



The Veteran

The newsletter of the
Civil War Veterans Historical Association
"The 4th Battalion"

Founded 1987

Preserving the memory of Union and Confederate Veterans



Vol. 4 No. 2

September, 1990

President's Corner

by Pres. Dennis Loba

First of all, I'd like to welcome our new members! We are quickly approaching a membership milestone - the one hundredth mark! We really have grown - from a handful of collectors at Ashland, Ohio to a truly nationwide organization. I want to thank those of you who have contributed to this newsletter and pre-thank and encourage others (who I know were just about ready anyhow) to send in anything that may be of interest to all of us. We received some comments about the last newsletter and are still in the process of refining it. Please take the time to give us your input.

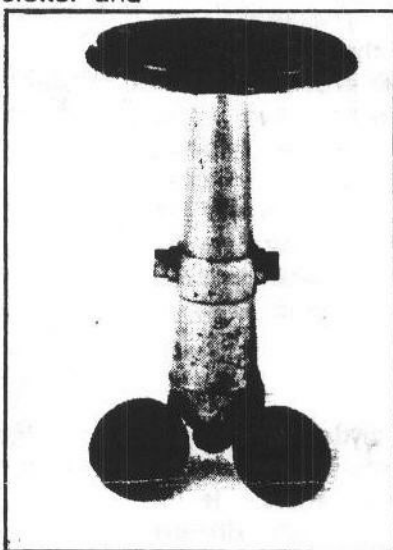
The PBS special "The Civil War" aired recently and I feel that producer Ken Burns did the subject well. Time/Life Books

is offering the series on video tape (call 1-800-424-7963 to order). They are also selling a companion book to the series through its book and video sales department if you are interested. The book is also being offered at bookstore chains, such as Walton's. (CWWHA Sec. Marshall Brighenti notes that the last Union veteran (wearing a kepi) shown at the end of "The Civil War" special was William D.

Welch, Co. I, 140th Pa. Vol. Infantry. William Welch was the subject of an article in Vol. 2 No. 5 of this newsletter.)

I haven't heard of any "grapevine great finds" lately except a GAR testimonial that belonged to one of the Department Commanders of Idaho - we should all be so lucky to find such an item.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter, and don't forget to set down your leaf rake long enough to give us your ideas, etc.



*Table from a GAR hall, \$990.
From "Maine Antique Digest".
Submitted by Dave Maloney.*

promoters claim this is the largest Civil War Show yet with over 500 tables. The show encourages collectors of Veteran items and a major display award will be presented to the best "Veteran" display. For details contact Larry Hicklen, 3511 Old Nashville Hwy., Murfreesboro, TN 37129 (615) 893-3470.

Welcome to Our New Members

#94 Richard A. Mountain
P.O. Box 619
Brackettville, TX 78832
Interested in: GAR

#95 Michael L. Vice
1441 Spotswood Furnace Rd.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Interested in: UCV

#96 Vincent W. Alones
217 McKee Street
Floral Park, NY 11001
Interested in: GAR, UCV, Naval Vets Loyal Legion, glass items

(Members, please notify the Editor of any changes in address so that our records can be kept straight, the membership can be notified, and (most importantly) so that you won't miss a single issue of "The Veteran"! - Ed.)

Schedule of Events

The 4th Middle Tennessee Civil War Show and Sale will be held Dec. 1 & 2, 1990 in Nashville, TN at the State Fair Grounds, Vaughan & Wilson Buildings. The



Submitted by Dennis Loba.

C.W.V.H.A.

Dennis Loba, President
336 Stuyvesant St.
Warrentown, VA 22186

Dr. Howard Siglag, Treas.
183 Hazelwood Drive
Westbury, NY 11590

Marshall Brighenti, Sec.
R.D. #2, Box 61
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

"The Veteran"
Editor - Marshall Brighenti
Assoc. Ed. - Dave Maloney

Badge Descriptions

by David Maloney

In the Vol. 4 No. 1 (last) issue of "The Veteran", John Mully provided a written description of the 1887 (21st) and the 1890 (24th) National Encampment Delegate badges which are described below and which are accompanied by drawings recently submitted by Pres. Dennis Loba.

But before we do, its good, from time-to-time, to get back to the basics of nomenclature in describing badges. What some collectors refer to as "medals" should be called "badges". Only governments can establish criteria for and present "medals", such as the Medal of Honor. "Badges", on the other hand, are devices or emblems worn as an insignia of rank (e.g. Post Commander's badge), of office (e.g. Post Chaplain's badge), of membership in an organization (e.g. the GAR badge), as an award or honor (e.g. a Presentation or Testimonial badge), as insignia of official position (e.g. National Encampment Delegate's badge), or as a memento or souvenir of a special occasion (e.g. Encampment souvenir badges). Therefore, most if not all of the decorative devices we see should be referred to as "badges" and not "medals."

