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# THE NATIONAL SON

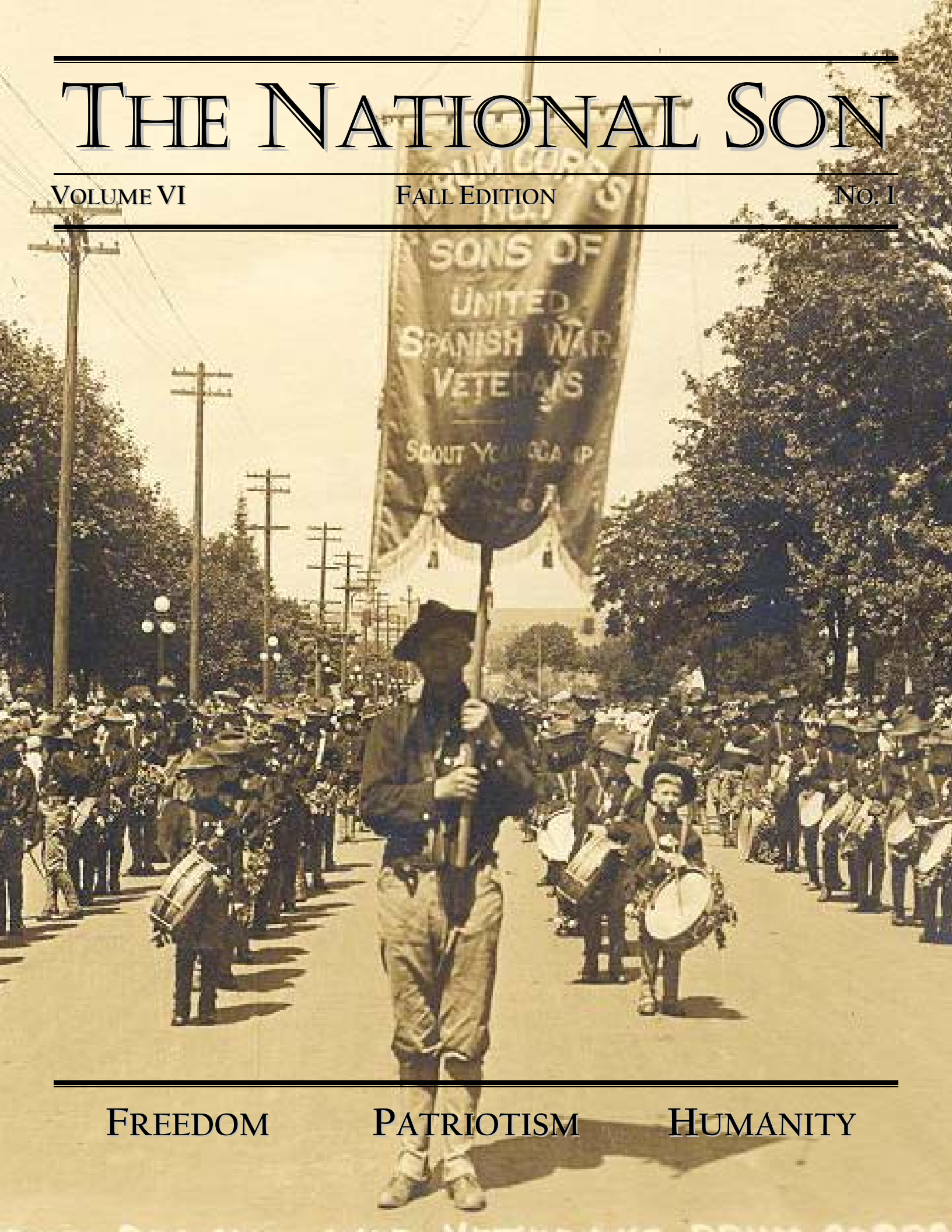
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VOLUME VI

FALL EDITION

NO. 1

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FREEDOM

PATRIOTISM

HUMANITY



## THE NATIONAL SON

Vol. VI Fall 2013 No. 1

### – NATIONAL OFFICERS –

**Kenneth H. Robison II**  
President

**James McAteer**  
Senior Vice President

**James Blackwell, PNP**  
Junior Vice President

**Adam Gaines**  
Secretary

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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:

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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 Sons of United Spanish War Veterans Drum Corps, Scott Young Camp No. 2 of Portland, Oregon, ca. January 1914.*

