



CIVIL WAR VETERANS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
"The 4th Battalion"

Dennis Loba
President
336 Stuyvesant St.
Warrenton, VA 22186

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Treasurer
183 Hazelwood Drive
Westbury, NY 11590

Volume THREE Number SIX

MAY, 1990

President's Message:

Greetings to you all! Especially those of you who joined the association at or since Ashland. The "Encampment" at Ashland was a success, and I believe all of our members who attended enjoyed themselves. I know it was my pleasure to finally meet some of the people whose names I had heard and seen on many occasions but had never met. Some excellent displays as well as many items for sale or trade found their way to our veteran section and business was brisk. Display subjects included GAR and UCV memorabilia, gold presentation and regimental ladder badges, GAR post halls, and a very large display of UCV memorabilia (which also won the best "VETERAN" memorabilia award) by fellow member Ed Hibarger. Congratulations Ed! The Surrey Inn took good care of us during our dinner and business meeting, and I personally thoroughly enjoyed seeing and hearing about the precision that Rance Hulshart uses in researching the different types (some 250) of GAR buttons that he has collected. I won't steal any of Marshall's "thunder" concerning the minutes of our business meeting except to say that several of our members are now working on improving our newsletter. One member has suggested that we possibly give it a name like the "Veteran", the "Comrade", or some other appropriate title. Please give us your comments. The newsletter will have a type-set appearance and some other minor changes which should improve it's readability. Last but not least, yes I was reelected as your President, Howard Siglag your Treasurer, and Marshall J. Brighenti your Secretary. I know, I can speak for the three of us in saying that we are all committed to seeing that our association continues to grow and prosper. Thank you for your support. P.S. I have enclosed a momento of our 4th annual encampment for those of you who could not attend.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Loba

Proceedings Of The Annual Meeting:

Thirty five members and guests were present. Annual dues will remain at \$5.00 a year for the organizations calendar year April, 1990 to April of 1991. Volume four of the newsletter will again be comprised of six issues. Complying with the wishes of numerous members, the association is unable to publish a complete list of members names and addresses. Anyone desiring to protect the Grand Army of the Republic highway in the state of California contact Peter Coulton, 588 Santa Alicia, Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928. There recently has been an attempt to rename the highway in California. Motions were made and passed that the association commemorate in some manner the 100th anniversary of the U C V 1890 to 1990 and the 125th anniversary of the G A R 1866 to 1991.

Roger Heiple suggested that the association purchase a block of tables for the Ashland, Ohio show. Dennis Loba will contact Don Williams the sponsor of the show concerning table reservations. Rance Hulshart presented a program on G A R buttons and Dennis Loba a slide program on veteran badges. We wish to thank Ed Hibarger for graciously donating the CWWHA sign that was placed at the entrance of the Ashland show. We also wish to thank Dennis Loba for donating the Civil War Veterans Historical Association 4th annual encampment ribbons.

Treasurers Report: There was a balance of \$329.53 in the treasury.

U.S. 6- the G. A. R. highway-One of the longest continuous highways in the United States, 3,652 miles long is the national memorial highway honoring the Civil War veterans organization--the Grand Army of the Republic. It is a fitting reminder of the service these men rendered their country in time of war and peace. It reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, following U. S. Route No. 6 from Provincetown, Massachusetts, on the tip of Cape Cod where the pilgrim monument marks the site of the first landing in 1620, on to Long Beach, California, on the bluff overlooking the bay where Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo first saw this shore in 1542. Thus this route links two historical events in the birth of a nation. And now the politicians want to rename a section of the highway. (the above paragraph on the highway was taken from an article in The Highway Magazine)

On Memorial Day 1990, reenactors in Janesville, Wisconsin were led to Oak Hill Cemetery at reverse arms by G. A. R. Memorial Association Chaplain Richard A. Haussmann and the First Brigade Band to the graves of Cpl. William C. Kent of Co. F, 1st U.S. Sharpshooters, and his wife Elisabeth. Headstones were dedicated both graves were previously unmarked. Services were also held at the graves of 140 confederate prisoners.