Collectors of "medals, orders and decorations" use the following categories to describe condition: (1) mint state - MS, (2) extremely fine - EF, (3) very fine - VF, (4) fine - F, and (5) Good - G.

Our descriptions of badges should reflect the standard nomenclature currently being used. The following two descriptions incorporate some of these terms which are highlighted:

The 1887 21st National Encampment Delegate's Badge, St. Louis, Missouri is a *three-piece badge with ribbon*:

The *top suspension bar* (or *badge bar*) is of silver and is inscribed "St. Louis 1887" and centers a GAR star. It supports a buff *ribbon* with a *suspension ring* from which hangs a round sterling silver *pendant* (or *medallion*) on the *obverse* of which is the *bust profile* of John Logan encircled by the *inscription* "John A. Logan Patriot, Statesman, Model Volunteer". On the *reverse* is the Missouri state seal encircled by the inscription "Delegate 22nd Nat'l Encampment/Grand Army of the Republic".

The 1890 24th National Encampment Delegate's Badge, Boston, Massachusetts, is a *four-piece badge with ribbon behind*:

The *top suspension bar* is in the form of a cod fish. From its center hangs the *first drop* which is a bar inscribed "24th National Encampment/Boston August 1890" with a GAR star on each end. From the center of the first suspension bar hangs a shield-shaped *pendant* which carries the Mass. state seal. From the ends of the first suspension bar hangs a chain which supports a wheel hub that hinges open to reveal sterling silver bust profiles of Andrew and Farragut. Behind the badge is a

U.S. *flag ribbon* backed by a yellow ribbon.



Above: 1887 (21st) National Encampment Delegate's Badge.



Above: 1890 (24th) National Encampment Delegate's Badge.



Postcard Organizations

by David Maloney

The article following this one was submitted by Rance Hulshart and it provides a great introduction to the wealth of Veteran postcard material to be found, and don't kid yourself, postcard collecting is big business. Postcard shows typically have tables filled with *millions* of cards for sale. Some dealers purchase in lots of thousands. I never fail to run across some of these very interesting and colorful collectibles in my travels. Look for cards published by "Raphael Tuck & Sons" such as their Decoration Day series. Also look for postcards with embossed designs or those signed by the artist, e.g. I own a Sons of Veterans postcard by Ellen H. Clapsaddle, a well-known postcard artist.

For those who would like to explore the world of postcard collecting in greater depth I would recommend the following clubs or publications:

1. "The Postcard Collector". A magazine published by Krause Publications, P.O. Box 337, Iola, WI, 54990, (800)-258-0929
2. The Postcard History Society, c/o John McLintock, P.O. Box 1765, Manassas, VA 22110 (703) 368-2757. John is a major postcard dealer and postcard show promoter.

4. "Barr's Postcard News". A newspaper published by Barr Enterprises, 70 S. 6th St., Lansing, IA 52151.

5. Deltiologists of America. P.O. Box 8, Norwood, PA 19704, (215) 485- 8572.

Veteran Postcards

by Rance Hulshart #28

An area of collecting often overlooked but very interesting is postcards related to the G.A.R., U.C.V. and the auxillary organizations. The variety of these seems endless and it is a collectible that can still be purchased fairly reasonably. Most of the postcards date from between 1890-1920's during the heyday of Civil War veterans organizations. I have included photocopies of twelve cards to show an example of each of the twelve categories in which I categorize my collection:

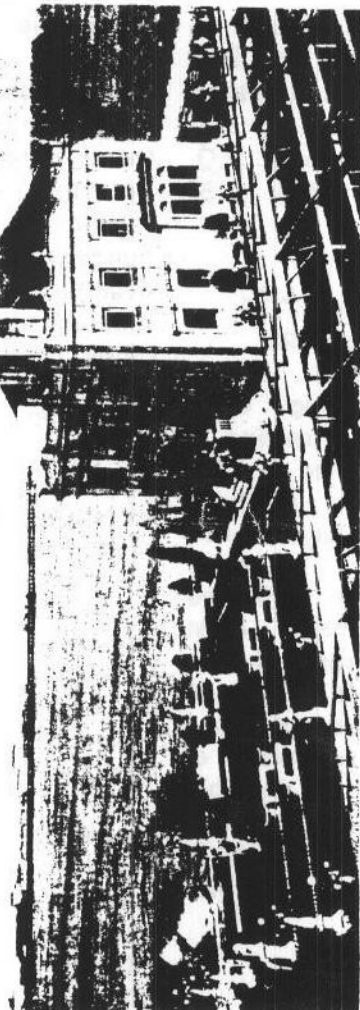
1. National Encampment utilizing stock card
2. National Encampment photograph (often in sets)
3. Monuments
4. Greeting card
5. Decoration (Memorial) Day
6. Department Encampment photograph (often in sets)
7. Department Encampment artist drawing using stock card
8. Post, Soldier's Homes, Memorial buildings, etc.
9. Miscellaneous
10. Photograph of individual veteran
11. United Confederate Veteran
12. Group photograph of veterans or of a Post

