

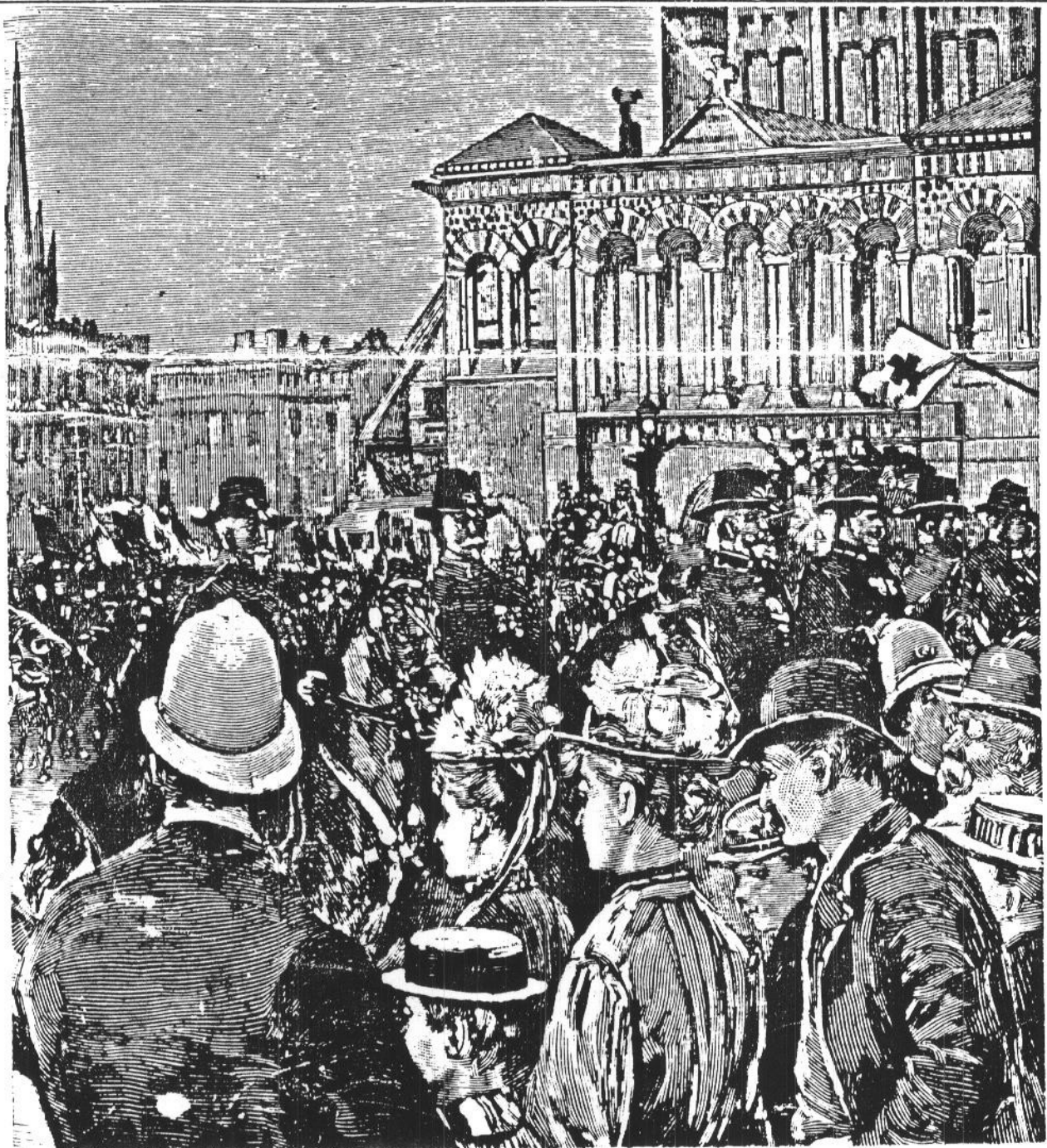


THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL ORGAN OF THE G.A.R..HISTORIANS & COLLECTORS

Vol. 2 - No. 1

South Lyon, Michigan - June 1981

\$10.00 per annum



PASSING THROUGH COPLEY SQUARE DURING THE 1890 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT IN BOSTON.

# THE GREAT REPUBLIC®

Published six times a year in South Lyon, Michigan by Roger L. Heiple. All letters and communications to this office must be addressed to: Roger L. Heiple, THE GREAT REPUBLIC, P.O. Box 16 South Lyon, Michigan. 48178.

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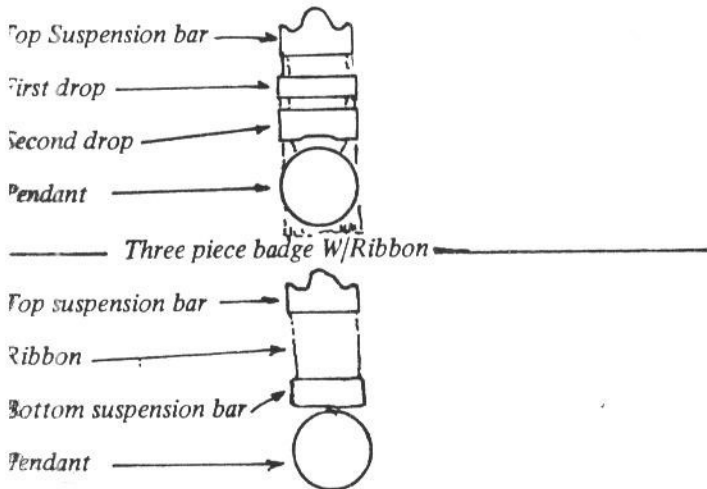
## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Roger

I do believe we should use standard and correct terminology when referring to collections. Please note: medals are only given by governments usually for some type of service, like military, etc. Decorations are only given by governments, usually for valor or leadership. Organizations only give self-awards. Usually for membership or conventions. These are known as BADGES. They may look like medals but are not. If we are to become a recognized group we should have professional standards. Your printing of O.M.S.A. ethics is a good start. Next we should be our terminology. People who use the term medal when referring to a badge only amuse or aggravate a medal collector.

Next we should have a standardized nomenclature and grading system. Grades - Mint, EF, VF (fine), F (fair) - the last is just a step above junk.

