

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions:
1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012

By Edward Spannaus

On June 23, 2012, twenty descendants of Civil War soldiers who had served in the Independent Loudoun Virginia Rangers, along with spouses, family members, and others, met in Waterford and Lovettsville for a reunion to learn about their ancestors and to honor their service in preserving the Union. This reunion, taking place on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Loudoun Rangers in June 1862, revived a tradition of Loudoun Ranger reunions which had taken place during a 30-year period, from 1890 through 1920.

We know of ten such reunions during the 1890-1920 period, but there may have been others, since on some occasions they were referred to as “annual.” This is what is known about them.

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012*, by Edward Spannaus

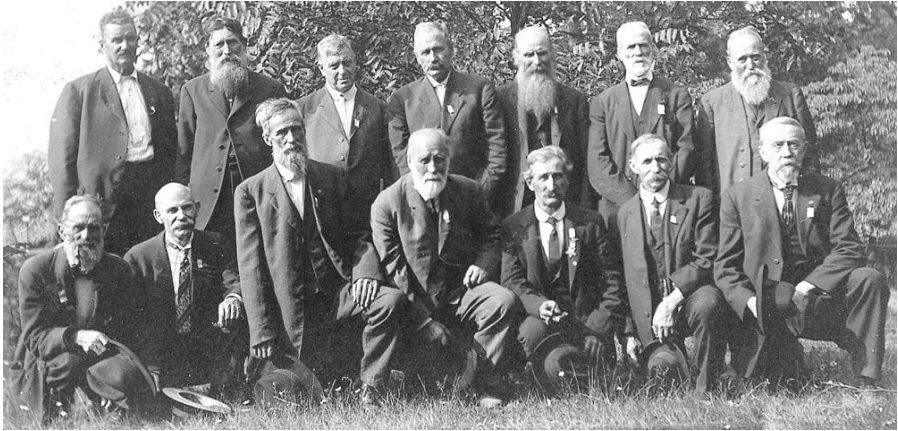


Fig. 1. 1903 Reunion of Loudoun Rangers at Taylorstown (sometimes identified as 1910). Front row, left to right: Charles W. Virts, Briscoe Goodhart, John P. Hickman, Joseph T. Divine, George Davis, Samuel Tritapoe, and Isaac Hough. Back row, left to right: John Densmore, George Wilt, Robert W. Hough, John Davis, John Lenhart, Daniel Harper, and Thomas Harrison. (Photo courtesy of the Waterford Foundation Archives and Local History Collection)

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

1890. The first reunion of Loudoun Rangers was held on Oct. 29, 1890 at Waterford. An article in the *Loudoun Telephone*¹ described this as “One of the most impressive gatherings ever witnessed in this vicinity,” and reported that less than 60 surviving veterans, of the original number of over two hundred, “met, and with outbursts of feeling grasped hands—hands which had not met since under the battle flag, twenty-five years ago.” Several old comrades from the “West”—probably referring to Ohio and Illinois, where many Loudoun Rangers had moved after the War—were in attendance.

“It was a trying ordeal when the original roll of the two companies was called by the surviving sergeant, as the solemn answer ‘dead,’ ‘dead,’ followed three fourths of the names.”

According to the *Telephone* account, Isaac Hough introduced Lt. Luther Slater, for the opening address. Briscoe Goodhart, who six years later was to publish his *History of the Loudoun Rangers*, also spoke; his remarks “awakened old memories of camp and prison life, dwelling on the experience of eighteen of their number, taken to Bell Isle—their hardships, death, and finally, the return of the surviving five.” This was no doubt a reference to those 18 Loudoun Rangers who were captured at Charles Town, West Virginia, on October 18, 1863, and taken to Belle Isle prison in Richmond, where the majority succumbed to the deprivations of prison life.

Also speaking was former Col. Simon E. Chamberlin, who had been a Captain in the 25th New York Cavalry, who also served as Provost

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Marshall at Point of Rocks, Maryland, and who returned to Loudoun County after the War to marry Edie Matthews of Waterford.² The Taylorstown Band played while the old comrades partook of “rations” – and then gathered around a “camp fire” in the evening for reminiscence and song.

