

# 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 Loves," 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 into the Lieutenant Governor's staff room, which it has remained ever since.



Photographs courtesy of the Capitol Preservation Committee.

## Mystery Photo



The Archives would like to thank Andrea Faber for suggesting Ed Helfrick 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!

## Upcoming Events

OCTOBER IS ARCHIVES MONTH  
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**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

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# Archives

OCTOBER 2008  
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## PIECING IT TOGETHER

## 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.

David M. Jones was born on April 24, 1838 in Franklin Township of Huntingdon County to Samuel and Elizabeth Jones. In 1851, he moved with his parents to Tyrone and began an apprenticeship in the same work as his father, earthenware manufacturing.

"Prior to the beginning of the war he was a member of Captain James Bell's company of heavy artillery, at Tyrone" (page 13). At the start of the war, this company became Company D of the 3rd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, and Jones served as a corporal for three months' service in 1861. After completing his service, Jones returned home, but "he was not of a temperament to stand by idly and look on," (p. 13) so Jones reenlisted into Company A of the 110th Regiment and served as First Lieutenant, Captain, Major, and Lieutenant Colonel. Jones' service in the 110th began in Harrisburg at Camp Curtin, and he saw much

active service. He faced Stonewall Jackson's forces, was shot in the wrist at Second Bull Run, was taken prisoner at Chancellorsville, and was wounded at Gettysburg, which resulted in the amputation of his left leg.

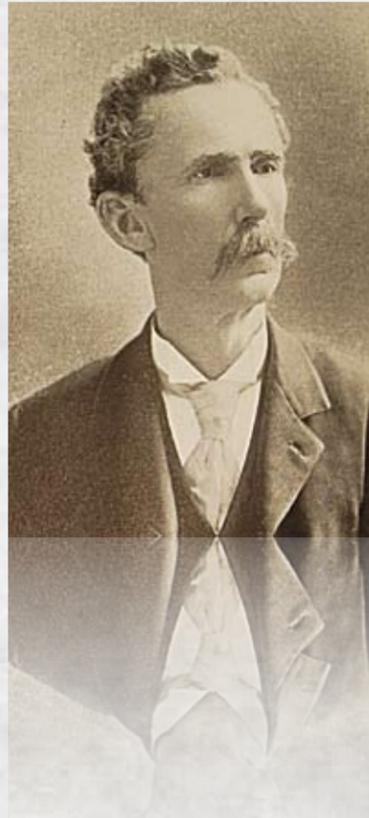
Jones was elected to several positions in Huntingdon County before being elected as a Republican Representative from Blair County in 1877. Jones only served in the House for several months before his death in Colorado in July 1877. Jones travelled to Colorado for medicinal purposes but died only a few days after his arrival. Despite his short career as a legislator, Jones was "a courteous gentleman, a true friend, a safe counsellor, an honorable political opponent" (p. 27). Jones was 39 at the time of his death and was survived by a son of about 12 years of age.

Researched and written by Lisa Burkholder, Photograph and Information gathered from In Memoria: David M. Jones, Harry O'Neill and James Newell.

## David M. Jones



# William Francis Stewart



Affectionately known as “Uncle Billy Stewart” and the “Father of the House,” William Francis Stewart was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania on August 5, 1839. His tragic childhood included the death of both parents by a lightning bolt when he was just three years of age as well as the death of his uncle, who had become his guardian, only six years later. After trying to find employment, he was “finally driven into the streets of Philadelphia” (p. 8). He began working at the “Public Ledger,” and he exhibited in his first employment such qualities of “probity, zeal and industry that he was retained in the same service until his death, and was successively promoted from the lowest office in his department to the highest” (p. 18). He was educated in night schools and studied at home.

During the Civil War, Stewart enlisted in both the 20th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, Company K, and the 213th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, Company K, for a total of over two years of service. He was promoted from the rank of Private to Corporal and finally, to the rank of Lance Sergeant for “gallant conduct at Monocacy Junction.”

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).

*Researched and written by Melanie Bair. Information gathered from Memorial Proceedings of the House of Representatives upon the Deaths of Honorable William Francis Stewart and Honorable Patrick Richard Cotter. Photograph from Portraits and Biographies of the Members of the Legislature of Pennsylvania and the Heads of Departments, Session of 1895.*

# Harry O’Neill



Harry O’Neill was born Stephen Harris O’Neill in Glenlock, Pennsylvania on April 21, 1842, the youngest son of Charles and Esther O’Neill. At the age of 14, he moved to Philadelphia with his parents and began a career as a stone cutter.

During the Civil War, he heard “the call of his country, he hurried to her defense, and went forth to serve as a shield and buckler for her, when the darts of rebellion were aimed at her life” (p. 42). He mustered in as a Private on April 21, 1861 in Company G of Colonel Dare’s Regiment, the 23rd Pennsylvania Volunteers. Later, he entered the 88th Regiment under Colonel McLean and served in Companies D, K, and I. During the Battle at Gettysburg, he was taken prisoner but was subsequently paroled. Unfortunately, while serving in the war, he developed pulmonary consumption disease, described as the “most insidious and most remorseless of all the diseases which prey upon the

human constitution,” (p. 39) by a fellow Representative. He mustered out of his unit June 30, 1865 as a First Lieutenant.

O’Neill was appointed to the Treasury Department of the City of Philadelphia after the war. In 1873, he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to serve the 4th District of Philadelphia. He was subsequently elected in 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1878. In October of 1877, he followed the advice of medical experts and moved to California due to his poor health, but sadly, his health did not improve, and he died of pulmonary consumption on February 4, 1878. O’Neill was remembered by his colleagues, family, and friends as “a true friend, an indulgent and beloved husband, a brave soldier, and an honest man” (p. 40).

*Researched and written by Lidiya Prorochuk. Photograph and Information gathered from In Memoria: David M. Jones, Harry O’Neill and James Newell.*

Dr. 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. Messenger’s Academy, and he graduated from Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania in the summer of 1862.

At the age of 21, “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.*

# James G. Sloan



# Archives



Spring 2008 interns researching Civil War Muster Rolls at the State Archives, from left to right: Ruthanna Kulp, Lisa Burkholder, Lidiya Prorochuk, David Drumm, and Melanie Bair.



National Civil War Museum, from left to right: Melanie Bair, Brett Kelley, Lisa Burkholder, and Lidiya Prorochuk