



THE NATIONAL SON

Vol. V Winter 2012 No. 1

– NATIONAL OFFICERS –

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The *National Son* is published quarterly by the National Organization, Sons of Spanish American War Veterans, and is sent out both electronically and by regular mail. Any person or organization wishing to contribute an article is welcome to do so, all submissions should be sent in via e-mail to the Editor at Johnnyreb6@aol.com or by mail at:

113 Old Forge Road
Chapin, South Carolina, 29036

– SUBMISSION SCHEDULE –

Winter Deadline – October 26th

Spring Deadline – January 26th

Summer Deadline – April 26th

Fall Deadline – July 26th

The Official Newsletter

Of the National Organization

SONS OF SPANISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS

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National Website

www.ssawv.org

Yahoo Group of the Sons & Daughters

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/SonsofSpanishAmericanWarVeterans>

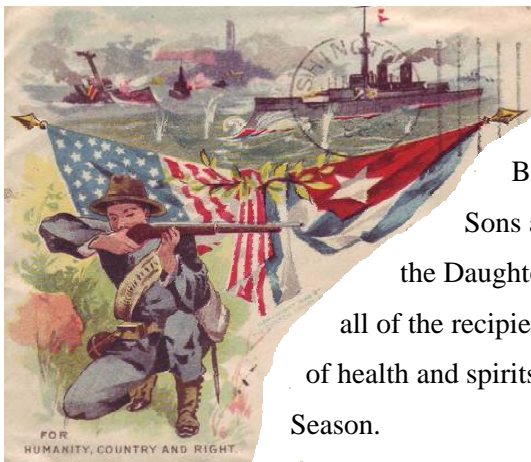
On the Cover: Colored Lithograph of Spanish American War Soldiers charging up a hill

AMERICANISM

Americanism is an unflinching love of Country, loyalty to its institutions and ideas, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, undivided allegiance to the flag and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.

THE SENTRY'S POST

Brothers and Sisters,



I hope that this finds each of the Brothers of the Sons and Sisters of the Daughters, as well as all of the recipients, in the best of health and spirits this Holiday Season.

With the coming of a New Year comes the hope of a fresh start. I know that with the Jenkins Camp we are looking forward to continuing with our work of locating the graves of the Veterans here in the Carolinas and Georgia, as well as gathering in all information about them and their services; as well as planning for the camps annual Maine Day (February), Santiago Day (July), and Mexican War (August) Memorial Services for the year 2013. We are also looking forward to having new brothers and sisters joining the Order and helping to continue the work of preserving the memory of the Veterans so that upcoming generations will remember their sacrifices and services. Remember that we *“are dedicated to preserving the memory of the Veterans who served from February 14th, 1898, to July 4th, 1902, in*



*Fitzhugh Lee, ca. 1863
Major General, CSA*



*Fitzhugh Lee, ca. 1898
Major General, USV*

“When Mrs. Fitzhugh Lee got out her husbands fine, new uniform he told her to put it away until he became reconciled. He was afraid he would “shoot it all of a sudden.” - Confederate Veteran Magazine, 1898

the Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the China Relief Expedition.”

Any and all submissions of articles, photo's, quotes, etc... or anything that you might wish to send that is appropriate for the National Son. Submissions of articles, photos, etc..., should be sent to myself either by email (Johnnyreb6@aol.com) or by regular mail to my address at 113 Old Forge Road, Chapin, SC 29036.

I hope that each of you has had a Very Merry Christmas and will have an even happier New Year.

