

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO / WYOMING

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WESTERN

TRIBUNE



**Sons of Union  
Veterans  
of the Civil  
War**

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## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS:

Department of Colorado & Wyoming, Eric Dan Richhart - DC

Greeting from the Department Commander

This is what has been happening in the Department as has been reported to me or I have done.

I have been working with Allan McKinney of Boise, Idaho, of recent National MAL now part of our Department and of Captain Lot Smith Camp # 1 on a restoration project in several cemeteries in Boise Idaho. I hope to meet with him shortly as weather permits.

We as a Department have continued with scanning and copying the G.A.R. Records, forms, charters, roster books and collected books outside of the local museum for placement in the museum or College library as started by PDC Garry Brewer.

I have meet with State of Utah officials to press the matter of re-designating US 6 as The Grand Army of the Republic Highway. It lost this designation in 2009 with part of highway from Green River, Utah to Spanish Fork, Utah being designated the Mike Dmitrich Highway. I have called on the House, Senate and Governor to re-designated the "Grand Army of the Republic Federal Highway" and also to allow that part to also be called the "Mike Dmitrich Scenic Byway" We the SUVCW request public involvement.

Also I have been involved in trying to get a Civil War Statue to be built on the State Capitol grounds.

June 11, 2011

Raised from SV Commander to Elected Commander of the Department of Colorado/Wyoming.

Other Accomplishments:

In addition to the above "physical" activities, the department has been busy with administrative duties. A current roster of the all Department's members past and present is being completed by the DJVC consolidated into an elec-

tronic format. This will allow for ease of access and future modification of the membership roster and as a tool to hopefully renew past members into membership.

Additionally, after several years of hiatus, the Department newsletter is in the process of renew publication on the internet in the immediate future. *The Western Tribune* will be in an electronic format for easy distribution. This colorful and informative newsletter is something Department members will again be proud of, as it, was under former editor PDC Rhy Paris, and can be useful as a recruitment tool.

The Department's web site is constantly updated and many new features will continually be added (current contact links, newsletter link, upcoming events link, etc.) for use by members and potential members.

All Camps within the Department continue to be active and look forward to the challenges associated with Growth as I sent out a Challenge for 10 percent growth in each Camp.

My goals in the Department 2011-2012

- Visit all camps within the Department;
- 10 percent growth in each Camp and the Department.
- Locate and list each G.A.R. Post not current know in each State of the Department and where their records are found and locate each grave of the GAR and record same for Department records and digitally list same for all on the web page from copied roster books, post cemetery records and secure photos;
- Attend Veterans Day Parades;
- Hold Department Meeting in Grand Junction, Colorado June 2012.

I hope every Brother is having a beautiful Spring and hard at work in their Camps and Department and don't forget you wives honeydo's. Until we see each other, have an eventful Spring..

**Faithfully Submitted**

**In Faith, Charity and Loyalty**

**Eric Dan Richhart Department Commander**

**.Please Allow Me Introduce Myself, Your *Western Tribune* Editor.**

I'm Wally Weart and I taking over as Newsletter Editor from Rhy Paris. He has done a great job and I have big shoes to fill.

I am a member of Centennial Camp 100, serving as Secretary and Webmaster. I have been a SUVCW member for more than 10 years, joining while I lived just outside of Washington, DC. My great uncle was



the first man in New Jersey to enlist, ultimately serving as a lieutenant in the 23<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey. He fought at Fredericksburg, Salem Church and Chancellorsville. His enlistment was up in 1863 and he went to Iowa where he was successful in state politics. The GAR post in Hopewell, NJ was named for him.

I have been a re-enactor for over 10 years, belonging to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan, Company E and participate in as many re-enactments as possible including Gettysburg and Cedar Creek. I am also a dismounted Cavalry re-enactor as my great cousin was in the 9th Kansas Cavalry.

I have been in the transportation and logistics industry

for my entire career, working for trucking companies, manufactures, railroads and I have been a bureau chief and features editor for transportation magazines. Of all the jobs I have had, the best without a doubt was the years I was a railroad conductor or engineer.

I will make every effort to have the Newsletter the pride of the Department but it will not happen without your participation as I am depending on all Department members for copy. I would also welcome photos and have some PhotoShop skill but they need to be JPGs or TIFs so I can work with them. My e-mail address is on the masthead and I look forward to hearing from you.

