

## CIVIL WAR VETERANS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION "The 4th Battalion"

Volume THREE Number FOUR

JANUARY, 1990

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Happy New Year to you all! Well it's a new year and soon the show season will be starting once again. I want to sincerely encourage all of you to start making plans to attend the upcoming "ENCAMPMENT" at Ashland, Ohio. The civil war show there will be the weekend of April 27-29, and we will be meeting as usual on Saturday evening at the Surrey Inn for dinner and other business. I'm hoping that John Mullay will see fit to display his 1890 Boston (G.A.R.) encampment items at Ashland, since this year is the one hundredth anniversary of that encampment. I would like to see more displays this year. One member sets up a nice display out of two suitcases since he flies in every year. We have always had a great time getting together at Ashland and I can assure you that you will see and learn a great deal from your fellow collectors and researchers. Please try to attend!

Recently, I had the pleasure of viewing Bill Styple's "Echoes Of The Blue And Gray", a VHS video tape consisting of actual motion picture clips of veterans (union and confederate), in parades, at encampments, and even telling about their wartime experiences. It is a great tape and well worth the money \$29.95.

Turning back once again to Ashland, I would like to request that if you (especially those of you who won't be able to make the trip in April) have any suggestions, comments, and or ideas about our future.....like an improved or better quality newsletter or whatever, please take the time to send them to me or be ready to talk about them at our business meeting. And last but not least, we are looking for someone to give the annual dinner presentation at Ashland. If you are interested, please let me know!

Good Hunting and Searching

Dennis R. Loba

This year is the Tenth Annual Encampment to be held at the Ashland, Ohio show. The encampments were originally G.A.R. Historians and Collectors Encampments. This organization was the nucleus for the Civil War Veterans Historical Association. The annual encampments were started by #2 Roger Heiple and #3 David J. Klinepeter.

ANSWER: To question submitted by #19 Richard A. Hausmann in Volume Three No. Three. The G.A.R. Belt Plate is not a recent reproduction or fake. #9 Robert Albertini and other members have similar plates in their collections.

QUESTION: I have a U.C.V. officers frock coat that has four braided sleeve loops and four bars on the collar. What rank is this? It also has plain brass "Superior Quality" buttons are these correct? Submitted by #72 Nick Luberto.

Editorial credits for articles:

- #35 Orland L. Roberts-----Last "Boy in Blue" & Civil War Vets To Get Medals (does anyone know if the medals mentioned in the article were issued?)
- #19 Richard A. Haussmann-----The American Order Of Nobility
- #23 Jerome L. Orton-----Daisy Cave
- #65 John Ertzgard-----William H. Chesebro
- # 5 Marshall J. Brighenti----Orlando Bolivar Willcox
- #46 Forrest F. Gesswein JR.--27th Maine

NEW MEMBERS:

- #75 Richard Schachtsiek  
705 Short Tenth St.  
Lincoln, Ill 62656  
GAR Dept. of Illinois annual encampment badges, Journals, Souvenirs & Programs for the 1932 and 1940 National Encampments Springfield, Illinois
- #76 Sandra V. Parker  
P O Box 37052  
Richmond, Va 23234  
Prisons and Hospitals, Women Spies, Foreign Soldiers, Blacks in Uniform
- #77 Pete Brown  
Box 52  
Lake View, NY 14085  
GAR, EX-POW, NAVAL VETS, LOYAL LEGION

I am sure that the following item is a Plug Tobacco Tag. But the name "Peper" has me mystified. Perhaps it is the name of the Tobacco Co. Can any one supply an answer? Submitted by #19 Richard A. Haussmann



ORIGINAL SIZE

CWVHA : Secretary,

*Marshall J. Brighenti*  
Marshall J. Brighenti

# Last 'Boy in Blue' Hits 109th Birthday

DULUTH, Minn.—(AP)—Civil War drummer boy Albert Woolson tackles the happy chore of opening hundreds of greetings on his 109th birthday Saturday.

