



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

Volume 1

Issue 3

July 2009

Commander's Corner

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Please send your information,
materials and photos to;

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UNITED STATES CAMEL CORPS

THIS IS THE STORY OF THE STRANGE, AND SHORT LIVED EXPERIMENT OF THE U.S.C.C., (THE TITLE WAS NEVER OFFICIALLY ADOPTED).

THE IDEA BELONGED TO 2ND. LT. GEORGE H. CROSSMAN, A VETERAN OF THE SEMINOLE WARS IN FLORIDA, CROSSMAN'S ARGUMENTS WERE THAT THE CAMEL WAS STRONGER, WAS PATIENT IN LOADING, AND UNLOADING, AND TOLERANT OF LITTLE FOOD, WATER OR LITTLE REST. THEIR FEET WERE WELL SUITED FOR GRASSY OR SANDY PLAINS, ROUGH, ROCKY AND HILLY PATHS, AND REQUIRED NO SHOEING. AN OVERALL STRONGER ANIMAL THAN THE ARMY MULE OR HORSE.

CROSSMAN BEFRIENDED HENRY C. WAYNE, A QUARTERMASTER AND FELLOW OFFICER WHO CONVINCED JEFFERSON DAVIS, A SENATOR FROM MISSISSIPPI OF THE CAMELS VALUE TO THE ARMY. WHEN DAVIS WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY IN 1852, HE MADE AN OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION TO GIVE CAMELS A TRIAL, ON MARCH 3RD. 1855, CONGRESS APPROPRIATED \$30,000 FOR THE PROJECT.

(Continued on next page)

**UNITED STATES CAMEL CORPS
(Continued)**

THE SHIP U.S.S. SUPPLY, COMMANDED BY LT. DAVID DIXON PORTER, SET SAIL FROM N.Y. ON JUNE 3RD, 1855. WAYNE, ALSO ON BOARD WAS CHARGED WITH PROCURING THE CAMELS. THEY FOUND A PLENTIFUL SUPPLY IN EGYPT, AND PURCHASED 30 ALONG WITH THE SERVICES OF 3 ARABS AND 2 TURKS TO ACT AS DROVERS.

AFTER TWO MONTHS AT SEA, THE FIRST CAMELS ARRIVED AT INDIANOLA, TEXAS. AFTER A TWO MONTH REST THEY WERE MOVED TO THEIR PERMANENT QUARTERS AT CAMP VERDE, TEXAS, 60 MILES WEST OF SAN ANTONIO. ANOTHER HERD OF 41 ARRIVED THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

AT FIRST THE CAMELS PROVED THEIR WORTH. THEY WERE WELL SUITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. THEY COULD CARRY UP TO FOUR TIMES THE WEIGHT AS A MULE, FOR LONGER DISTANCES WITH LESS FOOD AND WATER.

FOR THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS THE CAMEL CORP MADE ITS WAY BACK AND FORTH THROUGH THE DESERTS OF NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA, AND CALIFORNIA. SURVEYING AND CARRYING SUPPLIES AND DISPATCHES, MANY WERE ASSIGNED TO DRUM BARRACKS, THE CALIFORNIA H.Q. LOCATED NEAR SAN PEDRO.

BY THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL WAR, THE LOVE AFFAIR WAS FADING. NOT FROM THE CAMELS PERFORMANCE BUT FROM THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. THEY WERE GROUCHY, AND HAD A TERRIBLE ODOR. THEY FRIGHTENED DOGS, AND STAMPEDED HORSES, AND WERE DISLIKED BY THEIR HANDLERS. THEY WERE ORDERED SOLD BY THE SEC. OF WAR EDWIN STANTON. IN 1863 THEY WERE AUCTIONED OFF IN BENICIA ARSENAL. SOME WERE SOLD PRIVATELY; SOME WERE SIMPLY TURNED LOOSE AND WERE CAPTURED BY BETHEL COOPWOOD, A CONFEDERATE SPY WHO TOOK THEM SOUTH ALONG WITH 2 CONFUSED EGYPTIAN DROVERS. GEN. STERLING PRICE USED ONE OF THE CAPTURED CAMELS TO CARRY HIS PERSONAL BAGGAGE UNTIL IT WAS SHOT BY AN ASTONISHED UNION SOLDIER AT VICKSBURG.

IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR, FOLKLORE AROSE CONCERNING THESE BEASTS WHO HAD BEEN RELEASED INTO THE DESERT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. THE LAST SIGHTING WAS REPORTED AROUND 1900, ALTHOUGH SOME CLAIM TO SEE THEM EVEN NOW.....

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

Recent Events

Living History South Plainfield, NJ Saturday, May 16, 2009



Left to right; Dept. Commander Dan Lynch, Robert Meyer, Abraham Lincoln, a/k/a Bob Costello, Commander Jack Ensel, Clark D. McCullough, Jay J. Godin, Mike Todd.



Brother Jay J. Godin and Abraham Lincoln



President Abraham Lincoln
and Commander Jack W. Ensel

Memorial Day Ceremonies - 1

**Church of the Holy Sepulchre
Cemetery, East Orange, NJ**

**By Department Commander,
Brother Dan Lynch**



Brother Dan Lynch

*I attended the Memorial Day services at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in East Orange. I attended mass and then I went over to my Great Grand Uncle Sgt. Felix W. Branagan's Co. B, 8th NJV monument which was dedicated to him for his work. He had been mustered into the Phil. Kearney Post No. 1, of Newark on the 22nd of July 1878 and during the year 1892 was commander of this post. He was for many years a member of the G.A.R. committee for securing headstones for deceased comrades. He was also a member of the Veterans Association of the *8th New Jersey Volunteers known as "Hooker's Old Guard" For his work they dedicated a monument to him on Memorial Day 1893.*

I held a short ceremony reading from the SUVCW Ritual and Ceremonies Book and said a few prayers. As you can see from the pictures it was a nice day and although I was alone at his grave, I passed on to him our nations thanks for his dedication to his country. I also attended a mass held in the cemetery which was situated near a section where many Civil War soldiers are buried. The mass was also attended by the Knights of Columbus



Memorial Day Ceremonies – 2

Fairview Cemetery Middletown, NJ



*Brothers Bob Meyer, Rich McCarthy,
Clark McCullough and Charles Blood.*

Hillside Cemetery Scotch Plains, NJ



*Camp Commander Jack Ensel and
Camp Historian Frank McGonigle, PCC,
held a brief wreath laying ceremony
and prayer reading at 11:00 hrs. at the
Winfield Scott Post 73 G.A.R.
burial site.*

Asbury Park, NJ

*At approximately 12:30 Memorial Day,
May 25th, a wreath was placed at the
Civil War Memorial in Asbury Park by
Brother Mike Truex.*

Green Lawn Cemetery West Long Branch, NJ

*A wreath was placed by
Brother Arthur Green at the
Civil War Memorial at 12:00 pm.
Gen. Order 12 was read as requested
by the Commander.*

*Brother Art Green along with his family
also placed 799 American Flags at the
graves of Veterans at Glenwood Cemetery.*



*29th Regt. New Jersey Vol. Infantry
Monument*

Upcoming Events

Special Events

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

The June 6th Meeting

*From: sandra moss
To: captgjh@yahoo.com; ClarkCW@aol.com
Sent: Sat, 6 Jun 2009 9:04 pm*

Dear George and Clark

*Thanks for the invitation. I enjoyed meeting
some of the members. A wonderful group of
people with a great interest in our history.*

*And thanks for the luncheon and the book and
the marvelous CD.*

Sincerely,

Sandra

*Saturday, Sept 26, 2009
12:00 noon at
the National Guard Militia Museum,
Sea Girt, NJ.*

*Sunday, November 1, 2009
12:00 noon at
American Legion Post 248,
South Plainfield, NJ.*

*Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009
12:00 noon at
the National Guard Militia Museum,
Sea Girt, NJ.*

History Center

1st N.J. Infantry Regiment (3 months)

Organized at Trenton, N.J., and mustered in April 30, 1861. Left State for Annapolis, Md., May 3. Reported to General Butler May 5, thence moved to Washington, D.C., arriving May 6. Camp at Meridian Hill until May 23. Invasion of Virginia May 23-24. Occupation of Arlington Heights May 24. Duty on line of Alexandria & Loudon Railroad until July 16. Attached to 1st Brigade, Runyon's Reserve Division, McDowell's Army of Northeast Virginia. Advance on Manassas, Va., July 17-21. Battle of Bull Run, Va., July 21 (Reserve). Mustered out at Newark, N.J., July 31, 1861.

