



THE NATIONAL SON

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– NATIONAL OFFICERS –

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

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– SUBMISSION SCHEDULE –

Winter Deadline – October 26th

Spring Deadline – January 26th

Summer Deadline – April 26th

Fall Deadline – July 26th

The Official Newsletter Of the National Organization

SONS OF SPANISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS

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National Website

www.ssawv.org

Yahoo Group of the Sons & Daughters

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

On the Cover: Men of Troop A, 9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, taken at Camp Wikoff, Long Island, New York, ca. August-September 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,

We can all be proud of our service to our orders. Has anyone seen the new liquor commercial featuring a Spanish American War soldier mixing rum I think with Coke for a Cuban woman, who exclaims "Cuba Libre". I smiled when I first saw it saying to myself, "How nice of that company to advertise our Mobile Alabama camp "Cuba Libre" who would have thought we would get that level of notice" (just kidding, but the commercial is real). Likewise, there is a controversy over a proposal to move a Hiker statue in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which however this works out, bring more attention to our order and our goals. The Olympia, where we will be meeting is the most significant connection we have in the US today with those who fought in 98 and the occupation and insurrection. It has been a dream of many to meet there and now we finally have realized that dream. Our committee has worked hard on preparations, and it seems our attendance will be high too, I wish we could all be there together. We will be holding elections at the Convention, and there will be new officers elected and appointed. I am pleased that we can do so peacefully, it speaks well of us all that we can have a democracy in our order and though at times we disagree, we never seem to become disagreeable with each other. I have been honored to hold the office of President for two terms, National Secretary, editor of the



Richard Harding Davis on San Juan Hill

"The men of the Ninth and the Rough Riders rushed to the blockhouse together, the men of the Sixth, of the Third, of the Tenth Cavalry, of the Sixth and Sixteenth Infantry, fell on their faces along the crest of the hills beyond, and opened upon the vanishing enemy. They drove the yellow silk flags of the cavalry and the Stars and Stripes of their country into the soft earth of the trenches, and then sank down and looked back at the road they had climbed and swung their hats in the air. And from far overhead, from these few figures perched on the Spanish rifle-pits, with their flags planted among the empty cartridges of the enemy, and overlooking the walls of Santiago, came, faintly, the sound of a tired, broken cheer."

National Son and Camp President. When I joined the order years ago, I never imagined I would become so active or ever so honored. Please be patient with all as we hand off to new blood. Thank each of you for your membership, your work, your interest and may God continue to bless each of us, our order and our country.

In Freedom, Patriotism, & Humanity,

Bro. Bernie O'Bryan, National President

Sons of Spanish American War Veterans



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BROTHERS

AT LARGE MEMBERSHIP

Bro. Robert M. Cheney of Alabama

Father – Private William Bellinger Cheney
Company M, 29th U.S. Volunteer Infantry

Bro. Rico Jay de Leon of California

Great Grandfather – Sergeant John C. Chaloner
Company K, 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry

Bro. Georg Diehl of Washington

Great Uncle – Chief Musician Anton Diehl
Field & Staff, 1st Texas Volunteer Cavalry

Bro. William W. Green of Washington

Grandfather – Chief Musician Anton Diehl
Field & Staff, 1st Texas Volunteer Cavalry

Bro. Stuart A. Whitehead of Virginia

Great-Great Uncle – Private James Walter Heeney
Company H, 1st New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry

MICAH J. JENKINS CAMP NO. 164 (SOUTH CAROLINA)

Bro. John C. Sims Jr. of South Carolina

Grandfather – Private Samuel Herbert White
Company B, 2nd North Carolina Volunteer Infantry

CONVENTION REPORT

77TH SSAWV NATIONAL CONVENTION

The following report is from National Convention Chairman Bro. Jim McAteer.

During the past month we have ordered forty (40) ribbons from Hodges Badge Company. They confirmed the order and were awaiting payment before they ship the material to me. Bro. Robison reported that a check was issued.

We also have letters of welcome from the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Mayor of Philadelphia. Both officials had previous appointments at that time frame.

Bro. LeMay has secured the Olympia Living History Crew, headed by Max Kaiserman (the Educational Living History Coordinator). They will provide a period US Navy Color Guard for the opening ceremonies. No other contacted group has indicated a willingness to consider an honor guard. Efforts to reach out to SUVCW, MOLLUS, VFW, American Legion, Sons of American Legion have failed to produce any positive responses of attendance, although the MOLLUS Commander did respond stating he could not attend.

