



The National Son

The newsletter of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

Volume 2024 No. 2



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL in Greenfield, Massachusetts. It sits in front of the Leavitt-Hovey House on Main Street. Constructed in 1928, the memorial honors the men of Company L, 2nd Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry, U.S.V. The company was led by Captain Federick Pierce. It is dedicated to Lt. Charles Field Camp No. 51, USWV and contains a plaque naming all unit members.

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- Private Irvin Burns, A Name to a Picture***
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From the National President ‘Tim’ Mabee

In this issue

In this issue of *The National Son*, you’ll find coverage of the interesting work of some of our many members across the country.

Brandon Porter of Arizona’s O’Neill Camp did some stellar research work to put a story behind an all but forgotten photograph of Irvin Burns, a Spanish-American War veteran.

National Public Relations Officer Greg Eanes also provides a thoughtful piece on the historic preservation and educational mission of the SSAWV highlighting some of the work of our members in recent years. This is supplemented by a report on work the O’Neill camp performed to reunite a veteran’s relics with his family

There is a piece by the O’Neill Camp President Avery Frantz who provides an interesting article on an old Aspen tree carved with a still visible political message in support of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. This is followed by a report on the O’Neill Camp projects and new members.

There’s an article on Pvt. James Husketh who captured alive in the Philippines but murdered in contravention of the Articles of War which the Philippine Insurgents had been respecting up to that point. His killers were brought to justice.

Finally, there are several articles on Spanish-War Era campaign medals and suggestions for a Spanish-American War medal ‘shadowbox’ display that can be used for educational purposes either for talks, community events or even as presentations to schools and libraries. It is a relatively inexpensive way to show our SSAWV flag to the public and generate interest in our veterans.

All camps and members wishing to submit an item for the newsletter can send it directly to PRO Eanes at eanesgreg@hotmail.com. It is your newsletter, and we want to hear from each of you. Summer is on us. Be safe and keep up the good work!



Irvin Burns, a name to the picture

by Brandon Porter
Bucky O'Neill Camp

Being a bit of a night owl, and a nocturnal antiquarian, I took some idle time to peruse through a certain online auction site. Scrolling through the many curios and knickknacks, I came across a listing for an old cabinet photo. I knew right away what I was looking at. In the photo there was a young man in a khaki uniform, posing with a rather noble look. At the bottom of the photo, scribbled in faded pen read “Havana, Cuba”.

The back of the card had even more information. Written in black cursive ink was “Corp Burns Havana March 1899 of Reading Penna”. It then appeared that years later in blue ink someone had added “Co L 8 U.S. INF” to the description.

I bought the cabinet card for the steep \$29.50 and began



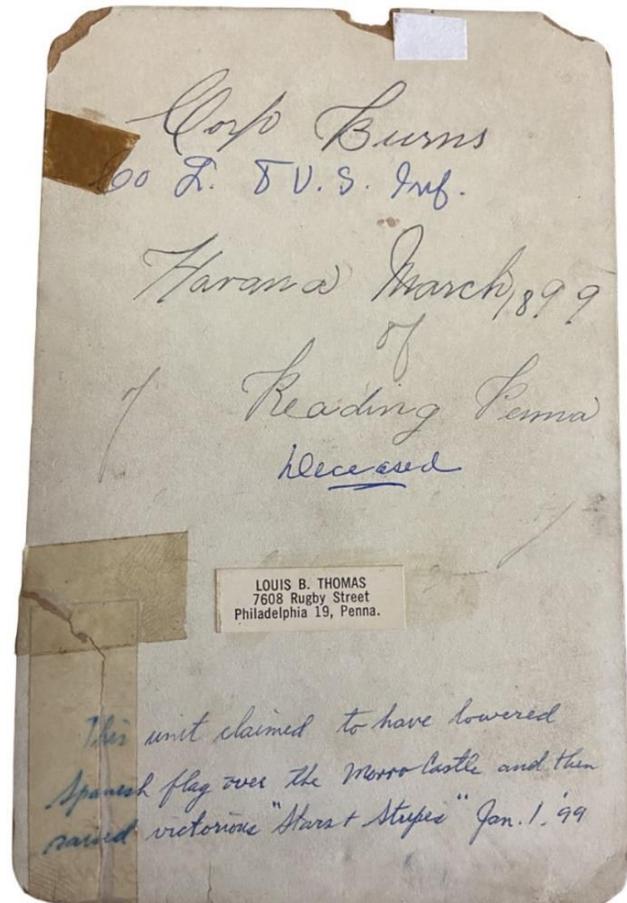
my journey to find who the young man in the photo was. This journey took all of five minutes before I came across the identity of the fellow. Using Ancestry.com I typed in the basic information. From the back of the photo, I knew his last name and where his home town was. With that I came across Irvin Patrick Burns.

Online I found Irvin's veteran paperwork which indicated he served in the 8th U.S. Infantry Regiment; Company L. I had found him.

I read his obituary and found that he was married and had children. Taking a gamble, I looked up Irvin's children on the census records, and found his closest descendant. Through public records I placed a call to his grandson named Patrick, a young man in his mid-eighties. The brief professional introductions soon turned to heartfelt recollections of his grandad. The older gentleman divulged much information on Irvin Burns.

Mr. Burns was born in 1878 in Reading, Pennsylvania. At a young age he had left home and worked a number of jobs. At the outbreak of war against Spain, Irvin joined the 8th Infantry Regiment and was assigned to Company L. The grandson said Irvin was wounded in the leg during combat either in Cuba or in Puerto Rico. According to his veteran document, he had served on both islands. It was said that when he was shot, he poured half a bottle of liquor on the wound and then downed the other half. Irvin remained in the military for several years. His grandson stated that he believed he had also served in the Boxer Rebellion. Irvin was a bit of a rebel it seems and would go up and down in rank from Corporal to Private a few times. It was said that he had great sympathy for the native peoples of the island during their occupation.

