



Irish Brigade Camp No.4

2017 Pass and Review

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)

Fredericksburg, Virginia



Department of the Chesapeake

The American Civil War 1862, The harsh reality of war, 155 years later.



A bloody year instructs a greater purpose.

Irish Brigade Camp No.4 accomplished another event filled and memorable year in honor of the service and sacrifices made by our ancestors. In an apprehensive year of national political and social debate, 2017 provided a turbulent backdrop where matters lingering from the long ago war came to public attention once again! For us Brothers, it was an occasion to remind the public of the horrific reality of war that gripped the nation 155 years earlier and the resulting proclamation that sought to advance the concepts of human freedom and liberty enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. And so 2017 marked 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

Certificate of Commendation Presentation – 17 January. Camp Commander Roger Leturno and Past Camp Commander Jay Rarick presented Fort Belvoir Firemen Jerry Jett Jr and Jon Card SUVCW Certificates of Commendation before their peers and leadership, in recog-



Brothers Jay Rarick and Roger Leturno with Fort Belvoir Firemen Jerry Jett Jr and Jon Card.

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



nition of their selfless act on Memorial Day 2016.

These two firemen arrived at White Oak Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in their dress uniform and placed GAR markers, flowers and American flags on the graves of three Union soldiers. "This might be the first Memorial Day that these guys have gotten," Card said. "They've laid here for about 153 years, and have never been recognized, as far as I know. So it's just important to take 10 minutes and come down say thank you."

Fireman Card stumbled upon these graves while exploring White Oak. He immediately cleaned the site, uncovering two other graves in the process. Card said, "It really upset me. As an Army veteran, it's important to me that no soldier lie buried with a bunch of leaves and trash. That's just not appropriate."

The white headstone marks the assumed final resting place of Peter Vanderhoof, 15th New Jersey Infantry Regiment. The other two graves are unmarked. Card, himself a New Jersey native, didn't consider this discovery a coincidence. Vanderhoof's regiment came from around Card's hometown and many of the unit's dead are buried in the local cemetery. Card said, "Of all the Regiments and units that it could have been, it was from home."

Firemen Jett, who has ancestors buried in White Oak, was touched by his friend's idea to honor these neglected soldiers and together they performed this Memorial Day ceremony in tribute to civil war soldiers.

The preceding article was submitted by the Camp and included in the SUVCW magazine, *The Banner*.

Installation of 2017 Camp Officers - 26 January. Commander James Standard called the meeting to order and introduced the Department Junior Vice Commander Wes Mumper. A short invocation was offered before the business meeting began. JVC Mumper then installed all Camp Officers for 2017 including incoming Commander Roger Returno. 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.



Group photo following installation of the Irish Brigade Camp's officers for 2017.

Patriotic Instructor Public Presentation – 28 January

Camp Patriotic Instructor (CPI) Ross H. Schwalm delivered a presentation entitled "Faith, Family and Brothers in Arms at Second Manassas 1862" at Ner Shalom Synagogue in Woodbridge, VA. CPI Schwalm conducted research and presented information on his Civil War Ancestors in the 48th, 50th, 57th and 96th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiments as well as Jewish soldiers of the North and South. CPI Schwalm highlighted the original opposition to Jewish Rabbis becoming Chaplains in the US Army as well as how Jewish soldiers acquitted themselves for both armies in the war. CPI Schwalm was able to pin point a Jewish soldier named Ellis Strouss who served in the 57th PA who worked his way up the ranks to Captain and commander of a company in the same regiment. George Clark, a distant relative of CPI Schwalm's wife's family also served in the 57th PA.

• FEBRUARY

7th Lincoln Dinner, Fredericksburg VA - 11 February.

Brothers rejoiced this year that fair weather prevailed and we were able to attend the annual dinner held in honor of the nation's 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. Over forty persons made up of Camp members, family, and guests were in attendance at the Fredericksburg Country Club hosted event. Our guest speaker this year, National Park Service Historian Becky Oakes, gave a wonderful presentation on Abraham Lincoln in American Myth and Memory. Without a doubt everyone departed the enjoyable evening with greater under-

standing and reverence for Lincoln's lasting effects on our national psyche.



