



Honoring Veterans' Graves

Stone Street Cemetery
Forest Lake Township, Susquehanna County, PA

By Eileen Birchard & John Buck
Stone Family Reunion - July 29, 2017

Today's Topics:

- How Veterans' graves are recognized
- A program called "Wreaths Across America" (Eileen Birchard's version)
- A review of the Veterans buried at Stone Street



Photo of our cousin Corporal Charles H. Stone with flag and wreath in Owego, NY. Charles and his brother Capt. George L. Stone were first cousins of the Stones on Stone Street.

How are Veterans' graves recognized?

- Veterans graves are usually marked with an American flag.
- Flags supplied by Susquehanna County Veterans Affairs but are installed by volunteers. (Marvin Small)
- Metal flag-holders are often used to display the flag.
- Flag holders usually identify the particular war.

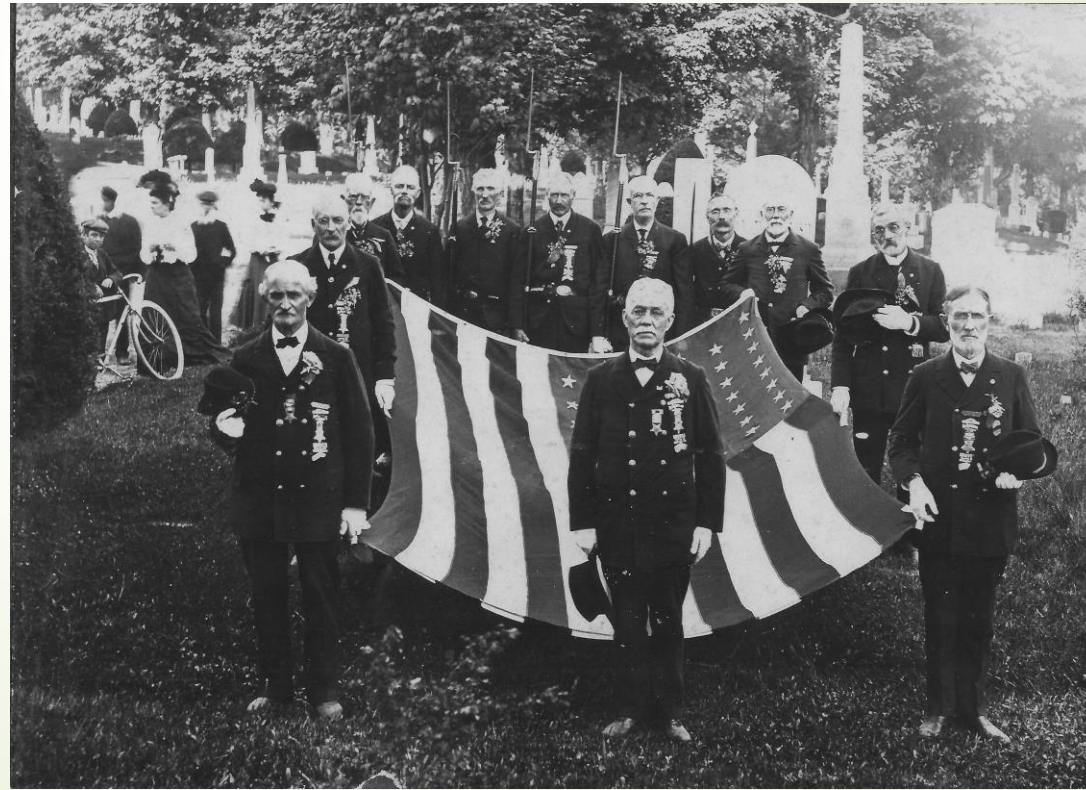


But what is the “G.A.R.” flag holder we see on graves?

- Grand Army of the Republic (Civil War)
- A fraternal organization started in 1866 in Illinois
- Members must have served the Union in any branch between 1861-1865
- G.A.R. began the tradition of placing flags and flag-holders
- G.A.R. disbanded in 1956 after last member died



(Photo of G.A.R. on Memorial Day in 1905 in Cortland, NY Cemetery)



How did I get Interested in recognizing Veterans' graves?

