



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. 7 No. 3

C.W.V.H.A.

November/December 1993

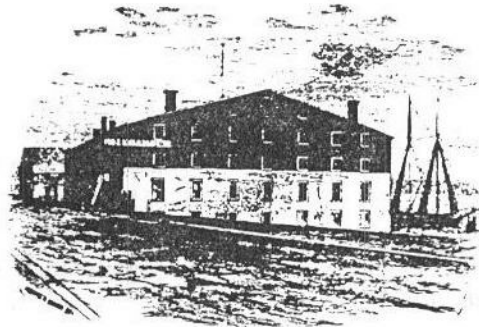
President's Corner

by Pres. Dennis Loba

Hello everyone and welcome to all our new members! I hope this issue of The VETERAN finds you all ready for the Holidays. Please accept my warmest Holiday Greetings!

A couple of months ago I attended the Plaque Rededication Ceremony at the site of Libby Prison in Richmond, VA. It was a very nice affair and I had the pleasure of meeting people like John "Jack" Libby (great-grandson of Libby Prison's original owner), Paul Revere, Jr. (whose two great-uncles were prisoners at Libby), Mr. Allen W. Moore (National Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans), Col. J.E.B. Stuart IV (representing the National Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans), Mrs. A.J. Lacavera (President General of the U.D.C.), and a host of others. I also met up with CWVHA member Bud Atkinson and enjoyed a nice conversation with him and some other fellow Sons of Union Veteran members. There was also a very nice reception held in the Museum of the Confederacy garden that evening. The Museum had set up a special display on Libby in its lobby, and I was flattered to have been asked to loan a number of artifacts for the exhibit. One of the most unique

REDEDICATION OF THE
PLAQUE MARKING THE SITE
OF
HISTORIC
LIBBY PRISON, CSA



LIBBY PRISON

BY THE
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
AND THE
SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR

18 SEPTEMBER 1993

FIRST ERECTED BY THE
CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL
LITERARY SOCIETY
1911

Above. Program cover for the Rededication of the Plaque marking the site of Libby Prison, CSA.

things I saw at this event was an older gentleman wearing his great-grandfather's EX-POW Survivors badge with a "LIBBY" and other prison bars. He was very proud of it

and while I thought the badge could be damaged by being worn, I also felt it was very appropriate to see it at such an event. That's all for now...again, Happy Holidays!

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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Welcome to New Members

- #203 Mr. David Glover
301 Lakeview St.
Whitehouse, TX
UCV
- #204 Mr. Bryan Bossier, Jr.
Box 379
Woodworth, LA 71485
National GAR & UCV
- #205 Mr. Michael Wilson
Oak'n Ridge Farm
Box 330 A
Hume, VA 22639
- #206 Mr. Albert Jewell
129 Chimney Lane
Wilmington, NC 28409
GAR, UCV, SV, EX-POW,
NAVAL VETS
- #207 Mr. Ben Kindred
1422 N. 164th St.
Omaha, NE 68118
All CW veteran items
- #208 Linn Kindred
4828 Jersey Ridge Rd., Apt. 4
Davenport, IA 52807

All CW veteran items, especially from Iowa
#209 Mr. Lynn Howard
Box 261
Stoughton, WI 53589
GAR, EX-POW, SV, swords and badges

Address changes. Please note the following new addresses:

Dennis Keese
6915 Central College Rd.
New Albany, OH 43054-9742

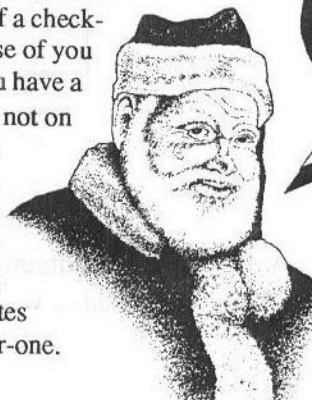
Howard Averbach
1919 Delaware Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Anyone who knows the current address of recent new member #190 John Bowen, please let Sec. Rance Hulshart know. Rance's address is to the left. John's last known address was 48 East Main St., Hyannis, MA 02601. All of his mail is being returned. It is important for those members who are moving to send in your address change to insure that you continue to receive "The VETERAN".

Spoon Checklist Offer

by Rance Hulshart

For several years I have diligently compiled a collection of GAR and related souvenir spoons. Although my collection is far from complete, I feel that I have a large enough representation to make an offer of a checklist worthwhile. For those of you who obtain the list, if you have a spoon variation which is not on the list, please send me a photocopy and description. Also, if you have any duplicates for sale or trade, please contact me as I have several duplicates which I will trade, one-for-one.



We all hope you get well soon, Marshall!

If you would like to have this checklist, please send \$4 to me at 4000 Old Orchard Rd., York, PA 17402.

Secretary's Message

by Sec. Rance Hulshart

Greetings to all with a special welcome to all of our new members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have submitted articles for use in "The VETERAN". Without membership support, our newsletter as we have become accustomed to it would cease to exist. Please continue to send in the great articles which you have been submitting.

