

Quick Step News

Volume 8

Spring 2006

Upcoming Speakers

April 3, 2006

Member Dr. Sidney L. Copel
Civil War humor (Includes Slide Presentation)

May 1, 2006

Bob and Sharon Werner
"The Other Side of War", the work of the U.S. Sanitary Commission

June 5, 2006

Pete Romica
The Lincoln Funeral Train in Philadelphia

Tentative Trips

Fort Delaware-July 2006
Gettysburg Fall 2006

Civil War History Project

Our committee is working very hard on gathering data on local cemeteries. The cemeteries are mainly those with a church affiliation that is supported by an active congregation. Additional updates will be available at the next meeting.

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday May 29, 2006

Wreath Laying Ceremony
at the

Montgomery County
Civil War Veteran's Memorial
Located at the

Montgomery County Courthouse
09:30

Members of the 53rd Pennsylvania
Volunteers will participate
Idea's Welcome.

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OUR WEB ADDRESS

WWW.CWRTMONTCOPA.ORG

If you can not receive a newsletter by email because of its Word format, it is available on line using adobe acrobat which can be downloaded for free from our website.

COMING SOON TO THE SITE

The roster of Company I 51st Pennsylvania Volunteers
This Company is credited to Upper Merion Township

Sat. & Sun., June 3 & 4

Pennypacker Mills

Civil War Reunion Weekend

Witness the real-life drama of a battle enactment with Union and Confederate troops and artillery as they portray the War of Rebellion in this two-day event for the whole family. Guest speakers, music, sutlers, civilians and on-going demonstrations feature medicine, engineering, cooking, and camp life for a traumatic period in our history.

Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

No pets please.

No charge.

As usual our group will participate and have a tent on site. Hopefully we will add some addition flair to our presentation with photos and a veteran's look up. If you can spend an hour or 2 manning the tent let Charlie Kelly know.

May 24, 2006 (Wednesday)

Al Gambone

At the Union League in Philadelphia Our member Al Gambone will speak on Major-General Winfield Scott Hancock.

Neshaminy 2006

16th Annual Neshaminy Reenactment

April 28, 29 & 30, 2006

Campaigns of 61

Battle of Bolivar Heights & Balls Bluff

Sponsored by the 28th Regiment, PA. Volunteer Infantry, Historical Society of Bensalem Township, Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library, Delaware Valley CWRT and Neshaminy State Park. Proceeds go to Civil War Preservation and interpretation. For information and registration, www.28thpvi.org

Annual Scout Weekend at Montgomery Cemetery

The Local Boy Scouts of America will be at Montgomery Cemetery, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 28, 29 and 30, 2006.

Flag Retirement will be on Saturday Night. Flags in need of Retirement will be accepted at Montgomery Hose Fire Co until Friday April 28, 2006, then on Saturday April 29, 2006 at the Cemetery.

The boy's will be working on various projects within the cemetery. If you have a chance please stop in to see the good work undertaken by these young adults.

This year's patch depicts Adam J. Slemmer.

Military Books—Cavalry Tactics by order of the War Department; Hand Book of Active Service, for the use of Volunteers; Bayonet Exercises, for the Army, by G. B. McClennan, Major Gen. US Army; Instruction for the Field Artillery. Scotts Tactics, Hardee's Tactics, School of the Soldier, Cooper's Tactics, Volunteers Camp and Field Book; School of the Guides, Napoleon's Maxims of War, Cross' Military Surgery, and other text books for the soldiers, for sale at **Sowers Book Store No 220 Main St. Norristown**

Appeared on October 29, 1861 in the *Norristown Register and Democrat*

Secured Pensions.—During the month of February Col. Edw. Schall secured arrears on pension amounting to \$835 for George W Justice; of Ardmore for an injury to an ankle received during the war by jumping over a fence; \$942 for Joseph Chislett, of Conshohocken, for a wound in the head received at the battle of Gaines' Mill; \$926 for Lot E. Crosby, of Pottstown, for a chronic disease contracted in the service; and eight dollars a month for Mary Ann Rorer of Cheltenham township, widow of George Rorer, a soldier of the war of 1812.

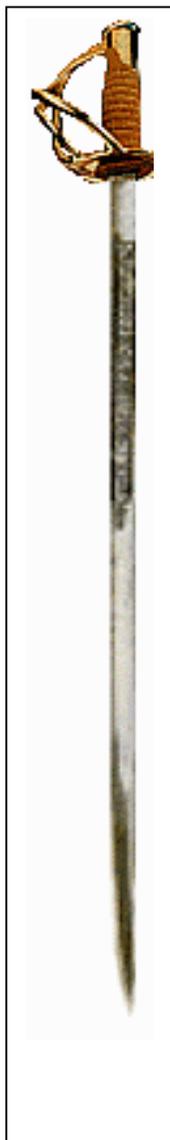
Published by: *The Herald and Free Press and Republican*, Monday March 5, 1883.

The George W. Justice spoken of in this article may have served in Company D of the 91st Pennsylvania as a Private for the duration of the war. The 1860 census notes that a George Justice resided in Lower Merion Township Montgomery County and that he was 31. The Index of Pennsylvania Soldiers lists his age at enlistment at 35. By 1890 George W, Justice of the aforementioned regiment resided in Philadelphia but no mention of his injury is listed. His original filing date for the pension was in December of 1879.