Four piece badge W/Ribbon behind. \_\_\_\_\_



JOE ATTWOOD

Thank you Joe for correcting what is a very common error in discussing the G.A.R. badges. Not only have we been calling badges of the order medals, but we have been writing and

using the terms interchangeably. This common error has been going on for years, but if we are aware of the difference we can make a difference. The only time you will see it in the Great Republic is when the term is used in direct quotations.

Nonomenclature is a very important part of the responsibility of this publication (see Vol.1-No. 4, pages 6 & 7). This along with identification of badges is the main objective of this research. A grading system is in the works now and you have helped it. Your description of badge parts is appreciated by Joe, by taking the time to write, you have helped. [ED.]

Dear Roger

Enclosed is a picture taken in Fort Scott, Kansas. As you can see it on a door, the hallway was rather dark so my little camera didn't do good.

The GAR deeded the room (I counted 3 rooms plus rest room) in the building to the WRC. The ladies tell stories of having to dig out the deed every so often and wave it under the noses of those who think they can take over that room.

Sincerely

Joan Bennet P.N.P. and Member, board of Directors at Springfield, Ill

Thanks for the photo of the door with the gold leaf GAR & WRC on it. Your story of the attempt of "those" who think they have a right to take over what the veterans gave and wished to have preserved, is all too common. The WRC and other allied groups have fought the battle for a long time. It has been a desire of mine to have interested parties find a forum in this publication to stop the destruction of the memorials to the Grand Army and the veterans. That is why we have started a GAR hall registration program. If we can identify - we may be able to persevere. [ed].

Addition to article in Vol. 1- No. 6, Lee's Patent Badge. Silas Burdick's picture shows him wearing a Lee's Patent Badge with the unit of his regiment- Co. c. 55th. N.Y. Inf.



EXCERPTS FROM PROF. JAY S. HOAR'S STUDY  
*SUNSET AND DUSK OF THE BLUE AND THE GRAY*

WILLIAM ALLEN MAGEE 1846 - 1953

Surpassing and stellar among California's always impressive Civil War remanant, Billy Magee lived so long that by late November, 1952, he became one of the last dozen in the nation. Born in Findlay, Ohio, he enlisted on Oct. 10, 1863 to serve with Co. M, 12th. Ohio Vol. Cav. As bugler he blew daily just about all those old Army calls while with Gen. Sherman's Army, going the whole way with them. Soon after mustering out Nov. 14, 1865, he re-enlisted in the regular army to make it his career. Accordingly, he was stationed at numerous forts throughout the the land during the last thirty years of the Indian Wars. It was in 1898 that Magee retired from the Second Infantry as Master Sergeant, being discharged at Ft. Des Moines.

Shortly before his 100th. birthday, Magee joined Stanton Post 55, G.A. R. and its Last Man Club along with 101-year-old Douglas Story. They both would be members for over six years! "Magee's membership will bring our rolls up to four again," commented Cmdr. Charles Chappel, "I once belonged to Custer Post 7 in Omaha, but I allowed my membership to lapse," admitted Magee, wearing that day his Lincoln Discharge Medal, the Indian Wars Medal, and a G.A.R. medal on his uniform.

Fishing, smoking a pipe, and reading widely were Comrade Magee's sustaining interests while his abstinence from liquor the latter half of his life, he felt, accounted for his age. "The old-time, handmade corn whiskey was good for a man, but these mixed drinks ... I don't know." By the fall of 1949 Story and Magee were the last two old Blues of Los Angeles' famous Stanton Post - last functioning G.A.R. unit anywhere. All during the next three and a half years, concerned America was wondering (while these two diehards held their monthly, then bi-monthly, then detemrindly their quarterly meeting at each other's home or, if they both felt up to the motor trip, at Stanton Post 55's Patriotic Hall) - "Which one will be the lone survivor?" As with so many Last Man Clubs before and since, there was a bottle on wine to be opened for a toast to departed comrades. Not being a drinking man, what would Magee do about the final toast? From April 1952 until his own passing nine months later, Billy Magee never knew he was alone, never opened the bottle. Understandably his daughters feared he would brood in melancholy. He had lived quietly these closing years in Van Nuys, in the care of a devoted daughter. One frosty day three weeks later in Wadsworth V.A. Hospital in suburban Sawtelle, a lone Union Army survivor of the entire West mustered out.

CALIFORNIA  
 AND  
 NEVADA  
 Woman's  
 Relief  
 Corps



*W. A. Magee*

Department Commander

SEVENTIETH  
 NATIONAL  
 CONVENTION  
 Boston, Mass.  
 August 17-21, 1952



# Light Thrown Upon The Pension Bureau

BY

## CAPT. H. T. JOHNS.

*Medal of Honor Member of 49th Mass. Vols.*

*Member of Meade Post, G. A. R., No. 5, Washington, D. C.*

NO. 301 SPRUCE STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C.,

January, 1902.

DEAR COMMANDER AND COMRADES:

I am ready to help you to the utmost of my ability to secure the removal of Commissioner Evans. The welfare of the veterans and the honor of the Government demand his early removal.

Let us make no mistakes. Commissioners Lochren and Evans have cruelly injured us, and nullified the laws of Congress in denying pensions to tens of thousands of claimants legally entitled to them. I say "us," but I am not a claimant for pension. And yet both of them are honorable and honest gentlemen. Our worst enemy is he who has tutored himself into believing that cruelty towards us is fidelity to the Government. Such men never withdraw their crushing hands. I migrated from Massachusetts to St. Paul, Minn., in 1866. That city has continued to be my legal residence. I knew Mr. Lochren well as a soldier in the noble First Minnesota regiment, which, at Gettysburg, startled the world by its awful charge, that prevented that name being a synonym of defeat instead of victory; he built up a splendid reputation. Equally clean was his reputation as lawyer, judge and citizen. As a judge he had one weakness. He was always a strict constructionist, and so often killed the spirit of the law by his extreme adherence to the letter of the statute. He illustrated the scripture "the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." As Commissioner, he allowed what he considered the letter of the law to crush the benevolent spirit embodied in it by a grateful Congress. He was thus fitted to become the cruel agent of Mr. Cleveland's cruel pension policy.

