



# The National Son

*The newsletter of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans*

*Volume 2024 No. 4*



**CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY – The Arizona Rough Riders, supported by the Buckey O’Neill Camp No. 175, Sons of Spanish American War Veterans participated with the Arizona Rough Riders Association in the Prescott, Arizona Veterans Day Parade. Three SSAWV Brothers participated including President Frantz, SR VP Williamson and President of Rough Riders Assoc, and JR VP Tim Prater. (Contributed Photo)**

## *Also in this issue...*

- The World’s Tallest Spanish-American War Memorial*
- Frank Zangari – Army Musician in the Philippines to Navy Bandmaster*
- Ship’s Cook Giovanni Bestoso of the USS BOSTON*
- SSAWV Camp News: Headstone Dedication & More!*

## From the National President ‘Tim’ Mabee

In this issue of *The National Son*, you will find two veteran profiles by Peter Belmonte on Italian-Americans – Musician Frank Zangari and Ship’s Cook Giovanni Bestoso, and another veteran profile of James Gleason, a stalwart character actor during the Golden Age of Hollywood. These veteran profiles help us learn about the ordinary soldier and sailor’s wartime activities as well as their post-war civilian contributions, all of which aid our period impressions and community education efforts. And standby for more from Peter as he has already submitted two additional articles that will be published in future issues.



Buckey O’Neill Camp President Avery Frantz has filled us in on the activities of the Arizona Camp and has authored a feature article on ‘the world’s tallest Spanish-American War Memorial’ which is the centerpiece of a park in Utah.

As a side note, let me also draw your attention to the Arizona Camp’s website at <https://buckeyoneillcamp175.godaddysites.com>. With little revenue investment, they have used the ‘Go Daddy’ tool to put together a first class source of information. I encourage all camps to try to do this as it is a fantastic way to connect with potential members and other interested parties. Well done O’Neill Camp!

Alexander Quinn Camp President Mark Donohue and his team supported Veterans Day activities in Lebanon, Pennsylvania and scored a visit to the local National Guard museum where they were able to get ‘up close’ to a Spanish-American War period gatling gun though it is unknown if it was used in Cuba.

Finally, allow my Heather and I to express to each and every one our best hopes you will celebrate a joyous and peaceful Christmas with your loved ones. The annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ reminds us of the things that really matter in life: family, health and helping others. Also, we want to wish you a prosperous and happy New Year for 2025.

*-Tim and Heather*

# Frank Zangari, Musician in the Philippines

## 42<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment

By Peter L. Belmonte, Major, USAF (Ret.)

Francesco (Frank) Zangari was born in Torre di Ruggiero, Province of Catanzaro, in the Southern Italian Region of Calabria, on January 21, 1878. He came to the U.S. in the mid-1890s and settled in New York City.<sup>1</sup>

Zangari was a musician when he enlisted in the 42nd U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment band, on October 16, 1899.<sup>2</sup> This regiment was being recruited for duty in the Philippine Islands, to quell the insurrection that had begun there after the U.S. had thrown off their Spanish rulers.

Zangari was probably recruited by Chief Musician Saverio Simone, the regimental bandleader. In October Simone recruited Italian musicians for the band in New York

City. The band ended up with Simone and fifteen other Italians among the 24 men comprising the band. The regiment moved from Fort Niagara, New York, to San Francisco, California; they stayed there until November 30, 1899, when they are left aboard the transports *Columbia* and



**FRANK AND ELISABETTA ZANGARI** - U.S. Navy Bandmaster Frank Zangari and his wife, Elisabetta Belcamino. This photograph was probably taken in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, around 1918-1920 (courtesy of Vincint Zangari / Zangari Genealogy).

<sup>1</sup> A version of this article appears in Peter L. Belmonte, *“That War Was a Great Adventure”: Italian-Americans in the U.S. Military, 1898-1902*, Volume 1, Independently Published, 2024. For biographical and military information on Frank (Francesco) Zangari, see *New York, Spanish-American War Military and Naval Service Records, 1898-1902; U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925; 1900 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com.

<sup>2</sup> . For information about the United States Volunteer regiments recruited specifically for service during the Philippine-American War, see Greg Eanes, “A Brief History, The 29th U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment In the Philippines,” *The National Son*, Fall-Winter Edition (2016-2017), Vol. VII, No. 2. For a history of the 42nd U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment, see Col. Frederick J. Herman, U.S. Army (Ret.). *Forty-Second Foot: A History of the Forty-Second Regiment of Infantry, United States Volunteers*. N.p., Kansas City, MO, 1942. Available on-line at: [hathitrust.org](http://hathitrust.org). For a complete history of the band and its Italian-American members, see Peter L. Belmonte, *“That War Was a Great Adventure,” Italian-Americans in the U.S. Military, 1898-1902*, Volume 1, pp. 100-129.

*Danly Vostok.* Arriving in Manila, Philippines, on December 31, the regiment saw action at various places during their time in the islands.

The band was, by all accounts, an exceptional one, performing for the men and for local civilians. Most of the regiment left Manila aboard the *Ohio* on May 28, 1901, and they arrived in San Francisco on June 20. Zangari was promoted from private to corporal to sergeant before his discharge on June 27, 1901. He became a U.S. citizen on July 1 in San Francisco. Zangari was a talented musician and composer. According to his family,

U. S. ARMY									
SURNAME		CHRISTIAN NAME		MIDDLE NAME		RANK	COMPANY	REGIMENT	
Zangari		Frank				Pvt.	F.S. & B	42 US Vol Inf	
ENLISTED WHEN		WHERE		RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT					
Oct. 16, 1899		N Y City		188 Hester St., N.Y.City					
ORGANIZATIONS SERVED IN									
Field, Staff and Band, 42nd US Vol Inf									
Ranks held during service: Pvt., Corpl., Sgt.									
ENGAGEMENTS					WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION				
None					None				
DATE AND CAUSE OF, AND RANK HELD, AT SEPARATION FROM SERVICE									
June 27, 1901--Muste out of Field, Staff and Band, 42nd US Vol Inf									
LAST SERVED IN									
None									
BIRTHPLACE						AGE AT ENL.	OCCUPATION	COLOR OF EYES	HAIR
Italy						21 YRS	Musician	Brown	Dk Brown
COMPLEXION	HEIGHT	REMARKS							
Dark	5'-3"	Service:honest and faithful.							

**SERVICE CARD**-Sgt. Frank Zangari's New York Spanish-American War service card (Ancestry.com).

His favorite instrument was the Cornet, but he could play most any instrument you put in front of him. Rumor had it that the only instrument he did not play well were the drums, but he sure could write parts for them in the many Marches which he wrote for both the Naval Band and the City of Portsmouth Band, [for] which he was also the Bandmaster [sic].<sup>3</sup>



**THE BAND AT EL DEPOSITO, 1901**  
The Band of the 42nd U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Philippines, 1901  
(Herman, *The Forty-Second Foot*).