Commander Roger Leturno presents a Camp coin to guest speaker NPS Historian Becky Oakes .



JROTC Medal Presentation, Spotsylvania HS, Spotsylvania Court House VA – 23 February. Brother Michael Paquette presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Emonie Armstrong at Spotsylvania High School.

- **MARCH**

“Camp Family Dinner” – 18 March. Brothers and spouses of the Irish Brigade Camp met for an evening meal and camaraderie at the Sedona Taphouse in Fredericksburg, VA. 13 attended.

Certificate of Commendation Presentation – 19 March

Commander Roger Leturno and Brother Mike Virts presented a Certificate of Commendation to the congregation of Bethel Baptist Church in recognition of its history and founders. Several Union soldiers from New Jersey who settled in the Fredericksburg area after the war eventually organized Bethel Baptist Church.

U. S. Army Ordnance Training and Heritage Center hosts Brother Griffiths – 31 March. Brother John

Grant Griffiths, the Great Great Grandson of Lieutenant General Ulysses S Grant, visited the US Army Ordnance Training & Heritage Center's WWI Gallery. With a very prestigious military ancestry, Brother Griffiths has a deep interest in American military history and commented “I've been a student of military history my entire life.”

Brother Griffiths' Mother, Edith Grant, was the oldest daughter of Ulysses S. Grant III; his Father, David Wood Griffiths, graduated from West Point in 1918 and retired on March 31, 1950 at the rank of Colonel; his Grandfather, Ulysses S Grant III, graduated West Point in 1903 and retired at the rank of Major General in 1945; his Great Grandfather Frederick Dent Grant died while commanding Governor's Island at the rank of Major General and his Great Great Grandfather, Lieutenant General Ulysses S Grant, led the Union Armies which defeated Confederate General Robert E Lee effectively ending the Civil War in 1865.



Brother Griffiths was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and moved around the country following his Father's military career. Mr. Griffiths worked at Fort Lee from 1981-1987 in the Directorate of Engineering and Housing. In 1987 he moved to Fredericksburg and worked at the U.S. Marine Corps Air and Ground Museum as a curator until his retirement in 1998 after 35 years in the federal government.

- **APRIL**

Civil War Park Clean-up Day – 1 April. CPI Schwalm cleared brush and undergrowth at Manassas National Battlefield Park in land that was Stonewall Jackson's movement to contact route during First Manassas. CPI Schwalm was one of several volunteers interviewed via video tape for Civil War Trust.

JROTC Medal Presentation, North Stafford HS, Stafford VA – 4 April. Brother Matt Sutton presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Samantha Williams of Brooke Point High School.

JROTC Medal Presentation, North Stafford HS, Stafford VA - 6 April. Brother Matt Sutton presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Nathaniel Lumpkin of North Stafford High School. The Irish Brigade Camp offers Cadet Lumpkin our heartiest congratulations!



NPS 152nd Appomattox Court House Event, Appomattox VA – 8 & 9 April. Our camp was well represented at the 152nd anniversary commemoration of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia to



Brothers Griffiths, Withrow, Standard, & McNierney among other impressionist at Appomattox CH, VA.

the Federal Army led by Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. Brothers James Standard, Brian Withrow, Mark McNierney and John Griffiths participated in the living history activities.

Life of a Civil War Soldier, Locust Grove Elementary, York PA – 12 April. Brothers Brian Withrow and Jim Standard, dressed as an enlisted infantry and cavalry soldier, presented to three sixth grade classes of York Elementary School. Due to funding constraints the students were unable to go on a field trip to Gettysburg Battlefield



Brothers Standard & Withrow with students of Locust Grove Elementary School in York, PA.

and NPS Visitor Center like students in past years. Sixth grade teacher Shannon Walker praised, “It was an amazing presentation that allowed our curriculum to come to life!”