This system is the way I divide my cards into categories, but each collector can decide for himself the system that to him makes the most sense. Occasionally cards fall into more than one category (crossover) and each collector must decide for himself which category to place it in. Card #1 is National Encampment using a stock card and simply stamping

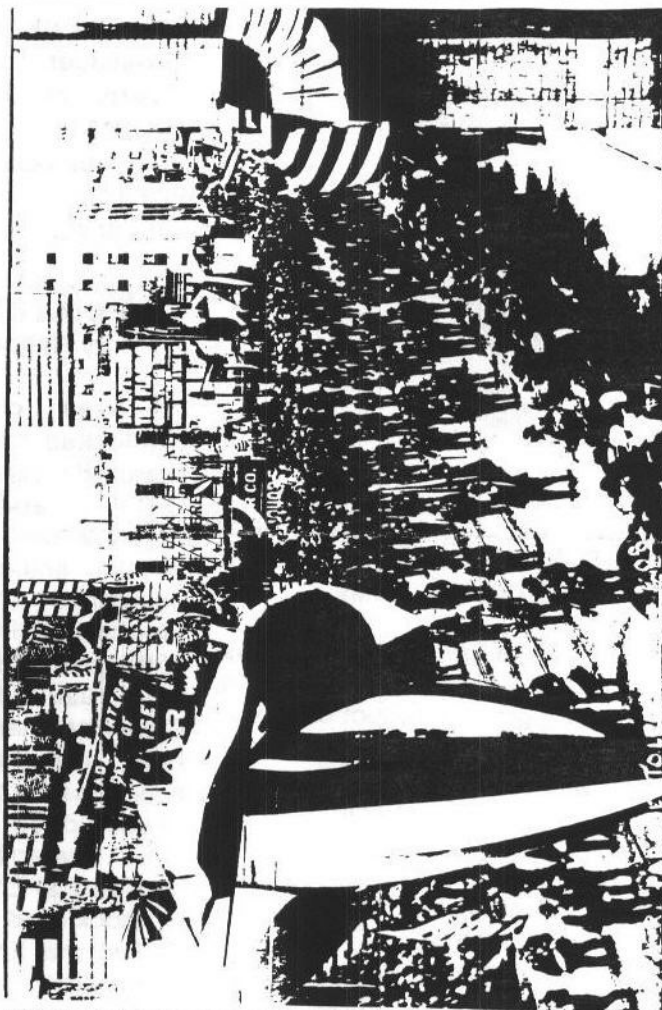
the pertinent motto's and motifs on the card. Card #2 is an actual photo taken before, during, or after a National Encampment. (Many of these cards show the veterans parading but also many times they feature how the town decorated the buildings, etc. in honor of the event). Card #3 is of monuments erected for individuals, towns, cities, cemetery plots, etc. Card #4 is a general purpose greeting card that mentions no specific event of holiday. Card #5 is a Decoration (Memorial) Day card as is usually, although not always, mentioned on the card. Many of these Decoration Day cards were printed in sets and there is a wide and interesting variety of these cards. Card #6 is an actual photo of a Department Encampment. Many times, but not always, these featured the parade held during the event. Card #7 is Department Encampment using an artist's rendition of the event. Card #8 features a Post headquarters building. Soldiers' Homes and Memorial buildings also fall into this category. Card #9 is a representative of the Miscellaneous category, i.e. a catchall for cards that don't fit in any other listed category. Card #10 is an example of a postcard containing the likeness of an individual veteran. Card #11 relates to a U.C.V. activity. U.C.V. cards (as are all types of U.C.V. collectibles) are much more rare than their G.A.R. counterparts. Card #12 represents the final category of cards which feature more than one veteran ranging from a small group to a complete Post.

While this article discusses mainly the veteran post cards, keep your eye out for similar categories of cards relating to the auxiliary organizations as well. The purpose of this article is to present the wide variety of categories of cards a person can collect and to suggest some way of organizing them.

