Volunteers. These two units were Companies D and I, 2<sup>nd</sup> USCT, under the command of Captains J.F. Barthold and W.J. Chelds. Together, these three units at Fort Myers totaled an estimated 250 troops at the time of the battle.

Against them, Confederates under the command of Major William Footman, led a force of approximately 275 men recruited from CSA military units known collectively as the Cow Cavalry. These Confederates were charged with the responsibility of protecting Florida's Rebel-held areas and huge free-ranging cattle herds from Union attack. The Cow Cavalry would round up tens of thousands of the cattle and drive them to Baldwin, Florida, and other points where they could be shipped by rail to points farther north. The headquarters for the Cow Cavalry were in the Tampa and Fort Meade areas of South Florida.

To access information on the Historical Marker erected in downtown Fort Myers on the site of the fort, click [HERE](#).

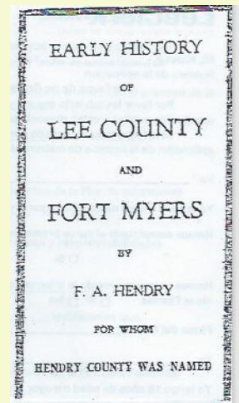
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The Battle of Fort Myers continued



By December 1864, the Cow Cavalry was comprised of some 9 companies under the command of Colonel Charles J. Munnerlyn. It patrolled a 300-mile line throughout Florida from Lafayette County in the north to the environs of Lake Okeechobee. In February 1865, responding to rumors that Fort Myers being abandoned, Confederates under the command of Major William Footman of Tampa and Captain Francis A. Hendry from then Polk County headed south. They conducted a 200 mile circuitous march to the abandoned remains of Ft. Thompson, a former Seminole War fort at LaBelle. They arrived at the deserted post on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Leaving their supply train there, the men headed west toward Fort Myers that night. Having heard there was a ten-man Union picket post situated on the Fort Thompson Road east of Fort Myers, Major Footman was determined to capture it without a shot being fired. In his "Early History of Lee County and Fort Myers," Captain Francis Hendry described the action he observed at the time.

*The Major, still determined to capture that picket post, ordered Lieutenant William M. Hendry, of Captain Wall's company, to select from the whole battalion ten men and make dash upon the picket post . . . The order was positive to capture it without the firing of a gun if possible. This was a dangerous procedure. Ten men attacking ten men, all well-armed, with a position carefully selected. The instructions were, when within a half mile of the post, to dash off at full speed and keep up that speed until they dashed into the picket camp. Well does the writer remember seeing the water fly from under the heels of the chargers in that dash, and the spirit and determined look of those cavalrymen. The writer cannot recall all the names of the men composing that charge. Lieutenant W.M. Hendry, of Fort Myers; Frank Saxon of Brooksville; Gordon Zipperer, Bartow; Benjamin F. Blount, Bartow. Sorry I cannot recall other names. No more daring charge was made during the great war. There was not a gun fired, and every picket was trotting back to the rear in a few minutes, prisoners of war.*<sup>1</sup>



Shortly after, the Confederate force encountered a Union laundry detail at a small pond located near what is today Fowler and Thompson Streets. They attacked the position, killing a Black sergeant and capturing five other men. They still had a chance to rush upon the fort and possibly seize it by surprise, but upon discovering that there were large numbers of civilians, including women, still remaining at the fort, Major Footman instead sent a parley forward under a flag of truce to demand its surrender. Union Captain James Doyle, of the 110<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry, sent words of his refusal within five minutes.

The Confederates then opened fire with their single piece of artillery around 1:10 in the afternoon of February 20<sup>th</sup> at a distance of about 1400 yards from the fort. Two Union cannons returned fire as soldiers from all three Federal units formed a semi-circle around the fort's perimeter and fired upon the Confederate infantry positions. Confederates fired about 20 artillery rounds to little effect and skirmishing lasted until nightfall. That evening Confederates returned to Fort Thompson where Footman held a council of war.

*It was at this time that the major, as Sergeant Ellis reported, lined up his command and proposed returning and launching an open charge on the Federal position at Fort Myers. Footman asked all men in favor of such a charge to stay in line and those opposed to it to step forward. Only one man stepped to the front. Despite this brave show of support, Footman decided to continue the retreat to Fort Meade, explaining to Sergeant Ellis that no "good general" would risk having his men slaughtered. The deluge of more rain, which worsened conditions in the already flooded countryside, appears to have also been a factor in his decision.*<sup>2</sup>

*The Battle of Fort Myers continued*

Lieutenant Boggess (CSA) afterward credited the inclement weather with “saving the lives of many” while also adding such an action would have had a negligible effect upon the outcome of the war. Captain Doyle, upon discovering that the enemy had retreated the next morning, lacked sufficient horses to pursue them. Although there is some disagreement in the number of casualties reported on both sides, only a few men were killed or wounded during the battle. *The New York Times* ran a summary of the battle based upon Captain Doyle’s official report and other sources on March 18, 1865, thereby giving the nation some news of this mostly forgotten engagement of the Civil War. Not long afterward, Richmond would fall, the Confederate armies would surrender, and our devastating Civil War—costing our young nation some 750,000 lives—would finally come to an end.

### **Significance of the Battle of Fort Myers upon Southwest Florida and Fort Myers**

Francis A. Hendry, one of the principals in the battle whose family were among the first pioneer settlers of Fort Myers, never forgot the legacy the war left upon our nation. Many years later, when “the time came to organize a new county by the people of the mainland of Monroe County,” he described how it came to be that the new county would be named for Confederate General Robert E. Lee. (Present day Lee, Collier and Hendry counties were all part of a newly created Lee County in 1887. The above areas received legislative approval that year for their successful secession from Monroe County—whose county seat of Key West had controlled Southwest Florida from afar from before the Civil War.) When it came time to give a name to this new area, the former Confederate Captain and now prosperous cattle baron stepped forward.



Captain and Mrs. F. A. Hendry. From Karl Grismer's *History of Fort Myers*.

*Fortunate indeed, is the county of Lee in being named for that distinguished and lovable a character, Robert E. Lee, whom the world has esteemed and delights to honor. Well do I remember . . . the mass meeting held under the shade of the trees on the present school lot in Fort Myers. Proud indeed am I that when a name was discussed that I—even I—made a motion to name it in honor of the beloved Robert E. Lee. Well do I remember the enthusiasm in adopting that motion . . . Had we old timers in that day been told that the year 1908 would be ushered in and find Lee county (sic) and Fort Myers what they are today . . . with a population of five or six thousand inhabitants, it too, the most prosperous county in the state, we would have shrugged our shoulders with skeptical significance. Now, in this day, let every citizen of Lee County be proud of these names—Myers and Lee—and reverence them, and so live and conduct ourselves as never—no, never—to bring reproach upon them. It is not a matter of whether they wore the blue or the gray. It is a matter of perpetuating the love and esteem and the memory of two great men.<sup>3</sup>*

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Hendry, Francis A. “Early History of Lee County and Fort Myers.” Lee County Library collection.

<sup>2</sup>Dillon, Rodney E. Jr. (1983) "The Battle of Fort Myers," Tampa Bay History: Vol. 5 : Iss. 2 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol5/iss2/4>

<sup>3</sup>Hendry, p.18.



## A Short History of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment U.S.C.T.

On November 11, 1863, the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry was mustered into service for three-year enlistments in Arlington, Virginia. After a month's training in December of 1863 the regiment was ordered to the Department of the Gulf. Attached to the District of Key West, Florida, in February 1864, the unit saw duty in New Orleans and Ships Island, Mississippi. In May, several companies participated in an attack on Confederate fortifications at Tampa. It also conducted operations along with other federal troops along Florida's West Coast near Bayport, Cedar Key, and St. Andrew's Bay. From late 1864 until March 1865 several companies served at Fort Myers and Punta Rosa. Two companies participated in the Battle of Fort Myers. Around the same time, other units of the regiment fought skirmishes at St. Marks, at East River Bridge, Newport Bridge and at Natural Bridge on March 6, 1865.



