

THE CIVIL WAR VETERANS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

"THE FOURTH BATTALION"

Newsletter Volume One Number Two

September, 1987

Presidents Message:

While at our formation meeting in Ashland, Ohio last April two questions in particular came up. The first one pertained to our group being moved into an adjoining smaller room at next years Civil War Relic show. A number of us discussed this matter and decided it was best to stay in the larger room. Donald Williams Show Chairman, had no objections to this arrangement. The second problem had to deal with another location for our dinner and meeting facilities as suggested by a number of members. I have made arrangements with the Surry Inn Motel. They will furnish a meeting room and we can order from the regular menu for our dinner. This will give our group privacy. The Surry Inn Motel is only a few blocks from the show. More on this closer to next years show.

DJK

We welcome the following new members:

Dan Toomey  
Joe Copley  
Jerome L. Orton  
Thomas E. Neville  
James A. Binder  
Elmer F. Atkinson  
Lt. Col. Robert L. Krasche  
Rance Hulshart

There were two great displays of veterans memorabilia at the Gettysburg Civil War Show in July. (Could it be that veterans items are finally being right-fully recognized?) David Klinepeter's G A R display won the Judge's Award.

Dan Toomey had a fine display of Maryland related civil war items at the Baltimore show in August.

The Grand Army Of The Republic museum in Philadelphia, Pa. is open on the first Sunday of the month from noon to 5P.M. Costumed guides give tours and demonstrations. Elmer F. Atkinson is President of the museum organization. For information about museum facilities and programs write: Grand Army of the Republic

Ruan house  
4278 Griscom St.  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19124

page two

Frank Hovanic is doing commendable work in Oregon by converting an old structure into a combination military museum and meeting room. Living history tours are given to school students at the museum.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Loba on the birth of a future member Of The Ladies Of The G A R.

Observations noted over the last year:

Increased interest in veterans items at civil war shows.

The lack of U C V items for sale at any function.

The quantity of West Virginia civil war veterans medals in mint condition for sale. (see enclosed article on this subject)

To improve the quality of the newsletter members are requested to submit information on medals, badges, collections, monuments, veterans, and G A R halls etc.

Members areas of interest will be published on a rotating basis.

Mary Dearing  
G A R

Roger Heiple  
P.O. Box 16  
South Lyon, Mi 48178  
GAR-UVL-UVU-EX-POW-WRC-Ladies Of The GAR-1891 25th National  
Encampment items

David J. Klinepeter  
4740 Count St.  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17109-3038  
3BN GAR All organizations-rules and regulations-printed material-  
membership badges

Howard Siglag  
183 Hazelwood Drive  
Westbury, NY 11590  
GAR-EX-POW-UCV-Gettysburg Reunions 1888-1913-1938

Marshall J. Brighenti  
R.D. 2 Box 61  
Belle Vernon, Pa. 15012  
GAR-EX-POW-presentation badges-canes-PA. delegate and memorial  
badges-22nd Pa. Ringgold cavalry items

page three

Don Limpert  
Box 524  
Manchester, Mi 48158  
GAR-UCV-all items 1866-1890 and 1940-1956 state and national reunions

Everitt Bowles  
1036 Washington Ave.  
Woodstock Ga 30188  
GAR-UVL-UVU-EX-POW-NAVAL VETS-UCV-ARMY NURSES-LOYAL LEGION-1913-1938 Gettysburg Reunions

Robert Albertini  
23950 Lucille Rd  
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070  
GAR-UCV- 1901 Cleveland National Encampment-Presentation Badges-Ceramics-Named Regimentals-Cleveland Grays- Society and Association Badges

Julieann Brighenti  
R.D. 2 Box 61  
Belle Vernon, Pa. 15012  
WRC-LADIES OF THE GAR-all related items

Howard Averbach  
21-31-35th St.  
Astoria, NY 11105  
GAR-US Federal Medals-US Patriotic Embroideries

Several members have requested that a question and answer column be inserted in the newsletter. This will be beneficial, therefore members with the answers should respond with correspondence to the secretary.

QUESTIONS:

#1 Post Ribbons or Post Badges or Memorial Badges?  
Who and what reference decided to start calling these "Post Badges". I prefer Memorial or Memoriam badges the term used in most period ad's. Since this is what most ad's use, I feel this correction should be made in the newsletter before "Post Badges" becomes a lasting term for these badges.

#2 What is the last year of the Pennsylvania Department Delegate or Representative badge to the annual encampment that you know exists?

#3 I have a World War 1 bronze victory button that has the 1886 adopted campfire and kettle on the shank flat. Obviously the

page four

assembler for the manufacturer got the shank stock mixed up for GAR lapel studs and victory studs. What is most informative is according to "The Interallied Victory Medals of World War 1" by Alexander J. Laslo page 112-The bronze victory buttons were manufactured by the Waterbury Button Company of Waterbury Conn. From this information and the stud I possess it is conclusive that Waterbury made some if not all of the GAR lapel studs. The above three items were submitted by Rance Hulshart.