After the Army Irvin Burns married and had several children. Sadly, his young wife died in her twenties, leaving him to raise his children. He worked for many



years as a machinist. Irvin had brought back his trusty Krag-Jorgensen rifle he carried in the Army, and it remained in the family for years.

In his retirement days he suffered a heart attack that would lead him to live with his son, where he spent much time with his grandson. The Mauser bullet that struck him during the war would stay in his leg for the remainder of his life. As an old man, his grandchildren would play with the bullet under the skin of his leg. When asked by a doctor if he wanted it removed, he replied with an emphatic 'No!' explaining that his "grandkids liked messing with it". Irvin Patrick Burns passed away on April 13th 1949 in the home of his son. He is buried in the Aulenbach Cemetery in Mount Penn, Pennsylvania. This old fellow lived during a time of great change. From the age of horses and black powder, to World War Two and the atomic age.

Talking with Irvin's grandson Patrick was a great honor. To have a connection with a person who personally knew a Spanish American War Veteran was a great treat. Patrick had an immense fondness for his grandfather. I had a high resolution copy made of the cabinet card photo I purchased and mailed it to Patrick. It was the least that could be done. I thank him greatly for taking the time to talk to me about his grandad, Corporal Irvin Patrick Burns.



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.

We Want You!
www.huguenotmanakin.org

U.S. Navy Ship Strength in the Spanish American War

Report of the Secretary of the Navy, 1898 The Fighting Force Part 13

The number of enlisted men allowed by law prior to the outbreak of hostilities was 12,500. On August 15, when the enlisted force reached its maximum, there were 24,123 men in service. This great increase was made necessary by the addition of 128 ships to the Navy. The maximum fighting force of the Navy, separated into classes, was as follows:

Battle ships (first class)	4
Battle ships (second class)	1
Armored cruisers	2
Coast defense monitors	6
Armored ram	1
Protected cruisers	12
Unprotected cruisers	3
Gunboats	18
Dynamite cruiser	1
Torpedo boats	11
Vessels of old Navy, including monitors	14

Auxiliary navy:

Auxiliary cruisers	11
Converted yachts	28
Revenue cutters	15
Light-house tenders	4
Converted tugs	27
Converted colliers	19
Miscellaneous	19



Figure 1 U.S. SHIPS BOMBARDING SPANISH FORTIFICATIONS

Credits: The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Photography Collection, The New York Public Library. "U.S. Ships bombarding Spanish fortifications." *The New York Public Library Digital Collections*. 1860 - 1920. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47d9-b2d4-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

‘History and Education are our Missions.’

“To gather and preserve the records of patriotic service performed by the veterans of the Spanish-American War Era; to honor their memory and shield from neglect the graves of our heroic dead.”

SSAWV National Constitution
Purposes and Objects, Article II, Section 6

“History and education are our missions,” says retired Air Force Colonel Greg Eanes, Public Relations Officer for the National Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans. He noted last quarter’s return of a Spanish Orderly Book to Spain and the transfer of the Colonel Charles E. Goodrich collection to the Army Heritage and Education Center “were not our first rescues.”

“Everything we do as an organization, in one way or another, is designed to honor those Americans who served in the Spanish-American era conflicts between 1898 and 1903“. Eanes said. “Nothing fulfills that requirement more than preserving history and sharing it through active educational efforts. That’s a pretty heavy responsibility considering our small numbers (all volunteers), that the veterans of our wars are often forgotten and, when they are remembered, they are sometimes vilified by selected societal elements that know little to absolutely nothing about American history.”

Eanes holds a master’s degree in military history from American Military University, a bachelor’s in education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, is a graduate of the Air War College and currently is adjunct lecturer for Intelligence and National Security at Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia.

“Last year (2023) was the 125th anniversary of the Spanish-American War,” Eanes said, “but I am not aware of any U.S. government sponsored national level service to recognize the events or the men and women who were in them. That’s pretty remarkable when one considers the era was our entry onto the world stage as an international power. It was a transformational experience for our military that led to Secretary of War Elihu Root’s military reforms. Yet I have seen little outside of our SSAWV circles regarding the anniversary. What we should take from that lack of official recognition is the continued importance of our own educational and historical preservation missions. Every member and every camp, in their respective regions, has to ‘lead the charge’ in preservation and memorial activities.”

Educating Others

As reflected in camp reports, SSAWV members are actively engaged in educational activities such as the work of the Lebanon, Pennsylvania Alexander M. Quinn Camp that orchestrated a 125th anniversary event with the Mt. Gretna Historical Society recognizing the Pennsylvania National Guard 1898 Camp Hastings anniversary. The day was filled with lectures and a living history encampment. “It was the best educational and public relations effort I’ve seen in recent years,” Eanes said.

Other camps and members are engaged in annual local memorial events. The new Bucky O'Neill Chapter in Arizona has already dedicated several headstones and participated in the memorial activities of many communities. Others are raising funds for bronze memorial markers. There are some SSAWV members engaged as 'living historians.' Eanes said, "This is an excellent way to make a presence and reach out to folks unfamiliar with the period. Some folks will not sit in a classroom to listen to an educational lecture. But, put a man in uniform next to a tent and he draws a crowd and gives the same basic educational lecture."

