



CIVIL WAR VETERANS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

"The 4th Battalion"

Volume TWO Number ONE

July, 1988

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Now that we are into our second year, we would like feed back from our members. What can be done to improve the newsletter? It is our only means of keeping in touch. We attempt to keep business matters to a minimum. The new members and their interests are listed. There are articles on civil war monuments, veterans halls, and items on badges etc. We have a section on questions and answers, and on coming events. I will be starting a series on Badges of Civil War Veterans Organizations, with the help of other members.

Enclosed is an article about a gentleman I feel we should all know about Jay S. Hoar. Although he does not collect badges, he has collected information for over seventeen years on the last one hundred civil war veterans. His files are over fourteen feet long and still growing. He has published three books on the above subject with the largest book remaining to be published. It was my good fortune to meet with Jay two evenings while he was in Harrisburg, Pa. doing research.

DJK

New Members

- No. 46 -Forrest F. Gesswein Jr.
- No. 47 -A. Dean Sargent
- No. 48 -Kevin Mullan

Change of address:

- No. 11 -Howard Averbach
30-52 49th St.
Astoria, NY 11103

Comments on the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg events: The reenactment was a fantastic experience. The realism in the camps, the pageantry, and the size of the event where awesome. The Mason Dixon Relic Association Civil War Show contained an abundance of quality displays and civil war items for sale. There were a fair amount of veterans items for sale most of which were of the common variety.

Of the 1845 veterans that attended the 1938 75th anniversary of The Battle of Gettysburg ninety had been in the actual battle. The Blue and Gray Special railroad train that transported the veterans to the diamond reunion consisted of eleven pullmans, diner and clubcar.

The veterans represented 47 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. Only Rhode Island did not have a representative. Nevada and Wyoming sent one each. Three Union veterans attended from Canada. The boxes that contained the official badges that were issued for the veterans and their attendants were inscribed with the following statement " Presented by The United States on the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg".

Editorial credits for the enclosed articles:

No.18-Jeff Schrock-----Part 2-Uhrichsville, Ohio Monument
No.29-Charles Annegan-- A QUESTION OF ELIGIBILITY

Members areas of interest published on a rotating basis:

No.44-Larry Hicklen

Rt. #10

Murfreesboro, Tn 37129

Southern-GAR UCV Tennessee related UCV and Tennessee regiments

No. 45-John Ferry

P O Box 174 Westview Station

Binghamton, Ny 13905

GAR EX-POW Reunion Ribbons 137 NY, 109 NY, 89 NY, 27 NY, 50 NY ENG,
Broome, County NY Post Ribbons

No.46- Forrest F. Gesswein Jr.

9514 Powderhorn Lane

Baltimore, Md 21234

GAR Commemorative Glass Civil War period and GAR

No. 47-A Dean Sargent

83 Concord Street

Rockland, Mass 02370

GAR Badges Medals books Post Cards and Civil War books, Member of
the following: Co. G 12th Infantry Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers,
50 SUV Rockland, Massachusetts, Civil War Roundtable Sidney, Australia,
Advisory Board Massachusetts Military Research Museum, Chairman Maine
MOCA-Civil War Burial Project and President Plymouth County Genealogists

No.48-Kevin Mullay

181 Beach Street

Quincy, Mass 02170

GAR Commemorative Glass

Numbers before names are the member's permanent association number.
Membership association cards will be issued in the future at no cost.

QUESTIONS:

How many editions of Robert Beath's GAR "Blue Books" were published? I have a copy of the 1885 edition and his History of the Grand Army of the Republic, but would like to know how many others he wrote. Submitted by No.27-Lt. Colonel Robert L. Krasche.

page three

Is there any information available on who, when and where the souvenirs were produced for the various encampments? Submitted by-No.46 Forrest F. Gesswein Jr.

Where is there a book or record available that has information on the 1845 veterans that attended the 1938 event at Gettysburg, Pa.?

There were not any questions submitted in Volume One Number Six of the newsletter.

ITEMS FOR SALE:

- #1- Numerous GAR National Delegate Badges
- #2- GAR Hat good condition from York, Pa. Post No.37
- #3- Cased tintype image of veteran in GAR uniform proudly wearing various badges. For details contact-----No.34 Edward R. Huyer
975 Summer Hill Dr.
Gambrills, Md 21054

COMING EVENTS:

August 13,14 -Baltimore, Md The greater Baltimore Civil War Show and Sale Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn I-83 and Shawan Road Courtney B. Wilson P O Box 9391, Catonsville, Md 21228

August 13, 14 -Marietta, Ga Civil War Show Cobb County Exhibition Hall Gail Preast 156 Mt. View Rd. Acworth, Ga.30101

September 1 through 5- 125th anniversary reenactment battle of Chicamauga, Tenn.

