



*Department of New Jersey
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War
General
George Armstrong
Custer
Camp #17 News*

Volume 1

Issue 2

April 2009

Commander's Corner

In This Issue;

Commander's Corner

Recent Events

Upcoming Events

History Center (Expanded)

Our Ancestors

Camp Officers

DVDs

Please send your information,
materials and photos to;

Brother Mike Truex
Senior Vice Commander
General George Armstrong Custer
Camp #17 at;
MRTRUEX@ATT.NET

Or Brother Bob Goodyear
Webmaster / Newsletter Editor
General George Armstrong Custer
Camp #17 at;
webmaster@georgecuster.org

Custer Camp #17 Website;
<http://georgecuster.org>

"Civil War Letters"

Homesickness was a common ailment for blue and gray soldiers throughout the war, and the only direct contact with home available to most men was through letter writing.

Because of limited educational standards, letters usually contained crude handwriting and phonetic spelling. An Illinois drummer boy wrote his sister, "I rote you a letter the other day in answer to the one that Ulysses copyed for you, but last Sunday evening I recieved an other from you in your own hand writing which was best of all. I could read every word except one. If you will keep trying you will get so as to wright first rate. You must learn to spell to."

Each day, 90,000 letters passed through Washington, with twice that number going through Louisville, Ky. for the Union. Many varieties of stationery were marketed to the Union and Confederate soldiers; most were decorated with eagles, flags, or other patriotic symbols....

*Commander Jack W. Ensel
Custer Camp #17
S.U.V.C.W.*

Recent Events

AOH Irish Festival

September, 2008, Sea Girt, New Jersey



Brothers Mike Todd, Dan Lynch, Jack Ensel and Jay Godin in uniform, and Brother Neal Moran in civilian attire.

Joe Bilby,

Guest Speaker at
March 7th Meeting

"The History of Sea Girt Camp"



Joseph Bilby received his BA and MA degrees in history from Seton Hall University. He served as a lieutenant in the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1966-67. He is retired from his job as Supervisor of Investigations for the NJ Department of Labor and is currently Assistant Curator of the National Guard Militia Museum of NJ in Sea Girt. He is a columnist for "Civil War News" and author of over 350 columns and articles and ten books on military and New Jersey history and outdoor subjects and has been a speaker on those subjects in a number of different venues. Mr. Bilby's most recent books are "Small Arms at Gettysburg" and "Sea Girt: A Brief History." His "Asbury Park: A Brief History" will be published in the spring of 2009.

Governor Corzine Files Direct Appointments

NEW JERSEY ABRAHAM LINCOLN
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

William Gillette, Ph.D. (East Brunswick, Middlesex)

Clement A. Price, Ph.D. (Newark, Essex)

Linda Caldwell Epps (Newark, Essex)

Michael P. Riccards, Ph.D. (Hamilton, Mercer)

Joseph Garrera (Newton, Sussex)

David G. Martin, Ph.D. (East Windsor, Mercer)

Joyce Powell (Penns Grove, Salem)

John L. Pesda, Ph.D. (Berlin, Camden)

Honorable Christopher J. Brown (Marlton, Burlington)

Peter J. Lillo (Whitehouse Station, Hunterdon)

Claribel Young, Ph.D. (Toms River, Ocean)

Frank M. McGonigle (South Plainfield, Middlesex)

John Marchetti (Hamilton, Mercer)

Senator Bernard Kenny (Hoboken, Hudson)

Peter J. Mazzei (Jersey City, Hudson)

Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll (Morris Plains, Morris)

Frank McGonigle

125 Maple Place

South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Cell Phone: 732-221-7211

Telephone: 908-561-0669

Upcoming Events

Special Events

Living History

*South Plainfield, NJ
Saturday, May 16, 2009
10 AM to 4 PM*

Memorial Day Ceremonies

*Monday, May 25, 2009, 9 AM
Chestnut Hill Cemetery
Historic Old Bridge section of East Brunswick*

Woodbridge Civil War Weekend

*August 8th and 9th, 2009
Parker Press Park
Rahway Avenue (Route 514)
Just off Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ
Camps are open to the public
10 am to 4 pm
on both Saturday and Sunday
Special Saturday Night
Candle Light Tour of the soldiers camps
8:30 pm to 10:00 pm*

Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Irish Festival

One of Custer Camp #17's Major Events.

