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# The Green Banner

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Vol XX, No. 2 Colonel James D. Brady Camp No. 63 Apr-Jun 2025

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## FROM THE COMMANDER'S TENT

We have made a great start to the new year, and as you will see below, there are more upcoming opportunities for us to honor the memory of our Union forebears. During April, camp members are encouraged to participate in battlefield clean-up events in our area. Next up in May is our annual Memorial Day ceremony, a hallmark of the SUVCW's core mission. More details on these and other events in the sections below. Please join us for all these fantastic opportunities!

*Faugh-a-Ballagh!*

*["Clear the Way!"—the Irish Brigade's rallying cry]*

**Eric Kirk**

Camp Commander

## UPCOMING CAMP EVENTS

Saturday, 19 April

*Battlefield Tour at Gaines Mill*

We will meet at 1030am at the Hugh Watt House, Watt House Road, Mechanicsville, VA. Brothers Doug and Steve Von Hitritz will discuss the battle from the perspective of both sides. Lunch will follow at:

Sports Page Bar & Grill, 8319 Bell Creek Rd N, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

Please RSVP with Brother Steve Von Hitritz - [svonhitritz@earthlink.net](mailto:svonhitritz@earthlink.net)

Saturday, 26 April

*Battlefield Park Day*

The camp will be helping with clean-up at the Endview Plantation in Newport News. Be there early at 08:30am with work attire.

Monday, 26 May

*Memorial Day at Cold Harbor*

The camp will host this annual event to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and to celebrate our camp's 20th year. Time and details to follow, as we confirm it, with a luncheon to follow if there is interest. Any suggestions for the day are greatly appreciated.

Summer and Fall Events also being planned. If you have other suggestions, please share with camp officers.

## SUVCW SPONSORED EVENTS

Upcoming department and national events of note.

- 4-5 April 2025, Department of the Chesapeake Encampment, Fredericksburg, VA

- 7-10 August 2025, National Encampment, Houston, TX

## R.O.T.C. AWARDS

Our patriotic order continues to seek opportunities to issue awards to deserving high school Junior R.O.T.C cadets and college-age Senior R.O.T.C. cadets. Over the past several years, our camp has presented numerous awards to students at high schools across our region. Spring is typically the time when R.O.T.C. units hold their annual awards ceremonies, and the Brady Camp is eager to support them. The SUVCW R.O.T.C. award, which consists of a medal, ribbon, and certificate, comes

at no cost to either the camp or the school. If you know of an opportunity for presenting this award, please contact Brother I.C. Smith.

## EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS TOO!

Our patriotic order also seeks to recognize new Eagle Scouts throughout the year. If you know of a deserving scout in your area, please contact our Eagle Scout Coordinator, Brother Kiser.

## CAMP GATHERING IN MARCH

Several camp brothers met at the Mariners Museum in Newport News on Saturday, 8 March for a special event commemorating the Battle of Hampton Roads. They were able to tour the electrolysis lab and see the Monitor's turret in the open air. The brothers then wandered the museum and attended a lecture about the battle by John V. Quarstein, local author and Director of the Maritime Museum. Afterwards, the camp had a lunch at Harpoon Larry's restaurant in Newport News.



*Honoring Union Veterans in Southeastern Virginia since 2003*



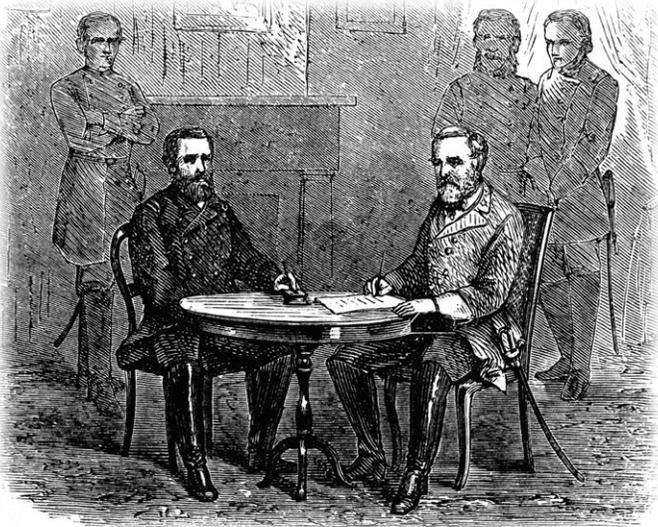
**THIS QUARTER IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY**

This spring marks the end of the 160th Anniversary of the American Civil War. Here are some final events of note.

1 April 1865: As part of the Union Army's actions to cutoff the last rebel supply lines leading into Petersburg, General Phil Sheridan led a large corps-sized attack on the key road junction southwest of the city known as Five Forks. The Federal assault succeeded in capturing the junction and a nearby railroad line to further tighten their siege lines, which ultimately prompted rebel leaders to begin evacuating Petersburg and Richmond.

