

Vashon-Maury Veterans

By Bruce Haulman and Terry Donnelly

Vashon-Maury Island has a long and rich history of islanders who have served our country. On Veterans Day it is appropriate to recognize our veterans and to recognize that the Islands have always celebrated its veterans.

Vashon was originally settled by many Civil War veterans, almost all of them veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). In 1889 only 14 islanders came from former Confederate States, while 272 came from Union states. It is not that Southerners as settlers were not welcome, but they were not encouraged either. The chain migration – settlers bringing friends and family along, or sending for them once settled – that made Vashon a haven for Union veterans, also made Darrington, Washington a haven for Confederate veterans.



Vashon GAR, 1895 – Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Museum

The photo of the Civil War Union Veterans, members of the H.G. Sickles, Post 57, Grand Army of the Republic, was taken in 1895. The Post was organized June 14, 1890 with George Fuller as its first Commander. The Post was named for Colonel Horatio G. Sickles, who commanded the Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps 32nd Regiment from Bucks County, Pennsylvania; not the

infamous Major General Daniel Sickles of Gettysburg fame whose shattered leg bones and the cannon ball that struck him are on display at the National Museum of Health and Medicine.

Shown in this photograph are many of the early settlers on Vashon. Back row – Adam Christman, Caleb Barton, Salmon Sherman, J.W. Jacobs, John Markham, Lawrence Christman. Front row – Mark Waterman, Jerome Cutler, Elmer Van Olinda, Adolph Sandrock, James Pruiitt, Daniel Price, George Lindley, Isaac Reese, Moses Snow, Abram Casler, James Mace.



Armistice Day Color Guard, 1938 – Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Museum

The photograph of the Color Guard on Armistice Day November 11, 1938 was taken at Vashon Island Cemetery, and includes left to right John Brink, Harry Janney, Conrad Hoffmeister, and Al Morrison.



Festival Parade Color Guard, 2009 – John Sage

The photograph of the Color Guard in Strawberry Festival Parade was taken in 2009. And includes left to right John Burke, Martin Teachout, Chris Woodley and Phil Mahurin.

We are all proud of and thankful for the Vashon-Maury Island service men and women who have represented our islands.