

Irish Brigade Camp No.4



2016 Pass and Review

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Department of the Chesapeake

2016

**The American Civil War 1861 -65
It's déjà vu all over again**



United States Commemorative Stamps release during the Civil War sesquicentennial illustrates the five year cycle.

Irish Brigade Camp No.4 accomplished another event filled and memorable year in honor of the service and sacrifices made by our ancestors. In a year following the culmination of the highly anticipated Civil War sesquicentennial commemorations, 2016 seemed a bit like Bill Murray's hit movie *Groundhog Day*... it's 1861 again! For us Brother's the cycles never end until the day we join our honored ancestors in the great beyond. And so 2016 marks

yet another successful year of thoughtful commemoration and enjoyed brotherhood.

This publication is a month-by-month review of the significant events that occurred during the year, presented for the posterity of the Order. The information contained herein is from Camp Brothers, friends, 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 2016 Camp Officers - 28 January. Commander Jay Rarick called the meeting to order and introduced the Department Commander Kevin Martin and his wife, Rosemary. A short invocation was offered before the



Group photo following installation of the Irish Brigade Camp's officers for 2016.

business meeting began. Following the business portion of the meeting, CC Rarick conducted an obligation ritual for

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



new Brother Tim Willging. DC Kevin Martin then installed all Camp Officers for 2016 including incoming Commander Jim Standard. Following the installation a series of pictures were taken for the Camp website. The meeting was adjourned and the Brothers and guests gathered in the Country Club dining room for a meal and conversation.

- FEBRUARY

6th Lincoln Dinner, Fredericksburg VA - 21 February.

After last year's weather cancellation disappointment, Brothers rejoiced this year that we were able to attend the annual



President Lincoln impressionist Don Mullen holds Commander James Standard's Spencer Carbine and he holds "Abe's " stovepipe hat .

dinner held in honor of the nation's 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. Around 35-40 persons were in attendance. As promised our planned guest speaker from last year, Mr. Don Mul-



CC Standard and JVC Andrew Johnson pose at the "missing man" display set up to the dinner .

len as President Lincoln, presented a wonderful "first person" account of Lincoln "the inventor". A special acknowledgement goes to Brothers Kevin Martin and Wes Mumper who travelled from point's afar in order to be a part of the enjoyable evening.

Anthony Burns Marker Dedication , Stafford VA 26 February.

SVC Andrew Johnson joined guests and Virginia and Stafford County officials in the dedication of a state historical marker to Anthony Burns. Burns was an escaped Stafford slave who was arrested in Boston and returned to Virginia under the United States' new Fugitive Slave Act in 1854. His arrest and return to Virginia was gripping national news that inflamed the growing divide regarding slavery and sparked protests and a deadly riot in Boston by fervent abolitionists.



JVC Andrew Johnson along with members of the 23rd USCT and a Stafford County Sheriff Officer in front of the Anthony Burns historical marker.

- MARCH

Elizabeth Van Lew Tent #1 Luncheon, Bavarian Chef, Fredericksburg – 5 March. Brother Brian Withrow obliged an invitation by the Elizabeth Van Lew Tent #1 (Detached) DUVCW to present as guest speaker in his impressionist persona of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. The presentation amounted to a retrospective by General

Grant of the events preceding the presentation setting of March 1866. Commander James Standard and prior Commander Jay Rarick were also invited to attend. The event enriched the affinity of our two organizations.

- APRIL

Commemoration at Lincoln's Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield IL – 16 April. Brother Bob Heath served as the SUVCW National Color Bearer at the 60th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony sponsored by the SUVCW and MOLLUS, commemorating the 151st anniversary of the day of President Lincoln's death. The event featured guest speakers and wreath laying. Through the



National Color Bearer Bob Heath at Lincoln's Tomb.

events there was reflection upon Lincoln's legacy and all that he offered to the Nation through his humble leadership and the unwavering stand he took to prevent a divided nation.

JROTC Medal Presentation - 21 April. Brothers Rarick, Johnson, and Standard present SUVCW JROTC certificate and medal to North Stafford High School Cadet Chloe Thompson.



SUVCW JROTC Medal recipient Cadet Thompson.

Department Encampment, Frederick MD - 22-23 April.