JROTC Medal Presentation, Caroline HS, VA - 18 April. Camp Commander Roger Leturno presented Cadet Jevon Butler with the SUVCW ROTC certificate and medal. Cadet Butler is a Junior and in his third year of JROTC at Caroline High School.

Department Encampment, Front Royal VA - 21-22 April. The 130th Annual Department of the Chesapeake Encampment in Front Royal, VA this year. The flag



was passed from outgoing commander Ben Hawley to incoming commander W. Faron Taylor. National Senior Vice Commander Mark Day was the installing officer. Of special significance to us was the appointment of Jay Rarick, Past Camp Commander of the Irish Brigade Camp, to Department Patriotic Instructor. Congratulations Brother Jay!

JROTC Medal Presentation, Mount Vernon High School - 26 April. Brother Jay Rarick presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to MCJROTC Cadet Staff Sergeant Xiomara Dattner.

JROTC Medal Presentation, Battlefield HS, Haymarket VA - 27 April. Brother Jay Rarick presented



the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet 2nd Lt. Sydney King. At the end of the evening, it was announced that Cadet King was promoted to the permanent rank of Cadet Colonel and was selected as the next Commander of the Battlefield HS JROTC Cadets. Clearly a

cadet who “shows a high degree of patriotism to her Nation and has demonstrated a high degree of academic performance and leadership.”

JROTC Medal Presentation, Garfield HS, VA - 27 April.

Department of the Chesapeake Senior Vice Commander Wes Mumper presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Garfield High School MCJROTC Cadet Gunnery Sergeant Mason Kolwaski.



- MAY

JROTC Medal Presentation, Freedom HS, Woodbridge VA - 3 May. Brother Jay Rarick presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Air Force JROTC Cadet 2nd Lt. Kasey Perez at Freedom High School.



JROTC Medal Presentation, King George HS - 3 May. Brother Mike Virts presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Navy JROTC Cadet Latasha Johnson.



JROTC Medal Presentation, Liberty HS, Bealeton VA - 5 May.

Camp Commander Roger Leturno presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Harrison Arthur. Cadet Arthur is an impressive student and cadet. He graduates this year and will be going to the Citadel in Charleston SC.

JROTC Medal Presentation, Chantilly Academy, Chantilly VA - 6 May.

Brother Jay Rarick presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Maxwell Tran at Chantilly Academy, A Governor's STEM Academy. Among his other accomplishments, Cadet Tran is a member of the Chantilly AFJROTC Color Guard.



JROTC Medal Presentation, Colonial Forge HS - 8 May. Brother Matt Sutton presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Army JROTC Cadet Ciera Henderson.

JROTC Medal Presentation, T.C. Williams HS, Alexandria VA - 9 May. Camp Commander Roger Leturno presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to this year's T.C. Williams HS JROTC recipient Cadet Alejandra Padilla Crisostomo. Cadet Padilla is one of those quiet professionals who will go far.



JROTC Medal Presentation, Courtland HS - 9 May. Brother James Standard presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Army JROTC Cadet Master Sergeant Aerin Gilday.

JROTC Medal Presentation, Loudon County HS, Leesburg VA - 10 May. JROTC Cadet Zoe Bredice



received the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate from Camp Commander Roger Leturno at Loudon County High School. Cadet Bredice is an outstanding young adult and member of an impressive JROTC program. Commander Gillespie and his instructors have developed one of the best programs in the state.

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JROTC Medal Presentation, Culpeper County HS, Culpeper VA - 10 May. Brother Jim Standard presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Rodman Fellows. It was an excellent evening with the Culpeper County High School Marine Corps JROTC staff.



JROTC Medal Presentations, Osbourn Park HS, Manassas Park VA - 11 May. Brother Ross Schwalm presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Andrew Flournoy at Osbourn Park High School. Cadet Flournoy is one of the Drill Team Commanders for the Battalion Staff.

