

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865

Department of Pennsylvania, Department Historian's Report Narrative for Year Ending 31 December, 2021

In 2021, half of the Department of PA tents began to significantly increase their activities. Of those reporting:

TENT 32, Franklin, participated in the local Memorial Day Parade.

TENT 50, York. Although the Tent sisters were unable to meet together in 2021 as in the past, a few did gather to place a wreath in the Veterans Memorial Gold Star Healing & Peace Garden on Memorial Day. Some also attended the Veterans Day Breakfast in November. Individual sisters volunteered to serve on the local Salvation Army executive board and assisted with the Fabric Fair fundraiser. They also worked with Go Red – American Heart Association and the York State Fair. Sisters are committed to gaining new members, ensuring their tent is qualified to accept charitable donations and continuing to be active.

TENT 55, Gettysburg. In January 2021, Tent 55 held its "Show & Tell" program for which members brought articles, artifacts, and stories to share that were related to their CW veterans, or to the CW period in general. In June, the tent held its annual wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Tent namesake Salome M. Stewart, followed by a picnic. At other times during the year, members spoke about Civil War period fashion, sometimes with demos, and participated in re-enactments, living history presentations and Victorian dance demonstrations using such opportunities to recruit new members and educate the public about these aspects of American history. The tent participates in Memorial Day and Remembrance Day in Gettysburg; one member attended both Department and National Conventions.

TENT 56, Pleasant Unity, celebrated Valentine's Day by organizing a party for veterans at Cherry Tree Nursing Home in Uniontown, PA. Several times during the year, the tent presented various awards. A DUVCW Veteran's Pin was awarded to a tent sister who is US Navy, retired, now living out-of-state. Female cadets at Albert Gallatin HS and Laurel Highlands HS were presented JROTC awards by the Tent Patriotic Instructor. Certificates of Memorial/Ultimate Service along with handmade patriotic cockades bearing the insignia of DUVCW were sent to the families of the two female Marines killed in the Aug 2021 attack at Hamid Karzai Int'l Airport during the US military evacuation of Afghanistan. The young women who sacrificed their lives while protecting others were Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichard of MA and Sgt. Nicole L. Gee of California.

Tent 56 members who attended the Department Convention in Altoona were proud to witness the installation of their Tent sister as Department President 2021-2022.

The Department President joined by several Tent 56 sisters, presided over a graveside service for a recently deceased sister and paid respects at the grave of another.

Tent 56 also joined Allied Orders sisters and brothers from Tent 61, SUVCW Camp 502, Camp 502 Auxiliary, Ladies of the GAR and Woman's Relief Corps on a field trip to the exceptionally well-preserved Post Rooms of Captain Thomas Espy Post No. 153, as well as the Lincoln Gallery, both located in the Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall. Members of The Retired Enlisted Association also attended.

The Tent Historian spoke on the War in Kentucky at the Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall for the January program in their Civil War Series. She also initiated a new series of articles that are attached to the monthly meeting Minutes sent to membership. The series is called "The 160th Year Remembrance," and in 2021, featured historical events that occurred in the corresponding months of 1861. Also included was information about Tent sisters' ancestors that occurred that month, such as birthday and other family milestones, muster

status and unit movements. These were researched from Tent archives. The series will continue four years, the duration of the Civil War.

TENT 61, Somerset, reported activities in many different locations almost every non-winter month. In April, members attended Appomattox Luncheon in Grove City, PA and Lincoln Death Day Ceremonies in Springfield, IL. In May they placed a wreath at Antietam National Cemetery in Sharpsburg, Maryland and attended Memorial Day services at local SW PA cemeteries. In June, sisters attended Department Convention business and activities in Altoona, PA. At the National DUVCW Convention in St. Louis, MO, at the beginning of August, Tent 61 sisters served as National President, officers and committee chairs or attended as members. On September 11, they marched in the 200th Anniversary of Bedford County, PA parade. Later that month, they held a Rededication Ceremony in Grandview Cemetery, Johnstown, PA at the grave of Col. Jacob Higgins. They had successfully raised enough funds to provide a replacement plaque at his gravesite. In November, members attended Gettysburg Remembrance Day weekend that included the Lincoln Speech and Naturalization Ceremony, a tea at the GAR Hall hosted by Tent 55, the Woolson GAR Monument ceremony, the parade and Victorian Ball at the Wyndham Gettysburg, the last of which raises money for the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project for repair and maintenance of Pennsylvania monuments and markers on the Battlefield. In December, members held a Veterans' Breakfast at Central City, PA and participated in Wreaths Across America, raising money for and placing 438 wreaths in five cemeteries located in Central City, PA.

TENT 62, Boalsburg, engaged in several new activities during 2021 focused on increasing public awareness of Civil War history, historic preservation in cemeteries, and tent visibility. Displays about DUVCW, membership and Tent 62 were set up at the Centre County Grange Fair in August where members also participated in the Fair Parade driving a van with a cardboard, life-size image of President Lincoln, who attracted hearty cheers from the crowd. The car décor earned a Division 3 Open Class prize of \$50. A display table was also set up at the Milesburg Car Show in September, at the Titan Christmas Market and at the Festival of Trees Fundraiser, both in December.

Gravestone cleaning in Bellefonte Union Cemetery has attracted media and public attention and significantly improved the soiled condition and legibility of the stones. Three former PA governors' tombstones were cleaned: Andrew G. Curtin, James A. Beaver and Daniel H. Hastings, as well as those of several US colored troops. An article was published in the Oct 2021 Drumbeat.

Four sisters spoke about their CW veterans at Tent meetings. The Tent Historian presented a program on "How to Search the PA Newspaper Archive" to Tent sisters via Zoom. She and another sister spoke on "Immersed in Lincoln" at the Lincoln's Birthday tent meeting. Tent 62's namesake Katharine Wilson Curtin was honored on Memorial Day with flower-laying and a Victorian picnic.

Banquet table centerpieces were provided for the Department Convention in Altoona based on the theme of the 1862 Loyal War Governors' Conference that had been held in Altoona. Sisters continued to travel to Shippensburg University Fashion Archives and Museum to work on the preservation of PA Civil War First Lady Katherine Wilson Curtin's 1880's dress.

TENT 64, Ebensburg. Members of Tent 64 attended the 2021 Convention in Altoona, and the Rededication of the Col. Jacob Higgins Memorial Marker in September. They collected coupons to send to the military base for use at the Post Exchange. The tent also participated in Wreaths Across America in Ebensburg, PA.

I am honored as 2021-2022 Department Historian to be able to report so many meaningful activities in which Pennsylvania sisters were engaged in 2021.