In describing the often-overlooked role of Black troops in Florida during the Civil War, Irvin Winsboro writes:

*African-Americans in Florida eagerly joined the Union military cause and contributed to it in measurable ways . . . [They] not only engaged in combat in Florida, but they did so with intensity and merit. In twenty-six skirmishes, raids, and battles, they were victorious or claimed success compared with five defeats and one stalemate. The losses involved Florida's two memorable battles, Olustee in 1864 and Natural Bridge in 1865...For the most part, African American military men fought with acknowledged success and valor. Lieutenant Colonel Oliver T. Beard, Commander of the northeast Florida expedition, noted in an official report that "all my troops . . . behaved with the utmost gallantry..." Beard's own commanding officer, General Rufus Saxton, noted in his report to Secretary of War Stanton that "I have tried a portion of the [black soldiers who] fought with astonishing coolness and bravery..." Saxton, who later accepted the position of Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, added, "They seemed like men who were fighting to vindicate their manhood and they did it well." <sup>1</sup>*

The white officers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S.C.T. in the Battle of Ft Myers had praise equal to these other examples. The unit's commander, Colonel John Wilder, remarked that the 2<sup>nd</sup> "attained such proficiency and exactness [in drilling], that perhaps not a regiment in the service, regular or volunteer, surpassed it."<sup>2</sup>

Following the Battles of Fort Myers and Natural Bridge, the 2<sup>nd</sup> soon after became part of the Union forces that occupied Tallahassee and secured the neighboring countryside around the city. The unit mustered out of service on January 5, 1866. During the course of the war the Regiment suffered 173 casualties: 3 officers and 24 enlisted men killed and 11 officers and 135 enlisted men lost to disease.

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<sup>1</sup> Winsboro, Irvin D. S. "Give Them Their Due: A Reassessment of African Americans and Union Military Service in Florida during the Civil War." *The Journal of African American History* 92, no. 3 (2007): 327–46. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20064203>.

<sup>2</sup> Winsboro, Irvin D.S. "Southern Extremities: The Significance of Fort Myers in the Civil War." *The Florida Historical Quarterly*, Vol. LXXII, no. 2 (1993), p. 146.

**EDITORIAL NOTE:** To contact the contemporary 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry re-enactment group, go to: [President's Welcome — 2nd Infantry Regiment United State Colored Troops Living History Association](http://www.the2ndusctlha.org) or <https://www.the2ndusctlha.org/bio> .

## In Memoriam – Michael E. Urell

PDC, PCC, SVC Camp 4

Brothers,

As we mourn the loss of our brother Mike Urell, I am reminded of the many good things Mike brought to the SUVCW. Mike was truly a 'blue belly' through and through. Mike served as camp 4 commander as well as the Department of Florida commander. This brother led tours of Saint Cloud, a city that he loved. The 'Soldier City' saw Mike at the Mount Peace Cemetery on Memorial Day annually. He was proud to speak about the GAR Hall and the original settlers of Saint Cloud. Mike often spoke about the *Liar's Bench* where the old veterans would sit and tell exaggerated stories of their experiences during the war. Recently, Camp 4 succeeded in having a *Liar's Bench* installed in the Mount Peace Cemetery to honor Mike's dream and vision. Photos of the installation made Mike smile that his vision came to life. Mike was always in uniform at our meetings even during the hot summer months. When camp 4 marched in a parade, we could count on Mike to carry the banner leading us through the City of Saint Cloud. We missed Mike at the Dept. Encampment this year but I'm sure he was among us in Spirit. The missing-man table was set up for Mike and we even had his favorite breakfast food on the menu; blueberry pie. We could always count on Mike telling us the history of the Soldier's City, of Fisk Funeral Home, the past members as well as his ancestor's role in the war. Please join me as I celebrate the life of a great man who will be greatly missed.

-- Florida Department Commander Timothy E. Campaign



Michael's 'vacant chair' and table setting at the 30<sup>th</sup> Encampment – 3/1/2025 Ft. Myers, FL

# The 'History' of the Vacant Chair

"The Vacant Chair" is a poem that was written following the death of **John William Grout** (July 25, 1843 – October 21, 1861). Grout was a soldier killed in the American Civil War during the Battle of Ball's Bluff. The poem, written by Henry S. Washburn was put to music by George Frederick Root and became a popular song of the post-Civil War era.

## Grout

John William Grout was born to Jonathan and Mary Jane Grout on July 25, 1843, at Worcester, Massachusetts. He attended the military academy there. He served as a 2nd lieutenant of Company D, 15th Massachusetts Infantry<sup>1</sup> and was killed at the age of eighteen in the Battle of Ball's Bluff on October 21, 1861. Grout's body was recovered on November 5, 1861, after being washed 35 miles (56 km) back to Washington, D.C. His remains were identified by the name written on his clothing.

John William



Henry S. Washburn

## burn

Upon hearing of Grout's death, Henry Stevenson Washburn, a family friend, wrote "The Vacant Chair" in late 1861 . . . It is an allegory that describes the pain suffered by the family of those killed in war during the season surrounding Thanksgiving. The poem was turned into a song by George Frederick Root while living in Chicago without consulting Washburn—the poem was not copyrighted. The song was released in 1862 and became very popular in the South and North.<sup>4</sup> Root is also known for such Civil War era songs as "The Battle Cry of Freedom" and



"Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!"

<p style="text-align: center;">Verse 1</p> <p>We shall meet but we shall miss him  There will be one vacant chair  We shall linger to caress him  While we breathe our ev'ning prayer  When one year ago we gathered  Joy was in his mild blue eye  Now the golden cord is severed  And our hopes in ruin lie</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Verse 2</p> <p>At our fireside, sad and lonely  Often will the bosom swell  At the remembrance of the story  How our noble Willie fell  How he strove to bear the banner  Thro' the thickest of the fight  And uphold our country's honor  In the strength of manhood's might</p>	
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Adapted from Wikipedia

# REPORTS

## March 1, 2025 Encampment Business

See the special edition of *THE DISPATCH* ENCAMPMENT ISSUE for pictures and information about this year's Encampment in Fort Myers, Florida.

### Camp Reports

#### Winfield Scott Whitehurst Camp 01 – Tampa

Commander: William H. Brabazon – 14 SUVCW JROTC Awards - 2024 • Presented 8 JROTC Awards • Joint Union gravestone cleaning with SCV April 2024 • Memorial Day participation at Tampa VFW & Cemetery May 2024 • Blue / Grey Shotgun shootout Pinellas Park, FL July 2024 • Historic Discussion / Meeting scheduled at Tampa Historical Society April 2025 • The Camp currently has 35 Members compared with 32 Last Year.

#### Col. Robert W. Barnard Camp 02 – Ft. Myers

Commander: Noel Reese -- We held Memorial Day services at the Old Ft Myers Cemetery. Our region suffered two devastating storms which caused difficulty for our members and prevented our being able to meet in the fall of 2024. We lost our 501c3 tax-exempt status despite having repeatedly attempted to file, having an IRS Taxpayer Advocate assigned to our case, and winning an appeal for reinstatement of our ability to file. As a result of continued problems, caused initially by National's leaving us off the legitimate sub-group list of affiliated Camps and then with communication problems within the IRS, we are now pursuing independent 501c3 status. Our Camp's local arrangements committee worked with Commander Campaign to host a successful Departmental Encampment that coincided with the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Ft Myers. In 2024 we gave out 14 JROTC Awards but presented no Eagle Scout Awards. We've recently sent messages to all local area Troop Leaders asking to help them recognize their Eagle Scouts this year.

