



WILDWOOD

February 24, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Wildwood Historic Preservation Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Civil War Burial Site Discussion (Wards – All)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
The Honorable City Council of Wildwood
Steve Cross, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner

BACKGROUND

In December 2021, the Department of Planning was approached by Robert Aubuchon, representing the Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant Camp #68. Mr. Aubuchon was seeking information regarding burial site locations for Union veterans within the City of Wildwood. He was particularly interested with the names and locations of burial sites for Black veterans in the vicinity of Babler State Park. At the time, Staff recommended setting up a meeting with the Department and area partners (particularly Wildwood Historical Society) to discuss the matter.

On February 10th, 2022, a meeting took place with the following representatives:

- Joe Vujnich, Director of Planning, City of Wildwood
- Robyn Keefe, Planner, City of Wildwood
- Jan Stevens, Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission
- Jill VonGruben, Wildwood Historical Society
- Robert Aubuchon, Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War

At this meeting, Mr. Aubuchon explained the project, which included registering the burial sites of area union veterans on the national Sons of Union Veterans website. At that time, concern was expressed by the Department related to releasing information about burial sites located on private properties. It was suggested that information about burial sites located on public lands could potentially be released.

Mr. Aubuchon indicated that he could list names of Union veterans in the area, but not give an exact location of the burial site on the registry.

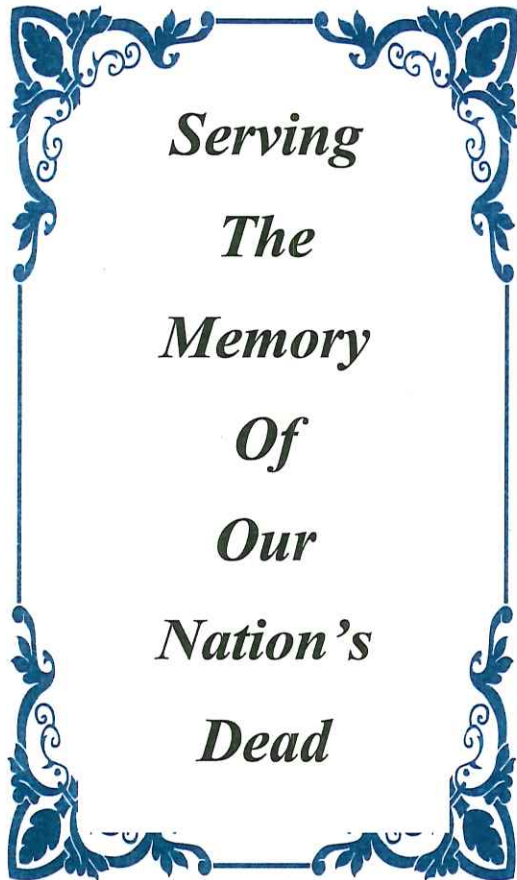
Ms. VonGruben has since followed up with the names of veterans known in the area serving with the United States Colored Troops (USCT) and invited his camp's partnership to hold a memorial service for the Keeler Post at the Wildwood Historical Society in 2023.

Ms. Stevens has noted that a copy of the research completed by the National Daughters of the Union 1861-1865 DeWitt Clinton Jones Chapter in St. Louis for the Allenton Cemetery is already located within the library located at the Missouri Civil War Museum and available.

TONIGHT'S REQUESTED DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Department has informed Mr. Aubuchon that, given the sensitivity of the requested information, the City must conduct its due diligence before releasing information for burial sites located on public property. The Department, therefore, respectfully requests guidance and action from the Commission on this matter, as well as information on any additional resources that might be available to Mr. Aubuchon for his project.

If any of the Commission Members should have comments or questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your consideration of this information and discussion of the same.



*Serving
The
Memory
Of
Our
Nation's
Dead*



The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a Congressionally chartered organization formed in 1881 by the Grand Army of the Republic.