In Freedom, Patriotism, & Humanity,

Bro. Kenneth H. Robison II,
Sons of Spanish American War Veterans.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BROTHERS

AT LARGE MEMBERSHIP

Bro. Todd R. Armstrong of California

Great Grandfather – William J. Roberts
Artificer, 26th Company, Coast Artillery Corps, U.S. Army

Bro. Roger J. Dostall of North Carolina

Grandfather - Sergeant John J. Dostall
87th Company, Coast Artillery Corps, U.S. Army

Bro. James P. Hess of Indiana

3rd Great Uncle – Private Perry McClanahan
Company E, 158th Indiana Volunteer Infantry

Bro. Richard D. Parker of North Carolina

Great Grandfather – Arthur T. Fair
Sergeant, Company A, 4th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry

NOTES FROM THE 2012 - 76TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

By President Bernie O'Bryan, SSAWV

As the time of our convention neared, it became evident that the convention may well be lightly attended. Before the

Convention, President O'Bryan called a Council of Administration meeting to discuss the matter, the council voted to continue with the convention regardless of the turnout. Here are some notes on the convention.

President O'Bryan delivered the President's Address. During his address, he announced the following "Presidents Awards:"

Bro. Jerry and Lorraine (Daughters of '98) Orton for their work with the Real Sons, some weeks afterwards, both orders mourned her passing, but celebrated her life.

Bro. Kenneth Robison for his redesigning and rebuilding of our website and service as National Treasurer and Editor of the National Son (if you haven't seen it in a while, please re-explorer it.)

Bro. John Rosales for his recruitment successes, innovation in fund raising and for his efforts at establishing a Spanish American War theme museum in Mobile, Alabama

The brothers of Alexander M. Quinn Camp No. 173 of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, for their success in founding their camp.

The Secretary's report from the previous National Convention was read and approved by the membership.

Though National Treasurer Kenneth Robison was unable to attend the convention, he sent in his Report before hand. It showed that, as of July 31st, 2012, the National organization had a treasury of \$2006.09. The treasury was audited by the board of trustees on September 5th, 2012 and accepted as reported and the report was approved by the membership present.

Old Business. Immediate Past President Blackwell previously requested the United States Senate to charter the

Sons of Spanish American War Veterans as an official organization. Senator Dirkin of New Hampshire replied to the request and stated the organization should seek a state charter. The national organization is still working on receiving a state charter.

New Business. All officers elected during the 2011 National Convention previously agreed to serve in the same offices during the 2012 term of office. The Council of administration confirmed their appointments since there was insufficient membership present at the national convention to fill all the required national positions. Bro. James McAteer made a motion to accept the council decision and it was seconded by Bro. Thomas McAteer.

President O'Bryan reported that life membership status was approved at the last convention. Article 5, Section 6 of the Constitution, Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans now includes "Life membership fees shall be set in two tiers, 18 to 60 years old, two hundred and fifty dollars, 60 and over years old, one hundred and twenty five dollars, in a one time payment. Real Sons will continual to have free membership. Life members shall be provided a certificate, membership card and pin for the membership badge. Bro. James McAteer stated that it was his belief that life membership was previously approved for one year only. Bro. James McAteer made a motion that the life membership option be permanent with a two-tier system. The motion was seconded by Bro. Thomas McAteer. The membership approved the motion. President O'Bryan agreed to order pins for life members. A motion was made by Bro. James McAteer to hold the 2013 National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and include a tour of the U.S.S. Olympia. It was seconded by Bro. Thomas McAteer. The membership present approved the motion.

WILLIAM T. LIVINGSTON A REAL SON REMEMBERS

1ST S. CAROLINA & U.S. NAVY

By Bro. Jim Livingston, Jenkins Camp No. 164

Sad to say I have little to share regarding my father.

He was twice married; taking my mother as his final "Spouse," this while his first wife was still living. I am therefore not certain of the legitimacy in South Carolina in the early 30's. Point being I barely remember dad, he having passed on when I was four. We have no pictures of him and I have no idea what he looked like. His prior family has never been cordial to myself and my brother who is two years older than I.

Genealogy and my own search, some published and solid, other deducted with reasonable evidence, I provide you. His father was unknown, although I suspect it may have been a Livingston. His mother was Lavena Metts who was taken in as a boarder by Daniel and Melinda Livingston/Livingston (First cousins) when the Newberry Poor House moved out of the area. She appears on the official census as a very young girl in 1850. She later appears in the official 1880 census living with the Livingston couple mentioned above with a son W.T. Metts. Of course Lavena (both deaf and mute) was never married and was impregnated while living in the Livingston household. I am not beyond imagining that Grandpa Daniel was my blood Grandfather.