September 17 Wheaton, Ill "Midwest Civil War Collectors Show" Dupage County Fairgrounds Robert Nowak 3238 N Central Park, Chicago, Il.60618

October 8- Rochester Mi -Michigan Civil War Collectors Show- Oakland Center Building on University Drive

October- Jackson's Way Military Collector's Show Emphasis on the Civil War Area Travel Lodge, Winchester, Va Exit 80 off I81 and Rt. 50- "Let each man provide himself with a stout pair of Shoes, a good Blanket and a Tin Cup Jackson's men have no Baggage!-- Two day show for ----dates and details write to Jackson's Way-R D 4- Box 4325-Bangor, Pa.18013

January 14, 15 Nashville, Tn -The Middle Tennessee Civil War Show and Sale, Larry Hicklen, Rt. 10, Old Nashville Hwy, Murfreesboro, Tn 37129

CWVA Secretary,

Marshall John Brighenti

Marshall John Brighenti

CIVIL WAR VETERANS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP BADGES can be obtained by sending \$5.00 to the secretary-----R.D. 2 Box 61
Belle Vernon, Pa. 15012

A 'real nice Yankee'

The South's Last Boys in Gray might never have been written had not Jay S. Hoar (M.A. '64) met James M. Lurvey in June 1949. At that time, there were only about ten people still living who had actually participated in the War Between The States, and Lurvey at 101-1/2 years of age was the last survivor of the Battle of Gettysburg. Hoar, who was 16 at the time, recalls that "this emotive experience...smoldered in me for twenty years."

A scrapbook which he began as a teenager grew into a sizeable collection of information about the lives of the vanishing veterans. Twenty-two years later—having acquired a B.A. from the University of Maine at Orono and his master's at Bread Loaf School of English—he began filling in the gaps to compile a collective biography on veterans of both the North and the South. His writing process "builds on a serendipitous salvaging of familial folkways or oral Americana already becoming rare or currently beyond the life-reach of most persons, as simply 'before our time.'" His other sources were newspapers, county or town histories, biographies, atlases, marriage and death certificates, state and national archives, diaries, and genealogical studies.

Finally, after another 16 years of work, *The South's Last Boys in Gray* emerged as the life stories of some 170 Confederate soldiers who lived past World War II. *The North's Last Boys in Blue* is scheduled for publication in spring 1989. Hoar is also preparing future publications, including *Black Glory*, a study of the last black veterans of the Civil War, and a larger "magnum opus," *Sunset and*

Dusk of the Blue and the Gray.

Hoar is never reticent when it comes to memorializing his "titans of the Gray." "A humble glory followed their incredible lives," he intones. "Everything they did they did big." Details of service and subsequent exploits of the veterans abound. "As sunlight and dew have a way of causing peach orchards to flourish, so came plenteous honors to settle upon Daddy Bush." Hoar writes about William Jordan Bush (1845-1952). Bush's life story is interwoven with that of Fitzgerald, Ga., "itself one of the best things to emerge from the Civil War," a town "settled, just after hostilities, by several hundred 'real nice Yankees,' former federal soldiers" who stayed on after the war, naming half the streets for Confederate generals, half for Union. When the last Yankee veteran died in 1940, "Bush sent a wreath inscribed 'From The Last Of The Gray To The Last Of The Blue.'" When General Bush went to see *Gone With the Wind*, "he declared the Battle of Atlanta in the picture was just like it really happened." At nearly 107 years of age (in 1951) Bush flew to Jackson, Miss., for a United Confederate Veterans reunion with William D. Townsend (also 106).

"Not only was this the very last reunion of two Confederate veterans," writes Hoar, "but also it was the last known meeting of two Civil War men together."

Hoar was born and raised in Sandy River Plantation—but *this* plantation falls, in fact, on the 45th parallel (350 miles above the Mason-Dixon line, clear up in northwestern Maine). Why did a Downeaster spend years ferreting out

hitherto unknown details on Confederate soldiers, becoming one of the few northerners considered for the Douglas Southall Freeman Southern Literary Award?

"Because what I've done had never been done by anyone else," Hoar asserts. "After thousands of Civil War books, no one ever did one about the lives of the last veterans. I just tried to do as thorough a job as I could in that field. I wanted to know about these men and their families, what their lives consisted of."