## 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,

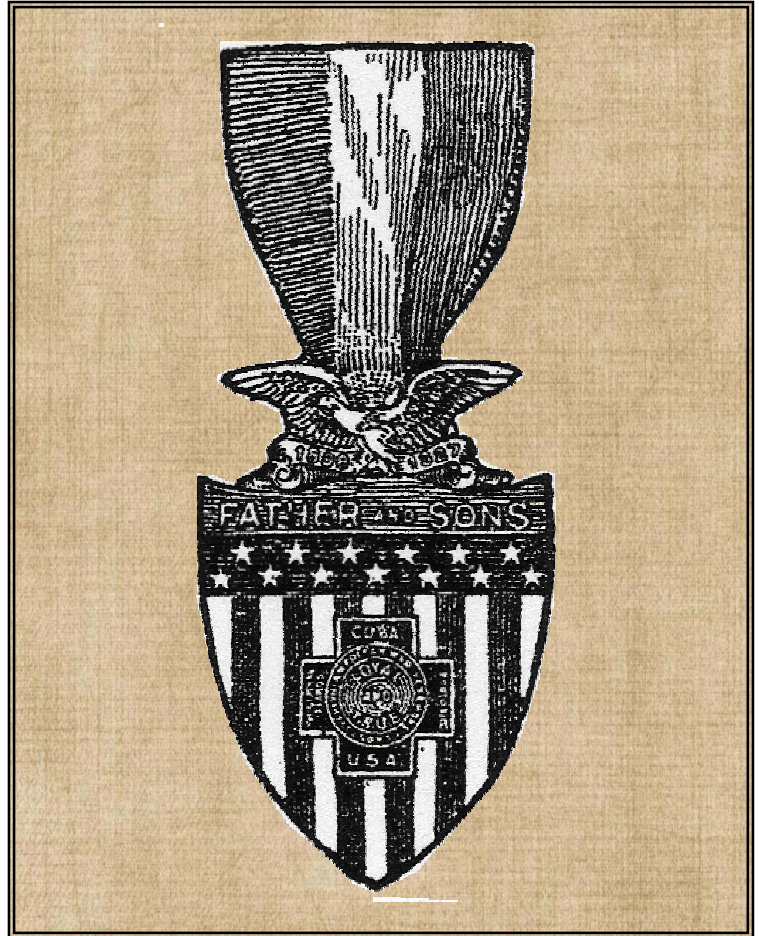
Greeting all, I hope that this finds all of the recipients of this publication are in the best of health and spirits.

I have had the honor at the 77th National Convention of the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to be elected as the National President for the 2013-2014 term; it is my hope to live up to the office and do everything in my power to preserve the memory of the Veterans and to promote the order as a whole.

As will be seen below the appointments for National Officers have been made, and it is hoped that all of us will do credit to the Sons and try our best to maintain the tenants of the organization. General Orders will be issued shortly with contact information for the officers, I ask that all brothers wishing to assist in any way contact these officers and assist them in their tasks, from helping the Graves Registrar in locating the burial sites of the Veterans to submitting articles to the Editor of the National Son for the Newsletter.

I will be issuing a more detailed plan of action for the 2013-2014 year to the brothers of the order, however the basic goals for all members are:

1) To preserve the memories of the Veterans of 98 to 02, as well as that of the United Spanish War Veterans.



2) Improve Communications throughout the Order by use of the facebook and yahoo groups, email, written letters, and phone calls to all Brothers.

3) Recruitment, if each brother of the Order were to recruit one new member it would see a drastic increase in our membership, it is my personal goal to recruit fifty (50) new brothers into the Sons.

These are just a few of my goals for this upcoming year. If anyone has any suggestions please feel free to contact me with them, my door is always open. I look forward to working with all of you in the near future, until then,

In Freedom, Patriotism, & Humanity,

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



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS

**President** – Kenneth H. Robison II  
**Senior Vice President** – James McAteer  
**Junior Vice President** – James Blackwell, PNP  
**Trustee (1 year)** – Timothy Downey, PNP  
**Trustee (2 year)** – James Blackwell, PNP  
**Trustee (3 year)** – Bernard B. O’Bryan III, PNP  
**Secretary** – Adam Gaines  
**Treasurer** – Christopher A.R. Robison  
**Chief of Staff** – Michael S. Bennett  
**Supply Officer** – Raymond W. LeMay III, PNP  
**Chaplain** – Creighton Lovelace  
**Sergeant At Arms** – *To Be Announced*  
**Judge Advocate** – Christopher E. Chapman  
**Public Relations Officer** – James G. Eanes  
**Historian** – George Kane  
**Graves Registrar** – Daryl Verstreat Jr.  
**Patriotic Instructor** – Ernest E. Blevins  
**Real Sons Officer** – Jerome L. Orton  
**SCV Liaison Officer** – John O’Donnell-Rosales  
**SUV Liaison Officer** – James Kiger  
**Senior Color Sergeant** – Matthew E. Wilbanks  
**Junior Color Sergeant** – *To Be Announced*

## THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF MAJOR GENERAL CALIXTO RAMÓN GARCÍA IÑIGUEZ OF THE CUBAN ARMY

*From the Spanish American War Centennial Website*

This is the text of the official war report sent by Major General Calixto Ramón García Iñiguez to his superior, the Commander in Chief of the Cuban Armies, Major General Máximo Gómez.

The source for translation is a letter published in the first hand Spanish language account of Escalante (1946), with translations and annotations by Larry Daley. In some cases because of the Spanish verb structure the appropriate nouns are inserted and occasionally the allegiance of group leaders is noted to avoid confusion.

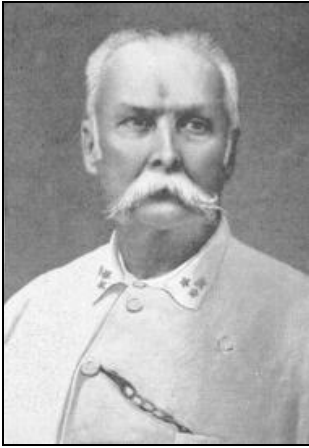
The translation of General Garcia’s report reads:

Headquarters Casa Azul, July 15 1898.

To Major General Máximo Gómez, Commander in Chief of the Cuban Armies:

I have the honor of reporting to you on the operations carried out by the forces under my command since June 1st (1898).

