



Irish Brigade Camp No.4



2014 Pass and Review

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Department of the Chesapeake

2014

Nothing Taken for "Grant"ed!



Brother John Grant Gri ths (descendent of General Grant) shakes hands with Gen. Grant impressionists Curt Fields at McLean House in Appomattox National Historic Park, VA.

Irish Brigade Camp No.4 accomplished another event filled and memorable year in honor of the service and sacrifices made by our ancestors. The year was not only noteworthy for the usual annual remembrances, but also for the continuance of the Civil War sesquicentennial which this year commemorated the events of 1864. For us

Brother's here in the Northern Virginia region, commemorations of the arrival of Lieutenant General Grant and the subsequent Overland, Petersburg, and Shenandoah Campaigns was front and center.

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

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

- JANUARY

Stafford County 350th Anniversary Kick-Off - 4 January. This event held at Stafford Marketplace in Garrison-



Brother Withrow as General Grant with President Abraham Lincoln (Don Mullen) and General George Washington (Greg Fisher).

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



ville “kicked-off” a year of commemoration events for the 350th anniversary of the founding of Stafford County Virginia. Brother Withrow participated in the “celebrate history” presentations by portraying Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant along with fellow impressionists Don Mullen as President Abraham Lincoln and Greg Fisher as General George Washington.

- FEBRUARY

Lincoln Dinner, Fredericksburg VA - 8 February. Camp members gathered at the Fredericksburg Country Club for the annual dinner held in honor of the nation’s 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. The dinner hosted guest speaker



NPS Chief Historian John Hennessey speaks on Lincoln's visits to Stafford and Fredericksburg at Camps annual Lincoln Dinner. Inset - Commander Rarick presents Hennessey a Lincoln Movie book.

John Hennessey, National Park Service Chief Historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Mr. Hennessey presented on Lincoln's visits to Fredericksburg and Stafford County. The Camp presented Mr. Hennessey a book about the making of the movie Lincoln along with a Camp coin in appreciation for his presentation. Also of note, renowned Lincoln impressionist Don Mullen was in attendance. Overall, attendees enjoyed a fun filled evening of reverent consideration on the life and times of President Lincoln

and his travels to Stafford County and Fredericksburg.

Eagle Scout Honor Court - 9 February

An Eagle Scout Honor Court for Zachary Mumma, the son of Camp Brother Keith Mumma, was held at the Stafford Civil War Park where he performed his Eagle Scout project. The Eagle Scout Certificate of Achievement from the SUVCW was presented by our Camp Commander Jay Rarick.



Commander Rarick presents certificate to Eagle Scout Zachary Mumma.

New Facebook Page for Irish Brigade Camp

A Facebook page for the Camp was established by Brother Beard. The page can be reached on Facebook by searching for Irish Brigade Camp SUVCW.

- MARCH

Presentation to the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) - March



Members of the Elizabeth Van Lew Tent #1 (Detached) of the DUVCW.

Commander Rarick gave a presentation to the Elizabeth Van Lew Tent #1 (Detached) of the DUVCW about the Stafford Civil War Park. Among the 15-20 attendees was the National Senior Vice President of the DUVCW.

Medal of Honor Ceremony - 22 March. A Medal of Honor ceremony was held for two members of the 10th

Vermont
Volunteers
hosted by
the Antie-
tam Camp,
Depart-
ment of the



Brothers Rarick and Paquette join a group photo at the MOH ceremony.

Chesapeake, at the Araby United Methodist Church on the Monocacy National Battlefield. Brothers Paquette and Rarick attended the ceremony, along with Brothers from the Department and National.



MOH ceremony at Monocacy National Battlefi ld.

- APRIL

Culpeper Remembrance Days - 11 thru 13 April. The event commemorated the 150th anniversary of the presence of the Army of the Potomac encampment in the area as they prepared for the Overland Campaign. Our Camp along with DUVCW Elizabeth Van Lew Tent No. 1



Left to Right - Brothers Jim Standard, Mike Paquette, Brian Withrow, Jay Rarick, Mike Beard, and John Griffiths at Culpeper Remembrance Days.

