

Josephine Straub Weiler

Stella's Mother

And the Story of the G.A.R. Sundial

By Kathleen Stuckey Fox

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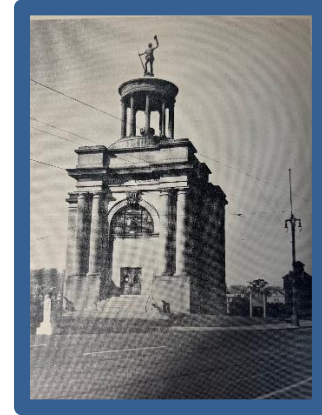
Josephine Straub Weiler
(1846-1898)

Summarizing from an article dated May 26, 1941, in the *Hamilton Journal and Daily News*, page 10: On May 26, 1941, a sundial was dedicated on the grounds near the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument. The idea of the sundial had been conceived earlier when the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War desired to acknowledge Josephine Straub Weiler, mother of Stella Weiler Taylor, a.k.a. Lillian Estelle Weiler, by naming Tent Number 117 in Josephine's honor. Members of the Weiler Tent donated a bronze sundial memorial, honoring the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument.



Sundial Dedicated May 26, 1941

Josephine Straub Weiler had worked tirelessly for almost twenty years to raise money to build the beautiful Monument, dedicated on July 4, 1906, which would have been Josephine's 60th birthday. She was so proud to have been born on the Fourth of July, and no doubt that date played an important role in her patriotism and love of country.



Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument
Dedicated July 4, 1906

In 1931, Stella Weiler Taylor was hired by Homer Gard, owner, and publisher of the then *Hamilton Evening Journal*, to write a society column, "Rosemary, That's for Remembrance," which ran from 1931 to 1948. In 1940, the first nine years of her column were published in two volumes, titled *Rosemary*, and were printed by the Journal Publishing Company. In Taylor's *Rosemary*, Volume I, January 9, 1932, page 41, Stella writes in part: The mention last week of the Germania Maennerchor, the United German Society, and the brave and brilliant Capt. William C. Margedant brought to me this week two cherished contributions. The first is a program found by Mrs. Jennie Rothenbush Dodds among the carefully treasured G.A.R. souvenirs of her father, Captain Philip Rothenbush. It seems but yester-

day that no patriotic parade was complete to me without the presence of the handsome and magnetic “Captain Phil,” one of the nearest and dearest friends of my father and mother.... The program his daughter brought to me was that of the very first annual entertainment and promenade concert given by the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Memorial Association of Butler County at Beckett Hall, on Monday evening, February 23, 1880.... Through tear-stained eyes, I read the names of the gallant and gifted participants of that eventful concert, names of those “loved long since and lost awhile.”.... Then my mother, Josephine S. Weiler read two recitations. No G.A.R. program thereafter, until my mother’s death in 1898, was given without my mother’s cooperation, and in 1882 Josephine was made an honorary and life-member of Wetzel-Compton Post No. 96, G.A.R., and presented to her was a beautiful gold star facsimile badge, suitably inscribed, (now my most prized earthly possession).

Again, Mrs. Taylor writes about her mother in *Rosemary*, Volume I, October 19, 1935, page 508: Through the kind courtesy of Mrs. Margaret Henley, “Rosemary” can today give the names of the charter members of Wetzel-Compton Woman’s Relief Corps, No. 5, which will soon – on November 1, to be exact – celebrate its fifty-second anniversary of golden deeds in Hamilton.... Shortly after the Civil War, veterans (still in the prime of life then) had in 1882 presented Mrs. Josephine Straub Weiler with a golden medal in facsimile of their G.A.R. star badge, making her (in return for her patriotic services) an honorary and life-member of their order. Mrs. Weiler became anxious to organize the Woman’s Relief Corps here to take care of the invalid soldiers of widows and orphans. There were only four relief corps in America at the time.... Wetzel-Compton Relief Corps No. 5 endures with flying colors and will go on as long as there is any need of its patriotic, loving, and necessary service.



Josephine’s actual facsimile G.A.R. Star Badge, 1882



The G.A.R. Sundial Now Under Restoration to be Returned to Monument Park and Rededicated in the Late Spring of 2025