



CHRONICLE OF THE AZTEC CLUB OF 1847

Military Society of the Mexican War

www.aztecclub.com

Fall, 2002

Our 155th Year

Editor: Rick Breithaupt

John Anthony Quitman

First President of the Aztec Club



John Anthony Quitman (1799-1858) was born at Rhinebeck, NY. After graduating from Hartwick Seminary (Otsego Co., NY) in 1816, Quitman became a tutor in its classical department and later taught at Mount Airy College,

Germantown, PA. In 1819 he moved to Ohio to study law and in 1821 settled in Natchez, MS. A



Birthplace of John A. Quitman

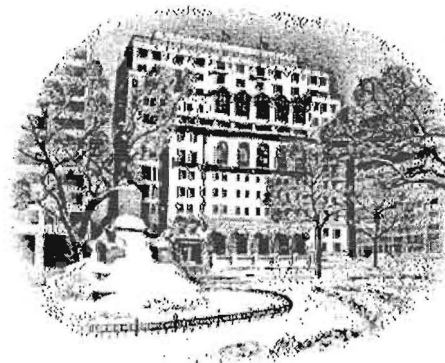
visited by members prior to the Spring Outing

successful planter, Quitman soon developed considerable repute and influence. His magnificent plantation home, Monmouth, today one of America's finest bed and breakfast inns, was the site of the Club's 1998 Spring Outing. Following public service in the legislature, as Chancellor of the Superior Court, President of the Senate and acting Governor, Quitman fought for the independence of Texas in 1836, and was afterwards a Major-General of the Mississippi militia. Commissioned a Brigadier-General of volunteers by President Polk, July 1, 1846, he rendered gallant and noble service during the Mexican War under Generals Taylor and Scott. He was in the Battle of Monterey and marched from Vera Cruz to Mexico City, during which time he was engaged in many daring exploits. On the morning of September 13, 1847 his division assaulted the castle at Chapultepec.

Dashing across the plain carrying the artillery they found on their route, Quitman's troops forced their way up the side of the steep hill on which the ancient fortress was built in the face of destructive fire. Having gained the summit,

ANNUAL MEETING SET Army and Navy Club October 12, 2002

The 155th Annual Meeting of the Aztec Club of 1847 will be held at The Army and Navy Club, 901 17th Street N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006 on Saturday evening, October 12th. The business meeting will commence at 6:00 pm followed by a reception at 7:00 pm and banquet dinner at 7:30 pm. [White tie, black tie, mess dress or uniform, with decorations.] Spouses and invited guests are welcome.



Located at Farragut Square, the Army and Navy Club traces its beginnings to December 1885 when seven officers — all Army, Navy and Marine Corps veterans of the Mexican and Civil wars — met to form the United Service Club. In 1891 the Club was reincorporated as The Army and Navy Club, and on October 15, 1891 the Board of Governors held its first meeting.

The Aztec Club has a tradition of association with the Army and Navy Club that began 90 years ago. Its annual meeting and dinner was held at the original Army & Navy Club building in 1912-1915, 1918, 1919, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1950-1957, 1965 and 2001.

Cost for the dinner is \$50.00 per person. Reservations are required and must be received by the Treasurer on the enclosed form with payment not later than Sept 30th. Checks payable: Aztec Club of 1847.

Quitman - Continued from Column 1

they carried the castle by assault thereby securing the key to Mexico City. In the afternoon of that day, Quitman led his division in an attack on the Belen Gate, which they carried. His troops were the first within the city walls. He received the surrender of the citadel and was appointed by General Winfield Scott civil and military governor of the city: "the only American who ever ruled in the halls of the Montezumas". For his distinguished services in the Mexican War Congress voted him a sword and he received a brevet to Major-General. While Scott assumed responsibility for overall occupation policy, the administrative responsibility for implementing the policy fell on Quitman's shoulders.

During 1856-1858 Quitman served as a member of the 34th Congress and was Chairman of its Military Committee. In February, 1857, while staying at the National Hotel in preparation of Buchanan's inauguration, Quitman became seriously ill. Varying accounts suggest he contracted National Hotel disease, akin to Legionnaire's disease known in recent times. Quitman became seriously ill and never fully recovered. After returning to his home, Monmouth Plantation, he endured months of sickness. Despite his lack of full recovery, he returned to Washington in December, 1857 for the next Congress. Over the next many months his health see-sawed between fair and poor. In early June, 1858 Quitman's health began failing rapidly. Returning home following the close of Congress on June 14, he required assistance to move. He died on July 17th.

Members Elected Since The Last Issue

Curtis Peter Junker
1st Lt. Lorenzo Sitgreaves
Topographical Engineers, USA

Douglas R. Niermeyer
Commo. Robert Field Stockton
Commander, Pacific Squadron, USN

Roy Francis Price
BQ (But. Maj. Gen.) Edmund P. Gaines
USA

Frank A. Tegge
But. Col. Joshua Howard
15th Regiment, USA

Correction:
Llewellyn Morgan Toulmin
Capt. & AQM Harry Toulmin
1st Div., 1st Brigade, USV



The Aztec Club's wreath, standing about 5 feet tall, at the grave of Gen. William J. Worth, an original member.