Applications for the 1994 Mansfield, Ohio Civil War Show (site of our annual CWWHA Encampment) are currently available. Any member who wishes to obtain a table to exhibit or display items should contact Donald Williams, 1083 Oak hill Circle, Ashland, OH 44805, phone 419-289-3120.

I hope everyone's Thanksgiving Holiday was pleasant and that your Christmas Holiday will be joyous. Good luck this winter in finding that rare veteran item or that rare item for which you have been searching in vain!

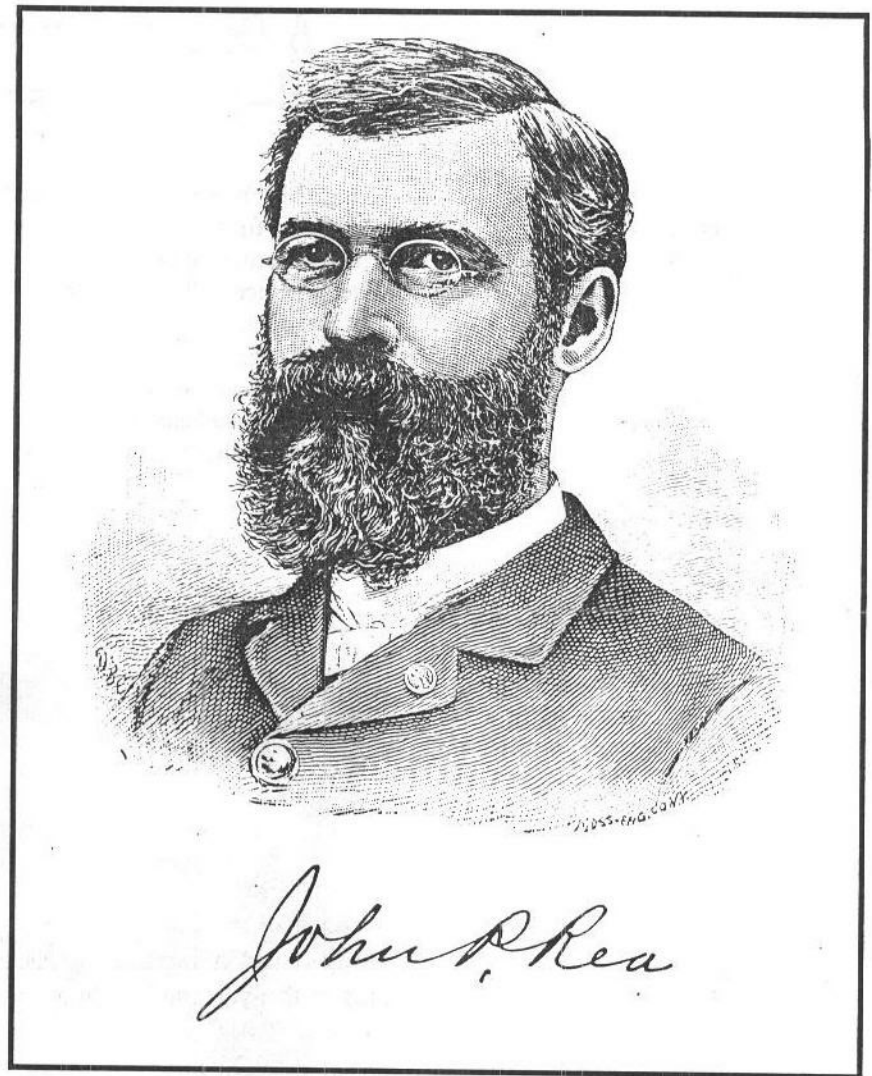
G.A.R.
**Commander-in-
 Chief John P. Rea**
1887-1888

*Submitted by Pres. Dennis Loba
 Sources: "History of the G.A.R.", Beath,
 1888; "GAR 34th Encampment National
 Journal, Chicago, 1900"*

"Major John Patterson Rea, Commander-in-Chief, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, October 13, 1840. He resided at his birthplace until September, 1860, when he removed to Miami county, Ohio, and there taught school until April 17, 1861, when he enlisted in the 11th Ohio Infantry, a three months regiment. On August 20 he re-enlisted in Company I, 1st Ohio Cavalry. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant on the 23rd of September, 1861, and for gallant and meritorious service was promoted First Lieutenant March 12, 1862, and Major November 23, 1863, on account of gallant service at Cleveland, Tennessee. Major Rea served with his regiment continuously in the Army of the Cumberland until November 24, 1864, when he was obliged to resign on account of ill health. During his term of enlistment he was absent from his command but seven days, when he was held as a prisoner of war.

After his retirement from the army he entered the Ohio Wesleyan University, and graduated in June, 1867. He returned to Pennsylvania, where he studied law with O.J. Dickey, the partner of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, and in 1869 was admitted to the bar.