The Livingston family is well known back to the exile of William Livingston from Scotland in the 17th century. His

moving to Rotterdam with part of the family. Part of the family settled in Albany, New York, signing our early documents, swearing in our first president, etc. Later the family that remained in Rotterdam migrated to South Carolina, specifically Cannon's Creek area of what is now Newberry County, in the early 18th century. In the American Revolution they were mostly Loyalists.

Dad was around 60 years old when I was born. He had spent a very successful business life and with his first marriage had two daughters, no sons. He was a contractor and most notable local building that he was official contractor for was the Newberry Hospital that was dedicated in 1925. He was a Private in the Spanish-American War. He is buried at Rosemont Cemetery, alongside the street that separates the cemetery and Newberry College, the 5th dirt drive near the fence separating the street and the cemetery.

I'd love to have a picture of him as a young man. I am told we look much the same which tells me he was a fine most attractive fellow. This preceding information is likely of little value. But it is all that I have.

Service of William T. Livingston & the Newberry Guards

The "Newberry Guards" were organized by William S. Langford in Newberry, South Carolina, and were assembled in Newberry, where they were enlisted on May 3rd, 1898, for two years service, and boarding trains reported to Camp Ellerbe in Columbia, South Carolina, that same day. On May 11th, the company, having completed its medical inspections and recruited its full compliment was mustered into United States service as Company B of the 1st South Carolina Infantry Regiment, United States Volunteers, under Captain William S. Langford, 1st Lieutenant Richard H. Wearn, and 2nd Lieutenant Thomas O. Stewart Jr.



Lieut. R. H. Wearn.



Capt. W. S. Langford.



Lieut. T. O. Stewart.

On June 6th, 1898, the company left Camp Ellerbe by rail for Chickamauga Park, Georgia, arriving and going into camp at Camp George H. Thomas on June 7th. They remained in camp until July 28th when they boarded a train for Jacksonville, Florida, arriving on July 29th, and going into camp at Camp Cuba Libre in Panama Park. On September 24th, the company boarded trains and moved to Columbia, South Carolina, arriving on September 25th, going into camp for a short time, when they are furloughed for thirty-days from September 29th to October 29th, per General Orders No. 130, Adjutant Generals Office. At the expiration of the furlough the men returned, the officers having been on waiting orders, the company was mustered out of service with the remainder of the regiment on November 10th, 1898, at Columbia, South Carolina.

Private William T. Livingston of Newberry, enlisted on May 3rd, 1898, for two years service, at the age of 27, showing his occupation at the time as a carpenter. He was mustered into service as a Private in Company B on May 11th, at Camp Ellerbe, and served with the regiment during its services, being mustered out of service with the company on November 10th, 1898, at Columbia, South Carolina.

COLLECTING PHOTO'S AND BIOGRAPHIES OF SPANISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS

A CAMP ACTION PLAN

By Brother Greg Eanes, SSAWV

Step 1: Identify Veterans from your community by name

- a. Identifying Spanish-American War veterans from one's community is a greater challenge than compiling veterans from prior conflicts who often served in community units. While many National Guard and State militia units served, a large number of men served in the National Army and Navy and their service is generally only known to their families. The first step in trying to compile a veteran list for your community involves naming those who are already "known" through published local histories, census records, etc. Place these in an excel spreadsheet of men and units. This becomes the "target list" for the initial collection of photographs and identification of burial locations. This is the Camp's starting point.
- b. **What are good sources for the identification of local Spanish-American War veterans?** These will vary. The best starting point is through the identification of any existing unit rosters from the local National Guard or militia unit from one's community. Another good source for one's particular community is the 1930 Census which contained a question on whether or not one was a veteran and from which conflict. The census records can be searched at Ancestry.com allowing a

dedicated SSAWV Camp member to perform the work without ever leaving home.

