



The VETERAN

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

Founded 1987

Preserving the Memory of Union and Confederate Veterans of the American Civil War
"Poor is the nation that has no heroes; shameful is the nation that has them and forgets."



Vol. 6 No. 6

C.W.V.H.A.

May/June 1993

President's Corner

by Dennis Loba

Hello everyone and, as always, welcome to our new members! Our Annual Encampment at Mansfield was a great success, and I hope that everybody who was there came by my table to register. We had a large group at the show as well as at our dinner/business meeting

on Saturday night. Howard Hoffman put on a great show with his original magic lantern and glass slides. The dinner and service were excellent and the Comfort Inn even

displayed this year than I had ever seen in one place before, and I want to thank those collectors who brought them out and shared them with us all!

We made some tough but necessary decisions at our business meetings, the raising of our annual dues to \$10 probably being the one to effect us all the most. We had come to the point where we just couldn't cover our expenses, the main one being "The VETERAN" newsletter. I've asked Secretary Rance to cover all of the other details of our business meeting elsewhere in this issue.

Your association has chosen to re-elect this past year's officers, I think I can speak for all of us by saying that it is our sincere pleasure to serve you all once again. Have a nice summer! ☺

Dues Increase



Due to increasing postage costs and our desire to continue to bring you a

quality bimonthly newsletter, it is necessary to increase annual dues to \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Please see inside for details.

had their outside sign fixed up to welcome the CWVHA! Needless to say, George Finlayson has already reserved the banquet room for next year. Thanks once again to George and his wife Betty for finding this location for us!

Two awards were won at the show by our members - Ed Hibarger won the Best Memorabilia Award for his UCV display and new member Gary Dunaenko won the Veteran Memorabilia Award for his G.A.R. testimonials. I saw more of these beautiful badges

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C.W.V.H.A.

Dennis Loba, President
336 Stuyvesant St.
Warrenton, VA 22186
(703) 349-1284

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

Rance Hulshart
4000 Old Orchard Road
York, PA 17402
(717)-755-5334

"The VETERAN"
Editor - Rance Hulshart
Assoc. Ed./Newsletter - Dave Maloney
(301) 695-8544

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GAR Ciphers

by Nick Luberto

We've all heard that the GAR was very secretive about its meetings and ceremonies. For the most part many of their secrets have remained to this day just that - secrets. Illustration #1 below, an encryption code, sheds some light on their coded messages. This cipher key was copied from a 1914 GAR Ritual Book. Illustrations #2, 3 and 4 on the facing page are examples of coded messages. Illustration #3 was decoded by the owner. The only illustration of coded messages for which the illustrated key cipher works is illustration

#4. Decoded, the National Countersign for 1914 would have been the word "CHICKAMAUGA". The 1914 cipher key does not work with illustrations 2 and 3. In all probability, different ciphers were issued annually by the National officers.

Secretary's Message

by Rance Hulshart

Our CWVHA 7th Annual National Encampment was held at Mansfield, Ohio April 30 through May 2, 1993, and it was a huge success. There were more gold veteran testimonials on display than I have ever seen at one location. In addition, there was a very nice display of elaborate veteran swords.

THE RITUAL

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- Opening Ceremonies.
- Adjutant's Report.
- Quartermaster's Report.
- Reading of Orders.
- Is any comrade of this Post sick or in distress?
- Has any comrade died since our last meeting?
- Has any comrade knowledge of deserving soldiers or sailors, or families of those deceased, living within our limits who need our assistance?
- [Comrades having knowledge of any such cases will state them, and they will be properly referred, or otherwise disposed of.]
- Reports of Committees on Applications for Membership.
- Ballot on Recruits.
- Muster-in.
- Reading and Reference of new applications for Membership.
- Reports of Committees.
- Unfinished Business.
- New Business.
- Closing Ceremonies.