In April, 1869, Major Rea was appointed Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Ninth District of Pennsylvania, and held this position until May, 1873, when the office was abolished.



Above. G.A.R. Commander-in-Chief Major John P. Rea, 1887-1888.

He resumed the practice of law, and continued it until January 1, 1876, when he removed to Minneapolis and took editorial charge of the *Tribune* of that place, in which position he remained until May 1, 1877, when he again took up the practice of law. In November, 1877, he was elected Probate Judge of Hennepin county, and was reelected for two years in November, 1879. He refused a renomination in 1881, and continued in the practice of law until April, 1886, when he was appointed District Judge to fill a vacancy. In November of the same year he was unanimously elected for six years to the same office, which position he now holds. He joined the Grand Army of the

Republic at Piqua, Ohio, in December, 1866. He was a charter member of Post 84, Lancaster, and represented the Post in several Department Encampments prior to his removal to Minneapolis. In 1881-82 he served as Senior Vice-Commander Department of Minnesota, and as Department Commander, 1883. Major Rea was also Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, 1884."

Major Rea was a member of Morgan post 4 (Past Post Commander) of Minneapolis. He died on May 28, 1900 at Nicolet Island, Minnesota. He was laid to rest in a village church yard dear his family in Lower Oxford, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Bade Description 37th National Encampment Delegate's Badge, 1903

article and illustration submitted
by Pres. Dennis Loba

The 1903 Delegate, or in this case "Representative", badge is pictured to the right and is the third of the three-dimensional badges worn by Grand Army National encampment members (the other two 3-D badges were 1888 and 1897). This badge, made by the Pettibone Manufacturing Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio, has always been considered very "collectible" if only for its colorful and unique appearance.

The top pinbar consists of a red enamelled scroll trimmed in gold and inscribed "REPRESENTATIVE" in gold letters. The pinbar is surmounted by a gold eagle with outstretched wings.

Suspended from the pinbar by a single chain ling on either side is the central portion of the badge which has a 3-D brass bear head predominantly featured at its center. The bear head disk is a separate piece (hollow in the back) of thin chocolate bronze riveted twice to its base. The bear head is circumscribed "37th NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT SAN FRANCISCO 1903" in gold letters on a white enamelled background. Showing from behind are portions of the U.S. flag and the California state flag all enamelled in red, white, blue, gold and brown.

From the center portion of the badge hangs the bottom drop which is in the shape of the GAR membership star with its typical service branch symbols and centering the letters GAR in red, white and gold enamel.

The backer ribbon is light gold with a heavy ribbing running vertically on each edge. The reverse of the badge is marked with only the name and city of its maker.

Special note: For its size, this badge is fairly light in weight which would lead one to believe it is not made entirely of bronze, but possibly from an aluminum alloy.

A Grand Army Fellow (or not?)

First Lt. Isaac N. Coltrin, Charter Member GAR Post #1, Decatur, Illinois
by Howard Siglag, MD

I have been fascinated by the early years of the GAR probably because little has survived from this tumultuous period. Researching is difficult and requires much persistence and patience. So I was trying to learn more about the twelve charter members of Post #1 Decatur, Illinois born the evening of April 6th, 1866 - 127 years ago.

About Isaac Coltrin, one of those first twelve, little is known; however, I was able to piece the following together. Coltrin was born in 1834. At the age of 19, he married Emma Fearn in Columbus, Ohio. They lived at 705 N. Union Street in Decatur and there were no children from this marriage.

During the War Between the States, Isaac enrolled in Company F 68th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry as a 2nd Lt. in Clinton, Illinois for three month service on May 30, 1862. He was mustered into service on June 20, 1862 at Camp Butler, Illinois and 99 days later on Sept. 26, 1862 was mustered out.

He again resurfaces 19 months later when he enrolled in Company G 145 Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry on April 30, 1864 as a 1st Lt. at Clinton, Illinois. He was mustered into service on June 9, 1864 for a period of 100 days.

In 1866, Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, MD, ex-surgeon of the 14th Illinois Infantry, was attempting to formulate a constitution and ritual for his newly conceived and nameless veteran's organization. Considerations for names were "The Advanced Guard of America" or "The Grand Army of Progress". Stephenson enlisted the assistance of other interested veterans including Isaac Coltrin. Coltrin was co-publisher of *The Decatur Tribune* with Joseph M. Prior (another charter member of Post #1). Together in secrecy, Coltrin and Prior printed the first ritual for The Grand Army of the Republic.

Stephenson was urged to organize in Springfield but was



Above. 37th National encampment
Delegate's Badge, San Francisco, CA, 1903.

approached by J.W. Routh, MD, and Capt. Michael F. Kanan (both veterans from Decatur) who obtained the necessary signatures and presented their application directly to Stephenson in Springfield. Thus Decatur Post #1 was born on April 6, 1866 with twelve charter members. Springfield Post #2 would follow the same month.

