



In Fraternity,
Charity and
Loyalty

Lest We Forget

*A publication of the Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp, #443, and dedicated
to the memory of those who fought to preserve the Union, 1861-1865*

Volume 3, Issue 1
June 2023



Honoring the Fallen

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From the Editor

As we closed May, we again were able to participate in the Belleville, Illinois Memorial Day parade. Coverage of that, as well as other stories and activities are featured in this first issue of 2023. As usual, I try to provide a variety of topics and stories in *Lest We Forget*.

We now have a new website at <https://heckercamp443.org/>. Our original site will be ending, so a new site was needed. I also hope you had a chance to celebrate and be with loved ones and friends on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Last week we celebrated Flag Day (June 14), and on June 19, we celebrated the newest Federal holiday called Juneteenth. Juneteenth celebrates the day Union Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3 on June 19, 1865 that communicated the news of the Emancipation Proclamation to the residents of Galveston, Texas where news of the Emancipation did not reach or was kept hidden from slaves. Granger's order, effectively, freed all remaining enslaved people in the state. The previous January, the anti-slavery, Republican-heavy congress passed the 13th Amendment ending slavery and indentured servitude. It was finally ratified on Dec. 6, 1865.

For anyone who may be new to our camp and this newsletter, this camp was first chartered in 1884 as a camp of the Grand Army of the Republic. The Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp, #443 is one of 10 camps in the Department of Illinois. However, it is the only representation for the SUCVW in southern Illinois. The camp was chartered as part of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUCVW) in 1996. The SUCVW is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of heroes who fought and worked to save the Union. In 1881 the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) formed the SUCVW as the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV) to carry on its traditions and memory long after the GAR ceased to exist. It became the SUCVW in name in 1925 and is the legal successor to the GAR, first founded in 1866.

This newsletter is used to help educate readers, as well as continue the tradition of providing camp members, as well as others interested in maintaining our history, news about the SUCVW, our treasured American history, and what we can all do to help preserve and honor the memories of the Americans who sacrificed to preserve our Union so many years ago. The Hecker Camp history is [here](#). We hope you are intrigued and encouraged to share this newsletter with anyone you feel may have an interest. It is also free to subscribe. Just email lestweforget1861@outlook.com.

Trivia #1

What Union general said, "May God have mercy on General Lee for I will have none?"

- a. John Joseph Abercrombie
- b. U.S. Grant
- c. George Meade
- d. Joseph Hooker

Want the answer? Find the second trivia question.



Lest We Forget is a publication of the Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUCVW). It is the only SUCVW Camp south of Springfield, Illinois, covering the "Little Egypt" part of the state.

For more information about the camp and how to become a member, visit our Website: <http://www.heckercamp443.org/> Our Facebook page is [here](#).

For more information or interest in joining, you may also send a message to lestweforget1861@outlook.com.

More about the SUCVW is here: www.sucvw.org

Camp Commander: Brother David Wildermuth

Sr. Vice Commander: Brother Russel Schleicher

Jr. Vice Commander: Brother John Stanton

Secretary, Editor, Webmaster: Brother Gerald Sonnenberg

Treasurer: Brother Richard Piper

Camp Guide: Brother Justin Ottolini

For submissions or to subscribe to the newsletter, email:

lestweforget1861@outlook.com.

On the cover: In honor of Memorial Day, Flag Day and Independence Day, here is a 35-star flag catching a breeze during the Memorial Day parade in Belleville, Illinois May 29. This Flag became the Official U.S. Flag on July 4, 1863. A star was added for the admission of West Virginia (June 20, 1863). The 35-star flag lasted two years. (Photo by Christopher Parr, 932nd Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve)



Commander's Corner

By Dave Wildermuth
Camp Commander

Greetings Brethren,

Since my last Commander's Corner in December, I was diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer. As your Commander I would like to say, "Thank You," to all my Camp Brothers for their support of me and my family.

I am now serving my fifth term as commander, and I would also like to congratulate our 2023 Camp Officers:

- Senior Vice Commander (SVC) Russell Schleicher
- Junior Vice Commander (JVC) John Stanton
- Treasurer Richard (Dick) Piper
- Secretary Gerald Sonnenberg.

At the January meeting, I appointed all other open positions in our Camp.

Camp in Review

January—Camp meeting was held. I am still on a committee to work at fundraising to restore the Col. Hecker Monument in St. Louis and develop a memorial for him near his gravesite in Summerfield, Illinois. Funds are being donated to our camp to oversee the Illinois project. The camp approved designing and purchasing a new camp hat. Camp sent a letter to support a U.S. stamp and recognize General John A. Logan, the founder of Decoration Day in 1868.

Feb. 1—Camp meeting was canceled.