Regiment lost 1 by disease during service.

1st N.J. Infantry Regiment (3 years)

Organized at Camp Olden, Trenton, N.J., and mustered in May 21, 1861. Left State for Washington, D. C., June 28, 1861. Attached to 2nd Brigade, Runyon's Reserve Division, McDowell's Army of Northeast Virginia, to August, 1861. Kearney's Brigade, Division of the Potomac, to October, 1861. Kearney's Brigade, Franklin's Division, Army of the Potomac, to March, 1862. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 1st Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to April, 1862. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Dept. of the Rappahannock, to May, 1862. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 6th Army Corps, to June, 1864.

SERVICE - 1861

Advance on Manassas, Va., July 16-21, 1861. Battle of Bull Run, Va., July 21 (Reserve). Duty in the Defenses of Washington, D.C., until March, 1862. Little River Turnpike October 15, 1861 (Co. "A").

1862

Advance on Manassas, Va., March 8-15, 1862. Advance from Alexandria to Bristoe Station April 7-11. Embarked for the Peninsula, Va., April 17. Siege of Yorktown April 19-May 4 (on transports). West Point May 7-8. Seven days before Richmond June 25-July 1. Battles of Gaines Mill June 27; Charles City Cross Roads and Glendale June 30; Malvern Hill July 1. Duty at Harrison's Landing until August 16. Moved to Fortress Monroe, thence to Manassas, Va., August 16-26. Pope's Campaign in Northern Virginia August 26-September 2. Bull Run Bridge, Manassas, August 27. Battle of Bull Run August 30. Cover Pope's retreat to Centreville August 30-31. Maryland Campaign September 6-22. Battle of Crampton's Pass, South Mountain, Md., September 14. Antietam September 16-17. Duty at Sharpsburg until October 29. Movement to Falmouth, Va., October 29-November 19. Battle of Fredericksburg, Va., December 12-15.

(Co. "K" transferred to 1st New Jersey Battery October 16, 1862.)1863

Duty near Falmouth, Va., until April 27, 1863.

1863

"Mud March" January 20-24. Chancellorsville Campaign April 27-May 6. Operations at Franklin's Crossing April 29-May 2. Battle of Maryes Heights, Fredericksburg, May 3. Salem Heights May 3-4. Banks' Ford May 4. Gettysburg (Pa.) Campaign June 11-July 24. Battle of Gettysburg July 2-4. Pursuit of Lee to Manassas Gap, Va., July 5-24. Fairfield, Pa., July 5. Williamsport July 6. At and near Funkstown July 10-13. Hagerstown July 11. In camp near Warrenton, Va., until September 15, and at Culpeper until October. Bristoe Campaign October 9-22. Advance to line of the Rappahannock November 7-8. Rappahannock Station November 7. Mine Run Campaign November 26-December 2.

1864

Duty at Brandy Station until May, 1864. Campaign from the Rapidan to the James May 3-June 15. Battles of the Wilderness May 5-7; Spotsylvania May 8-12; Spotsylvania Court House May 12-21. Assault on the Salient, "Bloody Angle," May 12. North Anna River May 23-26. On line of the Pamunkey May 26-28. Totopotomoy May 28-31. Cold Harbor June 1-12. Before Petersburg June 17-19. Siege of Petersburg until July 9. Jerusalem Plank Road June 22-23. Moved to Washington, D.C., July 9-11. Repulse of Early's attack on Fort Stevens and Northern Defenses of Washington July 11-12. Pursuit of Early to Snicker's Gap July 14-23. Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign August 7-November 28. Strasburg August 14-15. Cedar Creek August 15. Winchester August 17. Charlestown August 21-22. Battle of Winchester September 19. Fisher's Hill September 22. Battle of Cedar Creek October 19. Duty in the Shenandoah Valley until December. Moved to Washington, D.C., thence to Petersburg December, 1864. Siege of Petersburg, Va., December, 1864, to April, 1865.