Twelve days later, on April 18, 1866, Stephenson "appointed and empowered" Decatur Post #1 to draft a constitution and bylaws for the GAR as was also being done in Springfield. It took 22 days to select the best of both drafts and a constitution and bylaws were accepted on May 9, 1866.

In the Rules and Regulations of the GAR (Chapter I, Article 4 - Eligibility), "Soldiers and sailors of the United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps who served between April 21, 1861 and April 29, 1865...and having been HONORABLY DISCHARGED...shall be eligible to membership in the GAR."

But in Lt. Coltrin's military records

dated July 1864 is an entry which reads "Placed under arrest by order of Col. Sigel comd'g Port Rolla for writing and causing to be published in the Chicago Times a letter containing disloyal sentiments."!

Isaac Coltrin died in Decatur on April 25, 1908 at the age of 74 years. On May 16, 1908, Emma Coltrin applied for a widow's pension 22 days after the death of her husband of 54 years. Her request was rejected by the War Department's Adjutant General's Office because her husband had been "DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED" from the service of the United States with the loss of all pay and allowances due him. This order of dismissal was confirmed by direction of President Lincoln in Special Order No. 280 from the War Department dated August 25, 1864. A copy of Special Order 280 is to be shown below.

It is interesting to note that in The History of the Grand Army of the Republic written by past Commander-in-

Chief Robert B. Beath and published in 1888, an attempt was made by Beath to obtain as much early information about the order from those still alive including the military histories and accomplishments of the twelve charter members.

In Beath's book, Coltrin's military history mentions ONLY his early service (1862) in Company F 68th Illinois Infantry. Conspicuously missing is Coltrin's re-enlistment in Company G 145th Illinois Infantry (1864) and his unfortunate DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE which disqualified from membership in the Grand Army of the Republic!

Elongated Pennies

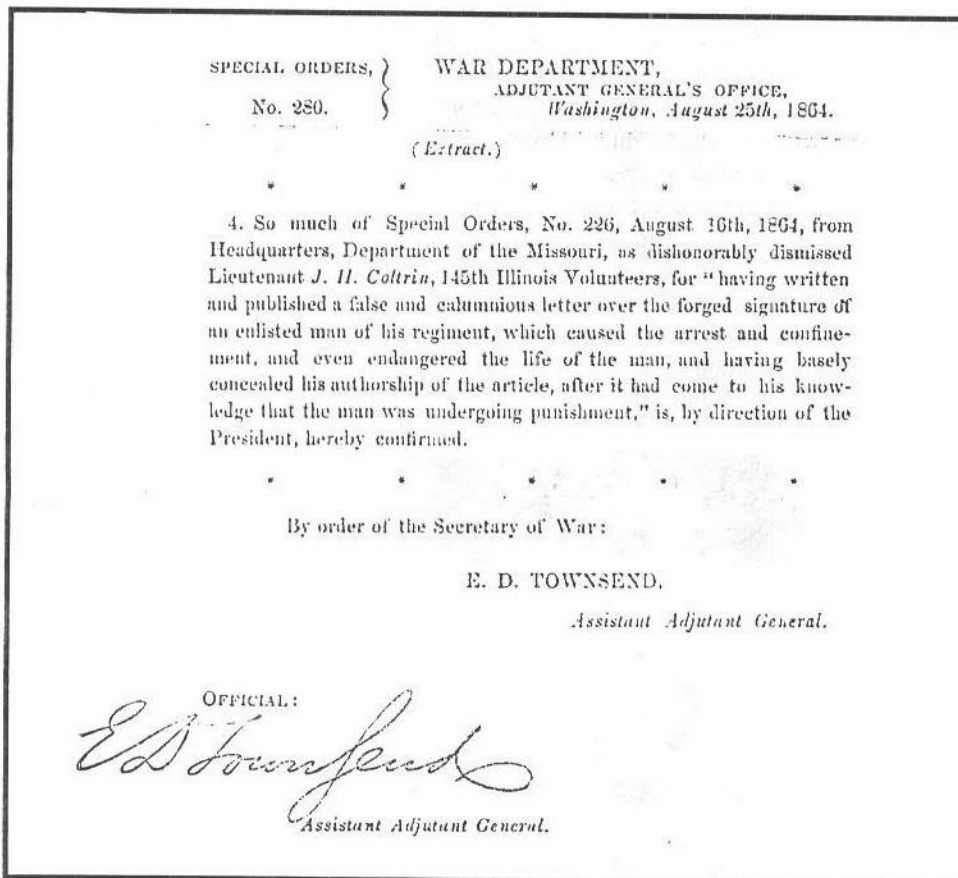
by Rance Hulshart

An item which doesn't show up often at shows, etc. is veteran-related elongated coins. These are coins which have been sent through a machine that flattens and elongates them. (There's even a collectors club for elongated coins. Contact The Elongated Collectors, P.O. Box 161, Fenton, MI 48430 (313) 629-3041 - Dave Maloney). On one side is impressed the name on the activity or event which is being held and/or commemorated.