<sup>3</sup> Vincint Zangari / Zangari Genealogy.

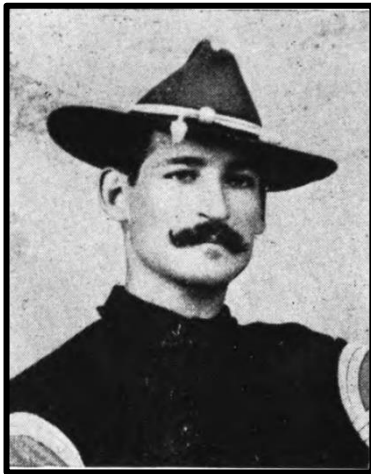
Zangari enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1902 and served almost continuously until 1921. He served aboard the following ships: *Topeka*, *Wabash*, *Hartford*, *Hancock*, *Columbia*, and *Franklin*. He visited his hometown, Torre di Ruggiero, from July 1901 to January 1902 and from June 1905 to March 1906. Zangari probably had a brief break in service in 1909; he served as a private, corporal, and possibly sergeant in the band of the 9th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard, from May 16 to October 11, 1909. While so assigned, he composed a march, "Rowley's Ninth Regiment Band."<sup>44</sup>

After this National Guard stint, he soon reenlisted in the Navy. Zangari was probably stationed at the New York Navy Yard for a while and then at Portsmouth Navy Yard, New Hampshire. He was at Portsmouth during World War I. By 1921 Zangari was a U.S. Navy bandmaster, serial number 144-47-71, at the Portsmouth Navy Yard. Zangari made one more visit to Italy in 1921. Zangari's last assignment was as an instructor in the Navy school for musicians at Newport. He died of lobar pneumonia at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Portsmouth on February 13, 1922.

Zangari's military service spanned more than twenty years, during peacetime and in active service during two wars. He served in the Army, Pennsylvania National Guard, and Navy. Many Italian-born musicians had similar careers, and their military service is largely unrecognized.<sup>5</sup> This brief article is an effort to document the history of the composition of United States military forces during the years of American expansionism and increasing world influence.



**FRANK ZANGARI - 1921 Passport Photo**




**Chief Musician Saverio Simone.**  
**Simone recruited bandmembers for the**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> USVI regiment.**  
 (Herman, *The Forty-Second Foot*)

<sup>4</sup> For Zangari's Pennsylvania National Guard service, see "Composed New March," the *Wilkes-Barre Record* (Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania), July 20, 1909 (Newspapers.com), and Zangari's service card at the Pennsylvania State Archives website: <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/pages/default.aspx>].

<sup>5</sup>See, for example, Peter L. Belmonte, "Immigrants in the U.S. Navy: A Way Up," *World War One Illustrated* (Journal of the World War One Historical Association), Summer 2023, Number 19, pp. 23-28.



NAVY BAND - Bandmaster Frank Zangari, standing, center, and the Naval Band of Portsmouth New Hampshire, September 12, 1918 (courtesy of Vincint Zangari / Zangari Genealogy).



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**The Virginia Branch cordially invites eligible persons to join and support our mission of remembering these immigrants and their descendants who have made positive contributions to our national story. It is your story.**

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***We Want You!***  
**[www.huguenotmanakin.org](http://www.huguenotmanakin.org)**

# Buckey O'Neill Camp News

By Avery Frantz  
President O'Neill Camp

On September 28th, the Brothers of the Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175, Sons of Spanish American War Veterans, hosted a membership booth at Family History Day in Prescott, Arizona, an event sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Camp's display featured membership applications, a recruitment poster, a historical photograph of the Rough Riders, a "Remember the Maine" postcard, and a pin crafted from the metal of the USS Maine bearing the image of Admiral Dewey.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO 'REAL SON' – O'Neill Camp President Avery Frantz (left) with Leo Pratt ('L.P.') Fulton, a 'Real Son' and veteran of the Korean War whose brother died in Korea. 'L.P.' turned 89 years young on October 13, 2024. Frantz says L.P. lives at 49 North Emmetts Way, Star Valley, Arizona, 85541 with his wife. Frantz asks SSAWV members to "please consider sending him a birthday card or whatever you wish to show that his brothers are thinking of him." In the inset is 'L.P.' with his father John 'Jack' Fulton around 1959 or 1960. The elder Fulton served in Company D, 45<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry. (Photo by Odette Fulton)**

Also, on display were photographs of the Rough Riders and the Buckey O'Neill Statue, as well as the Camp's membership medal, regalia, and a 1938

SSAWV Ritual Book, which is utilized in official Camp ceremonies. Assisting with the booth were Avery Frantz, President; Tim Prater, Junior Vice President; Jeffrey Steadman, Chaplain; and Verna Maleski, a member of the Daughters of '98 and Past National President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

After Family History Day President Avery Frantz and Sister Verna Maleski visited the newly opened Fort Whipple Museum. Fort Whipple was the location of the Rough Riders before they left Arizona. Within the Museum also included a piece of the USS Maine.



**HEADSTONE DEDICATION** -The Buckey O’Neill Camp held a headstone dedication on June 24, 2024, for the late Private John Wilson (Jack) Fulton, a native of Indiana, Pennsylvania born on June 1, 1878. He was a Private in Company D, 45<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry during the war. He died in Navajo County, Arizona on October 21, 1961, at the age of eighty-three. He is buried in the Show Low Cemetery in Navajo County.





**HEADSTONE DEDICATION – O’Neill Camp member Ryan Taylor reads during the headstone dedication service for Private John Wilson (Jack) Fulton.**



**VFW HONOR GUARD PARTICIPATION – The local Veterans of Foreign Wars provided an honor guard for the O’Neill Camp SSAWV headstone dedication service for Private John W. (Jack) Fulton. This illustrates the extensive community support that can be leveraged by small SSAWV camps in support of common memorial objectives and activities. (O’Neill Camp Photos)**



# Alexander Quinn Camp News

Pennsylvania's Alexander Quinn Camp supported a Veteran's Day service on November 11. According to Camp President Mark Donohue the members supported larger community services in the community of Lebanon. The services were also supported by an Honor Guard (see photo above).

Attending on behalf of the Camp were Mark Donahue (President), Jim McAteer PNP and current Camp Secretary, Dennis Flake (Camp Treasurer) and Pat McAteer (National President of the Daughters of '98).