Then came Mr. Evans. He was more exacting and cruel in his administration than his predecessor. It is generally admitted that it has been harder to secure pensions under Mr. Evans than under Mr. Lochren, and the hopeless feature of the case is that yearly he has grown more exacting and cruel. And yet, no foe, however bitter, has ever impugned his integrity. But his cruelty has hurt us just the same.

The trouble with Mr. Evans is his temperament unfits him for his duties as Commissioner. The pension laws embody the gratitude and sympathy of the American people for the men who saved the Union. It was fully expected that those laws would be liberally construed, as prior to Mr. Lochren's advent they had always been. Mr. Evans is a strong, self-willed, dominating man, and as such he has achieved financial and political success, but I never knew a man more lacking in sympathy. Do you wonder he has been cruel to the veterans?

The pension laws were intended to be liberally construed. Our noble soldier-President, Benj. Harrison, hit the mark, when he proudly said to the objectors of a liberal pension policy—"I cannot bring myself to use the apothecary's scale in weighing the services and rewards of our surviving veterans."

Again and again Congress has declared that all reasonable doubts should be decided in favor of the soldier. And now, comrades, carefully weighing my words I want to say with all the emphasis of which I am capable: **In the last eight years,**

of all the thousands of cases laid on my desk, not one case has come under my attention in which, in whole or in part, any doubt has been resolved in favor of the soldier. And my diligent inquiries of my associates have failed to bring one such to light. **NOT ONE.**

On the contrary, Mr. Evans, always more severe than Mr. Lochren, has demanded the most absolute certainty possible, ignoring the invariable practice of our courts in civil cases to decide them according to the preponderance of evidence. In every claim the Commissioner is both juror and judge, holding in his own hands life and death. Having no confidence in him, we ask the President for a change of venue—a new Commissioner.

Comrades: We can expect no relief from Mr. Evans' sympathy and pride as a soldier, for he has almost none of those qualities. He was a member of a 100-days' Wisconsin regiment, and served in the Quartermaster's Department dealing out rations. He never saw an armed foe. He saw us in our selfishness, and knows nothing of the nobility and heroism developed in us in our subsequent months and years, when we marched and fought and suffered together, and learned the true meaning of the word Comrade.

In his nearly five years incumbency I cannot recall a proud, kindly word for the survivors of the war, or the widows of our dead. With unlimited means, suspicious of every soldier, he has searched the country for pension frauds, and among veterans has found very few indeed, less than one in 3,000 pensioners. Can any other class or profession show a better record? The widows of soldiers have had to endure visits from special examiners—putting the most offensive questions to them, questions that were an outrage upon American decency, and so denounced in Congress. Of 235,899 female pensioners, the drag-net only deposed 26 last year for immoral conduct, and they were not convicted in any court with counsel to assist them, but on *ex parte* proceedings by a special examiner. Is there any class of women anywhere in this wide world who could present a cleaner record? The special examiners made a mistake. They confined their illegal examinations to the poor, forgetting that among the poor the average of female purity is higher than in any other grade of society. Only 26 in 235,899; was it well in the name of economy to purchase the burning hatred of thousands of insulted women whom our dead boys called—"Wife!" "Mother!"

One special examiner reported—"of those suspected of pension frauds, very few soldiers have been implicated." It would have gladdened me had Mr. Evans in his annual report so stated. Read it through, and not one manly, generous word can be found in behalf of them who made it possible for him to occupy his high position. On the contrary, everything savoring of an attempted pension fraud, without waiting to learn whether anybody was guilty, he has thrust it into the newspapers and it has gone the rounds to blacken the reputation of the veterans. **Parading only their real or suspected errors, without ever alluding to their virtues or merits, and what class or profession would not stand degraded before the world? Mr. Evans has practically insisted that the veterans shall be gauged by the black sheep of the flock.**

He has coraled the press. Influential journals who have never refused to publish any articles on other subjects have always returned my articles in which I have endeavored to vindicate the honor and reputation of my brother-in-arms. Do not unnecessarily blame the press. They, as we do, desire that the annual pension burden shall be lessened if it can be done in any way. They say Mr. Evans is a sworn

officer of the Government, having no personal interest in the rejection of claims, and the hue and the cry against him comes only from corrupt attorneys and disappointed claimants, supported by the natural sympathy of the G. A. R. They see not that his great ambition for a reputation for economy, thereby pleasing all the leading classes of society, warps his judgment in the adjudication of soldiers' claims. Is it surprising that the veterans dislike him? It is a small matter to deny us pensions, but we can never forgive him for so insulting our pride as to lead one of his supporting journals—*The New York Times*—to publish that one-half of the pensioners are frauds. Even honored graves are thus maligned. Surely a man who carefully avoids any gathering of soldiers, realizing that he is an unwelcome guest among them, should not be at the head of the Bureau of Pensions.

How refreshing to turn from Henry Clay Evans to Theodore Roosevelt. Hear the new President in his first message:

"No other citizens deserve so well of the Republic as the veterans, the survivors of those who saved the Union. They did the one deed which if left undone would have meant that all else in our history went for nothing. But for their steadfast prowess in the greatest crisis of our history, all our annals would be meaningless, and our great experiment in popular freedom and self-government a gloomy failure. And whenever another great crisis arises in the future the deathless memories of the Civil War will give to Americans the lift of lofty purpose which comes to those whose fathers have stood valiantly in the forefront of the battle."

Those words will long tingle our pride and the pride of our children. They say to the world in the tenderly familiar language of 1861: "Boys, you were heroes *once*, and that 'once' made possible my proud position and the increasing greatness and glory of our country."

But understand President Roosevelt. He is a great man, great in brain and will and heart, and I know no one who will go further with his own funds to aid a needy soldier, but his good judgment will not allow him to remove Mr. Evans merely through sympathy with the sufferings of the survivors of the war. It must be made clear to him that he has nullified the laws of Congress by denying pensions to men whom Congress intended should be pensioned. *That can be shown* from the official records.

And here let me be guilty of apparent egotism in presenting to you the following article of mine, published in the *Evening Star*, Washington, D. C., under date of January 11, 1901. You will note that I have long been an ardent defender of soldiers' pride. That article stirred up the indignation of the veterans. And General D. E. Sickles came over from New York to see that the resentment of the soldier should be fully heard. The general manager of the parade would pay no heed to our protest, but offered General Sickles a prominent place at the head of the column, to which the noble soldier responded: "The faithfulness of my soldiers made me what I am, and I can accept no honors in which they are not allowed to share." The result was we won out, and marched at the head of the parade, being the high honor of being the personal escort of the President.