A genealogical treasure for those seeking family backgrounds, the book's 605 pages also contain 85 vintage photographs and numerous charts of little-known facts and figures. For example, Hoar points out that in May 1948, survivors of the two armies were even at 66 for each side. "Thereafter, the victory in numbers at long last swung to the Confederate veterans, who, once they had it, never lost it!" He lists the last surviving soldier for each state, the eldest veterans among the last, the last surviving soldiers who witnessed Lee's surrender and the stacking of arms, and a myriad of other facts.

The most important contribution Hoar makes in this book, however, is his very personal look at the lives of the last survivors themselves. People who might otherwise

have been permanently hidden from the probing eye of history here receive the tribute of Hoar's painstaking research. "Rescuing that which is about to be consigned to oblivion," he points out, "confers a lasting satisfaction."

Hoar reminds his readers that he is not a historian, but rather a biographer. Like Ralph Waldo Emerson, he believes that "The best history is biography." A labor of love, Hoar's "epic prose elegy" attempts "to memorialize the men of the Southern armies," although not every reader will agree with Hoar that the "tragedy of the war is perennial—the ongoing subservience of states rights to the outrageous federal power abuse." He feels that "the real tragedy touching the life of every American today lies not so much with the North's having won as with the South's having lost."

Beyond the satisfactions of chronicling "the last living chapter of 'America's Saddest War,'" Hoar says the best rewards have been "the friends I have made." He has been warmly welcomed by southerners and has been presented with mementos once belonging to their grandfathers. "I have slept in the beds that the veterans once themselves slept in, and that is its own thrill. I have long lived on the heights of romance."

—Doty Pistorius



Four teens held for cemetery vandalism

By LINDA DAVIS
and STEVE LONG
Times Staff Writers

TR
11-9-87

UHRICHSVILLE - Four juveniles are in custody and will face charges in connection with extensive vandalism to a Civil War monument and numerous tombstones at Union Cemetery.

Police said this morning that two 14-year-olds and two 15-year-olds, three from

Uhrichsville and one from New Philadelphia, were taken into custody after a weekend investigation. They are being held in the Tuscarawas County Attention Center at New Philadelphia pending the filing of charges.

There was no apparent motive for the vandalism, but the boys were under the influence of alcohol, according to police.

The damage was discovered

about 2:41 Saturday morning by Sgt. Robert Michels, who was patrolling the area. Michels, who headed a Claymont Jaycees project that restored the weathered and vandal-plagued monument, said the head was knocked off one figure, its arm and hand were broken, and a rifle was removed and smashed against a tombstone.

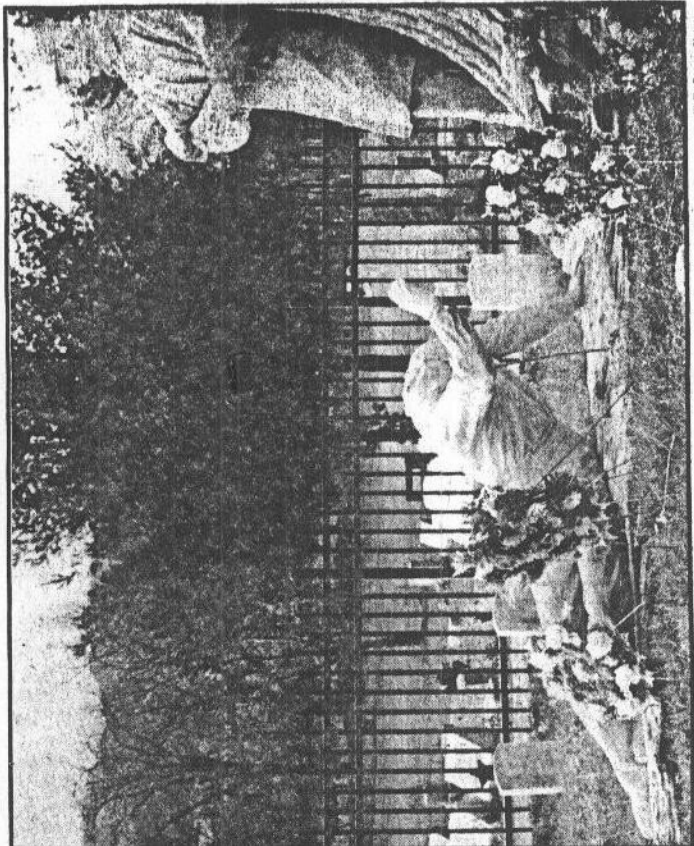
The war memorial was unveiled on Veterans' Day in 1986, after nearly \$20,000 was spent on its restoration. It was officially dedicated on Memorial Day this year. Preliminary indications are that the soldier's head may be restored to the body of the statue but the rifle will have to be rebuilt.