THE RITUAL

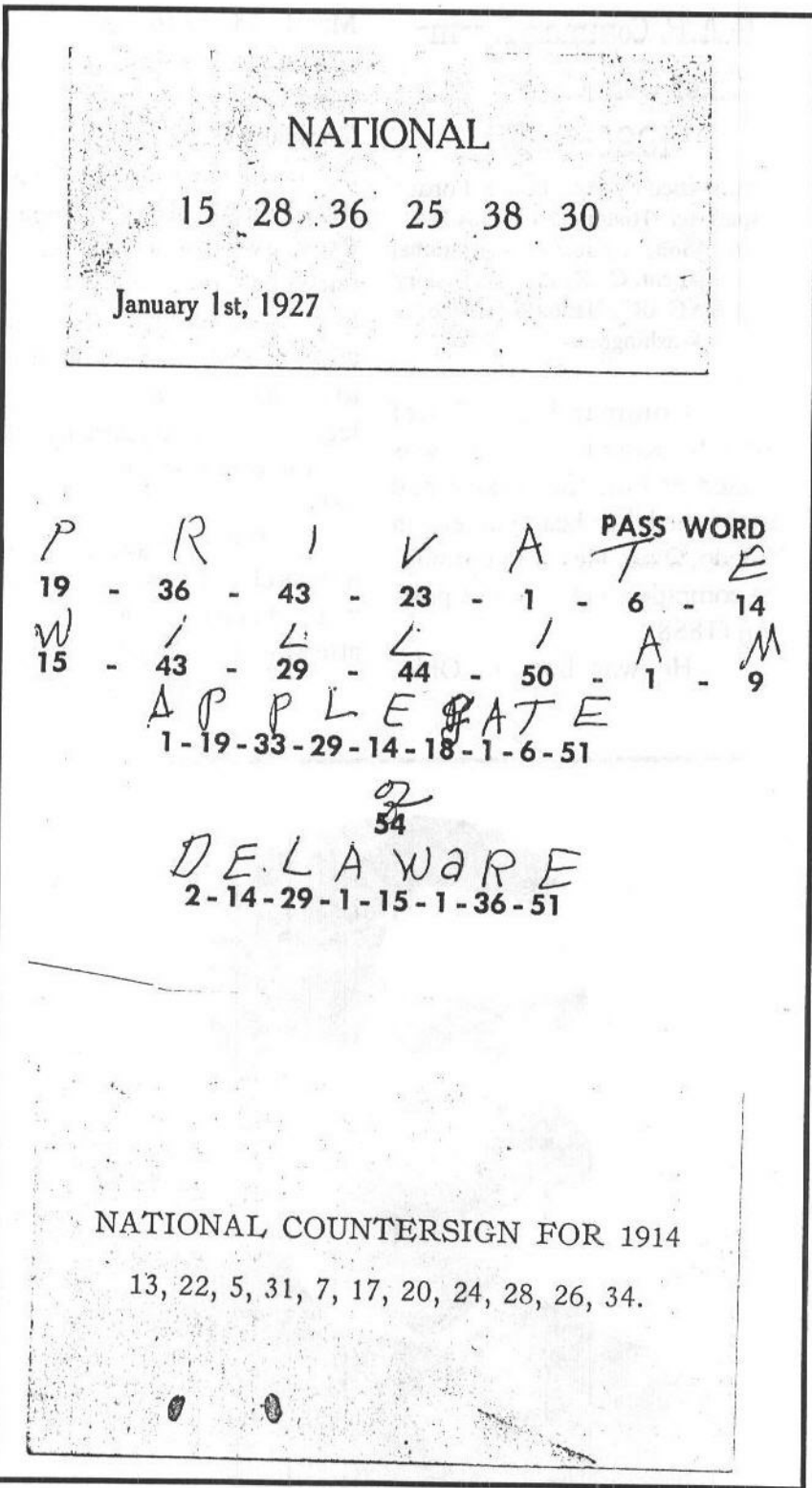
7

ABBREVIATIONS.

- C.—Commander.
- S. V. C.—Senior Vice-Commander.
- J. V. C.—Junior Vice Commander.
- Adjt.—Adjutant.
- Surg.—Surgeon.
- Chap.—Chaplain.
- Q. M.—Quartermaster.
- O. D.—Officer of the Day.
- O. G.—Officer of the Guard.
- S. M.—Sergeant-Major.
- Q. M. S.—Quartermaster-Sergeant.
- G.—Guard.
- R.—Recruit.

KEY TO CIPHER

W	Q	P	I	S	K	L	X	F	L
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
J	C	I	B	E	A	V	S	M	W
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
H	Y	A	T	G	R	U	P	N	C
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
U	E	A	The	R	Post	O	I	D	Dept
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
Z	G	C	Nat'l.						
42	43	44	45						



Among them was a gold GAR testimonial which we all missed until it was purchased on the last day of the show.

Saturday evening's dinner/meeting went well. Everyone seemed to enjoy the meal. A special thanks to George and Betty Finlayson for their efforts in securing the location. The same restaurant has been reserved for next year's dinner/meeting. Howard Hoffman's glass slide show was enjoyed by all. It gave many members the feeling of being transformed back in time, reminding them of how the veteran's felt watching the same type of show. Thanks, Howard, for providing us with the entertainment.

Elections were held with the entire current slate being retained for another year. President Dennis Loba gave special thanks to Howard & Betty Finlayson, Howard Siglag, Dave Maloney, and Rance Hulshart for their extra efforts in helping the association run smoothly. Personally and for the club I would like to thank Dennis Loba for his service as club president and for his contributions to our newsletter, "The VETERAN". A discussion was held concerning dues and it was decided unanimously to raise due to \$10 per year for individuals and \$20 per year for families (US or foreign). It was felt this is still a bargain in view of the quality and length of our newsletter. It was also decided that complete volumes of back issues of "The VETERAN" could be obtained from the editor for \$10 per volume. Membership numbers will be permanent, with non-renewing member numbers remaining vacant. Those who rejoin at a later date will be reassigned their old number. I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming shows. Until then, good luck with your collecting pursuits.

The following CWVHA members had displays of beautiful, educational and rare GAR, UCV, and related items: Marshall Brighenti, John Mullay, Dennis Loba, Howard Hoffman, Rance Hulshart, Howard

Siglag, Gary Dunaenko, and Ed Hibarger. My apologies to any member I may have inadvertently overlooked. Purchases of Veteran items were brisk, with many members going home with exciting items.

