

A History of the Irish Brigade Camp #4, Department of the Chesapeake, SUVCW

2000 - 2017



Like its namesake, the Irish Brigade Camp has a proud history, created by dedicated men who wanted to make a difference. This Camp leads from the front and its officer's lead by example. The Camp can always be counted on to give its best and never quit. This history is dedicated to all Brothers, past and present, of the Irish Brigade Camp.

"Faugh a Ballaugh"

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Part 1 (2000 thru 2012)

Charter

Irish Brigade Camp #4, with rank from August 21, 1999, was chartered on August 12, 2000. The Camp was authorized to conduct business beginning January 20, 2001.

Charter Members:

Brother Martin W. Lester - Commander
Brother Peter M. Wilson - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Richard Jackson - Secretary
Brother William J. McCarthy - Treasurer
Brother Peter L. Johnson - Member
Brother William E. Russell - Member

The Camp had seven members.

2001

Officers:

Brother Martin W. Lester - Commander
Brother Peter M. Wilson - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Richard Jackson - Secretary
Brother William J. Mccarthy - Treasurer

The first formal year for the Irish Brigade Camp #4 was used to refine the administrative infrastructure and learn about the backgrounds of the members and their Union Army ancestors. It was a modest approach to better understand our heritage which set the example for the coming years.

The Camp participated in the Luminaria Ceremony at the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg, VA during the Memorial Day observance, and the Sergeant Kirkland Memorial Ceremony in December commemorating the First Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862.

Members of the Camp also participated in the First Manassas Reenactment and Remembrance Day ceremonies at Gettysburg, PA.

Additionally the Camp appointed a member to the Federal Hill Board which was seeking support for proper restoration of the Civil War era home in Fredericksburg.

The Camp had ten members.

2002

Officers:

Brother Martin W. Lester - Commander
Brother Peter M. Wilson - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Michael A. Paquette – Junior Vice Commander
Brother Richard Jackson – Secretary
Brother Richard J. McCarthy – Treasurer
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Chaplain

The Irish Brigade Camp #4 participated in the Luminaria Ceremony at the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg during the Memorial Day observance, and the Sergeant Kirkland Memorial Ceremony in December commemorating the First Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862.

In addition, members of the Camp participated in the 140th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam and Remembrance Day ceremonies at Gettysburg. They also took a field trip to the Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Pamplin Park, VA.

Camp members participated in a book reading program on topical subjects related to the Civil War which were discussed at the meetings.

The Camp Commander wrote a letter expressing opposition to the commercial development of lands surrounding the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

The Camp had 13 members.

2003

Officers:

Brother Martin W. Lester - Commander
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Robert H. Roser, Jr. - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Richard Jackson - Secretary
Brother William J. McCarthy - Treasurer
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Chaplain

The Irish Brigade Camp #4 participated in the Luminaria Ceremony at the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg during the Memorial Day observance.

Commander Lester resigned his position because he was moving to Florida. The Past Camp Commander's Badge was presented to him. Brother Paquette assumed commander responsibilities.

Camp members attended the Lincoln statue dedication in Richmond, VA and Remembrance Day ceremonies at Gettysburg. They also took a field trip to the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

The Camp participated in the Sergeant Kirkland Memorial Ceremony in December commemorating the First Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862 and a ceremony at the Irish Brigade Memorial at the City Dock Park in Fredericksburg honoring the 4th Michigan.

The Camp had 10 members.

2004

Officers:

Brother Michael A. Paquette – Commander
Brother Robert H. Roser, Jr. - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Robert E. Heath – Junior Vice Commander
Brother William J. McCarthy - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain

The Irish Brigade Camp #4 participated in the Luminaria Ceremony at the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg during the Memorial Day observance, and the Sergeant Kirkland Memorial Ceremony in December commemorating the First Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862.

Camp members also attended the 140th Anniversary of the Battle of Spotsylvania and Remembrance Day in Gettysburg.

The Camp had 11 members.

2005

Officers:

Brother Michael A. Paquette - Commander
Brother Robert H. Roser Jr. - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Robert E. Heath – Junior Vice commander
Brother William J. McCarthy - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths – Chaplain
Brother William E. Russell Jr. – Graves Registration Officer

The Irish Brigade Camp #4 participated in the Luminaria Ceremony at the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg during the Memorial Day observance, and the Sergeant Kirkland Memorial Ceremony in December commemorating the First Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862.

