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A Brief History of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW



The order has an auxiliary called the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1883 as the Ladies Aid Society. Its membership is open to female descendants, ages 12

and older, of members of the SUVCW. It too is dedicated to the principles of "*Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty*," and adopted its present title in 1944. It is open to female descendants of Union veterans, and wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of SUVCW members. Women who do not have the ancestry to qualify for hereditary membership, but who demonstrate a genuine interest in the Civil War and who can subscribe to the purpose and objects of the Auxiliary, may become Associates.

The history of the Auxiliary 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. In 1882, the first session of the Commander-In-Chief, Sons of Veterans was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. 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 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1883 and in the following year was officially recognized as their Auxiliary. Ladies Aid Societies were formed in rapid succession, and in 1886 plans for a National Organization were formed, with the first National Encampment being held in Akron, Ohio, September 1887. At the National Encampment at Boston, Massachusetts in 1894, the name was changed to the Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary, with it eventually becoming known as the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The Auxiliary principles are:

• First, a firm belief and trust in Almighty God and realization that under His benevolent care and guidance the free

institutions of our land, by the assistance and sacrifice of our veterans, have been preserved and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained.

Second, a true allegiance to the government of the United States of America, and a respect for devotion and fidelity to its Constitution and Laws, with a firm opposition of anything that may tend to weaken loyalty, or in any manner impair the efficiency and permanency of our nation.

Purpose and Activities of the Auxiliary:

To Strive to assist the Sons of the Union Veterans in keeping alive the memories of our ancestors and their sacrifices for the maintenance of the Union;

To aid in caring for helpless and disabled Veterans;

To properly observe Memorial Day;

To aid and assist worthy and needy members of our Auxiliary;

To instill true patriotism and love of country;

And to spread and sustain the doctrine of equal rights, universal liberty and justice for all.



The Drummer Boy & the Titanic

by Bro. Terry Dyer

When the RMS Titanic sank on April 15, 1912, it took with it a very interesting veteran of our Civil War. Mr. Francis Davis Millet, was born on November 3, 1846 in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts. At age 17, he accompanied his father into the Civil War, serving as a drummer boy in a Massachusetts regiment and later served as a surgical assistant. After the war he was a brilliant student at Harvard, and later enrolled in the Royal Academy of Fine Arts at Antwerp, Belgium.



Millet's decorative artwork appears in numerous famous public buildings. He also won acclaim as superintendent of decoration at the World's Colombian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893. In 1907 he was the designer of the Civil War Campaign Medal for the Army.

Millet boarded the Titanic at Southampton as a first class passenger, ticket number 13509 and occupied cabin E-38. He was last seen helping women and children into life boats. He died in the sinking, his body was recovered from the sea and was forwarded to Boston and buried at East Bridgewater Cemetery.

? Trivia ?

In addition to being the first ship with a revolving gun turret, the USS Monitor was the also the first to have what other innovation?

Answer: A flush toilet below the waterline.