My Story – appreciating veterans

Trips abroad

Working with aerospace company

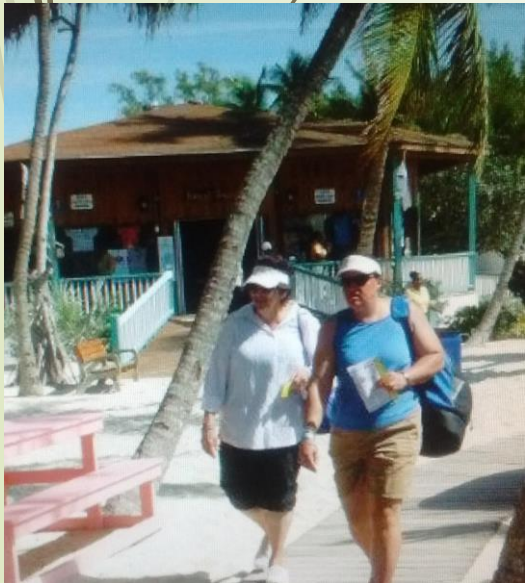
I wanted to do something to recognize

Veterans, but what?

Wreaths Across America™ story in local
newspapers (placing wreaths on
Veterans' graves)

No local cemeteries participating

I began to research “WAA” further...



Wreaths Across America™

How WAA started (history)

Mission Statement

- Remember our fallen U.S. veterans
- Honor those who serve
- Teach your children the value of freedom



“They say you die twice. Once when you stop breathing and the second, a bit later on, when somebody mentions your name for the last time.”

What could I do to recognize Veterans? (too late to participate in WAA)

Then I thought of the Stone Street Cemetery...

Veterans' Graves At Stone Street

(13 graves)