Our Camp received a "2016 Department Honor Roll Award" for "Timely Submission of Membership Paperwork" to the Department, and meeting annual reporting requirements. Additionally, the "Andy Johnson" award was presented to past Department Commander, Kevin Martin, and notably to our Camp Brothers Michael Paquette and Michael Virts.

JROTC Medal Presentation - 27 April. Senior Vice Commander Roger Leturno presented a SUVCW JROTC certificate and medal to Thomas A. Edison High School Cadet/SGM Hill.

JROTC Medal Presentation - 30 April. Senior Vice Commander Roger Leturno presents SUVCW JROTC certificate and medal to Colonial Forge HS Cadet Corporal Simon Gruppe.



- MAY

Colonel Crowther Wreath-laying Ceremony - 1 May.

Once again Brothers presented a wreath at the gravesite of Colonel James Crowther at the Fredericksburg National



Brothers Jay Rarick, James Standard, and Mike Virts with Ranger Oakes at Colonel Crowther gravesite.

Cemetery accompanied by NPS Ranger Becky Oakes. 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.

JROTC Medal Presentation - 5 May.

Cadet Achmed Jasmin of the US Army JROTC at T.C. Williams H.S. in Alexandria, VA received the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate presented by PCC Jay Rarick (himself a 1973 Alumnus of TCW). The JROTC Awards Program was taped by WTTG TV in Washington [Fox 5] as part of a Memorial Day program to air for Memorial Day.

JROTC Medal Presentation - 7 May.

Cadet Daniel J. Ho of AF JROTC at Chantilly High School received the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate presented by PCC Jay Rarick.



JROTC Medal Presentation - 11 May.

Our very own PDC Mike Paquette presenting the 2016 SUVCW JROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Kristian Lofgren at the Quantico Middle / High School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA. Semper FI!



JROTC Medal Presentation - 13 May.

SVC Roger Leturno presented the SUVCW JROTC award and certificate to Cadet Peter Bailey at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke, VA.



JROTC Medal Presentation - 17 May. CC James Standard and SVC Roger Leturno present Cadet/LCDR Theron Hawkins of Brooke Point High School, Stafford VA, with the SUVCW JROTC medal and certificate. Ca-



Roger Leturno, Cadet Hawkins and James Standard.

det Hawkins graduates this year. He plans on going to college and eventually joining the Marine Corps. Semper FI!

JROTC Medal Presentations - 19 May. Cadet/SSG Brayan Landin of Hayfield Secondary School in Fairfax County, VA received a SUVCW JROTC medal and certificate presented by PCC Jay Rarick.

JROTC Medal Presentations - 25 May. PCC Rarick presented the SUVCW JROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Taylor Weyand at Woodbridge Senior High School.



PCC Jay Rarick and JROTC Cadet Taylor Weyand.

Also Cadet/1Lt Aaron Inocenio of Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas, VA received a SUVCW JROTC medal and certificate presented by SVC Roger Leturno.



JROTC Medal Presentation - 27 May. This year's final SUVCW JROTC medal and certificate was presented by SVC Roger Leturno to Cadet/1SG Christian Wesbrock of West Potomac High School in Alexandria, Virginia.

Illumination of the National Cemetery for Memorial Day - 28 May.

Over 15,000 are buried here, mostly from the battles in Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania, plus those who died in winter camp in Stafford. Of the dead buried here, 85% are unknowns.



Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater - 30 May, 1100hrs. Brothers Long and Leturno represented the SUVCW as color guard for the Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery.

National Memorial Day Parade, Washington D.C. - 30 May, 1300hrs. Camp Brothers participated in the SU-VCW color guard for the National Memorial Day Parade. Brother Standard reprised his role out in front of the color guard portraying MajGen. Philip Sheridan. Following the



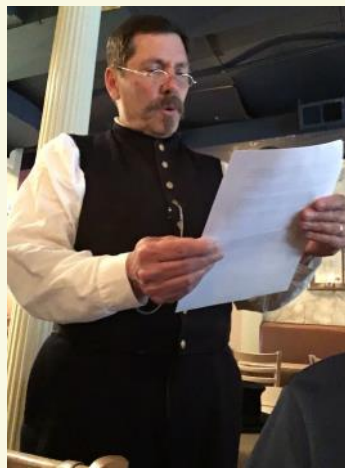
Brothers John Griffiths, Michael Beard, Larry Vance, James Standard, and Andrew Johnson.

parade, brothers made their way to the customary "watering hole" at the Willard Hotel for cheerful fellowship at the Round Bar. Pic at the National Memorial Day Parade.



