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# THE NATIONAL SON

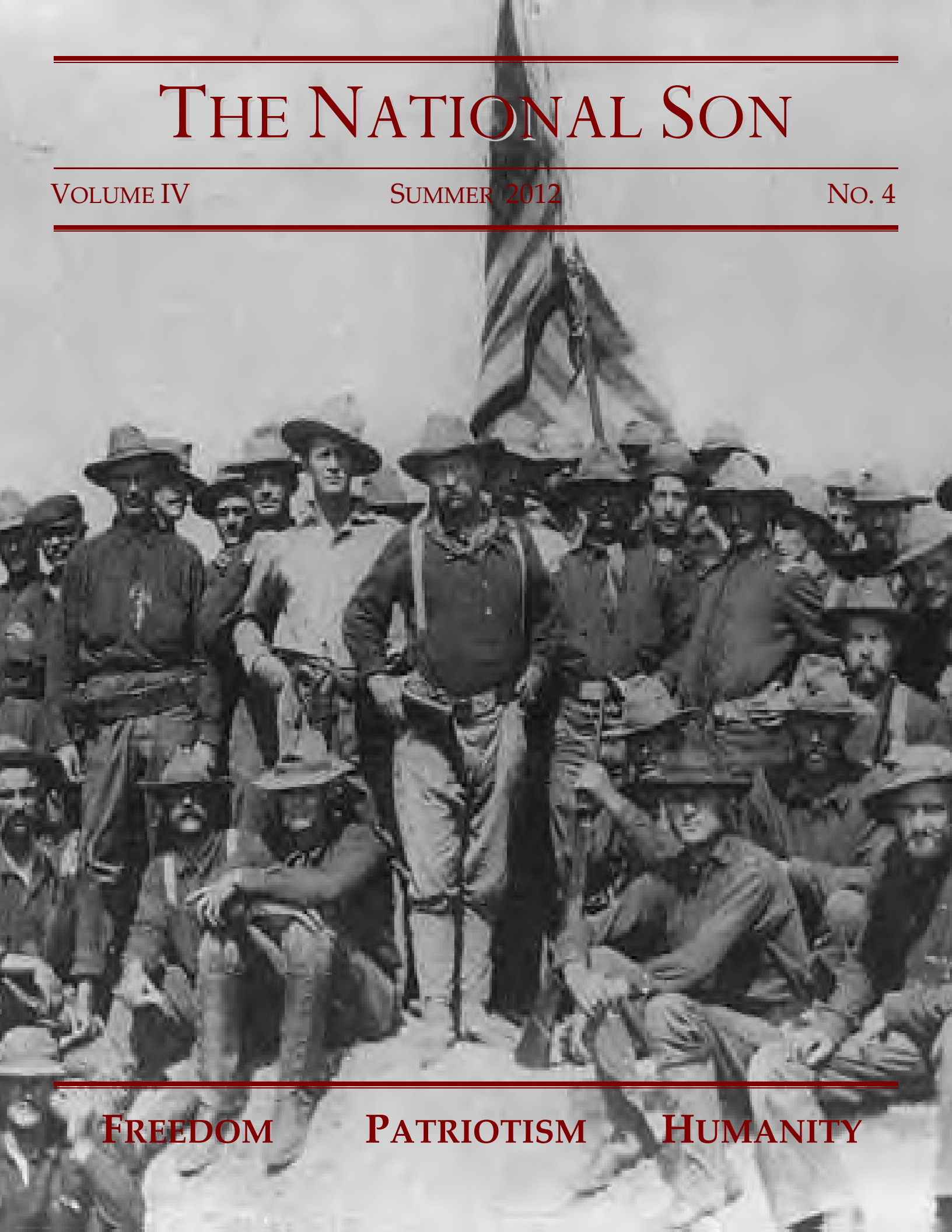
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VOLUME IV

SUMMER 2012

No. 4

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FREEDOM

PATRIOTISM

HUMANITY



## THE NATIONAL SON

Vol. IV May 2012 No. 4

### – 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](mailto: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](http://www.ssawv.org)