### A Woman's Auxiliary

An important element of the Sons is the Woman's Auxiliary which has existed almost from the beginning of the SUVCW and who provide us with support and encouragement. Commander Richhart has requested we determine the amount of interest in forming an Auxiliary. Your editor just returned from a Department of the Chesapeake Encampment in Virginia. While the men had their SUVCW encampment, the Woman's Auxiliary, which is a strong and vibrant part of the department, had their own encampment.



The history of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans is closely associated with the Grand Army of the Republic which was founded in 1866 and the Allied Orders who were later formed to continue their work. Post 94 of the Grand Army, Philadelphia, in 1878 created a Cadet Corps which later became the Sons of Union Veterans. Similar units were organized throughout many neighboring

states. In 1882, the first session of the Commandery-In-Chief, Sons of Veterans was held at Pittsburgh, Penn. In later years, the name was changed to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The need for an Auxiliary was soon recognized and through the efforts of Major A.P. Davis, the first Ladies Aid Society was organized at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1883. The following year, the name was officially recognized as the Auxiliary. Ladies Aid Societies were formed in several States in rapid succession and in 1886, plans for a National Organization were formed. The first National Encampment was held in Akron, Ohio, September 1887. At the National Encampment in Boston, Massachusetts in 1894, the Ladies Aid Society's name was changed to the Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary, but eventually becoming the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (the Auxiliary).

Activities of the Auxiliary parallel the SUV with community awareness activities, socials events and meetings.

[Click here to see the entire Auxiliary webpage](#)



Each Camp Commander is asked to request that the Brothers discuss the possibility of an auxiliary to the Department with their wife. For those attending the Encampment, your wife is invited to come to an introductory meeting and talk about starting an Auxiliary. We need five potential women members to try to start a unit and there is also an opportunity for teen and older daughters.

### A Glimpse Back At The G.A.R.

From the report of the Commander-in-Chief to the 1890 National Encampment: "The Quartermaster-General purchased and sent flags to cemeteries in the South which were placed at the heads of the graves of our gallant soldiers upon that day [Decoration Day]. I hope this may not only grow into a custom, but that it may be ordered that, in communities where it is not probable that flags will be furnished for this purpose, the G.A.R. will see to it that they are supplied."

*-Russell A. Alger, Commander-in-Chief, G.A.R. (1889-1890)*

Perhaps this was the genesis of our present custom?

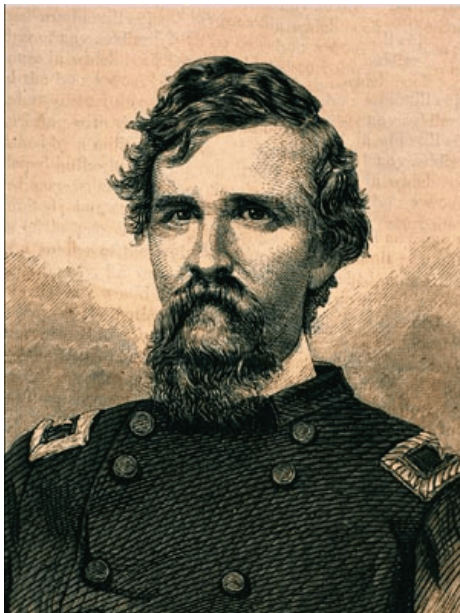


## Grand Army of the Republic Highway Dedicated 65 Years Ago

“The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Highway was dedicated on 18 May 1947, at the Civic Center in Denver, CO. G.A.R. Department of Colorado & Wyoming.

Commander Robert T. Bryan of Boulder, the last remaining G.A.R. member in Colorado, cut the ribbon. Most of the G.A.R.’s auxiliaries were present.” (From an item in the Proceedings of the ASUVCW National Encampment, 10-14 Aug 1947).

“On 30 May 1954, a cannon used in Gen. Shippley’s (sic) regiment during the Civil War was placed and dedicated on the G.A.R. Highway, U.S. 6, by the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, including the associated Federated Patriotic Society.” (From the Program of the 75th Annual Encampment of the Department of Colorado & Wyoming, 6-8 Jun 1954).



