

THE VIVANDIÈRE

Newsletter of Kady Brownell Tent #36 DUVCW http://sites.google.com/site/kadybrownelltent36duvcw/home

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we welcome a new year I hope it's filled with wonderful things for everyone especially for our Tent as it celebrates its 100th birthday in June.

Looking back on 2017, I'd like to commend our



Gettysburg on Remembrance Weekend this year featured torrential rain. Even so, I found it to be a great experience and a special place to meet up with old friends.

been involved with for some time.

We continue to be involved with our national cemeteries and VA medical centers in the downstate area. This year we also sponsored a military family for holiday gift-giving and supported the Honor Flight. We participated in St. Thomas Church's Remembrance Sunday service with a new tent banner, thanks to the generosity of tent member Zoe Stolbun.

We look forward to marking another centennial soon—the passing of the 19th Amendment, an event in which New York was prominently featured. As an organiza-

tion of women, more than ever we look to women of the past who exhibited such strength. We draw on their courage to inform us in the present.

We can be proud not only of our Civil War ancestors, but of all the women who toiled anonymously in that war effort. No longer reduced to a subordinate role, these women are now propelled to the forefront. We honor them for their equal contribution to our Nation's legacy of liberty—a story which continues to be written.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Eileen Sleckman, PDP
President, Kady Brownell Tent #36,
Daughters of Union Veterans of
the Civil War, 1861-1865

TENT #36's NEXT MEETING

is Sunday, **January 21, 1:00 PM,** at Eileen Sleckman's home. RSVP to <u>esleck57@gmail.com</u> or 631-367-7431.

Can't make this meeting?

<u>Visit our website</u> to view our 2018 Meetings & Events Calendar

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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Madeline Denehy

Daniel Gildersleeve, 165th NY Infantry, Co. A

Darlene Neilsen

James G. Jones, USN

Julia Warner

William Buckingham, Luther's Independent Co., PA Infantry Militia



9th CIVIL WAR WEEKEND: Kady Brownell Tent #36 DUVCW met at Islip Grange in Sayville on Sept. 16, 2017 to enjoy this special event. Our Facebook page has more great event photos by tent member Lynn Dean!

THE VIVANDIÈRE NEEDS YOU!

Have you shared your ancestor's service story? Did you recently visit a Civil War battlefield, exhibit or museum? Do you have Civil War links share? Please email your submissions to Kathleen Vermaelen at kpvermaelen@gmail.com.



VETS PLACE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

We brought lunch to veterans at The Veterans Place in Yaphank and then decorated for the holidays on Dec. 1, 2017. Pictured are Kathleen Vermaelen, Tent SVP, & Nancy Powers by the outdoor Christmas tree. Photo by E. Sleckman



Search for "**Kady Brownell Tent #36 DUVCW**," visit the page, and click the **LIKE** button!



2017 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND OFFICER INSTALLATION

Our joint Holiday Luncheon with SUVCW took place on December 10, 2017, at Westbrook Manor in Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Oakdale, New York. We were blessed with a cold-yet-clear sunny day and 44 guests, including DUVCW National President Caren Cleaveland, who installed our Tent Officers for 2018. The joint 50-50 raffle and auction raised \$500 for restoration of the G.A.R. Memorial Statue in Patchogue.

Photo by A. Giaimo



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Zoe Stolbun & Eileen Sleckman carried our tent banner proudly at St. Thomas Church in New York City on November 12.



MONUMENTAL COMPASSION:

"At Fredericksburg Battlefield last August, we came across a monument honoring Confederate soldier Richard Rowland Kirkland, known as "the Angel of Marye's Heights" because he brought water, clothes and blankets to suffering Union and Confederate soldiers who lay wounded on the field following the intense December 1862 battle. It was nice to discover a war monument recognizing a man for his compassion.

Submitted by K. Vermaelen

WORDS OF COMFORT IN TIMES OF CRISIS

by Mary F. Cordato, Ph.D., Historian for American Bible Society, New York Department DUVCW Historian, Tent #36 Secretary & Historian



The Archives of American Bible Society (f. 1816) hold over 200 years of records, most of them paralleling America's growth, history and culture. One of the most interesting collections focusses on the Civil War, and includes hundreds of letters, reports, circulars and accounts written by those on the front lines and in military hospitals and prisons. It also includes Bibles and Testaments once belonging to soldiers on the battlefield.

