



The Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Department of Florida
S.U.V.C.W.

JUNE 2020 EDITION

Elected Department Officers

COMMANDER....**Michael Urell, C, PCC**

Email-Michael.urell11@gmail.com

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER...**Michael Meek**

JR VICE COMMANDER...**Ronnie G McCracken, PDC**

SECRETARY...**Larry E Oppenheimer, PCC,**

Email - leoppen@verizon.net

TREASURER...**Walter Richard Young, Sr.**

COUNCIL #1 **Charles Sherman Reeves PDC**

Council #2 **Ronnie McCracken PDC**

Council #3 **Dave Palmer PDC**

Appointed Department Officers

Chief of Staff...**Stephen Strobel**

Patriotic Instructor...**Roger Heiple assisted by Michael Urell, DC.**

Chaplain...**Ron McCracken, PDC.**

Graves Registration...**Robert W. McGwire, Jr., CC**

Guide...**Scott Acheson.**

Civil War Memorials Officer...**John Glass**

Signals Officer/Website...**Robert L. Vandevender.**

Newsletter...**Tim Iliff**

JROTC Coordinator...**Richard D. Shaffer**

Counselor...**Harvey Linscott, PDC**

Color Bearer...**Jeff MacMakin.**

Guard...**Caleb Greinke**

Counselor...**Harvey Linscott**

Member at Large Coordinator...**Larry Oppenheimer PCC**



MISSION STATEMENT

*Through Community Education and Service
to our Order
We Honor the Memory of the Grand Army of
the Republic
The men who fought to Preserve the Union
1861 - 1865*

Happy Father's Day and Happy Juneteenth

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More info about the Department of Florida can
be found in our Department web site.

<http://www.dofsucw.org>



Grand Army of the Republic - Wikipedia
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Dept. of Florida has the following camps

Active Camps

[Winfield Scott Whitehurst Camp 1 - Tampa.](#)

[Col. Robert W. Bernard Camp 2 -Fort Myers.](#)

[General Thomas J. McKean Camp 3- Lantana](#)

[L.L. Mitchell Camp 4 - St. Cloud](#)

[Gen. Eugene A Carr Camp 5- Ocala](#)

[Sgt.Frederick R. Jackson Camp 7 - Pembroke](#)

[General John A. Logan Camp 09 - Jacksonville](#)

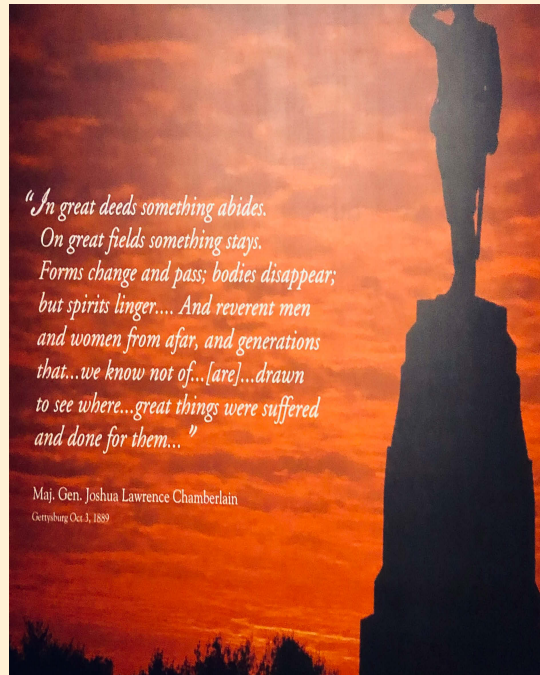
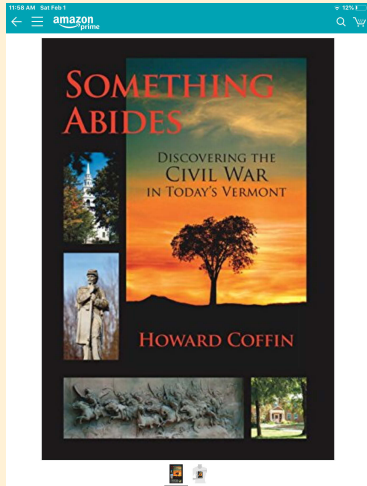
Department Membership-At-Large

[General William T. Sherman Camp 25](#)



“SOMETHING ABIDES”

By Howard Coffin
A book report by
Commander M.
Urell



Since first visiting Gettysburg National Park with my mom and dad in 1952 I have kept being fascinated by this great battle of the Civil War. At the dedication of the monument of the 20th Maine Joshua Chamberlain spoke the words in the picture above. I know everyone listening first thought of Gettysburg as he spoke. But visitors to Yorktown, Belleau Wood and Omaha Beach would get that same feeling. Author Howard Coffin has chosen “something abides” as the title for a book about present day Vermont and the American Civil War. In former Governor of Vermont Peter Shumlin’s foreword he explains the approach that is taken by the author to Vermont Civil War history: This book reveals in great depth the complete Vermont Civil War experience. Identified here are places where families learned of the death of loved ones and welcomed home the broken and emaciated bodies of their boys from battlefields and prisons. The houses where women made goods for the war effort and the halls where abolitionists spoke and war meetings took place are all given their place in the landscape. Also included are buildings associated with the Underground Railroad, fields and streets where troops drilled, churches where antislavery societies met and where soldiers funerals took place.