On June 1st, I was notified by General Luis de Feria, Commander of the Oriental Division of Holguín that an expedition had landed at the port of Banes. The expedition was lead by Brigadier Joaquín Castillo, foreign subdelegate. The expedition was escorted by the U.S. Navy vessel Oseola. Thus I marched from Jiguaní towards Banes. I gave orders that the 4,000 men that you had ordered recruited for this purpose were to go to Banes to be armed and supplied.



***General Calixto  
Ramon Garcia Iniguez***

On the 6th of June I camped at Vижarú. That night General Feria arrived. General Feria was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Hernández, Aide-de-Camp of General Enrique Collazo. Colonel Hernández had been sent by me to coordinate a campaign plan to fight the enemy in

Oriente Province with the U.S. Secretary of War as the Secretary had requested. Colonel Fernández had just landed in Banes from the U.S. warship Gloucester and was carry dispatches from the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Armies. General Miles. General Miles dispatches informed me that the plan was to attack the city of Santiago de Cuba by sea and land, and that it was necessary that most Cuban forces proceed towards the city to support the plan.

Immediately I gave orders so that the recently armed forces were to move towards the area of (Santiago de) Cuba. This was very difficult because of the exhaustion of the infantry and the lack of food.

Despite these difficulties, these forces reached Palma Soriano from where I left on June 8th towards Aserradero (on the other side, the coastal south side of the Sierra Maestra). I arrived at Aserradero on June 19th, 6:30 a.m.

My purpose at that place was to conference with U.S. Navy Admiral Sampson who had called the meeting to discuss the best way to attack Santiago. This conference took place on the U.S. Admiralty vessel New York.

To clarify this matter, I ordered my troops to march on Santiago de Cuba; and went to the meeting called by the

Chief of the U.S. Navy force. I began following orders and instructions of the Chiefs of the U.S. Armed Forces as soon as they began to attempt entry into areas under my command.

On June 20 at 2 pm Brigadier General Demetrio Castillo, Commander of the Ramón de Las Yaguas Brigade landed at Aserradero. General Castillo had arrived from Sigua in an U.S. vessel. His purpose was to await my orders.

Soon after Major General William R. Shafter, Commander of the Fifth Corps of the U.S. Army came ashore to talk with me. General Shafter was in charge of the U.S. forces that were being readied to attack Santiago. After a long conference and having accepted my plan for landing his troops and advancing successfully on Cuba the American general returned to the ship.

The next day General Agustín Cebreco, marched the troops of his division toward the area near the coast immediately west of Santiago de Cuba. General Cebreco's objective was to stop the enemy's ability to reinforce his coastal garrisons in this area.

At 8 p.m. 530 men from the Bayamo Division of Brigadier Demetrio Castillo boarded an American transport. Their assignment was to reinforce the Ramón brigade to protect the U.S. landing and to advance on Santiago de Cuba from the East. These forces landed en Sigua on the 22nd of June and immediately advanced led by Colonel Carlos González. Together with 550 men from the Ramón Brigade lead by their leader General Castillo these Cuban troops advanced on Diaquirí, rapidly displacing the Spanish troops that were there. As the Cubans took Diaquirí, the U.S. fleet began to shell the position. However, as soon as the Cuban flag was raised the U.S. shelling stopped.

The U.S. Army landed its first regiments at Diaquirí and advanced on Firmeza and Siboney, led by Cuban troops who were the first to occupy these villages. In Siboney U.S. forces continued landing.

Meanwhile Cuban troops under Colonel Carlos González advanced towards Santiago de Cuba. Colonel González and his men had a violent clash with the Spanish at Guásimas. The Cubans had some losses however, Spanish losses were much greater.

In my conference with Admiral Simpson and Major General Shafter it was agreed that I should board at El Aserradero. This was done before dark. These Cuban forces were lead by General Capote, those of the division by Cebreco y Lora and by Brigadier Sánchez Hechevarría. These troops formed three distinct column lead by each of the preceding Major General Jesús Rabí was second in command of all the Cuban troops in the operation.

The about 800 men of Brigadier General Sánchez, were the first to board on the U.S. ship Leone; they landed at 5 p.m. at Siboney. General of Division Francisco Estrada left towards Aguacate on June 25th to gather the Cuban forces still there. General Estrada assembled a column of 800 – 1,000 men to march towards Santiago and to fight any Spanish troops attempt to relieve the city.

At dawn on June 26th the rest of my forces were on the steamships Seneca and Orizaba standing off Siboney. I, with my headquarter staff, and other Jefes by invitation of U.S. General Ludlow who was in charge of our landings, were on the Alamo. At 7 a.m. we started to land and by 10 a.m. we had landed camping with the rest of the Cuban forces.

There and in the town's immediate vicinity were our forces that had arrived earlier and several thousand of men

of the U.S. Army. There were friendly exchanges between the Cuban and American forces. Since we were completely out of food in all our territory the American provided the necessary rations for our sustenance.

On the 25th General Shafter and I had finished our assault plans. He gave me my orders to march towards Santiago the next day. He did the same. Although some regiments and various cannon went forward that same day. In the very front of the vanguard, visible to the Spanish advanced fortification was Colonel Carlos González Clavel, elements of the Bayamo Division and part of the Ramón de las Yaguas Brigade.