Decoration Day Commemoration at Fredericksburg National Cemetery - 30 May, 1700hrs. Camp Brothers and family members participated in the traditional Memo-

rial Day / Decoration Day tradition of placing miniature Irish Brigade flags at soldier grave sites.



CC Standard reads G.O.#11.

Decoration Day Dinner, Blarney Stone Restaurant, Fredericksburg Virginia - 30 May, 1800hrs. Camp Brothers participated in the traditional Memorial Day / Decoration Day Dinner at Blarney Stone Restaurant in Fredericksburg, VA. Commander Standard val-

iantly stood before all the restaurant's patrons and read General Logan's Grand Army of the Republic General



Brothers and spouses at the Blarney Stone.

Order #11. Many Brothers brought their charming spouses for an evening out for dinner and good times.

- JUNE

Federal Soldier Honors at Spotsylvania Confederate Cemetery – 1 June. Commander Standard payed honors to three Federal soldiers from Maine with markers at the Spotsylvania Confederate Cemetery. The markers are

not burials but cenotaphs, memorials for persons buried elsewhere.



CC Standard renders honors at soldiers marker.

Induction ceremony for new brother Ross Schwalm – 23 June. Commander Standard conducted an Obligation Ceremony to formally induct and welcome Brother Schwalm to the SUVCW and the Irish Brigade Camp.



- JULY

Johannes Schwalm Historical Association Annual Meeting - 9-10 July. Brother Ross Schwalm attended the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association Annual Meeting in Valley View, Pennsylvania and conducted multiple presentations entitled, “My Civil War Ancestors”. These presentations covered his 13 known Civil War Union veterans which included 3 of his 4 Great Grandfathers, 5 Great Great Uncles and 5 “Cousins”. All of these veterans served in Pennsylvania Units in Infantry and Cavalry.

One was killed in action on Apr 1, 1865, two died of disease, and several others were wounded.

- AUGUST

National Encampment, Springfield IL - 11-14 August. Brothers Griffiths, Paquette, and Beard traveled to the National Encampment in Springfield Illinois. Brother Beard



2016-17 National Officers with Brother Paquette.

provided a Camp report to the Encampment. Brother Paquette was elected to the Council of Administration.

- SEPTEMBER

Yankees in Falmouth/Conway House - 10 & 11 September. Once again 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 reprised their impressionist portrayals as Generals Grant and Sheridan. Brothers passed out informa-



YIF 2016 group photo in front of Camp display table.

tional brochures and talked with prospective members. The Camp provided a Camp Coin to the YIF Coordinator and we received a "thank you" letter from the Event Coordinator.

Fredericksburg Welsh Festival - 17 September. The Irish Brigade Camp participated in the Fredericksburg Annual Welsh Festival. SVC Leturno and JVC Johnson set up a recruiting tent, engaged visitors in conversation, handed out brochures and answered questions.

Civil War Tomb of the Unknown, Arlington National Cemetery – 18 September. Camp Brothers joined the



Army of the Potomac Eastern Theatre Headquarters Staff in the humbling honor of placing 20 wreaths at the 150th Anniversary Ceremony of the dedication of the Civil War Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery.



Brothers Withrow as General Grant and Standard as General Sheridan with AoP Staff members in front of the Civil War Tomb of the Unknown .

We were truly honored to be asked to perform the wreath laying and have been asked to perform the ceremony again next year by the organizers.

- OCTOBER

Civil War Education Encampment, Tower City, PA - 1 October. Brother Ross Schwalm traveled to his home town of Tower City, PA for a Civil War training and education encampment for students from Williams Valley Elementary, Middle and High Schools. The 143rd PA Infantry Re-enactors provided the basis of instruction. Brother Schwalm provided a briefing on his Civil War ancestors who settled in the Williams Valley area after the Civil War and started businesses in brick making, carpentry and hotel ownership. Other family veterans became local miners and farmers. Mr. Jake Wynn, a direct descendent of Sgt Samuel Schwalm 50th PA Infantry and a cousin of Brother Schwalm, provided a talk and demonstration of Civil War Medicine tools. Mr. Wynn is the Program Director at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. The Mayor of Tower City, Mr. Dan Daub, was the master of ceremony and speaker at a decoration cere-

mony of Civil War Veterans Graves by the 143rd PA and the students at the St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery which is in the heart of Tower City. The events were published in an article by the Republican Herald Newspaper in Pottsville, PA.