## Yahoo Group of the Sons & Daughters

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

*On the Cover: The 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry in Cuba, July 1898*



## 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.*

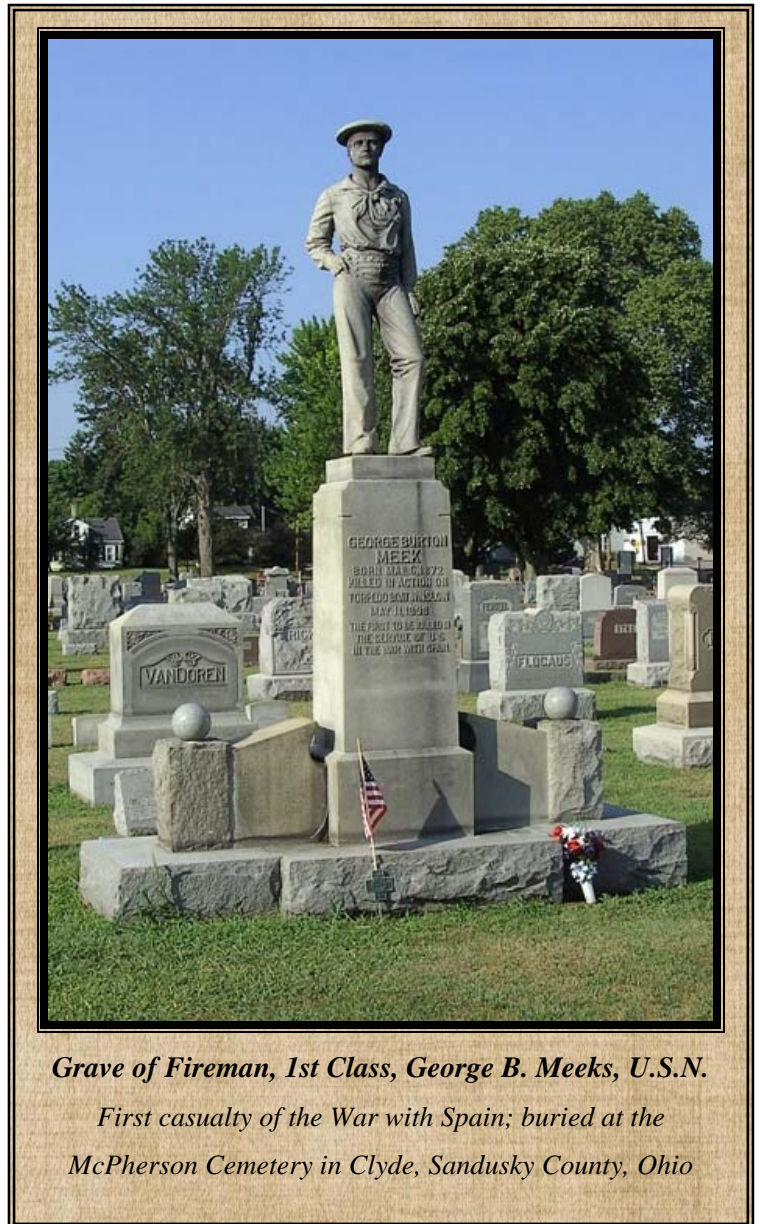
## DOWN THE WIRE

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope each of your lives are going well. Remember to reach out to our brothers and sisters when they have their ups and downs, even you have never actually meet them, perhaps they are just an name on your camp or fort register, or you have exchanged emails over some business item. We will continue to grow as people and an organization if we can do that. In years past, the veterans helped each other, sometimes monetarily, other times just listening, of the two, the later is often more important.

Recently, I was surprised to hear from an old friend after more than twenty years. As young men went to college together, played in a band, explored caves and historic sites, hiked and shared many times together including each other's weddings, so it was wonderful to see him again after all this time and share our memories. I assume it must have been the same with the Spanish War era veterans at reunions and meetings. Those must have been special times sharing stories and experiences with yours who truly "understood". Our order honors their memories too, we are keepers of their legacy.