On the 30th I camped with most of my forces on the Salado, three leagues from Siboney and one and half leagues from Santiago. General Shafter placed his headquarters in the same place. At three in the afternoon I received orders to move to Marianaje. This was between el Caney and San Juan, where I was to protect the batteries which were to shell both positions, from any Spanish attacks coming from Santiago.

At the beginning of the attack on Cuba there were 15,000 U. S. forces on land, and 4,000 Cuban soldiers under my immediate orders near the city. At five thirty in the morning of July 1, I marched on Marianaje, and at seven occupied my assigned positions thus: on the left over San Juan was Major General José M. Capote with a column of 1000, in the center Division General de Saturnino Lora with 500 men to his right Brigadier General Francisco Sánchez de Echavarría with his column of 1,000-men, next was General Cebreco with 500 men of his division. On the right flank on heights of the batey of Marianaje, was I with General Rabí, our headquarter staff and escort facing the town of El Caney.

To my left flank were American forces with a battery preparing to attack the San Juan blockhouse. Protecting, were forces under the command of Colonel González and part of the Ramón with other American forces. To my right flank was the battery that was to fire on El Caney and an American Division under General Lawton ready to assault the town. Together with was an assault force of 200 from the Ramón Ramón under the command of Commander Víctor Duany. All the forces of the Ramón were under the direct command of Colonel Carlos González.

At seven the American batteries opened fire on San Juan Hill. The Spanish artillery returned fired. A few minutes later the battery assigned to attack El Caney opened fire. The garrison of that town answered with heavy volleys.

El Caney was defended by some 1,500 line troops under the command of Brigadier General Vara del Rey. San Juan was defended by some 2,000 men, also line troops.

At four in the afternoon after a rough assault the Americans took San Juan. All the Spanish garrison was killed or taken prisoner except some who escaped to Cuba.

At six, after repeated assaults, in which the forces of Commander Duany participated, the Americans also took El Caney. Almost all of the garrison of this town died in the assault and of those who escaped almost all died on retreat. Among those killed retreating was, already wounded General Vara del Rey.

The enemy tried to attack from Cuba and was turned back. On that day, in the trenches of Santiago el General Linares, who was in charge of the garrison was wounded and yielded his command to División General, Toral.

The Americans advanced by the Caney road to Cuba up to the Canosa blockhouses on outskirts of the city. In the van

were the forces of Colonel González. Our losses that day were some one hundred, as they were taking fire without in to combat.

General Shafter ordered me to occupy the right flank of his army in the advance on Santiago. I made a night march. At ten that night, after sending some forces directly towards Santiago, I was camped at Quinta de Doucureau.



*General William R. Shafter, U.S.V.*

At dawn of 2nd I continued to advance on the right flank, taking all north of the city. General Cebreco with forces from his division was leading the van. And on point in the van was General Sánchez Echavarría and his men.

When the forces reached the Cuba to San Luis railroad. The center and rear of the column, while the van took various heights on the other side of the track.

In the morning of the 2nd General Francisco Sánchez advance along the railroad towards Santiago de Cuba. He ran into four (Spanish) guerrillas, they fired and were killed by our troops.

Colonel Ferrera, advanced on the right, fighting a guerrilla on Loma de Quintero, taking this position and the Caridad hill.

During the day I ordered a column to advance along the railroad towards San Luis. The enemy, after light resistance, abandoned the villages of Cuabitas and Boniato, and several blockhouse falling back on San Vicente.

All the 2nd there was heavy fire exchanged with the enemy in Santiago. The enemy from his fortifications laid down heavy rifle and cannon fire on our positions. We had ten casualties.

That day, all the French colony with the French Consul came out to place themselves under our protection. My forces slept in the positions they took, within rifle range of the city.

All the morning of the 3rd (of July) we engaged in fire fights with the defenders of the city. At ten the Spanish fleet that was in Santiago's bay sailed out and was destroyed in less than an hour by the American fleet.

Admiral Cervera, with about 600 of his officers and men tried to take positions on land west of Santiago de Cuba. Cuban coastal detachments opposed the action. The Spanish were forced to surrender all their men to Colonel José Candelario Cebreco and his men. They were delivered, with receipt, to the American fleet.

At twelve thirty a sent a force to fire on the village of San Vicente. Immediately the Spanish evacuated, falling back towards el Cristo and also abandoning Dos Bocas on the railroad towards San Luis.

On the night of the 3rd (of July) using the Cobre road a column of 5,000 men, lead by Colonel Escario entered into Santiago. Colonel Escario, who had left Manzanillo the 22nd (of June) was harassed from (Manzanillo) to Baire, by the Manzanillo division.

From Baire to Palma this column was forced to fight hard against the (Cuban) column of General Francisco Estrada, this caused the Spanish hundreds of losses, to the extent that all along the route (Spanish soldiers) bodies were found. This (Spanish) column also exchanged fire with

Lieutenant Colonel Lora, with part of cavalry of the Bayamo Division and with my cavalry escort under the command of Lieutenant Colonel C.M. Poey.

Colonel Escario recovered somewhat in Palma, where he abandoned his casualties. From here "extraviando caminos" (repeatedly changing routes) he reached Cuba by the Cobre road along which they suffered some firefights.

Perhaps the entry of this column could have been stopped if I had been able to use most of my forces for this purpose. However, to do this I would have had to abandon my positions to right flank of American Army.

On the 4th of July I receive official dispatches informing me that the enemy had evacuated the Villa of Cobre and the blockhouses of Bartolón, Monte Real, Coletto y San Miguel.