Battle of Cedar Creek Reenactment – 15-16 October.

Brother Brian Withrow was formally named as the new Commander of the Army of the Potomac Eastern Theatre 1861-1865 Headquarters Staff at the annual Cedar Creek Battle Reenactment. Brother Withrow was the overall field



AoP Commander Brother Withrow and Brother Standard as General Sheridan (center) with staff .

commander for the Cedar Creek Battle scenario on Sunday and pleased to select Brother Jim Standard to carry out the famous ride of Major General Philip Sheridan to rally the Federal troops to victory.



General R.E. Lee's Gettysburg Headquarters Restoration Dedication – 28 October. Brother Rarick and his wife were among 700 people in attendance at the dedication and opening to the public of the restored site/building

that served as Confederate General Robert E. Lee's headquarters during the Battle of Gettysburg. The site was purchased in 2014 by the Civil War Trust. All the 20th Century structures were removed, the historic contours of the land and the original structure restored. The house is ~183 years old, being built in 1833. It was purchased for Mary Thompson's use in 1846 by Thaddeus Stevens, who owned it until his death in 1868. It was photographed by Matthew Bradey's team about 2 weeks after the battle in July 1863.



Brother Rarick at General Lee's HQ in Gettysburg.

The photo captures the first visitors queuing up to see the inside with Superintendent Ed Clark of the Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site.

• NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day, Gettysburg Pennsylvania - 19 November.

Several camp brothers (Standard, Paquette, Schwalm, Withrow) participated in the parade and other events at the annual commemoration of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.



Brothers Standard and Schwalm in Gettysburg.

- DECEMBER

Pvt William L. Phillips Headstone Dedication – 4 December. The Lincoln-Cushing Camp No. 2, SUVCW, conducted a Headstone rededication ceremony for Private William L. Phillips, Co. K, 1st Alabama Cavalry, USV, born 1831 in South Carolina. He served from August 1862 until his death in May 1865. He served a year when he was taken prisoner and sent to Libby Prison. He was later paroled and rejoined his unit in time for the Atlanta cam-



paign. He was with the unit during the battles of Monroe's Crossroads and Bentonville. He was suffering from medical issues and in May 1865 was sent up to Alexandria to Slough Hospital. Shortly after he arrived, he was given an overdose of cyanate potassium, and died in less than three hours. He left

a widow and three young children.

Private Phillips became "lost" after



his death, and his burial was recorded as "William H. Philips" with one "L" and an incorrect middle initial. Family and researchers were unable to find him in databases. Brother Bart Smith came across a reference that he was

buried at Alexandria and went looking last May. This was when he found Pvt Phillips grave and immediately saw the problem with the headstone and began the process of replacing it with a correct one which was installed last month."

Middletown Virginia Christmas Parade – 6 December.

Commander Jim Standard and wife Wendy along with Brothers Brian Withrow, Roger Leturno, and Logan Metesh participated in the Middletown Christmas Parade as



members of the SVR and Army of the Potomac color guard.

Wreath-laying at Irish Brigade Monument, Fredericksburg Virginia - 11 December

We were once again pleased to conduct our annual wreath laying at the City Dock in Fredericksburg, VA on the Sun-



day closest to the anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg (13 Dec 1862). This year we once again welcomed Brother Mark Day, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW to participate in our ceremony. Also in at-

tendance were brothers from New Jersey and Georgia! We concluded our event with lunch at "The Pub" on Rt. 3 in Spotsylvania, near the historic Salem Church.

FINAL THOUGHTS ON 2016

1861 began as a year of roused passions and nationalistic excitement and concluded with the sobering realization that the tragedy of civil war would not end with a single decisive battle; likewise, 2016 beheld an event filled and successful year of commemoration for our Camp within the backdrop of an emotionally charged and contentious national election. An eerie reminder of things past. As evidenced in this publication, Camp Brothers participated in a large number and variety of events that were both enriching to members and educational 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 Brotherhood perseveres and will resume the mission to honor our ancestors in 2017 and beyond.



2016 Camp Officers

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



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.*



www.irishbrigadecamp.com

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