AZTEC CLUB RETURNS TO MANHATTAN

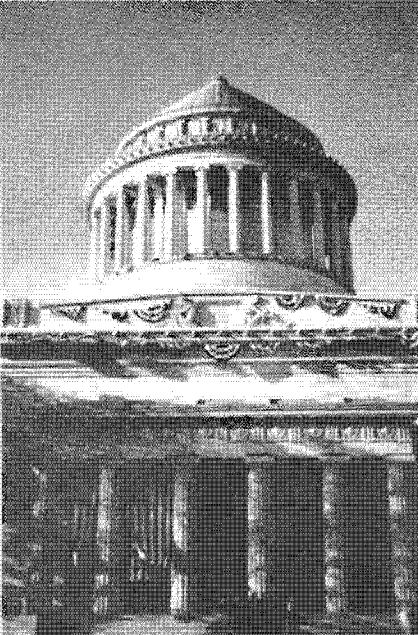
The Aztec Club staged its spring social in New York City over the weekend of May 1-4, 2002, in part commemorating the many significant meetings held there by Club in its formative years, 1867-1900. Members, spouses and guests assembled at the Holiday Inn Wall Street, the Club's headquarters hotel, Wednesday afternoon and traveled together uptown to the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial for a 5 pm ceremony and wreath laying in honor of Gen. Grant, who

died in July, 1885 shortly before assuming duties as the Club's President.

Members of the National Park Service, under the leadership of Christopher Keenan, Supervising Park Ranger, warmly welcomed the Club's arrival. The Memorial was magnificent, both in condition and appearance, specially adorned from its highest reaches with patriotic banners welcoming the arrival of its special guests.

Following a short program, highlighted by an interpretive talk by a member of the Grant Memorial's staff, members toured the facility and viewed its many exhibits. The Club's wreath was placed at the sarcophagi, and a brief prayer spoken for one of America's great heroes who had played an important part in the early development of the Club.

Next on the itinerary was a brief trip down Broadway to the General William Jenkins Worth Monument, located on the triangle formed by intersection of Broadway, 5th Avenue, and 25th Street.



General Ulysses S. Grant Memorial

In the midst of the bustle of Manhattan's rush hour, members remembered Gen. Worth by viewing the monument and placing a wreath which, days later, was still present. Dinner with spouses and guests followed at Café Bondi Ristorante, 7 West 20th Street.

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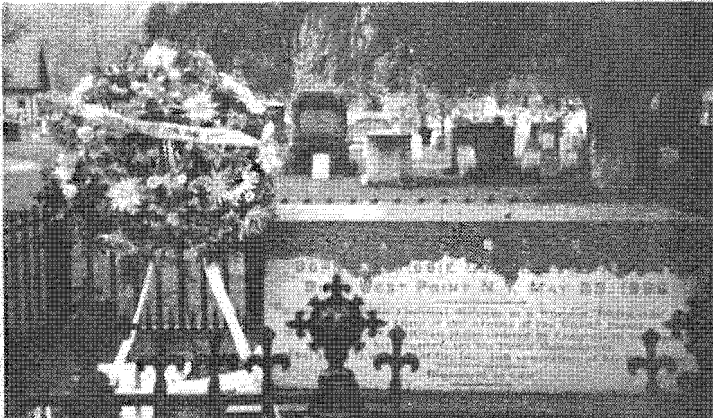
Standing in front of the Gen. Worth Monument and wreath (left) are, left to right: Benjamin B. Williams, C. Lansdowne Hunt, John O'Malley, Raymond L. Drake, Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr., David B. Miller, William F. Price, Jr., John M. Hilliard, Patrick J. Griffin, III, and David L. Whelchel, Jr.

Aztec Club In New York - Continued from Page 2

Thursday, May 2, was a full and exciting day. Meeting in the hotel lobby at 8 am, four participants walked a few "short" Manhattan blocks to Water Street where they boarded a private motor coach for a trip up the Hudson Valley. Narrow streets in the Wall Street District made it impossible for the driver to navigate to the hotel despite several efforts.

It was an overcast, rainy day as the bus made its way north. Arriving at approximately 10:30am, the bus was greeted at the West Point Visitors Center by a private step-on guide who accompanied us onto the grounds. As is now standard procedure, one month prior to arrival the Club provided a manifest with the names of all onboard as security clearance was necessary. All luggage was subject to inspection upon arrival. As the bus approached the gate, an armed sentry boarded the bus to confirm identification and verify its occupants. Because of enhanced security measures, once on the post grounds buses are no longer permitted to stop, except at a single designated area.