On November 26 the Quinn Camp toured the Pennsylvania National Guard Museum as part of a field trip arranged by Dennis Flake. The museum is on the grounds of Ft Indiantown Gap near Lebanon PA. Among the items viewed was a Spanish-American War-era Gatling Gun.



# The Last Spanish-American War Veteran Project

By: Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175 - AZ, Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

The Last Spanish-American War Veteran Project by the Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175, Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans (SSAWV) aims to locate and mark the final resting place of the last Spanish-American War Soldier (Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion) buried in each county of Arizona.

Those men who served in the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion were included as veterans of the Spanish-American War for the purposes of this activity. The 'Last Veterans' of Arizona include the following who now have 'Find A Grave' entries.

**Apache:** Sgt Frederick Leroy Davis (1877-1925)  
**Cochise:** Charles S Griffith (1882-1979)  
**Coconino:** Charles Bous (1871-1958)  
**Gila:** Waldo Emerson Johnson (1880-1967)  
**Graham:** John Wesley Parker (1879-1952)  
**Greenlee:** Joseph Wiley Aker (1881-1963)  
**La Paz:** George Washington "Buck" Conner Sr. (1880-1947)  
**Maricopa:** Nathan Edward Cook (1885-1992)  
**Mohave:** Herbert Maurice Caswell (1876-1962)  
**Navajo:** John Wilson Fulton (1878-1961)  
**Pima:** Lodie W. Burt (1879-1976)  
**Pinal:** Benjamin F. Thum (1879-1968)  
**Santa Cruz:** Franklin Arvid Krupp (1877-1972)  
**Yavapai:** Reuben Powers "Ruby" King (1878-1973)  
**Yuma:** Arthur Jason Eddy (1879-1976)

**CORRECTION TO LAST ISSUE - In Vol. 2024-3, the headline 'O'Neill Camp Donates and Dedicates New Memorial' was in error. The Buckey O'Neill Camp Spanish-American War Memorial was dedicated and sits on public property, but it was not 'donated' to local government. The SSAWV O'Neill Camp retains ownership with markings on the bottom stating it is the property of the SSAWV. No remarks for bequeathing the memorial were made nor were any comments made accepting the memorial on behalf of the community. This approach was taken, in part, because of recent events in which communities have arbitrarily removed or destroyed war memorials rather than return them to the organization originators of those memorials. *The National Son* regrets the error made in the headline and issues this correction.**

---On *USS BOSTON*---

# Ship's Cook Giovanni Bestoso

By Maj. Peter L. Belmonte, USAF (Ret.)

**Author's Note:** This article is part of my efforts to document the military service of Italian-Americans during the years 1898 to 1902. These war years, occurring during the so-called great migration of Southern and Eastern Europeans to the United States, saw many Italian immigrants enlisting in the U.S. military. The men were part of the emergence of the United States as a world power and, as such, are worth subjects of further study. This article is a brief biography of an Italian immigrant who served as a ship's cook aboard the *USS Boston* during the Battle of Manila Bay.

Giovanni Lorenzo Santino Bestoso was born on March 8, 1868, in Casanova Lerrone, Liguria. Bestoso enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Genoa, signing up aboard the *USS Bennington* on September 13, 1892. A year later, he came to the U.S. aboard the *Bennington*.

During the Spanish-American War, Bestoso served as a ship's cook aboard the *USS Boston*. The *Boston* took part in the Battle of Manila Bay on May 1, 1898, and the capture of Manila on August 13, 1898.

In 1900, Bestoso was a ship's cook third class aboard the *USS Petrel* at Cavite, Philippines. According to family lore, Bestoso was a cook aboard a ship that sank off the coast of an island. Bestoso used to keep his money stored in the ship's galley; while other crew members made for the shore, Bestoso went first to the galley to retrieve his money. The islanders offered no help to the stranded sailors, so Bestoso used his money to purchase food until help arrived. The details of this story are difficult to verify; it is possible that this event occurred before Bestoso enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1892.

**Giovanni Bestoso, 1923**  
(Courtesy of Christa Reise)



**Giovanni Bestoso**  
In his Navy uniform, date unknown  
(Courtesy of Christa Reise)



In 1902, Bestoso returned to Italy for a visit; while there, he married Genovina Maria Giuditta Bestoso. The couple returned to the U.S. and started their family while Bestoso continued to serve in the Navy.<sup>6</sup>

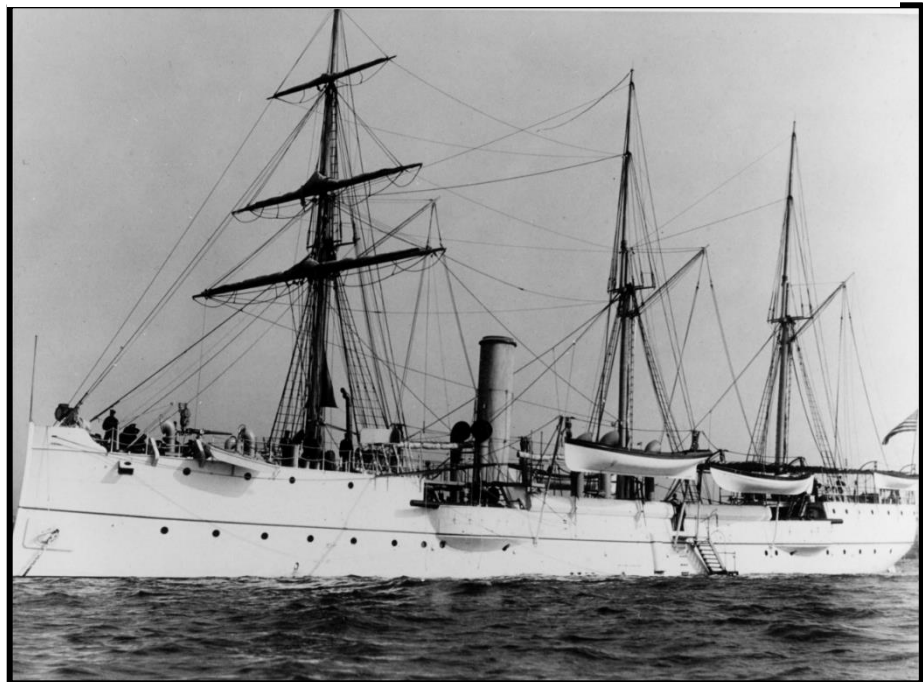
In 1910, Bestoso was a cook at the Newport Naval Station, living with his wife and daughters in Newport, Rhode Island. He retired from the Navy in 1916 and moved to Jamestown, Rhode Island.

In 1930, he was employed by the Navy as an inspector at the Naval Torpedo Station in Newport. Bestoso died on November 7, 1950, in Newport and was buried there with full military honors.