This being Loudoun County, a reunion of the Loudoun Rangers did not pass unnoticed. A letter attacking and ridiculing the Loudoun Rangers was published in the *Loudoun Enterprise* on Sept. 5. While no copy of that letter has been found, a response to it by former Private Isaac Hough was published in the *Loudoun Telephone* ten days later, after the *Enterprise* had declined to publish it.³ Hough quotes the earlier letter as charging that “The whole affair was gotten up so quietly, that only a few people in the county knew anything about either their meeting or their glory, until both had passed.” Hough pointed out that, “Judging from the crowd of people who attended on the 29th, I think it gives the black mark to the above statement of yours. I can honestly say it surpassed our expectations in numbers, and, as yet, I have heard no one complaining excepting yourself.” Hough tells the unhappy letter-writer that “we wish, with all our heart, that you had loyalty enough for the old flag, squeezed into some remote corner of your poor, narrow, stunted, shriveled, little heart, that the few ex-union soldiers might meet and shake hands after the lapse of twenty-five years” without being subjected to such venomous attacks.

The original letter-writer seems to have labeled the Loudoun Rangers as “cowards,” “thieves,” “rascals,” etc. and accused them of all manner of wrong-doing. In his reply, Hough acknowledged that many things were done “under excitement and

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

indignation,” that many deeds seemed justified at the time, but would not been seen so 25 years later. “Border warfare teems with a strife foreign to a regular campaign with thoroughly disciplined troops,” Hough wrote, while also asking whether the soldiers on the other side can say “that they never did any wrong?” Hough appears to have been especially angered by the antagonist’s attacks on Captain Sam Means, the first commanding officer of the Loudoun Rangers, who had passed away six years earlier.

1891. A year later, there was a meeting of eight Loudoun Rangers in Waterford on October 24, 1891, which created an “Association of the Loudoun Rangers.” The officers elected were: President, Joseph T. Divine of Waterford; Vice-President, Milton S. Gregg of Zanesville, Ohio; Secretary, Isaac S. Hough of Waterford; and Treasurer, Robert Graham of Waterford. The Executive Committee consisted of: Briscoe Goodhart, then of Knoxville, Tennessee; Luther W. Slater of Washington, D.C.; George H.C. Hickman of Point of Rocks; George Monday of Waterford; Robert W. Hough of Washington; Daniel J. Harper of Washington; and Jacob Boyer [Boryer] of Lovettsville.

Others present at the Waterford meeting were: John Dinsmore, Edward White, Charles Virts, and Charles Moreland.⁴

1892. What was billed as the “Second Re-Union of the Survivors of the Loudoun Rangers” was held in Washington City in the District of Columbia on September 21, 1892.⁵ Those scheduled to speak at the Reunion were Luther Slater, Rev. John W. Forsythe, Henry C. Hough, George Kern, and

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Briscoe Goodhart. A notable feature of this reunion is that it was attended by Rachel Means, the widow of the late Capt. Sam Means. An account in the *National Tribune* on Oct. 13, 1892 reported:

Through the kindness and courtesy of Lieut. Slater, of Washington, D. C, the Loudoun Rangers of Virginia met and built their first campfire upon the hearth of his palatial mansion, a camping-ground that far surpassed any they ever had during the war or since. There they met their old Captain's (Means) widow. Her kindness and sympathy manifested was very dear to the boys; all of them in the hour of trial, danger, and sickness, found through her sympathy, encouragement, and comfort. May her life be one of peace and happiness. Lieut. Slater, who served with them until disabled at Waterford, Va., gave the boys of the old command a welcome that brought to their eyes tears, to the inner-man comfort, and his and family's regard and love. They met there Capt. Grubb, of Co. B, and he entertained them with a talk characteristic of the Captain, one that was appreciated by all. Others gave experiences, and, on the whole, this Reunion will always be remembered by the boys as the best Reunion.⁶