Bro. LeMay is working with the Division of Military and Naval Affairs PA to have a Representative attend in lieu of the Governor and to bring greetings on behalf of the Commonwealth of PA. Additionally, he is working with the local Philadelphia City Councilman representing the museum district in hopes that the councilman might attend.

Bro. LeMay has secured a list used by the Philadelphia Convention Visitors Bureau of Public Relations with local Media. This is a list of 193 media organizations, print, newspaper, tv, radio, etc. He will be sending a Press Release out to these Media Groups on Monday and again 3 weeks before Convention for PR.

The Convention Program is being worked on by Bro. Robison, who informs us he has everything he needs to proceed with. Will be recommending 30-40 Completed Programs for the Convention.

DIXIE UP TO DATE

By John Hall Ingham

I wish I were in the far, far North
To cheer my comrades starting forth;

Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!

Their Fathers were of ours the foes –
But that's forgot like last year's shows;
Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!

CHORUS – O' Yankeeland and Dixie!

Hurrah! Hurrah!

In Yankeeland and Dixieland

We're linked together, heart and hand;
Hurrah! Hurrah! For Yankeeland and Dixie.

They fought in blue, we fought in gray -
But that's a tale of yesterday;

Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!

And now we don the blue again

To down with them those Dons of Spain,
Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!

CHORUS

We're going to drive from Cuba's isle
Starvation, tyranny and guile;

Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!

And when we've downed those Dons of Spain,
Why then we're coming home again,
Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!

CHORUS



To Former 'Johnny Rebs' in 1898

(Left) Major General Fitzhugh Lee of Virginia

(Right) Brigadier General John B. Castleman of Kentucky

A ROUGH RIDER

WRITES HOME

LETTER OF CARL LOVELACE

Taken from the Waco Herald Times of July 28th, 1898

The friend of Carl Lovelace (Troop D, 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment) of this city will be glad to read the letter which is printed herewith, which was written by the young man at Santiago de Cuba. Carl is a member of the Rough Riders, and was in the famous charge which is now a part of the history of the war with Spain. During his absence he has been in correspondence with Deputy District Clerk Ben G. Kendall, when mail facilities were afforded him. The letter which is given here was received Saturday. It is a very interesting one, in fact is the best that has been received from the young man. He is quite a good writer, and in the art of description he is as capable as a novelist. His letter follows:

Santiago de Cuba, Island of Cuba, July 26, 1898.

Your letter of the 13th came this morning. I have not yet received the one written before that date. No doubt it will reach me, however, for a regular post office has been established and mail facilities will be better...

...It is rather late in the day to write an account of the Santiago fight, and I won't attempt it, since you have doubtless read a dozen descriptions of it already. Our part of the battle opened in a rather thrilling manner. We had made a forced march the night before and were camped just behind the brow of a hill, a mile in front of which was a Spanish battery. We had just finished a very hasty and a very meager breakfast and were trying to borrow enough tobacco from

each other to fill our pipes, when suddenly, seemingly from the heavens themselves a Spanish shell dropped among us. It was a totally new experience to all of us, and we were - well we are Rough Riders and of course weren't scared, but it thrilled us with a thrill that made my hair rise even as the quills of the fretful porcupine, and my backbone felt like it had run amuck of a Klondyke blizzard. We got accustomed to little Mauser whizzings in the Sevilla scrap, but this first shell! It seemed to come like a meteor from peaceful skies, glowing like a falling sun and shrieking like an unchained demon; then it stuck, burst into ten thousand fragments, tore up great piles of earth, and wounded three men. I haven't yet figured out why it didn't kill a dozen. We have since then had lots of them shot at us, and the sensations differ only in degree. They are the wickedest things in Cuba.

After a very few minutes of this we marched around the hill, threw off our rolls, formed a skirmish line and began a continuous advance through grass five feet high, towards the Spanish riflemen. All the morning we followed them, through the dense underbrush, through great groves of mangrove and cocoanut trees, through their barbed wire fences, across creeks, shooting whenever we caught a glimpse of striped uniform, and trying to make as comfortable as possible, the poor fellows who were wounded. There is a serious of rifle-pits and blockhouses some distance from, and extending around the city. Spanish valor, that stubborn dogged valor anent which the London Something or Other speaks so feelingly, consisted in retreating to an Entrenchment, then when we got within five hundred yards of them, retreating to another. That is why the fight was so prolonged. In the open they wouldn't have lasted as long as half a plug of Tinsley's natural leaf in our own Troop D.