When paying membership dues please send checks to Howard Siglag, 183 Hazelwood Drive, Westbury, NY 11590. Checks payable to Howard Siglag. Do not make checks payable to the Civil War Veterans Historical Association also do not send dues to other officers of the association.

Question: I am enclosing a copy of the Pennsylvania 1888 G. A. R. State Encampment ribbon. I have talked to numerous G. A. R. collectors and none of them have ever seen an 1888 Pennsylvania delegates badge. My question is does one exist? Submitted by #32 Gilbert S. Deibler

Congratulations to #20 Ed Hibarger for recently wining awards for his displays at the 1989 Nashville, Tenn. show-Best veteran and living history award and the 1990 Jonesboro, Ga. show 3rd place non dug category.

Editorial Credits:

#19 Richard A. Haussmann--Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Military Museum (Article originaly published in Fox Valley Living magazine, 707 Kautz Road, St. Charles, Il 60174 and is reproduced with the permission of the magazine.

#32 Gilbert S. Deibler--22nd Annual Encampment Department of Pennsylvania ribbon

#08 Dennis R. Loba--Aurora Post No. 20 Illinois ribbon

#05 Marshall J. Brighenti--Dedication of the G. A. R. monument Pottsville, Pa. 1891

The association is desperately in need of U. C. V. articles for the newsletter. Please submit articles to the secretary.

Mailing labels begining with the next issue will indicate dues status.

Civil War Veterans Historical Association badges may be purchased by sending \$5.00 to Marshall J. Brighenti, R. D. 2, Box 61, Belle Vernon, Pa. 15012

New Members;

#78 Debra L. Pender

12111 Polo Drive

Apartment -133

Fairfax, VA 22033

G A R, U C V, EX-POW, SONS OF VETS, 17th SCV, ELMIRA PRISION, USMC

#79 John L. Heflin

5708 Brentwood Trace

Brentwood, Th 37027

G A R, U C V, CIVIL WAR BOOKS PAPER MATERIAL AND SLAVERY ITEMS

#80 Charlotte Gale

2404 Berwyn Rd.

Wilmington, DE 19810

G A R, U C V, U V L, U V U, EX-POW, NAVAL VETS, ARMY NURSES, W R C, LADIES OF THE
G A R, SONS OF VETS, LOYAL LEGION, TOKENS, MEDALS, SUTLERS

#81 Porter Harned

1012 King Arthur Ln.

Louisville, KY 40222

NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY DIRECT OR COLLATERAL DESCENDANT OF ANY MEMBER OF THE
"ORPHAN BRIGADE"

#82 Mark D. Patterson

331 Orange St.

Macon, GA 31201

U C V, SONS OF VETS, U C V REUNIONS 1887 & 1912 MACON, GA, U C V CAMP #484 MACON, GA
U S C V CAMP #18 MACON, GA

#83 Roger Armacost

1208 Allview Drive

Hampstead, MD 21074

G A R, EX-POW

#84 Francis Barnum

9633 Rusline Dr.

Loveland, OH 45140

GENERAL CIVIL WAR, CIVIL WAR SCULPTOR

#85 Phillip R. Lamb

P. O. Box 24331

New Orelans, LA 70148

G A R, U C V, DOCUMENTS AND MEDALS OF THE U C V

#86 Walter J. Rudecki, Jr.

932 E. Bailey Rd.

Naperville, IL 60565

G A R, LEES PATENT BADGES, POST IN MEMORIUM BADGES

#87 Frank G. Rankin, Jr.