(cont'd.)



Above. NJac, elongated coin souvenir of the 44th GAR National held at Atlantic City, NJ in 1910.



Above. War Department Special Order No. 280 dishonorably discharging GAR charter member 1st Lt. Isaac Coltrin.

Illustrated below and on the following page are three examples. Each example is assigned a code number which is taken from "Yesterday's Elongated's" by Lee Martin and Dottie Dow. This is an excellent reference book for anyone interested in this collecting field. Other veteran-related elongateds known to exist but not illustrated here include 1) PENget 1, a souvenir of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913, 2) TENxxx, a souvenir of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga and the 47th National held at Chattanooga, Tenn in 1913, and 3) SOCsov, a generic souvenir which is marked "Sons/of/Veterans/[S.V. membership badge motif and motto. To the best of my knowledge there are only six such elongated coins which have a direct connection to Civil War organizations. Obviously from those that are dated, this was a popular souvenir c. 1910.



Above. PENget, elongated coin souvenir of the dedication of the PA state monument at Gettysburg, 1910



Above. NYroc, elongated coin souvenir of the 45th GAR National held in Rochester, NY, 1911

New Association Membership Application Form

Inserted in this edition of "The VETERAN" is a newly designed membership application form designed by Pres. Dennis Loba. Thanks, Dennis, for this contribution. Members are welcome to give this form to a friend or duplicate it for distribution at CW shows and events.

Featured Museum

The Connecticut Valley Historical Museum is part of The Springfield Library and Museum quadrangle located at 220 State St., Springfield, MA 01103 (413) 739-3871. Its current Civil War related exhibits include five main features: 1) The daily life of the soldier, 2) Women on the home front, 3) Local manufacturing production of war goods, 4) the "Springfield Republican" newspaper, and 5) Veteran groups after the war with a special display of Springfield's GAR posts and relics.

Parking is free. Admission is \$3 for adults which allows you entrance to all four museums in the quadrangle complex. Hours are Thursday through Sunday, noon to 4. The exhibits will run through June 30, 1994.

Upcoming Events

January 29, 1994 Charleston, SC Civil War relic and book show; over 225 tables; held at Gaillard Municipal Auditorium, 77 Calhoun St., Charleston. Saturday only 9-5.

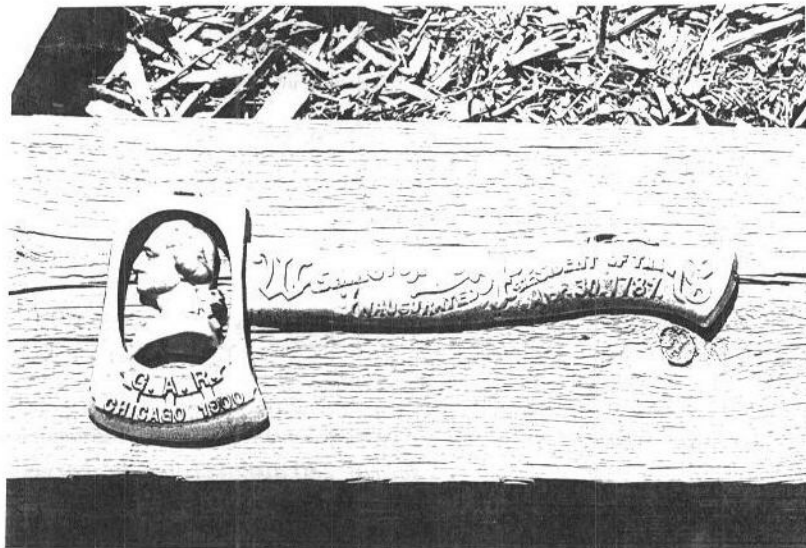
Info sought...

Member Michael Wilson writes: "I am sending my requests for information regarding research of several veterans I am conducting. I would like any information or memorabilia of the **Clinton Hatcher Camp** Confederate Veterans, Leesburg, Loudon County, Virginia. Also any information on **George T. Ellmere**, a member of the same as above. I am also seeking any info on **Benjamin D. Wheat** who belonged to the **Fourth New York Cavalry** and resided in Palestine, Illinois. Any GAR info would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson
Box 330A
Hume, VA 22639
703-364-2768

Below. 10" long cast iron hatchet souvenir from the 34th GAR National Encampment, Chicago, IL, 1900. The "G.A.R./Chicago 1900" is attached to the hatchet as opposed to being part of the casting. I have seen these hatchets without these additions, so obviously the basic design was a stock item with the "GAR" part added to suit the occasion. - Rance