Early in the afternoon, came the charge up San Juan hill. Of course you have read of it, and know as much or it almost, as I, so I shan't attempt to tell of it. And, too, I don't remember much about it, except that at the foot of the hill, I had five minutes of beautiful shooting; that when we came to the brow of the hill our ranks were perceptibly thinner; that we captured some rum and rice and cigars in the blockhouse on the crest, and that I saw a pile of dead and wounded Spaniards lying in the trenches.

That night we fortified the hills that we had captured, by digging trenches on the Santiago sides of them; then began the protracted siege on Santiago; we stayed in the trenches and exchanged Krag-Jorgueson [Jorgenson] bullets for Mausers all day long. Sunday came the truce, which held until the following Sunday, July 10. Every night during this period we dug trenches and bomb-proofs.



Carl Lovelace, Troop D, 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry

Sunday at 3:20 P.M. came the much talked of bombardment; it was featureless except the work of the dynamit [dynamite] gun carried by our regiment. We had all been abusing this long telescope looking arrangement, which had caused us so much trouble to bring with us, because of

its almost total ineffectiveness in the first day's fight. This time it gave us an agreeable surprise. In front of a large tree in front of us, a Spanish battery was half hidden by some underbrush. One shell from "Dinah" struck the right place, exploded, and gun, gunners, tree and all went fifty feet in the air. It was a beautiful shot, and evidently brought terror to the hearts of the Dons. At any rate, it produced a lively scampering among them.

One thing was painfully evident, which should make our war department blush. In one thing did mediaeval Spain show more progress than we. This was in the matter of powder. Her artillery used smokeless powder, and our gunners had a deuce of a time locating her batteries; we used the old kid, and the enemy located ours without any trouble. Why we, who consider America buy a synonym of progress, should be so palpably and so culpably behind in this, above all other things, I cannot understand.

One thing I noticed; one great thing; one thing, that if the colonial policy is adopted by our people, ought to be an large factor in solving the ever recurring race problem. Get it out of your head that Negroes can't fight. They can. That Tenth cavalry. Will I ever forget one charge I saw them make. They were on our left, and in taking one hill, moved out about two minutes before we did. Amidst a hall of bullets I saw them deploy and move up the hill as if on dress parade with a grand stand attachment. At every step some of them fell but the line never even wavered. They simply closed up to all the gaps, and kept advancing, shooting and cheering as they went. We made some good charges ourselves, but we don't make them with the exquisite mechanical perfection of the Tenth Cavalry Colored. They surprised us all, and I've got more respect for the colored soldier and citizen than I ever had before. If we are going to

keep all these tropical islands, we have got to keep troops in every one of them. The Negro soldier is the equal of any, and he stands this climate better than the white man; a place in the regular army betters his conditions, and it seems to me that when our standing army is increased, the Negro should be given a chance. At present there are only four colored regiments in the service...

.I can't say that I am especially gratified with the liberty loving Cubans. Like a great many other things that have ever before been linked with liberty, they are a bad lot. A dirty, greasy looking black or yellow devil will come up to you and smite himself across the middle a couple of times, thus indicating that his inner man yearns for a hard-tack; you turn to get the hard-tack, and he will steal your tobacco, your shirt - your anything, except soap, that he can get his hands on. I hope that the Cuban who hangs around our camps is not a fair specimen of the people as a whole. If so, our Uncle Samuel has a white elephant on his hands. The United States is feeding a great multitude of them who are about as worthless as an equal number of Digger Indians. Whenever there is any prospect of a fight, not a Cuban can you see - after the fighting is done they make a gallant charge towards the commissary.

Never was a commander better liked by his men than is Colonel Roosevelt by the Rough Riders. He was on the firing line all the time during both battles, and occasionally he used a rifle himself. Although of a very enthusiastic temperament, he is perfectly cool when the bullets are flying. Altogether he is the ideal dashing cavalry colonel, and wherever he goes, he stirs things up; whether it be as police commissioner in New York city, or assistant secretary of the navy in Washington, or at the head of this

heterogeneous gang, euphoniously dubbed the Rough Riders, he is a whole bunch of pansies.