#### General Thomas J. McKean Camp 03 – Lantana

Commander: Jeffery A. Garten -- Camp 3 shared a unique way of recruiting new members—a laminated “Lincoln \$10 Note with Camp information on the back. The older currency gets everyone's attention and doubles as service as a bookmark. The Camp became a ‘group sponsor’ to “Wreaths Across America” and for every wreath donation received \$5 back. The Camp received the *Charity Award* from the Department and entered 10 new graves of Civil War soldiers in the National Graves Registration Database. The Camp experienced difficulty with filing their 990N IRS form and recommends National devise better resources and information to Camps for completing this task. Among events, the Camp participated in Memorial Day at Woodlawn Cemetery, in the Lake Alfred Heritage Festival, in a Veterans' Day Parade in West Palm Beach, and in *Remembrance Day* at Gettysburg. The Camp's full report with pictures may be seen “HERE.”

## Lucius L. Mitchell Camp 04 – St. Cloud

Commander: Milton Taylor -- Members of Camp 4 shared a trip to Mississippi that involved visiting five cities. Camp 4 preformed a ceremony for Colonel Embury D. Osband, who was the commanding officer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> United States Colored Cavalry. The ceremony took place at the Vicksburg National Veterans Cemetery. While visiting Natchez, Mississippi, Camp 4 members encouraged residents to form their own camp. For the first time there is now a camp in Natchez, Mississippi. The annual fundraiser raised over \$1,200.00 for the McCormick Research Institute. An equine rehabilitation facility for veterans. Camp 4 also donated \$500.00 to New Life Ministry in Lakeland, Florida towards their new Veteran's House. The Camp's big project was the approval and installation of the "Liars Bench" in Mt. Peace Cemetery in St. Cloud, Florida. This was one of PC Urell's dreams. Camp 4 attended several History Festivals where we promoted the SUVCW. It awarded 2 ROTC medals to cadets and marched in the Christmas Parade in St. Cloud.

## Sanderlin-Stidum Camp 05 – Webster (formerly General Eugene A. Carr Camp)

Commander: Arnott Barclay – The Camp relocated to Webster, FL on March 12<sup>th</sup> with election of the following officers: Commander: Arnott Barclay, Sr. Vice Cmdr: Arthur Battles, Jr. Vice Cmdr: Chester Corbett, Sec/ Treasurer: Richard Wilder, Chaplin: Heubert Williams. The Camp is in the process of re-establishing its banking account and welcomes new Brothers. It's meeting location will be Mt. Pisgah Community Church, 3515 C. R. 752, Webster, Florida on the second Tues. of each odd month. Meeting dates for 2025 will be May 13<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, & Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. Contact [Richard Wilder](#) for more.

## Sgt. Frederick R. Jackson Camp 07 – Pembroke Pines

Commander: Raymond M. Hatfield – Since last year: we attended the Lockahassee Battlefield and Living History event, the Scouting America Camporee, attended 'Roister House', 'Yesterday Village' at the Palm Bch. Fairgrounds, and 'Miami River Days.' We presented 34 JROTC Awards in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Brother Shaffer attended Miramar Senior Day and presented "The Firsts of the Civil War." We participated in the Tri-County Motorcade on Confederate Memorial Day. Both the 'Southern Contingent' and the 'Northern Contingent' met in W. Palm Beach for a combined service before going to a joint fellowship dinner at Cracker Barrel. We also were represented at other living history events and Veterans Day events.

## General John A. Logan Camp 09 – Jacksonville

Commander: Steven Walt – This past Memorial Day, we carried out our sacred duty of remembrance by placing American flags on the graves of Union soldiers in St. Augustine, Florida. Our efforts focused on two historic cemeteries: the St. Augustine National Cemetery, where many Civil War veterans rest, and Mission Nombre de Dios Cemetery, the final resting place of United States Colored Troops (USCT) who fought to preserve the Union. St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city, holds a unique place in Civil War history. While Florida seceded from the Union, St. Augustine was occupied by Federal troops in 1862, and many who served in the war later made this city their home. The USCT, whose graves we honored at Mission Nombre de Dios, played a vital role in securing freedom and unity for our country, and it is our privilege to recognize their service.

As we look ahead to Memorial Day 2025, John A. Logan Camp #9 is already making plans to continue this important tradition. We invite all members and community supporters to join us in placing flags,

attending ceremonies, and ensuring that the sacrifices of these brave soldiers are never forgotten. More details will be announced as the date approaches.

## Richard W. Good Camp 10 – Melbourne

Commander: Richard W. Goode – Camp 10 is a fledgling camp, the Department's newest. Our namesake is Richard Walter Goode (1844-1912) who enlisted in the 18th Illinois Volunteer Infantry at the age of 17 and later became the 12th major of Melbourne. The Camp is located in Melbourne and we serve Brevard County and its surrounds. We currently have six regular members but expect to initiate two new Brothers at our next meeting. Just starting out, our camp is not only small but poor as well. Nevertheless, we have participated in as many events in the area as time and resources have allowed. We joined along with a local Daughters Tent to lay a wreath at the 37th All Veterans Reunion in honor at the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall event in Melbourne last May. We manned a booth at Melbourne's Civil War Days event held at the Historic Rossetter House in Melbourne. The Camp has become a lifetime member of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center in support of their efforts as well as to expand our presence in the community. Our Camp Holy Bible was a gift of Brother Ron McCracken, a founding member of Camp 4 and our Camp Flag is a gift from a local lodge of the Fraternal Order of Elks (BPOE). We are looking forward to growing our small camp in honor of our brave ancestors' memory, their sacrifices and their patriotism.

## National Encampment Report — Edward J. Manack—SVC, PCC

**August 1-4, 2024.** Brother Manak attended the SUVCW 143<sup>rd</sup> National Encampment at the Hilton Campbell House in Lexington, Kentucky. Brother Manak was the only delegate from the Department of Florida. He delivered Florida's one vote every time Florida was called in the rollcall vote.

The highlights of the National Encampment are listed, as follows:

**Thursday, August 1, 2024:** Field trips to Lexington Brewing and Distillery Company and to Camp Nelson, KY. Camp Nelson was established in June 1863 under the orders of Major General Ambrose F. Burnside. Burnside constructed the camp as a base of supply for his 1863 Knoxville Campaign. Camp Nelson played an instrumental role in various campaigns in the War, in the recruitment of U.S. Colored Troops, and in the operations of the Freedman's Bureau afterward.

**Friday, August 2, 2024:** Opening ceremony, introduction of National Officers, Business Session called to order by an Abraham Lincoln reenactor. Credentials Committee seats 183 delegates. New Camps were announced, including Florida's Camp 10 in Melbourne.

--Proposal to change the dress code during National Encampments to permit the wearing of polo shirts.

(The current dress code requires the wearing of a Union Civil War Uniform or a blue coat and tie. Brother Manak spoke in opposition to the proposal) The polo shirt proposal failed.

--Proposal to include donated historic furniture to the Monument Fund. Tabled.

--Proposal to update Form 22 and Form 49. Referred to committee.

--Proposal to revise officer installations. Referred to Committee.

--Proposal to award past department commander badges to past department secretaries, with ten years' service. Referred to Commander-in-Chief.

--Proposal from the Department of Pennsylvania concerning audits was made. No action was taken.

--Proposal for Form-3 concerning page completion. Referred to committee.

--The Department of New York had three proposals. No action was taken.

--Proposal concerning the disability of elected officer. Passed.

--The Department of Rhode Island proposed the National Council of Administration may not have more than three members from the same department. Failed.

--Department of Missouri proposed the National Council Attorney must be admitted to the practice of law. Failed.