By this time, Briscoe Goodhart was already engaged in gathering material for his *History of the Loudoun Rangers*. Goodhart, then in the printing business in Knoxville, Tennessee, was attempting to obtain access to War Department records, particularly the muster rolls for Companies A and B. On Feb. 27, 1892, Major Fred Ainsworth, the head of the Records and Pension Division of the War Department, sent a letter to Rep. John C. Houk (R-

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Tenn.) who was seeking to assist Goodhart; Ainsworth told Congressman Houk that, under a War Department order, he was unable to assist Goodhart “at the present time.”⁷

The Association of the Loudoun Rangers appointed a committee consisting of Milton Gregg, Luther Slater, and Daniel Harper, to review Goodhart’s manuscript. On April 18, 1895, the three of them sent a letter to the Association’s president, Joseph Divine, reporting that they had reviewed the manuscript and approved it. They recommended that the “Rangers” and their friends secure the greatest possible circulation of the book,⁸ which was published in the Spring of 1896.

1902. It was another ten years before the next documented reunion was held, which took place during the 36th National Encampment of the GAR⁹ in Washington, D.C., Oct. 9-10. The Loudoun Rangers met at the headquarters tent of the Eighth Corps, according to a report in the *National Tribune*,¹⁰ “where some of them met for the first time since the war and grasped the hand in a most hearty greeting such only as the old soldier can whose ties of welcome were welded in the furnace of war.” They then went to Briscoe Goodhart’s residence, where “touching and patriotic addresses” were made by Joseph Divine, George H. Hickman, R. W. Hough, Daniel J. Harper, John P. Hickman, George V. Kern, Charles W. Virts, Mahlon Best, and Milton S. Gregg. The following officers were elected: Milton Gregg of Zanesville, Ohio, as President; R. W. Hough of Washington, D. C. as First Vice President; D. J. Harper of Washington, D. C., as Second Vice President; Briscoe Goodhart of Washington, D. C. as Secretary; and George H. Hickman, of Point of

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Rocks, Md. as Treasurer. The Executive Committee consisted of: Joseph Divine, James H. Beatty, Charles W. Virts, John P. Hickman, and Mahlon Best.

1903. The 1903 reunion was held in Taylorstown. At least fourteen surviving Rangers attended and were photographed (see photo p. xx).¹¹ No account of that meeting has been found.

1910. This reunion, organized by Joseph Divine and held at Moore's Woods in Waterford on September 17, 1910 was "largely attended," and was called to order by D.J. Harper, who acted as master of ceremonies, according to an account in the *National Tribune*.¹² After an invocation by Rev. Dr. Gray of the Methodist Episcopal Church, an address of welcome was presented, for the first time, by a veteran of Mosby's Rangers, "Dick" Vandevanter, "who gave the boys in blue a most cordial greeting, which was responded to by D.J. Harper." After dinner, according to the *Tribune* account, "Briscoe Goodhart delivered an address on what the Confederacy represented and some of its monarchical tendencies and its connection with the Maximillian Government of Mexico," – an astute observation by Goodhart, and a story which is unknown to most Americans today.¹³

Then, after a recitation by Miss Edmonta House, Rev. Dr. J.N. Perryman of the Presbyterian Church gave an address in which he urged that "a loyal defender of the Flag should be a loyal defender of the Cross of Christ." Earlier, another address had been delivered by Rev. Dr. Leytle of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Shepherdstown, W. Va. After all this, Dick Vandevanter, apparently not put off by


Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Goodhart's remarks, then "enlivened the audience again with some laughable anecdotes."