#### THE PLACE OF THE G. A. R. IN PARADES.

My advice to my comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic is to decline to participate in the coming inaugural parade if not allowed the post of honor. In the inaugural parade of 1897 the Grand Army was located at the tail end of the procession, immediately in front of the advertising wagons and the motley, howling crowd that there do congregate. And this reproach (on whom I will not state) was repeated at the late centennial parade. Let us see to it that it never happens again. Our absence may be eloquent. No words, no excuses can satisfy the patriotic heart that the tail end of a procession is a post of honor.

I grant that we do not make an imposing appearance on parade. Our manly comeliness is gone. We fail to keep step to the distantly located music. Our line wavers and sags. The "touch of elbows" is a lost art with us, save in memory of the sacred days when our reliance upon each other nerved us to endure until victory. Grant that we have not kept pace with the prosperity of the country, made possible by our soldierly faithfulness, but we were heroes once, and that "once" made the inauguration of a President of the United States a permanent possibility.

The President of the United States is the chief civil ruler of the country. Only incidentally, merely ex-officio, is he connected with the army or navy. Therefore an inauguration parade is mainly a civil affair. The Union soldiers, strictly speaking, were not soldiers, certainly not professional soldiers. They were the armed police of the

country, set apart to keep the peace of the Union.

Our military on parade lights up well. Though professional soldiers, they are Americans, and when needed to "do and dare," as once we were called upon they will fully emulate our example, yet it is true not one in ten of them, officers or men, has ever seen an armed foe. Behind them, far off in the rear, march, or try to march, men who for four years made of their bodies a living, impregnable wall around the capital of the nation. And incidental to that work they went through the fiery hell of Second Bull Run and of Antietam, the bloodiest battle of modern times, and at quick step, disciplined but not dismayed by their awful experience, leaped into the seething craters of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. We were not always successful, not our fault, but we saved Washington. Normally we do not belong to the rear.

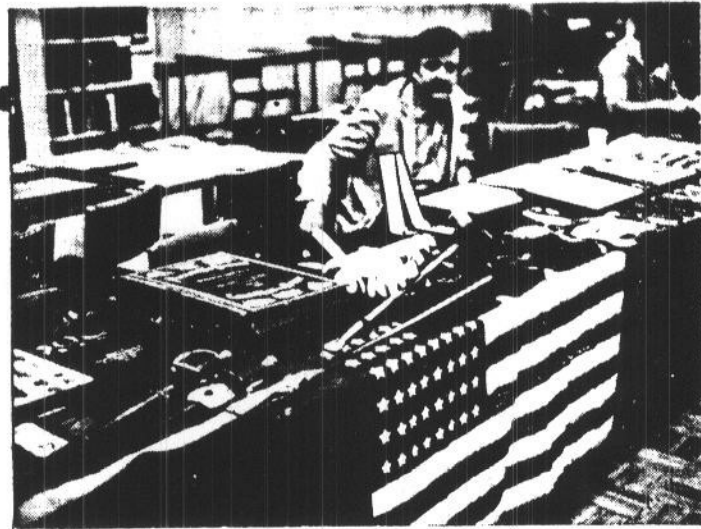
Would it be deemed conducive to the public peace to so locate in a parade in London the victorious soldiers from South Africa. Would any populace of any city in Dixie allow Confederate veterans to be thus ignominiously located in a general parade? Are our living veterans, representing so many thousands "died in battle," less worthy of the respectful gratitude of the citizens of Washington? With modest pride, deemed worthy to wear the "medal of honor," I think it fitting for me to thus voice the feelings of my comrades.

H. T. JOHNS.

FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE G.A.R. HISTORIANS & COLLECTORS - ASHLAND, OHIO



l to r. Warren Barber, Hank McGonagle, Everitt Bowles, Don Limpert.



Hank McGonagle, setting the record for distance, all the way from Newburyport, Mass. His display included uniforms, flags, papers, swords, record books and many other choice items.



Don Limpert and Everitt Bowles keep an eye on Warren Barber's fine display of G.A.R. glass and silver items.



Trading was very heavy among these table holders; Hank McGonagle, Everitt Bowles, Don Limpert, Warren Barber, and hiding behind Warren is Ray Russell. Most of the items in the GAR section of the show changed hands through shrewd trading.



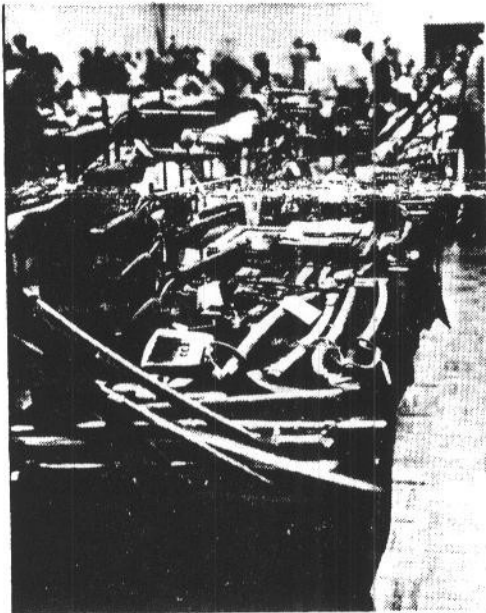
Mike Yeck shows off his 22 cal Gatling gun.



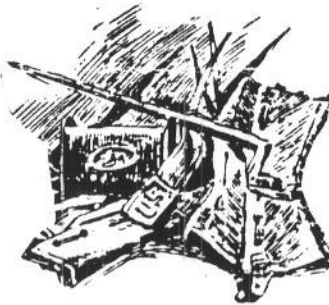
ENCAMPMENT RIBBON



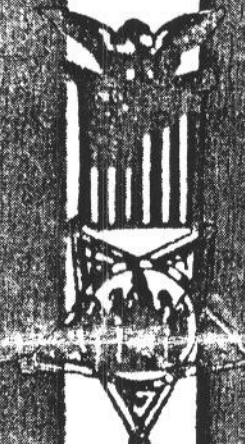
The Ashland Show had displays covering a wide number of subjects relating to the Civil War. Here a young visitor looks at the Lincoln display.