Bestoso's brother, Napoleone, served as an officer's steward in the U.S. Navy from 1889 until his retirement in 1915, except for a break in service between March 1898 and 1902.



**“The protected cruiser *USS BOSTON* in action, 1 May 1898”**  
(Naval History and Heritage Command)



***USS PETREL*, date unknown**  
(Naval History and Heritage Command)

<sup>6</sup> Notes: I thank Jared Gaston for his help in obtaining permission to use Bestoso's photographs; I also thank Christa Reise, Bestoso's granddaughter. See Charles H. Bell and Arthur Weiss. *Officers and Men at the Battle of Manila Bay*. N.p., 1972. For Bestoso's initial Navy enlistment and other life details, see his 1902 passport application and census records, Ancestry.com; other records are found on Fold3.com and Newspapers.com.

---Veteran Profile ---

# James A. Gleason

## Hollywood 'Golden Age' Actor

by Greg Eanes

Among the veterans of the Philippine War was James 'Jimmy' Austin Gleason, a 'Golden Age' Hollywood actor, author, producer, director, and playwright. Readers may recall Gleason as the crusty old newspaperman with a patriotic heart in Frank Capra's 'Meet John Doe' which starred Gary Cooper and Barbara Stanwyck. He was also nominated for an Academy Award for Supporting Actor for his role in 'Here Comes Mr. Jordan' with Claude Rains and Robert Montgomery.



According to one obituary,

“At the age of 16 he felt the call of adventure and joined the Army, lying about his age, and fought through the Philippine Insurrection. He started as a bugler and ended up as a tough Sergeant.”<sup>7</sup>

### Conflicting Birth Dates

Identifying when he actually served is difficult due to conflicting birthdates. Gleason's Wikipedia entry he was born May 23, 1882, and lied about his age to join the Army at age 16 to serve in the Spanish-American War ending up in the Philippines. His death certificate cites a birth year of 1882 which would have made him 16 in 1898.<sup>8</sup> Contemporary evidence suggests this may not be accurate.

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<sup>7</sup> Altus, *Oklahoma Times Democrat*, April 13, 1959

<sup>8</sup> California Deaths and Burials, 1776-2000", , *FamilySearch*

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:HG49-TLT2> : Tue Mar 19 12:33:47 UTC 2024), Entry for James Austin Gleason and Wm. Lawrence Gleason, 15 April 1959.

His Veterans Affairs<sup>9</sup> record and published obituary reflect the birth date of May 23, 1886, suggesting he was 16 in 1902. The 1930 Census entries for Gleason, which asked for one's veteran status, reflects service in the Philippines ('Phil' for Philippines rather than 'Spa' for Spanish-American War) and in the World War.

A 1917 California Biographical Index Card provides a birthday of May 23, 1886. An examination of the 1920 and 1930 Census records suggests he was born in 1886. The 1940 Census record suggests he was born in 1882.<sup>10</sup>

**Gleason, J. A.**  
 CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY 1917 No. 1  
 Stage name James Gleason  
 Name in full James Austin Gleason  
 Place of birth New York, U.Y. Date May 23 1886  
 Father William Lawrence Gleason  
 Mother (maiden name in full) Mina Patten Collins  
 If married, to whom? Lucile Webster  
 Place Oakland Calif. Date Aug. 23 1906  
 Time spent in California Since 1894  
 Present address 1719 Oakland ave. Piedmont, Calif.  
 (over)

Figure 1 - CALIFORNIA BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX CARD - Filled out in 1917, it shows James Gleason's birth year as 1886. That would have made him 16 in 1902.

<u>James</u>	<u>Austin</u>	<u>Gleason</u>	<u>804V</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>yes</u>	<u>Phil WW</u>
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Figure 2 - 1930 CENSUS EXCERPT - This screenshot shows the last elements of James Gleason's census file. In the far right column was veteran status which he marks 'yes' for veteran and 'Phil WW' for which conflicts. These mean the Philippine Insurrection and the World War.

### Philippine Service

The best source for his Philippine service originates with California National Guard records. The 1916 record shows Gleason previously served three years in Troop D, 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Cavalry which saw service in Cuba during the war and occupation. In 1904 the unit was assigned to the Philippines. It participated in the Cavite Campaign from January to July 1905. Gleason however, had arrived in the U.S. and was staying in Oakland's Touraine Hotel on June 26, 1905.<sup>11</sup> This time period would have been within his three year enlistment if he enlisted in 1902.

Finding Gleason's record in Fold3 NARA holdings has been unsuccessful. There are other servicemen named 'James' or 'James A. Gleason' including a notable Tennessee Volunteer who commanded an Artillery Regiment in World War I. None appear to have been connected with the

<sup>9</sup> United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP5G-KQLP> : Sunday Mar 10 18:48:42 UTC 2024), Entry for James Austin Gleason

<sup>10</sup> United States. Census records for 1920, 1930 and 1940; Family Search records.

<sup>11</sup> *Oakland Tribune*, June 27, 1905. See 'Hotel Arrivals,' p10. As he lived and worked on stages in that area, he is often reported at the Touraine. There is no public mention of him in the 1898 to 1905 period until June 1905.

2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Cavalry. As Gleason could have enlisted under a false name or another unit and transferred into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry.

There is no question the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Cavalry served the Philippines but not until 1904. Gleason's service in the Mexican Border Campaign and World War I are also clear. Further research may reveal more details on his Philippine service

### Mexican Border and First World War

Based on California National Guard records, Gleason was a commissioned officer as early as 1913. He was serving in the California Guard when it was Federally mobilized in June 1916 for the Mexican Border Campaign. Gleason was listed as 30 year old First Lieutenant with Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Field Artillery.<sup>12</sup>

FIRST LIEUTENANT		
✓ James A. Gleason ✓		Battalion QM & Commissary & Supply Commission expires Mar 20/20 3 yrs Troop D 2nd US Cav 3 yrs Btry B 1st Bn F A NG Cal

Figure 3 - CALIFORNIA GUARD ROSTER EXCERPT - This excerpt of a 1916 California National Guard roster shows First Lieutenant James A. Gleason. His prior military service included three years with Co. D, 2nd U.S. Cavalry, likely in the Philippines.

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Records show that he already had three years' service in that unit. It shows his occupation as "Theatrical." He was married and living in Berkley, California. At some point he was appointed the Battalion Quartermaster and Commissary & Supply Officer. The California Brigade was dispatched to Nogales and Yuma, Arizona to patrol the border and protect the railroads.

The California unit was discharged after a year's service but was almost immediately remobilized for World War I. Before deployment to France, the unit was plucked of talented personnel for a variety of assignments and arrived in France with only 60% strength leading it become a replacement pool.