At twelve the firing stopped so that General Shafter could receive various Spanish parley commissions. As a result of these (parley commissions) the Spanish Governor of the City authorized the exit of the all families because of the fear that American bombardment of the city would begin, since the (US command) had not answered whether it intended or not to start shelling. All the families took refuge in the houses and streets of Cuabitas and El Caney.

On the 7th (Cuban) General Estrada with his column of 700 hombres joined the siege (of Santiago). In those days and previously some American regiments came in from the United States. My forces continued to advance positions on the right flank, closing the lines around the city.

On the 9th and with the truce continuing, the enemy requested that they be permitted to abandon the city and retreat to Holguín. General Shafter said he would submit the request to his government and I convinced the General, how inconvenient an evacuation of that nature would be.



In those days I had a secret and reliable message from (spies in) Holguín, reporting that there was a strong six to seven thousand man column under the command of General Nario, ready to come to help in Cuba. In response to this I appropriately ordered guarding all the roads to our rearguard to foil the enemy's plans to rescue the city. And so that the enemy in Santiago would stay closed in, I reinforced the weak parts of our lines.

At the same time I renewed my order that all the forces from Camagüey that are now in Oriente. (I also gave orders that) the two Holguín divisions so that they would place themselves conveniently to cut the road routes that Nario (could take).

On the 9th I advanced my right wing to close the lines (around Santiago). And since at twelve that day the truce would end, I had my forces make a flank movement so that the enemy would suspect that we were about to surround his positions and trenches of Dos Caminos and cause them to abandon them.

The maneuver was successful, since the enemy hurriedly abandoned the village of Dos Caminos del Cobre and all his blockhouses and trenches this side of the Yarayó. With this the lines completely surrounded (Santiago). The forces of the (Cuban) Division of (Santiago de) Cuba occupied all to the west of the city up to the waters of the bay including the Cemetery.

Since the U.S. government had not accepted the Spanish proposal that they evacuate the city and retreat to Holguín, General Shafter notified General Toral that if the city did not surrender he would shell at three in the afternoon. Since Spanish did not surrender, all the U.S. lines and part of the Cuban lines opened vivo (living) fire with rifle and canon.

At the same time the (U.S.) fleet began to shell the city from the coast. The firing lasted until dusk when it ceased.

On the 11th the firing and shelling continued until nine in the morning, when another truce was signed. The enemy took advantage of this to make defensive positions and place canon. The Americans use the truce to place recently landed artillery batteries. And we took the time to finish some trenches and place two 12-pound cannon on a height by Dos Caminos, so that we could shell the fortifications between the Bull Ring and the bay.

During the 12th and 13th the truce continued, we finished placing our cannon, digging our positions in the cemetery and along the front of the city on this (north west) side.

On the 14th firing to begin again at 12 noon; however, the enemy asked for a prórroga (truce extension). As a result of these truce talks the Spanish decided to surrender the city and all the affected areas in the Comandancia General de Cuba. That is all those places that the Spanish still held in Oriente Province east of a line that went from Aserradero through Palma to Sagua de Tánamo on the north Norte. (This was done) under the condition that all (Spanish) forces were to be taken to Spain, by the U.S. Government, via the United States.

General Toral has told General Shafter that 23,000 Spanish troops are involved in this surrender. With the surrender of Santiago and the rest of the population centers of East Oriente which the Spanish will evacuate soon the Primer Cuerpo (Cuban Army territorial designation) will be free. In the Segundo Cuerpo the only areas in enemy hands are Holguín, Gibara and the towns of rail line between these two places in the north and Manzanillo with two or three nearby towns in the south.

The American Government has decided for the time being to occupy the city of Santiago de Cuba with two regiments. Thus, since General Miles, has not given me orders to cooperate in any new operations, I retire the bulk of forces under my command to their respective (home) territories.

I give the appropriate orders to provided to (Cuban) General Juan Ducasse the 1,500 men that you (Commander in Chief of the Cuban Armies, Major General Máximo Gómez) have requested from Oriente in the way you have disposed.

De Ud. con la mayor consideración. (formal end to a very respectful greeting)

P(atria). y L(ibertad). (Motherland and Freedom)

(signed) Calixto García.



## SHAMOKIN'S (PA) 'HIKER' TURNS 75 TODAY

*By Jake Betz of Newsitem.com dated August 13th, 2013*

SHAMOKIN - Seventy-five years ago today - Aug. 13, 1938 - the "Hiker" statue was dedicated in what remains one of the largest street celebrations in Shamokin's history.

According to contemporary newspaper accounts, at least 30,000 people lined Shamokin streets that day for a large parade that included Spanish-American War veterans from throughout the state and members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The dedication program followed.

The handsome monument at the corner of Lincoln and Market streets honors the veterans of the Spanish-American War, a conflict that, though hardly remembered by the Americans of today, cemented the United States' status as a world power.

Shamokin's "Hiker" statue is one of about 50 statues modeled after an original monument that, according to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, was erected at the University of Minnesota in 1906. One of the "Hiker" statues, dedicated in 1927, graces Pottsville's Garfield Square.

The drive to erect the "Hiker" in Shamokin was spearheaded by John U. Shroyer, a local industrialist who was the past commander of the Major General Guy V. Henry Camp, which was Shamokin's chapter of the United Spanish-American War Veterans. Shroyer was also the former state commander of the organization.