- National Awards were presented.
- Proposal to delete the word "legal" from the position of "legal advisor." Passed.
- Proposal from the Department of New Jersey to have a "Banner Yearbook.: Withdrawn.
- Proposal to not permit membership for persons convicted of heinous crimes. Passed.

## *National Encampment Report Continued ...*

- Proposal for a one-time listing of names in the "Banner" of "Honor Roll" donations of \$10. Passed.
- Proposal to require national resolutions to be first approved by a department. Passed.
- Proposed Life membership in 2024. Passed.
- Proposal that committee members turn over items to their successors. Passed.
- Proposed departments, camps and members must purchase from the National Organization. Passed.
- The National Site Committee recommended audio-visual recordings of national Encampments.
- The 2026 National Encampment will be in Houston, Texas.
- Proposal to change the name of the National Committee on Promoting the Order. Ruled out of order for not presenting the proposal a minimum of 30 days prior to the National Encampment.
- Request to increase the advertising budget from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Passed.
- Request for a membership booth at the Salt Lake City Convention.

**Other matters of note:** The 16 November 2024 Remembrance Day will be at the Eisenhower Hotel. We had a five-percent drop in membership last year. We only have a few "Real Sons" who are still alive. We have a SUVCW Charitable Foundation. \ \$1,320 was raised when we passed the hat for the Christian Appalachian Project. For purchases, we changed from "Paypal" to "Square."

### **Saturday, August 3, 2024**

- Proposal to revise Forms 40, 41, and 42. Passed.
- Job descriptions were discussed.
- Auxiliary of SUVCW President spoke.
- Declining membership was discussed.

#### **Officer Reports.**

- Proposal in the Constitution and Regulations to change "Boy Scouts" to "Scouting America." Passed.
- On August 2, 1956, the last Union soldier died. He was Albert Wilson. He was 109 years old. He was from Oulett, Minnesota.
- Motion to have Form-12 Scholarship Application of four years, to add two years and technical schools. Committee passed. Motion passed.
- Motion to have a recruiting table at the National Sons of the American Revolution Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The cost for the table is \$60. Passed.

#### **Elections:**

Commander-in-Chief -- Kevin Martin.  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief – Kevin Tucker.  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief – Daniel Murray.  
National Secretary – Alan Russ.  
National Treasurer – D. Michael Beard.  
Council of Administration.  
Shane Milburn. 3-year term.  
Dale Crandell – 1-year term.  
David Hann – 3-year term.  
Installation: All elected officers were installed.  
Adjournment:



As all SUVCW Brothers know, our order owes a huge debt to our patriotic "sisters" who comprise the membership of our Allied Groups. Their contributions—both past and present—serve to support and motivate us in our mission. We look forward to showcasing some of the activities of our Allied Groups in the future and wish to begin by sharing one recent activity that took place on March 8, 2025 at the Lake Alfred Heritage Festival. It was a beautiful sunny day where the public gathered to witness a reenactment of the naming of the town by the Lake Alfred Commission, and tour the old Oak Grove Cemetery and the home of Frank and June Gardner, who established the Florida Fruitlands Company in 1909. Music filled the air with Mr. Florida Bluegrass, Justin Mason and Blue Night Band. There was also demonstrations by the Buffalo Soldiers, Jim Sawgrass, Phineas T. Mortimer's Medicine and Magic Show and much, much more.



*Pictured from left to right is Richard Wilder, Michelle Moriya, Louis Wilder, Sandy Vogelwohl, H.L. Williams.*

**Contact Information for the "Daughters"**

- Tent 10 Sarasota -- President: Cathy Hollar 941-716-4662 [c17shells@webtv.net](mailto:c17shells@webtv.net)  
Rebecca Thomas 707-478-9001 [accessorize1313@gmail.com](mailto:accessorize1313@gmail.com) Rebecca is Patriotic Instructor for ASUVCW (National) Helping to establish an auxiliary in FL.
- Tent 11 St. Cloud -- President: Sandra Vogelwohl [flynhi53@gmail.com](mailto:flynhi53@gmail.com) There will be a new President in May.
- Tent 12 Port St. Lucie -- President: Janice Sly 770-881-6188 [darmorenus@yahoo.com](mailto:darmorenus@yahoo.com)
- Tent 14 Tampa -- President: Jane Turner 727-734-5870 [jaturn@tampa.rr.com](mailto:jaturn@tampa.rr.com)
- Tent 15 Melbourne -- President: Deb Plaag 321-543-0778 [dplaag@gmail.com](mailto:dplaag@gmail.com)
- Tent 16 The Villages -- Hannah Emmett-Dennis 407-494-8704 [hannahs10@yahoo.com](mailto:hannahs10@yahoo.com)



**Florida SUVCW Eagle Scout Coordinator Report –**

# SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificates Department of Florida 2024

For information about this program, send inquiries to Jack Bovee at [jsbovee@aol.com](mailto:jsbovee@aol.com).



Br. Dan Meushaw, Camp 4-  
Joseph Kolb Honor Court

Name	Hon. Court City / County	Camp	Court Date	Notes
Baylie Ayala	Ocala, Marion	5	2/22/2025	Female scout
Tristan Hewett	Riverview, Hillsborough	1	1/4/2025	
Brennen Osterberger	Riverview, Hillsborough	1	1/2/2025	
Hayden Parkhurst	Melbourne, Brevard	4	9/18/2024	
Diego Negrón	Riverview, Hillsborough	4	12/15/2024	
Eduardo Rivera, Jr.	Davenport, Polk	1	12/17/2024	
Alexander Duran	Davenport, Polk	1	12/17/2024	
Matteo Napoleao	Davenport, Polk	1	12/17/2024	
William Marshall	Davenport, Polk	1	12/17/2024	
Christian Sanchez	Davenport, Polk	1	12/17/2024	
Jonathan Huddleston	Davenport, Polk	1	12/17/2024	
Tyler C. Koscho	St. Petersburg, Pinellas	1	10/1/2024	
Tyler A. Ricks	Riverview, Hillsborough	4	9/21/2024	
Cooper L. Lindsey	Riverview, Hillsborough	4	9/1/2024	
Robert W. Border III	Avon Park, Highlands	4	6/23/2024	
Trent Willis	Riverview, Hillsborough	4	6/2/2024	
Joseph F. Kolb, III	Orlando, Orange	4	6/1/2024	
Benjamin Blane Huff	Ellenton, Manatee	1	5/19/2024	
Genevieve H. Seymour	Miami, Dade	7	4/28/24	Female Scout
Donovan Leftwich	Cape Coral, Lee	2	4/14/2024	
Max Hoffner	Davenport, Polk	1	3/26/2024	
Lucca Napoleao	Davenport, Polk	1	3/26/2024	
David A. Koscho	St.Petersburg, Pinellas	1	3/4/2024	

## Scouting America and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

by Michael Spaulding, PDC, Eagle Scout Coordinator, Department of Ohio, SUVCW

Scouting America (then called the Boy Scouts of America) was not founded until 1910, fully 45 years after the end of the Civil War. So what is the relationship of Scouting America and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War?

It started in 1913, when an unprecedented "Great Peace Jubilee" of surviving veterans of both the Northern Union Army and the Southern Confederate Army was planned for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, one of the most famous battles of the Civil War.

Invitations were sent by each state to the surviving veterans, who were mostly aged 70 to 90, with the youngest age 61 and the oldest claiming to be 112. The response was overwhelming. By the time of the reunion, 55,000 veterans had registered, with numerous other unregistered veterans, plus attendants, hundreds of active military personnel, police, medical staff, reporters, lemonade salesmen, tourists from all parts of the country, and souvenir hawkers with dozens of souvenir medal designs. By contrast, the largest Scouting America National Jamboree was in Colorado Springs in 1960 with 56,377 Scouts in attendance. The pre-pandemic National Jamboree in 2017 had about 31,000 Scouts and the latest Jamboree in 2023 had about 15,700 participants.