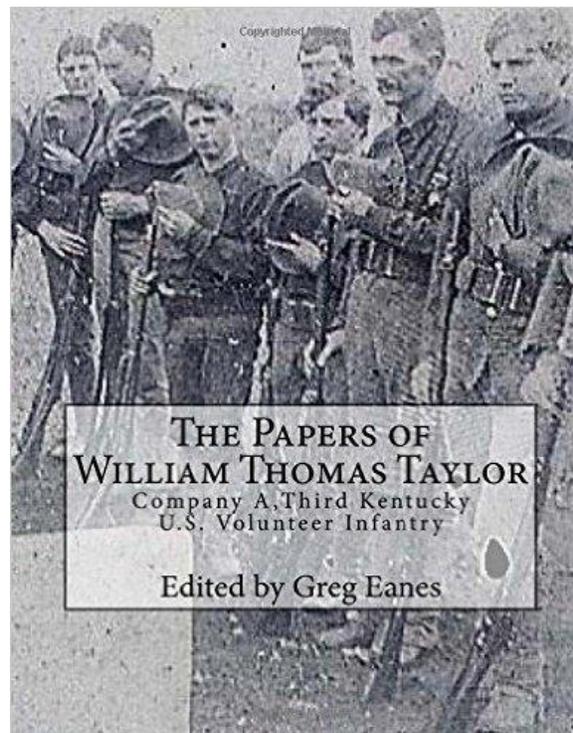
The SSAWV's *National Son* (under many editors) is also an educational tool. Issues over the years have contained everything from snapshots of historic people and events to detailed articles on individual units, information on research materials, guidance for living historians and reports of various camp activities that often highlight the ordinary persons who played a role in the conflicts of the era. Thanks to webmaster Ray LeMay, members can direct teachers and interested persons to the SSAWV website where these are all now posted for the general public.

'Rescue Operations'

"Over the years, many of our members have also been engaged in 'rescue operations'," Eanes said. "It is simply helping others place in appropriate archives, the personal papers, and artifacts of veterans of that era so they are available for educational museum displays, students, and researchers. We do not have a budget or dedicated museum to keep these things. Yet we are occasionally contacted by family members or others with items that need to be protected and preserved. We facilitate that on their behalf."

One example from 2016 is when either then-President Jim McAteer or Senior Vice-President John Sims was contacted by Nancy Singleton who had letters and photos from her grandfather, the late Private William Thomas Taylor of the Third Kentucky Infantry. The unit trained at Camp Thomas in Chickamauga and served as part of the Army of Occupation in Cuba in the immediate aftermath of combat operations. The letters were valuable eyewitness testimony to daily activities of a common soldier. Primary source documents are the raw material of history.

Nancy's sister Jo Ann Fernstrom also had some items. Eanes recalled, "We offered to help find a place for these materials. But first we scanned all of the wartime letters and photos and placed them in a 74-page document that could be published making the collection permanently available for historians and researchers. It also makes the material permanently available for future descendants." As Taylor was a North



Carolina native, Nancy and Jo Ann decided to have the materials deposited with a North Carolina Museum.

The exhaustive research on the Third Kentucky also led to publication of a separate regimental history written by Eanes entitled *Heroes of Peace: A History of the Third Kentucky Infantry in the Spanish-American War*.

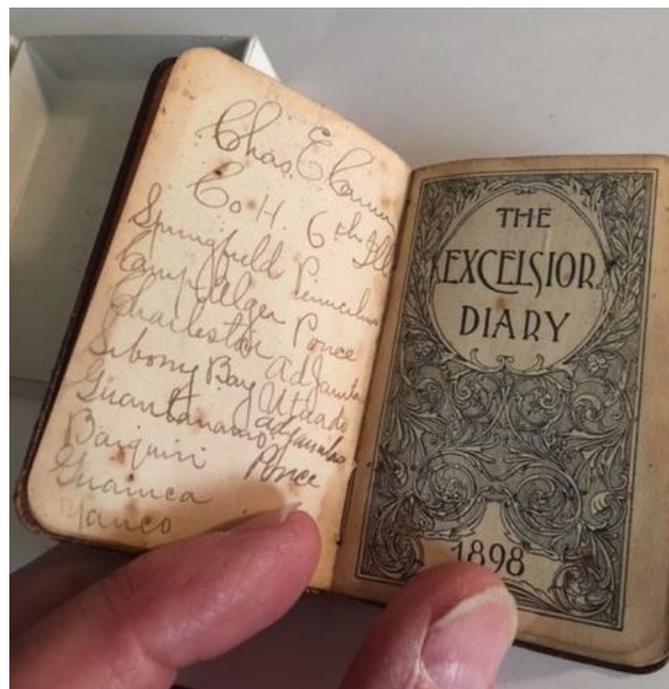
In 2018 the SSAWV was contacted by Betsy Bruce Olsen of Washington State. Her grandfather Private George H. Bruce of the 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry had brought home a ‘war trophy’ from the Philippine Insurrection in the form of a Spanish Orderly Book.

In 1899 his unit used the Orderly Book to keep a record of their Manila based social organization, the Oregon Literary Society also known as the Oregon Debating Society.

Taking the same approach as before, former President James McBryant was able to have Indiana University scan the entire document, both the English record and the entire Spanish language record. It is now electronically accessible to historians and researchers. The book has since been returned and deposited into Spanish Military archives.

A soldier’s diary was also privately purchased by Eanes for preservation. The *Diary of Charles C. Camm* of Monmouth, Illinois, a member of Co. H, 6th Illinois Infantry covering the period of April 25 to September 12, 1898, has since been transcribed by Eanes and published in the *National Son Yearbook* for 2018.

Camm participated in the Puerto Rican campaign and provides a unique



common soldier point of view. The *Camm Diary* will be donated in the near future to an appropriate archive for permanent preservation and research availability.