JROTC Medal Presentation, Quantico HS, Dumfries VA - 11 May. Brother Mike Paquette presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet 2nd Lt Samantha Guerrero at Quantico High School. Cadet Guerrero will be attending three leadership camps this summer and will be a senior next year.



JROTC Medal Presentation, C.D. Hylton HS, Woodbridge VA - 12 May. Camp Patriotic Instructor Ross



Schwalm presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Ashley Nelson of C.D. Hylton High School's AFJROTC program. The Group held the award ceremony at a formal military "Dining Out" at the Woodbridge VFW Hall.

JROTC Medal Presentation, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Burke VA - 12 May. Camp Commander

Roger Leturno presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Michael Tempesta at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Cadet Tempesta had a busy night as he was also promoted to his current rank and assumed command of the battalion for SY 2017-2018.



JROTC Medal Presentation, Herndon HS, Herndon, VA - 12 May. Camp Commander Roger Leturno presented the SUVCW ROTC

medal and certificate to Cadet Leighton Martin at Herndon High School. He is a very sharp Navy JROTC cadet. Leighton graduates from Herndon High School in June and plans on attend George Mason University in the fall. We wish him great success in his future endeavors.



JROTC Medal Presentation, Hayfield Secondary School, VA - 18 May. Brother Jay Rarick presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet CSM Jazmin Herrera at Hayfield Secondary School.

JROTC Medal Presentation, South Lakes HS, Reston VA - 18 May. Camp Commander

Roger Leturno presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Staff Sergeant Michael Encinas at South Lakes High School in demonstration of our values for Americanism, Patriotism & Leadership.



JROTC Medal Presentation, Woodbridge High School, VA - 18 May. Camp Patriotic Instructor Ross

Schwalm presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Army Cadet Kieran Weldon.

JROTC Medal Presentation, West Potomac HS, - 19 May. Brother Mike Paquette presented the SUVCW

ROTC medal and certificate to Army Cadet Andrew Jurkowski.



JROTC Medal Presentation, Thomas A. Edison HS, Alexandria VA - 23 May. Brother Jay Rarick presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Staff Sergeant Justin Martinez of Edison High School's Eagle Battalion, Army JROTC, in the Alexan-

dria portion of Fairfax County, VA. Cadet Martinez is currently a Sophomore and second year cadet. He is very active in JROTC and has displayed leadership potential beyond his age and position. He takes initiative and gets things done without needing detailed instruction. We wish him continued success in his studies and in the JROTC program.

JROTC Medal Presentation, Stonewall Jackson High School, VA – 24 May. Brother Ross Schwalm presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Air Force Cadet 1st Lieutenant Doug Barnes.

JROTC Medal Presentation, Forest Park High School, VA – 24 May. Camp Patriotic Instructor Ross Schwalm presented the SUVCW ROTC medal and certificate to Army Cadet Robert J. Stankovich.

Certificate of Commendation Presentation – 25 May
Preceding the Camp meeting, Commander Leturno had the honor of recognizing Mr. D.P. Newton with a SUVCW Certificate of Commendation for his personal sacrifice and contributions in the establishment of the White Oak Civil War Museum and Research Center. D. P. Newton is a life-



Commander Leturno with Camp Brothers presents a Certificate of Commendation to Mr. D.P. Newton.

long resident of White Oak, VA. He was accompanied by his wife, Bonnie, who helped explain about the past and on-going efforts to build up and preserve the Museum and its artifacts. The museum and D. P. have been recognized by

the Virginia Historical Society for their unique focus and contributions to understanding the lives of the common soldiers of both armies during the Civil War. A co-founder and president of the Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites organization that was responsible for the opening of the Stafford Civil War Park in 2013, he is an indispensable resource on all aspects of Civil War research and on Stafford's role and participation in the war. Our Camp highly encourages anyone with any interest in knowing more about Civil War soldiers to visit the White Oak Civil War Museum and Research Center. Great work D.P.!