Shroyer served as Pennsylvania Secretary of Highways, was an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican

nomination for governor and, in the early 1950s, was a Northumberland County commissioner. During the Spanish-American War, Shroyer served with Company B, 21st Regiment.

The Spanish-American War occurred following the sinking of the U.S. battleship Maine in Havana harbor on Feb. 15, 1898, a tragedy which most historians now believe was due to accidental causes, not a hostile act. Congress declared war on April 20 of that year. Newspaper accounts of 1938 reported the Hiker statue dedication was planned to coincide with the 40th anniversary of Spain's decision to sue for peace to end the war.

The monument was unveiled by Mrs. William Linderman, the widow of a Civil War soldier. One of the speakers was Gen. M.G. Shannon, commander of the Pennsylvania National Guard, who was a captain during the Spanish American War. He delighted the thousands of veterans in the crowd when he insisted in walking in the parade rather than riding in a vehicle. Another principal speaker was Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Arthur James, of Plymouth, who was elected governor of Pennsylvania later that year.

According to the special commemorative edition published by The News-Dispatch for the 1964 Shamokin centennial, more than 200 men from the Shamokin area volunteered to serve in the war against Spain. The statue, constructed of bronze and granite, remains a lasting remembrance of their service and the service of all others who served in the military during the Spanish-American War and the subsequent Philippine insurrection, a period lasting from 1898 to 1902.

At the time of the 1964 centennial, the newspaper reported there remained only three surviving members of the

Guy V. Henry Camp - Paul L. Beddo, C. Ray Thomas and George Grinaway, all in their 80s at the time of the centennial.

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## DEVOTIONAL

### HE DIED AT HIS POST

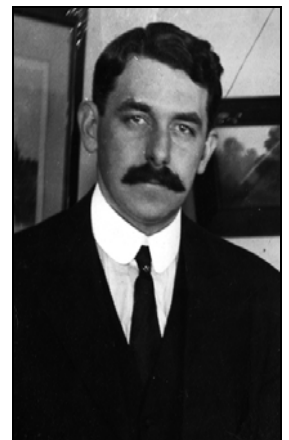
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*By National Chaplain Bro. Creighton Lovelace, D.D.*

On April 15, 2012 (which was the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic) the Gwinn family and members of the 71st Infantry, New York National Guard, gathered in Mount Hope Cemetery in Greenburgh, New York, to honor the memory of William Logan Gwinn.

Gwinn was born in February 1875 to Alexander and Emily Gwynne. He married Florence Rohde in 1907. They had two children: William Thurston and Marjorie Gwinn.

On April 23rd, 1898, President William McKinley issued a call for 125,000 volunteers. Nine days later, leaving his young ailing wife and his 3-year-old son and baby daughter behind, postal worker, William "S." Gwinn enlisted on May 2nd, 1898 for two years. On May 10th, 1898, he was mustered in as a Private in Company D of the 71st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He would be mustered out with his company 189 days later on November 15th, 1898, in New York.



*William L. Gwinn*

Although the famous Rough

Riders beat the 71st New York in their transport in the “logistical nightmare” at Tampa to disembark to Cuba, the 71st New York made it there seeing action at the Battle of San Juan Hill on July 1st, 1898.

While most web searches today turn up Pvt. Gwinn's name with that of the Titanic the family stated that: “Gwinn was remembered more for his service on the front lines of Cuba than for his death.” Even in his death, while one looks for Spanish-American War Veterans on the Titanic, Gwinn is overshadowed by Lt. Colonel John Jacob Astor, IV whose net worth in 1912 was 85 million (2.08 billion in 2012) but when one observes Gwinn we always find him at his post.

“Gwinn had been scheduled to work on the Philadelphia, but had received word that his wife was ill and requested to be assigned to an earlier voyage, so he could get back home to her, and was transferred to the Titanic.” Since Gwinn wanted to be at his post as a caring husband, he had been placed upon the doomed liner. While there, he worked in the mail-room. It was stated by many survivors, including Fourth Officer Boxhall, that Gwinn and the other mail clerks: “...acted with the utmost bravery and stood by their posts till the last.” It was said that they even worked on E deck, with 2 feet of the frigid, Atlantic Water swirling around their feet, moving the letters up to C deck and then onwards so that the letters could be saved. This veteran, a postman believed this duty to be worth risking his life. Gwinn evidently saw the importance in standing in your duty, even if it cost you your life.

Have you ever received a letter in the mail? In this technological age in which we live, such an occurrence is becoming all the more scarce, as we send E-Mails and E-Cards and talk via Facebook, Skype and Twitter the personal card or letter is being lost.

I understand this, that there is a blood-stained letter, that has been passed down from generation to generation and that many have risked their lives to pass on and other have indeed forfeited their lives in bearing its message. This letter I speak of is called the Holy Bible. Especially in our English language, this “Letter from God” has been stained by the blood of many martyrs seeking to bring it into the English Language.

When you read over the history of the transmission of the Bible into English it is a harrowing tale indeed. But, even in the light of mortal danger, men and women still endeavored to stand at their post. The post of bearing the Gospel into the whole world.

In our age it has become increasingly acceptable to abandon your post at the first sign or hint of difficulty. Such is the reason we need the principles of Americanism preserved for future generations. This “loyalty to [our country's] institutions and ideas” is fading in our national culture in the name of multiculturalism and “tolerance.”