At the same time, our orders are not just about looking at the past, we look to the future as well. I am excited about visiting the Veterans Military Museum in Sandusky and



*Grave of Fireman, 1st Class, George B. Meeks, U.S.N.  
First casualty of the War with Spain; buried at the  
McPherson Cemetery in Clyde, Sandusky County, Ohio*

getting together with members I have meet before and ones that I will be getting that pleasure for the first time. In this past year, we have begun a process to help start a museum in Mobile, Alabama. We have made in roads to develop closer relationships with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Sons of Confederate Veterans too. It will help that I have been elected Department Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This gives us direct access to many leaders

across the nation for that order. We will be advertising in nationally distributed magazines for the first time perhaps. Our membership and treasury has grown to the point where we were able to make some very modest donations to museums. As we continue our work in the future, I am very encouraged at our prospects and proud of each one of us.

In Freedom, Patriotism, & Humanity,

Bernie O'Bryan, National President

Sons of Spanish American War Veterans



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BROTHERS

### AT LARGE MEMBERSHIP

#### **Bro. James R. Bowling of Virginia**

5th Cousin, 2 Times Removed, Frederick Dent Grant  
Brigadier General, United States Volunteers

#### **Bro. Roger E. Brinley of Maryland**

Great Grandfather Corporal George H. Styles  
Troop A, 15th United States Cavalry Regiment

#### **Bro. Timothy L. Jacobs of Connecticut**

Great Grand Uncle Augustus Henry Brown  
Chief Yeoman, U.S.S. Philadelphia, United States Navy

### EGBERT-WETHERHILL-REED CAMP NO. 167 (KY)

#### **Bro. Ronald K. Workman of Arkansas**

Associate Membership

### MICAH J. JENKINS CAMP NO. 164 (S. CAROLINA)

#### **Bro. John H. Cooper Jr. of South Carolina**

Great-Great Uncle Private Francis Charles High  
Company G, 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment



*Private Francis C. High, 2nd Oregon Volunteers*

## MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 28TH, 2012

### ACTIVITIES OF THE SSAWV

The following are some details about events, memorials, and other activities that Brothers of the Sons took part in during this May 2012 Memorial Day throughout the United States. If any one has been missed we do apologize.

#### **Brother Stephan M. Donovan of Illinois**

These pictures . . . are from the Bohemian National Cemetery, near where I live in Chicago. My paternal grandfather, Norman Lewis Van Buskirk, was born in Nova Scotia and emigrated to the U.S. and served in the Spanish American War. A widower, he was killed in 1912 in an accident at the Boston Naval Shipyard, and his children were "adopted out." My father, Charles Frederick Van Buskirk became Charles Frederick Donovan.





*Bro. Donovan at the U.S.W.V. Monument in Chicago*

### **Jenkins Camp No. 164 of South Carolina**

The members of the Micah J. Jenkins Camp No. 164 and Palmetto Fort No. 90 took part in the Salute to Veterans Memorial Service at the Elim Baptist Church in Effingham, South Carolina, on Monday, May 28th, 2012. We represented veterans not only of the Spanish American War but also those Veterans of the Vietnam War and Desert Storm, being the Color Guard for the event. We also paid our respects to the Veterans buried at the National Cemetery in Florence, South Carolina, and placed flags on the graves of over fifty-veterans in cemeteries in Richland, Lexington, Sumter, and Florence Counties in South Carolina.



*Member of the Jenkins Camp serving as Color Guard*

## **NATIONAL CONVENTION SONS OF SPAN AM WAR VETS**

Brothers and Sisters of our united order,

The 76th National Convention of the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans will be held in Sandusky, Ohio, from September 7th to 9, 2012.

The Convention will take place at the Sleep Inn Hotel (OH463) in Sandusky, Ohio, which is located at 5509 Milan Road, Sandusky, Ohio, 44870; *Phone* (419) 625-6989.

