



The National Son

The newsletter of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

Volume 2024 No. 1



On April 8, 2024, the historic COSMOS CLUB at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20008 will be the site of the next National Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans meeting. SSAWV President Tim Mabee cordially invites the Daughters of '98 and encourages all who can to attend and visit this and other landmarks in and around the nation's capital during the peak of the Cherry Blossoms. Founded in 1878 by men of science, the COSMOS CLUB included among its members General Adolphus Greeley, the Army's Chief Signal Officer responsible for Signal Corps operations and for establishing nearly 14,000 miles of telegraph lines to Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to support military operations.

Also in this issue...

- *Mark your Calendars: April 8, 2024, in Washington.- 'Rendezvous & Muster'*
- *A History of the Spanish-American War Centennial Website*
- *O'Neill Camp Has New SSAWV Memorial Going Up in Arizona*
- *Navy Captain Displays Spanish-American War Collection*
- *The Spanish-American War Memorial in Gardner, MA*
- *Arizona Mule Packers Profiled in New Monograph*

Has your email or phone number changed? Let us know so you do not miss a single issue!

From the National President ‘Tim’ Mabee

Looking to 2024!

Our first National event for the year will be the Washington, D.C. – SSAWV ‘Spring Rendezvous and Muster’ on April 8 at the legendary COSMOS CLUB. Founded by scientists and military officers of the gilded age, the period architecture will take you back to another era of American greatness.

This is a ‘not miss’ opportunity for those of us engaged in genealogical societies and research. It enables networking, recruiting and sightseeing when the Cherry Blossoms of Washington are in full bloom. We can tour the Spanish-America War Memorials in Arlington or take in the Spanish-American War exhibits at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.



I encourage husbands and wives to make time to attend, enjoy the company, enjoy the sites and ‘smell the cherry blossoms’. It will be a fun time for all!



CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN BLOOM – SSAWV and Daughters of ‘98 can celebrate spring in DC on April 8 and visit historic Spanish-American War memorials during the ‘Spring Rendezvous and Muster.’

---On April 8, 2024---
**National SSAWV To Meet in Washington;
The Daughters of '98 are Invited!**

On April 8, 2024, the historic COSMOS CLUB at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20008 will be the site of the National *Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans* (SSWAV) meeting during the annual 'Hereditary Fortnight' gathering of many of the nearly 300 like organizations under the *Hereditary Society Community of the United States*.

The Hereditary Society ([The Hereditary Society Community](#)) is a non-profit organization established in 2002 and serves as "the public interface for 300 lineage societies." Its primary mission "is to facilitate and increase the community's aggregate focus on genealogical accuracy, access to information and research tools, accurate public listing of contact data, non-partisan civic outreach, historical educational scholarship, and fraternity and collegiality between organizations." Among the 15 Board Council are representatives from the *National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution* (DAR) and the *Society of the Cincinnati*.

The meeting also coincides with the National Cherry Blossom Festival (March 20 to April 14, 2024) hailed as "the Nation's greatest Springtime celebration!" The festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 Japanese Cherry Trees from the Mayor of Tokyo to the city of Washington to signify the friendship between the two countries. (For historical context, President Theodore Roosevelt negotiated an end to the Russo-Japanese War endearing him to many.) The trees are in full bloom only for a few weeks so there is limited time for viewing.

Cosmos Club & Spanish-American War Memorials

SSAWV President Tim Mabee cordially invites the Daughters of '98 and encourages all who can to attend and visit this and other landmarks in and around the nation's capital during the peak of the Cherry Blossoms. Founded in 1878 by men of science, the COSMOS CLUB included among its members General Adolphus Greeley, the Army's Chief Signal Officer responsible for Signal Corps operations and for establishing nearly 14,000 miles of telegraph lines to Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to support military operations.

Nearby Arlington National Cemetery "has more Spanish-American War memorials and gravesites than any other site in the United States." These include the Spanish-American War Memorial, Spanish-American War Nurses Memorial honoring the 153 who died from disease during the war, the Rough Riders Memorial and the *USS MAINE* Memorial which consists of the *MAINE*'s mast and overlooks the burial sites of approximately 230 members of the *MAINE* crew killed in the February 15, 1898 explosion.

Visitors can also participate in 1.2 mile walking tour (starting at the Welcome Center) focused on the Spanish-American War memorials. Arlington also has an Education Program with power point presentations at ([Education > Themes > Spanish-American War \(arlingtoncemetery.mil\)](#)). The walking tour includes the graves of Major General Leonard Wood, Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, Colonel Charles Young and 'America's Florence Nightingale', Nurse Anna Caroline Maxwell.