1865

Dabney's Mills, Hatcher's Run, February 5-7, 1865. Appomattox Campaign March 28-April 9. Assault on and fall of Petersburg April 2. Pursuit of Lee April 3-9. Appomattox Court House April 9. Surrender of Lee and his army. March to Danville April 23-27 and duty there until May 18. Moved to Richmond, thence to Washington, D.C., May 18-June 3. Corps Review June 8. Mustered out at Hall's Hill, Va., June 29, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 9 Officers and 144 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 1 Officer and 90 Enlisted men by disease. Total 244.

Note.--Non-Veterans left front June, 1864, and mustered out at Trenton, N.J., June 23, 1864. Veterans and Recruits were attached to other Regiments of the Brigade until December, 1864, when they were organized into 1st New Jersey Veteran Battalion.



This Period in Civil War History

Malvern Hill

Other Names: Poindexter's Farm

Location: Henrico County

Campaign: Peninsula Campaign (March-September 1862)

Date: July 1, 1862

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan [US]; Gen. Robert E. Lee [CS]

Forces Engaged: Armies

Estimated Casualties: 8,500 total

Description: This was the sixth and last of the Seven Days' Battles. On July 1, 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee launched a series of disjointed assaults on the nearly impregnable Union position on Malvern Hill. The Confederates suffered more than 5,300 casualties without gaining an inch of ground. Despite his victory, McClellan withdrew to entrench at Harrison's Landing on James River, where his army was protected by gunboats. This ended the Peninsula Campaign. When McClellan's army ceased to threaten Richmond, Lee sent Jackson to operate against Maj. Gen. John Pope's army along the Rapidan River, thus initiating the Northern Virginia Campaign.

Result(s): Union victory

South Mountain

Other Names: Crampton's, Turner's, and Fox's Gaps

Location: Frederick County and Washington County

Campaign: Maryland Campaign (September 1862)

Date: September 14, 1862

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan [US]; Gen. Robert E. Lee [CS]

Forces Engaged: Corps

Estimated Casualties: 4,500 total

Description: After invading Maryland in September 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee divided his army to march on and invest Harpers Ferry. The Army of the Potomac under Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan pursued the Confederates to Frederick, Maryland, then advanced on South Mountain. On September 14, pitched battles were fought for possession of the South Mountain passes: Crampton's, Turner's, and Fox's Gaps. By dusk the Confederate defenders were driven back, suffering severe casualties, and McClellan was in position to destroy Lee's army before it could re-concentrate. McClellan's limited activity on September 15 after his victory at South Mountain, however, condemned the garrison at Harpers Ferry to capture and gave Lee time to unite his scattered divisions at Sharpsburg. Union general Jesse Reno and Confederate general Samuel Garland, Jr., were killed at South Mountain.

Result(s): Union victory

TAPS SOUNDS

for the

Grand Army of the Republic

53 Years Ago

The obituary notice of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was written on August 2, 1956. The GAR was born on April 6, 1866, at Decatur, Illinois, and died at Duluth, Minnesota with the passing of its last survivor, 109 year-old Albert Woolson. Comrade Woolson was the sole officially listed survivor of the more than 2,675,000 men of the Union armed forces. He was also the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1865, at the Grand Review in Washington, D.C., soldiers going home from the paraded on Pennsylvania Avenue, 60 men abreast, for six hours one day and for seven the next. An organization was soon formed that was to make the former wearers of the blue the most potent force in their country's politics for the next twenty years. This organization was the Grand Army of the Republic, of which Comrade Woolson was a member in 1890, when it reached its peak membership of 408,489. After that, age and declining vigor took inevitable tolls of GAR influence and activity.

The Grand Army wasn't intended to be a political unit. Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, former surgeon of Illinois infantry who is honored as the founder, envisioned a great brotherhood of former soldiers, bonded together by mutual affections and memories. The instituting of Memorial Day was one of the first Grand Army projects to win popular favor. There are a dozen versions of the idea's origin, but there is no doubt that General Logan's famous General Order No. 11 gave it national status under Grand Army auspices.

During the golden years, the Grand Army was a most potent force. It has been said with reason that it was a balance of power in national politics for more than a quarter of a century. In other fields, the Grand Army became the citadel of orthodox Americanism. It scrutinized school textbooks and scolded publishers who intimated there was virtue in the South or fault in the North. It supplied "patriotic lectures" to lodges and schools.