*Great Reunion Souvenir Medal*

Seeing the large number of participant registrations, the organizers grew more and more concerned that the Pennsylvania State Police and the assigned military units would be stretched too thin to handle a crowd of this size, so they turned to the three-year-old Scouting America for assistance.



*Portion of the Gettysburg Great Reunion Campsite, 1913*

This event became the first large scale service project for the newly organized Scouting America. With the Great Reunion just six weeks away, Scouting America hand-picked Scouts for duty at Gettysburg. Scouts from Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., New Jersey, and Maryland were chosen. Twenty-four troops with 385 Scouts arrived a week before the Reunion and immediately began assisting the Army Quartermaster in pitching tents and distributing supplies.

On June 30, the first of 34 special trains bringing veterans to the reunion arrived. Standing outside the railroad cars were US Regular soldiers. Beside the soldiers stood Scouts dressed in military-style khaki uniforms complete with leggings and a broad-brimmed campaign hat. When the veterans stepped off their train cars and into the confusion of 55,000 other arriving veterans, they heard a reassuring young voice saying, "Sir, may I help you with your luggage?" "This way to your camp and I'll be glad to escort you."

For the elderly veterans, the Scouts proved to be the best guides they could ask for. More than one veteran commented about the helpful soldiers and Scouts guiding the veterans through countless rows of tents under the hot July sun. As soon as one train arrived and unloaded, the next followed close behind. The Scouts met each train full of arrivals, showed them to their quarters, and then ran back as fast as possible to the railroad siding to repeat the process.



Boy Scouts Performing First Aid, Gettysburg 1913



Article in Scouting Magazine, 15 Jul 1913.

For the next four days, the Scouts assisted those in need and gave directions to the lost. It was July, and one of the tasks the Scouts helped with was loading heat exhaustion victims into waiting ambulances—ultimately, more than 10,000 patients visited the first aid stations, with more than 300 hospitalizations and two deaths of heat-related causes, so the Scouts were kept busy.



Boy Scout First Aid Armband, 1913

At the same time, the Scouts must have been in awe of these veterans who had

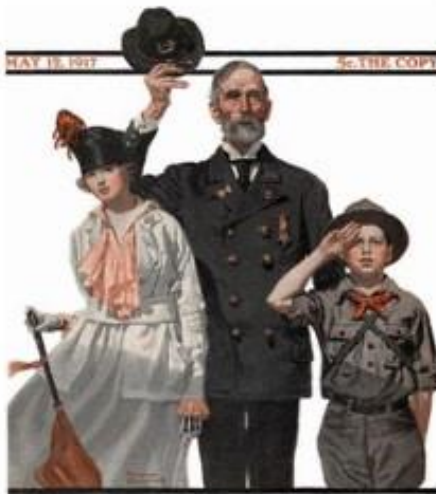


Scout Reunion Medal, Gettysburg 1913

fought in the Union and Confederate armies fifty years earlier. And when the keynote speaker, President Woodrow Wilson, arrived at the reunion's Great Tent, he made his entry through a line of lucky Boy Scouts, who were almost within touching distance as he stepped to the podium to speak about reconciliation between the old veterans—and current citizens—of the North and South in the half century since the end of the Civil War.

To demonstrate the esteem the organizers had for the contribution of Scouting America, the Pennsylvania Commission created an official version of the Reunion

medal just for the Scouts. Interestingly, members of the "Gettysburg Scouts Service Corps" even held their own reunions for some years after the event.



"Ready to Serve," Norman Rockwell, Saturday Evening Post, May 12, 1917

In the years following the Great Reunion of 1913, the Union veterans, known as the "Grand Army of the Republic" (GAR), had a close relationship with Scouting America. This was memorably captured by Norman Rockwell in a magazine cover from 1917. Other photos show Scouts marching with GAR members in parades and sharing solemn moments at war monuments on Memorial Day. Scouts also attended GAR "encampments," where the aging veterans met and discussed their internal business matters.

At the end of the 1913 Great Reunion, Pennsylvania Governor John

Tener had committed his state to invite the surviving veterans to a "Last Reunion" in 25 years. So it was that in 1938 invitations went out for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering of the dwindling numbers of Union and Confederate veterans. The featured event was the unveiling of the Eternal Peace Light Memorial on Oak Hill and its dedication by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Scouts Assisting a Veteran, Gettysburg 1938



A Scout and a Civil War Veteran

Of course, far fewer veterans attended the 1938 reunion, the final count listing 1845 veterans, with 1359 Union veterans and 486 Confederates. With an average age of 94, each veteran had an individual attendant, and with the addition of medical staff, police, military troops, kitchen workers, and hundreds of Scouts, the overall official participants at the reunion numbered over 7000, plus tourists, journalists, and others who came to see the old veterans and hear the President speak. According to some reports, two to three hundred thousand spectators were

on hand for the Peace Memorial dedication and many thousands more could not get there because of congested roads. Although there were far fewer souvenir medals available for sale to the small number of veterans, once again a reunion medal was awarded to the Scouts in attendance. The National Park Service says that



Colorized Photo of Scouts Listening to Civil War Veterans in 1938. Note the Blue and Gray Neckerchiefs.

the 1938 Last Reunion and Peace Memorial Dedication was by far the most attended event ever at Gettysburg.

**The Scouts at Gettysburg**

Boy Scouts of America, an able group that had had the benefits of their training. Each group was efficient and rendered the same type of service, except that twenty-five years ago one contingent of the Scouts organized with the American Red Cross to fight the war. This was taken over by the Army and administered by them in 1918.

**Scout Service—1918**

Lines taken of the War Department was put in charge of the administration of the army war units before the opening. His first request was for two hundred Scouts for service. He had participated in 1912 and had also had experience with Scouts on other occasions since then. These were his reasons for asking for the cooperation of the Boy Scouts again.

"The Boy Scout camp was on the same grounds as the camp for the reunion. It was in perfect condition. Regular army units had been there since 1912. A special attachment with blue and gray had been developed for the service contingent as that

they would be readily recognized. Each boy was neatly and completely uniformed. Their appearance was superb.

In addition to the five hundred on official duty, there was a camp of between three and four hundred on the reserve and of the battle ground. These of the Scouts were not the organization but not officially, so was the case with the other boys.

The Scouts served as aides and auditors, selected the reserves in their school chairs from one place to another, helped at information booths, ran errands and in many other capacities were rendered these small services that mean so much to the comfort and happiness of a group of old people.

**Boy Scout Service—1913**

We have been reviewing copies of BOY'S LIFE and SCOUTING that give an account of the starting point in 1913. It was indeed one of the first Good Turns that brought the Boy Scouts of America into national prominence. We find that SCOUTING devoted an entire page to editorial comment by various newspapers on the remarkable service of the Boy Scouts of America, and stated that the Secretary of War responded his appreciation for the excellent work done by them.

There were some names of those who were sent in 1913: (Dwight K. Davis, M. F. Crockett, James D. Brown, Alexander D. Laidley, F. Lester Goodham, E. S. Marvin, Maurice J. P. Owen, W. H. Schaffer, W. G. Fokerson, Aaron E. Smith, Walter C. Chandler, LeRoy D. Baldwin, Robert L. Leffler, F. Gordon Goodham, Robert F. Pugh, William H. Zeller, Linn C. Drake, Kenneth K. Harris, George M. Bennett, and Paul Clark.