Tables and tables of weapons for sale.



FIRST  
ANNUAL  
National  
Encampment



G. A. R.  
Historians &  
Collectors  
Ashland, Ohio  
April 25-26,  
1981

ENCAMPMENT RIBBONS STILL AVAILABLE

The ribbons of the First Annual National Encampment in Ashland, Ohio are still available to those who couldn't attend. The red, white, and blue ribbon is stamped in gold. The GAR membership badge stamped in the center of the ribbon is from an original cut of the GAR. The cost of the ribbon is \$1.00, with .25 for postage. Send orders to the office of the Great Republic.



# 3BN-GAR COLUMN

A REGULAR COLUMN SHARING  
THE RESEARCH OF THE EARLY  
GAR ORGANIZATION & EMBLEM

## GEN. LANDER POST 5 ACQUIRES EARLY POST RIBBON REPORTS BOB MARCOTTE.



The 3BN-GAR column this month started with a letter from Bob Marcotte. He wrote that the General Lander Post in Lynn, Mass., had received a donation of an early Lander Post ribbon badge. He enclosed a xerox of the badge (shown on the opposite column) and asked if I had any idea of its date of issue.

With the help of the book, "Early History of the Department of Massachusetts", published in 1895, the dating has been relatively easy. The following material relates the steps.

First, the 3BN-GAR badge itself establishes the period of 1866 to 1869. The badge may have been used through the end of 1869, but the manufacture of the badges with the 3BN symbol were discontinued in mid 1869.

Next was to check the rosters of the Department. The General Orders of 67-68<sup>1</sup> show the Mass. posts without post names, just numbers. I assume names were not used in this early period of Mass. posts.

following is a list of delegates in attendance: —

- Francis L. Gilman of Post No. 1, New Bedford.
- David B. Coleman of Post No. 1, New Bedford.
- William T. Soule of Post No. 1, New Bedford.
- Robert Crossman, 2d, of Post No. 3, Taunton.
- L. O. Barnard of Post No. 3, Taunton.
- Alfred M. Williams of Post No. 3, Taunton.
- J. T. Lurvey of Post No. 4, Melrose.
- Edward D. Bean of Post No. 5, Lynn.
- David Walker of Post No. 5, Lynn.

The following roster<sup>2</sup> is from December, 1868, and shows names attached to posts. An interesting fact appears: the post names from number five on show the word "Encampment" after the proper name of the post, i.e. "Gen. Lander Encampment" and "P.T. Wyman Encampment".

### POSTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS., GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Roster of Officers Elected December, 1868.

No Post.	Commander.	Location.	Title.
1.	Wm. S. Cobb,	New Bedford.	
2.	Francis B. Smith,	Nantucket.	
3.	Alfred M. Williams,	Taunton.	
4.	J. B. Drayton,	Melrose.	
5.	J. G. B. Adams,	Lynn,	Gen. Lander Encampment.
6.	Geo. O. Wilder,	Holliston,	P. T. Wyman "
7.	E. M. Chamberlin,	Boston,	Chas. Russell Lowell "

Moving on to the July 1869 roster<sup>3</sup>; the name of the posts remain the same, except for the removal of the word "Encampment".

Roster of Post Commanders, July 1, 1869.

Post.	Commander.	Location.	Title.
1.	John H. Mackie,	New Bedford,	Wm. Logan Rodman.
2.	Wm. Summerhays,	Nantucket,	Sherburne.
3.	Harrie A. Cushman,	Taunton,	Wm. H. Bartlett.
4.	D. H. Walker,	Melrose.	
5.	Chas. D. Hollis,	Lynn,	Gen. Lander.
6.	Geo. O. Wilder,	Holliston,	Powell T. Wyman.
7.	C. F. Driscoll,	Boston,	Chas. Russell Lowell.

It seems clear that any badge marked with a post name and "Encampment" attached would date from 1868. A fact that may have an influence is that the districts in Mass. were eliminated in Feb. 1868.

This badge of the Gen. Lander Post is to have a very honored position in their collection. Bob mentioned that the badge was found in a local flea market. I'm glad this rare badge has found its way into a place of honor and respect, in one of our outstanding memorials to the Grand Army veterans, the Gen Lander Post Hall in Lynn, Mass. R LH

Early History of the Department of Massachusetts G.A.R., from 1866 to 1880 inclusive. Compiled by the Department Encampment of 1892, Published in Boston by E.B. Stillings & Co., 1895.

- 1. page 12
- 2. page 52
- 3. page 59

# Camp Jason J. Shepard

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL Encampment

Southern California Veteran Association  
(ARBORMAR)

Huntington Beach  
CALIFORNIA

July 28th to August 9th, 1919

## GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2



The Council of Administration has located the Thirty-Second Annual Encampment at Arbormar, Huntington Beach, commencing Monday, July 28th and ending Saturday, August 9th, 1919.

All honorably discharged Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the War of the Rebellion, Spanish War, Mexican War, or of the regular army, also the Allied War Veterans; their sons and grandsons, are eligible to membership, and are invited to enroll their names on our camp registers.

Members of the Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., wives of Veterans and Sons of Veterans, also Daughters of Veterans, and all affiliated orders are invited to become members of our Woman's Auxiliary organization, Auxiliary to Sons of Veterans.

The Allied War Veterans will have Headquarters in Camp. Returned Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the War with Germany are invited to be present at this Camp.

While the Veterans and their families are to have an outing of ten days on the beach at Jason J. Shepard Camp, friends of the Veterans and their families are cordially invited to join us, and with us, enjoy the pleasures of outdoor life and the delightful entertainments each evening in the large Auditorium, free to all.

The kitchen utensils include: Gas stove, table and kitchen cabinet, with dishes and cooking utensils complete.

Quartermaster A. B. Paul of Santa Ana has charge of tent assignments. Better place your order for what accommodations you need right away. State whether tents are to be SUPPLIED WITH COOKING UTENSILS.

If you wish to bring your own tent a charge of \$1.50 will be made for a place to put it up, that gives you full rights in the camp.

