

# Irish Brigade Camp No.4

## 2015 Pass and Review

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)

Fredericksburg, Virginia



### Department of the Chesapeake

2015

**A Sesquicentennial Finale!**



**Brother Mike Beard serves as the National Colors Bearer for the SUVCW Color Guard during the 2015 National Memorial Day Parade in Washington D.C.**

Irish Brigade Camp No.4 accomplished another event filled and memorable year in honor of the service and sacrifices made by our ancestors. The year was not only noteworthy for the usual annual remembrances, but also for the culmination of the Civil War sesquicentennial which this year commemorated the events of 1865. For us Brother's here in the Northern Virginia region, commemo-

rations of the Federal breakthrough at Petersburg and the pursuit and ultimate surrender of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was front and center.

This publication is a month-by-month review of the significant events that occurred during year , presented for the posterity of the Order. The information contained herein is from Camp Brothers, friends and associates, and a variety of media sources.

Faithfully Submitted, In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,  
Brian Withrow, Historian of Irish Brigade Camp No.4

- JANUARY

**Installation of 2015 Camp Officers - 22 January.** Department Commander Rob Pollock installed all Camp Officers for 2015. Following the installation a series of pictures were taken for the Camp website. The meeting was



**Department Commander Pollock installs the Irish Brigade Camp's officers for 2015.**

adjourned the Brothers gathered in the Country Club dining room for a festive meal and conversation.

*But those who come before us will teach you. They will teach you from the wisdom of former generations. – Job 8:10*



- FEBRUARY

**Lincoln Dinner, Fredericksburg VA - 21 February.**

Camp members faced an early year disappointment because the annual dinner held in honor of the nation's 16th President, Abraham Lincoln had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. However, the scheduled guest speaker, renowned Lincoln impressionist Don Mullen, graciously agreed to support the dinner in 2016.



- MARCH

**150th Battle of Bentonville, NC - 21-22 March**

Brothers John Griffiths, Jim Standard, and Brian Withrow participated in the sesquicentennial commemoration and reenactment of the Battle of Bentonville North Carolina on the original site. This was a particularly meaningful and memorable event for Brother Withrow since his ancestor



**Brother Withrow portrays ancestor Pvt George Dugan in Union Army trench-works at Bentonville .**

Private George Dugan of the 10th Illinois Infantry was killed in action during the battle.

- APRIL

**AFJROTC Medal Presentation - 14 April.**

Commander Jay Rarick presented a Cadet with the SUVCW ROTC Award at North Stafford High School in Stafford County, VA.



**GAR Presentation, Lewisburg PA - 18 April**

Commander Jay Rarick attended a Department of Pennsylvania sponsored GAR presentation at the Slifer House Museum in Lewisburg, PA.



**Slifer House Museum in Lewisburg, PA.**

**128th Department Encampment, Fairfax VA - 25 April**

The Irish Brigade Camp was well represented at the Department of the Chesapeake annual Encampment held at the Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia. The encampment was attended by Brothers Jay Rarick, Mike Paquette and Roger Leturno. Commander Rarick delivered a summarization of our annual report to the delegates detailing our very active year.

**Identifying Union Monuments and Markers.** Brother Ehrle led an effort to identify Union monuments and markers not located on federal property. CC Rarick stated the Irish Brigade submitted 2 monuments. One was to the VI Corps located at the intersection of White Oak Road (Virginia Route 218) and Newton Road and the other to IX Corps, also



**Historic marker at the site of the Potomac Creek Bridge [Lt] and original picture of the bridge [Rt].**

located on White Oak Road. We also submitted one history marker for the Potomac Creek Bridge in Daffan, Stafford County, VA.

- **MAY**

**Colonel Crowther Wreath-laying Ceremony - 3 May**  
 Commander Rarick reported that the Colonel James E. Crowther Wreath-laying Ceremony went well and that pictures could be viewed on the Camp's Facebook page. Brother Rarick participated in this annual ceremony decorating the grave of the Colonel at Fredericksburg National Cemetery. Colonel Crowther and his troops fought at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863 and the colonel was killed in action. Colonel Crowther is the highest-ranking officer buried in Fredericksburg National Cemetery.



**Robert Heath, Michael Beard, Jay Rarick, Michael Paquette and John Griffiths at Fredericksburg National Cemetery.**

**AFJROTC Medal Presentation - 16**

**May.** Camp Commander Rarick was pleased to present the SUVCW ROTC Medal to Cadet Michael Wynd of Chantilly Academy AFJROTC VA-20012, Fairfax County, VA. Cadet Wynd plans to enter the USMC upon graduation.



