

# THE GREAT REPUBLIC

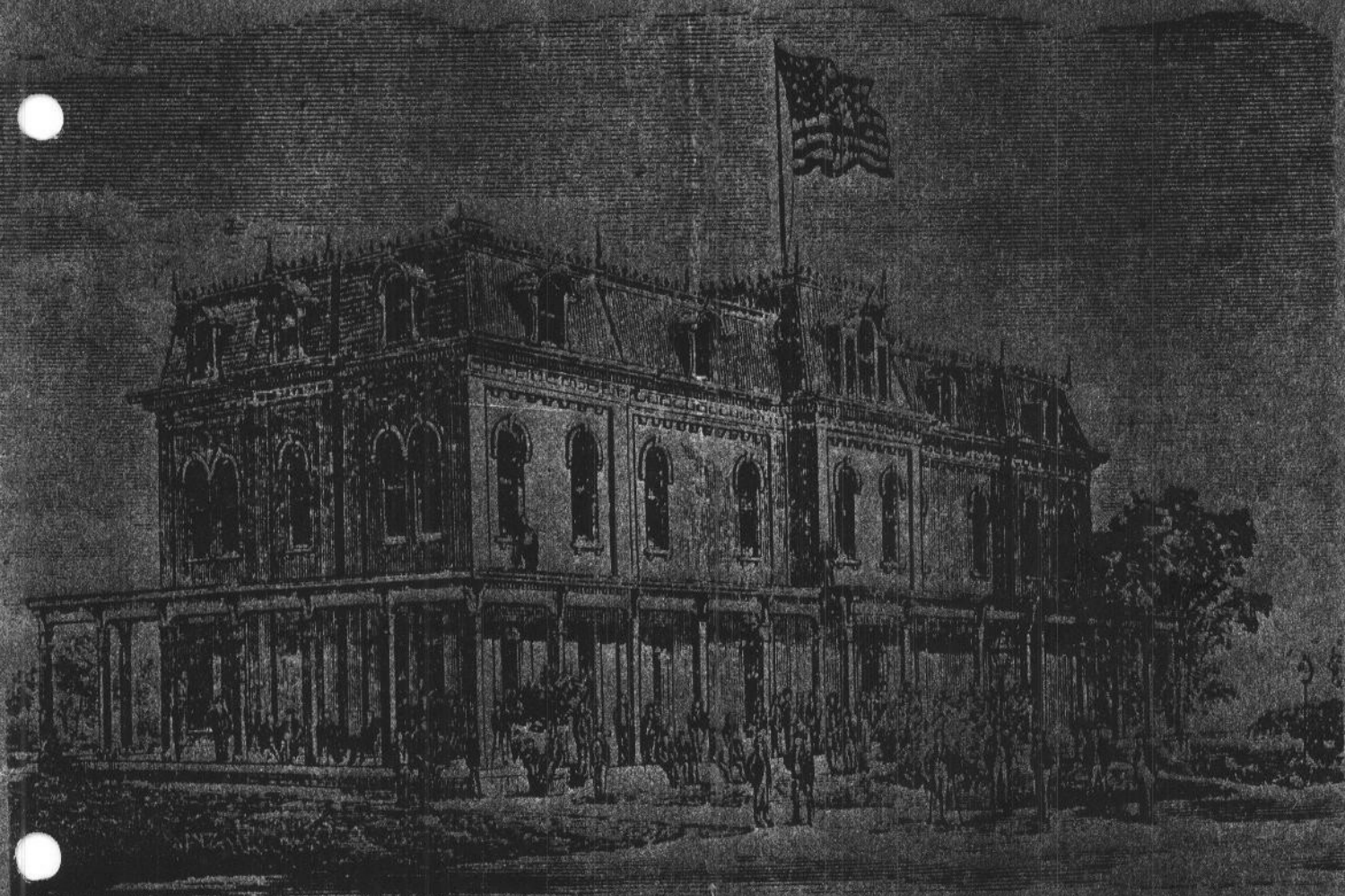
THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL ORGAN OF THE G.A.R. HISTORIAN & COLLECTORS

Vol. 4 No. 1

South Lyon, Michigan 1984

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## HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL HOME



HEADQUARTERS  
DAYTON, OHIO

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the Great Republic. This issue is a review of the Soldiers Home program with the Dayton-Central Home featured. These old soldier homes were built in every state and were an important part of the G.A.R. history. The posts at the homes were many times the largest and most active posts in the later years. A number of the homes had newspapers, and these papers are a very important because they contain histories of army units that were not published elsewhere. They also contain a lot of material concerning G.A.R. activities in the Dept. The leading members of the Dept. were usually on the board of directors of these homes.

You can still find the remains of the old soldier home in various states. New facilities have been build for the current soldiers, but in a few the old buildings remain. You may be surprised to find what remains.

The next issues of the Great Republic have more information for the badge collectors. We have an issue that will feature the testimonials that were given to past post, dept, and national commanders. The testimonials usually took the form of a handmade gold badge, engraved with the past commanders name and term of service. A featured gold badge will be the gold membership badge given to U. S. Grant that has just been found in upstate New York.

Another issue will feature the "In Memorium" black post badges. This ribbon badge started with the 1866 38th badge and became the more standard black badge in the 1890's. Just think, a whole issue of these badges. If you have a unusual memorial post badge send a xerox copy to this office.

A photograph of the complete National Encampment badges has been made. A color 11 X 14 print is 12.00 plus 1.50 postage. This is probably the best way to see what you are looking for in national badges. I wish I had a print when I started collect collecting, because I bought a number of badges I considered Nationals at the time only to discover later they were not the official national badges. If you only want a black and white copy send 2.00 plus .50 for an 8 X 10 copy.

The next issue of the Great Republic will have a column for collectors of specific G.A.R. areas. This column is free, just send your special area on a postcard to me. Only one area will be accepted. It will appear like this:

1891 National Encampment, Detroit (25th National) Roger L. Heiple,  
P.O. Box 16, South Lyon, Mi, 48176

This is to help us get together and help each other in our main collecting interests. The suggestion to start the column was made at the Ashland show.

The Ashland Show was an outstanding success success and everyone there had a great time. Their year's ribbon badge for this National Encampment because 100 years ago in 1884 the National badge was not issued. Does this sound better than saying we didn't have enough money to print a badge this year? Anyway, plans are being made for a bigger G.A.R. National Encampment next year. Is there anyone who will be the chairman for the 5th National in '85?

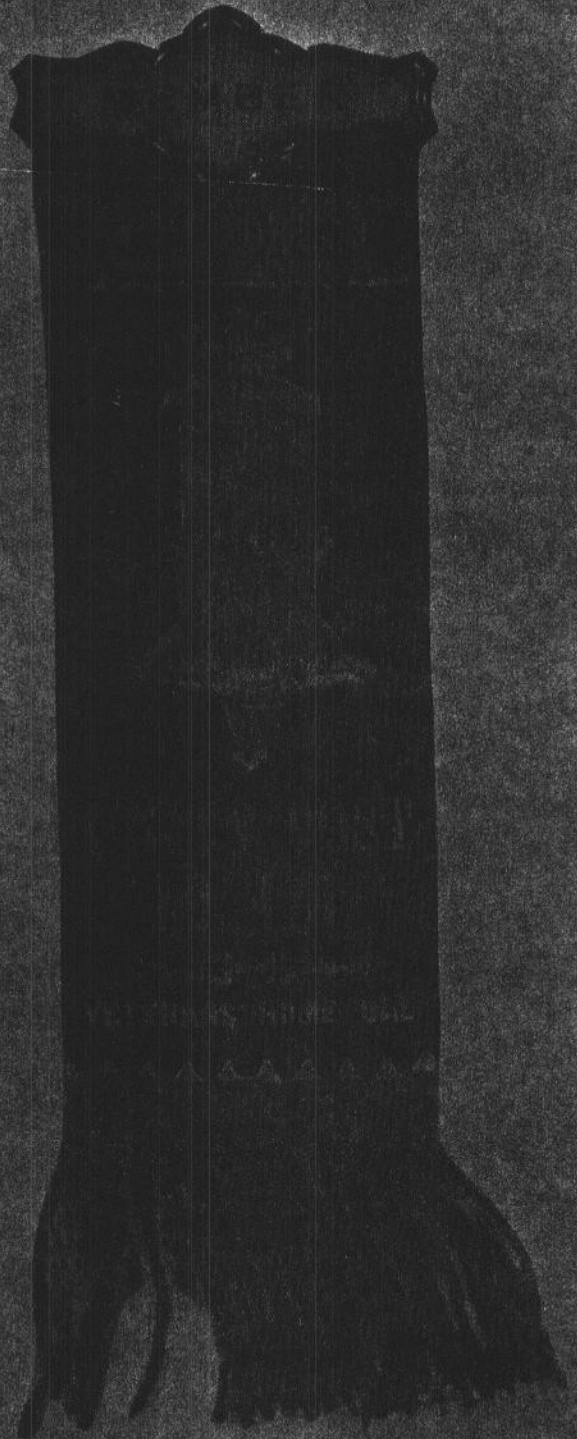
That's it for this issue, got to get back to the keylines for the next issue.

