



**Headquarters
National Woman's Relief Corps
Grand Army of the Republic, Inc
Murphysboro IL**

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 3

E-mail version

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Series 2021-2022

The evening of July 2, 1864, Susie King Taylor* was on Morris Island, South Carolina. A terrific battle had commenced for control of Fort Gregg. Susie could hear the firefight from her tent. She recalled in her Memoirs the steady arrival of wounded with missing limbs and terrific wounds. *“I was enrolled as the Company Laundress, but I did very little of it, because I was always busy doing other things through camp.”*

She recalled one evening wondering what she could feed the wounded and dying men lying in the camp makeshift hospital. With a few cans of condensed milk some harvested turtle eggs she commenced to making a pudding. *“I had my doubts as to my success, for cooking with turtle eggs was something new to me, but the adage has it ‘Nothing ventured, nothing done.’”*

Ms. Taylor unfortunately never received official government recognition for her selfless dedication to the soldiers that looked to her for mercy, kindness, and healing. Her sweet spirit of service and desire to bring comfort to the brave souls around her stand as a testimony of a truly selfless volunteer. Surely her heavenly crown is bedecked with amazing gems.

Ms. Taylor's words *“Nothing ventured, nothing done”* seems slightly off to us now, since in today's world we say, *“nothing ventured, nothing gained.”* But truly, Ms. King understood the real meaning of being a volunteer. It is to offer help with no expectation of personal gain. The reward is a job done, and knowledge that the work itself is testimony of the volunteer's heart. Ms. Taylor never expected to “gain” anything...she just forged ahead and did what she could with what she had.

We cannot say thank you to Susie King Taylor for her kind and loving assistance and willing heart. But we can hold her up as a testimony -- a guiding example of a true volunteer. Self-LESS service is part of the fabric of the Woman's Relief Corps. It is

how the organization found itself forming in the first place, and it is likely one of the reasons the Grand Army chose to honor the WRC with the title of its only auxiliary.

For the remainder of my term as National President I hope to shine a light upon you, the members of the Woman's Relief Corps, who volunteer without expectation of any gain. In doing this maybe we can all feel renewed inspiration and realize that the work each of us does is an accomplishment that will long outlive us, just as Ms. Taylor's labors outlived her. The featured volunteers in this issue of General Orders are the first of MANY that will be spotlighted. Newsletters are being developed that will include information about other volunteers who deserve to be thanked, noticed, and honored. Please watch for their stories.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Jessica Booth

National President

*Susie King Taylor was one of the first members of the NWRC and helped to form part of the "Mother Corps" of Massachusetts. Massachusetts became the model from which the entire organization was modeled.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Bob and Cher Petrovic
Lincoln Tomb Service

Each April I travel to Springfield, Illinois to attend the annual "Death Day" services at Oak Ridge Cemetery, honoring President Abraham Lincoln. Leaders from each of the Allied Orders, members of MOLLUS, DOLLUS, The American Legion, VFW, Civil War Round Table, and many other patriotic organizations attend the service each year and present wreaths. Invited speakers honor President Lincoln and musicians wearing "period" regalia play songs typical of mid-19th century on their instruments. A ceremonial honor guard posts colors and official escorts also wearing period uniforms accompany the persons placing wreaths. The Lincoln Tomb Service is quite poignant.

Probably one of the primary reasons that event is so meaningful is the fact that it is seamless. The Color Guard performs with military precision. Musicians take cues from some unseen conductor. Uniformed escorts line up to avail themselves for guiding the wreath-layers. Throughout the entire event a photographer slips unnoticeably from spot to spot, snapping pictures to share for perpetuity. Somewhere in the crowd, totally unseen, is one fellow whose head must be on a swivel as he watches every aspect of the service and signals when each segment proceeds. Everyone in the audience is enabled to be mentally present for the memorial event. Their attention is focused on honoring President Lincoln on the anniversary of his death.