3-4 April 1865: Federal troops entered Richmond and Petersburg after the rebel government and army evacuated the night before. On the following day, President Abraham Lincoln traveled up the James River and landed at the rebel capital near the Libby Prison, where Union officers had been held prisoner during the war. After viewing the city, Lincoln returned to his James River headquarters to await news of further developments.

9 April 1865: After a last-ditch attempt to flee the large Federal army advancing west from Petersburg, southern commander Robert E. Lee surrendered the remaining troops under his command to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House. Although this marked the end of major fighting in the Virginia, other rebel forces remained in the field in North Carolina and portions of the western theater.



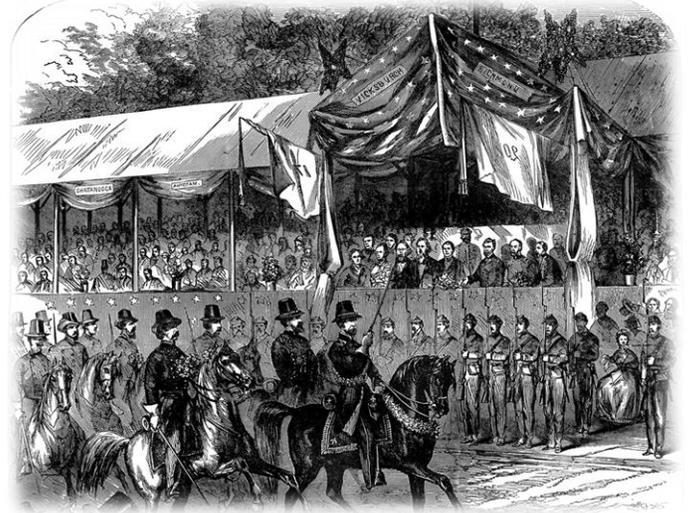
14-15 April 1865: While attending an evening performance at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C., President Abraham Lincoln was shot by actor and southern sympathizer John Wilkes Booth. The president passed away early the following morning. Vice-President Andrew Johnson of Tennessee was sworn in as Lincoln's successor later that same day.

26 April 1865: After a long-drawn-out campaign leading north through the Carolinas, southern commander Joseph E. Johnston surrendered his forces to Union General William T. Sherman at the Bennett House near Durham's Station, North Carolina.

Only two main rebel armies remained, one in Alabama and the other in the Trans-Mississippi. On the same day, John Wilkes Booth was shot and killed while trying to evade Federal troopers near the Rappahannock River crossing at Port Royal, Virginia.

10 May 1865: Early in the morning, Federal troops surprised a rebel encampment near Irwinville, Georgia, where southern leader Jefferson Davis and his entourage were finally captured after fleeing from Richmond the previous month. On this same day, President Johnson issued a proclamation stating that "armed resistance to the authority of this Government in the said insurrectionary States may be regarded as virtually at an end."

23-24 May 1865: For two days in Washington, the Grand Armies of the Republic marched in a last review. The first day featured troops of the eastern theater's Army of the Potomac led by Union General George Meade and the second day celebrated the Federal Army of the West led by General Sherman. A pro-Union government for Virginia was also established in Richmond.



23 June 1865: President Johnson declared a formal end to the Federal naval blockade of the southern states, which had been in effect since April 1861.

30 June 1865: The 63rd New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, with Colonel James D. Brady as commander, formally mustered out of Federal service at Alexandria, Virginia.

**ANCESTOR CORNER**

Our series of stories continue with a submission by PCC Brother Tom Grund about his ancestor, Pvt Jacob Moyer.

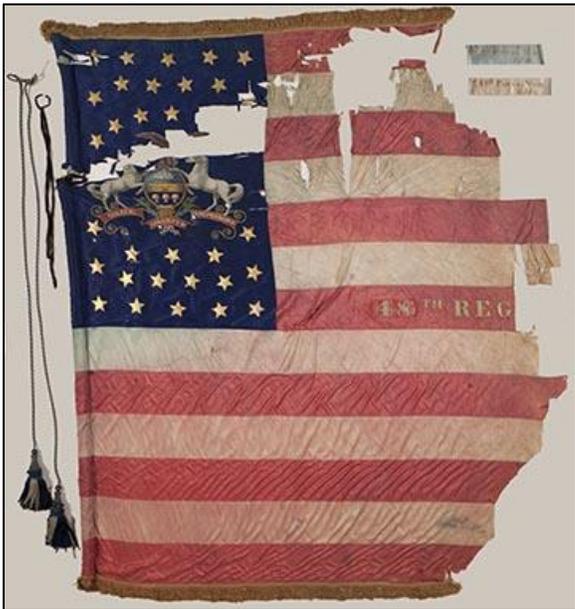
**SALUTATION.** Thank you for supporting the Brady Camp and continuing to give a voice and a presence to Union veterans.