Roger

## POST BADGES OF THE VETERAN'S HOMES

Of the many areas of Post badges to collect, one of the most interest is collecting the badges of the old soldier homes. Almost all states or Departments had an old soldier home and all had a G.A.R. post. The example below is from UNITY POST NO. 171, the Veterans' Home in Calif. The badge is a two sided badge manufactured by the Ehrman Mfg. Co. of Milford, N.H. It dates from 1917 and is printed actual size in this photo.

In the next couple of issues of the Great Republic, Post badges and officer testimonials for past service will be featured. Anyone that has information as to the manufacturing or usage is encouraged to have information copied and send to the Great Republic offices. Please send copies only.



## NATIONAL SOLDIERS' HOME.

"What flower is this that greets the morn,  
Its hues from heaven so freshly born?  
With burning star and flaming band,  
It kindles all the sunset land:  
Oh! tell us what its name may be;  
Is this the flower of liberty?  
It is the banner of the free,  
The starry flag of Liberty!"

### THE SOLDIER'S REWARD.

The maimed and crippled soldier, prostrated in his physical powers and thereby rendered incompetent for the active duties of life, is no longer without a "local habitation and a name," of which, alas! too many have been deprived by the consequences of "grim-visaged war." By the wise forethought and liberality of a grateful people, he is now enabled to realize a far better reward for his services than the starving prospects of a posthumous fame. The ample provision which a humane and generous government has made for his present and future earthly comfort, is to him of far more importance than the inscription of his name upon the loftiest memorial pile.

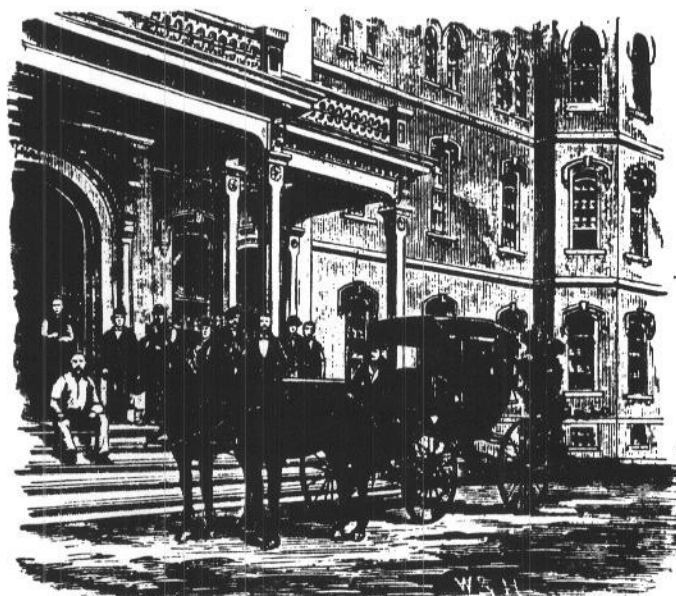
"To win a name in story  
That shall never know decay;  
What is fame when he who won it,  
Can not hear what people say."

The Soldiers' Home is a "living monument;" one upon which the war-worn veteran may gaze with pleasurable emotion as he proudly contemplates it and exclaims: "I live in the hearts of my countrymen!"

To the United States belongs the honor of establishing military retreats fully calculated to convey the impression of a home, with the surrounding influences of its freedom, its usefulness, and its enjoyments. Other nations, it is true, have not been forgetful in the bestowment of honors and rewards upon their returned warriors, and in providing for their sick and wounded, but it remained for the American people to administer to the necessities of her brave and deserving soldiers by calling into lively exercise that better attribute of human nature which teaches to feel another's woe. Republics, then, it is clearly settled, are not ungrateful.

### OUR NATION'S DEFENDERS.

The whole number of men enlisted during the late war of the rebellion was two millions six hundred and eighty thousand five hundred and twenty-five. At the termination of active mil-



THE HOSPITAL CARRIAGE AND HORSES.

itary movements in 1865, two hundred and four government hospitals, with capacity for one hundred and thirty-six thousand eight hundred and ninety-four beds, were in operation. Within the next eight months upward of one hundred and seventy of these establishments were discontinued, and the vast accumulation of surplus medicines and hospital supplies were disposed of at auction. Most of the surgeons of volunteers and chaplains to the hospitals were mustered out of service during the year. The returns of sick and wounded show that the number of cases treated in government hospitals from 1861 to July 1865 amounted to one million fifty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-three.

The charitable associations which had been called into existence by the war now found the necessity for their services removed. In the brief but bloody campaign of March and April, 1865, the Sanitary Commission continued its noble and humane work. The sick and wounded were cared for, their friends informed of their situation, their pensions, bounties, and back pay collected; and when the armies were finally disbanded the soldiers' homes were thrown open all along their various routes to welcome them, and agents of the commission met them at railroad stations and steamboat landings to invite them to the homes and lodges, and to protect them as far as possible from fraud. The commission also greatly increased their agencies, and, without fee or reward, collected the arrearages and pay due to the soldiers. It established at its central depot in Washington, with branches in all the principal cities, bureaus of information and employment, for securing

to all soldiers desiring employment such situations as they were capable of filling. The receipts of the commission during the spring months were large, but its disbursements were larger. On the 1st of June, 1865, a sanitary fair was opened in Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of raising funds for the maintenance of the claim agencies, and other agents of the commission which were deemed advisable to continue in operation. About \$825,000, above all expenses, were received. It was officially announced on the 26th of April, 1865, that the contributions to the commission from California to that date amounted to \$1,199,675.51; that of Nevada to \$99,512.46; Oregon, \$20,733.92; making a total from the Pacific slope of \$1,895,539.45. The Metropolitan Fair in New York yielded \$1,184,145, and the Central Fair in Philadelphia \$1,085,398.96. The final campaign of the war demanded new efforts from the Christian Commission, and its agents labored with new zeal and energy. No official statements were made, but they are understood to have approached half a million of dollars, which was expended for the promotion of the physical, intellectual, and religious welfare of the soldiers and sailors. As the war closed the commission disbanded, and discontinued its work.

#### THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOLDIERS' HOMES.

At the close of the war hospitals and soldiers' homes were established in most of the loyal states. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana were early in motion, and everything that medical skill, care, and comfort could suggest was done for the returned soldier. The gradual disappearance of hospitals and soldiers' retreats resulted in the creation of national homes on a more extended and substantial basis. The main object had in view was to enlarge their usefulness and to extend their benefits to the disabled soldiers of every loyal state. To carry this purpose into effect, an act of congress was obtained and approved March 31, 1865, and a board of managers appointed. The Board at its first meeting elected Gen. B. F. Butler president, and Hon. L. B. Gunckel secretary. The organization has been continued ever since. The act of congress authorized the Board of Managers to establish one or more homes; and under it the Central Home was established at Dayton, Ohio, the Eastern Branch at Augusta, Maine, and the Western Branch at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Subsequently a fourth branch, under the same organization, was established at Hampton, Vir-

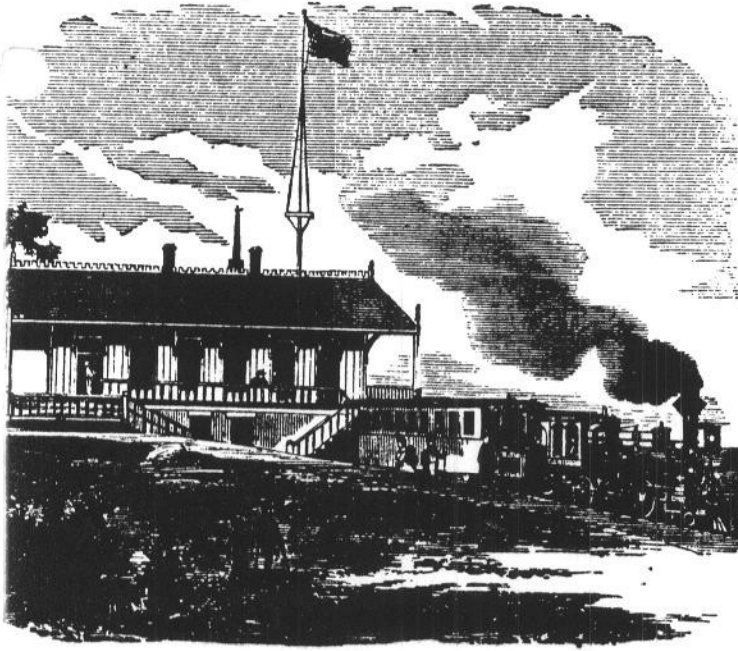
ginia, the mildness of the climate there being more favorable to some cases of disease. There is also a home in Washington City, exclusively for the benefit of soldiers who have served in the regular army.