Presidents and Officers of
Order of Cloak & Dagger, Order of Descendants of Pirates &
Privateers, Son of a Witch and the
Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

Invite you to attend a joint luncheon and business meeting!
April 8, 2024, 12:00 noon at the Cosmos Club
2121 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

The Lunch Entrée will include Baby Spinach, Romaine, Sweet Corn, Roasted Red Peppers, Pumpkin Seeds, Feta, and Citrus Dressing, served with your choice of BBQ Spiced Chicken, Atlantic Salmon, or Roasted Squash.

Dietary restrictions, including gluten-free, dairy-free, or diabetic, will be replaced by Chef's choice.

Name:

Email: Phone:

Please indicate your choice:

- BBQ Spiced Chicken, Atlantic Salmon, or Roasted Squash.
 Chef's Choice for restricted diet: gluten-free, dairy-free, or vegetarian.

SEATING IS LIMITED. If you accept this mission, make it known by sending your check for **\$75.00**, payable to **ORDER OF CLOAK & DAGGER**, right away to:

Will Forbes, Order of Cloak & Dagger
2023 Waynesborough Road, Paoli, PA 19301 will.forbes99@gmail.com
610-308-8638

Postmark deadline: March 27, 2024.

When your check is received, you'll receive an acknowledgment by email.

SEATING IS LIMITED. This message will not self-destruct, but you risk "Opportunity Lost" if you fail to respond quickly.

Note: Parking is not included.

For more information, contact Sharon Sowders, Code Name: VP4OCD
Sharon.sowders@gmail.com 770-853-4369

---The Largest Database of This Kind---

The Spanish-American War Centennial Website

The Spanish American War Centennial Website (<http://ww.spnamwar.com>) is the largest database addressing the Spanish American War on the internet. The site's editor, Patrick McSherry, was asked to share the background of the website and some of his experiences resulting from his involvement with the website. Below is his account:

By Patrick McSherry

In 1996 an internet contact that shared my interest in nautical history, Jess Geissel, suggested that we start a website for the upcoming Spanish American War centennial and the site was started immediately. The website has existed continuously since 1996. It is among the oldest surviving legacy websites on the Internet. The website was started at a time when much of the information easily available to us today – online genealogical data, Google books and newspaper searches – was not yet available. For the most part Jess did the web coding, and I provided the research and copy. Within a year or so, Jess' interest led him elsewhere and he turned over the web programming to me.



HISTORY PRESERVATION AND HISTORY MAKING – The masthead for the Spanish-American War Centennial website, the longest running web page and largest online data base dedicated to a single military subject. Created in 1996, webmaster Patrick McSherry shares his personal story, experiences, and new technological challenges since starting the site which was recognized by the Library of Congress for permanent preservation. It is a routine place for primary source research for many members of the Sons of Spanish-American War veterans and international historians of that era.

The website has grown over the years. Today the website includes nearly 1400 separate webpages, with nearly 180 American, Spanish and Cuban military unit histories, 180 partial or full ship and regimental rosters, one hundred biographies, eighty-five ship histories and technical profiles, over 250 first-hand accounts - with many that do not appear elsewhere - along with weapons profiles, information on American and Spanish uniforms, medals, and flags, genealogical research techniques, feeding the troops, etc. The website is also home to the National Spanish American War Veterans' Gravesite Recording Project which now contains listings for nearly 23,000 veterans – over 1,100 physical pages alone if someone would decide to print it out. The website continues to grow almost continually with new research and data typically being added several times a week.

The website is known for its impartiality which has allowed for collaboration with historians and interested parties worldwide. Some examples of the diverse people who have collaborated with

the website for long periods of time include Nick Mitiuckov, a former Soviet artillery officer and a professor of engineering living in Russia; the L'viv, Ukraine Naval History Club; an engineer in Cuba; Mark Barnes the (now retired) National Park Service Lead Archeologist for the Southeastern Region of U.S.; and Spanish historian and attorney Jose Poncet. The families of people such as Spanish Admiral Pascual Cervera, and American Rear Admirals Charles Sigsbee, William Sampson and Winfield Scott Schley have all contributed family data and insights. Institutions such as the U.S. Naval History Center, the Smithsonian Institution, PBS, History Channel, NFL Films and Johns Hopkins University have all collaborated with the site in the past and have utilized the site's data. The Library of Congress recognized the site's value, choosing it to be one the first sites to be perpetually backed-up as part of its Minerva Project to preserve important and unique data from the web.