At the appointed time, participants line up behind beautiful floral arrangements labeled with colorful sashes. Quiet enfolds the whole space. One-by-one, wreaths are presented. And in each wreath presentation we are afforded the opportunity to ponder on an April in 1865 when an assassin took the life of one of the greatest men that ever lived. It is easy to be a spectator, or even an invited participant in these formalities! Every moment of the service is seamlessly joined, resulting in a meaningful service. It is quite a production, but it would not even be held were it not for dedicated volunteers.

Spearheading planning and coordinating the event is Bob Petrovic. Bob is a member of the Ulysses S. Grant Camp # 68, SUVCW, in Missouri, and the Curtenious Guard Camp #17 SUVCW, in Michigan, and is also one of the original founding members of Logan's Brigade in which he holds the rank of Brigade Presidential Assistant. His wife, Cher Petrovic, is a WRC Presidential Liaison. She is the official photographer of the Lincoln Tomb Service event and sets up the program as well as designs and orders the ribbons for the event. Cher has tirelessly volunteered to do this each year for many years. She also represents the WRC in Memorial services held at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Cher also eagerly assisted Logan's Brigade secure contracts for the beautiful badges for the Charter members.

Bob and Cher dedicate tremendous numbers of hours preparing for and following up on events. Thank you, Bob and Cher!



Other Lincoln Tomb Service volunteers in 2022:

The Color Guard for the Lincoln Tomb Service is “Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry Regiment, SUVCW.

The Lincoln Tomb Service Chaplain is Jerome Kowalski, National Chaplain, SUVCW, and SVR.

This year, 2022, the Lincoln Tomb Service speakers include Commander Michael A. Paquette, C in C SUVCW and Commander Robert D. Pollack, C in C MOLLUS.

The band that plays at the annual Lincoln Tomb Service is the “33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band”.

*Many of the escorts that volunteer each year are members of **Logan’s Brigade**.*



In case you didn't know....

Members! if you have a FaceBook account, join our NWRC Members' Only group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/333253963802780>



VETERANS' AFFAIRS VOLUNTEER SERVICE

If you reside near a Veterans' Affairs Hospital or Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) and would like to become a trained VAVS on behalf of the Woman's Relief Corps, please contact our VAVS Officer:

Gracanne Smith
613 North Broadway
Union City, MI 49094

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Past National President Cindy Norton

Thinking of the Lincoln Tomb Service reminded me one quiet volunteer who just by attending, brings a special authenticity and realism to the event. Past National President Cindy Norton has attended the Lincoln Tomb event nearly every year for many years. She comes to the event dressed in mourning dress and veil, much like that which Mary Todd Lincoln would have worn to her beloved husband's funeral.

PNP Cindy also serves as Board Chairman of the G A R Memorial Museum. Most recently, Cindy created a beautiful wool rug with the WRC emblem. It was raffled and brought in a nice sum of money for museum projects. The winners of the rug donated it to the museum! Cindy has raised a lot of funds for the G. A. R. Memorial Museum, (our National Headquarters) in Springfield, Illinois.

PNP Cindy is a super-volunteer with her community, working with the Wellington, Ohio "Spirit of '76 Museum" featuring the famed painting of the same name by Archibald Willard. She has also served many years with the Central Region Allied Orders Association, successfully coordinating annual meetings with all Allied Orders.



That's PNP Cindy attending a training session at the Wellington, Ohio museum!



Senior Vice President Fund for Child Welfare

This year we will send our National Child Welfare donations to:

Anchorage Children's Home Group
Hidle House
Panama City Florida

Recent setbacks including COVID-19 and wildfires have greatly inhibited their fundraising efforts. Please consider donating to the SVP Fund for child welfare!



Anchorage Children's Home is a consortium of several outreach programs and sites offering help such as transitional housing, emergency shelter, and counseling services. Hidle House is one segment of this group. It specifically addresses needs of abused or abandoned or runaway youth with 24-hour hotline and action response.

They offer a 21-day "cooling off" period for youth dealing with difficulties at home, and work to help resolve family issues. Abandoned or abused teens are housed for up to thirty days, with placement in a stable environment the end goal.