Illumination of the National Cemetery for Memorial Day – 27 May. Camp Brothers attended the Illumination events at Fredericksburg National Cemetery. 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 Ceremony, Arlington National Cemetery. – 29 May, 1100hrs. Camp Commander Leturno was one of two SUVCW color bearers in this year's Memorial Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

National Memorial Day Parade, Washington D.C. – 29 May, 1300hrs. Camp Brothers participated in the SUVCW color guard for the National Memorial Day Parade.



Before parade photo with *The Civil War* Director Ken Burns.

Our parade participants had the added honor this year to meet famed PBS *"The Civil War"* Director Ken Burns.



Brother Withrow reprised his role out in front of the color guard portraying Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant along with future Brother Gary Carlberg as General John A. Rawlins. Following the parade brothers strolled to their customary "watering hole" at the Willard Hotel for cheerful fellowship at the Round Bar.



Jim Hewes, here with Brothers Withrow & Beard, has been our host after every parade at the Round Bar .

Decoration Day Flag Placement, Fredericksburg National Cemetery - 30 May, 1700hrs. Camp Brothers participated in the traditional Memorial Day / Decoration Day tradition of placing miniature Irish Brigade flags at soldier grave sites.



Decoration Day Dinner, J. Brian's Restaurant, Fredericksburg - 30 May 1800hrs. Camp Brothers participated in the traditional Memorial Day / Decoration Day Dinner at J. Brian's Restaurant in Fredericksburg, VA. Many Brothers brought their charming spouses for an evening out for dinner and good times.

- JUNE

Certificate of Commendation Presentation, White Oak Primitive Baptist Church, Falmouth VA – 4 June



Commander Roger Leturno and Past Camp Commander Michael Virts presented the White Oak Primitive Baptist Church in Falmouth VA the SUVCW Certificate of Commendation

in recognition of the church's long history and service during the Civil War.

Eagle Scout Medal Presentation, Pratt Park, Fredericksburg VA – 4 June. Camp Commander Roger Leturno presented the SUVCW Certificate of Commendation to Eagle Scout Christopher Knowles at his Court of Honor ceremony held in Pratt Park. Congratulations and best wishes to Chris!



New Castle's Separation Day Parade New Castle, DE - 10 June . On June 15, 1776 the Assembly of the Three Lower Counties (Delaware) meeting in the Assembly Room in the New Castle Court House, acted on the advice of the Second Continental Congress, approving a Separation Resolution. Under this document, anyone holding office, military or civilian, in the colony would thereafter be doing so in the name of the government of the Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex Upon Delaware, and not the King of England. This cut all ties that Delaware had with the British crown, and since the three counties had originally been part of Pennsylvania by royal charter, it also cut the few remaining ties that Delaware had with that government.



Yes...The Irish Brigade Camp #4 is everywhere! Brothers Roger Leturno, Mike Paquette and Bob Heath participated in New Castle's Separation Day Parade followed by a headstone replacement ceremony at Mount Salem United Methodist Church. They were members of the Department of the Chesapeake color guard.

The parade kicked off at 1100 A.M on a warm, soon to be hot, Saturday morning. Other units participating in the parade were: 3rd USCT Reenactment Unit, 26th Pennsylvania SVR, 97th Pennsylvania, Antietam Camp #3, Antietam Camp #3 Auxiliary, Appomattox Camp #2, Bradbury Camp #149, Garfield Camp #1, Philadelphia GAR Post #2 and Torbert Camp #1862.



Following the parade, the color guard reformed at Mount Salem United Methodist Church, one of the oldest African American churches in the country, to honor Private Isaac Bayard of the 3rd USCT. There were several notable speakers and the ceremony was highlighted with a brief account of PVT Bayard's life and the history of the church.

