



# THE GILMOR BLADE

Those who allow the surrender of their history,  
also surrender their future!



Official Newsletter of

THE COL. H.W.GILMOR CAMP, No. 1388, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Aug-Sep, 2017

## September 13 meeting features Richter on Chesapeake Artillery

The Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp #1388 will hold its next meeting September 13th, at 7:30 PM at the Baltimore County Historical Society, 9811 Van Buren Lane, Cockeysville, MD 21030. I look forward to seeing everyone back safe and sound after our summer break.

Our guest speaker this month, Rick Richter, was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in nearby Silver Spring, MD. He received both his BA and MA degrees from the University of Notre Dame. Rick has been an avid Civil War collector and researcher ever since his father gave him a bullet from Gettysburg when he was six years old. He has since had items from his collection displayed at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum in Baltimore as well as special events at the Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg.

*Three Cheers for the Chesapeake: History of the 4th Maryland Artillery* represents the culmination of 25 years of researching the unit. Rick has lectured on the Chesapeake Artillery before both Battlefield Preservation and Living History groups, and appeared as the consulting historian on an episode on Benner's Hill at Gettysburg for The Travel Channel's "Mysteries of the National Parks" series.

After a career as an executive in sales and marketing in the Consumer Goods industry, Rick is now a partner in a large executive recruiting firm. He has six grown children and lives in Toronto. His interest and research into Maryland Civil War units continues.



Schiffer Publishing describes Mr. Richter's book in this way: Illustrated with previously unpublished photos, letters, documents, and diary entries, the untold story of the Chesapeake Artillery comes to light. Comprised chiefly of men who lived near the shores of its namesake bay, the Chesapeake Artillery was the last Confederate battery organized from the state of Maryland. It was also by far the smallest, with barely more than half the average enrollment of other Maryland batteries in the Confederate army. Despite its size, the unit was frequently cited for its bravery and efficiency, including by Stonewall Jackson.

This is the history of the unit, from its formation through all its battles with the Army of Northern Virginia until the surrender at Appomattox, where only thirteen men remained. A unique statistical analysis of census and military records data highlights its characteristics. Included is a complete roster of all the men who served in the unit.

This is sure to be a terrific presentation on this famous and revered Maryland-related military unit.

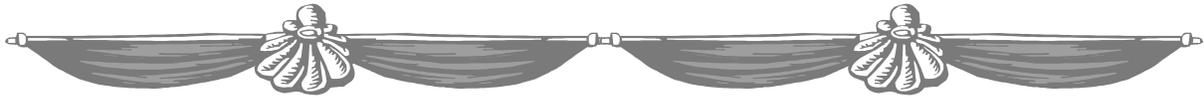
Please join us on September 13!

### *The Charge*

*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought; to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."*

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Aug-Sep, 2017

### June 14, 2017 Camp meeting minutes

The meeting was opened at 7:27 p.m. by Commander Dan Pyle. Chaplain Bob Wagster offered the Invocation. Commander Pyle led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Salute to the Confederate Flag. Commander Pyle read The Charge of General Stephen Dill Lee.

Commander Pyle introduced our guest speaker, Frank Armiger. Mr. Armiger gave an excellent talk and Power Point presentation on the "Battle of Sharpsburg, Phase II."

#### BREAK

Adjutant Elliott Cummings summarized the Minutes of the May 10, 2017 Gilmor Camp meeting.

MOTION: To approve the Minutes as summarized. PASSED

Commander Pyle thanked the Camp for support of the June 3, 2017 Confederate Memorial Day at Loudon Park Cemetery. Commander Pyle reported on the very successful ceremony at Gettysburg for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Virginia Monument. A number of Gilmor Camp members attended.

Commander Pyle announced that the next meeting of Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp will held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017.