BG George F. Shepley, USV  
Military Governor of Louisiana, 1862-1865

The canon was destroyed years later by vandals. The canon monument was at the intersection of U.S. Highway 6 and Highway 40, 12 miles west of Denver.

*Jim Barker, Commander, Centennial Camp 100.*

## A Message About Graves Registration

By James Davenport, PDC, the Department of Colorado and Wyoming Grave Registration Officer



Greeting Brothers, I am James Davenport, PDC, the Department of Colorado and Wyoming Grave Registration Officer. I am also an Aide to the National Grave Registration Committee, SUVCW.

I am asking your assistance in getting ALL of the "Boys in Blue" who are buried in our jurisdiction entered into the Grave Registry at [www.suvcwdb.org](http://www.suvcwdb.org). It is quite easy for you to enter them at the above website, you can also search to find them or to see if they are already entered by using the same website. Though we are making progress Nationally in getting them listed in the database we still have a long way to go to complete our task. As of the 25th of February, 2012 I just entered #592,791 into the National database.

I encourage each of you to visit the cemeteries in your area and make note of the Civil War veterans buried there and check them against the database. Please do not feel that you have to limit your research to the local cemeteries in your area. I am currently entering names from a bunch of cemeteries in Kansas that a Brother there submitted to me recently. So if you're on a trip and see a cemetery and just feel the need to stretch your legs and break the monotony of the drive, stop and scratch down the information and submit it to me. Please get the name of the cemetery, and the county and state it is in, as well as the info on the veteran buried there. I recently had a Brother send me a list of names but he neglected to include the cemetery information. We can also include names of veterans lost or

buried at sea if you know of any of them.

There is also a Grave Registration database recently on line for the Confederate veterans buried in the many cemeteries in our great country and if you'll send me the information on any of them that you locate I will be glad to get them entered into the Confederate database. [Click here](#) if you wish to access that database to check names. and is easy to use also. So far there are only 68,189 C.S.A. vets listed there as of 25 February, 2012.

If you have any questions about submitting names for entry into either database please feel free to contact me by phone at 970-565-9225, by mail at 901 Garrison Drive, Cortez, CO 81321 or by email at jim-janie\_2@q.com and I will attempt to assist you.

Jim Davenport, PDC  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

### **National Park Service Launches Civil War Website**

As part of its commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial and coinciding with events marking the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh, the National Park Service has launched a Civil War themed website at [www.nps.gov/civilwar](http://www.nps.gov/civilwar) that provides an overview of the war, with special emphasis on the Civil War sites administered and preserved by the National Park Service.

The website features a wide range of richly-illustrated content, including stories of the Civil War, ranging from causes of the conflict to its consequences; biographies of notable individuals associated with the war, both military and civilian; places within the National Park System that interpret the Civil War; and information on the ways in which the National Park Service preserves Civil War battlefields, objects, landscapes and other historic resources. New content will be added regularly, so visitors are encouraged to check back to the site often.

"More than a quarter of all national parks preserve Civil War sites or tell stories related to the war. This website offers a single online point of reference for the National Park Service's Civil War resources and will be an invaluable tool for both students of the Civil War and visitors to our historic sites," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "It also gives the war and events that occurred a century and a half ago meaning to 21st-century Americans."

Among other features of the new website are:

**Plan Your Visit** - An interactive trip planning tool includes more than 1,700 Civil War sites around the country, including more than 100 national parks with Civil War themes. With just a few clicks of the mouse, visitors can plan a trip to Civil War sites from northwest Washington state ([San Juan Island National Historical Park](#), where General George Pickett first made a name for himself) to the Florida Keys (Fort Jefferson, where Union prisoners were held, today part of [Dry Tortugas National Park](#)) and more than 1,700 partner sites in between, including state and privately administered Civil War-themed historic sites and museums. The Plan Your Visit tool provides maps, distances, turn-by-turn directions, and a description of and links to additional information about each of the sites.

**Timeline** - A comprehensive, interactive timeline of the causes, events and Civil Rights legacies of the Civil War spanning nearly 400 years of American history, from the foundations of slavery with the arrival of the first Africans in America in 1619 to the present day.