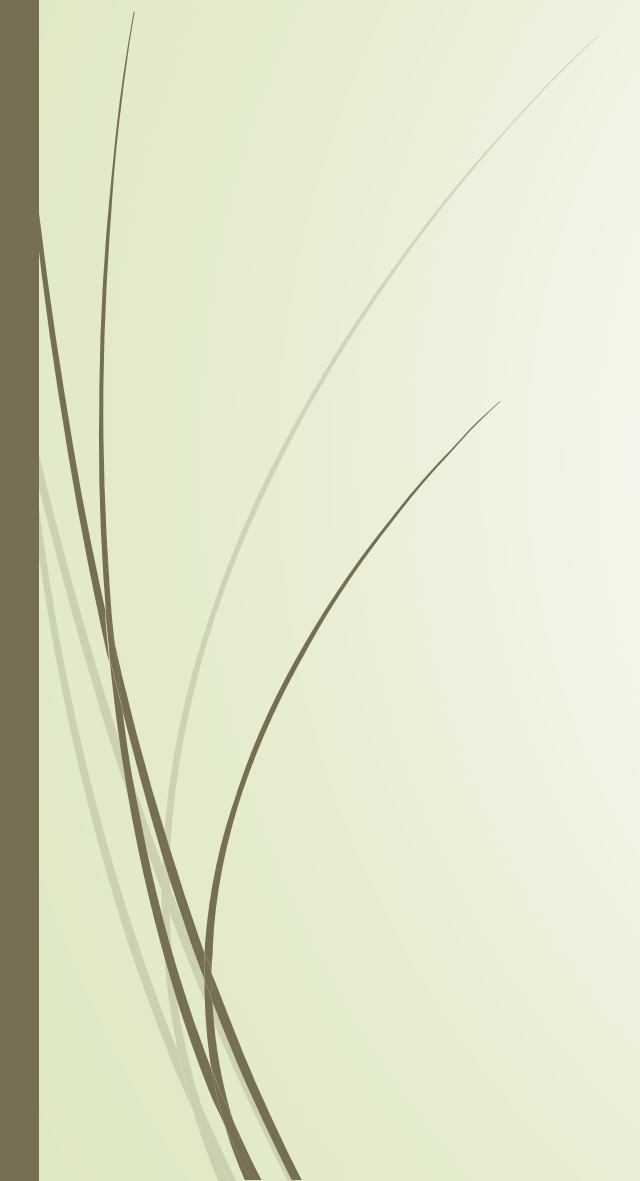



Eileen's Wreath Program

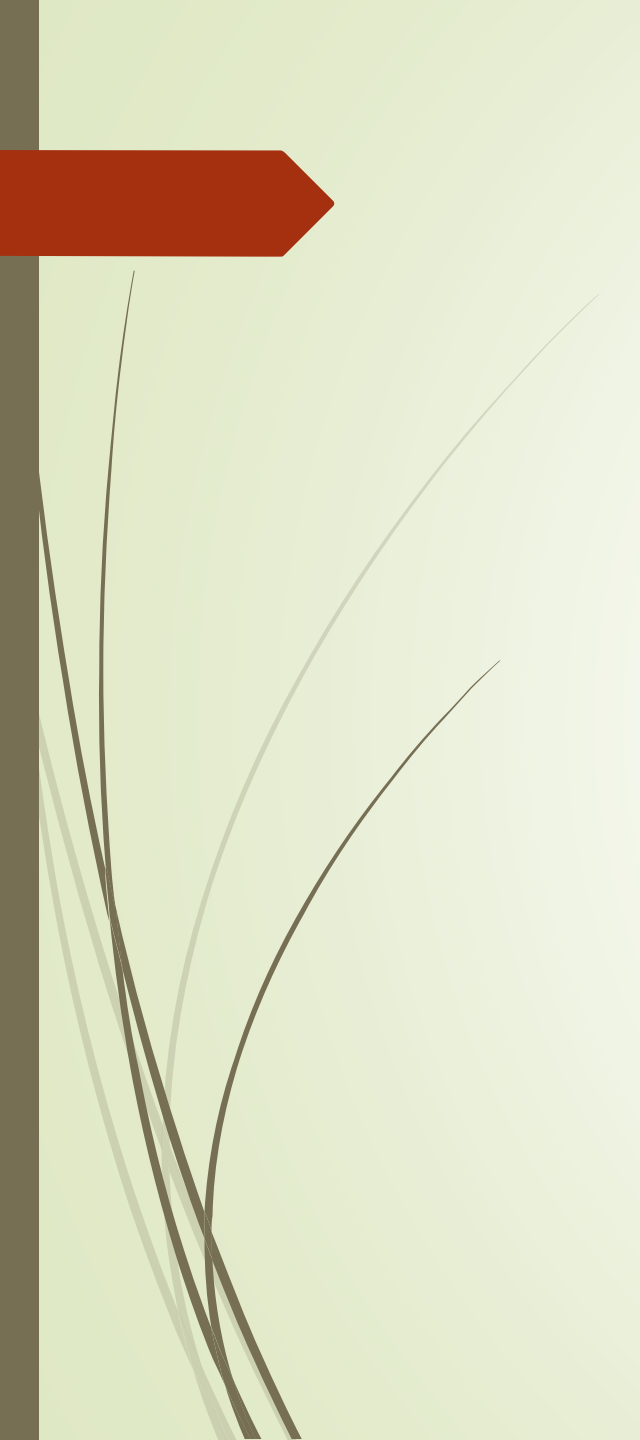
I began to think how I could honor Veterans at Stone Street by following some of WAA's guidelines. My program consisted of:

- Purchase natural wreaths (Individual details not exactly the same; colors of bows, etc.)
- Laying of wreaths
 - Place wreath against stone
 - Say Veteran's name
 - Thank them for their service (and their family)
- **I did what I could and will continue as long as I can!**





Now, John will talk about some of the individual Veterans buried at Stone Street...



The next slide shows the making of wreaths for Memorial Day (Decoration Day) at the Birchardville Church in the early 1900s.

Two men on right (Charles Fessenden and Dr. Jacob Ely) and Asa Warner (in foreground) are Civil War vets

Note: young man at upper left is Dayton Levi Birchard!



Known War Veterans at Stone Street

Revolutionary War:

Andrew Handrick (1753-1819)
Peleg Baldwin (1770-1846)

War of 1812:

Calvin D. Cobb (1791-1880)
William Gaylord Handrick (1785-1866)

Civil War:

Calvin L. Leet (1826-1872)
Hiram Hosford (1836-1910)
Milton L. Spafford (-1863)
Abijah Spafford (1840-1882)
Henry C. Spafford (1844-1933)
John W. Spafford (1846-1920)
Vilroy E. Cobb (1856-1940) ?