Gleason appears to have been among those dispatched to other assignments. His Veterans Affairs index card reflects "Rct Tank Cps Eng" (i.e.; Recruit, Tank Corps, Engineers) which suggests assignment to the fledgling U.S. Tank Corps, a natural fit for an old cavalryman. Whether or not he deployed overseas has yet to be determined. The Tank training units were established at Fort Meade, Maryland, and other places (including Gettysburg under the command of an officer named Dwight D. Eisenhower). It not known if he deployed to France.

Based on available data, it appears actor James Austin Gleason likely earned the Philippine Campaign Medal though 1904. Though outside the window of general issue and the medal was

<sup>12</sup> United States, Enlisted and Officer Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916-1939", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6DG5-5GKT> : Fri Mar 08 08:37:38 UTC 2024), Entry for James A Gleason, 28 June 1916.




granted for service in Mindanao and other cited campaigns or actions. Gleason did earn the Mexican Border Service Medal and the World War I Victory Medal.

His life in the theater and movies was remarkably successful leading him to become a local star in the Oakland-San Francisco area theater before getting into silent movies in 1922. Gleason co-wrote a 1929 'talkie' entitled 'His First Command' starring a young William Boyd centered on a peacetime cavalry romance at Fort Riley, Kansas. The unit: the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Cavalry. Made with Army cooperation, it showed cavalry unit activities. Ironically, in the future, Gleason was seriously considered to play the role of 'Hopalong' Cassidy which eventually went to Boyd making him a household name of that era.

According to the census, in 1930 Gleason's house was valued at \$75,000 or over \$1.4 million in 2024 dollars. In 1939 he earned more than \$5,000 which is equivalent to nearly \$112,000 in 2024 dollars. And when television came along, he was considered to play the role of Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball's 'I Love Lucy' neighbor Fred Mertz but he was commanding \$3,500 a week and the budget could not handle it, so the role was given to William Frawley. He was also an original founder of the Screen Actors Guild.

The son of an Irish father, Gleason was a devout Catholic and reportedly also supported several charities. He died of asthma on April 12, 1959, and is buried in Woodland Hills, California.

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### *The World's Tallest Spanish-American War Memorial*

## Remembering the *MAINE* in the West

By Avery Frantz

In 1898, the Washington Monument stood as the tallest monument in the world. Yet, nestled among the sandstone walls of Ashley Canyon located in Uintah County, Utah, a different kind of towering tribute emerged—one that would rise 358 feet, 28-feet higher than the Washington Monument, and become the world's tallest Spanish-American War memorial. Painted on June 6, 1898, the bold inscription “Remember the Maine 1898” stretches across the rugged canyon walls, commemorating the *USS MAINE* and its profound impact on American history.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Photo from the J. Williard Marriot Digital Library, University of Utah. The caption is “Remember the Maine is painted on a ledge rock at the start of Dry Fork. In 1898 the battleship Maine was blown up in Havana, Cuba, triggering the Spanish American War. Four months later William Gibson hired Leo Voight to paint Remember the Maine as a tribute to the Maine.” 1967 photo from the *Vernal Express* Newspaper.

The story behind the unique memorial, including the inspiration that sparked its creations and the individuals who brought it to life, reveals the depth of national sentiment during the War with Spain. Filled with the fiery passion of patriotism, Scottish born William “Uncle Billy” Gibson, Uintah County Representative to the state legislature and veteran of the Blackhawk War, was riding his horse against the red canyon walls of Ashley Canyon when a thought flashed through his head: “What a glorious idea it would be to paint the ill-fated Maine on the face of the cliff, with appropriate words, away up, where no human hand had ever touched!”

Quickly in his characteristic ways Rep. Gibson set to accomplish this and found painter Leo Voight, a German, to hear his proposition. Hearing of the proposition Voight thought that surely the idea must have been a joke and agreed to do it for \$10 but when he was furnished \$5 immediately to bind the bargain, he began to see the proposition was real!

Agreeing to the job, pulleys, and other tackle necessary to job was secured and on Monday, June 6, 1898, the painter Voight ventured up the 600ft cliff and was strapped to a board. There several men hoisted him down the cliff some 60 feet, and when reaching 150 feet off the face of the cliff, Mr. Voight’s rope began to twist throwing and whirling him through the air hanging for dear life. As “children yelled, the women screamed, and some shed tears of sympathy...” the newspaper exclaimed “It looked as if he was turning fast enough to throw his boots off...” After 1 or 2 minutes of flying through the air, the rope naturally untangled itself and the painter was lowered to his area of the cliff. There “the words “Remember the Maine” was to be the inscription, and the first word was finished on Monday, in bold, black letters 18 inches high. Tuesday the ascent was again made, and the remaining words added, with the name of William Gibson beneath, together with the date.”



Additionally, the vessel was to be also painted alongside the cliff face but “Voight’s nerves suffered a relapse, and this part was not carried out...” Much to the disappointment of Mr. Gibson, no one else would accept the job and the memorial was complete!

As citizens picnicked and remembered the words, new ideas also came for the cliff, for where was old glory? Uncle Jake Workman, another fellow patriotic man, secured a long flagpole, and took it upon himself to hoist a flag on top of the cliff. Drilling a hole straight into the solid rock, a pole strengthened with irons bands was raised flying the flag, and the peak on which the colors of the country floated from was christened “Dewey Peak” in honor of the hero of Manila Bay.

As time passed those of Uintah County continued to “Remember the Maine” and later commissioned the area as a park for the considerable amounts of family recreation and the presence of ancient petroglyphs in the area. With the attack by the Japanese in 1941 on Pearl Harbor those of Uintah released a new war cry, “Remember Pearl Harbor!” Inscribed above “Remember the Maine” were the words “Pearl Harbor” along with a flag and the date that will always live in infamy.

In 1975 it was reported that the inscription “Remember the Maine” had suffered the “ravages of time.... [becoming] practically obliterated.” In May of that year the Jaycee’s furnished Earl Goodrich with supplies and it was repainted. Later in 1997, or 99 years from the original paint job, it was again retouched, with a mention on the cliff that it was repainted.



Today the park continues and offers its wind of patriotism to every recreational visitor it sees, accustomed with ramadas, pavilions, and bathrooms. And remember, do you “Remember the Maine” as much as Uintah County, Utah?<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Sources: *Citizens of Uintah Co. Paint The War Cry, “Remember the Maine” On a Cliff 500 Feet High*, Vernal Express Newspaper, 09 June 1898, Page 4; *How “Uncle Billy” Gibson Remembered the Maine*, The Salt Lake Herald, 19 June 1898, Page 14; *“Remember the Main”[sic]*, Vernal Express Newspaper, 15 May 1975, Page 6.