Civil War Reporter - Follow the adventures of Beglan O'Brien, a fictional Civil War era correspondent, whose daily reports on events from 150 years ago are streamed to the website via Twitter. In addition to the National Park Service website, he can also be followed directly on Twitter (search CivilWarReportr) and Facebook (search Civil War Reporter). From the politics of the day to eyewitness accounts of events to fashion of the Civil War, O'Brien's nose for news promises to deliver fascinating updates, rumor and information of the Civil War era.

Related Resources - The website also includes links to other National Park Service Civil War resources, including the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, the more than 100 National Parks that tell the story of the Civil War and its enduring legacies, and Then & Now features showing how the events of 150 years ago continue to influence the America of the 21st century.

More details at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

### **The Irish and the Civil War**

Dave Rodgers, Patriotic Instructor, Centennial Camp 100, SUVCW

Brothers,

did you know that the first casualty of the Civil War was an Irish immigrant? His name was Private Daniel Hough from Tipperary, Ireland. After he immigrated to the United States he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1849. In April 1861 he was assigned to Ft. Sumter where he was mortally wounded during the Union Army's 100 gun salute to the fort during its surrender to the Confederates. On the 47th round a cannon fired prematurely killing Pvt. Hough. He was 36 years old.

[Click here to read more about Pvt. Hough.](#)

On a personal note I'd like to share with you some information about my 3rd Great Grandfather - Corporal Austin Coppinger. He served in the Union Army - Tennessee 6th Mounted Infantry and was the Great Grandson of an Irish immigrant from Cork County, Ireland that fought 80 years earlier for American Independence. Austin was a farmer and lived his life in Coppinger Cove, Sequatchie County, TN. He was an avid hunter, trapper, and fisherman who enjoyed traveling to Florida in his later years to fish. He was a member of G.A.R. Post 53 in Sequatchie. I have a picture of him with his G.A.R. brothers taken in 1899. All of them are old, but they have a look of youthful determination on their faces. I bet they shared that same determination defending the Union many years earlier, and throughout their lives. I am proud of Austin for the type of man he was and what he stood-up for.

The Irish, along with immigrants from every other nation built our country, defended it, and died for our freedoms. We all have the right to celebrate our ancestry and the different cultures that make us unique. But we have an obligation to move forward together as Americans. Anything less would be a disservice to those who have gone before us.

Take care and may God Bless you and your families.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Dave Rodgers, Patriotic Instructor  
Centennial Camp 100, SUVCW



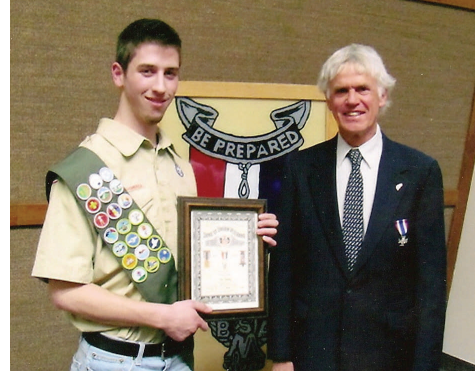
A sample Irish Brigade flag

### A Scout Court of Honor

By Brother Jim Davenport, PDC

Drew Mackey on the left, holding his SUVCW Eagle Scout certificate after presentation by Dan Senjem, on the right.

On March 17th, 2012 the Boy Scouts held a Court of Honor for Drew Mackey of BSA Troop 800, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, to award him with his Eagle Scout badge after a long hard journey to achieve that honor. Brother Dan Senjem, PCC, of the Thomas E. Bowman Camp 12, Durango, Colorado was there to present Drew Mackey with a SUVCW Eagle Scout certificate.



### The G.A.R. Had Clout

James Barker, Commander, Centennial Camp 100

After the Civil War the Union survivors banded together in the Grand Army of the Republic. Many of the Comrades rose to prominence in their communities, states and the nation.

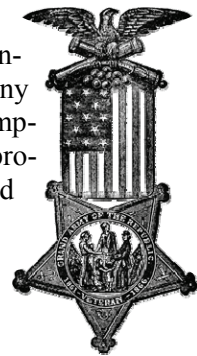
Obstensively, a non-partisan organization, their great numbers certainly gave the G.A.R. a lot of political influence. They led the fight for congressional pension legislation for invalids, widows and orphans. They were key players in the move to establish soldiers' and sailors' homes in many states. We've all heard how no one running for office on the Republican ticket could be nominated with the G.A.R.'s endorsement. Nothing illustrates the influence wielded by the G.A.R. in the late nineteenth century than the arrangements made for its 24th Annual Encampment.