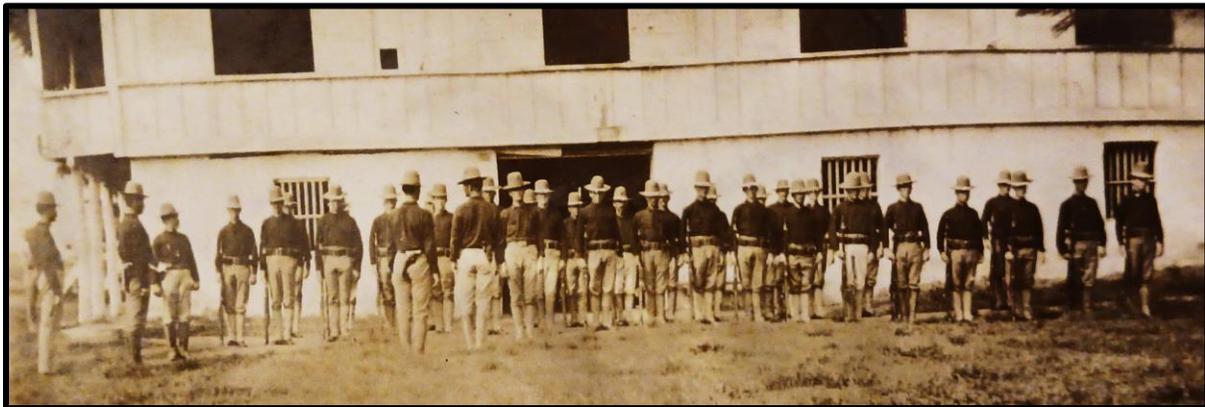
The most significant contributions to SSAWV efforts come from family members and other interested individuals who come into possession of these papers and photographs.

Eanes said, “Too many ordinary documents and photos get trashed by people who do not want them or even know what to do with them. We have been fortunate in that the donors of the materials we’ve placed recognized that these old, weathered and often brittle pieces of paper and faded photographs do have value to historians of the period. That recognition will sometimes lead them to us. Each of those donors should be commended for their efforts to preserve and protect for perpetuity these materials.”

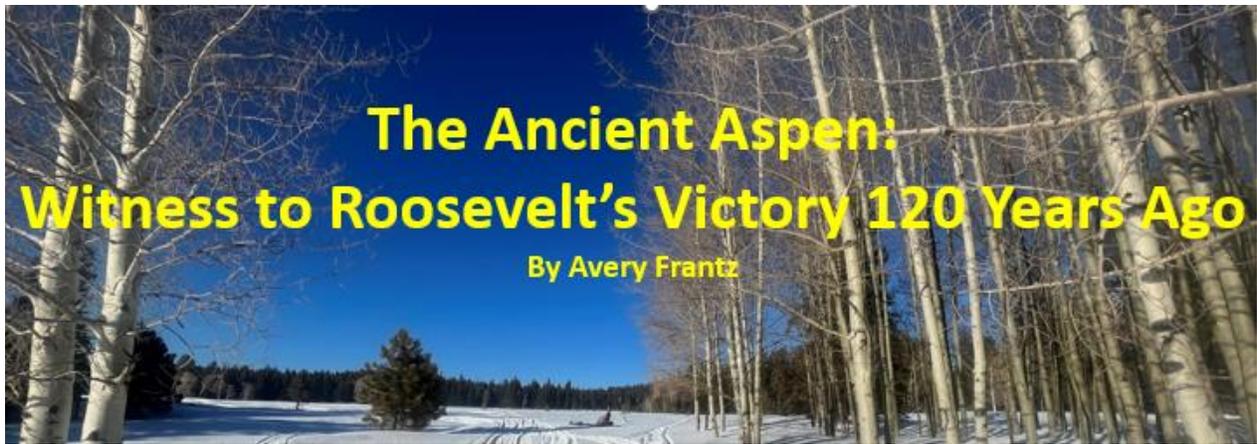
Not all documents go to archives however as sometimes they are reunited with families. The Buckey O’Neill SSAWV Camp in Arizona (see related story) most recently were the recipients of papers belonging to late Lieutenant General Mathew A. Tinley. The Camp was able to locate family members and return the documents to them. The family may very well, at some point in the future, donate these documents to an appropriate research repository for public access.

Eanes said, “The most important thing is the family was identified and now has those documents. The documents will likely be available for research purposes at some point in the future. The Camp also found a period newspaper illustration of then Lt. Tinley and made it available to the family. This should also generate interest and perhaps lead to new members in the future.”

Eanes said, “Government records give the ‘big picture’ of the wars and the ‘great leaders’ are well covered. What we need to work on is ensuring the digital preservation of these common soldier diaries, letters, and miscellaneous papers. We need to facilitate placing original documents in appropriate archival research facilities to ensure preservation for historical research and genealogical purposes. We all play a role, and I will help anyone do this. These ordinary letters and diaries are what tell the personal stories to future generations.”



Company Headquarters for Company L, 32nd U.S. Volunteer Infantry. (Col. George Goodrich Collection)



Amongst the quaking aspen of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest nestled within the White Mountains of Arizona lies a silent witness to the passage of time: an ancient aspen tree that bears the markings "T. Roosevelt 1904".

This remarkable tree stands amidst a large array of dendroglyphs, etchings left by various individuals spanning centuries. From modern man's inscriptions to the more curious and explicit carvings attributed to Basque shepherders, the tree tells tales of the past, preserving history in its gnarled bark.



The significance of the carving "T. Roosevelt 1904", situated 12 to 13 feet off the ground, goes beyond mere vandalism or idle scratching. It serves as a poignant reminder of a pivotal moment in American history—the Presidential Election of 1904.

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, sought re-election after assuming the presidency following the assassination of William McKinley in 1901. Roosevelt's progressive policies and assertive leadership style had garnered both admiration and criticism.

While those of the Arizona Territory couldn't vote in Presidential elections, it did not halt the self-expression and the usage of a wide range of mediums to express their support; including an aspen tree some 130 years old now. To this day, 120 years later, Arizona, while now a state, still

What is a Dendroglyph?

A Dendroglyph is the human modification to tree bark done by carving; usually represented by an art form.

Why do Aspen Scar?

"The figures and carvings remain because when someone carves an aspen, the cuts make the tree susceptible to a type of tree fungus known as aspen canker. The canker leaves sores on the tree that look like eyes, and it also makes the carvings grow and blacken over time" (Muller, 2004)

remembers its days of territorial adventure and the election of good ol' "Teddy" thanks to a lone tree and the works of a mere cowboy who in admiration, either climbed or stood on his horse's back to carve his support to Teddy Roosevelt in 1904.