The GAR was always generous with its own funds in aiding needy and crippled veterans. As early as 1873, when the national treasury was operating on a deficit, individual Posts reported \$48,000 spent in relief work.

The Grand Army had a tinge of the secret society popular in the day. There was an oath and a ritual, and the organization was ostensibly free from politics and dedicated to good works. In a few years, however, it became one of the principal instruments for keeping the Republican Party in power and for obtaining pensions and government job preferences for Union veterans. The GAR as Comrade Woolson first knew it, was dominated by such figures as Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, who was a gallant general as well as a thundering orator.

Comrade Woolson and his comrades wore the blue uniform coat and slouch hat of the GAR and marched in Memorial Day Parades as long as they could. Finally they became very old men sitting quietly in the sun. He was one of six Union veterans attending the last National Encampment of the GAR at Indianapolis, in August 1949. Here these last survivors of the organization voted to disband it 84 years after Appomattox. Nothing is forever.

The 1938 meeting at Gettysburg was the last time the veterans of both sides met publicly together ... 75 years after the battle.

They had met previously in peace at Gettysburg in 1913, the 50th anniversary of the battle. That reunion attracted 53,407 veterans. In 1938, only 1,845 were able to get there, although nearly every state was represented.

The youngest had to be in his 90s. None died during that eight-day "encampment" at our "most hallowed ground." Upon the reunion's end, though, they started dying in shockingly rapid numbers, including on their travels home, as if they had willed themselves to live to see this last event.

The spirit of the Grand Army of the Republic will never die. It lives in the minds and hearts of millions of vigorous young Americans. In that spirit, and by that spirit, the future of our Nation is forever secure.

Their ideals and traditions will be carried on by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and their Auxiliary. This heritage is not just a blessing and a privilege, but also an obligation and a trust. Let us pledge to the memory of these men of the GAR that we will in time of peace or war show our appreciation of this heritage they have handed down to us by preserving it for ourselves and for future generations.

We are grateful to them for charting a course through fields of good old-fashioned American stability where every mother's son stood independent and self-reliant on his own, subscribing to the theory that honest work in honor done, whether in halls of state or at the forge, was a duty paramount.

We thank them for not wasting this Nation's wealth, we thank them for preserving this Nation's economy; we are proud that their generation never need apologize to posterity for depleting its inheritance; for this and this alone they can answer their last roll call in resonant voice and salute Old Glory for the last time with unfaltering hands.

Your house is in order, your path is straight, your record is clean, and as long as that flag blazes in God's blue firmament the gallant lads who subscribed to the constitution of the Grand Army of the Republic and wore its badge of honor will be breveted in the hearts of all decent men and women who enjoy the protection of its folds, and generations yet unborn will see in every white and crimson bar where'er unfurled the steel-tipped, ordered lines of America's sons of '61 to '65.

We salute you gallant men of the Grand Army of the Republic; may the benediction of the Supreme Commander of us all rest upon through eternal eons and may the hand that led you safely through your Gethsemane preserve this wondrous land your valor helped to save.

And now since the crucible of time has dissolved the bitterness born of conflicting thought, we like to believe that those silent hosts in gray (the only Americans ever surrendered, and then, only to Americans) along with those in blue, look down from their battlements in heaven and salute with loving hands this proud Republic built of their fathers' blood, and sanctified by their mothers' tears.

The sounding of "Taps" for the Grand Army of the Republic marks the close of a great era in American History. They have lived to see our country become a strong, Unified Nation. They take their place in the ranks of the immortals who have gone before.

Our Ancestors

Captain Hugh W. McCullough Company "I"

Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry

By Brother Clark D. McCullough

On the night of June 5, 1862, Captain Hugh W. McCullough, and his Company "I" were encamped at Moore's Hill, about eight miles south of Tompkinsville, Kentucky. Captain McCullough ordered pickets posted around the camp for the night. The company was awake at dawn and had breakfast. Just as they were about to break camp, the pickets were driven in by Confederate guerrilla's under Captain O.P. Hamilton. This guerrilla force, who had a superior force, estimated by different officers in Company "I" to be from 125 to 180 men, was lined up in dense bushes and trees in deep woods.