"Many of the survivors of the Loudoun Rangers, with silvered locks and leaning upon a staff, gave a hearty handshake that only those who were present could appreciate," said the *Tribune* report, which concluded: "Much of the success of the reunion was due to the untiring labors of J. T. Divine, Chairman of the local committee and his accomplished daughter, Miss Clara."¹⁴

1912. The largest Ranger reunion ever held, was "The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Muster of Companies A and B Loudoun, Va. Rangers," which took place on August 24, 1912, in Taylorstown. The officers of the reunion, probably the officers of the Association of Loudoun Rangers, were Joseph Divine of Waterford, chairman; John M. Davis of Doubs, Md., Vice Chairman; and Briscoe Goodhart of Washington, D.C., Secretary. This reunion was attended by "fully five hundred persons including many ex-Confederates,"¹⁵ according to a contemporary newspaper article, which reported as follows:

**Section Four Articles: Loudoun Ranger
Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus**



**Fiftieth Anniversary
Celebration**
OF
**Muster of Companies A and B
Loudoun, Va. Rangers**
INTO THE
United States Volunteer Service, 1862-1865.

THE Fiftieth Anniversary of the Muster of Companies
A and B will be celebrated:

Saturday August 24, 1912.
At Taylorstown, Loudon County, Va.

It is the cherished hope that this will be the most enjoy-
able re-union ever held by this command.

The survivors of Companies A and B and their friends
are most urgently requested to be present at this Jubilee
Anniversary.

JOSEPH T. DIVINE, *Chairman*. Waterford, Va.
JOHN M. DAVIS, *Vice Chairman*. Doubs, Md.
BRISCOE GOODHART, *Secretary*. 636 L St., N. E.,
Washington, D. C.

Please notify the chairman of your intention to be present.

*Fig. 1 Advertisement for the 50th Anniversary
ReAdvertisement for the 50th Anniversary Reunion held
in 1912. (Courtesy Mary Kirk Goodhart Cunningham and
the Goodhart family.)*

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Sergt. Joseph T. Divine called the roll and fourteen survivors responded. Robert W. Hough eulogized those who died since the last reunion, held at Waterford two years ago, namely, Jas. H. Beatty, Jonathan Myers, Chas. E. Curry, Geo. H. Hickman, Wm. Hardy, Thos. Harrison and Geo. W. Baker.

Miss Ayers sang "Tenting To-night on the Old Camp Ground."

The Choir sang "When the Last Roll is Called I Will be There."

Rev. Dr. Weidey, of Washington, D.C., delivered an address of Lieut. Luther W. Slater that was a rare treat for those present.¹⁶ Other addresses were presented by Daniel J. Harper, Edward C. Nichols, and Rev. Showaker.

The following were elected officers: John H. Dinsmore [John S. Densmore], President; Isaac S. Hough, First Vice-President; John M. Davis, 2nd Vice-President; Briscoe Goodhart, Secretary; John P. Hickman, Quartermaster.

Trustees: Samuel E. Tritapoe, R.W. Hough, Joseph Divine.

The Taylorstown Band furnished music.

1913. The next reunion was held in Taylorstown on August 30, 1913, in Taylorstown. The president was listed as John S. Densmore, and Briscoe Goodhart was listed as secretary.¹⁷ No further account has been located.

1915. What was called "the Sixth Reunion of the Loudoun Rangers, 3d West Virginia Cavalry"¹⁸ (but which actually seems to have been at least the eighth such reunion), was held in Washington, D.C.

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

on the evening of Sept. 28, 1915, at the home of Briscoe Goodhart.¹⁹ Robert W. Hough was listed as President, and Briscoe Goodhart as Secretary. It was held in conjunction with the National Encampment of the GAR, convened in Washington, D.C. from Sept. 27 to Oct. 2.

Included in the announcement was this little ditty:

*With bray of the trumpet
And roll of the drum
And keen ring of bugle
The Cavalry come.*

An account of the reunion was published in the *Frederick Post*,²⁰ as follows:

One of the features of the GAR reunion in Washington last week which will be remembered by the veterans, was the reunion, of survivors of the Loudoun Rangers, the Third West Virginia Cavalry, which was held at the residence of Briscoe Goodhart, 52 S Street, N.W., last Tuesday evening. The meeting was called together by Mr. R.W. Hough and the address of welcome was by Mr. Goodhart. Mr. Hough then read a paper telling where the living rangers located after the war and where the dead comrades were buried.