Certificate of Commendation Presentation – 22 June

Preceding the Camp meeting, Commander Leturno presented a Certificate of Commendation to Mr. Norman Schools, a representative of the Trustees of the old Union Church (Falmouth Anglican), which was a union hospital. CC Leturno related some of the history of the Church and asked Mr. Schools to address the Camp and provide additional information. Norman owns the Conway House in Falmouth Virginia and sponsors the annual Yankees in Falmouth event.



Commander Leturno with Camp Brothers presents a Certificate of Commendation to Mr. Norman Schools.

- JULY

Prisoners of War Presentation – 9 July. Camp Patriotic Instructor Ross Schwalm organized and presented, along with Dr. Daniel Krebs, American History Professor, University of Louisville, a series of talks on prisoners of war that included Hessians captured during the American Revolution, Union and Confederate prisoner experiences to include the St. Albans raid by escaped Confederate prisoners, the liberation of Buchenwald by the 6th Armored Division in World War II and CPI Schwalm’s personal experiences in the capture and care of Iraqi prisoners during Desert Storm. These presentations were made at the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, Inc Annual Meeting in Valley View, PA.

Certificate of Commendation Presentation – 27 July

Preceding the Camp meeting, Senior Vice Commander Johnson presented, on behalf of the Camp, a Certificate of Commendation to Mr. Stan Yelito for his efforts to preserve and maintain the gravesite of Union soldier James Madison East of the 43rd Indiana Infantry. The gravesite is located on the family farm in Indiana. SVC Johnson asked Mr. Yelito to address the Camp and provide additional historical information about James East, the farm, and the gravesite.



Vice Commander Johnson presents a Certificate of Commendation to Mr. Stan Yelito and his wife.

Obligation Ceremony for new Brothers Leonard Cowherd & Peter Francisco – 27 July. Senior Vice Commander Johnson conducted an Obligation Ceremony to formally induct and welcome Brothers Cowherd and Francisco to the SUVCW and the Irish Brigade Camp.

- AUGUST

The Irish Brigade visits the GAR museum, Philadelphia PA - 6 August. James & Wendy Standard, John Griffith, Mike Beard, Robert & Cindy Roser, Mike Paquette, Roger & Julie Leturno, Ross Schwalm, and Jay & Suzan Rarick. After spending several hours examining the exhibits of the museum, the group stopped for a late lunch in Newark, DE, on the way back to Virginia.



Camp visit to the American Civil War Museum in Richmond. 25 August. Commander Leturno , his spouse and Brother James Standard visited the American Civil War Museum in Richmond to hear a presentation by author Robert Dunkerly about his book “To the Bitter End: Appomattox, Bennett Place, and the surrenders of the Confederacy”.

Eagle Scout Certificate of Commendation, Stafford VA – 26 August. Commander Roger Leturno presented the SUVCW Certificate of Commendation to Eagle Scout Justin Haimovici at his Eagle Court of Honor at Summit Presbyterian Church, Stafford, VA. Justin achieved Eagle Scout requirements before his 17th birthday. He is a high school senior this year and plans on attending a service academy. Congratulations and best wishes to Justin!



Manassas Battlefield Walking Tour, 26 August. In conjunction with the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association (JSHA), Irish Brigade Camp Brother and JSHA Historian Ross Schwalm conducted a walking tour at the Manassas National Battlefield Park to sites related to his family's service in the Union Army at the Battle of 2nd Manassas. By a quirk of fate, both Ross and his wife, Carol, had relatives in four different Pennsylvania Regiments who fought in this pivotal battle in Aug 1862. Brother Schwalm had recently published an article on the roles of his family members which include 48th, 50th, 57th and 96th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiments. The tour included visits to Matthew's Hill and the Unfinished Railroad. Brother Schwalm also coordinated with NPS for a Ranger talk on the Union Breakthrough. A Social Hour was held at the conclusion of the tour.

- SEPTEMBER

10th Annual Yankees in Falmouth/Conway House – 9 & 10 September. Once again Camp members participated in the popular annual living history event in old-town Falmouth. The Camp set up a recruiting and information tent and display for visitors. The event interprets the Union



Brother candidate Gary Carlberg recruited at YIF.