#### THE CENTRAL HOME, AT DAYTON, OHIO.

In the selection of an eligible site for the Central Home, the attention of the Board of Managers was directed to the rich and fertile valley of the Miami, so well known for its beauty and salubrity; and finding it admirably adapted to the purposes of a home, they at once entered into negotiations for the purchase of five hundred and forty acres of land, about three miles west of the city of Dayton, and in 1867 active work was commenced. The lands at the time of the purchase were in the ordinary condition of farm lands of the state, possessing, however, natural beauty and great facilities for improvement. Above all, the supply of water was both abundant and excellent. On the grounds are several mineral springs, two of which have rare medicinal properties. Chaplain T. B. Van Horn, of the United States Army, was detailed by the Secretary of War, at the request of the Board of Managers, to lay out the grounds; and the Home, with its broad avenues, beautiful lakes, splendid groves, and cultivated lawns, presents one of the most attractive places in the country. The site overlooks the city and the beautiful scenery of the Miami valley for miles around. The work of improvement has been prosecuted most vigorously, and alterations and additions are being made continually. Although but a few years have elapsed since its commencement, the Central Branch may be regarded as the largest and most flourishing institution of its class in the world.

#### THE EASTERN BRANCH, NEAR AUGUSTA, MAINE.

This home consists of four substantial brick buildings, inclosing a square with a piazza running in and around, connecting the whole. One of the buildings is a well-adapted and commodious hospital, with the necessary offices. The other buildings comprise the head-quarters, library and reading-room, general dining-hall, and quarters for officers and inmates. Detached from the buildings is a music hall, which is also used as a chapel. In the basement of this building are billiard rooms for the recreation of the inmates. A large farm and garden are cultivated by the inmates, and the produce supplies the requirements of the Home. A large shoe manufactory, supplied with valuable machinery, is in full operation, employing the time



THE HOME AVENUE RAILROAD DEPOT.

of one fifth of the whole number of inmates. Great advantages are thus imparted to the inmates, both physically and morally, from the enjoyment it affords to both body and mind, besides enabling a considerable number to remit sums of money to their relatives at home, in addition to providing themselves with many luxuries and comforts not provided by the institution. Divine services are held, amusements provided, and the library with its rich treasures is always available for the intellectual feast. The total number of inmates present and absent on November 30, 1874, was eight hundred and eight. General W. S. Tilton is the deputy governor of the Eastern Branch.

#### NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH, NEAR MILWAUKEE.

The location of this home is one of the most beautiful in the state. It is surrounded by trees of almost primeval greatness, and overlooks the inland sea of Lake Michigan, the city of Milwaukee with its ninety thousand inhabitants, and a vast extent of country. The Home is comprised within a large building three hundred feet in length, with corresponding projecting wings, and a tower rising in the center one hundred and eighty feet high. The first floor contains the offices of the commandant, surgeon, chaplain, treasurer, quartermaster, adjutant, and other officers; also the library and reading-room. The dining-room on this floor will seat six hundred men comfortably. On the second floor, over the dining-room, is a corresponding hall, which is used as a chapel for divine service, and also as a hall for concerts and lectures. The second, third, and fourth stories are

appropriated for sleeping-rooms, twelve men being allotted to each room. There is a billiard-room and bowling alley for recreation; also, bath-rooms, post-office, telegraph office, store, etc. To these have recently been added commodious barracks, workshops, and a handsome three-story hospital, capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty patients. The farm and garden comprise between four and five hundred acres of the best lands in the state. The cultivation of the farm as a source of profit is perhaps the most successful of either of the homes. The garden and the grounds are laid out and preserved with great taste and beauty. The number of inmates present and absent on November 30, 1874, was six hundred and fifty-one. The library contains about three thousand volumes; and the spiritual welfare and moral culture of the inmates are carefully administered and cared for. Major-general E. C. Hinks is the commandant.

#### THE SOUTHERN BRANCH, NEAR FORTRESS MONROE, VIRGINIA.

This Home is located at Hampton, not far from Fortress Monroe, and overlooking that magnificent portion of Chesapeake Bay known as Hampton Roads. The building was formerly used as a college for ladies, and is well adapted for its present purpose. On account of the great mildness of the climate, the location is very favorable to those suffering from pulmonary complaints, and also for many chronic and acute diseases. The colored disabled soldiers being equally entitled to the benefit of a home, it was supposed that a southern climate would be better suited to their requirements. To the main building have already been added commodious barracks, a hospital, and an amusement hall. The total number of inmates present and absent on Nov. 30th, 1874, was five hundred and eighty-eight. The affairs of the Southern Branch are ably administered by Capt. P. T. Woodfin, deputy governor.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION.

When a volunteer soldier desires admission he may apply by letter to either of the managers, whereupon blank applications will be sent to the applicant, and if duly qualified, transportation will be furnished, or he can apply personally or by letter at the branch nearest his place of residence. The requirements are as follows:

1. An honorable discharge from the volunteer service.

2. Disability by wounds received, or sickness contracted in the line of duty.

3. A soldier entitled to or having a pension must forward with his application for admission his discharge papers and pension certificate, or receipt therefor, or both, as the case may be, before his application is granted, which papers will be retained at the branch to which the applicant is admitted, to be kept there on file and returned to him when he is discharged. This rule is adopted to prevent the loss of papers and certificates, and to prevent fraudulent practices. He must also assign his pension to the Home. But the Home does not take nor use the pension-money of its inmates; it simply collects and holds them in trust for the soldier, giving him from time to time such amounts as his needs or those of his family require, and depositing the remainder in a savings-bank for the benefit of the pensioner, and on his honorable discharge pay him back both principal and the accumulated interest.

We conclude this article with the following brief but pertinent address, delivered by Hon. L. B. Gunckel at the dedication of the new hospital building, in May, 1870.

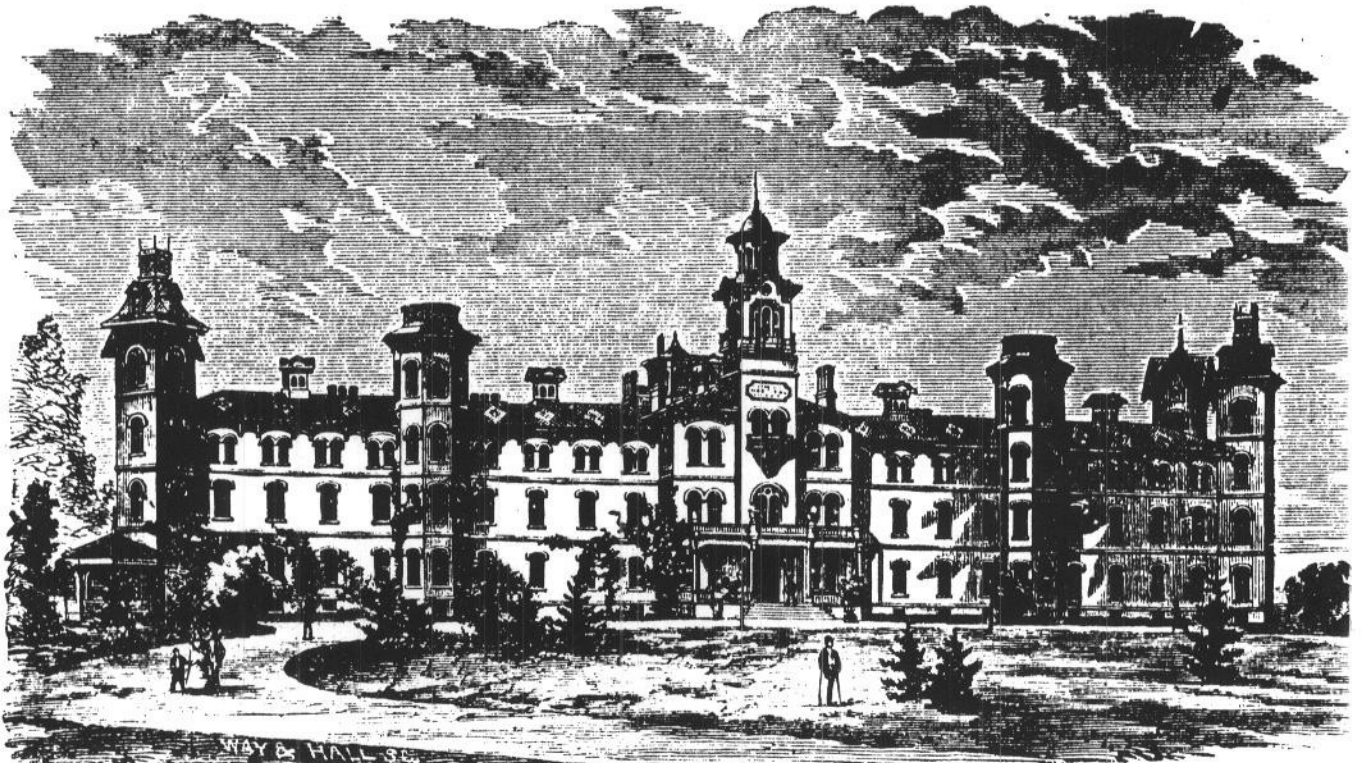
A little over two years ago the managers of the National Asylum purchased these grounds and authorized me to commence work. Winter was approaching, and hundreds of sick and disabled soldiers—homeless, penniless, and almost

friendless,—were applying for admission. We could not wait for plans or for an architect. In one week we put up out of Camp Chase lumber, donated by congress, the first of the one-story barracks, and it was filled on the very day it was completed. The next week we put up another, and it was immediately filled. So we went on, summer and winter, adding building to building, and filling each as soon as it was completed. First, we used an old barn for a dining-room; becoming too small we added a wing; then another, and then still another; finally took up and threw out the old barn, raised the whole a story and a half, and so made the dining-hall as it now stands. The first winter we cared for some seven hundred and fifty disabled soldiers; the second winter one thousand; the last winter our rolls showed thirteen hundred, and to-day we celebrate the completion of another building, adding to our capacity three hundred more beds, every one of which will be filled during the coming winter. Looking at these buildings and grounds to-day we are painfully sensible of the fact *that the work could have been better done*. We can only plead that under many embarrassments and difficulties *we did the best we could*. Had we thought only of architectural and landscape effect, we could perhaps have done better ourselves. But our constant aim has been to care for the disabled soldiers, and provide for them a *home*—a pleasant, comfortable, and happy HOME; and if we have succeeded in that, our dearest wishes have been realized and our highest ambition has been gratified.