In addition to the damage to the monument, police estimated that about 200 tombstones were upset and one large stone was broken. Downspouts also were torn from a mausoleum, and police said that an attempt was made to enter the structure.

Police Sgt. Jeff Cady said that anyone who discovers that the tombstone of a family member was upset should contact police so that a more precise count can be made.

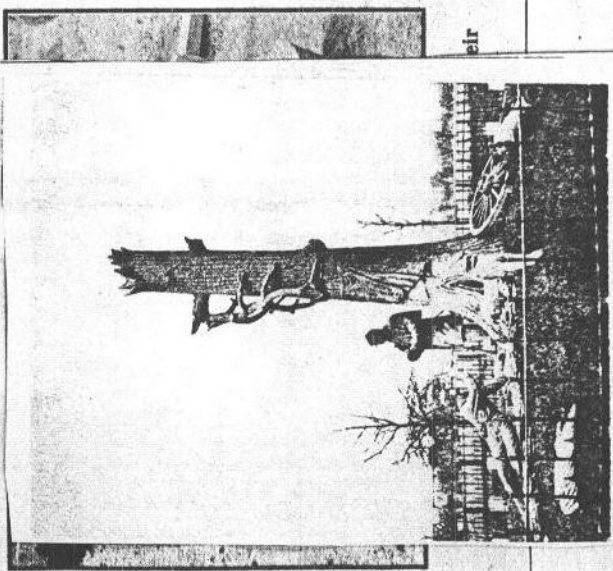
Shirley Van Fossen of Stevenson Memorials Inc. said it was difficult to assess full damages to the monuments.

See VANDALISM ... A-3



T-12/Steve Long

A statue in the Civil War memorial was damaged in the vandalism spree early Saturday in Union Cemetery.



Soldiers Monument Uhrichsville, Ohio

Mindlessness

Drunkenness alone cannot explain the depraved behavior of those responsible for this weekend's vandalism at Uhrichsville's Union Cemetery, though it's plausible alcohol played a leading role.

A recently restored Civil War monument was severely damaged, about 200 tombstones were overturned and downspouts were torn from a mausoleum. The Civil War monument, a remarkable piece of artwork showing Union soldiers after a battle, has suffered attacks from vandalistic goons before. As a result, nearly \$20,000 was spent restoring the monument. The bulk of the donations came from small, individual contributions, not from large corporations or foundation grants. Thus, the citizens of the community feel a special affinity toward the monument.

Now another group of sickos has trashed the Twin Cities' most sacred ground, causing an untold amount of damage in dollars and emotional grief. A sad irony is the Civil War monument, commemorating those who fought to preserve our nation and its freedoms, was attacked shortly before Veterans Day.

Four teen-agers were arrested in connection with the offenses. If proven guilty, the maximum — and we mean maximum — penalty in jail time and fines should be shoved down their collective throats, and they or their parents should make full restitution for the damage to both the monument and tombstones.

The suspects were reportedly drunk while performing their mayhem. If so, whoever supplied them booze should be found and prosecuted as well.

What happened in Uhrichsville early Saturday morning wasn't simply a crime against property, nor could it be considered a childhood prank. It was a crime against those with relatives interred at Union whose graves were disturbed.

And it was a crime against common decency.

*Editor comments
in Times Reporter
New Phila, Oh.*

Vandalism

"You wouldn't know until you picked up the stone to see what damage had been done, but I would estimate around \$20 just to reseal the base. I just couldn't believe what I was seeing."

She said she had received numerous calls from customers but had not had a chance to talk to cemetery officials to see if the damage was covered by insurance.

"People are just outraged — furious to think that something like this could happen in our community, especially after all the pride and the way the community pulled together to have the Civil War monument restored, only to have it done again," Van Fossen said. "People have told me they were more than willing to put up money for a reward."

Dave Aldergate, cemetery superintendent, said this morning that a full inventory of damage had not yet been made. The cemetery board is to meet tonight to discuss the situation, including insurance coverage.

Aldergate said he has received numerous comments about the vandalism, including criticism that the cemetery gates should be locked.

"This group just walked in," he noted. "In fact, closing the gates just keeps the police out."

He noted that police have been making three or four patrols a night through the cemetery.