As the tree nears the end, and has outlived the average life of an aspen, let it still convey and symbolize the democratic process and power of individual voices that shape the course of history. As visitors and readers upon this historic tree, let us be reminded of the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt and the spirit of democracy that continues to thrive in the land he once roamed.



Bucky O'Neill Camp Activities

By Avery Frantz
O'Neill Camp President

Brother Brandon Porter was recently initiated into the Camp and accepted his oath and obligations of service. Brother Porter was able to introduce himself and will be an active member that is keen in research. Brother Porter has also created Camp buttons for the Camp and wishes to give them out to fellow Brothers.

Our Camp's 125th Anniversary monument was finished on March 19, 2024, by RAM Specialists. Bullion Plaza Museum in Miami, Arizona was contacted on when we could hold the dedication, I was informed to wait to allow them to finish their 100th Anniversary celebration and then re-engage.

Information about our Real Son was shared. Mr. L. P. Fulton of Star Valley is 89 years old and a veteran of Korea. His father was John Wilson Fulton, the last Spanish American War Veteran of Navajo County, Arizona. John Wilson Fulton's grave is unmarked. A headstone was ordered and arrived 3 days ago. A form was built, and concrete was purchased. With assistance from Felix Collazo-Helgeson, the Camp will set the



<p>John Fulton</p> <p>Homesteader of Young, AZ Circa 1913 Business Owner in Young/Globe Ex-Mormon Elk Member in Show Low Last Span Am Vet of Navajo Co.</p>	
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headstone when the weather permits. Two Spanish American War Veteran Flag holders were purchased. These medallions will adorn the graves of John Fulton.

Historic Records Reunited with Family

The Buckey O'Neill Camp reunited Spanish-American War related materials to the family of the late Major General and Medical Doctor Mathew A. Tinley, formerly a 1st Lieutenant in Co. L, 51st Iowa Infantry and Philippine War veteran. Records included his 1914 USWV membership application, an Iowa USWV Proceedings book of 1950 and a 1927 Auxiliary to the USWV Rules and Regulations book.

The documents were given to the O'Neill Camp by American Legion Post 32 in Longmont, Colorado who did not know the provenance of the documents or even why they were being held by the Legion which saw the O'Neill SSAWV as the best repository. Genealogical work allowed the O'Neill camp to identify three of Tinley's great-grandchildren in New Mexico allowing for a transfer of the documents to great-granddaughter Mrs. Pam Greebon of Hobbs, N.M.

A native of Council Bluffs, Iowa (b. 5 March 1876) and the son of Irish immigrants, Tinley enlisted as a Private in 1894 in the Dodge Light Guards, 3rd Iowa Infantry. He was the Company First Sergeant and a medical student when the Spanish-American War broke out. He marched to war with a medical bag presented by his sister shipping out to the Philippines as a Second Lieutenant in the 51st Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He mustered out as a 1st Lieutenant but was promoted to Captain shortly afterwards.



As Lt. Col. Tinley of the 3rd Iowa Infantry, he served in the Mexican Border dispute and was promoted to Colonel and was the first commander of the 168th Infantry Regiment, 42nd (Rainbow Division) in France in World War I. He commanded the 34th Division (National Guard) before retiring as a Lieutenant-General (three stars). He was recalled to command the Iowa State Guard in World War II. Tinley is reported as “probably the sole Iowa Army combat officer who was concurrently a practicing doctor.”

He held the French Croix de Guerre, the French Legion of Honor rosette, the Distinguished Service Medal, and various American campaign medals. General Douglas MacArthur, commanding Tinley's Brigade in World War I, personally wrote Tinley's Distinguished Service Cross recommendation.

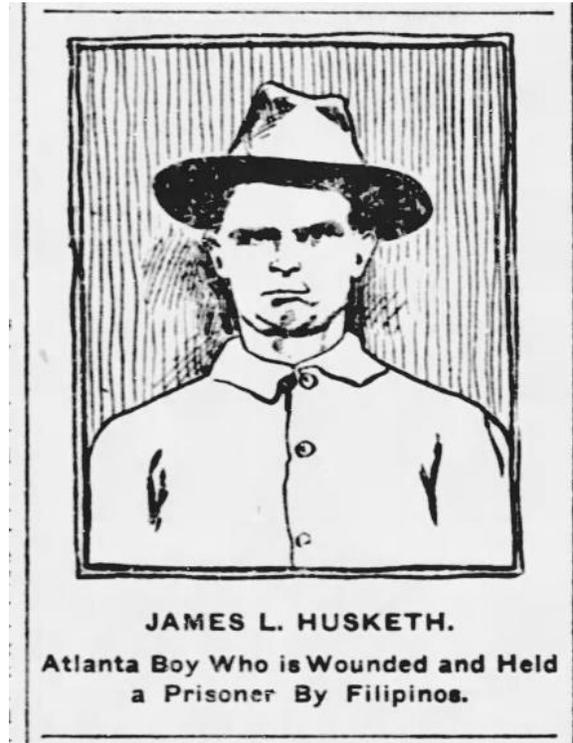
---Private James L. Husketh---

Murdered POW in the Philippines

By Greg Eanes

Most reports of American military men captured by the Army of the Philippine Republic suggest they were treated, as a matter of policy, within captor capability, in a manner consistent with international law. This was not always the case however and records show two insurgent officers were tried and executed for the murder of **Private James L. Husketh**, a prisoner of war and an American miner.

Husketh, a member of Company H of the Twenty-Ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry was involved in a combat action on February 17th near Tagudin la Union in Luzon Province. There Private **John W. Walker** of Company H was killed, and Husketh of Atlanta, Georgia suffered a slight head wound and was captured.¹ Husketh was 26 years old, a railroad worker by trade and a Spanish-American War veteran of the Second Georgia Infantry. On demobilization and discharge from the Second Georgia, he enlisted in the Twenty-Ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry departing for the Philippines in October 1899.² Husketh became the focus of unsuccessful rescue efforts.