Addresses were made by S.E. Tritapoe, M.H. Best, R.W. Hough and L.N. Hough. New officers were elected as follows: President, S.E. Tritapoe; first vice-president, W.J. Gove [probably Gore]; second vice-president; J.P. Hickman; secretary, Briscoe Goodhart; treasurer, Joseph T. Divine; Trustees: Ridgely Moore, Mathias Spong, C.W. Virts.

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Musical selections were rendered by Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Schooley. Mr. Nelson R. Moyer, accompanied by Mrs. William Winifred Geiger, rendered selections on the flute. Those present from Company A were: Joseph T. Divine, R.W. Hough, John P. Hickman, M.H. Best, S.E. Tritapoe, D.J. Harper, Charles W. Virts, Briscoe Goodhart. Members of Company B who were present were: Mathias Spong, Ridgely Moore, William J. Grove [Gore]. The guests of the veterans were: John S. Densmore, Miss Gracie S. Homer, Miss Isabel Mooreland, Mrs. Luther Goodhart, Mrs. Mary Trundle, Miss Florence Paxon, Herbert Divine, Miss Grace M. Goodhart, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Schooley, Nelson P. Moyer, and Mrs. William Winifred Geiger. A bountiful dinner followed the meeting.

1919. This reunion, held on August 27, 1919, was timed for what was billed as “The 57th Anniversary of their baptism of fire,” referring back to the August 27, 1862 fight at the Waterford Baptist Church. The announcement was signed by Samuel E. Tritapoe, President, and Briscoe Goodhart, Secretary.²¹ The reunion was held at the home of Joseph Divine in Waterford. No further report of this event is available.

1920. The last reunion of which we have any knowledge, was held at the home of George W. Hough on the farm “Fair Prospects” near Boyds, in Montgomery County, Maryland, on Sept. 4, 1920. According to an unidentified newspaper article,²² the reunion was held at George Hough’s farm in honor of his father, Joseph F. Hough, and his grandfather, William Hough, who both served in Co. A of the Loudoun Rangers. The account says the

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

forenoon was spent in reminiscences, after which a sumptuous dinner was served. The story continues:

When the inner man was supplied all were summoned to the front porch where the president, S.E. Tritapoe, called the audience to order. Other Front Porches have been conspicuous in the public eye, but none of them have anything on Mr. Hough's front porch when it comes to a show-down for enthusiasm and key note patriotism, and one hundred per cent loyalty to the American Flag.

Addresses were made by Geo. W. Hough, R.W. Hough, Rev. Wm. Pierpont (Methodist Church [Waterford]), Mrs. Pierpont, S.E. Tritapoe, and Briscoe Goodhart.

In addition to the speakers, those present were Joseph T. Divine, Miss Clara Divine, Mrs. George W. Hough, John Leonart, George Everhart, Francis Everhart, Mrs. Frank Fry, Chas. W. Virts, and Miss Kathryn Moore. From this account, we can derive that six surviving Rangers were present for this, the last known reunion of survivors. These veterans, and the years in which they died, were Briscoe Goodhart (1927), John Leonhart/Lenheart (1927), Robert W. Hough (1928), Samuel Tritapoe (1930), Joseph Divine (1933), and Charles W. Virts (1940).

From the research on the Loudoun Rangers military service and pension records conducted by Lee Stone,²³ we know of 32 Rangers who were still alive at the time of the September 1920 reunion. There were undoubtedly others, for whom we do not have records. Ten years later, in 1930, those known to have still been living were:

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

- Milton S. Gregg (Co. A, living in Ohio, died 1930)
- John S. Orrison (Co. B, living in Maryland, died 1930)
- Samuel Tritapoe (Co. A, living in Maryland, 1930)
- Richard H. Wallace (Co. B, living in Missouri, died 1931)
- Joseph Divine (Co. A, living in Virginia, died 1933)
- Charles W. Virts (Co. A, living in Virginia, died 1940)

By the time the last of the surviving Loudoun Rangers, Charles Virts, died in 1940, a number of those who attended the 2012 Reunion of Loudoun Ranger Descendants, had already been born.