The website has provided me, as the editor, a variety of unusual opportunities for which I am grateful. For instance, I have had the opportunity to write for many publications such as Leatherneck, Naval History, History Magazine, Encyclopedia of the Spanish American War and Philippine American War, Tehnika i vooruzhenie (Equipment and Weapons - Russia), Okrety Wojenne (Warships - Poland), the Guantanamo Bay Gazette and nearly a dozen others. Also, I became involved with the cruiser *OLYMPIA*. Conversations with the museum staff led to the development of the Living History Crew of the *OLYMPIA*, something which I was able to take part in with my two older sons and also with my father. The group was able to research and present the life of the 1898 sailor, including various gun drills, signaling, food preparation, etc., all while staying aboard ship and sleeping in the original accommodations. After hours, we were able to study the ship, its operation, and construction after it was closed to the public. I also had many opportunities to aid in the creation of many documentaries, sometimes on-screen, sometimes as an off-screen historical advisor or script reviewer.

Another interesting opportunity was being asked to review the full raw video footage of the wreckage of the *U.S.S. MAINE* (raised and sunk in deep water) once it was found and videoed by a Cuban university. I was charged with helping to determine what portion of the ship was seen in the video.

Similarly, I had the opportunity to work with a documentary filmmaker on a production about the wreck of the former *U.S.S. NEW YORK* in the Philippines. Working from the divers' written descriptions and photos I was able to aid in helping the crew understand where they had been in the ship and the significance of what they documented. The work was made a bit more difficult in that the wreck is lying on its side...so when the descriptions mentioned things to the right and left, I had to convert this in my mind to up and down and vice versa.

One recurring opportunity is that families often contact the website concerning artifacts they have asking for assistance in identifying and understanding the significance of these items. Though they are sometimes looking for a way to sell the pieces, I always encourage them to keep the artifacts in their family as that is where the greatest significance will always be. In other cases, I had the opportunity to connect them with an appropriate museum or research center that would appreciate and preserve the artifacts...and no, I never offer to buy these items!

Battle of Cuzco Well Site Visit

Probably the most interesting opportunity I was given was the honor of being invited to the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base to help investigate the site of the Battle of Cuzco Well. In this engagement a small U.S. Marine force, aided by an even smaller Cuban force, ambushed, and defeated a Spanish force that outnumbered them by about three to one. The battle set the role of modern Marine Corps in that the marines captured and held a beachhead and then advanced on the enemy with a combined force of its own infantry and artillery. The battle site is entirely on the land leased by the base.

In preparation I had studied every known account of the battle. When we were on the site, some of the historians were explaining the progress of the battle, however, I noticed that the site did not match some overlooked comments in one of the first-hand accounts of the battle – notably that of war correspondent and author, Stephen Crane who was present. Based on Crane's description I could provide documentation to show that the battle was actually centered on a slightly different ridge. I had shared the information with another historian and friend who was also along, but planned to hold off any general announcement as we were shortly headed to a meeting with the base commander.

However, once the meeting started, my friend could not hold back his excitement about the new data and blurted it out in the middle of an unrelated conversation. The meeting exploded with the other historians and public affairs officer bolting to a base map and talking excitedly. This left only me facing a very confused base commander and all I could do was merely explain that we historians get excited over things like this. Surface finds and archaeology did confirm that the new supposition was correct. This undoubtedly will be only time I will have the opportunity to rewrite history and also walk a site still littered with detritus of the Spanish American war.

Website Technology and New Challenges

All that said, the website has issues. The technology and programming used to create the website predates most modern programming systems. Updates can be challenging. Also, at least four times the website has been forcibly migrated from one server to another as one company sold their web hosting business to another. In two of those times the new company severely damaged the site, most recently in February of 2023. In that last forced migration, the new company failed to properly map the backlinks, resulting in an unrepairable loss of forty thousand backlinks, and a subsequent drop in search engine ranking.

Having to address site programming issues always takes time away from the addition of new data. The other time-consuming issue is, amazingly, formatting gravesite listings! The data is rarely provided in the format requested by and used on the website. Reformatting the data and then adding it and backlinking to rosters and ship and regimental histories takes a surprising amount of time and, unfortunately, my time to work on the site is limited by my work schedule. This all slows the addition of other new data.

Regardless, through the website I have had the opportunity to study all aspects of the Spanish American War - its battles, equipment, tactics, and most importantly the men that served - almost daily for the last twenty-eight years...and have had a family that has permitted it.

Arizona's O'Neill Camp Cleans Cemetery and Headstones

by Avery Frantz
O'Neill Camp President

The Buckeye O'Neill Camp No. 175 of Arizona gave veterans of World War I and Spanish American War a birthday present by cleaning and clearing one and a half sections at Greenwood Cemetery in Downtown Phoenix. It included chopping down oleander bushes, removing trash, and then also excavating headstones and removing the overgrowth of weeds from headstone that were covered. The 'before and after' photos say it all.

Before



After



--- Memorializes 125th Anniversary ---

Construction Begins in Arizona on New Spanish-American War Memorial

By Avery Frantz



Construction was initiated on the 125th Anniversary Spanish American War Monument in Miami, Arizona.