Hidle House needs supplies for the residential facility including food, laundry supplies, toiletries, and school supplies. We are collecting funds through the SVP Fund for child welfare. Because needs change so rapidly, we are giving a donation rather than purchasing items. The entire amount collected, as always, will be sent directly to the facility so they can determine the best use of the funds at the time of its disbursement.



Specify what fund you want any donations to go to by including a note with your check or money order. You can also request an electronic invoice sent to your email address.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Tina Doss

Tina Doss has been a member of the Woman's Relief Corps for several years and is a dedicated volunteer in her community in a variety of ways. Most recently Tina has been helping raise funds for the Hidle House Children's Home in Panama City, Florida. Throughout much of March however, Tina's work has been to assist in many ways, to reach the first responders to and victims of wildfires that have consumed over 30,000 acres in the Panhandle of Florida



Tina learned of a family that had lost their home from hurricane and flood damage last year, and were rebuilding their lives in a rented house, when the wildfires forced their evacuation. Their house was in the path of one of the uncontrolled fires, and once again this family lost everything. Upon hearing this, Tina quickly checked with people who knew the stricken family and with her own funds, began purchasing clothing for each of the family members. She then began to search for items such as small appliances, pots and pans, dishes, etc., and prepared to assist them with establishing yet another new home.

Once she finished the efforts of helping this family, she turned her attention to the first responders fighting the different outbreaks of fire that were scattered across a large area. Tina collected snacks and drinks and then volunteered to cook a meal for one team of firefighters. Tina's outstanding acts of compassion and mercy echo those of the women who willingly stepped up to help in the Civil War--and ultimately helped to pioneer the Woman's Relief Corps.



MESSAGE FROM OUR JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings!!

Here is another update of adventures in Elkhart County, Indiana!!

We are still recruiting members to start our Corps here in Elkhart County. We will be having an organizing committee on Zoom and will start to plan for the Chartering.

Monday, March 29, 2020, Penny Bucks and I laid a wreath at Rice Cemetery in Elkhart, in honor of the End of the Viet Nam War. While sometimes at our events we have a bagpiper and a group of onlookers, other times, such as this past Monday, it was just Penny and I. We did the opening prayers, the keynote speech, the wreath laying, and the closing prayer. We read the names all the men who were killed in action from Elkhart County. We added names of our family members and friends who fought in this conflict. Before we left, we said the Lord's Prayer. Overall, it was meaningful, and it let the boys know they are not forgotten.

I will be attending the Lincoln Tomb wreath laying April 16th in Springfield. I hope to meet many of you there and visit with everyone at the luncheon.

We are in the process of collecting all newspaper articles and history of the Shiloh Fields Corps that was active in Elkhart during the late 1800's through the early part of the 1950's. When the Corps is chartered, we are hoping that our members join in and help research.

Coming up in June, Nappanee, Indiana is going to host a Civil War festival with a reenactment battle. We will be having a table (hopefully with a tent) set up with information of the WRC. We will also be hosting a tea and may sponsor a skillet throw or a rolling pin toss. We will also be conducting a wreath laying before the battles. There will be lots of organizing to do before June!

We will be doing a hog roast fundraiser for the museum in July at the Elkhart DAV. More info on this project will be forthcoming in later issues. If anyone would like to contact me, my email is thurston.wrc@gmail.com. Drop me a line and let me know what's up in your neck of the woods!!

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Beth Thurston

National Junior Vice President

End of the Viet Nam War Wreath Laying

March 29, 2022

Junior Vice President Beth Thurston



If you are participating in a patriotic event, please share with us by sending a brief description, and photos if available to:

Perri@womansreliefcorps.org

National Woman's Relief Corps email contact information:

National President Jessie: Nationalpresident@womansreliefcorps.org
National Secretary Kathy Bower: Womansreliefcorps@gmail.com
National Treasurer Shannon Riley: NatWRCtreasurer@gmail.com
National Assistant Treasurer: Perri@womansreliefcorps.org

Important contact USPS mailing addresses

National President Jessica Booth
14 Buena Vista Drive
Murphysboro IL 62966

National Treasurer Shannon Riley
PO Box 333
Holder FL 34445

Website for Woman's Relief Corps:
<https://www.womansreliefcorps.org>

Website for Logan's Brigade:
<https://www.logansbrigade.org>

Facebook page link:
<https://www.facebook.com/NWRCSecretary>

Members' Only Facebook Group link:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/333253963802780>

Can you give five bucks a month??