- c. Published unit histories, county histories, cemeteries, war memorials with inscribed names may provide identifications and supplemental data for each soldier. Some local libraries have unpublished papers from the era and these also provide data.
- d. Camps should limit their initial effort to keep collections manageable. Target one community or county at a time;
- e. A review of the veteran names by members of the local Camp may result in identification of older families from the community and additional potential sources of information. Once this connection is made, local Camps will have identified families for potential recruitment.

Step 2: Identify the action officer/archivist to receive the materials

- a. **Single point of contact.** Identify a single point of contact within the Camp to serve as the repository of the information;
- b. **Duties:** The primary duty of this individual will be to (a) expand the biographic information (as it becomes available) on the excel spreadsheet as well as (b) labeling photos for future storage and retrieval by the Camp;
- c. **Administration is critical.** Early commitment to proper labeling and cataloging will facilitate transfer of materials to a National SSAWV master file. It will also facilitate transfer of material to local, state and military historical repositories. While it is important to collect the information and photographs, it is also important that data is labeled to allow logical retrieval by third parties.

- d. **Team Effort.** ALL Camp members should be involved in collecting Spanish-American War veteran photographs and biographic information from families in their communities and get the information to the Camp's action officer for entry into the master files.
- e. **Scan Images As Soon As Possible.** SCAN the photographs as soon as possible and ensure an electronic copy is forwarded to the donor as well as the archivist. **ENSURE A BACKUP COPY EXISTS** either with another member of the Chapter or on a USB drive or desk-top storage device.
- f. **Photo-copies should be scanned.** While original photo images are desired, collectors will find that sometimes a family member does not have an actual photograph but only a paper photocopy of a photograph handed down by another family member. These will vary in quality depending on when they were made. *But, even if the image is of poor quality, SCAN it into a jpeg or PDF file.* There are programs that will enhance many poor quality images. While the SSAWV Camp may not have the skills/programs to enhance the image, the expertise may reside elsewhere within the organization. Enhancement of the image can occur anytime after initial collection. The primary mission at this point is to copy the image.
- g. **SCAN any image of the veteran.** Most images are likely not wartime photographs made while the individual was in uniform. What is important is that a photo of the veteran be obtained, regardless of what point in life it was made. In many ways, post-war images are particularly desirable for educational purposes to illustrate the continuing influence of these men when they raised their families or help build their communities. These men are not 'ancestors'; they are 'family' and part of our 'living memory'. There are persons alive today who remember their Spanish-American War era grandfather or uncle. This point is important to make when engaged in educational and public relations activities.
- h. **Full biographic information is also critical.** The military or Veteran Administration records may exist and will provide invaluable details. Ancestry.com has scanned images of Regular Army unit muster rolls, which detail members of the unit, unit activities and combat actions. These alone can help construct a veteran's activities while in service. What is not generally known and really needed is 'What did they do after the war?' Their post-war activities contributed to their communities and the strengthening of the American ideal. These men turned their swords into ploughshares and contributed to their communities in a variety of professions: business, agriculture, education, politics, the clergy, trades, etc. They became members of the town councils, started community fire departments, were trustees at colleges, universities, medical schools, etc., and some may even have returned to war in World War I. Their post-war contributions to society are as varied as the men who served. These contributions need to be captured on paper, particularly for men whose contributions were reserved to their local communities and are not as well documented. Many institutions we cherish today are the direct result of the civic work these very same veterans were engaged in before and after the war. Their contributions to our cultural heritage extend beyond battlefield leadership and valor.

i. **Sources:** Document sources of information in the excel spreadsheet. The source of the biographic information may be the oral tradition of multiple family members or a published local history. Because the Camp is compiling ‘history’, it is important that sources be documented as well as possible. If the source is a family member, get the phone, e-mail and street address of the donor so follow-up questions can be asked, if needed. It may also provide an opportunity to attend that family’s annual reunions to pose questions to other members of the family that may have living memory of the Spanish-American War veteran in question. This generally results in identification of other photos unknown to some family members or military artifacts that belonged to the veteran. The artifacts can be photographed for inclusion in the overall biography.