Encampment Attendees

Here is a list of attendees to the 7th National CWVHA Encampment, Mansfield, OH April 30-May 2, 1993:

- Dennis Loba
- Rance hulshart
- Howard Siglag
- Don Limpert
- Roger & Fran Heiple
- George & Betty Finlayson
- Jack Lewis
- Marshall & Julie Brighenti
- Howard Hoffman
- Tom Gordon, Jr.
- Jim Thurston
- Everitt Bowles
- Phil Lamb
- John & Barbara Mullan
- John Ferry
- Ed Hibarger
- Ron Bellenger
- Roy Sloan
- John Spoff
- Mark Hertzler *
- Jim Hilton
- A. Dean Sargent
- Mike Albanese
- Bill Welch
- Bob Albertini
- Bud Fry
- Walt Rudecki
- Dennis Keesee
- Jerry Sills
- Dick McTaggard *
- Tim Park *
- Donald Workman *
- Pete Albee
- Henry Deeks
- Elmer Bennett
- Dan Mitchell
- Gary Dunaenko *
- Ken Turner
- Warren Barber *
- Larry Hicklen

*=Joined at Mansfield

G.A.R. Commander-in-Chief John S. Kountz 1885-1886

Submitted by Pres. Dennis Loba
Sources: "History of the G.A.R.", Beath, 1888, "Journal of the National Encampment, GAR, 1940", "History of the GAR", National Tribune, Washington DC, 1899

Commander-in-Chief John S. Kountz (below) was elected at Portland, Maine and established his headquarters in Toledo, Ohio. He was the youngest comrade elected to this position (1888).

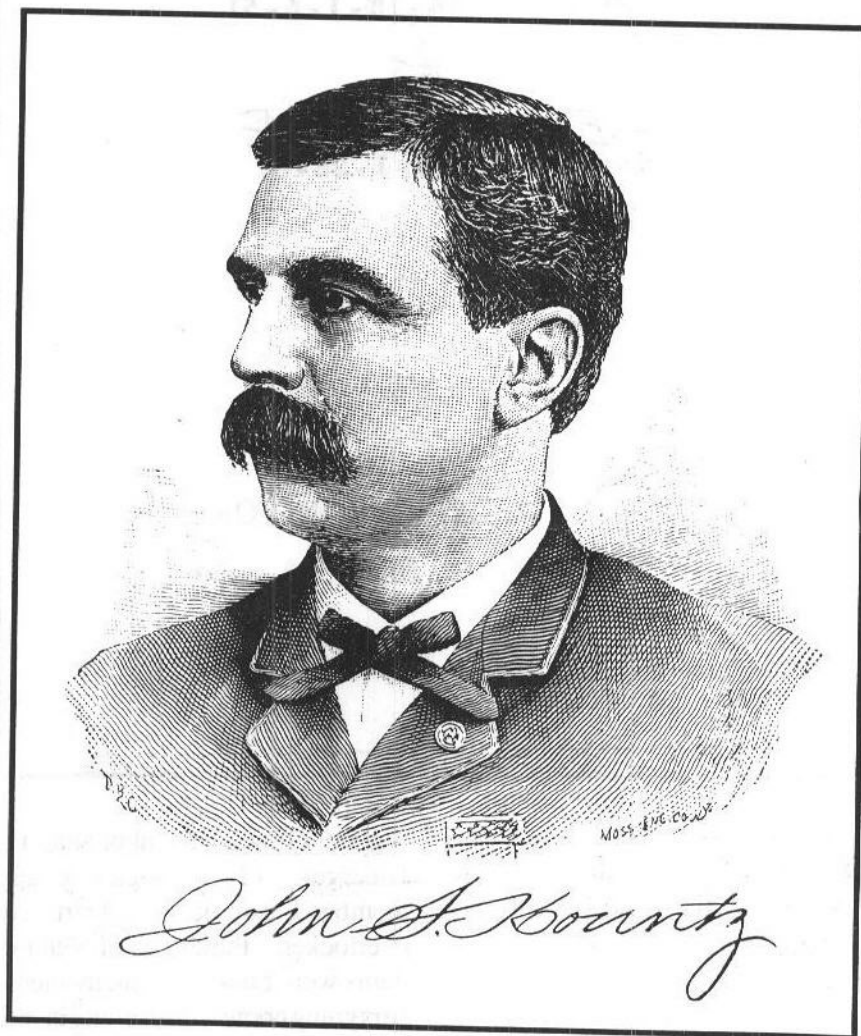
He was born in Ohio,

March 25, 1846, and was but fifteen and a half years of age when he enlisted as a drummer in Company G, 37th Ohio Vols.

In the battle of Mission Ridge, November 25, 1863, he threw away his drum, seized a musket, and joined his company as it was advancing to the assault, and was so severely wounded as to require the amputation of his leg. He was mustered out by reason of disability, April 25, 1864.

When but 25 years of age he was elected County Treasurer of Lucas county, Ohio, and was afterwards County Recorder.

He built us a large Fire



Insurance business in Toledo. He was a charter-member of Forsyth Post No. 15, Toledo, on its organization in 1866; served three terms as Adjutant and three terms as Commander of the Post; also served in several positions in the Department, and, as Department Commander in 1881, achieved great success in recruiting that Department. It is said that Commander-in-Chief Kountz traveled some 30,000 miles during his tenure visiting some thirty-four different Departments. He died on June 14, 1909. 📌

Badge Descriptions

Drawing and Description by Pres.
Dennis Loba

1900 34th National Encampment Delegate's Badge Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Once again, this badge (upper right) is another example of the finely enameled, flashy GAR delegate badges from the turn of the century. Made by S.D. Childs & Co. of Chicago, it consists of a gold-washed to pinback bar depicting a spread-winged eagle over a Columbia (or Liberty) figure with wings outstretched and with a crown of laurel leaves in one hand and an olive branch in the other, blowing a trumpet. Suspended by one ring and centered under the pinbar is a 3/4" diameter blue enameled and gold disk depicting the Chicago's seal.