(Detached) participated with a number of living historians who recreated Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant's 1864 Headquarters. Brother Brian Withrow portrayed Lt. Gen. Grant and Stafford Teacher Mr. Don Mullen portrayed President Lincoln. Brother Steward Henderson also participated in the event with the 23d United States Colored Troops (USCT) and Brother James Standard portrayed a cavalry courier. The Camp set up a promotional tent and recruiting table during the weekend manned by Brothers Beard, Paquette, Rarick, and Griffiths. Attendees were interested in talking with Brother Griffiths when they learned that he is a descendent of General Grant.



A tintype photo taken at the Culpeper event.

127th Department Encampment, Lynchburg Virginia - 25 thru 26 April - The Irish Brigade Camp was well represented at the Department Encampment by Brothers... Commander Rarick delivered a summarization of our annual report to the delegates detailing our very active year. Our Camp presented a \$50 donation to An Angel Supporting Your Troops, Inc.

• **MAY**

150th Wilderness/Spotsylvania Commemoration & Reenactment - 2 thru 4 May. Commander Rarick and Brothers Beard, Griffiths, Standard and Withrow were participants during the weekend. At the event Commander Rarick met former Brother Glen Davis who invited the Camp to have dinner at his restaurant at some future gathering. It was reported that two Camp coins were given to members of the DUVCW.

AFJROTC Medal Presentation - 10 May. Commander Jay Rarick presented Cadet Jeong "Angela" Lee with the SUVCW ROTC Award at Chantilly High School.



Brother Rarick presents medal to Cadet Lee.

Wilderness-Spotsylvania 150th Commemoration - 10 May. The National Park Service (NPS) conducted presentations to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Bat-

tle of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. Camp Commander Rarick attended one and Brothers John Griffiths and Mark McNierney attend two of the special tours. The first titled "Upton Earns his Star: Revolutionizing Warfare" was a walking tour on the site of Upton's Charge. Commander Rarick walked the path of his ancestor, Pvt. Daniel Riegle of Co. I of the 49th PVI, who was wounded in this attack 150 years to the hour of its occurrence. Afterwards he, and other descendants of the men of the 49th PVI,



Upton's Charge Marker.

laid flowers and paid respects at the Upton's Charge monument. The second titled, "A Nation Remembers: Spotsylvania" was a procession to the "Bloody Angle" where Brothers Griffith and McNierney along with others laid flowers upon the preserved earthworks of the Bloody Angle.

Dedication of marker for the 23rd United States Colored Troops (USCT) - 17 May. The Irish Brigade Camp No. 4 came out in force to support the NPS commemora-



23rd USCT presentation tent draws an interested



Brothers chat with General & Mrs. Grant portrayed by impressionists Larry Clower and his Wife.

tion of the 23rd USCT (and all the USCT members) at Chancellorsville Battlefield. One of the organizers of the re-enactors of the 23rd USCT is US Park Service Ranger & Irish Brigade Brother Steward Henderson. The program featured a living history encampment of the 23rd USCT, the 54th Mass. Vol. Inf. and Women of the American Civil War. Our Camp hosted a contact tent at the event. During a special presentation titled "Footsteps to Battle: A Procession", the 23rd USCT lead a public procession to the site where their predecessor regiment engaged in the first combat of the USCTs in Northern Virginia and there dedicate a new state roadside historical marker. It was a beautiful day and good turnout by the Camp. Brother Mark McNierney, a reenactor, served as an officer for the 23rd USCT. Brothers Jay Rarick, Mike Paquette, Bob Heath, Jim Standard, John Griffith, and Richard Ehrle were also in attendance.

Memorial Day Commemorations at Fredericksburg

National Cemetery - 26 May. Members attended the Illumination event at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery, and the reading of General Logan's Order by Commander



Rarick at the War Memorial in Fredericksburg. Brother Hanlon, PDC Day, Brother Paquette and others placed flags at the grave site of 17 fallen members of the Irish Brigade.

Commemoration Ceremony at Tomb of the Unknown - 26 May, Morning. Brothers Rodger Leturno and Jim Standard represented the SUVCW carrying the national colors and SUVCW command flags in the procession of



Brothers Leturno, Withrow, and Standard at Arlington Cemetary.

colors at the Presidential ceremony in the amphitheater at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery.