The 2012 Reunion of Loudoun Ranger Descendants

Organizing for a Reunion of Descendants of the Independent Loudoun Rangers began in early 2012,²⁴ and the first meeting of the organizing committee was held on February 4, 2012, at the house in Waterford once owned by Capt. Samuel Means. Two descendants, Michael Virts of Fredericksburg, Va., and Forrest Hough of Dickerson, Md., were part of the organizing committee as constituted in February. At this meeting, plans were made for contacting descendants and for seeking sponsorships from appropriate organizations.²⁵ It was decided to hold the Reunion partly in Waterford and partly in Lovettsville – the two principal towns in the area from which the Loudoun Rangers were originally recruited. (As the Civil War progressed, members of the Loudoun Rangers were also recruited from

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

adjacent counties in Maryland and in what became West Virginia.)

Apart from the logistics of organizing the event itself, the most time-consuming element was the identification and location of descendants. Even for the original Company "A," many, perhaps a majority, had left the Loudoun County area after the Civil War, in part due to the deep hostility toward them in a predominantly secessionist county and state. By early 1866, secessionists (then known as "conservatives") were in control of both the county and state governments,²⁶ and many of the Loudoun Rangers left for Maryland and West Virginia, or for Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, and other parts of the country.

With diligent work by two descendants, Linda Childress Keeler (Lt. Edwin Gover) and Jennifer Snoots (Pvt. Charles Snoots), about 65 direct or collateral descendants were located. Research by Lee Stone and others shows the total roster of Loudoun Rangers appears to be about 260. Of these, only 130 were present for muster-out on May 31, 1865 at Bolivar, W.Va. The Loudoun Rangers' casualty rate was higher than average: about 30 per cent overall, and 40 per cent for Company "A." Twenty Loudoun Rangers died in Confederate prison camps, and an additional thirty were killed or died during their wartime service.

Of those descendants who were located, about 20 were able to attend the Reunion, either in part, or for the entire event on June 23, coming from as far away as Ohio, Illinois, and Florida. Others came from Pennsylvania and Delaware, and of course Maryland and Virginia. These 20 descendants represented about 30 Loudoun Ranger officers and

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

soldiers. With spouses and other family members, plus staff and volunteers, the total participation in the Reunion was about 75 persons.

The daytime portion of the Reunion took place in Waterford, where the group viewed a demonstration of cavalry tactics by the Loudoun Ranger Re-enactors, based in Culpeper, Virginia. They also visited Waterford Union Cemetery (where 15 Loudoun Rangers are buried), heard a talk by Lee Stone at Waterford Baptist Church, on the fight which took place there on August 27, 1862, and enjoyed a guided walking tour of Waterford, including the Sam Means house and mill.

In the evening, the descendants and about 30 invited guests participated in a reception and dinner at WeatherLea Farm near Lovettsville. Retiring Lovettsville Mayor Elaine Walker welcomed the group in opening remarks: greetings were also circulated from Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell, Congressman Frank Wolf, Delegate Joe May, and Supervisor Geary Higgins; Higgins provided a lithograph of his ancestor, Union General John W. Geary, for display. Pamela Lane Baldwin and Malcolm Forbes Baldwin, the proprietors of WeatherLea Farm, gave their own warm welcome to the participants, and express their own happiness in hosting the reunion, referring back their own ancestors who had fought for the Union. (Mrs. Baldwin is the great-great-granddaughter of Col. Philander P. Lane of the 11th Ohio Volunteer Infantry).

Michael Virts, a descendant and member of the planning committee, welcomed the descendants and urged them to join with him in forming a

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

permanent Association of Loudoun Ranger Descendants. A special feature was remarks by Jeffrey Burden of Richmond, the national Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) and by Kevin Martin, speaking on behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). They described the origins of these organizations: MOLLUS having been formed by Union officers in response to the assassination of President Lincoln, and the SUVCW being the successor to the largest Civil War veterans' organization, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Both urged the descendants to keep the story of their relatives' service and devotion in preserving the Union, alive and vibrant in the national memory.