Funding for the monument was completed in November of 2023 by the Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175 of Arizona. The monument is being built by RAM Specialist Contractors in Miami, Arizona.

The monument is located within the Contemplation Garden of the Miami (AZ) Bullion Plaza Museum and Cultural Center. The area was checked for power lines and work was started on the base of the monument.

The memorial plaque is dedicated to the 125th Anniversary of the War, Spanish American War Veterans of Gila County, and the Woman's Relief Corps of Arizona.



This is the only monument in the United States dedicated to the 125th Anniversary of the Spanish American War and is the only monument known to the Camp that is dedicated by the SSAWV to Spanish American War Veterans.



---Rare First Pattern 1898 Khaki---

Family Member Shares Images of Grandfather's Uniform

An interesting source for uniforms and their various characteristics can be found in individual blogs and message threads where collectors will discuss their 'finds' and the intricacies of the uniforms as they changed over time.

In a January 2008 discussion thread on the U.S. Militaria Forum an individual self-identifying as 'Salvage Sailor' posted a photograph of his great-grandfather Samuel Alfred Warren, a Private in Co. E, 16th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Private Warren and his unit participated in the Porto Rican invasion and campaign. The grandson said Private Warren trained at Camp Alger, Pennsylvania before shipping to Chickamauga, Georgia. The unit shipped out from Charleston on U.S. Army Transport 21 landing at Ponce, Puerto Rico to begin the land campaign and participate in the battle of Coamo.

Private Warren's daughter ('Sailor's' grandmother), aged 100 in January 2022, kept the uniform, and told her grandson that Private Warren "would wear this proudly at the U.S.W.V. encampments in California."



FIRST KHAKI PATTERN (1898) - This is a first Khaki Pattern (1898) infantry uniform. The blue trimming reflects infantry. Artillery wore red and cavalry was yellow. This uniform belonged to Private Samuel Alfred Warren, 16th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. (U.S. Militaria Forum)

'Sailor' has the complete uniform: tunic, trousers with buttons and leggings.

Sailor wrote, “The leather belt and accouterments have rotted away a long time ago, as did his blue U.S. Army issue blanket. My grandmother told me ‘Oh, those old things, I threw them away.’” On the inside lapel were Private Warren’s initials, ‘S.A.W. Co. E’. The pants had some repairs and some button work.



CLOSE-UP OF UNIFORM PANTS (front and back) of Private William A. Warren. Note the button fly and small watch pocket on the front. In the back is a rear pocket and an adjustable cloth waistband. (U.S. Militaria Forum)

Private Warren was reported by his grandson to have been “very active” in the USWV “as was my grandmother”. They lived in the Glendale and La Crescenta area after they moved to California.



USWV COLLECTION – Private Samuel A. Warren left behind USWV memorabilia as well as a photo of himself, he and his wife in later years and a stereoscopic photo of the 16th PA in Porto Rico. (U.S. Militaria Forum)

Another source of images of period uniforms are auction sites. The Battleground Antiques, Inc.¹ recently offered the sale of an enlisted Khaki jacket belonging to a U.S. Artilleryman from Spanish-American War period. The tunic was part of a larger collection that was being auctioned.



A photograph of two members of the 17th Battery Field Artillery in the Philippines from about 1903/1904 suggests a perfect match in both epaulet colors and buttons. It was reported in one blog that the 1898 use of branch colors on the pockets and sleeve cuffs later became too expensive for the Army and, when coupled with supply shortages of the color materials, led to an Army decision to restrict branch colors to the shoulder epaulets of the tunic (close up below left). Close up of uniform button, below, right.



¹ [Excellent Spanish American War era khaki ARTILLERY enlisted jacket ! - Civil War Antiques \(civilwarshop.com\)](http://civilwarshop.com)

--- Wreaths Across America---

O'Neill Camp Supports National Program

by Avery Frantz
O'Neill Camp President

(Phoenix, AZ) - Arizona's Buckeye O'Neill Camp No. 175, Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans, supported Wreaths Across America, a nationwide memorial program over the holidays.

This season the camp sponsored and placed a wreath for Nathan Cook the last Spanish American War veteran of the United States. Cook not only served in the Spanish American War but also the Border War, WWI, and WWII.

Jackson Steadman, Avery Frantz, and Jeffrey Steadman (pictured below, from left to right) had the honors to place the wreath at his grave located at National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix.



Let us know what your Camp is doing! Your work at the local level makes a positive difference in our organization. Send your news for publication to tmabee@aol.com

Has your email or phone number changed? Let us know so you do not miss a single issue!

Spanish-American War Artifacts Among Navy Captain's Collection

(Williamsburg, Va) – Retired U.S. Navy Captain Hal Hardaway is an avid collector of U.S. military history, particularly Navy artifacts. He attends antique shows and auctions and finds unusual pieces. Among his collection are some select Spanish-American War items.