The following now constitute the regular Board of Managers:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATE ;  
THE CHIEF-JUSTICE ;  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR. } Ex-Officio.

Maj-Gen. B. F. BUTLER, President, Lowell, Mass.  
Maj-Gen. J. H. MARTINDALE, 1st V. P., Rochester, N. Y.  
Gov. FREDERICK SMYTHE, 2d V. P., Manchester, N. H.  
Hon. LEWIS B. GUNCKEL, Secretary, Dayton, Ohio.  
Brig.-Gen. JOHN S. CAVENDER, St. Louis, Missouri.  
Hon. HUGH L. BOND, Baltimore, Maryland.  
Dr. ERASTUS B. WOLCOTT, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.  
Maj-Gen. THOMAS O. OSBORN, Chicago, Illinois.  
Maj-Gen. JAMES S. NEGLEY, Pittsburgh, Penn.



THE HOSPITAL.

# A COMPLETE GUIDE-BOOK

OF THE

## CENTRAL HOME.

CONTAINING

A FULL DESCRIPTION OF ALL THE OBJECTS OF INTEREST, INTERNAL GOVERNMENT, MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS, CELEBRATIONS, FESTIVALS, SCENERY, BUILDINGS, WORKSHOPS, BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, ETC., ETC., ETC.

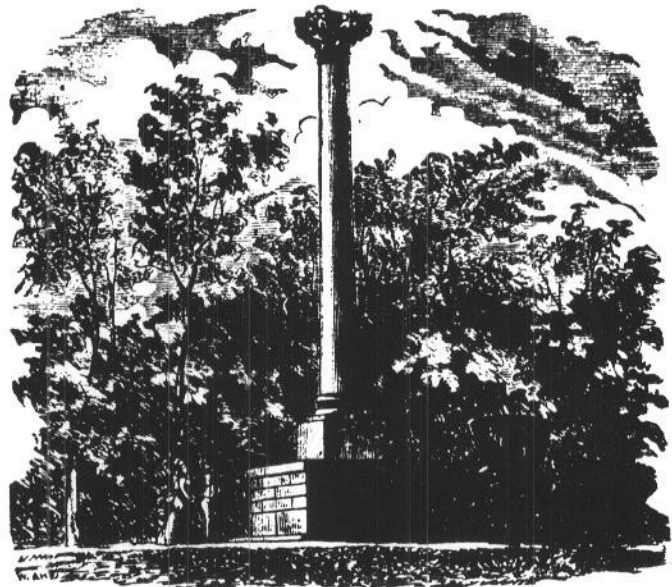
The city of Dayton, near which the Central Home is located, is a beautiful and busy city, with a population of about forty thousand, and is about midway between Columbus and Cincinnati. Its extensive streets are adorned with trees of luxuriant foliage, while most of the private residences are beautified with neat and tasteful flower-gardens, thus entitling it to the appellation of the Garden City. It is likewise noted for its numerous handsome churches and other imposing public edifices. From the city of Dayton the ground gradually ascends to a hill; and the spacious grounds, rich with green verdure and embellished with stately and ornamental shade-trees that cast their grateful shadows around, are entered through a handsome gateway. The entrance lodge is a model of elegance and beauty. It is built in the old cottage style and attended by an old soldier whose polite and self-satisfied air betoken his thoughts as he gracefully salutes you, and by his action indicates a welcome to his beautiful home a little farther on, which now begins to reveal itself in all its grandeur.

### HOW TO VISIT THE HOME.

The Third Street Railroad connects with the Home Avenue Railroad, which delivers passengers at a total cost for fare of thirty cents, both ways, directly at the Home ground. On arriving at head-quarters competent guides, attired in the uniform of the Home and designated with a badge, will be found in readiness to receive visitors, conduct them over the ground, and impart such information as may be desired. Before following the guide it may interest the reader to learn something of the

### INTERNAL GOVERNMENT OF THE HOME.

Upon the governor devolves the important



THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

duties of the management and regulation of the Home; and when it is considered that it comprises men of all nationalities, and as soldiers generally are men of the world, with strong passions and varied temperaments, it will be conceded that this is not an easy task. The governor is Colonel E. F. Brown, formerly colonel of the 28th regiment of New York volunteers, who lost an arm in the service of his country. Colonel Brown is ably assisted in the performance of his arduous duties by Major J. B. Thomas, treasurer; Capt. R. E. Fleming, secretary; Dr. J. M. Weaver, surgeon; W. Earnshaw, chaplain; Captain William Thompson, steward; Mrs. E. L. Miller, matron; each one having separate and designated duties.

### THE RECEPTION OF INMATES.

After the applicant has presented his discharge, with a statement of his disability, he is examined by the surgeon in charge. After the medical officers have certified to the disability of the applicant, and it has been found that his disability is clearly traceable to his service in the army, and upon his showing an honorable discharge from the service and fully identifying himself, his case is submitted to a manager, and upon his approval, and his alone, the applicant is admitted. On ad-

gers. Honorably discharged soldiers may easily obtain re-admission; but in cases of dishonorable discharge, not so easily. Dishonorable discharges for misconduct or desertion require the action and approval of the president of the Board.

As a rule, there has been nothing of which to complain in the conduct of the beneficiaries of the institution. A few bad men have been dismissed or have deserted; all others have been obedient, tractable, and contented, without exception, when not in liquor.

#### DISCIPLINE.

It will be observed that each of the branches is placed from three to five miles from the city nearest its location. Experience demonstrates most surely the necessity for this, although economy in transportation at first thought would seem to demand the location of the asylums in the cities themselves. The soldiers without intoxicating drinks require no restraint, with very rare exceptions, and the only discipline needed is that of a well-regulated household where the word of the master is the law of kindness. If liquors can be kept from the soldier, he makes no trouble. Taught by his service the habit and necessity of obedience to his superiors, he is docile beyond other classes of men. But when influenced with drink he becomes uncontrollable, insubordinate, and vicious; hence the necessity of keeping him away from temptation, to which he is hourly exposed in the city. Well and kindly disposed men see no harm—nay, they view it as a sort of patriotic duty,—to treat a wounded or one-armed or one-legged soldier, little reckoning the consequences of their hospitality.

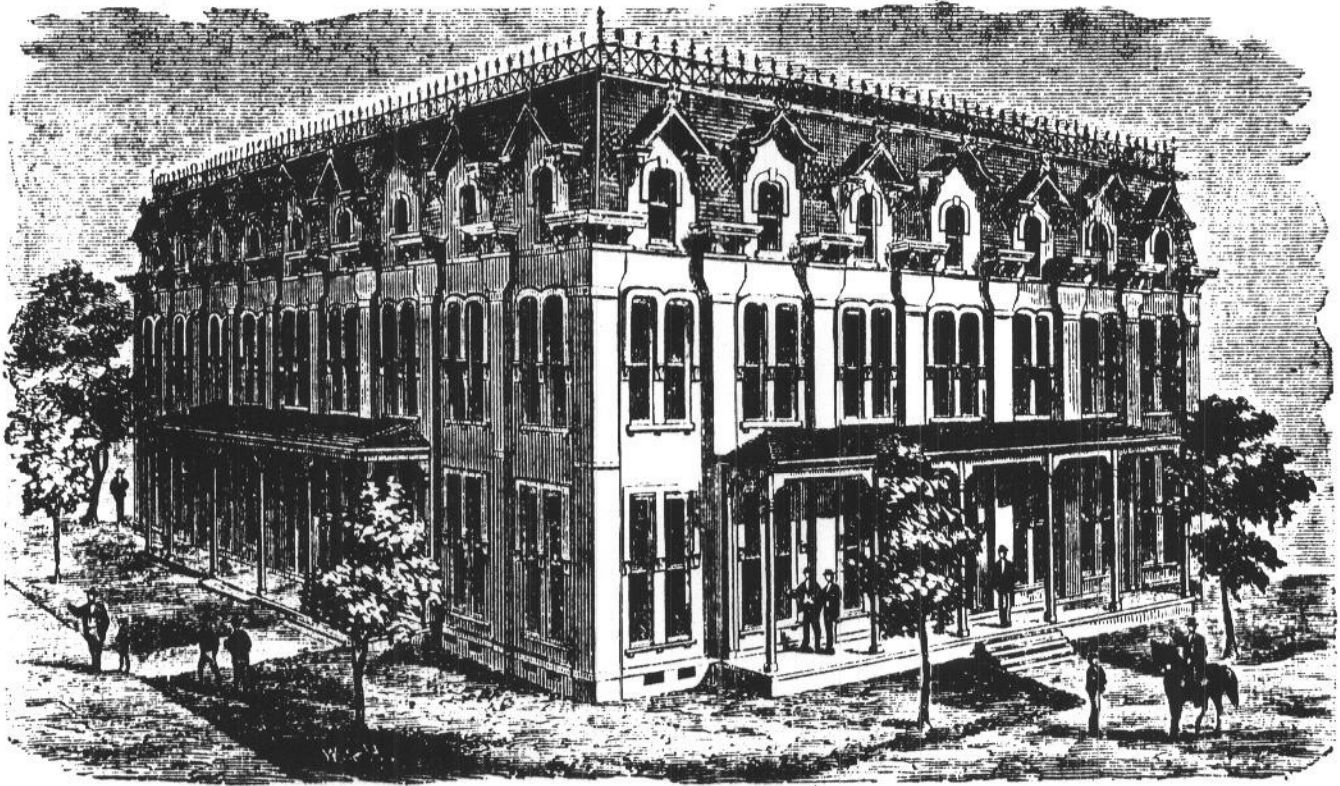


THE PUTNAM LIBRARY.