In the Garden of Eden, Satan, who had possessed the serpent, told the woman (named Eve in Genesis 3:20): “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:5) Then note, what the Trinity stated: “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:” (Genesis 3:22)

What did God mean that man had become “one of us?” It is exactly what Satan had told Eve, that by disobeying God's law (there was only one Commandment at that point) she could become a “god” herself “knowing good and evil.” In other words, when I seek to define, for myself, what I

consider to be good and what I consider to be evil and this does not align with God's definitions as put forth in his "Letter to Mankind" - the Bible, then I have become a little god.

Some of you may not have given God or the Bible much or a little thought. But the old saying goes there are no atheists in foxholes and both Lt. Col. Astor (the richest man in the world) and Pvt. Gwinn both faced death that night on the Titanic. Jesus Christ stated: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36) You can be as Lt. Col. Astor and have "the whole world" or be as humble as Pvt. Gwinn, but death will come to us sooner or later.

While Astor got his wife to a lifeboat and Gwinn worked to save the letters, Pastor John Harper, a Scottish preacher on the Titanic who on his way to Moody Church in Chicago, Ill., to pastor was on the deck bellowing out: "Women, Children and the unsaved into the lifeboats." Pastor Harper got his sister and daughter to safety and then began going from man to man asking them if they knew the Lord and quoting part of Acts 16:31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." He gave his lifebelt to one who did not have one. Perhaps he met our Spanish-American War Veterans: Astor and Gwinn? Did they know Christ?

Once the ship went down, one lifeboat turned back and pulled 6 from the water. Four years later a young man would tell a group of survivors that while in the freezing waters Pastor Harper floated to where he was in the darkness and asked him if his soul was saved? The man replied no, to which Harper responded with Acts 16:31a. Water parted the two and then moments later Pastor Harper and the man met again on the floating debris. Harper asked the question again and the reply was the same. Shortly thereafter Pastor Harper

succumbed to the frigid water and this man was rescued. There in the lifeboat he gave his life to the Lord, he put his trust, not in his religion, not in his works but in the Christ that was revealed in the pages of the Bible. The only Bible this unidentified man saw the night of April 15, 1912 was the "John Harper Version" of the Bible. He told the world that he was the last convert of John Harper. Indeed Pastor Harper is another who died at his post.

Jesus Christ came to this world to save sinners. He died at his post – the Old rugged Cross. As the Chaplain of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans I seek to emulate the actions of these two heroes: Gwinn and Harper. One died at his post because he was trying to be a good husband, a good father, a good veteran. Knowing he cannot leave the work until he is dismissed from his post. He stayed to see the letters delivered. One died at his post because he was trying to be a good preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To let all know that Christ can save from sin.

How do you stand with the Lord today? What are your "rights and wrongs" defined from? Are you standing at your post as a Father? As a Son? As an Employee? As a Brother of the SSAWV? May we all learn something from this devotional of true Heroism and Patriotism. God Bless you all.

Pastor Bro. Creighton Lovelace is 31 years old and has served as the Pastor of Danieltown Baptist Church since April 2004. He has been married to Heather Foss Lovelace since June 2005. He published a Christian Fiction novel in 2011 entitled: It Could Happen To You. He is a member of the Micah J. Jenkins



Camp No. 164, Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans and joined under his 5th Cousin: Trooper Carl Lovelace, D Troop, of the Rough Riders (1st Volunteer U.S. Cavalry). He currently serves as the National Chaplain. He is also a member of the Captain George Dickey Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Captain Moses Wood Camp No. 125 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans where he serves as Chaplain. Pastor Lovelace is a graduate of Slidell Baptist Seminary from whence earned his Doctor of Theology degree and his Doctor of Divinity. He also serves on the Seminary faculty. He can be reached via email at creiglovelace@gmail.com

The camp will always be of service to the National Organization when called upon.

Pres. Gaines last August attended the National Encampment of the SUVCW representing our Camp. He also attended the Mid-Winter Meeting of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States in Washington, DC. One online meeting conducted via email (where elections were held) of the Camp has took place in February.

Sec.-Treas. LeMay represented the Camp at the NY Dept. Encampment of the SUVCW in May, also he participated in joint services held at the Soldiers Lot in Troy, NY at Oakwood Cemetery which contains numerous Spanish-American War Veterans.

Flyers containing information about the National Convention as well as a information email on the Convention were distributed via email to the Camp Membership.

Our Camp is very proud to say we will have 3 Brothers Representing our Camp in this year's Delegation at this year's National Convention. They are Bro. LeMay, PNP, Bro. Hervan, and Bro. Bennett. Plus the 2 Grandsons of Bro. Hervan who are non-members currently but who have registered.

The camp also still has an online presence, which has been a great asset.

The Joseph Melvin Leonard Camp #168 re-elected all 2012-2013 officers for the term 2013-2014 and all appointed officers from the 2012-2013 were re-appointed for the 2013-2014 term.

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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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### Joseph M. Leonard Camp No. 168

We have had 100% retention which is an accomplishment that the camp is very proud of with the drop of 1 member for non-payment of dues.

We have also added 2 new members since last report; 1 transfer in of Bro. Hervan, and 1 New Member Bro. Kruse. Our Camp stands at a very healthy 31 members.

In February, Pres. Gaines in cooperation with Sec. LeMay sent out an information email to the membership regarding Maine Day and requesting a moment of silence.