**Memorial Day Commemoration - 25 May, Morning.**

Brothers Jim Standard and Brian Withrow paid their respects at Civil War soldier's graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Special honors were extended at the grave monuments of General Philip Sheridan and General Grant's Chief-of-Staff during the war, General John Rawlins.

**National Memorial Day Parade, Washington D.C. - 25**

**May, Afternoon.** Camp Brothers participated in the SUVCW color guard for the National Memorial Day Parade. Brother Withrow reprised his role out in front of the color guard as LtGen. Ulysses S. Grant and was joined this year by Brother Standard portraying MajGen. Philip Sheri-



**Generals lead the SUVCW Color Guard in the parade.**

dan. Following the parade, Brothers passing the White House on their way to the historic Willard Hotel were be-



An after parade photo op before going to the Willard.

sieged for a time by enthusiastic tourists wanting to take photos with us. Once at the Willard Hotel, cheerful fellowship commenced at the Round Bar.

**Elizabeth Van Lew Wreath-laying Ceremony – 30 May**

The Irish Brigade Camp attended the wreath laying by the Elizabeth Van Lew Tent No. 1 (Detached) of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This was their first annual wreath laying at the grave of their name's sake,



Photo: [L-R] Gayle Machee, Jay Rarick, Donetta Bantle, Marjorie Elliot, Mike Paquette, Margaret Stromberg, Mike Beard, Denis Lyddane, Jan MacQueston, Karen Lyddane, Sandi Esty at Shockoe Hill Cemetery.

Elizabeth Van Lew, at Shockoe Hill Cemetery in Richmond, VA. Commander Jay Rarick with Brothers Mike Beard and Mike Paquette attended a wreath-laying ceremony.

**Decoration Day Commemoration at Fredericksburg National Cemetery - 30 May**



A Grave marker with Irish Brigade tributes placed next to it.

The Irish Brigade Camp No. 4 Brothers Bob Heath, Mike Paquette, and Mike Beard placed flags on the 18 known Irish Brigade

members interred in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery then proceeded to the annual Decoration Day dinner at the Blarney Stone Restaurant.

**Dedication Day Dinner, Blarney Stone Restaurant, Fredericksburg Virginia - 30 May.** Camp Brothers participated in the traditional Memorial Day / Decoration Day Dinner at Blarney Stone Restaurant in Fredericksburg, VA.



Brothers and spouses at the Blarney Stone.

- JUNE

**National Museum of Civil War Medicine - Cigar & Whiskey Night - 20 June.** By special request Brother's Brian Withrow and Jim Standard were invited by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine's Executive Director George Wunderlich to attend one of his signature fundraising events, Cigar & Whiskey Night. Brian attended as LtGen. Ulysses S. Grant and Jim as MajGen. Philip H. Sheridan. Both mingled and posed for photos with guests throughout the evening. Proceeds from the event went directly to the operation and improvement of the Pry House Field Hospital Museum and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.



Period image used by NMCWM to promote the Cigar & Whiskey Night fundraising event.

- AUGUST

**National Encampment, Richmond VA - 20-23 August.**

Brother Paquette was named the National Chief of Staff and Brother Heath was designated as the National Color Bearer. Michael Paquette served as the Chairman of the National Host Committee for the encampment and Brother Mike Beard served as the Co-Chair.



Bob Heath and Mike Paquette are sworn in by CnC Tad Campbell as National Officers (Flag Bearer and Chief of Staff) at the 2015 National Encampment.



Brother Paquette speaks at the National Encampment.

- SEPTEMBER

**Yankees in Falmouth/Conway House - 21 & 22 September.** Camp members participated in the popular annual living history event in old-town Falmouth. The Camp set up a recruiting tent and display for visitors. Camp members participated in the popular annual living history event in old-town Falmouth. The Camp set up a recruiting tent and display for visitors. The event interprets the Union



Army's occupation of the Rappahannock River community of Falmouth during the American Civil War. The event was held on the grounds of the historic Moncure Conway House. Brother's Standard and Withrow provided living history portrayals as Generals Grant and Sheridan.