World War II

Peter Austin (1922-2007)
Jack Handrick (1915-1998)



Where Did the Vets Live? Middletown & Forest Lake Townships

(maps from 1858)



Brackney, PA

- Revolutionary War:
 - Andrew Handrick (1753-1819)
 - Peleg Baldwin (1770-1846)
- War of 1812:
 - Calvin D. Cobb (1791-1880)
 - William G. Handrick (1785-1866)
- Civil War:
 - Calvin L. Leet (1826-1872)
 - Hiram Hosford (1836-1910)
 - Milton L. Spafford (-1863)
 - Abijah Spafford (1840-1882)
 - Henry C. Spafford (1844-1933)
 - John W. Spafford (1846-1920)
 - Vilroy E. Cobb (1856-1940) ?**
- WWII
 - Peter Austin (1922-2007)
 - Jack Handrick (1915-1998)



Details of Veterans Service

Revolutionary War:

Andrew Handrick (1753-1819) lived on the East side of Stone Street just north of Courtland Birchard's home.

Andrew is Betty Baldwin and John Buck's 4-g and 5-g grandfather, and is an ancestor of all the Smalls in the area. Andrew enlisted from Washington Township, Litchfield County, CT, was wounded in his leg and received a pension. From a newspaper account:

A native of Litchfield County, Connecticut, he enlisted as a private under Capt. Joseph Hoyt, Col. Charles' Webb's regiment from Litchfield in 1776, he was engaged in the battles of Long Island, White Plains and Harlem, later receiving a pension for his services, He married Elizabeth Gaylord, became a shoemaker by trade, and held property in, New Milford, Conn., later moving to (Stone Street) Middletown, Susquehanna County, Pa. with his son William.



Revolutionary War:

Peleg Baldwin (1770-1846) lived west of Stone Street in Middletown with his wife Anna Turrell. His son Miles later married Mehitable Spafford, whose family had extensive military service and many are buried in Stone Street. Anna's pension petition indicates:

(Peleg) enlisted in the service at 17 years old as a drummer, that he enlisted at Milford, CT., that he was stationed there part of the time when the British burnt New Haven, and that he was in the service about 8 months before being discharged.





War of 1812:

Calvin D. Cobb (1791-1880) settled east of Stone Street on what is now called Cobb Hill Rd. His wife was Phoebe Stone, 1st cousin of the various Stone settlers on Stone Street. He was the brother of current Calvin Ray Cobb's g-g-grandfather. Calvin and his brother Derrick lived in Vermont and enlisted in the Captain Taylor's Company 10, 30th Regiment of the U.S. Troops, near Burlington, VT on 29 April 1813. Served in the Plattsburgh engagement and was discharged.

William Gaylord Handrick (1785-1866) served in the Army during War of 1812, but we have no further information on his service.

Civil War (1861-1865)

Calvin L. Leet (1826-1872), from Friendsville, married Arabella Stone (where Courtland Birchard lives now). After Calvin's death, the Leets moved west. There is a gravestone next to Calvin's for Arabella that was erected by Dayton and Don Birchard. Eventually they realized that Arabella was buried in Fairmont, Minnesota, and added the word "cenotaph" to the gravestone. Calvin's marble military gravestone includes the inscription:

C.L.Leet
Co. H.
143d PA.
INF.

Hiram Hosford (1836-1910), from Friendsville, married Caroline Leonard, daughter of Catherine (Mizner)(Leonard) Stone (2nd wife of Garrad and Judson). His father Jeremiah Hosford had a mercantile store in Friendsville that may have been a successor to Judson Stone's store. According to Stocker's History of Susquehanna County:

Hiram Hosford enlisted as Private Company I, 22nd Regiment of the New York Cavalry.