Background

Private **George R. 'Gus' Sabine** of Co. H later wrote a detailed letter reporting that on February 17th, their Sergeant **Purifoy** led a squad of 12 men on a reconnaissance patrol for a distance of six miles. They passed through Tagudin and observed about 100 Filipinos engaged in building a bridge. Thinking nothing of it, the Americans continued on until deciding to turn back along the same route.

On returning to pass through the village, there was not a Filipino to be seen. According to Private Sabine, "The squad had not walked more than a hundred yards when they were fired upon. A fight ensued. After an hour and ten minutes the squad was forced to retreat."³

¹ Correspondence, p1160

² Ltr, Captain C.G. McGhee to Mrs. Kate Kell Husketh, dtd March 17, 1900, from Headquarters Company H, Twenty-Ninth Infantry, USV, Bangar, Luzon, P.I. Published in *The Atlanta Journal*, June 8, 1900.

³ Ltr, George R. 'Gus' Sabine to his mother, published in *The Atlanta Journal*, June 5, 1900, p3.

He said, “In the retreat the rear guard became separated from the main body and were compelled to cross a river to get out of the range of the bullets. In making this detour the rear guard lost two men.”⁴ The two men were Privates Walker and Husketh.

On returning to camp and sharing the news a larger detail was dispatched under First Sergeant **Gutches** to find the boys. Sabine said,

“All traces of them had disappeared. [Gutches] burned the town and captured 84 prisoners. As soon as the prisoners were brought in Captain **McGhee**, in command of Company H, Twenty-ninth infantry, compelled one of the prisoners to tell him where the bodies of the two boys could be found. The prisoner finally led him to the place where the boys were murdered but said he did not know what had become of the bodies.”

Sabine said,

“We were commanded by Captain McGhee to find them and after a long and tiresome search we were led to the place by the scout. We found the body of John Walker in a terrible condition. The insurgents had robbed him of all his clothing except his blue shirt. His head was beaten in by bamboo, his throat was cut by a bolo knife, and he was shot in the left side. We dug a grave and buried him. When the last dirt was thrown upon his grave a salute of three volleys was fired.”

Sabine wrote,

“Two days later we went to Policy Pass to look for the body of [Husketh], the other boy. We arrived there at 9:20 a.m. Sergeant **McLendon** was ordered on one side of the river, while we remained on the other side with the captain. The squad had just reached the other side of the river when we fired at some natives running up the hill and were answered by a volley in return. We fought one hour and forty-five minutes, then went back to get reinforcements. None of our men were killed or wounded in the last skirmish.”⁵



GEORGE R. SABINE,
Private of Company H, 29th Regiment, Who Tells of the Murder of His
Comrades.

⁴ Sabine Ltr

⁵ Sabine Ltr

Captain McGhee did not quit looking. On March 17th, a month after the action, McGhee sent a letter to Husketh's mother, Mrs. Kate Kell Husketh of 135 Rawson Street in Atlanta advising her of Husketh's prisoners status "in the hands of the enemy."

He said he had been able to learn that her son

"only received a slight injury, and as it is said, all American prisoners taken by the Filipinos are treated with remarkable kindness and consideration by them, we hope to be able to within the next few days report that he has been returned to his company. I deem it unnecessary to add that every effort has been made to re-take him, but so far, our efforts have failed, and, of course, we are to try again with the hopes of success in the future."⁶

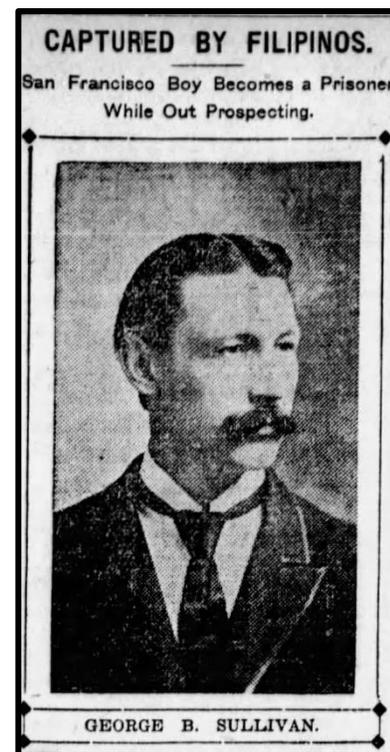
McGhee extended his sympathy "but at the same time I believe there is no cause for unnecessary worry or anxiety over him while in captivity."⁷

Husketh was now a prisoner of war, moving from place to place with his captors. An escape would lead to death in a hostile jungle. His only hope was in being found by the aggressive American patrols searching for him or even stumbling on him while conducting other operations.

Civilian George B. Sullivan

Earlier in the year, a young civilian businessman turned prospector by the name of George B. Sullivan⁸, 31, was in the jungle looking for gold. Sullivan and his brother James went to the Philippines in late 1899 "and began to reap success from small business ventures in Manila."

It was reported their businesses "were not exciting or profitable enough for George and he started out on a prospecting tour. He left Manila with a man named Hunt, and the two sold goods until they reached the mountains." Hunt returned to Manila and Sullivan continued on reaching San Juan on January 28, 1900. There Sullivan met elements of the Twenty-Ninth Infantry. The unit was not moving at the pace he wanted so he left their safety and continued onto the town of Bagnatinon.⁹



⁶ McGhee Ltr. Husketh's father David H. Husketh died in 1896. His mother and sister Miss Bertha Husketh were his only immediate family.

⁷ McGhee Ltr.

⁸ He was born in Petaluma, the son of Michael Sullivan, described "as a pioneer hotel keeper of that town." See 'San Franciscan Is Shot to Death By Filipinos'. *The San Francisco Call*, March 31, 1901.

⁹ 'Captured by the Filipinos: San Francisco Boy Becomes a Prisoner While Out Prospecting'. *The San Francisco Examiner*. April 19, 1900,p10

Sullivan was not to be found when the Americans arrived later in the week. It was assessed that he had been captured while traveling to the town. It was learned some time later that he had been captured by one of two known Filipino officers and that he was being held with an a private in the Twenty-Ninth [Husketh] and a trooper of the Fourth Cavalry.