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. Brothers John Griffith, Andy Johnson, Roger Leturno, Mike Paquette and Ross Schwalm were on hand to answer questions about the SUVCW, our mission,

and membership. Over the two days we made contact with several promising candidates. Future Brother Gary Carlberg, who was performing the impression of Brigadier General Rawlins, applied to join our Camp after discussing SUVCW membership with Brothers at this event. Brother Withrow reprised his impressionist portrayal as General Ulysses Grant along with a number of other notable person impressions such as our 2016 Lincoln Dinner guest speaker Don Mullen as President Abraham Lincoln. Brothers passed out informational brochures and talked with pro-



President Lincoln (Don Mullen) awards runners medals for finishing the YIF History Fun Run Marathon.

spective members. With this being the tenth anniversary of the event, Stafford County conducted a "History Fun Run Themed" 8k marathon on Sunday in conjunction with the event to promote more visitation with the participant medals and winner trophies presented by President Lincoln, Secretary of War Stanton and General Grant.

Antietam Battlefield Staff Ride - 14 September. Camp members and guests visited and toured the Antietam Battlefield in Sharpsburg, MD, just days short of the 155th anniversary of the battle. With ~22,720 casualties (~3,650 dead) Antietam ranks to this day as the single bloodiest day in American history. Perhaps the most strategically and politically important outcome of the battle was that it



Brothers Jay Rarick, Roger Leturno, & Jim Standard at the Irish Brigade Monument on Antietam Battlefield.

gave Abraham Lincoln the victory he needed to publish the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, forever changing the nature of the conflict. After a day taking an in-depth look at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, the Camp and guests had a lite dinner and refreshing adult beverages at the Bavarian Inn just across the Potomac River in nearby Shepherdstown, WV.

- **OCTOBER**

Battle of Cedar Creek Reenactment 14 & 15 October.

Brother James Standard reprised his impressionist portrayal as Major General Sheridan with brothers Brian Withrow and future Brother Gary Carlberg also supporting this event on the grounds of the 1864 battle near Middletown, VA. At



about 4:00 p.m. on Saturday October 14 what allegedly was a bomb was found in the Sutler's Village (vendor exhibit area). Law Enforcement officials evacuated the entire Sutler Village and Confederate encampment area and conducted a search of the immediate area with bomb dogs. Since Gary has several years of experience searching for bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan, he supported the ATF and FBI and visually cleared three parking lots. He found a suspicious package and alerted the ATF. A Bomb Technician with dog were dispatched and they carefully cleared the package. With an appropriate regard to safety, the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation cancelled Sunday's spectator events. On Sunday, the reenactors held a ceremony as a show of resolve. Before the start of the reenactment, both sides approached and shook hands. The Confederate Army played "*The Star-Spangled Banner*," and the Union Army played "*Dixie*." At the end both sides then sang together "*USA, USA*."

- **NOVEMBER**

Remembrance Day, Gettysburg Pennsylvania - 18 November. Several Camp Brothers participated in the annual commemoration ceremonies and parade sponsored by the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) honoring President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. On the heels of the package bomb incident at the Cedar Creek Reenactment, the 61st Annual Remembrance Day Parade went on despite an anonymous 'credible' threats made in a letter to the Gettysburg Times. Despite the potential of danger on many people's minds and a chilling downpour of rain, units of reenactors and impressionists proudly marched alongside clusters of police and strategically placed traffic barricades. Fortunately, the day's events occurred without incident. Brother candidate Gary Carlberg was the Color Sergeant at the rededication of the urn that memorializes the contributions of the Minnesota soldiers buried in Gettysburg National Cemetery. The urn was the first monument on the Gettysburg Battlefield in the cemetery and was erected 150 years ago.