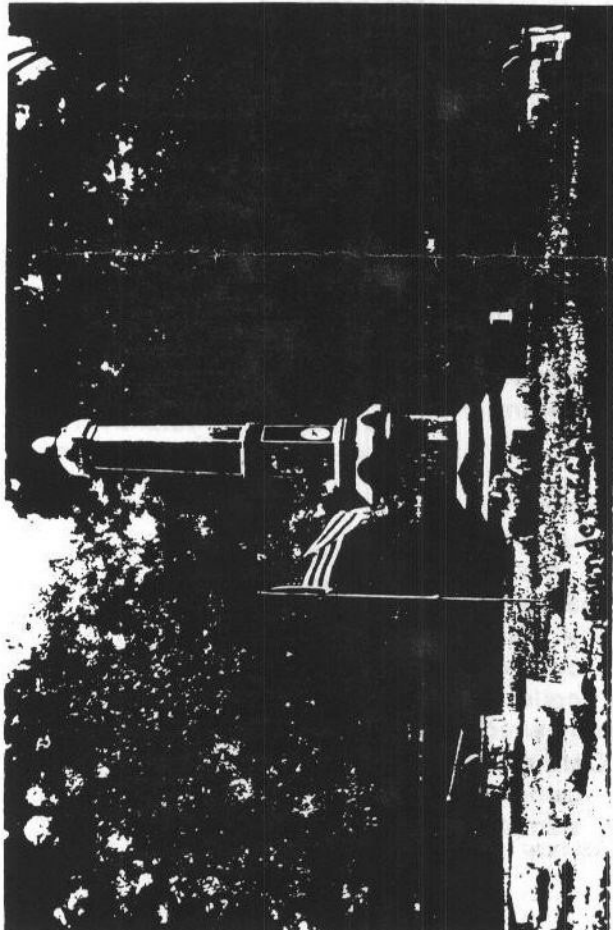
Young's Residence and Garden on Million Dollar Park
Atlantic City, N. J.
Annual G. A. R. Encampment
Atlantic City, N. J., September 13th to 24th, 1919



#1



#2 42nd National Encampment



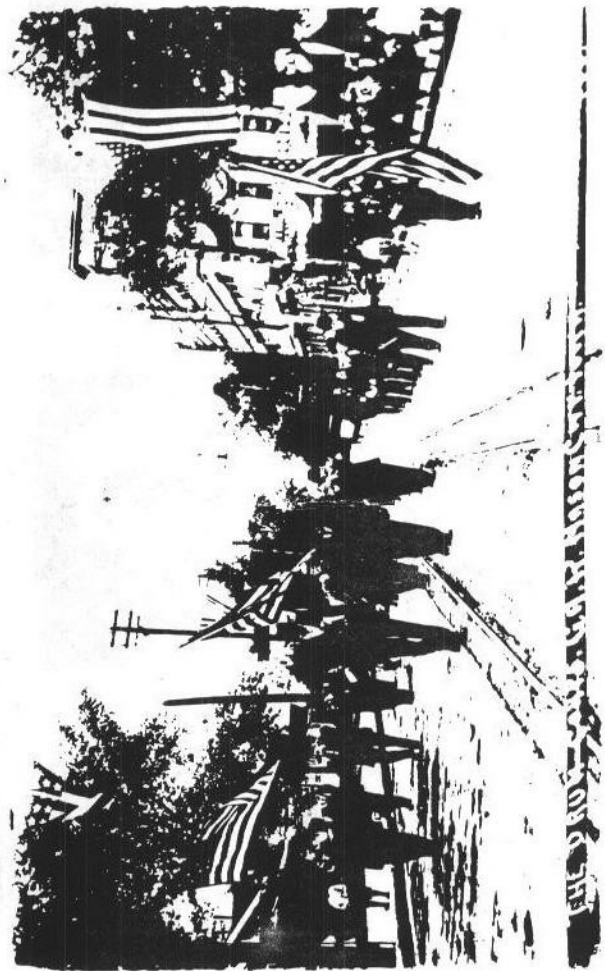
#3 Founder of G.A.R. Stephenson Monument