1816 Spring Drive

Louisville, KY 4025

U C V, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS AND CONFEDERATE MEMORABILIA, OLD CONFEDERATE BOOKS

#88 Kurt R. Krueger

160 N. Washington St.

Iola, WI 54945

ALL VETERAN ITEMS

#89 James R. Hicks

3715 Stratford Ln. #1

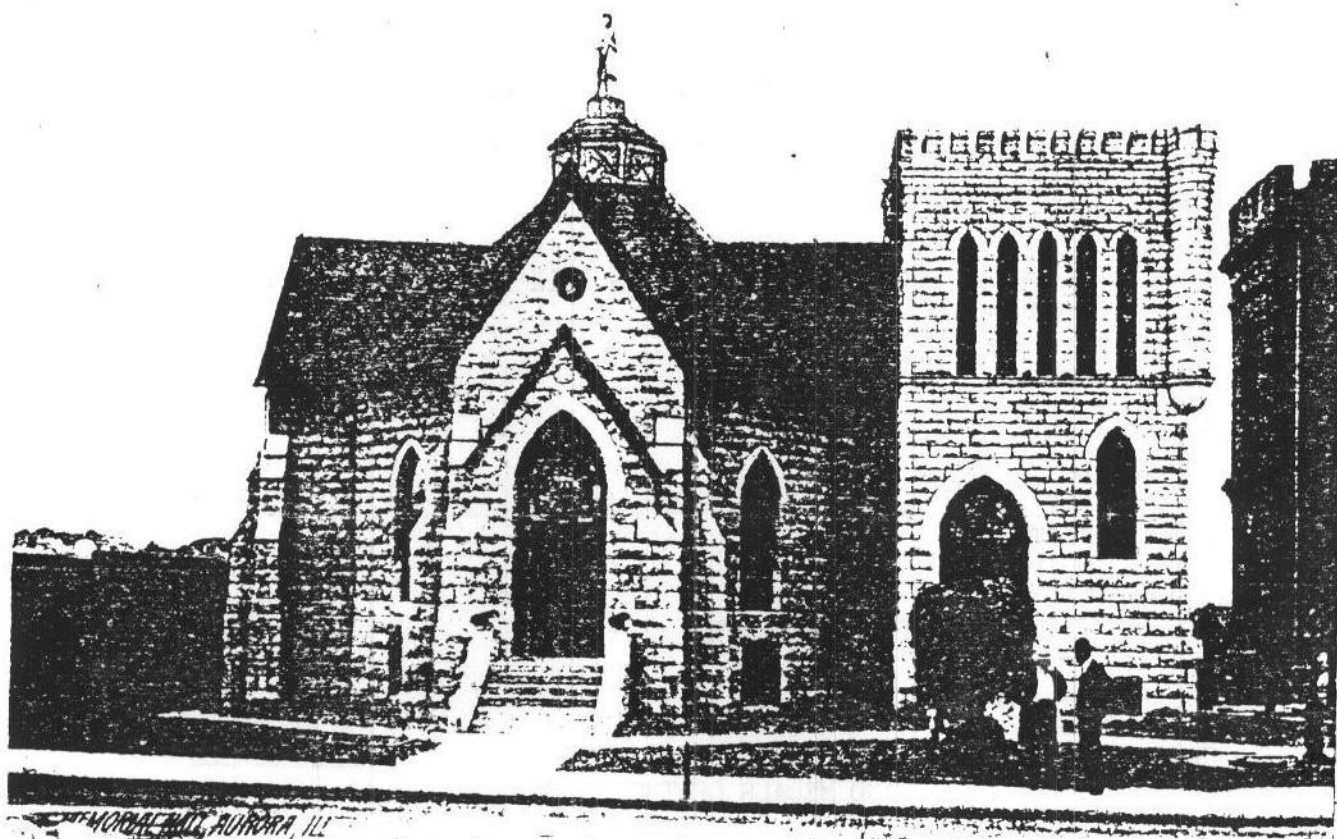
Louisville, KY 40207

U C V, CONFEDERATE POST CARDS, CDV'S AND REUNION BADGES

Civil War Veterans Historical Association Secretary,

Marshall J. Brighenti

Marshall J. Brighenti



GRAND ARMY of the REPUBLIC
Memorial Hall, Post 20, Aurora, IL

Dedicated 1877

**GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL
HALL & MILITARY MUSEUM**

When the veterans of Aurora returned from the Civil War, they did not want to forget the sacrifices of their comrades - they wanted to build a monument, a "permanent object" that would be useful to them and those who would follow. They would be pleased to know that their efforts are still carried on, after 123 years.