Those descendants, including family members, who were able to attend, left with a renewed understanding of the patriotism, courage, and sacrifices of their soldier-ancestors, and a commitment to carrying their memory forward. Those descendants who were unable to attend, for reasons of health, distance, or other commitments, have received the program materials, and all have been kept informed of subsequent developments concerning this unique band of Loudoun County-centered soldiers and patriots.

Table 1: Loudoun Rangers whose descendants attended the 2012 Reunion:

KEYES, Capt. Daniel M.
SLATER, 1st Lt. Luther W
GOVER, 1st Lt. Edwin R.
KERNS, Cpl. George V.
TRITAPOE, Cpl. Samuel C.

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger
Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

ALLEN, George H.
ALLEN, Jacob
BACHUS, George W
BAKER, Charles T.
BAKER, George William
BOND, Edward
BULL, William McCauley
DAVIS, John M.
DAVIS, Presley A
FORSYTH, William Jackson
FOUCH, Henry C.
FOUCH, Temple
FOUCH, Thomas
FRYE, Leonard
GOODHART, Briscoe
HOUGH, Isaac S.
HOUGH, Joseph G.
HOUGH, William
MONDAY, George
MOSE, Alfred
MYERS, Jonathan
SHOEMAKER, William
VIRTS, Charles W.
VIRTS, John W.
VIRTS, Richard A.
WILT, George M.L.

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012*, by Edward Spannaus



Fig. 2. Descendants of Loudoun Rangers and spouses, at the 150th Reunion, June 23, 2012, at WeatherLea Farm in Lovettsville. Photo, courtesy of Nancy J. Olds

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Endnotes:

1 "The Boys in Blue: Reunion of the Loudoun Rangers," *Loudoun Telephone*, Sept. 5, 1890.

2 Col. Chamberlin, also active in the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic, the Union veterans' organization) and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS, the Union officers' association), was the great-grandfather of Taylor M. Chamberlin of Waterford and Hillsboro.

3 "A Rangers Reply," *Loudoun Telephone*, Sept. 19, 1890.

4 Handwritten account of Oct. 24, 1891 meeting from files of Civil War historian John Divine, provided courtesy of John and Bronwen Souders.

5 Printed announcement for "The Second Re-Union of the Survivors of the LOUDOUN RANGERS," provided by Mary Kirk Goodhart Cunningham.

6 *National Tribune*, Oct. 13, 1892. (The National Tribune was the newspaper of the GAR and Civil War veterans, and over the years it evolved into today's *Stars and Stripes*.)

7 Ainsworth letter to John C. Houk, M.C., Feb. 27, 1892, Samuel Means Volunteer Service file, NARA.

8 The committee's letter to Divine is published as Appendix 4 in the reprint of Goodhart's *History of the Loudoun Rangers* (Washington: McGill & Wallace, 1896).

9 Many of the Loudoun Rangers were active in the GAR. Luther Slater is the only Loudoun Ranger officer known to have been a member ("original companion") of MOLLUS.

10 "Loudoun Rangers Reunion at National Encampment," *National Tribune*, Nov. 6, 1902.

11 The photograph and caption for the 1903 reunion, are contained in the 1985 reprint of Goodhart's *History of the Loudoun Rangers*.

12 *National Tribune*, October 6, 1910, p. 3. See also *Washington Evening Star*, September 19, 1910, p. 18.

13 The Hapsburg Prince Maximillian was installed as a puppet emperor of Mexico by Napoleon III of France,

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012*, by Edward Spannaus

with British backing, in 1862, overthrowing the republic headed by Benito Juarez. France's short-term objective was for Mexico – which had been a republic for 40 years – to establish trade with the Confederacy, including supplying Confederate forces. The long-term strategy of Napoleon and the Hapsburgs was for the Confederate States of America to become part of a French-Hapsburg empire in Central and South America. The British monarchy of course also supported the Confederacy, but was compelled to be more cautious, both because of English working-class support for Lincoln and the Union, and because of fear that if the British openly allied themselves with the CSA, the U.S. would invade and seize Canada.