Among one of his more unusual purchases was a telescope used by the U.S. Navy during the war and then returned to the maker, Keuffel and Esser Company. The company was founded in 1867 as a drafting instrument and supply company and was bought out in 1987 by AZON Corporation. From 1889 to the end of World War II, the company employed Mary Pfeiffer, also known as the 'Spider Lady'. Pfeiffer's job was to "manage a 'spider ranch' for the firm. It produced strands of spider web used in making crosshairs for telescopic sights."²



Figure 1- K&E Telescope Used in Spanish-American War and period print depicting the 1898 naval battle of Manila. (Hal Hardaway Collection)

Captain Hardaway said he “purchased it at a Civil War Fair in Richmond, from a Richmond gent named Malcolm Addams who deals in antique optics. He said the USN was short on OOD [Officer of the Day] telescopes, so [it] got Keuffel & Esser to loan them [telescopes] for the duration of the war, at which time they'd be retired to K&E for sale to the public.

² Wikipedia Entry for Keuffel and Esser.

He also managed to obtain a unique clock. Captain Hardaway said, “This clock commemorates the Spanish-American war, and said to be ‘very, very rare’. I saw it at an antiques shop in Lightfoot, Va for \$325, so as I usually do, I came home and Googled it to see what they'd gone for. Found only one on the Internet, and it was sold in 2021 on eBay for \$1775. So I went back and purchased it, not even haggling on the price.”



Figure 2 - COMMEMORATIVE CLOCK AND DEWEY Propeller COIN – Above left is the Spanish-American War Commemorative clock with a close up of the top in the bottom photo. To the top right is a bronze Dewey Commemorative Propeller Coin, reportedly made from a propeller of Dewey’s flagship the *USS OLYMPIA*. On the other side is an image of the *USS OLYMPIA* and Dewey’s famous quote, “You may fire when you are ready Gridley.” According to NUMISTA, the coin is a 1958 tourist souvenir commemorating the 60th anniversary of the battle of Manila Bay. (Hal Hardaway Collection)





1898 ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY COIN
(Hal Hardaway Collection)



Flaccus Bros. Admiral George Dewey Spanish American War Commemorative 'Mustard Boat'
(Hal Hardaway Collection)



USS MAINE Commemorative Dish with Uncle Sam-This is a Flaccus Brothers commemorative 'milk glass' dish used to sell mustard. George Flaccus obtained a patent for a battleship style jar. He had a brother in competition named Edward, who did the same but with slight physical changes to avoid copyright infringement. Edward also named models after the *USS BALTIMORE*, the *USS TEXAS*, the *USS NEWARK*, the *USS SAN FRANCISCO*, and the *USS MINNEAPOLIS*. Produced from 1899 to about 1910.
(Hal Hardaway Collection)

For more information see 'The Flaccus Bros., E.C. Flaccus and Their Fabulous, Colorful, Embossed Jars', Parts 1 and 2 ([FlaccusBros2.pdf \(historicbottles.com\)](#))

---More Vandalism in 2023---

Spanish-American War Memorials Damaged

A Spanish-American War Monument was one of four vandalized in Augusta, Georgia over a weekend in June 2023 according to WRDW/WAGT television news and *The August Chronicle*.³ The station reported, “The Spanish-American War monument’s bronze emblem could be seen shining in the summer sun, but now it is away from facing the same damages as two other monuments in Augusta.” The monument is located at Green and 9th Streets.



One witness reported “I was walking down here the other day, there was a dirty towel covering it up. And I stopped and looked at it and I realized that someone had tried to sue a dirty towel to pry off this bronze monument of people who died for this country over 100 years ago. I mean, it just , you know, it is really heartbreaking.”⁴ Also destroyed in the same event was a Masonic Monument that had its Bible stolen and a Paine College founding marker was also knocked down and a plaque was removed from the Old First Baptist Church marker.

Per the article, “The city says while they are sad to see this type of treatment to the monuments, they don’t own them. The organization that put it there is responsible for making repairs.”⁵

In October 2023, the Main Street Fountain in Nantucket, dedicated to the memory of a deceased Spanish-American War veteran, was demolished by a drunk driver following a high-speed chase by police.⁶ According to the *Nantucket Current*, though the fountain dated to 1885, a monument there was dedicated to Lieutenant Max Wagner who died “fighting in the Spanish-American War in 1900, and the fountain, along with the entire lower end of Main Street, was dedicated to his memory in 1932.”⁷



Since January 1944, the fountain has been knocked over 13 times by motor vehicles.