March 1—Camp meeting was held. The camp funded an Illinois State Historical Marker for Col. Hecker, which was placed



in Summerfield. We plan on dedicating it on Sept. 30, at 10:30 a.m. New camp hats arrived are for sale at \$25.00.

March 11—Brother Piper and I participated in Gen. Sherman's Remembrance Day service at his gravesite at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis hosted by U.S. Grant Camp #68 SUVCW St. Louis, Missouri.

March 24—Placing Camp wreath canceled at Col. Hecker's gravesite in remembrance of his death date. We will observe this in the future, but due to my health issues, I canceled this year.

April 5—Camp meeting was held with SVC Schleicher filling in for me. I did attend through zoom.

April 15—Treasurer Piper and I attended and participated in both Lincoln's Death Day Observance in Springfield and Dr. Stephenson Remembrance Service in Petersburg, Illinois. At the Stephenson Ceremony, I received a plaque from the Department of Illinois recognizing me for my work on the restoration of the Memo-

rial Plaza in Petersburg.

May 3—We held our May meeting and made final plans for the Memorial Day weekend.

May 13—Annual Department Encampment was held.

May 27—We placed U.S. flags on Veterans graves at Walnut Hill Cemetery in Belleville, Illinois.

May 29—Our camp participated in the Belleville Memorial Day parade.

May 30—We retrieved the flags at Walnut Hill Cemetery. We cancelled our short annual ceremony as I was not up to it physically.

June 7—We held our June meeting. We received a check of \$2,000 from the National SUVCW to go towards the Hecker project in Summerfield, Illinois, and we anticipate a \$50 donation from the Missouri SUVCW.

Several of our brothers are reenactors also, and they often participate in several reenactments each year.

If you have attended or participated in any event please share your event or experience with us in our newsletter by contacting Brother Sonnenberg, our editor, at lestweforget1861@outlook.com.

We encourage our members that are not able to attend our meetings in person to join us on the Zoom call. Please let us know if you are having trouble receiving the link or have questions about how it works. We would love to hear from you.

Other Camp Projects

Highland Project — This project is on hold for now.

Walnut Hill Monument Restoration Project — Planning continues.