*Sept. 19, 2009
Sea Girt, NJ.*

*Set along the dunes in Sea Girt, NJ,
the Irish Festival at the Jersey Shore features
some of the region's best Irish Bands,
Step Dancers, Irish cultural exhibits,
traditional food, and fine products.
Bring the family for this exciting day of fun
in the sun at the Jersey Shore.*

Meetings

Sunday, April 26, 2009

*12:00 noon at
American Legion Post 248,
South Plainfield, NJ.*

Saturday, June 6, 2009

*12:00 noon at
American Legion Post 248,
South Plainfield, NJ.*

Saturday, Sept 26, 2009

*12:00 noon at
National Guard Militia Museum,
Sea Girt, NJ.*

Sunday, November 1, 2009

*12:00 noon at
American Legion Post 248,
South Plainfield, NJ.*

*Guest Speaker; Jay Jorgensen
"The 137th NY at Gettysburg"*

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009

*12:00 noon at
National Guard Militia Museum,
Sea Girt, NJ.*

History Center

1st New Jersey Cavalry Regt.

(Adopted by Custer Camp #17)

Organized at Trenton, N. J, under authority of the War Department August 14, 1861, as Halsted's Cavalry. Left State for Washington, D.C.; four Companies August 24 and six Companies August 31, 1861. Attached to Heintzelman's Division, Army of the Potomac, to March, 1862. Wadsworth's Command, Military District of Washington, to May, 1862. Bayard's Cavalry Brigade, Dept. of the Rappahannock, to June, 1862. Bayard's Cavalry Brigade, 3rd Corps, Pope's Army of Virginia, to September, 1862. Bayard's Cavalry Brigade, Army of the Potomac, to October, 1862. 1st Brigade, Cavalry Division. Army of the Potomac, to February, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac, to June, 1863. 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, Cavalry Corps, to May, 1865. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Cavalry Corps, Dept. of Washington, to July, 1865.

SERVICE 1861 – 1862

Duty in the Defences of Washington, D. C., till May, 1862.

Reconnaissance to Pohick Church, Va... December 18, 1861 (1 Co.). Lee's House. Occoquan Bridge, January 29, 1862 (Detachment).

Transferred to State of New Jersey and designated 1st Cavalry February 19, 1862.

Rappahannock River May 13. Staunton and Strasburg Road June 1-2. Woodstock June 2. Harrisonburg June 6. Battle of Cross Keys June 8. Reconnaissance to James City July 22-24. Operations about Orange Court House July 29. Barnett's Ford August 1. Slaughter House August 8. Battle of Cedar Mountain August 9. Pope's Campaign in Northern Virginia August 16-September 2. Rappahannock Station August 19. Brandy Station, Stevensburg and Raccoon Ford August 20.

Fords of the Rappahannock. August 21-23. Warrenton August 26. Faquier White Sulphur Springs August 27. Thoroughfare Gap August 28. Bull Run August 30. Germantown and Centreville August 31. Chantilly August 31. In Defences of Washington September. Reconnaissance from Upton's Hill to Leesburg September 16-18 (2 Cos.). Expedition from Centreville to Warrenton September 29 (Detachment). Expedition to Thoroughfare Gap October 17-18. Near Upperville October 29 (Detachment). Aldie and Mountsville October 31. Salem, New Baltimore and Thoroughfare Gap November 4. Rappahannock Station November 7, 8 and 9. Snicker's Ferry, Berryville, November 30. Near Dumfries December 11, Battle of Fredericksburg December 12-15, Near Chantilly December 29.