NANTUCKET FOUNTAIN - This Nantucket Historical Association photo shows the fountain “supporting the sign marking Lieut. Max Wagner Square and the painted on traffic direction, ‘Go to the Right’. (Nantucket Historical Association)

³ [Vandals strike 3 historic monuments in downtown Augusta \(wrdw.com\)](#); [Historical monuments vandalized in downtown Augusta \(augustachronicle.com\)](#)

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Vandals Strike*, quoting neighbor Kevin De L’Aigle

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Vandals Strike*.

⁶ [Nantucket Current | Main Street Fountain Destroyed In Late Night Hit...](#); see also [What is the big planter in the middle of Main Street that traffic has to maneuver around? - Nantucket Historical Association \(nha.org\)](#).

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Nantucket Current*.

Note: Freelance Journalist Mike Richard has granted permission to reprint an April 30, 2021, article he authored and originally published in the “Then and Now” column of *The Gardner (MA) News*. It details the history of an early and unique looking Spanish-American War Memorial in Gardner. Our sincere thanks to the author.

There's a soldier memorial in Lafayette Square. Which war does the statue commemorate?

Mike Richard⁸

Special for *The Gardner News*

The soldier in the square has marched for more than 100 years, undaunted and unaffected, through Parker Street in downtown Gardner, cast in bronze atop a 7-foot-tall granite base in Lafayette Square.

His right leg juts forward in marching formation, a rifle with bayonet slung over his shoulder. There is a look of grit and determination on his face, but he knows that the odds are quickly adding up against him.

He wears a uniform made of wool, struggling against the oppressive heat. His food rations have likely spoiled in that heat, and soon his ranks would become riddled with malaria, fever and dysentery.

Figure- The Spanish-American War Monument in Gardner's Lafayette Square today. (Photo by Mike Richard)



⁸ [Then and Now: Spanish-American War Memorial was second war memorial in Gardner \(thegardnernews.com\)](https://www.thegardnernews.com)

This city became the first community in the state to raise a memorial to the dead of the Spanish-American War, in 1915.

According to the bronze marker on the backside of the monument, it was “Erected by the citizens of Gardner and gratefully dedicated to the veterans of the Spanish-American war and the Philippines Insurrection 1898-1902.”

The plaque on the front side is in memory of the USS Maine, which was destroyed in Havana Harbor, Havana, Cuba, on Feb. 15, 1898 – an event that prompted the U.S. involvement in the hostilities and incited war sentiment in the country.

The tablet and statue were both cast from metal recovered from that ill-fated ship.

It has been a most appropriate way for citizens to “Remember the Maine,” echoing the war cry of that international conflict.

In March of 1909, local citizens proposed that the city acquire property at the intersection of West and Parker streets as a site for such a monument. A fire one

month earlier badly damaged the flatiron building known as the Commercial House, which stood on the site, and was owned by Phillip Grammont.

It was in that same apartment building that Walter J. Hickey lived, and he went forth to enlist as a volunteer in F Company, 2nd Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, becoming the first Gardner man to give his life in the war. Proponents of the memorial felt that since Hickey had lived on that property prior to his entrance into the service, it was reason enough to locate the statue on the spot.



Figure 3-The Gardner (MA) Spanish-American War Monument as seen when it was dedicated in 1915. (Courtesy Photo)

The only member of his company not to return home alive, Hickey died during the campaign in Cuba, succumbing to malaria on Aug. 29, 1898, at Montauk Point on Long Island.

On the evening of Feb. 15, 1898, the Maine sank when her forward gunpowder magazines exploded. Nearly three-quarters of the ship's crew died as a result of the explosion.

While the cause of this great tragedy is still unsettled, contemporary American popular opinion blamed Spain, and war followed within a few months.

Shortly after news reached this community of the destruction of the USS Maine, Gardner residents displayed profound patriotism by enlisting at a rapid pace for the ensuing war.

When the Spanish-American War began, Company F, 2nd Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (known locally as the Heywood Guards), was mustered into service on May 10, 1898, and served in Cuba, including the Battle of San Juan Hill.

The town of Gardner was credited with some 90 men in the Spanish-American War and Philippines Insurrection, 77 of whom served in Company F in Cuba. The other men were engaged with other branches, including the Army and Navy.

One of the interesting aspects about Gardner's company was the number of foreign-born citizens who enlisted, which included French, Swedish, English, Irish, German, Finnish and Russian-speaking people.