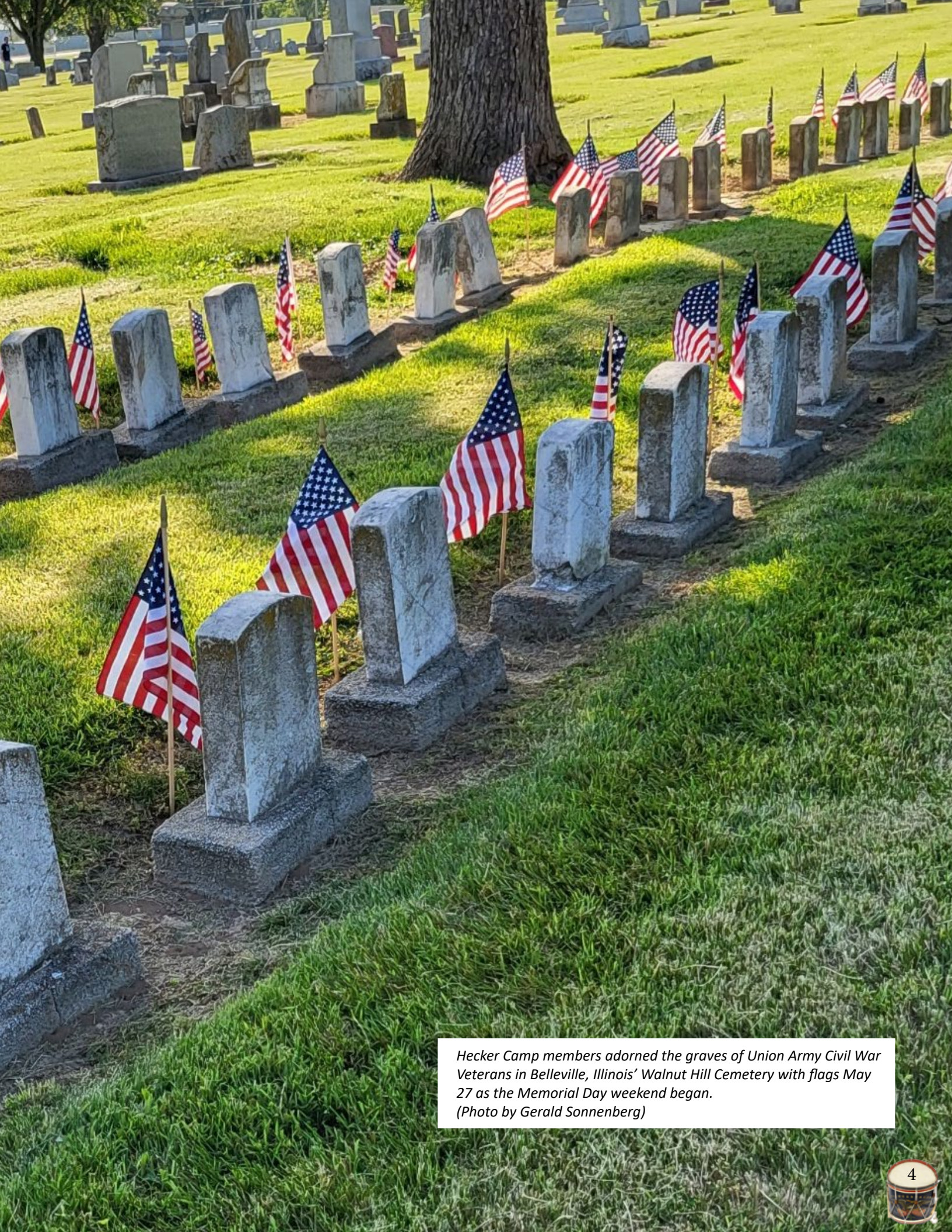
Upcoming Events

Ongoing Hecker Memorial Project Fund Project - The new date for the wreath ceremony at Col. Hecker's gravesite in Summerfield, Illinois is Sept. 30, with assembly time at 10 a.m. It will be followed by the dedication of the marker in the park. A lunch will follow at the Gasthaus German restaurant in Lebanon, Illinois.

In closing, my family and I would like to wish you and your family a healthy and safe Fourth of July.



During our annual banquet in November, we welcomed three new members to the SUVCW and Hecker Camp and one dual member. In this photo (left to right), new members Jack Wightman and David Moss take their oaths next to CC Dave Wildermuth and PCC Greg Zelinske. In addition, Donn Cook is a new member and Steve Hyatt is a dual member with Grant Camp #68. (Photo by Gerald Sonnenberg)



*Hecker Camp members adorned the graves of Union Army Civil War Veterans in Belleville, Illinois' Walnut Hill Cemetery with flags May 27 as the Memorial Day weekend began.
(Photo by Gerald Sonnenberg)*

Memorial Day recognizes the service, sacrifice of fallen Veterans

By Gerald Sonnenberg, Editor

As many U.S. citizens across the nation gathered Memorial Day weekend for barbecues, parades and family get-togethers, members of Hecker Camp did their part to help remember the service and sacrifice of America's fallen Union Soldiers and other Veterans.

Camp members first placed hundreds of flags at the graves of Union Civil War Veterans in Walnut Hill Cemetery in Belleville, Illinois May 27. Some members then participated in the Belleville Memorial Day parade, as well as other events in the area on May 29. Finally, the flags were retrieved from the cemetery May 30.

The origins of Memorial Day can be traced back to the aftermath of the American Civil War. As the conflict ended in 1865, people across the country began holding ceremonies to honor the Union and Confederate soldiers who had died in the conflict. One of the earliest known ceremonies took place in Charleston, South Carolina, in May 1865, when a group of freed slaves gathered to commemorate fallen Union soldiers buried in a local race course.

Memorial Day was first widely observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union sailors and soldiers. As the third Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic Veterans organization at that time, Logan issued General Order No. 11.

The first paragraph reads, "The 30th day of May 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will, in their own way, arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

Logan, a Murphysboro, Illinois native, was a former Union Army general; served the state of Illinois as a state representa-

JVC John Stanton places a flag on the grave of a Union Army Civil War Soldier May 27 at the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend. (Photo by Gerald Sonnenberg)



Brothers of Hecker Camp #443 gathered May 27 to place U.S. Flags on the graves of Union Civil War Veterans at Walnut Hill Cemetery in Belleville, Illinois. (Pictured left to right) PCC Greg Zelinske, JVC John Stanton, Camp Guide Justin Ottolini and SVC Russel Schleicher. (Photo by Gerald Sonnenberg)

tive, a congressman and a U.S. senator. He was also an unsuccessful candidate for vice president of the United States in 1884. During that first national commemoration, former Union General, sitting Ohio Congressman and future President James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried there.

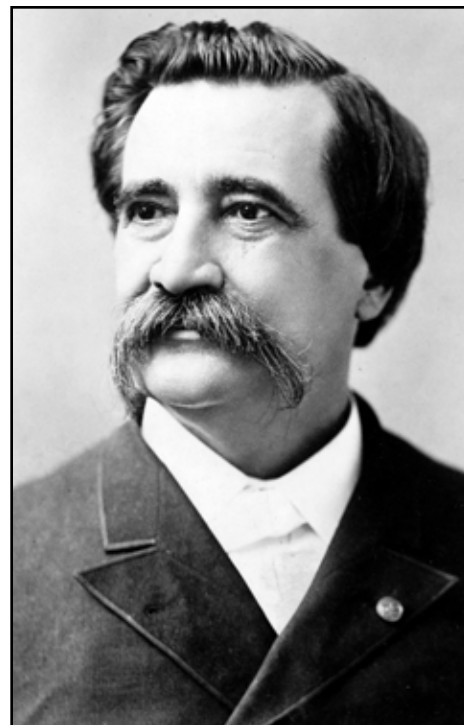
This national event helped galvanize efforts to honor and remember fallen soldiers that began with local observances at burial grounds in several towns throughout the United States following the end of the Civil War.