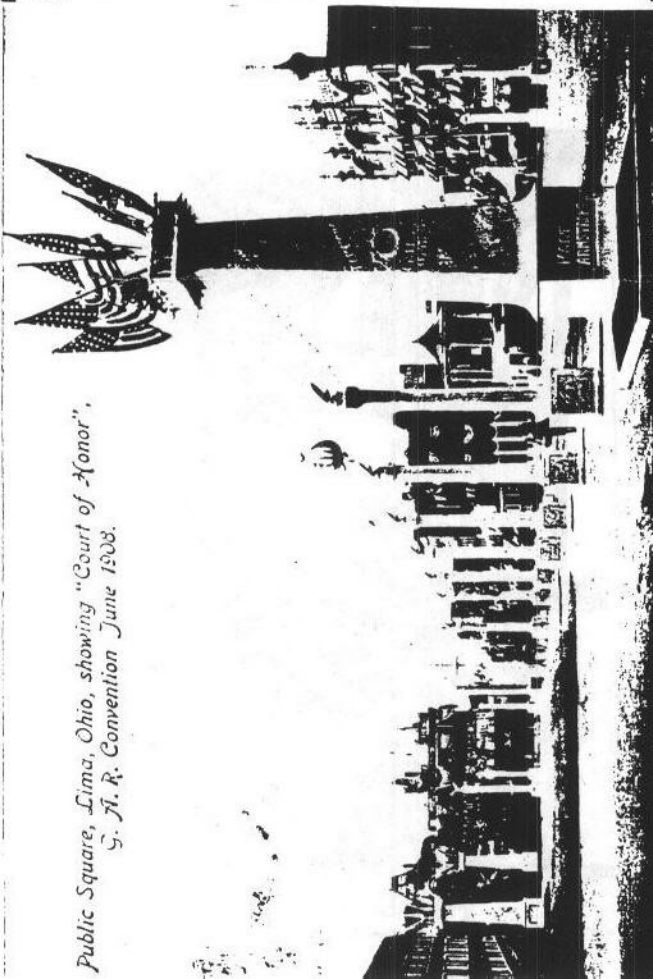
#4



#5



#6 Mason City, Iowa



Public Square, Lima, Ohio, showing "Court of Honor",
S. N. R. Convention June 1908.

#7



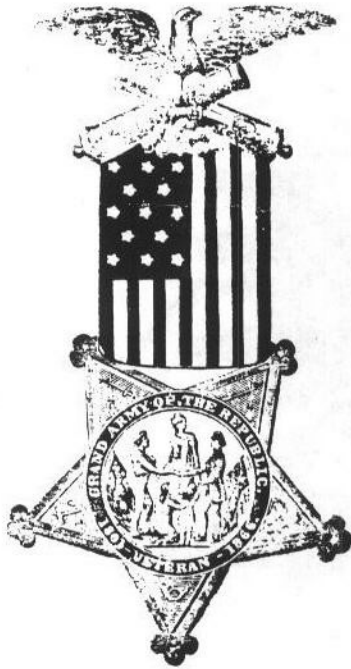
Building of Littlefield Post No. 8, Somersworth, N.H.

#8

"There the ancient Arrow-maker
Made his arrow-heads of sandstone.

With him dwelt his dark-eyed daughter,
Wayward as the Minnehaha,
With her moods of shade and sunshine,
Eyes that smiled and frowned alternate,
Feet as rapid as the river.

And he named her from the river,
From the water-fall he named her,
Minnehaha, Laughing Water."



#9 Miscellaneous

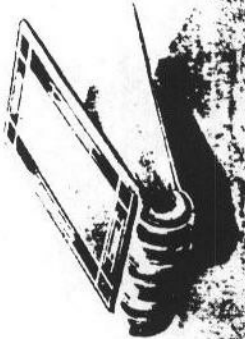


#10

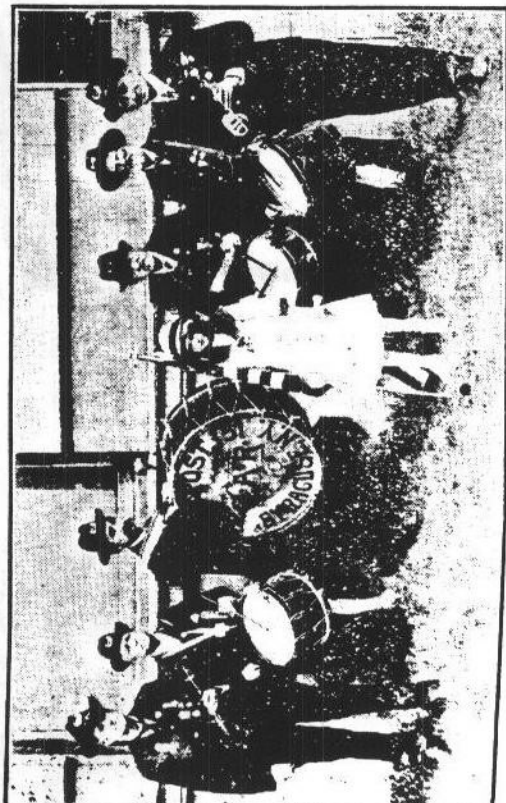
253. PUBLISHED BY M. A. WHEDON, MINNEAPOLIS

MY NAME IS REGISTERED
IN THE "BIG BOOK" ON
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN.