The following is a quotation from BOY'S LIFE for September 1913. The gigantic crowd could scarcely have been handled so perfectly had it not been for the assistance given by the Boy Scouts. The story of this service is told in this issue of BOY'S LIFE in our feature story; the entire magazine could not hold a complete length upon this event because he felt and felt that the character of

the service and the spirit in which it was rendered. The names of those who held the actual work done, valuable as it was, is more meaningful than the list of names, and all the excitement and distinction, the Boy Scouts of America passed absolutely that they are living up to their Scout Law."

**Reunion Dinner**

One of the most heart warming features of the reunion as an old man was the reunion dinner that was held. Some twenty-seven men who had served in Scouts in 1913 at the Gettysburg reunion were present at a formal reunion dinner. A large proportion of these men are still active in Scouting, some engaged professionally in the Movement.

**Senior Scouts Opportunity**

The writer has faith in our length upon this event because he feels and believes that everyone who had the opportunity to participate must also find that conditions such as this present a wonderful opportunity to hold the interest of boys in Scouting. Let us all, in each one of our Camps, try to develop more opportunities for our Senior Scouts to have a part in observations that will identify them in their own minds and in the minds of the public as something worthwhile. This is the mission and the adventure that boys seek they are going to get through Scouting. Let us have more encouragement, more distinctive honors. Let us search out more means which may mean attention of the right sort, advanced training, service in camp and more history, trail building, as the national guide, expedition, exploration, are true of adventure that give a boy or man a sense of responsibility to take part. Moreover let us hold these opportunities not as incentives to advancement. Let us frankly make the standard of participation high so that the boys will be encouraged to progress in advancement as it is to have the great reward of taking part.

Page Eighteen      Now Is The Time For All Good Troops to Start Their Fall Program.      SCOUTING      SEPTEMBER, 1938      Keep Scouting Working On!      Page Nineteen

Article in Scouting Magazine, September 1938.

About 200 Scouts were on Reunion, helping as needed messengers, and veterans. Approximately camped nearby in case of organizations also had various organizations of Union and Confederate participating hereditary Sons of Union Veterans of

After the Last Reunion, formal gatherings of veterans, but the GAR encampments for a few one was the 83<sup>rd</sup> National Indianapolis, IN in 1949. By membership in the GAR had dropped to just 16 members, and only six were able to attend in person.



Detail from Boys Life, September 1938.

duty at the Last and serving as pages, attendants for the 350 additional Scouts emergencies. Other official roles, including descendants of the soldiers. One of the organizations was the the Civil War.

there were no more Northern and Southern continued to hold their more years. The last Encampment, held in that time,

The last member of the GAR and only documented surviving veteran of the Civil War, Albert Woolson, passed away in 1956, so the 1963 ceremony marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg was the first major commemorative event at Gettysburg with no living Civil War veterans as participants. Luckily, Chester S. Shriver, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Donald A. Ramsay, General-in-Chief of the Confederate High Command, stepped in and recruited 1000 reenactors to march in the parade and to stage a "symbolic" reenactment of Pickett's Charge as part of the overall activities of the commemoration event.

Once again, Scouting America provided volunteers to assist and participate in various ceremonies and memorial services. Some of the Scouts took part in a ceremony at the Eternal Peace Light Memorial and received a torch that Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton lit with fire from the Eternal flame. Unfortunately, President John F. Kennedy was traveling in Europe and unable to attend, so former President and General Dwight Eisenhower (who had moved to a home on the Gettysburg Battlefield) stepped in and made a speech urging Americans to rededicate themselves to liberty, duty, and democracy.

Before the death of Albert Woolson in 1956, the GAR officially recognized the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) as its legal heir. To this day, the SUVCW maintains many of the traditions of the GAR. These include the promotion of good citizenship by teaching history, patriotism, civic duties, and the love and honor of the flag – concepts also important to Scouting America.



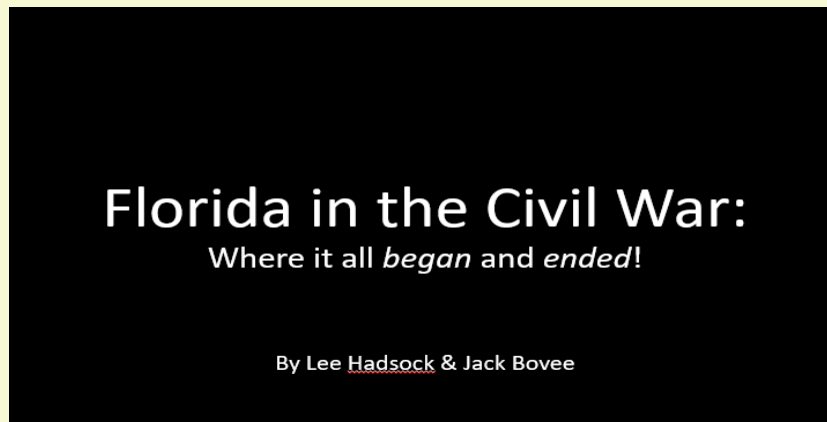
One of the ways the SUVCW honors the long-standing relationship with Scouting America, is by rewarding Scouts who achieve the rank of Eagle Scout with a congratulatory letter and a Certificate of Commendation. Although the SUVCW encourages Eagle service projects related to the Civil War when possible, this is not a requirement for receiving the certificate. Likewise, there is no requirement for the Eagle Scout to be a descendant of a Union Civil War soldier to receive the Certificate of Commendation.

The relationship between the GAR and its successor organization, the SUVCW, and Scouting America, has lasted for more than 100 years, starting with an urgent call for help at the time of the Great Reunion in 1913. Most importantly, with the two organizations sharing values and principles, the relationship can continue long into the future.



## **Want to know *more* about Florida's Role in the Civil War?**

Clicking on the below image or on [this link](#) should bring you to a detailed POWERPOINT program on how the Civil War both *began* and *ended* in our state! Most residents of Florida don't quite understand the history behind this claim. Click through to program to gain an appreciation for Florida's unique role in this crucial period of America's past.



Link: [FL in the Civil War.pptx](#) <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/c72lsx0ch3a3p6u95ey08/FL-in-the-Civil-War.pptx?rlkey=pj262yqwauzi2uhvxp1j0pv9&e=1&dl=0>

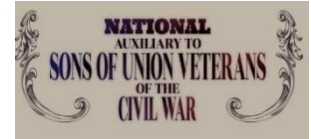


### **Encampment Raffle Fundraising Update!**

This year's Encampment saw the attempt to raise funds through a variety of means: a "50/50 raffle," a silent auction, and a raffle of free items. A total of \$372 was raised for the purpose of helping to defray the cost of sending representatives to the National Encampment. \$200 was raised from the 50/50 event, allowing one person to win \$100 cash! Many people went home with free books to add to their libraries, coffee cups that celebrated our Union Heroes, and more! Camps were encouraged to add this fun activity to their own meetings in the future for the purpose of raising money for local and Departmental projects. Commander Tim Campaign is interested in hearing from everyone whether this is a good idea to continue in the future!

## Allied Group News Needed!

The Dispatch is interested in sharing information and events of all Florida chapters of Allied Groups associated with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Leading officers of the five affiliated groups are encouraged to submit their contact information as well as articles of their activities to Jack Bovee at [JSBovee@aol.com](mailto:JSBovee@aol.com).



## Civil War Roundtable Links

We believe in outreach to like-minded groups that share our mission. SUVCW Brothers often represent our views and recruit new members through connection with various Civil War Roundtables across the State. The Dispatch is interested in providing information about the locations and contact information of such groups for the purpose of networking. Contact editor Jack Bovee at [JSBovee@aol.com](mailto:JSBovee@aol.com) with information about such groups in your area. A list of such groups will be maintained and may be accessed from us in the future.

## Sons of Veterans Reserve News

The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). The National Military Department of the SVR consists of the General Staff and seven geographical Military Districts across the nation. SVR Units participate in Civil War related ceremonies, parades, living history programs, and re-enactments.