According to PBS.org, New York was the first state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday in 1873. By the late 1800s, many more cities and communities observed Memorial Day, and several states had declared it a legal holiday.

After World War I, it became an occasion for honoring those who died in all of America's wars. It was then more widely established as a national holiday throughout the United States.

See MEMORIAL DAY, next page...

MEMORIAL DAY continued...



An image of John A. Logan. (Courtesy photo)

(Left to right) Brother Gerald Sonnenberg, Camp Commander Dave Wildermuth and Camp Treasurer Richard Piper prepare to march in the Belleville, Illinois Memorial Day parade on May 29. (Photo by Sheila Wildermuth)



Brothers Sonnenberg and Piper reach the Walnut Hill Cemetery at the end of a 1.8 mile march. (Photo by Christopher Parr, 932nd Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve)



Living historians on parade



On Memorial Day, May 29, members of the Alton Jaeger Guards marched in the Alton, Illinois Memorial Day parade. The group, which includes “dedicated living historians who’s mission is to bring to life, the memory of those who fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War,” is based in Alton, Illinois.

The unit honors the Alton Jaeger Company or Alton Jaeger Guards, which was organized in 1853, and comprised of German and Swiss immigrants living in Alton, Illinois. Most of the Jaegers, along with men from the other Alton companies, would comprise Company A, 9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment. More about the Alton Jaeger Guards is available [here](#).

(Photo by Inferno Imagery)



Camp brother participates in firing team at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

On Memorial Day, May 29, past Hecker camp commander and prior commander of Company G, 17th Missouri Infantry, Greg Zelinske, participated in a firing team with members of U.S. Grant Camp 68, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at a ceremony in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis.

In this photo, Zelinske (second from the left) fires his weapon during the salute to fallen service members. More about the 17th Missouri, and the Turner Brigade, of which it is a part, can be found [here](#). More about Grant Camp can be found [here](#).

(Courtesy photo)





Memorial Day and the 114th Illinois

Members of the 114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment laid wreaths at the Republic Mound at Oakridge Cemetery in Springfield on Memorial Day morning May 29. The wreaths memorialize those who served.

While Memorial Day honors all American armed service members who died in war, the Oakridge Cemetery ceremony focuses on the early meaning of the day.

"We'd like to make an effort here to honor the original meaning of Memorial Day, to honor the Civil War Veterans," Richard Schachtsiek, the colonel of the 114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, said.

Memorial Day was started in 1868 as Decoration Day by Illinois native Maj. Gen. John A. Logan of the Union Army. While leading the Grand Army of the Republic organization, he issued a proclamation to remember Union civil war Veterans who lost their lives in battle.



In the U.S., Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. We hope you had a chance to celebrate our flag. Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution, passed that day, stated, "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The United States Army also celebrates its birthday on this date. Congress adopted, "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day.



The answer to Trivia #1 is Joseph Hooker. It's interesting in that Hooker is best remembered for his stunning defeat at the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Next question: What first appeared on a U.S. coin during the Civil War?

- a. E Pluribus Unum
- b. Abraham Lincoln
- c. Eye of Providence
- d. In God We Trust

Want the answer? Find the third trivia question.



'Rally round the flag boys:' The U.S. Flag in the Civil War

By Brother Richard Piper, Treasurer

When viewing civil war art, the U.S. Flag dominates sketches and drawings because it played a special and vital role in the war. In today's world where flag desecration can be viewed as one's right to free speech, the civil war soldiers in the Union held a much different view.

George F. Roote wrote, "The Battle Cry of Freedom," which was one of the top three favorite songs among Union troops. "Yes, we'll rally round the flag, boys, we'll rally once again, shouting the battle cry of freedom," was a song my classmates sang in the late 1950s and early 1960s in grade school. I can see why it was a favorite.

After Maj. Edward Pye of the 6th Wisconsin Regiment gave the order, "Charge!," no other commands were given except, "Align on the colors! Close up on that color! Close up on that color!" A regiment's flag was its pride and glory. When seen within enemy lines or planted there, it showed victory.

A bobbing flag going forward showed the speed of an attack. If the flag stopped, fell back or went down, it was a sign of chaos or trouble for the unit.