A gold "backer" ribbon hangs from the pinbar and has at



its bottom a scroll suspension bar inscribed "Delegate". From the suspension bar hangs an ornate drop all enameled in red, white and blue with the letters "GAR" within the points of the gold membership star beneath which is a circle inscribed on the bottom portion "34th National Encampment" in bright gold letters. At the very bottom of the drop and in the background are two crosses US flags.

The drop is actually made up of two separate pieces that have been attached together to present a 3-D effect. The reverse of the badge is plain except for the maker's name on the bottom drop.

Information Wanted


1) Recently I purchased some items which were owned by James F. Grimes who was Dept. of New Hampshire Commander in 1889. I would like to know what Regiment he served in during the war, the Post he belonged to, his death date, and any general history that can be provided. I particularly want a copy of his Memorial which would have appeared in the Dept. of NH and National journals following his death. Please contact Gil Deibler, 437 Cameron St., Marysville PA 17053 (717) 957-2404.

2) I own a gold testimonial which has part of the inscription obliterated. The following is legible: "Presented to/Jo _____/P.P.C./By Gen. B.F. Butler Post No. 754/Jan 15, 1904". Does anyone know what Dept. had a Butler Post No. 754? Also, does anyone own a 1903 journal from this Department, and if so who was the Commander of Butler Post No. 754 for the year 1903. Any information would be appreciated. Rance Hulshart, 4000 Old Orchard Road, York PA 17402. 📌

Sutler's Corner

Wanted. GAR belt buckles and souvenir spoons from National Encampments. Contact Jerry Coffelt, 1508 W. Wabash, Olathe KS 66061. 📌


Dues Notice

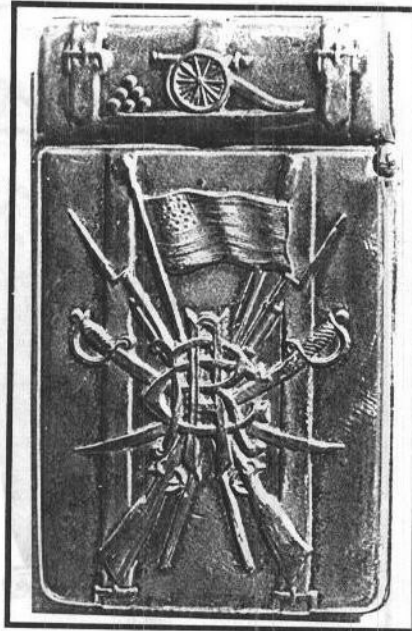
It has been decided to raise CWVHA annual dues to \$10 per individual and \$20 per family. This dues increase takes effect immediately with the 1993-1994 year. Any member who has not yet renewed his membership, please do so as soon as possible. Your check should be made out to and sent to Howard Siglag, 183 Hazelwood Drive, Westbury NY 11590. 

Correction

On page 12 of Vol. 6 No. 5 (March/April 1993) issue of "The VETERAN", the match safe illustrated should have had the following description:

"Brass match safe with hinged lid at top and striker on the bottom. both the GAR membership badge motif and the artillery fight scene are raised from the surface."

The description in Vol. 6 No. 5 actually applies to the match safe depicted here. 



Post Renumbering

by Rance Hulshart

illustrations submitted by David Klinepeter

In the March/April 1993 issue of "The VETERAN" on pages 6 and 7 I showed an undated GAR membership application for an early Department of PA Post 14 in Reading, PA. I mentioned that by 1880 the only Posts located in Reading were

McLean Post 16 and Gen. Wm. H. Keim Post 76.

Illustration #1 below left is a table taken from the journal of the "Proceedings of the First Convention Dept. of Pa." which was held in Philadelphia on January 16, 1867. It clearly shows the renumbering of many early Pennsylvania Posts. Specifically, Post 14 of Reading was renumbered Post 16. In view of this, the application mentioned above

dates from between December 12, 1866 (the date the Post was chartered) and January 16, 1867 (the date the Post was renumbered.) Illustration #2 (right) is a table taken from the "Proceedings of the Seventh Convention Dept. of Pa." held in Pittsburgh on January 26, 1870. It shows that at that time Post 16 was using the name J.A. McLean. From this it can be determined that this name was

"F."

LIST OF POSTS.

*	No.	TOWN,	COUNTY.	WHEN CHARTERED.	BY WHAT AUTHORITY.	REMARKS.
	1	5th Ward, Phil.	Philada.	Oct. 17, 1866.	H'dqrs. G. A. R.	Numb'd by Com. in
	2	6th " "	" "	" 29, "	Dep. Wisconsin	Chief, S. C. Harlbut
5	3	3d " "	" "	Nov. 7, 1866.	Post No. 2.	do do
6	4	22d " "	" "	" 16, "	" "	
7	5	18th " "	" "	" 19, "	" "	
8	6	14th " "	" "	" 20, "	" "	
9	7	Gettysburg.	Adams.	" 24, "	Dept. Illinois.	
10	8	12th Ward, Phil.	Philada.	Dec. 1, "	S. O. No. 1.	
11	9	Norristown.	M'tgom'ry	" " "	" " "	
12	10	21st W'rd, Phila.	Philada.	" 7, "	" " 2	
13	11	Allentown.	Lehigh.	" 10, "	" " 3.	
14	12	Phillipsburg.	Centre.	" 11, "	" " 4.	Not yet mustered
15	13	21st Ward Phil.	Philada.	" 12, "	" " 5.	
16	14	Reading.	Berks.	" 7, "	" " "	
17	15	Minersville.	Schuylkill	" " "	" " "	
18	16	24th Ward, Phil.	Philada.	" 19, "	" " 7.	
19	17	20th " "	" "	" 22, "	" " 9.	
20	18	Hazleton.	Luzerne.	" 24, "	" " 10.	
21	19	Darby.	Delaware.	Jan. 7, 1867.	" " 12.	Not yet mustered.
22	20	Danville,	Montour.	" 10, "	" " 13.	