Captain McCullough's Company "I" had about 60 men armed with sabers and revolvers, Captain McCullough, a brave and competent officer with much courage and discipline decided the only way to get out of this mess was for him to order his company to attack the enemy hidden in the bushes and trees. The Company followed Captain McCullough's lead and did charge, however they were met by a volley of buckshot fired from shotguns. In spite of this action, Captain McCullough, and his company maintained their charge up to the dense underbrush. There they went on to rout the guerrilla's with their Colt revolvers. While leading the charge Captain McCullough, was shot through the stomach by one of the guerrilla's and was mortally wounded. The company was then lead by Lieutenant William H. Longsdorf, who ordered his men to their horses and they pursued the routed guerrilla's for a half mile, where "a professed Union man" told Lieutenant Longsdorf that the enemy were reforming two miles down the road.

As four men, in addition to Captain McCullough, had been seriously wounded and Lieutenant Longsdorf's strength was now only about fifty-five men, he decided to fall back to Tompkinsville, where he sent a dispatch to Major Thomas Jefferson Jordan, and await reinforcements. Captain Hugh W. McCullough, died a short time later. He was forty-seven years old. He left a wife Catherine Miller McCullough, and two daughters Mary E. and Emily A., and a son John W. McCullough.





Battle of the Little Bighorn June 25-26, 1876

To force the large Indian army back to the reservations, the Army dispatched three columns to attack in coordinated fashion, one of which contained Lt. Colonel George Custer and the Seventh Cavalry. Spotting the Sioux village about fifteen miles away along the Rosebud River on June 25, Custer also found a nearby group of about forty warriors. Ignoring orders to wait, he decided to attack before they could alert the main party. He did not realize that the number of warriors in the village numbered three times his strength. Dividing his forces in three, Custer sent troops under Captain Frederick Benteen to prevent their escape through the upper valley of the Little Bighorn River. Major Marcus Reno was to pursue the group, cross the river, and charge the Indian village in a coordinated effort with the remaining troops under his command. He hoped to strike the Indian encampment at the northern and southern ends simultaneously, but made this decision without knowing what kind of terrain he would have to cross before making his assault.

Reno's squadron of 175 soldiers attacked the southern end. Quickly finding themselves in a desperate battle with little hope of any relief, Reno halted his charging men before they could be trapped, fought for ten minutes in dismounted formation, and then withdrew into the timber and brush along the river. When that position proved indefensible, they retreated uphill to the bluffs east of the river, pursued hotly by a mix of Cheyenne and Sioux.

Just as they finished driving the soldiers out, the Indians found roughly 210 of Custer's men coming towards the other end of the village, taking the pressure off of Reno's men. Cheyenne and Hunkpapa Sioux together crossed the river and slammed into the advancing soldiers, forcing them back to a long high ridge to the north. Meanwhile, another force, largely Oglala Sioux under Crazy Horse's command, swiftly moved downstream and then doubled back in a sweeping arc, enveloping Custer and his men in a pincer move. They began pouring in gunfire and arrows.

As the Indians closed in, Custer ordered his men to shoot their horses and stack the carcasses to form a wall, but they provided little protection against bullets. In less than an hour, Custer and his men were killed in the worst American military disaster ever. After another day's fighting, Reno and Benteen's now united forces escaped when the Indians broke off the fight. They had learned that the other two columns of soldiers were coming towards them, so they fled.

After the battle, the Indians came through and stripped the bodies and mutilated all the uniformed soldiers, believing that the soul of a mutilated body would be forced to walk the earth for all eternity and could not ascend to heaven. Inexplicably, they stripped Custer's body and cleaned it, but did not scalp or mutilate it. He had been wearing buckskins instead of a blue uniform, and some believe that the Indians thought he was not a soldier and so, thinking he was an innocent, left him alone. Because his hair was cut short for battle, others think that he did not have enough hair to allow for a very good scalping. Immediately after the battle, the myth emerged that they left him alone out of respect for his fighting ability, but few participating Indians knew who he was to have been so respectful. To this day, no one knows the real reason.

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>
<i>Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator</i>	<i>Daniel J. Lynch, Jr., PCC</i>

Fund Raiser Slideshow DVDs

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 Monuments



*Produced by
George Armstrong Custer
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New Jersey's Civil War Cannons



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Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

\$8.⁰⁰

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