Commander Pyle announced the following Gilmor Camp members years of service:  
Gene Leasure 10 years  
Steve Smith 20 years



*Gilmor Camp Historian Jeremy Cook presents wreath for the Col. Harry W. Camp, Confederate Memorial Day at Loudon Park Cemetery June 3, 2017*

#### Announcements:

June 17, 2017 - Confederate Cross dedication at the grave of Sergeant Tucker, Loudon Park Cemetery, 11:00 a.m.

June 24-25, 2017 - Corbit's Charge, Westminster, Md. 10:00 a. m.

August, 26, 2017 - White's Ford Potomac River Crossing sponsored by the Col. William Norris Camp. 10:00 a.m.

September 16, 2017 - Clean up at Benner's Hill, Gettysburg, 8:30 a.m.

September 23, 2017 - Howard County Confederate Monument Ceremony, Howard County Court House sponsored by the General Isaac Ridgeway Camp, 11:00 a.m.

October 14, 2017 - Point Lookout Ceremony sponsored by the Captain Vincent Camalier Camp, 11:00 a.m.

October 21, 2017 - Maryland Division UDC 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presentation of the Colors, BWI Marriot.

November 4, 2017 - Annual Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp Candlelight Dinner at the Maryland Country Club, 6:30 p.m.

November 18, 2017 - Remembrance Day Parade, Gettysburg.

December 13, 2017 - Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp Christmas Party and elections, 7:30 p. m.

Color Sergeant Jim Jones reported that new covers are needed for the Camp flags and that some of the flags and polls are in need of cleaning and repair.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer 9:05 p. m.  
*Respectfully submitted,*  
*G. Elliott Cummings*  
*Adjutant*



*Col. Harry Gilmor Camp Color Guard at Confederate Memorial Day June 3, 2017 Loudon Park Cemetery*

*L to R: Hobert Halsey, Bruce Null, Bob Wagster, Bob Lyons*

**Don't forget to send in your dues by August 25!!**



Aug-Sep, 2017

### **Dues payment deadline: NOW!**

If you have not paid your dues already, DUES ARE DUE NOW.  
**Pursuant to changes made by SCV National leadership, anyone who has not paid dues by September 1 will be dropped from SCV membership.**  
**In order to meet this deadline, we need your dues by August 25.**

Make out a check for \$45 payable to  
**The Harry Gilmor Camp** and send it to:  
Bruce Null, Treasurer  
2600 Masseth Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21219

### **The Confederacy's Secret Service Part II**

*This is the conclusion of an article begun in the June issue.*  
*By Joan Wenner, J.D.*  
*From the June 2017 issue of Civil War News*

One of the South's early recruiters for skilled and courageous men for the Secret Service Bureau of the Signal Corps, the communications network lodged within the War Department, was the Governor of Virginia. Recorded instances of the Confederacy's Canadian operations and foreign agent activity elsewhere are plentiful. Also under the umbrella term Confederate 'secret service' were the Torpedo Bureau, Submarine Battery Service, Navy Battery Bureau and others. Even a special commando-type unit was organized in 1864, but by then time was running out.

Library of Virginia archived papers of one Confederate soldier and Maryland secessionist, Vincent Camalier, note his joining the Secret Service Bureau and serving throughout the war. There are also

records of Major William Norris, the Signal Corps chief, who mentioned Camalier's importance in the espionage service to the Confederate cause. Norris was an 1840 Yale graduate who, in the winter of 1860, volunteered as a civilian aide to Brig. Gen. John Magruder who tasked him with establishing a system of signals on the Virginia Peninsula and across the James River. A Confederate naval officer, John A. Curtis, according to his reminiscences, was assigned to an expedition to free prisoners from the Union prison camp at Point Lookout, Md. Curtis also served as acting master of the CSS *Tallahassee* in 1864 and, "by war's end was part of the Confederate secret service working around Fortress Monroe."

One rather interesting official report was sent to Major Norris in April 1864 by a Confederate torpedo boat commander who reported that, "General Grant was at Fort Monroe on last Friday reviewing the troops and inspecting the fortifications. He

left there for Norfolk on Saturday. Four thousand wheelbarrows were landed at Fort Monroe on last Friday; their destination as yet unknown. It is reported and believed that active operations are being made for an early advance on Richmond by the three ways mentioned before in my last report."