Step 3: Getting ‘the word’ out.

- a. **Identify local news outlets.** In rural areas, local newspapers are generally printed on a weekly basis. Further, local radio stations are generally friendly to local reporting. Identify appropriate ‘news outlets’ in your community for receipt of a news release from the Camp.
- b. **Draft the news release.** The shorter the news release, the more likely it will be printed by local newspapers that have a premium on space. Keep it simple and keep it short (no more than one typed page). Ensure the basic message (who, what, when, where, why and how) and an Camp point of contact is included so readers know how to share their information, (An example of a news release is attached and can be used as a template.);
- c. **Issue the News release.** This can be done via e-mail, postal mail or in-person visit. The in-person visit may

result in more publicity. Identify the local newspaper’s publication date. A public relations tactic that may result in more local coverage is to visit the local editor and drop off the news release on the day after the newspaper has been published for the week. Because the editor has just finished one paper, he’ll just be starting for the next week’s paper and will likely have time to talk. This may result in an interview with the SSAWV Camp officer and result in a larger newspaper article and favorable coverage. If possible, choose a spokesman who already has a favorable personal relationship with the editor/reporter. Cultivate these relationships.

- d. **Don’t forget the radio.** Most folks listen to the radio at work. The news release one uses for the newspaper will work for the radio. Same tactic: contact the news manager or station manager at one’s local radio station and see if they want an ‘on air’ statement when the release is dropped off. If so, be prepared to make comments. Type out a 30 to 45 second statement that can be read over the phone or a microphone. KISS – Keep it simple and use words easily articulated and understood. Some local radio stations also have free ‘want ads’ or ‘coffee chats’ programs where folks call in to sell stuff. These are also good venues to ‘get the word out’ to a target audience. Use them.

Step 4: Follow-up actions.

- a. **Public Relations.** Keep the public informed of the Camp’s progress through periodic press releases providing updates (i.e.; ‘We’re half-way there’ or ‘Wartime photo obtained’, etc). This keeps the Camp and the project in the news which, in turn, results in positive public relations, new sources of information/leads and potentially, new members;

- b. **Education.** Announce and hold educational lectures at the local library, local genealogical society, heritage groups, high school or community college and community fairs/events to provide the community an update on findings. The project will be of interest to a wide variety of folks. Share this information publicly when possible. This also keeps the Camp out front in the community and may result in new members.
- c. **Copy/share data to ensure continued preservation.** Provide periodic updates to the National SSAWV headquarters. Also provide a copy of the product (interim and finished) to the state historical society. This ensures multiple copies exist in case one copy is lost due to fire, technical failure or other reasons.
- d. **Build Membership.** The collection of biographies and photographs of Spanish-American War veterans through contact with their families will result in new members. There are likely persons in one's community completely unaware of their relationship with a Spanish-American War veteran. The project and resulting publicity will result in family discussions and new awareness of extended family relationships. This will result in new members, continued growth for the Camp and continued support for preservation, recognition and honor for the veterans of the Spanish-American War era.

ON THE FIRING LINE

This section is for the reports of activities and events of the various Camp of the Order.

No Reports received for this edition

THE BULLETIN BOARD

The following are the announcements, General Orders, and other such information that the Brothers of the Order should be aware of.

Membership Medals. The Sons membership medals are available for purchase from the National Supply Officer, Brother Jim Kiger. The cost for a medal is \$22.00; this includes the cost of shipping. For more information on how to place an order contact Brother Kiger by mail at 278 Gettysburg Road, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky 41017.

Graves Registration. Today in many cemeteries throughout the United States, hundreds of Spanish-American War Veteran's graves remain un-marked, unknown, and forgotten. One of the primary purposes of the SSAWV is the preservation of these Veterans memories. As a part of this we are calling on all Brothers & Sisters to assist in locating and documenting the locations of these graves. If you know of the location of the grave of a Spanish American War Veteran, or think there may be one, take the time to contact the National Graves Registration Officer with the information, so that the grave will be recorded in the Organizations records. Once the veterans service is confirmed the Graves Registration officer will create a page for the Veteran on the Find-A-Grave website (if one does not already exist).