1863 50 Years After 1913
CONFEDERATE VETERANS' REUNION
AT LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE
MAY 27-28-29



#11



ROOT POST NO. 151, G. A. R., DRUM CORPS, Syracuse, N. Y.
The only Active Veteran Drum Corps in the United States composed of Veteran Musicians.

#12

Question & Answer Column

Submitted by Rance Hulshart

(These questions relate to the article Rance wrote in *The Veteran* Vol. 4 No. 1 entitled "Other Veteran Organizations" - Ed.)

Why was the gold "First Defenders" badge presented to Miss Sue Jessie Yaeger on October 1, 1891? What is the connection between the Union Veteran Army organization and the Union Veteran Union organization? Also, can anyone shed some more light on the United States Regular Army Navy Veterans organization?



A Grand Army of the Republic Ritual With a Different Purpose

by Pres. Dennis Loba

Recently, I acquired an 1868 copy of the Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic (from another member of our Association who knows of my "love" for GAR paper goods). I knew, however, that there was something different and unusual about this ritual when he described it to me over the

telephone. This ritual was contained in the same pamphlet with the ritual of another organization, the Machinists and Blacksmiths Union. My first thought was that maybe they met at the same hall - the G.A.R. on one night and the Machinists on another. Perhaps they printed their rituals together to save money. But, I also knew from the G.A.R. Regulations that the Ritual pamphlets were closely guarded and collected after each Post meeting with the Post Commander ultimately responsible for them remaining out of the public eye(1). I assume that most Posts locked their pamphlets away for safe keeping as the Bluebook states that a "...box should be provided for the safe keeping of the ritual..."(2). So why would they reveal the ritual to the Machinists and Blacksmiths? Obviously I was bewildered as to why these rituals would appear together, especially since I knew the G.A.R. dealt severely (a dishonorable discharge from the Order!) with members who divulged it's secrets(3).

When the booklet arrived, sure enough it was as described 0 two rituals bound in one (see photocopy #1). I opened it and flipped through the G.A.R. portion, not really noticing anything different from other rituals that I had previously seen. There were two small details, however, that did catch my eye on the title page - the printing date (1884) and the line "See Endorsements, Pages 18 and 19" (see photocopy #2). The printing date seemed strange because most of the rituals that I have examined were all adopted and printed in the same year - namely the 1868 Edition. What is more, I had never before seen the "Endorsements" line in any other ritual. Needless to say pages 18 and 19 were the next stop, and I read them carefully (see photocopies #3 and #4).

After finishing these pages, I finally realized what I had - a clandestine G.A.R. Ritual printed by the National Christian Association to expose the secrets (in particular the "Penalty for Treason is Death" portion) of the Grand Army Ritual! I was fascinated by what I had found. Looking more closely at the rest of the pamphlet, I discovered the "Publishers Preface" (photocopy #5) and, last but not least, the "Remarks" pages (photocopies #6 and #7) which I found even more interesting.

Apparently, Publisher Ezra A. Cook was a printer who specialized in exposing the "secret" rituals of fraternal, union, and other types of organizations. Cook's order list (found at the back of this "ritual" publication) gives the prices and volume discounts on many similar books and pamphlets that expose such groups as the Odd Fellows, Freemasons, Labor Unions, and others.

You may be interested to know that this G.A.R./Machinists and Blacksmiths Ritual booklet sold for 10 cents a copy, or 75 cents a dozen. I am not sure as to why the National Christian Association wanted to expose the G.A.R. "workings" in this manner, but in this case the 1868 ritual has been printed in its entirety including the G.A.R. Salute, Grip, and Countersign for all the public to see. Most of us, I think, are aware of the criticism (just or unjust) and ridicule that the G.A.R. received for its influence over U.S. politics during its long existence. But, I had no idea that it was also subject to religious criticism as well. I hope you find this booklet as interesting as I did.

(1) Grand Army of the Republic, *The Grand Army Blue Book*, 1902 Ed. (Philadelphia, Lippincott Co., 1902), pp 135, 136.

(2) Ibid

(3) Ibid, pp 244, 245.



RITUAL

—OF THE—

Grand Army of the Republic,

ADOPTED IN GENERAL CONVENTION

—AT—

PHILADELPHIA PA.

JANUARY 17TH, 1868.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

SEE ENDORSEMENTS, PAGES 18 AND 19.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
EZRA A. COOK, PUBLISHER,
1884.