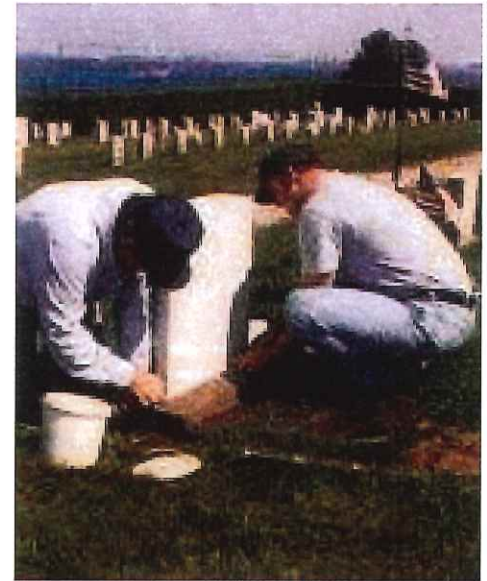
Among the purposes of our Order is the perpetuation of the memory of the men who saved the Union and honoring all who have patriotically served our Nation in any war.

For more information about the S.U.V.C.W. contact:

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
P.O Box 1865
Harrisburg, PA 17105

© 2005, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,
a Congressionally Chartered Organization

NATIONAL GRAVES REGISTRATION PROJECT



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR**

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is an organization of male descendants of Union veterans dedicated to preserving the memory of the soldiers, sailors and marines who served the United States between 1861 and 1865 and the veterans' organization the Grand Army of the Republic. Among its efforts are the preservation, and making available for research, records pertaining to the G.A.R. and Union veterans of the Civil War.

In 1995, the National Organization adopted a resolution forming a National Graves Registration Project to help create and maintain a national database of the burial sites of veterans of the Civil War. The efforts of this project have resulted in the collection of gravesite information from across the nation.

While participating in this project, S.U.V.C.W. Camps and members serve their communities in several different ways. Many Camps compile lists of locally buried Civil War veterans and donate them to local historical societies and libraries as well as answer inquiries from families about a Civil War ancestor's grave location. Other Camps create websites about their efforts and make grave location information available on the Internet, or volunteer at local National Cemeteries to help create computerized burial registers and compile historic information about the cemeteries and the people buried in them.

Another local benefit of this project's efforts is the identification of the unmarked burial sites of Civil War veterans. Many members, after finding an unmarked veteran's grave, request and place a Civil

War military headstone at the site, a final tribute to an otherwise unknown hero.

Departments, comprised of a group of Camps in their respective states, provide a network that allows the smooth flow of information and requests to and from the National Organization.

At the national level, the National Graves Registration Officer provides a secure, central data repository for all members and Camps to send their gathered information. The information is submitted on forms provided by the National Organization, or through the online National Graves Registration Database via the Internet. To access the site, go to www.suvcw.org. Scroll down the opening page to a section called "Quick Links" and click the button titled "National Graves Registration Database." Once there, you simply create an account and once it is approved, the National Graves Registration Officer will send you an email approval for online data entry to the National Graves Registration Committee who will then verify the information and put it into the permanent database.

The success of the National Graves Registration Project depends on the devotion of members and friends to serve the memory of the Civil War veterans in their communities.

For further information about the National Graves Registration Project, or to create an online account to register your own Civil War Veteran's information, please visit the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War website at SUVCW.org.

To register your Civil War veteran's grave information via the internet, go to www.suvcw.org.

To register your Civil War veteran's grave information via the United States Postal Service, please complete this form and return it to the address below.

(For large numbers of registrations, please use the Grave Registration Form available from the National Graves Registration Officer.)

Name: _____

Born: _____ Died: _____

Rank: _____ () Union () Confederate

Unit: _____
Company Regt/Ship Name State Branch

Cemetery Name: _____

Address: _____

Grave Lot: __ Section: __ Number: _____

Type of Headstone:

() Unmarked () Family () Military

Submitter's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you related to this veteran? _____

Please return to:
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Attn: National Graves Registration Officer
P.O. Box 1865
Harrisburg, PA 17105