On receiving the news, Sullivan's brother James left Manila for the vicinity of the Filipino camp to try to ransom his brother. James also wrote his brother Eugene, living in San Francisco, advising "the Filipinos are inclined to observe in a greater measure than before the regulations governing the treatment of prisoners of war."¹⁰

Nothing more on the fate of these men was heard for a year. The U.S. Army continued to search the region. The Americans were aggressive in pursuing the forces of Col. **Juan M. Gutierrez** whom, it was discovered, had the prisoners.

Executed or Alive?

In time the Americans learned, perhaps through Filipino prisoners of war, that the men had been executed. It was learned that Sullivan had been wounded after resisting capture. It was known that Sullivan was kept in company with Private Husketh and the two "were moved from place to place for a month and then for some reason both were murdered."¹¹

Soon Guterrez and his officers and men were captured. An investigation led to a military trial in which the truth was revealed. Charged with "murdering prisoners, in violation of the laws of war" were Filipino Lieutenant Colonel **Juan Gutierrez, Lieutenant Hilario Quesada, Corporal Louis Lopez, Gregorio Omaja, Felipe Barnachea, and Jacinto Abat.**¹²

According to press reports, "When the American forces pressed so closely as to convince the insurgent [Gutierrez] that the recapture of his prisoners was inevitable, he ordered Hilario Quesada, a second lieutenant...to kill them to keep them from disclosing the hidden mountain retreats of the guerilla bands."¹³

Filipino enlisted participants testified that Lieutenant Quesada "issued an order that when the corporal of the guard who was marching in front of the prisoners should lift his hat, the insurgents behind the Americans should take it as the signal for bayonetting of the prisoners."¹⁴

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 'Captured...'. *The San Francisco Examiner*.

¹¹ 'Murdered by Insurgents: George B. Sullivan Loses His Life While On Prospecting Trip in the Philippine Islands'. *The Fresno Morning Republican*. April 21, 1901, p8.

¹² 'Murdered by Insurgents: George B. Sullivan Loses His Life While On Prospecting Trip in the Philippine Islands'. *The Fresno Morning Republican*. April 21, 1901, p8; 'Condensed Telegrams', *The Silver State*, Nov 30, 1901; 'Insurgent Sentenced to Death', *St. Joseph Gazette*, Dec. 8, 1901, p5.

¹³ 'Insurgents Murder Prisoners: When Closely Pressed by Troops Victims Are Put to Death.' *Franklin (Chambersburg, PA) Repository*, Dec. 4, 1901.

¹⁴ 'Death Sentences Set Aside: General Chaffee Shows Leniency to Four Insurgents'. *Los Angeles Evening Express*, Sept 26, 1901, p1D.

In this fashion, the two Americans were executed on the march without provocation. The two dead men were interred by an Igorot leader in the Rancheria of Sabed who later returned the remains to the Army.¹⁵

After trial and conviction, Lt. Col. Gutierrez was hanged by the neck until dead at San Fernando de la Union on November 8th, 1901 “for ordering the killing, in cold blood of Private James Husketh, Company H, Twenty-Ninth Infantry, United States Volunteers, and George B. Sullivan, a mining man of San Francisco.”¹⁶ Lieutenant Quesada was condemned to death. The four native guards; Lopez, Omaja, Barnachea, and Abat were also condemned to die but General Adna Chaffee “set aside their sentence of death and set them at liberty on the ground that they were compelled to obey orders.”¹⁷



Figure 2 - AREA OF ENGAGEMENT – Company H of the 29th U.S. Volunteer Infantry was in the area of Tagudin la Union in Luzon Province at the time of the February 17, 1900, combat in which one man was killed and another, Private James L. Husketh, was wounded and captured. A prisoner of war, Private Husketh, was later murdered. This treatment was contrary to the usual humane treatment Filipino insurgents offered American prisoners. Husketh’s killers were captured, tried, and executed. (Map courtesy of Wikipedia, arranged by #TownExplorer, www.edmaration.com)

¹⁵ Ibid, ‘Murdered...’. *The Fresno Morning Republican*

¹⁶ Ibid., ‘Condensed Telegrams’.

¹⁷ Ibid., ‘Death Sentences’

War Medal Chart Spanish American War Era Conflicts



MAJOR CAMPAIGN/SERVICE MEDALS – From left to right, the Spanish Campaign Medal; the Spanish War Service Medal, the Philippine Campaign Medal, and the China Campaign Medal



MAJOR CAMPAIGN/SERVICE MEDALS – From left to right, Army of Occupation Military Government of Cuba Medal; Army of Occupation Porto Rico Medal and the Philippine Congressional Medal issued only to those U.S. Volunteers that enlisted specifically for the Philippines.

Spanish-American War Era Campaign and Service Medals

Campaign and Service Medals reflect a veteran's participation or service during times of war or crisis. The British were the first to begin the practice of awarding medals to all the men involved in significant battles and campaigns.

The United States War and Navy Department did not begin such recognitions until the Spanish-American War.

According to Navy Lieutenant J.P. Rairden in a 1949 article in *Proceedings* magazine,

“The custom of giving identical campaign medals to admirals and seamen, generals and privates, has been called “...the most democratic of all military traditions.” It seems strange that the infant United States of America did not take quickly to the idea. In fact, it was not until 1898 and the Spanish American War that the United States issued an all hands medal...



The Dewey Medal

The Dewey Medal was the first. It was authorized by Congress less than one month after the Battle of Manila Bay and was presented to all hands. Though it was more commemorative in concept than today's campaign medals, it none the less established the precedent.

Two more medals were authorized by Congress in 1901. They were the West Indies Naval Medal (now known as the “Sampson Medal”) and the Special Meritorious Medal. The latter award is interesting in that it was presented to units. It is listed as a service medal by Wyllie and other authorities because all officers and men serving in certain commands received it. For example, the *Merrimac* ship's company received it for their attempt to block the harbor of Santiago. Today one would be more tempted to consider it an ancestor of the Presidential Unit Citation.

