Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, October 7:** Scholarship Golf Outing Fundraiser

**Wednesday, October 8:** House Comes Home

**PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARCHIVES**

Room B-4 • Irvis Office Building • Harrisburg, PA 17120

(717) 783-3866 • records@pabmc.net

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**Serving in War and Peace**

The House Archives recently acquired several Memorial Books from the 1870’s to the 1890’s that commemorate the lives of Representatives who passed away during their tenure as Members of the House of Representatives. We found that many of the Representatives serving during these decades had also served in the Civil War, and we charged our Spring 2008 Internship class with researching these Representatives who served both in war and in peace.

The research yielded surprising results, showing the backgrounds of the Representatives to be as eclectic as the people they served. The 380 men we researched served in the House from 1878-1900 and came from eight states. Their education varied from being taught in a log house on the family farm to attending Ivy League colleges, and their professions number more than thirty. Their ages at enlistment ranged from 14 to 44; they held ranks from Private to Brigadier General; and they served in the infantry, cavalry, Navy, and Marines as musicians, chaplains, surgeons, quartermasters, color bearers, and soldiers. They fought in the most critical battles of the war: forty-six were wounded, and twenty were taken prisoner.

To quote the Honorable George Spang of Bedford County, “In the history of every human life there is a lesson which the living, if they will heed, may find instructive.” The following are the histories of four Representatives who served our Nation in war and our Commonwealth in peace.

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**Did you know?**

**The Lieutenant Governor’s Staff Room Used to Be Known as the Ladies’ Lounge**

The lounge was designed by Joseph Huston, the Capitol’s chief architect. He designed it in the French Louis Quinze Style, which was a style known for its flourishes and extreme decoration on every surface. This was the only room in the Capitol designed especially for women. Originally, Huston commissioned Mary Cassatt, an Impressionist artist known for her portrayals of women and mothers, to furnish the room with paintings. However, because of budgetary restraints, he was unable to secure them for the room. He was able to fund Donald MacGregor of Philadelphia to paint a fourteen-foot ceiling mural entitled “Venus and Two Lovers,” which is still the centerpiece of the room. Huston also furnished the room with two large chandeliers, as well as ornamental molding and furniture, drapery, and carpeting in floral patterns, to maintain the Louis Quinze Style. In the 1960’s the room was converted with paintings, however, because of budgetary restraints, he remained ever since.

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**Mystery Photo**

The Archives would like to thank Andrea Faber for suggesting Ed Heftick as the person in our Mystery Photo. There is no deadline for writing in, so if you disagree or just have another suggestion, we would love to hear from you!
Piecing it together

L. James G. Sloan, son of the Reverend James Sloan, was born in Frankfort Springs, Beaver County on January 18, 1841. He was educated at the Honorable J.C. Messinger's Academy, and he graduated from Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania in the summer of 1862. At the age of 23, “at the call of Lincoln he, like so many others, offered his life that one flag, and that our glorious Stars and Stripes, should float forever over a re-united land” (p. 55). He enlisted in Company G of the 140th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment as a Private on August 13, 1862. After mustering in with his regiment in Pittsburgh in September 1862, he fought at the battle of Chancellorsville and was promoted to Corporal on June 1, 1863. He also served at the battles of Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor and was present at the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox. He mustered out with his unit on May 31, 1865 at the close of the Civil War.

Following his military service, he worked for the U.S. Land Office Bureau at the Department of the Interior for four years while studying medicine at Georgetown College. After his graduation in 1869, he began his medical practice in Fayette City. In 1874, he moved to Monongahela City to continue his practice and served as auditor of that city for two terms.

Sloan was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in November of 1896. While in office, he was present at the Hills Capitol Fire on February 2, 1897. Unfortunately, during his service as Representative, an illness which had plagued him for some years took his life on November 2, 1897 at the age of 56. In his Memorial, as it was presented to the House of Representatives on March 7, 1899, it was said of him that “his resolution led him not to fear as a soldier or as a civilian, but his kindness of heart secured him a host of friends. His religion was to love God and to love his neighbor” (p. 50). Researched and Written by David Drumm. Information gathered from Proceedings of the House of Representatives and Obituary Addresses at the Special Memorial Sessions of the House of Representatives Held February 28th and March 7th, 1899. Photograph courtesy of the Pennsylvania State Archives.

In 1880, Stewart was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and served the 16th and 18th Districts of Philadelphia. He had just been elected to his eleventh term shortly before he passed away on December 1, 1900 at the age of 61. During his tenure as a Representative, Stewart served on the Appropriations Committee and the Soldiers’ Orphans’ Commission. At the time of his death, his was the longest term of continuous service.

Stewart was greatly respected by his peers in the Legislature, and during his memorial service, he was respectfully described as “an honest, sagacious, courageous legislator ... [there is] no contemporary member of the General Assembly whose record is fairer, fuller of honor, more efficient than his” (p. 12).


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