# Frank Wallace Earns Certificate of Merit in Philippine Fight

By Greg Eanes

At the time of the Philippine Insurrection, there were few ways to recognize battlefield heroism. One mechanism was the Army's Certificate of Merit, an award created in 1847 to recognize the heroism of junior enlisted men in the Mexican-American War. Though discontinued after the war, the award was reinstated after the battle of the Little Big Horn and continued to be issued through May 1918.

At the time of the Spanish-American War, the criteria for the Certificate had been modified for "any enlisted members of the Army for distinguished service whether in action or otherwise...or any hazardous service by which the Government is saved loss in men and material."<sup>15</sup> One man earning the award for 'gallantry in action' late in 1900 in the jungles of the Philippines was Corporal Frank Wallace of the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry.



**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT MEDAL**-In 1905 the U.S. Army minted a medal for presentation to those having earned the Certificate. It was worn as a personal decoration behind the Medal of Honor and before campaign medals. The medal was eliminated in 1918. Recipients were able to exchange them to the new Distinguished Service Medal and in 1934 were upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross. Recipients of the Certificate received a two dollar increase in monthly pay.

## Giving 'Hard Knocks'

The tempo of insurgent actions increased nationwide during the latter half of 1900 culminating in September and October when 241 total insurgent combats were counted. Filipino guerilla leader Emilio Aguinaldo directed the increased operations in a last major effort to influence the

<sup>15</sup> Certificate of Merit Medal, Wikipedia entry.

November U.S. Presidential election where it was hoped William Jennings Bryan, who favored Philippine independence, would defeat incumbent William McKinley.

In General Order No. 202, Aguinaldo said that during the summer the insurgents must "give such hard knocks to the Americans that they will...set in motion the fall of the Imperialist party which is trying to enslave us." On July 2, a group of about fifty ladrones (bandits) hid themselves in the steamer 'Filipino' which departed Manila for a destination northward along the coast of Manila Bay. When the ship was passing the vicinity of Gotung, the ladrones revealed themselves, seized the ship and robbed all on board.<sup>16</sup>

Several American detachments were sent out to try to locate the bandits. On July 2, a detachment of the 3rd Infantry Regiment numbering 20 men departed the outpost of Hagonoy under the command of Sergeant Alfred H. Merriam, Co. H, "to scout the surrounding country in search of the robbers of the Steamboat 'Filipino'."<sup>17</sup>

The Americans stayed overnight at Tibaguin in native boats leaving that place at about 6 a.m. on July 3 "intending to return to Hagonoy. When about one and one-half miles north of Tibaguin on the Tibaguin River the detachment was attacked by 80 to 110 insurgents armed with Remington and Mauser rifles concealed in the nipa on both sides of the river."<sup>18</sup>

Privates Charles Gaddy and Herman Burdt were wounded by the first volley. Sergeant Merriam directed the immediate landing of the detachment and charged the enemy. It was reported "A converging fire from three directions soon forced [the Americans] to take the defensive." Sergeant Merriam was shot in the neck and killed instantaneously.<sup>19</sup>

Corporal Frank Wallace took immediate command "as soon as Sergeant Merriam was killed, and with his detachment gallantly charging and driving back a force of the armed natives, four or five times greater in number than his own." The action lasted till about 10:30 a.m. (estimated two hours) when the approach of a detachment of Company I, 3rd Infantry under Lt. John H. Page Jr. "forced the enemy to withdraw."<sup>20</sup>

Six rifles were captured and six more were destroyed and thrown into the river. Gaddy later died of his wounds. A third man was also killed with two others wounded. There were at least twelve enemy killed with the remainder of the force dispersed. For his actions that day, Corporal Wallace was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor. This was downgraded to the Certificate of Merit, one of only 462 awarded for gallantry in action between 1874 and 1918.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Wolf, 322; Congressional Record, *Narrative History*, 118.

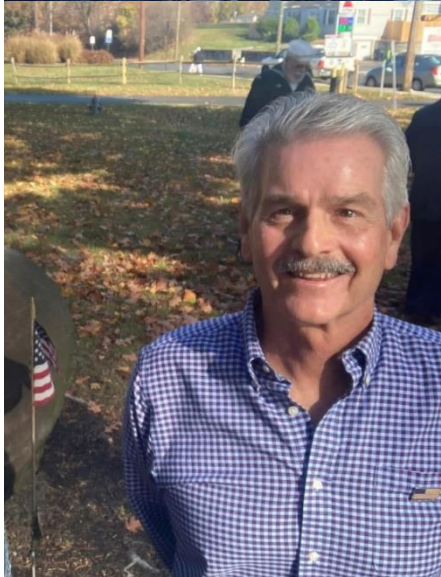
<sup>17</sup> Congressional History, *Narrative History*, 118; Third Infantry Returns, July 1900.

<sup>18</sup> Third Infantry Returns, July 1900; Ibid, Report of Engagement, 1900.

<sup>19</sup> Third Infantry Returns, July 1900; Ibid, Report of Engagement, 1900.

<sup>20</sup> Third Infantry Returns, July 1900; Ibid, Report of Engagement, 1900.

<sup>21</sup> Third Infantry Returns, July 1900; Congressional Record, *Narrative History*, 118; AGO OR, F&S, Index; AGO General Orders, GO86, July 24, 1902.



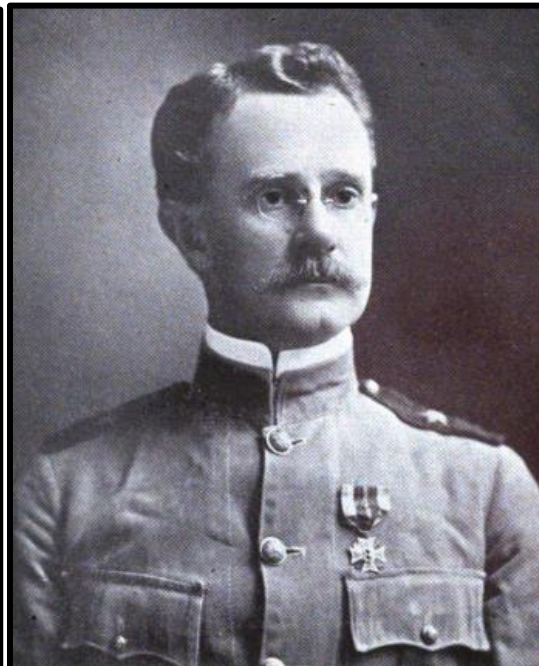
**QUINN CAMP HONORS VETERANS DAY**  
– Alexander Quinn Camp members support the Lebanon, Pennsylvania Veterans Day service on November 11, 2024. Pictured above, from left Mark Donahue (President) and Pat McAteer (National President of the Daughters of '98), and Jim McAteer PNP and current Camp Secretary, Also attending was Dennis Flake (Camp Treasurer) (pictured on left).