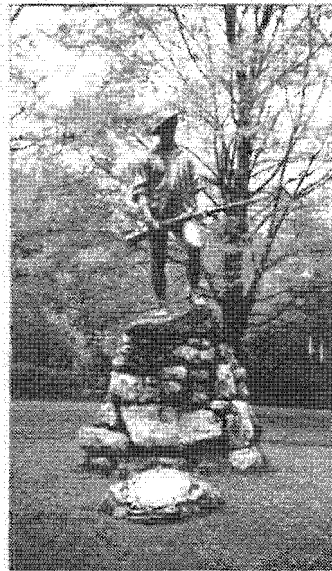
By prior arrangement, Lt. Gen. William J. Lennox, Jr., USA, Superintendent of West Point, granted permission for the Club to visit the Old Chapel and Cemetery, presently off limits to tours. Forty-five minutes was plenty of time to lay a wreath at the grave of Winfield Scott and the impressive mausoleum of Egbert Vieié, former President of the Club, and to visit the Chapel in which the Club's memorial bronze tablet is erected. A visit to the West Point Museum and gift shop rounded out this portion of the trip nicely.



Aztec Club's wreath at the grave of Winfield Scott.



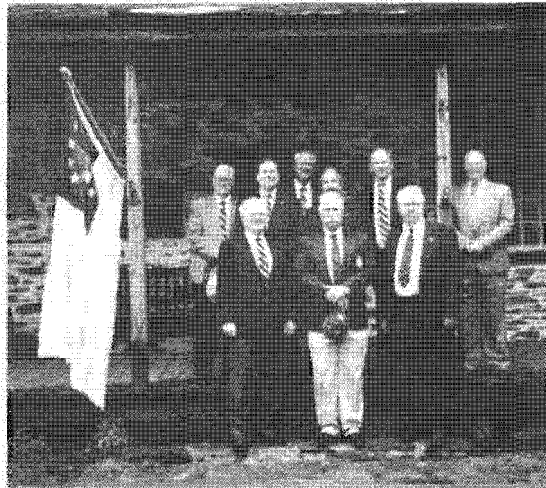
Aztec Club's wreath at the mausoleum of Egbert Vieié.



Next on the itinerary was the short drive to Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh, NY, the place from which George Washington ordered the end of the Revolutionary War. A catered boxed lunch was served in route. The colonial home and museum were very interesting.

At the conclusion of the visit to Newburgh was another short drive to Fishkill, NY and a stop at Mt. Gulian Historic Site, where the Verplanck Homestead, serving as Gen. von Steuben's Revolutionary War Headquarters, was the birthplace of the Society of the Cincinnati. Historically close

ties between the Society and the Aztec Club made this visit all the more important, as today over half of the Aztec Club's members are also members of the Society of the Cincinnati.



At Verplanck House. Front row: William W. Huss, Jr., Raymond L. Drake, David L. Wheelchel, Jr.; second row, l to r: Benjamin B. Williams, Jr., John O'Malley, Jr., David Miller, Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr., C. Lansdowne Hunt and Patrick J. Griffin, III.

After a brief return to the hotel, a black-tie reception and dinner followed in the Council Room of the University Club, the very room where the Club's 1900 Annual Dinner occurred.

After a morning on their own when many viewed "Ground Zero", Friday afternoon members toured the Fraunces Tavern Museum. That evening the Club held a private dinner party in the Fraunces Tavern Restaurant.



Members and guests in the Council Room of the University Club where, in 1900, the Aztec Club's Annual Dinner was held.

The organized program concluded with dinner at a local restaurant Saturday evening. The Club is indebted to John O'Malley and John Hilliard for the assistance they provided in making the Spring Social a success.



Dinner Party at Fraunces Tavern Restaurant



INSIGNIA AVAILABLE

Full Size Medal

Silver, w/Gold Plating	\$ 85.00
Gold Filled*	\$ 90.00
10K Gold	\$ 515.00
14K Gold	\$ 730.00
Bronze, w/ Gold Plating	\$ 40.00
Silver, w/ Gold Plating	\$ 45.00
Gold Filled*	\$ 50.00
10K Gold	\$ 150.00
14K Gold	\$ 180.00

*Recommended for those not ordering 10K or 14K.

Medals are special-order items requiring written authorization from the Club. Prices do not include 7% sales tax or shipping charges. Contact the Treasurer or President for an Authorization Chit.

AVAILABLE FROM THE TREASURER

Blazer Patch	\$ 35.00
Lapel Pin	\$ 45.00
Lapel Pin -- Reproduction of 1880's pin	\$10.00
Tie (four-in-hand)	\$ 35.00

Ties are made of finest silk in Aztec Club colors.

SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY AVAILABLE

Sesquicentennial History \$ 89.95 + \$10 .00 shipping

Printed on acid-free paper, hardbound, with gold foil embossing and handsome dust jacket. 1505 pages. ISBN: 1886085056.

Order the Sesquicentennial History at:
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Box 8454, Universal City, CA 91618-8454



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Hon. Richard Bender Abell

Founded by the Officers of the U. S. Army
Mexico City -- October 13, 1847