The discipline established has been designed to be firm but kind: for light offenses, a reprimand or deprivation of privileges; for graver offenses, confinement; for incorrigibility, expulsion. In this latter case the Board has established a regulation allowing a trial by court-martial, composed of officers and men of the branch, with appeal to the president of the Board.

#### THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE HOME—THE DEPOT.

On reaching the precincts of the Home the visitor in alighting from the cars steps upon a convenient platform; then ascending either to the right or the left, by broad stairways of unique design, he finds himself on the portico of the depot. This building is constructed in the Gothic style of architecture and presents a highly picturesque appearance. On both sides of the building are balconies, ornamented with railings of tasteful pattern and supplied with comfortable settees. The sitting and refreshment rooms are neatly furnished, and afford the accommodation of hot coffee, ice-cream, and other refreshments, at the regular city prices. Passing through the rear entrance of the depot the visitor reaches, by means of steps constructed of rough-hewn stones from the Home quarries, a broad and sloping avenue. After pausing to admire a spacious rustic summer-house, he proceeds farther on and arrives on an open space, from whence a magnificent picture presents itself to the view. At the right is a beautiful flag-staff, with the dear old flag floating high in the breezes of heaven. The siege-guns and mortars, with pyramids of shot and shell, and a battery in position as in battle, fill the beholder with thrilling memories. And standing almost directly in front is the imposing head-quarter building, which, in addition to the offices, contains the large Putnam Library hall. Then turning the eye to the right, the beautiful Home church is in full view; and beyond, on a knoll, shaded by forest-trees, stands the residence of the chaplain; and, still farther to the right, the magnificent and commodious hospital charms the beholder; and a little farther on the neat cottage of the resident surgeon, shaded by trees and surrounded by a lovely lawn, completes the picture in that direction. As the visitor looks to the north-westward he beholds the soldiers' monument, rising from a hill-top in the distance, which marks the place where the heroes sleep. Keeping the same position, he may turn the eye to the left and observe a rustic arbor, the grotto, the springs, the flower-garden, the fount-



THE GRAND DINING HALL.

ain, the conservatory, and the lakes; and still letting the eye sweep onward, he sees the rustic bridges, the beautiful groves, the deer-park, the veteran spring, the governor's residence with its surrounding trees and flowers, the residences of the treasurer, the secretary, and the steward, all beautifully located on the borders of the grove; also Music Hall, the long line of neat and comfortable barracks, where twenty-five hundred veterans rest from the fight; the large and comfortable dining-hall, kitchen, bakery, laundry, workshops; the tasteful band pagoda, the Home-store building, and the quarter-master and commissary store building, which make this splendid picture complete. Then from this point the visitor may choose his route and feast upon the wonders of the warriors' resting-place, not forgetting to follow a gentlemanly guide beyond the woods and looking in upon the farm, the farmer's residence, the vegetable garden, the barn, the stable, and the magnificent stock that graze upon the broad acres of the Home farm.

#### THE FIELD BATTERY

Consists of brass pieces, fully mounted and formed in battle array. From this battery are fired the salutes announcing the rising and the setting of the sun. The whole forms the picture of a regular garrison.

#### HEAD-QUARTERS, LIBRARY, AND READING-ROOM.

This building is located on the main avenue, a little to the south and east of the chapel, and is really the key by which all that is interesting and attractive is to be reached and studied. This structure is 130 by 41 feet, three stories,—the third being a Mansard,—constructed of brick, with Dayton limestone trimmings and surrounded by broad verandas that completely embrace the building. The first story, which is twelve feet in height, is set apart to the head-quarter officers, consisting of a well furnished suite of rooms for the governor of the institution and the secretary, and one each for the adjutant and the treasurer. These rooms are approached from the south, and command full views of the premises in almost all directions.

The great feature of this building is the library and reading-room, which is one of the most beautiful and complete in the State of Ohio. This room is 104 by 41 feet. It embraces both the second and third stories, which furnish an apartment nineteen feet in height.

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HARPER'S WEEKLY.

NOVEMBER 28, 1891.



THE DAYTON SOLDIERS' HOME, OHIO GARDEN AND



SCENE TO GROTTA. DRAWN BY W. A. ROGERS. [SEE PAGE 913]

## DONATIONS.

A very interesting collection of relics, consisting of shells, bayonets, and other implements of war, from many battle-fields. Among other attractions we mention :

A superb pulpit Bible, by Rev. Wm. Herr.

A beautiful kaleidoscope presented by Lieutenant H. E. Scott.

Miniature cottage home, presented by Mr. T. K. Kibby,

A section of the backbone of a whale, presented by Major Bickham.

Piece of Andersonville stockade and dead-line, presented by Miss Eaton.

Piece of stockade found in underground tunnel laid by Union prisoners to escape from the Salisbury, North Carolina, prison-pen, presented by Sergeant Richardson.

Ivory carvings done in India, presented by Edward Hardcastle to Mrs. Mary Lowell Putnam and by her presented to the Home.

Centennial cup and saucer used at the tea-party, Boston, December, 16, 1873, donated by Mrs. Putnam. Also cup and saucer from the Philadelphia centennial tea-party, donated by Mrs. General I. W. Hoffman, of Philadelphia, Pa.

Fine stereoscopic views.

General Grant's saddle from Fort Henry, February 7, 1862, to Appomatox, April 9, 1865.

Theatrical sword taken from one of General Zollikoffer's aids at Mill Springs, Kentucky, presented by Colonel F. T. Foster.

Hand-lathe made at Nashville, Tennessee, by a soldier at the close of the war for Major-general G. H. Thomas, and by his widow presented to the Home.

A musical clock performing a variety of favorite airs, presented by W. McGrew, Esq., of Cincinnati.

## THE CHURCH,

With its tapering spire pointing to heaven, is a neat and tasteful edifice, built in the Gothic style of architecture, of freestone faced with a light reddish stone, which has an excellent effect with the American ivy growing upon the walls. The windows are of stained glass; the interior is frescoed with much taste, and the national colors are draped across the ceiling. Back of the pulpit and near the ceiling is the seal of the institution wrought in stained glass, with the inscription, "The Nation to her Defenders." In front of the minister's desk there is an elegant ebony flower-stand, placed upon which is usually a vase of freshly-cut flowers. The floor is covered with handsome carpet, and seats cushioned. The wood-work is of walnut and ash, and on the back of each seat there is a rack containing a Bible and hymn-book. Indeed it has all the minor things which make a temple of God inviting. The magnificent set of plate used for communion and baptismal services comprises eight beautiful and massive pieces, and are the gift of Messrs. Adams & Chandler, of New York City. The laying of the corner-stone of this church was made a most interesting occasion; the exercises consisting of numerous addresses by several distinguished statesmen and by



NATIONAL HOME CHURCH.

ministers representing various denominations, music from the Home band, singing by the choir, and a national salute from the battery.



INTERIOR OF CHURCH.

The chaplain, W. Earnshaw, was formerly pastor of a church in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, and chaplain of the 49th Pennsylvania volunteers. Entering the army on the 16th of April, 1861, he continued in active service in the field throughout the entire war, and to its successful termination. He is and has ever been an active and earnest worker in everything appertaining to the soldier and tending to promote his happiness and welfare. In the language of a late visitor to the Home, "Chaplain Earnshaw even now looks more like a warrior than a minister, though he certainly fills the latter capacity admirably."

#### GARDEN AND CONSERVATORY.

After a gentle walk from the hospital, and passing through a handsomely decorated arch, we enter a lovely dell where the art of the florist and botanist have been brought into requisition,—a landscape garden, with nature's choicest flowers of beauty and fragrance to delight the eye and charm the senses,—the conservatory and greenhouse, with plants from the tropics and trees bearing their delicious fruits. Creeping vines adorn the rock-work, and rustic seats are conveniently placed for rest and pleasure. Three mineral springs are converted into drinking-fountains; and it is not too much to say that nature and art combined have succeeded in creating a little paradise of beauty and grace.