Some members have kindly pledged \$5.00 monthly, with the “Together We Can DoGreat Things” campaign. Click the link and complete the form - designate the date you want the monthly deduction taken out. You can cancel anytime!

<https://womansreliefcorps.org/index.php/together-we-can-do-great-things/>

Funds include:

Child Welfare Fund
Museum Fund
Patriotic Essay Contest
Scholarship Fund

General Fund
Nursing Scholarship
President’s Project (ramp for museum)
Veterans Fund
Wreaths Fund

THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU THAT SIGNED UP FOR THE RECURRING DEDUCTION OF \$5 A MONTH TO THE “TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS” FUND!



Message from our National Assistant Treasurer

Dear Members,

WRC National Assistant Treasurer here. I work with PayPal and am getting up to speed with the Dues work. Corps work is interesting! I’ll be taking on more as we go along. Corps, please don’t forget to send in your triannual Treasurer reports and dues. These are what allow us to be ready to send monies to help our veterans, orphans, and those who need us.

In fraternity, charity, and loyalty,

Perri Pilman Parker

National Treasurer

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Jacintha Riley-Galloway



An amazing woman who volunteers each year to assist in one of the oldest Memorial Day traditions is Jacintha Riley-Galloway. As a member of the Parson Brownlow Corps # 23 located in Vidalia, Louisiana, Jacintha has been faithful to attend the annual Memorial service that begins at the Parson Brownlow headquarters in Vidalia.

When the Corps finishes their service, they queue up and begin their march across the Mississippi bridge to the Natchez National Cemetery in Natchez, Mississippi. Along the way, the crowd of marchers grows as more people join the solemn service.



This service has been honored every year since 1864, when even before the war ended and the Grand Army of the Republic was formed, newly freed slaves gathered to place flowers on the lonely mounds that dotted the landscape across Vidalia and Natchez. It was these same people that helped to recover many of the remains of the heroic dead and rebury them in the National cemetery established in 1866. Their tradition began then of taking time once per year to pay respects to the men who lay in graves far from their homes and families.

The parade planners invited our Jacintha to be the Grand Marshall of the 2022 Memorial Parade and walk from Vidalia to Natchez! Parson Brownlow Corps # 23 has been a vital part of the annual service, and now with Jacintha serving as Grand Marshall, we all can take pride in that march knowing she represents us as a National Woman’s Relief Corps Presidential Liaison as well as the Parade Grand Marshall.




Community band warms up prior to joining the parade group

On April 13, Jacintha placed a wreath at the grave of Landsman James H. Cleggett, a Civil War Navy man. Cleggett served on board the USS Morning Light and saw some significant battles. He was on the Morning Light when Confederate forces shelled it with artillery till it was nearly sunk. Cleggett and many of his fellow sailors were taken prisoner on 18 January 1863 and placed in a Prisoner of War camp. In early 1865 Cleggett was part of a prisoner exchange that took place as the war was ending. Cleggett returned to his native New York State and then traveled to England where he reunited with British men who’d come to America to fight in the Civil War and served with him aboard the Morning Light. Cleggett returned to the United States, and moved to Chicago, Illinois. He died in 1929, was buried in Lincoln Cemetery in Blue Island.

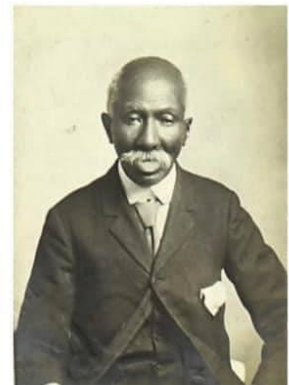
LONDON BRANCH
The American Civil War Veterans.

President: COLONEL F. MICHEL.
 Vice-President: Mr. ARBHOUSE POKEROY, J.D.
 Treasurer: COLONEL R. K. BEVINGTON.
 Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. W. FRAZIER SMITH.