Just a month earlier, a citizen 'spy' had written Confederate Secretary of War James Seddon that, "The enemy have constructed at Point Lookout a number of large boats with sixteen oars for some secret expedition." He further advised a neighbor of his had been captured crossing the Potomac and put to work as a prisoner "with a great number of hands in muffling oars for these boats, but none seems to know the destination of the boats."

Dr. Charles Elisha Taylor was a Richmond native who joined the Confederate army in 1861 and See "*Confederate spies*," p.4



Aug-Sep, 2017

## Last round: Greensboro museum's Confederate firearms exhibit to close Sunday

By Dawn DeCwikiel-Kane

From:

[http://www.greensboro.com/townnews/weaponry/last-round-greensboro-museum-s-confederate-firearms-exhibit-to-close/article\\_c9408525-9f7a-59fa-858f-4c26fe4a745a.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=user-share](http://www.greensboro.com/townnews/weaponry/last-round-greensboro-museum-s-confederate-firearms-exhibit-to-close/article_c9408525-9f7a-59fa-858f-4c26fe4a745a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share)

**GREENSBORO** — Brian Woody long had aimed to visit the Greensboro History Museum. The Fayetteville man wanted to see the museum’s prized collection of Confederate long arms before the exhibition ends its 17-year run on Sunday.

So on Tuesday, Woody took a day off from work and drove more than two hours to the Summit Avenue museum.

“It’s a marvelous collection,” said Woody, who builds reproductions of Confederate long arms as a hobby. “This is just not going to be duplicated and I feel that it needs to be shown.”

These next three days represent the last hurrah for the John M. and Isabel Murphy Collection.

After Sunday, it will close to make way for an exhibit, opening Nov. 11, on World War I and how it affected Greensboro. This year marks the centennial of the country’s entry into the war.

The decision to remove the historic firearms exhibition prompted

protests from Civil War, military history and long arms buffs.



Photo courtesy of Greensboro History Museum

## Confederate spies *Continued from p 3*

Served in the Signal and Secret Service Bureau in that city. His extensive papers reside in the manuscript collection at the University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville. Taylor related, for example, that the Yankees were as shrewd as they were at signaling tricks and how native Virginian Maj. Gen. Jubal Early, had “cunningly availed himself of diversion.” A modern day researcher notes Taylor detailed the arduous duties that fell to the lot of the brave men in the Confederate Signal and Secret Service branches and the use of ciphers in their four-year battle to keep open the line of communications within the Southern cause in the North and abroad. In one manuscript Taylor named Thomas A. Jones, a Maryland farmer who operated as a Confederate agent writing, “It was Mr. Jones who helped John Wilkes Booth to cross the Potomac River five days after the assassination of President Lincoln.”

Southern newspaper correspondents frequently received “auth-

Museum Director Carol Ghiorso Hart fielded concerns that political pressure and a desire to erase the past prompted the decision at a time when Confederate symbols are being removed across the South.

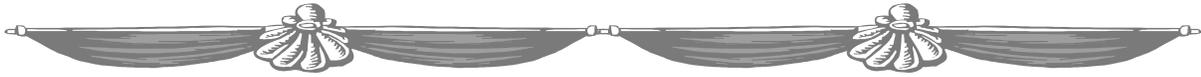
That wasn’t the case, she said.

“We need space to do large, temporary exhibits,” Hart explained. See “Greensboro firearms,” p. 5

entic intelligence” from the field, a great many reports being delivered to the *Richmond Daily Dispatch*. Included for instance were reports from Confederate Generals, and Virginia governor Henry A. Wise; coincidentally he was also Union General George Meade’s brother-in-law.

As the final days of the war approached, it is said most official records relating to the so-called ‘secret service’ were burned before the evacuation of Richmond, thus only glimpses remain in various archives of the Confederacy’s overall clandestine and destructionist operations and activities.