There is a good Cafeteria on the ground, and meals can be had at reasonable rates. We hope to have a market man visit the Camp every afternoon and take orders and deliver in the morning.

Have your mail addressed to Camp Jason J. Shepard, Huntington Beach, California, and it will be delivered in Camp twice daily.

The Methodist Camp Meeting Association has taken over all the holdings on property of the Huntington Beach Tent City Company and call the Camp Arbormar.

## BAGGAGE ARRANGEMENTS

An agreement has been made with the American Railway Express Company to handle all baggage along the line of the P. E. Railway as follows:

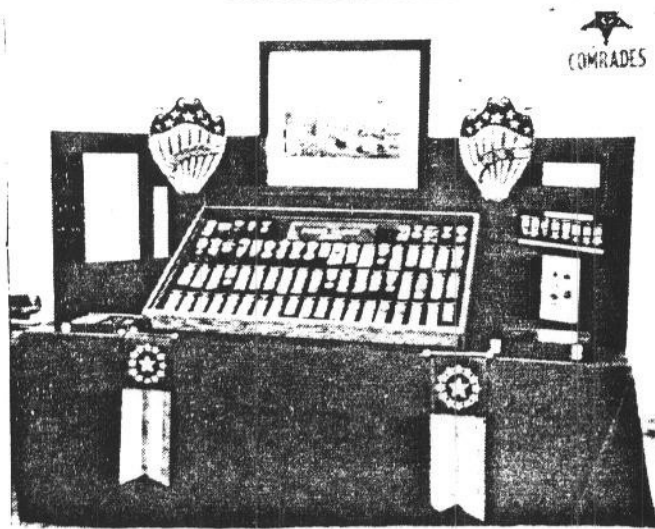
The American Railway Express Company quote the following rates on baggage picked up in Los Angeles within the free wagon delivery limits: 97 cents for each trunk and 53 cents for each grip, telescope or other hand baggage, when taken with a trunk, Los Angeles to Huntington Beach. Single grip, telescope or other hand baggage 35 cents. Return rate to be the same from Huntington Beach with free wagon delivery. For points outside of free delivery limits a nominal charge will be made.

Rates on all baggage coming on S. P. Co., Santa Fe and Salt Lake trains will be handled for 97 cents for trunk, and 53 cents for grip, etc., Los Angeles to Huntington Beach.

## MEMORIAL ROLL

That no name shall be missed from our roll of Honor at our Memorial Sunday services, I request that Adjutants of Post and Camp send names, date of death, company and regiment to which deceased members belong, to Adjutant Maj. J. J. Weiler, 135 Acacia Ave., Glendale, and Secretaries of Corps and Circles the names of their deceased members to Secretary Idela Stockton, 433 W. 73rd St., Los Angeles, California. Please report these as soon as July 25th, 1919.

## GREAT REPUBLIC DISPLAY WINS AT ASHLAND SHOW



Abbott M. Gibney, reporter



At the risk of seeming immodest, we'd like to mention that the Great Republic was singularly honored for a G.A.R. display in April. The Great Republic display in the Ashland Civil War Show, April 25 & 26. The display was awarded "Best in Show G.A.R." and the handsome plaque, shown here, was given.

The display contained the first known complete collection of National Encampment Delegate badges, (1883-1949). Other items included dies, test strikes, sketches, and a group of national officer badges.

## POST CLOSING - A SAD MOMENT

The most enjoyable moments in the history of a G A R post are the opening meetings, signing of the Charter, and the Charter reception or banquet. Descriptions of these happy times of comrades forming a new post can be found in the Post histories, minutes, local newspaper stories, and personal narratives. In contrast, the closing was a sad and lonely affair.

Little can be found that was written by the veterans during these final days for there was usually only one or two left, and often in poor health. Therefore, the records we find are mainly those written by the Womans Relief Corps, or one of the other allied organizations that supported the post. In some cases, other veterans groups, such as the U.S.W.V., American Legion, or Veterans of Foreign Wars, closed the GAR Post.

The following records written in 1931 and 1937 are representative of these closing days of the Grand Army in the many small posts throughout the country. The post described is the Welch Post 137, Ann Arbor, Michigan, chartered May 8, 1883. Membership in 1921 of the Welch post is listed as 21.

The first item is the disposition of the Post materials by the last two members in 1931. The second document is the memorial, written on the last page of the Post minutes,

G.A.R. Hall  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

May 4th. 1931

*Whereas Welch Corps No. 218, Woman's Relief Corps of Ann Arbor, Michigan, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, has for a long period of time given its services, and is at this time giving its services, and filling several of the offices of Welch Post No. 137 G.A.R., which services have been greatly appreciated by our members who have passed on, and are still greatly appreciated by our remaining members:*

*Whereas, it is the desire of this Post to recognize such services on the part of the Woman's Relief Corps in such manner as is open to the Post.*

*Now therefore, it is desired by Welch Post No. 137 of the G.A.R. of Ann Arbor, Mich. that we do set over, transfer and convey to Welch Corps No. 218, all its furnishings, furniture and fixtures now owned by Welch Post, together with all records, writings, minutes, books of any kind whatsoever, including the charter, flags, and all relics.*

*It being the purpose of this agreement to transfer all the property of any kind or nature whatsoever and wherever situated to the Woman's Relief Corps, when the G.A.R. is through with same.*

*This is done by the expressed desire of our members who have passed on, and by the desire of our remaining comrades.*

*Resolved that a copy of this agreement be spread on the minute*

signed

Joseph Vallar

Post Commander

LeRoy Park

Chaplain

### IN MEMORIUM OF LEROY PARK

*LeRoy Park, the last surviving member of Welch Post No. 137, Department of Michigan passed away on Saturday morning Sept. 28th. 1937, at the age of 91 years. He was born May 6th. 1846 at Sullivan, Ashland County, Ohio.*

*Funeral services were held on Monday at 2 P.M. at the Zuly funeral home, with Rev. C. P. Hogle, a very dear friend of Mr. & Mrs. Park, officiating.*

*He is survived by his widow, Antoinette who is now 80 years old, and one son, Henry C. Park of Detroit.*