The room cost will be (including tax) Seventy eight dollars and four cents (\$78.04) per night for a single occupancy. We have reserved 8 rooms, but more can be added if necessary. Because Sandusky is the site of several theme parks and summer activities, the room rates dropped dramatically after Labor Day, thus saving our membership a lot of money in these tough economic times.

The hotel is a modern one and members can browse the facilities via the web for better idea. It is my understanding that a Breakfast is included with the rooms.

Our Convention will be attending the Ohio Veterans Home Museum, which is near by and houses our Orders artifacts. We still working on convention details but I wanted all to have that date reserved on your calendars, the meetings are open to all members of our united orders.

In Freedom, Patriotism, & Humanity,

Bernie O'Bryan, National President

Sons of Spanish American War Veterans

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## A SAILOR & HIS SHIP SEAMAN DAVID H. WATSON

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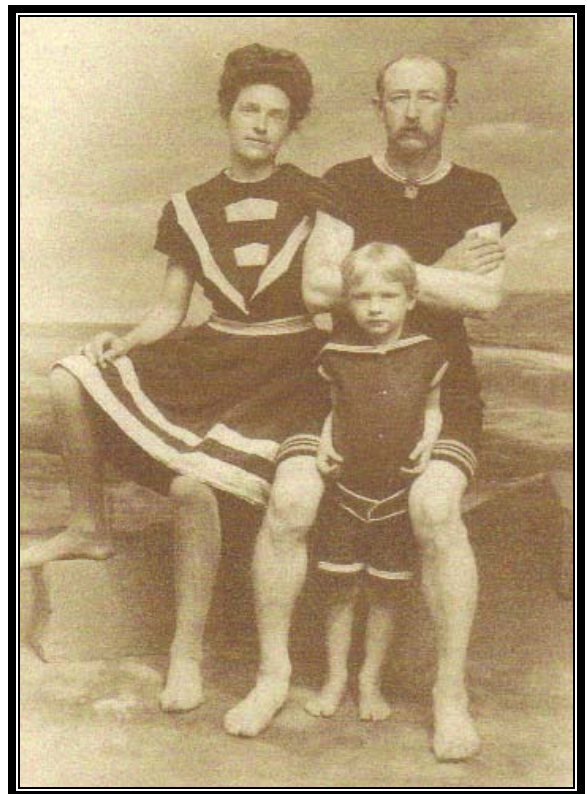
### AND THE U S S HAWK

*By National President Bernie O'Bryan & Bro. Raleigh H. Watson, with editing by Bro. Kenneth Robison*

Please excuse the scandalous near nudity (well by the 1904 standards, bare arms and legs!), picture of the Watson family, Bessie (Moler), former sailor David Hunter and their son Raleigh Hunter. David Hunter Watson served nine years in the United States Navy, including during the Spanish American War. As a Seaman (and later Gunner), he would have made twenty-six dollars (\$26) a month. While serving aboard the *USS Hawk*, which was credited with destroying the Spanish cargo ship *Alfonso XII*. His portion of the bounty was fifty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$52.50); however "attorney fees" took 10 percent of that total. Why the land loving, shore stationed "lawyers" were due ten percent is anyone's guess. Perhaps that is why his family is shoeless, sockless, sleeveless and David nearly hairless in the above

picture. David was known by his middle name (Hunter) while in the Navy.

In 1899, he left the navy, working first for the Farmers Supply Company and later the J.N. Zinn Company as a Secretary earning the reputation as begin a "popular young businessman." David and his wife had another child too (Lydia L.E.). David complained of stomach problems and died unexpectedly at the age forty, possibly due to stomach cancer. His wife received a widow's pension of twelve dollars (\$12) a month, plus two dollars a month for their daughter Lydia (until she turned 16). David Hunter Watson was the grandfather of Brother Raleigh H. Watson of Berryville, Virginia. Brother Watson is an Air Force veteran, a retired dentist and an Anglican Priest with a church in Winchester Virginia. His grandfather's leather service record folder and papers are still in Brother Watson's possession.