ABS' work during the Civil War is unique. With the firing on Fort Sumter and the onset of hostilities, men and women from both sides drew upon Scriptures for answers. For those serving and for those left at home, the sacrifices seemed necessary. But was the War moral? Was it part of God's plan for our nation? For the Confederacy, it meant preserving a plantation system which provided stability and justified their owners' well-being. It did this, however, by stripping many of their freedoms. For the North, the War meant accepting two emerging ideologies of the 19th century: capitalism and free labor. Enslavement had no place in their reasoning, as the Union's position was based upon the belief that all men are created equal.

It was against this background that ABS worked to fulfill its mission by responding to those in spiritual need and by granting Bibles and Testaments to both the North and the South. This included the armed forces, prisoners of war and the wounded; civilians; and former slaves. ABS' policy of distributing to the two sides remained consistent throughout the War, though getting Bibles into the Confederacy was far more difficult than distributing them to the Union. Between 1861 and 1865, ABS provided over 3 million Scriptures, but only about a tenth reached the South. Some were allowed to cross the front lines under flags of truce. Others were shipped to local Bible societies (e.g., the Memphis and Shelby County and the Virginia Bible Society) for distribution. Most, however, were intercepted as contraband by the Union Army.

Just how successful was ABS in meeting the needs of so many persons deeply affected by the War? Perhaps the best answers rest in the words of soldiers and other contemporaries who experienced warfare and its atrocities up close and personal. In closing I'd like to share a few of those words from ABS's Archives.

On the Battlefield:

"I can call out the most enthusiastic expression from a hundred or more soldiers by asking them some simple question about their Testaments. Some will clasp their hands & say: 'Oh! Chaplain, you can never know how much comfort I get from that little Book. It is the delight of my soul. I shall cling to it till I die. It tells me of a Savior. It points me to a better world. It gives me joy. It makes me strong. It arms one with patience. It raises my courage." Correspondence, Rev. D. Hebbard, Army Chaplain, to ABS 30 Jan 1862 (Corresponding Secretary's Papers, Army Chaplains).

"In an engagement with the enemy in Northern Missouri a private of Company (6) of our Regiment was undoubtedly saved from being killed by the ball spending its force and lodging in the folds on leaves of his Testament which he was carrying in his breast pocket. It is hardly necessary to add that this circumstance has made a lasting impression on others besides young Powell whose life was thus miraculously preserved. There is already organized a Bible Class about two hundred, in our Regiment, and have no doubt this will increase." Letter, Col. Morgan L. Smith to ABS, 2 Nov [1862]. (William J.R. Taylor, Correspondence, Civil War).

Prison Camps

"I have only one embarrassment—every man wants a Bible. . . . So I have many requests for Bibles, and I know them to be well used, and much read. I am very thankful for the donations you make, and know that we have received our full share so far as your means allow you to donate, but I state these facts that you may know that you can not at any time send us too many Bibles—for among both prisoners and guards there is always a demand." Letter, Depot Prisoners of War to ABS, 20 June 1864 (William J.R. Taylor, Correspondence, Civil War).

Army Hospitals

"One copy was a short time since, eagerly taken by a sick soldier at the Circle Hospital, a Vermont boy, whose interest in perusing the volume was so marked as to attract the notice of those near him. He has since died holding the book in his hands ...". Letter, Dorothy L. Dix to ABS, 15 January 1862 (Corresponding Secretary's Papers, Slavery & Reconstruction).

ABS' military program did not begin nor end with the Civil War. Started in 1817 and continuing to the present, the Society has provided spiritual comfort to military personnel for 200 years. If anyone has questions about this essay please contact me: mcordato@americanbible.org.



Photos from American Bible Society Library & Archives

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Newsletter of Kady Brownell Tent #36 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865

SECRETARY Mary Cordato 82 Garfield St. Garden City, NY 11530-2405

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



MINI-OKTOBERFEST: Tent Chaplain Barbara Ulrich-Giaimo and friends entertained veterans at Castle Point VA Hospital on Oct. 7, 2017



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Linda Feierabend, Tent Patriotic Instructor, assisted with wreaths at Calverton Cemetery on Dec. 16, 2017



FREEDOM TRAIL: "I just returned from the Boston area and walked the freedom trail for the Civil War. This trail was created for the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War and includes the attached photo of a monument to Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment. Shaw and the regiment's story was dramatized in the movie "Glory." The monument is part of the Black Heritage Trail and also includes the Boston African American Museum."

-- Submitted by Bets Radley

REMINDERS & REQUESTS:

DUES ARE DUE! Please contact Laura Congleton, Tent Treasurer, via her contact information on Page 1 if you have not yet paid your tent dues for 2018.

FEMALE VETERANS? If you have a female ancestor who served in the military, please contact Tent Historian Mary Cordato via her contact information on Page 1 so that we may add your ancestor's service story to our tent history.