For further reading:  
*Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln*  
By William A. Tidwell, James O. Hall and David Winfield Gaddy  
*April '65: Confederate Covert Action in the American Civil War*  
By William A. Tidwell, University Press of Mississippi,  
[www.upress.state.ms.us](http://www.upress.state.ms.us)



**Greensboro firearms** *Continued from p. 4*

“That’s really what the gallery was meant for.”

But in response to protests, Hart and her staff plan other ways to display parts of the collection.

Several long arms — essentially, guns with longer barrels — will go on display elsewhere in the museum, most in a new but smaller exhibition space.

The other 100 or so long arms will be moved into a new \$30,000 storage system where the public can view them by appointment.

The museum also might lend parts of the collection in storage to other museums.

“This is of national significance and there are other museums around the country that might want to borrow,” Hart said.

The Murphy collection consists of 148 long arms — including carbines, rifles and muskets — made in the Confederate states. Some came from Greensboro and Guilford County.

The collection also includes 21 works of art — including paintings of Civil War scenes by contemporary artist Don Troiani — as well as 41 other artifacts.

The museum acquired the collection in 1998. John Murphy, a California psychiatrist, became impressed with the museum and then-director Bill Moore. Murphy initially loaned the collection, then bequeathed it upon his death.

Back then, Moore called it “the largest collection of this type anywhere in the world” with an appraised value of \$2.3 million.

The collection opened on Nov. 7, 1999, in a gallery space designed and built for temporary exhibitions. Now it’s the museum’s second-oldest display.

Museums typically don’t have space to display entire collections. So exhibits are changed periodically to tell a variety of stories and keep attracting visitors.

In late September, the museum temporarily took the Murphy collection off exhibit to make way for an exhibition from the Smithsonian.

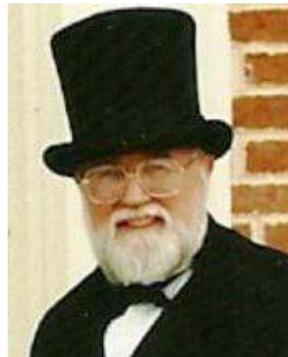
**Ralph Vincent, Civil War Preservationist**  
1939 - 2017

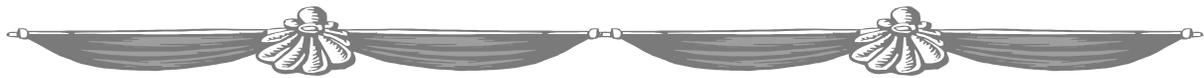
Ralph was born in Cumberland, MD and raised in Baltimore. He was a lifelong railroad buff and Civil War preservationist. He passed away from heart disease suddenly on Sunday June 18th. Ralph was employed by Dictaphone after service in the U.S. Navy. He eventually was employed by Westinghouse/ Northrup Grumman Corp near BWI Airport where he retired in 2004 at the age of 65.

In 1987 Ralph founded the Friends of President Street Station Inc. In 1995 the Friends successfully saved the historic station, the site of the first bloodshed of the Civil War. The Station opened as the Baltimore Civil War Museum in 1997 and the Friends have continually been involved with its development including recently adding a Pennsylvania Railroad Caboose. Today the Museum is Open to the Public greeting visitors to Baltimore from all over the world.

Everyone who ever knew Ralph knew he was a gentle soul and a very kind man. He is survived by his brother Doyle Vincent. In lieu of flowers donations on could be sent on Ralph's behalf to the Baltimore Civil War Museum.

Rest In Peace Dear Brother and Good Friend.





Aug-Sep, 2017

## Trump salary, other donations to support Antietam preservation

By Johnathan M. Pitts

From

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-antietam-preservation-announcement-20170705-story.html>

President Donald J. Trump's salary for the first quarter of 2017 will go toward a pair of restoration and maintenance projects at Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, the site of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War and one of its most pivotal, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced Wednesday.