Three years after the war, in 1869, the idea for a building to serve as a memorial to those who fought in the war was conceived and spearheaded by 23 veterans. Rather than an obelisk in a park, they wanted a monument that would serve their need for a meeting place and serve posterity as well.

They built what is known today as the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Military Museum. The G.A.R was formed by Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson in the fall of 1866 as an organization to honor veterans of the Civil War.

For more than 65 years, the Memorial Hall served as Headquarters for G.A.R. Post 20. The post was chartered on June 10, 1875 with a roster of 23 members. During its time of active duty, there were more than 700 members representing some 200 regiments from 20 states. Their ranks, while in service, ranged from Private to Brigadier General.

The present G.A.R. Memorial Association was organized in 1939 by the last veteran to survive as a member of Post 20, Daniel Augustus Wedge, who served in Company E, 8th Illinois Infantry for five years. Wedge worked as a conductor for the CB&Q railroad, and rode in Memorial Day parades up until his final years. Wedge made a will that turned over the G.A.R. possessions and building to the city of Aurora, thus forming the G.A.R. Memorial Association.

He died on his 106th birthday, October 26, 1947. He is buried in North Lake Cemetery in Aurora, site of the post's annual Memorial Day Service.

The group now has 175 members and is open to anyone, veteran or not, with an interest in the Civil War. The organization, which was organized in 1980, holds a Presidential Grand Military Ball as a fund-raiser, and maintains the hall. While cleaning the building, members found much long-forgotten historical material in an upper-level storeroom: boxes of records, books and documents.

The vast archives of the post include personal papers, books and records of the original post members, numbering several hundred files. If a soldier resided in Aurora between 1875 and 1939, it is quite possible that his history is on file; including wounds, place of birth, the battles fought, date of death, pension information and other related material. The collection also includes all but one of the meeting minute ledgers from this same period and 340 carte-de-vis (formal photos) of post members.

Fred Otis White, founding secretary of the Soldiers' Monument Association and a member of G.A.R. Post 20, had served with a Massachusetts regiment before settling in Aurora. In 1869, he sent for plans to build a copy of the G.A.R. halls erected in Ohio and Foxboro, Massachusetts. (The hall in Massachusetts is also still standing.) Aurora architect Joseph Mulvey adapted the plans and local carpenters and masons completed the building. White, who later was elected mayor of Aurora, is remembered with a bust in the Hall.

The veterans and their auxiliary formed sub-committees and began raising funds by public subscription in 1869. It took nine years to raise the total \$7,187.54, but the handsome limestone building with its beautiful stained and etched glass windows was officially dedicated on July 4, 1878.

The building is a rare and unique Gothic-style, octagonal structure, 46 feet in diameter, and 36 feet tall at its highest point, built on Stolp Island, in the Fox River, between Benton and New York streets in downtown Aurora. It is faced with limestone cut from a quarry on South Broadway behind the old CB&Q railroad station.

A 12-light gas chandelier made by John Lawson of Aurora for \$62.50 hung from the ceiling. Rev. Isadore Leins painted portraits of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Admiral David Farragut and General George Henry Thomas. Samuel Hitchcock painted battle scene frescoes on the walls, which were later painted over.

The 28-foot high rotunda-like room contains artifacts, books and histories from the Civil War. (Item from the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II were added later.)

A large marble "Recording Angel" stands on a pedestal in the middle of the room, facing a blank marble panel, carefully recording the names of the unknown dead in her "book of Life." Only she knows their names, hence the blank wall. The statue and marble tablets were made by Stickle and Fritz of Aurora. It was

in front of this statue that the bodies of Civil War veterans were lain in state and where services were conducted. Annual Memorial Day services were also held here. Today, the Angel Room is dedicated to the memory of all veterans of all the wars in which Americans have taken part.