THE CORRECTNESS OF THIS RITUAL INDORSED.

In answer to J. R. Bowen, Pastor of M. E. Church, Elm Hall, Mich., in the *Michigan Holiness Record* of March 1884, denying that candidates are ever blindfolded or that a Coffin, Spade, Shovel or any implements of execution are ever used or seen in a G. A. R. Lodge.

"I entered the army in 1862, a private; was fifty-four years of age; passed the board of examiners; entered with the boys in blue, three of my own sons being in the same company. Did my duty everywhere as a private, and as far as I could the work of a chaplain, unappointed. We were drawn out in battle array to test its horrors and to feel its thrusts. Many suffered—some death. As for myself I was well saturated with blood, but thanks to God the wound was not mortal. Yet I was reminded while looking at the blood that it was only part of the price of the salvation of the country. I carried gun and knapsack eighteen months and was then promoted to be chaplain, and remained with the boys to the close."

"At home it was evident that some enchanting element was at work. The old lodgeites, the Masons and Odd-fellows, they did so love the boys! Soon a G. A. R. camp was organized. The boys with one consent stood in solid rank as before, and I, the "old boy," with them."

"But the manner and matter of going in—how much change has been made in those schools of folly within eighteen years, I have no means at present of knowing. But the M. E. parson Bowen makes the breach awfully wide. It may be he is so leproused over with lodgery that he cannot speak the truth. As a case of two deacons of the same congregation; one of them being pressed pretty hard on the fact of the ante-room preparation for lodge folly, declared he never had a cable-tow around his neck to be led into the lodge. The other promptly replied, 'You lie! I had hold of the rope that led you in.'

"Now my knowledge of this matter is thus: prepared in the ante-room; eyes closely bandaged; led by a guard stumbling on a circuitous route; ordered 'Halt, and get down on your knees!' hands on the Bible, our eyes still

closed, we were required to parrot after the leader, he a miserable infidel. I cannot now well recollect, but I know the obligation was so much like the Freemasons "promise and swear" that I said but little of it. At the close the hoodwink was snatched off and a sepulchral voice said, 'Beware of the fate of any one that divulges the secrets of this camp;' and a sign points to an open coffin very near at hand. As for the oath I do say I believe it to have been largely a duplicate of the Masonic arrangement."

ABRAHAM HARTZELL, DENVER, COLO.

"The correctness of the Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic, published by E. A. Cook and sold by the National Christian Association, has been questioned. It is doubtless true that changes have been made since this expose was printed; but it is also true that when first published it was the work then in use. A soldier during the war and a member of the Grand Army gave a complete expose of the initiatory work at Clear Lake, Iowa, during one of our conventions there. He used the coffin, cross-swords, skull, Bible, etc., and carefully explained the various ceremonies through which the candidate passes, and repeated the obligation administered, with various other matters of minor importance. This he did from a personal knowledge obtained in the lodge, and entirely independent of, and so far as I know, without any knowledge of the printed ritual."

"A young man, member of the church of which I was the pastor, gave me substantially the same description of initiation as that given by Peter Woodring at Clear Lake, and also related how terrified another young man was at the time of his initiation. Others have told me the same thing and I have no doubt of the correctness of the expose at the time when it was given. Doubtless the ritualistic work has undergone some change, but the spirit, purpose and character of the order remain unchanged, and are no more Republican, American or Christian than Freemasonry, or any other pagan despotic institution of modern times."

J. P. STODDARD.

PUBLISHERS PREFACE

TO

The Ritual of The Grand Army of The Republic

AND

The Ritual of The Machinists and Blacksmiths Unions.

Our reasons for publishing this Exposition of the Grand Army of the Republic are briefly stated in our "Remarks" at the close of the Ritual.

We believe this order is used for the promotion of the unscrupulous tricksters who manage it, to places of honor and profit and the proscription of those conscientious Soldiers who hate Secretism.

The Ritual of the Machinist's and Blacksmith's Union is given as a fair sample of the rules of the *least objectionable* of the Trades Unions of this Country.

Yet a careful examination of this Ritual, particularly of the *obligation*, must convince every loyal citizen that such Secret Unions are utterly out of place in a nation like ours, and it is easy to see the reason why these Unions use all their power of intimidation to prevent non union men from getting employment and when the zeal of members leads them to violence and crime, at the very worst, their fellow members will call it "*imprudence*" and consider themselves bound to protect them in obedience to their obligation.

Our observation of these Trades Unions convinces us that they are an unmitigated curse to our land and could with good reason be suppressed by law.

5

THE PUBLISHERS.

EXPOSITION

OF THE

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

POSITION OF OFFICERS.