Camp members attended Remembrance Day in Gettysburg. They also took field trips to the Grand Army of the Republic Museum in Philadelphia, PA and to the Jackson Shrine at Guinea Station, VA.

The Camp had 13 members.

2006

Officers:

Brother Michael A. Paquette - Commander
Brother Robert H. Roser, Jr. - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Robert E. Heath - Junior Vice Commander
Brother William J. McCarthy - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother William E. Russell Jr. – Graves Registration Officer
Brother Joseph R. Lyon Jr. - Patriotic Instructor
Brother Daniel L. Whetstone – Historian
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer

The Irish Brigade Camp #4 supported the Cultural Society of Maryland in an effort to raise funds for the establishment of a perpetual endowment to provide maintenance for the Irish Brigade statue at Gettysburg. It also supported the Department's request for funds to support the acquisition of the A. P. Davis patent papers.

The Camp participated in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC.

Camp members took a field trip to Cedar Creek National Military Park, VA.

The Camp provided support to the 119th Annual Encampment of the Department of Maryland held in Fredericksburg.

The Camp had 15 members.

2007

Officers:

Brother Michael A. Paquette - Commander
Brother Robert H. Roser, Jr. - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Robert E. Heath - Junior Vice Commander
Brother William J. McCarthy - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Joseph R. Lyon Jr. - Patriotic Instructor
Brother Daniel L. Whetstone – Historian
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer

The Irish Brigade Camp #4 participated in the Department Encampment in Leesburg, VA.

The Camp supported Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park Service in the Luminaria over Memorial Day weekend.

The Camp observed Decoration Day at Fredericksburg National Cemetery and then met for dinner at the Blarney Stone restaurant in downtown Fredericksburg.

Camp member's set-up and manned a recruiting tent during the Cedar Creek Re-enactment in Middletown, VA.

Camp members attended Remembrance Day in Gettysburg.

The Camp also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Irish Brigade Memorial in City Dock Park, Fredericksburg.

The Camp had 15 members.

2008

Officers:

Brother Michael A. Paquette - Commander
Brother Robert H. Roser, Jr. - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Robert E. Heath - Junior Vice Commander
Brother William J. McCarthy - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Joseph R. Lyon Jr. - Patriotic Instructor
Brother Daniel L. Whetstone - Historian
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer

The Irish Brigade Camp #4 ordered its first set of 100 Irish Brigade Challenge coins. The Council of Administration approved the coin.

The Camp provided a tour for the Crowther Foundation of the Chancellorsville Battlefield on the 145th anniversary of the battle. Senior Vice Commander Bob Roser (also a volunteer with the NPS) was the tour guide. The camp also provided a special graveside ceremony after the tour in the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg for Col. Crowther who was commanding officer of the 110th PA and was KIA during the battle of Chancellorsville. Col Crowther is the senior civil war service member buried in the National Cemetery.

Note: Brother Bob Hileman from Pennsylvania, a member of the Irish Brigade Camp, went on to form and command the Colonel Crowther Camp #89 in the Department of Pennsylvania.

The Camp supported Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park Service in the Luminaria over Memorial Day weekend.

The Camp participated in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC.

Camp members attended Remembrance Day in Gettysburg.

Camp members also attended a field trip to the Congressional cemetery in Washington, DC. The tour was provided by PDS Steve Hammond who is a docent at the cemetery.

The Camp participated in a SUVCW recruiting effort conducted on behalf of the National Organization at the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Brothers participating were from the Departments of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Camp member's set-up and manned a recruiting tent during the Cedar Creek Re-enactment in Middletown, VA.

The Camp also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Irish Brigade Memorial and the presentation of a plaque to Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park Service Historian Frank O'Reilly.

The Camp had 21 members.

2009

Officers:

Brother Robert H. Roser, Jr. - Commander
Brother Robert E. Heath - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Gregory C. Martin - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Joseph R. Lyon Jr. - Patriotic Instructor
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer

The Camp participated in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC.

Irish Brigade Camp #4 members set-up and manned an information tent during the Gettysburg Anniversary events and at Hartwood Days in Fredericksburg.

Brother Robert Heath participated in the filming of the historic Civil War events that took place at Bristol Station, Prince William County, VA.

The Camp participated in the first City of Manassas Veterans Day parade.

The Camp also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Irish Brigade Memorial in City Dock Park, Fredericksburg.

The Camp had 21 members.