In addition to Hickey, nine other Gardner soldiers died during that war, including:

- Michael Hayes, Company I, 8th Mass. Volunteer, died September of 1898.
- Louis E. Hill, Company F, 2nd Mass. Volunteer, died Feb. 25, 1899.
- William S. Burns, 2nd Mass. Volunteer and 9th U.S. Infantry, died March 13, 1900.
- Cpl. Louis E. Lillie, Company G, 56th U.S. Volunteer, died of smallpox.
- Alexis D. Hamel, Company B, 446th U.S. Infantry, died March 8, 1901.
- Ulric J. Chagnon, 56th U.S. Coast Artillery, died April 28, 1901.
- John E. Burke, Company E, 27th U.S. Infantry, died in 1903.
- Cpl. Carl W. Anderson, Company F, 2nd Mass. Volunteer, died Nov. 25, 1903.
- Daniel Ela, Company E, 2nd Mass. Infantry, died May 15, 1904.

The Spanish-American War statue was the second Gardner monument dedicated to the patriotism and valor of its citizens, with the first dedicated to those who fought in the Civil War and dedicated in Monument Park on June 27, 1885 – as part of Gardner's centennial celebration.

The dedication of the Spanish-American monument took place amidst a gala ceremony on Aug. 14, 1915. It was reported that the celebration was one of the largest seen in Gardner to date, with early morning trains and trolleys bringing out-of-towners to the city by the thousands.

Gov. David I. Walsh, though delayed en route, arrived in time to be part of the parade that wound its way down Parker Street to the monument. Colorful red, white and blue bunting decorated the many downtown businesses.

The inscription tablet on the monument was a gift to the community from Congressman William H. Wilder, a native of Gardner who served in the 63rd United States Congress.

In addition, the chairman in charge of the arrangements committee that day was Hugh Hunter, who – as it turned out – would be the last Spanish-American War veteran of the city at the time of his death in 1962 at the age of 82.

The cost of the monument was \$2,500, obtained by funds raised amidst an aggressive campaign by the Sherman Hoar Camp of Spanish-American War Veterans of Gardner.

Each Memorial Day, appropriate ceremonies are held at the war monuments of Gardner, with time spent in Lafayette Square to remember that conflict.

There, the bronze-cast warrior continues his eternal march high above the citizens gathered to share in their admiration and respect for those brave soldiers who gave their lives for America's cause; fighting in a faraway land in one of our country's largely forgotten conflicts.

NOTICE

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery exhibit '1898: U.S. Imperial Visions and Revisions' ends on Feb. 25, 2024. Advertised as the "First Major Smithsonian Exhibition to Examine the U.S. Intervention in Cuba and U.S. Expansion into Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Philippines", it is available to view online at [1898: U.S. Imperial Visions and Revisions | National Portrait Gallery](#)



We Want You!

www.huguenotmanakin.org

The Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia is a society dedicated to preserving the history and genealogy of all French Protestant Huguenots who came to Virginia prior to 1786. They came here seeking religious freedom. We tell their story and remember their sacrifices for religious liberty.

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

Visit www.huguenotmanakin.org for more information.

---Book Review---

Arizona Mule Packers Profiled

By Greg Eanes

***A Short History of Arizona Quartermaster Mule Packers of the Spanish-American War.* By Avery Frantz. Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175-Arizona. Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans. (Prescott, Arizona: s.p.) 2024. 46 pp.**

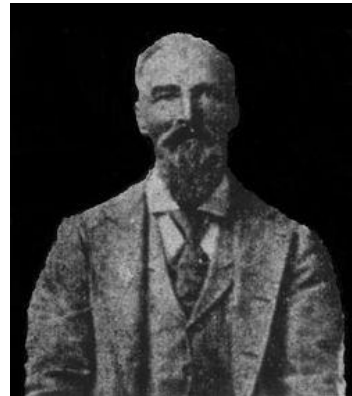
Avery Frantz's privately printed, limited edition monograph, *A Short History of Arizona Quartermaster Mule Packers of the Spanish-American War* details a forgotten chapter of U.S. military history. It is a positive contribution to the historiography of the Spanish-American War.

American military forces have depended on civilian support since Colonial days when George Washington contracted with civilian merchants to provide provisions to outposts guarding against native tribes on Virginia's frontier. Civilian contractors (including logistical contractors) are still used today. Employing the raw material of old newspapers, Frantz captures public calls for volunteers, news reports and published letters leading him to tell the story of the men who served as mule and pack drivers.

