

Introduction to the Department of the Chesapeake Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Its History, Programs , and Purposes



23rd NJ Monument
at
Salem Church



OX Hill Park

The Origins of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

- We are the heirs to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) which was founded in 1866 by Union Veterans
- Originally called the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A (SV) we were formed in 1881 by the Grand Army of the Republic which sponsored SV Camps whose members were the descendants of Union Veterans in the Union Army, Navy, and Marine Corps
- In 1925, Sons Veterans was renamed the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
- In 1954, a Federal charter was issued to the SUVCW by Congress

A Short History of the Department of the Chesapeake SUVCW

Formerly the Department of Maryland from 1888 - 2011

- The first Camp to be formed was Garfield Camp #1 in Baltimore, Maryland on 1 March 1883
- The Department of Maryland was chartered on 14 June 1887
- Elected its first Department Commander – Miles Ross.
- Held its first Department Encampment (annual business meeting) 14-15 June 1887 in Baltimore
- Hosted its first National Encampment at Wheeling WV in 1888 and its most recent in August 2015 at Richmond, Virginia
- The First C-in-C of the SUVCW from the Department was elected at the 1901 National Encampment .
- The Department changed its name to Department of the Chesapeake at its Annual Encampment in 2011

The Department of the Chesapeake consists of four (4) Mid-Atlantic States and the District of Columbia



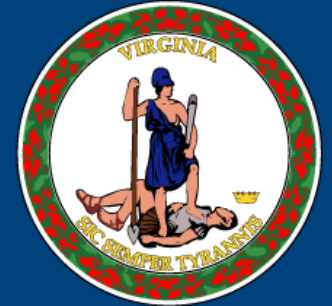
Maryland



District of Columbia



West Virginia



Virginia

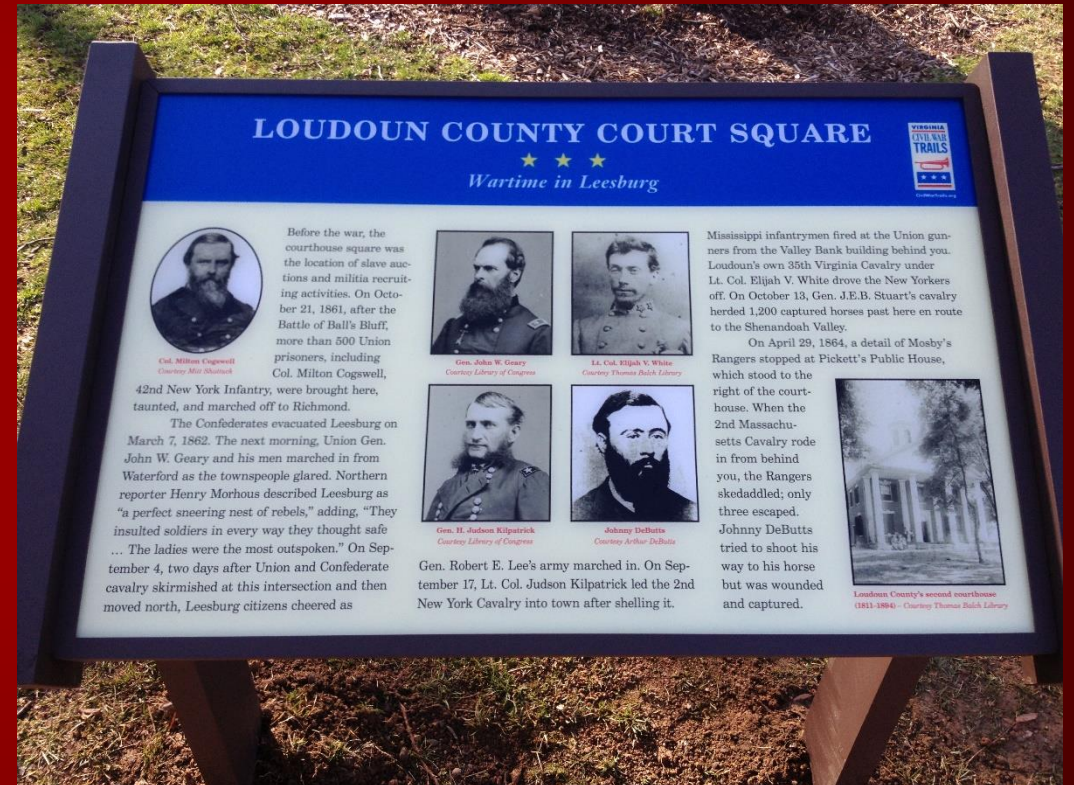


DECEMBER 7, 1787

Delaware

SUVCW Activities in the Department of the Chesapeake

- Union graves registration
- Memorial Day activities
- Flagging / Decoration of graves
- Civil War and GAR memorials catalog
- GAR Records Project
- Last Soldier Project
- Education
- Eagle Scout recognition
- ROTC/JROTC recognition



Union Graves Registration / Marking



- Maintaining list of Union Veteran graves in all regions of the Department of the Chesapeake
- Check on the condition of headstones or markers
- If graves are unmarked or gravestones are damaged or unreadable; to seek out the veteran's family and acquire the permission necessary to procure headstones from Veterans Administration.



Memorial Day Activities

- Flagging / decoration of graves
- Memorial Day Programs and Ceremonies
- Parades



Why we Honor Memorial Day

- In 1868, MG General John Logan, then serving as Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) issued Order No. 11 to designate 30 May as Decoration Day, which later became Memorial Day, to honor those who lost their lives in war
- As the successor to the GAR we continue the traditions established by our ancestors



Civil War and GAR Memorials Catalog

- Catalog and Identify all memorials erected by either the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) or the SUVCW, which honor the Union soldier, sailor, or marines
- Inspect and report back to the National Organization the condition of these memorials
- If any need refurbishing, determine the cost and apply for a grants



The GAR Records Project to:

- Locate and catalog GAR records
- Create a digital database of GAR records
- Assist those who are custodians of GAR records with their proper preservation and archiving.

Last Soldier Project



The purpose of the SUVCW's 'Last Soldier Project' is to locate and mark the final resting place of the last Civil War soldier buried in each county or parish of the country.

The individual camps in the Department of the Chesapeake are tasked with completing this project

Youth Education Programs



- Classroom speakers talking on the real history of the American Civil War and various patriotic/civic themes
- Flag facts Presentations
- Proper Flag disposal ceremonies
- SUVCW scholarships

Eagle Scout Recognition Program



- SUVCW feels any young man who has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout deserves recognition
- Scouting promotes the same principles of patriotism and the love and respect of the flag
- Certificate of commendation presentation



ROTC /JROTC Recognition Program

SUVCW feels any young man or woman who has performed in an outstanding manner while participating in the ROTC or JROTC programs offered by the Armed Forces of the United States deserves recognition.

ROTC and JROTC programs promote patriotism, service to the nation, and the love and respect of the flag

A certificate of commendation and a personal decoration are presented

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING?

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION YOU MAY DO ONE OF
THE FOLLOWING

CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE BY
RETURNING TO THE DEPARTMENT 'S HOME PAGE
WWW.DEPARTMENTOFTHECHESAPEAKESUVCW.COM

OR

CONTACT THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BY GOING TO
THEIR WEBSITE AT WWW.SUVCW.ORG