2010

Officers:

Brother Robert H. Roser, Jr. - Commander
Brother Robert E. Heath - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Christopher S. Dort - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Joseph R. Lyon Jr. - Patriotic Instructor
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Virts - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Beard - Council Member

Irish Brigade Camp #4 hosted its first Lincoln Dinner at the historic Kenmore Inn in Fredericksburg.

Camp members joined with the Sergeant James Harris Camp to represent the SUVCW at the Andrews Air Force Base Air Show over Memorial Day weekend. Camp members participated in the Washington DC National Memorial Day Parade.

The Camp also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Irish Brigade Memorial in City Dock Park, Fredericksburg.

The Camp had 22 members.

2011

Officers:

Brother Robert E. Heath – Commander
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Jay A. Rarick - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Joseph R. Lyon Jr. - Patriotic Instructor
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer
Brother Robert H. Roser, Jr - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Virts - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Beard - Council Member

Irish Brigade Camp #4 hosted its second Lincoln Dinner at the historic Kenmore Inn in Fredericksburg.

Camp members joined with the Sergeant James Harris Camp to represent the SUVCW at the Andrews Air Force Base Air Show over Memorial Day weekend.

The Camp joined the Brady Camp for a tour of the prison on Belle Island, Richmond, VA.

The Camp supported Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park Service in the Luminaria over Memorial Day weekend by manning a tour station.

The Camp provided color guards for the installation of a historical marker, Civil War Trails marker and grave side service in memory of the Loudon Rangers in Waterford, VA.

The Camp also provided color guards for the Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery and participated in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC.

The Camp held a ritual dinner meeting on Decoration Day.

Camp members toured Ford's Theater.

The Camp participated in the 100th Manassas Peace Jubilee, the 150th First Manassas NPS Service and a joint wreath laying with the Crowther Camp at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery.

Camp members supported events during Yankees in Falmouth and White Oak Museum weekend in VA.

A Camp member addressed the DUVCW DC Department at their annual Convention.

Camp members toured the Stafford County Civil War Park which was under construction.

The Camp supported the 150th Sesquicentennial event at Balls Bluff Battlefield in Leesburg, VA.

A Camp member hosted a staff ride at Antietam Battlefield, Sharpsburg, MD.

Camp members participated in the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade and events.

The Camp also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Irish Brigade Memorial in City Dock Park, Fredericksburg.

The Camp had 25 members.

2012

Officers:

Brother Robert E. Heath - Commander

Brother Michael A. Paquette - Senior Vice Commander

Brother Jay A. Rarick - Junior Vice Commander

Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer

Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Joseph R. Lyon Jr. - Patriotic Instructor
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer
Brother Robert H. Roser, Jr - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Virts - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Beard - Council Member

Irish Brigade Camp #4 hosted its third Lincoln Dinner at Brock's Restaurant in Fredericksburg.

The Camp donated \$250.00 to the Battle of Fredericksburg Commemoration Committee and \$500 to the Stafford Civil War Park.

Camp members participated in the First Battle of Kernstown sesquicentennial events. A member of the Camp gave a walking tour of the Battlefield's Prichard Farm area.

The Camp provided color guards for the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC. Members also participated in a tour of the Lincoln Cottage.

The Camp joined the Crowther Camp in the annual COL Crowther wreath laying ceremony at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery.

Camp members toured White Oak Civil War Museum with members of the local Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp.

Camp members supported events during Yankees in Falmouth weekend.

The Camp co-sponsored and participated in the Belle Isle plaque dedication in Richmond, VA.

Camp members attended 150th Anniversary events at Antietam, Harpers Ferry and McClellan's Pry House.

The Camp provided color guards for the Manassas Veterans Day Parade.

The Camp participated in the annual wreath laying at the Irish Brigade Memorial in City Dock Park as part of the First Battle of Fredericksburg 150th Anniversary events.

The Camp had 30 members.

PART 2 (2013 thru 2018)

Brother Brian Withrow assumed Camp Historian duties in 2014. Beginning with 2013, Brother Withrow has published annually the “Pass and Review”. This Camp publication is a yearend review of the events and achievements of the Irish Brigade Camp #4.

See annual Pass and Review on the web.

2013

Officers:

Brother D. Michael Virts - Commander
Brother Jay A. Rarick - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Eric J. Sprengle - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Joseph R. Lyon Jr. - Patriotic Instructor
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer
Brother Robert E. Heath - Council Member
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Beard - Council Member

The Camp had 31 members.