The American campaign medal tradition, born afloat at Manila Bay, was popular. There was no denying its value as a morale builder. The Army very creditably got on the target and in 1905 published an order under the authority of President Theodore Roosevelt authorizing the issue of various campaign medals dating back to include the Civil War. The original list also covered the Indian Campaigns, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the China Campaign (“Boxer Rebellion”). At this time the Army also authorized and prescribed the wearing of ribbons in lieu of the actual medals. The Navy followed suit in 1909.”¹⁸



The Sampson Medal (on left) also known as the West Indies Naval Campaign Medal, was authorized March 1901. Eligibility was restricted to Sampson’s fleet . This caused the Navy’s creation of the West Indies Campaign Medal (on right) for all eligible Navy and Marine Corps personnel in the campaign area.

It was 1907 before a large quantity (about 49,000) of medals were available for issue. One War Department challenge was locating eligible veterans. Appeals were published in the newspapers across the country to alert veterans to the creation of the medals.

Though the medal was free, one had to request it. By July 1, 1923, the following medals had been issued:

7,667	Spanish Campaign Medals
13, 948	Spanish War Service Medals
5,699	Philippine Campaign Medals
3,916	Cuban Occupation Medals
296	Porto Rican Occupation Medal
1,674	China Campaign Medals

Few eligible veterans appeared to have requested their medals, likely because ‘life goes on’ and they were busy trying to make a living. This is not unusual. Even today, medals are often authorized after the event and eligible veterans never receive the award because they do not know they are entitled to it, or they fail to contact their branch of service to obtain one.¹⁹

¹⁸ Lieutenant (J.G.) P. Rairden, Jr., U.S. Navy. *Proceedings* (May 1949). Volume 75/5/555. ‘Campaign and Service Medals – Their History and Tradition’. [Campaign and Service Medals - Their History and Tradition | Proceedings - May 1949 Vol. 75/5/555 \(usni.org\)](https://www.usni.org/Proceedings-May-1949-Vol-75/5/555)

¹⁹ See the *Annual Report of the Secretary of War to the President War Department Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1923*.

Campaign Medal Shadowbox Makes Great Educational Display

Current Army Regulations provide details on U.S. Service medals no longer issued. These details can help one reconstruct a medal or shadow box display on their ancestor. The shadow boxes make excellent educational displays, treasured family mementos, great conversation pieces and a personal ‘silent salute’ to our Spanish-American War ancestors.

U.S. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (5 March 2019), Section III, U.S. Service Medals and Ribbons No Longer Available, provides details on the era campaign medals and eligibility requirements. By matching dates and locations of a veteran’s service, one can assess the individual’s eligibility and select the appropriate medals for purchase from a commercial medal dealer. An excerpt of that regulation is printed below for reference.

5–13. Spanish Campaign Medal

This medal was established by War Department General Order 5, 1905. It is awarded for service ashore in, or on the high seas enroute to, any of the following countries:

- a. Cuba between 11 May and 17 July 1898.
- b. Puerto Rico between 24 July and 13 August 1898.
- c. Philippine Islands between 30 June and 16 August 1898.

5–14. Spanish War Service Medal

This medal was established by an Act of Congress of 9 July 1918 (40 Stat 873). It is awarded for service between 20 April 1898 and 11 April 1899, to persons not eligible for the Spanish Campaign Medal.

5–15. Army of Cuban Occupation Medal

This medal was established by War Department General Order 40, 1915. It is awarded for service in Cuba between 18 July 1898 and 20 May 1902.

5–16. Army of Puerto Rican Occupation Medal

This medal was established by War Department Compilation of Orders, change 15, 4 February 1919. It is awarded for service in Puerto Rico between 14 August and 10 December 1898.

5–17. Philippine Campaign Medal

This medal was established by War Department General Order 5, 1905. It is awarded for service in the Philippine Islands under any of the following conditions:

- a. Ashore between 4 February 1899 and 4 July 1902.
- b. Ashore in the Department of Mindanao between 4 February 1899 and 31 December 1904.
- c. Against the Pulajanes on Leyte between 20 July 1906 and 30 June 1907, or on Samar between 2 August 1904 and 30 June 1907.
- d. With any of the following expeditions:
 - (1) Against Pala on Jolo between April and May 1905.

- (2) Against Datu Ali on Mindanao in October 1905.
- (3) Against hostile Moros on Mount Bud-Dajo, Jolo, March 1906.
- (4) Against hostile Moros on Mount Bagsac, Jolo, between January and July 1913.
- (5) Against hostile Moros on Mindanao or Jolo between 1910 and 1913.

e. In any action against hostile natives in which U.S. troops were killed or wounded between 4 February 1899 and 31 December 1913.

5–18. Philippine Congressional Medal

This medal was established by an Act of Congress 29 June 1906 (34 Stat 621). It is awarded for service meeting all the following conditions:

- a. Under a call of the President, entered the Army between 21 April and 26 October 1898.
- b. Served beyond the date on which entitled to discharge.
- c. Ashore in the Philippine Islands between 4 February 1899 and 4 July 1902.

5–19. China Campaign Medal

This medal was established by War Department General Order 5, 1905. It is awarded for service ashore in China with the Peking Relief Expedition between 20 June 1900 and 27 May 1901.

PERSHING’S CAMPAIGNS – Pictured at right is John J. Pershing pictured between 1909 and 1923. He is wearing his dress uniform with three of his campaign medals. From left to right, The Indian Wars Campaign Medal (Apache, Sioux, and Cree wars), the Spanish Campaign Medal, and the Philippine Insurrection Medal (for service in Mindanao and Jolo against the Moros).

(Photo Credit: Library of Congress, Harris & Ewing Photographer, ‘Pershing, John J. General’. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016853827>)