*The numbers given in the second column, were afterwards changed to correspond with those in the first column in accordance with the instructions given the Commander at the First Convention.

The location of the Posts added, with the corresponding changes of numbers, are more fully given in the Report of A. A. G., page 19.

8 Seventh Convention, Dept. of Penna.,

Comrades J. A. Price, Post No. 101, J. A. Swartz, Post No. 128, and Beaton Smith, Post No. 140, were appointed a Committee on Credentials, and after investigation reported the following credentials and list of delegates as correct:

Post No. 1, Philadelphia.....	No credentials.
Post No. 2, Philadelphia.....	Chas. S. Greene, J. V. C.*
Hayes Post, No. 3, Pittsburgh.....	J. Wilson DeWitt, M. D.*
J. T. Owen Post, No. 5, Philadelphia.....	John P. Hunter, P. C.*
Ellis Post, No. 6, Germantown.....	Crosby Gray.*
Post No. 7, Philadelphia.....	Wm. B. Cook.*
E. D. Baker Post, No. 8, Philadelphia.....	John T. Brady, P. C.*
Post No. 9, Gettysburg.....	Wm. Blauck, Jr.*
Gen. Zook Post, No. 11, Norristown.....	Joseph T. Pratt.
Lt. Sam. Clay Post, No. 12, Roxborough.....	Charles W. Bolton, P. C.*
Yenger Post, No. 13, Allentown.....	Louis Wagner.*
J. A. McLean Post, No. 16, Reading.....	Failed to take new work.
Lawrence Post, No. 17, Minersville.....	Ell G. Sellers, P. C.
Fred. Taylor Post, No. 19, Philadelphia.....	Joseph Bryant.*
Robison Post, No. 20, Hazleton.....	Failed to take new work.
Gowen Post, No. 23, Pottsville.....	John W. Schall.*
Wildc Post, No. 25, Chester.....	John P. Hartranft.*
Jerry Helms Post, No. 26, Schuyl. Haven.....	No returns.
J. W. Jackson Post, No. 27, Philadelphia.....	H. J. Beckhardt, P. C.
Dentzer Post, No. 29, Cressona.....	George W. Grant.*
McCall Post, No. 31, West Chester.....	George W. Durrell.*
Post No. 33, Huntingdon.....	Jacob W. Glace.*
Post No. 30, York.....	Honore G. Boon.*
Post No. 41, Montrose.....	W. D. H. Mason, P. C.
Post No. 42, Lebanon.....	James H. Levan.*
Hooker Post, No. 43, Ashland.....	S. W. Pennypacker, P. C.*
Lt. Josiah White Post, No. 45, Phoenixville.....	Thomas Flinn.*
Jno. Ennis Post, No. 47, St. Clair.....	A. Coperthwalte.*
Spyker Graham Post, No. 52, Lewisburg.....	William J. Smyth.*
Moody Post, No. 53, Susquehanna Depot.....	W. H. Shelmire.*
Post No. 58, Harrisburg.....	No credentials.
Starkweather Post, No. 60, Monongahela City.....	No reports.
Chapman Post, No. 61, Mauch Chunk.....	No reports.
Post No. 62, Altoona.....	No reports.
Strong Vincent Post, No. 67, Erie.....	No reports.

chosen for the Post sometime between 1867 and 1870. Another interesting fact from these journals is there use of the term "Convention" as opposed to what later became commonly known as an "Encampment".

Newspaper & Button Additions

by Rance Hulshart

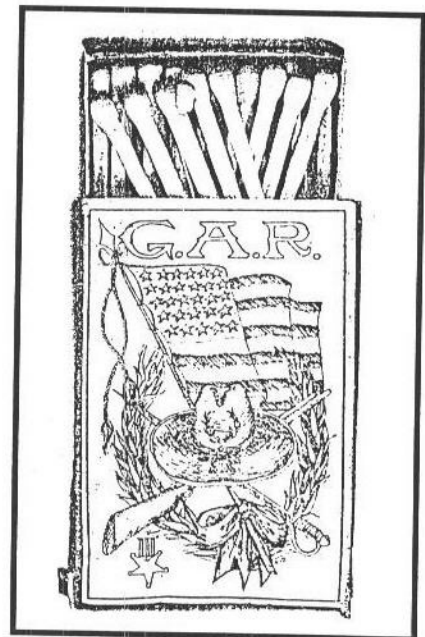
On page 6 of Vol. 5 No. 6 of "The VETERAN" (May/June 1992) I listed some newspapers that catered to the Veteran. Since then I have come across the

following which can be added to that list:

1. "Field & Post Room", Harrisburg, PA, 1886
2. "Grand Army Magazine", Denver, CO, 1883
3. "Oregon Veteran", Portland, OR, 1886
4. "Veteran", Worcester, MA, 1890

Located on the same page is a list of GAR button backmarks to which the following can be added:

1. Reed, Jacob & Sons, Phila., Pa.
2. Pasquale B., San Francisco, Cal.



Illustrated above is a cardboard match stick box complete with the original wooden matches. The design is multi-colored. No doubt these were given out at a GAR banquet along with a cigar. Submitted by Nick Luberto.