Zinke also announced that the federal government will provide \$7.2 million in matching grants toward the preservation of land at 19 other battlefields associated with the American Revolution, the Civil War and the War of 1812.

Two of those sites are in Maryland — the battlefield near Boonsboro where the bloody Battle of South Mountain was fought on Sept. 14, 1862, and the one in Washington County where Gen. George G. Meade's Army of the Potomac faced Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's forces at the Battle of Williamsport between July 6 and July 16, 1863.

During last year's presidential campaign, Trump promised to give away his full-year presidential salary of \$400,000 if he was elected.

In April, the president announced his intention to donate \$78,333 — his salary from the date of his inauguration through March 31, the

end of the first quarter — toward national battlefield park maintenance.

Officials said Wednesday the funds would benefit two restoration projects at Antietam: preservation of the historic Newcomer House near the battlefield's Middle Bridge site, and the replacement of 5,000 feet of deteriorating rail fencing along what is now Dunker Church Road, the site of some of the battle's fiercest fighting.

The Newcomer House served as a makeshift hospital in the wake of the fighting, and the fence was a barrier for passing troops during the fighting, particularly early in the day. The fence also served as a backdrop for some of the earliest photographs ever taken of soldiers killed on Civil War battlefields.

Trump's first-quarter salary will be matched by a donation of more than \$185,880 from three nonprofits — the Civil War Trust, the National Park Foundation and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation — that have long been involved in battlefield preservation.

The federal grants for South Mountain and Williamsport are part of the American Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants program, a National Parks Service initiative founded in 1999 that is financed through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Those grants will go to states, localities or nonprofits for the purchase of about 1,200 acres of battlefield land not owned by the National Parks Service.



Photo courtesy of the Baltimore Sun

The grants include \$316,234 for the purchase of two private properties totaling 66.5 acres at South Mountain Battlefield in Frederick and Washington counties. They'll become part of South Mountain Battlefield State Park.

Another \$45,751 will allow for the purchase of a 3.5-acre property at the Williamsport Battlefield just south of that Washington County town.

"When people think of a historic battlefield, especially at places like Gettysburg and Antietam, they assume they're protected by the National Parks Service, but that's not usually the case," said Jim Campi, a spokesman for the Civil War Trust. "Even the ones that are, it's only part of the battlefield. Our purpose is to preserve the land so that the entire story of a battle can be told."

The Battle of Antietam - the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, with a combined total of 22,217 dead, wounded or missing — represented a turning point in the Civil War, ending Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's invasion of Maryland.

See "Antietam donations," p.7



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## Antietam donations *Continued from p. 6*

The narrow victory by Union forces at Antietam proved enough to allow President Abraham Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation from a position of strength.

Susan Trail, the superintendent of Antietam National Battlefield, said the wooden siding, windows and porches of the Newcomer House at Antietam have long needed to be restored.

The type of wood fencing along what was then the Hagerstown

Pike needs to be replaced every 15 years or so, and it has been 20 years since the fence has received such attention, leaving portions of it rotted, Trail said.

Camp called that stretch of fencing “one of the most famous in American history,” as it appears in the earliest photographs of men killed in the Civil War.

To Trail, it’s essential to posterity to keep such structures in good condition.

“You might not consider each one critically important in its own right, but as part of the overall landscape, they’re crucial for conveying a larger understanding of what happened here,” she said. “It’s important to have these things in place to tell the stories of the battles.”

The donations announced Wednesday are “really nice, very helpful for us as we work to keep up with all of our structures and landscape features,” Trail said.

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## THE GILMOR BLADE

Bruce and Nancy Null  
2600 Masseth Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21219

*The Gilmor Blade is the monthly publication of the Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp #1388, Sons of Confederate Veterans.*



### **SAVE THE DATE:**

**September Camp Meeting: 9/13/2017**

**Speaker: Rick Richter on the History of the 4<sup>th</sup> MD Artillery**

***Dues must be received by August 25!***