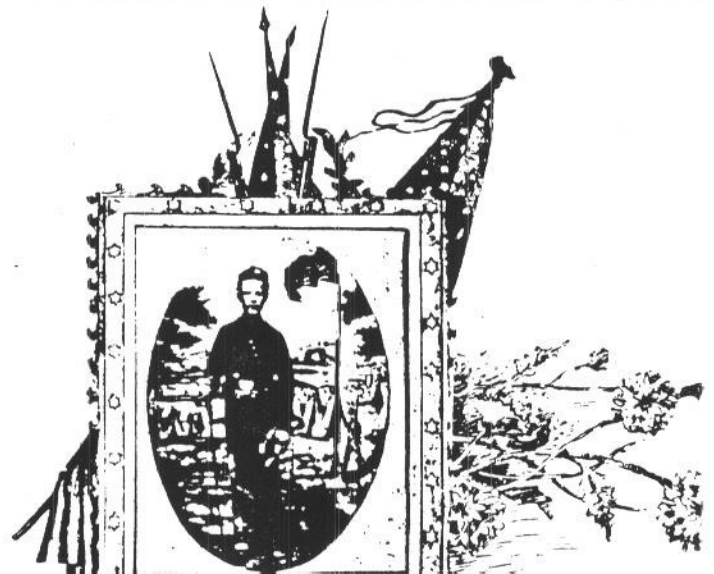
*At the request of the Commander of Graf O'Harg Post, the writer sang at the grave, "Tenting tonight". For many years, in some such way this has been my last service for these dear Grand Army soldiers.*

*At the request of some of the last members of Welch Post, the amount of money in the Treasury at the time of its disbanding was turned over to Welch Corps No. 218.*

*Our work for Welch Post is over, we have seen the last member laid away, and this part of our work is finished.*

*"All quiet along the Potomac tonight  
No sound save the rush of the river;  
While soft falls the dew on the face  
of the dead -  
The pickets off duty forever."*

These records are in the Michigan Historical Collections, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, and are part of the records of the Welch Post collection. Thanks go to Mary Jo Pugh, Reference Archivist, for her assistance.



# CLASSIFIED

Subscribers are allowed one free ad - 30 words are allowed free, and additional are .10 each. Count name and address as three words. Ads will be placed in issues as received according to earliest postmark. Ads received after classified position is full will be placed in the next issue.

## DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES AVAILABLE

**WANTED** - Boston, G.A.R. Conv. badges, 1890, 1904, 1917, & 1924. Also other items of the 1st. N.Y. Vol. Inf. Describe and price. Ed Coyne, Box 361 Boston, J.P., Mass. 02130.

**FORMATION WANTED** - Information on Commander W.C. Porter and Michigan Edward M. Prutzman Post No. 72 G.A.R. Have inscribed sword presented April 17, 1895 and wish to research. Lawrence L. Van Sullen, 700 Beaconsfield, Detroit, Michigan 48224.

**WANTED** - Books and U.S. Metal insignia, civil war through present military use. Books "Veterans in Politics" and "History of the Grand Army of the Republic" by Beath. EOJ 903 Prospect, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

**BOOKS - FOR SALE** - Regimental histories and other Civil War books. Lists used five times per year. RAY RUSSELL BOOKS P.O. Box 1008, Rochester, Michigan 48063.

**WANTED** - Member and officer badges for GAR, Society War of 1812, UCV, U.V., U.V.L., Army Cumberland, Army Tennessee, Army Navy Union, other similar organizations. Describe and price. John Banter, 998 N.W. 15th. Ave. Boca Raton, Fl. 33432.

**FORMATION NEEDED** - Looking for information on the following Civil War veterans: John W. Wolf, Sgt. Co. F., 7th. Reg. Cav. Vol. and Jacob Hiller, C. 67th. Reg. Inf. George Sjessell, 93 Henshaw Ave, Springfield, N.J. 08101.

**WANTED** - UCV, Gettsburg, National Delegate, UVU, and UVL items. Merritt Bowles, 1036 Washington Ave. Woodstock, Georgia 30188.

**WANTED** - Southern - Western Department GAR material. Anykind. Warren Barber III, P.O. Box 43, Richland, Michigan 49083.

**WANTED** - National Encampment Delegate badges and Pa. Delegate badges. Bill J. Brighenti, R.D. 5 Box 59 Belle Vernon, Pa. 15012.

**WANTED** - UCV, GAR National Badges, especially 1909, 1910, 1917, 1918, 1919, also Beaths "History of the GAR." William Ballard, 1970 85th. St. W. Over Grove Heights, Mn 55075.

**WANTED** - Trade for or buy GAR canteens and National encampment badges. Howard Huyer, 975 Summer Hill Dr., Gambrills, Md. 21054.

**WANTED** - Information or items of any type dealing with Brooklyn, N.Y. GAR posts, especially Rankin Post 10 GAR Brooklyn, N.Y. Frank Blades, R.D. 3 Box 363, Bridgeton, N.J. 08302

**WANTED** - any GAR items pertaining to the Department of Delaware. Raymond E. Palmer, P.O. Box 54, Delaware 19971

**WANTED** - **BUY SELL TRADE** Old military medals UCV and GAR badges, books, unusual souvenirs. Describe and price. Want "Triumph and Trials" (55th. Ohio) by John. Joe Attwood, 5415 SW 6th., Cape Coral, Fla. 33904.

**WANTED** - GAR or UCV items especially Dept. of Ohio annual encampment badges. Larry G. Moeste 804 Harriet Ave. N.W., Canton, Ohio 44703

**WANTED** - Any material marked 3BN-GAR. National Delegates Badges 1948, 1947 and before 1890. Also National Journals, Department of Penn. Delegate Badges, various state journals, Officer badges. David J. Klinepeter, 32 South 4th. Street, Harrisburg, Penna. 17103.

**WANTED** -G.A.R. Dept. of Mass. items and other New England Dept material. National and Dept. badges and cavalry reunion ribbons as well. Have items for trade. Hank McGonagle, 26 Broad St., Newburyport, Mass. 01950

**WANTED** - Interested in materials from Monroe County, Mich. and Knoxville in that area. Clayton Southern 3117 N. Monroe, Monroe, Mich. 48161.