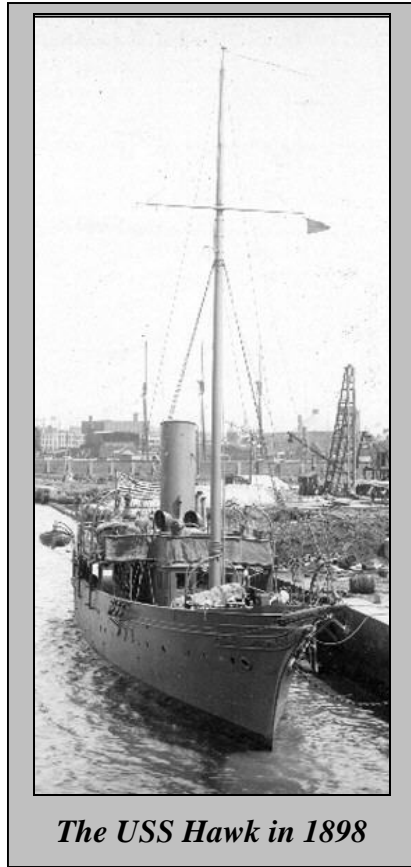




## The USS Hawk (1891 to 1940)

*From the "Dictionary of American Fighting Ships" with editing by President O'Bryan and Bro. Robison*

The USS Hawk (IX-14) was a converted yacht built by Fleming & Ferguson Company of Paisley, Scotland, in 1891. The United States Navy purchased the ship in April of 1898, and renamed it the 'Hawk.' Lieutenant John Hood (USN) of Alabama was assigned as the ship's first commander. She displaced 545 long tons, carried a crew of 47 officers and men and was armed with three guns (a 3-pounder and 2 one-pounders). Her top speed was 14 knots.



*The USS Hawk in 1898*

In late April of 1898 the *Hawk* sailed from Key West to join the North Atlantic Squadron in blockading the Island of Cuba. She was used in patrol and messaging services. On May 23rd she accompanied Admiral William T. Sampson's flagship "New York" out from Key West. Two weeks later she engaged and destroyed the Spanish coal carrying cargo ship *Alphonso XII* (not the more famous Spanish warship), which was bound for Cuba. In late summer she departed for Norfolk, Virginia, where she was decommissioned on September 14th, 1898.

The 'Hawk' remained at the docks in Norfolk until re-commissioned into the Navy in 1900, at which time she was loaned to the Ohio Naval Militia for the next nine years. On August 3rd, 1909, the *Hawk* was transferred to the Naval Militia of New York, and served for ten years in the area in and around Buffalo, New York. She decommissioned on May 21st, 1919, and assigned to the Reserve Fleet. She was re-designated as the 'IX-14' on July 1st, 1921.

The ship was once again re-commissioned into the Navy on April 16th, 1922 and was assigned to the 9th Naval District as a training ship. As part of that district she operated in the Great Lakes area for the duration of her service. She was finally decommissioned permanently on February 14th, 1940, and was sold for scrap on February 25th, 1940, to the Indiana Salvage Company of Michigan City, Indiana.

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## ON THE FIRING LINE

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

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### Greater Boston Camp No. 119 (Massachusetts)

The camp has located a Veterans grave at Maplewood Cemetery in Marlboro, Massachusetts, and placed a USWV marker and flag on it. A comrade of a local Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp gave the camp a picture of his old neighbors grandfather in his USWV uniform and a members badge, as well as a Past Camp Commander ring which was interested. The items have been placed in the Camps USWV display at the GAR Hall where we hold our meetings. Attached is a picture of the grave site and marker and also of the Hiker monument in Marlboro. Joseph

Philbrick was a Past Camp Commander of the USWV in Marlboro, Massachusetts. – Bro. Jim Blackwell, PNP.