The only survivor of the Union forces had already received a congratulatory note from President Eisenhower and a special Minnesota veteran's medal from Gov. Orville Freeman.

"On your 109th birthday," the President wrote, "please accept my congratulations. This anniversary, I am certain, will be rich like its predecessors in memories and in warm wishes from friends in many parts of the nation. With them I am delighted to join once again in saluting you."

MIXED IN with the bundles of cards were gifts of flowers, cigars, fruit and clothing.

The old soldier has almost completely recovered from recurrences of lung congestion, but will observe the anniversary at home with no public appearances during the day.

A BRIGHTLY decorated birthday cake presented by the Duluth Women's Relief Corps will top off the dinner.

Woolson enlisted when he was 17 and served with the Union forces for slightly less than a year, doing occupation duty in the South.

He has outlived some 2,675,000 of the Boys in Blue.

Rain or shine, the parade goes.

Disabled veterans and city officials will ride in 40 autos. The parade will pass a reviewing stand on the east side of Michigan south of the Congress st. Plaza.

It will be Chicago's 88th consecutive Memorial Day parade.

MEMORIAL DAY was first observed on May 30, 1868. Gen. John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, ordered that flowers be placed on the graves of fallen Civil War soldiers.

# Civil War Vets To Get Medals

Washington, July 19 (AP)—The four living veterans of the Civil war—one who served with the Union forces and three who were on the Confederate side—will receive special medals from the government.

President Eisenhower signed a bill to award the medals to Albert Woolson, Duluth, Minn., the Union veteran, and to William A. Lundy, Laurel Hill, Fla.; John Sallings, Slant, Va., and Walter W. Williams, Franklin, Tex., the former Confederate soldiers. Each man is more than 100.

It is estimated the medals will cost about \$3500.

May 30 was selected because it was the day the last Union volunteer was discharged—back in 1868.

Northern states have established May 30 as the official date for the observance. But Southern states celebrate it anywhere from April 26 to June 3.

# Last Union Veteran Is Near Death

Duluth, Minn., July 28 (UP)—Albert Woolson, a durable drummer boy who lived to be the last survivor of Abe Lincoln's army, apparently lay near death in a hospital here today.

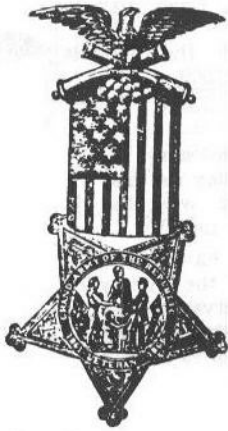
Doctors said the 109-year-old survivor of the Civil war Union army was in "very poor" condition and indicated death might come at any time. They said he was not responding to stimuli being given him to preserve his life.

His three daughters were at his bedside.

Three Confederate veterans of the war between the states will survive, but Woolson for several years has been the only living Union veteran. As such he was the oldest military pensioner in the United States. Woolson, hospitalized since May 30, lapsed into a coma at 2 a. m. Saturday. He had spent the early part of Memorial Day in the hospital originally

set aside to commemorate him and the two million other soldiers who preserved the Union, quietly at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Kobus, here.

# The American Order Of Nobility.



The Grand Army of the Republic is a unique organization. In the words of a Past Commander-in-Chief: "No child can be born into it; no proclamation of President, edict of King or Czar can command admission; no university or institution of learning can issue a diploma authorizing its holder to enter; no act of Congress or of Parliament secures recognition; the wealth of a Vanderbilt cannot purchase the position; its doors swing open only upon presentation of the bit of paper, torn, worn, begrimed it may be, which certifies to an honorable discharge from the armies or navies of the Nation during the war against Rebellion." And, unlike any other association, no "new blood" can come in," there are no growing ranks from which recruits can be drawn into the Grand Army of the Republic. With the consummation of peace through victory, its rolls were closed forever. Its lines are steadily and swiftly growing thinner, and the ceaseless tramp of its columns is with ever-lessening tread; the gaps in the picket line grow wider; day by day details are made from the reserve, summoned into the shadowy regions to return to touch elbows no more; until by-and-by, only a solitary sentinel shall stand guard, waiting till the bugle call from beyond shall muster out the last comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic.

## FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY

### The Most Decorated Regiment That Never Fought



- Courtesy Eleanor N. Clapp, from "A Shower of Stars," by John J. Pullen

*Survivors of the 27th Maine at their reunion in Kennebunkport, 1910.*

IT WAS JUNE 30, 1863, AND Robert E. Lee was marching out of his Virginia stronghold and into Pennsylvania, the only Southern invasion of Northern territory. The Union Army marched in pursuit, leaving only two regiments to defend Washington — the 25th and 27th Maine Volunteers.

But their 90-day enlistments ended that day, and a train was waiting to take the men back to their loved ones. President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton shuddered to think what would happen if Lee should turn on the defenseless capital, or if "Gray Ghost" John Moseby should stage one of his lightning raids. They asked the Maine regiments to stay and defend the city during the crisis.

The 25th Maine flatly refused. The

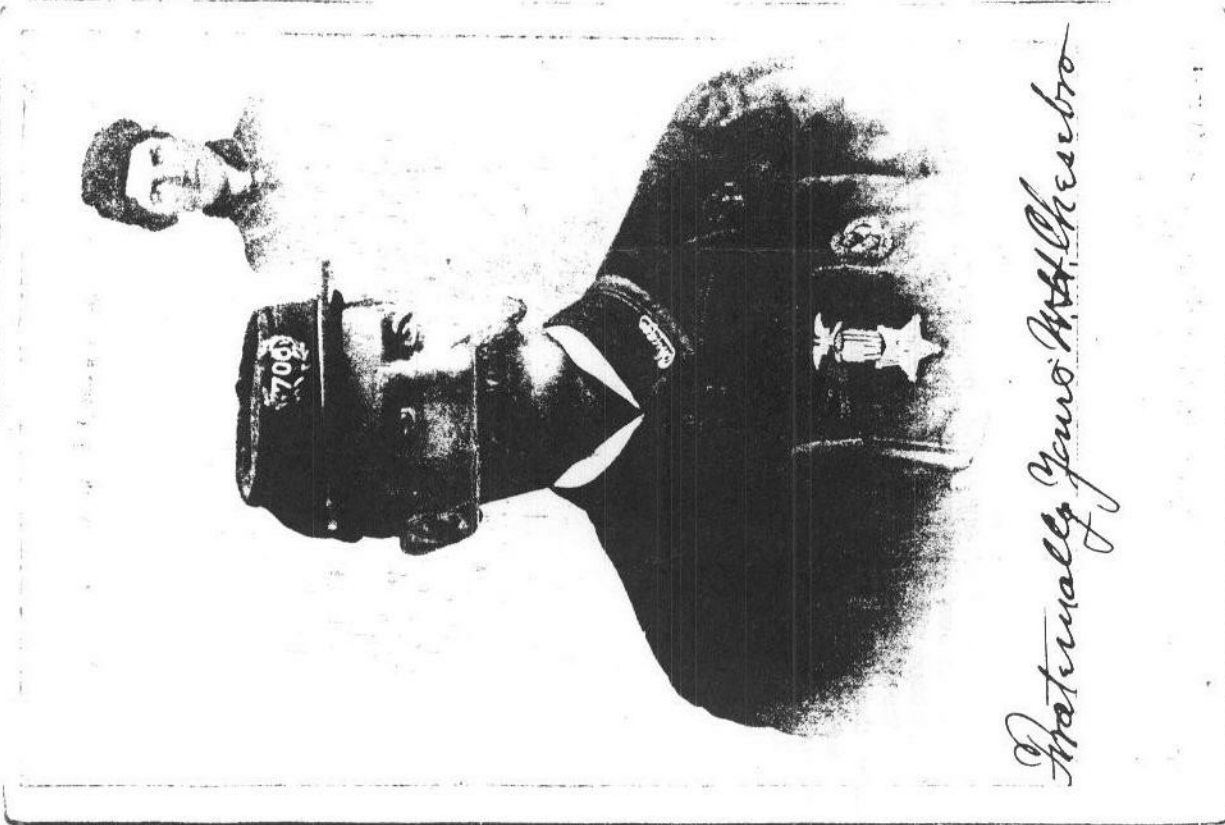
27th put it to a vote. Some 300 men volunteered to stay, while the others boarded the train.