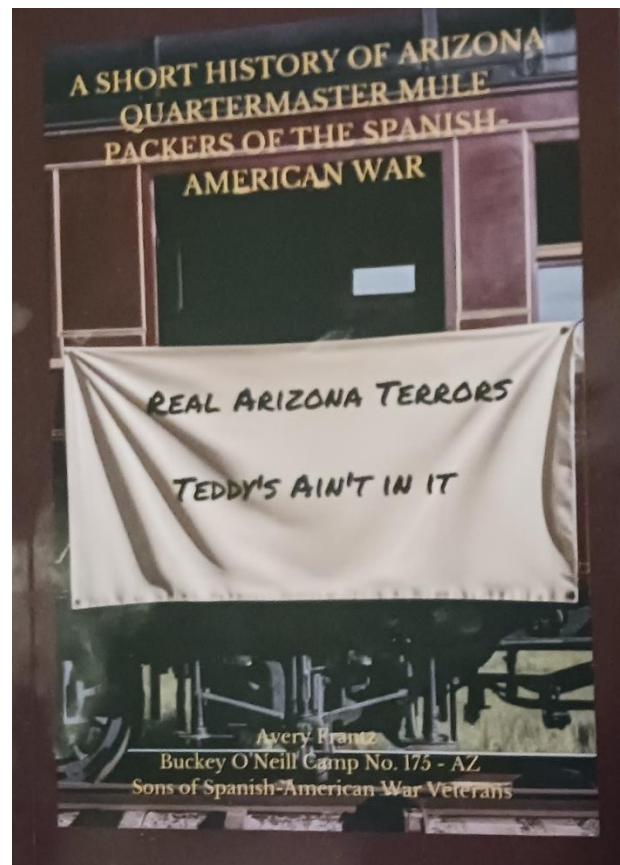
The 22-year-old Frantz is well qualified to write on the subject, graduating from Northern Arizona University a year early in May 2023 with a BA in Anthropology (emphasis on Archaeology). The Arizona native, currently a Resource Assistant Archaeologist for the U.S. Forest Service, knows how to collect information, and analyze it. On top of that, he is the very active President of the Buckey O'Neill Camp of Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans.

He cites an April 21, 1898, advertisement in the *Arizona Weekly Star* calling for "mule packers to serve in Cuba." This was four days before war was declared by Congress! This clearly implies the country was mobilizing before the call went out. Arizona packers were members of the legislature, Indian fighters, gunslingers and former Surveyor General of Arizona, Royal A. Johnson who noted the packers "all expert packers and are a fine-looking body of men. Many of them are old-timers, but they are as full of patriotism and as ready to go as any of them." Men were to be paid anywhere from \$100 per month as pack masters to as low as \$40 a month as a second class packer.

Of particular interest are the 'nuggets' that provide insights to the people and various military operations. For example, Frantz shares a story on Tucson's Colonel Robert Clifton Wood (20 Feb 1828-12 Oct 1902), a Confederate veteran formerly on General Sterling Price's staff and later a regimental commander. Wood claimed he was 62 years of age (research shows he was 70). He tried to join Roosevelt's Rough Riders. He was among many hundreds that were turned away, so he volunteered to drive mules and found himself at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri "teaching men how to put the packs on mules."



Another ‘nugget’ is a published letter in the *Tombstone Weekly Epitaph* from mule skinner W.L. Power of Tombstone, involved in the invasion of Puerto Rico. Power’s letter unwittingly provides military historians with some operational insights. He belonged to Pack Train No. 20 which consisted of 50 mules laden with ammunition and escorted by 14 “saddle mules” and 14 men. Power described coming into contact with Spanish forces at ‘Gawmac’. Four pack mules were killed and mule driver had his saddle shot from under him, got tangled up and was nearly dragged to death before others stopped the mule. The two hour battle resulted in 14 US killed in action, 27 Spanish soldiers killed in action and 180 Spanish prisoners of war. The details provided by Power of this combat action may not exist anywhere else. Analysis of his interview suggests the combat action was on the approach to Coamo.



Ben Marks, a Willcox, Arizona mule driver, on his return home gave an eyewitness account of the long-forgotten Lieutenant C.P. Johnson 10th U.S. Cavalry munitions expedition to support Cuban insurgent General Maximo Gomez. The report noted Johnson, “50 picked men of the 10th Cavalry, a full pack train of fourteen men and 64 mules” and 350 insurgent recruits linked up with Gomez. The combined operations led to the liberation of one community but also led to open hostility between Johnson and Gomez who wanted to use the 10th cavalry troopers for his personal body guard. The friction was such that the Americans were soon lined up with arms prepared “to fight the entire Cuban Army.” The situation was defused, and the Americans engaged in an overland campaign with Gomez’s son. Lack of food led to challenges. One mule packer died as did thirty horses. Marks’s interview also reveals a mule-train’s standard makeup which equates to that described by Power: 50 mules, 14 saddle mules and 14 men.

Frantz has succeeded in highlighting long forgotten but critical civilian support to American soldiers in the Spanish-American War. While his research was focused on Arizona’s civilian volunteers (several hundred by his count), Frantz has been successful in providing a snapshot of the common experience. And in doing so, he sheds new light on long forgotten incidents and opens the door to new areas of study. It is a worthy addition to the bookshelf of those interested in the daily lives of the ordinary men and women who served in the field in the Spanish-American War and related wars of the era.