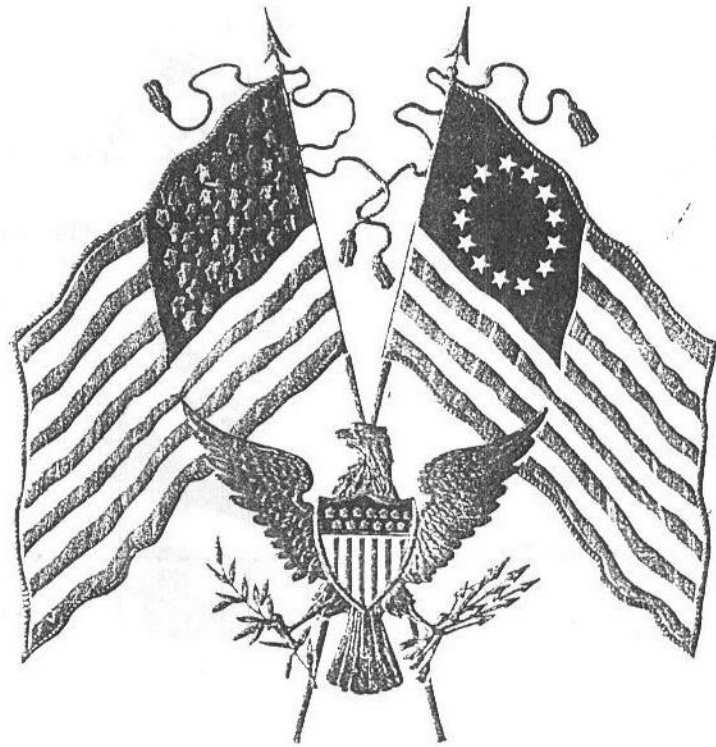
Chelsea, MA Soldiers' Home

by Rance Hulshart

Many Soldier Homes located throughout the country attempted to be as self-sufficient as possible. Many times they held fairs to raise money. Illustrated below is a sterling silver badge which I had attempted to identify for quite a while.

Obviously from the stickpin top part (state seal), it was from the state of Massachusetts. My records are far from complete as to how many Soldier Homes were in that state, but even if there was only one it would not be conclusive proof that this badge had come from that home.

The break in my investigation came when I purchased a Chelsea, Mass. Soldiers' Home 1902 Christmas Program (illustrated upper right). The back cover (illustrated lower right) of the booklet has the same motif as does the badge. Thus the badge can conclusively be identified as having come from the Chelsea, Mass. Soldiers' Home.



"Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just;
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

"Merry Christmas"

Soldiers' Home, Chelsea, Mass., 1902



Above. Chelsea, Mass. "Soldiers' Home Bazaar" stickpin.



Above. Cover from the 1902 Chelsea, Mass. Soldiers' Home Christmas Program.

Left. Illustration on the back of the 1902 Chelsea, Mass. Soldiers' Home Christmas Program. This illustration is identical to that appearing on the stickpin to the far left.



Above. Sons of Veterans Reserve, Lancaster, PA bass drum. Lettering and graphics are handpainted on both sides. Submitted by Rance Hulshart.



Above. Metal UCV 19th Reunion Badge, Memphis, TN June 8-10, 1909. Depicting Albert Sydney Johnston. Submitted by Marshall Brighenti



Above. Cloth Banner, 8" x 12", used at the 67th National Encampment held in St. Paul, MN in 1933.- Rance Hulshart



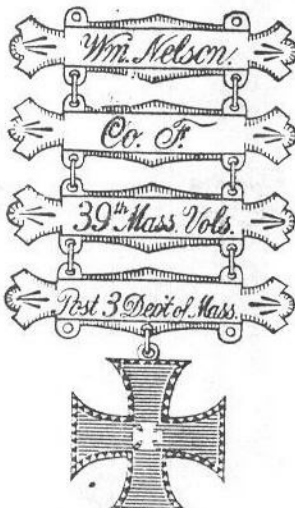
Above. Wooden G.A.R. cigar box with hinged lid and gold print. Interior lined with pink paper. - Rance Hulshart

New Civil War Masonic Association

Member James Tenety, Jr. recently sent in an article about the newly-formed Civil War Masonic Association. The CWMA is made up of reenactors both blue and gray who are Masons. The association supports the Grand Lodge of New York. So far they have held their meetings at different reenactment events. The group was founded by Bill Podsaus (Monroe, NY), David Roberts (Bath, ME), and Bob Cornell (Stratford, CT). It was formally organized June 13, 1992 at Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, MA. For more information contact CWMA, P.O. Box 836, Bath, ME 04530.

THE NELSON INTRODUCTORY G. A. R. BADGE.

A MEMENTO TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.



COMRADES:—The cut represents my new INTRODUCTORY G. A. R. BADGE, comprising

YOUR NAME, CO., REG'T., POST AND CORPS:

to be worn on special occasions and handed down as a memento to future generations, as the badges are made to last for all time and keep their color, from a Rolled Gold Plate that I warrant to stand a 14 karat test.

Confident that you will appreciate this badge, as it comprises all of the inscription desired to make it the most complete badge ever offered for sale, and fills a long felt want at a price in the reach of every COMRADE.