Warmest regards in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

*Bill Butler, PCC*

Senior Vice Commander and Camp Historian

Jacob W. Moyer, great-great-grandfather of Past Camp Commander Thomas Grund, was born in New York State on March 4, 1841. Documents in Jacob's Civil War pension file state that he was indentured at the age of 8 or 10 from the Poor House in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, to the family of Jonah K. Riegle and Polly Ann Riegle. When he was 18, he worked as a cook, and then became an apprentice to George Horning, a shoemaker from South Easton, Pennsylvania. After spending a few years with Mr. Horning and learning his trade, Jacob decided to serve in the Union Army in early 1864. The 48th Pennsylvania Infantry came home to Schuylkill County on veteran furlough for a month. During this time, its company captains began recruiting drives in various parts of the county to refill their vacant ranks. Jacob enlisted in Company A of the 48th Pennsylvania Infantry on February 17, 1864, at Philadelphia and was mustered in as a Private the next day. During Jacob's service in 1864 and 1865, the 48th was a unit of the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division of the Ninth Corps serving with the Army of the Potomac.



Jacob's first taste of battle was at The Wilderness on May 6, 1864. The Ninth Corps was deployed in support of Major General Winfield S. Hancock's Second Corps on the southern part of the battlefield near the Brock Road. On May 7 the regiment remained on the front lines and skirmished with the Confederates. After the Wilderness, the 48th was heavily engaged at Spotsylvania Court House in the early morning hours of May 12, 1864. The regiment took over 200 Confederate prisoners in a swamp that morning. Following the fight on May 12, Jacob was hospitalized for a month with severe rheumatism in both shoulders.

He rejoined the unit early in the Siege of Petersburg on June 25, 1864. That same day the 48th Pennsylvania began digging the famous mine that started the Battle of the Crater. The 48th had many coal miners in its ranks, and its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants, had been a mining engineer before the war. The 48th constructed the mine in the shape of a "Y" with two lateral galleries running under a

Confederate fort known as Elliott's Salient. On July 27, 1864, the galleries were charged with 4 tons of gunpowder and on July 30, 1864, the mine was fired. At 4:44 AM the mine detonated with an earthquake and a red mushroom cloud, leaving behind a crater 200 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 20 feet deep. Elliott's Salient was wiped out, with the loss of about 300 men from the 18th and 22nd South Carolina Infantry Regiments and Captain Pegram's Virginia artillery battery. Unfortunately, the mine was the only thing that went right for the Union that day, and in the attacks that followed the Union lost thousands of casualties for no gain. But the Petersburg Mine went down in history as an engineering marvel and one of the 48th Pennsylvania's greatest achievements. The Mine is also the centerpiece of the regiment's post-war record banner, as shown at the end of this article.

After the Crater, Jacob and the 48th Pennsylvania fought in other battles around Petersburg including the Battle of the Weldon Railroad on August 19-20, 1864, the Battle of Peeble's Farm (Poplar Springs Church) on September 30, 1864, and the Battle of Boydton Plank Road on October 27, 1864. From November 27, 1864 to March 9, 1865 the 48th defended Fort Sedgwick, the most dangerous installation in the Union siege line. It was commonly referred to as "Fort Hell" by Union troops.

The Petersburg siege line was finally breached on April 2, 1865. On that day the 48th participated in the capture of Fort Mahone, which was located opposite Fort Sedgwick and known as "Fort Damnation." The Confederates abandoned Petersburg on the night of April 2, and the next day the Ninth Corps occupied the city. Soon after, other troops were detailed to guard the city and the Ninth Corps joined the pursuit of Lee's Army to Appomattox from

April 3 to April 9, 1865. Along the way, Ninth Corps units, including the 48th, were detailed to guard Confederate prisoners taken during Lee's Retreat. The Ninth Corps was in Farmville, about 20 miles from Appomattox, when Lee surrendered. After the end of fighting, Jacob and the 48th Pennsylvania remained in service until July 17, 1865, when the regiment mustered out of service at Alexandria, Virginia.

After the war, Jacob married Ellemanda Miller, on May 26, 1867 at the Zion Reformed Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The couple had seven children. Just two months short of his 80th birthday, Jacob died of pneumonia on January 5, 1921 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and his funeral was held three days later. His wife Ellemanda lived for over 20 more year and died on October 8, 1935 in Bethlehem. Both Jacob and Ellemanda are buried in Bethlehem Memorial Park Cemetery.