Welcome to Our New Members

It seems like only a short time ago that as a club we were excited about having our 100th member join. We are now almost to member #200 - quite amazing since basically our association's existence is spread mostly by word of mouth. This truly shows that veteran material is finally gaining acceptance as a valid collecting field and appears to be one of the fastest growing Civil War related fields. Thanks to all who have helped spread the word.

- #192 Mark Laflin, 3029 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood IN 46143; GAR, SV
 #193 Gary Dunaenko, P.O. Box 37, Somerset NJ 08875-

- 0037; Gold testimonial badges
 #194 Warren Barber, P.O. Box 401, Plainwell MI 49080; GAR
 #195 Helene Anderson, 91 Tulip Ave. A1 CA, Floral Park NY 11001; UCV
 #196 Richard McTaggart, 1334 Elk St., Port Huron MI 48060; GAR
 #197 Doug Park, 404 Kenway, Lansing MI 48917; GAR, UVU, SV, Loyal Legion
 #198 E.S. Milligan, Box 10028, Alexandria VA 22310-0028; GAR, SV, Canadian GAR Posts
 #199 Donald Workman, P.O. Box 235, 825 Gage Road, Sanford MI 48657; GAR, Indiana items

Featured Museum

This issue of "The VETERAN" features "The Civil War Library and Museum" which houses many rare Civil War items including uniforms, weapons, and personal items. The library consists of 15,000 volumes and manuscripts. There also is a special Lincoln Room containing many rare items pertaining to the president. This museum is located at 1805 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Plans are underway to move the museum to a new location so contact them prior to your visit. Call the museum at 215-735-8196. Open Mon-Fri. 10-4; adults \$2. Membership is \$25.

S.V. Belt Buckles

by Rance Hulshart

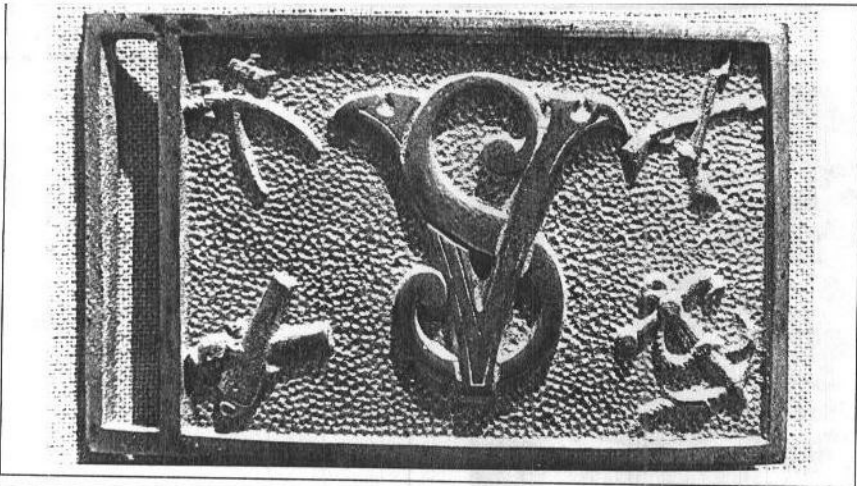
In past issues of "THE VETERAN" I illustrated all of the variations of G.A.R. buckles that I am aware of. After receiving many favorable comments concerning this study I have decided to illustrate all of the S.V. belt buckles that I am aware of. If any member has a S.V. buckle variation not illustrated please submit a photo and description to the editor for future publication. Use a light background, gray if possible as this will reproduce best for our newsletter. All buckles in this study are in the collection of Rance Hulshart with the exception of buckle #2 which belongs to member Gil Deibler.

Buckle #1 Cast Brass, 3 1/32" long, 1 26/32" wide, belt opening 1 20/32"; design is smooth on the reverse, SV letters are 13/32" tall, note the use of G.A.R. star motif and motto

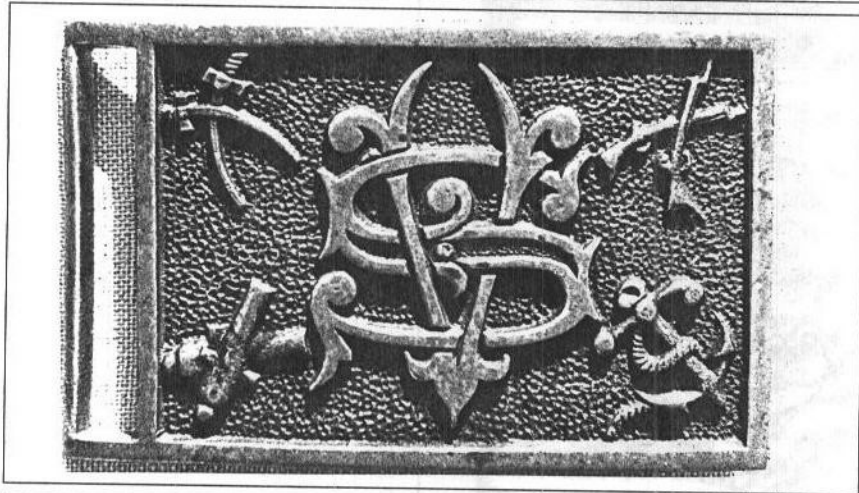
Buckle #2 Cast Brass, exact measurements are unavailable but belt keeper is soldered on the back