If Briscoe Goodhart were alive today, he might well have joined the delegation of descendants of Union soldiers and officers who travelled to Puebla, Mexico on May 5, 2012, to participate in the 150th Anniversary celebration of the Battle of Puebla. There is a direct line from the defeat of the forces of Napoleon III on the Cinco de Mayo in 1862 by Juarez's forces at Puebla, and the Union victory at Gettysburg 14 months later, in that the setback at Puebla delayed France's program to deliver arms to the Confederacy. This is discussed in the Spring 2012 issue of the *Military Order of the Loyal Legion Historical Journal*. See also the report on MOLLUS and SUVCW (Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War) participation in the 150th Anniversary of Cinco de Mayo, published in the Summer 2012 issue of the *Historical Journal*. Both issues are accessible at www.suvcw.org/mollus/mollus.htm.

14 "Loudoun County Rangers," *National Tribune*, Oct. 6, 1910, p. 3. In this article, Harper is called "Captain," and Vandevanter is called "Major," although neither held that rank during their Civil War service.

15 Unidentified newspaper article reprinted in the 1985 reprint of Goodhart's *History of the Loudoun Rangers*; copy of original article provided by Mary Kirk Goodhart Cunningham. A shorter account of this reunion was printed in the Washington *Evening Star*, August 29, 1912, p. 20.

Bulletin of Loudoun County History, 2020/21 Edition

Section Four Articles: Loudoun Ranger Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus

16 Dr. John Weidley was the pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill in Washington, a congregation of which Luther Slater was a founder in 1869. Other north Loudoun families represented at Reformation Church included the Hickman and Downey families. The author has tried in vain to locate the remarks by Slater (who had died in 1909), which were delivered posthumously by Dr. Weidley.

17 Announcements were published in the *Frederick (Md.) Daily News* on August 12, 1913, and in the *Frederick News-Post* on August 13, 1913.

18 At various times, including in the winter and spring of 1863, the Loudoun Rangers were considered by some to be detached Company F of the 3rd West Virginia Cavalry. However, the order for the Loudoun Rangers to go to West Virginia and be consolidated with the 3rd W. Va. Cavalry in the Spring of 1864, was what triggered the dismissal of Capt. Samuel Means, the commander of the Loudoun Rangers. The order was later rescinded.

19 Copy of announcement provided by Mary Kirk Goodhart Cunningham.

20 "Loudoun Rangers Hold A Reunion: Gather at the Residence of Briscoe Goodhart in Washington," *Frederick Post*, October 4, 1916. Corrections in spelling and punctuation have been made.

21 Announcement dated July 1, 1919, [source unknown]; *Frederick News-Post*, Aug. 15, 1919.

22 "Reunion of Loudoun County Va., Rangers, 3rd West Va. Cavalry, U.S.V., 1862-65," [unknown source]

23 Lee Stone, *The Independent Loudoun Virginia Rangers: The Roster of Virginia's Only Union Cavalry Unit*. The Waterford Foundation, 2016.

24 The idea of organizing a reunion came up in a November 2011 discussion among Taylor Chamberlin of the Waterford Foundation, Edward Spannaus of the Lovettsville Historical Society, and Lee Stone, author of the above-cited book on the roster of the Loudoun Rangers. Spannaus is an associate companion of MOLLUS, and Stone is active in both MOLLUS and the SUVCW.

25 Sponsoring organizations were the Lovettsville Historical Society; the Waterford Foundation; the Mosby **Bulletin of Loudoun County History**, 2020/21 Edition

Section Four Articles: *Loudoun Ranger
Reunions: 1890-2012, by Edward Spannaus*

Heritage Area Association; Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), both the D.C. Commandery, and the Virginia Commandery; and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), both the Department of the Chesapeake, and the Lincoln-Cushing Camp.

26 *Between Reb and Yank*, pp. 349-354.