**'FIGHTING JOE' WHEELER CAMP** – Greg Eanes with the Wheeler Camp supported Veterans Day services at Hampden-Sydney College where the student re-enactment club established a uniformed honor guard recognizing veterans of all U.S. conflicts. Eanes (on right) is pictured with Owen Renfrow in Spanish-American War attire.





**NATIONAL RECOGNITION – Buckey O’Neill Camp President Avery Frantz was recently recognized by the Daughters of ’98 with a DSAWV Award of Excellence. The Certificate recognized Frantz “for his many contributions as an SSAWV Son to the Daughters of ’98” which was signed by National Fort President Pat McAteer on October 8, 2024. Below: On Veterans Day, the grave of Brigadier General Irving Hale in Denver, Colorado. He was a founder and first president of the National Society Army of the Philippines. He also helped create the Veterans of Foreign Wars.**





# Spanish-American War Blanket for Re-Enactors Offered

Stephen Bockmiller of Hagerstown, Maryland, a re-enactor of the Spanish-American War, American Civil War and post-war era has teamed with Family Heirloom Weavers to produce a reproduction U.S. Army blanket that will meet the needs of post-Civil War U.S. Army impressions to include the Spanish-American War.

Bockmiller reports, “FHW’s website is familyheirloomweavers.com. The owner is Patrick Cline, with whom we have been working. He is a manufacturer under contract to us on this. This is not part of their inventory and is not found on their website. We are the producers, having purchased half a ton of wool yarn from a mill in Wisconsin and it was delivered to FHW a few days ago. Weaving should start in a week or so. FHW has an international reputation for recreating historic textiles for historic sites...”.

He said, “Its a one-time project...word of mouth. We are not an ongoing business concern where this is just one of numerous projects. After we exhaust this wool, I am out of the blanket "business" forever. We are just a couple of reenactors who found a hole in the supply chain for a product needed by Spanish War and Indian War reenactors that nobody makes, so we took it upon ourselves to do this. We did it once before in 2013 and we will not be doing it again.”



Bockmiller said, “We have wool to make about 250 blankets, and about 150 are already spoken for, including a couple of western military post historic sites that have ordered multiples to kit out barracks exhibits. Our 2013 and 2024 blanket projects are well documented in [Facebook] groups "Spanish American War", "Spanish American War Reenactors" and "Indian War Reenactors", showing we produced as promised in 2013, and we personally know many of the people who have ordered in this round.

A member of the SUVCW and MOSB, Bockmiller re-enacts “mostly Civil War.” He said, “I do have an 1898 kit, depicting a member of Company B, 1st Maryland Volunteers, which was Hagerstown, MD’s standing national guard company in 1898...We have the third-oldest SAW memorial in the country, which was dedicated on July 4, 1900. I am considering putting together a small living history program or commemoration this coming year to mark the 125th anniversary of the memorial.”

Information and directions on the blanket sales can be found elsewhere in *The National Son*. This is not a project of the SSAWV and is provided for informational purposes only.

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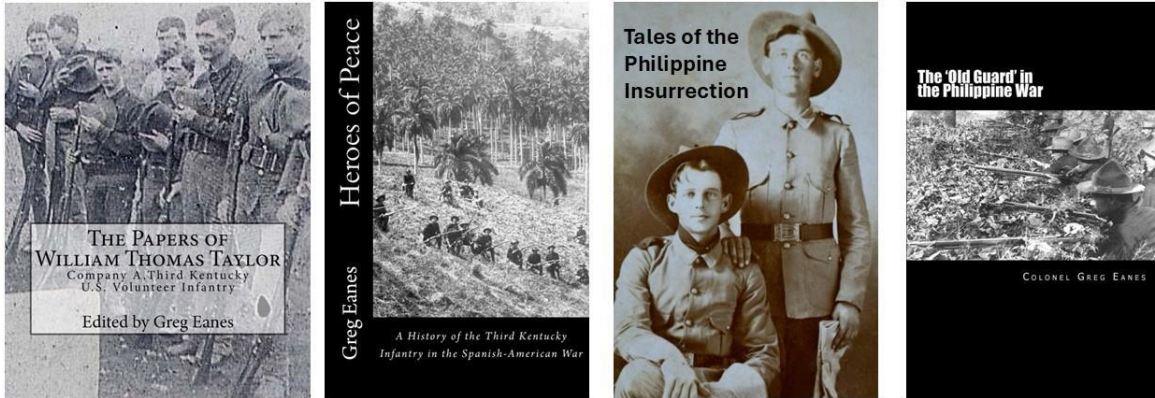
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**The Buckey O’Neill Camp No. 175, Sons of Spanish American War Veterans participated with the Arizona Rough Riders Association in the Prescott, Arizona Veterans Day Parade. Three SSAWV Brothers participated including President Frantz, SR VP Williamson and President of Rough Riders Assoc, and JR VP Tim Prater. (Contributed Photo)**

**CARD OF THANKS** – Allow this opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to all the SSAWV and Daughters who have submitted news and feature articles over the last two years. This is your newsletter. Documenting your Camp and Fort news, your public outreach activities, your local preservation efforts, publishing the historical articles and rare photos are all an important part of documenting the work of our organization and in remembering the sacrifices of the people who served in the Spanish-American War era. These newsletters cannot happen without your input so keep them coming. And please allow a heartfelt Merry Christmas to you all. – Greg Eanes, Public Relations Officer, SSAWV.