Buckle #3 Cast Brass, 2 29/32" long, 1 26/32" wide, belt opening 1 19/32", design is smooth on the reverse, SV letters are approximately 1 12/32" tall

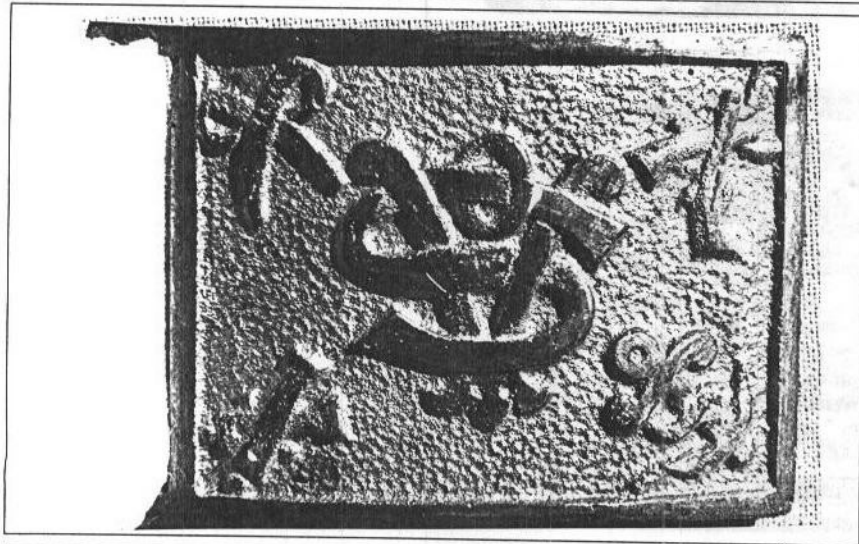
Buckle #4 Cast Brass, 2 29/32" long, 1 29/32" wide, belt opening 1 23/32". design is smooth on the reverse, SV letters are 1 4/32" tall, note the border has a dot design, also note the small stamped 15 at the top of the S, this may possibly signify Camp #15. It is not likely a manufacturers benchmark as they would have stamped this on the reverse.



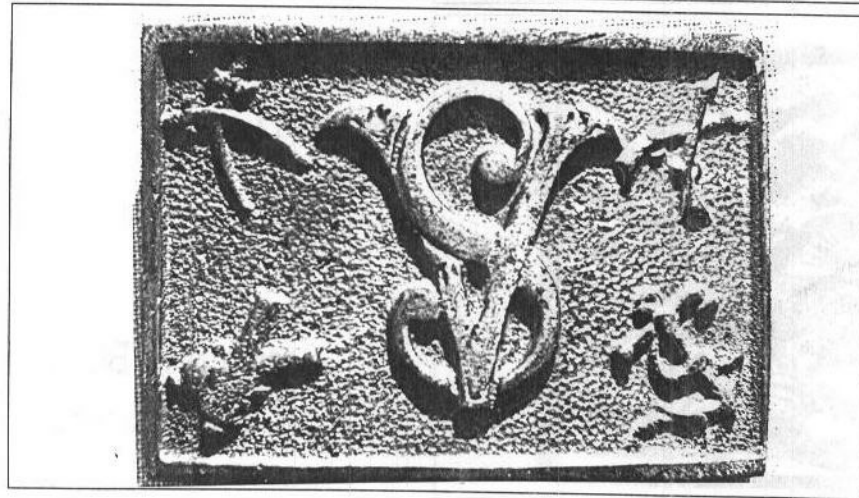
Buckle #6



Buckle #7



Buckle #8



Buckle #9

Buckle #5 Cast Brass, 2 29/32" long, 1 30/32" wide, belt opening 1 25/32", belt keeper is soldered on the back, design is smooth on the reverse, SV letters are approximately 1 12/32" tall, border is plain

Buckle #6 Cast Brass, 3 5/32" long, 1 31/32" wide, belt opening 1 24/32", design is smooth on the reverse, SV letters are approximately 1 13/32" tall

Buckle #7 Cast Brass, 3 4/32" long, 1 30/32" wide, belt opening 1 22/32", design is smooth on the reverse, SV letters are approximately 1 18/32" tall, note style of lettering varies greatly from example #6

Buckle #8 Cast Brass, 3" long, 2 1/32" wide, belt opening 1 25/32", design is smooth on the reverse, note O at the top of the S, SOV letters are approximately 1 7/32" tall

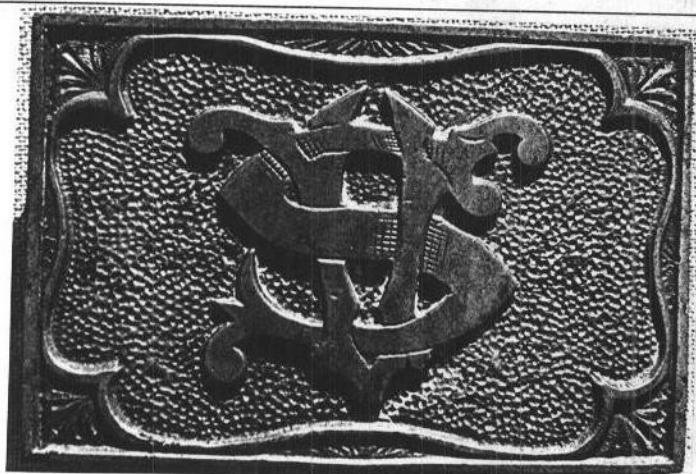
Buckle #9 Cast Brass, 2 23/32" long, 1 31/32" wide, belt opening 1 23/32", belt keeper is soldered on the back, design is smooth on the reverse, SV letters approximately 1 13/32" tall