On July 1, 1863, on the first day of Gettysburg, nine color bearers carrying the regimental flag of the 24th Michigan Regiment were killed carrying the flag. The 26th North Carolina Regiment saw 14 of their color bearers shot down.

The Color Guard

The color bearer was protected by a color guard comprised of a sergeant and five to eight corporals. The color guard went into battle at "shoulder arms," but then went into action when the battle started. Situated in the center of the battle line, it marked the spot of receiving the hottest fire from the enemy, usually resulting in the death of the color bearer who was unarmed. Typically, with the sergeant and corporals' death rates coming next.

During the Mexican War, young lieutenants in many regiments served as color bearers; just for the honor. At the Battle of Chapultapec, Lt. James Longstreet was shot carrying the colors. He handed his flag over to another lieutenant by the name of George E. Pickett.

In the Civil War, many officers on both



Color bearers of the 71st Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry armed with Henry rifles. (Courtesy photo)

sides led charges with regimental colors, including George Armstrong Custer.

Rebelling Against the Flag

When Federal forces first entered Virginia on May 24, 1861, a flag incident caused the first death there. Tavern owner James T. Jackson was flying a Confederate flag from his roof. Col. Elmer Ellsworth, of the 11th New York Regiment Fire Zouaves, saw the flag on the roof where he went and took the flag down. On his way back down the stairs, Jackson shot and killed Col. Ellsworth, whose body was taken to the White House. Mrs. Lincoln was offered the bloodstained Confederate flag, but she covered her eyes and did not want the flag.

In April 1862, New Orleans fell to Union troops. Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler took command of New Orleans. He decreed that he would not tolerate any activity or gesture that supported the Confederacy.

Professional gambler William B. Mumford tested the edict by going to the U.S. mint and chopped the American flag staff in two. Butler had him arrested, tried by a military tribunal and hanged at the site of his crime.

A woman made a dress from a Confederate flag and flaunted wearing it in

public. General Butler again expressed his disgust by having her seized and then deported to Fort Massachusetts on the barrier island known as Ship Island for two years.

Respect for the Flag

Respect for the flag was taught to the children. In Akron, Ohio, a Sunday School teacher told the children to stand and recite their favorite Bible verse. An 11-year-old boy stood up and said, "If any one attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot!"

When the flag was no longer flying, it usually meant defeat or surrender. As long as it flew, the flag meant "no surrender." When the USS Cumberland was sunk by the CSS Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimac) at Hampton Roads, Virginia, it sank with the American Flag still flying at her peak, signalling it had not surrendered, but was fighting until its watery end.

When Maj. Robert Anderson surrendered Fort Sumter, South Carolina, he was granted his terms to fire a salute of 100 guns before lowering the U.S. Flag. At the half-way point, the salute had to end when gunpowder exploded and killed a

See RALLY, next page...

On Aug. 21, 1861, my great-great uncle, John Schlicher, who was born in Kroneberg, Bavaria, became one of approximately 216,000 German-born men who joined the Union Army. He enlisted for three years into Company M of the 7th Illinois Cavalry. He was about 20-years old and a farmer in the Red Bud, Illinois area. Over the course of the Civil War, more than 100 men from Red Bud and Randolph County Illinois joined Company M of the [7th Illinois Cavalry](#).

After the surrender of the rebel armies in 1865, the 7th was sent down to Okalona, Mississippi where it remained until the first of July. It then moved to Decatur, Alabama. It remained near Decatur until Oct. 20, when it marched to Nashville. During his service, Schlicher reenlisted as a sergeant and was mustered out of service with the rest of the unit on Nov. 17, 1865 when the unit received its final pay and discharge at Camp Butler. Its period of service was about four years and three months.

It is believed he died around 1880, but since there was no pension application, marriage record or record of military gravestone, the family, unfortunately, knows nothing else about his life.



L | **7 Cav.** | **Ill.**

John Schlicher

Regt., Co. M, 7 Reg't Illinois Cavalry.
Appears on _____
Company Muster Roll
for *May & June* 186*4*.

Joined for duty and enrolled:
When *Feb 10* 186*4*.
Where *Pomona town, Ill.*
Period *3* years.*

Present or absent *Absent*

Stoppage, \$ 100 for _____
Due Gov't \$ 150 for _____
Valuation of horse, \$ 300
Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks : _____

* See fee enrollment on card from master-in-roll.

Book mark : _____

Croston

(186-4) Copyist.

In late 1867, a former Union sergeant, Gilbert Bates of the Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, disagreed with a fellow Veteran who said the South hated the Union flag. To prove his theory, the 39-year-old Union Veteran went by train to Vicksburg. Once there, he unfurled an American Flag and started his walk to Washington, D.C. In



Montgomery, Alabama, the first rebel capital, citizens en masse turned out to cheer him. In South Carolina, where he followed Sherman's march, he was not assaulted or threatened. At the border of North and South Carolina he was met by an honor guard of 25 Confederate Veterans.