1863

Near Fairfax Court House and Middleburg January 26. Chancellorsville Campaign April 27-May 6. Stoneman's Raid April 29- May 8. Brandy Station and Beverly Ford June 9. Aldie June 17. Middleburg June 19. Upperville June 21. Dover June 22. Battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July 1-3. Emmettsburg, Md., July 4. Old Antietam Forge, near Leitersburg, July 10. Reconnaissance to Ashby's Gap July 11-14. Ashby's Gap July 12. Near Harper's Ferry July 14. Shephardstown July 14-16. Scout to Goose Creek July 25-27. Rixeyville Ford August 5. Advance from the Rappahannock to the Rapidan September 13-17. Culpeper Court House September 13. Bristoe Campaign October 8-22. Skirmishes at James City October 8-10. Near Warrenton October 11. Warrenton or White Sulphur Springs October 12-13. Brentsville October 14. Auburn and Bristoe October 14. Advance to line of the Rappahannock November 7-8. Near Warrenton November 11. Mine Run Campaign November 26 - December 2. New Hope Church November 27. Parker's Store November 29.

1864

Reconnaissance from Bealeton and Front Royal January 1-4, 1864. Scout from Warrenton to Piedmont February 17-18. Near Piedmont February 18 (Detachment). Custer's Raid into Albemarle County February 28-March 1. Near Charlottesville February 29. Stannardsville March 1. Campaign from the Rapidan to the James May 3 - June 15. Todd's Tavern May 5-6. Wilderness May 6-7. Todd's Tavern May 7-8. Corbin's Bridge May 8. Sheridan's Raid May 9-24. Davenport and Childsburg May 9.

North Anna River May 9-10. Ground Squirrel Church and Yellow Tavern May 11. Ashland May 11. Brooks' Church or fortifications of Richmond May 12. Line of the Pamunkey May 26-28. Hawes' Shop May 28. Totopotomoy May 28-31. Cold Harbor May 31-June 1. Sumner's Upper Bridge, Sheridan's Trevillian Raid, June 7-24. Trevillian Station June 11-12. Newark or Mallory's Cross Roads June 12. Black Creek or Tunstall Station June 21. White House of St. Peter's Church June 21. St. Mary's Church June 24. Near Petersburg June 29-July 12. Lee's Mills, Warwick Swamp, July 12. Demonstration north of the James July 27-29. Deep Bottom July 27-28. Malvern Hill July 28. Ream's Station August 8. Demonstration north of the James August 13-20. Strawberry Plains August 14-18, Gravel Hill August 14. Weldon Railroad August 18-21. Dinwiddie Road, near Ream's Station, August 23. Ream's Station August 25.

Old members mustered out at Trenton, N.J., September 16, 1864. Belcher's Mills September 17.

Poplar Springs Church September 29 - October 2. Arthur's Swamp September 30 - October 1. Vaughan Road October 1. Boydton Plank Road or Hatcher's Run October 27-28.

Reconnaissance to Stony Creek November 7. Warren's Raid on Weldon Railroad December 7-12. Bellefield Station December 9-10.

1865

Dabney's Mills, Hatcher's Run, February 5-7, 1865. Appomattox Campaign March 28 - April 9. Dinwiddie Court House March 30-31. Five Forks April 1. Payne's Cross Roads and Amelia Springs April 5. Sailor's Creek April 6. Farmville April 7. Appomattox Court House April 9. Surrender of Lee and his army. Expedition from Burkesville to Danville and South Boston April 23-27.

Moved to Washington, D.C., May 2-12. Grand Review May 23.

Company "F" mustered out at Washington, May 25, 1865.

Regt. mustered out at Cloud's Hills, Va., July 24, 1865.

Regiment lost during service; 12 Officers and 116 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded, and 4 Officers and 185 Enlisted men by disease. Total 317.



Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients in the 1st NJ Cavalry



CLANCY, JAMES T.

Sergeant, Company C, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Vaughn Road, Va., 1 October 1864. Birth: Albany, N.Y. Date of Issue: 3 July 1865.

Citation: Shot the Confederate Gen. Dunovant dead during a charge, thus confusing the enemy and greatly aiding in his repulse.

HOOPER, WILLIAM B.

Corporal, Company L, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Chamberlains Creek, Va., 31 March 1865. Birth: Willimantic, Conn. Date of Issue: 3 July 1865.

Citation: With the assistance of a comrade, headed off the advance of the enemy, shooting two of his color bearers; also posted himself between the enemy and the led horses of his own command, thus saving the herd from capture.

LOCKE, LEWIS

Private, Company A, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Paines Crossroads, Va., 5 April 1865. Entered Service At: Jersey City, N.J. Birth: Clintonville, N.Y. Date of Issue: 3 May 1865.

Citation: Capture of a Confederate flag.

PORTER, WILLIAM

Sergeant, Company H, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Sailors Creek, Va., 6 April 1865. Birth: New York, N.Y. Date Of Issue: 3 July 1865.

Citation: Among the first to check the enemy's countercharge.

SAGELHURST, JOHN C.

Sergeant, Company B, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Hatchers Run, Va., 6 February 1865. Entered Service At: Buffalo, N.Y. Birth: Buffalo, N.Y. Date Of Issue: 3 January 1906.

Citation: Under a heavy fire from the enemy carried off the field a commissioned officer who was severely wounded and also led a charge on the enemy's rifle pits.

SOUTHARD, DAVID

Sergeant, Company C, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Sailors Creek, Va., 6 April 1865. Birth: Ocean County, N.J. Date Of Issue: 3 July 1865.

Citation: Capture of flag; and was the first man over the works in the charge.

STEWART, GEORGE W.

First Sergeant, Company E, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Paines Crossroads, Va., 5 April 1865. Birth: Salem, N.J. Date Of Issue: 3 May 1865.

Citation: Capture of flag

STREILE, CHRISTIAN

Private, Company I, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Paines Crossroads, Va., 5 April 1865. Entered Service At: Jersey City, N.J. Birth: Germany. Date Of Issue: 3 May 1865.

Citation: Capture of flag.

TITUS, CHARLES

Sergeant, Company H, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Sailors Creek, Va., 6 April 1865. Entered Service At: New Brunswick, N.J. Birth: Millstone, N.J. Date Of Issue: 3 July 1865.

Citation: Was among the first to check the enemy's countercharge.

TOMPKINS, AARON B.

Sergeant, Company G, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Sailors Creek, Va., 5 April 1865. Birth: Orange, Essex County, N.J. Date Of Issue: 3 July 1865.

Citation: Charged into the enemy's ranks and captured a battle flag, having a horse shot under him and his cheeks and shoulders cut with a saber.

WILSON, CHARLES E.

Sergeant, Company A, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Sailors Creek, Va., 6 April 1865. Birth: Bucks County, Pa. Date Of Issue: 3 July 1865.

Citation: Charged the enemy's works, colors in hand, and had 2 horses shot from under him.

WILSON, JOHN

Sergeant, Company L, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Place and Date: At Chamberlains Creek, Va., 31 March 1865. Entered Service At: Jersey City, N.J. Birth: England. Date Of Issue: 3 July 1865.

Citation: With the assistance of one comrade, headed off the advance of the enemy, shooting 2 of their color bearers; also posted himself between the enemy and the lead horses of his own command, thus saving the herd from capture.