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### Alexander M. Quinn Camp 173 (Pennsylvania)

A new Sons of Spanish American War Veterans camp is organizing in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and should be an authorized camp by the end of this year. The Alexander M. Quinn camp held an organizational meeting in May and hopes to complete the process during their next meeting in July. The camp is named after Sgt. Alexander McLean Quinn, who served in Co C, 13th U.S. Infantry Regiment, during the war and received the Medal of Honor for bravery during the battle of Santiago, Cuba. Sgt Quinn lost his life while on active duty in the Philippines during 1906.

**Alexander McLean Quinn** (17 May 1866 – 4 May 1906) son of Charles Quinn and Maria , was born in

Paterson, Passaic County, New Jersey. Alex enlisted in the army on June 18th, 1891. He enlisted at the age of 25 years as an electrician. On June 17th, 1896, Private Alexander Quinn was honorably discharged from the Hospital Corps of the US Army at West Point, New York, after serving his five year commitment. He reenlisted for another 3 years in New York City on July 2nd, 1896, entering the 8th Regiment of Infantry, being reassigned to the 13th Infantry effective July 3rd, 1896. He was in Company A of the 13th US Infantry when he fought at Santiago, Cuba, on July 1st, 1898, and on his return from Cuba typhus fever broke out on the ship and hospital staff deserted. Alex volunteered to care for the men and caught the disease (See New York Times, August 26th, 1898, page 2, “No Room at Camp Wikoff”). He was promoted to sergeant and awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on June 22nd, 1899. The citation was for gallantly assisting in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy. On July 2nd, 1899, the then 33-year old Alexander signed for his third enlistment with the 13th Infantry (again for 3 years) while at Pasay, on the island of Luzon. His fourth three-year enlistment (13th Infantry) was at sea, 425 miles east of Nagasaki, Japan, while on board the US Army Transport Sheridan. He was honorably discharged on August 31st, 1905. On July 2nd, 1905 Alex signed his last enlistment paper while serving at Camp Warwick, Cebu, Philippine Islands. This time he was with the Signal Corps, 6th Infantry. At the time he was 39 years old. On May 4th, 1906, he died at 1:00 AM at the age of 40 by the hands of a Filipino native in Sibonga, Cebu, Philippine Islands according to his military records. Military records show he was attacked on May 3rd, 1906, having received a stab wound consistent with a “bolo knife” which was the cause of death. His records show that his right hand was severed and



his left shoulder was cut through the joint (as well as several other deep wounds). At the time of his death, Alex was a corporal in Company L, Signal Corps, Warwick Barracks, Philippines. Evidence indicates he went to get a metal bar mended, got into an argument with the native doing it, and was slain by the angry Filipino. Military records have him buried on May 4th, 1906, in Plot A, Grave #1, Row 1, Military Cemetery, Cebu, Philippine Islands. According to the Paterson newspaper, (The Call, March, 14, 1907, page 1, column 5) Alexander was disinterred and reburied in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Totowa, Paterson, New Jersey. According to that article, Alexander was “cut to pieces by a bolo in the hands of a native.” There is a military plaque in the McAteer family plot at Totowa, Paterson, New Jersey.



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## THE BULLETIN BOARD

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

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**Corrections.** On the cover of the Spring Edition of the “National Son” the picture was identified as the “USS Maine” circa 1897, however the image was actually that of the “USS Maine” which had been constructed in 1899 and

was taken sometime between 1903 and 1907. Thanks go to Bro. Ed Donnell for noticing this error and letting us know.

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**Membership Medals.** The Sons of Spanish American War Veterans 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 at (859) 341-6235 or by mail at 278 Gettysburg Road, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, 41017.

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**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 members of the Order to assist in locating and documenting the locations of these Veterans graves. If you know of the location of the grave of a Spanish American War Veteran, or think there may be one in a particular cemetery, take the time to contact the National Graves Registration Officer with the information, so that the Veterans grave will be recorded in the National 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, with as much of a biography for the soldier as can be obtained.

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**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.

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## 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 Knecht 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 founders 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.