In 1860 Vermont had a population of just 315,000 and sent 34,000 men to war. From the very beginning of the war these soldiers played key roles in key battles including Gettysburg, Cedar Creek, the Wilderness and Petersburg. Many books have been written about these actions and the heroics and sacrifices of these Vermonters. What was lacking for any state was a detailed accounting of what was going on on the home front before, during and after the war. And so county by county and town by town we visit over 3,500 historic Vermont sites associated with the Civil War.

The author Howard Coffin has called Vermont the perfect State to discover these sites because its rural landscape has been largely maintained. In searching for these sites over five years, 251 towns, 150,000 miles and 3 cars he came to realize the oversize role of home front participation. If I were to travel to Vermont here are some of the sites I would definitely see:

The Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier, now newly famous for being the target of the Valentines Day Phantom, is Coffin's favorite site and this is easy to understand. 16 year old Medal of Honor winner Julian Scott's painting of the Battle of Cedar Creek is housed there. Sculptor Larkin Goldsmith Mead's bust of Abraham Lincoln is also there.

In 1862 Vermont's Governor convinced the Federal Government to open 3 Hospitals in Vermont to care for wounded home state soldiers. It was believed that good food and tender care would increase the survival rate and they were right. Burlington, Brattleboro and Montpelier were the sites of these hospitals.

Vermont is credited with the youngest Medal of Honor winner who was Willie Johnston who managed to hold on to his drum as the Union Army made a hasty retreat during the Peninsula campaign. He entered the military at St. Johnsbury Vermont. He died in 1941 and his burial place is unknown.

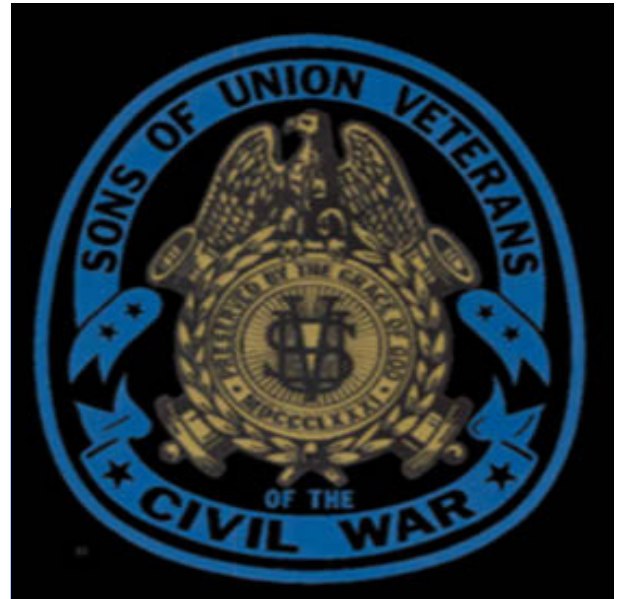


Quoted from the book "In Burlington's Battery Park, William Wells, in bronze, moves to saddle up for the First Vermont Cavalry's doomed charge at Gettysburg. His statue is on ground where John Lonergan drilled his Irish lads who led the assault on Picketts Charge the same fateful July 3, 1863. A mile north in Lakeview Cemetery, George Stannard, who led the 2nd Vermont Brigade at Gettysburg, also stands frozen in time. Nearby are buried Wells and another important Gettysburg figure, Oliver Otis Howard, in command of those Union forces for a time ...

In Thetford Center at the brick church a funeral was held for a local man who was shot dead by a Norfolk, Virginia doctor as he he marched his black regiment. In the same Orange County still stands the home of Justin Smith Morrill. Now a museum, Morrill brought to passage by Congress the Morrill Land Grant College act.

I know that better days are ahead when a man can travel where he wants and follow his passions. For me that place will be the green hills of Vermont, after a stop in D.C. and Gettysburg.

A YOUNG HISTORIAN'S
REQUEST
(KEEPING THE MEMORY
GREEN)



To whom it may concern,

My name is Michael Naya Jr and I am a seventeen year old high school senior from New Jersey. Over the past three and a half years I have been interviewing Great Depression survivors, World War II and Korean War veterans. I have been doing this because I love history and one day I would like to write a book on the men and women from these events. Throughout my research I have become fascinated with the last living grandchildren of Civil War veterans. I was wondering if your department might know of any living grandchildren willing to share their memories of their grandfathers and maybe even the stories of their lives? I would appreciate it a lot.

Thank You and Happy Memorial Day -Michael Naya Jr

Michael followed up with another email

Dear Mr. Urell,

I appreciate it a lot. I hope that you could state that any living grandchildren can write or call to me at,

Michael Naya Jr
734 Monmouth Ave
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

732 - 986 - 7768

I was wondering if there was anyway I could possibly get a copy of the newsletter?

-Michael Naya Jr

-----Original Message-----

Yes Michael, you will get a copy of our newsletter and I hope you will get a good response from our brothers. I would encourage you to also contact the “Daughters of Union Veterans” and the National “Sons of Union Veterans”.