*11, Aslett Street,
 Wandsworth,
 S. W. 18*

James H Cleggett
 London Branch member #11



Cleggett stayed in London for a few years and joined the London Branch of American Civil War Veterans organization.

The SUVCW Colonel Augustus van Horn Ellis Camp #124 secured a marker for Cleggett's grave, and on April 13 dedicated the marker. Jacintha was present for the dedication and placed a wreath on behalf of the WRC. She was able to welcome two visitors from London who flew in just for the marker dedication. They are descendants of members of the same Civil War group in which Cleggett belonged while he was in London.



April 13, 2022 gravesite services for James Cleggett.



1927 photo of the London Branch of U S Civil War veterans.



Dedication service at Blue Island with members of the SUVCW Colonel Augustus van Horn Ellis # 124 Camp. Wreaths included a beautifully decorated one placed by National Presidential Liaison Jacintha Riley-Galloway.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING, AND FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO PATRIOTIC SERVICE JACINTHA!

Gina Costin traveled to Blue Island, IL with her cousin (they flank the "London Branch" banner) to visit the grave of James Cleggett and dedicate the marker. It was their direct work that brought the attention to need of a marker for the grave of James Cleggett.

Curator's Corner by Chuck Hill

There are many interesting collections in the Museum Archives, ranging from Civil War letters & diaries to GAR Post records as well as excellent photographs and dozens of beautifully decorated & inscribed NWRC charters. However, what caught my attention recently as I'm finishing the arrangement and description of archival collections is something that is not GAR or NWRC. It is the London Branch of American Civil War Veterans. Founded in London by Ensign John Davis, a veteran of the U.S. Navy during the Civil War and a survivor of the explosion of the gunboat USS Tulip that killed 49 of the 57 men on board. Although never officially a GAR affiliated Post, the group has a fascinating history and I think the NWRC should be proud to house a little bit of their historical material.

The Grand Army of the Republic did have several overseas posts, eight in Canada, one in Mexico and one in Peru. However, the veterans in England who formed their organization in 1910 chose not to accept a formal affiliation with the GAR. The London Branch did receive approval for a one piece membership badge similar to the GAR member badge. The earliest mention of WRC involvement with the London Branch appears in 1913 when the Department of California and Nevada authorized a gift to John Davis, "Comrade in London, England" of \$10. That same amount was given in 1914 to "GAR Veterin (sic) in London, England."

A short history, *The WRC & the London Branch* by George G. Kane from 2009 indicates that Past National President Elizabeth Kinne and her husband had met John Davis in 1912 and it was a speech by her at the Department convention in 1913 that prompted these gifts. I could not find a subsequent mention of any money sent by the Department after 1914. Some contact at the national level must have continued as the records indicate that a gift to the London Branch in the amount of \$50 was sent as a Christmas present for at least 8 years.

The Journal of the 43rd National Convention in 1925 (p.112) mentions a letter from London Branch Secretary A.W. Frazier Smith stating that the check they received in Nov. 1924 was "the eighth annual present of \$50 it has been my privilege to receive..." Scouring the Journals, I've found scattered references to the London Branch including a mention in 1928 that the National President had received many pictures, newspaper clippings and accounts of the activities of the Branch. The letter from Smith at that time states that he would send \$4 to each of the seven comrades who had no income and the remainder would be divided among the 16 widows of veterans who are only receiving \$30 a month pensions and five who have no American pension at all. The Convention then recommended the annual gift be raised to \$100.

One puzzle about the relationship of the WRC with the London Branch that I'm still researching is that of the California & Nevada Department. A newspaper clipping in the collection from 1927 shows a woman by the name of Florence Swartwout. The clipping is headlined "U.S. Woman to Aid Civil War Veterans in London." The caption says she is with the WRC of Los Angeles and that she has come to London to help the London Branch. Unfortunately, it does not give her affiliation or membership status. She is not listed as a Department officer during that time period and I've been unable to find any solid information for the connection between the Department and the London Branch. I am including the photograph that was used for the article as well as several other images depicting the London Branch.