From Brother George J. Hill

Thu, 12 Feb 2009

“By coincidence, this morning I was reading the latest magazine from the SUVCW and saw the article on “I remember the GAR.” It mentions the election of a C-in-C at the National meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1931. My grandfather attended that meeting, representing his uncle, Pvt. Edward Bowen Thompson, who died in 1922. (Pvt. Edward Bowen Thompson is my gateway relative for the SUVCW.) My mother gave me the badge of the GAR that attendees received in 1931, which she received from her father, and I have it in my prized possessions. I believe it is the one that is in the photograph. I once wore it to a Camp meeting. What a small world it is!”



*The full story of Brother Hill's ancestor,
Pvt. Edward Bowen Thompson,
will appear in a future issue.*

This Period in Civil War History

Fort Macon

Location: Carteret County

Campaign: Burnside's North Carolina Expedition (January-July 1862)

Date(s): March 23-April 26, 1862

Principal Commanders: Brig. Gen. John G. Parke [US]; Lt. Col. Moses J. White [CS]

Forces Engaged: Parke's Division of Department of North Carolina, 3rd Division [US]; Fort Macon Garrison [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 490 total (US 10; CS 480)

Description: In late March, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's army advanced on Fort Macon, a third system casemated masonry fort that commanded the channel to Beaufort, 35 miles southeast of New Berne. The Union force invested the fort with siege works and, on April 26, opened an accurate fire on the fort, which soon breached the masonry walls. Within a few hours the fort's scarp began to collapse, and the Confederates hoisted a white flag. This action demonstrated the inadequacy of masonry forts against large-bore, rifled artillery.

Result(s): Union victory

Ancestor's Stories Needed

Camp members are encouraged to write a summary of their Ancestors' life and military service for inclusion in future Newsletters. It should contain about 700 words, and if possible an image of the ancestor or one of his enlistment or discharge documents.

*Please send your Ancestor's story to
Brother Bob Goodyear at;*

bob@goodyear-mascaro.org

Our Ancestors

Ernest Mintel

By Brother Jay J. Godin

Ernest Mintel, my GGG Grandfather, was born in Hanover, Germany in 1841. Ernest came to the United States of America when he was only 13 in 1854. Ernest trained as, and worked as a carriage trimmer for the M. Quinby Co. in Rahway, NJ , where he lived when he moved from Germany. Rahway NJ was the carriage manufacturing capitol of the world at the time. Ernest married Sara Leonard on July 21st 1862 in St. Mary's Church, Rahway NJ, by Father Quinn, the founding Pastor, only a few years after the church itself was founded. In 2002, I had my wedding held at St. Mary's Church, 140 years after my GGG Grandparents had there wedding, They were the first, and I suspect I will be the last in my family to be wed there. Unfortunately they are talking about closing the churches doors forever....

Ernest, at the age of 22 in 1864, and married with his first son Charles Mintel, my GG Grandfather, joined the United States Army to do his service as so many New Jerseymen did. Actually, New Jersey had so many recruits that they were overburdened and had to send some men to other states to fill there ranks. Ernest however was chosen to be part of the New Jersey 4th Battery D Light Artillery, 10th United States Army Corps, most likely do to his experience and profession as a carriage trimmer. Ernest was mustered into service on August 26th 1864 as a private.

Ernest was involved in several engagements during his service, before Petersburg. September 16th 1864, Varina Road, VA. September 29th 1864, Chapins Farm, VA. September 30th 1864, and Chapins Farm once again October 5th 1864. Then it was on to New York City in anticipation of riots during the presidential election of 1864, November 4th to the 21st. They bunkered down for winter as most did during the Civil War, then were part of the capture of Richmond, VA, April 3rd 1865.

Ernest was mustered out of service and honorably discharged at Richmond, VA, June 17th 1865, by Jeremiah Remington of the 89th NY Vol. Infantry. He returned home to his beloved wife Sara Leonard Mintel an immigrant herself coming over from Cork County, Ireland in 1852 at the age of 10 years. His young son, now a year old, Charles Mintel, was named for his Grandfather.