#### THE LAKE.

From this point may be obtained an open view of the lake, garden, and conservatory, with all their attractive surroundings. The view may be enjoyed quietly seated upon a bench, or in a pleasant patent swinging-chair suspended from the center of the roof. The waters of the lakes swarm with fishes, while upon the surface noble specimens of American and European swans, Muscovy ducks, wild geese and wild ducks, and other fowls are gracefully gliding. A heavy gun mounted upon a pile of rough stones in the center of the lake and a miniature floating light-house all form a pretty and inspiring picture. Descending a single flight of steps we are surrounded by lovely

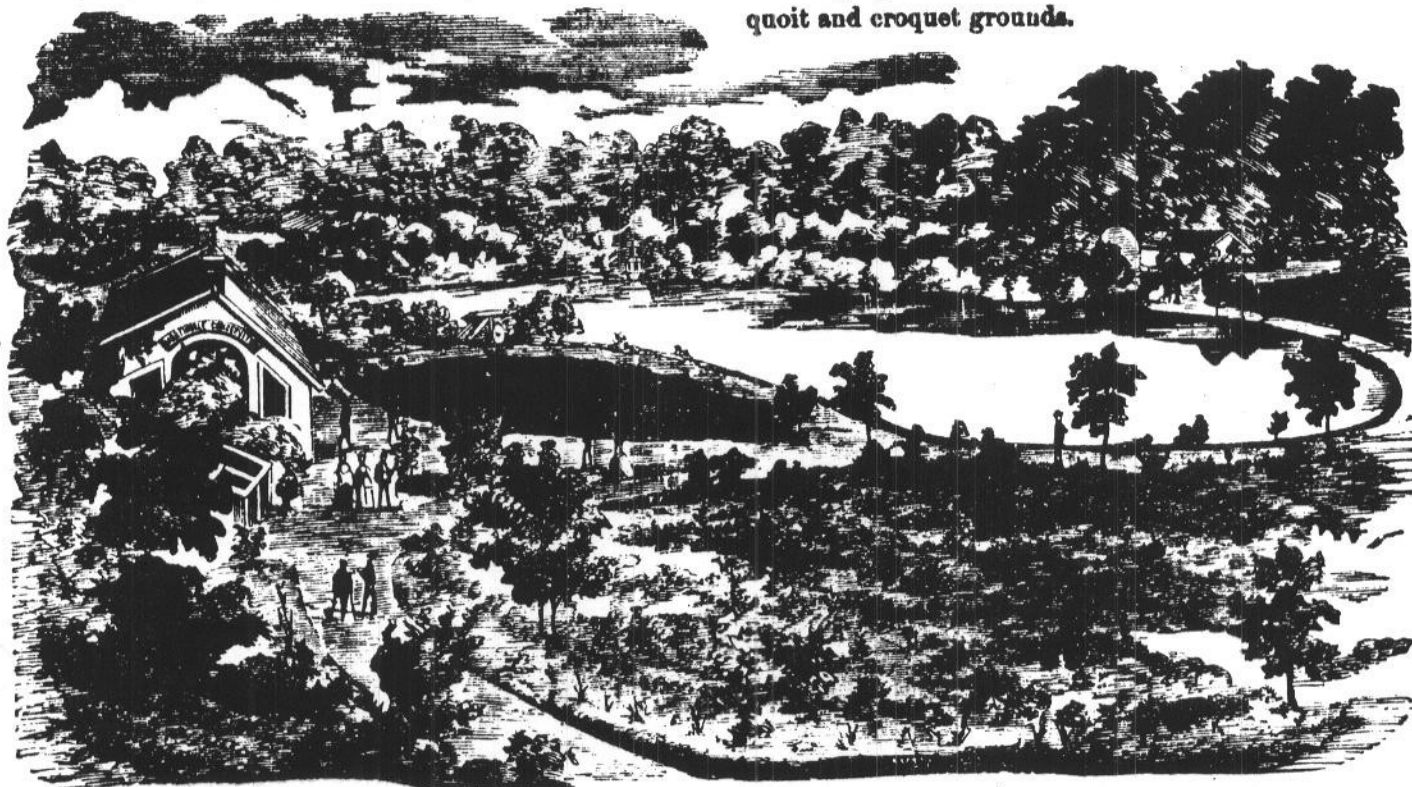
#### THE DEER-PARK.

Here are to be seen from fifty to sixty deer, several of which were sent from Lookout Mountain. They are attended by an old soldier who was once deer-keeper for the king of Prussia. They have been so domesticated that they are quite tame,

#### STONE-QUARRY

Containing an almost inexhaustible supply of stone, which has been and is still largely used in the construction-work of the Home. Near the quarry is a spring of delicious and wholesome water; also a magazine. Adjoining the quarry is a strong inclosure containing two buffaloes.

A large grove is now reached in which are the quoit and croquet grounds.



GARDEN AND CONSERVATORY.

THE CEMETERY.

In a grove shaded by tall trees is the cemetery where brave men are laid. A head-stone, designating the name and number of the regiment to which the deceased was attached, is placed at the grave. The graves are arranged in long regular lines, with a mounted cannon in the center. Large rustic flower-vases, neat and tasteful, are appropriately arranged at intervals. At a short distance from the graves stands the noble monument erected to the memory of the fallen heroes by the officers and men of the Home. The base of the monument is of granite. The shaft is of white marble, surrounded with a cap of ornamental design and exquisite workmanship. On the four sides of the pedestal appears the following inscription:

"These were honorable men in their generation." Ecclesiasticus.

MDCCCLXXII.

TO OUR FALLEN COMRADES.

ERECTED BY THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS.

On the occasion of breaking ground for this monument the following interesting ceremonies took place:

The procession was preceded by the Home Band. Then followed in order the chief marshal, and the governor of the Home, Colonel E. F. Brown, (2) escort, (3) orator, invited guests, and invalid soldiers of the Home (the latter were supplied with vehicles to convey them from the hospital to the cemetery by the ladies of Cleveland), (4) one-armed soldiers with flowers, (5) Veteran Post No. 5, Department of Ohio, G. A. R., (6) veterans of the army and navy, (7) artillery, (8) fire department, (9) ladies, (10) citizens on foot, (11) carriages.

Then followed the order of exercises.

Hymn.....Choir of First Baptist Church of Dayton  
PRAYER.

Music.....Home Band  
Address...By his excellency, E. F. Noyes, Governor of Ohio.  
Patriotic song in German.....Choir of First German Baptist Church of Dayton.

A SOLDIER'S FUNERAL.

When a soldier dies the flag flies not proudly to the breeze, but droopingly hangs at half-mast. Another of its brave defenders is dead, and to the silent grave we will accompany him. The beautiful hearse used at the funerals was built at the Home—the wood-work by W. G. Chamberlain and the iron-work by mechanics of the Home. The casket which it contains is covered with the national flag. It is followed by a funeral escort



THE DEER PARK.

marching with arms reversed, the chaplain in attendance. The band plays the solemn requiem, and the firing party discharges three volleys over his grave.

"He sleeps his last sleep;  
He has fought his last battle;  
No sound can awake him  
To glory again."

THE HISTORICAL AND MONUMENTAL SOCIETY.

This society was formed by the veterans of the Home upon the suggestion and assistance of Hon. L. B. Gunckel, the resident manager, and its officers. The objects of the society are to erect a monument on these grounds in order to perpetuate the names and memories of the men who have died or may die and be buried in the asylum cemetery, and also to collect relics of every battle-field of the late war, and mementoes of the men who fought the battles; and last, but not least, to collect, arrange, and preserve the materials for a history of the institution. One of the results growing out of the organization of this society is the beautiful monument which now adorns the cemetery. The membership is not confined to officers and inmates, but is open to all persons who desire to join—male or female.

THE HOME BASE-BALL CLUB.

This club has a neat uniform consisting of white caps and shirts, dark-blue pants, and stockings with cross stripes of white and blue. The club has played some very successful match games with clubs from the city, often coming out winners.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, VETERAN POST  
NO. 5.

This post has a large membership, and is composed of some of the best material in the Home. The organization is carried on with a great deal of energy; and its appearance on parades, at funerals, or on festive occasions, never fails to elicit admiration. Their meetings are often of a very interesting character, as will be seen from the following sketch:

"The members of Veteran Post No. 5, G. A. R., after their usual business on Monday evening was concluded, stacked arms and held a camp-fire meeting at which the scenes so familiar to old soldiers were again represented. Coffee-cooling, pork, hard-tack, anecdote, and song served to bring back to their remembrance many such evenings spent in the front when all was 'quiet on the line,' but where the surroundings were not quite as secure as they were found to be on this occasion.

"It having been reported to Post Commander D. F. Giddinger that there were deserters in the camp, two details were made by him to secure them, resulting in the capture of comrades Colonel E. F. Brown and Captain W. H. Lough, who were brought in under guard and made to contribute their share to the fuel of the camp-fire.

"Though excellent speeches were delivered by the worthy chief cook, Comrade Jones, Comrade E. F. Brown, and Chaplain Earnshaw, the free and easy comfort of camp life was well observed and the amusement kept lively by songs and repartee, Comrades Wearing and May contributing largely to the former. It is intended that a camp-fire shall be lighted monthly, to which the members of neighboring posts will be invited, and which, if as successful as that of last evening, will add much to the attractions which the Grand Army of the Republic has for all old soldiers."