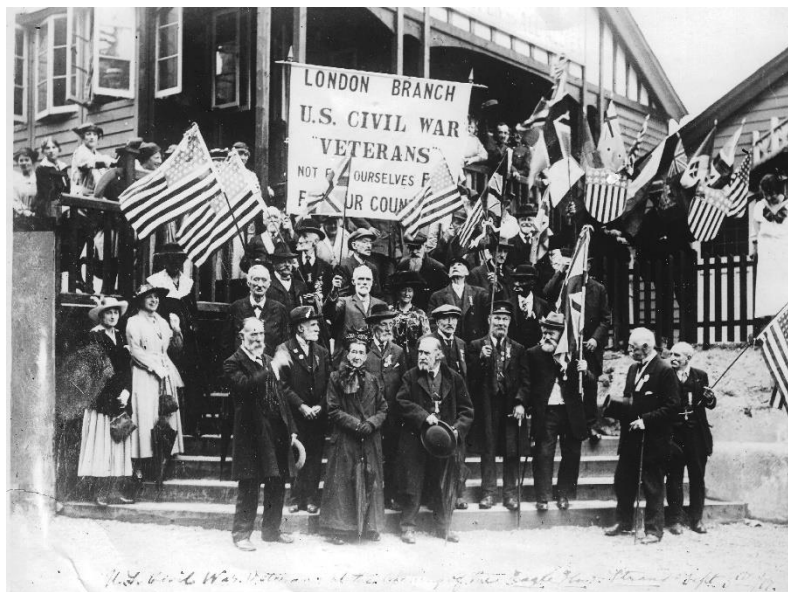
The interest in the London Branch at the national level continued until at least 1934 when it is mentioned in Mae E. Lincoln's President's Address to the 52nd Annual WRC National Convention in Rochester, NY. In that address she states that she had received a letter from a Miss Rosa Vowles informing her that Comrade C.E.L. Wright had passed away in August 1933 at the age of 87, and he was the last London Branch veteran. He had been placing a wreath from the NWRC at the base of Lincoln's statue in Parliament Square for several years but this year (1934) it was placed by Mrs. Hanbury-Williams, granddaughter of President Grant (more likely the great-granddaughter, Zenaida Cantacuzene, who was married to Sir John Hanbury-Williams). Vowles & Williams offered to continue "this mission of placing the wreath on Lincoln's statue on Memorial Day." It was then recommended that the NWRC continue to send \$25 a year to Miss Vowles for that purpose. How long that practice continued has yet to be determined.

During its existence, the London Branch of American Civil War Veterans does not appear to have had more than about 118 members. By 1925, a total of 146 members had enrolled over the years but only 20 veterans were still living as well as 21 widows. A 1931 article in the New York Times says that only two veterans attended the 1930 wreath laying ceremony and only one was expected to attend in 1931, Charles H. Wright. Another article notes in 1913 that Civil War veterans residing in London held a jubilee at Fracati's Restaurant for the 50th Anniversary of Gettysburg that was attended by "fifty Union and Confederate sailors and soldiers." The group also worked with the American YMCA in London during WWI to open a facility in Covent Garden to act as home away from home for U.S. soldiers & sailors. The Eagle Hut opened there in September 1917 and included a restaurant, kitchens, theater, billiard hall and reading room.

The collection in the Museum Archives includes photographs, flyers, and booklets. One booklet is souvenir publication “Veterans Thanks to Congress for Passing the Pension Bill” that includes the life story of John Davis with his photograph and an image of the explosion of the USS Tulip. There is a finding aid for this collection and it available to researchers upon request.



London Branch with Florence Swartwout (third from the left), 1927.



London Branch at the opening of the Eagle Hut, 1917.



Major Putnam speaking at the Lincoln Monument, Parliament Square, London, 1925.

Thank you!

Chuck Hill

G A R Memorial Museum Curator

“I thank my God upon my every remembrance of you.” Philippians 1:3

Please pray for one another. Remember those who are dealing with tremendous burdens, and those who have experienced devastating losses.

by command,

Jessica Booth

National President

Kathy Bower, National Secretary

Michelle Riley, Assistant Secretary