Planning on Moving? Remember that if you are planning to re-locate let the National Secretary or Treasurer know of so that we may be able to keep in touch with you.



THE DAUGHTERS OF '98

AUXILIARY OF THE UNITED SPANISH WAR VETERANS

National Fort Captain Johanna A. McGrath

National Fort Adjutant Berna M. Reinwald

520 Main St., Bradford, OH 45308

32028 Mount Vernon Rd, Rockwood, MI 48173

THE DAUGHTERS

The membership of the Daughters of '98 is composed of daughters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, legally adopted daughters, stepdaughters, foster daughters, daughters in law, grand daughters in law, nieces and grand nieces, cousins of anyone eligible for membership in the United Spanish War Veterans, who have reached the age of five (5) years.

Its objects are to bind closer together the descendants of the United Spanish War Veterans, to perpetuate the memory of those who carried the flag to victory in 1898, to endeavor to hold high the standards of the organization, and to encourage the aims and aspirations of the United Spanish War Veterans.

By resolution approved at the National Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, August 23rd to 28th, 1947, the Daughters of '98 were granted certain legal rights to function. Substance of the Resolution is as follows: "Two or more Forts shall be grouped and called a Department. The newly formed Department will then proceed to form a National Fort. The local Forts shall function through their Departments, the Departments through their National Fort, and the National Fort will function under the direction of the National Auxiliary, U.S.W.V."

On August 30th, 1960, the National Fort, Daughters of '98, Auxiliary, USWV, was granted a charter by the National

Auxiliary, USWV. The charter was presented to National Fort Captain Ada Knect by the National Auxiliary President Kathleen Galvin.

The National Fort consists of 14 officers, some of whom are elected and some appointed.

Cadets participate in services held on February 15th [The date of the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine] Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Flags and Banners are carried in the Massing of Colors. Floral Tributes are placed. Many cities have Hiker Monuments where ceremonies are conducted at special times.



The Spirit of 76' will live forever in the hearts of the Daughters of '98. We pledge ourselves to always revere the founts of this great land, and to preserve the memory of our fathers, the United Spanish War Veterans. God bless

those sisters who are still with us. In your golden years may you find consolation in knowing that the Daughters of '98 will assist you as long as the need exists.

FROM THE FORTS

This section is for the reports of activities and events of the various Forts of the Order.

No Reports received for this edition

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following are the announcements, General Orders, and other such information that the Sisters of the Daughters should be aware of.

Passing of Sister Lorraine Orton. It with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Sister Lorraine Orton of the Watervliet Fort of Watervliet, New York, on November 27th, 2012. Below can be found an Obituary for Sis. Orton.



Lorraine M. (Roth) Orton, 65, of Fairmount, New York, passed away at home following her battle with ALS. Born in Syracuse, she graduated from Henninger High School and retired from Auburn prison after a total of 34 years for NYS. Lorraine was national

historian for the Women's Relief Corps, the Auxiliary to the Army of the Republic, and a member of Ladies of GAR, Daughters of Union Veterans, Daughters of '98, Marcellus Grange, Fellowship of Knights of King Arthur, Camillus First United Methodist Church, the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans, Tipperary Hill American Legion, Freedom Foundation and 148 NYS Volunteer group. Her joy of history was known to many.

Lorraine is survived by her husband of 24 years, Jerome "Jerry" Orton; a son, Greg Sterio; two brothers: her twin, Larry, and Jack Roth; two sisters, Jeanette McGuire and Shirley Tucker; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A special thanks to Joy and Mike Miller, Gary and Marge Tyler, and to all her caregivers for their assistance.

Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to ALS- Upstate NY Chapter, 890 Seventh North St., Ste. 108, Liverpool, NY 13088 or Camillus First United Methodist Church, 12 Genesee Street, Camillus, NY 13031.