Sent on receipt of price, \$1.50 to Comrades only.

The Badges are limited as I can only sell at the above price, the quantity that I make by my improved method of ornamentation, and I solicit orders no faster than I can do satisfactorily and with dispatch.

Yours in F. C. & L.
COMRADE FRED T. NELSON,
(Late Co. B, 6th Mass. Vols.)
ATTLEBORO, MASS.

POST 145.

ADDRESS THE NELSON PATRIOTIC MFG. CO.,
153 BROADWAY, TAUNTON, MASS.

P. S.—In ordering always print inscription to avoid mistakes.

Send all Money Registered, as I Register all Pins in Return.

(OVER.)

=AGENTS WANTED.=



Giving Name, No. of Camp, also Town and State. A very desirable Badge to be worn on all Special Occasions and will last a lifetime. Price, \$1.25.

Comprising Your Name, Corps and No., Town and State. All that could be wished to make it the most complete introduction on all special occasions. Price, \$1.00.

Gives Name, Tent and No. Town and State. You will see the four badges are made to match and will be known at all times as a patriotic design. Price, \$1.00.

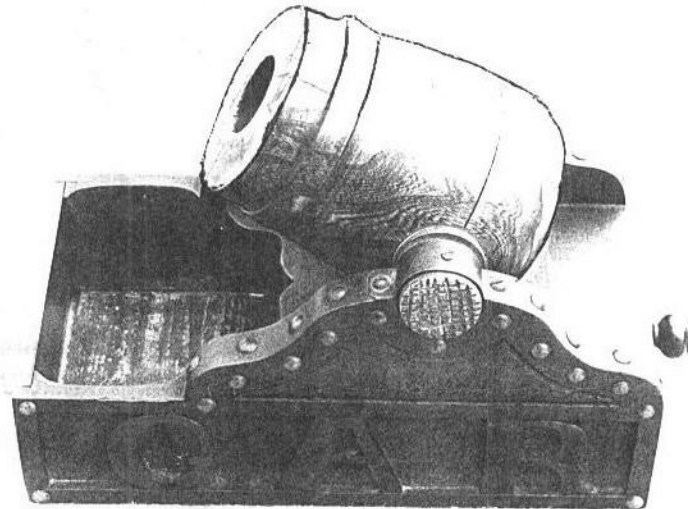
(OVER.)

Above. Advertisement for The Nelson Introductory G.A.R. Badge - a memento to future generations. Submitted by Tom MacDonald.

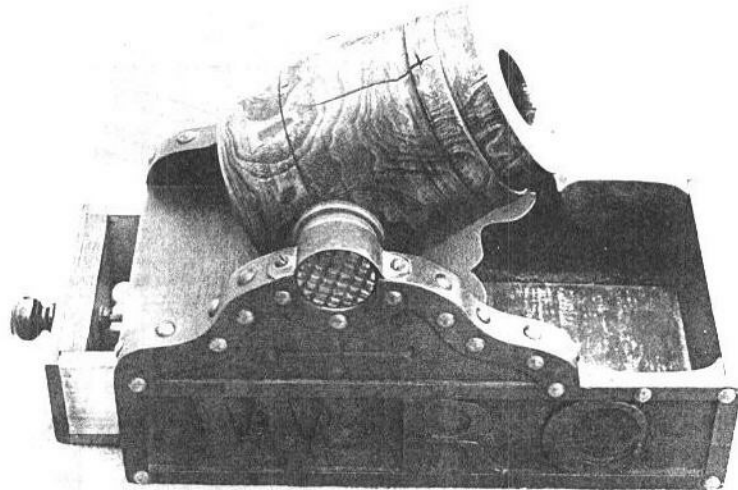


Left. Illustrated is an oval photograph (actual size 3 3/4" x 5") of Robert B. Valentine, late Private of Co. B 42nd, Pa. Valentine enlisted for three years on June 4, 1861, and mustered out with his company on June 11, 1864. Valentine was a member of the Lt. William Allison GAR Post No. 196 of Duncannon, Pa., Perry county. This Post was named in memory of 1st Lt. William Allison of Co. B 42nd, Pa. who was killed at Antietam, Md. on Sept. 16, 1862. The Post was organized in 1882 and, according to the AAG report in the 67th Annual Encampment Dept. of Pa. Journal (held at Pittsburgh, Pa. June 13-14, 1933), was listed as disbanded. The 42nd was the first of three recognized Pa. Bucktail Regiments. Note the bucktail in Valentine's kepi. Also note the "196" inside the wreath insignia and the Allison Post 196 Memoriam ribbon on his coat. According to an inscription on the reverse of the photo, this photo was taken by Hess of Duncannon, Pa. in 1928.

Merry Christmas



Below. G.A.R. Post Banner for Lieut. Wm. Allison Post No. 196.