In 1877, the "Lone Sentry" statute - cast in bronze, 7 feet tall, weighing 600 pounds - was placed at the top of the rotunda roof. His pose is that of "At Picket" or as known today, "on guard duty." Lone Sentry statues are common at Civil War memorials.

On either side of the main entrance is a matched pair of bronze six caliber Confederate cannons. These are experimental models made for the Confederacy at Tredegar Foundry in Richmond, Virginia. They are two of only eight such pieces ever cast. There are no records of the location of the other six.

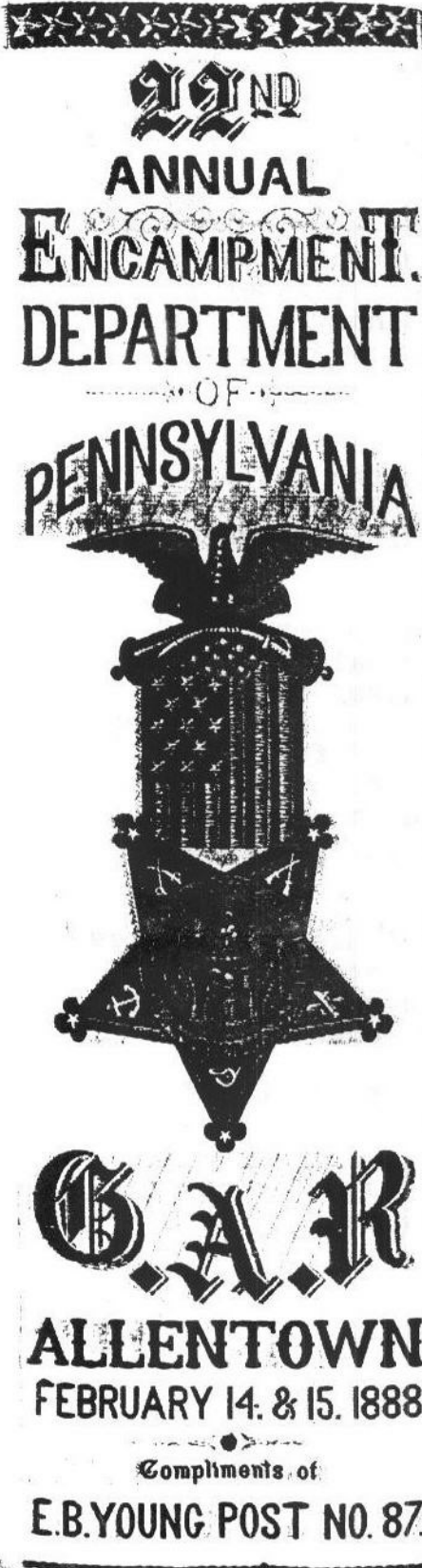
In 1881, the building became the first Aurora Free Public Library, when the monument association donated the building and \$1,000 to the library. It contained about 10,000 books, and occupied the building until 1904, when a new library was built from funds donated by Andrew Carnegie.

The building has had its hard times; it was maintained but not protected and preserved. By the 1960s the hall was in such a sad state of repair, the city officials considered demolishing it. Citizens and veterans came to the aid of the organization, and with the blessing of the city, raised \$30,000 for needed repairs to the building and the lower level meeting room. The main first floor was only slightly changed, but the battle scenes were, for some unknown reason, painted over. The portraits, fortunately, were not.

The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Memorial Association exists for the preservation and perpetuation of the building, but also for the priceless legacy which has been handed down from generation to generation.