Held in Boston in August 1890, the Encampment cost \$106,462.67, a considerable sum back then. To offset the cost, the state of Massachusetts appropriated \$50,000 and the city of Boston contributed \$25,000. Additionally, the nation's railroads highly discounted their fares and the city's hotels offered reduced rates for those attending the encampment. By request of the organizing committee, the Secretary of the Navy ordered the North Atlantic Squadron to Boston where it performed evolutions and fired salutes during the grand parade. The Secretary of War likewise ordered Fort Warren to fire salutes. By special order of the President of the United States, extra leave was granted to veterans still in

service and other government employment so that they might attend the encampment.

These days, especially in election years, it is not uncommon for the President or members of his administration to attend the annual conventions of the larger veterans' organizations like the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Boston G.A.R. Encampment was attended by President Benjamin Harrison who arrived on a U.S. Navy cruiser attended by much pomp and ceremony. Later the President, a G.A.R. comrade, took the review of the grand parade. The reviewing party also included the Vice President, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, Gen. W. T. Sherman, the Governors of Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Nebraska, and Connecticut, as well as scores Senators and Congressmen.

As time moved on and the numbers of the G.A.R. dwindled, its influence waned. However, for many years, right up until the last encampment, the Secretary of the Navy provided the U.S. Marine Corps Band to lead the grand parade.





## Civil War Campaign Medal

### The Artist

Francis D. Millet was an artist and writer. He was born in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts in 1846. Mr. Millet enlisted in the Union Army as a drummer boy near the end of the war, and received a promotion to the post of assistant in the Surgeons Corp, which he held for a year. After the war he attended Harvard University and went to work for the Boston Advertiser. He later became city editor of the Boston Courier. [1]



In 1871 he began studying art at the Royal Academy in Antwerp, Belgium where he received a prestigious art award in his first year. His accomplishments helped him land a position as secretary to the commissioner to the Vienna Exposition of 1873. Mr. Millet continued his art studies while serving as secretary, and writing newspaper articles. Three years later he returned to the United States to report on the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, and paint murals at Trinity Church in Boston with John LaFarge. Millet was also good friends with writer Mark Twain.

Millet became a member of the Society of American Artists in 1880, and in 1885 was elected as a member of the National Academy of Design, New York and as Vice-Chairman of the Fine Arts Committee. He was made a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and sat on the advisory committee of the National Gallery of Art. He was decorations director for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, where he is credited with having invented the first form of spray paint. His career included work with a number of worlds' fairs, including Vienna, Chicago, Paris, and Tokyo, where he made contributions as a juror, administrator, mural painter/decorator, and adviser. [2]

Millet designed the 1907 Civil War Medal at the request of the U.S. Army and United States War Department. On April 10, 1912, Millet boarded the RMS *Titanic* at Cherbourg, France, bound for New York City. He was last seen helping women and children into lifeboats. His body was recovered after the sinking by the cable boat Mackay-Bennett and returned to East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where he was buried in Central Cemetery. [2]



### The Medal

The Civil War Campaign Medal is considered the first campaign service medal of the United States military. The decoration was awarded to members of the United States military who had served in the American Civil War between 1861 and 1865.

The medal was first authorized in 1905 for the fortieth anniversary of the Civil War's conclusion. The blue and gray ribbon denotes the respective uniform colors of the U.S. and Confederate troops. The Army Civil War Campaign Medal was established by the United States War Department on 21 JAN 1907, by General Orders Number 12. To qualify, a soldier had to serve between 15 APR 1861, and 09 APR 1865. The closing date was extended to August 20, 1866, for those men who served after the war in Texas. The corresponding Navy Civil War Medal was established on 27 JUNE 1908, by the Navy Department.

The Army Civil War Campaign Medal displayed an engraved image of Abraham Lincoln while the Navy and Marine Corps versions depicted the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia's battle at Hampton Roads. The medal was struck at the Philadelphia Mint. Civil War Campaign Medal No. 1 was issued to Maj. Gen Charles F. Humphrey on 26 MAY 1909. One of the most famous recipients of the Civil War Campaign Medal was Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur, Jr., father of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Lieutenant General Joseph Wheeler is another of those entitled. [5]

In the center of a bronze medallion one and a quarter inches in diameter, the head of Lincoln surrounded by the raised inscription, WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE WITH CHARITY FOR ALL.