Fortunately for the Union, Lee was defeated at Gettysburg in the next three days. The 300 volunteers — who did no fighting during the crisis — went back to Portland and were mustered out. But not without a remarkable reward. Lincoln and Stanton had promised a Medal of Honor for each member of the 27th who stayed. There was no official record of who those men were, so a medal was minted for all 865 soldiers in the regiment, making it the most decorated regiment in the history of the nation, and perhaps the world.

The government tried to recall the medals in 1916, but at least 400 are still unaccounted for as of this day.

- Nelson Ritschel

*Yankee Sept 86*



*Materially Yours W. H. Chesebro*

William H. Chesebro Chicago Post 706  
40th Wisconsin Infantry Cabinet card  
with phantom image as a Civil War soldier.



*Prince,  
31 Union Square, Penn. St. & 14th St.  
New York, Wash. D.C.*

Major General Orlando Bolivar Willcox-Union  
General 1823-1907. Awarded Medal of Honor in  
1895 for 1st Bull Run. Also served in the Mexican  
and Seminole Wars and on the frontier. Post CW  
cabinet card. Medal of Honor is near 3rd and 4th  
coat button.

By RONALD SMOTHERS  
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SUMTER, S.C.—In a region where commemorating the War Between the States was once akin to a civil religion and where the mythology of the "lost cause" still occasionally fuels a wistful peroration or two, Daisy Cave is a living icon.

Mrs. Cave, who is believed to be 97, is the last living widow of a Confederate Army veteran, a status she has held since the death of Kate Nelms in Corinth, Miss., in 1887. And this month she collected her 59th widow's pension check from the State of South Carolina.

She is unself-conscious and wryly unimpressed with her celebrity as she sits on the porch of the Hopewell Nursing Home in Sumter. By her own admission the tales her husband, Henry Benjamin Cave, told of the war "have been told so many times, they done rusted."

In any case, she said, her husband didn't tell many stories about his time as a soldier with the Third South Carolina Cavalry. She was in her 20s and he was 75 when they got married in 1919, and out of

## 97-year-old recalls husband's tales

respect, she did not press him on the subject.

"He didn't talk about it," she said. "He always said it was just too bad. He'd been through it one time and that was all there was to it."

Still the little she does retell, and much that she simply is, evokes a flavor of the war and its aftermath.

For one thing, Cave, a poor farmer whose family did not own slaves, may have represented thousands of other poor farmers whose fighting had little to do with privilege, said Lee Connor, a commander in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "Some joined just for the salary," he said. "It was an economic necessity for them."

In Reconstruction the federal and state governments appropriated large sums for veterans, widows and orphans in an effort to heal the nation's wounds. But much of the money was misappropriated by state legislatures made up of blacks and Union loyalists who stole many of the veterans' benefits, according to South Carolina's comptroller, Earle Morris.

"Their attitude," he said, "was that these people ought to be punished."

In many ways the veneration of the Confederacy had to wait until Reconstruction ended and federal troops left the region in 1877, said Charles Reagan Wilson, a historian at the University of Mississippi who is the author of "Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause."

But by 1920, benefit payments to Confederate veterans and their widows was the third largest expenditure of South Carolina, said Morris.

Times were hard then, as well, and many young women, like Daisy Cave, married older men who had veterans' benefits.