Buckle #10 Cast Brass, 3 6/32" long, 2 1/32" wide, belt opening 1 24/32", design is smooth on the reverse, note the sword blades in the shield point up

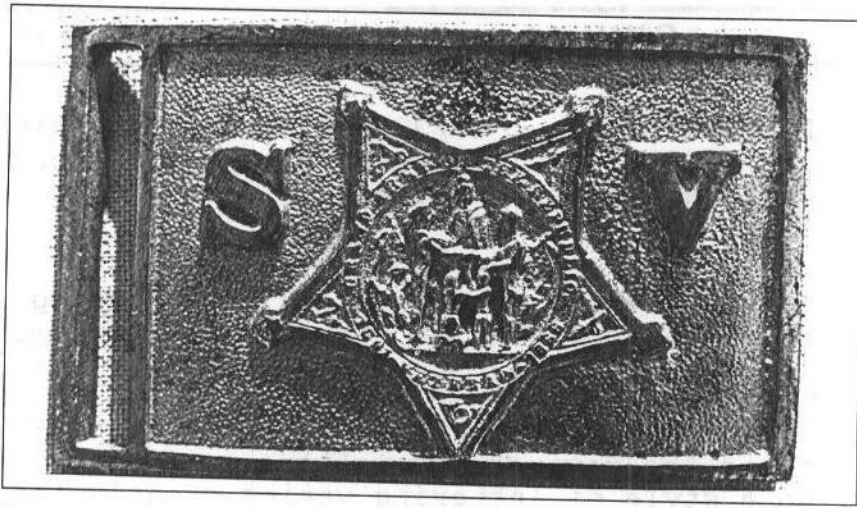
Buckle #11 Cast Brass, 3 8/32" long, 2" wide, belt opening 1 24/32", design is smooth on the reverse, note the sword blades in the shield point down

Buckle #12 Cast Brass, 2 24/32" long, 1 31/32" wide, belt opening 1 21/32", belt keeper is soldered on the back, design is smooth on the reverse, note the sword blades in the shield point up

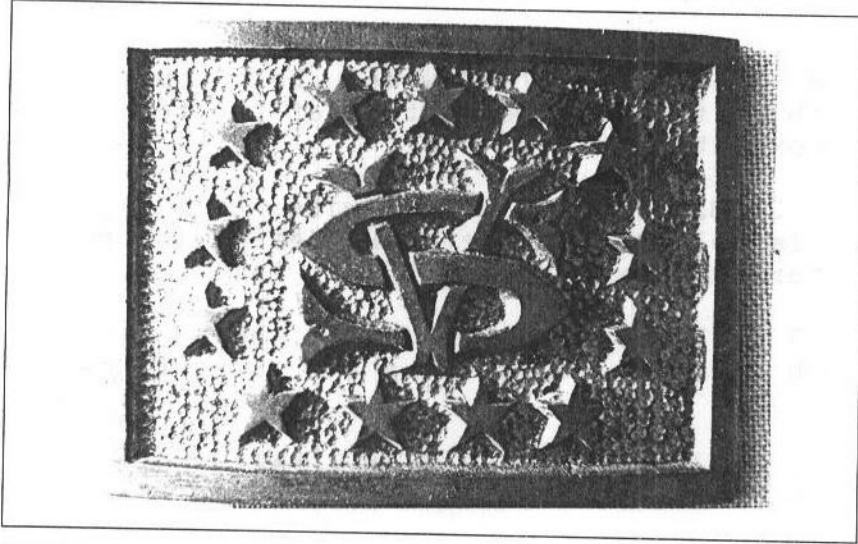
Buckle #13 Cast Brass, 2 28/32" long, 2" wide, belt opening 1 23/32", belt keeper is soldered on the back, design is smooth on the reverse, note the sword blades in the shield point up, also flags extend further to the edge and overall design is larger than #12



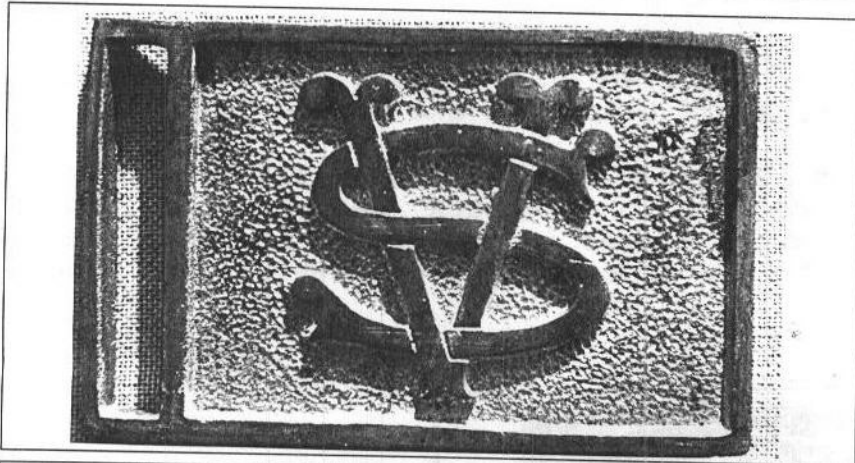
Buckle #5



Buckle #1



Buckle #2



Buckle #3



Buckle #4



Buckle #10



Buckle #11



Buckle #12



Buckle #13

...more S.V. Buckles in
the next issue!