Membership in the Sons of Veterans Reserve is open to any Member (Hereditary), Junior (Hereditary), or Associate (Non-hereditary) of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. To be in the SVR you must be a Member or Associate in the SUVCW. Units and individuals must file an application for membership. Information about the group may be obtained HERE. (<https://suvcw-svr.org/svr.htm>)

Individuals interested in joining the SVR may contact: Jeffery A. Garten at: [gartenj@bellsouth.com](mailto:gartenj@bellsouth.com).

## Sons of Confederate Veterans

Similar to the networking rationale above for CWRTs and because so many Brothers with the Department of Florida SUVCW are also members of the SCV, The Dispatch will provide information about the location of SVC Camps located in the Florida Division. The SCV currently is home to over 40 separate Camps within the state. Click HERE for a complete listing of FL SCV Camps.





# Young Adults in the News!



We often hear that the younger generation today has little understanding of the past or appreciation of the sacrifices groups and individuals have made in defense of our freedom. As editors, we hope to dispel this myth by featuring in this and future issues some of their more notable accomplishments. Camps may wish to submit articles on the achievements of a particular Eagle Scout or ROTC Award recipient. Similarly, we also hope to feature an occasional historical research paper or documentary that was written or produced by a young adult which touches upon an important person or event in our nation's past. We think such examples will serve to both educate our members and provide evidence that today's younger generation continues to follow the example of their forbears.

This issue of *THE DISPATCH* will focus on a Civil-War related historical research paper that was written under the guidelines of the NATIONAL HISTORY DAY Program. This program for students in grades six through twelve seeks to inculcate good citizenship and educational scholarship through its historical research competitions at the local, state, and national level. More than two million people are engaged annually, including 600,000 students, 40,000 teachers, and thousands of judges and other volunteers. This example pertains to something not often thought of when discussing the American Civil War. Hannah Anderson won acclaim in the grades 6-8 'Junior Division' for her paper, *That Settles It: The Debate and Consequences of the Homestead Act of 1862*. We hope her snappy title will cause you to download her work or read it from this source [HERE](https://societyforhistoryeducation.org/pdfs/THT-NHDAnderson.pdf). [Or go to:

<https://societyforhistoryeducation.org/pdfs/THT-NHDAnderson.pdf>. ]



When you read her 21-page scholarly paper, bear in mind that this young lady *hasn't even made it to high school yet!*

Our youth today have some serious youth role models from the past that they could learn about! Here is an educational poster about "Youth in the Civil War" that can be downloaded, printed up and framed and used by Camps for 'living history' encampments / displays.



## Legislative News!

Once again Rep. Dean Black (R-Nassau) has filed HB1599 to protect Florida's Monuments and Memorials. Its Senate counterpart is SB1816, filed by Stan McClain (R-Alachua/ Marion). Interested persons can read the bills and follow their path through the legislative session by going to [ONLINE SUNSHINE](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/) (<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/>) . You may also read the language of the bill and follow its progress through the legislative session by clicking on the links below.

[HB 1599](#)

[SB 1816](#)

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## Department of Florida SUVCW Civil War Monuments and Memorials Database

This database may be accessed on the Department of Florida SUVCW webpage and represents a program that needs everyone's attention. The webpage will remain under construction until we have located and identified EVERY, Confederate **and** Union, Civil War monument memorial and marker in FLORIDA. So far, little has been done!

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are aware of a monument, which has not yet been added to our site, please consider taking a photo of it and sending it to the address at the bottom of this page.

Please include the precise location (intersection/park/building, City/Village/Town, County) and a basic description of what the monument was erected for (Monument to the Regiment #, State, Branch of Service (Infantry Artillery Cavalry), Monument to the Soldiers / Sailors of Jacksonville, etc.)

Go to [dofsuvew.org/cwmemorialsmonuments.html](http://dofsuvew.org/cwmemorialsmonuments.html) for more information.

Until a Brother is appointed to administer this effort, send pictures and information to co-editors Jack Bovee ([JSBovee@aol.com](mailto:JSBovee@aol.com)) and/or Forrest Myers ([civicarena@gmail.com](mailto:civicarena@gmail.com)). Thanks!

Alachua (0)	Baker (0)	Bay (0)
Bradford (0)	Brevard (0)	Broward (0)
Calhoun (0)	Charlotte (0)	Citrus (0)
Clay (0)	Columbia (0)	Collier (0)
Desoto (0)	Dixie (0)	Duval (0)
Escambia (0)	Flagler (0)	Franklin (0)
Gadsden (0)	Gilchrist (0)	Glades (0)
Gulf (0)	Hamilton (0)	Hardee (0)
Henry (0)	Hernando (0)	Highlands (0)
Hillsborough (0)	Holmes (0)	Indian River (0)
Jackson (0)	Jefferson (0)	Lafayette (0)
Lake (0)	Lee (0)	Leon (0)
Levy (0)	Liberty (0)	Madison (0)
Manatee (0)	Marion (0)	Martin (0)
Miami-Dade (0)	Monroe (0)	Nassau (0)
Oskaloosa ( 0)	Okeechobee (0)	Orange (0)
<a href="#">Osceola</a> (1)	Palm Beach (2)	Pasco (0)
Pinellas (0)	Polk (0)	<a href="#">Putnam</a> (1)
Santa Rosa (0)	Sarasota (0)	Seminole (0)
St. Johns (0)	St. Lucie (0)	Sumter (0)
Swansee (0)	Taylor (0)	Union (0)
Volusia (0)	Wakulla (0)	Walton (0)
Washington (0)		

# While we are on the topic of Memorials . . . .'

All of us hopefully strive to educate the public to the sacrifice of our ancestors and their devotion to the cause for which they freely gave their time, wealth, and in all too many cases—their lives. George Santayana famously warns us, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Today, when it appears so much of our society resembles that of our Civil War ancestors, we would do well to remember the lessons they drew from their past. One of those lessons was that the majority of Civil War veterans-- late in their lives—learned once again to accept their former antagonists as brothers and countrymen. The generation that was tasked with killing their former countrymen learned the powerful truth that, as Americans, we share more in common with one another than we have differences that divide us.

So it is that the Memorials of the past serve to remind us not only of heroism of our forefathers, but also that “who we are is who we were.” As a SUVCW Dual Member with [Isaac Eaton Camp #504](#) in the Department of PA, we proudly display a wide variety of educational posters to the public during our “living history” encampments. One of these is used as a recruiting poster for Camp membership and it makes a point to mention the errors inherent in the “presentist historical movement” that calls for the removal of any monument to any person who doesn’t conform to today’s ‘values.’ We use photos of the destruction of monuments dedicated to the likes of such men as Abraham Lincoln, General U.S. Grant, and President Theodore Roosevelt to alert the public to the dangers of today’s monument bashing crusade. Worse still, by removing these memorials, we are removing and censoring our own history.