- DECEMBER

Middletown Virginia Christmas Parade – 3 December

Commander Roger Leturno, Brother James Standard and his wife Wendy, Brother Brian Withrow and Brother candidate Gary Carlberg participated in the Middletown Christmas Parade as members of the joint SVR and Army of the Potomac color guard. For three consecutive years,



Mayor Charles Harbaugh IV of Middletown Virginia has invited us. Middletown hosts a well-organized event that is impressively supported

by the community. After the parade we met with our Confederate counterparts at Nana's Irish Pub to quench our thirst enjoy some lively conversation. Thank you Middletown for inviting us!

Wreath-laying at Irish Brigade Monument, Fredericksburg Virginia - 10 December. The Irish Brigade Camp No. 4 of Fredericksburg, VA was pleased to attend the annual wreath laying at the City Dock in Fredericksburg, VA on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg (13 Dec 1862). In City Docks Park rests a monument where the Irish Brigade bivouacked prior to the battle 155 years ago. This monument reminds us of the exemplary courage shown by the Irish Brigade, and, indeed every Union soldier who charged Marye's Heights that day. We joined with the 28th Massachusetts Vol. Inf., Co. B, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians in honoring the men of the Irish Brigade. Our special guest was Brother Mark Day, National Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) of



the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). Camp Commander Roger Leturno and SUVCW CinC Mark Day laid a wreath at the monument. Following the wreath laying, NPS Ranger Frank O'Reilly led his traditional walking tour "In the steps of the Irish Brigade". After the wreath presentation, CinC Day and his wife Barbara joined with members of our Camp for food, drink and conversation at the "Sunken Well Tavern".



Wreaths Across America, New Bern National Cemetery, New Bern NC - 16 December. Patriotic Instructor Ross Schwalm was the key note speaker covering the 2017 theme "I am an American. Yes, I am." The event was attended by over 2000 guests including American Legion posts, Legion Riders, local politicians, Daughters of the American Revolution, Boy and Cub Scouts and active duty and reserve military units. The cemetery is near the site of the Civil War battle of New Bern and Brother Schwalm's Great Grandfather John P. Kessler, 48th Pennsylvania Infantry participated in this battle. The leadership efforts of Mr. Ken Dimpsey, US Navy veteran, the community purchased over 5700 wreaths covering nearly every headstone in this cemetery.

FINAL THOUGHTS ON 2017

1862 was a year filled with the sobering realization that the tragedy of civil war would be more costly in blood and treasure than ever though; for us 155 years later, 2017 beheld an event filled and successful year of commemoration for our Camp within the backdrop of an emotionally charged and contentious national debate on a number of subjects. 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 some of the moments of social distress. But as Commander Leturno reminded us in an email before Thanksgiving, "On this special day we must not forget to count all our blessings that God has bestowed upon. It's the perfect time to be grateful for the millions of things that we are blessed with and forget about what we do not have. In a year of political turbulence, it has been easy to lose track of the multiple blessings in our lives - family, friends, good health, friendships and colleagues. I appreciate more than ever the enduring strength of the Constitution and democratic norms; the ongoing determination of the American people to form a more perfect union; the goodwill of those citizens who, regardless of party, fight injustice and tyranny; and our magnificent military, which protects us from harm and defends our liberties. America remains the last, best hope for the world." 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 2018 and beyond.



2017 Camp Officers

Commander - Roger Leturno
Senior Vice Commander - Andrew Johnson
Junior Vice Commander - Tim Willging
Secretary/Treasurer - Thomas Dempsey
Chaplain - John Griffiths
Patriotic Instructor - Ross Schwalm
Signals Officer (Webmaster) - Michael Beard
Camp Guard - Steven Sobrilsky
Camp Guide - Robert Roser
Monuments/Markers Registration Officer -
Bob Heath
Graves Registration Officer - Bob Heath
Historian - Brian Withrow
Camp Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator -
Andrew Johnson
Camp Speaker Bureau Coordinator - Michael
Virts
Camp Council: Jay Rarick
James Standard
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.*



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