DECORATION-DAY.

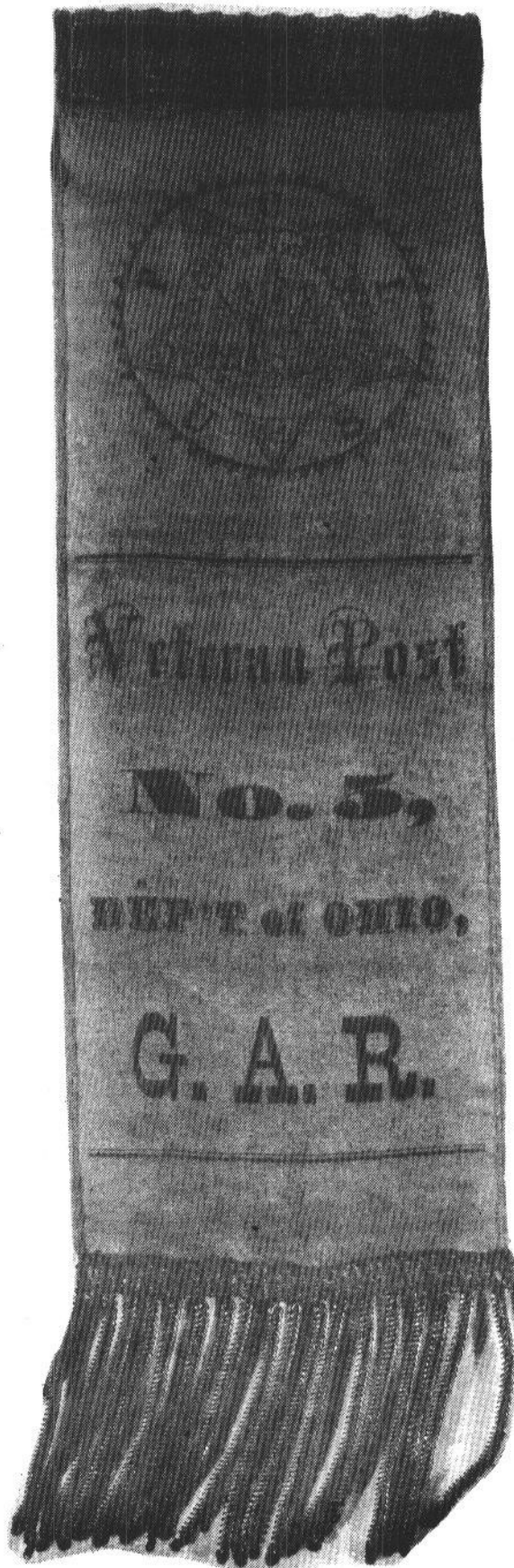
The annual decorative ceremonies in honor of the memory of those who after nobly defending the country in the field had passed from earth and the peaceful and beautiful home furnished by a grateful nation, are striking and appropriate. As these ceremonies vary but little in their general character the following synopsis from a newspaper report will suffice:

"Every preparation had been made by Colonel Brown for successfully carrying into effect the ceremonies of decoration-day. The morning was delightful. And as the hour arrived for forming the procession, the lines of the veterans in blue were arranged with military precision, and the different companies stationed in various positions, so as to take their places in the procession in proper order. There was no stir, no noise, no confusion. All was quiet, orderly, and solemn. When the order was given to form the procession the band moved forward; then came a detail of men with muskets and accouterments, whose duty it was to fire the funeral volley over the graves in the cemetery; then the orator of the day and a portion of the officers of the Home, the representatives of the press, and other invited guests. After these the companies marched into line in accordance with the programme. They proceeded to the beautifully located cemetery of the Home, where the exercises which had been inaugurated by Veteran Post No. 5, G. A. R., were most impressively performed.

"The procession formed a hollow (oblong) square around the compact little cemetery, the officers of the asylum, orators, reporters, and invited guests, with the Excelsior Musical Society of Cincinnati occupying the center. The cemetery contains five rows of graves, with about fifty in a row, each with a neat head-board painted white, containing the name, age, and rank of the occupant. On one we noticed the words, 'Name unknown.' Poor fellow!

EARLY POST BADGE FROM VETERAN POST NO. 5

This early post badge from the Veteran Post No. 5 in Dayton, Ohio, dates from the 1870's. The clue to this identification is the GAR star at the top of the badge with "F-C-L, U-S" surrounding the star. Many early ribbon badges use the "US" in the logo, either as "GAR of the US" or "FCL-US". The type of ribbon and gold tape at the top are other clues.



GENERAL SHERMAN'S VISIT TO THE HOME ON  
DECORATION-DAY, MAY 30, 1870.

General Sherman arrived at 6:00 A. M., and proceeded to the residence of J. W. Stoddard, Esq., where he was entertained.

By eight o'clock crowds of persons had taken up the line of march from the city and country to the Home, crowding the dusty highways.

At 9:30 A. M. General Sherman, accompanied by Mr. Stoddard and Hon. L. B. Gunckel, arrived at the grounds, where the General of the army of the United States was received with military honors.

A graceful triple arch spanned the gate, inscribed in front,

"Honor to the Brave!  
WELCOME SHERMAN!  
From Atlanta to the Sea!"

On the other side,

"In memory of our Fallen Comrades."

Following the Soldiers' Home Band, and escorted by a guard of honor, General Sherman proceeded to the Home. Passing the battery he was greeted with the customary general's salute, and in front of head-quarters struck the head of the line of veterans drawn up in form to receive him, the orphans of soldiers from the Home at Xenia on the extreme left, the firemen of the Home with their gay uniforms and shining apparatus on the right. Rising, with his head uncovered, General Sherman saluted the veterans and proceeded to Music Hall.

The procession to the cemetery was under command of Colonel Brown, and formed in the following order: 1. Music; 2. Military escort of General Sherman; 3. Grand Army; 4. Soldiers' orphans; 5. Orator (General W. H. Gibson), Chaplain Earnshaw, invited guests, and veterans; 6. Citizens and fire department of the Home.

This formed a picturesque pageant passing through the pleasant grounds and groves to the cemetery, into which none passed but the orphans, guests, orators, decorative committees, and a company of veterans with the full equipments of soldiers.

The tableau of strewing flowers upon the graves was very beautiful and impressive, and the moral irresistible. General Sherman afterward spoke of it as a scene to make patriots and soldiers.

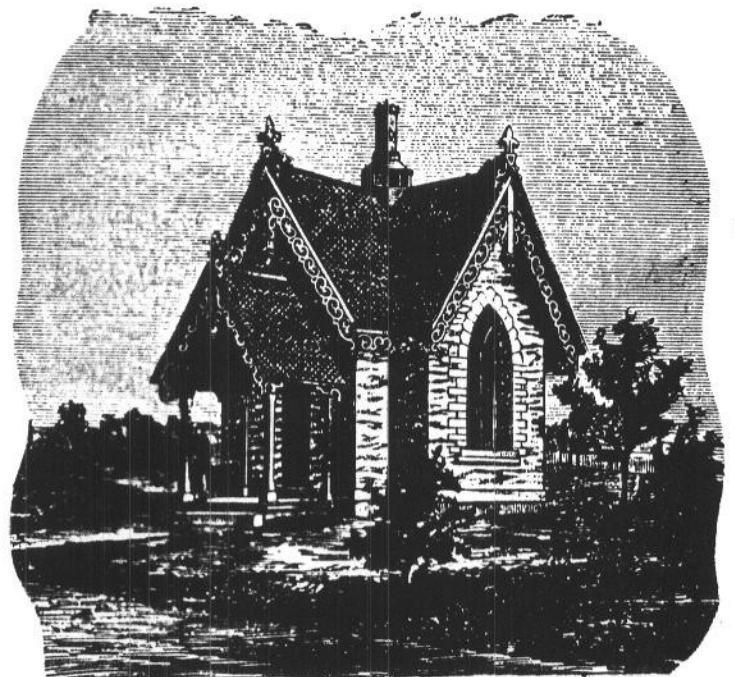
Colonel Brown, governor of the Home, advanced and said that while General Sherman had refused to speak, he knew he would upon demand;

and presently the requisition was so mandatory that refusal was out of the question.

General Sherman said again that he did not visit the Home to make speeches, but he had been gratified beyond measure to visit this beautiful place. It had surprised him. He had not anticipated what he saw. It was gracious in the sight of man, and he doubted not it was so in the sight of God. The scenes and incidents of the day were very beautiful.