Above. Two views of a wooden G.A.R./W.R.C. ballot box in the form of a seacoast mortar. This type of ballot box was used for casting secret votes. When voting, members placed a colored marble down the barrel. A white marble meant a "yes" vote while a "black" marble meant no. At the breech, the marbles dropped into a drawer which could be removed for counting. Written on the bottom of this example is "Made by/W. Penacost/ Republic O/Apr 26 1889/Pat. applied for".

The Walthall Column

Submitted by David Maloney. Excerpted from a collection of late 19th century newspaper clippings maintained by Mrs. Walthall and relating to the post-war activities of her husband, Mississippi Senator Edward Carey Walthall, former Maj-Gen., CSA, and later U.S. Vice-Presidential candidate.

Confederate Veterans.

The Mississippi Confederate Veterans' Association was organized last week at Aberdeen, Miss. The occasion was a most notable and brilliant one, and great enthusiasm was manifested. Our distinguished Senator, Genl. E. C. Walthall, was the orator of the day. In speaking of his splendid effort and also of the success of the whole affair, a special from Aberdeen to the Columbus Index has the following:

The Confederate reunion here to-day was a grand success, it being estimated that more than a thousand were present, and it is conceded to have been the largest assembly of the kind ever held in Mississippi. For Aberdeen and her whole-souled people, it was indeed a red-letter day.

Gen. Walthall was the orator of the day, and as usual made a superb speech. By many competent judges, able men who have had opportunities of hearing the greatest and most gifted speakers of the country, the Senator's effort to-day is conceded to have been one of the grandest speeches ever delivered to a Mississippi audience. It was chaste and ornate, yet pointed and forcible, and while he stoutly stood up for the memories and glories of the old South, he aligned himself fully with the progressive South as she is to-day. Every word that fell from his lips was a tribute to the dead or a benediction to the living Confederate soldiers, and yet not a word syllabled by his lips, if given to the world in the connection and spirit in which it was uttered, would jar upon the ear or touch in unkindness the heart of any fair-minded man who fought on the other side. It was wise, patriotic from beginning to end, and reflected the highest credit on the speaker as well as added to the honor of his State.

A permanent organization of Confederate veterans for the State was then effected by the election of the following officers: Gen. E. C. Walthall, grand commander, Gen. W. S. Featherstone, first lieutenant grand commander; Gen. S. D. Lee, second lieutenant grand commander; Gen. W. D. Martin, third lieutenant grand commander; Col. W. L. Hemmingway, quartermaster general; Capt. Geo. M. Govan, inspector general; Dr. B. W. Ward, surgeon general; Rev. R. G. Porter, chaplain. The meeting was well attended, and the utmost harmony and good feeling characterized the proceedings.

1889



SENATOR WALTHALL.



SENATOR WALTHALL,
of Mississippi.

Sergeant Banks.

(An original Poem by M. J. Moses, M. D.)

The storm of shot was flying fast,
And through the marshalled host
The wavering lines came swaying back,
As though the day was lost.
The hurrying aids were riding down
From left flank and from right,
And sulphurous clouds obscured the sun
In blackness dark as night.

On came the glittering battle line
Upon the shattered band,
Whose heroes held the crested hill
Scarce touching hand to hand.
On came the steady columns down,
Like whirlwinds on the plain,
Whilst batteries from the distant heights
Poured down their iron rain.

Out dashed young Harry Chambers,
With orders for the right,
Out went the noble Elliott—
(We buried him that night).
Brave Waldrop takes the orders now,
And as he turns to go,
The hurrying shot comes plunging down,
And lays our comrade low.

The storm increased, the charging line
Came onward with a cheer;
The General quickly turned his eye
Where Banks and Elliott near.
In vain he called upon his aids,
None but the dead were there;
"My God!" he cried, "who can I send
Those stout, brave hearts to cheer?"

I stepped to where the General stood
And asked him if I'd do,
And said that if I did not fall
I'd take his orders through.
Young Banks sprang up and seized the net,
"I'll go!" he cried, and smiled,
And whispered as he rushed away,
"He has a wife and child."

Again the storm of battle surged,
Again the lines advance,
And now to save the little band
Seemed but a thing of chance.
"Tell Charpentier to open now
With every single gun,"
He scarce had turned to see who went,
Ere Charpentier begun.

From piece to piece the order went,
And through the darkened air
The booming cannon thundered out,
While cheer re-echoed cheer;
And night came down with moon and stars,
And rested on the hill,
Where high above its blood-stained crest
Our banners fluted still.

From camp to camp, from post to post,
I rode through all that night,
To find who of my many friends
Had fallen in the fight.
And every man I chanced to know
In staff, or line, or ranks,
I asked if he had seen or heard
Of "little Sergeant Banks."

Till when I came again to camp,
And found my young friend there,
My heart leapt up to teach my lips
To speak his name in prayer.
And since that day, when'er I hear
Of heroes from the ranks,
My mind will always head the list
With "little Sergeant Banks."