Brothers Standard and Withrow at right with other impressionist at the YIF event. [Photo by Ed Episcopo]

**Commemoration of the Battle of Antietam, Pry House Museum - 19-20 September**

Brother Withrow conceived, organized and led a living history vignette portraying the historic meeting and photographs taken of President Abraham Lincoln and MajGen. George McClellan just days after the Battle of Antietam. A fellow reenactor Geoff White portrayed General McClellan and impressionist Don Mullen portrayed President Lincoln. Brother's Withrow and Standard portrayed support-

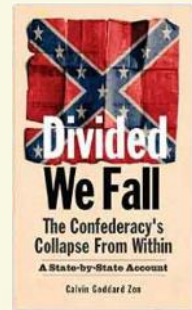
ing staff officers, provided vignette interpretation for visitors, and helped choreograph the recreation of the wet plate photos taken by photographer John Milleker. The impressionist group was blessed on Sunday by the surprise visit of a large bus tour group led by noted Civil War historian & author Edwin Bearss.



Brother Withrow choreographed this recreation of the famous Lincoln - McClellan meeting photo taken near Sharpsburg in 1862. [John Milleker Studios]

**Camp Meeting Guest Speaker Calvin**

**Zon - 25 September.** Invited guest speaker, Brother Calvin Zon provided his insights into the internal collapse of the Confederacy based on his book: "Divided We Fall; The Confederacy's Collapse from Within."



**William McCarthy**  
1938—2015

**Internment of Camp Brother William J. McCarthy - 29 September.** Brother McCarthy, a Charter Member of the Irish Brigade Camp, was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. The internment ceremony was attended by Com-

mander Jay Rarick along with Brothers Bob Roser and Mike Paquette. Brother McCarthy was a retired U.S. Army Colonel who served for 28 years. [Photo courtesy Knights of Columbus]

- **NOVEMBER**

**Commander-in-Chief Testimonial Dinner - November**

Brother Richard Ehrle coordinated with Fredericksburg Country Club for hosting the Commander-in-Chief Testimonial Dinner. Brothers Mike Paquette, Richard Ehrle and Roger Leturno attended.

**Battle of Spotsylvania Staff Ride – 7 November**

Commander Jay Rarick led the Camp's brothers on a staff ride of the Battle of Spotsylvania.

**150th anniversary of Civil War U.S. Colored Troops Grand Review – 14 November.** Brother Jim Standard participated in the 150th anniversary of Civil War U.S. Colored Troops Grand Review in Harrisburg, PA.

**Remembrance Day, Gettysburg Pennsylvania - 21 No-**



**Brothers Jim Standard and John Griffiths before the Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg PA.**

**vember.** Several camp brothers participated in the parade and other events at the annual commemoration of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

- **DECEMBER**

**Middletown Virginia Christmas Parade – 6 December**

Brother's Jim Standard and Brother Brian Withrow participated in the Middletown Christmas Parade as members of the Army of the Potomac color guard.

**Wreath-laying at the Irish Brigade Monument at the City Dock, Fredericksburg Virginia - 14 December.**



**Group photo after the wreath laying ceremony.**

Brothers came together once again for the annual commemoration and wreath laying at the Irish Brigade Monument near the Fredericksburg City Dock.

## FINAL THOUGHTS ON 2015

1865 was a year of triumph and heartbreak denoting the end of the long war; likewise, 2015 beheld an event filled and successful year of commemoration along with heartfelt loss by our Camp. As evidenced in this publication, Camp Brothers participated in a large number and variety of events that were both enriching to members and education-

al to the public, but also encountered moments of mournful loss. Accordingly, Irish Brigade Camp #4 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp added to membership and discharged our fraternal chartered purpose of preserving history and commemorating the service of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The sesquicentennial commemorations are behind us and the five year anniversary cycle begins again. The Brotherhood perseveres and will resume the mission to honor our ancestors in 2016 and beyond.



## 2015 Camp Officers

Commander - Jay Rarick  
Senior Vice Commander - James Standard  
Junior Vice Commander - Roger Leturno  
Secretary/Treasurer - Thomas Dempsey  
Chaplain - John Griffiths  
Patriotic Instructor - Robert Heath  
Signals Officer - Michael Beard  
Guard - Andrew Johnson  
Guide - James Standard  
Monuments/Markers Registration Officer - Richard Ehrle  
Graves Registration Officer - Richard Ehrle  
Historian - Brian Withrow  
Camp Council: Robert Heath  
Michael Paquette  
Michael Beard



[www.irishbrigadecamp.com](http://www.irishbrigadecamp.com)



## Old Irish Blessing

*May the road rise to meet you:  
May the wind be always at your back,  
The Sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rain fall soft upon your fields,  
And until we meet again  
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.*



*If you nurture a relationship between the past and the present, you may find that you've honored the future.*