Civil War (1861-1865)


In 1816 **Samuel Spafford** settled a farm in the next valley west of Stone Street, in Middletown, on the road southwesterly out of Friendsville, today called Foran Rd. His son, **Milton R. Spafford** married Lucy Sheldon and they settled on the adjacent farm south of his father's. They had several children including **Milton L. Spafford**, **Abijah Spafford**, and **Henry C. Spafford** who were all Civil War veterans. Additionally, their cousin, **John W. Spafford**, served in the same war. Most of the Spaffords and some of the Sheldons are buried at Stone Street. They were related by marriage to the Baldwins, and Henry C. Spafford married **Adaline Stone** and lived on the Canfield Stone, Jr. homestead where Courtland Birchard now lives.



Civil War (1861-1865)

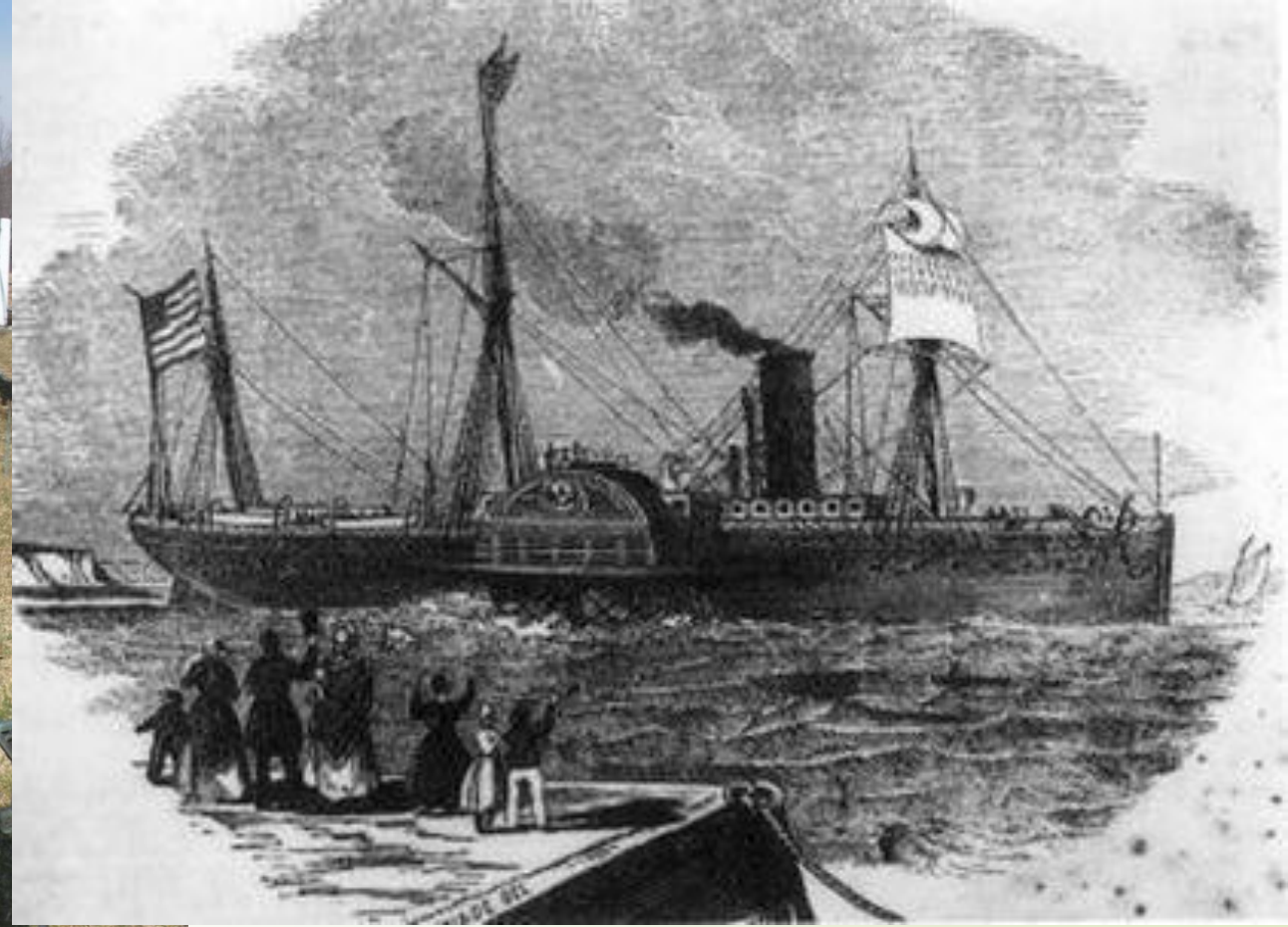
Milton L. Spafford (1838-1863), was living at home in Middletown in 1860 census. His gravestone is a military marker indicating Company D, 50th Regiment, Pa. S.V. He died August 15, 1863.