After a walk of three months, he reached Washington, D.C., on April 14; the anniversary of the firing on Ft. Sumter. His walk was seen as showing sectional hatred was dying.

Once reconstruction ended, Confederate Veterans began to press for captured rebel flags to be returned. Congress denied measures to return flags to states several times. President William McKinley, an Ohio Civil War Veteran, took the initiative to have flags returned, stating, “decency and honor required this gesture of courtesy.” By 1910, most Federal agencies and institutions had returned Confederate flags, but some states refused to do so.

ator to express my desire for an amendment to protect the flag. I was told that it could not be done because other citizens would lose their freedom of speech.

Yes we'll rally 'round the flag, boys
We'll rally 'round again
Shouting the battle cry of freedom
We will rally from the hillside
We'll gather from the plain
Shouting the battle cry of freedom

The Union forever, hurrah boys, hurrah
Down with the traitor, up with the star
While we rally 'round the flag, boys
Rally once again
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

We will welcome to our numbers
The loyal, true and brave
Shouting the battle cry of freedom
And although he may be poor
Not a man shall be a slave
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.



Around the Community



Remembering Dr. Stephenson

(Left) A cannon is fired in salute during the Dr. Benjamin Stephenson Gravesite Memorial Plaza Ceremony April 15 in Petersburg, Illinois. Dr. Stephenson was the founding father of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) on April 6, 1866 in Decatur, Illinois. The Department of Illinois SUVCW is leading the restoration work on this plaza and hosts this event on Saturday around Lincoln's Death Day Remembrance. Hecker Camp Commander (CC) Dave Wildermuth is also a committee member of restoration work for Stephenson Plaza, and received a plaque from the Department of Illinois commander for his work on the restorations. Hecker Treasurer Brother Richard Piper participated as well. Afterwards CC Wildermuth led a toast to Stephenson, the GAR, and to all those who served to protect the Union. (Courtesy photo)



Abe and Mary

Hecker Camp Brother John McKee and his wife Jane (above) are pictured as the President and First Lady outside the "White House" inside the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. They are part of the [Association of Lincoln Presenters \(ALP\)](#) which meets annually. Springfield was the site for this year's conference, April 13-16. Activities include nightly speakers, presenting topics on Lincoln's relatives in Springfield, Lincoln as an appellate attorney, and frauds and unknown facts about Lincoln. A variety of activities and travel to historic sites take place during the conference. (Courtesy photo)



Lincoln Death Day Remembrance

Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443 Commander David Wildermuth and Brother Richard Piper participated at Lincoln's Tomb on April 15th. This is the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony on the death of President Abraham Lincoln. It is held by the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States or often known as the Loyal Legion or today as [MOLLUS](#). (Courtesy photo)



Remembering Gen. Sherman

CC Dave Wildermuth and Brother Richard Piper (pictured left, second from the right in the firing team) participated in Gen. Sherman's Remembrance Day service at his gravesite at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri. The event was hosted by U.S. Grant Camp #68 SUVCW in St. Louis. (Courtesy photo)



Hecker Camp Treasurer Richard Piper

By Gerald Sonnenberg, editor

Richard (Dick) Grant Piper was born in 1950 in Peoria, Illinois. His parents were Harlow Piper of Princeton, Illinois, and Betty Jean Grant of Middletown, Ohio. He grew up in Decatur, Illinois; the home of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). He came to the Belleville, Illinois area in 1978 for a job, and he lives in O'Fallon, Illinois with his wife, Heeju Ryu Piper. They have a daughter.

"I served three years in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1975 with 31 months spent in the Office of the Inspector General in Seoul, South Korea," said Piper. "I was an office clerk and also typed up inspection reports on inspections of Army bases all over South Korea. I was a Specialist 5. After the army, I spent 37 years in banking in Fairview Heights (Illinois) and Belleville, and I am now retired."

Involvement in the SUVCW

A friend told him about Hecker Camp, and he applied and became a member in 1999. He has had an interest in the Civil War since he was at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 3, 1963, which marked the battle's 100th anniversary. He first served as Hecker Camp treasurer, then secretary and treasurer combined, took a break, and then was treasurer again until the present time.

Family Ties

Two farmers in his family, and cousins to his direct ancestor, Hiram Harding Piper, served and sacrificed their lives for the Union.

William H. Piper enlisted at age 25 on Oct. 13, 1862. He served in the 93rd Illinois Infantry Regiment, Company B. John C. Piper enlisted at age 23 on the same day and in the same regiment and company. William died two months later

in Holly Springs, Mississippi from lung fever, or Ballious fever. John mustered out after five months, disabled with heart problems. He would die a little more than a year later in April 1864 at age 25.