Commander—At the head of the Encampment.

Senior Vice-Commander—At the end of the hall, opposite to the Commander.

Junior Vice-Commander—At the center of the right flank.

Chaplain—At the center of the left flank.

Adjutant—Three paces to the right, and one pace in advance of the Commander.

Quartermaster—Three paces to the left, and one pace in advance of the Commander.

Surgeon—On the left of the Commander.

Officer of the day—One pace to the right, and one pace in front of the Commander.

Officer of the Guard—One pace to the right, and one pace in front of the Senior Vice-Commander.

Department or Past Post Commanders present will occupy positions on the right of the Post Commander.

6

7

20

REMARKS.

Well reader what do you think of the "Patriotic Order" now?

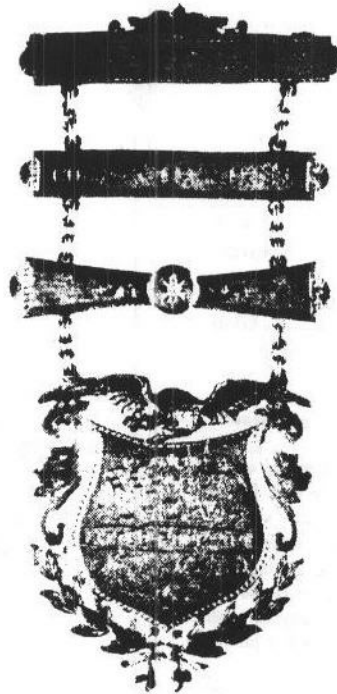
Think of an old veteran, the hero of a score of battles, with the proof of such service and an honorable discharge, being compelled to submit to the degradation of the hood wink and to being led around like a mule and catechized by one officer after another and finally to the villianous indignity of being brought as a traitor before an armed squad of executioners who are apparently prevented from shooting him by the interference of the Officer of the Day and after the obligation not to tell of the indignities he was forced to submit to, he swears: "*I will yield implicit obedience to the Encampment of which I may be a member.*" Then as if to cap the climax he hears the yell: "Behold the proper reward of the perjured traitor" as the bandage is snatched from his eyes and he finds himself kneeling before an open coffin, a squad of armed men and the usual implements used in military executions. Soldiers often with good reason complain of military tyranny yet here is a tyranny incomparably worse and more wicked. Here is an unconditional oath of "*implicit obedience*" to a set of ambitious men; an oath, which no man can innocently take or keep. And he that does not see that such an oath confers a very dangerous secret power on irresponsible men must be blind indeed.

No Christian can fail to see that such obliga-

tions are at war with the fundamental principles of Christianity.

That a man who has risked his life in the defense of his country, should claim the votes, not only of his old Comrades but of every good loyal citizen if he is qualified for the office he seeks, seems only just, but no secret organization is needed to enforce a claim which is so universally admitted.

But it must be evident to every careful observer that the object of this order is to discriminate against really deserving Soldiers, who conscientiously refuse to join the order, and to secure to its leaders, offices of profit and influence without regard to their merit or qualifications.



The Sotheby's sale that featured the *Chesapeake-Shannon* medal also included this gold Confederate Veteran's Badge awarded to General George Washington Gordon, an officer of the 11th Tennessee Infantry renowned for his gallantry. Twice captured and twice exchanged, he served in virtually every battle fought by the Army of Tennessee and was the youngest Confederate brigadier general at just 27 years old.

He was captured for the third time during the Battle of Franklin, but this time was not released until the Civil War was over. He practiced law in Memphis, became a state commissioner, and took up an appointment with the Indian Agency responsible for Arizona and Nevada. In 1910, he became the last Confederate to sit in Congress and remained a Confederate to the last. He was buried in full uniform of the Confederate Army and with his beloved flag draped over his coffin.

Gordon was commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, and the medal offered at Sotheby's was made to commemorate a massive reunion held at Little Rock, Arkansas, in May 1911. Gordon was too ill to take the reviewing stand, so his rooms at the local Marion Hotel were saluted instead. The medal sold to a U.S. collector for \$3630.

*From "Maine Antique Digest".
Submitted by Dave Maloney.*



*Above: Woven silk bookmark from the 1893 Columbus Exposition.
Submitted by Dave Maloney*

FAIR FOR THE BELIEF FUND

Chas. Ward Post 62, G. A. R.

New School House Hall, Newton Centre,

ON THE AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS OF

FEBRUARY 21st & 22d, 1872.

Admit All

Trains leave Boston at 1:30, 3:30, 4:45, 5:40, & 6:15. Returning leave Newton Centre at 6:25 & 10.

Submitted by Dennis Loba.