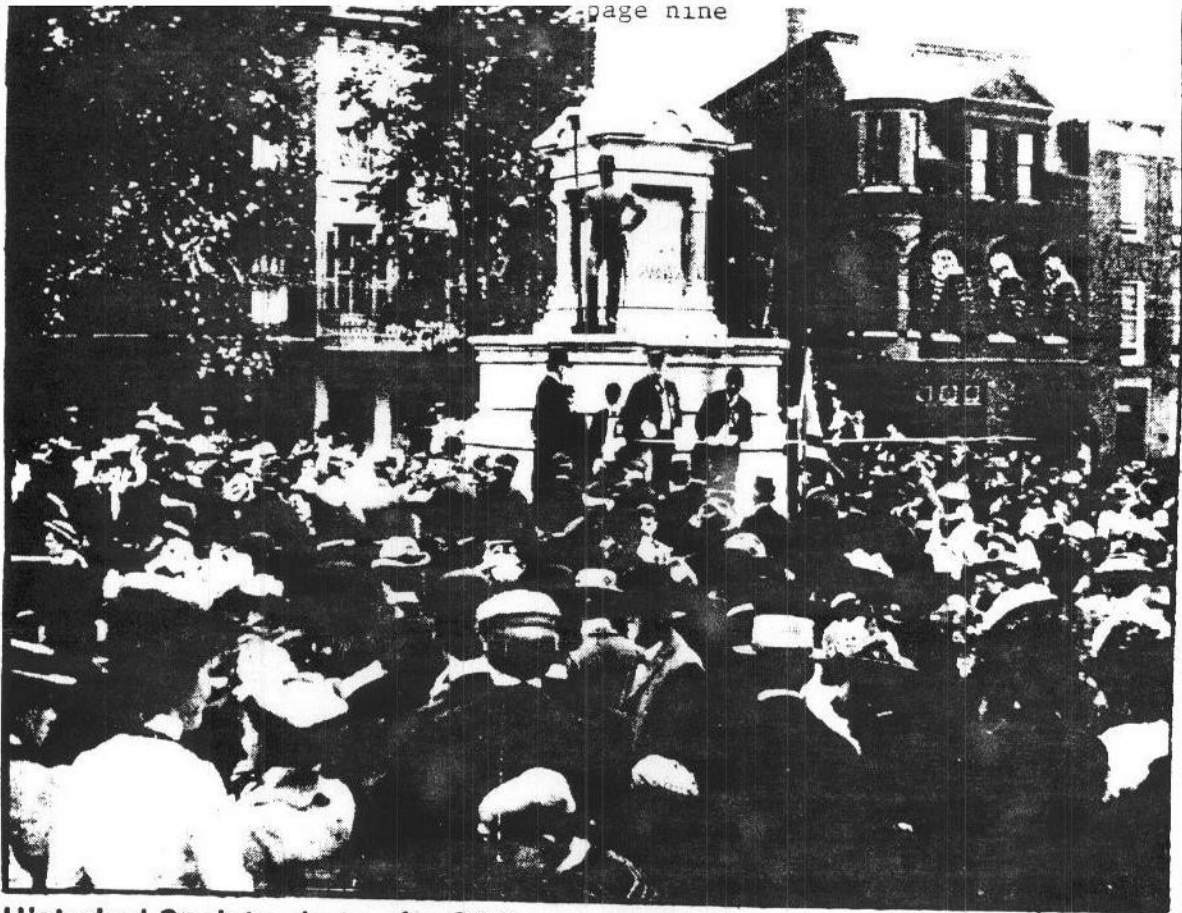
For additional information on the post or on membership, write: G.A.R. Memorial Association, P.O. Box 1043, Aurora, IL 60507. The hall is located at 23 East Downer Place, Aurora. 897-7221. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 4 p.m. There is a nominal fee for research services.

Description of the Pennsylvania ribbon follows: Ribbon woven silk made by Howard & Mc Giness Patterson, N.J., length approximately 9", width approximately 2 1/4", the numbers 22nd are outlined in yellow, the word encampment is outlined in yellow with yellow filigree above, the letters G. A. R. are also outlined in yellow. This is a very colorful ribbon. Could it be the delegates ribbon or badge for 1888?