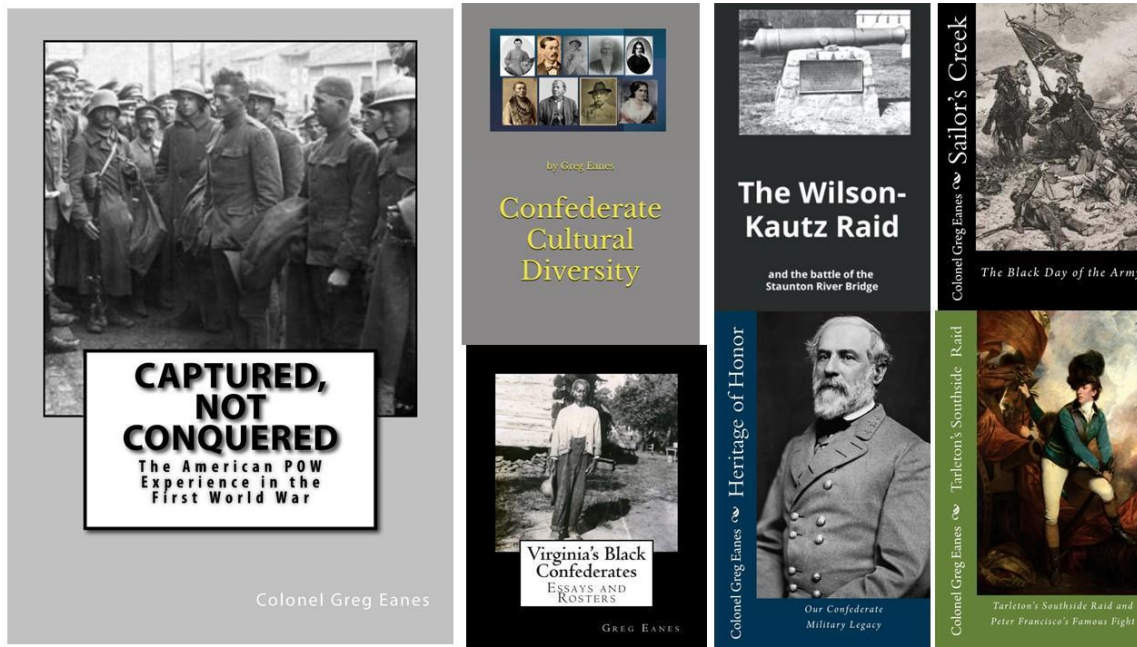


## Shop Now for Christmas

Military History by Greg Eanes

available at online bookstores

*A portion of profits are donated to veteran services and military related historic preservation activities*



**SUBSCRIPTION ORDERS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR  
M1885 U.S. ARMY BLANKET**



Responding to demand, we are reprising our 2013 effort that put the first reproduction U.S. M1885 army/marine blanket on the market. This is being done as a service to our fellow reenactors and living historians. This is a specific project. We are not a sutler or other business.

We do not anticipate ever doing this again. This will probably be everyone's only chance to secure one.

Our 2013 run was with Woolrich, which no longer has mills in the U.S. This new 2024 run will be produced in conjunction with Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, Pennsylvania (FHW). FHW has produced some of the most authentic Civil War reproduction blankets ever to hit the market. If you liked the Woolrich product (pictured above with an original on the left, courtesy of Fred Ganske), you will LOVE these. The FHW blanket will be 100% wool and produced on a loom constructed around 1905. The selvage will be more correct than our earlier model and it will not be as "nappy" as the first run. Each unit will weigh in at about 4.5 pounds.

Wool is very expensive right now, and due to cost and the minimum volume we are required to order and the up-front cost for this project is in the 5-figures! **The wool has been ordered and will arrive at FHW just after Thanksgiving.** This is a "subscription" project. Here are the terms:

**Price per blanket:** \$225 (This is consistent with FHW Civil War blankets currently on the market.)

**Deposit/Payment:** While this project started out accepting deposits, we are so close to production and delivery at this point that it serves no purpose continue to do so. Therefore, at this time, orders will be accepted with full payment.

**Shipping:** USPS Priority Mail Flat Rate Medium Box at \$18.40 for a single blanket. If you are in our region and want to pick up or meet some place we will be in our travels, shipping will not be required. But we aren't going to drive all over the mid-Atlantic to save you shipping. A custom shipping quote will be necessary when shipping two or more blankets together and will be charged actual cost (we will not mark up shipping). Do not pay for shipping when sending order in if you are ordering 2 or more. We will follow up later informing you what your unique shipping charge will be (based on location and number of blankets). When buying a single unit, up front payment of the \$18.40 shipping charge is required with your payment for the blanket.

**Sales tax:** Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax. (\$13.50 per blanket).

**Project launch:** Minimum number of orders has been achieved. Wool has been shipped to the weaver and we are shooting for delivery in the second half of December (tentative).

**Other Considerations:** Please read and sign the statement at bottom of order form. All payments accepted will reserve a blanket. There will be wool left over and we will be able to accept orders even while we are in the middle of production, and will be prioritized in the order received, to the degree we have enough wool to make additional blankets. On the slim chance we run out of wool before we run out of orders, those orders last received will have their payments refunded in full. But, we don't anticipate running out of wool.



**M1885 US ARMY/MARINE BLANKET  
ORDER FORM**

**Late production revised form.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS TO WHICH BLANKET(S) WILL BE SHIPPED (please contact us before ordering if you are outside of the 48 continental United States):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Payment forms accepted:  Personal check  Bank-issued check  
 Cash (Only if we meet in person.  Money order  
Do not send cash in the mail.)

Sorry, no PayPal, Venmo, Applepay or other digital currency or credit cards.

**ORDER (DEPOSIT):**

# of blankets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$225 \_\_\_\_\_ **Payment**

6% PA sales tax (\$13.50 each) for Pennsylvania residents: \_\_\_\_\_ **Tax**  
Enter "0" if **not** located in Pennsylvania.

Shipping: \$18.40 for a single blanket:  
Enter "TBD" (to be determined) for orders of 2 or more blankets. \_\_\_\_\_ **Shipping**

**TOTAL PAYMENT DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(plus shipping to be assessed later if above line was marked "TBD")

Please make checks and money orders payable to Stephen R. Bockmiller, and mail to:

**Stephen R. Bockmiller**  
**10537 Fish and Game Road, Waynesboro, PA 17268.**

**READ THIS NOTICE AND SIGN HERE ACKNOWLEDING YOU HAVE READ IT: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Paying the deposit is a commitment to participate.** This project is being undertaken by subscription. Your blanket will not be shipped until the outstanding balance, shipping and (if applicable) taxes are paid. Failure to remit the balance due when appropriate will result in the loss of deposit. Sufficient notice will be provided, and it won't be expected overnight. But if securing your balance due becomes an issue, the customer will receive notice of a "drop dead" date by which the balance must be paid, or the deposit is forfeited. We hate to sound hard-nosed about this, but we are not a sutler, and both married men who need to keep peace in our households. That does not include assuming unreasonable risks! What if you run into a unique set of circumstances between sending the deposit and when the balance is due, and you need some additional time to send your balance due? We will be willing to work with special cases as long as you reach out to us and let us know what the situation is, and you propose a **reasonable** timeline for completing your payment. But everyone is expected to remit balances when notified. This is a custom-made product with a niche demand. Therefore, returns will not be accepted unless damaged during delivery.

ADDRESS.  
From Psalm 66.

✠

HYMN.

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!  
Let angels prostrate fall,  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,  
Who from His altar call;  
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod,  
And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
The wormwood and the gall,  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet,  
And crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all Majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all. Amen.

✠

BENEDICTION.

✠

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST  
AND ON EARTH PEACE.

CHRISTMAS AT MANILA  
DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> A. D. 1898

FIRST REGIMENT COLORADO INFANTRY  
UNITED STATES VOLUNTEERS