COMING EVENTS:

September 19 Fifth Annual Midwest Civil War Show Dupage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Ill.

September 19 Civil War Sale And Exhibition 9 am to 5 pm Cliffside Inn, Harpers Ferry, West Va.

October 2 Jackson's Way Civil War Show 6 pm to 9 pm October 3 9 am to 4 pm Travel Lodge I81 and Rt.17 Winchester, Va.

October 10 Fifth Annual Michigan Civil War Collectors Show Oakland University, Oakland Center Building, Rochester, Michigan

October 9 through 18 Civil War Exposition, Exhibition Center Cleveland, Ohio

October 17-18 Forks Of The Delaware, Agricultural Hall, Allentown, Pa.

November 14-15 Civil War Show Fairgrounds, Memphis, Tn.

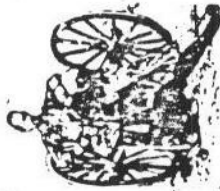
TCWVHA

Secretary,

*Marshall J. Brighenti*

# Dusty honors

## Some Civil War soldiers still due medals from West Virginia



By Barry Paris  
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

There are four dozen Pennsylvania, Marylanders and Ohioans, who still haven't picked up their Civil War medals in West Virginia. Let's start over.

In 1866, the legislature of West Virginia — just a 3-year-old toddler among the 35 United States — struck 26,099 medals in honor of the Union soldiers who fought in West Virginia regiments during the War Between the States. Several dozen of them were from Pennsylvania.

"In many cases, soldiers came to West Virginia regiments to enlist because the local regiments in their own states had reached their quotas," explains Fredrick Armstrong, associate director of the archives and history division of the West Virginia Department of Culture and History.

Pittsburgh likes to think of itself as the center of the Tri-State area, but West Virginia drew on a *quadr*-state area for its Civil War recruits. The Union faced great recruitment difficulties in some parts of the country, including serious draft riots in New York City. But Western Pennsylvania and its environs were among the most gung-ho patriotic hotbeds of the North, not coincidentally because of the Mason-Dixon line and uneasy proximity to Virginia and Maryland.

By 1863, the second year of the war, Virginia's mountainous northwestern counties were secured for the Union, broken off unceremoniously from the Great Dominion and organized into the brand new state of West Virginia.

(Among many oddities in the unorthodox statehood-formation of West Virginia was the fact that Virginia extended fur-

ther west than West Virginia. It should more accurately have been named "North Virginia," extending as it does even farther north than Pittsburgh.)

Most of the West Virginia Civil War veterans came forth to claim their "to-

kens of respect," as the legislature called the medals, within a few years of their issuance.

But some 5,200 were never claimed and their soldier-owners or survivors never located, due to the enormous relo-

cation and readjustment problems West Virginia after the war. There was a push to find some of the unclaimed medals' heirs in 1963 during the state's centennial. One Civil War veteran's widow was still living then continuing to draw her pension 77 years after the end of the war.

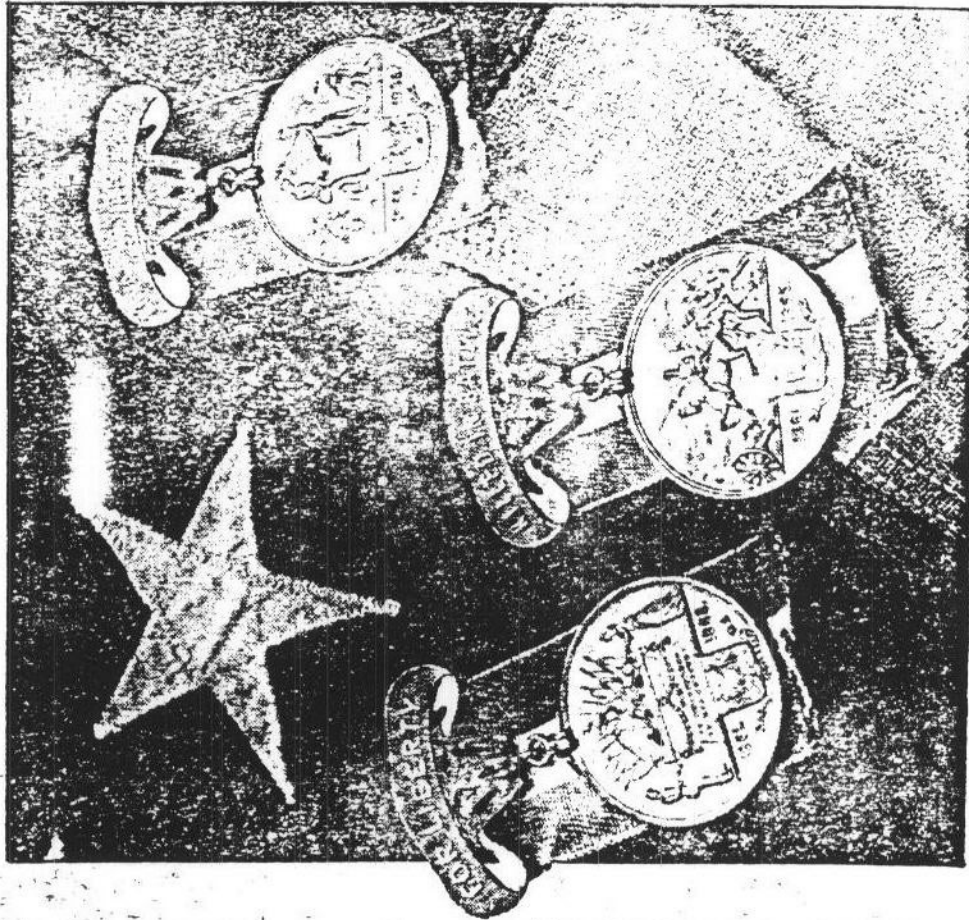
But no one much thought about the old-of-staters. Their bronze and copper medals, each in its original little box with the soldier's hand-scripted name and regiment, have gathered dust in drawers the state archives.