National Memorial Day Parade, Washington D.C. - 26

May, Afternoon. Camp Brothers participated in the SUVCW color guard for the National Memorial Day Parade alongside sisters of the Elizabeth Van Lew Tent #1 (Detached) of the DUVCW. Following the parade, Brothers passing the White House on their way to the historic Willard Hotel were besieged for a time by enthusiastic



SUVCW color guard is seen in the nationally televised broadcast of the Memorial Day Parade.

tourists wanting to take photos with us. Once at the Willard Hotel, cheerful fellowship commenced at the Round Bar.

Decoration Day Dinner, Blarney Stone Restaurant, Fredericksburg Virginia - 30 May. Camp Brothers participated in the traditional Memorial Day / Decoration Day Dinner at Blarney Stone Restaurant in Fredericksburg, VA. Many Brothers brought their charming spouses for a night out of dinner and good times.

- JUNE

150th Trevilian Station Re-enactment - 21 & 22 June. JVC Jim Standard and Brother Griffith participated in the event.

New Irish Rifles Flag Presented - 26 June. Brother Beard presented the new SVR Irish Rifles flag at the Camp meeting. As previously agreed, Secretary-Treasurer Dempsey presented a check for \$239 to Brother Beard to cover part of the cost of the custom made flag.



- SEPTEMBER

Yankees in Falmouth/Conway House - 21 & 22 September. Camp members participated in the popular annual living history event in old-town Falmouth. The Camp set up a recruiting tent and display for visitors. The event interprets the Union Army's occupation of the Rappahannock River community of Falmouth during the Civil War. The event was held on the grounds of the historic Moncure

Conway House.

150th Commemoration of General's Grant & Sheridan Meeting - 17 & 18 September. One Hundred & Fifty years to the day, Brothers Brian Withrow as Lieutenant General Grant and James Standard, debuting his portrayal of Major General Sheridan, recreated the historic 1864



meeting between the two Generals at the Rutherford house (now the Carriage Inn B&B) in Charlestown WV. The meeting set the stage for Gen. Sheridan's successful campaign in the Shenandoah Valley.

Warrenton-Fauquier Heritage Day Parade, - 28 September. The SVR Irish Rifles Color guard with Brothers Bob Heath, Mike Paquette, Mike Beard, Jim Standard, and Brian Withrow as General Grant participated in the ½ mile



SVR Irish Rifles Color Guard after the parade.

parade that formed at Fifth & Main and ended at Chestnut Street. Despite being the only "Union Army" contingent in the parade, the color guard's participation was well received by other participants and the host community. Following the parade Brother Brian addressed the gathered audience

alongside veteran General Robert E. Lee impressionist Al Stone and Colonel John



Brother Withrow as General Grant with Al Stone as General Lee and Gary Carrol as Colonel Mosby.

Mosby impressionist Gary Carroll.

150th Commemoration of the Battles of Fort Harrison, 2nd Deep Bottom and New Market Heights - 27 September. Located near Richmond, nearly 1,000 re-enactors participated, including 70 black re-enactors [nearly 1/4 of all in the U.S. who re-enact the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT)]. The actual USCTs were awarded 14 Medal of Honor for the actions at New Market Heights. The Camp set up a promotional tent and recruiting table during the weekend and was manned by Commander Rarick and



SUVCW & DUVCW promotional tents at the event.

Brothers Beard & Leturno. The Irish Brigade Camp served as the focal point for coordinating participation by the Department of the Chesapeake and were joined by the Sgt. James Harris Camp and the Elizabeth Van Lew Tent #1 (Detached) of the DUVCW. The joint SUVCW detachment was commanded by Department Commander Pollock.

- **DECEMBER**

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

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



Commander Rarick places a wreath at the monument.



FINAL THOUGHTS ON 2014

1864 was an event filled and successful year toward achieving Union victory; likewise, 2014 beheld an event filled and successful year of commemoration by our Camp. As evidenced in this publication, Camp Brothers participated in a large number and variety of events that were both enriching to members and educational to the public. 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. Brothers will resume the mission and honor our ancestors in 2015.





Seated Left to Right - 2014 inducted Camp officers include Eric Sprengle as Senior Vice Commander, Jay Rarick as Commander, Jim Standard as Junior Vice Commander, and Tom Dempsey reprising his role as Treasurer & Secretary.



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.

2014 Camp Officers

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



www.irishbrigadecamp.com

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