"Every time vandalism happens, you try to rationalize it, but can't," he said.

Aldergate said it appeared the vandals got on the roof of the mausoleum and attempted to enter it by a skylight. If so, they risked the possibility of falling through a suspended ceiling and taking a 15-foot drop to a concrete floor.

On the other hand, Aldergate told of seeing some youngsters, about the same age as the vandals, who were in the cemetery Sunday to straighten the grave-stone of their grandparents. While they were there, they also righted several other stones in the area.

A QUESTION OF ELIGIBILITY

BY

CHARLES ANNEGAN

On February 9, 1888, Reuben Ray, Post Commander of John Sedgwick Post #4, Keene, New Hampshire, submitted to the New Hampshire Department's Judge-Advocate the application of William H. Coy, with two questions relevant to whether or not Coy could remain a member of the post.

A dissenting voice had been raised against Coy's admission by his former commanding officer, Capt. J.H. Hitchcock, late of Co. I, 3rd New Hampshire Vols., Hitchcock alleged that Coy, "...served in above company and regiment until November, 1864, when he left while the regiment was on duty at New York at the time of the national elections that year, and he never returned or reported to the company or regiment. Hence, he was reported as a deserter."

Member of the Committee On Application, L.W. Faskett, also reported to Ray that Hitchcock had stated to the committee that Coy had thrown away his rifle and equipments at the charge on Fort Wagner, S.C., and had ran back to camp. For this, Hitchcock said, Coy had been punished by, "...having to wear a wooden overcoat with "coward" marked on it in large letters, for two or three days, in front of the guard house."

As the post commander's legal advisor, the two questions to be decided upon by the Judge-Advocate was, first, did Coy fraudulently conceal or misrepresent the facts in his military record so as to render his election void? Secondly, was he eligible?

Coy's application had been presented at a post meeting, being recommended by William H. Wright. On October 8, 1887, it was favorably reported on by James H. Smith, Enoch Aiken, and A.W. Eastman, members of the Committee On Application, whereupon Coy was duly mustered and became a comrade of Sedgwick Post #4, October 22, 1887, and given number 247 in the Descriptive Book.

In Coy's application he had declared he was aged 51, born in Manchester, England, and by occupation a spinner. His residence was on Winter Street, Petersboro. He had enlisted as a private in Co. I, 3rd N. H. Vols. on August 21, 1861. He was discharged at Hilton Head, S.C., on February 28, 1864, where he immediately re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, at which time he, "...was permitted to go home by Surgeon Kimball of the 3rd N.H. Vols., by reason of disability that I now draw pension for." Coy continued in his declaration that he had never borne arms against the United States, nor been convicted of desertion or any other infamous crime.

He had made application to join the G.A.R. previously, when he had applied for membership at A.F. Stevens Post #6, Petersboro, but had withdrawn it before it was acted upon. Even though Coy had stated this fact in his current membership application, it was formally noted.

Nearly a year later, on December 14, 1888, Judge-Advocate Henry B. Altman submitted his opinion that there was no evidence that Coy had tried to conceal any part of his military record, and wrote, "...it may be assumed that the post in receiving him to membership acted with full knowledge of all the facts." He also pointed out to the committee that it could rightfully decide if Coy was, "...eligible, no matter what his record was in other respects (alluding to the charge of Coy's cowardice), the post had the power to receive him, whether its actions was wise or not, and whether admission was desirable or not."

Considering if Coy was eligible for membership in the G.A.R. Altman cited several opinions in the Grand Army Blue Book concerning eligibility and ineligibility, and noted that during the Cincinnati Encampment of 1869, part of the rules excluding any person convicted by court-martial of desertion, or any other infamous crime, was dropped, and the only provision against admission of such persons is to be found in the form of application for membership. Altman concluded, "In the light of these opinions and decisions, and concluding also that the applicant was in receipt of a pension, which by the revised statutes of the United States he could not receive were the charge of desertion then standing against him, I am of the opinion that at the date of his election and muster he was eligible."

Without further deposition at hand, the writer will assume that because of the Judge-Advocate's official decision, Coy continued to enjoy fully the privileges and goodfellowship of being a comrade of Sedgwick Post #4. He will leave to the reader to surmise what may have passed between Hitchcock and Coy, as the former comrades-in-arms beheld each other at post meetings and other G.A.R. functions. We may hope that Time, the great healer, dimmed old animosities, and as the years passed, Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty prevailed.

From the G.A.R. papers in the collection of Charles Annegan