"This is the first time there's been effort to locate the out-of-state heirs," said Carolanne Griffith, director of information services for the state Culture and History Department.

Griffith says her department's objective is two-fold: "to clear the decks" of 120-year-old loose end and to achieve historic "closure" of that great internal struggle by making sure that the medals intended for those Civil War soldiers least get to their family descendants.

No Confederate descendants need apply, by the way. Griffith says past effort to locate the medals' heirs have brought many inquiries from the families of those who wore the Gray. Only the Boys in Blue were issued the medals, in three varieties: Class I (for honorably discharged officers and soldiers), Class II (for the families of officers and soldiers killed in battle), and Class III (for the families of officers and soldiers who died from wounds or diseases during military service).

The medals themselves were made by die-sinker A. Demarest of New York, patented after the British Crimean War medals.



Some of the 5,200 medals still filed away in Charleston, W. Va.

(Continued on Page 35)

# West Virginia medals for Civil War gather dust

(Continued from Page 33)

of 10 years earlier. They are suspended on a piece of red, white and blue ribbon, and each has the individual soldier's name die-punched into its milled edge.

Inquiries from anyone who believes he or she is a descendant of one of the men listed below is urged to contact Griffith at the Department of Culture and History, Cultural Center, Capitol Complex, Charleston, W. Va., 25305, phone, 304-546-0220. Documentation is required, and there's a six-month waiting period for verification.

Here's the list of all Pennsylvania (and the handful of Ohioans and Marylanders) who served in West Virginia's Civil War regiments

but whose families never claimed the medallions they earned:

**Pittsburgh:** Albert Kincaid (Second Infantry, Company G); M. (Melchior) Schilling (First Light Artillery, Battery A); David W. E. Brockett, George Hoffman (both First Light Artillery, Battery G); Samuel Lessig, Armstrong McGill, James McIntosh, Alexander McKenzie, Richard Pudder, Frederick Rowe (all Light Artillery, Battery G); William Bowser, John Johnson, Francis H. McCleane, Henry C. Stevens, John Washington, George Wilson (all Fifth Cavalry, Company A.)

**Greenfield:** Joseph Cunningham and Dewitt C. Graham (both Second Infantry, Company I.)

**Brighton:** Thomas P. Sutton and

Nelson Thomas (both Sixth Infantry, Company N.); William Gregg (Seventh Infantry, Company A); James A. McKenzie (First Cavalry, Company B); Henry P. Adams (First Cavalry, Company I.); Joseph McGuire (Second Veteran Infantry, Company C.); **Armstrong County:** Rolison Fulmer (Second Veteran Infantry, Company H.); William Barlow (Washington, Pa.); Luther G. Tholomew, John Dean, James R. Dixon, Jacob Fisher, Samuel M. Furgus (Fergus), Josiah McCoy, Abraham Miller, Chance Minor, Abraham Newnan, John T. Quinn, Martin Riley, Joseph Thompson, William

White, John Yodus (all First Cavalry, Company B.); **Union County:** Charles Wilson (First Cavalry, Company C.); **Upper Middlesboro:** Abraham Coon (First Cavalry, Company H.); **Connellsville:** John Staub (Straub) (First Cavalry, Company H.); **McClemtown:** Rezin Whitehill (Second Cavalry, Company F.); **Middletown:** John S. Jeffry (First Infantry, Company B.); **Independence:** William J. Miller (First Infantry, Company B.); **Greene County:** Thomas Noon (First Infantry, Company G.); **Frostburg, Md.:** John Floyd (Fourth Infantry, Company K.); **New Haven, Ohio:** Levi Clark and Benjamin F. Snodgrass (both Fourth Cavalry, Company K.)