BLUE BORDER
 WHITE STARS
 RED NUMBERS
 RED LETTERS
 BLUE LETTERS
 RED LETTERS
 YELLOW LETTERS
 BLUE LETTERS
 BROWN
 RED, WHITE &
 BLUE
 BROWN
 RED LETTERS
 BLUE LETTERS
 RED LETTERS
 YELLOW
 BLUE LETTERS
 BLUE LETTERS
 RED





Historical Society photo of a GAR monument program

By LORRAINE STANTON

Special to the Herald

POTTSVILLE — The veterans' monument on Garfield Square in downtown Pottsville was dedicated Oct. 1, 1891, as a memorial to all Schuylkill Countians who served during the Civil War.

Inscriptions of the sides of the monument state:

—“This memorial is a tribute of Schuylkill County to her brave sons who served in defense of the Union, 1861-65.”

—“From a population of 90,000, Schuylkill County during the War of Secession gave the army and navy of the Union 13,000 volunteers.”

—“The Washington Artillery and National Light Infantry of Pottsville, 246 men, were a part of the 530 Pennsylvanians who first arrived for the defense of the national capital, April 18, 1861.”

—“Love, honor, renown and lasting remembrance for those who fought for freedom and an imperiled country. May posterity profit by their example. Duice et decorum est pro patri mori.”

The monument was first proposed at a meeting of Pottsville veterans on June 15, 1887. The group incorporated as the Soldiers Monument Park Association of Schuylkill County and its first officers were Col. Henry Royer, president; Gen. J. K. Siegfried, vice president; Capt. John Schweers, secretary; Dr. F. W. Boyer, treasurer; Capt. D. C. Henning, solicitor; plus a board of directors composed of 28 members.

First hurdle the association had to clear was a controversy over where to locate the memorial. One suggestion was the courthouse property, another was one of the cemeteries, others felt a downtown spot would be most appropriate.

When Garfield Square was finally chosen in December 1887, a group of citizens identified as “Moreton et al” filed a court petition objecting to placing a park measuring 30 by 150 feet in the center of the street. However, the parties negotiated the issue was settled out of court.

Fundraising was undertaken by general

solicitation and the subscription of life memberships for which engraved certificates were issued.

The committee engaged August Zellers, an artist, to draft a design for the memorial, and Richard C. Collins as the contractor.

The branches of service are represented by a full-uniform infantry soldier at parade-rest, an artilleryman with ramrod at rest, a calvaryman and a sailor, with the goddess of liberty in the center. Engraved on the respective sides are reminders of the war: “Fort Sumter,” “Gettysburg,” “Appomattox” and “Emancipation.” The following June, two field carriage howitzers were procured from the Philadelphia Navy Yard to complete the monument.

On the eve of dedication in 1891, the town was filled with visitors, the most distinguished being Governor Robert Pattison, who was guest of honor at the grand ball in Centennial Hall.

Among the many GAR posts and other veterans organizations represented in the nine-division parade were the First Defenders, Ringgold Light Infantry and Ringgold Band who came from Reading in a 13-car special train.

In the honor of pulling the cords to unveil the monument was given to four veterans who suffered wounds in the war: William McElrath, William Burns, George Rose and Caleb Kinzi. Gen. Horace Porter, the main speaker, lauded Schuylkill Countians for their contribution to the war effort. Gen. David McM. Gregg, a First Defender, responded in behalf of the veterans. Rev. Dr. Jacob Belville for First Presbyterian Church presided at invocation and Rev. William Duffy of Saint Patrick's Church delivered benediction. The Third Brigade and Ringgold Bands provided music.

The final step in the monument history was turning it over to Pottsville borough for perpetual care. This took place at a formal ceremony in the Academy of Music on Nov. 9, 1897. The presentation was made by Col. Henry Royer as president of the Monument Association. C. D. Henning, borough solicitor, accepted in behalf of the community.