2014

Officers:

Brother Jay A. Rarick - Commander
Brother Eric J. Sprengle - Senior Vice Commander
Brother James Standard - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Robert E. Heath - Patriotic Instructor
Brother Brian Withrow – Historian
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer
Brother Robert E. Heath - Council Member
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Beard - Council Member

The Camp had 31 members.

2015

Officers:

Brother Jay A. Rarick - Commander
Brother James Standard - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Roger L. Leturno - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Robert E. Heath - Patriotic Instructor
Brother Brian Withrow – Historian
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer
Brother Richard Ehrle - Graves Registration & Civil War Memorials Officer
Brother Robert E. Heath - Council Member
Brother Michael A. Paquette - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Beard - Council Member

The Camp had 32 members.

2016

Officers:

Brother James Standard - Commander
Brother Roger L. Leturno - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Andrew Johnson - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Robert E. Heath - Patriotic Instructor
Brother Brian Withrow – Historian
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer
Brother Richard Ehrle - Graves Registration & Civil War Memorials Officer
Brother Jay A. Rarick - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Virts - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Beard - Council Member

The Camp had 34 members.

2017

Officers:

Brother Roger L. Leturno - Commander
Brother Andrew Johnson - Senior Vice Commander
Brother Timothy Willging- Junior Vice Commander
Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain

Brother Ross Schwalm - Patriotic Instructor
Brother Brian Withrow – Historian
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer
Brother Robert E. Heath - Graves Registration & Civil War Memorials Officer
Brother Jay A. Rarick - Council Member
Brother James Standard - Council Member
Brother D. Michael Beard - Council Member

The Camp had 38 members.

2018

Officers:

Brother Andrew Johnson - Commander
Brother Timothy Willging- Senior Vice Commander
Brother Steven Sobrilsky - Junior Vice Commander
Brother Thomas L. Dempsey - Secretary-Treasurer
Brother John G. Griffiths - Chaplain
Brother Ross Schwalm - Patriotic Instructor
Brother Brian Withrow – Historian
Brother D. Michael Beard – Signals Officer
Brother Jay A. Rarick - Council Member
Brother James Standard - Council Member
Brother Roger L. Leturno - Council Member

The future has yet to be written.

Appendix A

Special Recognition

The following Irish Brigade Camp #4 members were recognized by their peers and leaders and placed in positions of great responsibility. Their extraordinary efforts and accomplishments reflect favorably upon themselves and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Brother D. Michael Beard

Dept. of the Southwest	Secretary/Treasurer	1995 - 2001
	Commander	2004 - 2005
National:	Chair, Sesquicentennial Committee	2014 - 2016
	Assistant National Treasurer	2016 – Present
Virginia Sesquicentennial Committee	Committee Member	2010 - 2015

Brother Michael A. Paquette

Dept. of Maryland:	Patriotic Instructor	2006 - 2007
	Junior Vice Commander	2007 - 2008
	Senior Vice Commander	2008 – 2009
	Commander	2009 – 2010
	Secretary-Treasurer	2013 - 2015
	Council Member	2010 – 2013, 2015 - 2016

Two time Department Host Committee Chairman for the National Encampments held in Reston, VA in 2011 and Richmond, VA in 2015.

National:	Chief of Staff for CinC Mortorff	2015 - 2016
	Council of Administration	2016 - Present

SVR:	Chief of Staff, 2 nd Military District	2010 - 2016
	Commander, Company B, Potomac Guard, Washington D.C.	2016 - Present

Other: Charter Member, Col. James Crowther Camp #89

Awards: National Meritorious Service Award (SUVCW - Gold star)
Department of Maryland SUVCW, Richard C. Schlenker Award of Merit (2012)
Department of the Chesapeake Andrew Johnson Service Medal for Service to the Department (x3)

Brother Jay A. Rarick

Dept. of the Chesapeake: Patriotic Instructor 2017 – Present

Brother D. Michael Virts

Dept. of the Chesapeake: Aide-de-Camp for Cdr Hawley 2016 – 2017

National: Aide-de-Camp for CinC Pahl 2007 - 2008

Committee on Fraternal Relations 2008 - 2009

Two time Department Host Committee member for the National Encampments held in Reston, VA in 2011 and Richmond, VA in 2015.

Brother Thomas L. Dempsey was elected Irish Brigade Camp #4 Secretary-Treasurer in 2009. As a result of the faithful and professional execution of his duties, the Camp is consistently recognized by the Department of the Chesapeake for on-time submissions of all reports.

Irish Brigade Camp #4 has received Department Honor Roll Certificates for years 2005, 2006, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.