The General then addressed himself more directly to the soldiers. He knew they felt kindly toward him. They had been together in times that tried men. They had been true to each other, and God knows they had tried to be true to each other. They had been together amid scenes which knit men to each other. No other men knew how they feel. No other men knew how worthy their deeds are of perpetual remem-

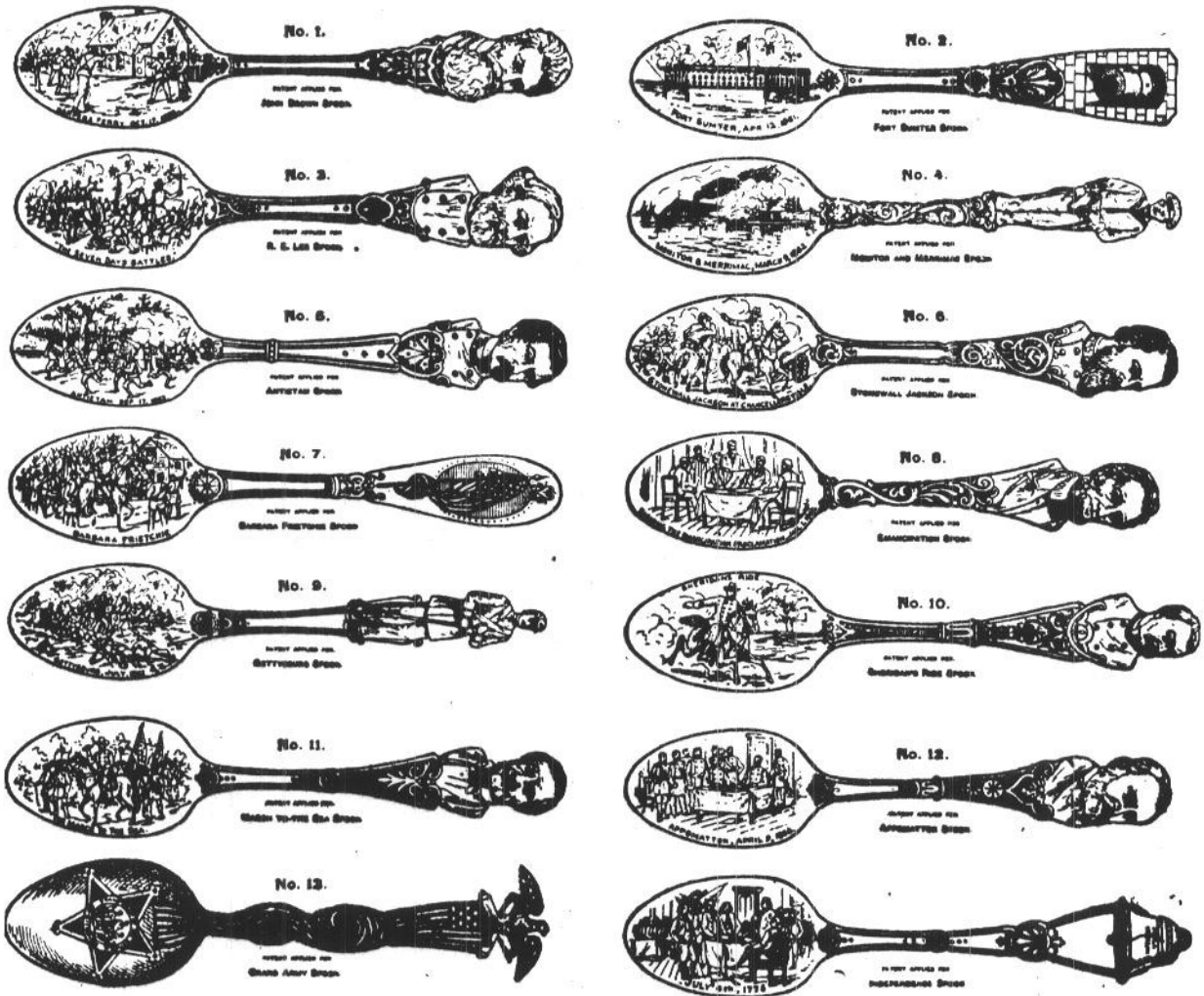
The visit of the General was very grateful to the old soldiers, so many of whom had served under his command in various fields, especially from Atlanta to the sea; and he said it was especially pleasant to him, because facts were presented to him of which he did not dream. The Home was beautiful to him, worthy of the Government, and reflects great credit upon those who have transformed it into an asylum of genuine beauty and thorough comfort. It was, in short, a fair redemption of fair promises to soldiers of the republic.



THE PORTER'S LODGE.

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BOSTON, MASS., JULY, 1896.

**The Richmond Reunion of Confederates.**

We have surrendered a great deal of this July issue of the Grand Army Record to an account of and to the lessons growing out of the late "Confederate" reunion at Richmond, Va. By far the larger part of the proceedings there were conducted with the single eye to debasing the history of the War of the Rebellion for the false instruction of this and of succeeding generations. And all this is for the avowed design and purpose of removing the stain of treason from the escutcheon of those who served in the Rebel Army to destroy the Government of the United States.

**TREASON.**

The Constitution of the United States says: "Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort." That settles the whole matter as to what constitutes treason under the Constitution of the United States. If the armed Rebels of 1861 were not traitors, then a traitor is an impossibility under the Government of the United States. It may be replied that this bombastic effort to pervert history is harmless; that these men who are so sensitive as to the great crime which they committed against civilization and liberty can be safely allowed to enjoy themselves in this way if they so elect to do; that it will have no effect except to make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of all intelligent

men. That sort of talk may satisfy those Northern men who were properly called "doughfaces" before the Rebellion. But let us inquire if this is

**A TRUE STATEMENT OF THE CASE.**

The important matter before this Richmond conclave was the matter of school histories of the United States, meaning by those words only the history of the Rebellion of 1861, and the causes which led up to it. The readers of the Grand Army Record know very well that at least two school histories published in the city of Boston are just such histories as this Richmond meeting is satisfied to have used in the public schools of the North, though the public schools in the South will only use a distinctively "Southern" school history, and that must also be written by Southern authors. Montgomery's school history of the United States is used twenty times more than are all the other school histories together published in Boston. In this history Stonewall Jackson and other Rebel leaders are described as saints and patriots to the young and plastic minds which never forget the impressions made in the school histories which they study. The "Confederates" have agreed to buy no readers, geographies, arithmetics, etc., from any Northern school-book publishing house unless that house shall only publish for the use of the schools of the North school histories favorable to the "Lost Cause" of the Rebellion.

The result is that few, very few, even liberally educated men in Boston, under forty years of age, can tell the real cause of the War of the Rebellion. Notoriously this is true of the public school-teachers in Boston. Certainly here is one reason why the Union Soldier and the cause he contended for are now relegated to the "back numbers" of rubbish which is piled up to be forgotten. Just as it was before the Rebellion, the Solid South now relies upon the indifference of the thoughtless and money-grasping character of the North, while by means of our school histories the coming generations are being taught that the arch-traitor Jeff. Davis was as good a patriot and a better Christian than Abraham Lincoln was. It is idle to say that no harm will come from the falsification of the history of the War of the Rebellion which the former "Confederates" are now fully organized to teach in Northern public schools quite as much as in the Southern public schools.

**THE WORK FOR THE GRAND ARMY.**

If the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic has any work to do outside of its charitable work in behalf of needy Union Soldiers and their families, surely this is the only

work that is before that organization. But the men who now control the National organization of the G. A. R. are both incompetent and indisposed to try to do any work in this direction. This is the unfortunate thing in the usurped power which deprives the Comrades of all voice in selecting the ruling influence at the National Encampments of the G. A. R. The National Encampments spend our taxes freely for anything, just as the carpet baggers spent the public taxes in reconstruction days. Our only hope is in the action of the individual Posts. Massachusetts is probably the freest of any State from the infamous "House of Lords" rule in the G. A. R. And yet even in Massachusetts the State House "machine" is so powerful that the great body of the Comrades cannot be heard through our State organization. Eight thousand dollars per year of our taxes, and the State House patronage to go with it are paced where they "will do the most good" for the vanity and the ambition of one or two "Lords" and their satellites.

So it has come to pass that nothing can be done to teach the truthful history of the Great Rebellion of 1861 to the present and to the future generations, except through the united action of patriotic citizens, aided by the individual action of the Grand Army Posts. And this work should be commenced in every city and town without delay. The local G. A. R. Post, or a meeting of patriotic citizens, should first appoint a capable and interested working committee to inquire into this matter, and later to make their report to the citizens. Great care should be taken to elect none but competent and patriotic members of the school committees.

Why should not all other organizations of Union soldiers have rooms at the State House as well as Grand Army headquarters? Has the legislature the constitutional power to give rooms, without charge, or with charge even, to real estate agents, to liquor sellers, to apothecaries, or to the various Dorcas societies organized to help the G. A. R.?

Can any one tell of the slightest benefit that National Encampments of the Grand Army are to the great body of the Comrades? Irresponsible, unlawful, and non-elected life members are in a very great majority at the National Encampment. They have everything all their own way. That tells the whole story. Is this a creditable state of affairs?

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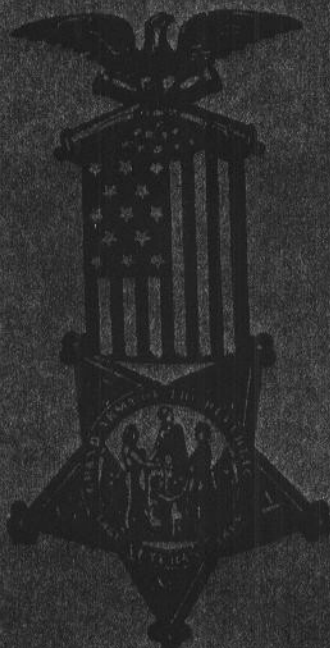
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