**WANTED** - GAR parade canteens - Metal - Ceramic - Glass. Personal or organizational or souvenirs of any state plus other GAR memorabilia pertaining to Missouri, especially St. Louis. Also Missouri UCV items. David Radcliffe, 122 N. Kirkwood Rd., Kirkwood, Missouri, 63122

**WANTED** - **Q. BADGES and EXONUMIA BOUGHT AND SOLD** write for free price list and catalog. Will purchase large collections or single items. Rich Hartzog, P.O. Box 4143, Rockford, IL 61110.

**WANTED** Photographs of GAR activities - parades, encampments, posts, members, and groups. Roger Heiple, P.O. Box 16, South Lyon, Mi 48178

## ORIGINAL GAR FLAGS - FOR SALE

Three types of paper pin flags printed about 1895 - 1900 and used at Encampments. These items are available without the pins and are printed in color. They were to be mounted on 3 inch pins, but for some reason never issued. Quantity prices will be offered for the next two months. The supply is limited.

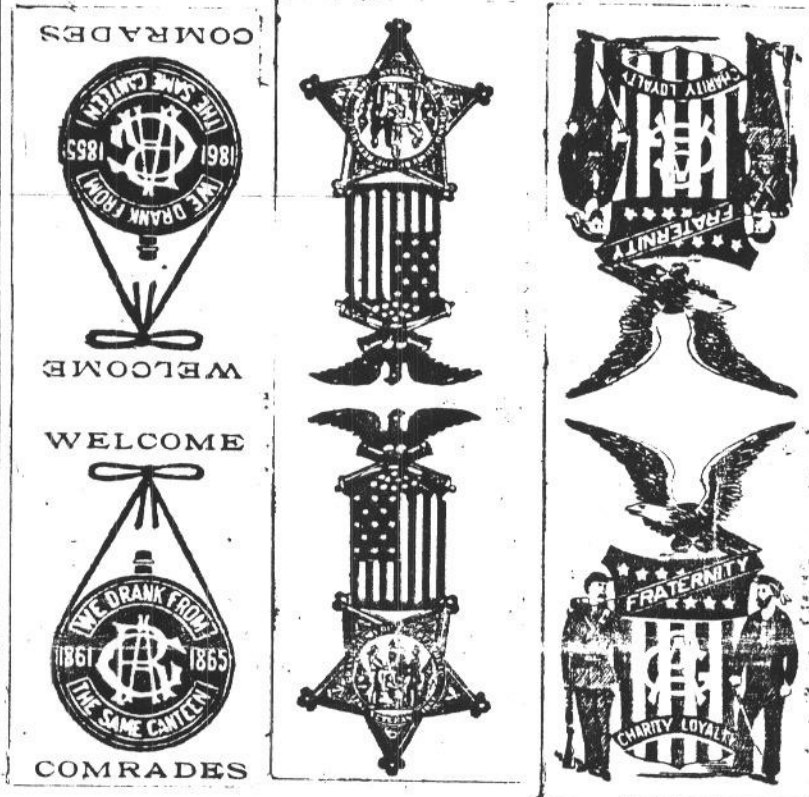
Prices: \$1.00 dozen (in dozens of one style)  
\$1.50 for mixed dozen ( 4 of each)

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Don't compare our G. A. R. Suits with those offered by the average clothing merchant. There is absolutely no comparison.

Our G. A. R. Suits are made up in a thoroughly first-class manner, cut by expert cutters and made by first-class tailors. The linings, trimmings and general finish are far superior to those used in ready-made stock.

The old soldiers all over the United States are patronizing us by the thousands, and in honor to them and the G. A. R. we have cut our per centage of profit on G. A. R. suits lower than on anything else we handle.

Almost cost, is the way we sell G. A. R. Suits. Yet we are anxious for your trade, we appreciate it just the same, build up our business and makes many new customers for us.

Many G. A. R. Posts join in a body and give us their orders for 20 to 100 suits for the entire post, but the price is the same whether you buy one suit or 100 suits. You will find our prices on G. A. R. Suits far below the price charged by retail dealers. As before explained, you will find there is no comparison in the goods or make.

We furnish these Suits in either style 1, 2 or 3, round cut sack or square cut sack, as illustrated above, or double breasted square cut sack style 3 at 50 cents extra. We also furnish an extra set of G. A. R. brass buttons with each suit. The buttons are detachable and can be easily removed.

✓ Samples of cloth sent free on application.

No. 4386. Our \$6.50 Blue Flannel G. A. R. Suit. We guarantee this suit to be equal to anything your local tailor can offer at \$12.00, and is better value than those carried by the average clothing store. It is made from a Fine Indigo Blue Flannel, fast color, warranted not to fade. If one fades we will send you a new suit. Nearly all wool, a very small cotton chain one way of the weave to make it firm and wear resisting. In fact, goods that will wear like iron. It is a suit that is generally sold for all wool.

Our Special Price \$6.50

No. 4387. Our \$7.50 Blue Flannel G. A. R. Suit. This suit is made from a finer and closer woven material than our \$6.50 suit, the trimmings are somewhat better and it is well worth the difference in price.

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No. 4388. Our \$8.90 Blue Flannel G. A. R. Suit, made from an extra fine all wool pure indigo blue flannel, warranted not to fade.

The finest all wool fast color G. A. R. goods made. These goods are made by one of the largest and most reliable mills in America, a concern whose reputation for the manufacture of high grade G. A. R. flannel is second to none.

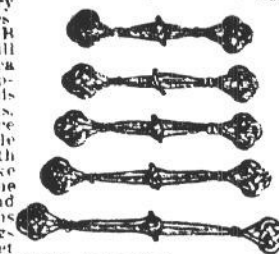
Our Special Price \$8.90

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**A Stylish Black Silk Military Cord Loop Set.**

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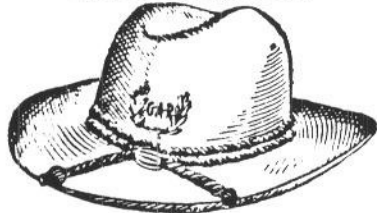
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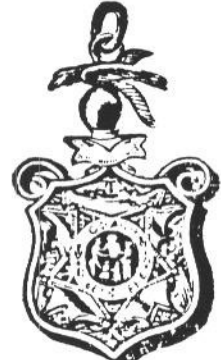
25122. doz. Vest..... 13c  
Coat..... 19c  
Over Coat..... 21c



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