Richard Harding Davis has been with us for some time. Was with us in the Sevilla fight. At one time, the bullets were coming especially fast, and we couldn't tell exactly where they came from; presently the nervy author of "Soldiers of Fortune" sauntered up and asked Colonel Roosevelt why we were not shooting. On getting his reply, Mr. Davis coolly mounted a stump, took out his field glasses, and surveyed the country in front of him, after a minutes search with Mausers whistling all about him, he located the Spaniards; then grabbing a gun from a wounded man, he sat for several minutes on the stump, pumping lead at them as rapidly as he was able; his absolute coolness during this little affair was remarkable. Personally, he is a big heavily built man, looks to be about thirty something, goes clean shaven and is a splendid type of affable-looking, robust, young manhood. He can fight as well as write about fighting.

We are camped four miles from Santiago in the mountains. The place is said to be very healthful, and is certainly very beautiful. We are surrounded by mountains, and the highest of them is perpetually covered with mists and films of vapor that brood over and around its summit, and that are changed to purple and then to gold, by the slant rays of the afternoon sun, until one can imagine that some great Sun God is handling many colored slides, like the man with the calcium light machine, when Madame Hermann does the butterfly dance - you remember. It rains almost every day, and all vegetation grows like mushrooms. It is just now starting to rain, so this must end.

Sincerely,

CARL LOVELACE.

ON THE FIRING LINE

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

Alexander M. Quinn Camp No. 173 (PA)

The following is taken from the 'Lebanon Daily News' of June 4th, 2013, by Chris Sholly.

The local Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans unveiled the national banner at Fisher Veterans Park.

James McAteer, president of the local camp, said the new national flag will be used at the national convention in Philadelphia, set for Aug. 9-11. The convention is being organized and hosted by the local camp, which was established in August.

McAteer and a handful of other local members unfurled the new flag in front of the "Hiker" statue in the park.

"The old flag is now retired and is in a museum in Sandusky, Ohio," he said. "Because it's an old silk flag, we didn't want to run the risk of damaging it because of the age."

The new banner was not put in the ground and will not be on display in Lebanon, he added.

"Because Lebanon soldiers served in the Spanish-American War, I thought it was fitting to do the first public unveiling here in front of a statue dedicated to those soldiers," he said. "It also gives Lebanon a little promotion."

Hundreds of young men from Lebanon County served in that war, which ran from 1896 to 1902, and some of them died in the fighting. On Sept. 7, 1940, Lebanon County dedicated a statue in the park to the local soldiers who

served in the war. The "Hiker" was a nickname adopted by soldiers who fought in war because they marched so much.



Sue Dieffenbach joined the group after seeing a photo of her great-uncle, Lyman David Imhof, at the group's booth during the county's bicentennial celebration in February.

"I knew he was in the war, but I didn't know there was a local organization," she said. "He was the last surviving Spanish-American War veteran in Lebanon."

Dieffenbach said he died in 1961.

"He appeared in all the parades," she recalled. "They always had him in one of the big old convertibles, sitting on the back."

When she discovered his photo in his uniform at the group's booth, Dieffenbach said it was "very exciting."

Born in 1879, Imhof was about 19 when he enlisted for service. He served in Co. H, 4th Voluntary Infantry. He is buried in the veterans section at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

"His brother, my grandfather, died when my mother was 16," Dieffenbach said. "I never knew him. So, this was a connection to him."

Dieffenbach said she did not know her great-uncle very well, and he never spoke about his war experiences with her.

Inspired by the statue, McAteer, who lives in North Cornwall Township, started the Alexander M. Quinn camp of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans, naming it after his ancestor who served in the war. The local camp is one of two in Pennsylvania, with the other in Scranton. The group has 13 members and meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Palmyra VFW post.

McAteer's wife, Pat, is trying to start an affiliated women's group, known nationally as the Daughters of '98. Local women's chapters are known as Forts of the National Society and are made up of female descendants of Spanish-American War veterans, she explained.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

The following are the announcements, General Orders, and other such information of the Order.

2013-2014 National Officer Nominations. Any Brother wishing to nominate or volunteer for a position at the National level is asked to contact Chairman Bro. Ray LeMay, PNP, of the Nomination Committee at rlemay1407@earthlink.net no later than August 5th, 2013.

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.

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.

FOR SALE

The following items are for sale, for more information contact Bro. Kenneth Robison at 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.
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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.



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.