According to designer Francis Millet, *"The head of Lincoln was selected because it is the only thing which can be used on the medal without offense to the sentiment now happily prevailing over the whole country in regard to the Civil War, and the portrait of Lincoln must be acceptable to everybody, particularly when accompanied by the noble phrase which so tersely and accurately expresses his attitude during the war."*

In the center of a bronze medallion one and a quarter inches in diameter, the words THE CIVIL WAR over a bar, under which appear the dates 1861-1865; this central theme is surrounded by a wreath composed of a branch of oak on the left and a branch of laurel on the right, joined at the base by a bow. The oak represents the strength of the Union and the laurel represents victory.

**Army Front View**



**Army Reverse View**



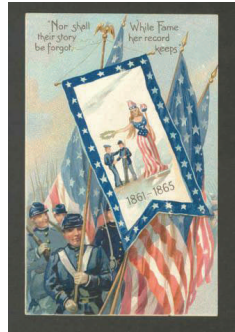
**Navy Front and Reverse View**



## The Grand Parade

The highlight of every G.A.R. National Encampment was the grand parade. Columns of Civil War veterans marching down the main street of the convention city led by the Commander-in-Chief and his staff, often mounted, and the U.S. Marine Corps Band. Departments arranged by seniority, the “boys in blue” now gray haired marched off as proudly as they did for the grand review down the streets of the Capitol at the end of the war. They were soon joined by their sons, the SUVCW, and later, when their ranks inevitably thinned by military units and detachments of other veterans’ organizations. Here is a report of one of the last grand parades in 1947 from the Proceedings of the 61st National Convention of the LGAR.

“It was another great day for the citizens of Cleveland, for down Euclid Avenue Wednesday came the Grand Army of the Republic saluting the applauding crowds as the five rode along the line of march, in open cars. Heading the march was the Ohio State Patrol, Cleveland motorcycle police and mounted Troop A, followed by the wonderful Marine Band, but the cheers were deafening as Commander-in-Chief Grate and his comrades appeared in the distance. What a comparison in the minds of those who watched and remembered in 1901 when they last marched in Cleveland and 50,000 marched with them. Reaching the receiving stand near the Public Library their cars were pulled up to allow them to view those who gladly marched in their past glory. The Marine Band of 81 members led by Maj. Santlemann generously countermarched in front of them. Marching groups included the U.S. Army and Navy Reserves, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Spanish War Veterans, V.F.W., American Legion, Disabled Veterans, Polish Veterans, Army and Navy Union, Order of the Purple Heart, Catholic War Veterans and the Amvets.”



Jim Barker, Commander, Centennial Camp 100

## New Estimate Raises Civil War Death Toll Library of Congress

For 110 years, the numbers stood as gospel: 618,222 men died in the Civil War, 360,222 from the North and 258,000 from the South — by far the greatest toll of any war in American history.

By combing through newly digitized census data from the 19th century, J. David Hacker, a demographic historian from Binghamton University in New York, has recalculated the death toll and increased it by more than 20 percent — to 750,000.

The new figure is already winning acceptance from scholars. Civil War History, the journal that published Dr. Hacker’s paper, called it “among the most consequential pieces ever to appear” in its pages. And a pre-eminent authority on the era, Eric Foner, a historian at Columbia University, said:

“It even further elevates the significance of the Civil War and makes a dramatic statement about how the war is a central moment in American history. It helps you understand, particularly in the South with a much smaller population, what a devastating experience this was.”

Read the full article at [The New York Times Science Section](#).

## For all Brothers

As you are probably already aware, there is a famous quote about veterans writing a blank check, up to and including their life.

As a writer and a disabled veteran, this so moved the songwriter that he transformed the quote into song lyrics. This was not done for profit but to spread the word and further honor all who served.

He hopes you will listen and [watch his YouTube presentation](#). The author writes that you can free to share it if you like it.

I offer this song to any veteran friendly organization - Without charge, provided it is for non commercial use and not for profit - contact me, should your organization wish to use it with details of intended use.