

August 11, 2020

## A Souvenir of the Spanish American War

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, J. Gleim, Museum Curator)

This embroidered cloth bears the name of men who served in the 10th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (PVI) during the Spanish-American War.



Photo of cloth banner, 78.143.2020

In early November 1898, the troopship “Arizona” anchored in Honolulu, Hawaii for a stopover on its way to Manila, P.I. The “Arizona” was carrying volunteer soldiers from the 10th PVI intended as replacements. The 10th PVI had been mustered into federal service at Mount Gretna, Pennsylvania on May 11 and 12, 1898 and had been fighting in the Philippines since July. They had participated in the battle of Malate July 31-August 1 and in the advance on and capture of Manila August 13.

The soldiers were taken ashore and established a temporary camp at Kapiolani Park and were granted shore leave for sightseeing and visiting. Many of them were entertained by the local civilians. One of these soldiers was Dale Jolliffe of Charleroi, Pennsylvania. Jolliffe and others were hospitably entertained at the home of Mrs. Martha Ganzel.

After breaking camp and returning aboard ship, Jolliffe, to show his appreciation for the kind and courteous treatment afforded the visiting soldiers, obtained this piece of linen and collected the signatures of his fellow soldiers. He had expected to deliver the signed cloth to Mrs. Ganzel but was unfortunately not granted shore leave to do so. Undaunted, resourceful, and determined, Dale secured the cloth in a tin can (or bucket), jumped overboard and with the can held in his mouth, swam ashore, presented the gift cloth to Mrs. Ganzel and swam back to his troopship. It is unknown whether Jolliffe was or was not punished for this escapade.

Subsequently, Mrs. Ganzel embroidered the signatures as they now appear on the cloth. She handed the cloth down to her granddaughter, Mrs. Martha Wright Weber of Honolulu. In March 1978, Mrs. Weber gave the cloth to retired Colonel Donald C. Tredennick of Johnstown, Pennsylvania to be delivered as a donation to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Colonel Tredennick recorded Mrs. Weber’s recollections of the history of the banner as written here. The banner is now part of the permanent collection at the Pennsylvania Military Museum.