Ernest and Sara had 5 more children; a total of 5 boys and 1 girl. They lived in Rahway together, happy for many years. in 1891 Ernest joined the Grand Army of the Republic, Barry Post of Rahway.

He was a member until Sara's death in 1903. Ernest remained in Rahway until 1912, when his address changed to an address in Jersey City. He remained at this address for about one year before moving back to Rahway in 1913. I believe this could have possibly been a Veterans home.

Ernest passed on March 27th 1917, in Rahway, at home at the age of 76 years. He was buried in Rosedale Cemetery in Linden, New Jersey.

His original G.A.R. marker is still with his grave. Unfortunately this is the only marker, and many veterans of today do not know what the G.A.R. marker is for. Every year I make sure to place a flag for him so that he is honored during Memorial Day by all those who may pass by. The Rosedale Cemetery was also surprised to find out they had a Civil War Veteran buried there. The oldest other veteran is a Spanish American War Veteran.

In 2007, 166 years after his birth in Germany, 142 years after his honorable discharge at Richmond, VA, and 90 years after his death, Ernest Mintel was awarded the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal for his meritorious service in ground operations during the Civil War in the American theater of operations. Along with this award he also received the New Jersey Civil War Veterans Campaign Medal in 1914, and the Federal Civil War Campaign Medal, date unknown..

Engagements fought in:

- a, Before Petersburg, VA, Sept 16th 1864
- b. Varina Road, VA, Sept. 29th 1864
- c. Chapins Farm, VA, Sept. 30th 1864
- d. Chapins Farm, VA, Oct. 5th 1864
- e. Nov 4th - 21st New York City on riot duty during presidential elections
- f. Capture of Rebel Capitol Richmond. VA, April 3rd 1865



Ernest Mintel's Original Enlistment Papers

Camp Officers

<i>Camp Commander</i>	<i>Jack W. Ensel</i>
<i>Senior Vice Commander</i>	<i>Michael Truex</i>
<i>Junior Vice Commander</i>	<i>Michael Todd</i>
<i>Camp Secretary/Treasurer</i>	<i>Clark D. McCullough, PDC, PCC</i>
<i>Camp Historian</i>	<i>Frank McGonigle, PCC</i>
<i>Patriotic Instructor</i>	<i>Jay J. Godin</i>
<i>Asst. Camp Secretary</i>	<i>Daniel J. Lynch, Jr., PCC</i>
<i>Camp Quartermaster</i>	<i>Jack W. Ensel</i>
<i>Graves Registration Officer</i>	<i>Arthur Green</i>
<i>G.A.R. Officer</i>	<i>Jay J. Godin</i>
<i>Camp Guard</i>	<i>Robert C. Meyer</i>
<i>Camp Guide</i>	<i>Richard McCarthy</i>
<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>Frank McGonigle, PCC</i>
<i>Monuments and Memorials</i>	<i>Clark D. McCullough, PDC, PCC</i>
<i>Camp Counsel</i>	<i>Clark D. McCullough, PDC, PCC</i>
<i>Camp Counsel</i>	<i>Daniel J. Lynch, Jr., PCC</i>
<i>Camp Counsel</i>	<i>Frank McGonigle, PCC</i>

Fund Raiser Slideshow DVDs

New Jersey's Civil War Monuments



*Produced by
George Armstrong Custer
Camp #17
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

\$8.00

New Jersey's Civil War Monuments and Cannons



*Produced by
George Armstrong Custer
Camp #17
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

\$15.00

New Jersey's Civil War Cannons



*Produced by
George Armstrong Custer
Camp #17
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

\$8.00

*These DVDs are for sale
Right Now !!!
to S.U.V.C.W. Members
and other interested parties.*

*They will go on sale
to the general public at the
Living History Event
in South Plainfield
on May 16, 2009.*

*Contact;
Clark D. McCullough
ClarkCW@aol.com
or
Bob Goodyear
bob@goodyear-mascaro.org*