**!!VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**  
**YOUR COUNTRY CALLS**




**Recruitment for:**

- Civil War Reenacting
- gravesone Restoration
- Living History programs
- recognizing great students
- School presentations
- Researchers / Writers
- Boy Scouts / Service Clubs
- JROTC / ROTC Cadets

**WORK TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE, NOT DESTROY IT!**


U.S. Grant Memorial destroyed      A. Lincoln statue destroyed      Theo. Roosevelt Memorial destroyed




**Graves restored by SUVCW!**  
 Join the SUVCW or a Civil War Reenactment Group **TODAY!**

The current effort to restore what has commonly been referred to at the “National Reconciliation Monument’ in Arlington National Cemetery is one such example. It was removed for what many consider to be an arbitrary and politically motivated reason. Its removal came about only because it was tied to a National Defense Budget appropriation bill--to vote to save the monument meant you voted against funding National Defense. There was no real national consensus to remove the monument. The Naming Commission voted to remove this monument along with others because it was tied to the Confederacy, Today, the federal government is being sued by several parties over what they consider to be an illegal and arbitrary decision. SUVCW Brothers will recall the clarification memo former Commander-in-Chief Brian Pierson sent out to Departments on December 20, 2020 (Special Message #1) which sought to make clear the SUVCW position with regard to its “Monument Protection Policy.” In that message, then CIC Pierson stated,

**If we decide to support legislation to protect monuments, any monuments, we are encouraged to do so by this policy! If we want to oppose the lawful attempts to remove monuments, any monuments, we are encouraged to do so by this policy! If we want to**



Brian C. Pierson  
 Commander in Chief  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



PO Box 3394  
 Shawnee, OK 74802  
[CinC@SUVCW.org](mailto:CinC@SUVCW.org)

Special Message #1  
 Series 2020-2021  
 20 December 2020

**Monument Protection Policy**

Dear Brothers,

Having received some questions and comments from our fellow Brothers on the SUVCW’s National Policy on Monument Protection, as well as having heard of some posts on social media that misunderstand what the policy says and means, I would like to take a few minutes to offer some thoughts for your consideration.

Today, our great nation is faced with anti patriots who have been and are illegally destroying private and public property. They have pulled down statues of Union Civil War heroes and even of President Lincoln. They have attacked monuments and memorials to great Americans from every period in our history.

In this context, the 2020 National Encampment directed that our National Policy on Monument Protection be updated in order to be relevant to what has been, and is, today. Our National Policy

*call for prosecution of criminals who maliciously destroy monuments, any monuments, we are encouraged to do so by this policy!*

The attack upon our national monuments has been justly condemned by the SUVCW. Personally, as one of your editors of this newsletter, I hope to provide readers with updates regarding the present-day battle over monuments. In keeping with Santayana's warning, from time to time I'll share some insights and history regarding monuments from our ancestors in the hope that we might learn from their example. Here is one such viewpoint from former President William Howard Taft—a Civil War veteran who enlisted in the 23rd Ohio Infantry as a private, served for four years, and was discharged in 1865 as brevet major. In this letter of 1906, he expressed support for the construction of the monument now removed from Arlington National Cemetery.

Transcription of Article Taft Letter -0 Times Herald Sunday, April 8, 1906 – Page 5

Secretary Taft Willing 8 1906 – Page 5

"War Department, Washington, D.C"

"My Dear Mr. Williams: I owe you an apology for my long delay in answering your letter of February 24. My only excuse is that I have had a lot of correspondence that remained unanswered for some little time because of a pressure on me that I could not meet. You say that you have received an inquiry from the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the object of which was to know whether there would be an objection from this department or this administration to a monument in the Arlington grounds, to the Confederate dead, in the part of the cemetery devoted to the burial of Confederate soldiers.

"In reply, I beg to say that I believe the matter of the Arlington Cemetery is under the control of the War Department by law and that it will give me pleasure to give the right to erect a monument to the Confederate dead at a proper location in the cemetery. Of course, the plans for the monument, its location, the inscription, and all the details would have to be left to the approval of the quartermaster general, who is in immediate charge of the cemetery.

"With best wishes and high respect, believe me, sincerely yours.

"WILLIAM H. TAFT"

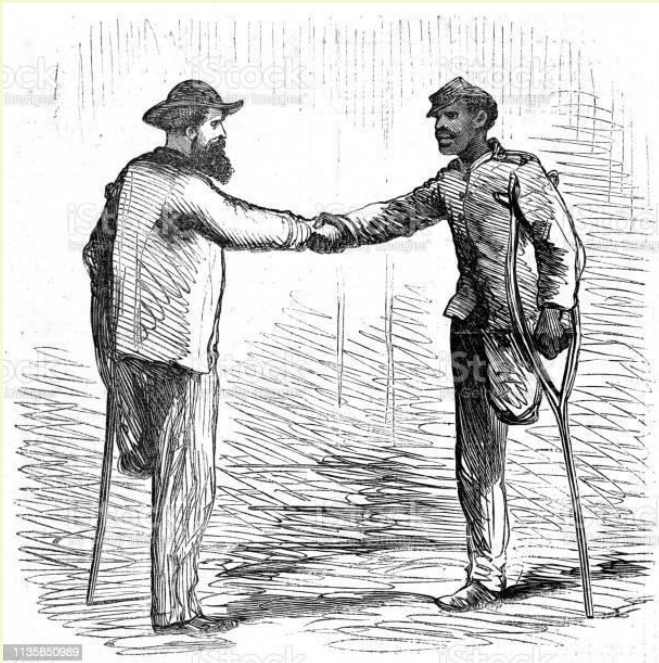
A more recent opinion on the important role this monument played as an inspiration to not only Americans but to others around the world comes from Scott Webb, a former Marine Infantry officer in Vietnam, former Navy Secretary (1987-88) and a U.S. Senator from Virginia (2007-13). In his guest opinion below he describes why he brought Vietnamese Communist negotiators to Arlington Cemetery's "Reconciliation Memorial" many years ago. Charged with helping to reconcile both U.S. and Vietnamese relations as well as helping both former North and South Vietnamese veterans reconcile their own past animosity towards one another, he gave his foreign guests a lecture about U.S. history at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The parallel experiences of Vietnam and the U.S.—both having to recover from devastating civil wars—helped bridge the differences between our two nations. Scott found it amazing that this monument, dedicated to binding up **our** nation's wounds, could help **another** nation do the same. (Too bad the monument no longer stands in Arlington as a possible lesson to Ukrainian and Russian negotiators for

peace.)

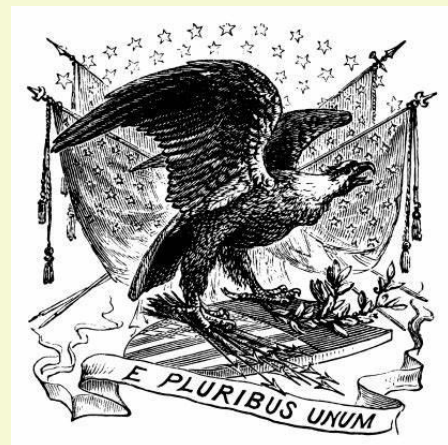
Read his full opinion [HERE](#). (or cut and past the URL below into your browser.)

[\(Opinion-SCOTT POWELL, WHO WOULD DESTROY...MEMORIAL '.pdf ; filename =UTF-8"Opinion-SCOTT POWELL, WHO WOULD DESTROY...MEMORIAL '\(2\).pdf \)](#)

(Other opinions about the value of maintaining historical markers and monuments from the past are equally welcome on these pages! Submit your thoughts to me at [jabovee@aol.com](mailto:jabovee@aol.com))



The Confederate Memorial in Arlington, Va. April 12, 2012. PHOTO: MARK REINSTEIN/MEDIAPUNCH/IPX





Access past issues of **THE BANNER** Online! Brothers often forget that every issue of our quarterly newsletter is available online! You can access these issues [HERE](https://suvcw.org/Banner-Editions). (<https://suvcw.org/Banner-Editions> )



### MEMO FROM THE EDITORS

Brethren, this is YOUR Newsletter – “THE DISPATCH!” Please help make it one the best by contributing your advice, suggestions, constructive criticisms, corrections—and especially by submitting timely your Camp’s pertinent information and photos. After all, it’s a reflection of all of us! “THE DISPATCH” is published quarterly and the deadline for articles is the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, June, September and December. Once the editor has completed the issue, it will be sent out to all Brothers’ email addresses and also uploaded to the Department website for archival purposes. *Please contribute your ideas and news!* Thanks.

JB & FM