A \$100.00 contribution was made to purchase a replacement for the new National Colors. A project which was initiated by one of our own Brothers, Bro. LeMay.



## THE BULLETIN BOARD

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

**78th National Convention, September 2014.** The 78th National Convention of the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans will be held on September 12th, 13th, & 14th, 2014, in Columbia, South Carolina. The Convention is being hosted by the Micah J. Jenkins Camp No. 164, SSAWV, and the Palmetto Fort No. 90, Daughters of '98. More information about the National Convention will be made available over the next few months; and all brothers are encouraged to mark their calendars and plan on attending! For more information contact Bro. Kenneth H. Robison II at [Krobison@ssawv.org](mailto:Krobison@ssawv.org) or by mail at 113 Old Forge Road, Chapin, South Carolina, 29036.

**Bro. Robert Martin Cheney, Member-At-Large.** Robert (Bob) Martin Cheney, born August 15th, 1928, in



Montgomery, Alabama, died August 8th, 2013, after a short battle with cancer. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 10th, 2013, at 9:00am at Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church with Pastor Francis Turner officiating. Entombment will follow at Greenwood Cemetery

Mausoleum. Visitation will be held on Friday, August 9, 2013 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Bob is survived by his wife Margaret Ann Hatchett Cheney and three children, Robert Martin Cheney, Jr. (Karen Singletary), Elizabeth Cheney

Sewell (William Hulsey, Jr.) and John Franklin Cheney (Debbie White). He is also survived by four grandchildren, Shannon Cheney Phillips (Chris), Benjamin Garrett Cheney (Jordy Allen), Garrett Franklin Cheney (Christine Callahan), and Paige Cheney Clement (Neil). He is also survived by his sister, Margaret Cheney Collier. Bob graduated from the Mount Berry School for Boys in Rome, GA. In July 1946 during World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served three years. He re-enlisted in 1951 and served during the Korean conflict until 1952, attaining the rank of Sergeant. His squadron VMF223 was attached to USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, USS Tarawa, and USS Midway. He graduated from Auburn University in Business Administration in 1954 and was employed by Alabama Farm Bureau Insurance Company, which later became Alfa Insurance Companies. He retired as vice president after 41 years. Bob was active in many historical/genealogy organizations. He was State President of Sons of the American Revolution and Governor of the Alabama Company of the Jamestown Society. He was also President of the Richard Montgomery Chapter SAR, the Montgomery Genealogy Society, and the Old South Historical Society. Additionally, Bob was a member of the Sons of the American Colonists, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Somerset Chapter Magna Charta Barons, Huguenot Society, Order of the Crown (Charlemagne Descendants), National Society Sons of the War of 1812, Merovingian Dynasty, Sons of Spanish American War Veterans, Society of Descendants of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Military Order of the Crusades, Society of Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, and Sons of the Colonial Wars. Bob was also involved in various civic activities. After serving over 35 years ago for two consecutive terms as the District Governor of Civitan

International Alabama - West Florida District, in 2011 Bob again served as president of the Montgomery Civitan Club. He was active in this club for over 50 years Bob was also Commandant of the Townsend Chapter of the Marine Corps League, and President of Montgomery Knife and Fork Club. A member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, he served for 22 years as chapter counselor for the Alabama Epsilon Chapter at Auburn University Montgomery and was awarded the Order of the Golden Heart, the highest national award for volunteer service to Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

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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.

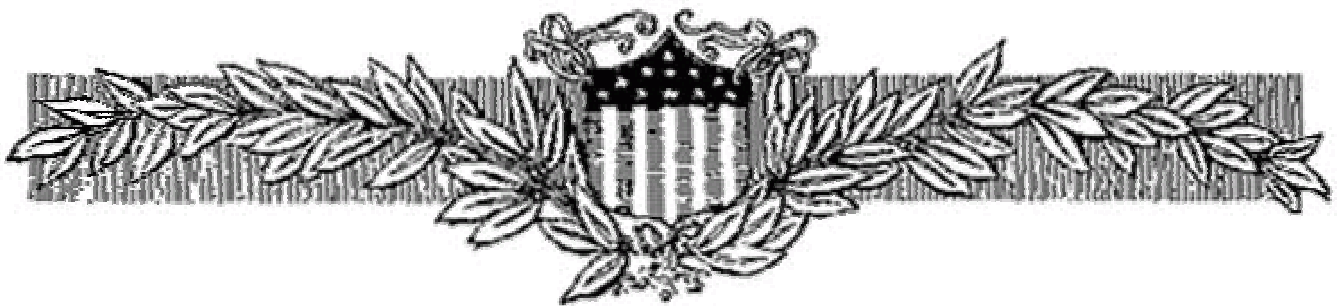
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**Planning on Moving?** Remember that if you are planning to re-locate let the National Secretary or Treasurer know of so that we may be able to keep in touch with you.

**FOR SALE**

The following items are for sale, for more information contact Bro. Kenneth Robison at [Johnnyreb6@aol.com](mailto:Johnnyreb6@aol.com) or by mail at 113 Old Forge Road, Chapin, SC 29036.

- 1) "*The Official Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War with Spain.*" Printed in 1916; all pages present, book in a used condition, asking \$90 or best offer.
- 2) "*Record of Indiana Volunteers in the Spanish American War 1898-1899.*" Printed in 1900; book in good condition, asking \$90 or best offer.







# 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.