In 1870 Chislett was a resident of Conshohocken and was employed as a blacksmith (Federal Census). In 1890 the census taker found Chislett in Conshohocken. He was noted to have served 5 years in Company E of the 10th United States Infantry obtaining the rank of 1st Sergeant. He enlisted on April 16, 1858 and was discharged on April 16, 1863. He was noted to have suffered a gun shot wound to the head that affected the same. As for his pension, he applied for it on November 24, 1879. It seems it took some 5 years before he received any monies. His widow Maria applied for one in April of 1892.

Lot E. Crosby enlisted as a Private in Company D of the 175th Pennsylvania Volunteers on November 6, 1862. His muster-out of the regiment like most of his company is "not accounted for". The regiment served until August of 1863. There was no mention of a pension for this man in my search.

The 1880 Federal Census lists George Rorer, age 94, a farmer and his wife Mary A., age 85 as residents of Shoemakertown, Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County.



Swords

The following appeared in the *Norristown Register and Democratic Watchman* on September 10, 1861.

Sword Presentations—On Thursday evening last, Lieut. Col. Edward Schall and Major Edwin Schall were presented with two beautiful swords, by the members of the Fourth Regiment. Appropriate addresses were made by Hon. D. Knause and Hon. D Snyder.

On September 17, 1861, this article appeared in the *Norristown Register and Democratic Watchman*.

Sword Presentation—at the sword presentation to Lieut. Col. Edward Schall and Major Edwin Schall, Col. T.P. Knox presided, and upon being called to the chair, made some very apropos. Remarks.—On Monday evening, of last week, Capt. Wm. J. Bolton and Lieutenants Jos. K. Bolton and A. Ortlip were also presented with swords. B. E. Chain, Esq., presided, and A,B, Longaker and Geo. W. Rodgers, Esqrs., made speeches.—On Wednesday evening, Captain Wm. Allebaugh and Lieutenants John J. Freedley and Davis Hunsicker were also presented with swords. A.B. Longaker Esq., presided, and Hon. D. Krause made a speech.— On Saturday evening, the Lieutenants of Captain Schall's company were also presented with swords. Mr. Lewis Hallman is the First Lieutenant, the Second Lieutenant has not yet been appointed.

One year to the day of this publication these same officers were engaged at Burnside Bridge on the Antietam Battlefield. Davis Hunsicker would be killed there.

A Civil War soldier had a better chance of being hit by a minie bullet than he would cannon fire (including canister as well as solid shot) or being cut by the bayonet or the sword. In fact, wounds from these "cutting" weapons were extremely rare accounting for only 2% or so of the total wounds treated by surgeons.

The Sword of Robert E. Lee
Abram Joseph Ryan (1839-1886)

Forth from its scabbard, pure and bright,
Flashed the sword of Lee!
Far in the front of the deadly fight,
High o'er the brave in the cause of Right
Its stainless sheen, like a beacon light,
Led us to Victory!

Out of its scabbard, where, full long,
It slumbered peacefully,
Roused from its rest by the battle's song,
Shielding the feeble, smiting the strong,
Guarding the right, avenging the wrong,
Gleamed the sword of Lee!

Forth from its scabbard, high in the air
Beneath Virginia's sky--
And they who saw it gleaming there,
And knew who bore it, knelt to swear
That where that sword led they would dare
To follow--and to die!

Out of its scabbard! Never hand
Waved sword from stain as free,
Nor purer sword led braver band,
Nor braver bled for a brighter land,
Nor brighter land had a cause so grand,
Nor cause a chief like Lee!

And many a heart grew sore afraid,
We still hoped on while gleamed the blade
Of noble Robert Lee!

Forth from its scabbard all in vain
Bright flashed the sword of Lee;
'Tis shrouded now in its sheath again,
It sleeps the sleep of our noble slain,
Defeated, yet without stain,
Proudly and peacefully!

Abram Joseph Ryan was born in Norfolk Va., 15 August, 1839; died in Louisville, Kentucky, 22 April, 1886. At an early age he decided to enter the Roman Catholic priesthood, and, after the usual classical and theological studies, he was ordained, and shortly afterward became a chaplain in the Confederate army, serving until the close of the war. He wrote "The Conquered Banner" soon after Lee's surrender. In 1865 he removed to New Orleans, where, in addition to his clerical duties, he edited the "Star," a weekly Roman Catholic paper. From New Orleans he went to Knoxville, Tennessee, after a few months to Augusta, Georgia, and founded the "Banner of the South," a religious and political weekly. This he soon also, about the same time, he delivered his first lecture, the subject being relinquished, and for several years was pastor of St. Mary's church, Mobile, Alabama, but in 1880 his old restlessness returned, and he went to the north for the twofold object of publishing his poems and lecturing. He spent the month of December in Baltimore, where his "Poems. Patriotic, Religious, and Miscellaneous," were published. There "Some Aspects of Modern Civilization." During this visit he made his home at Loyola college, and in return for the hospitality of the Jesuit fathers he gave a public reading from his poems, and devoted the proceeds, \$300, to found a medal for poetry at the college. His lecturing tour was not successful, and in a few months he returned to the south, where he continued to lead the same restless mode of life. Father Ryan was engaged on a "Life of Christ" at the time of his death. His most popular poems, besides that mentioned above, are "The Lost Cause," "The Sword of Lee," "The Flag of Erin," and the epic "Their Story runneth Thus."

Father Ryan is buried in Oaklawn Catholic Cemetery in Mobile, Alabama.

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