- None of the Stone Street Veterans died in battle
- Milton's death date made us curious – research followed
- Stocker's History of Susquehanna County has an excellent section on the Civil War
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Milton L. Spafford (1838-1863) His gravestone is a military marker indicating Company D, 50th Regiment, Pa. S.V. He was “discharged on surgeon’s certificate”, but died August 15, 1863. Stocker’s History of Susquehanna County indicates that Spafford was in the initial formation of Dr. G.Z. Dimock’s Company D at Montrose in June 1861. Spafford served 18 months and was involved in several engagements with Confederate forces. Stocker describes Company D’s trip aboard the transport ship *Winfield Scott* in January 1862, which foundered in a storm off Hilton Head, SC. During the long storm, several Union ships were lost. The *Winfield Scott* lost its masts and rudder control, and was taking on water with men tied to the ship to keep from being washed overboard. During the night the troops were told “...man the buckets, man the casks, man the tackles, take the water out of the hold and you shall go ashore. If you don’t take the water out of the hold you are all drowned in less than two hours.” They subsequently lost the ship and swam to the island, rallied, and charged the confederate fort and took control. Milton L. Spafford and another man named McMillan were so overworked during the episode that they were discharged by the company surgeon, and went home to Pennsylvania and both died, Milton L. being buried at Stone Street.

(gravestone and ship Winfield Scott shown on next slide)



Civil War (1861-1865)

Abijah Spafford (1840-1882), Milton's younger brother also served in the Civil War, but enlisted in Company G, 5th New York Cavalry, serving under General Phil Sheridan. He re-enlisted and was a 2nd-lieutenant at the end of the war. He returned to farming in Middletown, married Annie Strange, but died in 1882.

Henry C. Spafford (1844-1933), was Milton's and Abijah's younger brother. According to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Biographical Record, Henry enlisted in Company H, 22nd New York Volunteer Cavalry, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and served under Gen. Phil Sheridan until the end of the War in about 1865. In 1869 Henry married Adaline C. Stone and they established their household on the farm of Adaline Stone's parents, James E. Stone and Amarillus Beebe, on Stone Street.



Civil War (1861-1865)

John W. Spafford (1846-1920), was believed to be a cousin of Milton L., Abijah, and Henry C. Spafford, and he also lived in Middletown Township. His military enlistment was in Company G, 5th Wisconsin Volunteers, but we are not clear why he was in a Wisconsin unit, but buried many years later at Stone Street. Gravestone indicates:

" PP.VT.Co.G.5.Wis."

Vilroy (Villa) E. Cobb (1856-1940) was the son of Prudence and Elmer Cobb of Cobb Hill Rd. His gravestone always has a veteran's flag, but we are unsure of his service. Villa would seem to have been too young for the Civil War and probably too old for WW1. We have been unable to locate further information.



WWII (1941-1945)

C. Peter Austin (1922-2007) was the husband of Jane (Handrick) Austin, longtime Stone Reunion member. In 1942 he enlisted in the all-volunteer 10th Mountain Division, the U.S. Army's ski/mountain troops in World War II. He served as Division Operations Sgt. G-3 section, Division HQ, with combat in Italy, and was awarded two Bronze Stars and the Combat Infantry Badge. Peter's gravestone has a bronze plaque with crossed skis and is inscribed 10th Mountain Division, World War II.

Jack Handrick (1915-1998) was the brother of Dick Handrick, Ruth Furman, and Jane Austin and a longtime Stone Reunion member. Jack served in the US Army-Air Force from 7/9/1943-2/4/1946. He was a Staff Sergeant serving at several east coast air bases handling financial records. His grave has a bronze military marker.



Although we may not have covered all the Veterans in detail in this program, The entire program is available as a .pdf file on the Reunion website at:

www.stonefamilyreunion.com

End of program