In addition, he has eight cousins who also served and, some of whom, died during the war, such as Henry R. McCollum, who was killed on the first day at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

His two great, great grandmothers each had a brother who served the Union. They were Frank Allen and William Greene Swan.

Frank Allen mustered in as a private in Co. H, 145th Ohio National Guard Infantry on May 12, 1864 and mustered out on Aug. 24, 1864 at Camp Chase in Ohio. His regiment was organized to serve 100 days for garrison duty at Forts Whipple, Woodbury, Tillinghast and Albany comprising the southern defenses of Washington on Arlington Heights, Virginia against Confederate General Jubal Early. He was discharged with diarrhea, chills and fever, disease of the lungs, rheumatism, piles, and disease of the kidneys all contracted at Arlington Heights. He could never perform manual labor again due to his poor health.

William Greene Swan was a Sergeant in Co. C of the 2nd Regiment Nebraska Cavalry. He was mustered in on Oct. 30, 1862 and was mustered out on Dec. 23, 1863. He was a member of the Heckathorne Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Post #47 in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

Although other units from his state fought against the Confederacy, his unit was called into being on account of the menace to pioneer settlers of the territory, occasioned by numerous bands of hostile Indians, who had been plundering and capturing the settlers of western Minnesota during the summer and fall of 1862 and threatened to cross the Missouri



River, to continue their raids in Nebraska.

The 2nd fought on June 22, 1863 at Pawnee Reservation, losing one killed and two wounded. As part of General Sully's northwestern expedition on Sept. 3, 1863, Army scouts reported 600 Indian lodges 10 miles away. That night the bloody Battle of White Stone Hill ensued when the army attacked 2,000 warriors under Chief Two Bears of the Yankton Sioux. Of the 20 troops killed in battle, seven were from the 2nd Nebraska with 14 wounded and 10 missing. The Army resisted several charges before the Indians were driven from the field. About 150 Indians were killed with about 300 wounded. Later the 2nd also fought on Sept. 15, 1863 at Fort Antietam Dakota Territory. Sgt. Swan was paid extra for the use of his horse and equipment, but did have to pay back 59 cents for a lost haversack.

Other Interests

I like to read books about the Civil War and Korea. I have a collection of some Civil War artifacts.



On June 14, 2022, Camp Commander David Wildermuth (right) and Brother Richard Piper presented a program at William Holliday Elementary School in Fairview Heights, Illinois.





In this photo, Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman (seated center) is pictured with his staff. Standing, left to right: Oliver Otis Howard, William Babcock Hazen, Jefferson Columbus Davis, Joseph Anthony Mower. (Seated, left to right) John Alexander Logan, Sherman and Henry Warner Slocum. (Photo courtesy Library of Congress)

John A. Logan and the 31st Illinois

By Gerald Sonnenberg, editor

Editor's note: The following article was originally published in the prior Hecker Camp newsletter called, *They Will Not Be Forgotten*, in 2015.

By P. Michael Jones, executive director of the Gen. John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro, Illinois, with additional information by Gerald Sonnenberg

The story of the 31st Illinois Volunteer Infantry began when Illinois Representative John A. Logan climbed onto the back of a wagon in Marion, Illinois' town square and declared, "the time has come when a man must be for or against his country." He then invited the men in the audience to join him in the Union Army.

The 31st and its colonel, John A. Logan mustered in at Cairo, Illinois Sept. 18, 1861. It was at this time that Logan, who was a Democrat and was born in the pro-slavery region of Southern Illinois in 1826, assured his men that they were fighting to save the Union. Not a fan of President Abraham Lincoln at the time, he also said that if Lincoln freed the slaves, he would bring them back home. They would not fight an "abolitionist" war.

At the same time, he assured the rebellious states that, if necessary, his men would "hew their way to the Gulf with swords." Logan would later campaign for Lincoln prior to the 1864 election.

Logan and the 31st fought under Brig. Gen. U.S. Grant's Expeditionary Command, District of Southeast Missouri at the first of many battles on Nov. 7, 1861, at Belmont, Missouri. Here, the regiment lost 10 killed and 70 wounded. The Battle of Belmont was small and inconclusive strategically, but its casualties taught the 31st the reality of war.

Three months later, the 31st fought at the Battle of Ft. Donelson, Tennessee. Here, the regiment's stubborn defense of their position cost the lives of 58 men. This was the 31st's costliest battle, as well as one of its proudest moments. It was at Donelson that the 31st gained its nickname "Dirty-first" for its hard fighting. Logan, wounded so badly that he was first declared dead, was promoted to brigadier general as a result of this battle.

Despite his promotion, Gen. Logan's connection with his regiment continued, first as a brigade commander, then, after his promotion to major general, as a division commander during the Vicksburg Campaign.

As a colonel, Logan promised to bring his "boys" home if Lincoln freed the slaves. However, by the time Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863, Logan accepted the President's action as necessary. His "boys," however, had long memories, and desertion became a problem. If they had short memories, Logan's old friend Col. Ozburn seems to have reminded them of Logan's promise. Maj. Gen. Logan,

then commanding the XVIIth Corps' Third Division, solved this problem by suggesting that Ozburn's "poor health" might be a good reason to resign, and the 31st got a new colonel. The unit came to accept emancipation, and after Logan's further explanation, the recruitment of African American volunteers.

After Vicksburg's surrender, Logan assumed the command of the XVth Corps in the Army of the Tennessee. This took him away from the 31st.

By the war's end, the 31st Illinois, which remained in the XVIIth Corps, had marched from Cairo, Illinois, south to Vicksburg, Mississippi, east to the Atlantic Ocean and north to Raleigh, North Carolina; a total of almost 4,000 miles. On this journey, they took part in 14 battles and 25 skirmishes, as well as witnessed the surrender of a large number of Confederate forces. At its end, they celebrated the Union victory in Washington D.C.'s Grand Review on May 23-24, 1865.

On July 13, 1865, the 31st was in Louisville, Kentucky as Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, commander of the Army of the Tennessee, addressed his 30,000 men for the last time. Logan, filled with emotion, told his boys, "Affections have sprung up between us during the long years of doubt, gloom and carnage, which we have passed through together ..." This statement must have truly resonated in the hearts of the men of the 31st who had followed Logan to war almost four years earlier.

In the end, 471 members of the 31st volunteers did not return home with 175 dying in combat and 296 dying of disease. The last of these was Pvt. William T. Robinson of Perry County, who died in Louisville on July 2. His muster record records simply that he was "killed," but it gives no explanation. The 31st officially mustered out on July 19, 1865. In all, 16 southern Illinoisans died in July as the Union army slowly mustered out; 15 by disease and one killed.





Honoring in Indy

By Gerald Sonnenberg, editor

During an early spring trip to Indianapolis, Indiana, we stayed at a downtown hotel, about half a block from the Soldiers' and Sailor's Monument.

It was built in 1902 for \$598,318. The Limestone used for the monument is gray oolitic limestone from the Romona quarries of Owen County, Indiana. It stands 284 feet, 6 inches high, and only 15 feet shorter than the Statue of Liberty. Recognized as one of the world's outstanding monuments, the structure has come to symbolize both the City of Indianapolis and the state of Indiana. The Soldiers & Sailors Monument is Indiana's official memorial to the Hoosiers that served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Frontier Wars and the Spanish-American War.

The commission for the monument construction requested architects to submit design proposals. Of the seventy proposals turned in, two finalists were chosen. From those two, Bruno Schmitz of Berlin, Germany, received the appointment.

There are a number of art works either built into the Monument, or placed throughout the grounds. Bruno Schmitz brought with him Rudolf Schwarz. Schwarz was sculptor for the statuary groups "War" and "Peace", "The Dying Soldier", "The Homefront" and the four statues at the corners of the Monument that represents the Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, and Navy. The Monument is crowned with a statue of Victory, holding a sword in her right hand and a torch in her left.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument houses a Gift Shop and Observatory. From the Observatory, visitors can experience panoramic views of the city skyline from 231 feet above street level. The Observatory can be reached by climbing 330 steps at no charge, or by riding an elevator for a small fee. Visitors must still walk 49 steps to reach the Observation Level after the elevator ride.

On active duty 32 years ago, I served at Fort Benjamin Harrison while attending Defense Information School, and I had seen the monument. However, in the last few years something new is taking place there.

Despite it's grandeur, what I found most important and moving about the monument is something my wife ran into the lobby as I was checking in to bring me out and see. It was a five-minute presentation of video, music and stories broadcast from the monument and displayed on the sides of buildings. It concluded with the playing of Taps, to which I stood and saluted. I understand this is now a nightly event.

Thank you Indiana for honoring our Veterans.



The answer to question #2 is In God We Trust. The words first appeared on a U.S. coin in 1864.

Last question: What Union spy worked as a servant in the Confederate White House?

- a. Rose O'Neal Greenhow
- b. Aaron Van Camp
- c. Elizabeth Van Lew
- d. Mary Bowser

The answer to trivia 3 is Mary Bowser.

One of Jefferson Davis' own slaves, Mary Bowser served an important role in the Union spy ring organized by Elizabeth Van Lew. Although, exactly what intelligence she gathered is unknown, the value of Van Lew's ring was noted by Generals Benjamin Butler, Ulysses S. Grant and George H. Sharpe.

